

The revolt petered out, and the *Statute of Ruddlan* was created. This statute said that English law now applied in Wales. Edward gave the Welsh a "Prince of Wales" who, he promised, could speak no English. Ho ho. This prince was Edward's infant son who couldn't speak anything except gurgles. No-one was fooled: Edward I was in charge, and he had all those castles to prove it.

Hammering Scots

It would be nice and neat to say that next it was Scotland's turn to fall under English rule, but the truth is, Edward wasn't actually planning to invade Scotland. The Scots simply ran out of monarchs. King Alexander III's children had all died, and Alexander's horse fell over a cliff (with King Alexander on it). The only person left was Alexander's little granddaughter who lived in Norway. Poor thing: She died on the ship en route to England to marry Edward I's son. The Scots call her "The Maid of Norway", which is nice, but it didn't hide the fact that they now had a major problem. Who was to rule them?

Job vacant: King of Scotland. Edward said he would settle Scotland's monarch problem. He sifted through 13 applicants and boiled it down to two: Robert the Bruce, one of those Anglo-Norman lords whose families had been settling down in Scotland, and John de Balliol, an English nobleman. And the winner was . . . John de Balliol. Edward was hoping that Balliol would be under his thumb so that Edward would end up controlling Scotland on the cheap. Unfortunately for Edward, Balliol wouldn't play ball. When Edward planned a war with France and told Balliol to help, Balliol not only refused, he signed a treaty with the French. Then the Scots started raiding northern England.

Order, order!

Don't get too excited about these medieval parliaments. To start with, they're not actually the oldest parliaments in the world – that honour goes to the Isle of Man parliament, *Tynwald*, which dates back to Viking times (head to Chapter 6 for that era in British history). For the most part, in the early parliaments, barons just met to discuss important decisions, usually legal disputes – parliament can still act as a court to this day.

You didn't have to call the Commons to a parliament, and they often didn't. But Simon de Montfort recognised that having the Commons on your side could be a very good idea, especially if you were going to war with the King. Edward I found the same when he needed money for his wars. But the Commons tended to want to talk about other things as well as money, so gradually parliament began to become more important.

[Handwritten scribbles and marks at the bottom of the page, including a large flourish on the left, a 'k' in the center, a circular scribble on the right, and a small 'e' further right.]