The Black

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*The Newsletter of the Battle of Worcester Society*

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**Issue 28 - Christmas 2020 edition**

**OUR CHAIRMAN WRITES**

I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year! 2020 has been an unusual year, and I agree not to use the word ‘*unprecedented*’ in any shape or form whatsoever from hereon in; I believe that we have heard more than enough of it! Although we have had a barren year, a big thank you to all members who have continued to donate their subscriptions. We aim to thank and reward you in 2021. I have been working hard over the last few months putting together a programme for 2021 for the enjoyment of us all. As I mention in the next paragraph, all the events during lockdown and beyond had to be cancelled. Fortunately, those Speakers whom I had arranged to give talks to the Society in 2020 are available in 2021. The programme is featured later on in the newsletter.

**3rd September, 2020**

Everyone will be aware that all events after the AGM in February 2020 which had been arranged by us had to be cancelled with the exception of the Drumhead Service which was held, as is customary, on 3rd September in Fort Royal Park. The Executive Committee members, Society members, the Mayor Jo Hodges, members of the Worcester Militia and members of the public gathered at the Commandery Café and at 6.30 p.m. we marched up the hill where we were met by many more members of the public. Fortunately gathering outside and social distancing meant that we were not breaking any of the Covid-19 rules. The Drumhead Service was hosted by me and the prayers were led by the Reverend Peter Hart.

We remembered the 3,200 soldiers who had lost their lives 369 years ago. The weather was absolutely glorious and the occasion was uplifting, even more so than usual, probably because we all had the opportunity to see old friends and be together without putting anyone at risk.

 

**Christmas Tree Festival 2020 in the Cathedral Cloister**

**5 Dec 2020 - 3 Jan 2021 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**Note: Sundays 1pm - 3pm (excluding Christmas Day)**

The Christmas Tree Festival is an amazing opportunity given to the City by the Cathedral to advertise local businesses and charities. For a donation we are able to place our tree in the Cathedral Cloister: literally thousands of people get to know that we exist. Because of the very different circumstances this year it was not known if the Festival would go ahead particularly when the second lockdown was announced. However, the Festival is going ahead and the Society has entered a tree with the theme of Cavaliers and Roundheads.

![A picture containing text, indoor

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It is a free ticket only event and I include at this point information given to the public on the Cathedral website about viewing the Festival:

*Due to the need to socially distance, the number of people in the Cloister will be limited. There may be the need to queue on arrival, either outside or inside the Cathedral, so please dress appropriately for the weather. Up to six people from the same household bubble (including children) can visit as one group, but each person (including babies and small children) must have a ticket booked for the same time slot.*

*Please note that your time slot is for the Christmas Trees; other parts of the Cathedral will be open as normal. We recommend arriving at the Cloister as close to the start of your time slot as possible. You are warmly invited to explore and enjoy the rest of the Cathedral before or after your time slot if time allows.*

***Important Booking Information***

*Entry to see the Christmas Trees is free, however* ***booking in advance with a timed ticket is essential****. Donations are appreciated to help support the Cathedral’s work. Visiting the Christmas Trees out of the Cathedral's normal opening times may be charged. Entrance to the Cathedral is via the main north door, in College Yard, opposite the High Street.*

*Book your tickets here:* [***https://www.worcestercathedral.co.uk/whats-on/christmas-trees-at-worcester-cathedral-2020***](https://www.worcestercathedral.co.uk/whats-on/christmas-trees-at-worcester-cathedral-2020)

The BBC Horrible Histories programme for children has put together a marvellous video of dancing Cavaliers and Roundheads which explains the Civil War very well indeed. If you or your children wish to see it follow this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UO5-vLVJG5Q&feature=emb_rel_end>

Cavaliers and Roundheads

**Non-Civil War and Civil War talks/Events 2021**

**Wednesday 20th January 2021** – The Hive, Richard Shaw *‘ The Battle of Waterloo.’* Free to members but £5 for guests. This will a Zoom event, please email Christine Shaw on [christineshaw1651@gmail.com](mailto:christineshaw1651@gmail.com) if you wish to attend.

**Thursday 18th February 2021** - **Annual General Meeting**. – It looks as if this will be a Zoom event. Members of the public can attend, but only members can vote. Details as for 20th January, 2021

**Wednesday 24th February 2021** – The Hive - Howard Robinson – ‘*Edward Winslow - The Mayflower and the Pilgrim Fathers.’* As above, subject to Covid rules, details as for 20th January 2021

**Thursday 18th March 2021** – The Guildhall, Earl Charles Spencer – *‘The White Ship’* Talk onhis latest book on the sinking of King Henry I’s ship in 1120. Again, this may be a Zoom event, but fingers crossed …..

