

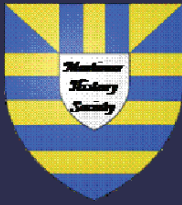
MORTIMER HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter No.8
March 2012

AGM February 2012
Mortimer History Society - future plans
Wigmore Chronicles translation
Blanche Mortimer Dress Project

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Spring Meeting 12 May 2012 at Leominster  
The Making of Edward I; Roger Mortimer  
Simon de Montfort and Llewelyn Prince of Wales





# MORTIMER HISTORY SOCIETY

## OBJECTIVE & AIMS

The objective of the Mortimer History Society is to provide a forum for all who are interested in the medieval Mortimer dynasty, both to study and to publicise its eventful history.

### **Aims:**

Academic and practical appreciation of local and national history associated with the Wigmore Mortimers; study buildings, artefacts and documents linked with the Mortimer family and seek others yet unknown. This survey includes other branches of the Mortimer family, aspects of the history of the Marcher Lords, medieval history and culture of the Welsh/English border areas.

### **Membership subscriptions**

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Adult                | £12 p.a. |
| Family/organisations | £18 p.a. |
| Under 18             | £6 p.a.  |

Annual subscriptions due April

Membership application forms available from, and cheques payable to MORTIMER HISTORY SOCIETY to the Membership Secretary, Green Farm

Tedstone Wafre, Bromyard, Herefordshire HR7 4PP

Subs can also be paid by standing order or through PayPal on the MHS website:

**[www.mortimerhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.mortimerhistorysociety.org.uk)**



### **Officers & Committee 2012**

Honorary Presidents: Carol and John Challis  
Paul Dryburgh, Ian Mortimer

|                                           |               |                          |               |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Chairman:                                 | John Grove    | <i>Wigmore Chronicle</i> | Paul Dryburgh |
| Deputy Chairman and membership secretary: | Martin Toms   | journal editors:         | Helen Watt    |
| Deputy Chairman, website & research:      | Paul Remfry   | Publicity:               | Jason O'Keefe |
| Secretary:                                | John Atkinson | Committee Members:       | Yve James     |
| Treasurer:                                | Andrew Colby  |                          | Stella Mason  |
| Newsletter editor:                        | Margot Miller |                          | Hugh Wood     |

## CHAIRMAN'S 2011 REPORT to the MHS AGM February 2012 Earl Mortimer College, Leominster



MHS Chairman  
John Grove

Dear Friends,

The year 2011 was one of good progress. We have 100 members. John Atkinson became our Secretary. The website is developing with much more information in the Gazetteer, a monthly Newsflash, and full details of all events. The increased numbers of hits suggests growing interest.

Our conferences were very successful with Ian Mortimer and Alison Weir giving us splendid lectures in the spring and a good demonstration of musical instruments by the Border Waites followed by an excellent, unique concert of 14th and 15th century music. The autumn conference at Ewyas Harold was very well attended with presentations on *Mortimer Ladies* by Paul Dryburgh and on the Herefordshire School of Sculptures by Steven Blake, with a fascinating visit to Kilpeck Church afterwards.

The first edition of the MHS journal - Mortimer Chronicle was most welcome, and we circulated three very informative newsletters. Logaston Press released a paperback edition of *The Mortimers, Lords of the March* by Speight and Hopkinson. Articles, talks and displays on Mortimer history were given by several members around the country.



