

ASHDON AND HADSTOCK MILLENNIUM GROUP PRESS RELEASE

THE BATTLE OF ASSANDUN – 1000 YEARS ON!



ESSEX VILLAGES CELEBRATE FAMOUS BATTLE *EXCITING SUMMER AND AUTUMN EVENTS*

In 1016 the Saxons fought the Danes at a place called Assandun. The Danes - led by Cnut [Canute] – won. Soon afterwards Cnut became King of all England. This was a turning point in our national story – just as much as the more famous battle of Hastings in 1066. Four years later, in 1020, Cnut returned to Assandun and founded a church there for those who had been killed - not just for his own side.

Where was Assandun?

Was it around what we now call Ashdon and Hadstock?

Was the church Cnut founded Hadstock church – with its 11th-century door?

Come and explore the evidence with us! Our programme of events has something for everyone to enjoy; to learn; and to reflect.

Wherever it was, the battle raises major themes - war and peace, conflict and reconciliation, Christianity and kingship, heroism and treachery – all as relevant now as in 1016.

Museum Curator Carolyn Wingfield said: 'This is a fantastic opportunity to bring this exciting and important story alive for our own time.'

Councillor Howard Rolfe, Leader of Uttlesford District Council, said: 'I am delighted to see how the people of Ashdon and Hadstock, together with the Saffron Walden Museum, are working together to produce this fascinating and fun programme, showing how our own area may have played a crucial part in English history.'

THE PROGRAMME

MAY

TALK: Thursday 19 May, 7 pm IN ST BOTOLPH'S CHURCH, HADSTOCK

Dr Sam Newton:

'King Cnút and the Battle of Assandún (18th October 1016)'

For more information on Dr Sam Newton see his website www.wuffings.co.uk

Entry free: refreshments available (donations to the Friends of St Botolph's)

JUNE

TALK: Friday 10 June, 7 pm in St Botolph's Church Hadstock

Professor Simon Keynes: FBA, Elrington and Bosworth Professor of Anglo-Saxon and Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge

'Conquest and Reconciliation, 1016-23'

Entry free: refreshments available (donations to Friends of St Botolph's)



HADSTOCK FETE WEEKEND: 18-19 June

Saturday 18 June: Hadstock Fete: 1.30- 5pm

Extra events as this year's annual Fete as re-enactors Regia Anglorum mingle with the crowds. Exhibition of local Saxon and Viking finds from the Saffron Walden Museum.

Entry free.



Sunday 19 June: 6.30 pm Choral Evensong in St Botolph's Church Hadstock

Sung by the Choir of St Mary's Saffron Walden

Preacher: The Rt Revd Roger Morris, Bishop of Colchester

JULY

SERVICE: Sunday 3 July, 9.30 am in St Botolph's Church Hadstock

Reconciliation: 1016, 1916, 2016

Commemorating the centenary of another battle in a conflict that shaped our lives: the Battle of the Somme in 1916, and remembering those from Hadstock who died there.

VILLAGE PICNIC AND HOG ROAST: Sunday 17 July 12.30 pm

Hadstock Village Hall

More details and tickets from [facebook.com/HadstockVillageHall](https://www.facebook.com/HadstockVillageHall)

AUGUST

HANDS ON HISTORY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES IN SAFFRON WALDEN MUSEUM

Wednesday 3 August: Create your own helmet

Wednesday 10 August: Make beaded necklaces and mini-shields

Wednesday 17 August: help us create the Battle of Assandun Mural.

All activities run from 11am – 1 pm and 2pm -4 pm

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Normal museum entry fees apply.

SEPTEMBER

LIVING HISTORY ENCAMPMENT: at Ashdon: 10-11 September:

Renowned re-enactment group Regia Anglorum will set up a living history encampment at Waltons House, Ashdon, CB10 2JD

By kind permission of Mr and Mrs T Vestey In association with Ashdon Parish Council

See how the Anglo-Saxons lived, what they ate – talk to a Viking if you dare!

