



THE BLACK PEAR JOURNAL

September 2010

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www.battleofworcestersociety.org.uk

Chairman: Ben Humphrey **Treasurer/Membership Secretary:** Howard Robinson
Hon. Secretary: Rob Leetham **Committee Members:** Brian Bullock, Ken Potts, Roger Fairman, Cllr. Aubrey Tarbuck

Patrons: Lord Faulkner of Worcester, Sir Tam Dalyell (Bart.), The Lord Saye & Sele, The Hon. Lady Rosalind Morrison, Mr. Henry Berkeley, Mr. John S.B. Bennett, Mr. John Peters, Mr. Robin Horsfall, Ms. Diane Rapaport, Prof. David Green

And do Englishmen so soon forget the ground where liberty was fought for?

John Adams
2nd US President
Worcester, April 1786

Welcome to our second edition of the *Black Pear Journal*. In this edition you will find information regarding the BoW360 (Battle of Worcester 360) initiative, summary of the Drumhead Ceremony, round-ups of the Civil War Live week and other important notifications. We are very much looking forward to the AGM this coming November of which you will find more details in the publication.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

BOW360

Get involved with the new initiative and be apart of the 360th Commemoration year.

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DRUMHEAD CEREMONY & CIVIL WAR LIVE

Brian Bullock reports on the week of activities involving the Worcester Re-enactors, The Sealed Knot, the English Civil War Society and The Battle of Worcester Society itself.

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IMPORTANT NOTIFICATIONS

Important information that may be of interest to our members including dates and times of the AGM.

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The Devil and Oliver Cromwell as part of the puppet theatre at The Commandery during the Civil War Events at the Beginning of September.



The Drumhead Service - September 2010



Live Firing Drill

A few pictures from the archives of the society.



A fantastic view of Ken Potts' brilliant vision for the Battle of Worcester monument

HOME SWEET HOME!

We are thrilled to report that after talks with Sarah Bourne (*The Commandery*) and Iain Rutherford (*Worcestershire County Council*) the society's new home and base of operations will be *The Commandery* in Worcester. To be back in such a unique and fitting building is a great honour and we know that members of the society will join with the committee in thanking Iain and Sarah for their support and commitment to the cause by allowing us to run our work from this brilliant building. This will obviously help our finances in both the short and long term as we won't have to pay for PO Box services or hirer of meeting venues. The society and *The Commandery* hope to work together in promoting awareness and the significance of the battle to people of all ages.

FROM ACROSS THE POND

One of our patrons has recently arrived home from a visit to the USA. Lord Faulkner of Worcester visited the States in the last weeks of August with one of his goals being to make contact with appropriate people or organisations on behalf of the society.

Lord Faulkner was well received by his contacts in Worcester MA, and presented the Mayor of Worcester 's office with Hon. Membership from the Society which the current incumbent, Mayor Joe O'Brien, was delighted to receive. Lord Faulkner has also reported "... a number of people there were interested in what I had to say about the Battle of Worcester, and particularly the subsequent visit of Jefferson and Adams. It was put to me that they might be able to find a way of donating specially commissioned statues of the two of them to us (possibly produced in a university art department there as a specific project)."



A re-enactor at the Civil War Live September 2010

I'm sure that all members will join with the committee in thanking Lord Faulkner for carrying the message and workings of the society forward to our friends across the pond. We hope that this will be the start of a productive and long-standing connection that will see links and exchanges being formed for years to come.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Bridge by Alex Jones **Tuesday 21st September 2010 at 7:30pm, The Swan Theatre, Worcester.** A supernatural thriller set against the backdrop of the Battle of Worcester. All members of the society will receive a free drink at the Swan's bar on production of their membership card.

Battle of Worcester 1651 with Tony Spicer, Saturday 23rd October 2010 at 2pm As part of the St. Peters Festival there will be a talk followed by a walk round part of the battlefield. St. Peter's Baptist Church, Eden Close, Worcester WR5 3TZ. For more information please contact Tony Spicer (Member) on a.spicer@btinternet.com or call 01684 572925

Please do let us know of any events that you think other members would be interested in hearing about. We will list these events in the newsletter and if you visit www.bow360.org.uk you will be able to register your event free of charge, online and get a listing in the *Worcester News*. We would also encourage members to attend as many events as possible and show support.



