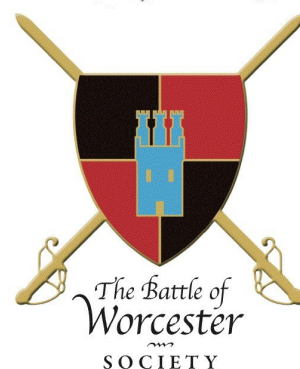


# The Black Pear Bulletin

Issue No.2 JANUARY 2014

The Monthly Newsletter of the Battle of Worcester Society



## Happy New Year to you all!

2013 was quite a year for the Society and I can assure that the Executive Committee and I are determined to build upon what has already been achieved. One significant notable change over recent months is those in authority are now seeking interviews with the society; it's no longer one way traffic which can only be a good thing, thus proving, if proof were needed, that we have established ourselves as a voice that needs to be, and will be heard.

## FESTIVE FUN

Amongst all the Christmas shopping, parties and all else that goes with the lead up to Christmas, two senior committee members showing another side to themselves! Our immediate Past Chairman and Treasurer, Ben Humphrey, is making adults and children alike howl with laughter playing "Widow Twanky" at the excellent Worcester Live production of the pantomime "Aladdin" at The Swan Theatre.

Thanks to member Sue Fairman, many Society members went along on Friday 20th, some proudly sporting the very popular Society hoodie, to cheer..... or jeer Ben! The pantomime was written and directed by Society stalwart and Chief Executive of Worcester Live, Chris Jaegar.

It was looking bleak for the youngsters attending The Commandery Christmas Kitchen on Sunday 22nd December when Santa Claus called in to say there had been a problem with his diary, (it's amazing how there aren't a lot more, but guess that's down to Mrs. Claus), and he would not be able to make it on the big day. Natalie Digger, our Secretary and Missus Fixit at the Commandery put a call through to

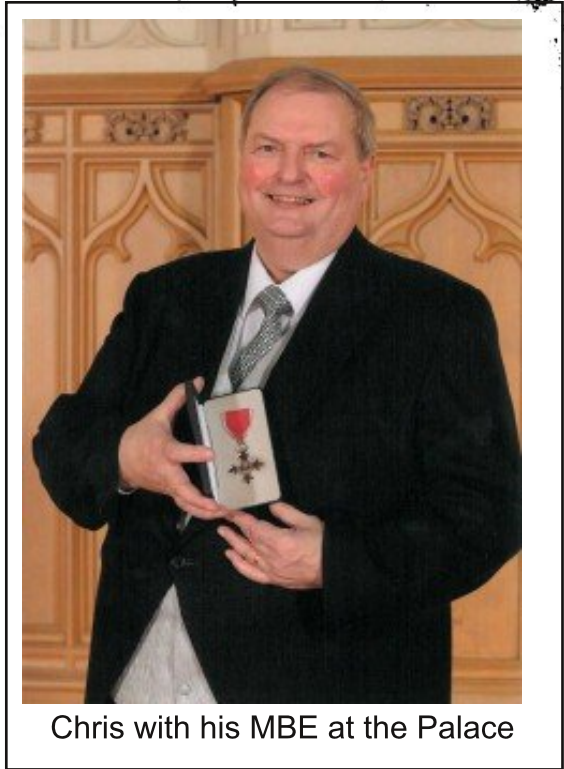
Richard Shaw, our Vice-Chairman, who very kindly agreed to deputise at very short notice. Sadly I was unable to get there to see Richard in action, but though he may lack the natural physique of a traditional Santa his kindly nature and marvellous dry humour would surely have wowed the kids.....and parents! Well done, Richard.



Father Christmas (Richard) comes to the Commandery

## CONGRATULATIONS CHRIS!

I am sure I speak on behalf of every member of the Society in congratulating Chris Jaegar upon collecting his MBE from Her Majesty The Queen at Windsor Castle in late November in what was a very special day for the Worcester Live Chief Executive and his wife Liz. Thoroughly deserved, Chris, for the many years you have strived, often against a plethora of obstacles, to make Worcester a centre for the Arts and making Worcester Live the marvellous organisation it is today.



