

**BATTLE OF DUNBAR: EVENT NOTICE FOR SPOWS**  
**13-15 September 2019**  
**Main event field address: Off Spott Road, Dunbar, EH42 1BF**

*We are looking forward to welcoming you to Scotland and to Dunbar. These notes are intended to help advise you as to what is happening where and when, so that you can better plan your movements over the weekend. Further details will be posted on the Facebook page.*

**Event Details**

The aim of the event is to bring the story of the Battle of Dunbar to life for the local community and visitors alike, with an exciting and engaging programme showcasing both the latest understanding of the historic battlefield and a showcase for high quality 17<sup>th</sup> century re-enactment.

The event runs over the weekend of 13-15 September, and will feature commemoration, a parade, living history camps, cavalry and drill displays. It will also feature a recreation of the skirmish at Broxmouth which took place the day before the battle, and then a climactic representation of a key part of the battle.

These events have been organised by the Scottish Battlefields Trust, a volunteer-run charity which seeks to promote and protect Scotland's battlefield heritage.



**Location**

Dunbar is an historical coastal town in the south-east of Scotland, noted for its twin-harbours, castle ruins, and broad high street. It was the scene of two major battles, in 1296 and 1650, and was the birthplace of US conservationist John Muir (his former home is now a museum). The sixteenth century Town House (tolbooth) is hosting a temporary exhibition on the fate of the POWs captured at Dunbar and marched to Durham, which will be open during the event weekend. The town is roughly halfway between the English border and the Scottish capital forty minutes to the west by car.

The event site (shown above) is located adjacent to the A1 motorway, making it easily accessible from the east coast route into Scotland. The town centre is a 15-20minute walk away from the main event field.

The event site is within the designated historic battlefield zone, in the area of the English encampment in September 1650. The backdrop to the camps and displays will be Doon Hill itself

Unfortunately there will be no train service running between Edinburgh and Dunbar on the event weekend, due to unexpected engineering works. Buses from central Edinburgh can take up to 1hr30mins to reach Dunbar.

## **Events on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

Any descendants who are available to do so are invited to a photo-call at the battlefield monument on Friday morning. The timing will be confirmed in the near future, but probably late morning. I will announce a time and meeting point nearer the day once I have this confirmed.

Whilst we don't expect people to travel in specifically for this, if you are staying locally it would be nice as there is quite a bit of press interest in your visit! It would also be my first chance to meet some of you

The travelling version of the "Bodies of Evidence" exhibition will be open at the Town House museum from 1pm. The John Muir Birthplace Museum will also be open during the day, if any of you wish to pay a visit to the only building in Dunbar which flies the American flag! Both museums are on the High Street, a short walk away from each other.

At 6pm we cordially invite you all to a special welcome reception at the Town House, which was the civic centre of the historic burgh and is now the base of the local museum and historical society. There will be light refreshments, and after a few speeches we hope it will be a chance for us to all to meet and get to know one another. I will have the name badges which have been sent to me ready at for collection on arrival.

After the reception we will walk together around to the historic harbour, for the *Soldiers of 1650* event, which will take place from 7.30pm-8.30pm. This will take place in the battery fort (built to defend our harbour from American privateers after John Paul Jones tried to land here!). It will end with a tribute to those who fought and fell at the battle.

## **SATURDAY PARADE**

We hope many of you would like to join the parade on Saturday morning. We are assembling from 9.40am in front of Dunbar Leisure Centre, at the bottom of the High Street. The parade will leave at 10am. The route is slightly over 1mile and will take around 35 minutes. The end point is the main event field where the re-enactments will take place.

If you are not quite up to the full walk, then you might want to drop out when we pass the parish church, around a third of the way along the route.

The parade will end at the main event field, where a short memorial service will take place, to remind us that the following re-enactments are recreations of real events featuring real people. After that, the re-enactment camps etc will open at 11am

## **MAIN RE-ENACTMENT EVENTS**

The main programme from 11am-5pm is the same on both Saturday and Sunday and you are welcome to attend both. Your badges will ensure you don't have to pay entry.

I will set a space aside in the marquee which you can use as your base; the SPOW Society is welcome to display leaflets and/or information if you wish.

## TIMETABLE

### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September:

Late morning (TBC)	Press photo call for descendants on battlefield (optional)
18:00 – 19:00	<b>Welcome Reception:</b> a private reception welcoming descendants to Dunbar, held in the historic Burgh Chamber of the Dunbar Townhouse.
19:30 - 20:30	<b>The Soldiers of 1650:</b> atmospheric commemorative event in the historic harbour's battery fort, introducing the different troop types that will be seen in the battle. Concluding with a minute's silence for in memory of the fallen of the civil wars, and a musket volley across the old harbour.

### Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September

0940	Participants begin assembling at parade start point (behind Lauderdale House, top of the High Street)
1000	<b>Commemorative Parade</b> begins – route takes in the High Street and Spott Road
1050	Parade arrives at event site
<b>1100</b>	<b>Living History site opens</b>
1130	Giant map presentation
1200	Cromwellian infantry display
1230	Scots Lancers – cavalry display
1300	<b>Skirmish:</b> an English picket is posted at a shepherd's hut, but Leslie surprises them.
1330	Scots infantry display
1400	Children's Battle!
1430	Councils of War
1500	<b>The Battle of Dunbar:</b> Cromwell launches his attack on the unexpected Scots.
1600	Book launch- " <i>Essential Agony: the Battle of Dunbar</i> " by Arran Johnston
<b>1700</b>	<b>Living history site closes</b>

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September

Repeats living history programme of previous day, 1100 – 1700



## MAP

I will act as your main event host and contact point:

Arran Johnston

(+44) 7906 349407

After the parade begins, your main information contact at the event will be my colleague Sharon Beck, who will be around all weekend and easy to find.