

# Commemorative plaque links medieval battle to modern day

Another blue plaque has been put up in Great Yarmouth - this time commemorating a Medieval battle. The important link between the port and the decisive Battle of Sluys - won thanks to Yarmouth men and ships - was celebrated with a national conference which drew an audience of 60 people. And the significant association was then sealed with a permanent marker affixed close to the quayside on a wall which would have been standing 675 years ago when the battle was fought. Leading the proceedings local historian Michael Boon, who also sponsored the plaque, said: "Today it is fitting to dedicate another plaque to our town forebears who gave such sterling service to King Edward III with their naval contribution at Sluys which was recognised in the grant of the new form of the town arms. "The plaque which I now unveil links the 21st century to the 14th - the victory of Sluys is remembered by us to-day as we stand in that virtual shell of a building which stood at that time to look at the remains of the contemporary wall on which our plaque is placed."

The conference marking the 675th anniversary of the Battle of Sluys was organised by the Great Yarmouth Local History and Archaeological Society. The day started with Professor Mark Bailey setting the scene with a talk about the economic, social and political history of the 14th century with reference to Great Yarmouth. He was followed by Dr John Alban, whose subject was Great Yarmouth's role in the Hundred Years' War and Dr Craig Lambert who spoke about the role of Great Yarmouth in the Battle of Sluys. The Battle of Sluys, fought on June 24, 1340, off the coast of Flanders, was a major turning point early in the Hundred Years' War with France, because it virtually destroyed the French fleet



**MARKER:** Historian Michael Boon leading proceedings at the unveiling of a plaque to the Battle of Sluys. Right, an English ship or cog which helped to win the landmark Battle of Sluys and gain an advantage in the 100 years war.

and two French admirals were killed. The majority of French ships had been amassing to invade England and the English victory at Sluys ensured most of the combat throughout the Hundred Years' War happened in France, other decisive English successes taking place at Crécy, Poitiers and Agincourt. Afterwards hailing the contribution of men and ships from Yarmouth Edward allowed the town to half its coat of arms of three silver herrings and add his own three

lions, elevating its standing and providing an arresting heraldic emblem, still seen today on everything from bins to football shirts. Society chairman Dr Paul Davies said: "For England, whose history is full of important naval victories, this victory at Sluys is an early and tremendously important maritime success that should be remembered. Great Yarmouth should be proud that their forefathers supplied the majority of ships and men for Edward III's fleet for this battle and for the

Siege of Calais six years later. "The English fleet was led by Sir Robert Morley, a local man, and not by John Perebrown, as some state. This episode was at the height of Great Yarmouth's power, richness and influence, before its decline begin at the end of the 14th century." This latest unveiling brings to 75 the number of plaques across the borough, marking homes of significant people, buildings and important events and generally raising awareness of historical significance.

## In Brief

### Gunslinger hit the po

A high dive act is making Pleasurewood Hills, this Wild West theme. The stunt show is performed by world champions in perfect synchronization from up to 25 meters into 2.8 metres deep. Liam Holmes, the new general manager, said: "So far it's a fantastic season for Pleasurewood Hills and it's about to get even better with the launch of our new show, which really is a stunner."

The show launches to

### Carers ever

Table space is still available for upcoming Care for Carers events but with 50pc already going fast. The events will be held at the Norwich Forum on October 21 and the Shrublands Centre in Gorleston on October 6. Tables are available, and organisations who rely on care can email info@careforcarers

### High Street

Access to Stalham High Street will be restricted on Sunday as £10,000 worth of roadwork is carried out. Contractors are carrying out surface dressing starting at 5am with an expected finish time of noon. The closure will take place between the junction of the A149 Yarmouth Road and the A149 Yarmouth Road/Staithe Road/Ingham Road.

### Work pensio

A new Government automatic enrolment campaign is being launched to make smaller companies aware of their duties to automatically enrol their workers into a pension scheme. In the coming weeks, employers will start warning smaller employees that Automatic Enrolment is right around the corner.