



*The Battle of
Worcester
Society*

Review

2025

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The Battle of Worcester Society PRESENTS

THE CATHEDRAL ARCHIVES

A Talk by David Morrison

Thursday 30th January 2025
At the Hive, Sawmill Walk Worcester
Talk begins 7:00 pm

Ticket £7 BoWS members £5 Students £3

Tickets available from:
• Online: www.thebattleofworcestersociety.com (Visit our Events page)
• Call BoWS: 01905 358 640
• Or: On the night, on the door



The Battle of Worcester Society PRESENTS

The History of Worcester City Football Club

A Talk by Chris Bishop

Journalist and Battle of Worcester Society member

Thursday 27th February 2025
At the Hive, Sawmill Walk Worcester
Talk begins 7:00 pm

Ticket £7 BoWS members £5 Students £3

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The Battle of Worcester Society PRESENTS

Worcestershire Clergymen and the Return of the Bishops?


A Talk by Richard Carter
A Guide at Worcester Cathedral

Richard Carter graduated in history from Cambridge in 1975 and more recently (2023) completed an MA in Church History at Nottingham University, for which he wrote his dissertation on Gauden and Baxter. Richard's talk explores the role of those two Worcestershire clergymen, in the heated debates during the Commonwealth, involving politicians and churchmen, about whether or how bishops, who had been abolished in 1646, should be restored and in what form.

Thursday 27th March 2025
At the Hive, Sawmill Walk, Worcester
Talk begins 7:00 pm

Ticket £7 BoWS members £5 Students £3

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The Battle of Worcester Society PRESENTS

Oliver Cromwell Commander in Chief

A Talk by Professor Ronald Hutton
Professor of History, Bristol University.

The second volume in an acclaimed biography of Oliver Cromwell, from the capture of Charles I to the execution of the Long Parliament. In 1647, the Parliamentarians were divided. They had won the first civil war and the king was in custody, but disagreements over the way forward had led to a stalemate. As the leader of one party, Oliver Cromwell found himself again at the centre of events.

Thursday 24th April 2025
In the Commandery Great Hall, Worcester
Talk begins 7:00 pm

Ticket £7 BoWS members £5 Students £3

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• Or: On the night, on the door



The Battle of Worcester Society PRESENTS

Quakers in the Seventeenth Century

A Talk by Dr Erica Canela

This study explores early Quakerism in Worcestershire from the origins of this religious community in the mid-seventeenth century. Dr Canela is an early modern social historian, specialising in English Quaker history and the psychological trauma of the Civil Wars.

Thursday 29th May 2025
In the Commandery Great Hall, Worcester
Talk begins 7:00 pm

Ticket £7 BoWS members £5 Students £3

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The Battle of Worcester Society PRESENTS

Ravenous

A Talk by Andrea Zuvich

Seventeenth-Century Historian, Historical Advisor and Author

Barbara Villiers was a woman so beautiful, so magnetic and so sexually attractive she captured the hearts of many in Stuart-era Britain. Her beauty was legendary. Her greatest conquest was King Charles II

Thursday 31st July 2025
In the Commandery Great Hall, Worcester
Talk begins 7:00 pm

Ticket £7 BoWS members £5 Students £3

Tickets available from:
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The Battle of Worcester Society PRESENTS

REPUBLIC

Britain's Revolutionary Decade 1649 - 1660

The 1650s were the most daring decade in British history. Monarchy was abolished, a republic was born, and Oliver Cromwell rose as Lord Protector in a radical experiment that shook the British Isles.

This was no pause in history—it was a bold reimagining of power, faith, and citizenship. Republic brings this astonishing era to life, year by year, revealing a time of upheaval, innovation, and lasting legacy.

A Talk by Professor Alice Hunt
Professor of Modern History at Southampton University

Thursday 25th September 2025
In the Commandery Great Hall, Worcester
Talk begins 7:00 pm

Ticket £7 BoWS members £5 Students £3

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The Battle of Worcester Talks 2025

The Battle of Worcester Society PRESENTS

Richard Cromwell


A Talk by Robbie Porter

Tumbledown Dick, or Queen Dick
Being an authentic account of the life and times of the 2nd Lord Protector, including a chronicle of his reign, his precipitous fall from grace, and his wanderings thereafter.