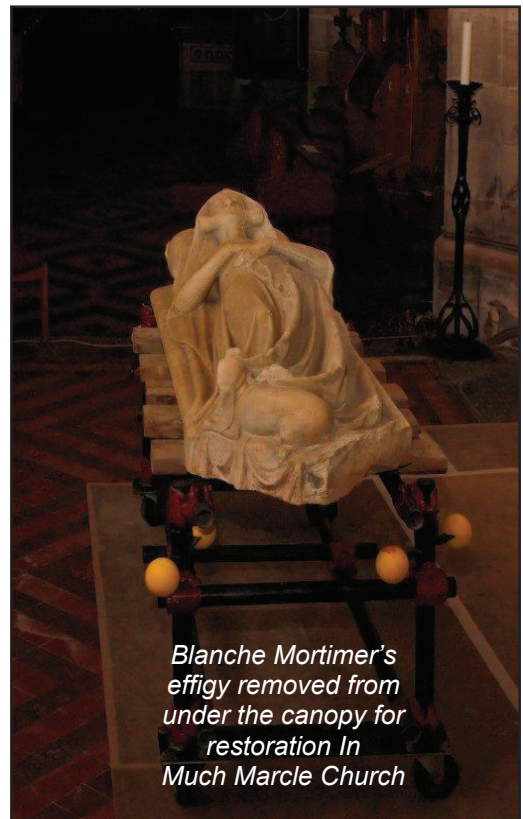
Paul Remfry at the MHS  
table at the Living History  
Exhibition in Leicestershire -  
February 2011

The new MHS Dress & Textiles group made a great start with well attended meetings deciding what lines of research to follow. Their first project is to recreate an historically accurate copy of the dress carved in alabaster on Blanche Mortimer's priceless effigy in Much Marcle church. Blanche's tomb is still under restoration and St. Bartholomew's Church needs our urgent help with repair funds. The Wigmore Castle sale saga continues with the MHS involved in discussions with English Heritage and Herefordshire Nature Trust. The idea of some

kind of History and Ecology Education centre has been floated. Watch the website for any news.

Stella Mason presented her consultation paper on the future of the MHS, and these options along with the future of Wigmore Castle and the conservation of Blanche's tomb are hot topics for 2012. Tickets are now available for what promises to be an exciting interactive Spring Meeting at Earl Mortimer College in Leominster 12 May.

- John Grove



*Blanche Mortimer's effigy removed from under the canopy for restoration In Much Marcle Church*

FOR SALE

WIGMORE CASTLE  
POWER CENTRE  
OF THE  
MEDIEVAL MORTIMERS



chesterton  
SINCE 1805  
humberts

Wigmore Castle, Wigmore  
Herefordshire

## MHS Dress & Textiles Group Blanche Mortimer Dress Project



The new **Dress & Textiles Group** of the MHS began meeting last October when they laid plans to follow several different lines of interest:

Visit to see **18th century dresses at Berrington Court, Leominster**: In February we were shown a magnificent collection of 18th century dresses. There are almost no medieval clothes extant, but we learned much from seeing these later dresses - how sleeves were set, hems and edging, stitching and mending to recycle valuable silken material shot with gold and silver thread.

A medieval sleeve has survived and is in the Museum of London and the Group plan to visit there later in the year when the Textiles Section reopens. We also saw a copy of a green linen dress made by Maureen Crumpler's dance group.

**Felt-making workshop** at Jane Meredith's at Byford in March. We will colour different types of fleece with plant dyes and make our own felt bag or bowl. There are two spare places if you would like to come - [margotmiller@live.co.uk](mailto:margotmiller@live.co.uk).

**Wool**, carding, spinning, tapestry: the group is finding out about wool, the medieval wool trade and local Ryeland sheep.

We are collecting together **pictures of medieval effigies** from local churches. We are looking closely at the depiction of clothes and trying to find out whose tombs they belong to and the family connections.



*Left to right: Effigies in Bodenham,  
Much Marcle and Abergavenny*



The Group's main project is to create a copy as historically accurate as possible - of **Blanche Mortimer's dress** as it appeared on her effigy in Much Marcle church. We have various patterns; compiled a plan and budget; 2 members are researching buttons; we are looking for funding; and will soon begin making up a 'toile' or prototype in sheeting.

We are also planning what to do when we have made the dress - how to display the dress and tell the story of the way we made it, and how to pass on what we have learned about medieval clothing and the church effigies.

