

# Llanthony Secunda

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**Llanthony Secunda Priory** is a ruined former Augustinian priory in Hempsted, Gloucester, England. Miles de Gloucester, 1st Earl of Hereford, founded the priory for the monks of Llanthony Priory, Vale of Ewyas, in what is now Monmouthshire, Wales, in 1136.<sup>[1]</sup>

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Llanthony Secunda Priory

## History

In 1135, after persistent attacks from the local population, the monks of Llanthony Priory in the Black Mountains, Wales retreated to Gloucester where they founded a daughter cell, Llanthony Secunda.<sup>[2][3]</sup>

In 1530 the prior of Llanthony at Gloucester sent "cheise carp and baked lampreys" to Henry VIII at Windsor. It was also customary at the commencement of the fishing season to send the sovereign the first lamprey caught in the river. The intermittent custom of the city of Gloucester to present the sovereign at Christmas with a lamprey pie with a raised crust may have originated in the time of Henry I of England, who was inordinately fond of lamprey and who frequently held his court at Gloucester during the Christmas season.<sup>[4]</sup> Shortly afterwards the Dissolution of the Monasteries occurred, and the priory with its lands near Gloucester was granted by the Crown to Arthur Porter.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Humpty Dumpty

During the Siege of Gloucester a Royalist cannon, shipped in from Holland to Bristol and from there to Gloucester, was placed on the walls of Llanthony Secunda and directed at Gloucester's City Wall. It was hoped by the besieging monarch, Charles I, that this cannon would break the siege and win him control of the city. The cannon misfired and exploded on the first shot. Some believe this to be the origin of the Humpty Dumpty nursery rhyme; but this is disputed. The true origins of Humpty Dumpty are unknown but the idea that it refers to the Royalist cannon during the Siege of Gloucester is often cited as fact.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Today

The remains of the priory were designated as Grade I listed in 1952<sup>[7]</sup> and the wider site is a scheduled ancient monument.<sup>[8]</sup> In 2013 the Llanthony Secunda Priory Trust received funds for restoration work.<sup>[9]</sup>

# Llanthony Weir and Lock

Llanthony has given its name to a weir on the River Severn, which is the normal tidal limit on the East Channel of the river, and the disused Llanthony Lock, both built about 1870.<sup>[10]</sup> Llanthony Lock was purchased by the Herefordshire & Gloucestershire Canal Trust in 2008<sup>[11]</sup> to restore the link between that canal and Gloucester Docks.

## Burials at Llanthony Secunda Priory

- Humphrey de Bohun, 2nd Earl of Hereford
- Eleanor de Braose
- Margaret of Hereford

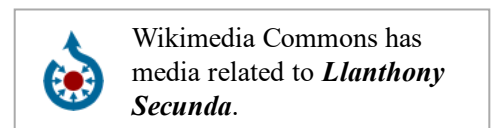
## References

1. Ward, Jennifer C (1995). *Women of the English nobility and gentry, 1066-1500*. Manchester medieval sources series. Manchester: Manchester University Press. p. 107. ISBN 0-7190-4115-5. Retrieved 25 October 2010.
2. Wade, George Wöosung; Wade, Joseph Henry (1930). *Monmouthshire*. Little Guides (2nd ed.). London: Cambridge University Press. p. 101. Retrieved 30 October 2010. "... during the disturbances of Stephen's reign they suffered so much from the raids of the Welshmen, that under the patronage of Milo of Gloucester, Constable of England, and in 1140 Earl of Hereford, they migrated to Gloucester where a new Llanthony was founded for them in 1136."
3. de Bari, Gerrald (Giraldus Cambrensis) (1191–94). *Originally: Itinerarium Cambriae ("Journey through Wales", 1191), Descriptio Cambriae ("Description of Wales", 1194), This edition: The itinerary through Wales, Description of Wales*. Everyman's Library (5th (1935) ed.). London: J.M. Dent & Sons. p. 36. Retrieved 30 October 2010. "William of Wycumb, the fourth prior of Llanthoni, succeeded to Robert de Braci, who was obliged to quit the monastery on account of the hostile mollestation it received from the Welsh."
4. William Walsh's *Curiosities of Popular Customs, 1897*
5. "Gloucester - Outlying hamlets | A History of the County of Gloucester: Volume 4 (pp. 382-410)". british-history.ac.uk. Retrieved 6 June 2014.
6. A. Jack, *Pop Goes the Weasel: The Secret Meanings of Nursery Rhymes* (London: Allen Lane, 2008).
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9. "Llanthony Secunda Priory gets £311,400 lottery funding". *BBC News - Gloucestershire*. 29 November 2013. Retrieved 14 November 2015.
10. Victoria County History of Gloucestershire: Gloucester Quays and Docks (<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=42306>)
11. Canal Restoration at Llanthony Lock Gloucester ([http://www.h-g-canal.org.uk/html/llanthony\\_lock.htm](http://www.h-g-canal.org.uk/html/llanthony_lock.htm))

## External links

- Llanthony Secunda Priory Trust (<http://www.llanthonysecunda.org/>)

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Categories: Monasteries in Gloucestershire | Augustinian monasteries in England | Grade I listed buildings in Gloucestershire | History of Gloucester | 1136 establishments in England | Christian monasteries established in the 12th century | Burial sites of the Bohun family

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