

[Julian Humphrys](#)23:44

Hello from Surrey, UK. Looking forward to chatting!

[ADMIN Tim](#)23:45

Hi Julian, thanks for coming into the chatroom early.

[ADMIN Tim](#)23:46

Your talk is excellent, and I really enjoyed listening to your detailed descriptions of the battle.

[Julian Humphrys](#)23:47

Thanks. Flodden is such an evocative place to visit

[ADMIN Tim](#)23:47

I've just sent the call out via email to remind people that we're starting here in the chatroom shortly. People normally come along at the last minute!

[ADMIN Tim](#)23:49

We're frozen here in our house in Spain - winter has suddenly arrived.

[Julian Humphrys](#)23:50

No snow here in Godalming. People might know the place from the film the Holiday. The crew brought in loads of fake snow but had to stop filming...

[Julian Humphrys](#)23:51

...because it started snowing!

[ADMIN Tim](#)23:52

You're in Godalming - I know it reasonably well. I grew up in Crawley and used to swim there, I think!

[ADMIN Tim](#)23:52

Hi Heather!

[ADMIN Tim](#)23:53

Thanks for coming this evening. We'll be officially starting in about 7 minutes. Tell us where you're from!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)23:56

Hello everyone

[Lorna Wanstall](#)23:56

and a big hello to Julian

[Julian Humphrys](#)23:56

Hi Lorna

[Elizabeth Goodman](#)23:56

Hi everyone, no snow here in Kent!

[ADMIN Tim](#)23:57

Hi Lorna, thanks for joining us this evening!

[ADMIN Tim](#)23:57

Hi Elizabeth, thanks for coming.

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:57

Hello everyone!

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:58

Excuse any typos from me tonight, my fingers are frozen!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)23:58

Elizabeth, daughter said there was snow in Hempstead valley earlier

[ADMIN Tim](#)23:59

Thank you, everyone for joining us this evening. Tonight we have Julian Humphrys from the Battlefields Trust. His talk this month was on the battle of Flodden and it was excellent. Feel free to say hello and ask any questions you want to. Thank you for spending a little time with us, Julian!

[Elizabeth Goodman](#)23:59

Maybe we'll get some tomorrow! I'm in Paddock Wood

[Julian Humphrys](#)23:59

You're welcome, Tim

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:59

It was an excellent talk, I thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you!

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:00

Hello everyone! Hi Julian! I hope you're well!

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:00

Hi Laurie, hi everyone!

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:00

Hi Laurie, nice to hear from you!

[ADMIN Tim](#)0:00

Hi Laurie.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:00

OK, feel free to fire away with questions on Flodden or Tudor battles.

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:00

Thanks for doing this chat!

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:01

Has anyone been to Flodden?

[ADMIN Tim](#)0:01

Julian, can you explain to us your role in the Battlefield Trust, and what they do?

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:01

Julian, do you think James' fatal mistake was being too courageous? Being a king who wanted to be in the thick of things?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:01

Solway Moss I understand is where a lot of scottish soldiers died/drowned in the mud, was Pinnie cluegh any different.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:01

No, never made it to Flodden, but would love to go.

[Roland Hui](#)0:02

Did James V really die of grief after the loss at Flodden? Is there a more proper medical explanation?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:02

That's a good question Claire and it's something I've pondered on as well

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:03

Tim, the Battlefields Trust tries to promote and protect UK battlefields through walks, talks and putting up signs etc

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:03

Claire I think that the Scots were always likely to lose at Flodden given the terrain etc

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:04

Roland from what I've read about Solway and James the 5th, it does seem very likely it was perhaps greif and shame

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:04

Claire I think the Scots were always likely to lose at Flodden given the terrain etc

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:04

But James might have escaped. His sense of honour led him to lead from the front

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:05

Julian I have read through for a while the scots were gaining ground on the English,

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:05

and his earls etc tried to dissuade him

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:05

I didn't realise quite what a bloody battle it was. So many men lost and lots of Scottish nobles.

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:06

Lorna Solway fight Moss was a kind of running

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:07

sorry, running fight with an unwieldy disunited Scottish army bushwacked by Wharton's borderers

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:07

Solway and Pinkie were no different there Claire there were a fair few nobles killed or captured there as well.

[Elizabeth Goodman](#)0:07

My son would like to know if they used any firearms?

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:07

Pinkie was a huge affair. Probably the biggest battle in Scotland

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:08

Elizabeth, they both used artillery

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:09

Yes Julian Pinkie is very interesting

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:09

and the Scots SHOULD have supported their pikemen with gunmen, swordsmen etc but they hadn't got organised in time

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:09

Elizabeth, Mons Meg is a lovely wee girl..

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:10

So if the Scots would have been better prepared from the beginning, they may have likely won?

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:10

Eliz/Lorna not so wee! One of James's problems at Flodden was that his guns were just too heavy

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:10

I kind of get the feeling that the scottish army was a disorganised rabble.

