



Engagement

The newsletter of the London & South-East Region of the Battlefields Trust

Introduction As I write this the sun is shining and Spring appears to have finally arrived. In the London & South-East Region we have an exciting programme of battlefield walks and other events to look forward to. I always welcome feedback and I would like to ask the question what sort of events would you like to see the Region organising that we are not doing at the moment? In particular, are there topics you would like more detailed briefing on during – say – a cold winter’s evening in a warm cosy pub? This sort of interactive discussion and briefing event engaging the membership seems to be something the Trust has not been very good at in the past, but we may have reached a critical mass of membership where they have become more feasible and desirable.



On the 21st March 2012 a plaque was unveiled to commemorate the Battle of Stow-on-the-Wold 1646. Present were David Glaisyer a descendant of Royalist General Sir Jacob Astley and Norman Goodman a descendant of Parliamentarian General Sir William Brereton.

Volunteer Help Needed

We need various kinds of help from you, the members in the Region.

First of all, we need to find out what, if anything, is held on the Historic Environment for each battlefield in our Region. Each County Council (or equivalent) must maintain an Historic Environment Record (HER) of heritage assets. Inclusion of an asset on the HER of itself creates a “material consideration” in the planning process, so it is an important first line of defence. The Trust is seeking to get a comprehensive grip on the HER through a project with the immediate aim of checking all the HER entries and identifying which battlefields are included at the moment.

In particular, we are looking for volunteers within easy reach of the council offices in each of: Greater London (Holborn), Essex (Chelmsford), Berkshire (Reading), Bedfordshire (Chicksands, Shefford) and Hampshire (Winchester). You will need to be able to visit the offices during normal working hours and a visit may require an hour or two to examine the relevant records. If you think you could help us, please contact the Secretary on the email address from which you received this newsletter or on the covering letter if this comes to you by post.

We are still very much at this first stage. When this has been completed, the Trust will be in a position to lobby for inclusion of more battlefields on the HER and to set ourselves up as the expert body that advises those compiling the HER on battlefield matters.

Secondly, we are looking for your photographs! If you have any photographs of visits to battlefields or anything you think might be relevant, then please get in touch as above. We have set up a Flickr account and we would like to build up a web-based library of images

of battlefields and the work that we as a Trust do to preserve, present and interpret them. We are particularly interested in any photographs of memorials on or near any battlefields. Photos can be of any relevant site anywhere in the world – not just in our Region! If you supply any photos for use by the Trust you will be credited as the originator.

Lunchtime Lectures in the Tower of London

The Battlefields Trust have organised a series of lunchtime lectures to be held in the Officers Mess of the Fusilier Museum at the Tower of London. The cost will be £25 for non members and £20 for Trust members, this will include a sandwich lunch and a glass of wine.

Future lectures include:-

25 May 2012 Naseby: The Battle Then and the Battlefield Now - Speaker: Martin Marix Evans. To book a place at this event visit

<http://www.justgiving.com/Battlefields-Trust-city-lecture--Naseby-25May2012>

18 June 2012: Waterloo, Hougoumont and La Haye Sainte. Speaker Carole Divall. To book a place at this event visit

<http://www.justgiving.com/Battlefields-Trust-Waterloo-18-June-2012>

2 July 2012: Landscapes of the Somme. Speaker: Professor William Philpott. To book a place at this event visit

<https://www.justgiving.com/Battlefields-Trust-City-Talk-Somme-2nd-July-2012>

For further information on these talks email helen@battlefieldstrust.org

or ring 0207 387 6620. Space is limited so book early to guarantee a ticket!

Recent Events

On Sunday 8th January 2012 a small but hardy group of Battlefields Trust members celebrated the anniversary of the Battle of Ashdown, (8th January 871 AD), by walking over the site of Alfred the Great's first victory. Fortunately the weather was kind to us, it was

unseasonably mild and the views from the Ridgeway were spectacular.

On 19th February a large group of 23 people joined the walk at St Albans covering the second battle, (17th February 1461). Although cold to start with, we did not get rained on as in previous years. It is quite a long route so in future we will delay the start a bit so that comfort stops are open when we arrive!



