

EXCLUSIVE LEGENDARY FIGURE A SCOT



MISCARRIAGE Kierston

Enders star:
I lost baby
on the set

» HALINA WATTS
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EASTENDERS actress Kierston Wareing has claimed she suffered a miscarriage while filming the soap.

The star, who plays Kirsty Branning on the BBC1 show, was four months pregnant when she lost her baby earlier this year.

The 37-year-old told OK! Magazine: "I was pregnant when I started on EastEnders. I thought I was going to lose the job.

"They said no I wasn't, and I was going to do six months – then I had a miscarriage on set.

"It was quite hard at first but they were very, very supportive."

Kierston added: "I would love to have a family. If I got pregnant next year, I would be very, very happy – I would love to be a mum."

But while she's ready to be a mother, she said she couldn't ever see herself getting married.

EastEnders yesterday declined to comment but a source insisted the actress didn't have a miscarriage on the set.

They said: "It was a weekend when Kierston had the miscarriage.

"She wasn't working and she wasn't on set."

King Arthur English? It's a Lancelot of nonsense

CLAIMS
AMATEUR
HISTORIAN
ADAM

HAT'S MORE
LIKE IT We've
given Clive
Owen's Arthur
and his steed
the Scots look



» CRAIG McQUEEN
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THERE are few stories more English than the legend of King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table.

From pulling the sword Excalibur from the stone to fighting Saxon invaders, Arthur's tales have been captured by countless books, films and TV shows.

But now an amateur historian believes he has uncovered conclusive evidence that the brave warrior wasn't an English hero – but the son of a Scots king.

In his book Finding Arthur: The True Origins of the Once and Future King, Adam Ardrey argues the legend is based on sixth-century Arthur MacAedan – and that all of the key events happened north of the Border.

Adam, of Bothwell, Lanarkshire, said: "All of this began when I was researching my family tree.

"Ardrey is an unusual name and I found it was connected to the very first reference to Merlin, which had him fighting at the Battle of Ardrey in 573."

The father of three went on to write a book claiming that Merlin wasn't a wizard but a politician who lived in Glasgow's Partick, where a cul-de-sac called Ardrey Street exists.

Now he's carried on his research using texts dating back to the sixth century to show that Arthur was also a Scot – and that the story of Excalibur can be traced back to the year 573 and Dunadd hill fort in Argyll, where a footprint is carved into the rock.

Adam said: "Arthur was there at the inauguration of his father Aedan as King of Scots and by my account Arthur was his father's next-in-line.

"What you did was put your foot into the footprint to symbolise your connection with the land.

"Arthur put his foot into the footprint and was given a sword to hold. When he stepped out of the footprint with the sword, he laid a historical foundation upon which, hundreds of years later, entertainers gave us the magical story of the sword in the stone.

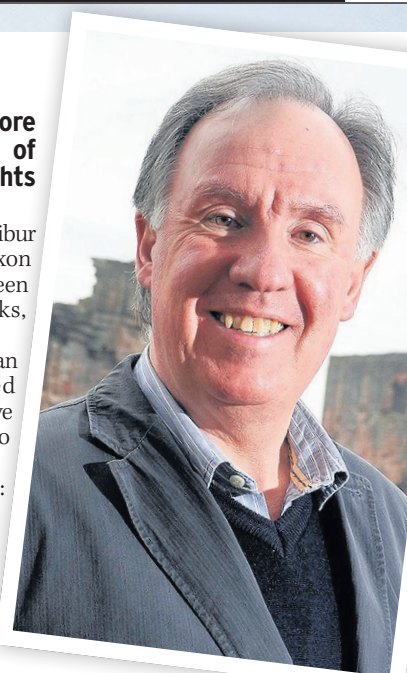
"You could say it was 'sexed up' for commercial reasons."

The 58-year-old advocate argues many of the fantastical elements of the story of Arthur and his knights, including Lancelot, were added later to make it more entertaining.

And he says the adventures were relocated to England as it suited the storytellers of the time.

Adam believes he has identified each of the 12 battles fought by Arthur, placing them all on Scottish soil.

He said: "The first six are in a



THEORIES Advocate Adam Ardrey straight line and the next four are all between Stirling and Berwick.

"The battle in which Arthur died, the Battle of Camlann, took place at Camelon, near Falkirk.

"The battlefield is underneath what is now the coach firm Alexander Dennis."

Adam also points to investigations carried out at Stirling Castle two years ago by archaeologists, who uncovered what they believe to be King Arthur's Round Table in the castle grounds.

He is now hoping that his research could offer a boost to Scottish tourism.

Adam said: "For very little outlay, we could create an Arthurian trail that would run from the River Teviot in the Borders to Edinburgh and Arthur's Seat, through to Glasgow, where Merlin was born, to Hamilton, Perth, Stirling, Argyll, Oban and out to Iona."

Adam said: "The 2004 film King Arthur with Clive Owen and Keira Knightley was the first to place Arthur in Scotland.

"That was because the internet was available, so the screenwriters could do their own research, and they realised the story was set in the north.

"Before, all that screenwriters had was Oxford and Cambridge professors telling them the story was set in the south."

But Adam is well aware he faces an uphill battle to convince academics and other enthusiasts to accept his theories.

He said: "With one or two exceptions, it's been very difficult to get professional historians to actually engage with me."

● Finding Arthur: The True Origins of the Once and Future King by Adam Ardrey is out now, published by Duckworth, priced £18.99.

» The battle in which King Arthur died took place near Falkirk

ADAM ARDREY

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Monty ticket mania

Tickets for Monty Python's comeback show sold out in 43 seconds yesterday. And when they added four dates at London's O2, those briefs were gone in 55 minutes.