

Caldicot Notes

[Caldicot War Memorial:](#)

An unusual, stylised, Celtic cross made up of thousands of slate pieces standing on 2 step base with pebbled designed surface. Unveiled 1995. Sculptor is Howard Browcott.

A town cross is a gathering place, a focus for human activity and a symbol of the life of the community. The actual brief was to create a contemporary work of art as a focal point to what had become a rather un-assuming pedestrianisation scheme, but it was also apparent that there was a wish to have a more accessible war memorial than the one in the church. I offered to combine the two – a contemporary take on a Celtic cross with the names of the war dead wrapped around the base.

Standing 5m high, the sculpture is made up of thousands of individually shaped thin slates. The sculpture has proved a popular feature of the town over the years. It has been incorporated into the secondary school badge, featured in regional papers as a symbol for Remembrance Day and become the catalyst for a very sympathetic re-design of the surrounding area.

It is by [Howard Browcott](#) from North Wales. We have seen his work previously notably in [Penarth Docks](#), [Chepstow](#), [Bargoed](#) and [Tonypandy High Street](#).

Untruth: He had a tricky early career as his work kept getting slated.



Image: Phil Head

[Llanthony Secunda Manor](#)



📷 Four storeys of history (Image: Moon & Co estate agent / Zoopla)



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Believed to have once been owned by King Henry VIII in 1536 , the truly unique Grade II* Llanthony Secunda Manor in Caldicot is back on the market and looking for a new king or queen to crown it as their new home. It was known as Church Farm. Grade II* medieval grange before its restoration.

Believed to date back to the 1200s, the five bedroom property was last on the market in 2017 with an asking price reported to be £800,000.

In 2017 The Mirror quoted Becky as saying: "In 1972 it was actually scheduled for demolition as it had been empty for a number of years and had fallen into a terrible state of disrepair.

"It was only a hurried listing of the building that saved it and then in 1978 a lady by the name of Mrs S M McLeod began the painstaking process of renovation, which has carried on ever since.

"It has only had four private owners in its history. After years of hard work and dedication I'm proud to say that the house is now in excellent condition and has been transformed into a really beautiful home."

Some history of the manor house:

https://web.archive.org/web/20081206133040/http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/southeast/sites/caldicot/pages/article_rlapthorn.shtml



Image: Phil Head

People who lived in Caldicot

[Henry Jones](#) (c. 1812 – 12 July 1891) was a baker in Bristol, England, who was responsible in 1845 for inventing self-raising flour. He established a family business called Henry Jones (Bristol) Ltd. His flour meant that hard tack could have been removed from sailors of the British Navy but the admiralty resisted for some years. From 1864, he lived at Court House, Caldicot, Monmouthshire, where he died in 1891.

Untruth: After he died it took four attempts to bury him as he kept rising.

Caldicot Castle is an extensive stone medieval castle, built near the site of Harold Godwinson's former Saxon castle by the Norman earls of Hereford from about 1100. The castle became a Grade I listed building on 10 June 1953.

It was in the possession of **Thomas of Woodstock**, a son of **King Edward III** of England, until his death in 1391, when it reverted to the Crown.

Caldicot Estate

Caldicot is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, not for its castle, but as an agricultural holding of Durand of Gloucester, Sheriff of Gloucestershire. Walter FitzRoger, Durand's nephew, inherited his lands as well as his father's office of Constable of England which remained with the lords of Caldicot. Walter's son Milo was granted the Earldom of Hereford to add to his titles. In the time of Henry I of England the castle was probably a **simple motte-and-bailey**.

Bohun family

Milo's five sons died childless so his eldest daughter, Margaret, took to her marriage with **Humphrey II de Bohun the Earl of Hereford**, the Constableness of England, and Caldicot. **Their son Humphrey III de Bohun was the probable builder, in about 1170**, of the stone keep and curtain walls of the present-day castle. **The Bohun family held the manor and castle of Caldicot for more than two centuries, over eight generations.**

Thomas of Woodstock

In 1376 the manor, along with 70 others, passed to Thomas of Woodstock, the fifth son of King Edward III of England, when he married Alianore de Bohun.

