

MORTIMER HISTORY SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

The **Mortimer History Society** was set up in 2009 to provide a forum for all who are interested in the mediaeval Mortimer dynasty, both to study and to publicise its eventful history. This will involve the study of the local and national history of the Mortimer family, paying particular attention to buildings, artefacts and documents linked with the Mortimers. This could be extended to include the history of the Welsh March and the place of the family within it as powerful Marcher Lords. The activities of the Society will be aimed at as wide and diverse an audience as possible, particularly young people, with special emphasis on Herefordshire, Shropshire and Powys.

The Mortimers

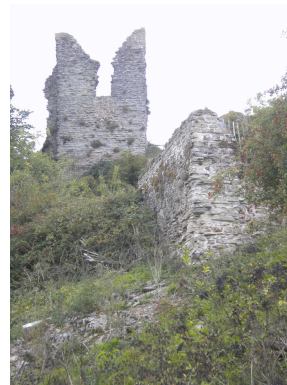
The main branch of the Mortimer family began as vassals of William, Duke of Normandy (later William the Conqueror) in a castle at Mortemer in France. The major family line ended in 1425, but there were many continuing links, not least with the Yorkist kings during the Wars of the Roses. They remained a powerful and important dynasty throughout 400 years, and their story is a microcosm of English & Welsh mediaeval history. Mortimers were friends of Edwards I & III, and married into the English and Welsh royal families. Roger, the *de facto* Regent of England, was the lover of Queen Isabelle, wife of Edward II. It is a story of lords, estates, castles, abbeys, battles, marriages, intrigues, and struggles for power that illustrate the life and fortunes of ruling families in mediaeval England.

MHS Membership Benefits

Member of a prestigious national history society; contact with officers, experts and other members; access to 'members' only areas of the society website; three copies a year of the newsletter, and a copy of the annual Journal; discounted rates for all conferences and field visits.



**Wigmore Castle –
Seat of the Mortimer
Lords of the March**



Future Activities

Interactive website www.mortimerhistorysociety.org.uk including news, articles, a gazetteer of places, buildings, artefacts related to the Mortimers and details of family members, conferences with guest speakers - Spring and Autumn; Regular newsletter with articles, correspondence, news & views. Visits to Mortimer sites; social events and seminars.

MHS Dates for 2011

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| 21 January | 'Mortimers of Wigmore' – talk by Paul Remfry at Kington |
| 12 February | 2 nd MHS Annual General Meeting at Earl Mortimer College, Leominster |
| 21 May | Spring Conference at Ludlow – 'The Mortimers and the Royal Connection'
Speakers: Authors - Ian Mortimer and Alison Weir |
| 8 October | Autumn Conference Paul Dryburgh on 'Mortimer Ladies'
Steven Blake on 'The Herefordshire School of Sculptors and the Mortimers' |