



P.O. Box 52, Brighouse, West Yorkshire, HD6 1JQ, England

THE A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

Summer Edition



**Union Skirmish Line
Stanford Hall 2009**

Issue No 153

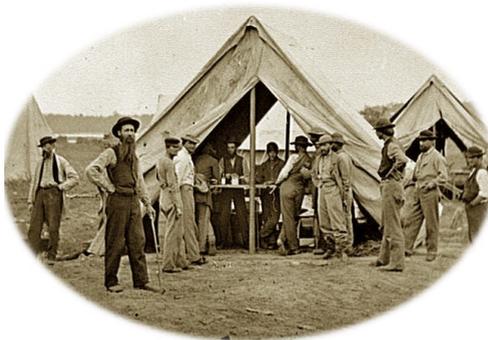
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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As I write this, we are just coming up to Stanford Hall, but by the time you receive this we'll be half way through the season.

After the excellent training weekends at Tatton Old Hall, we started with the resurrected Rockingham Castle event. What a cracking event that proved to be. Everyone pulled together, in the first instance to get the cancelled multi-period resurrected as an ACW event, and then throughout the whole weekend from Living History, Social evenings, drill and the battles. We made such an impression and had such a good time that we are looking to return to this venue in the future including a possible "International" on August 6/7th 2011, Well done to everyone involved.

What a shame Hornby Castle was cancelled by the organisers due to lack of funding. We briefly enquired about resurrecting this event, but the costs were prohibitive and the time too short. So sorry about this one, but outside our control. Also cancelled a week later was a multi-period involving the Crimean 19th Foot and 11th

Hussars because travellers had occupied the event site.

A big thank you to all those who turned up to Hadfield and braved the elements. Although a village carnival, we had plenty of space to do our own thing and put on a large battle re-enactment. Unfortunately, the turnout we had was most disappointing. This type of sponsored event can often lead to bigger events and provide some much needed income allowing us to do self-funded events such as Stanford Hall. If the low turnout at these one day village events continues then we will have to re-assess their value to ACWS and it's members or not do them at all. I'm sure some of the family members would miss the carnivals as it's something different for the kids and non-combatant partners to do on a weekend.

Personally, I thought the skirmish on the Sunday was one of the worst that ACWS has ever put on with most of the action taking place too far away from the main public audience. Have we forgotten how to entertain and educate the public at such events? They are not just for our own amusement. Having said that the sponsors

were delighted with what we did and have sent a very complimentary letter to our Projects team. If only we could have delivered a spectacular battle up to our usual standards . . .

Stanford Hall, Market Deeping and Hingham will probably have passed by the time you are reading this. You won't have seen me at Market Deeping as I was scheduled to be recovering from a minor operation and for Hingham I will have been with the 19th Foot as their event was confirmed before Hingham became a full society event. The latter is the first time a Crimean event has clashed with an ACWS main event. I hope you all had a good time and turned up in your hundreds.

Some of our members will be at English Heritage's Festival of History at Kelmarsh Hall (July 25/26) as Crimean 19th Foot and 11th Hussars, as well as 20-30 members taking part as Boer Infantry in one of the major battle re-enactments being put on by E.H. If this is yet to happen, and you are interested in being a Boer for the weekend, contact Kevin Holden, C.S. Signals.

The rest of the season at

Cusworth, Sheffield and Tatton gives you three full society events and maximum turnout is hoped for. Don't forget the AGM and Annual Dance on December 5th with a different band this year and promise of improved bar stocks. Tickets are now available at events or from West Point Sutlers and via the ACWS P O Box. (Details elsewhere in this Newsletter.)

As you can guess from the above waffle about events, I don't really have a lot to say this issue, except to say keep recruiting, we need more muskets on the field to satisfy sponsors' expectations.

Keep Your Powder Dry
Mike Bussey, Chairman ACWS

Special Request

Are there previous Drummers who have gone into the lines that can help me out at Market Deeping for the Carnival Procession.

