



Pembroke Castle



Information Pack

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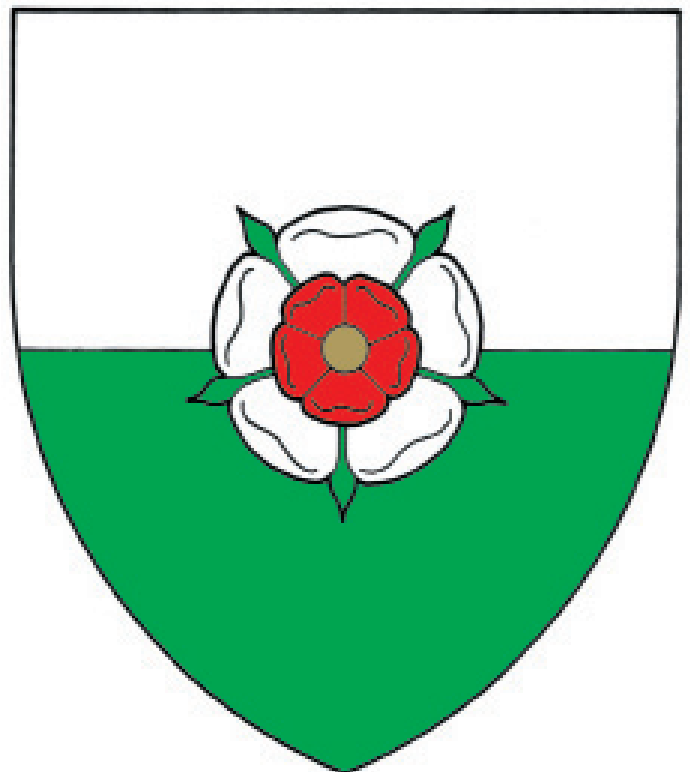
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Welcome

We welcome you to Pembroke Castle.

This Information Pack contains a range of useful material about the castle for use with your pupils and can be used independently or alongside the Education Pack to fully support your visit to us.

We encourage you to make use of it as pupils will benefit from having some background knowledge about the castle before they visit. The material contained within it is designed to be easy to disseminate and adapt to meet the needs of the group you are working with and your topics. A guidebook is also available to purchase from the gift shop.



Background information for teachers

Pembroke Castle - A Brief History

Pembroke Castle is one of the largest in Wales and sits high on the tip of a rocky limestone peninsula, alongside the Cleddau estuary. The following information describes how Pembroke Castle changed hands over time, and evolved from a castle with earthwork ramparts and timber walls, to the sympathetically restored stone castle you see today.

1. Early Settlers

An unusual feature of the castle is 'The Wogan' (pictured below). A vast natural cavern deep in the limestone rock beneath. It provided shelter for cave dwellers for thousands of years and flint tools from the Stone Age period have been found there. Further evidence of occupation comes from later cave dwellers, who sought shelter here at the end of the Roman occupation of Britain, leaving a coin hoard behind. The Normans constructed a spiral staircase from the cavern to the castle above, and today, you can still reach the cavern directly from the castle via the 55 step staircase.

2. An Earth and Wood Castle

1093-1204

The Norman Conquest of Wales began in 1093 after Rhys ap Tewdwr, the last Prince of south-west Wales was killed in a border skirmish. His death allowed the Earl of Shrewsbury, Roger de Montgomery, to sweep into Pembroke at the head of his invading force. He established his base here and built an earth and timber castle on the site of the present Inner Ward. Roger had five sons and when he died in 1094, Arnulf, his youngest son received the castle. Arnulf ruled as a Marcher (or frontier) Lord, which was a Norman system that gave enormous power to barons in return for the subjugation of the surrounding area.

The downfall of Arnulf de Montgomery came in 1102 when he and his eldest brother Robert rebelled against the new king of England, Henry I. They were quickly defeated and banished, and Pembroke was seized by the king.

Between 1102 and 1135 King Henry I



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increased Norman control in the area by founding the town of Pembroke at the castle gate, establishing a market and mint. To encourage people to settle here he granted Pembroke a charter that offered a range of rights and privileges. He also reorganised the Marcher lordship and appointed a succession of sheriffs to administer the region. The most notable was Gerald de Windsor who married Princess Nest, the daughter of Rhys ap Tewdwr.

When King Henry I died in 1135 his succession was contested and a bloody civil war followed. In order to gain support the new King, Stephen granted away many of Henry's acquisitions of land as earldoms. The earldom of Pembroke was created and given to Gilbert de Clare, a fearless fighter who became known as 'Strongbow'. His son, Richard 'Strongbow' became the second earl of Pembroke upon Gilbert's death in 1148. Richard is best remembered for his involvement in the invasion of Ireland where he proclaimed himself Lord of Leinster and Governor of Ireland. Alarmed by his growing strength, the new king of England, Henry II, ordered Richard to return from Ireland or forfeit his land in England. Richard Strongbow was eventually able to regain King Henry II's favour before he died in 1176. Without an heir, the castle fell to the crown.



