



MORTIMER
History Society

MORTIMER *Matters*

THE GREAT ESCAPE

THE MORTIMERS, THE TOWER OF LONDON AND THE CROWN

Celebrating the 700th anniversary of one man's daring
escape from the Tower of London.



Our most ambitious event to date! On 1 August we'll commemorate the 700th anniversary of Roger Mortimer's escape from the Tower of London and celebrate the publication of a new book commissioned by the Society: *The Mortimers of Wigmore, 1066 - 1485: Dynasty of Destiny*. After more than a year of planning, we reveal the full programme and outline how you can plan your day.

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The Great Escape, your programme for the day

Agenda at a glance

Date:	Tuesday, 1 August 2023
Venue:	Banqueting Suite, New Armouries, Tower of London
9:00	Registration and free access to the Tower of London begins
10:30	Welcome and launch of <i>The Mortimers of Wigmore 1066 – 1485: Dynasty of Destiny</i>
10:40	Presentations
11:40	Refreshments and book signing
12:10	Presentations
13:45	Lunch (optional)
13:45 - 17:00	Free access to Tower of London continues

Presentations

We've brought together a team of high-profile speakers who will reveal the details of Roger's life; from his early promise to his days of rebellion, his daring escape and what came next.

10:40 Roger Mortimer: The making of the man

Dr Paul Dryburgh,
Medieval Records
Specialist, National
Archives (UK)



Memorably described as 'The Greatest Traitor' in his only modern biography, Roger Mortimer, first earl of March, remains the most notorious member of one of medieval England's most powerful aristocratic dynasties. Attention has tended to focus on his relationship with Queen Isabella and their joint period in power, during which he had almost unrestricted access to the levers of royal authority and the person of the young king; and since when he has faced accusations of murdering Edward II, the king he brought down. Paul's talk offers a wider view, exploring the basis for Mortimer's rise to power, his strong personal relationship with Edward and his loyalty to the king's weak reign as it lurched from crisis to crisis. He places Roger's career within the broader context of English

power across its wide dominions, and the personal and political relationships he forged with and against his peers to enable him to engineer a bloodless invasion and the unprecedented removal of a post-Conquest king of England.

Paul is President and a founder member of the Mortimer History Society and edits the Society's journal. His doctoral thesis was on Roger Mortimer and his current professional research interests include government, politics, warfare and economy in Britain in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Paul is currently Co-Investigator of the Medieval Exchequer 'Gold Seam' on the Beyond 2022: Ireland's Virtual Record Treasury project, funded by the Irish Government. He is also Chair of the British Association for Local History.

11:10 Roger Mortimer: Escape from the Tower of London

Dr Laura Tompkins,
Research Lead,
Historic Royal
Palaces



Roger Mortimer's escape from the Tower on the night of 1 August 1323 was a pivotal event in the reign of Edward II, which ultimately brought about the king's forced abdication and the succession of his son. Covering a dramatic prison break – complete with poison, intrigue, and a flight

across the sea – Laura looks beyond the myths and rumours that have sprung up over the years to get back to what's actually known about the escape from the contemporary source material. In doing so, she considers the role of potential collaborators – including the queen, Isabella of France – the prominent part played by London and Londoners, and offers new thoughts on the actual location of Mortimer's incarceration within the Tower precinct.

Prior to her role with Historical Royal Palaces, Laura worked as a Medieval Records Specialist at The National Archives. She completed her PhD on Alice Perrers, the mistress of Edward III, at the University of St Andrews in 2013 and has subsequently published widely on Alice and the politics of 1360s and 1370s England. Her wider research includes the study of royal favourites across the late medieval period, queens and queenship, kingship, the royal household, and parliament. She is an Associate Fellow of the Institute of Historical Research.

12:10

The Achievements of Roger Mortimer Dr Ian Mortimer



After his escape Roger Mortimer fled to France, joined forces with Queen Isabella, deposed Edward II and created a regency government that only fell with the ascension of Edward III. Today, the public views Roger and Isabella's rule as a shameful period in English history marked by acquisitiveness and violence. Ian's presentation strips away generations of propaganda and prejudice to give a balanced view of Roger's achievements. He argues that Roger should be considered as one of a small group of non-royal magnates who have had a positive impact on the development of England's constitution and left a lasting legacy in areas including Parliamentary power, military tactics and the laws of treason.

Ian is the author of thirteen history books, two volumes of historical documents, four historical novels, three other books, and numerous articles on the history of England between the 10th and 12th centuries and has been described by *The Times* as 'the most remarkable medieval historian of our time'. He is best known as the author of four *Time Traveller's Guides* – to Medieval England, Elizabethan England, Restoration Britain and Regency Britain. He was awarded the Alexander Prize by the Royal Historical Society in 2004 for his work on the social history of medicine in early modern England.

12:40

Family Support: The Mortimers, the Crown and the management of minority

Professor Chris Given-Wilson, Emeritus Professor of Medieval History at the University of St Andrews



Between 1354 and 1425 the earldom of March was bedevilled by early deaths and long minorities, creating a period of jeopardy and risk. In his presentation Chris considers the extent to which the Mortimer inheritance was preserved and by what means. Focusing on the relatives, by blood and by marriage, legitimate and illegitimate, of successive Mortimer heirs, and their role in maintaining, not just the Mortimer inheritance but the family's claim to the throne, he concludes that the history of the Mortimers in this period is not so much the history of its earls as the history of a clan.

Chris is the author or editor of a dozen books on late medieval English history including *Henry IV*, *The English Nobility in the Late Middle Ages*, and *Chronicles: the Writing of History in Medieval England*. He is also General Editor of *The Parliament Rolls Of Medieval England*.

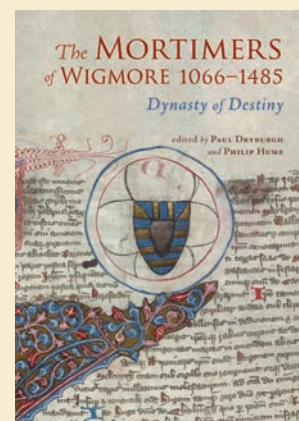
13:20

Sir John Mortimer and the end of the family Dr Ian Mortimer

Like Roger, Sir John Mortimer of Hatfield (d. 1424) was also imprisoned in the Tower, escaped and was subsequently executed. But who was he? An imposter, a renegade, a bastard, or a genuine Mortimer heir? Ian Mortimer looks at the men supporting Sir John, his connections with the Mortimer earls of March, and the possibility of his coming from a minor Hertfordshire family that preserved a memory of their ancestry in their coat of arms. Finally, he suggests a new and much darker reason why the Lancastrians locked Sir John up without trial and had him judicially murdered.

Book launch

We're marking the 700th anniversary of Roger's escape with the publication of an anthology of Mortimer-related essays from eleven historians, some at the start of their careers, others at the summit. During the course of the day, you'll have the opportunity to buy your copy and have it signed by the contributors in attendance.



Secure your ticket

Tickets, are just £40 and can be ordered now at www.mortimerhistorysociety.org.uk/events/event-01-08-23. The ticket price includes attendance and mid-morning refreshments. Afterwards, you'll be free to tour the Tower of London at your leisure. In fact, access to the Tower (normal price £30) is included in your ticket price. We expect demand to be high, so book early to avoid disappointment. There's also an option to book lunch with us for £18.75.