Chris with his MBE at the Palace

## THE PEAR AND THE BULLETIN

It was agreed at the December committee meeting that the Bulletin will now become a regular monthly feature keeping members up to date with all the latest news and information. The Black Pear Journal will be a twice yearly publication containing articles, essays and news. I do, however, urge you to send me any pieces you would like to see included in the next edition of the Black Pear Journal. It doesn't have to relate to the Battle of Worcester (or Powick Bridge), or even the Civil War; simply articles that members may find of interest. I do hope you all enjoy the new arrangement and find it satisfactory.

## CHAIRMAN'S DIARY

December has been another busy month of BoWS related meetings. I've met with Paul Harding of Discover History; Lord Richard Faulkner, our most active and senior patron; Mark Jackson of the Worcestershire Regimental Museum; and Robin Walker MP. Throw into this an Executive Committee meeting and various meetings with committee members, not to mention the BoWS night at The Swan pantomime, it leaves little time for getting down to work - let alone rest and play! It's all great fun though, and I am learning so much too. Worcester people really do seem to have taken us to heart, and it's part of my job to build upon this good will.

## COMMANDERY NEWS

There is nothing new to report officially, though rumours abound. I have met with David Nash briefly, who now manages the Commandery, and he is an excellent chap; sympathetic to our aims and most accommodating. I will have a much longer session with him in early January.

As a Society, we must not put all our eggs into one basket, and need to keep other options open for a permanent home. Without wishing to sound too clandestine, it would be inappropriate for me to mention some tentative early discussions that have taken place recently about another possible site. All I can say for now is, "Watch this space!"



## CROMWELL ASSOCIATION AGM

On Saturday 26th April the Cromwell Association will hold its AGM at Worcester Cathedral as previously reported. The AGM at 10pm is for members only, but members of our society have been very kindly invited by the Chairman of the Cromwell Association to attend the lecture from 11.00am to 12noon approx. The lecture is free.

Afterwards there will be a light lunch when members of both societies can "network" (dreadful word!), the cost of which will be £10 per head.

After lunch our committee members will take the Cromwellians on a historic tour of the City or alternatively accompany them on a climb up the cathedral tower.

The Cromwell Association have asked for numbers from the society well in advance, so I would ask any members wishing to attend the meeting or lunch to contact me [chairman@thebattleofworcestersociety.org.uk](mailto:chairman@thebattleofworcestersociety.org.uk) by the end of January. It would be marvellous if we showed up in numbers to support our friends.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

You need to keep your eyes on this section each month as new events appear, others are amended, but hopefully, not too many cancelled.

### 15/16 FEBRUARY LIVING HISTORY WEEKEND

Committee member of society fellow, Ken Potts will be displaying his marvellous maquettes, including "The Presidents" in the Chapter House at the Cathedral on both Saturday and Sunday, and there will be the usual Battle of Worcester display too. I'd like to say a very big thanks to committee stalwarts Brian Bullock and Roger Fairman for their tireless efforts throughout the years, "lugging" the heavy and cumbersome panels and artifacts from venue to venue for our cause. Thanks Chaps. Should be a fun weekend in the City centre, so pop in and see us.

### 26th APRIL CROMWELL ASSOCIATION AGM at the CATHEDRAL

see item above.

APRIL date to be advised THE PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT INTO THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTY MUSEUMS SERVICE This will be held at the Guildhall and will be open to the public I understand. We will have a much better idea which way the wind is blowing after this, but there is to be a consultation period which will provide the society with a further opportunity of getting its views across.

MAY provisional. Possible Talk and Supper.