3. A Stone Castle

1204-1247

William Marshal, had come to the attention of several kings of England as a trusted and brave soldier and statesman. He championed the causes of both Richard I and John, whom he advised on the Magna Carta. In recognition of his loyal support to the monarchy, King Henry II promised his marriage to Isabel de Clare, Richard Strongbow's only daughter and the heiress of Pembroke. Richard I upheld this promise and William and Isabel married in 1189, a union that made William a very wealthy and powerful man. In 1200 he received Pembroke Castle.

As the new Earl of Pembroke, William Marshall erected the first stone structure at Pembroke Castle in 1201, a time of upheaval in the region. He set about creating a huge stone castle in a classic Norman design, beginning with the great cylindrical tower or Keep with domed roof. When William died in 1219 at the ripe old age of 72, his sons made some additions to the castle for example the Dungeon Tower.

4. The Invincible Castle

1247-1454

After the death of Marshal, five of his sons were Earls of Pembroke, each of them dying childless. The Earldom passed to William de Valence, the husband of William Marshal's granddaughter, Joan de Munchensy.

The Valence family held the castle for over 70 years, strengthening it by building the walls and towers around the Outer Ward. They also fortified the town, creating a ring of walls with three main gates and a postern. On the death of Aymer, William de Valence's son, the castle passed through

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marriage into the hands of the Hastings family and the last Earl of Pembroke.

In 1389, the castle reverted to Richard II. It was granted out in a series of short tenancies and began to fall into disrepair. In 1400, the castle was attacked by Owain Glyndwr, but escaped a siege because the Constable at the time, Francis a Court, bought off Glyndwr with the Welsh equivalent of danegeld. A danegeld is a land tax collected for national defence by Norman kings.

5. Pembroke Castle and the Tudors 1454-1642

Jasper Tudor was the son of Queen Catherine of France and Owen Tudor, a Welsh squire. Pembroke Castle was presented to him in 1454 as part of the recreated Earldom of Pembroke, a title given to him by his half-brother, King Henry VI.

When Jasper's brother Edmund died in November 1456, Jasper offered protection to Margaret Beaufort, his pregnant widow. She was only thirteen years old and on the 28th January 1457 she gave birth to a son, Henry. Henry would go on to defeat Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth Field to become the first Tudor monarch, King Henry VII. He was a descendant of Prince Rhys ap Gruffydd.

None of the earls apart from Jasper made Pembroke their chief residence, and Jasper was only resident between 1454 and 1461. He oversaw lots of renovation at the castle including a decorative oriel, and it is likely that a detached, private 'mansion house' that once stood in the Outer Ward was his.

When he died in 1495 the county fell to the crown again and Pembroke Castle was

never a private home or administrative centre again. With no role to fulfil it was eventually sold by King James I to the Pryse Family of Gogerddan.

Origins of the Tudor Dynasty

The Tudors were a Welsh-English family that ruled England from 1485 to 1603. They came to power as a result of the victory of Henry VII over Yorkist king Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. The Tudor dynasty ended when Henry's grand-daughter Queen Elizabeth I died childless.

The name Tudor comes from Henry's great, great, grandfather, who's first name was Tudur. He was a landowner and along with other members of his family served the Welsh princes, who ruled Gwynedd in north Wales. They had important jobs and became trusted lieutenants of Llewelyn the



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Great, who ruled from about 1200.

Over the next two centuries, fighting often broke out between the Welsh princes and English kings, and the Tudor family supported the Welsh princes. Then, in around 1400 they became involved in a rebellion led by Owain Glyndwr that left them defeated. Yet, the life of the youngest son of the family and Henry's grandfather, Owain ap Maredudd ap Tudur, was about to change for the better.

He went into the service of the warrior king Henry V and fought with the king in his French wars. He became close to the English royal court and after the death of Henry, Owain ap Maredudd ap Tudur married, in secret, to the widowed queen Catherine of Valois. He became known as Owen Tudor and they had four children together. A daughter who died and three sons, Owen, Edmund and Jasper. Catherine had a son from her marriage

to Henry V, the Lancastrian King Henry VI. He was fond of his half-brothers and ennobled them. Edmund became Earl of Richmond and was married to Lady Margaret Beaufort, a descendant of King Edward III. Jasper became the Earl of Pembroke and Owen became a monk.

6. The Civil War 1642-1648

When civil war erupted in 1642, Pembroke declared support for Parliament, and Pembroke Castle became a parliamentary stronghold in a fervently pro-royalist country. The Mayor of Pembroke, John Poyer garrisoned the castle during the winter of 1642-3. He strengthened both it and the town walls and successfully withstood the threat of siege in 1644. The following year saw a Parliamentary victory, the arrest of King Charles I and the end to the first stage of the Civil War.



Background information for teachers

Then, in 1648 John Poyer and Colonel Rowland Laugharne, the Parliamentary Commander in south-west Wales turned their back on Parliament and staged a rebellion after it failed to pay soldiers promised wages. 8,000 Welshmen marched from Pembroke to St Fagans to fight for the king. They were very quickly defeated at the Battle of St Fagans on 4th May 1648 and Poyer hurriedly returned to Pembroke Castle.