Patrons, patronage and material culture in the medieval Marches of Wales

Natasha Coombs is embarking on a PhD thesis that will investigate the practice of patronage in the Marches, from the Norman Conquest to the Acts of Union. Here she reveals the impetus for her studies.

For the past eight years I've been a student at the University of Wales Trinity St David's (UWTSD) Lampeter. Many readers will know of the excellent work undertaken there in the discipline of Medieval Studies, led by Professor Janet Burton, who recently retired. I was inspired during my BA dissertation to look at memento mori, including representations of cadavers in churches. That sparked an interest in the material culture of religious buildings, leading to my recently completed MRes in lay perceptions of angels. As a result of this work I became interested in discovering the men and women who dedicated often considerable sums of money to creating, for example, the magnificent angel roofs of the fifteenth century. On completing my MRes I began considering a topic for a PhD and, following the material culture thread, decided to pick up this idea and narrow it down to the area of the March and the 500 years or so between the Norman Conquest and the so-called Acts of Union of 1536. What follows here is part of my proposal for that PhD.

The area known as the Marches or the March of Wales differed not only from Wales to the West, but also from England to the East. Not quite English and definitely not Welsh, it was a true frontier society. Religious devotion during the medieval period was often demonstrated through patronage of a church or monastery, for example, or by donating land, commissioning buildings or causing new vestments to be created. My thesis aims to discover whether and how such patronage varied between England, the Marches and Wales: did the sponsors of these gifts demonstrate varying motives for patronage? Was there a noticeable difference between percentage of available income spent in patronage between the three regions or between societal groups within those regions? These comparisons are what Professor Burton would have called the 'so what?' of my research: the reason why it differs from earlier works on patronage. For me the cost to the patron is more interesting than the overall value of the item. A candle may mean more to a farm worker than a donation of land does to a lord. The questions are numerous, and I suspect more will require a response before I submit the thesis. I hope to find those answers.

My thesis will begin with a chapter outlining the evolution of the political region known as the March and how that definition came to lose its meaning over time, giving a basis for the rest of the work. Case studies used in the thesis will include religious sites such as St Laurence's church in Ludlow and Tintern Abbey in Monmouthshire. I've chosen these sites because, in the instance of St Laurence's, the church's magnificent Golden Window includes an image of its patrons the Parys family, giving us a rare visual insight. In the case of Tintern, there are records concerning the patrons which, when examined, will bring the furthest extent of a Marcher-type society into the thesis. Tintern Abbeys in Monmouthshire and County Wexford in Ireland share a common patron in William, Earl Marshall, who founded Tintern de Voto (Tintern of the Vow) in thanks to God for his survival of a shipwreck off the Wexford coast.



The Golden Window, St Laurence Church, Ludlow shows John Parys and his wife, Katharine, who commissioned it in the early 1450s



Tintern Abbey, Ireland.

By using records and artefacts relating to such places as St Laurence's and Tintern, I hope to identify patrons and the reasons for their patronage. This use of exempla may expand. During the medieval period, the degree of activity in

the Marches, both political and religious, makes the area particularly worthy of study, and while there is scholarship covering lay patronage of churches, little seems to have been done to contrast the various groups in the March. My research results will hopefully shed light on one aspect of life in the March during the post-conquest period. Libraries and archives will form the backbone of the research, while other research will be carried out by visiting churches and monastic houses in the relevant areas, and examining their material and visual culture of patronage. I expect wills will be a particularly useful source of data and I expect to learn some new techniques for data presentation, including sociograms.

Hopefully, I will find information relating to the Mortimers and their patronage activities.

In brief the thesis will ask:

- What was patronage and who were patrons in the Marches?
- Why did people give to the church, be it a single candle or acres of land?
- What kinds of gifts were made?
- Was there anything special about patronage in this place and time?

I hope to show that the various strata of society, rich and poor, male and female, Welsh and English demonstrated patronage of religious institutions in different ways. I foresee a few years of hard work, interspersed with visits to wonderful sites.



Natasha Coombs, now a PhD student at UWTSD, Lampeter came to academia as a mature student, having taken early retirement from designing gardens and teaching horticulture. She lives in mid-Wales with her husband and cats, and finds academia much more fun than working for a living!

Childhood in Medieval England

Our spring conference on Saturday 20 May gets personal – examining all aspects of marriage, sex and dynasty building in the Middle Ages. Ahead of the conference, speaker Nicholas Orme, historian and author, shares his observations on life as a medieval child.

We don't often read about children in the Middle Ages, but of course they were there. Indeed they made up a larger proportion of the population than today: a quarter or more of it, because life expectation was shorter, and there were fewer elderly people.

One reason we overlook them is because the study of history is traditionally the history of adults. Another is the very scattered nature of sources for childhood in the past. It has to be patiently gathered from documents, literature, art, and archaeology, and a mosaic built up from little scraps of evidence. When this is done, as I did in my book *Medieval Children*, the result is illuminating.

Did childhood exist?

There was once a belief that childhood hardly existed before the sixteenth or seventeenth centuries. This came from the assumption that because child mortality was high by modern standards, parental care and affection would have been less. The hard subsistence life of so many people would have led to children being put to work at an early age. Paintings were an influence too. Portraits of noble boys and girls in miniature adult clothes seem to imply that they were seen only as small adults. But it's easy to forget that, even today and for most purposes, children over the age of babyhood are dressed in smaller versions of what their parents wear.

There's no evidence that parents were less caring of their offspring than now. Children's illnesses were recognised, and doctors had ways of treating them. Every child that died had a proper funeral, and any accidental death led to a coroner's inquest. As for work, no child can give value for wages until it reaches its teens. The Middle Ages had little in the way of factories. Most work was agricultural and sporadic, and while children could be given little tasks like bird-scaring, goose-herding or, for older boys, leading the horse at the plough, they could not do a long day's work as an adult would.

Children have different needs because of their size and age. Medieval people understood this. Life was seen as a series of

stages: 'the ages of man'. Infants needed certain things, children others, adolescents yet others. Children were given special food and appropriately-sized clothes. They had toys: in fact there was a mass-produced toy industry as early as about 1300. They had many opportunities to play. A huge number

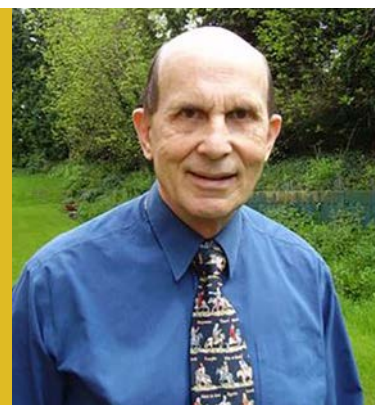
of games were in use, both quiet and noisy. They ranged from cherry-pit, shove-ha'penny, and nine men's morris to running and chasing games and often rowdy ball games, including early versions of football and tennis.

Not every child went to school, but thousands did at any one time. Most learnt only to read, but this opened up to them many possibilities, especially by Chaucer's time when literature in English was proliferating. We also know something of their oral culture; the songs they heard and their liking for riddles and tongue-twisters. We have a dozen boys' school notebooks from the fifteenth century, and these enable us to go into the classroom and hear what was being taught as well as the jokes that were going round the back benches.

