



NEWSLETTER 16

1st May 2014

(Members without the internet may request a copy of any article - contact Hugh Wood on 01584-876901)

Spring Conference - Saturday 17th May 2014

Britain and Ireland 1200-1500: Conquest and Colonisation

This promises to be a most interesting and stimulating day. We have assembled a first-rate group of speakers who will be contributing to what looks to be an outstanding programme.

The first three speakers are focusing on the Normans in Ireland:

Dr Brendan Smith on *The Mortimer family and medieval Ireland*

Dr Colin Veach on *The Lacys and the conquest of Ireland*

Dr Beth Hartland on *Geoffrey de Geneville: one man, two kings and three countries*

We then turn our attention to Irish immigration into England:

Dr Jessica Lutkin on *England's Immigrants 1330-1550 and the question of resident Irish immigrants*

Dr Ian Mortimer and Dr Paul Dryburgh will be chairing the sessions and the day will end with all our speakers contributing to a panel discussion.

The conference is being held at Earl Mortimer College, Leominster. There is plenty of parking on site.

Book now to make sure you are included in the catering numbers and to receive a free parking voucher. Even if you are unable to book in advance, we'd love to see you - but we cannot guarantee that there will be enough lunches for everyone.

Follow [this link](#) to see full details of the programme and the speakers and to see how to book your place.

Ireland before the Conquest

In his fascinating paper

Society and Kingship in Pre-Norman Ireland

MHS member Edward Walker describes in detail the strata of indigenous Irish society and the complex relationships of dependency between them. He ably demonstrates the huge differences in social, political and military organisation between Irish and English societies. Polygamy was common in Ireland and legal inheritance rights were not limited to legitimate children, leading to bitter succession disputes. In such a society the church was weak compared to its position elsewhere in Europe. and it looked to the English King Henry II to improve its standing. The Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland had been sanctioned by a Papal Bull of 1155 and the Marcher lords rapidly defeated the weak and divided Irish kings.



Ireland in 1014

Although Edward's paper is of general interest, anyone coming to the conference on 17th May is urged to read it as it may add new dimensions to your understanding and add to your enjoyment. To read the paper [click here](#) then log into the website and follow the link. It's in the new 'Members' Contributions' section.

Forward Dates

Sunday 18th May - *Informal Visit to Wigmore Castle (after the conference but all welcome)*

Meet at 11.30 at Wigmore church. Wigmore is on the A4110, 10 miles north-west of Leominster.

Saturday 21st June - *Writers' Workshop - Using History for Fact and Fiction*

A practical day for published authors and complete beginners [full details](#)

Members' Interests

When registering on the website, members were invited to mention any specific interests and our founder, John Grove, has recently followed this up with a further request for information. This information is now on the website. To access it you need to be logged in, then click the 'Members' Interests' link on the 'Society' tab.

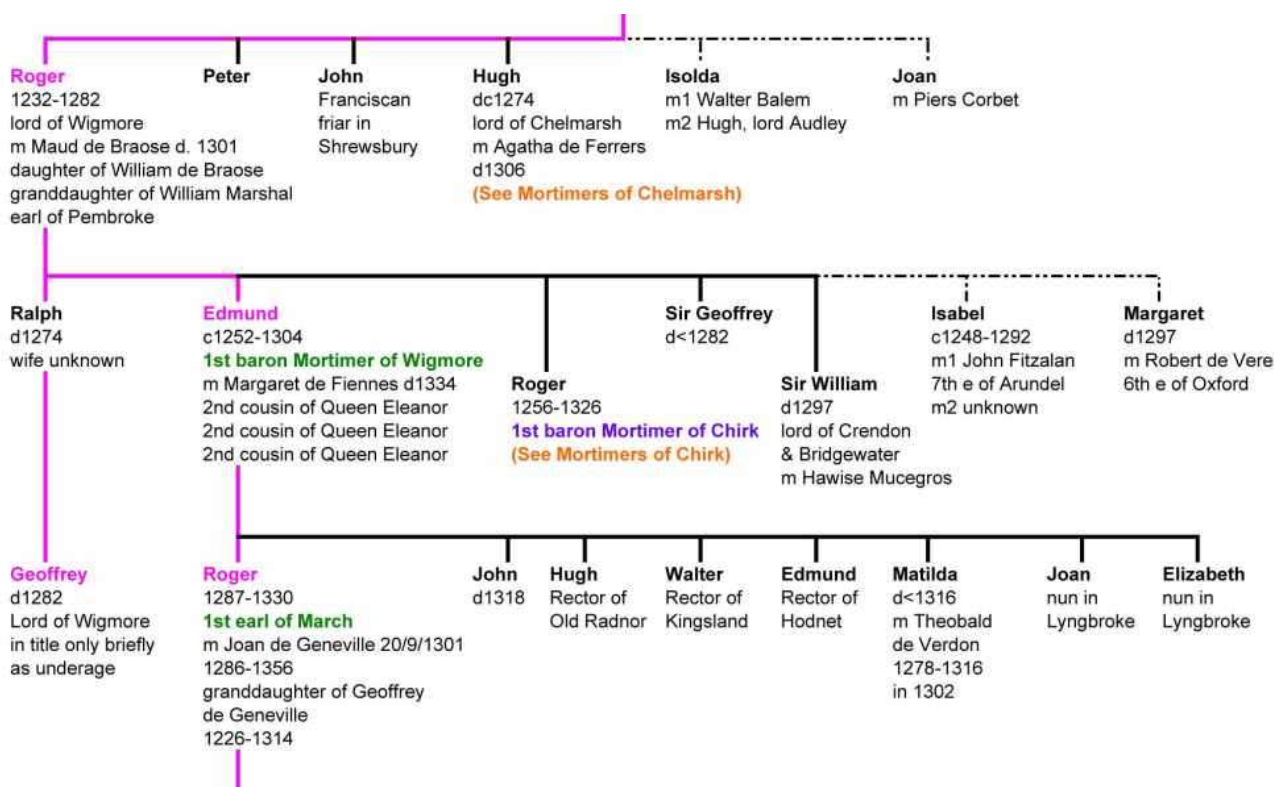
As you might imagine, the list ranges far and wide, covering the specific interests of 62 members, and includes