If so please telephone me on 0151 284 6839 as soon as possible.

John Fairfield

PROJECTS REPORT JUNE 2009

Andy's bit first. Well folks, Rockingham, don't know about you, but I reckon that this was one of the best events for years, working with our friends in SoSkAn I think it was one of the best shows since the International of 2003 .

From the moment we arrived, we started to set up the arenas, camps and battlefield, and even managed a drill session at 7.30 on Thursday morning! (Yes, thanks for that Andy that was our lay-in gone for a Burton!) (Viv). Everything was in place and ready for Friday afternoon and over the next 24hrs a steady flow of re-enactors arrived.

For the guys in the Signals it became a gut buster as we manned the gate as well as trying to set ourselves up, many thanks U.S. Signals, for all their help that weekend, and also to those who rallied to help when asked, especially to the guys in the Federal brigade who helped out having to work around 3 days and nights of powder guard as well.

The battles were awesome, the ground dictated unpredictability and it didn't let us down. To be on the far right flank and not know what was happening on the left is about as close as we will ever get to a Civil War moment. The uncertainty of whether the other end of the line is intact, or if you are going to be outflanked, brings it home as to why we do this hobby, to remember those brave folk of 150 years ago.

For those that didn't realise, the woman that accompanied me, who

shouted at times was Jo Baker from Call to Arms, the original show promoter, who was employed by Rockingham Castle as a "Event Co-ordinator", as a note, she was only enforcing the rules that ACWS already has in place. (and you thought I was bossy!) (Viv) Which brings me to the moaning bit.....

Please be a little more thoughtful when you are on site:

Firewood is there for all so please do not stockpile it, one does it, you all do it, for fear of missing out. One of the guys from the bar, at the end of the event, actually ended up with a tonne of nice cut logs for his wood burning stove at home courtesy of this behaviour, (at £100 per tonne) whilst fellow members scrimped for firewood. No finger pointing either, this was down to members, with hardly any SoSkAn members on site, the allocated wood had gone.

Dogs should be on a lead at all times but especially when the public are about, under control means just that, and finally when you leave, take your crap with you. ACWS areas were littered with all sorts of rubbish. Thanks to Andy Carlton 69th. New York for litter picking the ACWS Federal area CLEAN.

Regards Andy.

My bit now. I have spent the last 19 years moaning about a lot of the points that Andy has raised, especially the stockpiling of wood. At each full weekend event we supply 6 tonne of logs, a bit less if it is a short weekend. We don't expect you to

collect it a log at a time, but please be more considerate to others.

Gate duties.

There will be the occasional event where this is necessary, especially if it is our own event, which Rockingham was. It is most unnecessary to tell the member of the Projects team to ---- off when asked. In future this will come through the chain of command as part of the Army duties. At Stanford Hall there will be a guard on the gate in future due to a problem we experienced last year. It will always be the Army not doing Powder guard. As far as leaving the site as we have found it, I thought we had cracked that problem, but it seems to have reared it's ugly head again.

Roger Willison-Gray had a meeting with the Estate Manager at Rockingham a couple of weeks ago and he was absolutely delighted with the way we performed from start to finish. He is impressed in our professionalism and discipline. He is very keen to work with us again! For this I say "Thank-you".

As you probably know, I had to make a premature departure from Rockingham due to a broken ankle, but I am delighted with the feedback all round.

Hadfield Carnival. Please refer to Phil Clark's article regarding this event, I daren't even start.

I have received a really nice letter from the Sponsor thanking us which is printed in this Newsletter. It was a terrible shame about the weather but something we have to live with. We received three enquiries for future

events during the weekend and I believe some new recruits as well. So it wasn't that bad.

At this point we are about to embark on Stanford Hall for next weekend. I will include this in the next Newsletter.

