

John Bright' s Regiment of Foote (Pre-) Warning Order Thaxted Garrison

A Military and Living History: 18th-19th September 2010

The Event.

This event is a Living and Military History combined. We will be providing a Garrison presence in the town. However rather than being confined to one site we will make use of multiple locations throughout the town.

This is the third time Brights' Regiment has organised a living history in this format in Thaxted and we are looking forward to returning to the town, not the least because we were made so welcome the last couple of times we were here.

Thaxted

Thaxted is a beautiful medieval wool town in Essex, not too far from Stansted for those of you thinking of flying in. Though styled a town it is smaller than a lot of villages, indeed you can walk from one end to the other in about fifteen minutes. Thaxted is also a centre of Morris Dancing in England, and thus the inhabitants are used to people in odd costumes. Thaxted Parish Council are sponsoring the event.

The Displays

We are hoping to stage (amongst others) the following displays.

- A Barber-Surgeon
- The Officers headquarters and a company clerk
- The Officers' ladies
- The kitchens
- An Artillery park
- A Drill field (a mite Bijou, but usable)
- Show and tell tent
- An Officers' dining tent
- Bullet casting
- And presence in the three pubs of Thaxted!!

We anticipate providing food for all participants on both Saturday and Sunday. As usual the Officers will have more substantial and elegant lunches.

The soldiery will be divided into Watches providing a variety of tasks and down-time throughout the day. When " off-duty" it is hoped the soldiers will occupy themselves in 17th Century activities, possibly in the pubs. When not in use for lunch the Officer' s dining tent will be closed to the public for use as an off-duty (smoking) tent.

Historical Setting

The time is September 1642. A month ago Charles 1 raised his standard at Nottingham castle and since then both sides have been recruiting. The people of Thaxted will have to decide who they support.

Roles

This living history will give lots of us chance to take on specific roles and responsibilities, and to display our ineptness as actors. We are looking for a

Company Sergeant; Watch Corporals; Bullet casters; a Company Clerk; an Officers' Steward; an Officers' servant; servant/s to the Officers' ladies; a Chaplain and of course drummers, pikemen, musketeers, kitchen staff and gun crew. Plus those of you with 17th century skills, for example, sewing, lace making, candle making etc. etc. We will find a role for every one. We are also open to ideas so if you have a seventeenth century persona you are desperate to play out then let us know.

Notification

Because of the ambition of this event we need to know who is coming so we can ensure that we can fill all the roles as well as providing enough soldiery. For this reason Can COs of invited Regiments please let the Event Organiser (Perry Staker) have a rough idea of numbers as soon as you able and also so that we can plan for catering.

If anyone, from whatever regiment, fancies having a go at a particular role please let the Event Organiser know ASAP.

Set-up

We will be setting up the various locations on Friday 17 September. Any help would be gratefully received.

It is hoped that each location will have an appointed co-ordinator to control set-up and striking (you know the drill, you will be nominated!!)

Campsite

The campsite is situated on the edge of the town and has flushing loos and showers. Yippee!

How to get there

Get onto the M11 whether from the North or South. Get off at Junction 8a, turn on to the A120 for Great Dunmow (8 miles); take a left turn onto the B184 to Thaxted (6 miles) the Campsite is through the town to the North, it will be signed.

Event Organiser: Perry Staker, 39 Mill End, Thaxted, Essex, CM6 2LT; Tel 01371 830014 e.mail perry@unicorn.demon.co.uk

Powder Officer: Phil Staker (same address as Event Organiser) e.mail philip@unicorn.demon.co.uk