Oliver Cromwell, Lieutenant-General of the Parliamentary army followed, leading around 6,000 men into Pembroke. A two month siege followed and the town and castle suffered enormous damage. The castle was strong but it wasn't long before Poyner and others were forced to surrender. Poyner was found guilty and sentenced to death for his part in the rebellion. After his success and return

to London, Cromwell was afraid that his enemies might use the castle again and ordered its destruction.

7. Restoration at the Castle 1880-present

Pembroke Castle remained an ivy-covered ruin, plundered for its stone until 1880, when Mr J R Cobb of Brecon leased it from the Pryse family and spent three years restoring what he could. Nothing further was done until Major-General Sir Ivor Phillips acquired the ruins in 1928 and started an extensive restoration, restoring the walls and towers as near as possible to their original appearance.

Today the Pembroke Castle Trust continues to maintain, interpret and promote the castle, the largest and most important in Wales that is not in state care.



Attack and defence

The castle's design changed over time to take into account changes in weaponry and warfare.

Location

Built on a rocky peninsula, surrounded by water and tidal marshes - a natural defence against attack.

Materials

The Normans built wooden Motte and Bailey castles, but wood was easy to destroy with fire. Defences were rebuilt with stone to last longer.

People

The castle was continually enlarged by various Earls and Lords to keep pace with changing warfare.

Castles got bigger and bigger - this was a sign of power and might, but it also allowed more soldiers to be housed there.



Defensive techniques - checklist

How many does Pembroke Castle have?

- Build the curtain walls high and thick to make them difficult to climb over.
- Introduce towers to defend vulnerable corners of the castle. Make the towers round, they are harder to destroy.
- Put battlements at the top of castle walls to allow defenders to fire missiles through the gaps (crenels), and to shelter behind the raised sections between (merlons).
- Gateways are the weakest parts of a castle. Make them larger to allow for structural elements to be added such as a portcullis and drawbridge.
- Dig defensive ditches to slow down attackers.
- Clear the cliff face of all growth to create a killing ground.
- Position arrow loops at different heights to improve defences.
- Build up an earthen bank, it will absorb cannon fire.
- Build spiral stairs narrow and in a clock-wise direction. This makes it hard for attackers coming up to draw their sword. Right-handed swordsmen coming to attack would have to use their weaker left hand and can only enter one by one.

Timeline

11th Century	12th Century	13th Century	14th Century	15th Century	16th Century
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1066: The Battle of Hastings. • 1093: The Norman Conquest of Wales begins, and Earl Roger of Montgomery builds the first Pembroke Castle. • 1094 & 1096: The castle is besieged by Welsh attackers. Both successfully resisted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1102-35: Henry I grants Pembroke's first charter. • 1135: King Henry I dies. • 1138: The Earldom of Pembroke is created. • 1199-1200: William Marshal becomes Earl of Pembroke and the castle passes into his hands. Over the next 30 years he transforms the earth and timber structure into a powerful stone fortification. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1201: William Marshal arrives in Pembroke. • 1215: The Magna Carta is agreed. • 1277: England annexes Wales. • 1282: Prince Llewelyn ap Gruffudd is killed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1316: Revolt of Llywelyn Bren in south Wales. • 1389: Pembroke Castle passes into the hands of the Crown. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1405: Pembroke Castle is successfully defended, by Francis Court, against Owain Glyndwr's uprising. • 1454: Jasper Tudor becomes Earl of Pembroke. • 1455: The Wars of the Roses begins. • 1457: Henry Tudor is born at Pembroke Castle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1509: King Henry VIII is crowned. • 1510: Henry VIII gifts Pembroke Castle to Anne Boleyn. She becomes marchioness of Pembroke Castle. • 1536: King Henry VIII establishes the Act of Union between England and Wales. • 1588: Queen Elizabeth I commissions a Welsh translation of the Bible.

Timeline

17th Century	18th Century	19th Century	20th Century	21st Century
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1642: The Civil War.• 1648: Oliver Cromwell leaves London on 3rd May with the aim of destroying Pembroke Castle.• 1652: An outbreak of the plague hits Haverfordwest, over 300 residents die.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1771: The 'Factory Age' begins with the opening of Britain's first cotton mill in Derbyshire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1814: Pembroke Dock is founded.• 1866: The cholera epidemic which swept through Wales causes the death of 42 people in Pembroke.• 1880: Mr J R Cobb of Brecon spends three years restoring the castle.• 1896: Pembroke Rugby Football Club is founded.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1914 - 1918: The First World War.• 1926: Pembroke Dockyard closes.• 1928: Sir Ivor Philipps buys Pembroke Castle and begins restoration.• 1939 - 1945: The Second World War. Troops of the Royal Fusiliers are quartered in the Outer Ward.• 1956: Pembroke Castle Trust is formed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Today Pembroke Castle welcomes over 100,000 visitors each year.• It hosts major events and is a commercial boost for the county.