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:11

Ideal for a siege but no good for the battlefield

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:11

Lorna they weren't particularly well trained at Flodden

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:11

What do you reckon happened to James 4th body

[Doc Clark](#)0:12

So, too heavy to be easily moved around on the field. Did the English take advantage of that property of the Scots' guns?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:12

Julian I think the same could be said for Solway and Pinkie though.

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:12

And the Borderers (like the English borderers) were easily distracted by plunder

[Elizabeth Goodman](#)0:13

Thanks for the info Lorna!

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:13

Lorna. I think James's body was brought south. I know there are stories about it being taken back to Scotland but the evidence is scanty

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:13

With so much of the nobility wiped out in Flodden and Solway, I think the scots army were made up mainly of children, boys over 12, and french mercenries

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:15

Laurie Even a well-trained force of pikemen would have struggled at Flodden due to steep slopes and mud

[Roland Hui](#)0:15

If the Scots had won at Flodden, what might the historical circumstances been afterwards?

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:16

they would have been better off fighting on level ground

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:16

Roland good question! What impact it would have had on the Howard family is anyone's guess

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:17

but I suspect no marriage to AB or CH

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:18

I loved the "what if" about the Howards and their rise after Flodden.

[Doc Clark](#)0:18

Why not an AB marriage. Sir Thomas was in France with H8.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:18

If Surrey had lost or not commanded at Flodden...

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:19

And apparently Henry VIII had no hesitation at all about his army wiping out his own brother in law?

[Doc Clark](#)0:20

But Surrey was still the most influential noble in East Anglia and at the head of a large affinity regardless. It would not have made that big an impact on AB's father

[Roland Hui](#)0:20

How big was Katherine of Aragon's role besides just lending moral support to the English troops?

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:20

Laurie No and C of A was exultant

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:21

Doc Maybe but I suspect that even if he had survived he might not have been so influential

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:22

Doc I don't [k.now](#) too much about this but how important were the Howards in forwarding the Boleyn interest?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:23

How long could a battle go on for.

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:24

Lorna they tended to stop at nightfall

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:24

I would say that Thomas Boleyn was a favourite in his own right and not just with the help of his wife's family.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:24

but there would still be skirmish raids though

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:24

So the victory likely even boosted C of A's status for awhile as well?

[Doc Clark](#)0:24

Surrey's daughter was married to Thomas Boleyn. The Howard's and the Boleyns were in together like thieves in East Anglia land deals. But as court Sir Thomas was his own man. Also consider that Sir Edward Howard went to France too with H8 so the Howards were splite between fronts.

[ADMIN Tim](#)0:25

No stealth attacks at night then? Would that be considered unchivelrous?

[Doc Clark](#)0:25

So even if Surrey lost, at least one Howard was in thick with H8's favor (ie, Sir Edward, though he died in the French war).

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:25

Lorna yes Flodden was preceded by a disastrous Scottish raid known as the Ill Raid

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:26

Doc whether he would have remained in Henry's favour... and we are talking about 1513 here

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:27

Tim Partly. But theMain issue with Stealth attacks at night was that they were impossible to coordinate

[Doc Clark](#)0:28

The place I see Howard influence being endangered if Surrey had lost would be in the court circle of the queen. Howard women near dominated K of A's early court, and to be placed there meant influencing future placements for girls like AB, her sister Mary and Jane Parker. Both the Boleyns and the Parkers probably relied on the Howard women to lobby for court placements for their daughters.

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:30

Certainly makes sense, so the question is whether they would have kept that domination if their men had messed up Flodden

[Doc Clark](#)0:30

agreed

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:30

Certainly something for me to mull over

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:31

Nothing to do with Flodden but maybe of interest...

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:31

so where did the scottish soldiers go wrong in their battle tactics

[Doc Clark](#)0:31

I guess the real question would be if H8 would have sent some of the Howard women home from court if Surrey had lost.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:32

I had never noticed the bit on the coat of arms - the lion with the arrow in it! Fascinating!

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:32

Pikemen needed to keep close order and maintain momentum

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:33

Partly thro the terrain and partly thro lack of training they were unable to do this. I discuss this in the talk

[Roland Hui](#)0:33

I read in a book of heraldry that the arrow in the lion's mouth was added after Surrey killed King James

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:33

so in short they charged at their slashing their way through without thinking

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:33

Roland it was an augmentation recognising the victory at Flodden

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:34

Charged at their enemy

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:34

Lorna they advanced but lost organisation and cohesion and the English with their handy bills were able to get in amongst them...

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:35

...and in those circumstances their great long pikes were just an encumbrance

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:35

and it seems as if they didn't learn from their mistakes either

[Doc Clark](#)0:35

the difference between a pike and a bill is...?

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:35

The Scottish pikes that is

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:36

A pike is a 16ft long spear - used en masse they could be terrifying and impregnable

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:36

I kind of have it down that they were fierce warriors but had no idea what they were doing.

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:37

A bill was pikes added essentially a short pole with a converted hedging tool on the end with a few s

[Doc Clark](#)0:37

so bills are shorter and more maneuverable...yes?

