

Phoenix Medieval Society

Presents

Templecombe's 26th
International Medieval
Pageant



Welcome to the XXVIth Templecombe Medieval Pageant Weekend. This year's charities will be in aid of Yeovil Hospital, Wessex Ambulance Service & Papworth Hospital. Every year our programme has a theme and this year it is a little bit of everything.

I would also like to mention our catering and on site facilities are provided and maintained by ourselves the Phoenix Medieval Society. The helpers volunteer their time both preparing for, and on, the day of the event. Please place all litter in the bins provided around the site as the land is in use for the rest of the year for grazing animals. We thank you for your support and wish you an interesting and entertaining day.

Kate James

The Phoenix Medieval Society would like to thank the following for their assistance in putting on this year's pageant:

- Geoff Wilson, Mary Cuss & the whole team
 - for the use of the site & for sharing all their years' of experience in organising the event
- Andrew Barclay Butchers
 - for supplying the bacon
- Thales Underwater Systems
 - for printing the programme
- Mr Nigel Jeans
 - for the use of his field for parking

And to all the local traders who by advertising in the following pages have helped support the pageant.



Edward the Confessor

1042 – 1066

Edward the Confessor was King of England from 1042 to 1066. He was born at Islip in Oxfordshire between 1002 and 1005, the son of King Ethelred 'the Unready' and Emma. Driven from England by the Danes, and spending his exile in Normandy, the story goes that Edward vowed that if he should return safely to his kingdom, he would make a pilgrimage to St Peter's, Rome.

Once on the throne he found it impossible to leave his subjects, and the Pope released him from his vow on condition that he should found or restore a monastery to St Peter. This led to the building of a new church in the Norman style to replace the Saxon church at Westminster. The Abbey at Westminster was consecrated on Holy Innocents' Day, 28th December 1065.

He had not been a particularly successful king, but his personal character and piety endeared him to his people. In appearance he is represented as tall, dignified and kindly with rosy cheeks and a long white beard. He was regarded as a saint long before he was officially canonised as Saint and Confessor by Pope Alexander III in February 1161. A Confessor is a particular type of saint. The term applies to those who suffered for their faith and demonstrated their sanctity in the face of worldly temptations, but who were not martyrs.

One of the legends associated with the king happened towards the end of his life. Edward was riding by a church in Essex and an old man asked for alms. As the king had no money to give he drew a large ring off his finger and gave this to the beggar.

A few years later two pilgrims were travelling in the Holy Land and became stranded. They were helped by an old man and when he knew they came from England he told them he was St John the Evangelist and asked them to return the ring to Edward telling him that in six months he would join him in heaven.



Edward I

1272 – 1307

In 1254, Edward travelled to Spain for an arranged marriage at the age of 15 to 9-year-old Eleanor of Castile.

Edward arrived in Acre in May 1271 with 1,000 knights; his crusade was to prove an anticlimax. Edward's small force limited him to the relief of Acre and a handful of raids, and divisions amongst the international force of Christian Crusaders led to Edward's compromise truce with the Baibars.

In June 1272, Edward survived a murder attempt by an assassin (an order of Shi'ite Muslims) and left for Sicily later in the year. He was never to return on crusade.

Henry III died on 16 November 1272. Edward succeeded to the throne without opposition – given his track record in military ability and his proven determination to give peace to the country, enhanced by his magnified exploits on crusade.

In Edward's absence, a proclamation in his name declared that he had succeeded by hereditary right, and the barons swore allegiance to him. Edward finally arrived in London in August 1274 and was crowned at Westminster Abbey. In 1247, under the Treaty of Woodstock, Llywelyn had agreed that he held North Wales in fee to the English king. By 1272, Llywelyn had taken advantage of the English civil wars to consolidate his position, and the Peace of Montgomery (1267) had confirmed his title as Prince of Wales and recognised his conquests.



However, Llywelyn maintained that the rights of his principality were 'entirely separate from the rights' of England; he did not attend Edward's coronation and refused to do homage.

Finally, in 1277 Edward decided to fight Llywelyn 'as a rebel and disturber of the peace', and quickly defeated him. War broke out again in 1282 when Llywelyn joined his brother David in rebellion.