Thursday 30th October 2025
At the Hive, Glass Room Sawmill Walk Worcester
Talk begins 7:00 pm

Ticket £7 BoWS members £5 Students £3

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The Battle of Worcester Society PRESENTS

THE BLOOD IN WINTER

A TALK BY JONATHAN HEALEY ABOUT HIS LATEST BOOK


From the acclaimed author of *The Blazing World* comes a gripping account of the months that brought England to the edge of civil war. In the winter of 1641 - 42, as revolutionary ideas stir and tensions erupt across Britain and Ireland, King Charles I makes a fateful move against Parliament. With vivid detail and cutting-edge research, Jonathan Healey unravels the dramatic story of a nation in crisis — and the people who would change it forever.

Copies of his book 'The Blood in Winter' will be available on the night

Thursday 26th June 2025
In the Commandery Great Hall, Worcester
Talk begins 7:00 pm

Ticket £7 BoWS members £5 Students £3

Tickets available from:
• Online: www.thebattleofworcestersociety.com (Visit our Events page)
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The Battle of Worcester Society PRESENTS

'STOUT AND RESOLVED HEARTS KEEP OFF THE STORMS OF CALUMNY'

JOHN BRADSHAW: BEFORE AND AFTER REGICIDE


A Talk on her forthcoming book (released Summer 2026) by Dr Charlotte Young

Join Dr Charlotte Young for a bold reappraisal of John Bradshaw, the judge tasked with sentencing King Charles I to death. Cutting through centuries of myth and vilification, ground-breaking research reveals Bradshaw as a principled legal mind.

Thursday 28th August 2025
In the Commandery Great Hall, Worcester
Talk begins 7:00 pm

Ticket £7 BoWS members £5 Students £3

Tickets available from:
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The Battle of Worcester Society PRESENTS

Prince Rupert of the Rhine

King Charles I's Cavalier Commander

A Talk by Mark Turnbull

Prince Rupert of the Rhine was an intrinsic part of the civil wars that devastated the three kingdoms of Stuart Britain.


When approaching this biography, Mark Turnbull delved into numerous and varied archives to reconstruct a tapestry of the Civil War and Rupert's part in it. This highlights historical errors, gave fresh perspectives, and revealed brand-new information. Key myths are examined, and the prince's flaws and fame are assessed to produce a balanced and definitive biography.

The women in Rupert's life have never had the prominence they deserve, partly down to the sad fact that there is a lack of surviving records relating to them. That said, Mark's research has managed to unearth exciting new details about his lover, Lady Katherine Scott, together with mistresses Frances Bard and Margaret Hughes.

Thursday 27th November 2025
At the Hive, Glass Room Sawmill Walk Worcester
Talk begins 7:00 pm

Ticket £7 BoWS members £5 Students £3

Tickets available from:
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The Banners Project

History in Living Colour: Worcester's Civil War Banners Triumph



Last summer, Worcester became the first city in the country to transform one of its streets with authentic 17th century English Civil War banners, a spectacular public art project that has captured the imagination of residents and visitors alike.

Fifteen vibrant banners, based on regimental colours during the English Civil War, were displayed along Copenhagen Street. Hand painted by sixth form students at RGS Worcester, Heart of Worcestershire College and Worcester Sixth Form College, the project has been hailed as a model for combining heritage with education and community pride.

Daniel Daniels, Chairman of the Battle of Worcester Society said:

"The trial of the dazzling 17th century English Civil War banners in Worcester is complete, and the verdict, a resounding success! The students have done a fantastic job. Worcester is the first city in the country to unite history, art and education like this.

"This is more than decoration, it's living history. By involving our schools and colleges, we have given a new generation the chance to understand and recreate Worcester's past. We will be back in 2026 bringing history to life."



The Leader of Worcester City Council, Councillor Lynn Denham said: "Thank you to the Battle of Worcester Society for this fascinating project which brings to life Worcester's role in the English Civil War. It is extraordinary that these colourful banners, with seemingly modern designs, are a faithful replica of those carried into battle nearly 400 years ago."

