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## Salisbury Military History Society March 2025 eNewsletter

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### The Battle of Cheriton Battlefield Walk Sunday 13th April 2025

We have had a very good uptake so far and encourage you to pay for places if you would like to experience the walk and talk. Payment can now only be made to the Society using the bank details indicated. In the Reference box put your surname and Membership Number i.e. Smith 24 so this can be tracked by the Treasurer.

If you haven't already booked with the pub, please email your lunch preference to [charles.ottowell@gmail.com](mailto:charles.ottowell@gmail.com). The pub menu can be found [here](#)

Account name: Salisbury Military History Society

Account Number: 02293544

Sort Code: 40-40-14

## Parish Notices

### 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 to [salisburymilhist@gmail.com](mailto:salisburymilhist@gmail.com) with the same subject.

### Upcoming talks

Apr 23rd - [The Viking Conquest of England by Cnut the Great](#) by Ryan Lavelle

May 28th - [Korea: War Without End](#) by Robert Lyman

Jun 25th - [Siege of Malta 1565 by John Greenacre](#)

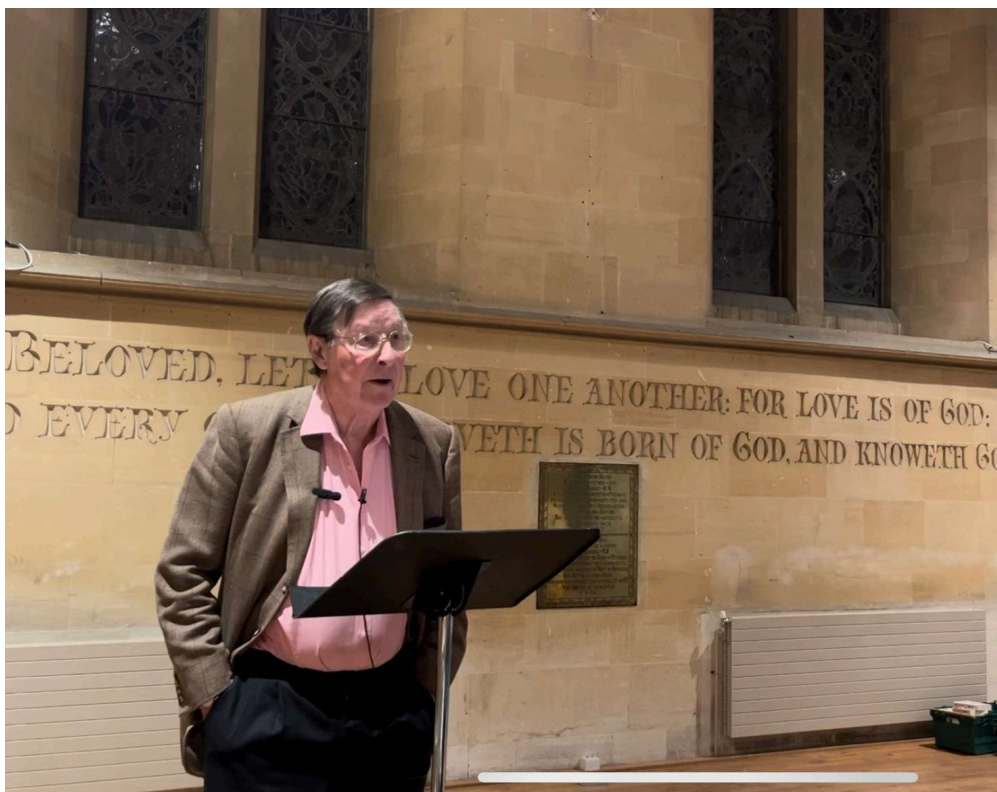
Jul 23rd - [Hiroshima Men by Iain MacGregor](#)

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View all our events

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### Talk Review: 'Abyss: The Cuban Missile Crisis 1962'



In this month's spotlight event, Sir Max Hastings delivered a riveting encore to a capacity crowd at our Society's latest gathering. The anticipation was palpable, and Sir Max did not disappoint. With his signature eloquence and meticulous research, he transported us back to the harrowing days of the Cuban Missile Crisis, weaving a gripping narrative that illuminated the tension from both sides of the standoff.

From the escalating buildup to those heart-stopping moments teetering on the brink of catastrophe, Sir Max masterfully punctuated his account with vivid anecdotes—bringing to life the key figures, their backgrounds, and their approaches to the crisis. His tales of the often startling interactions between allies added an extra layer of intrigue, keeping every attendee utterly captivated.

The evening concluded with a dynamic Q&A session, where Sir Max deftly fielded questions, seamlessly bridging history with today's headlines. Unafraid to weigh in on current U.S.-Russia relations as prompted by the audience, he left us all with plenty to ponder. Another triumph for the Society—and a night to remember!

This talk is highly recommended and is available for viewing on our YouTube channel [here](#).

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Next Talk: Weds 23rd April 2025

'The Viking Conquest of England by Cnut the Great'

Cnut's conquest of England in 1016 was the culmination of a series of grueling campaigns across the English kingdom and marked the coming of age of this young prince of Denmark who had first arrived in England with his father, Swein Forkbeard, in 1013. What were Cnut's strategies? Was he an effective warleader or just lucky? In this talk, Professor Ryan Lavelle looks at the different motivations of the protagonists in campaigns that, though often overshadowed by the events of 1066, were just as dramatic and, some would argue, just as significant.