**Thursday 22nd April 2021** – The Commandery, Colonel Nick Lipscombe on his excellent new book – *‘Mapping the English Civil War.’*

**Sunday 16th May 2021** – Talk by BoWS and Re-enactors display for the ‘Bromsgrove Society and Bromsgrove Court Leet’ at the Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove. Details to be confirmed.

**Thursday 20th May 2021** - The Commandery, Stuart Orme, Curator of the Cromwell Museum - ‘*The Private Life of Oliver Cromwell*.’

**Thursday 24th June 2021** The Commandery, Chris Monaghan of the University of Worcester, - ‘*Impeachment, Personal Rule and the Lead Up to the English Civil War.’*

**Thursday 15th July 2021** – The Hall at The Royal Porcelain Works, Professor Ronald Hutton – *‘Oliver Cromwell – Saint or Sinner?’*

**Friday/Saturday/Sunday 13th/14th/15th August 2021** – Spetchley Park, Worcester Living History Show (formerly M5) The BoWS will have a stand at this event.

**Thursday 19th August 2021** – The Commandery - Richard Bradley, Worcester Archive and Archaeology Service –‘*Civil War Artefacts Found During Recent Road Excavations.’*

**370th Anniversary of the Battle of Worcester in 2021 - Friday 3rd September 2021 Drumhead Service**

We hope to stage a small re-enactment.

**Saturday 4th September 2021 Grand Banquet in the Guildhall**

We have a planning committee working on this, we wish to make it “the Worcester event of the year” with a special guest speaker (yet to be confirmed). Start saving as we estimate it will cost **£65 per person**, but we aim to make the event worth it.

**Thursday 28th October 2021** – The Hall at The  Worcester Royal Porcelain works Dr Clare Jackson, University of Cambridge – *The Stuart Dynasty* **Dr Clare Jackson** is Trinity Hall's Senior Tutor. As a historian, her interests lie in seventeenth-century Britain, with a particular focus on the Stuart dynasty. n 2014, Clarepresented a three-part BBC2 television series entitled The Stuarts, followed by a two-part sequel, The Stuarts in exile in 2015.

**The Gates (Donations will be very Welcome!)**

The 3rd September 2021 will mark the 370th Anniversary of the Battle of Worcester, the last and deciding battle of the nine year English Civil War (1642-1651). The Battle of Worcester Society (Charity) wish to mark the occasion by erecting a monument, (see image below) designed by local Sculptor, Kenneth Potts, MRBS, BA. Founder member and Fellow of the Battle of Worcester Society (Charity), Ken sculptured the Edward Elgar state in Cathedral Square, Worcester.

The Monument features Parliamentary soldiers forcing open the Sidbury Gate, with Charles Stuart, who later became King Charles II, on the other side waiting for them with pistol drawn.

As well as commemorating the battle where a total of 3,200 Scottish and English soldiers were killed, (more British soldiers were killed at Worcester than at Waterloo on 18th June 1815 (1,550) and on D-Day 6th June 1944 (2,235). Many Royalist soldiers were killed as they fled from the battle and were ambushed as they tried to escape towards Scotland. Many more injured soldiers died of their wounds in the days and weeks following the battle. An unknown number of Worcester civilians were also killed.

It is estimated that 85,000 soldiers were killed in combat during the nine year war, and over 100,000 civilians died of war related disease and starvation. Historian Giles Kristian has stated, “*The English Civil War killed a higher proportion of the British population than any other war in British History, 1 in 10 of the male population died, more than three* *times the proportion that died in the First World War and five times the proportion than in the Second World War.”*

Remembrance Sunday and 11th November are rightly commemorated for the sacrifices made in the two World Wars and subsequent conflicts, but there is no monument to the English Civil War and it is suggested that the 3rd September in Worcester would be an appropriate date as this was where the war ended and also where the war began with the Battle of Powick Bridge on 23rd September 1642.’

The Preacher to the New Model Army, Hugh Peters addressed the victorious Parliamentary soldiers after the Battle of Worcester and said to them,

*“When your wives and children ask you where you have been and what news, tell them you have been at Worcester, where all our troubles began, and where they are now happily ended.”*

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*Image by Ken Potts Showing how the Monument will look*

**Covid-19 Might Have Banned Christmas – but Cromwell didn’t!**

**19 December 1644**

Public notice to be given for observation of Monthly Fast till further order.; And on the next day, being Christmas Day, in particular.