In short, the more one studies medieval childhood, the more it seems like childhood today.



Nicholas has published two books on childhood in the past and others on medieval English schools. His book *Medieval Children* (2001) remains in print, and a sequel, *Tudor Children*, was published in February this year – both by Yale University Press.



For more details of our spring conference see page 6

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Busier than ever!

Your Society has never worked harder – and with summer approaching, there's no let up! I'm thrilled to announce the programme for our most ambitious event to date – a celebration of Roger Mortimer's escape from the Tower on 1 August 1323. See our lead story for details, then head to the website to secure your tickets! Other events coming up include a Spring conference that's focused on sex and marriage, the John Grove Memorial Lecture at beautiful Powis Castle and the launch of the second volume in our history of the Welsh Marcher Lordships.

Also in this issue we report on a new bursary scheme to help students, additions to our school's programme, sponsorship of the 2023 International Medieval Congress, a Mortimer initiative at Ludlow Museum and plans to reconstruct Wigmore Castle.

Wow! There's a lot going on. We pride ourselves on being an active, progressive society doing all we can to raise the profile of the Mortimers and the March inside and outside of academic circles. Why don't you tell us what you think?

And we'd love to hear your thoughts on *Mortimer Matters* and the activities it reports on. Why not drop me a line at mm@mortimerhistorysociety.org.uk and let me know? And, remember, this is your newsletter too, so get in touch if you're keen to:

- Recommend a topic you'd like to see covered in *Mortimer Matters*
- Volunteer to write a book review or feature
- Tell us about a news item or event you'd like us to mention

I'll then get in touch to discuss your ideas and give you some useful tips on submitting your copy. We plan to publish our next issue in early August and will start planning it soon, so please get in touch with your ideas quickly!



As summer approaches we have a full calendar of events running through the sunny weather and for the rest of the year.

KEEP THE DATE!

Wednesday, 17 May, 7:30pm Book launch: The Welsh Marcher Lordships: South-west

Join us by Zoom for the launch of the latest volume in our Welsh Marcher Lordship series. Hear author John Fleming talk about the south-west March and the writing of the book. Zoom details will be emailed to all members in advance of the event. For details see page 9

Saturday, 20 May Marriage, Sex and Dynasty Building

Our spring conference will be held at Ludlow Assembly Rooms and is dedicated to all things related to the family, from sex to marriage, childrearing and the Mortimer approach to dynasty building. For details see page 7.

Join us at Oscars in the Assembly Rooms, straight after the conference at 5pm where we'll be celebrating the launch of *The Welsh Marcher Lordships Volume II*. Author John Fleming will be on hand to sign copies.

Wednesday, 21 June John Grove memorial lecture: Conflict, Acculturation and Integration in the Medieval March of Wales

The second in our annual lecture series commemorating the life of our Society's founder, brings us to Powis Castle. Dr David Stephenson, Honorary Research Fellow in the School of History, Philosophy and Social Sciences at Bangor University, will talk about conflict, acculturation, and integration in the medieval March of Wales. For details see page 10.

Tuesday, 1 August The Great Escape: The Mortimers, the Tower of London and the Crown

Held at the Tower, this very special event will celebrate the 700th anniversary of Roger Mortimer's escape from the Tower on 1 August 1323. It will also mark the launch of the Society's most ambitious publication yet – *The Mortimers of Wigmore 1066-1485: Dynasty of Destiny* – an anthology of Mortimer-related essays. Speakers include Dr Ian Mortimer, Dr Laura Tompkins, Professor Chris Given-Wilson and Society President, Dr Paul Dryburgh. For details see page 2.

Saturday, 7 October Autumn symposium. Ludlow Assembly Rooms. Details to be confirmed.

November – date and venue to be confirmed Writing the past: Lessons from historical fiction

This half-day conference will feature three historical fiction writers talking about the challenges of re-imagining the past and about the fertile ground that lies between historical fact and artistic creation.

For updates to our events schedule see future issues of *Mortimer Matters* or visit our website, mortimerhistorysociety.org.uk.

Marriage, Sex and Dynasty Building

Ludlow Assembly Rooms
Saturday, 20 May 2023
9:30am to 4:45pm

Our Spring Conference is dedicated to all things related to the family, from sex to marriage, childrearing and the Mortimer approach to dynasty building.



Our eminent historians

Aristocratic marriage in England and the March of Wales in the 12th and 13th centuries

Dr Emma Cavell, Senior Lecturer in Medieval History at Swansea University, explores the marriages of noblewomen, from the creation of the union to its end. From marriage portions to wedding ceremonies, to widowhood and re-marriages she'll reveal how women worked with their husbands and managed their estates.



Dynastic Marriage: Mortimer's Greatest Legacy

Dr Chloë McKenzie, Assistant Professor in Medieval History at Northeastern University, London discusses how Roger Mortimer, first earl of March used dynastic marriages – his own and his children's – to establish a dynasty that would dominate English politics through the 14th century and beyond.



Sex in the Middle Ages

Dr Katherine Harvey of Birkbeck, University of London and author of *The Fires of Lust: Sex in the Middle Ages*, introduces us to medieval sex and sexuality. What people thought versus what they did, the role of sex in courtship and marriage, reproductive challenges and societal constraints. And shows us how sex was presented in art and literature.



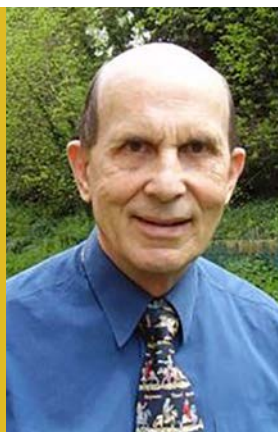
The Spares: Church, army and administration

Philip Hume, author and Secretary of the Mortimer History Society investigates options open to younger siblings of the Mortimer lords of Wigmore and Earls of March and how some of them, during frequent Mortimer minorities, played key roles in managing Mortimer estates and their nephews' interests.



Medieval Childhood: Dark age or Golden Age?

Professor Orme, Emeritus Professor of History at Exeter University and author of several books on medieval childhood, reveals that far from being 'adults in miniature' medieval children enjoyed a rich childhood culture of relationships, toys, games and books.



Attend in person or via Zoom

This much-anticipated conference can be attended in person or via Zoom – though we hope you'll relish the opportunity to meet with your fellow history buffs! For details of ticket prices and to reserve your place, please go to www.mortimerhistorysociety.org.uk/events.

Illustration shows a high-status marriage ceremony in *Decretals of Gregory IX*, late 13th Century (Hereford Cathedral Archives 0.7.7 f.156r © Dean and Chapter of Hereford Cathedral)

Introducing Gerald of Wales: A Twelfth-Century Writer and Cleric

During February we held a series of four online talks focused on different aspects of medieval education and enlightenment. Among the most popular presentations was Dr Georgia Henley's introduction to Gerald of Wales – a man whose mission was to make Wales and the March comprehensible to a non-Welsh audience. Here she recaps some of the insights from her talk.

Gerald of Wales (c. 1146–1223), a prolific author of some twenty Latin works, was raised in Pembrokeshire and educated in Gloucester and Paris. His relationship with Wales and the March of Wales is best seen in the *Itinerarium Kambriae* and the *Descriptio Kambriae*, two works that he first issued in the 1190s. In them, he uses his Marcher and Welsh family background to depict himself as a balanced historian and authoritative insider, well placed to interpret Welsh society for his non-Welsh readers.

