



The newsletter of the King's Lynn Under Siege English Civil War Archaeological Project

December 2018
Issue 4



Welcome to the Christmas issue of *Siegeworks*, the newsletter of KLuS – the King’s Lynn Under Siege English Civil War Archaeological Project.

The year in focus

Next month will mark the first anniversary of the King’s Lynn under Siege (KLuS) English Civil War Archaeological Project.

Whilst the project didn’t undertake any actual physical archaeology during 2018, we have been far from idle.

The project has firmly established itself in the local, and wider, ‘landscape’: there are local groups involved, and we enjoy the active support of Borough and County Councillors. We have established strong links with the local heritage community, including

the town’s excellent museums, and with both the Borough and County Councils themselves.

The project has attracted attention from the local media, including local and regional newspapers, and from BBC local radio.

Further afield, KLuS has appeared in national magazines and has been featured by internationally-renowned organisations such as the Fortress Study Group, the Battlefields Trust, the Pike and Shot Society, and the Royal Historical Society.

KLuS has launched its own newsletter, *Siegeworks*, and finally, it participated in this year’s heritage weekend in September, the highlight being, of course,



Dan Morgan’s excellent model (left).

So, without doubt, KLuS has successfully established itself, and has also raised the profile of King’s Lynn during the Civil Wars both locally, and nationally.

As well as creating the project itself, KLuS has already undertaken some key research, including into the life of Richard Clampe (who designed the town’s post-siege defences), and into the town’s southern defences.

All-in-all, everyone involved in the project should feel satisfied with what has been achieved, and the solid foundations it has laid for 2019, and beyond.

Looking forward to next year, the first priority is to undertake a geophysical survey of the area to the north of Harding's Pits (we had tried to undertake this during the autumn of 2018, but unfortunately, we ran out of time).

Whilst other activities will be somewhat dependent on the outcome of the geophysical survey, one of a number of areas worthy of investigation is the identification of the Parliamentary siege works constructed during the siege of August-September 1643.

In addition, the project will continue its on-going work 'mapping' the town, identifying sites, remains and traces associated with King's Lynn's Civil War.

So, 2019, looks to be an interesting year. But in the meantime, we would like to wish you and yours every good wish for Christmas and the New Year.

King's Lynn Borough Archives

The King's Lynn Borough Archives were refurbished in 2016 with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This included funding to create an online system that enables volunteers to view digitised images of core records from the archives and help transcribe them. This system is now live and anyone can take part.

As well as transcribing the registers, we are asking volunteers to tag names, dates and places so that these can be easily searched. This will make the records even more accessible, with the ultimate aim being to link the digital images of the books, accompanied by a relevant transcription, into our online catalogue. Taking part means that you are



helping uncover important stories and details of King's Lynn's rich history.

Initially, we are looking at Georgian Lynn and aim to transcribe Hall Books from the 18th century. These contain the minutes and memoranda of

the Town Council which controlled and regulated the town.

We have also uploaded the two Hall Books which cover the Civil War and would like to get these transcribed as well. These can be more challenging to transcribe, due to the nature of the old handwriting and the occasional use of Latin. But we would be on hand to help and give you the skills you need. If there is enough interest among KLuS volunteers, study days can be arranged, as well as days to work as a group.

For full details about the project, please follow this link to the Norfolk Record Office Blog - <https://norfolkrecordofficeblog.org/2018/10/26/volunteering-opportunity-the-kings-lynn-borough-archives-transcription-project/> - which also contains a link to the transcription site and full instructions.

Many thanks to Luke Shackell, King's Lynn Borough Archives, for this article

Some Christmas reading

- Peter Harrington, *English Civil War Fortifications 1642-51*, (Oxford: Osprey Publishing, 2003)
- Peter Kent, *Fortifications of East Anglia* (Lavenham: Terrance Dalton, 1988)
- R. W. Ketton-Cremer, *Norfolk in the Civil War*, (London: Faber and Faber Limited, 1969)
- Mike Osborne, *Sieges and Fortifications of the Civil Wars in Britain, 1639 - 1660*, (Leigh-on-Sea: Partizan Press, 2004).
- Mike Osborne, *Defending Norfolk*, (Oxford: Fonthill Media, 2015).
- Paul Richards, *Kings Lynn* (Bognor Regis: Phillimore & Co Ltd., 2006)
- Susan Yaxley (editor), *The Siege of King's Lynn, 1643* (Dereham: Larks Press, 1993).

Don't forget our website, hosted by *Military History Live*, the project's web page is at <https://www.militaryhistorylive.co.uk/mhl-kings-lynn-under-siege.html>

Siegeworks is the newsletter of the King's Lynn Under Siege English Civil War Archaeological Project. To contact the project, e-mail kingslynnundersiege@outlook.com or see the project's website at <https://www.militaryhistorylive.co.uk/mhl-kings-lynn-under-siege.html>