Ryan Lavelle is Professor of Early Medieval History at the University of Winchester. He writes on the politics and military history of the Anglo-Saxon period. His books include *Cnut: The North Sea King* (Penguin, 2017). Details [here](#)

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## Selection of events through history in March

*Why not explore the details behind these events?*

- **2 March 1797:** The Battle of Brixham during the French Revolutionary Wars sees British forces repel a French invasion attempt.
- **3 March 1776:** The Continental Navy captures New Providence Island in the Bahamas during the American Revolutionary War, marking its first amphibious operation.
- **6 March 1836:** The Battle of the Alamo ends with Mexican forces overwhelming Texian defenders after a 13-day siege during the Texas Revolution.
- **8 March 1702:** The War of the Spanish Succession sees British and Dutch fleets begin a campaign against Spanish holdings.
- **9 March 1847:** During the Mexican-American War, U.S. forces under General Winfield Scott begin the Siege of Veracruz, the first large-scale amphibious assault in U.S. military history.
- **10 March 241 BCE:** The Battle of the Aegates Islands ends the First Punic War, with Rome defeating Carthage to secure naval supremacy in the Mediterranean.
- **11 March 1811:** The Battle of Lissa in the Napoleonic Wars sees a British naval victory over a larger Franco-Venetian fleet in the Adriatic Sea.
- **12 March 1864:** The Red River Campaign begins during the American Civil War, with Union forces aiming to capture Confederate territory in Louisiana.
- **13 March 1884:** The Siege of Khartoum begins in Sudan, where Egyptian forces under British command face Mahdist rebels, though it ends later in January 1885.
- **14 March 1590:** The Battle of Ivry occurs during the French Wars of Religion, with Henry IV of France defeating the Catholic League.
- **16 March 1244:** The Battle of La Forbie during the Crusades results in a decisive defeat of Christian forces by the Ayyubid dynasty.
- **17 March 1800:** The Battle of Alexandria (or Battle of Canope) during the Napoleonic Wars sees British forces defeat the French in Egypt.
- **19 March 1279:** The Battle of Yamen marks the end of the Song Dynasty, as Mongol forces under Kublai Khan defeat the Chinese navy.
- **21 March 1801:** The Battle of Alexandria occurs, with British forces defeating the French during the Napoleonic Wars' Egyptian campaign.

- **24 March 1401:** Mongol conqueror Timur sacks Damascus, a significant event in his campaign of conquest.
- **28 March 1461:** The Battle of Towton during England's Wars of the Roses becomes one of the bloodiest battles on English soil, securing the throne for Edward IV.
- **29 March 1461:** The Battle of Ferrybridge, a precursor to Towton, sees Yorkist forces defeat Lancastrians in the Wars of the Roses.
- **30 March 1282:** The Sicilian Vespers rebellion begins, with Sicilians massacring French occupiers, leading to a war against the Angevin dynasty.
- **31 March 1492:** The Alhambra Decree is issued by Spain's Catholic Monarchs, expelling Jews and indirectly affecting military resources in the Reconquista's aftermath.

## YouTube

Our YouTube channel is new but it our intention to post excerpts or full videos 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](#)

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

[Full Talk: Keep Them or Give Them Back](#)

[Full Talk: BRIXMIS: My Life As A military Spy.](#)

[Full Talk: Abyss: The Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 by Sir Max Hastings](#)

[Full Talk: Recollections of The Falklands War by Sir Max Hastings](#)

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

## YouTube

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## 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.

1st April 2025 - [Attacks on the Vichy French Fleet in North Africa](#)

1st April 2025 - [War on the Rio Grande: Zachary Taylor and the Mexican-American War](#)

[politics of command and their effect on Lord Chelmsford's conduct of the Zulu campaign in 1879'](#)

4th April 2025 - [Point of Failure: British Army Brigadiers in France and Norway 1940](#)

8th April 2025 - [War on the Rio Grande: Zachary Taylor and the Mexican-American War](#)

9th April 2025 - [The Revolutionary War Soldier's Load: The Beginning of the U.S. Army](#)

11th April 2025 - [Mutiny: A Revolutionary Act?](#)

16th April 2025 - [The Revolutionary War Soldier's Load: The Beginning of the U.S. Army](#)

17th April 2025 - [Tecumseh's War: The Epic Conflict for the Heart of America](#)

17th April 2025 - [The Role of the Women's Auxiliary Service in Burma \(WASBIES\)](#)

24th April 2025 - [We the People - The Harlem Hellfighters in World War I](#)

25th April 2025 - [Patriot Resistance on the Path to Revolution](#)

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## Events from Website

- 02 Apr to 25 Jun [Victory on All Fronts - The KRRC & The Rifle Brigade's Journey to VE Day](#)  
(Hampshire Record Office, Winchester)
- 04-06 Apr [2025 AGM and Annual Conference](#)  
(The Battlefields Trust, Reading)
- 05 Apr [RAF Old Sarum: A History in Peace & Wartime](#)  
(New Forest & Hampshire Wartime Association, Dibden Purlieu)
- 08 Apr [Youngest Bomber Pilots of WW2](#)  
(Boscombe Down Aviation Collection, Old Sarum)
- 17 Apr [The German Occupation of Alderney, 1940-45](#)  
(Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock)
- 24 Apr [Barba del Puerco: A Tactical Engagement with Strategic Consequences](#)  
(The Royal Green Jackets (Rifles) Museum, Winchester)
- 24 Apr [Jane Austen and the Military](#)  
(Romsey Local History Society, Town Hall, Romsey)
- 26 Apr [Gliders to Normandy](#)  
(The Army Flying Museum, Middle Wallop)
- 26 Apr [Tiger Day - Spring](#)  
(The Tank Museum, Bovington)
- 27 Apr ['Warneford VC and the Great War Centenary Exhibition Revisited'](#)  
(The Western Front Association, Highworth)
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We look forward to seeing you to St. John's Place next week!

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: Alan Rooney, Andy McCafferty, Bob Kershaw



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**Our meeting venue is:**

St John's Place, Lower Road, Bemerton, SP2 9NP

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