# MORTIMERS AND THE MARCHES?

## MHS future strategy

A summary of the report on future plans and strategy for the Mortimer History Society was discussed at the AGM on 11-02-2012; the ten recommendations which emerged from discussion are given below. Introducing the report, committee member Stella Mason, agreed that the society was already moving in the direction suggested by many of these recommendations. There were some proposals, however, including widening the scope and changing the name of the society which required membership approval. Members decided to keep the name as it is and some members wanted to limit the main scope of the society to the Mortimer family of Wigmore up to 1425 to maintain a clear focus. The full summary of the 'Future Strategy' report is on the MHS website or available from Stella by post (*see address on back cover*); the Committee would still like to hear members' views as plans are always evolving:

- Main Recommendations:
- 1 Organise an occasional meeting outside the region or with another organisation.
  - 2 Broaden the appeal of the society to include people with a general interest in the medieval history of the Marches, possibly changing the title to:  
*The Mortimer and Marches History Society.*
  - 3 Develop greater links with Wigmore and Ludlow - castle and community – including them in a regular structured field visit/activity programme.
  - 4 Revise the current conference format to widen participation and informal discussion and establish a programme committee to coordinate events & activities.
  - 5 Hold a Mortimer Basics study day/s to create a shared knowledge base (this can develop into a Marches History study day and a Mortimers In France study week-end); and attract university

history departments by involving them in new Mortimer projects, and instituting an annual Mortimer award.

- 6 MHS Website requires further development and investment to attract members and provide a platform for future resources such as further work on the gazetteer and the creation of on-line learning materials.
- 7 MHS should decide to attract a reliable core membership with a general interest in the medieval history of the Marches, and then target other audiences through projects and joint partnerships.
- 8 Develop a bank of educational resources – Mortimer materials – possibly based on Wigmore Castle. This could be expanded into a Mortimer and the Marches informal curriculum which could form the basis for a targeted learning activity, especially with local history groups and schools in mind.
- 9 Create a clear identity for all marketing, publishing and publicity purposes.
- 10 Ensure that there are members on the committee from each county to improve communication locally and a representative from any active subgroups, e.g. textiles, etc.

### Synopsis of MHS Accounts 2011

| Income                                             | £                   | Expenditure                   | £                   |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Membership                                         | 1, 182              | Website                       | 60                  |
| Sale of booklets                                   | 112                 | Publicity                     | 168                 |
| Donations, raffle                                  | 126                 | Journal printing              | 495                 |
| Donations/Mss trans.                               | 861                 | Newsletters & booklets        | 179                 |
| Donation/Journal/Aus.                              | 621                 | Secretary                     | 65                  |
|                                                    |                     | Treasurer                     | 7                   |
|                                                    |                     | Insurance                     | 143                 |
|                                                    |                     | Wigmore Castle Meeting        | 32                  |
| <b>Total:</b>                                      | <b><u>3,059</u></b> | <b>Total:</b>                 | <b><u>1,148</u></b> |
| <u>Spring Conference, Ludlow</u>                   |                     |                               |                     |
| Tickets, raffle, books                             | 2,588               | Expenses                      | 2,006               |
|                                                    |                     | [Profit: £582]                |                     |
| <u>Autumn Conference, Ewyas Harold</u>             |                     |                               |                     |
| Tickets:                                           | 960                 | Expenses                      | 672                 |
|                                                    |                     | [Profit: £672]                |                     |
| <b>Total income</b>                                | <b><u>6,608</u></b> | <b>Total inc. Conferences</b> | <b><u>3,826</u></b> |
| Income over expenses £ 2,782                       |                     |                               |                     |
| £987 held for Journal and Mss. Translation Project |                     |                               |                     |

# Translation of the Mortimer manuscripts of Wigmore Abbey: 1066-1306, 1355-1377 Paul Remfry's project for the MHS

Paul Remfry reported to the AGM that his work on the *Wigmore Chronicles* was going well, and hoped translation would be finished by the end of 2012.

