



Thomas Becket

Henry II made Thomas Archbishop of Canterbury in 1162. Although they were friends, they soon began arguing over issues such as whether bishops should be above the law. By 1170, Henry had had enough of Becket challenging his power and flew into a rage. He shouted, "What sluggards, what cowards have I brought up in my court, who care nothing for their allegiance to their lord. Who will rid me of this meddlesome priest?" Four of Henry's knights, including Hugh de Morville, heard this and took it as an order to kill Thomas. They rode to the Cathedral in Canterbury and hacked Thomas to death on the altar steps, just after Christmas 1170.



The East Gate of the castle

The Queen owns Knaresborough Castle; she will need to have a lot of work done if she ever wants to stay here instead of Windsor Castle!

I shall hide out in the castle. We shall be safe in there.

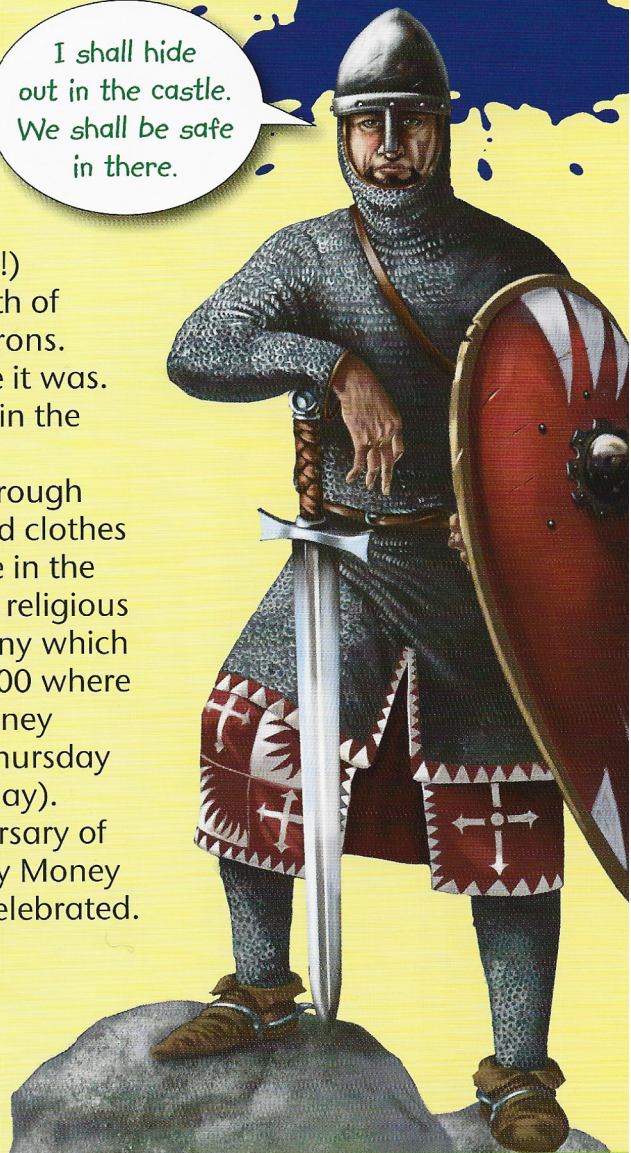
King John

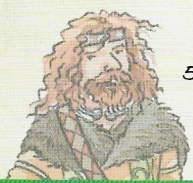
In 1210, King John spent £1,290 (that was a lot of money then!) on the castle, making it one of his main strongholds in the north of England and a defence against raiding Scots and revolting barons. He made the moat bigger and you can still see the ditch where it was. King John often stayed at the castle when he came up to hunt in the Forest of Knaresborough.

On one of his visits to Knaresborough he gave gifts such as food and clothes to the poor for the first time in the castle. This was part of the religious Maundy service, a ceremony which dates back to around AD 600 where the king or queen give money to the poor on Maundy Thursday (the day before Good Friday). In 2010 the 800th anniversary of the first giving of Maundy Money in Knaresborough was celebrated.



Bless you my King.





CELT
500 BC



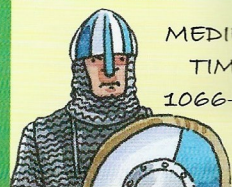
ROMAN
AD 43-410



ANGLO-
SAXON
AD 450-
1066



VIKING
AD 865-
1066



MEDIEVAL
TIMES
1066-14

Living in a Castle

There is much unrest in Knaresborough Castle. It is a cold day. The wind is whistling and the dogs are barking. The knight, Hugh de Morville, lives here with his family, but he is away at the moment, as he often is, helping King Henry II run the country. The servants huddle together and gossip saying "Canterbury is dead." These are troubled times, with the King forever falling out with the Archbishop of Canterbury. Who knows what will happen?

It is a sign of warning when Fluffy and Tinkles howl to the East.



In times of danger people took refuge at the castle.

Knaresborough Castle

Knaresborough castle was built by a Norman baron, Eustace Fitzjohn, in 1100. He had come over from Normandy with William the Conqueror in 1066. The castle is on top of a high cliff above the River Nidd. This location enabled the baron to guard and control the valley below. In 1170, Hugh de Morville lived at the castle. He was one of the four knights who murdered Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral. Henry II told them to flee to Scotland but they took refuge in the castle for a year. They were very unpopular in Knaresborough because of their crime – even the dogs hated them.

... 1100 KNARESBOROUGH CASTLE BUILT...