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Salisbury Military History Society January 2025 eNewsletter

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The Battle of Cheriton Battlefield Walk

First an important update. An earlier email advertised the 6th April. However, the **FINAL** agreed date is **Sunday 13th April**. There have been a few changes due to availability of the guide and facilities but this is now set. If you had previously discounted coming on the tour because of the 6th April date then please reconsider whether the new date of 13th April is more convenient.

This is a test event to establish the enthusiasm for such outings so please don't just think 'I'll catch the next one!'

Parish Notices

Society Membership Fees

As a final call in the Newsletter, the AGM ratified that the full years membership will stay at **£45**. It would be greatly appreciated if those that can, make an electronic transfer payment to the following bank details:

Account name: Salisbury Military History Society

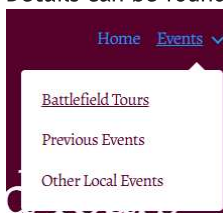
Account Number: 02293544

Sort Code: 40-40-14

To aide record keeping, please enter you surname and membership number (if known) in the reference field.

The Battle of Cheriton Battlefield Walk

Details can be found on our website under the ['Events' sub-menu](#).



Newsletter updates

If there are any ideas to make the newsletter even better then please don't hesitate to contact us through web query page on our website with the subject line 'eNewsletter suggestion'. Or email directly

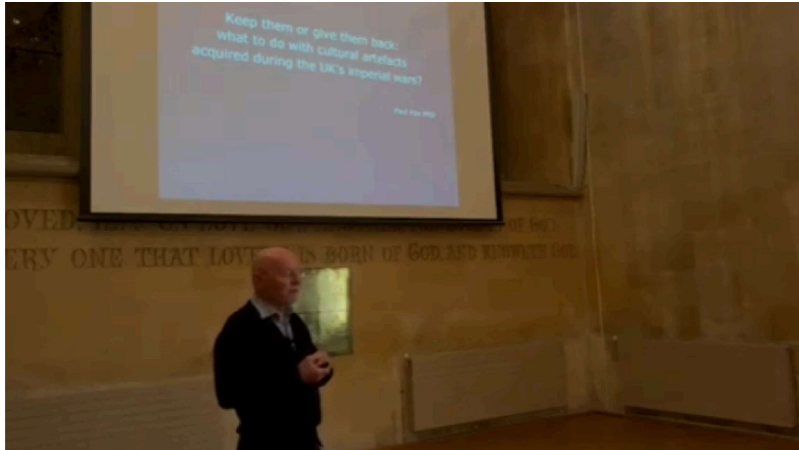
Upcoming talks

Feb 26th - [My Life As a Military Spy \(BRIXMIS\)](#), (re-scheduled from Sep '24)

There is a full year of events scheduled with some details needed to be added to the website soon.

View all our events

Talk Review: 'Keep Them or Give Them Back'



Dr Paul Fox gave a thought provoking talk on the practicality and ethics of keeping 'acquired' artifacts that have been amassed over the many years of Empire. There was a good turnout and I believe everyone came with an open mind for what can be a contentious subject. Paul didn't start with a pre-determined position but outlined an argument based around whether these artifacts were still relevant given the passage of time, the practicality of repatriation to what in some cases could be considered unstable or unsuitable regimes.

He took as an example the artifacts 'looted' from [Magdala, Abyssinia after the siege of 1868](#).

Dr. Paul Fox's lecture was an educational and stimulating exploration of a topic that continues to challenge institutions, nations, and scholars worldwide. His nuanced examination of the ethical and practical aspects of artifact retention left the audience with much to ponder. For those interested in cultural heritage issues, this talk is highly recommended and is available for viewing on our YouTube channel [here](#).