The *Itinerarium Kambriae* is an account of Gerald's five-week journey through Wales in the spring of 1188, helping Baldwin, archbishop of Canterbury, recruit men for the Third Crusade. Their journey, which pauses at various noteworthy abbeys and castles, supplies a narrative framework for detailed considerations of past events, politics, saints, miracles, natural wonders, and monastic misconduct. The *Descriptio Kambriae*, a detailed account of Welsh

cultural practices good and bad, ranges from discussions of Welsh music, military strategy, church organization, and partible inheritance, to descriptions of how the Welsh brush their teeth. It is noteworthy for renewing the classical genre of ethnography, and for its rich record of Welsh customs.

Gerald – an interpreter of Welsh culture?

These works tell us about Gerald's position in relation to both Welsh and Marcher society. During a time when he was seeking preferment in an English diocese, and while at King Henry of England's court, he needed to offer specialised skills, and his role as an interpreter of Welsh culture suited these circumstances. Yet it is as a member of Marcher society, not Welsh society, that he styles himself as ideally positioned to help a courtly audience understand Wales and therefore succeed in expansion efforts there. In a passage in the *Itinerarium*, Gerald attributes

the failure of Henry II's first three expeditions into Wales to his refusal to listen to Marcher leaders:

"In each of these expeditions the king advanced very little, because he did not have faith in the honest men of the region, nor in the knowledgeable and experienced local leaders of the territory; unaided in these matters, he retained as his principal advisors men who were distant from the March, entirely ignorant of the customs and manners of the people."¹

In this criticism, Gerald offers himself as one of the solutions to the diplomatic and political puzzles of late twelfth-century Wales. The subtext of his discussion is that Henry's conquest efforts are failing because the commanders do not listen to Marcher leaders, who know the terrain and culture best.² Gerald no doubt considered himself a suitable advisor, perhaps hoping to be asked to advise military expeditions in the future.



Manorbier Castle, the most beautiful place in Wales

Gerald's relationship to Wales is often viewed by critics as a complicated one, defined by his inability to fit in with either Welsh or Anglo-Norman society. Early on, he portrayed himself as an interpreter of Welsh culture, but found later that his connections to Wales hampered his ability to climb the career ladder. His contrasting perspectives about the Welsh reach a pinnacle in a pair of chapters in the *Descriptio*, presenting alternating strategies for achieving and resisting conquest. These chapters are often taken as evidence of an internal struggle between competing loyalties, given his descent from Welsh and Norman families. Perhaps also, these competing perspectives are part of his goal of showing off his rhetorical skills and his aptitude as a historian.

These passages also betray shades of concern that he would appear too sympathetic to the Welsh in these early days of seeking ecclesiastical benefice in England. I suggest that Gerald was motivated by the rhetorical underpinnings of historical writing and self-presentation as much as he may

have been vexed by his ethnic hybridity.

In the end, it is Marcher society that comes out best in his Welsh writings. While his position toward the Welsh and the Angevins would shift throughout his life, his loyalty to his Marcher family is consistent. He views Manorbier Castle in Pembrokeshire as the most beautiful place in Wales; his family is the most illustrious and successful; Llanthony Prima near his archdeaconry is the most virtuous and pious abbey in Wales. In extolling his homeland's charms, Gerald implies that his own upbringing was steeped in its good qualities.

Gerald plays his identity to his advantage, evident in the ways he puts forward the Marchers as valuable interpreters of Welsh culture and customs. Our responsibility as modern readers is to judge him on his own terms: his relationship with the country of his birth was complex, and must be viewed through the lens of the cultural politics of his time and in the context of his intellectual achievements.



Dr Henley is an Assistant Professor of English at Saint Anselm College (Manchester, NH) and a Senior Fellow in the Andrew W Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography. She is the co-editor of *Gerald of Wales: New Perspectives on a Medieval Writer and Critic* and is working on a book on the literature of the medieval March of Wales, forthcoming in 2024 from Oxford University Press.

¹ My translation of Gerald of Wales, *Itinerarium Cambriae* 2.10, ed. J. F. Dimock, *Giraldi Cambrensis Opera*, 8 vols. (London, 1861–91), vol. 6, p. 138.

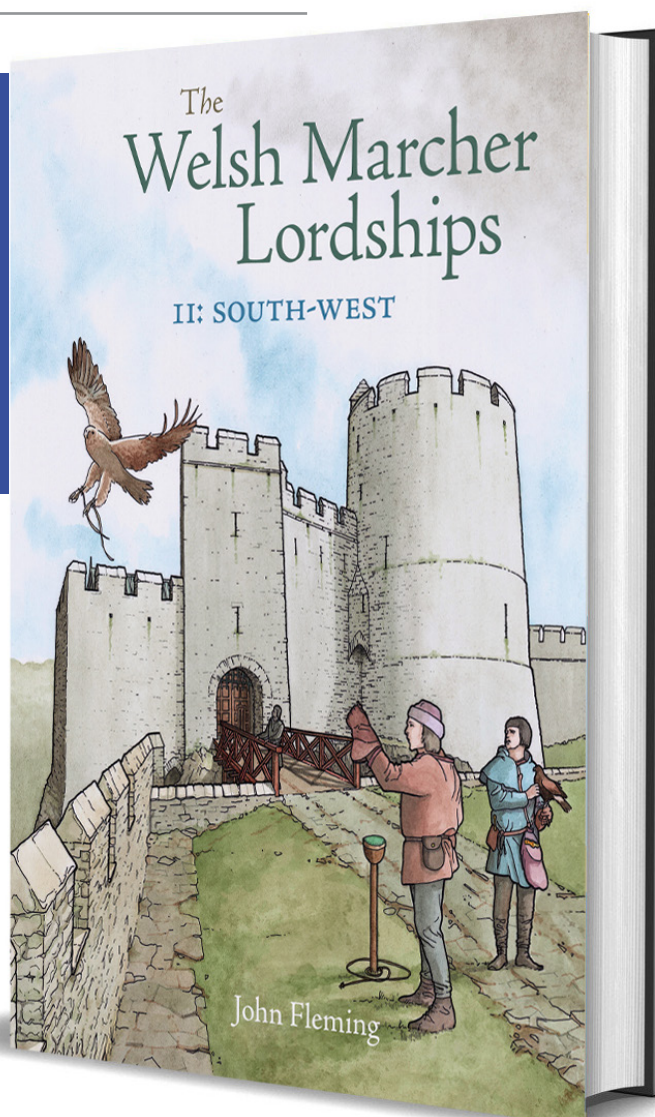
² Gerald of Wales, *Expugnatio Hibernica* 2.38.

The Welsh Marcher Lordships II: South-West – two chances to celebrate

We're hosting two events to mark the publication of Volume II in our Welsh Marcher Lordship series. Join us via Zoom on Wednesday 17 May at 7.30pm when author John Fleming will be talking to us about writing the book and the fascinating nature of the Marcher lordships in the south-west. Zoom details will be emailed to all members soon but, if in doubt, email secretary@mortimerhistorysociety.org.uk.

