



Tewkesbury Battlefield Society

Newsletter December 2020

Season's Greetings:

This is our last newsletter of 2020 and my first as Chairman. To say the year has been different would be something of an understatement, with many of our activities from society days out to the Medieval Festival and beyond cancelled. We have had some small victories and managed to get the banners displayed for a few months and our regular walks recommenced but with a greatly reduced capacity. 2021 heralds our 550th Anniversary of the battle and with planning continuing around events to mark the occasion it just leaves me to wish you all an enjoyable Christmas with great expectations for 2021.

Website:

A new and improved website has been designed by a new member to the team. This will include a members only section together with the ability to use our extensive research material about the battlefield collected over many years. This has now been digitalised and will be available via the website. This together with an online shop has increased the sites functionality greatly. We hope to launch the site early in 2021. The address will remain the same so you should be able to find us!

Membership:

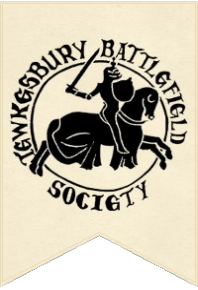
Traditionally membership to the society has been based on a nominal annual subscription renewable every year. For 2021 we have taken the decision to abandon this concept in favour of a free membership model. This would allow anyone wishing to support us by becoming a member without any charge being levied. Members would have access to additional sections on the website, society social events and regular updates on the activities of the committee. We feel that this new model enhances our aims and objectives and opens new horizons for the future.

The Museum:

The battle room refurbishment is well underway, with not only the battle diorama being refocused but numerous other displays being prepared. The museum has made the decision to remain closed until the February half term and hopefully when it reopens, it will do so with the battle room completed in time for the 550th anniversary.

Margaret of Anjou Statue:

As some of you may already be aware, the Society are proposing to place a sculpture of Queen Margaret on Holm Castle overlooking the battlefield. Unfortunately with Covid the necessary permissions have not yet materialised to site the statue. However our window of opportunity with the foundry to cast the bronze head is upon us and if we let it slip the sculptor will not be able to guarantee its completion in time for the 2021 Medieval Festival. As a result we have taken the decision to finance the project in the hope of gaining the relevant permissions in the near future or source another site for the project.



Tewkesbury Battlefield Society

Gupshill Visitors Centre:

Again due to the Covid restrictions progress has been slow with many of the interested parties otherwise engaged. However it still remains an aspiration of the society and we will seek further contact with the organisations in the New Year.

Anniversary Conference:

It is our aim to still continue with our plans to host an anniversary conference in the town on Saturday 2nd May. A number of speakers have confirmed their attendance. Hopefully we will soon be in a position to confirm the event will be going ahead.

Anniversary Walk:

We are aiming to combine our Saturday Conference with our Sunday Walk in the hope people will make a weekend of the celebrations. The walk will take its usual format of starting at the Yorkist Camp at Tredington and walking back to Tewkesbury via the battlefield. In the afternoon we are hoping to meet up with Armour at the Abbey and their plan to re-enact Margaret's Queen march from Gloucester.

Battlefield Walks:

Our regular monthly walks continue with Covid restrictions with a full programme published for 2021. A full list of dates are found on the website but booking is required at the present time to ensure we remain within the rule of 6.

Events 2021:

We hope to add to these as the restrictions are hopefully eased. Currently they stand as:

Sunday 3rd January – Battlefield Walk

Sunday 7th February – Battlefield Walk

Sunday 7th March – Battlefield Walk

Sunday 4th April – Battlefield Walk

Saturday 1st May – Anniversary Conference

Sunday 2nd May -Anniversary walk in connection with Armour at the Abbey

Medieval Festival Weekend 10th-11th July