

The Magazine of the Battlefields Trust

BATTLEFIELD

PROMOTING OUR BATTLEFIELD HERITAGE

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*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them*



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The Battle of Stow-on-the-Wold 21 March 1646

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 as historical and educational resources'**



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Battlefields Trust

Protecting, interpreting and presenting battlefields as historical and educational resources

Winter 2015



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Tower of London Poppy photos by Peter Shepherd

Editors' Letter

Welcome to the Winter 2015 issue of Battlefield. At this time of the year it is always useful to reflect on what has been achieved during the past twelve months and what we hope to achieve during the coming year. 2015 will be yet another year of important anniversaries and we will be commemorating Magna Carta (1215), Agincourt (1415), Waterloo (1815) and Gallipoli (1915).

We have also had a change to the editorial team. Julian has had to step down due to other commitments, although he is still very much involved with the Trust, and Chris May has stepped up to take over from Julian. Many thanks go to Julian for his work on the magazine over the past years and a welcome to Chris.

In this issue Dr Matthew Bennett and Edward Dawson report on the Battlefields Trust's Magna Carta 800th Project. This will be one of the Trust's most ambitious projects so far and we hope that many of our readers will be inspired to get involved and assist the project in any way that they can.

Simon Marsh, the chairman of the Mercia Region, writes about the Battle of Stow-on-the-Wold 1646, the very last battle of the 'first Civil War 1642-6'. Simon reports on the ambitious project to carry out a detailed archaeological survey of the battlefield and hopefully resolve some of the unanswered questions about the battle.

Finally, we report on the ongoing plans to establish a separate 'Scottish Battlefields Trust'. Talks are already underway about how the Battlefields Trust could work in partnership with the new organisation and we wish our colleagues in Scotland every possible success in their endeavours.

Harvey Watson & Chris May

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Article Submissions

Ideas for articles are welcomed. To ensure that articles are not duplicated please contact us to discuss your ideas before putting pen to paper. If you are sending in news items and details of events please note the following copy deadline:

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Copy deadline 15 March 2015

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Spectacular display at the Tower of London



An estimated 5 million people visited the Tower of London last autumn to view the spectacle of a sea of red poppies encircling the Tower. Between August and 11 November, 888,246 ceramic poppies, one for every British and Commonwealth serviceman killed in the First World War, were planted in the Tower of London moat.

The idea originated from the ceramic artist Paul Cummins; he called it, *'Blood swept lands and seas of red'*, words taken from the will of a soldier killed in Flanders. But, nobody realised how this temporary work of art would capture the imagination of the public and indeed, be reported around the world. Possibly the very fact that it was only a temporary exhibit meant that millions of people were determined to see the display for themselves whilst they had the opportunity. The display is reported to have reduced grown men to tears. As one newspaper journalist wrote, *'their unspoken message hits you like a sledgehammer the moment you clap eyes on the vermillion tide: "This is what a lost generation looks like."*

After 11 November the display was dismantled; all the ceramic poppies had been sold at £25 each and the millions of pounds raised went to support six different charities.



The Battlefields Trust's information panel on the site of the Second Battle of Newbury
Photo by courtesy of Newbury and Thatcham Advertiser

The Battlefields Trust has installed an information panel on the site of the Second Battle of Newbury 1644

A NEW information panel telling the dramatic story of the Second Battle of Newbury, 1644 was installed at Speen Recreation Ground, Newbury, on Sunday 2 November.

The panel provides a map and a detailed description of the battle, which took place at Newbury on 27 October 1644. The Battlefields Trust provided the design and wording for the panel and led the fundraising efforts with support from Shaw House. Simon Marsh, the Chairman of the Mercia Region, who led the work, said: 'The information panel is a great opportunity to raise local awareness about the Second Battle of Newbury, which is often overlooked, but was a crucial event on the road to Parliament's final victory in the Civil War.' Newbury Town Council and Speen Parish Council worked jointly with the Battlefields Trust on the project and a battlefield walk and talks at Shaw House were held last year to raise funds to purchase the panel. Newbury Town Council and Speen Parish Council have assisted with the plans and arrangements, supported by West Berkshire Council Heritage Service. The panel was unveiled by the Mayor of Newbury, Jo Day, and the Chairwoman of Speen Parish Council, Caroline Holbrook.

Newbury Town Council Leader Julian Swift-Hook said: 'Newbury has been

at the crossroads of history on many occasions, and the Second Battle of Newbury is one of the most significant, even though the battle itself was indecisive.'

The panel has the same format as the interpretation panel for the First Battle of Newbury, 1643, which was unveiled at the Wash Common Recreation Ground in June 2012.

Possible autumn weekend in the Marches

The Mercia & Marches and North West Regions are considering organising a joint weekend in the Welsh Marches in September or October 2015.

Planning is at an early stage. The rough plan is to meet on Saturday mid-morning near, say, Leominster in Herefordshire, and visit a couple of nearby battlefields on the Saturday; overnight in a market town such as Ludlow with a communal dinner; and visit a couple more battlefields/sites on the Sunday. Battlefields suggested include (and the organisers are very open to suggestions or preferences):

Mortimer's Cross (1461) - a little-known battle of great strategic and historical importance, site of the parhelion (a triple sun) and the start of Edward IV's ascent to power.

Bryn Glas/ Pilleth (1402) - which saw Mortimer's defeat and capture by Glyn Dwr (Glendower), a precursor to Shrewsbury and the siege of Harlech.

Ludford Bridge (1459) and Ludlow Castle - scene of the defeat and exile of Richard Duke of York at the start of the



Memorial poppies at the Tower of London

Cousins' War (the Wars of the Roses). **Shrewsbury (1403)** - which saw the triumph of Prince Hal, the future Henry V, over Hotspur.

Visit to Wigmore or Stokesay castles.

However, we need to establish who is interested, their preferred dates (it will NOT clash with the Normandy trip) and whether accommodation is wanted for Friday or just Saturday night and at what sort of cost. The only expenses will be the cost of transport around the area, the accommodation and food and drink. Please could anyone interested get in touch with Anthony Rich on anthonyrich@virginmedia.com, tel 0121 249 9292 to discuss their preferences.

Solar panels at Nibley Green?

In mid October Stroud District Council rejected an application to install solar panels on what may well be the battlefield of Nibley Green 1470 – reputed to be the last 'private' battle ever to be fought on English soil, when two noble families, the Talbots and the Berkeleys, took advantage of the chaos caused by the Wars of the Roses to resolve a long running feud over a disputed will.

The Trust had objected to the development on the grounds of impact both to any extant archaeology and the battlefield's setting, but these were deemed not to be material considerations by Gloucestershire County Council's planning archaeologist because the development was unlikely to damage battlefield archaeology and the location of the battlefield was uncertain. Nevertheless the council's planning committee rejected the application due to its impact on an outstanding area of natural beauty. A new planning application for a smaller solar array has now been made by the landowner that only marginally impacts on the supposed battlefield site, but the Trust has objected to the application as the development will affect the battlefield's setting.

Northampton Battlefield Society wins community award

The Northampton Battlefield Society (NBS) has been awarded a Community Star Award by the NN48 Community Group which covers the area around Delapré, Far Cotton and

Briar Hill in Northampton.



There are ten awards in total including the Community Group Award, the Charity Champion Award and the Good Neighbour Award. NBS has been awarded 'The Roy Connell Award' for a Community Group that has fought for what they believe in. The award itself is in memory of the late Roy Connell, who was the chair of Far Cotton Residents Association and who fought tirelessly for what he believed in for the benefit of the community. Chair of NBS Mike Ingram said, 'We are honoured and grateful to receive this award, and although it may sound like a cliché, this really is an award for all those in the community, locally and nationally, who have said "Enough is enough, this is our green space and our battlefield, and we don't want it destroyed". A big

thank you must also go to those people and organisations such as Mortimer, the Battlefields Trust and English Heritage who have been helping behind the scenes.'

The award was presented on 28 November.

Editor's note:

Mortimer has been created by a group of working archaeologists and is designed to be driven by the commitment and concerns of its membership. They operate by using the Internet and social media to initiate and support campaigns and conversations about issues affecting our past and how they enjoy, study and try to understand it. Central to this strategy is a growing network of individuals and groups who work as part of the Mortimer family.



Poppies on the Green

A temporary memorial for the Childwickbury Fallen of WW1
On display between 29 Oct - 11 Nov 2014

By Andie Hill

'Have you news of my boy Jack?'

Not this tide.

'When d'you think that he'll come back?'

Not with this wind blowing and this tide.

This is the first verse of a poem written by Rudyard Kipling in remembrance of his son who was killed during the First World War. The loss it speaks of, that of a parent for their child, is universally understood and transcends religion, race and border.

As a member of the Battlefields Trust, a charity dedicated to the preservation of



Eleanor Cross, Northampton



battle-site heritage, I was keen to take the opportunity of this centenary year and find some way to mark the passing of the 17 Childwickbury men who lived and worked on this small St Albans estate and who lost their lives in this same conflict.