Then, if you'd like to celebrate with a glass in hand, join us at Oscars in the Ludlow Assembly Rooms at 5pm on Saturday 20 May, straight after our Spring conference. Books will be on sale and John will be on hand to sign your copies. We promise a convivial atmosphere!

You can also order the book online at www.logastonpress.co.uk. To secure the society member discount and buy for £16, enter the offer code **MHS23**.



John Grove Memorial Lecture takes us to Powis Castle

The 2023 John Grove Memorial Lecture will be given by Dr David Stephenson and held in the impressive setting of Powis Castle on mid-summer's day, 21st June. This very special summer evening will include exclusive after-hours access to the castle's public rooms as well as a lecture by one of the foremost writers on medieval Wales and the March. It's really not to be missed!

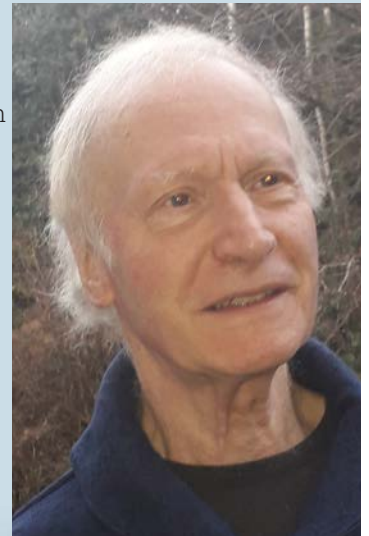
The evening will begin at 5pm, when Dr Stephenson will give an introductory talk on Powis Castle and its significance to the Welsh kingdom of Powys, that subsequently became a Marcher lordship. Then, from 5:20 to 6:30pm, we'll be free to roam through the castle's rooms, where volunteer guides will be happy to explain their wonders and answer our questions. Then, following refreshments in the castle's café, we'll retire to the ballroom for the lecture itself at 7pm.

A cohesive society? Conflict and integration in the medieval March of Wales

Dr Stephenson will examine the complex nature of life in the medieval Welsh March, an area that brought together two segments of society – the English and the Welsh – that, one may assume, had every reason not to get along. He'll analyse the violent conflicts that certainly took place and determine whether they were particular to the March or typical of the widespread and commonplace violence – both organised and casual – that prevailed across England and Wales at that time. He'll also look at how far English and Welsh segments of Marcher society integrated to

form a single and distinct social group, and whether the practice of acculturation – the adoption of each other's cultural characteristics or practices – contributed to social cohesion or disharmony.

Few historians can claim a better understanding of medieval Wales and the March than Dr Stephenson, who has published extensively on the subject. His books include classic studies such as *Political Power in Medieval Gwynedd*, *Medieval Powys: Kingdom, Principality and Lordships 1132-1293*, *Medieval Wales c1050-1332*, and, most recently, a study of a single family of Welsh Marcher origin, *Patronage and Power in the Medieval Welsh March*. In addition, he has published over fifty papers in academic journals.



Dr Stephenson



Tickets, available in two options, can be secured at www.mortimerhistorysociety.org.uk. For £18.50 (£21 non-members), join us at 5pm for the entire evening. Or for just £7.50 (non-members £10), join us at 6:30pm for refreshments and the main lecture.

Introducing the Mortimer History Society Annual Bursary Scheme

Society members will have recently received an email inviting you to contribute to a fund that will provide annual bursaries to students undertaking research into the Mortimers of Wigmore or the medieval Marches. Here Society Secretary Philip Hume describes why this is so important and how you can help.

One of our most important objectives as a Society is to encourage and enable new research into the Mortimer family of Wigmore and the medieval Welsh Marcher lordships. We already do that in lots of ways – through our Essay Prize, the Journal, participation in the International Medieval Congress and the recently established Online Seminar Group. We now plan to raise the game considerably by establishing the annual Mortimer History Society Bursary Scheme for students undertaking post-graduate doctoral research or research-led Master's programmes. The bursaries will give direct, financial support to individual students. In short, we'll be putting our money where our mouth is!

How you can help

The generosity of Society members in helping us purchase the Wigmore Account Roll recently showed how

enthusiastic you all are about supporting learning and research – and gave us an idea! We hope to fund the bursary scheme through an annual fund-raising appeal.

Here's how:

- Each year we'll invite members to make a one-off donation
- Depending on the amount raised each year, students will be invited to apply for one or more bursaries of £1,000 each
- Successful applicants will be chosen on the basis of the relevance of their research, how they'd use the bursary and the difference it could make to their work
- Students in receipt of a bursary will be required to report on their use of the money and expected to contribute to the Society through articles in *Mortimer Matters*, essays in the Journal or by speaking at our events

We hope you'll support us – this can't happen without you. Please donate as much or as little as you can and, be assured, each donation is a one-off: donating this year doesn't oblige you to donate next. If you're feeling particularly generous and wish to donate £1,000 or more, you'll also have the opportunity to attach your name to the bursary.

This year's appeal will provide bursaries for the academic year 2023-24 and applications from students will be invited at the beginning of June – so please help us to raise as much as possible in the weeks before then. The clock is ticking!

To make your donation please go to www.mortimerhistorysociety.org.uk and select 'donations'. When completing the form, please remember to specify that your donation is for the Bursary Scheme.

The 2022 Mortimer History Society Essay Prize

This year we celebrate success for three essayists, awarding a first and second prize plus a commendation.

First prize goes to independent scholar, Dr Harry Lewis, whose essay *The Cistercian Order, Mountain Lords and Heresy in the Languedoc Border Lands* considers the impact of the Cistercians' war on heresy – and the foreign incursions it gave rise to – upon this border country. The judges applauded the essay's ambition saying, "As well as being well and thoughtfully written, it stands out for attempting something ambitious in that it not only engages with existing historiographies, but attempts to bridge the divergencies between them."

Second prize goes to Dr Andy King. His essay, *Lordship in the Plantagenet Empire: The Mortimers and Ireland in the late 14th century* examines how Edmund Mortimer, 3rd earl of March and his heir made determined efforts to revive their lordship in Ireland in the century's closing decades. By doing

so it gives valuable insights to the constraints and opportunities facing transnational English landholders in Ireland during this period.

Finally, a special commendation is given to Amy Reynolds, a PhD researcher at Bangor University. Her essay, *An Age of Decline? Border abbeys and Welsh culture in late medieval Wales* analyses the cultural output of the Cistercians at Valle Crucis Abbey in the post-Edwardian conquest era.

Harry and Andy will receive £750 and £300 respectively. All three essayists are also granted free membership of the Society for three years and their essays will be published in vol 6 of the Society's Journal due out at the turn of the year.

Watch out in the next issue of *Mortimer Matters* for details of the 2023 Essay Prize.



Our winner – Dr Harry Lewis

Re-creating Wigmore

Mortimer History Society commissions reconstruction drawing of a definitive Mortimer castle.

As part of a programme to raise the profile of the Mortimers of Wigmore and of sites associated with them in the Welsh Marches, your society has commissioned architect and castle reconstructionist Chris Jones-Jenkins to create a detailed and accurate reconstruction drawing of Wigmore Castle. Built in the immediate aftermath of the Norman Conquest, Wigmore Castle became the cradle of the Mortimer family and an important seat of power. It was granted to Ralph Mortimer (d.1115-27) by William I sometime before 1086 and remained in Mortimer hands for the best part of 400 years.