Market Deeping. Another Carnival but bread and butter! I do hope we have a good attendance for this event. There will be a Carnival Procession through the Town and the Sponsors have arranged an open topped bus to ferry you from the event site to the start of the parade. Camping from Friday lunchtime until Sunday afternoon. The event site is on the other side of the road from Tesco's so don't worry about your food shopping until you get there.

I have reinserted the Events Report from the last Newsletter as it gives detailed information about the events.

Special Request

Are there previous Drummers who have gone into the lines that can help me out at Market Deeping for the Carnival Procession. If so please telephone me on 0151 284 6839 as soon as possible.

John Fairfield

Best regards,

Viv Corbishley and Andy Hopwood
The Projects Team

HADFIELD CARNIVAL ASSOCIATION

Dear Viv,

Thanks very much for the fantastic show on Sunday at Hadfield Carnival. The weather could and should have been better (for June). But apart from that all carnival committee members (that includes me) and all assembled Hadfield people were more than impressed with, not only the battle, but the overall spectacle of the Living History Village. The cannons, the sights and sounds and smells. The noise of the cannons and the guns going off rebounded off the hill and through the valley, which added to the atmosphere.

Sorry that the PA system failed. It was due to a power surge from one of the fairground rides that blew all the plug sockets on the main control distribution board in the school, and should only have taken seconds to put right, but our access to the school is very limited and we could not find the right box to put the problem right. I do not think it spoils the performance.

I hope all your members and your good self got home ok and that all your other events through the year go well.

Please would you give everyone who was at Hadfield a great personal thank you from me for the friendly banter and fantastic generosity shown to me and all who stayed on the field on Saturday night. It will stay with me for a long time to come.

Yours sincerely

Brian Gray

MAMA'S MUMBLINGS

Well folks here we are almost half-way through the season already.

Doesn't the time fly when you are enjoying yourselves?

We have had some cracking events so far this season.

It started with training events at Tatton Park. When they said it was to take place in a walled garden, I did not expect it to be so large, or so beautiful.

I enjoyed Rockingham too. Well done to all concerned, who negotiated and got this off the ground, when the multi-period event fell through due to the recession.

As you can see by the letter we received from the Hadfield Committee they were delighted by our display. The weather was atrocious, even so, those who attended put a lot of effort into the event.

Stanford Hall as always a good turn out and a good weekend. The next two events are the sort of events which fund the likes of Stanford Hall So let's have a good turn out for those too.

Cusworth and Sheffield are old friends and well worth going to. Then back to Tatton Park for a full society event. We finish the season at Spetchly Park, so come on troops, keep it going and support YOUR society.

Our thanks to John Fairfield, who has agreed to come out of retirement and fill in for Eddy this year.

Our condolences go to Eddy and family after their tragic loss.

Val Holt, Editor



2009 Christmas Dance
Saturday 5th December 2009
7.30pm - midnight

Alsager Civic Centre ,
Alsager, Cheshire ST7 2AE

Tickets £9 each

Barndance/Ceilidh provided by "The Slippery Hill Boys",
a 4-piece band specialising in American folk and
Blue Grass style music

Hot food will also be available by purchase of a separate ticket,
price to be confirmed

For tickets contact: Debbie & Howard Davies,
11 Winston Avenue, Alsager, Cheshire ST7 2BE

Tel: 01270 873998

Email: debjdavies@tesco.net

Tickets must be purchased in advance, and Food Tickets
no later than 20th November, for catering purposes.
Please make cheques or postal orders payable to ACWS Ltd and
enclose a S.A.E.

Grumpy Bear's Grumblings

As I said to the assembled 'masses' at Hadfield at Colours on the Sunday, not enough of you turn up to our small Village Fete/Town Carnival events. Yes, Hadfield was indeed 'perform for the public' on the Sunday only at the Hadfield Carnival. Yes, the weather was crap! Boy, did it rain and blow a howling gale. But we all survived, and are stronger for the resourcefulness of having done that, and done our job, and earned some desperately needed money for ACWS.