Throughout various projects we often have cause to ask the questions: 'Why we should remember?' and 'What form remembrance should take?' The simple truth is this, that loss, remembrance, and commemoration mean different things to different people.

With this in mind it was a challenge to find a fitting way to celebrate these men who, unlike so many others, have no permanent memorial. In the end however, it was the men themselves who spoke the loudest.

For the two weeks leading up to Armistice Day, an installation of 17 large, identical poppies populated the village green and its surrounding area, a place the men would have known well. Each bloom bore the name, age and address of a single man. For two weeks they stood sentinel, while present-day residents and visitors went about their daily lives. Supported on rods made from wood gathered around the estate, they existed apart from the fabric of the green, in the village, but no longer of it; for a short while both time lines converging.

The memorial poppies invited residents,

visitors and passers-by to take a moment to reflect and consider in their own private way not what separates us, but what binds us together, the fact that we, all of us, walk in their shoes.

The intention of this piece is not the glorification of war, religion or state, but simply this: an opportunity to say their names aloud.

The 17 names were also included in the 'Roll of Honour' read out daily outside the Tower of London.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Christiane Kubrick for the generous use of her land, and Ben, Rob and David for the bits that no one saw.

Andrea.hill105@gmail.com

The Battlefields Trust south west area representative

Following discussion Malcolm Eden has agreed to act as the south west area representative of The Battlefields Trust.

Malcolm will shortly be contacting south west area members with a view to developing ideas for meetings and walks in the south west area and perhaps setting up a forum for exchanging ideas and views on matters of a local interest. In the meantime should any south west area members or prospective members wish to contact him he is on 07925 064086 or email bigmaldevon@aol.com.

A Christmas tree called Margaret

Trust organisational member the Friends of Bernards Heath (FOBH) designed and sponsored a tree for the St Saviour's Church (a Victorian church in St Albans) triennial Christmas Tree Festival this year.

The church is actually on the battlefield of the Second Battle of St Albans and has fields of red and white roses already in its stained glass. FOBH themed their tree on the battle and used the red and

white motif together with roses and a bear (for Warwick's bear and ragged staff emblem) to decorate it. Trust member Andie Hill is an expert designer and produced a wonderful tree full of colour and information. The tree was named "Margaret" to commemorate the Lancastrian queen Margaret of Anjou, who was at the battle.



Pen and Sword Books

Members' discount with Pen and Sword Books

We are delighted to announce that our good friends at Pen and Sword Books are offering Battlefields Trust members a 25% discount on their extensive range of military titles. For further information please visit the Members' Benefits in the Members only section of the Battlefields Trust website at www.battlefieldstrust.com.

BATTLEFIELDS TRUST ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND A.G.M.

IN OXFORD 2 MAY 2015 AND ASSOCIATED EVENTS 1-3 MAY 2015



Rewley House

The Trust is pleased to announce that our annual conference and AGM will take place in Oxford on Saturday 2 May 2015. The theme will be anniversaries relevant to 2015 with a special emphasis on the Magna Carta and Barons' Wars.

The venue for the annual conference and AGM is Rewley House, University of Oxford Department of Continuing Education, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JA in the heart of the historic city. It is convenient for the railway station and the city centre attractions.

The programme on Saturday will be morning sessions on 2015 anniversaries including World War 1, the Barons' Wars, Waterloo and Agincourt. Speakers will include Prof Anne Curry and other experts from the Trust and the Simon de Montfort Society. In the afternoon we will look at Magna Carta and the Barons' Wars (again) starting with the military history background and the Trust's own Magna Carta 800 project and concluding with a lecture by Sir Robert Worcester – Chairman of the Magna Carta 800 Committee. This will be followed by the Trust's AGM. In the evening there will be

drinks in the bar (and garden courtyard) before the conference dinner with a speaker on local siege warfare. On Sunday there will be battlefield tours in the Oxfordshire and Worcestershire area, which will be led by Tony Spicer. The full programme is still being developed but will include Evesham (1265) and Radcote Bridge (1387).

The Saturday events are free-standing but are part of a larger weekend of activities. For those arriving early on Friday, there will be a Civil War tour of Oxford during the afternoon to early evening followed by dinner in a local restaurant, if enough people are interested. To widen the appeal, we are also suggesting a "partners' programme" for those accompanying Trust members for a weekend in Oxford but not wishing to attend the conference sessions. (One option here will be a private tour of the Pitt Rivers Museum. It would be very useful if those interested could indicate in advance so we know if numbers will be viable). There will also be alternatives to battlefield tours on the Sunday looking at historic Oxford.

PRICING

The price for the day (and Sunday activities) with tea and coffee, lunch, conference dinner and overnight accommodation in Rewley House will be £199 per person (on the assumption of two people sharing a room and to include a drink or two in the evening). Separate pricings will be offered for those wanting to attend only on the day on the Saturday, a single room supplement, only for the dinner and for those not wanting overnight accommodation (e.g. a day rate of £60 – the full schedule of tariffs will be available on making a booking enquiry). There will be an early-bird discounted price of £185 per person for bookings made by 28 February 2015 (£55 early-bird day rate).

Further details are available on the Trust website at www.battlefieldstrust.com News and Events section. A full brochure and programme for the weekend will also be available.

To book your place at the conference contact Annmarie Hayek on annmarie@talktalk.net.

Letters to the Editor



Sir,

Superb WW1 Film

Several years ago I watched an excellent black and white film about the First World War.

It concerned a young (under-age?) recruit from a poor working-class family who had suffered shell-shock and mistakenly ran the wrong way under fire. He was put on trial for desertion.

The main part of the film is concerned with the communication gap between the upper-class officer acting in his defence, the entire upper-class officer cadre involved in the administration of justice and the working class soldier resulting in a failure to bring out the true facts of the case and a miscarriage of justice.

Can anyone help with the name of this film?

Yours sincerely

Kelvin van Hasselt

Ed: The film is *King and Country* a 1964 British film, shot in black and white and directed by Joseph Losey. It is a powerful anti-war film, based on a play by John Wilson and a novel by James Lansdale Hodson. The film is set in the British trenches at Passchendaele in the autumn of 1917. The central figure is private Arthur Hamp, (played by Tom Courtenay), a volunteer at the start of the war but now he is one of the few survivors from his original company. Traumatized and suffering from shell-shock Hamp walks away from the front-line but he is arrested by the military police and court-martialled for desertion. A Captain Hargreaves, (played by Dirk Bogarde), is appointed to defend Hamp. Initially Hargreaves is impatient with the simple-minded and uneducated Hamp but eventually comes to identify with his plight. The court finds Hamp guilty but recommends clemency. However the army high command, worried about falling morale, insists that he should be executed and at the climax of the film he is shot by a firing squad.

It's interesting to compare *King and Country* with the 1957 American anti-war film *Paths of Glory* directed by Stanley Kubrick and based on a novel by Humphrey Cobb. The film is again set on the Western Front, this time in 1916. General Mireau, (played by George Macready), is under pressure by the French high command to capture a German strongpoint known as the 'anthill'. However the attack is badly planned and fails with heavy losses. Mireau is outraged when the troops refuse to attack again and insists that at least three men be court-martialled for cowardice. The commander of the regiment involved, Colonel Dax, (played by Kirk Douglas), in peacetime a distinguished lawyer, passionately defends the three men at the subsequent court-martial, but military discipline prevails, the men are found guilty and executed. Dax has shown Mireau to be an incompetent fool and he is removed from his command, but too late to save the three men.

The film caused a storm of controversy over its depiction of the French army in the First World War and it wasn't shown in France until 1975. In Spain, General Franco's government also disapproved of the film and it wasn't finally released in that country until 1986. Nowadays it's regarded as one of Kirk Douglas's finest films.



Book Review

by Barbara Taylor

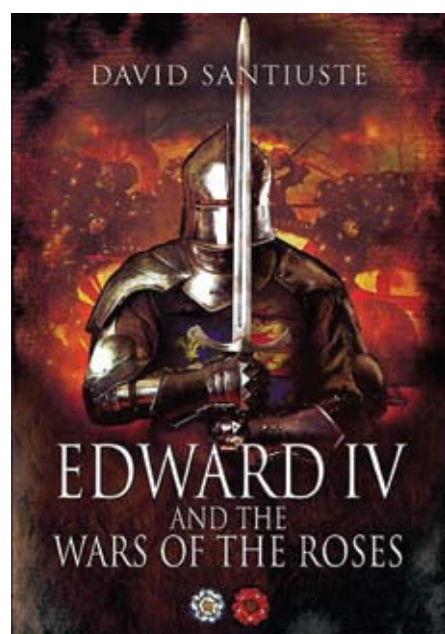
Edward IV and the Wars of the Roses

Author: David Santiuste

Pen and Sword Military:

ISBN 978 184884 5497

This softback edition has 146 pages with a further 45 of abbreviations, notes and bibliography.



