

MAGNA CARTA



WILLIAM MARSHAL



In June 1215, King John met with his barons to witness the sealing of the Magna Carta or 'Great Charter' which brought about a temporary peace in the so-called 'Barons War'.

One of the men present who had worked tirelessly to bring about the meeting was William the Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, who was one of the few truly loyal men that the King could rely upon.

Born 1147, William had risen from relative obscurity to become a tournament celebrity, loyal servant to four anointed kings, powerful magnate and fearsome warrior.

He re-issued the Magna Carta with his own seal after King John's death in 1216 when William was appointed Regent of England and at the time of his death in 1219, he was declared by the Archbishop of Canterbury as being 'the greatest knight who ever lived'. He is buried in the Temple Church London together with two of his sons.

This trail marks the Marshal's connection to Wales through the castles and towns which remain to this day as an enduring legacy to the role which the 'greatest knight' played during his lifetime.

Follow the trail:

1. Cardigan Castle SA43 1JA
2. Cilgerran Castle SA43 2SF
3. Newcastle Emlyn Castle SA38 9AF
4. Haverfordwest Castle SA61 2EF
5. Wiston Castle SA62 4PL
6. Narberth Castle SA67 7BD
7. Pembroke Castle SA71 4LA
8. Tenby Castle SA70 7BP
9. Carmarthen Castle SA31 3RG
10. Usk Castle NP15 1SD
11. Tintern Abbey NP16 6SE
12. Chepstow Castle NP16 5EY

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