After this time the castle fell into some disrepair and, though it was patched up and placed in a state of defence during the Civil War of 1642 to 46, it became too difficult to hold securely and was therefore 'slighted', ending its long and noble career. Little of the castle remains above ground now, though Chris is convinced that a serious excavation could reveal still significant remains, lost to time and encroaching soil levels. The reconstruction work will challenge his skills to the utmost, since such an excavation is now impossible. The grounds on which the castle stand are in the safekeeping of English Heritage and are a designated nature reserve that can't be disturbed. Nevertheless Chris, along with a team of castle experts, will visit the site shortly for an extensive investigation of what remains – and no doubt a degree of poking around under the undergrowth!

As well as on-site visits, Chris will rely on contemporary and later illustrations of the castle, as well as excavation work in the 1990s published by the Society for Medieval Archaeology in 2015. Though the excavation was only partial, this earlier work will provide a valuable starting point for his assessment of the site. He'll also look at similar castles throughout the Marches, though he makes the sage point that, "No two castles are ever alike!"

Chris has carried out reconstruction projects on many castles, particularly in Wales. You may remember reading about his work in the July 2022 edition of *Mortimer Matters* and hearing him speak at our castles conference last



Wigmore castle

year. But he's particularly pleased to be working on Wigmore, not least because of the Society's involvement. "Much of the joy in my work," he says, "comes from engagement with the commissioning organisation. The recreation and preservation of Wigmore Castle is a passion project for the Mortimer History Society and their enthusiasm for the task is both infectious and inspiring."

Reviving the castle

The reconstruction drawing is just part of the work we're doing to revive Wigmore. As you will have read in the January edition of *Mortimer Matters*, we're also working constructively with English Heritage to replace the steps that lead to the castle's steeply situated keep. It's hoped that work will be completed this year. Society Secretary Philip Hume says, "We hope that in future people will be able to visit the keep, admire its prominent position and view it in the context of the castle as it would have been – expertly brought to life by Chris."

Your Society has been able to commission Chris thanks to a grant from the Castle Studies Trust, which bolstered our own financial contribution. Competition for these grants is tough and tight, so our having received one indicates just

how important Wigmore Castle is and the value we will add with this reconstruction.

We'll keep you posted about Chris' work – and the reinstatement of the steps – in future issues of *Mortimer Matters*. For more information about visiting Wigmore Castle go to www.mortimerhistorysociety.org.uk/the-mortimers/mortimer-castles/wigmore-castle



Chris Jones-Jenkins, architect and castle reconstructionist

Your guide to Mortimer castles

During their 350-year history, the Mortimers of Wigmore owned at least 38 castles across England, Wales and Ireland. Society Chairman Hugh Wood has compiled information about all of them, which you can now access via the Society's website. Here he offers a brief history of the Mortimers and their castles.

The story of the Mortimer castles is complicated and fascinating. Some they built from scratch, others they rebuilt, and some they captured from the Welsh. Some were granted to them by the king, some were acquired by marriage. Some were major fortresses, others small, simple and short-lived. About many of them, precious little is known and there remains little to see at most of the sites today other than evocative bumps and ditches. However, there is no better way of feeling close to those far-off Mortimer lords than visiting their castle sites, whether that's wandering around their still impressive residences at Wigmore, Ludlow or Trim, or clambering up to their hilltop fortresses at places like Cefnlllys, Tinboeth or Knucklas.



The poignant remains of Knucklas castle – fortified by the Mortimers in 1242 but garrisoned for only a few years

A brief history

In the early years, as the Mortimers sought to acquire lands in mid-Wales by conquest and, to establish their authority by building castles such as Cymaron and Dinieithon, up to 25 miles west of Wigmore. In England, the Anarchy provided wonderful opportunities for ambitious lords, and Hugh Mortimer (d1181) took advantage by acquiring the – previously – royal castle at Bridgnorth. Henry II was not amused and, as well as taking it back, he destroyed the new Mortimer castle at Cleobury Mortimer.

Most of the castles owned by the Mortimers in the 13th century were in Wales or along the border. New castles were built, or substantially rebuilt, well inside Wales at Cefnlllys, Rhayader and Tinboeth. On the Welsh border itself, the extent of their involvement varied considerably. They rebuilt the hilltop castles at Knucklas and Dolforwyn and were granted nearby Knighton and Norton by King John. Later, the future Edward I granted Hay-on-Wye, Huntington and Brecon to Roger Mortimer (d1282).

The Mortimer estates were significantly increased by Roger's marriage to the heiress Maud de Braose in 1247. Newly-acquired castles included Eardisland and Kingsland, near Wigmore, Presteigne on the Welsh border, and Radnor, which is about eight miles further west. More distant was the lordship of Narberth



The romantic ruins of Dunamase, which passed to the Mortimers in 1247

in Pembrokeshire with its castle and, in Ireland, the impressive hilltop fortress of Dunamase.

By the start of the 14th century the need for defensive castles in the Welsh March had declined, and many of the smaller ones were allowed to deteriorate. Those castles that remained were transformed, with the emphasis moving towards residential comfort rather than defence. The massive castles of Ludlow near Wigmore and Trim in Ireland were originally built by the de Lacys and came to the Mortimers in 1308 following the marriage of Roger Mortimer (d1330) to the heiress Joan de Geneville seven years earlier. They became the main residences of the Mortimers in England and Ireland. Both Builth and Montgomery were granted to Roger and, following the fall of Hugh Despenser (d1326), he also acquired Denbigh.

The final castles to come into Mortimer possession were Usk in Monmouthshire and Clare in Suffolk, following the marriage in 1369 of Edmund Mortimer 3rd earl of March (d1381), to Philippa, Countess of Ulster. The Mortimers held both of these desirable residences for just 55 years.

Over 350 years the Mortimers owned many castles: some large, some small, some for just a few years. There is just one that they owned for the duration – Wigmore. Its evocative ruins should be high on the visiting list for anyone fascinated by the colourful history of the Mortimers.

Find Hugh's castle guide at www.mortimerhistorysociety.org/the-mortimers/mortimer-castles. Some of the individual pages you'll find there include detailed information, others are brief and focus on helping you find the site. There's an alphabetical list of the castles, and the main text introduces each one chronologically, so it's easy to place each castle in context. Good luck with your castle-bagging trips!

Escape from the Tower (not from school)!

This year's Mortimer History Society Schools Programme includes a new package of worksheets designed to teach children all about Roger Mortimer's daring escape from the Tower of London 700 years ago.

Designed for primary schools, the worksheets follow a highly popular Escape Room format that invites children to solve a variety of puzzles and challenges in order to help Roger make his daring escape. Each one encourages them to find out more about the historical events that led to Roger's imprisonment and what happened after he escaped.

The worksheets – along with aids and notes to help teachers tell Roger's great escape story – are now available for any school that wants to focus on this fascinating event during its anniversary year. Schools eager to get their hands on the sheets – or to find out more about the Society's extensive Schools Programme – should contact Kathy Cowell at cowell.kathy@sky.com. At the same time, we'll be reaching out to schools along the Welsh border, especially those who have participated in our Schools Programme in recent years.

The Society's Schools Programme includes a series of school visits that introduce children to aspects of medieval life in the Welsh Marches and culminates in a living history day, held annually in June at Ludlow Castle.