THE BATTLE RE-ENACTMENT! : Saturday 10 September at Waltons

Regia Anglorum warriors re-enact the Battle of Assaundun.

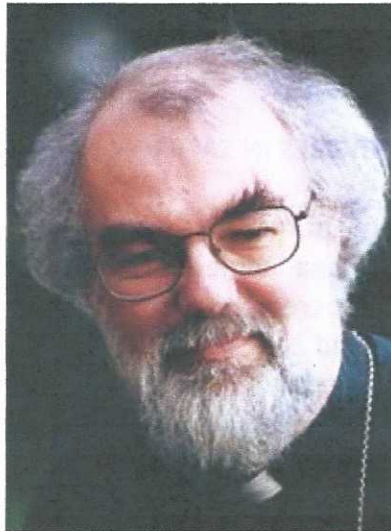
Who will you support – Canute or Edmund Ironside? Come dressed as a Viking or an Anglo-Saxon; cheer for your own side. A free day out for all the family.



TALK: Thursday 17 September, 7 pm in Hadstock Church
Remembering: What's the Point of the Past?
The Revd Paula Griffiths, Priest at Hadstock. Free entry

OCTOBER

SERVICE TO COMMEMORATE THE MILLENNIUM OF THE BATTLE OF ASSANDUN:
Sunday 16 October: 11 am at St Botolph's Church Hadstock
Preacher: DR ROWAN WILLIAMS All welcome



ENDS

NOTES FOR EDITORS

This press release sets out the programme of activities over the summer and autumn of 2016 to commemorate the millennium of the Battle of Assandun – a battle which had a major impact on the history of this country. You may like to publish this as it stands, or to concentrate your/your audience's attention on particular aspects.

We will update you in touch as each event it approaches, and can send you pictures/reports for publication afterwards on the events listed here. However, please do contact us if you would like to send along a photographer or reporter to any of these events.

[Some say Assandun was in Ashingdon – in South-East Essex. See their site <https://facebook.com/Battle-of-Assandun-Commemoration-Campaign>. Nobody knows for certain. But we think there is a good case for it being in our area.]

WHO WE ARE

The Millennium Group from Ashdon and Hadstock is a co-ordinating group with members drawn from:

Ashdon Parish Council and its Committee, the Ashdon Battlers
All Saints' Church, Ashdon

St Botolph's Hadstock Parochial Church Council
Friends of St Botolph's, Hadstock
Hadstock Parish Council
Hadstock Fete Committee
Hadstock Society
Hadstock Village Hall Committee
together with the Saffron Walden Museum.
The Group is chaired by the Priest at Hadstock, the Reverend Paula Griffiths.

Contacts:

General Programme: the Reverend Paula Griffiths, 01799 599141:
paula.greatford@btinternet.com
Hadstock Fete: general – Brendan Burchell 07760 178200: bb101@cam.ac.uk. or Tim
Boyden (see below)
Hadstock Fete: re-enactments – Tim Boyden, 01223 9892746: t.k.boyden@btinternet.com
Hadstock Church – The Reverend Paula Griffiths
Ashdon re-enactments: Gareth Rees, 01799 584063: wgarethrees@googlemail.com
Saffron Walden Museum – Carolyn Wingfield, 01799 510333: cwingfield@uttlesford.gov.uk

Website: <http://battleofassandun.org/>.

**GRATEFUL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS WHO HAVE HELPED WITH TIME,
MONEY OR EXPERTISE**

**Essex County Council Culture in Essex Small Grants Programme; Uttlesford District
Council; Saffron Walden Museum; the Diocese of Chelmsford; Ashdon Parish Council;
Hadstock Parish Council; Stansted Airport Community Trust;
Capita; Garrett Transport; Garrod Family Tree Ltd**



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford



**Uttlesford
District Council**

