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## Evesham Set to Host Record-Breaking Medieval Festival in August

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Evesham is preparing to welcome tens of thousands of visitors this summer as it hosts its largest-ever medieval celebration, the Battle of Evesham Festival 2025. Marking the 760th anniversary of the historic 1265 conflict, the event promises an expanded three-day programme filled with re-enactments, displays and new attractions rooted in England’s early path to parliamentary reform.

Running from Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd August on Crown Meadow, the festival will showcase over 1,000 historical re-enactors from across the UK and Europe. Spectators can expect to

see hundreds of re-enactors—including mass archery displays and at least 20 mounted knights—bringing the tumult of the 13th century vividly to life. Organisers are anticipating attendance figures to exceed 60,000 across the weekend, surpassing the approximate 40,000 visitors recorded in 2024 for this free-entry event.

Among the headline features is a dramatic re-enactment of the Battle of Evesham itself. Fought in 1265, the clash between Simon de Montfort’s rebel forces and Prince Edward, later King Edward I, marked a pivotal, if brutal, chapter in the nation’s constitutional development. Known variously as “Longshanks” and “Hammer of the Scots,” Edward’s victory cemented royal authority in a period marked by baronial rebellion.

This year’s expanded programme also includes a brand-new medieval tourney, a precursor to modern jousting, where knights demonstrate martial skill before nobles in hopes of gaining favour and advancement. The tournament’s arena hosts three events: a banner-stealing challenge, a ‘last man standing’ melee featuring numerous combatants in traditional weaponry, and a mounted equestrian contest with around 20 warhorses. Festival director Mick Hurst described the banner-stealing game as a “chaotic highlight” sure to energise audiences.

Alongside combat displays, visitors will enjoy falconry exhibitions and talks from respected historians. Actor and historian Sir Tony Robinson, best known for his role as Baldrick in *Blackadder*, will present a ticketed lecture titled *A Cunning History* on Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 August. Other speakers include Tony McMahon presenting *The Knights Templar*, and Dr Steve Tibble on *Crusader Criminals*, the knights who went rogue.

Now in its third year as an extended weekend event for the 760th anniversary, the Battle of Evesham Festival continues to grow in stature and appeal. It serves as both an educational experience and a dynamic celebration of heritage, reminding audiences of the courage, complexity, and consequence of England’s medieval past.