Edward's determination, military experience and skillful use of ships brought from England for deployment along the North Welsh coast, drove Llywelyn back into the mountains of North Wales. The death of Llywelyn in a chance battle in 1282 and the subsequent execution of his brother David effectively ended attempts at Welsh independence.

King Edward I of England, the man styled 'hammer of the Scots' died on 7 July 1307 whilst on a military campaign to Scotland. Edward died from dysentery at Burgh on Sands near Carlisle after months of ill health. He had been travelling north in the hope of defeating the supporters of Robert the Bruce who had been growing in numbers since the Battle of Methven.

Edward's body was taken back to London and he was buried at Westminster Abbey after a lengthy vigil of more than three months.

Medieval Recipe

Mixed Pickles

Ingredients - Makes 2.3kg

- 900g mixed parsley roots, carrots, radishes and turnips
- 450g white cabbage
- 450g hard eating pears
- 6 tbsp salt
- 1 tsp ground ginger
- ½ tsp dried saffron strands
- 425ml white wine vinegar
- 50g currants
- 575ml fruity white wine
- 6 tbsp clear honey
- 1 tsp of French mustard
- ⅛ tsp each of ground cinnamon and black pepper
- ¼ tsp each of anise and fennel seeds
- 50g white sugar

Method

Wash and peel the root vegetables and slice them thinly. Core and shred the cabbage. Put the vegetables into a large pan of water and slowly bring to the boil. Peel, core and cut up the pears and add them to the pan. Cook until they start to soften. Drain the contents of the pan and spread in a 5cm layer in a shallow non-metallic dish. Sprinkle it with salt, ginger, saffron and 4 tbsp of vinegar. Leave, covered, for 12 hours. Rinse well, then add the currants. Pack into sterilised storage jars, with at least 2.5cm headspace. Put the wine and honey in a pan. Bring to a simmer and skim. Add the rest of the vinegar and all the remaining spices and sugar. Reduce the heat and stir without boiling until the sugar dissolves. Bring back to the boil. Pour over the vegetables, covering them with 1cm of liquid. Cover with vinegar-proof seals and store.

Henry I

1100 – 1135

Henry was born in Selby, Yorkshire. He was the fourth son of William the Conqueror and Queen Matilda of Flanders. Henry was the only child born in England. His mother had come to England for her coronation in 1068.

On William's death in 1087, Henry's two older brothers were each left half of their father's kingdom. Robert Curthose became Duke of Normandy. William Rufus became king of England. But Henry, still a minor, was left with no inheritance. Henry purchased the County of Cotentin in western Normandy from Robert. But Robert and William Rufus forced him out in 1091. Henry gradually rebuilt his power base in the Cotentin.

Henry was present when William died in a hunting accident in 1100. Robert was away on Crusade. Henry, who was present when William was killed, rushed to seize the English throne for himself. As King, Henry tried to make social reforms. He issued the Charter of Liberties which is considered a predecessor of the Magna Carta. He put back in place some of the laws of Edward the Confessor.

Henry died on 1 December 1135 of food poisoning from eating 'a surfeit of lampreys' (of which he was excessively fond) at Saint-Denis-en-Lyons (now Lyons-la-Forêt) in Normandy. His remains were sewn into the hide of a bull to preserve them on the journey, and then taken back to England and were buried at Reading Abbey, which he had founded fourteen years before.

The Abbey was destroyed during the Reformation and no trace of his tomb has survived, the probable site being covered by St James' School. There is a small plaque nearby and a large memorial cross in the adjoining Forbury Gardens.

King Henry is famed for holding the record for the largest number of acknowledged illegitimate children born to any English king, with the number being around 20 or 25.



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Henry II

1154 – 1189

He married Eleanor of Aquitaine in 1152 and was crowned king in 1154. Although he was King of England, he never learnt the English language because his family had come over from Normandy in 1066. They spoke Norman French. Henry was intelligent and well educated. He spoke Latin fluently, which was the language of educated people in Europe at that time. All documents and laws were written in Latin.