A 'one day event' is NOT just a one day event, is it?! It's still an ACW weekend. You get to camp from the Friday to the Sunday or Monday, you are with your mates, and you do the Living History and the battle. There are lots of other useful things you can do with any 'free' time – practice your emergency evacuation drills in the case of a fire in camp, do your Trade Tests, or even go to the pub! ALL ACWS events are important. Especially the ones where we get paid. That's why we can afford 'goodies' like Stanford.

Some regiments did not show up at all at Hadfield. Now I know some of those regiments had people who live near enough to attend. They should have done

so. I never want a sponsor to turn round to Projects and refuse to pay on a contract because not enough of us turned out.

Now I know that shift-work, holidays, illness or whatever mean that from time to time people can't come to events. Fair enough: but a whole unit not showing? Come on now! It's still a weekend away with some of the best mates having excellent fun you can have, our wonderful Society.

A lot of people put a lot of hard work into setting up these events – negotiating, planning, preparing, site visits, getting the gunpowder arranged etc. etc. They deserve more support for their efforts, especially at 'small' events/the 'town carnivals'. Your Society need your support.

Right, that's it. Nuf sed!

I do not want to enter into endless debates with anybody. Neither will I enter into forum discussions. Just, please, support your Society as much as you can, and Unit Leaders please try harder to get more members to events, especially the ones where we get financial support.

Many thanks.

Philip Clark
Company Secretary

Don't Believe What You Read...

A Review of 'Lincoln's Wrath – Fierce Mobs, Brilliant Scoundrels and a President's Mission to Destroy the Press' by Mamber & Dahlstrom

If this book were a football match it would be described as 'A Game of Two Halves' and the Referee(s) would almost certainly be accused of blatant bias. The two halves in this case are the story of the *Jeffersonian* newspaper and a related overview of Lincoln's record on civil liberties in the first years of the Civil War. The story of the *Jeffersonian* is an interesting one revealing much about the discord and tensions that were present in the North during the middle of the 1800's, it is moderately well told by the authors in the style of a 'whodunnit' mystery. The other half, well, more of that later. The *Jeffersonian* was published by John Hodgson in West Chester a small-town in Pennsylvania, just south of Philadelphia. Hodgson had the misfortune of being an old-style, pro-Southern, Democrat in a Republican era. He also had the bravery – or lack of brains, depending on your point of view – to continue to publish his beliefs in his newspaper during the Civil War. One of his outspoken

editorials praising the Southern attack on Fort Sumter resulted in him being beaten up by a local citizen at the town's oyster bar.

Hodgson continued his anti-government line; he praised the Confederate victory at Bull Run and continued to support the secessionist states. Perhaps it comes as no surprise that his newspaper office and printing press were wrecked by an unknown mob in August 1861. The authors make a great issue of the identity of the mob, implying – without any evidence whatsoever – that the Lincoln government had sent a team of agents to wreck Hodgson's paper. This ignores two facts, first that West Chester and the surrounding area was full of returning 3 month volunteers who had just lost at Bull Run and doubtless seen a number of their friends and neighbours get killed and wounded. Perhaps these men took their vengeance on a local, easy target that was goading them? Second, given the Lincoln government's organisational record thus far in the war, getting the mob to the right state would have been a real achievement. To his credit, Hodgson got his newspaper back together again and resumed publishing. He did not change the content of his editorials either, a brave and/or stubborn man indeed! Then at the end of August 1861 two US Federal Marshals appeared at Hodgson's office with an order to seize the paper.

The rest of this half covers the legal proceedings that took place when Hodgson tried to fight the seizure. The case was finally heard in February 1863 and despite much leading comment by the authors and the title

of the book, Old Abe was innocent. It seems that a local political enemy of Hodgson's had used the chaos of the war as a cover for an attack on Hodgson. Oh and Hodgson got his paper back and kept on publishing – so much for destroying the press!

