

# The Black Pear Bulletin

*The Newsletter of the Battle of Worcester Society*

**Issue No. 11 ~ Spring Edition 2015**



Welcome to the first quarterly edition of the *Black Pear Bulletin*. It is hoped that all members are making full use of our website where every effort is being made to keep the site bang up to date. So much has happened since the turn of the year, the most exciting news item being that the society is now a registered charity. Much more detail below.

We have another full range of events coming up this year, with a second season of *Civil War Nights* at the Commandery, a float in the Worcester Carnival and the Annual Drumhead Service at Fort Royal and Church Service at Old St. Martin in the Cornmarket, Worcester. We've plenty to keep us going!

## FIRST MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES

Now a fully fledged charity, the Trustees met for the first time on the morning of Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March at The Swan at Whittington. In a meeting which lasted over two hours much ground was covered. Members may recall that under the rules set out by the Charity Commissioners the Trustees will stand down at the next AGM; seeking re-election for a term of up to three years should they wish to. The twelve Trustees (the maximum allowed under the constitution) are:

Grant Simmonds MBE, Richard Shaw, Vaughan Wiltshire, Christine Shaw, Roger Fairman, Brian Bullock, Tim Lawrence, Prof. Derek Law, Andrew Guy, Ben Humphrey, Jack Randall, Hannah Worthen

Grant Simmonds was elected Chairman.

Richard Shaw was elected Vice-Chairman.

Vaughan Wiltshire was elected Honorary Secretary.

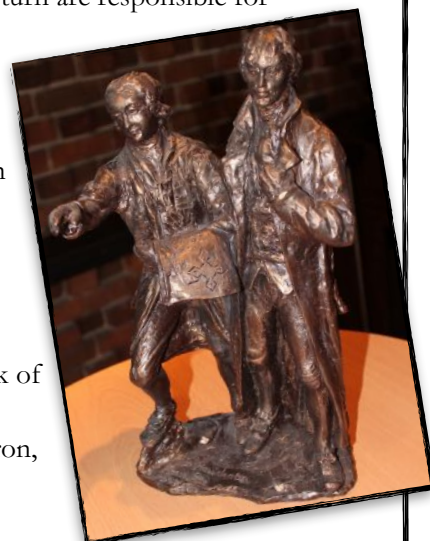
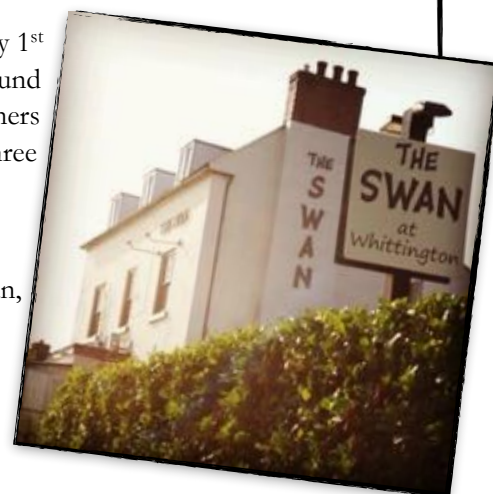
Christine Shaw was elected Treasurer.

Whilst the members appoint the Trustees, the Trustees appoint office holders from amongst the Trustees as well as the Executive Committee. The Trustees oversee strategy and the Executive Committee, who in turn are responsible for the day to day running of the Society.

Members will note that Grant Simmonds and Richard Shaw are now Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively of the trustees and Executive Committee. This is intentional as a short-term measure to oversee the transition smoothly, and will be addressed at the AGM in the autumn.

## THE PRESIDENTS' MONUMENT APPEAL LAUNCH DETAILS

The Trustees decided that the Monument Appeal needs to be separated from the main work of the Society and needs high profile patrons to achieve the Society's aim of establishing the monument at Fort Royal in reasonable time. Accordingly, talks are ongoing with Chief Patron, Lord Faulkner, and others. It is now likely that the official launch will take place in 2016.



## LOVE WORCESTER

The Society had a stand in the cloister of the Cathedral on a wet and miserable St. Valentine's Day. Despite low visitor numbers, the Society still managed to make a profit of approximately £200, and signed up a new member. The Chairman would like to thank David Robinson for his help on this occasion and many others. David has regularly assisted whenever Executive Committee members are committed elsewhere. Thank you, David.

## ADAMS JEFFERSON PLAQUE

The Civic Society has produced a plaque to place on the site of the old Hop Pole Inn to mark the occasion when both future Presidents breakfasted there on 8<sup>th</sup> April 1786. The plaque is an original design and the Executive Committee Society decided it would be appropriate to contribute a sum of £100 to the total of around £1,000. The Society logo is included in the design. As yet, we don't know when the unveiling will take place, but members will be informed.

## WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE AND HEINZ

Unsuccessful attempts have been made, yet again, to get Heinz, the owners of Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce to engage with the Society and Worcester more generally. Heinz's London office has been to say the least, unresponsive. However, a fresh approach is now being made via another "sauce" (ha!ha!).



## LIBER-TEA and OAK APPLE DAY

The Society will be supporting the annual celebration of Oak Apple Day at the Commandery on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May and the special celebration to mark the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Magna Carta on 14<sup>th</sup> June also at the Commandery and Fort Royal. There'll be lots to enjoy for all the family on both occasions. Full details are available from the Worcester Cathedral and Museums Worcestershire websites.



