

KENILWORTH CASTLE – GLOSSARY

KEY WORD	DEFINITION
Geoffrey de Clinton	Built Kenilworth Castle in the 1120s.
Earl of Warwick	Owned Warwick Castle; threat to Henry I.
Motte	Earth mound.
Great Tower	The keep of Kenilworth Castle.
Mere	Large body of water; enlarged by King John.
King John	Unpopular King; turned Kenilworth into a formidable fortress.
Mortimer's Tower	Added by King John – twin-towered gatehouse that was the main entrance into the castle in medieval times.
Portcullis	A strong, heavy grating that can be lowered down grooves on each side of a gateway to block it.
Outer curtain wall	Added by King John – perimeter wall that surrounded the castle.
Lunn's Tower	Built by King John – equipped with fish-tailed arrow loops.
Fish-tailed arrow loops	Gaps in the wall of a building, shaped like fish tails, through which arrows could be shot (normally from a crossbow).
Simon de Montfort	Given custody of Kenilworth in 1244 – strengthened the castle further and led a group of barons against Henry III. Defeated and died at Battle of Evesham.
Siege	A military operation in which enemy forces surround a town or building, cutting off essential supplies, with the aim of compelling those inside to surrender.
John of Gaunt	Owned Kenilworth from 1361; uncle to King Richard II; King of Castile and Leon in Spain; turned Kenilworth into a palace.
Great Hall	Developed by John of Gaunt – a large room where feasts were held and people were entertained.
Strong Tower	Added by John of Gaunt - contained facilities to support the kitchens (pantry, buttery, pastry, larder, dresser etc.).
Saintlowe Tower	Added by John of Gaunt - contained apartments for people to stay in when they visited the castle.
John Dudley	Father of Robert and Ambrose; granted Kenilworth in 1553; built new stables and turned the dam into a tiltyard.
Ambrose Dudley	Earl of Warwick from 1561; Robert Dudley's brother; supposedly one of the figures in the middle of the fountain.
Robert Dudley	Earl of Leicester; turned Kenilworth into a castle fit for a Queen (Elizabeth visited in 1566, 1568, 1572 and 1575); tried to impress Elizabeth so she would agree to marry him.
Leicester's Building	Constructed between 1571 and 1572 specifically to provide lodgings for the Queen and her close servants when they visited the castle.
Leicester's Gatehouse	Provided a new entrance for the castle from the Coventry direction; also gave access to the hunting grounds.
Elizabethan Garden	Built for Elizabeth's visit in 1575 – terrace; arbours; obelisks; fountain; aviary.
Slighting	Deliberate destruction.