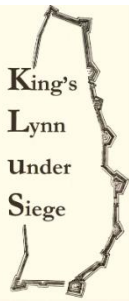


The newsletter of the King's Lynn under Siege English Civil War Archaeological Project

Spring 2022
Issue 6



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

It has been 2½ years since the last issue, an absence resulting from a number of factors, not least a global pandemic.

Neil Faulker – A Tribute

I still recall the Sunday afternoon 10 years ago when Neil telephoned me to discuss his idea for a community-based archaeological project investigating an English Civil War siege-site.

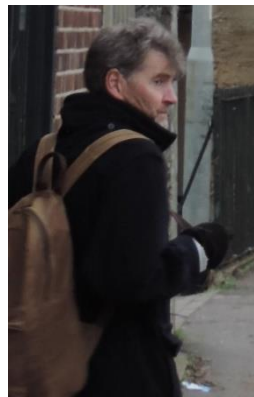
Had it not been for a twist of fate, in all likelihood, the project would have been established in the village of Hawton, close to Newark-upon-Trent. But the search for an alternative site finally brought us to King's Lynn, and it was here, in January 2018, that Neil and I founded *King's Lynn under Siege*.

Four years on, it is so very sad that Neil isn't here to see his vision come to fruition. He was actually due to join our site visit last June when he was taken ill.

In addition to KLuS, I knew Neil as both the editor of *Military History Matters* (previously *Military History Monthly*), and founder of the conflict archaeology group, *Military History Live*. Many of us also encountered him through the Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project (SHARP).

His knowledge, and his skills as an archaeologist and historian were inspiring, and at the same time he was incredibly generous.

Knowing Neil's politics, I'm sure that his obituary in the *Daily Telegraph* (8th February 2022) would have brought a wry smile to his face.



We have lost one of this county's leading military historians and conflict archaeologists, and for many of us, a good friend. The on-going successes of KLuS will be a fitting tribute to his memory and to his vision.

The Great British Dig: 11th May

I am sure that you are now well aware of the project's work with Channel 4's *Great British Dig* programme, culminating in the 5-site excavation last September.

The first series of the Great British Dig was just four programmes, but thanks to its success, series two (filmed in 2021 for broadcast in 2022) is ten-programmes long.

With the first in the new series being broadcast just after Christmas 2021, we had initially been informed that the King's Lynn episode would go out on 9th February. But less than a fortnight before 'our' episode, and after the first five episodes had been shown, Channel 4 decided to give the programme what it calls 'a holiday'. This means that the second half of series two won't be aired until May 2022.

So, the new date for the King's Lynn episode of the Great British Dig is **Wednesday, 11th May**. We are expecting the programme to go out on More4 at 21:00 but check schedules nearer the time.

The book to accompany the series (*The Great British Dig* by Dr Chloë Duckworth) is out now. Chapter 12 covers the King's Lynn dig.

The 2022 season



The results from the *Great British Dig* excavation have proved that our research to date is in the right place, and what we have in King's Lynn is "of national importance". So instead of being something of a backwater in the history of the conflict, the siege of King's Lynn was a turning point of the entire English Civil War, the town being of great strategic importance to Parliament.

Following the siege, the town was refortified according to the latest continental practice; its design was so sophisticated that similar schemes are only known in two other places. When you consider that there was something like 900 places fortified across the British Isles during the civil wars, King's Lynn is indeed unique.

So, our objective in 2022 is to find further evidence for these fortifications.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of the landowner, and the great support of our friends at SHARP, in July 2022 we are returning to the main dig-site, and this time, as well as expanding upon the findings of the September 2021 excavation, we will also be looking for indications of the mounting of artillery in the North East bastion. We will also be looking for evidence of post-17th century activity, with the intriguing possibility that clay from the 1640s fortifications was recycled during the 18th century to make bricks to build 18th and 19th century King's Lynn.

In March 2022, we will be undertaking a geophysical survey of the site, the results of which will enable us to target the July 2022 investigations.

Please join us between 17th and 29th July (for details see <https://www.sharp.org.uk/product-page/king-s-lynn-under-siege-english-civil-war-archaeological-project>).

KLuS embroidered Polo shirts and Hoodies are available in a range of sizes and colours. For details and to order yours (by 10th April please) e-mail kingslynnundersiege@outlook.com

Dates for your diary

Saturday, 9th April: *Norfolk & Norwich Archaeological Society Community Archaeology Conference* at the University of East Anglia. KLuS will be having a stand. Contact KLuS for details for details

Wednesday, 11th May: *Great British Dig – the King's Lynn episode*. Likely to be shown on More4 at 21:00

Saturday, 14th May: *Battlefields Trust Conference: 1644 Part One* at the National Civil War Centre in Newark. See <http://www.nationalcivilwarcentre.com/seedo/events/battlefields-trust-conference-1644-part-one.php>

Sunday 17th to Friday 29th July: *King's Lynn under Siege 2022 'dig season'*. To book, visit <https://www.sharp.org.uk/product-page/king-s-lynn-under-siege-english-civil-war-archaeological-project>

Saturday, 10th September: *Battlefields Trust (East Anglian Region) guided walk around the siege of King's Lynn*. Contact eastanglia@battlefieldstrust.com for details

Sunday, 11th September: *The annual King's Lynn Heritage Day*. We will be involved, so contact KLuS for details

Saturday, 19th November: *English Civil War Fortresses Symposium* at the National Civil War Centre, Newark. Run jointly by the Fortress Study Group and the Battlefields Trust, this is the first event of its kind and brings together the latest research into ECW fortifications and sieges. See <https://www.fortressstudygroup.org/events/english-civil-war-fortresses-symposium> for details.

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>