

# The Black Pear Bulletin

Issue No.4 March 2014

The Monthly Newsletter of the Battle of Worcester Society



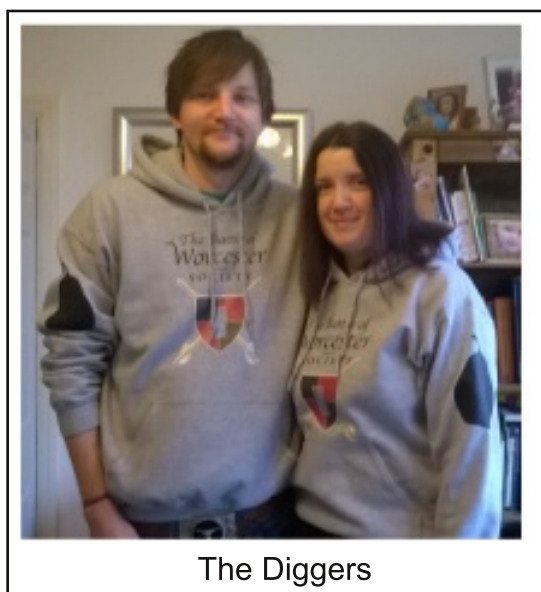
## THANKS DIGGERS!

The Chairman writes: I start the Bulletin this month by giving a very big thank you to Natalie and "Digg" Digger. Both joined the Executive Committee over the past year and their impact was instant.

I was delighted when Nat volunteered to take over the duties of Secretary, and subsequently Membership Secretary too. She displays an unbounded enthusiasm, which combined with her attention to detail, is proving a huge asset to the Society.

Husband Digg is a real IT genius and is responsible for, amongst other things, setting out my text for the monthly Bulletin into a coherent form. Digg is also working on improving our Society website and developing a Battle of Worcester App.

How the Diggers manage to put in the hours they do for the Society, hold down jobs, raise a young family and move house is beyond me. Thanks Chaps, you are both stars.



The Diggers

## CHRISTINE SHAW

I must also say a word or two about Christine Shaw, our new Treasurer. It is often very difficult to find volunteers to fill posts on the Executive Committee, especially one that involves a good

deal of time, such as accounting. Christine, wife of Vice-Chairman Richard Shaw, very kindly agreed to take on our finances a couple of months ago and is now fully up and running. Like so many other volunteer positions, it's a rather thankless task but utterly essential nonetheless. Thank you so much, Christine, for all you are doing.



Christine Shaw

## CIVIL WAR NIGHTS AT THE COMMANDERY..... NEARLY HERE!

Thursday 20th March is not very far away at all now, and I'm very excited about the first of our Civil War Nights at the Commandery. DR. GLENN FOARD, will talk on "BATTLEFIELD ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR". Glenn is the leading battlefield archaeologist and a lecturer at Huddersfield University. Glenn, also the archaeologist for The Battlefield Trust is acknowledged as the very best in the country and it's a real coup to get him to talk to us here in Worcester. You may recall it was Glenn who found where the real Bosworth Field was! Do please come along. The entrance fee is only £5 and I guarantee you'll have a thoroughly enjoyable evening.



Dr Glenn Foard

### FRIENDS OF FORT ROYAL AND THE COMMANDERY GARDENS

I wanted to briefly acknowledge this month the excellent work the Friends do. They ensure that these jewels in our midst are cared for as they should be whilst remaining the centre for community activities for young and old alike. The Society are fortunate to have a group of such dedicated partners to work with on various projects.

### CHARITABLE STATUS

There will be a full update next month

### MERCHANDISE

The following are now in stock and can be purchased via the Secretary:

All Members only prices

Battle of Worcester Society original crested lapel badge NEW £4

Battle of Worcester Society Mugs £4

Battle of Worcester Society Hoodies £15

Battle of Worcester Society Ties NEW £14

A new T-shirt will be produced for the Summer and a Society App is still under discussion.

### YOUTH/JUNIOR SECTION

The Committee have been spreading themselves rather thin this month, so this initiative has been slightly delayed. However, I remain confident that this section specifically for youngsters – the next generation of full members – will be up and running by the summer. Updates will appear in future Bulletins.