John Pitt, Headmaster of RGS Worcester, said, "We are delighted to be supporting the Banner project which will engage our pupils working with our History and Textiles departments and is another way of bringing the past alive for them and for others. As a History teacher, I know that it is good to have different ways of engaging with the past and Worcester played such a significant part in the English Civil War. The banners will celebrate this and demonstrate the City's rich history in a bright and interesting way. As one of the oldest schools in the country, we felt that RGS Worcester should be involved in such an unusual and interesting project."

Michelle Dowse, Principal and CEO at Heart of Worcestershire College said: "The English Civil War started and ended in the heart of Worcestershire, so it's fitting that we are involved in this fascinating project which celebrates the city's focal role in one of the most turbulent periods in our history. Our Art and Design students love a challenge, and this Historic Banner Project promises to be something they'll not only relish but will take pride in and remember for years to come."

Installing the Banners



Commemorative Parade and Drumhead Service



To further mark Worcester's Civil War legacy, a commemorative parade and drumhead service, organised by The Battle of Worcester Society and The Sealed Knot Society, supported by



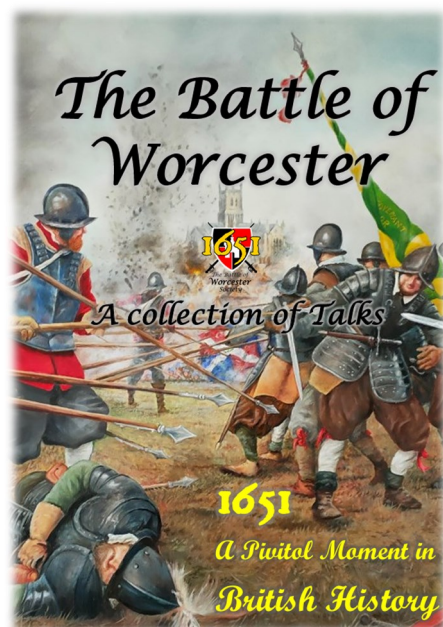
Worcester Reenactors, took place on August 23rd 2025. Around 100 17th-century reenactors took part in the event, bringing the streets of Worcester to life.



New Book from The Battle of Worcester Society

The Battle of Worcester Society is preparing to release an exciting new book that brings together many of the talks delivered over the past few years. Drawing on the expertise of speakers who have explored different aspects of the Battle of Worcester and the wider historical context of the English Civil War, the volume offers readers a rich and varied perspective on this pivotal moment in British history.

The book will make these lectures accessible to a wider audience, preserving the research, insights, and discussions that Society members and attendees have enjoyed at events. It is an important addition for anyone with an interest in the Civil War, local history, or the continuing legacy of the Battle of Worcester.



The publication is scheduled to be available later this year. For the latest news, including release details and how to obtain a copy, please monitor our website.

www.thebattleofworcestersociety.com for updates.

Worcester hosts the First Ever Stuart History Festival



Worcester hosted the first ever Stuart History Festival last year. A brand new in-person (and live-streamed) history festival, took place at the historic Old Palace in Worcester in July. This pioneering event sets itself apart by focusing exclusively on the dramatic and often overlooked Stuart period (1603–1714), a century that revolutionised the British Isles politically, religiously, and culturally.

Sponsored by the Battle of Worcester Society and Orland Media, the festival, which was launched by the Mayor of Worcester, Councillor Matt Lamb, brought together ten expert historians to explore the lives, conflicts, and ideas that shaped this turbulent era. From the accession of James I to the Glorious Revolution, the Stuart age encompassed the union of crowns, civil war, regicide, republic, restoration, and revolution, a cycle that forged the modern British state.

Festival co-founders Mark Turnbull, Andrea Zuvich, and Dr Erica Canela were united by a deep commitment to promoting the legacy of the Stuart period.

Mark Turnbull, author of ‘Rupert of the Rhine’, explained why this era demands our attention:

“Lasting just over a century, this era completely changed the political path of Britain’s three kingdoms and defined who they became. From the union of three crowns, then civil war, regicide, republic, restoration of the monarchy, and finally revolution once more. This cycle, nevertheless, delivered the Stuart dream; a political union of their kingdoms.”

