



**Worcester County Council Cabinet considers the future of Hartlebury Castle.**

Proposals to undertake more detailed work on the long-term future of Hartlebury Castle were agreed by Worcestershire County Council’s Cabinet yesterday (June 11).

The County Council’s Museum is a tenant on the castle site, which is owned by the Church Commissioners. The castle has been home to the Bishop of Worcester for more than 1,000 years. However, the commissioners plan to sell the site and 40

acres of surrounding land after locating the new Bishop in Worcester. Cabinet Members were asked in a report by officers to support further work being undertaken to ascertain whether there is a viable business case for a partnership via a Trust type arrangement to take over the running of the site.

It was agreed at the June 11th meeting that Cabinet:

*Supports the vision for Hartlebury Castle and the principles upon which this is based as set out in the report. Authorises the Director of Adult and Community Services to further develop the business case and to assess any further options arising.*

*Invites the Overview and Scrutiny Steering Committee to review the business case, in partnership with Wychavon District Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Steering Committee, before the matter returns to Cabinet for a further decision.*

Councillor Philip Gretton, Worcestershire County Council’s Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, said: “This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, but before making any decision we need to fully ensure that there is a proper business case in place that fully stacks up.

“I am pleased my Cabinet colleagues have given their support to us going away and progressing the work in more detail. Steps will be taken that will enable us to identify a viable option that involves partners, meet our objectives and bring significant benefit to Worcestershire residents.

“We have a community leadership role to further explore the options available to us and Cabinet’s decision today will enable us to fulfill this duty.”

It is anticipated that an investment in the region of £3.5 million would be required from any public-private partnership to buy and exploit the heritage and tourism potential of the site, that figure that would be recouped over a number of years. If the site was acquired, it is anticipated the appeal would be widened to incorporate income-generating activities run by private contractors such as weddings, large events and training and conference facilities. If potential private partners do not see this as a viable commercial enterprise, then the council would need to think very carefully before proceeding any further.

The following key elements have been identified by the council in a bid to deliver its outline vision:

*It seeks interested and suitable partners to join in funding the purchase. Some form of trust could be established as either a fundraising arm or a management model for the site. Trusts may have freedoms and flexibilities that would benefit such a venture. A sub-contractor or private sector partner could take or share the risk, for example, of the main income generation functions.*

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Excavation of the stone curtain wall of Buckton Castle in July 2007.

### Lost castle solves riddle of Buckton Moor

A mysterious monument standing on a windswept Lancashire hilltop for nearly a thousand years has been identified as one of England's most important castles – causing a sensation among archaeologists. The University of Manchester team expected the mound on Buckton Moor near Stalybridge to be an earthwork of relatively little importance constructed for defensive purposes out of earth and timber. But to their surprise, the excavation revealed it is in fact a top ranking castle built in the twelfth century, solving a riddle which has intrigued locals for hundreds of years.

The discovery is a significant addition to Britain's tally of 1,400 castles. The team excavated a huge ditch and massive "curtain" wall which indicates that it was built by the upper echelons of society.

"The discovery of a high ranking castle in England is a tremendously rare event – and was definitely not what we were expecting," said the Director of University of Manchester Field Archaeology Centre Mike Nevell. "It's been an object of curiosity for a very long time - perhaps going all the way back to a reference in a 1359 survey carried out by the Black Prince – who had just acquired the lands. Then it was described as a ruined castle. Much of the stonework has been stolen and its walls are overgrown with heather and peat – which explains why it has been mistaken for an earthwork all this time."

The archaeologists realised they had made a major discovery after excavating the castle's outer wall - which they found to be made of stone and 2.8 metres wide – a massive size. They also managed to date some pottery remains which they found scattered on the roadway to the gate house. "The large scale of the defences clearly indicates castle building at the top end of the social hierarchy" said Greater Manchester County Archaeologist Norman Redhead, also from the University of Manchester.

"We also found that the castle was defended by a large rectangular gate tower – which helps to date it to the 12th century. "Greater Manchester is not well known for its castles, but Buckton Castle will put the area well and truly



Above: Buckton Moor, seen from below.

Left: The plan drawn by local antiquary George Ormerod in 1817; it shows the shape of the castle, with orientation. He did not include any internal features.

on the castle map as it is clearly the best preserved of the eight known castles in the county area."

The excavation was partly funded from a £300,000 grant by Tameside Council in Greater Manchester. More questions remain about who owned the castle though the leading contenders are Ranulf the second and Ranulf the third – Earls of Chester who ruled in the 12th century. One idea is that one of the Earls of Chester built a castle on the edge of his lands to protect himself from his sworn enemy William of Peveril – who went on to poison him in 1153.

Equally the castle could have been erected during the Civil War of King Stephen's reign. At this time the Earl was one of the most powerful noblemen in the kingdom and changed sides several times. Another is that it was built during a period of rebellion against King Henry Second. The team also want to understand why the castle faced north and west - rather than south where the Earl of Chester's enemy, Peveril, lived.