## VISIT TO NEWARK

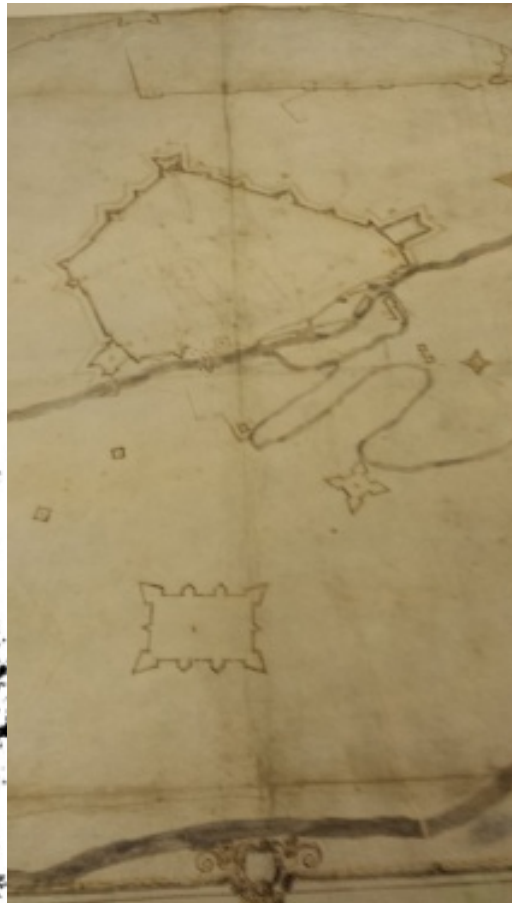
On Wednesday 5th February, Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary undertook a visit to Newark, where the new National Civil War Centre is due to open, at the kind invitation of Glyn Hughes, Head of Museums and Collections at Newark and Sherwood District Council. We learnt much during our day in



Newark, where Glyn and his colleagues treating us like visiting VIPs, despite us arriving over an hour late due to road works around Nottingham!

The Centre is now due to open in the Spring 2015, but Glyn has kindly agreed that the Society can visit in greater numbers this autumn to see the work in progress, details to appear in a later Bulletin.

I am thrilled that the nation is at long last going to get a national centre for a conflict which proved to be our country's defining moment. The conflict, rather ironically, eventually led to the constitutional monarchy we have today, and no doubt saved us from the bloody excesses of the French and Russian Revolutions. However, with more



casualties than both World Wars combined, the Civil War tore a gaping whole in society for many generations, and even today our own Society tends to take sides between the Roundheads and Cavaliers.....and Scots!

I had not seen the magnificent Queen's Sconce before and was utterly amazed at the scale of it, something I could only appreciate by walking it. There was a King's Sconce too, but this has now virtually disappeared, but to think these massive fortifications were part of a ring of defences that encircled Newark really did bring home to me the sheer scale of siege warfare during the Civil War. To think that a similar work was once constructed at the summit of Fort Royal!

Glyn Hughes was kind enough to show us some of the items the Newark Collection, including the distinctive lozenge shaped siege coins. When shown a Newark half-crown we told that it would





fetch thousands on the specialist collectors' market today.

I happen to mention my love of Anglo-Saxon history too, which prompted Glyn to produce a magnificent early Anglo-Saxon 6th century gold cross decorated with garnets.....and I was allowed to hold it!!

Glyn informed us that the Newark are keen to work in partnership with Worcester, as well as Naseby and Marston Moor, by possibly sharing such things as exhibitions and marketing. We thought this a splendid idea and I have briefed our friends in Museums Worcestershire who are delighted at the prospect. All in all, an educational, exciting and highly productive visit.

#### COMMANDERY NEWS

The findings of the consultant's report commissioned by Museums Worcestershire on the future of the Commandery are due to be presented at a public meeting at Guildhall in April. I will most certainly be attending and will notify members of the date in the April Bulletin. I understand that following the presentation adequate time will be allowed for consultation with the likes of our Society. As always, the Bulletin will keep you briefed.

#### “LIVING HISTORY” WEEKEND 15th and 16th FEBRUARY

Despite the awful weather and consequent flooding, Worcester was open for business and “Living History” went ahead as planned, in no small measure thanks to Brian Bullock and Roger Fairman. The event is an annual re-enactors occasion which is supported (though not financially) by the Society. Brian and Roger belong to both Worcester Re-enactors and serve on our Executive Committee, so they had an extraordinarily busy time.