Brian Bullock, Vice Chairman of the Battle of Worcester Society, commented:

“The Society was delighted to support the first ever Stuart History Festival. Worcester played a truly crucial role in the events of the 17th century, from being the scene of the first clash of the English Civil War to the site of its final and decisive battle. The city stood at the heart of the nation’s great upheavals, and it’s only fitting that Worcester should still take a leading role in telling the story of the Stuart age.”

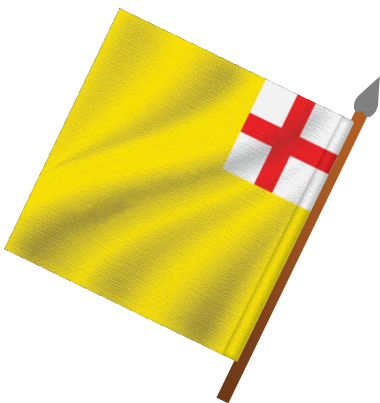
Time travel to the Civil War at the Battle of Worcester

Our resident artist Paul Stanley's oil painting of the Battle of Worcester is so life like, it feels like you are time travelling to the 17th century.

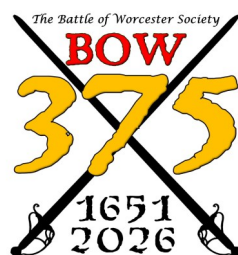


Oils on Board by Paul Stanley

Cromwell's Parliamentarian New Model Army move down Red Hill to overrun Fort Royal, pushing the outnumbered Royalists into the City Via Sidbury Gate, followed by Parliamentary forces that take the City.



Marking the end of
the Battle of Worcester



Your Society Needs You!

History doesn't preserve itself. It depends on people who care enough to study it, question it, and share it.

The Battle of Worcester Society exists to research, interpret, and promote understanding of one of the most significant events in British history. Our work supports education, scholarship, and public engagement, ensuring the Battle of Worcester is explored with accuracy, depth, and integrity.

We welcome historians, teachers, students, researchers, and anyone with a serious interest in the period. You don't need formal qualifications, just curiosity, a thoughtful approach, and a desire to learn and contribute.

So if you believe history deserves careful study... If you want to support education and scholarship for future generations... join us. www.thebattleofworcestersociety.com



Diary Date



Battle of Worcester Society Dinner

375th Anniversary of the Battle

Guest speaker, Professor Ronald Hutton
Britain's leading 17th Century Historian.

Watch out for tickets on our website
www.thebattleofworcestersociety.com



Society talks in 2026

- January** *January - March at the Hive*
Tuesday 20th Tony Bryan, *The Tailor Spy and the Little Maid.*
- February**
Tuesday 17th Max Keen, *King John.*
- March**
Tuesday 17th Peter Hare, *Tudor House Museum*, Worcester.
- April** *April - September at the Commandery*
Thursday 30th Richard Graham, *Edward Massey.*
- May**
Thursday 28th Ismini Pells, *Children in the English Civil War.*
- June**
Thursday 25th Kevin Goodman, *The Time travelling Medicine Man*
Major diseases in Worcestershire during the Civil War.
- July**
Thursday 30th Dr David Smith, *Cromwell on Film.*
- August**
Thursday 27th Tim Cornah, *The Hartlebury Castle Dig.*
- September**
Saturday 5th Ronald Hutton, BoWS anniversary dinner, St Helen's Church, Worcester (Venue to be Confirmed)
Thursday 24th Dennis Sewell, *Turncoat - Roundhead to Royalist The double life of Cromwell's spy.*
- October** *October - November at the Hive*
Thursday 29th Robbie Porter, *Three Worcester Murders,*
- November**
Thursday 26th Howard Robinson, *The Benedictine Monks of Worcester*, The Hive
- December**
Sunday 13th , BoWS Christmas lunch (Potential 'speaker/entertainer')
Venue and dates to be confirmed



*The Battle of
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“When your wives and children ask where you have been, and what news: say you have been at Worcester where England’s sorrow began and where they are happily ended”

Hugh Peters, Parliamentarian Preacher after the Battle of Worcester

www.thebattleofworcestersociety.com

