



Winter 2010/11

# Engagement

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

## **Introduction**

With the days getting shorter and Christmas rapidly approaching our various battlefield projects may not be particularly high on your agenda. However, we are currently in the process of planning a very interesting and busy 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. I always welcome any feedback. In the meantime I would like to take the opportunity to wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2011.

## **The Walk around Brentford & Turnham Green 1642.**

On the morning of Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November Simon Marsh led some 15 of us on a walk around Brentford, following the course of Prince Rupert's attack on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 1642, when he stormed the town and destroyed two regiments of Parliamentary foot.

In the afternoon Stephen Porter took over from Simon and led a walk around Turnham Green. Again there was some 15 of us, (though I noticed that some of the faces had changed). Turnham Green occurred on the 13 November 1642, the day after the fight for Brentford. The advancing Royalists encountered The Earl of Essex's Parliamentary army, now massively reinforced by the London Trained-Bands and the ordinary citizens of London. Charles I abandoned his advance on London and ordered a retreat. As there wasn't much fighting at Turnham Green it has been neglected by historians, but it

had enormous strategic significance. By preventing a Royalist capture of London it changed the whole course of the war. A few years ago the Battlefields Trust ran a project to create a 'Battlefield Trail' around Brentford and Turnham Green, with a leaflet and a series of information panels explaining the course of the action. It is a good example of what can be done at other sites. Simon Marsh and Stephen Porter have also recently had a book published, "The Battle for London", about the campaign.



*Members of the Battlefields Trust inspecting the Battle of Barnet Memorial.*

## **The Launch of the Battle of Barnet 1471 Project**

On Easter Sunday, 1471, a Lancastrian army led by Richard Neville, the Earl of Warwick, (Warwick the 'Kingmaker'), and a Yorkist army led by Edward IV met at the Battle of Barnet, in one of the decisive battles of the Wars of the Roses. The battle was a crucial Yorkist victory with Warwick himself being amongst the slain. However, other than a crumbling 18<sup>th</sup> century obelisk, whose writing is virtually illegible and is probably in the wrong place, there is

very little to remind people of the importance of this site. Even the exact location of the battle has become a matter of debate. On the evening of Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> November fifteen of us gathered in a Church hall in Barnet and, after a fascinating talk from Glenn Foard about the 'discovery' of the battlefield at Bosworth, we agreed to launch the Battle of Barnet 1471 Project. The aim of the project will be to have an archaeological survey to pinpoint the exact site of the battle, and eventually open a 'Battlefield Trail' with a leaflet and a series of information panels. The Project is very grateful to the Potters Bar Golf Club who have very kindly offered us the use of their facilities for our future meetings.



*A Yorkist scout, (known as a 'Pricker') points out the advancing Lancastrians to his commander during the 2nd Battle of St Albans.*

#### **London & South-East Region Events**

Forthcoming London & South East events for your diary include:

**Wednesday 29th December, 2010, London Blitz 1940 walk.** Laurence Burrige 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. This walk was originally going to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December but had to be postponed because of the weather. Contact Laurence on 07947 359543.

#### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2011, Ashdown 871 AD.**

A walk around the site of Alfred the Great's first victory over the Danes. Meet at 2pm outside 'The Bell' pub in the village of Aldworth. Contact Harvey Watson on 01296 708975.

#### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2011 Barnet 1471.**

As part of the newly launched Battle of Barnet project we will be visiting the site of this decisive battle which witnessed the defeat and death of Warwick 'the kingmaker'. Meet outside the 'Olde Monken Holt' public house in Barnet at 11.00 AM. Contact Harvey Watson on 01296 708975.

#### **Saturday 29 January 2011 Alton 1643 and Cheriton 1644.**

Joint event with the Trust's newly-formed Wessex Region. A visit to the site of Waller's successful surprise attack and the battle-scarred church where the Royalists made their last stand. There will be time for lunch and a chance to visit Alton Museum which houses a small Civil War display. *Alton also has two excellent secondhand bookshops, both with good military and historical sections, and we have negotiated a 20% discount for Trust members on the day.* We'll then make the short drive to Cheriton for a brief walk round part of the battlefield.

Meet 10.30am for coffee in the Allen Gallery, Church Street, Alton GU34 2BW or at 11.00am in the churchyard of St Lawrence Church.

Contact: Julian Humphrys 07930 432444

#### **Saturday 19 February 2011 Visit to Fort Nelson.**

Joint event with the Trust's newly-formed Wessex Region. One of a chain of forts built in the 1860s to protect Portsmouth from French invasion, Fort Nelson houses much of the Royal Armouries collection of artillery. Over 300 large guns are on display and there are daily live firings of one of the field guns. Meet 11.00am in Fort Nelson,

Portsdown Hill Rd, Fareham, Nr  
Portsmouth PO17 6AN  
[www.royalarmouries.org/visit-us/fort-nelson](http://www.royalarmouries.org/visit-us/fort-nelson)

Contact Julian Humphrys 07930 432444

**The 2nd Battle of St Albans\_26/27  
February 2011**

On the weekend of the 26/27 February 2011 we will be commemorating the 550<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 2nd Battle of St Albans (1461). During the weekend there will be a series of talks and events culminating on Sunday evening with a Requiem Mass for the fallen at St Saviour's Church in Sandpit Lane in St Albans. The service will be open to all denominations and will also feature 15<sup>th</sup> Century music. Full programme and booking details to follow, but if you need more information in the meantime contact Peter Burley on 01727 831413.

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2011   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 outside the 'Olde Monken Holt' public house in Barnet at 11.00 AM. Contact Harvey Watson on 01296 708975.

For further information on these events please contact Harvey Watson on 01296 708975 or [harvey.watson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:harvey.watson@tiscali.co.uk)