The Commandery, Tudor House and Cathedral were the three venues used, though the Cathedral was available on the Saturday only. Society Fellow and sculptor, Ken Potts, established himself in the Chapter House working on various Battle of Worcester pieces clearly fascinating many of the visiting public. The Society decided to share Chapter House with Ken, and as well as attracting potential new members, sold £180 of Society merchandise. Very worthwhile.

#### 52 FACTS ABOUT THE BATTLE OF WORCESTER

To mark the 360th Anniversary of the Battle of Worcester in 2011 the Worcester News ran a series of facts about the Battle leading up to the 3rd September. I have asked the author's permission, our own Howard Robinson, if I may reprint some of these facts in forthcoming Bulletins – thankfully he agreed! (Several have been intentionally omitted, the pieces were meant for the general public and not “experts” such as us in the Society.) So here's the first little collection:

“ 2. The battle front at Worcester was spread approximately 7 miles around the city from:- Fort Royal, Perry Wood and Red Hill in the east; through Battenhall Park; across the Severn and the Teme; over Powick Ham to Powick Bridge; even as far as Bransford in the west; over Wick Fields (Lower and Upper Wick) towards St. John's parish area; then back across the River Severn into the west side of the city.”

“3. During the 9 years prior to the Battle of Worcester, the city, being of great strategic and commercial importance in the Midlands, was occupied by various forces. In 1642, a Parliamentary army occupied it for a while up until October when the Royalists took it over. A Parliamentary army attempted to recapture Worcester in July 1643 but was repulsed. By 1646 the First Civil War was coming to an end and Worcester, one of the King's last strongholds, eventually surrendered. However, the so-called “Faithful City” altered allegiance depending on who was in occupation at the time. Just a few days prior to Charles arriving at Worcester (August 1651) there had been a Parliamentary garrison in the city of about 500 men.”

“4. Use of the Cathedral for stabling horses occurred several times during the Civil War, first by Parliamentary troops in 1642, then by Royalist cavalry, and later by Parliamentary troops again. The use of churches for the stabling of horses during the conflict was common practice by troops on both sides and wasn't exclusive to the Parliamentarians. After all, there were no fixed seats in the naves of churches/cathedrals so the space outside the chancel and the choir was clearly ideal for horses and owners to shelter in without having to find anywhere else and wasn't considered a profane act”.

More of Howard's Facts next month.

“WORCESTER THROUGH THE AGES EXHIBITION” AT OLD ST.MARTIN'S CHURCH FROM 6th SEPTEMBER

Canon Paul Tongue, our Society Chaplain, informed me that the new home of our Annual Commemoration Service, Old St. Martin's Church, will be opening an exhibition the day before our Service and has asked that the Society contribute to the period covering the Civil War. I have, of course, said that the Society will do so. There will be an early opportunity to see the exhibition on 7th September for those attending the Service; an additional incentive, if one were needed!



Old St Martin's Church

## BOOK REVIEWS

Two excellent books have been written specifically about the Battle of Worcester in recent times, both of which I thoroughly recommend to those wanting either a refresher or for a newcomer.

Tony Spicer's small (but perfectly formed!) 57 page work, *The Battle of Worcester 1651* (first published in 2002 with a reprint in 2009) covers this "turning point in history" and every page is a fact-crammed chronology following the Battle of Dunbar to the aftermath of Worcester. It also contains some excellent appendices and a full list of sources. Most importantly, however, Tony's marvellously analytical mind really gets across just how touch and go the battle was at one stage and what a confident and brilliant general Cromwell had become.

At a mere £6.95 it represents marvellous value. It's worthy of selling many more copies, but I'm one of several who believe the poor cover art (apologies Mark Stacey!) indicates to a casual browser a children's book rather than the pocket masterpiece it is. As the saying goes, "you can't tell a book by looking at the cover"! Tony is a founding member of the Battle of Worcester Society and a key figure in the Battlefields Trust, who very kindly regularly conducts members around Worcester tracing various aspects of both 1651 and Powick 1642.

The Battle "Bible" for all historians and general reader alike is *Worcester 1651* by Malcolm Atkin. Malcolm, who will be talking about the Battle at the Commandery at 6pm on Wednesday 16th April as part of our Civil War Nights programme of lectures, is the acknowledged Doyen on the Battle. Formerly the Head of the Historic Environment and Archaeology Service for Worcestershire, Malcolm has written at least four books on the Civil War in Worcestershire, (which he has kindly signed for me!), including *Cromwell's Crowning Glory*, *The Battle of Worcester 1651*, (published 1998), as well as one on the Siege of Gloucester! (Tut, tut, Malcolm).

