

### **CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION**

The two events in 2019 were a great success; the trip to Stratfield Saye In May and the dinner at the Cavalry & Guards Club in October. We hope this year's events will be similarly popular.

On 1 May, we have planned a walk around London, visiting sites relevant to the life of the 1st Duke. This will include two visits not normally open to the public; a visit to the Major-Generals Office in the Horse Guards which was Wellington's office for many years; and tea in the Crypt of St Paul's Cathedral. In October, we intend to visit Portugal. We will be visiting some new sites as well as taking part in local celebrations. See further details below.

We continue to keep in contact with events and activities in Portugal and we support and publicise these events to members and the wider public through our website and Facebook sites.

Our efforts to raise awareness of the lines continues with further additions to the website and also supporting the update of entries on Wikipedia. There is now a great deal of information available on the internet.

There has been a modest growth in membership, and we encourage people interested in the Lines to join and support our activities. We would also welcome interest in helping to run the group.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Portuguese Ambassador for hosting our committee meetings through the year at the embassy.

Andrew Dismore  
Chairman

### **EVENTS UPDATE 2019**

#### **Report on Lines of Torres Vedras Day, Talk and Dinner, 18 October 2019. Cavalry and Guards Club, London**

The evening was very successful with over 30 attending the talk by Marcus de la Poer Beresford and 28 staying for the dinner in the amazing Wellington room. Marcus has spent many years researching the Portuguese army and his predecessor, William Carr Beresford and the talk benefitted from his expert knowledge. At dinner we were delighted to welcome Anna Unbelino from Torres Vedras City

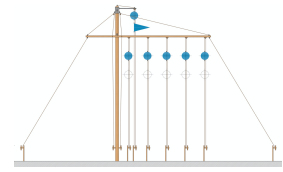
Council. This was a great way to end our events for 2019.

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends preceded the talk.



*Marcus and Duke.*

# THE FRIENDS OF THE LINES OF TORRES VEDRAS NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2020



## Waterloo Association, Royal Armouries, Leeds, 14 September 2019.

Mark S Thompson presented on the Lines of Torres Vedras at this public event.

## Events for 2020

Two events are proposed for 2020.

### 'Walk with Wellington' in London, 1 May 2020. The outline is:

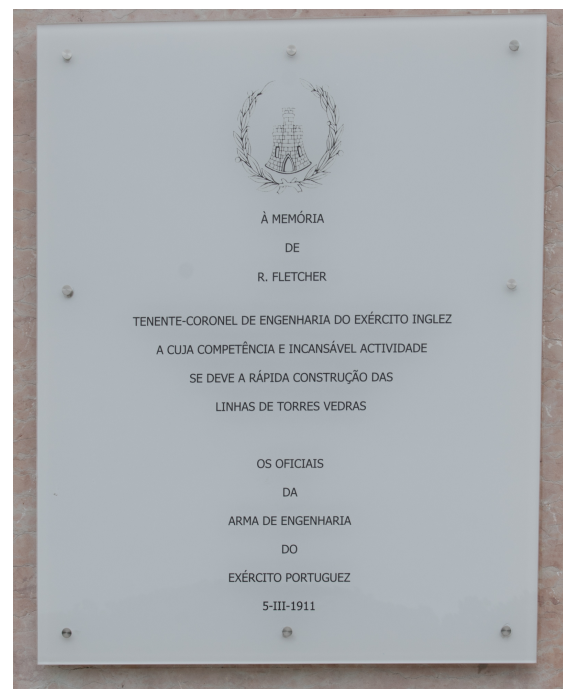
- *Breakfast at 08:00 at The Pestana Chelsea Bridge Road Hotel adjacent to Battersea Park where he fought his only duel on behalf of King's College when he was insulted by the Earl of Winchilsea.*
- *From The Wellington Arch at 10:00 to walk from Piccadilly to the Household Cavalry Museum, stopping off at a number of locations frequented by Wellington, in off duty mode, to explore some of the more unusual and unknown haunts of his private and personal life.*
- *Visit the Major General's Office at Horse Guards from 12:30 to 13:30 sharp. These are strict timings, with a maximum of 15 guests at any one time being permitted into the Major General's office.*
- *A three course lunch at "The Wellington," in The Strand opposite King's College from 14:00.*
- *After lunch, a visit to King's College, and from there to the Crypt at St Paul's Cathedral where Wellington lies.*
- *The day will end with tea in the Crypt at St Paul's the site where the alliance between Britain and Portugal was formalised in the Treaty of London on 16 June 1373.*

The cost of the tour, excluding public transport, will be £70 per person. This will include a continental breakfast, entry to the Household Cavalry Museum, a set three course lunch, but not beverages, and a cup of tea in the Crypt of St Paul's Cathedral.

### Portugal visit, 16-19 October 2020.

In the autumn, we intend to again visit the Lines for the Lines of Torres Vedras day. We will join the official dinner in Torres Vedras on 18 October.

The outline proposal is to arrive during Friday 16 October with a welcome dinner in the evening in Torres Vedras. On Saturday we will visit different forts from the previous visit, plus the Fletcher Monument at Alhandra where the Friends paid to replace the stolen plaques. Lunch is included.



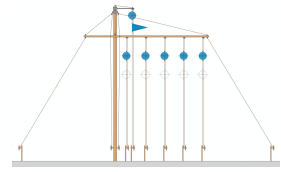
New memorial plaque to Richard Fletcher RE.

On Sunday we will visit museums and municipality events, including the official dinner on the evening.

On Monday we will visit the battlefields of Roliça and Vimeiro, with lunch en

# **THE FRIENDS OF THE LINES OF TORRES VEDRAS**

## **NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2020**



route. In the evening a wine-tasting, with snacks.

The official tour ends Tuesday morning, but an option is being considered to visit Sintra.

Cost will be £400, to include four nights' accommodation, 2 dinners, 2 lunches, the wine tasting and the coach. Travel to Portugal is NOT included. Places will be limited to 20.

### **FRIENDS COMMITTEE**

We will always be interested in hearing from members who would like to get more involved with the running of the group.

### **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

We currently have 63 paying members.

### **MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE.**

#### **Website**

Development of the website continues. Recent additions are links to Google maps for the main forts. I will be adding more in the coming months.

#### **Wikipedia**

The references to the Lines of Torres Vedras have been updated in consultation with the Friends. Our thanks to Andrew Shepherd who carried out the updates. There are links to the 'Friends' from the Wikipedia pages.

#### **Facebook**

The Facebook page continues to be active with many contributions from the UK and Portugal. Membership has increased to 200.

### **OTHER RELATED EVENTS**

#### **Waterloo Association, Higham Hall, 27-29 March 2020.**

Mark S Thompson will be speaking on the Lines of Torres Vedras. Details at <http://highamhall.com/course/waterloo-building-armies-and-armies-building/>

#### **New Book on the Lines**

Mark S Thompson is currently writing a book on the Lines which will be published by Helion in 2021.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information on the Lines of Torres Vedras, the Friends, or our events, please visit our website (<http://www.f-ltv.co.uk/>) or our Facebook page.