Henry was unhappy at the law not being applied the same way across England. His changes helped to develop the common law. Laws would be applied in the same way in all towns and villages, so everyone was treated the same and with fairness. To do this, Henry made a number of changes:

- He created Judges who would travel the country and judge the cases of people accused of breaking the law. This meant that all crimes were judged by the King or his judges, and not by local people who might be biased or influenced.
- Allowed judges to collect the fines from punishments of small crimes, which would be then given to the King.
- Created trial by jury. This meant that a number of local men, usually 12, would judge the case of someone accused of a crime. If they believed he was guilty, he would be punished, and if they believed he was innocent, he would be set free.

One of the big events that happened during his rule was the killing of Thomas Becket. Henry and Becket were old friends who found themselves in dispute

once Becket became the Archbishop of Canterbury. Their dispute was over the role of the Church in England. Becket was trying to increase the power of church courts that had lost power when Henry had made major changes to the legal system. Four knights killed Becket in Canterbury Cathedral.



Henry had constant struggles and battles against the French King Louis VII of France, but also many conflicts with his own wife and sons.

First Richard and young Henry fought their father for possession of lands they had been promised. They were defeated, and fined heavily. Later Eleanor and young Henry led a civil war against King Henry (1173/74). This Henry also won, just. Richard finally defeated Henry in a battle for Anjou (1189). Richard had the help of Philip II, who was now King of France.

Weak, ill and deserted by all except an illegitimate son, Henry died in France in 1189 aged 56.

Henry was the first king of England to use a heraldic design: a signet ring with either a leopard or a lion engraved on it. The design would be altered in later generations to form the Royal Arms of England.

Strange Medieval Fact

Eels were sometimes used as currency

During the 11th century, eels were often used instead of money to pay rent. Landlords would take in-kind payments of all sorts, including corn, ale, spices, eggs and above all, eels. By the end of the 11th century, over 540,000 eels were being used as currency every year. A record survives showing someone once rented land in the fenlands for 26,275 eels.



Henry III

1216 – 1272

Henry III (1207-1272), the eldest son of King John (c1166-1216), came to the throne at the age of nine. He was king of England from 1216 until his death in 1272, ruling longer than any other English monarch until George III reached 56 years on the throne in 1816.

He was hastily crowned king at Gloucester Abbey on 28th October 1216 due to the uncertain political situation at the time and then again with a full ceremonial in Westminster Abbey on 17th May 1220.

During his long reign, Henry's kingdom would experience relative peace and prosperity until he began having trouble with his barons (particularly Simon de Montfort) due to his high handed governing style, which compelled the Barons to impose the Provisions of Oxford limiting royal power in 1258.

The king's breaking of this agreement with the barons a few years later would lead to a civil war called the Baron's war which pitched the royal family against the rebel barons for 3 years (1264-1267), culminating in De Montfort's death at the unusually bloody Battle of Evesham in 1265 and the royal family being able to sweep up the remnants of the opposition by 1267.

Henry's most visible mark on history would be due to his interest in architecture and decoration which made him redevelop certain aspects of Westminster Abbey, improve the Tower of London's defences (while keeping exotic animals from Africa and the arctic such as lions, an elephant and a polar bear in it).

We don't know what Henry's final illness was, but that he had taken to his bed two weeks before and was a rare medieval king in that he died of natural causes.



Harold of Wessex

1066

Harold was born in about 1022. His father, Godwin of Wessex, was the most powerful nobleman in England. Harold became Earl of East Anglia in 1046.

Harold of Wessex, as king of England, led the English army into battle against William the Conqueror in 1066 at the Battle of Hastings. Harold was killed in this battle, which was fought to establish who should be king after the death of Edward the Confessor. In 1063, Harold led an English army into Wales – an area that had never been overly respectful of English power. Reports from the time indicate that his army killed every adult Welsh male they came across. His campaign of terror left parts of Wales depopulated.

In 1064, Harold was shipwrecked on the coast of Ponthieu. William of Normandy ordered the Duke of Ponthieu, Guy, to hand over Harold. Harold went to Rouen with William and accompanied William into battle. It was after one such battle against Conan of Brittany, that Harold is said to have promised William that he would support William's claim to the throne of England on the death of Edward. With this 'promise', William allowed Harold to return to England.

