

[www.lettingmonmouthshiredecide.com](http://www.lettingmonmouthshiredecide.com)



For more information send a stamped addressed envelope to  
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or tel.08700 624555

**It's time you were given the choice.**

**It's time you voted  
ENGLISH DEMOCRATS  
Letting Monmouthshire Decide.  
on 3rd May**

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English Democrats' Election Communication for the South Wales East Region

The original and traditional County of  
**MONMOUTHSHIRE**

**English or Welsh?...**

**YOU DECIDE**



**The English Democrats  
Campaigning for a referendum in Monmouthshire.**

## BACKGROUND

Ask young people which country they think Monmouthshire is in and they might answer 'Wales'. However, ask their Parents or Grandparents, and there's more than a fair chance they'll say the county of Monmouthshire is, or at least was, in England.

Yes, the national status of Monmouthshire has, for many years provoked many an argument in pubs throughout the region. – Is it in Wales, or is it in England?

Some people in the county will undoubtedly feel Welsh, whilst others identify with being English. But the fact is, until the early seventies, the county of Monmouthshire was officially in England. For instance, on every Ordnance Survey map Monmouthshire was clearly shown as being an English county. All reference books from the early Victorian era onwards describes Monmouthshire as being in England. Many of Monmouthshire's traditions are wholly English in character.

All this changed during a sparsely attended late night debate at Westminster in 1972. A Bill was passed to cede Monmouthshire to Wales. Only a handful of MPs were present and it was they who voted the measure through. Interestingly, none of the MPs present that night represented any Monmouthshire constituency. The Bill was enacted upon in 1974 – but unlike the small county alterations occurring throughout the rest of England, an entire county was moved lock stock and barrel into a neighbouring country; – and ever since that time, Monmouthshire has officially been placed within Wales.

We of the English Democrats think this was a totally undemocratic and craven misuse of power by then Prime Minister, Edward Heath and his government. It was no business of Westminster to change the entire nationality of a county on the whim of a handful of MPs without, at the very least consulting the people of that county first.



Early 20th Century map - showing Monmouthshire in England

*'Monmouthshire's status as a Welsh county fell into doubt in 1543 when it was omitted from the second Act of Union which established the Court of Great Session legal system in Wales.'*

From [BBC.co.uk/wales](http://BBC.co.uk/wales) web site

## OUR PLEDGE

If the English Democrats are elected to the Welsh Assembly, we will not only represent the people of Monmouthshire within the Welsh Assembly, tirelessly fighting for your rights, but also lobby for a referendum on the status of Monmouthshire at the earliest possible opportunity.

## WHY VOTE?

Well, for a start it's your democratic right – and let's not forget that the actions of politicians should always be at the behest of the people. Unfortunately, back in 1972, no one bothered to ask the people of Monmouthshire what they wanted – we intend to rectify that appalling omission, we intend to ask the people of Monmouthshire what they want. The system of proportional representation gives you a real voice – and anyway, whether you consider yourself to be English or Welsh, don't you think you should have been consulted before your county was annexed?

It's time to exercise your democratic right. It's time to let the established parties know that you cannot any longer be taken for granted. It's time to vote for a referendum so vote for **The English Democrats.**

**'Letting Monmouthshire decide!'**

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

The English Democrats believe in democracy and in the collective will of the people – and Monmouthshire's collective will has been appallingly ignored for the past 35 years by successive governments. If elected we will campaign tirelessly for a referendum for the citizens of Monmouthshire to decide whether they want to remain in Wales or to come back to England. If you want to know more check out our campaign web site at

[www.lettingmonmouthshiredecide.com](http://www.lettingmonmouthshiredecide.com)

*'Monmouthshire, a maritime County of Western England'...*

John Marius Wilson  
writing in the Imperial  
Gazetteer of England  
and Wales (1870-72)

*'The Local Government Act 1972 abolished the administrative county of Monmouthshire and the county borough of Newport, which until then were legally part of England'...*

Win Griffiths MP, Welsh  
Office Minister, replying  
to a constituent's  
concern in 1997.