

# *John Bright's Regiment of Foote*



*Bringing The Past To Life*



## **A Guide For Sponsors**

**Re-enacting the Civil Wars (1642-1651)**

## Introduction

This guide is intended to give you an idea as to what we can offer when planning your event – whether this is a large all-day event and battle at a country estate, organising a fun and informative day for children at your school or even something different to mark the opening of your local carnival.

We believe that we offer something of interest for everybody and, as we are a non-professional, non-profit making organisation we offer great value for money in what can only be described as lean times! As well as being excellent entertainment and ‘something unusual’, events are informative and will fascinate anybody with an interest in history. Our members all share an enthusiasm for spreading an understanding of 17<sup>th</sup> century living to the wider public, primarily through a demonstration of the warfare of the period but balancing this with a view of the civilian life the wars so brutally disrupted.

## The Regiment

John Bright’ s Regiment of Foote is a member of the Parliamentarian half of the English Civil War Society which is a nationwide organisation dedicated to the re-enactment of the life and times of 17<sup>th</sup> Century Britain.

The Regiment was founded in the 1970s. We include members from all over the country and all walks of life. As mentioned, we are a non-profit organisation so all of our funds are ploughed back into making the experience for our audience ever more real and involving.



*Berwick on Tweed–riverside portrayal of 17<sup>th</sup> street sellers*

## Your Event

Whilst there are several types of event we can stage, there is no such thing as an ‘off the peg’ event package that we will undertake for you. Each event is the result of discussions with you to gain a real understanding of what it is you want included; the numbers involved, the type of event, cost and also taking into consideration the location where the event is to take place. Clearly, we cannot promise to stage a major battle in an area which could not safely accommodate one.

This said, most events fall into one of the following categories:-

## The School Visit

A small number of members, dressed in full 17<sup>th</sup> century clothing and fully equipped for a civilian or military role (depending upon your requirements) will visit the school and give a brief presentation to those classes for whom the visit was organised, or possibly to the whole school depending on size. After the talk pupils may handle replica 17<sup>th</sup> century items including weapons and the presenter will answer any questions they have. This phase can last some time as the pupils are usually full of queries and comments on what they' ve seen.



## The Living History



The aim of a Living History event is to portray a small military encampment of the 1640s in as accurate a manner as possible. This usually involves an officer' s tent, some soldiers tents and a kitchen area. Military equipment will be on display or in use and members of the public are encouraged to interact with the officers, soldiers and civilians who will be happy to demonstrate the use of equipment and answer any queries they may have.

The Living History usually lasts all day but may be suspended if a drill display or small skirmish is to be included in the event.

Of course, if the environment is suitable, the Living History can be conducted indoors.



## The Drill Display



A Drill Display will require an arena large enough to allow the safe discharge of muskets and, if included, cannon; surrounded by double barrier with a gap between two ropes of 3 metres. In this area, the Regiment will display the drill of the various arms of the infantry – the pike, the muskets, the drums and the cannon. The display usually takes 20-30 minutes. If the cannon is used, extra space will be required to ensure public safety.

## The Skirmish

The skirmish usually lasts 30-40 minutes and involves the recreation of a small fight between opposing forces. Depending on your specifications and, of course, space restrictions this can involve all arms including muskets, pike, artillery and even horse. It is not unusual for a skirmish to be combined with a living history at an event with the campsite acting as a fantastic backdrop to the action.



## The Large Battle / Week End Event

The most spectacular event we stage is the large battle with cannon roaring, horse galloping about the field searching for weakness in the enemy's lines and musket and pike meeting face to face in combat. In common with the skirmish, this is often combined with a Living History and a drill display. Due to the scale of the battle, this is the most costly to arrange and requires a very large area but it is a memorable and thrilling event for entertaining large numbers of public. The large battles are usually set over the weekend (or Bank Holiday) with battles scheduled for two days.



## **Provision of Facilities**

### **We Provide:**

- The service of our members, their arms (cannon, pike, musket, swords, etc.), equipment and costume.
- A commentator for drill displays and battles.
- Guides for a Living History camp.
- A script - although this will be arranged with you.
- Liaison with the authorities concerning the use, provision and storage of Black Powder and firearms.
- Public Liability insurance (this only covers the actions of members within the public area and during displays).
- A Risk Assessment of the site - a copy of this will be made available to you.

