

The Black Pear Bulletin

Issue No.7 JUNE 2014

The Monthly Newsletter of the Battle of Worcester Society



COMMANDERY NIGHTS

The Chairman writes: The Lindsey Davis talk at the Commandery on Tuesday 20th May achieved the greatest response yet in terms of audience numbers. Among the many present for Lindsey's excellent talk was our M.P. and Society member, Robin Walker, an enthusiastic supporter (and so often photographed wearing his Society tie or lapel pin!).

We all enjoyed her fascinating talk and Waterstones were delighted that so many purchased copies of her signed works too! A big thank you for coming along, Lyndsey.

The programme of talks continues with Michael Arnold, author of the wonderful "Stryker" Civil War books. If you not read one yet, I thoroughly recommend the series. Michael will be at the Commandery on Monday 23rd with usual start time of 6pm. Do come along, the Commandery evenings are well worth the £5 entrance fee.

July see the final talk in the current season with Professor Ronald Hutton talking about "the Nature of the Great Civil War" on Wednesday 23rd July. What a finale! I am already working on Commandery Nights series Two for 2015!

MEETINGS GALORE

As well as the monthly Executive Committee meetings, Sub-Committees and other ad hoc groupings of the Executive Committee continue to meet frequently on Society business. The arrangements for the Battle of Worcester Dinner on Friday 5th September are now well advanced and I understand we already have over 100 guests attending, with a maximum capacity of 140 I recommend contacting either Vaughan Wiltshire or Richard Shaw as soon as possible to reserve your seats.

ROY CARLILL

A sad note to finish my introduction. Society member, Roy Carlill, has recently passed away. I am most grateful to Roy's widow for getting in touch and very kindly providing a short obituary, (see below), which I know members will find of interest. Condolences from us all at the Society, Moira, whilst I'm very pleased to learn that the family will be continuing their membership.



Lindsey Davis



Michael Arnold

ROY CARLILL 1944 - 2014

My husband, Roy Carlill, died on 19th April 2014 after losing his battle with cancer. For most of our lives Roy and I lived and worked in Durham. Here we made our home, raised our family and built our Management Development business, Dunelm Associates.

Once retired we relocated to Worcester to be near our son and his family.

We spent much of our retirement in Turkey where we had a holiday home, a small olive grove in the north east of the country far away from the tourist areas. Here Roy was, also, able to indulge in his great love of sailing.

Despite this, Roy always enjoyed coming back to Worcester. He loved this city, appreciating the similarities between here and Durham, particularly the historical aspects of both places.

As we began spending more time here Roy was able to develop his interest in local history, particularly in the Civil War.. He took great pleasure in having a home at the foot of Fort Royal Hill, having the Commandery as a neighbour and living in an area with so many links to the past. Discovering the battle of Worcester Society gave him the opportunity to further his interest.

Unfortunately he became ill shortly after joining the Society so was unable to advantage many of the activities on offer. Being unable to attend the current Civil War talks was a very real disappointment to him.

Roy very much enjoyed his brief membership of the Battle of Worcester Society, finding fellow members both friendly and welcoming. He very much hoped that our son and myself continue with our membership which we fully intend doing.



TEMPORARY COMMITTEE CHANGE

Natalie Digger, our Membership Secretary and Secretary, is handing over the former role to Christine Shaw for the time being due to her very busy schedule, which includes an imminent house move. Nat will continue as Secretary, however, whilst I am most grateful to Christine for agreeing at such short notice to take on the Membership Secretary's role, especially as she is already our Treasurer. What a great team we have at the Society.

CHARITABLE STATUS

We are now at the application stage with all the paperwork that entails. Vaughan Wiltshire is leading on this project and doing a really fine job. We are approaching one or two individuals to ascertain if they would wish to serve as trustees, the body that will sit above the Executive Committee. Though certain individuals are likely to serve in both capacities, it is absolutely essential that the Society has the necessary professional skills available to it on the Board of Trustees. When there is further news, members will be informed via the Bulletin.

VAUGHAN WILTSHIRE IN FOCUS

Vaughan Wiltshire - Executive Committee

Q. When did you first take an interest in the English Civil Wars and the Battle of Worcester?

A. I have always had a very keen interest in history, especially local history. I first became involved in organising the Battle of Worcester Commemorative Dinners in 1996.

Q. Is this interest shared by any family members?

A. All my family have been involved from time to time in helping at the Dinners and my son Nick is particularly interested in 17th century England.

Q. Are you excited by the prospect of the new strategy for the Commandery?

A. The initiative shown by the City Council in the establishment of a Civil War Centre in the Commandery is to be applauded. The Centre will be a valuable memorial to the Battle of Worcester of 1651. It will provide material for future scholars studying the 17th century and also be very important in strengthening the visitor economy in the City.



Vaughan Wiltshire holding a Worcester made pepperbox pistol by John Perrins & sons that he have donated to Worcester Museum

Q. How do you feel about the “head of steam” that is now behind the branding of Worcester as the “Civil War City”

A. Branding Worcester as the “Civil War City” will help to increase the number of visitors. Worcester needs to operate strongly in the tourist market and to persuade those tourists who currently visit Warwick and Stratford on Avon to also include Worcester in their itinerary.

Q. What changes would you like to see?

A. Because a Civil War Centre commemorating the Battle of Worcester of 1651 has the potential to become a major tourist attraction it could be beneficial to appoint a Battle of Worcester Officer within the City to promote the profile of Worcester as a “Heritage Centre”, locally, nationally and internationally.