When Harold returned to England, he claimed that the 'promise' had been forced out of him. If he had not made it, he would have spent the rest of his life as a captive in Normandy. Therefore, Harold concluded, any such 'promise' had no legal backing.

After his coronation, Harold did expect some form of reaction from William. Harold placed a large number of troops along the south coast to the Isle of Wight. By September, Harold decided that the threat had been reduced and he allowed his part-time troops (the fylds) to disperse. Many were needed for harvesting.

However, Harold then had to cope with an attack by his brother Tostig and the king of Norway, Harold Hadrada. Tostig had invaded the north of England and Harold had to move his army north with due speed. They fought at the Battle of Stamford Bridge on September 24th 1066. Harold won; Tostig and Hadrada were killed.

Harold was killed at the Battle of Hastings on October 15th. After the battle finished, Harold's mother, Gytha, asked William to return Harold's body to her for a proper burial. She offered William Harold's weight in gold. William refused. He was convinced that Harold had broken a sacred oath and that, even in death, he should pay for that. Harold's body, so it is said, was buried on the beach at Pevensey Bay, on the shores he had tried to defend.



Strange Medieval Fact

Animals could be tried and convicted for crimes, and if found guilty sentenced to death

In December of 1457, in Savigny, France, a sow had turned to violence with six piglets in tow. After all seven pigs were caught in the act, they were imprisoned and eventually brought to trial. After hearing testimony and consulting with men wise in local law, the judge sentenced the porcine criminal to hanging by her hind legs, in accordance with the custom in Burgundy. The six piglets escaped death since no one could prove they participated in the crime, though they were found covered in blood.

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John

1199 – 1216

In 1191, Richard left England to embark on the Third Crusade. He left John in charge of the country. John's reputation as a leader had been severely dented as far back as 1185 when Henry II sent him to Ireland to rule. John proved to be a disaster and within six months he was sent home.

In 1192, Richard was imprisoned by Duke Leopold of Austria as he returned from the Crusades. John tried to seize the crown from his brother but failed.

In 1199, Richard was killed in France and John became the king of England. His reign started in an unfortunate way. In 1202, John's nephew, Arthur of Brittany, was murdered. Many in Brittany believed that John was responsible for his murder and they rebelled against John. In 1204, John's army was defeated in Brittany and John had no choice but to retreat.

John also succeeded in falling out with the pope in 1207. John quarrelled with the pope over who should be Archbishop of Canterbury. The pope excommunicated John and put England under a Church law that stated that no christening or marriage would be legal until the time the pope said that they would be. Church law said that only christened people could get to Heaven while children born out of marriage were doomed to Hell. This placed people in England under a terrible strain and they blamed one person for this – John.

In 1213, John had to give in and surrender the spiritual well-being of the whole country to the pope. However, the pope never fully trusted John and in 1214, the pope proclaimed that anybody who tried to overthrow John would be legally entitled to do so. In the same year, John lost another battle to the French at Bouvines. This defeat resulted in England losing all her possessions in France. This was too much for the powerful barons in England. In 1214, they rebelled.

John was forced to sign the Magna Carta at Runnymede in 1215. This guaranteed the people of England rights that the king could not go back on. In 1216, John tried to go



back on the Magna Carta but this only provoked the barons into declaring war on him. By 1216, John was ill. During the war, he suffered from dysentery. He also lost all of his treasure when he tried to take a shortcut across a stretch of water in the Wash, Lincolnshire. As the tide rose faster than he expected, his baggage train was engulfed. Just a few days later, John died and was succeeded by Henry III.

Strange Medieval Fact

Archery was compulsory

After King Edward II banned football, his successor King Edward III brought about the Archery Law of 1363 which commanded that all male subjects practise archery for two hours every Sunday under the supervision of the local clergy.



Event Schedule

Saturday 3rd June



11:00	Opening Salvo	Main Arena
11:15	History of Projectiles	Main Arena
12:15	World Famous Devil Stick Pete	Main Arena
13:00	"Out on a Wing" - Falconry Display	Main Arena
13:45	Combat Training	Top Arena
14:15	World Famous Devil Stick Pete	Main Arena
15:30	Battle of Templecombe	Main Arena

All timings are approximate and may be subject to change according to conditions on the day. Events will be announced over the PA.

