

# Historic hub of Flintshire

**M**OLD is a fascinating place. This thriving market town is watched over by Clwyd Theatr Cymru, which attracts people from far and wide to its eclectic programme. Mold boasts a colourful history which dates back to the Bronze Age. Its famous Bronze Age gold cape, unearthed in 1833 by workmen on the outskirts of the town in 1833, and subsequently donated to the British Museum, is of vast historical importance.

The Normans left Bailey Hill behind them at the top end of the town. The hill and its ghosts keep a watchful eye over Mold, just as they did when a motte and bailey castle once stood on the site.

Today, walkers can take a relaxing stroll to the top to take in the view – the mood a far cry from times when many a bloody skirmish took place here.

After the last Norman lord died in 1329, the castle changed many times over. In fact,



Owen Teale returns to Clwyd Theatr Cymru to play Macbeth, from May 1 - 24  
Picture: CATHERINE ASHMORE

Mold's blood history continued until Tudor times, when peace largely reigned.

By the 19th century, Mold began to thrive on its coal deposits, though these were depleted by the end of the century.

Walkers have plenty of opportunities to stretch their legs in lovely surroundings in and around Mold. In fact,

Flintshire county contains 16 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's).

The Tourist Information Centre (TIC), based in the town's library, offers visitors a free booklet, entitled Rural Walks in Flintshire.

Visitors to Mold will also want to get their hands on the TIC's free town map which details a pleasant and interesting little tour.

A visit to Loggerheads Country Park, located a stone's throw from Mold, is also well worth the effort.

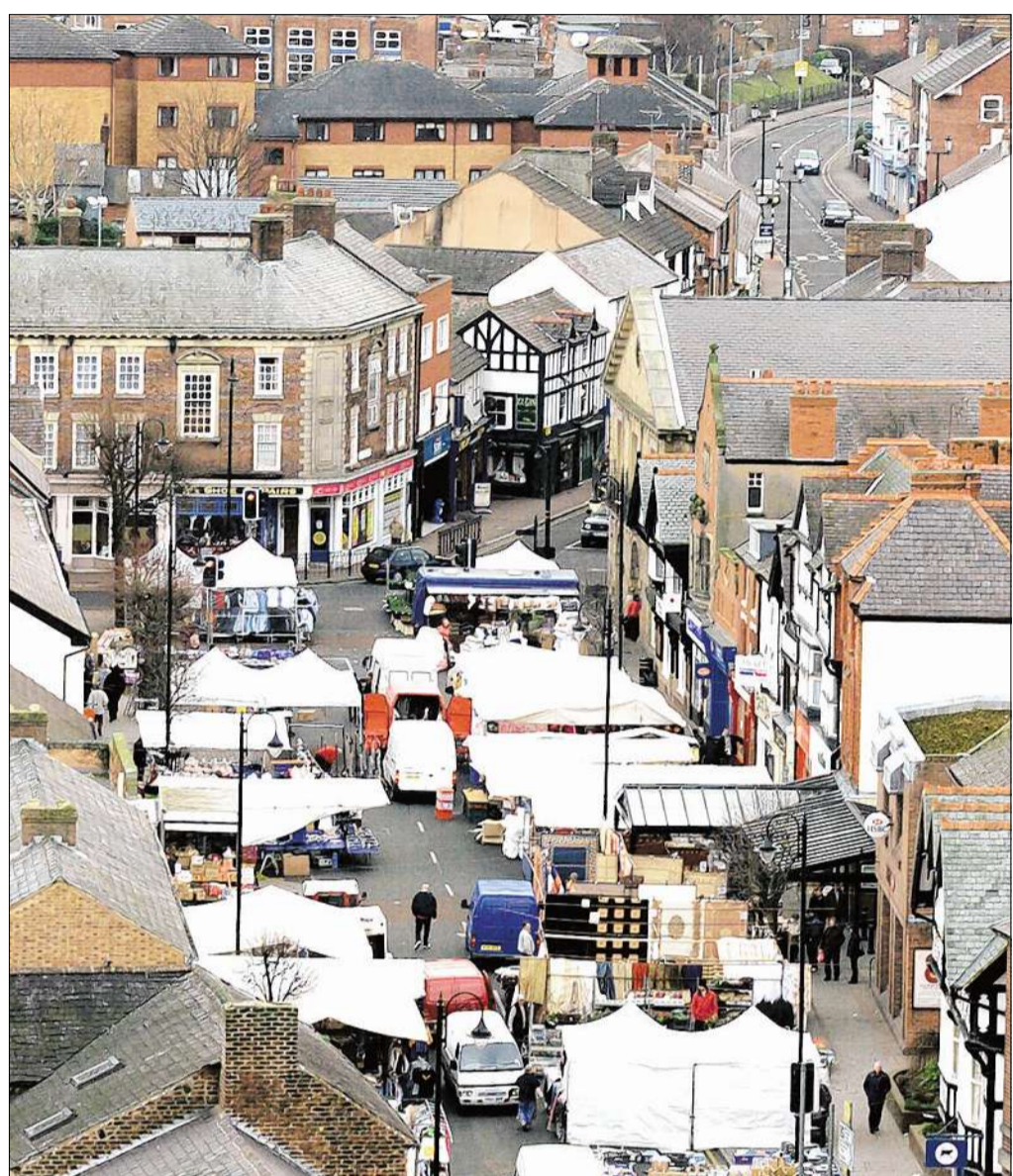
There is always something going on here for children, too. Dog lovers can take their canine companions along to this pooch-friendly location.