The manuscripts Paul is working on were written by a monk in Wigmore Abbey in the last years of the 13<sup>th</sup> century and were then continued on by others until towards the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Only two long sections of the chronicle have survived. In the first extant manuscript, a scribe probably working at Wigmore Abbey, copied the original chronicle from 1066 to 1306. The last entry in this manuscript is dated 21 May 1382 and concerns an earthquake. As this is in the same hand as the rest of this copy of the chronicle, it suggests that this was the last entry made in this manuscript.



*The Abbot's house  
WigmoreAbbey*

This first copy of the *Wigmore Chronicle* from 1066 to 1306 is preserved in manuscript form within a quarto volume about 10" tall by 7" wide and containing 64 folios. The rest of the book is a Latin Brut, or *Chronicon Angliae*. Inside the cover there is a flyleaf showing the ownership of the book since 1809. It was finally bought by the John Rylands Library in Manchester in April 1911 for £61.

A second copy from the *Wigmore Chronicle* was made after 1377. This copied entries for the years of the original chronicle from 1355 to 1377, plus a single entry for 1349. This manuscript was made around the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century and is now to be found in Trinity College, Dublin. It was copied into a volume of Ranulf Higden's *Polychronicon*. The copyist wrote in the margin of his manuscript that he was now copying a different chronicle, which he was only transcribing in part and not in full. This copied portion of the chronicle has several problems, with some parts having been badly transcribed with words missing and other passages having been confused. The Dublin scribe made no note on which year he was working, but his use of Latin phrases like *hoc anno* or *eodem anno* shows that he was copying a set of annals that ran yearly, just as the original *Wigmore Chronicle* did. The Dublin copy of the chronicle was almost certainly compiled after 21 June 1377 when Edward III died, as Richard II is anachronistically mentioned as the future king.



almost certainly compiled after 21 June 1377 when Edward III died, as Richard II is anachronistically mentioned as the future king.

The original *Wigmore Chronicle* that both the Rylands and Dublin manuscripts copy, may have been kept contemporaneously from the 1260's onwards. The translation and study of the text should prove or disprove this during the coming months. Unfortunately we only have two copies of parts of the original chronicle. This means that the *Wigmore Chronicle* from 1306 to 1349 and from 1350 to 1355 is currently lost, unless another manuscript or even the original chronicle should be found.

Earlier studies of the manuscript have shown that the first part of the chronicle was compiled using entries from the Waverley and Worcester annals. However there is further material in the chronicle which comes from otherwise unknown or unidentifiable sources. Much of this would appear to have come from local knowledge or records kept at Wigmore Abbey. It therefore comes as no surprise to find that some entries concerning the Mortimer family are not found elsewhere. The contents of the later Dublin manuscript appear to show that this section of the *Wigmore Chronicle* was written independently of all other sources and is therefore of national importance as well as an important part of Mortimer history.

The Rylands manuscript is written in a clear 14<sup>th</sup> century hand with rubricated initial capitals throughout. The Dublin copyist was working probably only slightly later than the Rylands copyist and possibly before a third extant document, the Latin genealogy of the Mortimer family which was produced between 1398 and 1402. This was possibly some 100 years after the French Foundation Document of Wigmore Abbey was written. Sir William Dugdale produced a transcript of the Latin genealogy in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and the French Foundation Document of Wigmore Abbey has recently been translated in the *Woolhope Transactions*. It is therefore appropriate that the Mortimer History

Society should undertake the study and publication of a translation of the *Wigmore Chronicle*.

