

# The Black Pear Bulletin

Issue No.5 April 2014

The Monthly Newsletter of the Battle of Worcester Society



The Chairman - Grant Simmonds

## THE SUCCESS OF THE THE BULLETIN

I am delighted that the monthly Bulletin is being so well received. When I took on the Chair last November I wanted to ensure that members were kept up to date with all the latest news and opinions concerning the Society. Though we are still experiencing the odd hiccup here and there, I believe we are getting there.

This month marks the fifth issue and I have yet to receive a letter, email, article or question from a member for inclusion! So please, if you have anything you would like to say or ask the membership, do please drop me a line.

## GOOD NEWS FROM THE COMMANDERY

A report of the Joint Museums Committee was approved in early March which in turn has paved the way for the implementation, subject to acquiring the necessary funding, of "THE COMMANDERY REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2014-2019" from Museums Worcestershire. My understanding is that the Programme will be discussed at a Presentation in the Guildhall on 8th April to which your Chairman and Vice-Chairman have been invited. The Programme consists of four distinct phases, which I will endeavour to summarise:

### Phase 1 From May 2014 - September 2015



#### "Civil War Focus"

Funding applications will be made in May to the Heritage Lottery Fund (£100,000); Friends of Worcester City Museum (£3,000), to be matched by Trusts and Foundations, and the Society too (£15-20,000). The Battle of Worcester Society are asked to support funding for this initial phase and the final phase 4. See below.

Two potential partners have

been identified. The Battle of Worcester Society is the the first. I have canvassed unceasingly for the Battle to "return home" and have made it clear that the Society will do all it can to assist Museums Worcestershire, and the City and County Councils, to create awareness for the project through partnerships, and by the same method achieve the necessary fundraising goals.

The second partner identified for the first phase is The Canals and River Trust.

The Programme clearly identifies the Battle of Worcester and the Civil War as the unique selling point to the general public, tourists and potential funders, and this is reflected in its pre-eminence from the outset.

The "Elements" of the first phase are, in full

\* Short run of rooms with increased interpretation of the Civil War/Battle of Worcester Story

Chairman's comment: My concern here is the word "short". I want to see, for example, the majority of the Garden Wing given over to the Battle and the Civil War. It is the "main attraction" and USP. With our Civil War partners, Newark for example, and friends such as the The Sealed Knot offering help and advice, and in time the likely acquisition of Civil War arifacts on long-term loan from other galleries and museums, sufficient space is esential to entertain, educate and inform.

\* More replica 17th century handling items to use with schools and visitors

Chairman's comment: Excellent. Perhaps our Society volunteers can help here. Also, I have flagged up that several of the Society will be happy to talk to groups of adults, students or children about the various aspects of the Battle and the Civil War in general.



\* A rejuvenated brand identity

Chairman's comment: Agreed. I would like

to see a sub-brand or separate brand identity for the Battle of Worcester/Civil War element. This could perhaps be in the shape of a competition open to schools or colleges.

\* A system of improved signage for the site both inside and out that can be added to at each successive phase

Chairman's Comment: I have lost count of the number of times I've been asked where the Civil War museum is. Any new signage exercise should be implemented with a view to future road signage from motorways, "A" roads and around the City Centre.

\* Guidebook focusing on architectural significance of the building

Chairman's Comment: I assume this will cover aspects of the Battle. The Society are keen to increase our own publishing output and are currently working on a book about the Battle for children.

\* Inclusion in Birmingham to Worcester Canal 200 years celebrations, potentially via a canal-side art commission looking back to the 17th century

Chairman's Comment: Excellent idea. Perhaps we could include some pieces of art relating to the Battle....the Bridge of Boats might be appropriate!



## Phase 2 Funding applications Summer 2014/complete end 2016

### "Sustainable Approach"

This phase involves the more commercial element of income potential, such as lettings, weddings, as well as energy savings, across all museum sites.

## Phase 3 Funding Applications 2015 - Developments Launch September 2016 and September 2017

### "Commandery Treasure"

This is a community groups, schools and colleges phase, with site improvements, better shop and front facade (hurrah!) and a greater focus on the Gardens.

## Phase 4 Funding Applications 2017- Developments and Public Launch September 2018 and September 2019

### "Worcester, City of Liberty"

With the majority of funding hopefully coming from the HLF again, the Battle of Worcester Society are seen as key partners for this fourth and final stage. Other likely partners are the House of Commons Archives, Destination Worcestershire and specialist tourist providers.