This is not a full biography of Edward IV. It is more a reassessment of his military career and role as a commander. By the author's own admission, it is not based on extensive archival research of his own. The notes, however, suggest reliance on some of the most prominent experts of the period, notably the late Professor Charles Ross, in conjunction with more contemporary research. Helpfully, it does include a family tree, which is necessary because of the complex family connections of most of the main players; the importance of which cannot be underestimated. Having looked up David Santiuste (a tutor at Edinburgh University) on the internet, it is clear to me that although this work is constructed in a solidly

academic style, he intended this book to also appeal to a more general readership.

To modern thinking, most of the battles in the Wars of the Roses would only be classified as skirmishes. It must, however be remembered that the population of the country at this time was in the region of 2,500,000 and therefore the pool of men to fight was limited, especially as this was effectively civil war and the combatants split between the two sides.

David Santiuste suggests that events at the Battle of Northampton (1460), which was Edward's first command in the absence of his father, may have influenced his later strategic conduct; although it is likely that Warwick had overall command.

The author asserts that Edward's leadership qualities stem from his great height and personal charisma, even as an 18-year-old. The Battle of Mortimer's Cross (1461) was Edward's first personally crucial battle and like many more, the outcome was heavily influenced by the weather. The rare phenomenon of parhelia (the apparition of three suns caused by refraction of sunlight through ice crystals) was seen before the battle and Edward convinced his frightened men that this was a good omen, representing the Holy Trinity. Surely quick thinking on his part, as this would have bolstered the morale of a frightened body of men. People in the Middle Ages were very superstitious and believed strongly in omens of this sort. The fact is that Edward's great

height of some 6ft 4ins must have made him very noticeable. To men seeing him in the thick of the fighting, it would have been a great encouragement.

Mr Santiuste quotes from the leading commentators of the time and even Edward's detractors all admit to his fine stature and good looks. No bad thing for a medieval king who had to take the crown in battle and then demonstrate strength enough to rule.

Edward was not present at the Second Battle of St Albans, which followed hard on his victory at Mortimer's Cross. Warwick was comprehensively defeated at this encounter and I think it true to say that he may have been a better sailor than a soldier. The author suggests that Edward was already seeing that his destiny lay in his own hands and he already 'no longer bowed to Warwick'. In spite of this defeat, the Yorkists gained control of London because the city denied access to the Lancastrians. This has much to do with the fact that the Lancastrian armies of the period developed a reputation for plunder and savagery towards the general populace. Edward, on the other hand, was noted for his strict discipline, commanding 'that no man in his own army should act thus, on pain of death'. Then came probably the most important battle of this first part of the civil war and bloodiest ever fought on English soil: Towton.

This represented a decisive Yorkist victory, which resulted in Edward's confirmation as king, followed by his coronation. The butcher's bill of Towton has been the subject of much





FAR LEFT

'The Battle of Tewkesbury' 1471
by Graham Turner

LEFT

'The Arrival', Edward IV enters London
in 1471 by Graham Turner.

For further examples of Graham's work
visit www.studio88.co.uk

speculation for many years and is inevitably discussed in this work, with the author attempting to rationalise the claims of the chroniclers of the period with the more recent archaeological evidence, concluding that whatever the final figures were, the armies of both sides would have been as large as possible (bearing in mind the losses suffered in recent battles) because the outcome of this battle would confirm the crown on Edward or Henry.

This book does not deal with the personal, more salacious side of Edward's character. Although the issue of Edward's marriage is briefly mentioned, the author develops the many reasons for Warwick's disaffection with Edward's regime. It is too easy to simply blame the marriage. Edward was clearly a very able sovereign and, in fact, his choice of bride was the final realisation for the Earl of Warwick that Edward was his own man and wasn't going to be 'guided' by the earl on all main issues. I think it likely that the breach with Warwick was inevitable as he probably believed he would be the power behind the throne – no matter who the king married.

The author then goes on to describe the events resulting in the final disintegration of their relationship, which ultimately resulted in the alliance of Edward's treacherous brother George with the earl and his tactical withdrawal to the Low Countries to regroup. Had the king not done this, it would have surely resulted in the loss of his head, never mind what turned out to be the temporary loss of his throne.

Mr Santiuste details Edward's time in Bruges and eventual persuasion of his brother-in-law, Charles the Bold, to lend

him the resources to mount an invasion to regain his crown. Edward landed at Ravenspur at the mouth of the Humber on 2 March 1471, cleverly suggesting that he had only come to claim his rights as the Duke of York, but quickly gathered an army and with remarkable speed regained London; the Lancastrian lords abandoning Henry VI to his fate. Edward's supporters had soon rallied and rearmed and the Yorkists were able to give battle at Barnet on 14 April, Easter Sunday 1471. A remarkable turn around, which resulted in the death of the Earl of Warwick, finally broke Neville power. George of Clarence had turned his coat again and now Edward went on to fight his final battle at Tewkesbury, resulting in the death of Henry VI's heir and most of the Lancastrian hierarchy. Those who survived went into exile. Only then did he order the death of Henry VI, probably belatedly realising that while he lived, he would be a focus for rebellion. The second period of Edward's reign was marked by peace as there was now no viable threat to his regime. Probably the most controversial event was the Treaty of Picquigny (1475). Edward took an army to France, but agreed the treaty with Louis XI on the bridge at Picquigny, which paid a pension to Edward of 50,000 crowns per annum with a down payment of 75,000. This continued for seven years, until Louis reneged on the agreement. This represents millions at today's values and Edward probably regarded it as his finest hour, thereby avoiding a costly war and supplementing the exchequer. However, his remaining brother, Richard, did not. This event may mark the beginnings of his disaffection with the king, while remaining a loyal lieutenant.

Edward IV is a much-ignored king, who is written-off in school history books as

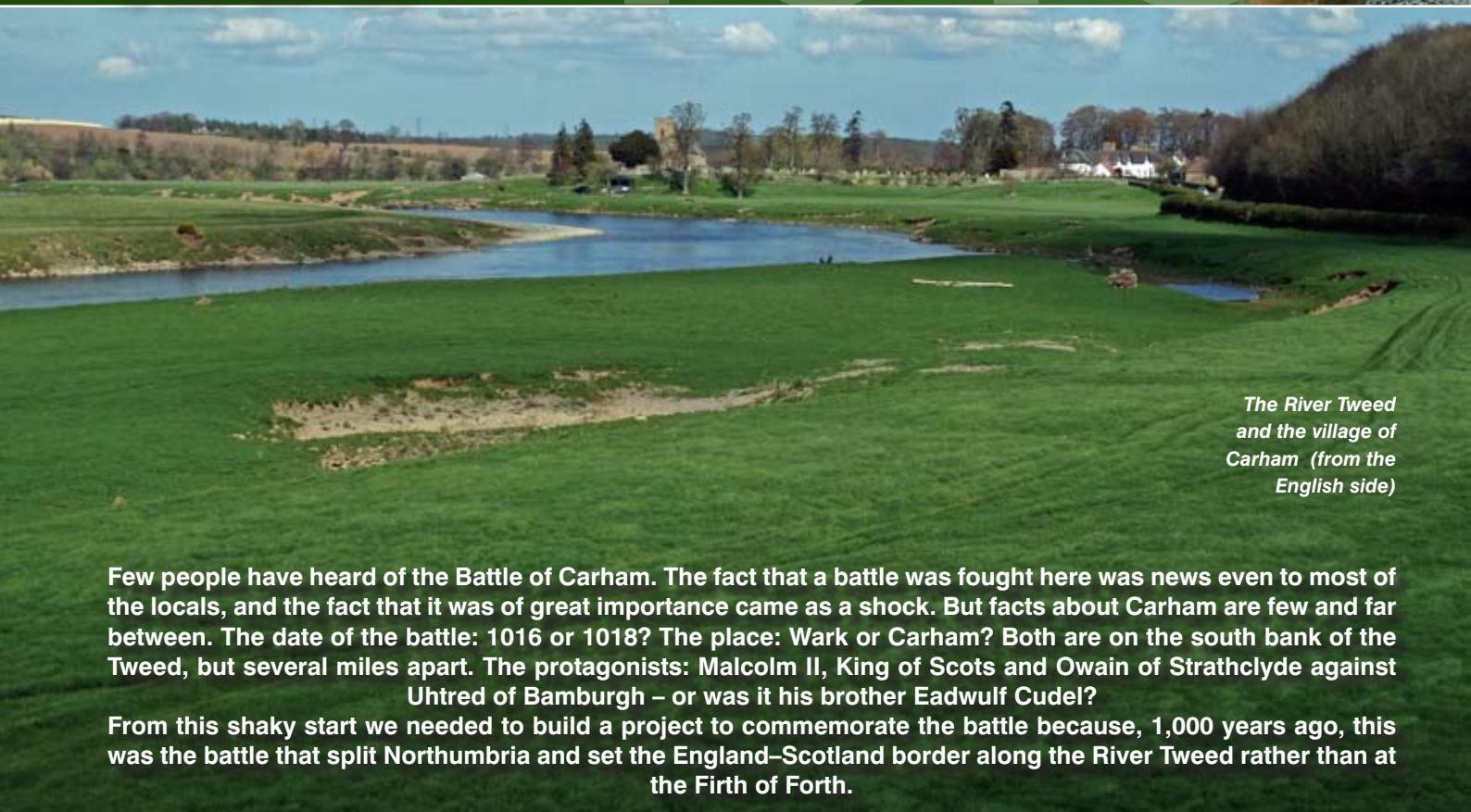
a tyrannical despot. Yet this is surely not so. David Santiuste describes a man who, time and again, tried to rehabilitate his enemies, with varying success. His patience with the treachery of his brother George is a good example of this. History has shown that he was the victor of this conflict and an undefeated general. When Edward died unexpectedly in 1483, he was personally rich and the exchequer was full. The four battles of Mortimer's Cross, Towton, Barnet and Tewkesbury are among the most important to English history. This book gives full accounts of them all, with details of weapons, tactics and the logistical difficulties that a medieval army would face. The book also includes three maps: one a general map showing the locations of all the battles and two more detailed ones covering Towton and Tewkesbury. I would have liked to see two more to cover Mortimer's Cross and Barnet, and find myself wondering why these weren't included.

