

## Mortimer History Society and Richard III Society

### Joint Conference Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Ludlow Assembly Rooms and St Laurence's Church, Ludlow

#### The Mortimer Inheritance: The Key to the Yorkist Crown

Members of MHS + RIII Society £20.00

Non-Members: £25.00

+ Optional Lunch: £12.00

+ Optional Visit to Ludlow Castle £ 5.40

+ " " " " (senior) £ 4.50

#### Draft Programme

Times	Speaker	Title and Synopsis
10.00	Philip Hume	Welcome and Introduction Brief recap on the Mortimers 1050s to 1330
10.10	Dr Paul Dryburgh	<b>The (fairy)tale of the Garter Knight and the Grandmother: the Fall and Rise of the Mortimer Earls of March, 1330-1360</b>  On 29 November 1330 Roger Mortimer, first earl of March, putative lover of the queen mother, was executed by Edward III. A year later, his son and heir Edmund died, leaving an infant son to the care of his mother, Elizabeth, and grandmother, Joan de Joinville, countess of March. These two deaths threatened to destroy the landed wealth accumulated by the family of Mortimer of Wigmore across the British Isles over the previous four generations and their political power and prominence achieved during the four-year regency of Earl Roger from 1327. However, within three decades, at the death of Roger, the second earl, in February 1360, the family stood once again high in national esteem and would within another generation marry into the royal family. This talk will explore how this was achieved. It will examine both the martial and chivalric prowess of the younger Roger but also the roles of (and tensions between) Countess Joan and her daughter-in-law, Elizabeth, countess of Northampton, in consolidating a landed inheritance for the young Roger in England, Ireland, Wales and its marches. It will also assess the extent to which Edward III viewed the maintenance and revival of a controversial title as part of his political management of English lordship across the British Isles and weigh up the success of that strategy for the Crown and the Mortimer family.
10.40	Sara Hanna-Black	<b>Mortimer and Lancaster: the origins of a dynastic feud</b>

		<p>That the Yorkists exercised claims on the English crown owed much to their Mortimer ancestry. The claims dated to the betrothal, in 1358, of Edmund, heir to the earldom of March, to Philippa, daughter and heiress of Lionel duke of Clarence, second son of Edward III. Their marriage in 1368 not only won Edmund the earldom of Ulster and valuable East Anglian estates, but also raised him and his successors into the intimate circles of the royal family with his children entering the line of succession itself. It also transformed the Mortimer earls of March into one of the most powerful families in medieval England, second only to the dukes of Lancaster and able to assert, like the Lancastrians, that plausible claim to the throne. This talk will focus on the political and military career of Edmund Mortimer, third earl of March (1352-1381), assessing his contribution at the very beginnings of the dynastic rivalry between Mortimer and Lancaster during the reigns of Edward III and Richard II. A dynastic rivalry inherited in the next century by the house of York and which led to the 'Wars of the Roses'.</p>
11.10	Questions	Questions on the first two talks
11.20	Refreshments	
11.45	Dr Ian Mortimer	<p><b>'The Mortimer Claim to the Throne, 1374-1415'</b></p> <p>It is often said by scholars that in the reign of Richard II, the Mortimers were next in line to the throne. In particular, one chronicle specifically refers to Richard II naming the Mortimers as his heirs in the parliament of 1385. Close examination of the text casts doubt on the timing of this, relocating such a declaration to the parliament of 1386, in which the young king spoke in a very different political context, and was forced to back down on a number of issues. Furthermore, it is possible to demonstrate that nothing came of this declaration (if it was indeed made): orders of precedence leave little room for doubt that the Mortimers were not recognised as the prime heirs, even though they themselves set great store by their royal blood – even to the point of encouraging a revolution in their name in 1415. How things could be so confused then as well as subsequently is revealed by an examination of the legal rules for inheritance of a throne, and an explanation of why they applied differently from normal estates. In this way it is possible to see why the Mortimers were not the heirs in the period in question even though many well-informed people believed they were.</p>
12.20	Prof Chris Given-Wilson	<p><b>'Don't mention the Mortimers: How a putative king became an impotent pawn'.</b></p> <p>Synopsis:</p> <p>This paper will examine the history of the Mortimer claim to the English throne during the reigns of the first two Lancastrian kings, Henry IV (1399-1413) and Henry V (1413-22). It will focus on the life of Edmund, earl of March (d.</p>