[Doc Clark](#)0:37

oh...beat me to it

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:38

Once the English got past the points of the pikes they could hack away while the pike was just too long for individual hand to hand combat

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:38

Doc spot on

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:38

And had these artillery evolved somewhat since what had been used in the Wars of the Roses period?

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:39

Laurie not too different to the guns the Nevilles used v Bamburgh but better made. the Scots siege train was the envy of Europe

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:40

would Falconets have been used

[ADMIN Tim](#)0:40

Julian - is Flodden your favourite battlefield, or is there another one?

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:42

Tim. Flodden is VERY evocative and relatively unchanged so you get a real sense of what happened and why

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:42

I definitely have to go there!

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:43

I also find Towton (1461) a very atmospheric place to visit but I also enjoy guiding round the first battlefield of the Tudor age...

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:43

... if you don't count Bosworth, and that's Stoke Field near Newark

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:44

I shall be doing a guided walk round Flodden on the anniversary weekend next September

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:45

This has nothing to do with Flodden etc, but might be of interest...

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:45

Pinkie happened in September too

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:45

I went over to Shere in Surrey today. It's where the film the Holiday was largely filmed

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:47

and where we have our family Christenings and funerals. It was granted after Bosworth by H7 to Reginald Bray and the land still belongs to a Bray

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:47

Am I right in thinking that before battle was joined and people started killing each other, battle would mainly consist of name calling etc.

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:48

And are you still involved with the campaign for Barnet?

[Roland Hui](#)0:49

Are battlefields in Britain generally well conserved with legal protections in place?

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:49

Laurie Yes I am. I was giving a bit of training to the volunteer guides just a couple of weeks ago

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:50

Great to hear, so many places to visit!!

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:51

in so far as their importance has to be taken account of in any planning application

[Roland Hui](#)0:51

Julian - what are the challenges faced in protecting/conserving them?

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:51

but they are still vulnerable to things like unauthorised metal detecting or developments on their fringes which can ruin the setting

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:52

Roland lack of awareness. Those battlefields that are well known tend to be more secure because they are valued

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:53

Yes the site of the battle of Worcester has been spoilt IMO with the bypass bridge being built over it

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:53

but its harder to argue for the protection of a battlefield if even the locals don't know about it. Which is where the BattlefieldsTrust comes in

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:54

by raising awareness you help protect

[Roland Hui](#)0:54

I read that Robert Hardy (the late actor who played Robert Dudley in 'Elizabeth R' 🤔) was very involved in the need to protect battlefields - can you comment on his role?

[Roland Hui](#)0:54

Ignore the smiling face in my question - where did that come from?!

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:55

Robert Hardy was the President of the Battlefields Trust and a great expert on longbows

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:55

and I believe there were houses being planned or may have even been built now in Tewkesbury

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:55

Robert Hardy was the president of the Trust and a great expert on longbows

[Roland Hui](#)0:56

Is there a lot of amateur treasure hunting (with metal detectors) going on at battlefield sites?

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:56

He always argued the case for battlefields. I used to drive him to events. He was always urging me to drive faster!

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:57

LOL, that's great that he was so passionate for the cause

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:58

Lorna yes much of the battlefield has been built over and some of the remaining part was up for sale and there was concern that it might be used for building. but that had died down

[ADMIN Tim](#)0:58

Thanks to Julian for spending his time with us this evening. You can find more about the Battlefields Trust on their website: www.battlefieldstrust.com and there are maps and other resources there too. Julian has a twitter account where he talks about the battlefields he visits @generaljules - thank you everybody!

[Doc Clark](#)0:58

Thanks Julian.

[Roland Hui](#)0:59

thanks for the interesting chat!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:59

Thank you Julian, feel free to drop into our forum and leave a comment on any post that may tickles your fancy.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:59

Thank you so much, Julian, for both your talk and answering our questions this evening.

[Julian Humphrys](#)0:59

Thanks everyone - and for your interesting questions. What a great society this is!

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:59

Thank you Julian!

[Julian Humphrys](#)1:00

Cheers Laurie. Are you doing anymore AWT?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)1:00

It's a great place to be Julian..

[Laurie Duerr](#)1:00

Not in the near future unfortunately.. I'm sure eventually though! Take care!

[Julian Humphrys](#)1:00

And you.

[Claire Ridgway](#)1:00

Thank you everyone for coming, it's been fun. Good night! 15th December is the Christmas Party here in the chatroom.

[Julian Humphrys](#)1:01

Good night all, and thanks for having me

[ADMIN Tim](#)1:01

AWT? Not sure what you mean?

[Claire Ridgway](#)1:01

Night!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)1:01

Right I'm going to crawl my way up the little wooden hill and flop into bed Goodnight everyone, take care and keep safe Xx

[Julian Humphrys](#)1:02

I'm still here. I met Laurie when I was one of the historians on an Alison Weir Tour.

[ADMIN Tim](#)1:03

Ahhh.