### **Dependent upon the type of event you wish to stage, you may need to provide**

- Adequate space for the event (see general guidelines below).
- A modern campsite large enough to hold the participants. The modern campsite should have toilets and water and should be secure. If possible, the campsite should be near to the display area.
- If a Living History is staged, firewood will be required and, if possible, permission should be obtained for a fire pit to be dug (this will be filled in and turfs replaced post event).
- A PA system (preferably with a wandering microphone).
- Barriers / ropes. Our members will be happy to set them up but you will need to supply the equipment.
- Marshalls / Stewards may be required to ensure that the public do not cross the safety barriers.
- First Aid for the event (usually St. John' sAmbulance). This would be a requirement for the public in any instance and usually one team is sufficient to cover the public and participants.
- Arrangements for rubbish collection. We will clear our camp sites but a skip or collection point will be required.
- Publicity – whilst we can provide input, you will need to undertake any publicity required for the event. Local press are a great way of getting your event noticed (a sample of press coverage of previous events is included within this guide).

### **Typical Space Requirements**

#### The School Visit

- A large classroom or lecture area and if musket firing is included, a large outside area.

#### Living History

- Enough space for the camp, adjacent to any display area and preferably accessible to vehicles for ease of set up.

#### Drill Display

- An arena, at least 30-40 metres square. The cannon requires 50 metres clear range to fire.

#### Skirmish / Large Battle

- 30 acres to stage a large battle (as many as 600 soldiers, all arms). 20 acres for members to camp on, obviously, this will be dependent upon the scale of the battle you wish to stage.

**Press Coverage**

There was a civil war in Thaxted at the weekend but no bloodshed apart from some “amputations” in the barber’s surgery. The living history weekend was organised by Thaxted Traders Guild as part of its Think Thaxted First campaign to draw visitors to the town. Chairman Patrick Haylock said the visit...exceeded all expectations. There were musters outside the Guildhall, weaponry displays, artillery pieces in action and exhibitions and displays in the church...The two days were so popular Mr Haylock is inviting the Battalia back next year.

*Dunmow Times*



and communities, and by bringing in modern examples of civil wars, it helps promote their understanding of these conflicts.

*Bury Times*



Ready for battle... The John Bright's Regiment of Foote, part of the English Civil War Society, providing a stirring demonstration as part of the successful Village Carnival...  
*The Staines, Egham and Ashford Guardian*

# I'm coming after you with all guns blazing



Warhunt: a soldier spots an enemy

By Jo Winrow

GUNS, blazes, cannon roared and cavalry charged as Calderdale relived the English Civil War.

Roundheads and Cavaliers invaded the district to battle in a re-enactment of a 17th-century battle. The re-enactment took place in the park where the 17th century to play and to be a scene of a battle. A band of Parliamentarians took on the Royalists in a mock battle based on the battle records.

Guns and glorious weather drew hundreds to the park to catch a glimpse of both regiments as they used 400 year old tactics to outsmart each other... Gunfire and glorious weather drew hundreds to the park to catch a glimpse of both regiments as they used 400 year old tactics to outsmart each other...

and to relive the English Civil War in Calderdale.

He stepped out to meet on the without 200 yards away.

"It was a very early morning and the 17th century people that were here were here," said Sir Walter of the English Civil War Society, who organised the event. "We were in the middle of the battle at each side of the park and they were in the middle of the battle."

"Both children and adults seem to have enjoyed the re-enactment. In the morning, the Parliamentarians and the Royalists fought and the Royalists got the best of the day."

Among the crowd of 1000-1200 people, of all ages, who were seen from the 17th century to the 21st.

"It was a really good day for everyone and the 17th century people were in the middle of the battle and the 21st century people were in the middle of the battle."



Guns blazed, cannon roared and pikestaffs were thrust as Calderdale relived the English Civil War.

Roundheads and Cavaliers invaded the district to battle it out for a re-enactment of a civil war skirmish at the weekend. Shibden Hall and its park were transported back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century to play host to a

fearsome event which saw a band of Parliamentarians take on the Royalists in a mock battle based on historical records... Gunfire and glorious weather drew hundreds to the park to catch a glimpse of both regiments as they used 400 year old tactics to outsmart each other...

*Halifax Evening Courier*

## Contacts

For further information on the Regiment and events please contact us on either of the email addresses quoted below.

We look forward to hearing from you

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