A tour of the castle

The following pages provide information for you to share with your group at various places around the castle. Use the map to navigate and plan your route. The tour begins at number 1, the Inner Gate, but it can be approached in any order.

A list of useful prompts including things to look for and discuss are also included. Optional worksheets to accompany the tour can be downloaded separately should you wish to use them.

1. The Inner Gate

- Built by William Marshal.
- Only its outline now remains.
- It was probably two storeys high with a guardroom over the gate passage.

Point out: the D-shaped outline of the tower. It had two doorways, at right angles, each closed off with a solid door.

Discuss: What would the tower and the ditch have looked like?

2. Inner Curtain Wall

- As you face the Inner Gate from the Outer Ward you can see the line of the Inner Curtain Wall.
- It is now rebuilt as a low wall. It would have been much higher.
- The Inner Curtain Wall encloses the Keep.

Point out: that curtain walls were built high to protect the keep.

Discuss: Why was it called a 'curtain' wall?

3. Western Hall

- A narrow, vaulted single storey hall.
- It is likely to have been added by



William de Valence.

- It could possibly have been a ladies retiring room, or a hall for Valence's knights.

Point out: the fireplace and latrine.

Look for: two arrow slits that would have overlooked the main approach to the Inner Gate.

Discuss: What do you think this room was used for? Why do you think that?



A tour of the castle

4. Chapel

- The chapel was probably built earlier than the Western Hall to your left.
- It is likely to be on the site of an earlier wooden chapel.
- Most castles were built with a small private chapel which was the centre of religious life.

Point out: that most people in the castle would have been very religious. The lord and lady would have started each day by attending a service.

Look for: the holes for the roof timbers on the wall dividing the Chapel from the Western Hall.

5. Great Tower/Keep

- The Keep dominates the castle and is a massive cylindrical Great Tower. It is described as one of the earliest, largest and finest of its kind in Britain.
- William and Isabelle Marshall started to build the tower as soon as they arrived in 1201.
- Made of limestone it is 25m high and 16m in diameter.
- It had 5 storeys with well-appointed rooms. We can't be sure how they were used but they might well have been for ceremonial use only, or as a reception/audience chamber. The cellar was used as a store.
- The entrance was on the first floor reached from a wooden stairway and a sliding drawbridge.
- The inner walls would have been plastered and painted.

Point out: the surviving plaster, larger windows and fireplaces. Notice that there is no water supply (well or cistern), and no toilets. Light and warmth would have been a luxury, so rooms with evidence of a fireplace or with larger windows would

have been for the lord and his family.

Look for: fireplaces above head height, wall sockets for timbers and stone corbels in the walls which show where the original upper floor levels were.

Discuss: How would the keep have been used? Why was the keep built with rounded walls?



A tour of the castle

6. The Wogan

- In the Great Hall there is a doorway that leads to spiral stairs. They lead down the cliff face into the cavern called the Wogan.
- The cavern was incorporated into the castle defences.

Point out: that there are 55 steps to the bottom. Is this correct?

Look for: the archways, doorways and arrow slits built into the rock.

Discuss: What could this area be used for?

7. Norman Hall (Old Hall)

- Probably the oldest surviving structure in the castle and dates back to the twelfth century when defences were still made of wood.
- It was domestic rather than defensive.
- On the first floor was the Hall. It was probably not originally built as a hall but a private chamber-block and became the communal hall when the Great Hall was rebuilt by Valence.
- About 60 to 70 people would fit in here. It was dimly lit, noisy, smelly and smoky. (No windows and a large fire)

Point out: the fireplace you can see is a 20th-century imitation.

Look for: the large end window. It is modern.

Discuss: What are the positives and negatives of living in a castle?

8. Great Hall Block

- Added by William de Valence in the 1280's when the hall was an apartment for dining and entertainment.
- 120 people would fit in the Great Hall.
- Castle life was communal and people

would eat, drink and sleep in here. After drinking large quantities of ale most slept on the floor with the rats, mice and lice.

Point out: the interpretation panel showing a reconstruction drawing of the Great Hall.

Look for: fireplace, decorative windows, arches, detail and garderobe.

Discuss: How could you improve the conditions for ordinary people living in the castle?

9. Chancery

- A ruined, gabled building where the Lordship of Pembroke was governed and administered. Sentences were also handed out here.
- Built by William de Valence.
- There are very few features left to see here but it would have been grand with fine features.

Point out: that the decoration would have been impressive in this area. It is likely that the walls were painted. The room would probably have had carved woodwork and rich hangings and tapestries.

Look for: the openings of the very large Gothic windows show that the interior would have been well lit.

Discuss: A lot of the castle has been restored. Do you think more should be done to it?

10. Dungeon Tower

- The dungeon has no windows or toilet.
- It is about 4.5 metres deep.
- John Whithorn was imprisoned here for 7 years and was chained to the wall. As a result of his treatment he

A tour of the castle



was left blind and crippled.

- He died shortly after being released.

Point out: the interpretation panel, it has information about John Whithorn.

Discuss: What do you think is the worst thing about being in the dungeon? Is there any chance of escape?

