

## **MAX KEEN TALK ON HENRY Vth**

On Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup> a group of eager history students assembled again in the Salvation Army Church Centre for another exciting talk by Max Keen. The subject this time was King Henry Vth.

From the moment he entered in full Fifteenth Century armour, ably assisted by his serf "low-born Rob", Max kept us spellbound. He made us imagine how hot it would have been wearing that armour, and how difficult it would be to move.

We learned details of the early life of Prince Hal including his taking part (aged only 16) in the Battle of Shrewsbury, where he was hit in the face by an arrow, which left him horribly disfigured and could have claimed his life, if not for the extraordinary skill of the medieval surgeon who removed the arrow. This explains why portraits of Henry show only his left profile, hiding his scars.

Max went on to give a full account of the defeat of France at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, ending with a dramatic declamation of Henry's famous victory speech.

The talk was fully illustrated with slides of the locations, some of which brought home to us the huge numbers of soldiers who died in the battle, and some of which gave a colourful, if somewhat sanitised picture of the scenes, taken from one of Max's favourite sources – the Ladybird books!

Afterwards we were invited to handle the swords and armour, before enjoying tea and cake. It had been another fascinating history lesson by an inspirational teacher!