At 167 pages and costing £10.99, again it represents terrific value for money and doesn't suffer from the same disadvantage as Tony's book with excellent front cover artwork.

Inside, Malcolm begins with the campaign in Scotland and a clearly listed dedicated page to the chronology of the Third Civil War; most helpful to any reader. Throughout are mini-biographies of the key players which assists the reader in really getting to know the antagonists. Beautifully illustrated throughout in black and white with the photograph of modern day Broad Street, complete with shoppers, being identified as where Fleetwood's cavalry charged after crossing the bridge over the Severn; it really does bring it home.

The description of the charge of the Essex Militia taking Fort Royal, ferociously yelling the Parliamentary battle-cry "The Lord of Hosts", "storming to the very mouth of their cannons" is brilliantly researched and written.

Over 30 pages are dedicated to the aftermath, including the enormously long list of captive Scots, and the flight of Charles Stuart. The book ends with a chapter on "the battlefield" today. A splendid read that is kept by the side of my PC at all times!! First published in 2008, like Tony's book, both are available at Waterstones in Worcester.

## CONCESSIONS

Don't forget to use the stores where we have a 10% discount concession on production of a current membership card:

PEPLOS

CARDINAL'S HAT

CHARLIE'S CAFE (SIDBURY)

WORCESTER LIVE EVENTS

CARLUCCIO'S

POCKETS MENSWEAR

SIMPLY BEAUTIFUL BEAUTY SALON

CHOCOLATE DELI

### BATTLE OF WORCESTER SOCIETY EVENTS FOR REMAINDER OF 2014

THURSDAY 20th MARCH AT 6PM

DR. GLENN FOARD AT THE COMMANDERY. FIRST OF THE "CIVIL WAR EVENINGS". GLENN FOARD IS THE COUNTRY'S FOREMOST ARCHAEOLOGICAL BATTLEFIELD HISTORIAN. HIS TALK IS ENTITLED "BATTLEFIELD ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR" Q & A, Book Signing, Refreshments and Society Merchandise available ENTRY £5 ON THE DOOR

WEDNESDAY 16th APRIL AT 6PM

MALCOLM ATKIN AT THE COMMANDERY. SECOND IN THE SERIES OF "CIVIL WAR EVENINGS". MALCOLM ATKIN IS WORCESTERSHIRE'S LEADING EXPERT ON THE CIVIL WAR. HIS BOOKS INCLUDE "WORCESTER 1651", "WORCESTERSHIRE UNDER ARMS", "THE CIVIL WAR IN WORCESTERSHIRE" AND "CROMWELL'S CROWNING MERCY". THE TALK IS ENTITLED "AN ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN: WORCESTER, 3rd SEPTEMBER, 1651 Q & A, Book Signing, Refreshments and Society Merchandise available. ENTRY £5 ON THE DOOR

SATURDAY 26th APRIL

CROMWELL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT WORCESTER CATHEDRAL. FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE ASSOCIATION'S BUSINESS MEETING, MEMBERS OF THE BATTLE OF WORCESTER SOCIETY INVITED TO 12NOON LECTURE BY LEADING CIVIL WAR ACADEMIC AND AUTHOR, PROFESSOR MALCOLM WANKLYN. THE LECTURE LASTS FOR ABOUT AN HOUR AND IS FREE. APPLICATIONS FOR THIS EVENT CLOSED AT THE END OF JANUARY

TUESDAY 20th MAY AT 6PM

LINDSEY DAVIS AT THE COMMANDERY. THIRD IN THE SERIES OF "CIVIL WAR EVENINGS". LINDSEY DAVIS IS A BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF HISTORICAL FICTION, INCLUDING THE CIVIL WAR NOVEL "REBELS AND TRAITORS". Q & A, Book Signing, Refreshments and Society Merchandise available. ENTRY £5 ON THE DOOR

SATURDAY 14th JUNE

SOCIETY VISIT TO BOSCOBEL HOUSE. TRAVEL BY COACH ENTRANCE TO HOUSE AROUND £6. LUNCH ARRANGED OR OWN ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE. CLOSING DATE 28th FEBRUARY – LAST CHANCE!