Recently, Professor Saul David has described Edward IV as one of history's most 'overrated' people. David Santiuste's work demonstrates that Edward's record as a commander and leader of men equals the more accepted warrior princes of the Hundred Years War.

This is a comparatively short work, but the author has been careful not to be distracted from his main theme, while placing Edward's actions in the context of his policies, both at home and in a wider Europe. A worthwhile read.

Start of **Battle of Carham** Project

by Clive Hallam-Baker



*The River Tweed
and the village of
Carham (from the
English side)*

Few people have heard of the Battle of Carham. The fact that a battle was fought here was news even to most of the locals, and the fact that it was of great importance came as a shock. But facts about Carham are few and far between. The date of the battle: 1016 or 1018? The place: Wark or Carham? Both are on the south bank of the Tweed, but several miles apart. The protagonists: Malcolm II, King of Scots and Owain of Strathclyde against Uhtred of Bamburgh – or was it his brother Eadwulf Cudel?

From this shaky start we needed to build a project to commemorate the battle because, 1,000 years ago, this was the battle that split Northumbria and set the England–Scotland border along the River Tweed rather than at the Firth of Forth.

Under the auspices of the North East and Borders Region of the Battlefields Trust, and with a bit of local publicity, Cornhill Village Hall was hired for the day and an interested and enthusiastic audience of more than fifty came to hear Dr Alex Woolf from St Andrews University speak about the battle and the uncertain times of the emergent nations of England and Scotland. Within a week or so of this we had a committee, constitution and a plan of campaign. Thanks to Dr Woolf's excellent presentation we now had a solid foundation on which to base our project. We learned that the most likely date of the battle was 1018 and this gives us four years to prepare for a 1,000th anniversary commemoration in the summer of 2018. The committee plans to start a publicity campaign by

producing a leaflet and then a booklet explaining the importance of Carham from medieval to present times. Interpretation boards and a website will follow and the disused red phone box in Carham has been bought by the Parish Council to emulate the 'Very Small Flodden Visitor Centre'. The scope for archaeology has to be determined, but it is intended that a small-scale search will be launched to try to locate the remains of the medieval Carham Minster, a small wooden building which is thought to have been located close to the church that stands today. It is hoped, and the omens are good, that in 2018 a major Viking living history weekend and battle re-enactment will be staged in the fields along the Tweed. Much work has to be done to organise an event like this, but the re-enactors are

keen, the landowners are in favour and the local population want to put Carham on the map.

Perhaps the most significant factor is not the battle itself, but the fact that the Battle of Carham split the ancient kingdom of Northumbria and set the border where it is, and where it has remained almost unchanged for nearly 1,000 years.

Awareness of the Battle of Carham is building. There have already been articles in the local and north-east press and the significance of this battle has been noted north of the border. Organisers of the emerging Scottish Battlefields Trust are keen to be involved with the Battlefields Trust and a locally based Carham 1018 committee to make this a true cross-border project.

Formation of Scottish Battlefields Trust

by Arran Johnston

Flying the flag for Scotland's battlefields

On 24 October in Prestonpans, scene of Charles Edward Stuart's surprise victory in 1745, representatives from sites and societies across Scotland assembled to discuss the future of the country's battlefields. The unanimous decision of those present was that a new Scottish Battlefields Trust should be established to form a platform for mutual communication and support, and to act as advocate for the preservation and enhancement of Scotland's military heritage.

The symposium, which was attended by parties representing battlefields such as Culloden, Killiecrankie, Athelstaneford and Dunbar, covered a wide range of topics covering both positive developments and ongoing threats and challenges. The high point of the gathering was the signing of a Scottish Battlefields Accord, articulating a desire for, and commitment to, greater protection, understanding and interpretation for all battlefields as well as the sites of major sieges and fortifications. The Accord was signed by all present and will serve as the mission statement for the new Scottish Battlefields Trust.

The Battlefields Trust was represented at the meeting by trustee Clive Hallam-Baker, who spoke both of the Trust's experience and of his involvement in projects at Flodden and Carham. The Trust's video "Why Battlefields Matter" was shown to open the gathering. Other speakers included Christopher Duffy, who spoke about building threats around Culloden battlefield, Arran Johnston, who explored issues surrounding the battlefield graves at Prestonpans, and Scott Macmaster

from the new visitor centre at Bannockburn. In the afternoon there was an open discussion which considered the strengths and weaknesses of Historic Scotland's Inventory of Historic Battlefields, which this year has appeared ineffective as a barrier to insensitive development.

Both before and after the symposium those leading the Scottish Battlefields Trust have been in active discussion with the Battlefields Trust to seek the best ways to ensure mutual support for their respective activities. The feeling on both sides is that there is now a positive opportunity to create an enduring partnership between the two organisations, sharing broad experience whilst allowing those on the ground in Scotland to address challenges within the different legal, planning, and heritage contexts which exist north of the border.

The symposium is planning to reconvene before Spring 2015, after which the new trust will be open for membership. In the meantime anyone interested can follow developments on the Scottish Battlefields Trust's facebook page.



‘Hott it was for a while’

The Battle of Stow-on-the-Wold

by Simon Marsh

Stow-on-the-Wold is an attractive and historic market town set on a promontory in the heart of the North Cotswolds. Depreciated unfairly by some as being full of antique shops and tea rooms, it is nonetheless steeped in Civil War history. Royalist and parliamentary armies passed through Stow several times during the first Civil War (1642-6) and a stand-off action was ‘fought’ to the east of Stow in the summer of 1643 as the earl of Essex’s army marched to relieve Gloucester. King Charles I also stayed in the *King’s Arms* in May 1645, but the town is perhaps best known as being the final location of the last battle of the first Civil War where we can picture the defeated royalist commander, Sir Jacob Astley, sat on a drum by the Market Cross prophetically telling his capturers ‘Gentlemen yee may now sit down and play, for you have done all your work, if you fall not out amongst yourselves’. But why was a battle fought at Stow and why was it the last of the first Civil War?

By February 1646 the royalist cause was all but lost. The Oxford field army had been destroyed at Naseby in June 1645 and a subsequent string of defeats in battle - Langport, Rowton Heath and Torrington - and the loss of several important cities - Bristol, Hereford and Chester - had left royalist prospects in a parlous state.

In late February 1646, in a desperate gamble King Charles I ordered his Worcester-based General for Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire, Sir Jacob Astley, to gather up whatever garrison

troops he could and march to Chipping Norton via Stow-on-the-Wold where he would be met by the King with troops from Oxford. From there they would attempt to relieve the siege of Banbury or return to Worcester, presumably with the aim of recruiting for the King’s army in Wales and the Marches.

This was a challenging order. Astley had to cross the river Avon to reach Stow and Parliament’s garrisons at Stratford and Evesham were in the way. Unknown to Astley, Parliament was also aware of the King’s plans and had ordered the governors of Hereford - John Birch, Gloucester - Thomas Morgan, Evesham

- Edward Rous, and Sir William Brereton, the most senior of the four and who was at that time besieging Lichfield, to combine their forces by 18 March to intercept Astley. Brereton also managed to put a spy into Astley’s camp at Worcester, so when the royalists began their advance on 17 March he was forewarned.