Visiting Ashdown Battlefield.

London & South-East Region Events

Please note that unless otherwise stated most LSE events are free to Battlefields Trust members, however, a charge of £5 per head will normally be levied on non-members. Forthcoming London & South East events for your diary include:

Sunday 15th April 2012, Battle of Barnet 1471. Frank Baldwin will be leading a walk over the site of this decisive battle which witnessed the defeat and death of Warwick 'the kingmaker'. Meet at 11.00AM at the Old Monken Halt public house, High Street, Barnet, postcode EN5 5SU, nearest Tube station High Barnet, 0.7 miles.

Sunday 29th April 2012, First and Second World War Air Raiding on London. David Warren will be leading a four mile walk talking about German air raiding and V weapon strikes. Meet at Mornington Crescent Underground Station at 10.30. This event was originally scheduled for the 4th of March

but had to be postponed because of adverse weather. Please note that this is an all day event and won't finish until 6pm or thereabouts close to Piccadilly Circus. There will be adequate refreshment and comfort breaks. Given the duration of this tour and thus the need for reasonable weather and attendance numbers on the day, attendees must phone David during the evening of Saturday 28th April 2012 to confirm that the walk will operate and to book numbers attending. David can be contacted on 01707 647167. On the day he can be contacted on 07970117641 should anyone miss the 10.30 start.

Sunday 13th May 2012, Battle of Chalgrove 1643. Derek Lester will be leading a walk over the 1643 battlefield. Meet at 10.30am at the John Hampden Monument. The monument is in Monument Road and can be easily found by following the Brown road signs for the Chalgrove Battlefield on the B480, (post code OX44 7RW). (joint meeting with the London & South-East Region). Much of the walk is over farm land and suitable footwear should be worn. For further information contact Derek Lester on 01865 890451.

Sunday 1st July 2012, Brentford & Turnham Green 1642. Meet at Brentford Magistrate's Court (TW8 8EN) in the Market Place just off the London Road at 11am, (NB. Not the County Court Building on London Road), and Chiswick Park Underground Station at 2pm. Simon Marsh and Stephen Porter will explain how the citizens of London rallied to the Parliamentary cause and halted the Royalist advance on London in the autumn of 1642. Contact Simon on 01844 274112.

Sunday 29th July 2012, Medway AD43 and the Chatham Defences Heritage Trail.

Come and take part in a fascinating

voyage of discovery, starting at 1030hrs in the village of Burham in Kent, looking at the possible site of the Battle of Medway AD43. This was a decisive engagement that paved the way for the subsequent Roman invasion of Britain. After lunch in a local pub we will take a leisurely informative walk around the Chatham Defences Heritage Trail starting at 1400hrs at The Library, Dock Road, Chatham ME4 4TX. For further details contact Ray Wilkinson on 07785 973887

Sunday 5th August 2012, Battle of Naseby 1645 Study Day. Meet at Naseby Village Hall NN6 6DP for 11 am. Coffee 11am – 11.15, bring your own flask. 11.15 – 12.20 a member of the Naseby Battlefield Project will give a presentation on the battle and plans for a Visitors Centre. From 12.30 – 1.30 we will be having lunch in the 'Bulls Head' in Clipston. In the afternoon we will be walking the battlefield. The walk will end at approx 4.30. Please note that this event is Free to members of the Battlefields Trust and will be £5 a head to non-members. It is important that we have some idea of numbers so if you are planning to attend please contact Harvey Watson on 01494 257847 plus lunch requirements (£7.95 for Sunday roast, £10.95 for 2 courses - please state) by 31 July.

Sunday 12th August 2012, Battle of Maidstone 1648

Meet at 1030hrs at the Maidstone Museum & Art Gallery, Faith Street, Maidstone ME14 1LH, for a walking tour of the town to study one of the main uprisings that marked the Second English Civil War: the Battle of Maidstone that took place on 1 June 1648. The tour will finish with lunch at a local pub. For further details contact Ray Wilkinson on 07785 973887