		1425), a man who was regarded by many as the rightful heir to the English throne after 1399, and in whose name numerous plots were hatched and rebellions organised against the Lancastrian regime, but who failed for one reason or another to live up to the expectations of his supporters.
13.10	Questions	Questions to 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> speakers
13.20		Walk to St Laurence's
13.30		Lunch and view St L's – provide handout on Yorkist symbolism
14.30		Walk back to LAR
14.40	Afternoon Chair – Dr Phil Stone  Matthew Lewis	<b>Richard, Duke of York: Marcher Lord</b>  Richard, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Duke of York is most often remembered for his opposition to Henry VI, which ultimately led to the Yorkist dynasty taking the throne of England. A large part of the reason that Richard was able to successfully oppose the crown for a decade lay not in his Yorkist inheritance, but in his Mortimer lineage and the Marcher power that came with it. Matthew Lewis will examine the extent to which Richard, Duke of York relied on his maternal Mortimer inheritance and the impact that it had on one of the most turbulent decades in English medieval politics.
15.20	Dr Joanna Laynesmith	<b>"The Lion and the Hart: the Mortimer Inheritance in the hands of Edward IV and Cecily duchess of York"</b>  This paper will begin by showing how Edward IV and his mother used the ideology and symbolism of the Mortimer inheritance in creating the Yorkist identity as the legitimate royal house. It will then discuss the practical and political uses they made of some of their Mortimer estates.
16.00	Mathew Lewis	<b>Richard III: From Ludlow to Bosworth</b>  Richard III is one of the most infamous of English kings, in turn a victim and a beneficiary of the political career of his Yorkist family. Aged seven, he witnessed the sacking of Ludlow after being abandoned by his father and older brothers. At thirty, he became King of England and seems to have been intent on pursuing the manifesto of reform put forward by his father, Richard, Duke of York. Richard's intervening years lay largely in a different marcher region, protecting the border with Scotland, but there is reason to believe that Ludlow and the Welsh Marches retained a place in his heart.
16.30	Questions	Questions to the afternoon speakers
16.45	Close Optional tour of Ludlow Castle	Optional visit to/tour of Ludlow castle

## **Biographies**

### **Dr Paul Dryburgh**

Paul Dryburgh is a founder member of the Mortimer History Society and has been one of the Honorary Presidents since its foundation. Professionally, he is a Principal Records Specialist at The National Archives, where he specialises in medieval records. His doctoral thesis, completed in 2002, was entitled 'The Career of Roger Mortimer, 1<sup>st</sup> earl of March (c. 1287-1330)'. He has research interests in government, politics and warfare in the British Isles in the fourteenth century, the medieval wool trade and English 'colonial' administration in the Middle Ages. He is also Joint General Editor of the Pipe Roll Society, Honorary Secretary of the Lincoln Record Society, and a trustee of the British Association for Local History.

### **Sara Hanna-Black**

Sara Hanna Black has worked as a researcher for historians and writers and her work has appeared in film and television. She is simultaneously studying for a degree in Medieval History at the University of Winchester and writing 'Honour and Disgrace: The Last Mortimers of Wigmore, 1330–1425' for Amberley. Sara is a trustee of the Mortimer History Society and runs the society's blog and social media accounts

### **Dr Ian Mortimer**

Dr Ian Mortimer is a well-known archivist, historian, writer and broadcaster, and an Honorary Vice-President of the Mortimer History Society. He has written widely on medieval and early modern England. His first book, the 'Greatest Traitor' a biography of Roger Mortimer, was followed by biographies of Edward III, Henry IV, and a biography of a year – 1415. More recently he has written the acclaimed series The Time Traveller's Guides to Medieval England, then Elizabethan England (which was made in to a Tv series), and the most recent one - Restoration Britain.

### **Professor Chris Given-Wilson**

Emeritus Professor Chris Given-Wilson's, St Andrew's University, is one of the leading experts on late medieval history. Chris' teaching and research interests focus on late mediaeval English political and social history (14th and 15th centuries), and on historical writing (especially chronicles) in late mediaeval England. He is the author or editor of a dozen or so books on late mediaeval English history, including a recent biography of Henry IV, as well as various articles. Chris is also the General Editor of PROME (The Parliament Rolls of Medieval England), a new edition with translation of the Rotuli Parliamentorum published in sixteen volumes in 2005.

### **Matthew Lewis**

Matt Lewis is the author of two historical fiction novels and several non-fiction histories, including biographies of Richard, Duke of York and his youngest son Richard III. Matt is interested in English medieval history with a strong focus on the Wars of the Roses period and frequently blogs on his research and thoughts.

Dr Joanna Laynesmith

Dr Joanna Laynesmith is a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Reading. Her publications include *The Last Medieval Queens: English Queenship 1445-1503* (2004), and *Cecily Duchess of York* (2017). She is the research officer for the Richard III Society.