

In The Thick of the Action
Celebrating the anniversary of the last battle of the English Civil War, The
Battle of Worcester, at The Commandery

Friday 22 August - Wednesday 3 September 2008
Every day, 10am-5pm (Sunday 24 August, 1.30pm-5pm).

The Commandery celebrates the anniversary of The Battle of Worcester, the last battle of the English Civil War, with a host of exciting events that transport visitors back to war-torn Worcester.

Amanda Lunt, Commandery Manager, said *"The Commandery is stepping right back into the thick of its Civil War past. Beginning on 22 August, the date that Charles II and his army arrived in Worcester, and ending on 3 September, the date that they were defeated by Cromwell's New Model Army, our events coincide exactly with the events of 357 years ago."*

The Commandery will be hosting an exhibition by the Battle of Worcester Society, that gives visitors details of the plans for a commemorative heritage trail around the city.

There will be guided walks to Fort Royal, which is immediately adjacent to the Commandery, and was the site of fierce fighting during the Battle of Worcester. Follow the progress of the Battle as you look down on the important battle sites from this high vantage point, as the strategists of the Battle would have done at the time. All tours are led by Commandery staff, and last approximately 30 minutes.

Find out about the life of a typical Civil War soldier -see examples and hear about their weapons, armour, clothing and diet. Find out what happened when Civil War soldiers got injured and had to visit the gruesome Civil War surgeon. Children can also be drafted into the army and become a pikeman, one of the most important of the Civil War soldiers. They will take up arms under the Commandery's very own Civil War drill-master, and woe betide any pikeman that steps out of line!

On Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 August, an authentic Civil War encampment takes over the Commandery gardens for the weekend, with living history displays and the chance to find out about the everyday lives of the men and women involved in the Civil War. Come along and see how Civil War soldiers actually lived.

On the evening of Wednesday 3 September, at 7pm, the actual anniversary of the Battle of Worcester is celebrated with a procession of Civil War re-enactors, fully dressed in 17th Century costume, and with authentic equipment. This poignant procession of Civil War ghosts will leave the Commandery grounds en route to Fort Royal for a commemorative service to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Worcester.

While all of the above events are included in the Commandery's standard entrance fee (Adults £5.25, Concessions £4, Children aged 5-16 £2.25, Children aged under 5 free) there are a range of additional events, for which separate

ticket prices apply:

Thursday 28 August

7.30pm

The Battle of Powick Bridge: Ambush a Forethought

Tickets £4

A lecture by Dilip Sarkar MBE FRHistS, Chairman of the Battle of Worcester Society and an expert in British military history, about the first battle of the English Civil War, which also took place near Worcester.

The lecture will last for approximately 1 hour and will be followed by questions, drinks and an opportunity to chat with Mr Sarkar.

Friday 29 - Sunday 31 August

11am and 3pm

The Battle of Worcester Walking Tour

Tickets £4

A guided city tour taking in all of the key battle sites within the city. All tours are led by Commandery staff and last approximately 1 hour 30 minutes, departing from the Commandery courtyard.

Tuesday 2 September 7.30pm

The Battle of Worcester: The People's Perspective

Tickets £4

A lecture by Amanda Lunt of Worcester City Museum Service, about the effect of the Battle of Worcester on the civilian population of Worcester. The lecture will last approximately 1 hour and will be followed by questions, drinks and an opportunity to chat with Ms Lunt.

Wednesday 3 September

2.00pm

The Battle of Worcester

Tickets £4

A lecture by Bernard Mills of the Battle of Worcester Society, all about the Battle of Worcester itself. The lecture will last approximately 1 hour and will be followed by questions and an opportunity to chat with Mr Mills.

For further information, and to book tickets, contact The Commandery on 01905 361 826.

For further press information, contact Esther Blaine on 07910 487 856 or email estherbmarketing@aol.com