This year's living history day will be held on Thursday 20 June. The Escape Room worksheets are available now.



Welcoming children to Ludlow Castle

Can you help Roger Mortimer escape?

Find the right way through the maze so that Roger can get to the kitchens.

When you have completed the maze write down the letters, in the order that you have collected them, to tell you how Roger Mortimer got past the guards.

Helping Roger escape

Can you get the keys in the right order?

Roger Mortimer has been given a bunch of keys to get through doors that will take him out of the kitchen to the wall of the Tower of London. But which key fits which door?

Which is the key for each door?

Door 1

Door 2

Door 3

Door 4

Door 5

Door 6

A refresh for the Mortimers at Ludlow Museum

Chairman Hugh Wood explains how your society has worked with Ludlow Town Council and the Shropshire Museum Service to improve the display of three important Mortimer artefacts at Ludlow Museum. He also gives us the low down on each of the pieces on display – we hope you'll be inspired to pay them a visit!

On Wednesday 15th March, about 25 local Society members met at Ludlow Museum to celebrate the completion of a long and difficult project. For some years there has been a 'Mortimer' cabinet in the museum, but the items in it have been poorly displayed and inadequately described. The museum is owned and staffed by Ludlow Town Council, but the items come from the Shropshire Museums Service, so it's been complicated and difficult for an outside body, like ourselves, to achieve the improvements we wanted to see. In the end, we offered to pay for the new display and were fortunate to receive supportive grants from the Friends of Ludlow Museum and the Ludlow Town Centre Guides. Two of the three items now on display are quite small and very weathered. To make it easier to view them, we've produced an attractive leaflet for the museum, explaining the significance of all three artefacts, supported by helpful images.



Proud of the new display. Front to back: Kate Adams (Ludlow Town Council), Matthew Lloyd (Designer), Sarah Skelton (Shropshire Museum Service) with Hugh Wood

A Mortimer horse trapping

Medieval knights decorated the harnesses of their horses with small metal ornaments, or trappings. Inevitably some of these fell off and detectorists now come across them. Several have been found bearing the Mortimer coat of arms.

A Mortimer horse trapping has also been found at Wigmore, the ancestral home of the Mortimers, but this one is rather different. The only person allowed to wear the Mortimer coat of arms undifferenced was the lord of Wigmore. Uncles, brothers or sons of the lord had to difference their arms for cadency in some way. The Wigmore trapping is differenced with three red bars across the central escutcheon.



Found at Winterbourne Steepleton, Dorset



Found at Tandridge, Surrey



Wigmore horse trapping



A reconstruction

A papal bulla

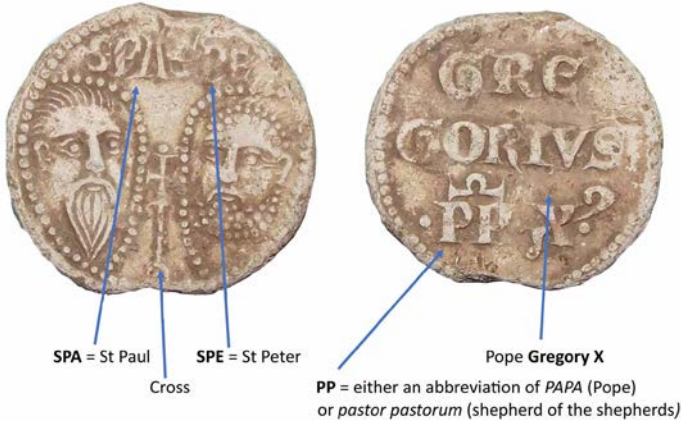
Attached to a communication from the pope was a lead seal called a bulla. Their design remained unchanged for many years, and one was found by a detectorist near Wigmore Abbey. This find is significant because of its date: Wigmore Abbey was founded in 1179 and the bulla bears the name of Lucius III, who was pope from 1181-1185. So we know this bulla was sent to Wigmore within five years or so of the abbey's foundation.

A heraldic floor tile

The floor tile on display is noteworthy for its connections. Roger Mortimer (d1282) had been a staunch supporter of the warlike Edward I, but Edward's successor was a very different king. Because of the power he gave to his favourites, Edward II managed to turn the barons against him. Roger's grandson, Roger, rebelled in 1322, along with his uncle – yet another Roger. Both Roger Mortimers were captured and incarcerated in the



The Wigmore abbey bulla



SPA = St Paul SPE = St Peter
Cross
Pope Gregory X
PP = either an abbreviation of PAPA (Pope) or pastor pastorum (shepherd of the shepherds)

Easier to see – a similar bulla found at Hartpur, Gloucestershire

Tower of London. On 1 August 1323 – the feast of St Peter ad Vincula - the younger Roger Mortimer escaped and fled to France. He returned to England in 1326 alongside Queen Isabella and a small army. They forced Edward II to relinquish the crown in favour of his son Prince Edward, who was proclaimed king at the age of 14. For the next three and a half years, England was ruled by Roger Mortimer, who had himself created earl of March. In thanksgiving for his escape from the Tower of London, he built a new chapel at Ludlow castle, appropriately dedicated to St Peter. This floor tile with the arms of Mortimer was found in that chapel.



Mortimer floor tile, found in Ludlow Castle

These Mortimer artefacts – in their new display case – can be viewed at Ludlow Museum in the Buttercross. The museum is open weekly Friday through Sunday from 10am to 4pm. See www.ludlowmuseum.co.uk.

Mortimer History Society returns to International Medieval Congress

For the third year running the Mortimer History Society will be a key sponsor of the International Medieval Conference (IMC) – Europe’s biggest medieval studies conference.



LEEDS INTERNATIONAL
**MEDIEVAL
CONGRESS**

Our strand at IMC will look at Networks and Entanglements in Medieval Wales. It will feature two sessions, each taking place on the morning of Tuesday, 4 July, examining political, economic and religious networks.

Your Society’s contribution is part of a four-day programme that runs from Monday 3 to Thursday 6 July. We will field six speakers and the two sessions will be chaired on our behalf by Amy Reynolds and Jennifer Bell of Bangor University.

“The IMC draws together academics and historians from around the world,” says Amy, “and we’re excited to bring Welsh

history – so often underrepresented – to a large international audience.

Academic launch of *The Mortimers of Wigmore in the Middle Ages, 1066 – 1485: Dynasty of Destiny*

At 6pm on the same day, we will host the academic launch of our prestigious anthology, (see details of the book on page X). All members of the Society attending the IMC are welcome to join us.

Attending the IMC

The IMC operates as a hybrid event, with audiences attending in person at Leeds University or via Zoom – so there

are plenty of opportunities for Society members to take part.

You can view the full IMC programme at www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/imc-2023/programme/ and book your place for the congress at www.imc.leeds.ac.uk/register.

Attendance in person is £266 with a concessionary rate of £145 for students, retired, unwaged and low-waged delegates. There’s also a day rate of just £175 – ideal if you only want to see our own sessions. Attending virtually is cheaper at £220 for the whole conference, with a concessionary rate of £105.

AGM reports on an eventful 2022

More than 50 Society members joined our Chairman Hugh Wood for this year's Annual General Meeting at St George's church in Orleton on Saturday 25 March. He reported on a productive year that has seen our post-Covid efforts richly rewarded.