Event Schedule

Sunday 4th June



11:00	Opening Salvo	Main Arena
11:15	History of Projectiles	Main Arena
12:15	World Famous Devil Stick Pete	Main Arena
13:00	"Out on a Wing" - Falconry Display	Main Arena
13:45	Combat Training	Top Arena
14:15	World Famous Devil Stick Pete	Main Arena
15:30	Battle of Templecombe	Main Arena

All timings are approximate and may be subject to change according to conditions on the day. Events will be announced over the PA.

Malcolm III

1058 – 1093

King Malcolm was king of Scotland from 1058 – 1093. He was later nicknamed “Canmore” (literally means big head but in Gaelic it is understood as Great Chief).

Malcolm’s kingdom did not extend over the full territory of modern Scotland: many of the islands and the land north of the River Oykel were Scandinavian, and south of the Firth of Forth there were numerous independent or semi-independent realms, including the kingdom of Strathclyde and Bamburgh.

In May 1091, Malcolm marched south, not to raid and take slaves and plunder, but to besiege Newcastle, built by Robert Curthose in 1080. This appears to have been an attempt to advance the frontier south from the River Tweed to the River Tees. The threat was enough to bring the English king back from Normandy, where he had been fighting Robert Curthose. In September, learning of William Rufus’s approaching army, Malcolm withdrew north and the English followed.

Malcolm travelled south to Gloucester, arriving there on 24 August 1093 to find that William Rufus refused to negotiate, insisting that the dispute be judged by the English barons. This Malcolm refused to accept, and returned immediately to Scotland.

While marching north again, Malcolm was ambushed by Robert de Mowbray, Earl of Northumbria, whose lands he had devastated, near Alnwick on 13 November 1093. There he was killed by Arkil Morel, steward of Bamburgh Castle. The conflict became known as the Battle of Alnwick.



Medieval Recipe

Departed Creamed Fish

Ingredients - Serves 6 as a starter

- 600g skinned cod fillet
- A pinch of sea salt
- 125g ground almonds
- 2 tsp rice flour or corn flour
- 3 tbsp deep yellow saffron water or food colouring
- ½ tsp ground ginger
- ¾ tsp white sugar

Method

Poach the fish fillet in about 575ml of salted water until cooked through. Drain off the cooking liquid into a measuring jug. Pour 275ml of this liquid over the almonds in a bowl. Press the fish under a cloth or kitchen paper to squeeze out excess moisture, then flake it. Strain the almond milk into a jug, stirring to separate the free liquid from the almond sludge in the strainer. Put the liquid into an electric blender, followed by the flaked fish, and process until smooth. If the mixture is too stiff to process easily, add a little more fish cooking liquid. Turn the mixture into a bowl. In a small saucepan, cream the rice flour or cornflour with 3 or 4 tbsp of fish cooking liquid, then heat the mixture gently until it thickens. Stir this cream into the fish mixture and season with salt. Put half the mixture into a separate bowl and tint it deep gold with the saffron water or food colouring. Combine the ground ginger and ¼ tsp of the sugar and mix into the golden fish, reserving a little of the mixture for sprinkling. If you like ginger, increase the quantity. Serve the mortrews in six small bowls or plates, putting a coloured and a plain spoonful of mixture side by side in each. Chill until needed. Just before serving, sprinkle the remaining ginger/sugar mix on the gold portions and the remaining ½ tsp plain sugar on the white portions.



Richard I

1189 – 1199

Before becoming King, Richard had made an alliance with Philip II of France, and they began planning a crusade to the Holy Land as soon as Richard became King. Muslim leader Saladin captured Jerusalem in 1187, and several western kingdoms planned a campaign to take Jerusalem themselves.

In order to provide the money to fund the campaigns he had planned, Richard sold off many sheriffdoms in England, and used the money to construct a fleet of ships and raise a large army. In 1190, Richard the Lionheart and his forces departed for the Holy Land.

The crusade was not entirely successful, as Richard's forces were unable to capture Jerusalem.

After a year of stalemate, Richard and Saladin made a truce and Richard's army returned home. On the way back, bad weather drove Richard's ship ashore near Venice, and he was taken prisoner in Vienna by Duke Leopold of Austria.