Q. What impact do you think charitable status will have on the Society?

A. Charitable status will make it easier for the Society to raise funds. Many grant-making Trusts will only consider giving to registered charities. There is no tax on any profits generated by the charity and also gift aid is available on cash donations from individuals. Overall a charitable status for the Society will help build public recognition and trust.

Q. Vaughan your special interest is arms & armour, perhaps you would like to say a little about your interest?

A. I am a member of the Arms & Armour Society of Great Britain which is concerned with the study, collection and preservation of antique arms and armour. The Society meets in the Tower of London each month. Besides my interest in Civil War weaponry I collect vintage guns especially those of the Irish Gunmaker John Rigby and also of the great Master Gunmaker of Worcester, John Perrins and his sons.

Q. We are all looking forward to the Battle of Worcester Dinner on the 5th September at Worcestershire County Cricket Club. It's sure to be a special night, can you tell us more about the evening?

A. The 2014 Dinner will be the 10th Dinner commemorating the Battle of Worcester; these Dinners were first originated by David Hallmark in 1994 and take place every two years. The Dinners are a chance to come together in good company and enjoy an excellent black tie event whilst listening to a distinguished historian talking about the Battle and its impact on our democracy. The talk is then written up and published and many of the research papers presented at the Dinners do provide penetrating insights into this important period of British History. This material is often not available elsewhere and is a valuable source for scholars studying the English Civil Wars. We are very fortunate this year to have Emeritus Professor David Stevenson of St Andrews University presenting a talk on “Charles II in Scotland 1650-1651 the tragi-comedy that ended with the Battle of Worcester”. The Dinner is a unique social occasion and an opportunity to be educated and entertained all in one evening!

Q. What other organisations do you belong to?

A. I am member of the Arms & Armour Society, I am also a member of the Perrins Gun Owners Club, The Worcestershire Archaeological Society, a Trustee of the Worcester Six Masters' Charity, Vice Chairman of the Hereford & Worcester Army Cadet Force Charitable Trust and a member of Worcester Norton Shooting Club.

Q. Finally, Vaughan, do you have any long term plans or ambitions?

A. I retired from business in 2009 and although I have short term plans regarding holidays and trips to the Royal Opera House no real long term ambitions apart from hoping to live long enough to see Worcester Warriors win the Rugby Union Premiership!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

I'm looking forward to the visit to **Boscobel House** on 14th June (the anniversary of the Battle of Naseby!) organised by Richard Shaw. Hopefully the weather will hold, especially as I am taking our Golden Retriever puppy, "Gooner", (by then 4 months old), and will only be allowed into the grounds and not the House - so Missus S and I will be swapping duties at some stage. In true Shaw tradition, Richard has found us what looks like a terrific Inn for lunch too. Well done, Richard.

After the **Michael Arnold** (23rd June) and **Ronald Hutton** (23rd July) talks at the Commandery, we're hoping to be involved at the Commandery events planned for the end of August, but more new next month.

Richard Shaw, our Vice-Chairman, and Robin Walker MP, have organised a tour of the **House of Commons** on 1st September. The Society are most grateful to Robin for setting things up at the Westminster end, and our own Richard for arranging all the travel for members attending.

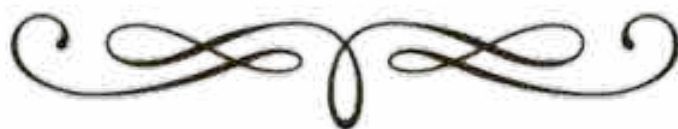
On the 3rd September we have the **Annual Drumhead Service** at the Commandery and Fort Royal, followed by the **10th Battle of Worcester Dinner** at the County Ground, New Road. Tickets for this prestigious black tie occasion are still available from Vaughan or Richard at £50 per head - that's a three course meal, wines, port and a talk from a leading Civil War historian and academic, Professor David Stevenson - great value!

The **Annual Battle of Worcester Commemoration Church Service** is being held in Old St. Martin's Church for the first time this year on Sunday 7th September.

photo that I sent here of the Scots soldier with caption

This year the theme will be very Scottish with the Duke of Hamilton's descendants' Lord Selkirk (giving the address) and the current Duke of Hamilton attending. I do hope that as many as possible of you come along to support us; it would be marvellous to fill the church.

A note for all your diaries is the date of the **Annual General Meeting** - Saturday 8th November at the Commandery. 10 am start with refreshments available.



BATTLE OF WORCESTER SOCIETY OFFICIAL MERCHANDISE

All items may be purchased via the Secretary.

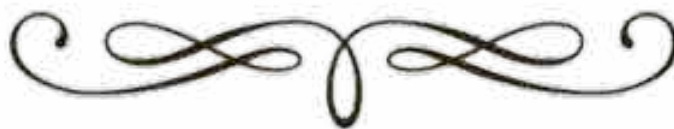
Prices apply to Members only.

Lapel Badge £4

Mug £4

Hoodie £15

Tie £14



CONCESSIONS

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

PEPLOWS

CARDINAL'S HAT

CHARLIE'S CAFE (SIDBURY)

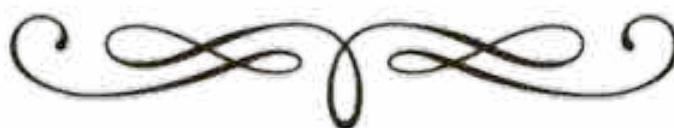
WORCESTER LIVE EVENTS

CARLUCCIO'S

POCKETS MENSWEAR

SIMPLY BEAUTIFUL BEAUTY SALON

CHOCOLATE DELI



WORCESTER - THE CIVIL WAR CITY

WHERE THE CIVIL BEGAN AND ENDED

1642 - 1651

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