Astley feinted first toward Lichfield, possibly trying to fool his enemies and cause Brereton to raise his siege. He then turned south reaching Alcester on 19 March. Birch, Morgan and Rous had joined forces, probably at



Stow Market Cross, descendants of the opposing generals, David Glaisyer (Sir Jacob Astley) and Norman Goodman (Sir William Brereton), join members of the Sealed Knot to unveil a plaque commemorating the battle.



The tomb of Captain Hastings Keyte, who was killed in the battle

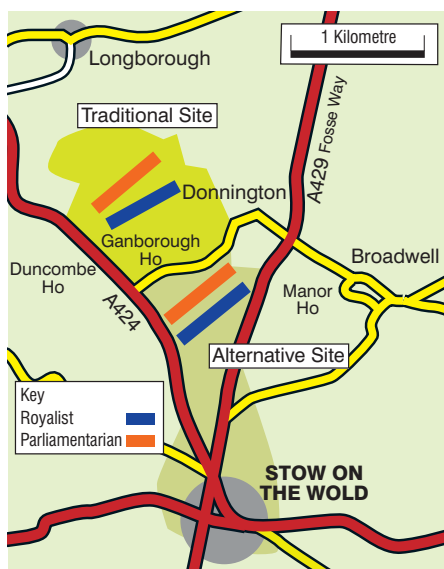
Stratford-on-Avon, by 15 March and on Astley's departure from Worcester Brereton set out with 1,000 cavalry and dragoons to join them. Acting as the senior parliamentary commander until Brereton arrived, Morgan decided to cross the Avon and base himself at Chipping Campden, seemingly because he was concerned about trying to cover all the crossing points on the river and risk his force being defeated in detail.

Astley managed to get across the Avon at Bidford using a bridge of boats on the morning of 20 March. However, with pickets stationed on the hills above Chipping Campden, the parliamentarians could see Astley's army marching down the old Roman road of Buckle Street and moved to intercept him. Brereton had, in the meantime, advanced toward Stratford when he received intelligence that Astley had turned and was heading back toward Birmingham, possibly with the intention of raising the siege at Lichfield. With this new information Brereton also turned back.

Meanwhile by late afternoon in the 'Campden Hills' Morgan's and Astley's forces were engaged. Morgan had deployed 500 cavalry and some infantry to slow Astley's advance as he knew Brereton was on the way. Astley's force numbered between 2,000-3,000 men; perhaps 900 cavalry and 1,500 infantry. Morgan appears to have decided not to use all his estimated 2,700 men against Astley as he was outnumbered in cavalry and wanted to avoid risking defeat by a desperate and numerically similar force.

By 9.00 p.m. Astley had reached the top of the hills and Morgan decided to break contact, await Brereton and regroup his forces. With no sign of Brereton at 11.00 p.m. Morgan recommenced his march, not wishing to lose contact with the royalists who were moving more slowly than him due to their baggage train. Brereton had, in the meantime, realised his mistake and advanced again to Stratford where he learnt of the action at Chipping Campden. He reached Campden by midnight and managed to rendezvous with Morgan's force between 1.00-2.00 a.m. on 21 March.

Following the rendezvous the combined parliamentary army advanced about a mile and then encountered the royalists. Morgan ordered 400 cavalry and 200 dragoons to put Astley, who was still in line of march, to a stand and both armies formed up in the darkness



of the early hours. Each would have deployed with infantry in the centre and cavalry on the flanks. Brereton placed his dragoons probably as commanded musketeers between his cavalry troops on the parliamentary right. Morgan commanded the parliamentary centre with around 2,000 infantry and Birch the 700 or so cavalry on the left. The royalist right perhaps with half the cavalry was commanded by Sir Charles Lucas. Astley was in the centre with the 1,500 infantry and, probably, Sir William Vaughan on the left wing with the remaining horse. The royalist right appears to have been strengthened with commanded musketeers and it seems likely this also occurred on the left given the strength of the opposing force on that side of the battlefield.

Having chosen their field words - 'God our Guide' for the parliamentarians and 'Patrick and George' - perhaps reflecting the presence of some Irish veterans - for the royalists, the armies waited for first light. Around half an hour before break of day, perhaps about 4.45 a.m., the parliamentarians attacked. On the royalist right Birch's attack was thrown back with his own and 32 other horses shot; 'hott it was for a while', suggested Birch's secretary in his account of the battle. In the centre the infantry under Morgan made little headway against the royalist veterans and the fighting was in the balance there for some time. On the royalist left the overwhelming numbers in Brereton's command eventually prevailed and Vaughan's troopers began to flee, allowing the parliamentarians to turn in on Astley's infantry who also routed. The fighting had lasted about one hour, but the royalists were now running back to Stow, pursued by Brereton's troopers.

One account suggests further fighting took place in the town and local tradition has it that Digbeth Street ran red with royalist blood. But the royalists were defeated and soon gave up the fight. Around 1,600-1,700 common soldiers and almost 60 officers were captured along with 12 wagons with ammunition. Astley and Lucas were taken and local folklore suggests that the prisoners were held in St Edward's church overnight before being transferred to



Stow Alternative Battlefield Site from Donnington

Gloucester where most were released after promising not to take up arms against parliament again. Lucas also gave his parole in this way and was executed for breaking it at Colchester in 1648 after being captured there when it surrendered following a ten-week siege.

There remains, however, a mystery about precisely where the Battle of Stow was fought. The traditional site places the battle on the ridge at Donnington village north of Stow and this follows a suggestion from Atkin's 1712 history of Gloucestershire that the battle was fought at Donnington. Proponents of the site argue that the strong defensive

position offered to the royalists by the location and the fact that the Salt Way - an ancient route from Chipping Campden toward Stow via Donnington - offered Astley the best route, making it the most likely location. The alternative site is a ridge to the south between Donnington and Stow. This is preferred by those who judge that Astley was more likely to have fought his way up Broadway hill and used the modern Stow to Evesham road, which can be interpreted as being in existence at the time based on Ogilvy's 1675 map, thus avoiding the Salt Way which passed close to Campden. By using this route and being caught in line of march, Astley, they argue, would more likely have used the southern ridge to deploy as the northern ridge was too far from the road and was, in any case, too precipitous for the parliamentarians to have made an attack. Space to deploy and the shorter distance to the town, where fighting is reported to have continued after the main battle was fought, also favour the southern ridge. Separately, Atkin's reference could be to the fact that Donnington was the nearest place of habitation to where the battle was fought at either the traditional or alternative site.

The only way to settle the question would be to conduct an archaeological survey and the Trust has been fortunate to receive a small grant from the Arms and Armour Heritage Trust which will cover around half-a-dozen days of surveying under an experienced archaeologist to try and find evidence of the main battle site. It is hoped that this work can start sometime in 2015.

In the meantime visitors to Stow can visit the traditional and alternative sites for the battlefield by parking in the free public car park adjacent to the Tesco store (GL54 1BX) and walking a short way up the Fosseway before turning on to the public footpath on the left which leads to Donnington. At Donnington a footpath on the left of The Row at grid reference SP 19235 28226 leads up on to Donnington Ridge where a small memorial to the battle was erected for the Millennium. In Stow itself the grave of Captain Hastings Keyte, a royalist killed in the battle, can be seen in St Edward's church. The Market Cross has a plaque



Stow Battlefield Monument



commemorating Astley's surrender which was installed recently by the Stow Civic Society and St Edward's Hall contains the Christie Crawford collection of over 60 Civil War portraits which can be viewed on the first Thursday of the month from April to October between 10.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. with guides on hand to provide explanations. On the ground floor the Library Foyer contains a cabinet displaying some of the weapons and armour from the Christie Crawford collection. These can be viewed during Library opening hours six days a week.



Stow Market Cross

Places to visit: Runnymede

by Harvey Watson



Eight hundred years ago in a meadow besides the Thames England's freedom was born.

Halfway between Windsor and Staines, as you follow the A308, you will drive through an attractive green meadow. It's a pleasant spot with the Thames flowing lazily past on one side and some thickly wooded high ground known as Coopers Hill on the other. Apart from two rather squat stone columns, one on either side of the road, and a small National Trust tea room there is little to indicate that this is a place of great significance. Yet, this is Runnymede, a site which has been variously described as 'the birthplace of British democracy', 'freedom's field' and even 'the very soul of England'. After visiting Runnymede Rudyard Kipling wrote a well-known poem, 'What say the reeds at Runnymede', and the American Bar Association regularly visits this site to renew their commitment to 'Freedom under the law'. The reason for this fame is, of course, an event which took place here on 15 June 1215, when King John was confronted by a group of rebel barons and forced to agree to what became known as 'the Great Charter', or, in Latin, 'Magna Carta'.