Be sure to take in the views afforded by Halkyn Mountain. Situated approximately four miles from Mold, this common land offers free access. The vistas of the Clwydian range, the Dee estuary and the Wirral are awesome to behold.

Mold holds a thriving market each Wednesday and Saturday, when shoppers can buy plants, clothes and produce.

In addition to this, on the first Saturday of each month, a farmers' market is held in St Mary's Church Hall.

The town also hosts a cattle market twice a week. Indeed,



Mold holds a thriving market each Wednesday and Saturday

Mold's unusually wide main street is as broad as it is because drovers used to drive their animals down here to market.

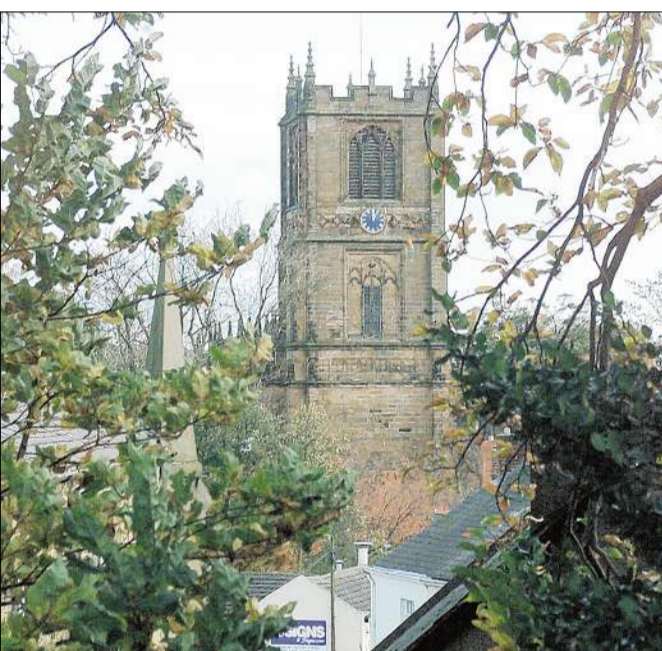
Created by Wales' foremost sculptor, W Goscombe John, the life-size statue which stands in Daniel Owen Square

at the head of the open air shopping precinct, is that of Mold's famous Welsh novelist, Daniel Owen, who died in 1895.

Mold offers shoppers an eclectic range of options ranging from the usual high street names to more

individual, privately owned outlets. The library and Daniel Owen Centre are also well worth a visit, as there is always something going on.

So why not visit Mold today? You can call the Tourist Information Centre on 01352 759331.



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