## **New tales to come from the *Wigmore Chronicles***

These two *Wigmore Chronicle* manuscripts have never been translated. No doubt they will produce new interesting historical information about the Mortimer dynasty. In one of these documents there is a description of Roger Mortimer\* (aged 19) of Wigmore being knighted in 1306. As a taste of translations to come, Paul Remfry gives this account of the same ceremony from another source - *the Flores Historiarum*:



*Knights of the Garter stall plaque from Windsor - Sir Roger Mortimer 1328-1360, grandson of Roger Mortimer\* 1287-1331*

John of  
Gaunt's  
Court



*When the three hundred young men ... had assembled, purple satins, silk and rich robes lavishly decorated with gold thread were distributed to each as was his due. And because the royal palace, although large, was too small for such a gathering, apple trees were cut down and walls levelled at the New Temple, and they erected tents and pavilions where the young men decked themselves in their cloth of gold. That night as many of the young men as possible kept their vigils in the Temple. But the prince of Wales at the order of the king, with a few of the most distinguished youths, kept his vigil in the church at Westminster. There was indeed such a noise of trumpets and pipes and so many loud, happy voices that the convent could not hear [its own words of] praise from choir to choir. Next morning the king knighted his son in his palace and gave him the duchy of Aquitaine. And the prince, now a knight, proceeded to the church of Westminster to knight his fellows in the same way. Then there was such a crush of people before the high altar, that two knights died and many fainted, although each had with him at least three knights to guide and look after him. The prince despite the pressing crowd, knighted his fellows from the high altar, the crowd having been broken up by destriers. Then two swans or cygnets, adorned with golden harness and gilded reed, a wonderful sight to see, were carried with great pomp to the king.*

*( FH III, 131-2)*



### Lucy de Wafre?

Left: The effigy in Wolferlow Church might be part of the tomb of Lucy de Wafre, wife of Roger Mortimer of Chirk. The state and future of the 'Lucy' figure is causing concern because the church is going to be deconsecrated. The de Wafres owned Tedstone Wafre, which also came to Roger Mortimer of Chirk when he married Lucy.

- see page 11

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

16 March 7.30pm

**The Brecknock Society, Brecon**

Talk by Dr David Stephenson  
*Conquerors, Courtiers and Careerists: the Struggle for supremacy in the Lordship of Brecon 1093-1282*

21 April 11am-4.30pm



**Walk & Talk: Tedstone Wafre and the Mortimer Connection** at Saltmarshe Village Hall

**Talk:** Martin Toms (MHS)  
 Bring your own lunch; tea, coffee available  
**Walk:** The Landscape Archeology of Tedstone Wafre with Tim Hoverd, HC archeologist  
 £2, limited numbers - MHS members only  
 No dogs Email [m.r.toms@bham.ac.uk](mailto:m.r.toms@bham.ac.uk)

21 April 2-6pm



**Time Travellers Guide afternoon in Dartmoor**

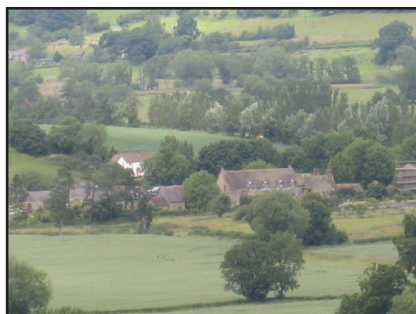
At Higher Uppacott, Dartmoor National Park  
 Afternoon of social history with Ian Mortimer  
 Tour of the house; talk about 14th century Daily life, and about Elizabethan England - Ian Mortimer's new *Time Traveller* book.  
 £50 including signed copy of the new book  
 All profits to the conservation of Higher Uppacott long house in the Dartmoor National Park  
 More details on Ian Mortimer's website

18 September  
 1.45-3.00pm



**MHS visit to Herefordshire Museum Resources & Learning Centre, Friars Street**

Hereford HR4 OAS: one hour guide through medieval artefacts with Judith Stevenson, archeology curator 10-15 people, £4 per person.  
 Perhaps a quick visit to medieval display In Hereford Museum and/or to Grandison tomb in Hereford Cathedral - before or after the Visit to the Museum Centre?