### SATURDAY 14th JUNE VISIT TO BOSCOBEL HOUSE

There is little need for me to mention the significance of this venue, Royal Oak and all. This will be a day trip to include time for lunch for those that wish to partake, but will not be included in the price. We will be taking a coach, the cost of which will depend on numbers. Entry is £6.20 for an adult, but for those of us over 60, £5.60. On the basis we get more than 11 we constitute a party, which means a 15% discount! But remember, the cost of a coach/minibus needs to be added. I would ask members to let me know by the end of February if they would like to attend as I will need to book an appropriate coach. If this venture is successful, other trips will be organised.

## AUGUST THE WORCESTER FESTIVAL

There are several possibilities which the committee are working on. One such is "CHASING CHARLES STUART"

## 5TH SEPTEMBER BATTLE OF WORCESTER DINNER

This prestigious black-tie occasion is held every other year and for the first time will be run by the Society. We are very fortunate that former Chairman of the Organising Committee, Vaughan Wilshire, is also a Society Committee member so will be very much at the hub of the arrangements for 2014. The Sub-Group that will be making the arrangements are due to meet in January and until then the fine details are not known, but it is expected that ticket prices will remain about the same as 2012, £50. Tables are round and will hold a maximum of 10.

The guest speaker is traditionally an academic who specialises in our period of interest, and I am delighted to say that Vaughan, with the assistance of David Hallmark, have managed to secure the services of Professor David Stevenson, Emeritus Professor of History at the University of St. Andrews and author of "Revolution and Counter-Revolution 1644-51". More news in later bulletins.

## ANNUAL BATTLE OF WORCESTER COMMEMORATION SERVICE – SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER

A couple of very interesting developments to report. Firstly, the Committee have decided that due to lack of numbers attending and the cost of cathedral hire, the commemoration service needs to find a new home. Therefore, the service in 2014 will take place at OLD ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH. Wearing my professional ceremonial hat, I will be working with our chaplain, Canon Paul Tongue, to ensure the service really does the men and women of September 1651 proud.

The second piece of news is thanks to the assistance of patron Lord Faulkner, I have secured LORD SELKIRK to give the address at the service. It was Selkirk's illustrious ancestor, the Duke of Hamilton, who led Charles Stuart's army, and indeed, gave his life for the cause.

This is marvellous news and a real coup, so I do hope that members will come out and support the occasion in great numbers on SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER as I know His Lordship will have some fascinating things to say. The service is free, but I am working on having refreshments provided at a suitable venue nearby afterwards for those that wish to partake. Details of timings and arrangements will follow in later issues.

## OTHER NEWS

### LOTTERY

What? A Lottery? Yes indeed. Immediate Past Chairman and Treasurer has developed a lottery for members that will bring in a small but regular income. The lottery is due to begin in February and Ben will be writing to all members soon. Please do support it.

### PROPOSED ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION INCREASES

Increases were agreed at the AGM, (the first increases since the society was formed), and the Secretary, Natalie Digger, will be writing to every member about the proposed changes.



## BATTLE OF WORCESTER APP

For those of my generation, an App is an application for a computer, tablet or mobile phone....I think! Mark Digger, (Digg), is a professional computer chappie and has been working on an app for the Battle of Worcester. There will be a full presentation to the Committee at the January meeting when decisions will be made.

## CONCESSIONS

A reminder to all members that from 1st January a 10% discount applies to members on production of a valid membership card at the following stores:

PEPLOWS

CARDINAL'S HAT

CHARLIE'S CAFE (SIDBURY)

WORCESTER LIVE EVENTS

CARLUCCIO'S

POCKETS (MENSWEAR)

SIMPLY BEAUTIFUL (BEAUTY SALON)

CHOCOLATE DELI (COFFEE SHOP, NEW STREET)

## TALKS AND LECTURES

I am currently discussing the idea of a series of lectures and talks with a number of civil war related authors. More news later should things look good.

## UNIVERSITY OF WORCESTER

I will be meeting with the History Department in the near future in the hope of establishing a close and mutually beneficial working relationship between the University and the Society.