Next Talk: Weds 26th February 2025

'My Life As a Military Spy (BRIXMIS)'

by Peter Willams

Peter Williams spent over 30 years in the Coldstream Guards and enjoyed an unusually varied career. As an Infantryman he carried out ceremonial duties in London, spent two years with Baluchi soldiers in the mountains of Oman, served twice in Northern Ireland and commanded 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards in Germany. In the early 1990s he wrote speeches for the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, an American general. During the Cold War he specialised in intelligence, serving first in Berlin from 1973 to 1975 as a Regimental Intelligence Officer. He then studied Russian and German before spending more than four years in the 1980s in Berlin and East Germany as an officer in the British Commanders'-in-Chief Mission to the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany (known as BRIXMIS), in effect working as a military spy. In 1983 he was awarded an MBE for his success as an intelligence collector and analyst.

Guides, the Patron of the British Ex-Services Association of Western Australia and a Governor of Rendcomb College near Cirencester. From 2008 until 2013 he was the editor of The Guards Magazine, the in-house journal of the British Army's Household Division (Household Cavalry and Foot Guards). He also helps to train British military diplomats. Details [here](#)

Selection of events through history in November

Why not explore the details behind these events?

January 10 or 11, 49 BC - Crossing of the Rubicon:
Julius Caesar crossed the Rubicon, initiating the civil war.

January 6, 1520 - Diet of Worms:
Martin Luther's excommunication led to subsequent military conflicts.

January 30, 1649 - Execution of Charles I:
Ending the English Civil War, leading to Cromwell's Commonwealth.

January 17, 1781 - Battle of Cowpens:
American victory over British forces in the American Revolutionary War.

January 22, 1879 - Battle of Isandlwana:
Zulu victory over British forces during the Anglo-Zulu War.

January 25 - 29, 1905 - Battle of Sandepu:
Russian attack on Japanese forces during the Russo-Japanese War.

January 31, 1915 - First Use of Poison Gas in Warfare:
German forces used tear gas against the Russians in Bolimów, Poland.

January 31, 1942 - Fall of Malaya:
Japanese forces completed their conquest of Malaya.

For the ancient and medieval events, the exact day might be less certain:

January, 1412 BC - Battle of Megiddo (approximate date):
Thutmose III defeated the Canaanite coalition at Megiddo.

January, 722 - Battle of Covadonga (approximate date):
Pelagius of Asturias defeated the Moors, marking the beginning of the Reconquista.

YouTube

Our YouTube channel is new but it our intention to post excerpts of talks (where licensing and copyright allow) as well as videos that we feel would be of interest within our Military History remit.

[Excerpt from a talk by Dr Helen Fry for the Salisbury Military History Society on 26th June 2024.](#)

[Excerpt of Robin Phayre's 22nd May talk on Drone Dynamics: A Look at drones in the Ukraine theatre and the lessons for the future](#)

[Full Talk: Flying to the Sun: A Modern Englishman in Mediaeval Japan with Michael Jay](#)

[Full Talk: Peter Hart's - 'Laugh or Fly with The Royal Flying Corps 1914-18](#)

[Custer's Last Stand - Robert Kershaw](#)

It's All Gone South - by Andy Tarby. Unfortunately due to a technical hitch only the first few minutes were captured. These things happen so all the better to be there!

YouTube

Local Events, Online Talks and Podcasts

There is a wealth of upcoming military history talks and events in Salisbury and the surrounding areas. This calendar is updated regularly so check back for new additions.

28th January - [The Worcesters at Gallipoli](#)

30th January -

[We the People - African American Soldiers in World War II](#)

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31st January - [SAS Duty Before Glory](#)

3rd February - [The British Way in Warfare - Salonika, 1915-1918](#)

4th February -

[The Army That Never Was: D-Day and the Great Deception](#)

[Battlefields Trust Online Talks Spring Programme 2025 - The Longest Conflict in History](#)

[George Washington and the 1758 Forbes Campaign](#)

5th February - [Beyond the Civil War: Buffalo Soldiers on the American Frontier](#)

6th February - [U.S. Army Counterinsurgency Operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom](#)

7th February - [Making Sense of the Great War: Crisis, Englishness and Morale](#)

