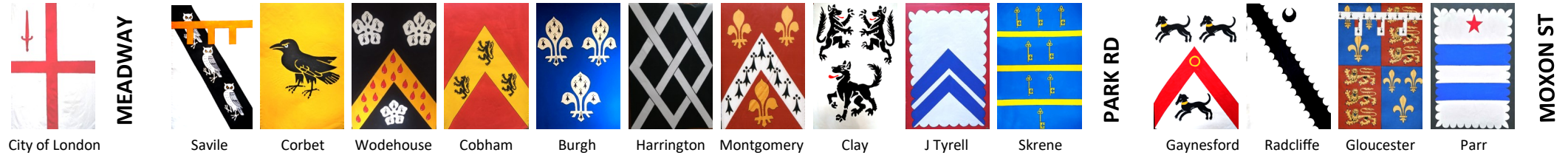
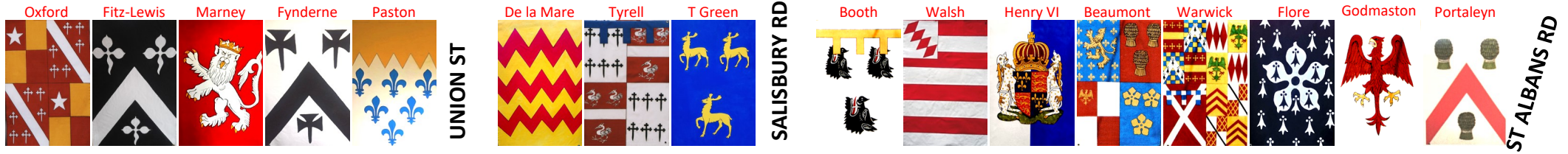


 High Barnet Tube Station

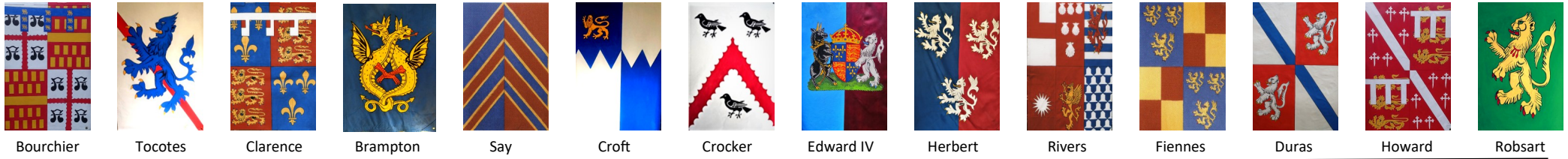


BARNET HILL

Barnet Church

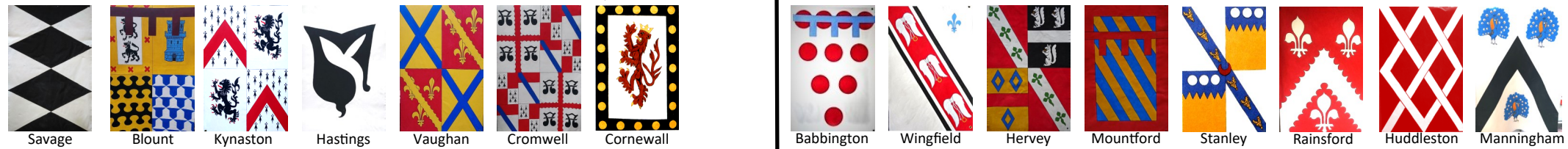


BARNET HIGH STREET



BARNET HIGH STREET towards Hadley Green 

BANNERS in THE SPIRES SHOPPING CENTRE





# The Battle of Barnet

On 14<sup>th</sup> April 1471, a very foggy Easter Sunday, two armies faced each other across a plain just north of the market town of Barnet. The Wars of the Roses had arrived in Barnet.

The armies were the Lancastrians, about 13,000 in number led by The Earl of Warwick, "The Kingmaker", the richest and most influential nobleman of his time; and the Yorkists, about 10,000 in number led by the dashing 6 foot 4 inch tall King Edward IV. Edward had with him Richard, Duke of Gloucester (the future Richard III) and a Lancastrian hostage, his immediate predecessor, Henry VI.

Thus, the past, present and future Kings of England were at the Battle of Barnet.

All the night before, Warwick's artillery fired on the Yorkists, but because the latter were camped so close, the cannons overshot and the Yorkists endured a noisy but safe night.

The foggy conditions saw the two armies line up with a slight overlap. When the Lancastrian right wing (led by the Earl of Oxford) attacked, the Yorkist left collapsed and retreated through Barnet and away southwards.

The same happened in reverse on the other side of the battle; this meant that the armies wheeled around. When the Oxford's Lancastrians returned to the battle they charged into their own men, mistaking them for King Edward's troops. Mayhem ensued, the Lancastrians cried "treachery" and many left the battle.

Now the tide turned in the Yorkist favour; in the confusion the Earl of Warwick and his brother Montagu were killed.

King Edward IV was victorious.



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**Facebook Page: Facebook/barnetmuseum**

**Barnet Museum and Local History Society is an entirely volunteer-run charity. Donations and new members are, of course, always welcome.**

# Barnet Battle Banners



In 1471 - the year of the Battle of Barnet - England did not have a standing army. Instead, each nobleman, knight or squire brought with him to battles his own retinue of soldiers. These soldiers would rally to the banner of their 'master' and he would choose the side they fought on (sometimes deciding late in the day or even during the battle itself).

The banners hanging on the lampposts in Barnet Town represent the nobility and gentry who fought in the Battle of Barnet on 14th April 1471. On the diagram overleaf, the Lancastrians (generally on the West side of the Hill/High Street) are shown in red; the Yorkists (mainly on the East) side are shown in black.

Each banner has been researched for heraldic and historical accuracy. Since 2018 Barnet Museum Volunteers have created, monitored and refurbished the banners. The banners have been painted using weatherproofed stage paint on cotton duck cloth. They have been hung on lampposts by Bouygues UK, the company maintaining Barnet's lampposts.