11. Great Gatehouse

- Usually home to the constable.
- It is three storey's high with many fireplaces and garderobes.
- The lower floor has the gate passage where attackers would be met with murder holes, solid doors, portcullises and arrow loops.
- The two upper floors had three rooms in each floor for the Constable and his family.
- From the first floor, you can walk along a defensive passage with arrow loops to the Henry VII Tower.

Point out: the lifelike medieval banquet being hosted by William de Valence in the mid 13th Century on the second floor. It shows William de Valence, his wife Joan, 2 children and Constable of Castle and his wife.

Look for: the food on the table and the way people are eating. They would dine for 3 hours and eat 18 courses.

Discuss: How was the room: lit? made comfortable? kept warm? decorated? Is the room defensive or homely?



A tour of the castle

12. Henry VII Tower

- Climb the steps to Henry VII Tower, an Outer Ward tower, once believed to be the location of the birth of Henry Tudor, the future King of England.

Point out: the tableaux depicting the birth of Henry VII in 1457. It shows Margaret Beaufort, Henry's mother and a nurse.

Discuss: What do you think is happening? If you met Margaret Beaufort what would you ask her? What do you think she would say?

13. Monkton Tower

- The Monkton Tower is larger than the other Outer Ward towers.

Point out: the arched sally port which follows the line of the trackway that led down to Monkton Bridge. This was the main approach to the castle before the Outer Ward was built.

Look for: the medieval graffiti carved into the wall during the Middle Ages. It shows the arms of the de Barri family of Manorbier.

14. St Anne's Bastion

- A massive defensive feature that possibly contained a garden, so it may have been domestic as well as (or instead of) defensive.
- Probably added by Aymer de Valence in the early 14th century.
- It now houses the cafe and toilets.

Look for: a sally port.

Discuss: How would you describe the castle to someone who has never seen it?

15. The Barbican

A defensive feature, built by Aymer de Valence as an additional walled defence to protect the Great Gatehouse. It may also have been used to hold open-air courts. It forms a large semi-circular shape and forced attackers through an awkward right-angle.

Before the barbican was built there may have been a ditch between the gate and the end of the gift shop, possibly accessed via a drawbridge which is now gone.

Limestone from the ditch was used to build this part of the castle.

It was extensively restored in the 1880s.

Point out: the points of attack. The barbican was a killing ground and attackers would get trapped here.

Look for: arrow slits, loopholes and evidence of portcullis grooves. A draw bridge and murder holes - 3 iron cauldrons heated limestone grenades, red hot sand and acids from urine, to drop on an enemy below from the murder holes.

Discuss: How does an attacking army get through? How many obstacles might they have to face?



Castle stories

Siege of Pembroke Castle

If you cannot burn the castle down, and you cannot get inside the castle, how do you kill the Normans inside? Any ideas? Well, it's a piece of cake really (or not), you starve them out! In other words, you lay siege to the castle.

The plan is simple. To lay siege to a castle you need to set up camp outside the castle walls and stop all food from getting inside. The residents, in this case the Normans, get so hungry and grumpy that they surrender and ask for a bag of chips! And that's it, like I said, simple. But, there is a problem with this idea. When you're camping outside, you don't know how much food is stored inside the castle. You don't know how long this siege will last. You just have to sit outside day and night, and wait, and hope for the best.

Many years ago Pembroke Castle was the setting of a siege and it lasted 6 weeks. Now remember, when you lay siege to Pembroke Castle you're camping out on a cliff top. This cliff top is very high, very windy and it rains a lot. Also, food is scarce on a cliff top so you will have to rely on your food supplies. These can get exhausted in no time at all. With each passing day you get colder, wetter, grumpier and hungrier.

The Normans inside Pembroke Castle were clever and they were rationing their food wisely. The man in charge of the castle, Gerald de Windsor, was cunning. Luckily for the castle residents he had some tricks up his

sleeve. He could see that the siege camp outside was suffering, so he decided to play tricks on them.

Trick number 1: Every night Gerald held a banquet with fake food. Music was played and residents sang loudly, very loudly in fact. So loud that the people laying siege to the castle could hear and they thought, "hang on a minute they had a banquet last night, and the night before! That's not fair, they're feasting and we're suffering not them!" Clever isn't it?

Trick number 2: When the Normans did eat food, they would throw the bones and other leftovers over the castle walls in the direction of the siege camp, not out the back into the river as they would normally have done. The people in the siege camp could see that food was being eaten, adding to their misery. Then Gerald had another trick up his sleeve.

Trick number 3: He wrote a letter to his boss saying, "Dear Arnulf de Montgomery, We have plenty to eat in this castle, so don't you worry about us under this siege, we're fine. Lots of love, Gerald. XX." He had this letter 'accidentally on purpose' dropped into the siege camp. When the people laying siege to the castle read it, they wept and went home.

And that was the end of the siege. The castle was saved thanks to the cunningness and trickery of Gerald de Windsor. Psychological warfare at its best!