Shaking off the lingering effects of the pandemic we returned to a busy schedule of conferences, study days and online programmes in 2022. Among the year's highlights mentioned by Hugh were the successful launch of our online academic seminars; the acquisition of the Wigmore Honour Roll, saved for public access at Hereford HARC; the broadening scope of our schools programme to include sixth-form students; securing much-needed funding to improve access to Wigmore Castle; commissioning a reconstruction of Wigmore Castle by Chris Jones Jenkins with funds secured from the Castle Studies Group, and a photography competition.

Mike Beazley followed with the treasurer's and membership reports, reporting both a healthy balance sheet and an increased membership of approximately 450. Secretary Philip Hume then led us through our exciting programme for 2023, which will include the John Grove Memorial lecture hosted by The National Trust's Powis Castle and featuring talks by leading Welsh historian Dr David Stephenson. This is to be followed by our ambitious Tower of London event on 1 August to commemorate the escape of Roger Mortimer (d. 1330) from the Tower 700 years ago. The event will also see the launch of an anthology *The Mortimers of Wigmore, 1066-1485: Dynasty of Destiny*, commissioned by the Society and published by Logaston Press in hardback thanks to a successful application to the Marc Fitch Fund. See the event programme on page 2. Lastly, Philip announced our latest appeal for a bursary scheme to help post-graduates to research the history of Wales and the Welsh Marches. You will probably have received details of this by email, and you can read more on page 11.

The AGM also saw the first opportunity to purchase the second volume of our Welsh Marcher Lordship series. Hot off the press, trustee John Fleming's book covers the south-west of the Marches. For news of official launch events, see page 9, and for details of a special Society member discount see our Bookshelf feature on page 18.

Church chests and their mysteries

Philip then introduced our main speaker for the day, Rachel Sycamore, who introduced us to the fascinating topic of dug-out chests, two examples of which reside inside Orleton church itself. Rachel has examined many of these chests in the local area and they range in date from the pre-conquest to the 17th century. Contrary to popular opinion, they are not



Church chest at Orleton – carved from a single tree

an early form of church chest but a neat solution to a spot of impromptu burglary. Being carved and hollowed out from a solid oak trunk, they are almost impossible to steal and therefore were used by the church to store valuables. Some of them, including one of the chests in the church, were used for the collection of tithes by use of a money slot in the lid. Rachel also pointed out the upside-down keyhole located on the earlier 13th century chest which, according to local legend, confuses the devil from stealing the contents. Though dendrochronology failed to date the church's reputedly 13th century chest, tests proved the second chest to have been created in the mid 14th century.

The Mortimers and Orleton

We returned to the 14th century with our second talk of the morning, given by Philip Hume, who discussed the Mortimer connections to Orleton church. Of particular interest to the society are the possible attributions of the remarkable stone head carvings, rare mid 14th century survivals. Though many have attempted to identify the people represented on the carvings, the truth may never be known and the portraits may be generic. The remodelling of the church undertaken at the time of the carvings was possibly under the patronage of Joan, widow of Roger Mortimer, 1st earl of March (d.1330). Philip tentatively suggested that the heads which supported the vanished rood screen may be depictions of a young beardless Edward III and his queen Philippa. Tantalisingly the head above the arch may be a near-contemporary rendering of Joan's executed husband himself, Roger Mortimer.

The morning finished with a short meeting of a small group to discuss setting up a local history society for Orleton. Anyone interested in being part of this, should contact Philip Hume on secretary@mortimerhistorysociety.org.uk.

Onwards to 2023!

Welcome to new members

Twenty-four new members have joined since the last edition of *Mortimer Matters*. Welcome all! We hope you're enjoying your membership and look forward to meeting you soon!

Jeff and Heather Aston
Yvonne Elizabeth Aston
Andrew Chainey
Lynne Eaves
Sarah Harvey
Sarah Hill
Simon Jameson
RAO and SJ Jones
Priscilla Llewelyn
Mhairi MacLeod

Ludlow
St Helier
Brecon
Hereford
Welshpool
Much Marcle
Bucknell
Newport
Abergavenny
Stirling

Laura Melin
Lucinda Nelson
Stella Seaton-Simms
Andrew Smith
Sarah Sprules
Brian Swann
John and Margaret Thelwall
MC Thomas
Anne Timmins
Ann and James Turtle

London
Durham
Stourport-on-Severn
Epping
Bristol
Camberley
Mickleover
Newport
Leominster
Orleton

For your bookshelf

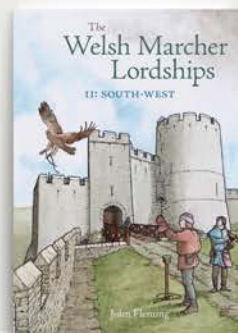
Four titles for your summer reading – from castles and churches to the world of the March, plus a study of medieval royal consorts...

The Welsh Marcher Lordships: The south-west

By John Fleming, edited by Philip Hume

This second volume in the Welsh Marcher Lordships series looks at Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire – an area with one of the highest concentrations of castles in Britain. John Fleming explores the founding of the lordships in the post-Conquest years up to the Edwardian Conquest and the violence that marked the times.

Published by Logaston Press in March 2023 and available to members at a special discount price of £16 (RRP £20) when ordering from www.logastonpress.co.uk before 30 May. Simply use this offer code when ordering: MHS23.

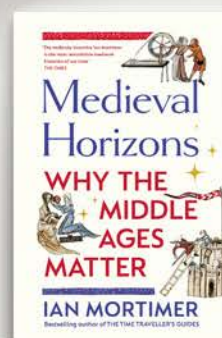


Medieval Horizons: Why the Middle Ages Matter

By Ian Mortimer

This book shows how life was transformed between 1000 and 1600, marking a transition from a warrior-led society to that of Shakespeare. By outlining the enormous cultural changes that took place it corrects misconceptions and describes a revolutionary age of fundamental importance in the development of the Western world.

Published by Bodley Head on 23 February 2023. Available online and in bookshops. RRP £22

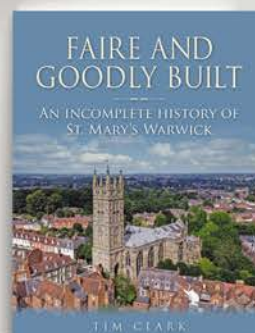


Faire and Goodly Built: An incomplete history of St Mary's, Warwick

By Tim Clark

A thought-provoking story of the collegiate church of St Mary, from its foundation in 1123 until its rebuilding after the great fire of 1694. Written by one of the church's expert guides, it investigates St Mary's relationship with the earls of Warwick, the town, and the townspeople.

Published by Brewin Books on 27 April. Available online, in bookstores and from St Mary's church itself. RRP £25 hardback or £20 paperback.



Later Plantagenet and the Wars of the Roses Consorts: Power, influence and dynasty

Edited by Aidan Norrie, Carolyn Harris, J L Laynesmith, Danna R Messer and Elena Woodacre

A survey of royal consorts in the later Middle Ages, encompassing both the Hundred Years' War and the Wars of the Roses. Innovative and authoritative biographies that bring a fresh approach, challenge negative perceptions and demonstrate the depth of possibilities in later medieval queenship.

Published by Palgrave Macmillan on 4 March 2023. Available online and in bookshops. RRP £109.99 or for Kindle £37.99.