The Duke demanded a high ransom for the release of Richard the Lionheart, and by 1194 Richard was allowed to return to England once most of the ransom had been paid.

Not long after returning to England, Richard the Lionheart set off again for Normandy. His old ally, King Philip II of France, now wanted the lands of Normandy for himself.

For the next five years between 1195 and 1199, Richard the Lionheart fought Philip sporadically, and would not return to England.

Richard died on April 6, 1199. He was attacked by a crossbow man of his own army who wanted to take revenge from Richard for killing his family. The wound turned gangrenous and finally led to Richard's death. Richard forgave his attacker as a last act of Mercy and freed him.



Stephen I

1135 – 1141 & 1142 – 1154

On the death of Henry I in 1135, his favourite nephew, Stephen of Blois, hurried to London, where he secured election and coronation within the month. This contravened the oath he and his fellow barons had sworn in 1127 to Henry's daughter, the Empress Matilda. His election was confirmed by the Pope in 1136.

Henry I's daughter Matilda invaded England in 1139 to claim the throne, and the country was plunged into civil war. Although anarchy never spread over the whole country, local feuds were pursued under the cover of the civil war; the bond between the King and the nobles broke down, and senior figures (including Stephen's brother Henry) freely changed allegiances as it suited them.

In 1141, Stephen was captured at Lincoln and his defeat seemed certain. However, Matilda's arrogant behaviour antagonised even her own supporters (Angevins), and Stephen was released in exchange for her captured ally and illegitimate half-brother, Earl Robert of Gloucester. After the latter's death in 1147, Matilda retired to Normandy (which her husband, Geoffrey Count of Anjou had conquered) in 1148.

Stephen's throne was still disputed. Matilda's eldest son, Henry, who had been given Normandy by his father in 1150 and who had married the heiress Eleanor Duchess of Aquitaine, invaded England in 1149 and again in 1153.



Stephen fought stubbornly against Henry; Stephen even attempted to ensure his son Eustace's succession by having him crowned in 1152 in his own lifetime.

When Eustace died in August, Stephen lost heart; he signed a treaty designating Henry as his successor. At Stephen's death, Henry ascended the throne as King Henry II.



William I (William the Conqueror)

1066 – 1087

Edward the Confessor died in January 1066, and Harold succeeded him as king of England. Soon afterwards, William began preparing for an invasion. William's army crossed the English Channel on the night of 27–28 September 1066.

William's jester rode beside him during the invasion of England, lifting the troops' spirits by singing about heroic deeds. When they reached enemy lines, he taunted the English by juggling his sword and was promptly killed, initiating the historic skirmish. William was crowned king of England at Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day, 1066.

William spoke no English when he ascended the throne, and he failed to master it despite his efforts. (Like most nobles of his time, he also happened to be illiterate.) Thanks to the Norman invasion, French was spoken in England's courts for centuries and completely transformed the English language, infusing it with new words.

William initially followed the patterns of coinage and royal government established by previous English monarchs, and he even issued writs in the Old English language. In the late 1060s, a number of English nobles rebelled against Norman rule in England, among them the earls Eadwine and Morcar. William responded by devastating large areas of the north of the country.

In 1070, he also removed a number of English bishops from office and replaced them with



Normans or his allies. At Christmas 1085, King William ordered a survey to record who owned land and other assets in England. This administrative survey ultimately resulted in Domesday Book.

William died after his horse reared up during a 1087 battle, throwing the king against his saddle pommel so forcefully that his intestines ruptured. An infection set in that killed him several weeks later. As priests tried to stuff William into a stone coffin that proved too small for his bulk, they pushed on his abdomen, causing it to burst. Mourners supposedly ran for the door to escape the putrid stench.

Strange Medieval Fact

Swans were fair game for the rich

Nowadays our Royal swans are strictly off limits. However in medieval times they were a delicacy of the upper classes, recipes including 'Roasted Swan in Entrail Sauce,' 'Christmas Swan Pie' and 'Roast Cygnet' (stuffed with beef). Also on the menu might be peacocks, turtle doves, cranes, storks, sparrows, herons and blackbirds.