This book took ten years to research, apparently, and despite many unproven assertions in it attacking the Lincoln government, the authors failed to find one shred of credible evidence tying the President to the suppression of the Jeffersonian!

The rest of the book is a shoddy mishmash of unsupported statements and leading questions of the 'When did you stop beating your wife?' variety. The authors' central aim is to demonstrate that the Lincoln government was a despotic regime and that modern day legislators and historians should not use Lincoln as a role model.

The authors spend much time discussing the activities of the Democratic Party opposing Lincoln during the war. They ignore the deep splits within that party – splits caused by Southern extremists - that directly led to Lincoln's election. They make out that the Democratic Party in the northern states was united in its opposition to the war, ignoring the leading Democrats who supported Lincoln or at least the prosecution of the war during the years from 1861-65. These men include former and future Democratic presidential candidates Stephen Douglas and George McClellan, plus many other Democrats who served within the army or administration (Stanton, Grant, Logan, Porter, McClernand, Butler etc). These leaders encouraged many Democrat voters into the ranks of the US Army.

Indeed the Democrats couldn't even assemble a coherent platform for the 1864 election! The candidate, McClellan wanted to continue the war to restore the Union and pre-1861 terms, but the party platform called for an immediate ceasefire which Little Mac would have nothing to do with. However, if the authors are to be believed, the Democrat Party was a united organisation dedicated to opposing Lincoln's tyranny.

Another area that gets much attention is the mob attacks on anti-war newspapers in 1861 – the authors use the term 'Summer of Rage' to describe the period. It is used in such a way as to suggest it is a recognised historical period – I can find no other uses within Civil War literature. The authors allow the reader to believe that a mob attacking a newspaper office was a completely unheard of event in mid-nineteenth century America. Nothing could be further from the truth – mob justice against papers printing unpopular views had occurred often before, although more commonly in the southern states against newspapers suspected of supporting abolition. However, one pro-Lincoln paper was forced to close by a mob in 1861 in southern Illinois! Strangely this last paper fails to get a mention in the book.

Government action against newspapers was also not unknown before 1861. The man who became the first Democrat Party President, Andrew Jackson, had suppressed newspapers in New Orleans when he was a US General in command there during the war with Britain in 1812. Jackson was later prosecuted and convicted for his acts, but was later pardoned and exonerated by a

Democrat government during the 1840's. The authors also ignore the suppression of a newspaper in Knoxville, Tennessee by the pro-Confederate authorities of that state. Clearly suppressing newspapers is only really bad if Lincoln's government does it.

One other area touched on is the issue of Northern political prisoners – rather than exploring the many errors and mis-statements presented in this book I recommend anyone interested in the subject to read Mark E. Neely's scholarly book 'The Fate of Liberty' on the subject, and its companion 'Southern Rights' that deals with similar abuses in the Confederacy (yes, it did happen there too).

The authors are blatantly trying to make a point relevant to the modern day in all their ramshackle 'analysis', but as Neely states each period is different and the lessons of one cannot be easily used to illuminate another.

Overall this book has some value as a micro-history of the events around the Jeffersonian during the Civil War, but as a review of the larger issues concerning civil liberties and the freedom of the press it is of no value whatsoever and is dangerously misleading in many places. Finally, despite ten years of research effort the authors present no evidence that Lincoln was in any way 'Wrathful', they aren't even able to prove that he was 'a bit miffed'; nice title – pity it's not true.

Submitted by

John Quick 19th Indiana



Abraham Lincoln (1809—1865)

Pictured here with his wife, Mary
Todd Lincoln, and family

WANTED

Driver wanted for 2010 season to tow Ordnance Trailer to events. At a small number of venues the driver will be required on site either Wednesday or Thursday.

The Society will pay for Storage, Fuel and Tow Bar.