When John succeeded to the throne in May 1199 he not only became King of England, but also ruler of several provinces in western France, running from Flanders to the Pyrenees. Historians call these territories the 'Angevin Empire'. However, John's accession to the throne wasn't greeted with any enthusiasm. Few people

regarded him as trustworthy; it was well known that John had in turn betrayed both his father, Henry II, and his elder brother, Richard I (the Lionheart). John's great rival, Philip Augustus, King of France took advantage of the situation to invade and conquer both Normandy and Anjou. This disaster cast a dark shadow over John's reign, and he was mockingly nicknamed 'John lackland', or 'John softsword'. Determined to raise the money and resources needed to regain his lost provinces John was constantly bullying and threatening his barons, raising new taxes and finding excuses to seize their lands and property. At the same time the King was in conflict with the Church and confiscated part of its wealth. The result was that by 1215 John had become one of the most detested kings ever to sit on the English throne and in the spring of that year rebellion broke out. The turning point came on 17 May, when the rebels managed to capture London.

The real architect of Magna Carta was probably Stephen Langton, the much-respected Archbishop of Canterbury. He persuaded John, who was at Windsor Castle, and the rebel barons, whose headquarters was at Staines, to meet at Runnymede. It's impossible to identify the exact spot where the confrontation took place. Local legend suggests that the actual site was on a small, muddy island in the middle of the Thames, but this is a most unlikely location and in any case the concluding words of the Great Charter are: 'Given under our hand on the Meadow of Runnymede, 15th June, 1215'. Contrary to popular belief John never actually signed Magna Carta (he may not have even been able to write his name); he agreed to it by affixing the Royal Seal.

Despite Magna Carta's fame as the foundation stone of English liberty it contains no sweeping statements of principle; there is no general declaration on the rights of all men. It contains 63 clauses but the great majority of these deal with specific grievances which the

barons wanted addressed. However, mixed up with these specific complaints there were some general principles of law which became the cornerstone of English liberty. Magna Carta makes it clear that the King is not above the law. He could not raise unauthorised taxes and he had to promise that 'to no one will we sell, deny or delay right or justice'. No one could be imprisoned, exiled, executed or have his lands and goods confiscated unless he had been properly charged with breaking the law, given a fair trial and found guilty by his peers. Copies of the Charter were sent around the country and four of these original copies still exist, two in the British Museum, one in Lincoln Cathedral and one in Salisbury Cathedral.

Ironically, at the time, Magna Carta was regarded as a complete failure. John had no intention of keeping his promises and within a few weeks he had persuaded the Pope to annul the Charter. Civil war immediately broke out again and this time the barons were determined to depose John. They invited Prince Louis, the son of King Philip, to become King of England. Louis soon arrived in London with an army of French mercenaries. However, in October 1216 John died and his 9-year-old son was proclaimed King Henry III. The turning point came when Henry's advisers reissued Magna Carta and announced that the new king would abide by its provisions. Support rallied around the boy king and in 1217 the supporters of Louis were defeated on land at Lincoln and at sea off Dover. Louis had no choice but to leave England and return to France. Throughout the Middle Ages every King of England would reissue Magna Carta. Eventually it passed into English law and became the earliest constitutional document in the world. For almost 800 years Magna Carta has formed the basis for law and democracy for English-speaking peoples around the world in ways that John and his barons could not have even dreamt. Leaflets can be obtained from the



National Trust tea-rooms which give details of the various walks around Runnymede. Sites to visit include the Magna Carta Memorial, erected by the American Bar Association. Nearby, the Kennedy Memorial stands in its own acre of land, given by the people of Britain to the USA, honouring the memory of the assassinated President, John F. Kennedy: a little piece of America by the Thames.

A brisk 1-km walk leads to the top of Coopers Hill, where there is the Commonwealth Air Forces Memorial, one of the largest and most impressive memorials to the Second World War to be found anywhere in the British Isles. On the walls of the memorial there are the names of over 20,400 airmen lost on active service over the Atlantic,

North Sea, British Isles and North-west Europe, and who have no known grave. The central tower of the memorial is deliberately designed to remind the visitor of a Second World War airfield control tower. On the side of the tower three stone figures represent Justice, Courage and Victory. From its roof there are impressive views over Runnymede to Windsor in the west and to London in the east.

The great north window of the shrine is flanked by the figures of angels and above them there are engraved vapour trails taken from actual photographs of the sky during the Battle of Britain. The window has engraved on it the words of the 139th Psalm, (sometimes called the Airman's Psalm):

*If I climb up into Heaven, Thou art there;
If I go to Hell, Thou art there also,
If I take the wings of the morning
And remain in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there also shall thy hand lead me;
And thy right hand shall hold me.*



Commonwealth Air Forces Memorial



The Magna Carta Memorial



The John F. Kennedy Memorial



The Magna Carta Memorial

The Magna Carta Trails

by Matthew Bennett and Edward Dawson

For the Battlefields Trust the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary is perhaps the biggest project undertaken so far. The aim is to spread the word widely, and to recruit people to attend events and to become inspired and get involved. Some may develop a longer-term interest join the Trust. We wish to appoint Battlefield custodians for each site. Here Edward Dawson, Project Director, and Dr Matthew Bennett, Lead Trustee, describe what is being done.



Almost everyone has heard of Magna Carta, but very few know much about that period of medieval history and how the French invaded England in the 13th century. One way to find out is to go on the Magna Carta Trails. There are six trails to guide tourists, to see the most interesting features of the story.

- Trail 1 - London to Windsor
- Trail 2 - Salisbury and Wiltshire
- Trail 3 - the Cathedral Cities of the North
- Trail 4 - Kent and East Sussex
- Trail 5 - East of England
- Trail 6 - the Heart of England.

We have provided short entries on the military conflicts on each trail. Each trail can take between two and four days, perhaps a long weekend or a short break.

The climax of the Magna Carta celebrations will not take place until mid-2015, when HM the Queen, the Prime Minister and other dignitaries, such as the US Chief Justice, will attend a ceremony at Runnymede on 15 June, the 800th anniversary. The Battlefields Trust's interest is far wider in both chronological and geographical scope, with the French invasion providing a lengthy series of conflicts and battles. The military history of the First Barons' War provides a rich source of material for historian and observer alike.



Magna Carta 800th Battlefields Trust sites: Champions needed!

These rebel barons came mainly from the north and east of England, so this is where the war was concentrated. However, the Welsh princes were also against John while Alexander, King of Scots, launched attacks in the Borders. Royalist support remained strong in western England, from Chester in the north, down through Gloucester, Bristol and Devizes, and to the great royal castle at Corfe. Further east, though Nottingham, Oxford and Windsor held

firm, the ground was more debatable and saw some fierce campaigning. The war was one of three phases. During the first, from the autumn of 1215 to the early spring of 1216, King John had the upper hand, although he could not regain control of rebel-held London. Then, in May 1216, Prince Louis landed with a large force in the south-east and made substantial gains south of the Thames, as far west as Marlborough. He also besieged Dover in early August until mid-October, when he agreed a truce. King John's death at Newark a few days later led to this cessation of military activity being extended across the

MAGNA CARTA TRAILS 2015



Lincoln north gate



winter. The last phase began when Louis returned to France for reinforcements in spring 1217 and threatened to restore his supremacy. He divided his forces in an attempt to finish off the royalists, but since the death of the hated John they had rallied support behind his young heir, Henry. The northern arm of Louis' offensive was decisively defeated at Lincoln in May, while the final blow was dealt at sea, off Sandwich in late August, forcing the French to sue for peace. Like most medieval conflicts, the war was more one of sieges and raiding than open battle. Following the successful siege of Rochester (mid-September to 30 November 1215), John's march north into rebel territory was accompanied by ferocious ravaging: burning crops and property and killing ordinary folk – the normal way for a king to bring their lords to heel. He also seized, or had surrendered to him, important castles at Bedford, Fotheringay, Belvoir, and Richmond, as well as several more in

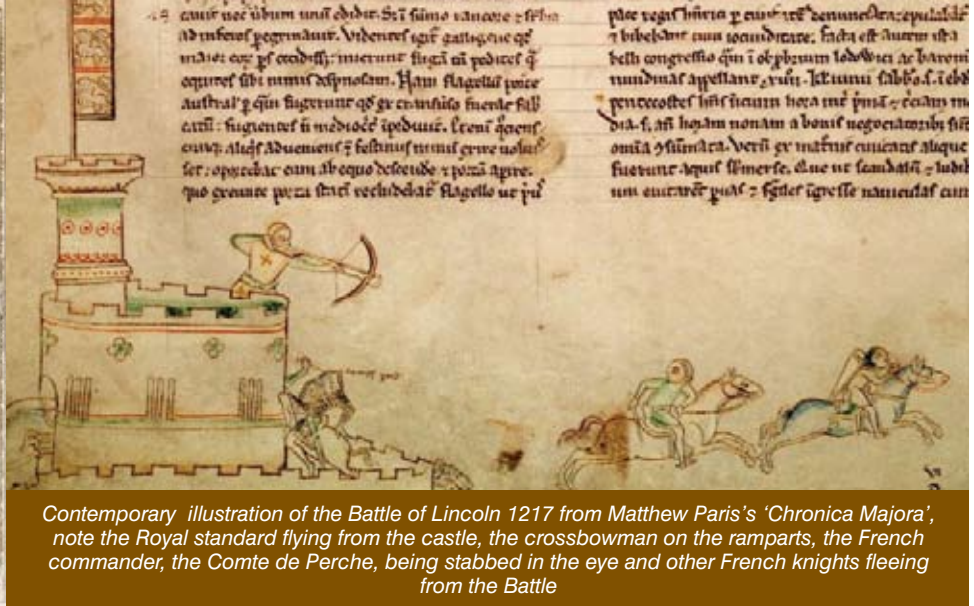
Northumberland. The crucial fortress of Berwick-on-Tweed fell after a few days' siege in January 1216, which together with Carlisle's defiance of a Scottish attack, secured both ends of the Border territories. John's largely mercenary forces covered over 600 miles (1,000 km), in a lightning campaign of only ten weeks; but while this was a brutal

demonstration of royal power, it did not assure continued loyalty once the king had departed.

