

WARNING ORDER
THE FAIRFAX BATTALIA AND FRIENDS

ALDBOURNE, WILTSHIRE: Sat-Monday MAY 29-31st
[Late MAY BANK HOLIDAY]

Aldbourn is an exceptionally pretty village amid the Marlborough Downs, clustered round its village green: during World War II it was the headquarters of the U.S. 101st Airborne Division [as in 'Band of Brothers']. Our activities here, one of the major Fairfax Battalia events of 2010, are the principal focus of the Aldbourn Festival, held only once a decade.

During the Civil War there were two actions at Aldbourn. The first, in September 1643 preceding the first Battle of Newbury, was fought on the downs outside the village. The second, in August 1645, was a minor action in the village itself, which as so often both sides claimed to have won: the Royalists first took the village, but then retired when threatened by a body of reinforcements heading for Fairfax's army. The scars of musket balls can still be seen on the church tower. It is this 1645 action we shall be representing over the weekend, with the help of documents describing it.

OUTLINE SUMMARY OF EVENTS

The main focus of events is the large Village Green [a very short walk from the modern campsite] where drills, living history events and a small 17th century fair will take place. There is a separate field nearby for the skirmishes, which will focus on an outpost and an authentic incident around a gate. The big mediaeval church, which we shall use for Manor Courts and a Service, features two superb early 17th century figured monuments.

SATURDAY MAY 29th

2.30 Drill display

3.00 Interactive Manor Court in the church

SUNDAY MAY 30th

11.am 17th century-style church service: psalm singers wanted! [apply to CK]

12.30 pm Officers dining and soldiers sutlery

2.00 Drill display and childrens drill

2.30 Manor Court in the church

4.00 SKIRMISH

MONDAY MAY 31st

11 am Drill display and childrens drill

12 noon Officers dining and soldiers sutlery

1.30-2.30 pm SKIRMISH

[Thus main Fairfax participation over by 3.30pm]

OTHER EVENTS DURING THE WEEKEND

Include a 17th century fair: performances of ‘English Civil War’ [a 17th century version of ‘Blackadder’] on Saturday and Sunday evenings (tickets £5) : talk on the Civil War in Wiltshire by Alan Turton [Saturday 4pm]; and Barbecue [Monday late afternoon]. Gosport Living History Society display [on separate site]. Barber Surgeon, Blacksmiths, Herbalist, ‘Quartermasterie’ and local period stalls on village green. *You are requested to wear 17th century clothes on all possible occasions when off the modern camp site.*

FACILITIES

There are two excellent and friendly real-ale pubs (one has a Fenwick as a barman and both do food): plus a village beer tent on the Green. There are two shops open over the weekend, one until 10pm. Fairfax sutlery food provided on the village green Sunday and Monday lunchtimes.

CAMP SITE

The ‘modern’ camp site is a very short distance from the village green, from which it will be signposted. Open Friday May 28th 5pm until Tuesday 1. June 10am. A *gently* sloping site, with room for caravans/campervans. NB: due to events on the Green, vehicles are requested NOT to enter or leave the campsite between Saturday 1pm-4pm; Sunday 11am-5pm; Monday 10am-3pm.

If you have a suitable period tent, there is very limited room on the Green: but you MUST let CK know IN ADVANCE, or space cannot be guaranteed– and you really don’ t want to end up in the drill display area!

PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE VILLAGE

GETTING THERE [Aldbourne postcode is SN8 2DU: SE of Swindon; NW of Hungerford; NE of Marlborough]

From the south and east

Leave M4 at Junction 14 and take the A338 south to Hungerford. At T-junction in Hungerford look for B1492 signposted Swindon [not the main Swindon road]: follow B1492 through Chilton Foliat and Whittonditch to Aldbourne. [NB Aldbourne is not easy to reach from M4 Junction 15/A346, whatever a Satnav may say]

From the north and west

Head for Swindon and then the A419 Swindon bypass heading for M4. Just BEFORE you reach M4 Junction 15, turn left [east] at roundabout onto B1492 signposted Aldbourne, Ramsbury, Hungerford.

ORGANISATION

Fairfax Battalia C.O: Simon Frame simon.fairfax@talktalk.net or 0117 9563392

Muster organiser [and enquiries re civilian events, courts, church service, and tents on village green etc]: Charles Kightly, 50 Huntington Road, York YO 31 8RE: charles@kightly.plus.com : mobile from Friday 28th May only: 07909 516667

Powder officer: Steve Southcoat 01604 4831796 or Ted Stubbs 01225 708233