



Engagement

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

Introduction

I must apologise for not having been in touch with most of you for some weeks. Unfortunately, because of other commitments I never managed to issue a summer newsletter as I originally intended. However, that does not mean that all has been quiet in the London & South-East Region. One of the most encouraging signs that I have noticed is the slow but steady increase in membership that has been going on throughout the Summer. In June we had two very interesting walks one at Cheriton and one at Chalgrove Field, both of these walks were featured in the "Countryside 2010 Showcase Fortnight". In July Simon Marsh led an evening walk at Whitechapel and Hyde Park showing the Parliamentarian Civil War defences of London. Those of you who are veterans of the London & South-East Regional walks won't be surprised to learn that the evening ended in a pub! On 19th September Dave Stubbs led a walk over the site of the 1st Battle of Newbury. Dave is an expert on the local history of the Newbury area and gave us a fascinating insight into the battle. He explained that although the battle was indecisive, strategically, the Royalists lost perhaps their best chance of winning the war when they failed to destroy Essex's army which escaped, intact, to London. Dave also told the story of the death of Lucius Cary, Viscount Falkland, Charles I's young Secretary of State who appears to have deliberately sought death on the battlefield rather than live in an England being destroyed by Civil War.

The 2011 Programme

We are already planning the programme for 2011. If you have any particular views on what on what you would like to see in the programme, or on what battlefield projects we should be supporting please don't hesitate to get in touch.



Dave Stubbs, (facing the camera), tells the story of the 1st Battle of Newbury.

The 2nd Battle of St Albans

On the weekend of the 26/27 February 2011 we will be commemorating the 550th anniversary of the 2nd Battle of St Albans. A full programme is under development. During the weekend there will be a series of talks and events culminating on Sunday evening with a 15th Century Requiem Mass for the fallen at St Saviours Church in Sandpit Lane in St Albans. The service will be open to people of all denominations or none and will also feature 15th Century music.

Weekend at the Wallace Collection

In March 2011, (exact date still to be confirmed), the London South-East Region will be holding a weekend of talks on battles in the London area. The

weekend will take place in the Wallace Collection, which is housed in Hertford House, Manchester Square, near Bond Street tube station. The Wallace collection is one of Europe's finest collections of works of art, including paintings, furniture and arms & armour. The Battlefield Trust's national AGM will be held after the talks on the Saturday evening.

Barnet Project

In April Frank Baldwin led a very successful walk around the Battlefield of Barnet, 1471. The possibility of starting a 'Barnet Project' was discussed. The aim would be to locate the exact site of the battle as has already been done at Bosworth. Unfortunately, due to other commitments neither Frank or I were able to take the idea any further during the summer, however, it is hoped that we will be able to launch the project sometime in November.



Memorial to Lucius Cary, Viscount Falkland, killed at the 1st Battle of Newbury.

London & South-East Region Events

Forthcoming London & South East events for your diary include:

Sunday 10th October 2010

Hastings (1066). Julian Humphrys will be leading a walk around the site of one of the most decisive battles in British history. Contact Julian on 07930 432444. **Please note prior booking is Essential.**

Sunday 7th November 2010

Brentford & Turnham Green 1642. Meet Brentford Magistrate's Court (TW8 8EN) in Market Place just off the London Road at 11am and Turnham Green Underground Station at 2pm. Simon Marsh will tell the story of these two crucial actions which halted the Royalist advance on London in 1642. Contact Simon on 01844 274112.

Monday 8th November, 2010, Meeting of the London & South-East Region.

In the basement bar of 'Truckles' wine bar, Pied Bull Yard, off Bury Place, Bloomsbury, (opposite the British Museum). From 6pm onwards. The current programme and ongoing projects will be discussed. All members are welcome. Contact Harvey on 07818 853385.

Thursday 2nd December, 2010,

London Blitz 1940 walk. Laurence Burridge will be telling the story of the December 1940 Blitz on London. Meet at 18.00 hours at the firemen's memorial on the Thames side of St Pauls. After the walk we will be making a strategic withdrawal to a nearby pub for another of our informal social evenings. Contact Laurence on 07947 359543.

For further information on these events please contact Harvey Watson on 01296 708975 or harvey.watson@tiscali.co.uk