

**Memories of visits to Worcester Commandery**

I first visited the Commandery when it became a museum, with my family. It was very interesting and attractive, sitting as it does on the canal bank and lock.

In later years we took my husband’s parents, who were visiting, and I remember them standing on the balcony like a Lord and Lady, looking down on us. It was also an extremely cold winter’s day.

Several years later, my husband, myself and my son went one evening to listen to a reading of R. M. James ghost stories. The reader was Robert Lloyd Parry, an expert on the writer and the surroundings were perfect, he sat in a large old chair next to a small table which held a pewter candle stick and a quill pen. We, the audience, were spell-bound and silent in the dim candle light as he read, a very engaging performer.

Another visit was to a performance of Shakespeare’s The Tempest in the Commandery garden. This would have been more enjoyable for me had it not been for the young guide dog we were boarding who barked rather too much – I had to remove him and miss some of the play!

More recently a Civil War re-enactment group set up camp at the Commandery and provided much entertainment among the campfires and demonstrated how to use the very long pike staffs in battle. In their period costumes they looked very at home in the Commandery.

This building lends itself to many and varied events and even has a very good coffee and cake shop, enjoyed inside or in the garden, depending on the weather.

P.S. For more interesting information on Robert Lloyd Parry, the ghost story reader, consult Google.

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