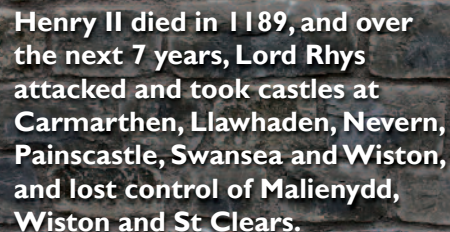
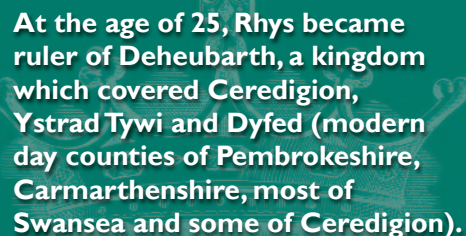




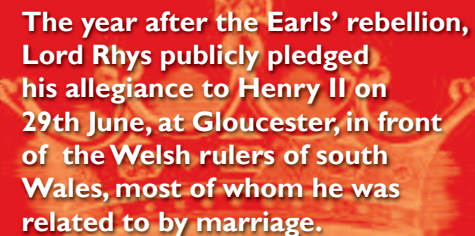
Talley Abbey was founded by Lord Rhys when he was about 54.



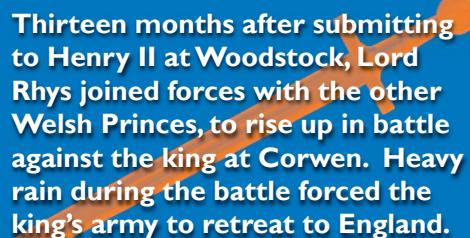
Henry II died in 1189, and over the next 7 years, Lord Rhys attacked and took castles at Carmarthen, Llawhaden, Nevern, Painscastle, Swansea and Wiston, and lost control of Malienydd, Wiston and St Clears.



At the age of 25, Rhys became ruler of Deheubarth, a kingdom which covered Ceredigion, Ystrad Tywi and Dyfed (modern day counties of Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, most of Swansea and some of Ceredigion).



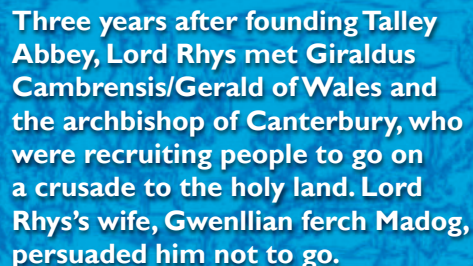
The year after the Earls' rebellion, Lord Rhys publicly pledged his allegiance to Henry II on 29th June, at Gloucester, in front of the Welsh rulers of south Wales, most of whom he was related to by marriage.



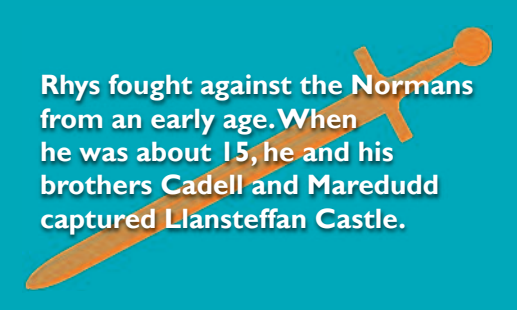
Thirteen months after submitting to Henry II at Woodstock, Lord Rhys joined forces with the other Welsh Princes, to rise up in battle against the king at Corwen. Heavy rain during the battle forced the king's army to retreat to England.



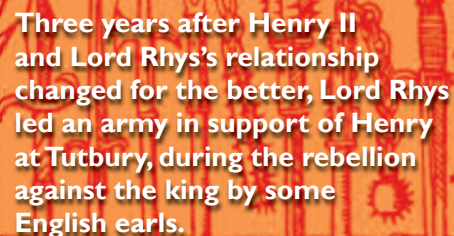
Henry II made Lord Rhys 'justice in all south Wales' at Laugharne castle. Lord Rhys was allowed to keep lands he had taken over the 8 years since 1164, in return for protecting royal and marcher lands from attack.



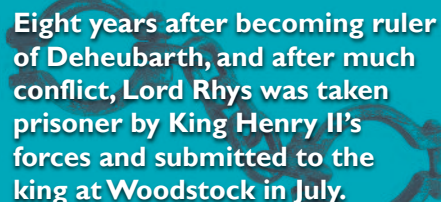
Three years after founding Talley Abbey, Lord Rhys met Giraldus Cambrensis/Gerald of Wales and the archbishop of Canterbury, who were recruiting people to go on a crusade to the holy land. Lord Rhys's wife, Gwenllian ferch Madog, persuaded him not to go.




Rhys fought against the Normans from an early age. When he was about 15, he and his brothers Cadell and Maredudd captured Llansteffan Castle.



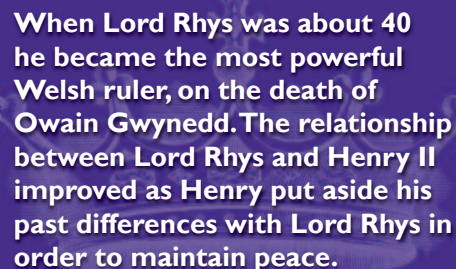
Three years after Henry II and Lord Rhys's relationship changed for the better, Lord Rhys led an army in support of Henry at Tutbury, during the rebellion against the king by some English earls.



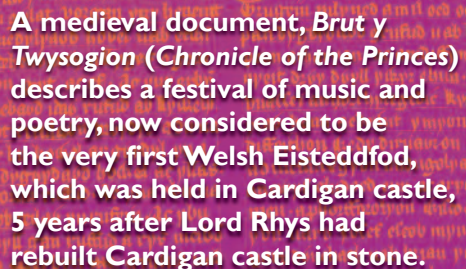
Eight years after becoming ruler of Deheubarth, and after much conflict, Lord Rhys was taken prisoner by King Henry II's forces and submitted to the king at Woodstock in July.



Ten years after becoming ruler of Deheubarth, Lord Rhys became patron of Strata Florida Abbey, which had been founded by Robert Fitz Stephen the previous year.



When Lord Rhys was about 40 he became the most powerful Welsh ruler, on the death of Owain Gwynedd. The relationship between Lord Rhys and Henry II improved as Henry put aside his past differences with Lord Rhys in order to maintain peace.



A medieval document, *Brut y Twysogion* (*Chronicle of the Princes*) describes a festival of music and poetry, now considered to be the very first Welsh Eisteddfod, which was held in Cardigan castle, 5 years after Lord Rhys had rebuilt Cardigan castle in stone.