13 October: Lunch at Wigmore Abbey in the undercroft; limited number of MHS members. More details in May.

*Abbot's House  
 Wigmore Abbey*

# MORTIMER HISTORY SOCIETY SPRING MEETING

Saturday 12 May 10 - 3.30 Leominster

## THE MAKING OF EDWARD I - ROGER MORTIMER, SIMON DE MONTFORT AND LLEWELYN AP GRUFFYDD, PRINCE OF WALES

### PROGRAMME

10.00 Coffee and bookshop

10.30 - 11.15 Marc Morris (Director of Studies):



'The Lord Edward - early years'

11.00 Plenary debate - 4 x 10 minutes speeches

"What if Simon de Montfort had won the  
Battle of Evesham? "

Tim Porter [Simon de Montfort Society]

John Grove [MHS], Katherine Ashe

Marc Morris - Edward's reaction

Followed by discussion in groups - 40 mins 12.30 Lunch

1.30 Plenary - 3 x 10 minutes speeches:

John Davis [Abbey Cwm Hir Society], Paul Remfry [MHS]

Marc Morris - Prince Edward's view; followed by group discussions  
for 60 minutes: 2.45 Summing up by Marc Morris

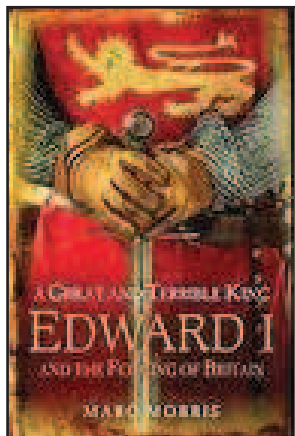
on 'King Edward I's achievements'. 3.30 Close of meeting.

### SPEAKERS



**Marc Morris** is a historian and broadcaster. He studied and has taught history at the University of London and the University of Oxford, and his doctorate on the 13th century earls of Norfolk was published in 2005. In 2003 Dr Morris presented the highly-acclaimed Channel 4 television series *Castle* and wrote the related book.

Following the success of his biography of the King *Edward I, A Great and Terrible King and the Forging of Britain* in 2008, he is now writing a new history of the Norman Conquest.



A reviewer comments 'Marc approaches the Conquest with the same passion, verve and scrupulous concern for historical accuracy. This is the definitive account for our times of an extraordinary story, a pivotal moment in the shaping of the English nation.'

## Katherine Ashe

is an American professor of European history, an author, playwright and screenwriter. Her four volume book on Simon de Montfort is available from Amazon:

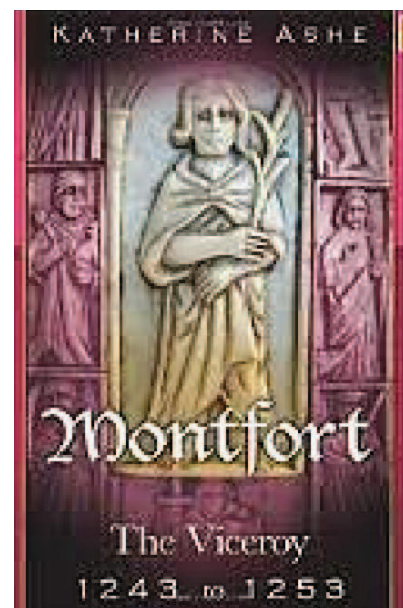
- Montfort:**
- I. *The Early Years 1229-1243*
  - II. *The Viceroy 1243-1253*
  - III. *The Revolutionary 1253-1260*
  - IV. *The Angel with the Sword 1260-1265*

*"The finest work I know of the 13th century."* -

Dr Madeleine Cosman, founder of the Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, City University of New York.



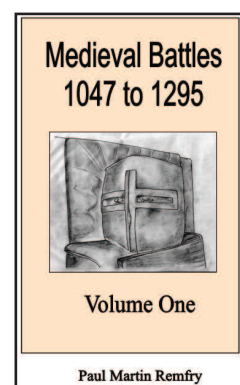
**Tim Porter** is a lecturer, with two subject areas: music and the Middle Ages. Training originally in music, Tim worked as a composer in touring theatre during the 1970s and 80s. Tim's theatre career moved gradually forward into adult education; he's been a WEA tutor for nearly thirty years. He is also a guest lecturer at museums including the Ashmolean in Oxford. Tim speaks to history societies, music clubs, and many other organisations. He is an active member of the Simon de Montfort Society.



