



# History Talks By David Clarke

History Walks: [www.1066haroldsway.co.uk/talks](http://www.1066haroldsway.co.uk/talks)

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## Public Speakers Corner

### Speaker Net

### Medway Public Speakers List

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, 1066 Harold's Way and other History Walks, David is an experienced and anecdotal speaker who will bring the history, walks and talks to life.

These illustrated talks will be tailored to meet your needs and fees, dates and presentation details will be discussed on enquiry.

David lives in St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex and walks, talks and writes about walking, local history and all things 1066.

He considers his membership of CAMRA, The Inn Sign Society, The Ramblers and the Long Distance Walkers Association to be a perfect match for walking and is the author and creator of 1066 Harold's Way, a 100 mile long distance walk inspired by King Harold's epic march to the Battle of Hastings, 1066.

**For more information about these talks visit [www.1066haroldsway.co.uk](http://www.1066haroldsway.co.uk)**

## **History Walks**

### **1. Walking the High Weald - Three Castles and an Ironmaster's House**

This talk is an engaging account of my 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. 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.

### **2. Capital to the Coast - 1066 Harold's Way**

King Harold's march from London is encapsulated in 1066 Harold's Way, a 100mile long distance walk from Westminster Abbey to Battle Abbey and the talk traces the 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 and a clear route through the daunting Forest of the Andreasweald. There are few facts, just stories and legends and this engaging account of the King Harold's march to Hastings will review why it all happened, the reasons for the Battle of Hastings, Harold's Timeline to the Battle of Senlac Hill and, of course, walking 1066 Harold's Way.

### **3. 1066 King Harold's Final Journey**

No one quite knows what happened to King Harold's body after the Battle of Hastings but one legend suggests that he was buried in the family grave in Bosham churchyard. It is an intriguing story that examines all the claims on the King's body and an amusing insight into my walk across the breadth of Sussex from Battle to Bosham - a final pilgrimage to King Harold II - the last Saxon King.

## **1066 - Battles and Invasions**

### **1. 1066 The Battles of Fulford Gate and Stamford Bridge -**

A review of the two battles that led to the death of Harald Hardrada and Tostig Godwinson and preceded the Battle of Hastings but had such a devastating effect on the events of 1066 by destroying the effectiveness of the Northern Army and weakening King Harold's men on the forced march to York and back.

### **2. 1066 The Battle of Hastings**

We should have won! An examination of the battle that sealed England's fate and ended 600 years of Anglo-Saxon rule.

### **3. 1066 Duke William's March on London**

'1066 William's March on London' is an engaging account of what happened next as Duke William sought to consolidate his invasion of Anglo-Saxon England and culminates in his coronation at Westminster Abbey on 25th December 1066. I will delve a little deeper into the background and intrigue that surrounded the important events of that October, November and December starting with the aftermath of the Battle of Hastings based on all the evidence available.

### **4. 1066 The Saxon Times - A Newspaper's Review of the year 1066**

There is more to 1066 than the Battle of Hastings and The Saxon Times reports on the whole year from the consecration of Westminster Abbey to William's coronation. The story ends on 31st December 1066 when the newly crowned King is found hiding in a nunnery in Barking. This talk, based on all the evidence available, reviews the events of 1066 and delves into the background and intrigue that surrounded key dates during that turbulent year.

## **History Guides**

Explore and discover the fascinating history of these historic East Sussex towns with talks drawn from the History Walks series of Books:

### **1. Battle**

So synonymous with the Battle of Hastings, Battle's history dates from the strategic crossroads of ancient ridge roads at the sign of 'The old hoar apple tree'

before the building of an Abbey to commemorate the Battle that began the development of the historic town.

## **2. Rye**

Rye, with its medieval airs and cobbled streets, its history as a Cinque Port, the smugglers and its people, has been written about and photographed to distraction, after all, it is one of the most picturesque towns in England. This talk will bring some sense to the orderly and disorderly streets, twitchels, passages and history but, be careful, for when not sailing the Spanish Main, that dastardly pirate Captain Pugwash may be watching you, home for a holiday to visit his creator, John Ryan.

## **3. St Leonards on Sea**

Hidden away behind in St Leonards on Sea's promenade is the story of a dream to build a New Town which in 1841 was said that "None but the unrivalled crescents of Bath and Bristol is superior to the Marina of St Leonards". The Regency splendour of the rich and wealthy, Mercatoria and Lavatoria, built to service the grand houses lead into a green St Leonards on the very edge of the town and a history that stretches back at least a thousand years.

## **4. Winchelsea**

Winchelsea is an opportunity to imagine a life in a town whose Grand Design has little changed in over 700 years and is a unique vision of King Edward I's dream of a hilltop town. There are three medieval gates that guard the approaches, the old Court Hall that once acted as the gaol and the seat of the Mayor's power, and a great church that promised so much, its grandeur and wealth reflects the affluence and influence of the town in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

## **5. The Ogre of Brede**

In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, it was said that a giant prowled the streets of Brede looking for children to eat for supper.

It may have been a cautionary tale but that is to discount the legends borne out of religious strife that surround the village, of smugglers, a matchless Madonna, a biblical misprint, body snatchers and that rather macabre tale of the Sussex Cannibal.