MONDAY 23rd JUNE AT 6PM

MICHAEL ARNOLD AT THE COMMANDERY. FOURTH IN THE SERIES "CIVIL WAR EVENINGS". BEST SELLING AUTHOR OF THE "STRYKER" CIVIL WAR NOVELS WILL DISCUSS HIS BOOKS AND HIS INTEREST IN THE CIVIL WAR. Q & A, Book Signing, Refreshments and Merchandise available. ENTRY £5 ON THE DOOR

WEDNESDAY 23rd JULY AT 6PM

PROFESSOR RONALD HUTTON AT THE COMMANDERY. THE FIFTH AND FINAL IN THE SERIES OF "CIVIL WAR EVENINGS". PROFESSOR HUTTON, LEADING HISTORIAN OF ENGLAND IN THE 16th AND 17th CENTURIES, AUTHOR AND TV PRESENTER'S TALK IS ENTITLED "THE NATURE OF THE GREAT CIVIL WAR" Q & A, Book Signing, Refreshments and Society Merchandise available. ENTRY £5 ON THE DOOR PLEASE NOTE DUE TO THE POPULARITY OF THIS EVENT ADVANCE TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE THE RECEPTION DESK AT THE ELGAR SCHOOL OF MUSIC. THIS OFFER IS FOR MEMBERS AND ELGAR SCHOOL OF MUSIC STUDENTS ONLY AND GUARANTEES ADMISSION (NO RESERVED SEATING) AND PRECLUDES THE NEED TO ARRIVE TOO EARLY! SATURDAY 30th AUGUST/SUNDAY 31st AUGUST PROGRAMME OF TALKS AND ACTIVITIES AT COMMANDERY TO BE ANNOUNCED

WEDNESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER

"ANNUAL DRUMHEAD SERVICE AT FORT ROYAL" FROM 6PM COMMANDERY; 7PM FORT ROYAL

FRIDAY 5th SEPTEMBER

BATTLE OF WORCESTER DINNER AT WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET GROUND, NEW ROAD THE BI-ANNUAL BLACK-TIE DINNER. PROFESSOR DAVID STEVENSON, AUTHOR OF "REVOLUTION AND COUNTER-REVOLUTION 1644-51" WILL BE GIVING THE LECTURE. TICKETS £50. TABLES OF 10 AVAILABLE. DETAILS AND ARRANGEMENTS TO FOLLOW

SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

"OLD ST.MARTIN'S CHURCH THROUGH HISTORY EXHIBITION" THE SOCIETY WILL BE CONTRIBUTING EXHIBITS TO THE EXHIBITION

SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER

ANNUAL BATTLE OF WORCESTER COMMEMORATION SERVICE AT 12 NOON, OLD ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH. THE FIRST YEAR AT OLD ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH, FOLLOWING THE MOVE FROM THE CATHEDRAL. LORD SELKIRK, THE DUKE OF HAMILTON'S DESCENDANT, WILL BE READING THE ADDRESS AND THE SERVICE WILL BE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS YEARS.

FOLLOWED BY:

POST SERVICE LUNCH AND REFRESHMENTS AT 1PM THE KING CHARLES HOUSE AND WALK CONDUCTED BY TONY SPICER OF ROUTE OF APPROACH OF PARLIAMENTARY ARMY TO WORCESTER. START COMMANDERY 2.30PM. APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR DURATION  
DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DRINKS TO FOLLOW LAST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF YEAR  
DATE AND VENUE TBA s

END PIECE

For the next few years, quite rightly, all other conflicts including the Civil War, will play second fiddle to events commemorating the Great War. Any gaps in the programme will be filled by the likes Bicentenary of Waterloo and the 600th anniversary of Agincourt. All this is absolutely right and proper. But against this background the Society must continue to educate and inform the people of Worcester, the country and the World of the significance of what happened here in Worcester on 3rd September 1651. Let us always remain as conscious as Presidents Adams and Jefferson were of the importance of the final and decisive battle of the English Civil Wars.

Grant Simmonds MBE OStJ  
Chairman



**WORCESTER - THE CIVIL WAR CITY**  
**WHERE THE CIVIL BEGAN AND ENDED**  
**1642 - 1651**

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