



STREET PERFORMANCE OF

# Besieged Bothered and Bewildered

SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER

1 p.m. outside Michael's Tower Southgate St  
and

4 p.m. at the Folk of Gloucester Westgate St  
Followed by music from folk group Gloucester Diamonds

The Siege of Gloucester is in full flow. Joan Dorney journalist is on the scene to report on the bothered and bewildered citizens of Gloucester. Witness the King trying to assert his rule; only to be thwarted by the good citizens Mistress Deighton, Mistress Jelly, Sir John and Min the maid.

Colonel Massie is central to proceedings along with his trusty soldier and of course the pigge!

And who is that strange man who keeps blessing everyone?



## The Siege of Gloucester 1643

The Siege of Gloucester was one of the pivotal moments in the English Civil War. It took place from 3<sup>rd</sup> August to 5<sup>th</sup> September 1643, between the small Parliamentarian Gloucester garrison led by Colonel Massie and the much larger besieging Royalist army led by King Charles I. This was to be Gloucester's finest hour as the town held out against overwhelming odds, holding fast until it was relieved by an army from London under the command of the Earl of Essex.

For centuries the lifting of the siege was celebrated with Gloucester Day. It died out in the 19<sup>th</sup> century but was revived in 2009 by Town Crier Alan Myatt. Today's celebrations include the appointing of the Mock Mayor of Barton a role that was created on the restoration of King Charles II.

### BESIEGED BOTHERED AND BEWILDERED

A short comedic sketch about the good folk of Gloucester during the Siege.

Written and directed by Sandra Adams.

Director and players are all Gloucester Civic Trust Volunteers.

#### PLAYERS

**Joan Dorney (Debbie Vass):** Journalist, reporting and sensationalising the events as they happen on this day. John Dorney was Town Clerk and made a daily diary of events during the siege.

**Min the maid (Minette Lane):** the long-suffering stalwart of Gloucester. All the citizens of Gloucester were recruited to defend the city regardless of rank or role.

**King Charles I (Louie Diccote):** the King, a man desperate to lord it over the citizens of Gloucester, who are having none of it. The King was stationed outside of Gloucester with 20,000 troops.

**Colonel Edward Massie (Mark Medland):** the charismatic leader of the Gloucester garrison.

**Sir John Sawyer (Simon Davis):** Gloucester surgeon, fond of sawing, a secret Royalist?

**Mistress Jelly (Robin Burton):** busybody and double agent, a goodly citizen of Gloucester! Was a real secret agent during the Siege.

**Damaris Deighton (Rose McDowall):** gentlewoman of the town, disgruntled at having her bills unpaid. During the siege Damaris lived at 103 Westgate St. now part of the Folk of Gloucester.

**Bishop Hooper (Paul Drinkwater):** a bothered and bewildered visitor to 1643. Gloucester's only martyr he was burnt at the stake in 1555 on the edict of Mary I.

**Soldier (Alex Waters):** a regular trooper. During the siege 1,500 parliament soldiers were billeted in the town.

**Pigge (Rob Jewell):** a much misused pigge. During the siege it is said that the last remaining pig was paraded around the city walls being forced to squeal, to fool the royalists that the town had plenty of food.