The "Elements" of the Fourth Phase in full, are:

#### \* Creation of a President's Room and better orientation spaces and signage

Chairman's Comment: The President's Room will prove hugely beneficial to the Society and Worcester in general. With interest from the United States sure to grow, it is essential that the famous quote of President Adams, when in Worcester with President Jefferson, is made into a central feature. The Civil War and the Battle of Worcester made an enormous impact in the Colonies. Many returned to fight in the Mother Country, and of course, thousands of Scottish prisoners eventually found their way there to become indentured servants. Many Americans of Adams' and Jeffersons' generation saw the beginning of their own "freedom" in our own Revolution a little over a century earlier.

Such a room is likely to receive financial and cultural support from American business based in the UK and would help to attract overseas visitors on the short trip from Stratford-upon-Avon.

#### \* Development of specialist Democracy Learning Programmes

Chairman's comment: I would like to see reference to the Putney Debates of 1647 and the lesser known and poorly documented Whitehall Debates which followed.

"For really I think that the poorest he that is in England hath a life to live as the greatest he"  
Colonel Thomas Rainsborough, Putney, 1647

#### \* Marketing to Overseas Travel providers

Chairman's Comment: The Society U.S. links may prove helpful.

#### \* Holiday Letting Developments as recommended

#### \* Replacing current audio guide with a new system using augmented reality technology and personal systems

Chairman's Comment: I trust the Society will be asked for some input.

#### \* Development of apps and trails extending outside the building and to other Civil War sites

Chairman's Comment: Again, the Society, along with our good friends in the Battlefields Trust, will need to be consulted.

## CHAIRMAN'S VIEW

I find the proposed programme highly encouraging, and combined with our own Society initiatives, I really do feel we are on the cusp of a major shift in attitudes to "our" Battle and the Civil War in general. Any further news and the outcome of the 8th April Presentation will be reported in the May edition of the Black Pear Bulletin.

## BEN HUMPHREY AND LORD RICHARD FAULKNER TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES IN OCTOBER

As part of the Society's campaign to raise funds and create greater awareness of the Battle and its significance to the infant United States, Head of Fundraising, Ben Humphrey and Senior Society Patron, Lord Faulkner are visiting the United States in October.

Prior to departure a series of meetings will be set-up "across the pond" with key individuals and organisations identified and facilitated by a high-powered working group of the U.S. Ambassador, MP and Society member Robin Walker, and the ever supportive, Lord Faulkner. In the short term, the visit is key to the success of "The Presidents" monument project.

## CHARITABLE STATUS

As members will have been informed by now the Society are considering applying for charitable status. Although this is clearly one of the most important decisions the Society will ever have to make, as papers have been sent to members on this weighty matter already I will not linger on the subject, except to say that when the facts were put before the Executive Committee it was unanimous in supporting an application. Members will be informed of the outcome as soon as the result is known.

## "CIVIL WAR NIGHTS" AT THE COMMANDERY DR. GLENN FOARD

Despite the inclement weather there was a most encouragingly high turn out for the first in our series of Civil War related talks. Glenn is the country's leading battlefield archaeologist, and for those in the audience who didn't realise beforehand just how fascinating battlefield archaeology can be, they most certainly do now!

Glenn's spoke for about an hour with the aid of powerpoint, covering sieges, battles and skirmishes. Glenn's particular study of the Battle of Edgehill was used as a classic example of how battlefield archaeology can either prove or disprove theories. For those in the audience interested in the firepower of the period they must have thought Christmas had arrived early. I learnt much about how various weapons were used, their ranges, impacts and why only certain objects can be expected to be found on a Civil War battlefield.

Glenn then kindly took a lively and entertaining Q & A session with some first class questions from what was clearly a very learned floor. Glenn, accompanied by his charming wife, Tracey, a landscape archaeologist, then chatted with members of the audience and signed some of his books that he'd brought along with him.

At the conclusion, Glenn told me he would like to do all he can to help the Society and create awareness of the Civil War heritage that remains in the ground in Worcester and agreed to



Dr Glenn Foard



meet with me and others in the not too distant future.

A really wonderful evening and the Society have made two new friends in the Foards as a bonus. Thank you so much, Glenn, from all that were present.

## MALCOLM ATKIN

I hope that members will come along in even greater numbers to the next talk on WEDNESDAY 16th APRIL (6pm start) being given by the Doyen of Worcestershire Civil War experts, our own Malcolm Atkin. It's sure to be a fascinating evening and it would be marvellous if we could show our support for all Malcolm has achieved by welcoming him to the Commandery with a full house. Bring your books along for Malcolm to sign, and our friends from Waterstones will be present for those who want to purchase a memento on the night.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

## BATTLE OF WORCESTER DINNER

FRIDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2014

The 10th Battle of Worcester Dinner is taking place at

The GRAEME HICK SUITE,

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET GROUND

7.00 pm Reception

7.30pm Dinner

Guest Speaker: Professor David Stevenson, St. Andrew's University speaking on "CHARLES II IN SCOTLAND 1650-51,

## THE TRAGI-COMEDY THAT ENDED IN THE BATTLE OF WORCESTER

As always a great evening is planned- good food, excellent company, a choice of quality wines who is a noted author and historian. All combine to promise a very special occasion.