The arrival of Prince Louis led many more barons to join his colours. It is important to remember that although they were English landowners, many had suffered from the loss of their lands



Lincoln Castle



Contemporary illustration of the Battle of Lincoln 1217 from Matthew Paris's 'Chronica Majora', note the Royal standard flying from the castle, the crossbowman on the ramparts, the French commander, the Comte de Perche, being stabbed in the eye and other French knights fleeing from the Battle

in France owing to King John's military and diplomatic failings. They had also already been vassals of King Philip II of France, so accepting his son as their ruler was not exceptional. This explains why Louis was able to seize Rochester, Reigate, Guildford, Farnham, Winchester, Odiham and Marlborough, and take command of the vital south-coast ports of Southampton and Portsmouth. Windsor and Dover were also besieged. Given that the rebels already held London for the pretender, had these two strategically important fortresses fallen it would have made the royalist position impossible. Both castles were extremely strong, however, and within a few weeks Windsor was relieved. Dover Castle, known as the 'Key to England', was placed under close siege from late July. The walls were assailed by stone-throwing engines, and the timber outwork

(barbican) was first undermined, and then stormed. Louis' miners turned their attention to the North Gate, and brought down one of its two towers. A full-scale assault was only defeated after bitter fighting, the besiegers having penetrated into the outer bailey. Louis then agreed a truce. The close siege was suspended, but a blockade was maintained by land and sea. English guerrilla forces under a Robin Hood character known as 'Willikin of the Weald' harassed the besiegers and even burnt the siege camp, effectively neutralising the threat. The siege was revived in May 1217, seeing the first use of a trebuchet, a powerful stone-throwing engine; but it did not prove to be effective.

If the defence of Dover proved to be the turning point of the war, it was another siege that confirmed a royalist victory. Lincoln had been besieged since

August 1216, under the leadership of its doughty castellaine, Nichola de la Haye. The arrival of additional French forces in May 1217 created a desperate situation. William Marshal, Guardian of young Henry, was 70 years old and a man who, despite a warlike youth, was against risking battle. But it was now or never. It is difficult to assess the size of medieval armies, but the sources agree that he had roughly 400 knights, half as many sergeants (more lightly armed) and some 300 crossbowmen. This was actually a substantial force for the time, although it was most likely outnumbered by the rebels and their French allies. A bold attack on the morning of 19 May, combined by a sally from the castle's garrison, caught the besiegers between two fires. Furthermore, the fighting took place in the crowded streets of the city, negating the rebels' numerical advantage. They were bundled back



Dover Castle



down the hill toward the South Gate, which had a turnstile structure, making escape impossible. Only a few were killed, but as a result some 46 barons and 300 knights were captured. Booty and ransom were the key goals of medieval warfare, but the political implications were that the rebellion was over and Louis forced to abandon his invasion. This was confirmed by the English victory at sea ten weeks later. On this occasion William Marshal was persuaded not to risk his life in battle, but his cog (a fighting ship with towers at bow and stern) played a major part in the engagement. Not for the last time, English seamanship outmatched the French, who lost many men overboard, drowned through the weight of their armour.

It has been the intention of this piece to remind its readers of how many places in England were touched by the Magna Carta war. Although in the end it was the royalist cause which triumphed, the Great Charter was reissued in 1217

and its importance not forgotten. When Simon de Montfort revived the matter half-a-century later, even though he in turn was defeated, the role of Parliament began to be asserted, helping to create the unique English constitution.

What is needed now is for Trust members to act as Champions and raise the awareness of their communities about the crucial military actions which took place in this context. In early 2015, Edward Dawson and Matthew Bennett will tour the Trust branches, encouraging this development and helping to develop interpretational materials. Already some Trust members have begun this process, and we have also attracted support from non-members in the regions. If we can get all this activity to join up then we shall provide a valuable and worthy contribution to Magna Carta 800th.

The Battlefields Trust website:
www.battlefieldstrust.com/

The Magna Carta 800th Committee:
www.magnacarta800th.com/

Review the Magna Carta Trails:
www.magnacartatrails.com/

Battlefields Trust Facebook pages:
www.facebook.com/battlefieldstrust

Contact the Magna Carta 800th Project:
magnacarta800@battlefieldstrust.com

#MagnaCartaTrails - any content that deals with the Tourism trails/Attractions

#MagnaCartaToday - any news or comment or debate piece that references Magna Carta and its legacy or effect on current affairs

#MagnaCartaBattles - any content that is part of the Battlefields Trust's Magna Carta 800th project



King John's tomb in
Worcester Cathedral
Photo by Janice Bridgen



Re-enactment of the Battle of Naseby

● Saturday 14 February 2015

Talk at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery - The Battle of Naseby (1645) Then and Now 2-30p.m.

Naseby ranks alongside Hastings and Bosworth as one of the most important battles in English history. It was the decisive confrontation of the Civil War which saw the royalist army destroyed, vindicating Parliament's decision to create its New Model Army and heralding its ultimate victory. Historian and leading Naseby authority Martin Marix-Evans will talk about the campaign and the battle and explain how the battlefield has been brought to life over the past decade or so through the work of the Naseby Project. For further information contact Simon Marsh on 01844 274112

mercia@battlefieldstrust.com

● Saturday 14 March 2015

Talk at Northampton Museum & Art Gallery - The Battle of Edgcote (1469) 2-30p.m.

Edgcote is the undiscovered and little-known battle of the Wars of the Roses where 5,000 Welshmen are said to have been slain and support for the Yorkist cause from Wales was much diminished. Harvey Watson, an expert on this period of military history and author talks about the background to the battle, examines the theories about where and how it was fought and its significance for the outcome of the wars. He will also explain

why an argument over the favours of a barmaid from Banbury had such an impact on the battle.

For further information contact Simon Marsh on 01844 274112

mercia@battlefieldstrust.com

● Saturday 14 March 2015,

Talk at the Banbury Museum – Banbury in the Civil War 2-30p.m.

Historian Gregg Archer tells the fascinating account of Banbury's experience in the Civil War, from its capture by the King in 1642 to the trauma of the siege of 1645. Hear the stories of the people who fought, died and suffered the depredations of war in and around the town. To book tickets contact the Banbury Museum on 01295 753752. The Museum is located in Spiceball Park Road, Banbury, OX16 2PQ.



Last October Gregg Archer led a group of Battlefield Trust enthusiasts on a walk examining the Civil War skirmishes of Gosford Bridge (1644) and Islip Bridge (1645) near Oxford.

● Sunday 22 March 2015

Battle of Stow-on-the-Wold 1646

A walk over the site of the last battle of the 'First' Civil War led by Simon Marsh. Meet 1.30 p.m. at the public car park adjacent to the Tesco Store in Stow at GL54 1BX. The walk will last approximately 2.5 hours over rough terrain. For further details contact Simon on 01844 274112 or at

mercia@battlefieldstrust.com

● Sunday 12 April 2015

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 11.00 a.m. at the Old Monken Holt public house, High Street, Barnet, EN5 5SU, nearest Tube station High Barnet, 0.7 miles. For further details contact

chairman@battlefieldstrust.com

● Sunday 19 April 2015

Runnymede 1215

2015 marks the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, the oldest constitutional document in the world. Harvey Watson will be leading a walk and explaining the significance of a site that has been described as 'the very soul of England'. A brisk 1 km walk leads to the top of Coopers Hill, where there is the Commonwealth Air Forces Memorial, one of the largest and most impressive memorials to the Second World War to be found anywhere in the British Isles. On the walls of the memorial there are



Battle of Bosworth
by Philip James de Loutherbourg



Tewkesbury Abbey



Battle of Agincourt

the names of over 20,400 airmen lost on active service over the Atlantic, North Sea, British Isles and North-west Europe, and who have no known grave. Meet outside the National Trust tea rooms at 10.30 a.m. (post code TW20 0AE). Contact Harvey Watson on 01494 257847 for further details.