- Mortimer genealogy & heraldry
- The Mortimers in Ireland
- Welsh history and conflict; Owen Glyndwr
- Marcher Lordships; the de Braose family
- The Barons' Wars; Simon de Montfort
- Warfare and battles; castles
- The Order of the Garter
- Crusades; Knights Templars; Cistercians
- Costume & textiles; music & dance; architecture; art
- The Mortimers of Scotland, Devon, Leicester & Nuneaton
- Modern Mortimer family history

Members with similar interests may wish to contact each other. We will not give out contact details, but are happy to alert a member to interest expressed by another member. Use the 'Website' option on the 'Contact Us' page. If you'd like to add your interests to the list, or amend or delete an entry, please let us know using the same method.

Genealogy of the Mortimers

You can now see a detailed genealogical table of the Mortimers of Wigmore showing the descent of the main line through from pre-Conquest Roger of Mortemer in Normandy to the advent of the Tudors. This is based on Ian Mortimer's outline genealogy with is also available [click here](#)



Correction

In the last newsletter it was incorrectly stated that the first use of the title 'Prince of Wales' was when it was conferred by Edward IV on his son Edward. In fact Edward I conferred the title on his son, Edward of Caernarfon, in 1301.

Pembridge Village History

MHS member Andrew Stirling Brown has produced a booklet giving a short, general history of Pembridge and the de Pembridge family from the Conquest to the advent of the Tudors. The de Pembridges lost ownership of the manor subsequent to the battle of Evesham in 1265 and the booklet also looks in brief at the manor's subsequent ownership by the Mortimers, the place seemingly to be chiefly held as a residence of several 'dowager' Mortimers. *Pembridge's Past* costs £5.99 and is available through various outlets in Herefordshire or on Amazon. For more details [click here](#)

Knucklas Castle Community Land Project

MHS member Janet Lewis has contributed an article explaining how, In 2009, two plots of land including the site of the Mortimer castle came up for auction. These were purchased by a group of local people who set up this community project. To see Janet's article [click here](#) then log in and follow the link.

A Crown for Richard III - and an opportunity to see it

We may not know yet where Richard III's body will finally be buried, but when it happens he'll be wearing a new gold-plated crown containing sapphires, rubies, emeralds and turquoises. Dr John Ashdown-Hill is paying for the new crown and he will be bringing it to Tewkesbury on Saturday May 3rd as part of the *Armour at the Abbey* event. The crown will be on display in the Lady Chapel from 11.00 to 16.30; at 15.00 Dr Ashdown-Hill will be in the abbey bookshop signing copies of his book *The Third Plantagenet* about Edward IV's and Richard III's brother George, Duke of Clarence. At 7.30 in the evening he will be speaking about the Duke of Clarence in the Abbey Room. Phone 01684-276655 for tickets for the talk and [click here](#) for more about *Armour at the Abbey*.

Chalke Valley History Festival - 23rd to 29th June 2014

This is the largest history festival in the UK. It is held at Ebbesbourne Wake in Wiltshire, about 12 miles south-west of Salisbury. Full details of their extensive programme are on their website [click here](#)

Here are some talks that might be of interest to MHS members.

Monday 23rd June 20.45 Marc Morris - The Norman Conquest

Acclaimed historian and broadcaster Dr Marc Morris will bring to life the momentous events of 1066 and the Norman Conquest. How was England, at once so powerful and yet so vulnerable, totally dominated by the Norman invasion? Buildings ripped down and rebuilt, an ancient ruling class swept clean away, even attitudes towards life itself were altered forever by the coming of the Normans.

Thursday 26th June 14.00 Richard Barber - Edward III and the Triumph of England

The destruction of the French army at Crécy in 1346 and the capture of Calais marked a new era in European history. The most powerful and glamorous of all western monarchies had been completely humiliated by England. The rewards of land, treasure and prestige, fashion and literature, will be brought to life by Richard Barber describing England's triumphant rise to power.

Friday 27th June 18.30 Tony Pollard - Bannockburn

The first two days of the Festival mark the 700th Anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn in which the forces of King Robert the Bruce defeated the English army of Edward II. To tie in with this event and his BBC TV programme, we are delighted that Dr Tony Pollard will be with us to talk about one of the foremost events in Scottish history. As a world-renowned battlefield forensic archaeologist, he will be revealing some stunning new secrets about this most iconic Scottish battle.