For further details contact
Viv Corbishly on 07828 432930

EVENTS LIST 2009

3-5 July 2009

Market Deeping Carnival. camping from Friday 2.00pm until Sunday midday. The event begins at 10.00am on Saturday 4th. July and they have asked us to be on display with Living History, drill displays etc. There is to be a Carnival procession through the streets beginning at the Leisure Centre. They are supplying us with a Police escort to the start of the parade. We hope to have a number of our drummers in attendance to lead us. Roger and Gaynor are also bringing two horses. The battle will be later on in the afternoon. This promises to be a good, enjoyable event.

Location: Glebe Park and the John Eve Field, opposite Tesco's on Godsey Lane, opposite John Eves Way. Market Deeping, Lincolnshire. Post Code to follow in next Newsletter.

Registration fee £6

10-12 July 2009

Abraham Lincoln Bi-Centenary Celebration, Hingham, South Norfolk.

Full Society event including Cavalry and Artillery. Living History with firing displays. This is a delightful unspoilt Georgian Market town (big village really) off the beaten track and the whole town is looking forward to taking part in the celebrations, they are really looking forward to ACWS "occupying the town" This promises to be a very enjoyable weekend and you are all invited to the weekend party at the White Hart Inn (100 yds from the authentic campsite) on Friday and Saturday.

In the 1600s, villagers left Hingham to sail to the New World. Among them was Samuel Lincoln, ancestor of the 16th President. They founded the town of Hingham Massachusetts. A Marble bust of President Lincoln was presented by President Bush to the town and occupies pride of place in the beautiful 14th Century Church (The largest in East Anglia). There will be a march past on Saturday with a representative from the US Embassy taking the salute along with local dignitaries, followed by Medical and Firing displays. There is to be a Drumhead Church Parade with honour guard on Sunday afternoon, which will be attended by the whole community. We need volunteers to read the Gettysburg address or something similar at the service, and period musicians, readings and hymns are welcome (this needs to be planned in advance so please let projects or marketing know if you are willing to help) On Saturday evening there will be a Hog Roast, bar and Live Blue Grass Music in the Hall and period music is especially welcome.

Our authentic camps will be on the town green – opposite the Lincoln Hall and Harrods ! Fire pits allowed.

Full Family camp facilities with flushing toilets and showers !!!!

Can we have a big turnout for this event please, it could lead to something much bigger in the future and it will be part of a transatlantic celebration. This is a brilliant opportunity to show off your impressions from quilting to laundry and telegraph office etc.

Camping from Friday until Sunday.

Location: Lincoln Hall, Hingham, South Norfolk. (By the Church)

Registration fee £3

8-9 August 2009

Cusworth Hall, a repeat event, for those who went last year you will know that it is a fantastic setting, woods, a lake and fantastic open grounds for skirmishing. With 24 hrs surveillance so please use the loos !! Displays on SATURDAY and SUNDAY

The Museum is located 2 miles north of Doncaster, off the A638 Doncaster to Wakefield Road. It is signposted from the A1 and A638.

Location: Cusworth Hall, Cusworth Lane, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN5 7TU.

Registration fee £6

28-31 August 2009

Norfolk Park, Sheffield. August Bank Holiday event for Sheffield City Council in conjunction with EventPlan, a multi-period event as part of the Sheffield Fayre. Full Society event with Cavalry in attendance. Living History on Saturday and Living History, drill displays and Battles on Sunday and Monday.

Location: Norfolk Park, Norfolk Park Road, Sheffield. S2 2RB

Registration fee £6

11-13 September 2009

Tatton Old Hall, this will be our third visit of the year, lets make it the best, Delightful site in the middle of beautiful Cheshire countryside. Members camping available from Friday midday until Monday. Displays SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Tatton Park is sign posted from the M6, look out for the brown signs,

Location: Tatton Old Hall, Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6QN.

