

## How to find us

The festival takes place on fields behind the Borough Council offices, off the A38 Tewkesbury to Gloucester road.

Tewkesbury is just over a mile from junction 9 of the M5. The site is well sign-posted from there and from all other main entrances into the town.

We ask that you follow the sign-posted route as it is part of a traffic plan designed with safety in mind.

Parking is available on site, for a small fee - *please do not park in the residential roads around the site*, as this causes distress to our neighbours and problems for us.

The railway station for Tewkesbury is Ashchurch and there is a bus into the town centre every 15 minutes, and alternative buses (service 41) will bring you almost to the site - ask for the Borough Council offices.

The festival takes place on a number of fields, and whilst we welcome disabled visitors and offer special parking for those with disabled badges, you should be aware that seeing the whole event does involve moving across rough ground.

**Come along and enjoy a wonderful day out**

Find out more by visiting our website:

[www.tewkesburymedievalfestival.org](http://www.tewkesburymedievalfestival.org)

**Entry is completely FREE**

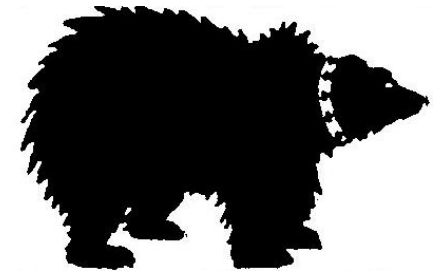


See you in 2010 when the festival takes place on July 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>



# Tewkesbury Medieval Festival 2009

11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> July



See 2000 warriors recreate the Battle of Tewkesbury

Visit King Edward and his court in their sumptuous camp

Watch armourers and other craftsmen at work as you browse the medieval market

See how ordinary medieval soldiers and their families lived on campaign

Enjoy our range of period entertainment

Taste a wide range of beers & meads

## Did you know that...

Tewkesbury Medieval Festival is widely regarded as Europe's biggest and best medieval gathering and battle re-enactment.

Participants travel from all over Europe and even further afield to take part.

It includes a huge re-enactment of the Battle of Tewkesbury, featuring around 2000 warriors, including knights in full armour, gunners, with cannon and hand guns, archers, with the traditional English Longbow, and men at arms with swords, spears and other weapons of the period, all brought to life with a lively and informed commentary, taking place on part of the site of the original battle of 1471

Public camping is available at the Lower Lode Hotel, just across the river from the festival site, with a regular ferry linking the two.

For further details ring  
01684 293224  
or see the website

[www.lowerlodeinn.co.uk](http://www.lowerlodeinn.co.uk)

For further information about accommodation, contact Tewkesbury Tourist Information Office on 01684 295027

## Programme of Events

### Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July

- 11am** Festival opens
- 12 noon** Archery competition
- 4pm** Battle re-enactment
- 6pm** Festival site closes  
(*events move into town*)
- 7pm** Re-enactment of the storming of the Abbey
- 7.30pm** Trial and beheading of captured Lancastrians
- 8pm** Compline

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July

- 9.15am** Service led by the Vicar of Tewkesbury Abbey on the Bloody Meadow
- 11am** Festival opens
- 11.30am** Guided walk around the battle field
- 12 noon** Archery competition
- 3pm** Battle re-enactment
- 5pm** Festival ends

*Entertainment throughout both days*



## A bit of history

The Battle of Tewkesbury was the final and probably bloodiest battle in the Wars of the Roses.

It was fought between the Houses of York (the white rose) and Lancaster (the red rose).

It took place on May 4<sup>th</sup> 1471, when Queen Margaret of Anjou, who was determined to see her son, Edward, re-gain the throne of England.

His father, Henry, was insane and had been locked in the Tower of London, by Edward IV - leader of the Yorkist army.

Queen Margaret of Anjou was trying to cross the Severn to get into Wales, where re-enforcements awaited her, but the Yorkists were close on her heels, and she realised that she would have to stand and fight on the banks of the river at Tewkesbury.

Her army was vastly outnumbered and a tactical mistake at the start of the battle meant that they were easily defeated, with thousands of soldiers being slaughtered in the Bloody Meadow, part of the site of our annual festival.

The end of the battle saw young Prince Edward dead - he is buried in Tewkesbury Abbey