

Conference Information

May 2014 will see the 750th anniversary of the Battle of Lewes, one of the two main battles in the Second Barons' War, 1264-67. Part of a long-term struggle between Henry III and his barons over how the country should be governed and about the supremacy of Magna Carta, de Montfort's victory at Lewes allowed him to displace the powers of the King and, until his death at the Battle of Evesham in 1265, to become the *de facto* ruler of England. Most significantly, the Lewes peace settlement allowed him to call England's first ever representative parliament.

In the run-up to this anniversary, the Society is delighted to present some of the country's most eminent historians to debate one of Britain's least-known but politically most important battles. How was the Battle of Lewes won? Did it really lay the foundations for parliamentary democracy? What kind of person was Simon de Montfort and how important was his wife, Eleanor, to his success? How did people respond locally to the political furor of the time? And what was the effect of all these changes on ordinary people? Finally, the conference will bring the subject right up-to-date by looking at modern battlefield archaeology. What can we learn from the evidence of the wounds inflicted about what really happened on a medieval battlefield?

The Battle of Lewes project includes significant community involvement, some examples of which will be on display at the venue, including the ongoing Battle of Lewes tapestry. The following day there will be free tours of the battlefield.

Booking information

The conference is open to all, and the ticket price includes tea/coffee on arrival and in the mid-morning and mid-afternoon breaks, and a conference delegate booklet. Lunch is *not* included but the Town Hall is situated on Lewes High Street with ample cafes and restaurants nearby, or you may bring a packed lunch if you wish. There will be a variety of stalls to visit during the breaks.

Venue: Assembly Room, Town Hall, Lewes BN7 2QS (Fisher St entrance).

Getting there: there is no parking on site. County Hall car park (behind St Anne's church) is £1 for the day and only 10 minutes from the venue. Lewes station is a short uphill walk away, and buses from the east and west stop in the High Street.

Sunday 15 April – free battlefield tour

The Battlefield Trust is kindly offering an introductory guided walk around the main area of the battlefield from 10.30am – midday. There is no charge, but as there is a maximum of 80 places in total (average group size will be 20), we do require you to book in advance to secure your place. Places are only available to those attending the conference.

Further details, including directions, will be sent with confirmation of your booking. All conference enquiries should be directed to: Lorna Gartside, Sussex Archaeological Society, Bull House, 92 High Street, LEWES BN7 1XH, tel: 01273 405737, email: members@sussexpast.co.uk



Sussex
Archaeological
Society

The Battle of Lewes: the beginnings of parliamentary democracy?

Saturday 14 April 2012
Assembly Room, Town Hall, Lewes



Battle of Lewes by Hardy (reproduced courtesy of Lewes Town Council)

A one day Conference



LEWES
TOWN
COUNCIL



Conference Booking Form

The fee for the conference is £30 per person and your ticket includes a delegate booklet and tea or coffee on arrival and during the morning and afternoon breaks.

Book online through the Sussex Past website
www.sussexpast.co.uk or complete the form below

Name.....(SAS member no:.....)

Address.....

.....Postcode:.....

Tel: (daytime).....

Email:.....

Please send meticket(s) @ £30

There is a discounted rate of £20 for full-time or part-time students on award-bearing courses. To qualify, you must name the course you are studying & the College here:

Please send meticket(s) @ £20

You may also book by phone: 01273 405737, Tues-Fri 10am-3pm.

Battlefield Tours – Sunday 15 April

There is no charge for the guided tours but places are limited, so early booking is advised. The tours are only open to those attending the conference.

Please reserve me space(s) on the battlefield tour.
Note that the Sunday tours cannot be booked online. To secure a place, send an email to members@sussexpast.co.uk when you make your online conference booking, stating the number of places required.

Please find enclosed cheque for £.....payable to "Sussex Past".

Confirmation will be sent by email where possible. If you require confirmation by post, please include an s.a.e. with your booking form.

Send your completed form & payment with SAE if applicable to:

Lorna Gartside, Bull House, 92 High Street, LEWES BN7 1XH
Tel: 01273 405737, email: members@sussexpast.co.uk

Conference Programme

Saturday 14 April

- 9.30am *Registration*
- 10.00am **Chair's Introduction: Baroness Andrews of Southover**
Chair of English Heritage and Battle of Lewes Project Patron
- 10.05am **Lewes: the Campaign and the Battle**
Dr David Carpenter, Professor of Medieval History, King's College London and Battle of Lewes Project Patron
- 10.45am **How did all this Political Turmoil begin: what were the causes of the Revolution of 1258?**
Dr Huw Ridgeway, Former Head of History, Sherborne School
- 11.25am *tea/coffee*
- 11.50am **The Road to Civil War: implementing the Baronial Reform Programme and the Royalist Reaction, 1258-65**
Dr Adrian Jobson, author of *The First English Revolution: Simon de Montfort, Henry III and the Barons' War*
- 12.30pm **Simon de Montfort, the Battle of Lewes and the Development of Parliament**
Dr John Maddicott, Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford
- 1.10pm *lunch*
- 2.15pm **Eleanor de Montfort**
Dr Louise Wilkinson, Senior Lecturer, Canterbury Christ Church University
- 2.55pm **Sussex in the Barons' Wars**
Dr Andrew Spencer, Fellow of Corpus Christi, Cambridge
- 3.35pm *tea/coffee*
- 4.00pm **Medieval Weapon Trauma: conflicting evidence from Towton and beyond**
Tim Sutherland, Visiting Lecturer, York University; Hon Research Fellow, Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, Glasgow University
- 4.40pm *Questions and end*