William Rufus

1087 – 1100

William II reigned as king of England from 1087 to 1100. He was called Rufus (Red) because of his ruddy complexion. His strong-armed rule earned him a reputation as a brutal, corrupt tyrant. Rufus “was hated by almost all his people.”

Rufus was born in about 1056. He became king of England when his father died in 1087. Before his death, his father had divided his lands, giving Normandy to his eldest son, Robert, and England to William, his second son.

Many Norman barons in England wanted England and Normandy to remain under one ruler. Shortly after Rufus succeeded to the throne, they conspired to overthrow him in favour of Robert. Led by the Conqueror’s half brother, Odo of Bayeux, Earl of Kent, they raised rebellions in eastern England in 1088.

Rufus immediately won the English to his side by pledging to cut taxes and institute efficient government. The insurgency was suppressed, but the king failed to keep his promises. As a result, a second revolt, led by Robert de Mowbray, Earl of Northumberland, broke out in 1095. This time Rufus punished the leaders with such brutality that no barons dared to challenge his authority thereafter.

Rufus was engaged in military operations in Scotland, Wales, and particularly in Normandy. In 1091 he compelled King Malcolm III of Scotland to acknowledge his overlordship. Malcolm revolted in 1093, but Rufus' forces quickly killed him near Alnwick, Northumberland, England. Thereafter, Rufus maintained the Scottish kings as vassals. In 1097 he conquered Wales. Rufus was most interested,



however, in taking Normandy from the incompetent Robert. After seven years of warfare (1089–96), Robert gave Rufus control of Normandy in return for money.

Rufus' life came to a sudden end while he was hunting in the New Forest, a great tract of woodland in Hampshire, England, that his father had set aside for his favourite sport. He was killed by an arrow on August 2, 1100. The incident was probably an assassination, and Rufus' alleged slayer, a nobleman named Walter Tirel, may have been acting under orders from the king's younger brother, Henry.

Henry, who was in the hunting party, left Rufus' body where it lay and hurried to London to seize the royal treasure and the throne. He succeeded William as Henry I.

The advertisement is framed in a large, ornate gold-colored frame. Inside, the top half features the Dike & Son logo with the text "Family run since 1851". Below the logo, the headline "Hello Templecombe!" is displayed. To the left of the headline is a photograph of a red delivery van with "DIKE & SON" branding, parked on a street with a person standing next to it. To the right of the headline is a bulleted list of services: "Order your whole weekly shop online from your local store", "Have it delivered to Templecombe and the surrounding area", and "Choose from over 1,000 locally sourced products!". Below this list is a testimonial from Mary Portas: "Did you know you can now shop online & have your groceries delivered by your truly local independent store? (Mary Portas thinks it's great news & we hope you do too!)". At the bottom of the ad is the website "www.dikes-direct.co.uk" and the store's address: "Dike Son Superstore & Cafe, Ring Street, Stalbridge, Dorset DT10 2NB 01963 362204 Open 8am-8pm Monday to Saturday, 10am-4pm Sunday".

Plow Monday

'Plow Monday' took place the day after Epiphany; in medieval times, many rural towns and villages of England celebrated the first Monday after the Feast of Epiphany as the start of the agricultural year. Ancient customs and religious practices were used to protect and safeguard the plough which was so vital for the coming year's crops. 'Plough lights' were kept burning in the parish church and feasts were held to celebrate the plough.

Freemen of the village would participate in a plow race, to begin cultivation of the town's common plot of land. Each man would try and furrow as many lines as possible, as he would be able to sow those lines during the coming year. Children would play the role of 'Fool Plow' and go from house to house asking for pennies. Those who refuse would find the ground in front of their door plowed up.



Candlemas – the Feast of the Purification of Mary

February 2nd

Candlemas is named after a tradition of holding candle-lit processions on this day. The priest would also bless candles on this day to be taken away by people, which were believed to be helpful in times of illness.

The candles would be decorated and kept throughout the year to be burned as protection against storms and sickness. This is approximately the halfway mark between the Winter Solstice and the Vernal Equinox.

Medieval Englishmen and women saw Candlemas as the approach of spring. In some places, a tradition similar to groundhog day is performed, but in this case, a bear comes out of his cave. If he turns around and goes back to his cave, winter will continue.