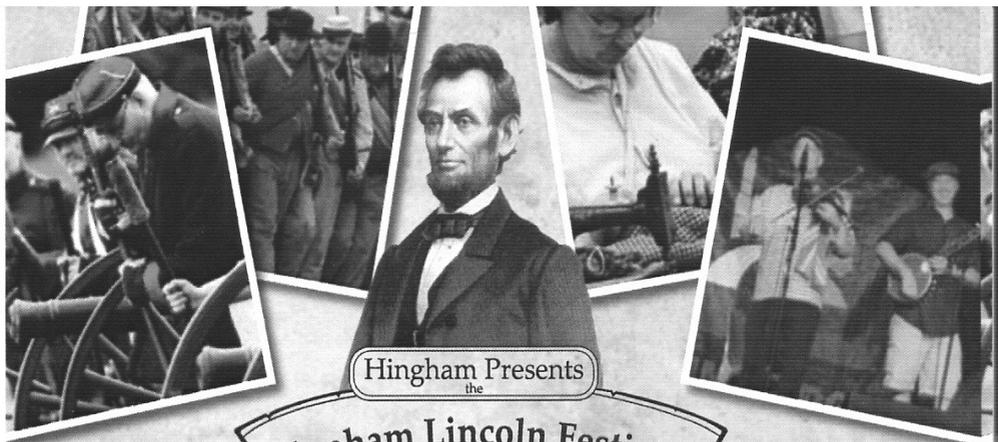
Registration fee £6

26-27 September 2009

Spetchley Park, Worcester. We are hoping that this year the event will be bigger and better.

ACWS Living History displays at this multi-period event by Worcester Reenactors. More details to follow.

Location: Spetchley Park Gardens, Spetchley, Worcester WR5 1RS



Hingham Presents
the

Abraham Lincoln Festival

Saturday 11th July

1.30 Opening Parade

The Fairlands and St. Andrews Church, Hingham

Celebrate Lincoln's bicentenary, whose ancestors had links to the market town of Hingham. Step back in time and experience a slice of history with The American Civil War Society re-enactment. Dancing, music, patchwork, military drills, horses, quilting displays, historical memorabilia, stalls and refreshments 2 - 5pm.

Free entry Commemorative event programme £1

6.30 - 9.30pm

Lincoln Hall, Hingham

Blue Grass and Old Time Music

Take your seat for an evening of toe tapping entertainment featuring "The Chuffinches" and "The Orwell Blue Grass Band" Authentic Blue Grass and Old Time music - banjo, mandolin, fiddle and guitar. Licensed bar and Hog Roast.

£5/£4 concessions

Tickets: 01603 630000

or visit: www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/festival

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West Point Sutlers are proud to announce that they are now Registered Firearms Dealers, so you can now order Springfield, Enfield muskets, various makers, also Brown Bess and Baker flintlocks, for your re-enacting interests. Phil and Jayne both worked and met at the Birmingham Gun Barrel Proof House in the 1970's, now it seems their lives have gone full-circle and find themselves back in the gun trade! Also available: various antique American Civil War revolvers, other antique guns will be available soon. Check the West Point website for announcements for new arrivals.

www.westpointsutlers.org

Phil and Jayne have been American Civil War re-enactors for over 14 years and can be found at major American Civil War and multi-period events during the re-enacting season (Easter to the end of September).

West Point Sutlers provide everything the new and discerning American Civil War re-enactor might need, from haversack fillers to a brand new uniform and accoutrements. They work alongside ARK Historic Clothing to bring you high quality men's, women's and children's clothing, millinery and accessories, custom made for you, your school, museum, film or TV project.

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Send your order details including your name and address with a Cheque or Postal Order for the total value made payable to ACWS Ltd. and post to:-

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£30.01— £40.00	£2.50
£40.01— and above	£3.00

All newsletter correspondence should be sent to: - Val Holt Editor

E-mail address Editor@acws.co.uk

or send to - PO Box 52, Brighouse, West Yorkshire HD6 1JQ

Web Site: - <http://www.acws.co.uk>

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All advertisement & editorial copy should be sent by the above date

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