THE STORY BEHIND LEVELLERS DAY

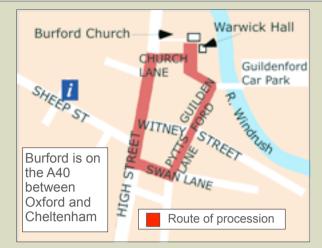
The Levellers were a political movement during the period of the English Civil War. They were ahead of their time, with beliefs in democracy, religious tolerance, and social justice. Levellers Day commemorates a stand against dictatorship by Leveller soldiers in 1649 and its suppression by Cromwell. Over three hundred soldiers were locked up in Burford church; three were executed as ring leaders and buried in unmarked graves in the churchyard. A plaque commemorating them was placed on the church wall in 1979.

To the Memory of Three Levellers
Cornet THOMPSON
Corporal PERKINS
Private CHURCH
Executed and buried in this Churchy and
17th May 1649

The words ANTHONY SEDLEY 1649 PRISNER scratched on the font of Burford church by one of the imprisoned soldiers, can still be seen.

Levellers Day was initiated by the Oxford Industrial Branch of the WEA in 1975 to remember the Levellers and their ideals and to update and relate these to our own time through debate, entertainment and any other way that makes the subject matter inspiring, educational and enjoyable.

It's held on the Saturday nearest to 17th May.



Free parking in Guildenford Car Park, but you need to get there early on a Saturday.

Buses to Burford:

Stagecoach Oxford: 01865 772250

Swanbrook: 01452 712386

TICKETS:

Whole day: £12/£8 concessions After 1pm: £7.50/£5 concessions

Under 14s free

Tickets available online from

www.wegottickets.com or at the door.

See www.levellers.org.uk for more details. Levellers Day is also on facebook and twitter.





RADICAL HISTORY INSPIRES TODAY
SPEECHES, QUESTIONS AND
DEBATE, PROCESSION AND
CEREMONY, MUSIC AND SONG



Speakers PROGRAMME Entertainment

BARBARA HARRIS -WHITE, Professor of Development Studies, Oxford University and Fellow of Wolfson College. Interests: transformation of the economy, markets and their political and social regulation; and social welfare. Contributor to *One Million Climate Jobs*.

BILLY HAYES, General Secretary, Communications Workers Union. The CWU is campaigning against privatisation of Royal Mail, and for public investment in superfast broadband, to support economic growth, job creation and social inclusion across the UK.

PAUL MASON, BBC Newsnight's economics editor. Author of *Meltdown: the End of the Age of Greed*, on the banking crisis and *Live Working or Die Fighting*, a history of the global labour movement. Paul's BBC blog: *Idle Scrawl*

chair: KATE DOUGLAS, vice-president, Oxford and District Trades Union Council. PCS Union joint branch secretary, Bucks & Oxon DWP branch.

Leading this year's dedication to the three executed Leveller soldiers is Canon TONY WILLIAMSON, now retired but for thirty years a worker-priest at Pressed Steel, Cowley.

10.30 Doors open, Warwick Hall garden

11.00 In the garden: this year's debate:

JOBS! The Future of Employment

Welcome and intro by Kate Douglas

Barbara Harris-White, Paul Mason and Billy Hayes speak to the theme, followed by an hour of questions from the audience and panel discussion.

- 1.00 Summing up and announcements
- 1.10 Assemble for procession, Church Green
- 1.20 Procession departs, led by Cry Havoc Morris, with pikemen, speakers, banners, Woodcraft Folk, dhol drummers, everybody.
- 1.45 Commemoration ceremony, speakers lay flowers under the Levellers plaque in the church wall, dedication by Canon Tony Williamson outside the churchyard gates.
- 2.15 In Burford church: The Sea Green Singers Outside Warwick Hall: Cry Havoc Morris, the Vale Islanders, King Stone Rapper

Folk singers and song writers:

ALUN PARRY from Liverpool, with his slice of life lyrics and punchy performance style. Founder of the Liverpool Working Class Music Festival and the Woody Guthrie Folk Club.

ANNE LISTER from Cardiff, with story-telling songs, taking ancient myths and legends and giving them a new relevance.

plus CRY HAVOC MORRIS: mixed morris side from Botley, performing mainly Cotswold dances.

KING STONE RAPPER from Chipping Norton, with a mummers play and rapper sword dance.

THE VALE ISLANDERS: dances of the ordinary people of the 17th century, in period costume THE SEA GREEN SINGERS: Oxford-based

Delicious refreshments In Warwick Hall by VAULTS EVENTS during the day

...and why not try out the good pubs of Burford later...

community choir.

