



David Clarke

Talks:

1066 Harold's Way

1066 Harold's Way is 100 mile long distance walk from Westminster Abbey to Battle Abbey inspired by King Harold II's journey to the Battle of Hastings.

There can be no more emotive walk and 2016 will see the 950th Anniversary of the Battle of Hastings. The walk traces a route along the Roman road network still being used in 1066, from London to Rochester on Watling Street and then south through Maidstone, Staplehurst and Bodiam.

It is a clear route through the daunting Forest of the Andreasweald past castles and battle sites with rivers, streams and valleys to cross, forests to forge and hills to climb and Roman roads, green lanes and ancient foot-paths to walk.

Three days of marching, the nights were drawing in, a camp at Rochester, maybe Bodiam too and a final night at Caldbec Hill.

There are few facts, just stories and legends and this engaging account of the creation and subsequent success of 1066 Harold's Way will cover:

- Why it all happened and the reasons for the Battle of Hastings.
- Harold's Timeline to the Battle of Senlac Hill.
- Walking 1066 Harold's Way.

The Saxon Times

There is more to 1066 than the Battle of Hastings fought on 14th October 1066 at Senlac Hill.

The Saxon Times is a look at how the events of that tumultuous year may have been reported in a topical newspaper.

The Saxon Times covers the whole year from 25th December 1065 and the consecration of Westminster Abbey to William's coronation on 25th December 1066. The story ends on 31st December 1066.

My talk will give an overview of the important events of 1066 and delve a little deeper into the background and intrigue that surrounded key dates and a look at life during that turbulent year. It will also give an insight into King Harold's route to the Battle of Hastings and Duke William's subsequent march to his coronation.

It is based on all the evidence available for that year and brings it together in a logical, understandable and entertaining format.

Three Castles and an Ironmaster's House

This talk is an engaging account of a walk between four National Trust properties; Bodiam Castle, Sissinghurst Castle, Scotney Castle and Bateman's, that explores the history and the industrial past of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, in this part of Kent and East Sussex.

Three Castles is an opportunity to take the time to explore the castles and houses and towns and villages along the route. It follows man's ingenuity and progress and a changing industry from agriculture to iron, to sheep, to the woollen trade, smuggling, hopfields and back to agriculture.

There is a soul to this walk; one that reflects the passions and industry of man and also the tensions of war and rebellion. It is now a very pastoral walk with only occasional reminders of the noise, smoke and fire of the iron industry. The ironmasters and the rich woollen trade are survived by their architecture at Sissinghurst, Cranbrook and Burwash and Brightling. The derelict hoppickers cottages,

next to the River Teise in Lamberhurst, provide a startling contrast to the rich and landed. And such a varied landscape brings together tales to tell of Mad Jack Fuller and Bloody Baker, Admiral 'Foulweather Jack' Norris, and Captain Swing. There are tales of smugglers and Mechanical riots, Napoleon's horse, aliens in Robertsbridge and, of course, that 'vengeful dragon' in Angley Wood.

Fees: £50

Expenses: reasonable petrol cost

Area/Distance covered: South East England

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Bio & Other Information:

Walker and Author of History Walks

Devising, walking and writing 1066 Harold's Way gave David an insight into the fascinating events that led to the Battle of Hastings and the immediate aftermath.

Walking the footpaths of Kent and Sussex and exploring the High Weald opened up opportunities to research in more detail the colourful history and industry which David is now able to share with you. A successful lecturer and trainer, David has now been able to channel his enthusiasm into writing, leading walks and presenting talks on his walks and books.

David has given talks to the National Trust, Ramblers Groups and History Societies highlighting the history surrounding the walk and the walk itself.

Whether it is a school talk, club meeting or group event, if you would like to find out a little more about the background to 1066 Harold's Way and other History Walks, topics, David is an experienced and anecdotal speaker who will bring the walks and talks to life.