Beltane – Roodmas – May Day

April 30th – May 1st

Although Beltane is now usually celebrated from sundown April 30th to sundown on the first of May, it should be noted that in earlier times, before the calendar changes of 1752, all dates year-round would have come some days later.

Beltane means fire of Bel- Belinos, being one name for the Sun God, whose coronation feast was celebrated at this time. In old Celtic times, young people would spend the entire night in the woods A-Maying and then dance around the maypole the next morning.

Older married couples were allowed to remove their wedding rings and the restrictions they imply, for this one night. An alternative date is around May 5 (Old Beltane), when the sun reaches 15 degrees.

Many people would rise at the first light of dawn to go outdoors and gather flowers and branches to decorate their homes.

Women traditionally would braid flowers into their hair. Men and women alike would decorate their bodies. Breads and cereals are popular, oatmeal cakes or cookies sweetened with a dab of honey.

May Day – the Festival of Sts. Philip and Jacob the Apostles

May 1st

The celebrations reflect a theme of fertility appropriate to what was considered to be the first day of summer. As well as the maypoles, gathering of flowers and forays into the woods, even by town-dwellers, there were numerous traditions which varied with the district.

The gathering of hawthorn or ‘may’ blossoms seems to have been very widespread. Popular Mayday games include storytelling (Robin Hood, a popular theme), jestering, juggling, Morris-dancing, horseplay, mock-tourney with hobby horses, and quintain.

The custom of placing a cabbage on the doorstep of girls who had behaved imprudently through the year was a more novel method of social control. Regardless of the care they may have undertaken with their flirtations and indiscretions, they were surely to be found out on Mayday.

Lughnasadh – Lammas

July 31st

Lughnasadh means the funeral games of Lugh (pronounced Loo), referring to the Irish sun god. However, the funeral is not his own, but the funeral games he hosts in honour of his foster-mother Tailte. For that reason, the traditional Tailteann craft fairs and Tailteann marriages (which last for a year and a day) are celebrated at this time.

This day originally coincided with the first reaping of the harvest. It was known as the time when the plants of spring wither and drop their fruits or seeds for our use as well as to ensure future crops.

The Christian religion adopted this theme and called it 'Lammas', meaning 'loaf-mass,' a time when newly baked loaves of bread are placed on the altar. An alternative date around August 5 (Old Lammas), is when the sun reaches 15 degrees.



Foods traditionally served at this time include apples, grapes, crab-apples, pears, grains, breads and berries. Herbs and flowers favoured for the celebration include all grains, heather, blackberries and sloe.

Michaelmas – Festival of St. Michael the Archangel

September 29th

This feast marked the sowing of wheat, the brewing of ales for winter and the preparations for the winter season. The feast of St. Michael and All Angels or Michaelmas fell about the time of the autumnal equinox.

St. Michael came to be seen as the protector against the forces of the dark. Many monasteries and churches were dedicated to him, usually on high places near the sea.

His feast was celebrated with a traditional well-fattened goose which had fed well on the stubble of the fields after the harvest. In many places, there was also a tradition of special large loaves of bread.

Martinmas – Feast of St. Martin of Tours

November 11th

Martinmas was immediately followed by the beginning of Advent, 40 days of reflection and penance in preparation for the great feast of Christmas.

The festivities were similar to those of Carnival, just before Lent, though on a smaller scale. There was much feasting, drinking and playing of games, as well as storytelling and sometimes, plays.

Cock fights, pig baiting and sport events such as racing, leaping or wrestling were other favourite activities.

Food was plentiful right after the harvest. Meat, from the autumn slaughter of those animals that it was not possible to house and feed over winter, could be salted or smoked to preserve it, but sausages and other foods made from offal would not last long. They had to be consumed fairly quickly before they spoiled.

Since Advent required some fasting, the feast of St. Martin provided a perfect time to put the abundant meat products to good use. It also was the day that marked the end of old contracts. Hired help moved on to new positions and there were farewell and welcoming banquets for them and the new staff.



Westcombe Waste

Somerton

01458 274654



Phoenix wish to thank Westcombe Waste of Somerton for the supply of the skip

We hope you have a great time!