Retold by Isla Tasker

Castle stories

John Whitmore. An amazing story of survival

In 1440 a gentleman by the name of John Whithorne from the Isle of Wight came into dispute with Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester and Earl of Pembroke over land and titles.

The Duke was an all-powerful man; son, brother and uncle to kings. In 1440 he was attempting to seize the regency of England. His nephew, King Henry VI was not in good health and mentally unstable. The Duke used this to make a claim for the throne. However the Duke's enemies in Court led by Cardinal Beaufort frustrated him at every turn. As part of his attempt for power the Duke was trying to take control of many estates in England and Wales. John Whithorne, acting for his own lands in the Isle of Wight and for those of the lately deceased Duke of Bedford, for whom John was the Crown receiver, refused to give way to the demands of the Duke to hand over the receivership. The Duke had his men kidnap John and imprisoned him in the dungeon tower of Pembroke Castle, thereby seizing control of many estates.

The Dungeon Tower is 5 metres deep and access is by a hatch in the floor. There was hardly any light and therein it was cold and damp. Its proper name is 'Oubliette', after the French verb Oublier - to forget. The dungeon was designed primarily for only one or two

people to be imprisoned for life and forgotten about! John would have been fed very poor food and just enough water to keep him alive. The dungeon has a beaten earth floor and is cold and damp with rats and mice running over John and biting lice making him constantly itch. His guards would say very little to him and there was no toilet to use! How anyone could survive down there for more than a few months is hard to imagine, but John, driven by a determination for revenge, did survive incredibly for 7 long years.

In 1447 the Duke was finally charged with many crimes (including the kidnap and false imprisonment of John) and found guilty of treason against the Crown. Three days later the Duke died of poisoning (whether murder or suicide is not known - most likely murder). John's friends came to his rescue and petitioned Parliament for a pardon and he was released sometime after 16th July 1447. He had survived his ordeal but he was a very sick man; blind, crippled and diseased. Although it is not known when he died he could not have lived for very long in such poor health.

Retold by Howard Rudge

Castle stories

The Royal Mint in Pembroke – 1125-1175 (approx.)

Less than 50 years of coin making

By 1125 a Royal Mint had been established in the Castle. It only lasted for about 50 years and then ceased production. However, during its life it produced many thousands of silver coins called Pennies. Very few have survived and are rare. Today a Pembroke Castle silver penny is worth in excess of £5,000.

Coins were made by a man called a moneyer. He engraved two dies with an engraving of the King's head and name on one side and some form of decoration on the reverse, including a cross and the moneyer's name and site of mint. Pembroke silver pennies have the head of King Henry 1st and his name, Henric R(Rex) on one side, and on the other either PEI or PAN (Pembroke and the initials of the moneyer).

The Moneyer would take a piece of silver cut in the round and mount it on the iron die that carried the reverse side of the coin (Cross and PAN). He would then place the die with the King's head on the top of the silver disc and strike the top die with a large iron bar with a hammer. The engraving of the head and the reverse of the coin would imprint itself into either side of the softer silver. The weight of the coin was strictly controlled.

During the reign of King Henry I coin quality declined, and moneyers were commonly creating underweight or low-quality coins and keeping the profit. People would often "clip" the coins to pocket the small pieces of silver. In 1124 King Henry summoned 150 moneyers to Winchester, and tried them for issuing substandard coins. 94 of them were convicted. Their right hands were cut off. Coin quality quickly improved!

The earliest Pennies were introduced in England around 785 by King Offa of Mercia. The Penny would remain in circulation, without a change in value, until 1971. The name came from Old English "pennige", and is related to the German "pfennig". They were nearly equivalent to the Denier in use in Europe at the time, and this is the source of the d. abbreviation used for the penny. The penny was the only coin circulated in England for 500 years, until the reign of King Henry III. If a smaller denomination was needed, pennies could be cut in half or quarters.

Retold by Howard Rudge

Castle stories

The Lord Rhys

For much of the Middle Ages – after Gerald and Nest, and before the Tudors – you might think that Pembroke Castle had a negative effect on all things Welsh. At the time many people had settled near the castle which led to a cosmopolitan English-speaking culture. However, the antics of the Pembrokeshire Normans infuriated King Henry 2nd as they started conquering in Ireland. This led to an unlikely alliance and friendship with his former enemy Rhys ap Gruffudd, prince of southwest Wales. As a result, further expansion of Norman power was brought to a halt. In some places it reversed, and the rest of southwest Wales retained its culture.

Dermot, the ruthless king of southeast Ireland had been driven out of his land by other rival Irish kings, and he appealed for help in Gwent and Pembrokeshire. Various members of a powerful local group, the "Geraldines", responded and went off to Ireland on a great adventure in support of King Dermot. Their leader was the Earl of Pembroke, Richard de Clare, also known as 'Strongbow'. With their help King Dermot recaptured his kingdom, and Strongbow married his daughter, Aiofe. When King Dermot died in May 1171 it was Strongbow who was declared Lord.