BoW360

Next year will be the 360th Anniversary of the Battle of Worcester. To encourage people of all ages, backgrounds and historical know-how to get involved in commemorating the Battle of Worcester's 360th Anniversary, the society has developed the initiative of BoW360. We want to encourage individuals and organisations to become a part of the commemorations by registering their events online. This will then form a programme of events all relating to the Battle of Worcester or the Civil War. Registering an event is free and we have the fantastic support of the *Worcester News*, which will be publicising these events. All we are asking of people is that they use the BoW360 logo. We think the best way to really make an impact with this initiative is to make it as wonderfully innovative as possible. We've already had ideas such as 17th Century

Bell ringing classes at the Cathedral, Children's Opera at the *Three Choirs Festival*, craft days and 17th Century cooking classes... all of these go a long way to ensure that no-one is left out of the commemorations. We also would like to be able to sponsor a *Sealed Knot* re-enactment on the Anniversary of the Battle in 2011. This is going to require some intensive fundraising over the next few months, so if there are any events or activities that you think will help raise money for BoW360 we'd love to hear from you.

Ideas for events - Craft days, cooking workshops, historical walks, children's events, lectures, costume exhibitions, re-enactments, musical concerts... If there are any events that you can think of as being ideal for the initiative then please register them online at www.bow360.org.uk

A Quick note from the Committee

The committee are delighted to report that the society's numbers have increased substantially over the last 18 months. We have also seen a substantial increase in finances within the last 12 months as well as record attendance at the Drumhead Ceremony & Civil War Live. This has been a very productive and exciting year and hard evidence that the society is pushing forward.

Civil War Live

**Tuesday 31st August -
Sunday 5th September
2010**

Brian Bullock writes...

The week started with setting up the BoWS display in the great hall. The week went well with a great deal of interest from the public in both the display, reproduction artifacts and the Ken Potts' maquettes. Due to this we gained at least 3 new payed up members and had many other members of the public taking away membership forms.

On Friday the bulk of the re-enactors arrived late afternoon to start setting up the soldier's camp in the garden along with the *Living History* display in *The Commandery* itself. There was a good turnout at the reception prior to the Drumhead Ceremony, made up of BoWS Members and re-enactors. The evening was perfect with the sun slowly going down and the bells from the Cathedral sounding. Everyone formed up, and with colours flying and drums beating we marched up onto Fort Royal. Once in place on Fort Royal we started with a musket volley. As the Rev. Paul Tounge started the service the bells stopped (divine intervention!) after which we had another volley followed by a minute's silence that was then broken by a third volley from the muskets. We were treated to a short address from Councillor Andy Roberts after which we formed up and marched back down to *The*

Commandery. The march and service lasted just less than an hour with over 100 people in attendance.

Saturday and Sunday saw the re-enactors in action in *The Commandery* with around 500 visitors this turned out to be a huge success. There were drills in the garden including two musket firings per day as well as pike drill. Younger visitors also got to have a go at some pike drill. There was a magnificent display in the Great Hall and in various rooms we had more displays and cameos including a tavern scene, craft room scene and a general with maps planning for the forth coming battle. In the resource room was a 17th Century printing press producing pamphlets for Charles calling for citizens of Worcester to rally to the cause at *The Commandery* and join the King.

About 30 re-enactors attended over the weekend. These were made up of members from the Sealed Knot, English Civil War Society and Worcester Re-enactors, some traveling as far as Plymouth and London and all of them volunteers.

Special thanks should go to Brian himself. Without his organisation and liasing with The Commandery, the Civil War Live week would not have gone a head. Many thanks Brian!

BoWS Committee.



AGM Notification

All society members and non-society members are hereby notified of the society's Annual General Meeting.

Saturday 13th November 2010

11:00am

The Commandery

All agenda items to be received by the society's Hon. Secretary, Mr. Rob Leetham by the 13th October 2010. rob.leetham@virgin.net or through the society's postal address below.

Agendas will be distributed to all members no later than two weeks prior to the meeting.

Non-members also welcome although will have no voting rights.

Membership Fees

Annual membership fees are due soon. Howard Robinson will be sending out a request for renewal of membership fees either by email or post. You can also pick up membership forms from *The Commandery* in Worcester.

We hope you will agree that being a member of the society has never been such a worthwhile cause.

Pictures



Do you have any Battle of Worcester related pictures you would like to share with members? Send them to a member of the committee and we will do our best to include them in the next newsletter.