“*Whereas some doubts have been raised whether the next Fast shall be celebrated, because it falleth on the day which heretofore was usually called the feast of the Nativity of our Saviour. The Lords and Commons in Parliament assembled doe order and ordaine that publique notice be given that the Fast appointed to be kept on the last Wednesday in every moneth ought to be observed untill it be otherwise ordered by both Houses of Parliament: And that this day in particular is to be kept with the more solemne humiliation, because it may call to remembrance our sinnes, and the sinnes of our forefathers, who have turned this Feast, pretending the memory of Christ into an extreame forgetfulnesse of him, by giving liberty to carnall and sensuall delights, being contrary to the life which Christ himselfe led here upon earth, and to the spirituall life of Christ in our soules for the sanctifying and saving whereof Christ was pleased both to take a humane life, and to lay it down againe.”*

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/no-series/acts-ordinances-interregnum/p580>

**372 YEARS SINCE THE EXECUTION OF CHARLES I**

30th January 2021 will mark the 370th anniversary of the execution of King Charles I, the only time in British history that a Monarch has been executed. The eminent Historian David Starkey gave a talk at Huntingdon Hall in Worcester in 2015 to commemorate the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta. Mr Starkey started his talk by saying that Magna Carta was the second most important event in British history; the first was the execution of King Charles I in 1649.

**R.I.P. Lady Rosalind Morrison**

Tributes have been paid to the vice lord lieutenant of Worcestershire Rosalind Morrison who has died.

The Lord Lieutenant, Lt Col Patrick Holcroft, has made the announcement and said Lady Morrison was respected and much loved having given years of service to local organisations.

The Lord Lieutenant said: “*It is with great sadness that I record the death of Rosalind Morrison, who died in hospital on Friday, (October 16). “Lady Morrison was appointed a deputy lieutenant of Worcestershire in 2006 and became vice lord-lieutenant in 2016, in which role she proved to be outstanding.*

*“Her graciousness, empathy, thoughtfulness and humour will be remembered by all those who came into contact with her. “She was much loved and respected in the county having given years of service to many local organisations and charities*”

Lady Morrison was a Patron of the Battle of Worcester Society and we are sad that she has gone.

*(Extract taken from the Worcester News):*

<https://www.worcesternews.co.uk/news/18807922.rosalind-morrison-vice-lord-lieutenant-worcestershire-died/>

**R.I.P Cecil Duckworth CBE**

The former Worcester Warriors' club president, Worcestershire County Cricket Club President and Worcester Bosch founder Cecil Duckworth CBE died on 15th November 2020 at the age of 83. He was a superb ambassador for the city of Worcester and Worcestershire. Born in Macclesfield, he lived in Worcester for more than 60 years and took great pride in the local community through his generous support of so many charities and organisations and had been a corporate member of the Battle of Worcester Society. (Charity). (*Extract taken from the Worcester News*):

<https://www.worcesternews.co.uk/sport/18873318.worcester-warriors-club-president-cecil-duckworth-dies-aged-83/>

**PATRONS OF THE SOCIETY**

**His Grace The Duke of Hamilton ▪ Earl Spencer ▪ Lord Faulkner of Worcester**

**Lord Selkirk of Douglas ▪ Sir Robert Worcester ▪**

**Mr. Henry Berkeley ▪ Ms. Diane Rapaport**

**Professor Ron Hutton • Nigel Adams MP**

Executive Committee

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**Geoff Yapp (Treasurer)• Guy Little (Hon Sec to The Trustees)**

**Kenneth Potts • Christine Shaw (Membership Secretary)**

**Tim Young • Roger Fairman • Brian Bullock • Robbie Porter**

**Trustees**

**Richard Shaw (Chairman) • Guy Little (Honorary Secretary)**

**Howard Robinson • Christine Shaw • Roger Fairman ▪ Grant Simmonds**

**Roger Knight ▪ Ben Humphrey • Daniel Daniels • Andy Roberts**

**Monument Appeal**

**Lord Richard Faulkner is Patron of the Appeal**

**Black Pear Bulletin Editorial Team**

**Christine Shaw**

**Richard Shaw**

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

A picture containing grass, outdoor, tree, weapon

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Drumhead photos taken by Judith Hancox