Meanwhile, the Normans just carried on conquering and upsetting other Irish kings. The Irish kings asked Henry

to stop them and he was absolutely furious, and probably jealous. He was determined to stop a repetition of what had happened in Wales, where arrogant barons carved out independent Marcher Lordships over which Henry had no control. At home, Henry was in the dog-house after the murder of Archbishop Becket. He had few friends and needed to escape the Papal detectives. He brought a vast invasion force to Pembroke, and stayed for three weeks in autumn 1171.

The Lord Rhys had long been a rebellious enemy, and usually got beaten. However, Henry's invasion of Wales in 1165 had ended in total disaster, and Rhys increased his territories. He met Henry in the Forest of Dean, offering friendship. Henry was grumpy, expecting Rhys to grovel, and told Rhys to meet him at Pembroke. When they met again, Henry had changed his tune! Rhys could keep all the lands he had conquered illegally! After a winter away in Ireland Henry met Rhys once again at Laugharne. There, Henry made Rhys Justice of South Wales, with control over every Welsh ruler, and the Marcher Lords feared to upset Rhys.

The former rebel was now a guardian of the establishment, and the alliance lasted for the rest of Henry's reign. When Henry's wife and children went to war in 1173, it was Rhys and Strongbow who provided massive military support.

Retold by Martin Lewis

Important Characters

Lady Margaret Beaufort

Born: 31st May 1443

Died: 29th June 1509. her tomb is at Westminster Abbey in London

Family: Daughter and heir of John Beaufort, 1st Duke of Somerset, and great-granddaughter of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster

Married: Edmund Tudor, Earl of Richmond and half brother of King Henry VI in 1455.

Children: One son, Henry, born in January 1457, three months after Tudor's death.

Described as: Devout and formidable

Fascinating facts:

She was determined that Henry would become king.

She married three times (a fourth marriage when she was only a child was annulled), and she outlived all of them. She married Sir Henry Stafford and later Lord Stanley, who in 1485 helped her son obtain the throne.

Margaret lived long enough to see her grandson King Henry VIII marry Catherine of Aragon and witnessed their coronation on June 24th 1509.

Princess Nest (Nest ferch Rhys)

Born: Around 1085 in Carmarthenshire

Died: Around 1136

Family: The daughter of Rhys ap Tewdwr King of the Deheubarth in south west Wales

Married: Gerald of Windsor, the Constable of Pembroke and Stephen de Marisco, Constable of Cardigan Castle

Children: Five sons and four daughters

Described as: The most beautiful women in Wales

Fascinating facts: She spent some time in the court of Henry I in London at the end of the 11th Century. Henry fell in love with her and soon she gave birth to his son. It was Henry who ordered her marriage to Gerald of Windsor.

Nest had many admirers including her cousin Owain who. He was so overcome by her beauty that he laid siege to the castle in order to capture her.

Gerald escaped through the sewers with the children but Nest was taken hostage. She was held 'prisoner' at Cilgerran Castle in Pembrokeshire for six years and during that time she bore Owain at least two children.

Gerald rescued Nest and killed Owain in battle, but sadly, he died a year later.

Important Characters

William Marshal

Born: 1146 or 1147

Died: 14th May 1219 at Caversham, aged 73

Buried: Temple Church in London

Married: Isabelle de Clare

Crest: A red lion on a green and yellow field (below)

Described as: 'The greatest knight that ever lived'. A loyal and brave soldier.

Fascinating facts:

Around the age of 12 William was sent to Normandy to train as a knight.

William served five English Kings.

He was knighted in 1166 and made a good living from winning tournaments.

William and Isabelle's daughters had many children, but their five sons died childless and none lived past forty years of age. It is said that a curse was placed upon William by the Irish Bishop of Ferns, Albin O'Molloy.

Isabelle Marshal (nee de Clare)

Born: 1172

Died: 1220, aged 78.

Family: Daughter of Richard de Clare, 2nd Earl of Pembroke and Aoife of Leinster, Ireland.

Married: William Marshal

Children: five sons and five daughters.

Described as: "the good, the fair, the wise, the courteous lady of high degree"

Fascinating facts:

She spoke French, Latin and Irish.

After her brother Gilbert's death,

Isabel became one of the

wealthiest heiresses in the kingdom, owning the titles of

Pembroke and Striguil, now known

Chepstow, and much land in Wales and Ireland.

Her marriage was arranged by King Richard I.

Her marriage to William was very happy.

