



Carrying out research: Terence Atkins, Dennis Bird and Pat Alison, from Barnet Museum, at Hadley Highstone, where for centuries the battle is believed to have been fought

By Joe Cooper

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AS the world's attention turns away from Leicester and the reburial of the remains of Richard III, Barnet could benefit from renewed interest in the bloody dynastic war for the throne of England which raged in the 15th century.

Fourteen years before Richard was killed with eight blows to the head at the Battle of Bosworth, he was fighting – then as the Duke of Gloucester – at the Battle of Barnet, a key clash in the War of the Roses.

An obelisk at Hadley Highstone supposedly marks where the battle took place – but its precise location has always been disputed.

Now academics at the University of Huddersfield, in West Yorkshire,

After 544 years, the Battle of Barnet could be on the move

are set to settle the question once and for all, with support from Barnet Museum, the Barnet Society and the Battlefields Trust.

Thanks to a £50,000 grant from the Hadley Trust, preparations for an archaeological dig are under way.

Speaking to *The Press*, renowned battlefield archaeologist Glenn Foard said his hunch was that the battle actually took place further north, on the borough border.

"The evidence so far suggests at least three locations," he said, "but I think that most likely it was in and around Wrotham Park, but we can't be sure yet."

Evidence for the battle having taken place further north has come from Poters Bar historian Brian Warren.

Mike Noronha, a Barnet Museum trustee, said he expects the battlefield project to attract worldwide interest.

The museum, in Wood Street, which

already has a display on the event, also hopes to benefit by becoming the central point for people to learn about the battle.

Trustees hope to secure financial-backing from the Heritage Lottery Fund to put on a range of community heritage projects.

Mr Noronha said: "I hope this will attract more interest in Barnet and bring more visitors to the museum and the town."

Chipping Barnet MP Theresa Villiers said: "Even if it turns out to be true that the battle actually took place just outside Barnet, I still believe that we can capitalise on the interest in historic battlefields to bring more visitors to our high street and our local museum."

Fieldwork at the site around Wrotham Park is due to start late in the summer and should take about 12 months.

Woodcroft musical maestros win award



Sweet music: Flautists perform for parents

ANNE-MARIE SANDERSON

A PRIMARY school has won a national accolade for its outstanding music.

Woodcroft school bagged the award for best school music department 2015 at the Music Teacher Awards for Excellence.

The school, in Goldbeaters Grove, Burnt Oak, was the only primary included in a category alongside independent and state secondary schools and colleges.

Headteacher Craig Tallon said the win was the culmination of three years' work developing choirs, introducing instrumental tuition, bringing in state-of-the-art facilities, creating extra-curricular clubs and taking part in national events at world-class venues.

"With the help of our dedicated staff, we are raising the confidence and self-esteem

of all pupils through music and the arts so they can benefit from the highest aspirations in life," said Mr Tallon.

The school's art and music programme AIM@Arts was praised by Ofsted during an inspection in January.

Woodcroft is an Artsmark Gold school and an accredited Arts Award Assessment Centre.

Caitlin Sherring, music specialist at the school, said: "The creation of a quality instrumental and vocal programme, providing every pupil with the opportunity to engage in an outstanding music education, is a priority at Woodcroft."

The award was presented by Classic FM's Margherita Taylor in a ceremony at Grange St Paul's Hotel, in London.

The winners were chosen by a panel of expert judges.

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