## MERCHANDISE

There is now a number of HOODIES (£15 to members – excellent quality and a real bargain) available in all sizes. Battle of Worcester MUGS have been produced by Committee member, Brian Bullock. They represent excellent value for money at £4 each to members. Vice-Chairman, Richard Shaw, has produced a BATTLE OF WORCESTER SOCIETY TIE. The design is plain blue with the Society logo positioned so that it appears a little below the knot. Again, a very good purchase at £14 to members. All products are available through the Secretary, Natalie Digger, at the Commandery. Email [secretary@thebattleofworcestersociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@thebattleofworcestersociety.org.uk)

## WORCESTER NEWS MONTHLY ARTICLES

More observant members may have noticed that, as Chairman, I now write an article each month for the Worcester News. I try to tie in something Battle or Civil War related to events today in an effort to attract the more casual reader, whilst still getting our message across.

The subject of my November piece was comparing and relating the Civil War casualties to that of the First World War in connection with the forthcoming centenary commemorations of the latter conflict. My December piece took a light hearted look at a Puritan Christmas – or non-Christmas! - compared to the consumer crazed event of today. (I may have got a few more readers for this one as

for some reason the sub-editor decided to place a photograph of a leggy blonde in a Santa outfit on the same page!). My theme for January will relate to the Scottish Referendum on Independence and the reasons why the Scots in 1651 decided to invade.

## TIME TEAM SPECIAL

For as long as I have been a member of the Society I have been fascinated by the various theories of where the mass graves for the Battle are, or indeed if there are any at all. There are many theories and I'm sure some have to be right....but which? Lord Faulkner suggested recently that I speak to his acquaintance Sir Tony Robinson of "Time Team" fame to ascertain if there would be any mileage for the Channel 4 programme undertaking a limited search for the graves. One problem, of course, was that the programme is no longer "on air", but Channel 4 have commissioned a number of "Specials" nevertheless, like the excellent recent programme about the correct site for the Battle of Hastings. Brilliant stuff.

Accordingly, I exchanged correspondence with Sir Tony who was politely non-committal. However, a little before Christmas, his Executive Producer wrote to say that such a potentially massive exercise would not fall into their 3 day format and beyond their capabilities. I was naturally disappointed, but bearing in mind that King Richard III was found under a car park and the true battlefield of Hastings lies under a roundabout and minor road network, I doubt the good citizens of Worcester would take too kindly to the Ring Road being closed for us!

## CROMWELL'S CROSSING

Our very good friend from the Battlefields Trust, Tony Spicer, continues to work with the Society and the Battle of Worcester Partnership in an effort to properly mark the site where Cromwell built the famous Bridge of Boats at the confluence of the Rivers Severn and Teme. As well as proper signage, our long term aim is to have tended pathways and a small seated area for picnics. As always, if there are developments, I shall let you know.

## END PIECE

A big thanks to Mark "Digg" Digger for pulling this second edition of the Black Pear Bulletin together. I, as always, can be contacted via email at [chairman@thebattleofworcestersociety.org.uk](mailto:chairman@thebattleofworcestersociety.org.uk)

I wish all our members a happy, healthy and prosperous 2014.

Grant Simmonds MBE OstJ  
Chairman

### Contact Details

Membership Enquiries: [membership@thebattleofworcestersociety.org.uk](mailto:membership@thebattleofworcestersociety.org.uk)

Academic Research: [chairman@thebattleofworcestersociety.org.uk](mailto:chairman@thebattleofworcestersociety.org.uk)

Publishing / Black Pear Journal: [publishing@thebattleofworcestersociety.org.uk](mailto:publishing@thebattleofworcestersociety.org.uk)

Fundraising: [bhumphrey@thebattleofworcestersociety.org.uk](mailto:bhumphrey@thebattleofworcestersociety.org.uk)

The Battle of Worcester Society, The Commandery, Sidbury, Worcester,  
WR1 2HU

[www.thebattleofworcestersociety.org.uk](http://www.thebattleofworcestersociety.org.uk)