10th February - [Turning Points 1915 by Spencer Jones](#)

11th February -

[George Washington and the 1758 Forbes Campaign](#)

[Griffons, Merlins and Spitfires](#)

12th February - [Beyond the Civil War: Buffalo Soldiers on the American Frontier](#)

14th February - [It Worked: Innovation and Improvisation in the Royal Army Medical Corps](#)

18th February - [Battlefields Trust Online Talks Spring Programme 2025 - Firearms of the 16th & 17th Centuries](#)

19th February - [Beyond the Civil War: Buffalo Soldiers on the American Frontier](#)

20th February -

[The Treasures of the Kohima Museum](#)

[Hitler and Me](#)

[Till the Extinction of this Rebellion: George Rogers Clark, Frontier Warfare, and the Illinois Campaign of 1778-1779](#)

21st February - [Fighting for the Empire? Britain's Colonial African Armies, 1939-45](#)

[The British Way of War - 1890-1918, shaping strategy for an age of transition](#)

27th February - [We the People - The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion](#)

28th February - [A Macaroni in the Barracks: Sexuality on Trial in Revolutionary America](#)

Events from Website

- 30 Jan [Illustrating History with Keith Burns](#)
(The Salisbury Museum, Salisbury)
- 30 Jan [An Evening with General Sir Richard Barrons](#)
(Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock)
- 02 Feb [‘Insane - a legacy of three years’ service’](#)
(The Western Front Association, Highworth)
- 22-23 Feb [SAHR Conference: Land Forces of the Crown, c.1660- c.2000](#)
(The Society for Army Historical Research, London)
- 24 Feb [Westland: Secret Projects and Cutting Edge Technology](#)
(The Army Flying Museum, Middle Wallop)
- 27 Feb [French Prisoners of War in Hampshire: Napoleon’s Lost Soldiers and Seamen](#)
(The Royal Green Jackets (Rifles) Museum, Winchester)

Military History News

Please see below a periodically updated list of articles from the world of military history.

[10 Inspiring Stories Of Bravery During The Battle Of Britain](#)

[Interesting Links from British Military History](#)

[The mysterious story of the Unknown Warrior](#)

[Bernard Law Montgomery: Unbeatable and unbearable](#)

[Introduction to Legion: life in the Roman army](#)

[History Has No Lessons for You: A Warning for Policymakers](#)

[7 Greatest Military Strategists from History](#)

[Exhibiting military history](#)

[New Medieval Books: Byzantine Military Rhetoric in the Ninth Century](#)

[Legion: Life in the Roman Army review - ‘More than just a blood and guts orgy of military might’](#)

[Why a Rabbit Appears on This Japanese Samurai Helmet](#)

[The Navy’s Short-Lived Plan to Dominate the Skies with Flying Aircraft Carriers](#)

[Learning Lessons from the Prussian Past?](#)

[Carry On films: The star who helped World War II prisoners escape](#)

[D-Day 80th anniversary: Pop-up museums tell Portsmouth's story](#) [video]

[10 War Movies Military Experts Praised for Accuracy & Realism](#)

Click on the links below for the next (and future) webinars from a range of organisations. Some of these talks may have a small fee to join.

[Old Front Line](#)

A World War One podcast featuring 30-45min episodes.

[Pete and Gary's Military History](#)

For more than 40 years historian Peter Hart has interviewed thousands of veterans about their experience of war.

[New Books Network](#)

A series of interviews with authors of military history books.

We look forward to seeing you to St. John's Place next week!

Best regards,

Tony Corkery
Marketing Officer

Keith Rigden
Membership Secretary



Who's who:

Chairman & Speaker Secretary: Ian Thomas

Secretary: Mark Vincent

Treasurer: John Loades

Membership Secretary: Keith Rigden

Marketing Officer: Tony Corkery

Links Curator: Dave Simons

Without portfolio: Andy McCafferty, Bob Kershaw



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