£50 per ticket and a collection will be made on behalf of

St. Richard's Hospice

To reserve tickets email [wiltshire@btconnect.com](mailto:wiltshire@btconnect.com)

DINNER COMMITTEE: Charlie Rodway, Richard Shaw, Duncan Sutcliffe, Vaughan Wiltshire, Grant Simmonds MBE

## BATTLEFIELDS TRUST

### STOW-ON -THE WOLD BATTLEFIELD WALK

On Sunday 23rd March I went with wife, Sally, and a visiting friend on a walk of the battlefield of Stow. Our guide was Simon Marsh of the Trust, ably assisted by Tony Spicer. We set off at 1.30pm and were immediately engulfed in a hail storm! But within minutes the weather gods shined on us and we had an excellent afternoon. What I discovered there is no actual agreement as to where the fighting took place. Simon favoured one position (which I must say I thought preferable for the defending Royalists, whilst Tony advocated another theory. To complicate matters further, there are other possibilities! This uncertainty made for a better afternoon as fellow walkers joined in the debate about this final battle of the Civil War. The sun continued to shine as we returned to our starting point at 4.20pm. A



Some of the walking group viewing the Stow monument

marvellous afternoon with some much needed exercise thrown in. I can thoroughly recommend these excellent Battlefield Trust walks. Thank you Simon and Tony.

## HOWARD ROBINSON'S "FACTS ABOUT THE BATTLE OF WORCESTER" continued (From the Worcester News 2011)

\* In 1651 at the time of the Battle of Worcester, the River Severn was tidal and mostly unfordable, Move although Parliamentary forces under General John Lambert did manage to cross it at Upton. In general terms the river presented a considerable barrier to troops coming from the west, so that bridges, such as those at Stourport and Bewdley, made them strategic crossing points. By contrast the smaller River Teme was fordable: near Bransford by Twistleton's troops and just east of Powick Bridge by Haines' troops.

\* Movementsof Parliamentary troops in the weeks before the Battle of Worcester were designed to prevent the King of Scots/Charles Stuart from reaching London. Cromwell's intention was to gather a massive force to inflict a crushing defeat on the Scots/Royalists. Various Parliamentary Generals with their forces came from all directions, thus Charles' potential routes to London were cut off. The road back to Scotland was blocked as the net closed in.

\* In the days leading up to the Battle of Worcester Charles had been hoping to draw reinforcements from Wales and the South- West. He issued a proclamation summoning all loyal subjects to rally to his standard at Worcester in an attempt to mobilise a posse comitatus which required all men between 16 and 60 to muster at Pitchcroft on 26th August. However, only a handful of englishman responded to the summons, so Charles' army remained largely Scottish.

## BATTLE OF WORCESTER SOCIETY EVENTS FOR REMAINDER OF 2014

Monday 7 April 2014 6:30pm in the Commandery a talk by Dr Christine Hodgetts on the History of Fort Royal Park, FREE! Arranged by the Friends of Fort Royal Park.

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 APPLICATIONS NOW CLOSED

TUESDAY 20th MAY AT 6PM

LINDSEY DAVIS AT THE COMMANDERY. THIRD IN THE SERIES OF "CIVIL WAR EVENINGS" IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE WORCESTER LITERARY FESTIVAL 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  
APPLICATIONS NOW CLOSED



MONDAY 23rd JUNE AT 6PM

MICHAEL ARNOLD AT THE COMMANDERY. FOURTH IN THE SERIES "CIVIL WAR EVENINGS" IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE WORCESTER LITERARY FESTIVAL 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" IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE WORCESTER LITERARY FESTIVAL 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

MONDAY 1st SEPTEMBER

BATTLE OF WORCESTER SOCIETY VISIT TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, SPONSORED BY ROBIN WALKER MP for further details please contact the Vice-Chairman, Richard Shaw at richardshaw99@live.co.uk

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.

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

BATTLE OF WORCESTER SOCIETY EVENTS FOR REMAINDER OF 2014

## 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.



Grant Simmonds MBE OStJ  
Chairman



**WORCESTER - THE CIVIL WAR CITY**

**WHERE THE CIVIL BEGAN AND ENDED  
1642 - 1651**



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