

## The changing fortunes of Owen Tudor

Following the death of his beloved Queen Catherine, Owen was charged with violating laws concerning his marriage to the late queen.

Having been acquitted of all the trumped up charges he was released and headed home to Wales.

However he wasn't to escape that easily and he was arrested again and this time sent to the notorious Newgate Prison in London.

Escaping once, he was recaptured and taken to Windsor Castle.

Fortunately for him, his step-son now of age to rule, intervened. He was bailed and subsequently pardoned by King VI and moved into the royal household.

There he received a generous pension and was given lands and titles such as Warden of Forests, and Deputy Lord Lieutenant.

Sadly the witty and charismatic Welshman didn't live to see a Tudor heir on the English throne.

At the age of 61 his life came to an abrupt end during the Wars of the Roses.

After taking part in a heavy Lancastrian defeat at Mortimer's Cross in 1461, the ageing soldier was captured and believed he would be spared due to his connections to the royal family. However it wasn't to be and Owen was executed.

The Yorkists would eventually win the War of the Roses with Henry VI fleeing and Edward IV being crowned king.

It wasn't until 1483 when Richard III usurped the throne that Henry, who'd been in exile for 14 years, finally saw his chance to avenge his grandfather's death.

Henry returned to Wales from France in 1485 with a small force of around 5000 men landing just across the water at Mill Bay (points in general direction) in Milford Haven.

It's perhaps fitting that he marched up through Wales - the land of his grandfather, raising an army as he went, before finally defeating Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth and taking the English crown by force.

Henry was to eventually marry Elizabeth of York, uniting the Houses of Lancaster and York and restoring peace. The Tudor rose, which combined the

flowers from both these houses, became a symbol of a united England for the next 118 years.