

Marquess of Winchester's Regiment of Foot



WARNING ORDER

Llancaiach Fawr – “King’s Day”

Saturday 7th August and Sunday 8th August 2010

Llancaiach Fawr Manor House has been restored by Rhymney Valley District Council as an authentic fortified Manor House of the Civil War period, embracing the idea of a first person living history site. The staff working inside the Manor are employed as "costumed interpreters", and it's their role to dress in authentic 17th century costume and guide visitors around Llancaiach Fawr, as if they had been transported back in time to the year of 1645.

SCENARIO

After the Battle of Naseby, in 1645, King Charles travelled into South Wales in the hope of raising a new field army. The Welsh gentry had hitherto been loyal and staunch supporters of the Royalist cause but now they began to waiver and eventually declared themselves neutral – styling themselves as “The Peaceable Army”. As Charles travelled through South Wales he stopped for refreshment at Llancaiach Fawr the home of Colonel Edward Pritchard on August 5th 1645. This visit is the basis of our presentation. We will portray the last remnants of the Royalist foot, commanded by Sir Thomas Glenham, travelling with the King to guard his person. The foot under his command came from the recently surrendered garrison of Carlisle, soon after their stay at Llancaiach the troops were converted into firstly a dragoon regiment and then eventually a cavalry regiment!

NOTE: As they have employed professional actors to portray the King and his court the organisers have requested no cross-dressing on the Sunday during the King’s visit – however key roles may be exempted in extremis. On Saturday this restriction is lifted.

DETAILS

The event will be a full living history in the field adjacent to the House with regular drill displays and a full living history. The Winchester’s artillery team will have a piece to fire. Members are allowed to enter the house in kit only in small numbers during the King’s Day to see what happens during the Royal audience. We will again be posting soldiers inside on guard who can observe events. However, beware - the house portrayal is totally first person – a daunting prospect for most of us! As we are on show with some high quality performers we will need to make a special effort for our appearance and behaviour at all times; in other words do what we do best!

CAMPING

The campsite will be open from 12.00hrs on Sunday 1st July until 12.00hrs on Monday 9th August on flat, well drained field with a good solid entrance. Sans sheep this year! No fire pits please to be dug on the modern campsite (bronze age settlement under our feet – see Time Team next year!) – raised fireboxes are fine. On the campsite will be the usual portaloos – during the venue opening hours we can use the flushing toilets in the education block. If you wish to make use of the free week’s camping before the event please drop me an email. Portaloos on site from the 1st July – please use education block manhole for emptying caravan toilets and not the tent dwellers portaloos.

SUGGESTED DIRECTIONS

From M4 Motorway

Leave M4 at Junction 32 and follow the A470 north towards Merthyr Tydfil. After 12 miles, at the first roundabout turn right onto the A472 Ystrad Mynach. From now follow the brown signs as follows. At the next roundabout stay on the A472, second exit. At the next roundabout turn left into Nelson on the B4255. Follow the brown signs through Nelson. As you leave Nelson turn right onto the B4354, be careful here as the turning is uphill and the brown sign is quite small. Llancaiach Fawr is now 300m now on your right.

By Rail – The nearest Railway station is Abercynon about three miles from the site. Call if lift required.

By Bus – The X38 bus service runs from Cardiff to Nelson hourly.

Sat Nav Postcode – CF46 6ER

LOCAL FACILITIES

Llancaiach Fawr is near the village of Nelson which has a few small shops and supermarkets – there is a Tesco’s in Ystrad Mynach three miles to the east long the A472 – join A469, go 1 mile north) There are few friendly pubs in the area – bring your own refreshments! A list will be available at the guard tent for Hospitals etc. If you have any questions please call me.

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