

PRINCES RISBOROUGH



The market town named after a prince who never became King.

The market town of Princes Risborough in Buckinghamshire has over 600 years of Royal connections. Before the Norman Conquest Risborough had been held by King Harold and later became part of the lands of the new King, William the Conqueror.

Over the next 3 centuries, it passed through the hands of several noblemen and kings including Henry III, Edward I and Edward II.

Edward III granted the Manor to his eldest son, Edward Prince of Wales, known later (though not during his lifetime) as the Black Prince. He was 14 years of age in 1344 and he held the Manor for 32 years until his death in 1376. Edward III did not die until 1377 and the Prince never became King. It was during this period that the Manor became known as Princes Risborough.

The Prince may well have stayed in the original Manor House when he visited Princes Risborough, (the site of which is now under Stratton Road car park) but it is not thought he actually lived there; he spent much of his time during this period at Berkhamsted Castle. He would probably have visited Risborough to select or inspect horses at the Royal Stud.

The Manor was then passed down through Richard II, Henry IV, Henry V, Edward VI, James I and Charles I.



The Market House : Nigel Cox

In 1628, Charles I sold Princes Risborough to the City of London in part satisfaction of the large debts of the Crown.

It is said that Queen Elizabeth I once stayed in a Manor called Brooke House, which was on the site of the later 17th century Manor House which remains to this day.



King Charles I
by Gerrit van Honthorst, 1628



Brook House, Princes Risborough 1847

Further information

www.princesrisborough.com/history