



Tour of Ludlow Castle, Lunch and Talk with Philip Hume of the Mortimer History Society on Thursday 14 September 2023

Guided tour, meeting at the entrance to Ludlow Castle from 10:40 for 11:00

Ludlow Castle, Castle Square, Ludlow SY8 1AS

followed by lunch and a talk in the Beacon Room of the castle's excellent 'Chapter 66' restaurant

Among the special features of Ludlow Castle are:

- a largely intact and original curtain wall, punctuated by rectangular towers, forming the Inner Bailey and built by Marcher lords Walter de Lacy and his son Roger in the 1080s and 1090s;
- a richly decorated chapel with a rare circular nave, modelled on the church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem and put up by Crusader Gilbert de Lacy;
- one of the finest domestic ranges in the country with a solar block and great hall from the late 13th century, an early 14th century chamber block, and Tudor additions
- lodgings constructed for judges and royal officials by Sir Henry Sidney when he was President of the Council in the Marches of Wales in the middle of the 16th century.



During the tour Philip Hume will talk about these and other features as well as describing significant events that have taken place or been connected with the castle. They include lavish entertainment laid on by Roger Mortimer in 1328 for Edward III (Roger was the power behind the throne to Edward, following a colourful career which included becoming the ally and possible lover of Edward II's estranged wife Isabella); the battle of Mortimer's Cross just outside Ludlow which helped determine the outcome of the Wars of the Roses; the residence at Ludlow Castle between 1473 and 1483 of Prince Edward who was later to be known as one of the Princes in the Tower, and the death at Ludlow Castle of Prince Arthur, heir to Henry VII.

A planned town was laid out beside the castle with a marketplace extending away from the castle gate and a grid of straight streets running downhill towards the river. Although Thursdays are not market days today, the market square and surrounding streets, with a number of independent shops including a book shop, are well worth a wander round after lunch.

Philip's lunchtime talk will provide an overview of the history of the powerful Mortimer family, lords of Ludlow from 1307. It will be illustrated with photographs of the other castles, churches and artefacts in south Shropshire and north Herefordshire associated with the Mortimers.

Philip is a retired senior local government officer, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, and the Secretary of the Mortimer History Society. He is the author of 'On the Trail of the Mortimers' (2016), 'The Welsh Marcher Lordships: Central & North' (2021), 'On the Trail of the Mortimers in the Welsh Marches' (2022), and co-author of 'The Ludlow Castle Heraldic Roll' (2019).