On the death of Edward III the throne passed to his grandson, the nine-year-old Richard II. As the new king's uncle, Thomas played an important role advising him. He was appointed Constable of England. He rarely visited Caldicot, his main estates being at Pleshey in Essex, close to the seat of power.

In 1381, however, Essex was convulsed by the Peasants' Revolt. This may be why Thomas decided to spend part of that year in Caldicot. During his stay he gave orders for major new work to be done on the castle. A new gatehouse and drawbridge were constructed. At the rear of the castle a dovecote was replaced by a new tower with private chambers, now known as the Woodstock tower. At the foot of the Woodstock tower two carved stones were to be placed, one marked 'Thomas' the other 'Alianore'.

As time passed relations between Thomas and King Richard grew increasingly strained. In 1397, on the orders of the king, Thomas was kidnapped and murdered. His property was confiscated and passed into the hands of the Crown.

He was murdered by being smothered between two feather beds, probably by a group of men led by Thomas de Mowbray, 1st Duke of Norfolk, and the knight Sir Nicholas Colfox, presumably on behalf of Richard II; parliament declared him guilty of treason and his estates forfeited. These events caused an outcry among the nobility of England that is considered by many to have added to Richard's unpopularity. Thomas was buried in Westminster Abbey, first in the Chapel of Saint Edmund and Saint Thomas in October 1397.

House of Lancaster

In 1399 Henry Bolingbroke seized the throne from Richard, and although Mary de Bohun did not live to see her husband crowned Henry IV, her son, born at Monmouth Castle, would be one of the country's great heroes, Henry V, victor of Agincourt.

The division of the de Bohuns estates was revised after the death of Alianore and Mary de Bohun's mother Joan, who had outlived both of her daughters by some twenty years. Alianore's eldest daughter and heir, Anne, lost Caldicot to Mary's son King Henry V, and so Caldicot became part of the great Duchy of Lancaster. Held by Henry's widow, Katherine of Valois, Caldicot was later granted into the stewardship of the Herbert family for much of the fifteenth century, and then leased in the sixteenth century to their successors the Somersets with their power base at Raglan.

Decline, neglect and restoration

Caldicot Castle was evidently neglected, fell into ruin and became little more than a farmyard. The castle was sold to Charles Lewis of St Pierre in 1857. In 1885 he sold it to Joseph Richard Cobb, who began the restoration of the castle as his family home.

From 1885 to 1964, the Cobb family owned the castle. Joseph Cobb's family remained at the castle after his death and it was his son Geoffry Wheatly Cobb, and in particular his daughter-in-law Anna, who continued the work of restoration. In the early twentieth century, many rooms were decorated with memorabilia from Nelson's first flagship, HMS Foudroyant which was owned by Geoffry Wheatly Cobb at the end of its life. G. W. Cobb died in 1931 and, after Anna's death in 1943, the castle passed to Joseph's grandson, Geoffry Richard Wheatly Cobb who created furnished apartments for renting in three of the towers and also in parts of the gatehouse.

In 1964, Chepstow Rural District Council bought the castle from the Cobb family for £12,000, at a time when the increasing availability of council housing had supplanted the local need for the castle apartments. The building, including a small museum, was opened to the public in 1965. After 1967, medieval-style banquets were held there.

[David Broome](#) CBE (born 1 March 1940) is a retired Welsh show jumping champion. He competed in the 1960, 1964, 1968, 1972 and 1988 Olympics and won individual bronze medals in 1960 on Sunsolve and in 1968 on his best-known horse Mr Softee. In 1960, he was also voted BBC Sports Personality of the Year, and at the 1972 Games served as the Olympic flag bearer for Great Britain. [Interview with David Bromme](#)):- I was born in Cardiff. Although my father was a greengrocer, he had always been associated with horses, and my granddad before him. During the 1940s war, my father must have made a couple of bob in the greengrocery business and he also worked in the Fire Brigade on Cardiff Docks. He bought a farm out in St Arvans, milking cows. That was his dream, and when we moved from there, and after a small stay in Caldicot, father bought this estate here, big house and everything. We've farmed here ever since.

His show jumping centre is just beyond Caldicott Castle.