Roger de Montgomery

Born: 1022

Died: 1094

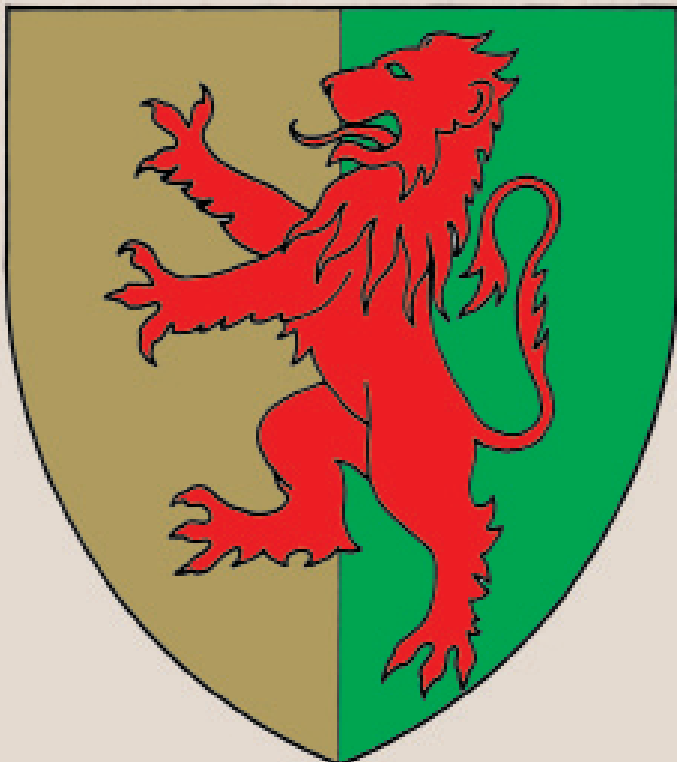
Family: Cousin of the Norman king, William the Conqueror.

Children: Five sons, the youngest was called Arnulf.

Motto: 'Fortune favours the brave'

Described as: Also known as Roger the Great de Montgomery.

Fascinating fact: Roger was the 1st Earl Shrewsbury.



Important Characters

Henry Tudor (Harri Tudur)

Born: 28th January 1457,
Pembroke Castle

Died: 21st April 1509

Buried: 11th May 1509
Westminster Abbey

Family: Son of Edmund Tudor and Margaret Beaufort, grandson of Owen Tudor and nephew of

Jasper Tudor

Married: Elizabeth York in 1486

Children: Arthur, Margaret, Henry VIII, Mary

Motto: Dieu et mon droit (God and my Right)

Crest: The red rose of Lancaster and the white rose of York (below)

Described as: A strong wise and determined ruler. Father of the Tudor Dynasty.

Fascinating facts:

He was the first monarch of the Tudor Dynasty.

When Henry was four years old Yorkists took control of Pembroke Castle while his uncle Jasper was away fighting for the Lancastrians.

When Henry was 14 years old, Jasper was concerned for his safety and decided to take him into exile in mainland Europe. They sailed from Tenby to Brittany, where they waited for the right time to return.

Fourteen years later, Henry and Jasper sailed from the mouth of the Seine to the Milford Haven Waterway, a voyage which led to Henry's victory over the House of York at Bosworth and his coronation as Henry VII.

Oliver Cromwell

Born: 25th April 1599 in Huntingdon

Died: 3rd September 1658, Whitehall

Buried: 10th November 1658, Westminster Abbey

Married: Elizabeth Bourchier on the 22nd August 1620

Children: Nine children with Elizabeth. Robert, Oliver, Bridget, Richard, Henry, Elizabeth, James, Mary, Frances

Described as: An active and committed officer in the parliamentary arm. Also known as 'Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England'.


Fascinating facts:

Cromwell was a Puritan, who opposed Charles I, the King. During the Civil War he fought for Parliament and thought that Parliamentary leaders did not do enough to try to defeat Charles I.

He became the leader of England in 1649 by leading the New Model Army. This included opponents that held different opinions about the type and degree of changes they wanted but they all agreed that Charles needed to change policies or go.

In 1648, Oliver Cromwell was sent to Pembroke by Parliament to storm Pembroke Castle which had become the base for disaffected Parliamentary troops who declared for the King.

Glossary

Bailey	The fenced enclosure of an early castle.
Banquet	A great feast, usually held in the Great Hall.
Barbican	A walled defence protecting a castle gatehouse.
Battlements	Defensive parapets on the top of castle walls.
Coat of arms	Any heraldic badge originally displayed on a Knight's surcoat. Still used by towns and schools.
 Constable	Looked after the castle when the earl or lord was away.
Crenels	Gaps in the battlements for shooting arrows through.
Curtain wall	The defensive walls around the castle.
Dungeon	A strong underground prison cell.
Embrasure	An opening built on the inner side of a loophole.
Garderobe	A castle toilet, also called a latrine or privy.
Gatehouse	The towers and gates which guard the entrance to the castle.
Hoard	A movable wooden frame fitted onto battlements to help defend the walls.

Keep	A defensive stone tower usually found at the centre of a castle.
Loophole	An opening in a defensive wall, through which weapons were fired. Some were simple vertical slits, others were shaped like crosses.
Lord	The castle owner and a member of the most powerful group in society.
Mason	A worker in stone.
Merlons	The raised wall between two crenels which gave cover to the archer.
Moat	A water-filled ditch around a castle.
Motte	A steep mound of earth which supported the towers of early castles.
Murder hole	A hole in a gatehouse ceiling, either used to drop missiles on attackers below, or to put out fires.
Portcullis	A heavy grille which can be raised and lowered to seal off a castle gateway.
Sally Port	A small exit point in a fortification for the passage of troops.
Seige	A military operation that cuts off a castles supplies.