## WORCESTER CARNIVAL

The Society will be sharing a float in the Worcester Carnival on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July, with our sponsors, The Cardinal's Hat. The aim is to ensure a fun day for all and the Society float will certainly contribute significantly!

## NATIONAL CIVIL WAR CENTRE, NEWARK

Although it's a great shame that Worcester "missed the boat", the National Civil War Centre at Newark is a fabulous project and is fully supported by the Society and Museums Worcestershire. An exclusive visit for Society members is planned after the official opening at the beginning of May. Members will be circulated with details once we have a date from Newark.

## VAUGHAN WILTSHIRE – TV CELEBRITY!

Some of you may have seen Vaughan appearing on the BBC programme "*Great Antiques Map of Britain*" on 4<sup>th</sup> February. The programme featured Worcester and Vaughan talked to show host Tim Wonnacott about two of his 19<sup>th</sup> century sporting guns made by John Perrins and Son. Vaughan certainly knows his subject and fascinating television too. Well done, Vaughan.



## CIVIL WAR NIGHTS

Season two begins at the Commandery on St. George's Day with Professor Diane Purkiss talking on *The People's Civil War*. Her book of the same title will be available at a book signing session following the talk. A week after, on 30<sup>th</sup> April, Dr. Andrew Hopper of Leicester University will be talking on *Turncoats and Renegades*. His book of the same title will also be available on the evening of the talk. Two terrific talks with which to begin the new season so do please support us. All talks this year begin at 7pm and entry is £7. Advance tickets are available from the Commandery. For a full list of speakers, please check the website.





## CIVIL WAR NIGHTS SPECIAL AT THE SWAN THEATRE

Next year, as an antidote to St. Valentine's Day, the Society, and its' good friends from *Worcester Live*, is producing a very special evening at The Swan Theatre, Worcester. Make a note in your diaries for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016. Dr. Darren Oldridge, University of Worcester academic and leading authority on witchcraft in the 17<sup>th</sup> century (and author of *The Devil in Tudor and Stuart England* and Editor of *The Witchcraft Reader*) will be talking in the first half of the show about *The Witchfinder-General Trials 1645-47*. After the interval, there will be a special showing of the wonderful cult horror classic from 1968, *Witchfinder General* starring Vincent Price and a support cast which includes Ian Ogilvy, Patrick Wymark ... and Wilfred Bramble! There will be much happening pre and post show as well as during the interval. Further details will follow in later bulletins.

## SOCIETY OUTREACH MEANS INCREASED INCOME

Members of the Executive Committee regularly gives talks to groups, associations and societies. Not only does this help to spread the word, but as we do not charge, the host body normally makes a small donation to the Battle of Worcester Society ranging from £20-£50. In February the Chairman spoke to a full house at the Pershore Civic Society and Vaughan Wiltshire spoke to an equally enthusiastic group in Malvern a couple of weeks later.

If you know of anyone who would like an entertaining and informative talk please contact any member of the Executive Committee.

## M5 RE-ENACTORS WEEKEND AT SPETCHLEY PARK

On the weekend of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> August around 2,000 re-enactors, representing a huge range of historical conflicts, will descend on Spetchley Park. If you've not been before it is well worth a visit. The Society would like to have a stand there on both days and we are asking for volunteers to assist as some of the regulars will be doing their bit for the re-enactments. Anyone volunteering for half a day on the stand will gain free admission. If you can help, please contact one of the Executive Committee members.



## WORCESTERSHIRE: HOME OF LIBERTY AND DEMOCRACY - A MINI DOCUMENTARY

Our President, Ben Humphrey, has recently presented a mini-documentary relating to Worcester's place on the international stage as the home of liberty and democracy. You can watch the film online at the Battle of Worcester Society's website. This has also been followed up with the first episode of *Worcestershire: Liberty and Freedom*, an audio series (also presented by Ben Humphrey) which will visit different locations around the county and look into their heritage and link with modern democracy. You can find the first episode on our website under *Podcast Series* or by subscribing for free in iTunes. simply type in *Worcestershire: Liberty and Freedom* in the iTunes store.

## Post Script

Society member, Howard Deane, a descendant of Cromwellian General, Richard Deane, would like to welcome to his home, near Bristol University, any members who would like to talk on matters relating to the Civil War or his ancestor. Contact details are available from, in the first instance, Christine, our Membership Secretary at [seashells84@sky.com](mailto:seashells84@sky.com)

**His Grace The Duke of Hamilton ~ Lord Faulkner of Worcester ~ Lord Selkirk of Douglas  
Sir Tam Dalyell Bt. ~ The Hon. Lady Rosalind Morrison ~ Mr. Henry Berkeley ~ Ms. Diane Rappaport**

**President:** Benjamin Humphrey FRSA

**Chairman:** Grant Simmonds MBE ~ **Vice-Chairman:** Richard Shaw

### Executive Committee

Kenneth Potts FBWS ~ Christine Shaw ~ Roger Fairman ~ Brian Bullock ~ Vaughn Wiltshire

### Black Pear Bulletin Editorial Team

Grant Simmonds ~ Benjamin Humphrey ~ Christine Shaw