**John Davis** is Chairman of the Abbey Cwm Hir Society, a professional geologist and avid student of Welsh History. John has been chair of Welsh Stone Forum since 2002. The Welsh Stone Forum was created in 2003 to promote awareness and knowledge of the use of natural stone in Wales. The forum works in conjunction with the National Museum of Wales of which body he has recently been made an Honorary Research Fellow. He is mapping the historical use of building stones throughout Wales.

**Paul M. Remfry** is a contributing editor to the *Castles of Wales* website, author of many books on Marcher castles and battles. Paul has translated the *Annales Cambriae* and is currently working on *Mortimer Wigmore Chronicles*.

**John Grove** is founder MHS Chairman and regularly gives talks and writes articles on Mortimer history.



MORTIMER HISTORY SOCIETY SPRING MEETING  
Saturday 12 May, 10 - 3.30 Leominster  
THE MAKING OF EDWARD I - ROGER MORTIMER,  
SIMON DE MONTFORT AND LLEWELYN AP GRUFFYDD

BRIEFING

**Edward I, 1239–1307**

Conqueror of Wales, killer of William Wallace and nemesis of Simon de Montfort: Edward I was one of the most important and violent of all English kings, his reign one of the most dramatic of the entire Middle Ages. Was he a pioneering nation-builder, defending the rights of the Crown, or simply a violent megalomaniac, determined to add to his dominions at any cost?



Edward's long life was certainly action-packed. As well as visiting every corner of Britain, he also travelled to France, Spain, Italy, Sicily, North Africa and the Holy Land – no English ruler would venture further until the modern age. At Conway, Harlech, Beaumaris and Caernarfon he built the most magnificent chain of castles ever created, and after the death of his beloved first wife he erected the Eleanor crosses – the grandest funeral monuments ever fashioned for any English monarch.

How should we view him? 'Longshanks' to his contemporaries (he was 6 foot 2 inches tall) he was also called *Edwardus Magnus*, and one English chronicler wrote that 'we should perceive him to surpass all the kings of the earth who came before him'. But chroniclers in Wales and Scotland had rather different verdicts. His physical strength and valour were unquestionable. He was eloquent, intelligent and pious. He issued more laws and statutes than any other medieval English ruler, leading later lawyers to dub him 'the English Justinian'. But he was also anti-Semitic, expelling the Jews from England in 1290, and was often self-righteously inflexible in dealing with his own subjects.

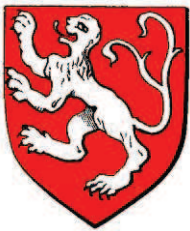


Contemporaries often described him as being duplicitous. What should the modern verdict be on this most masterful of English monarchs?

*\*These notes have been compiled with the help of some of the Spring Meeting speakers.*

*Harlech Castle*

This fascinating story is being explored at the Spring Meeting of the Mortimer History Society on 12 May at Earl Mortimer College, Leominster. Dr Marc Morris, author of *A Great and Terrible King: Edward I and the Forging of Britain* explores Edward's career. Dr Morris will lead a full study day in which will include several seminars in which to explore alternative viewpoints. Welsh historians will talk about Prince Llewelyn's achievements. Katherine Ashe, American author of four historical novel based on the life of Simon de Montfort, is coming over from USA especially for the conference. Representatives of the Simon de Montfort Society will be there. Paul Remfry, an authority on the history of the Marches, its lord and castles, will be talking about Roger Mortimer's role and high standing with Edward.