● Saturday 25 April 2015

Mortimers Cross 1461

This key Wars of the Roses battle near Leominster in Herefordshire in February 1461 revived Yorkist fortunes after their defeat at Wakefield all but extinguished their cause. The Yorkist victory here led directly both to the execution of Owen Tudor, step-father of Henry VI and grandfather of Henry VII, and to the accession of Edward IV. Famous for the appearance of a triple sun (a parheliion), debate rages over the details of the battle. As part of a wider project to research the battle the Trust is planning a day's programme of activities including visits to both the rival sites (around 4–5 miles' walking, in two walks) to weigh the evidence. Alternative vehicle tour planned if weather inclement. Start point and times to be confirmed and will be on the website. Further details, and to book a place, contact Anthony Rich on 0121 249 9292 or at anthonyrich@virginmedia.com

● Friday 1 May to Sunday 3 May 2015

Battlefields Trust Annual Conference

The Battlefields Trust Annual Conference and AGM will be held in Oxford 1 - 3 May 2015.

For further details visit the 'Events' section of the Battlefields Trust website.

● Saturday 2 May to Monday 4 May 2015

Battle of Tewkesbury 1471.

'Armour at the Abbey' Exhibition

The Tewkesbury Battlefield Society are holding their annual exhibition of arms and armour at Tewkesbury Abbey. For further details email Steve Goodchild on mannscourt@orpheusmail.co.uk.

● Thursday 7 May 2015

100th Anniversary of the sinking of the Lusitania 1915

Our image of the First World War is dominated by the Western Front and the slaughter in the trenches. It is easy to forget that Britain came close to being defeated because a new weapon, the German submarine, or U-boat, came close to cutting Britain's vital life lines with the rest of the world. Battlefields Trust Chairman, Frank Baldwin, will be marking the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the liner, Lusitania, off the coast of Ireland by leading a walk looking at the ships and naval memorials from the First World War. Meet at Tower Hill tube at 6.30 p.m. and disperse at the Embankment Tube 9.30 p.m.. For further details contact

chairman@battlefieldstrust.com or ring Harvey Watson on 01494 257847.



The Lusitania

● Sunday 10 May 2015

The Battle of Edgcote 1469

Harvey Watson will be leading a 3–4 mile (approx) guided walk across the site of one of the least famous but most pivotal battles in the Wars of the Roses. We will start at 1.30 p.m. from the Chipping Warden Parish Church, Chipping Warden, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX17 1JZ (thus allowing for an optional spot of lunch at the pub beforehand). The battle site is currently threatened by the proposed High Speed Rail link, so this is an opportunity to view this beautiful valley in its current state. The route will be a mixture of roads, footpaths and fields so bring suitable footwear, and a rain jacket in case of inclement weather. Contact Harvey Watson on 01494 257847 for further details.

● Saturday 16 May 2015

Talk at Banbury Museum – Finding Bosworth: The Search for the battle that killed a king - 2.30 p.m.

Internationally renowned battlefield archaeologist Glenn Foard talks about the detective work involved in the rediscovery of the battlefield at Bosworth, the site of King Richard III's death. Learn more about the battle, its archaeology and why a small silver brooch probably marks the place where King Richard was killed. To book tickets contact the Banbury Museum on 01295 753752. The Museum is located in Spiceball Park Road, Banbury, OX16 2PQ.

● Saturday 16 May 2015

Battle of Lewes 1264

The Battle of Lewes on 14 May 1264 had a significant impact on parliamentary democracy. Simon de Montfort and the rebel Barons defeated the army of Henry III leading to De Montfort running the country in the name of the King. In January 1265 he summoned a Parliament which included burgesses for the first time and is considered the first Representative Parliament.

The walk is organised in conjunction with Sussex Archaeological Society and will be led by Michael Chartier (Chair of SAS) and John Freeman who were both on the Steering Group of the 750th Commemoration Committee in 2014. Parking is in the town car parks (John can email/post a map). Meet at 11.00 a.m. at Lewes Castle entrance-169 High Street, Lewes, BN7 1YE. The Castle opens at 11.00 a.m. and we suggest a visit (£7.00 entrance fee). It offers views towards the battlefield and was Prince Edward's (later Edward I) base. We then will be proceeding to the Priory (Henry III's base).

Lunch can be taken in a café/pub at approx. 1.00 p.m.

After lunch drive to the car park at the west end of the town at St. Anne's Crescent, BN7 1UE to start the battlefield walk at 2.00 p.m.. Mike and John will lead the group up onto Landport Downs. The distance of the walk is approx. 2 miles with excellent views over the town,



Evesham battlewell

Re-enactment of Battle of Evesham

with a return to cars at approx. 4.30 p.m..
For further details please contact John on 07957 829997 or email him at johnfreeman11@hotmail.co.uk.



Re-enactment of Battle of Lewes

● Sunday 31 May 2015

First Battle of St Albans 1455

Dr Peter Burley and Mike Elliott will be leading a walk around medieval St Albans and following the course of the crucial First Battle of St Albans which marked the start of the Wars of the Roses. Meet at the Boot Inn, 4 Market Place, AL3 5DG, at 1.00 p.m. for lunch. The walk will start outside the pub promptly at 2.00 p.m.. If you are coming to St Albans by train contact Dr Peter Burley on 01727 831413 and rendezvous in the Station Booking Hall at midday.

● Friday 31 July to Monday 3rd August 2015

Battle of Agincourt Conference – 'War on Land and Sea: Agincourt in Context'

2015 marks the 600th anniversary of the battle of Agincourt. A major international conference will be held at the University of Southampton between Friday 31 July and Monday 3 August 2015, entitled 'War on Land and Sea: Agincourt in Context'. There will be discount rates for members of The Battlefields Trust. The conference will cover many different aspects of medieval warfare, including the culture of war, the 'hardware' (armour, weaponry, fortifications, ships), armies and navies. There will also be

special public events. The conference coincides with the anniversary of the plot to kill Henry V on 1 August ('the Southampton Plot'). The expeditionary army gathered in Southampton and its environs, and sailed from the port in mid-August. The city of Southampton still has town walls surviving from this period. There will also be a visit to the Royal Armouries' collection of artillery at Fort Nelson. Further information and calls for papers will be sent out in due course via a website. This will also contain an Agincourt Who's Who, developed from the Medieval Soldier project (www.medievalsoldier.org), and other interesting Agincourt-related material. In the meantime do email agincourt@soton.ac.uk to ensure that your interest has been logged and to be informed of other exciting events planned for the anniversary in 2015 by the Royal Armouries and other organisations. For further information contact Anne Curry at a.e.curry@soton.ac.uk.

● Saturday 1 August to Friday 14 August 2015

750th anniversary of the Battle of Evesham 1265

The Simon de Montfort Society are commemorating the 750th anniversary of the death of Simon de Montfort at the Battle of Evesham and the creation of the first English Parliament.

Saturday 1 August 2015

Commemoration & Democracy Day' when the Speaker and other parliamentary officials will lay wreaths in Abbey Park.

Tuesday 4 August (evening), 2015

Keynote lecture by Professor David Carpenter (a Patron of the Simon de Montfort Society).

Saturday and Sunday 8–9 August 2015

Medieval Festival weekend on Crown & Corporation Meadows. To include a re-enactment of the battle of Evesham 1265, craft fair and demonstrations, 'living history', music and much food and drink. A wargaming event organised

by Daniel Faulconbridge (editor of 'Wargames Illustrated') will also be held over this weekend.

Monday 10 August 2015

Buffet supper at the Evesham Hotel followed by a talk by Katherine Ashe, the American author of the four-volume 'novelized history of Simon', provisionally entitled 'Why Simon Truly Was the Founder of Parliament'. (Supported by the Mortimer History Society.)

Wednesday 12 August 2015

Historical walkabout around the town and battlefield.

Friday 14 August 2015

Supper at Abbey Manor and talk (provisionally about Simon and the Abbey) by Dr David Cox (also a Patron of the Simon de Montfort Society). Courtesy of Mr and Mrs John Phipps.

For further details email Clive Bostle at bostle@waitrose.com

● Saturday 19 September 2015

Legionaries and Knights – perspectives on the Roman and Norman military machines

An afternoon seminar held by the East Anglia region at The Assembly House, Norwich, featuring novelists Anthony Riches, James Aitchinson and others to be confirmed. Cost: £15. Further details will be available nearer the time. All enquiries to annmarie@talktalk.net or 01603 664021.

Details of the battlefield walks and special events are accurate at the time of publication; however, you are strongly advised to contact the organiser nearer the time to ensure that there has been no last-minute alterations to arrangements and to help with estimating numbers.

Except where shown, walks organised by the Battlefields Trust are free to members of the Trust; however, adult non-members may be asked for a donation.



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