The Black

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*The Newsletter of the Battle of Worcester Society*

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**Issue No 29 - Autumn 2021 edition**

**OUR CHAIRMAN WRITES**

What an exciting and full August and September we have had. We have all been making up for the time lost and an enjoyable time it has been. We have had two full houses for our Civil War Night talks, a very well attended Drumhead Parade and Service, an excellent and well attended Banquet and Living History for two days at the Countryside Centre which succeeded in cementing local people’s awareness of their local history.

**A WARM WELCOME TO PROFESSOR HUTTON**

Due to Covid restrictions we had to cancel the original date of this talk from 15th July to the 5th August. This also meant that we could go back to The Great Hall, in the Commandery, the natural home of Civil War history and hear one of the country's leading academic historians, Society Patron and speaker, Professor Ronald Hutton. At this ‘Civil War Night’ talk he entertained an audience of 55+ with the story of Oliver Cromwell using as reference his latest book *‘Oliver Cromwell – Saint or Sinner?’* which he believes is only book one of a trilogy. As ever, all were transfixed by Ron Hutton’s knowledge and his presentation of facts in an interesting and informative manner and we were left wanting more when his talk ended.

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**THE FINDING OF BATTLE OF WORCESTER ARTEFACTS**

A few men wearing safety vests

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**Richard Bradley and colleague (Worcester News)**

Two weeks after Professor Hutton’s talk, we were delighted to welcome Richard Bradley, Project Officer from the Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Department to the Great Hall. It was unprecedented to have two talks in the month of August and to have another large audience, this time consisting of 60 people, was such a wonderful surprise. Richard told us that the building of a second river  bridge and carriageway from the Ketch traffic roundabout to the one at Powick was a wonderful opportunity to search for Battle of Worcester artefacts.  Research was made as to where the mid-17th century soil level was, not an easy task due to the numerous floods over the centuries.  But they got it exactly right and artefacts from the Battle of Worcester including musket balls, horse harness fittings and belt buckles were found at the site in Powick, Worcestershire. In total there were 98 finds which were buried, covered by hundreds of years of flood deposits. The battlefield was further south than previously thought. Richard very kindly brought along a cabinet containing some of the finds from the dig.

**370th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF WORCESTER**

**Drumhead Parade and Service**

Worcester Re-enactors once again did us proud by providing an escort for the Mayoral Party from The Guildhall in the High Street to The Great Hall, at the Commandery, Sidbury. The Re-enactors started the Parade from the Cornmarket led by flags and drums and gathered an interested crowd of followers and onlookers along the route. They met the Mayor, the Right Worshipful Stephen Hodgson, outside the Guildhall, and he inspected the ‘troops’ before the second leg of the Parade began.



***Worcester Re-enactors greeting the Mayor***

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Time was spent in the Great Hall and outside the Commandery in the glorious sunshine where the Cardinal’s Hat had set up a mobile bar for liquid refreshment. The Parade to the top of Fort Royal Hill began at 6.40 p.m. again led by the re-enactors and followed by members of the public and Battle of Society members. It was a very colourful sight.

![A picture containing outdoor, tree, person, grass

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©Lee Thomas

The Drumhead Service was led by the Reverend Peter Hart and hosted by the Society Chairman Richard Shaw who reminded us all of the great sacrifice that had been made, not only here on Fort Royal Hill, but throughout the English Civil Wars. It was a beautiful occasion, enhanced by the weather and the large number of attendees.

A picture containing person, outdoor, sky, tree

Description automatically generatedA weaponised Chairman, Richard Shaw

A couple of women posing for the camera

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Two doughty Worcester Women!

**COMMEMORATIVE BANQUET ON 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2021**

I was delighted to welcome 109 diners to the Banquet in the Assembly Room at the Guildhall on the evening of 4th September. It was wonderful for everyone to be mingling with people in a natural manner who were really enjoying themselves. Members of the Society attended, together with the Right Worshipful Mayor and his wife, Stephen and Lucy Hodgson, Lord Richard Faulkner of Worcester, the Vice Lord-Lieutenant Brigadier R M Brunt, Dean Peter Atkinson, and our guest of honour, the Right Honourable Nigel Evans, MP, Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons. Mr Evans’ after dinner speech was very apt: he spoke on William Lenthall, Speaker of the House in the reign of Charles I.

A person speaking into a microphone

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His speech was lively and full of personal experiences and anecdotes relating to the English Civil Wars, William Lenthall and working in Parliament.

It was received with a great round of applause.