### **Simon de Montfort (1208-1265) Earl of Leicester**

The big issue of the 13th century concerned the Ruler's authority versus the Subject's rights. There were no heroes or villains – both Simon de Montfort and his adversary, King Henry III were flawed, but that makes them all the more fascinating. They both had a good case; their tragedy was that it had to end on the battlefield. Simon was a worthy, righteous but unbending man. He had high ideals but his Achilles heel was avarice and an unwillingness to compromise. As for King Henry, he was in an impossible situation; the first English King with limits to his rule, but with no rule book to guide him. The relationship between these two men is one of history's greatest dramas.

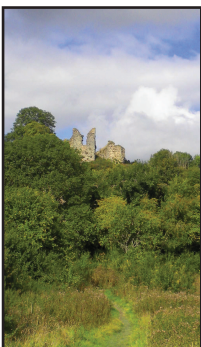
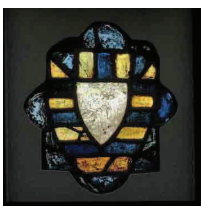
*Refs: Simon de Montfort* by J.R.Maddicott

*Simon de Montfort* by Pat Rooke, (brief guide compiled by the Simon de Montfort Society)



### **Roger Mortimer (1231-1282) Lord of Wigmore**

The marriage of his father Ralph Mortimer and Gwladys, daughter of Llewelyn ap Iorwerth in June 1230, made the family one of the most influential in the March, bringing the Mortimers into the Welsh royal family. Roger Mortimer is said to have been born at the family's castle of Cymaron, and in 1242 at the age of 11, he was already in service on the March where he fortified a castle in Maelienydd. In 1247 he married Maud de Braose, Lady of Radnor, establishing him further as a Marcher lord with considerable estates. At first he supported Simon de Montfort's call for reform, but disillusionment set in, partly because of his losses of land to Prince Llewelyn who was linked with de Montfort. Mortimer allied himself with the King's party forming an understanding with Prince Edward. Though on the losing side at the battle of Lewes, Mortimer was unwisely paroled by de Montfort and therefore was able to continue the



struggle. Roger aided the escape of Prince Edward from imprisonment at Hereford and played a key role on the royalist side in the battle of Evesham 1265 where Simon met his end. From then on Roger Mortimer remained high in the royal favour, especially when Edward became king.



Ref: *'The Mortimers – Lords of the March'*  
Hopkinson and Speight, Logaston 2011

### **Prince Llewelyn ap Gruffydd (ca.1223 -1282)**

The outstanding achievement of Llewelyn was that he was able to postpone the final conquest of Wales until his death on 11 December 1282. When William I conquered England, he immediately annexed all the lands run or claimed by Harold Godwinson including Gwynedd and Arwystli. By right of

Harold's conquest therefore, the kings of England claimed to rule Gwynedd and the kings of Gwynedd owed fealty as feudal lords to the English Saxon kings. This relationship was not recognised by the kings of Gwynedd nor the kings of Saesyllwg or Glywysing, who claimed their right of inheritance and fought for the restoration of their rights to rule their own land, refusing to pay allegiance to any English king. This is the essential background which influenced the Lord Rhys, Llewelyn the Great, Dafydd I, Llewelyn 'Our Last Defender' [Ein Llyw Olaf] and Dafydd ap Gruffydd, Rhys ap Maredudd, Owain Glyndwr, even Henry Tudor's supporters.

The threat of the Mortimers in the Middle March was matched by the Earls of Chester, the Welsh 'Marcher lords' of Powys, the Clares of Glamorgan and the Earls of Pembroke. They all formed part of a concerted plan to harry the smaller principalities and lordships, who gave their allegiance to the princes of Gwynedd. Llewelyn's death at Builth was brought about because of the strategic need of Gwynedd princes to have a safe route south to guard against the Clares of Glamorgan attacking the independent lordships of Morgannwg and Gwynllwg.

1255 Battle of Bryn Derwin: overcame brothers and secured Gwynneth

1258 Treaty with the Scots: Llewelyn titled as *'Princeps Wallia'*

1260 Treaty of Montgomery: recognized by Edward after battle victories

Ref: R. Davies *The Age of Conquest* OUP

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