

# Sir Henry Sidney and the Ludlow Castle Heraldic Roll

This exhibition (18 September to 31 December 2019) shows the recently-discovered Ludlow Castle Heraldic Roll. This is a record on parchment of the shields painted by order of Sir Henry Sidney in 1574 in the newly-built chancel of the Round Chapel of St Mary Magdalene in the inner part of Ludlow Castle, the administrative centre of the Council of the Marches.

Sir Henry Sidney was an Elizabethan courtier and statesman. He was a companion to Prince Edward, Henry VIII's only son, who succeeded his father as Edward VI. Sidney remained close to the young king and attended him during his last illness, reporting that Edward died in his arms. Sir Henry was appointed by Queen Elizabeth I to be President of the Council of the Marches in Wales in 1560 and occupied the post until his death in 1586. He also served the Queen twice as her Lord Deputy in Ireland (1566 - 71 and 1575 - 78). Sir Henry's family seat was at Penshurst, Kent, today the home of his descendant, Viscount de Lisle and Dudley.

He married in 1551 Mary Dudley, daughter of John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, who was the effective ruler of the country in the minority of Edward VI. He was therefore the brother-in-law of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, known to Elizabeth I as 'sweet robin' and one of her most powerful courtiers. He was very interested in genealogy, heraldry, and pageantry. He was very proud of his connections with the Dudley family. These are shown both in his heraldry and his adoption of their family badge of the ragged staff.



Sir Henry Sidney, Lord President of Ireland, is greeted by Dublin City Council