



## **Ancient Border at Six Ashes**

On Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> a noticeboard will be unveiled next to the A458 at Six Ashes, midway between Bridgnorth and Stourbridge. It marks the ancient border site of the 'Onennau Meigion' - or 'Ash trees of Meigion' - and will be next to The Six Ashes pub on the modern Shropshire-Staffordshire border.



The noticeboard was commissioned by The Owain Glyndŵr Society to emphasise the area's links with Welsh history and Glyndŵr's campaign, in particular. Local author, Martin Wall, contacted the Society with the idea of highlighting that Six Ashes was "the place where the Great Eagle would muster the warriors of Wales" as mentioned in a prophecy by Merlin. The area was also the probable site of a battle where the King of Gwynedd, Cadwallon ap Cadfan, defeated Penda of Mercia in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century.

It was the intended destination of Owain Glyndŵr and his forces as they made their way through South Wales to confront Henry IV in 1405, but Henry and his army intercepted them at Woodbury Hill near Worcester and Owain's campaign faltered. Glyndŵr's intention had been to defeat Henry and then divide England and Wales into three regions as described in a document called the 'Tripartite Indenture'. The land would have been split between himself, Henry Percy and Edmund Mortimer - who was also Owain's son-in-law. The Mortimer family was the most powerful in the Welsh March at the time and Edmund's nephew had a better claim to the throne than Henry IV.

It is hoped that the noticeboard will increase interest in this part of our history and, although the original ash trees outside the pub were felled many years ago, cuttings were taken from which the current trees have grown. There are a number of footpaths in the area which allow visitors to explore the surrounding countryside, and accommodation is currently being added to the Six Ashes pub.

**The noticeboard will be unveiled at 12 noon on March 3<sup>rd</sup> - all are cordially invited to the ceremony.**