Mr Evans was presented with a gift of Royal Worcester Porcelain – a cup, saucer and side plate together with a cream jug and sugar bowl of the Worcestershire Hop – Mathon pattern – by the Society with grateful thanks.

**LIVING HISTORY AT THE COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE - 4th and 5th September, 2021**

The Worcester News reported this event in the following manner:

‘***WITH a burst of musket fire and a flash of steel, civil war re-enactors marked a bloody milestone in British history - 370 years since the Battle of Worcester.***

*… the imposing pikemen and musketeers of the Battle of Worcester Society who gathered at the Living History Camp and Battle at Worcester Woods Country Park on Saturday and Sunday gave a less than subtle hint of the bloody price of those liberties we enjoy today and the cruelty of the struggle in which our freedoms are rooted. Hundreds of people attended on Saturday and were treated to demonstrations which brought to life the drama and drudgery of the age.*

*Among those men to appreciate and commemorate the importance of the battle is Brian Bullock, a stalwart of the society, who cuts a striking figure dressed as a civilian musketeer fighting for Parliament.*

*The 67-year-old said of his interest in the period: "I like it because of what came out of it. We have got the Government we have got and the Parliamentary system we have now - that all came after the Civil War, stopping the Divine Right of Kings." …He said many people he had spoken to did not know the date of the battle and some had even asked him if it took place during the Wars of the Roses.*

*Mr Bullock added:… I joined the Battle of Worcester Society – (which) is there to promote the battle and its importance in Britain's history and especially for Worcester. We were at the heart of it - the beginning and the end."’*

 A person holding a bow and arrow

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**Worcester Re-enactors at the Countryside Centre for the *Living History*  event**

**Dates for your diary**

**Sealed Knot Memorial Service**

Will take place on Sunday 10th October, 2021 at St Mary’s Church, Ripple and will begin at 11.00 a.m. The Service is in honour of the founder of the Sealed Knot, Brigadier Peter Young who worshipped at the church in his final years. The service will include brief readings from the poets alive during the years of the Civil War and collectively encompassing a span of years from 1591 until 1700. After the service is over there is a brief ceremony outside during which a wreath is laid.

Our next Civil War Night talk is on

**Thursday 28th October 2021** at 7.00 p.m. – The Hall at The Royal Worcester Porcelain works. Dr Clare Jackson, Senior Tutor of Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge As an historian, her interests lie in seventeenth-century Britain, with a particular focus on the Stuart dynasty. In 2014, Clarepresented a three-part BBC2 television series entitled *The Stuarts*, followed by a two-part sequel, *The Stuarts In Exile* in 2015. Her latest book on which she will base her talk is named *Devil Land – England Under Siege 1588 – 1688.* An email giving further details will be sent around 9/10th October, 2021

Our first ‘non-Civil War Night talk’ of the season 2021/2022

**Wednesday 24th November, 2021 at 7.15 p.m. The Studio, The Hive, Worcester**

‘Battle of the Baltic The Royal Navy and the Fight to Save Estonia and Latvia 1918/20’

Steve Dunn, a local author, will give a vivid account of the Royal Navy’s battle to secure the freedom of the Baltic states and save the region from Bolshevik terror and German hegemony. One hundred years ago, British sailors died to protect Baltic independence from Russian invasion, a threat they still face. Then, as now, politicians cavilled, but the navy’s intervention saved the cause of liberty.

Steve’s books include The Coward? and The Scapegoat. Steve has a special interest in the British Navy of the early 20th century and World War One. He has several published works to his credit. His latest offering *British Naval Trawlers*  will be available in November. Steve lives in Worcestershire and the South of France.

**Sunday 12th December, 2021 – Christmas Lunch at King Charles House 12.30 p.m. for 1.00 p.m.**

Jonathan Darby, a well-known local actor will entertain us after lunch by reading extracts from *His Majesty Preserved* as Samuel Pepys. Lunch will consist of traditional pies and as soon as King Charles House settles on any possible additions to their menu for the festive season, we will send menus out to the members. Please book your place with Christine on [christineshaw1651@gmail.com](mailto:christineshaw1651@gmail.com). Numbers are limited due to lack of space, and the fact that we have had quite a few bookings already.

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

The 3rd September 2021 will marked 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) wishes 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 sculpted 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.

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

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**RIP**

We would like to send our condolences to John Guise and family on the death of Brenda Guise. John and Brenda were regulars at all the Civil War Night talks and had been members for years.

**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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**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)

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***Photographer: Howard Robinson***

***3rd September 2021***