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#### Location

Buckton Castle is situated on Buckton Hill, a steep sandstone ridge about 335 metres (1,100 ft) above sea level (grid reference SD98920162). To the south is the valley of the Carr Brook, and to the west is the valley of the River Tame. Buckton Vale Quarry is close to the east of the castle. Stalybridge is about 4 kilometres (2.5 mi) south east of the site. The castle's positioning may have been to allow it to guard the Tame Valley.



### **Hopton Castle Preservation Trust.**

The romantic ruined tower is all that is left of the mediaeval Hopton Castle, besieged in a notorious battle of the English Civil War. In 2006, after years of effort, the Hopton Castle Preservation Trust secured over £1 million from the Heritage Lottery fund and other sources which will allow the castle and its surroundings to be purchased and repaired and access to be provided for visitors.

Maintenance costs are not covered by the grants received and require funds of £3000 to be raised annually. If you wish to know more or find out how to contribute to the Trust's work, please contact the Secretary.

Hopton Castle Preservation Trust:  
[www.hoptoncastle.org.uk](http://www.hoptoncastle.org.uk)

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### **Taunton - Team finds medieval gateway.**

Archaeologists in Somerset have uncovered evidence of a medieval gateway at Taunton Castle.

The team made the discovery during excavations as part of the Museum of Somerset Project which will see the castle restored and modernised. The project has recently been given a boost from the Heritage Lottery Fund of £4.8m. This will go towards the overall project costs of £6.5m. The excavations form the first stage of the project.

Somerset County Council archaeologist Chris Webster said: "Whenever we have the chance to look at the archaeology of Taunton Castle it always comes up with some surprises.

"We have removed a 20th Century gate post and discovered that a much earlier medieval gateway survives, linking the Castle's inner courtyard with structures currently in the garden of the Castle Hotel. "Small excavations like this, undertaken with local volunteers, are gradually adding to our plan of the castle - which is, however, still very confused."



### **Lottery cash to save Astley Castle.**

Crumbling north Warwickshire Astley Castle has taken a giant step towards being saved after scooping a £1.5 million lottery grant. Astley Castle, once home to three queens of England, are celebrating the award of £1.47 million. The Landmark Trust, which looks after some of the country's most important historic buildings, had applied for the cash to prevent it from falling into ruin.

The castle, on the outskirts of Nuneaton, dates back to the 13th century and is one of the 16 highest priority buildings at risk in England. Described as being in a 'severe state of disrepair,' the castle has been derelict since it was devastated by fire in 1978.

The Landmark Trust has put together a £2.2 million restoration package for the threatened site. It must now raise a further £408,000 before work can start. Plans include a learning programme with local schools, eight annual public open days with special activities, in addition to improvements to parkland routes and signage.

Peter Pearce, director of the Landmark Trust, said: "For the past 30 years the castle has gradually deteriorated to the sad state we see it in today. This marvellous news from the Heritage Lottery Fund brings us closer to our vision of giving the building a future and allowing many thousands of people each year to experience it. We must find a way to save it and will work closely with the HLF to make this a reality."

Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund for the West Midlands, Anne Jenkins, said: "We are delighted to be able to support Astley Castle. It is a much-loved historic landmark in North Warwickshire in dire need of help before it is lost forever. There is now a clear strategy to save this damaged and neglected at-risk historic building and give it an impressive mix of educational, social and community uses."

The £1.47 million lottery pledge is stage one of a two stage process and, while a stage one pass does not guarantee funding, money for the scheme is set aside. The applicant can then progress to stage two and submit a further, fully developed application to secure the full grant, expected to be announced in Spring next year.



### Crayke Castle - For Sale.

The foundation of the castle is of uncertain date. Some have assigned it to Bishop Pudsey (1153-1195), others to Bishop Bek (1283-1310) or Kellow (1311-1316) though it is recorded that Bishop Pudsey spent a night at the castle in 1195 where he suffered from food poisoning which led to his death the following day in Howden. As it is known that the land on and around Crayke hill was gifted to Bishop Cuthbert by the King of Northumbria in 685, it seems likely that the Saxon Bishops of Durham would have had a hall or country house of some kind, presumably run by monks from Lindesfarne or Jarrow, on the hill, before the time of the Norman Conquest, though no firm archival or archaeological evidence of this has been found.

The earliest Norman castle probably was of timber construction and of the motte-and-bailey design, later rebuilt in stone. Most of the castle had fallen into a ruinous state by the early 16th century and little remains of it today. The present castle is of 15th century construction, built by Bishop Neville around 1450 with stone quarried from Brandsby and Yearsley. The now ruinous remains of the 'New Tower', probably of late 15th century construction, stand to the north east of the castle.

*From the sale particulars:*

Crayke Castle in Yorkshire is a remarkable property which has been added to and existed in various incarnations since it was built in the 12th century. It has a reception hall, dining room, study, magnificent vaulted kitchen, sitting room, drawing room, conservatory, four bedroom suites, four further bedrooms, and a family bathroom as well as a self-contained two bedroom apartment.

The reception rooms are well-proportioned and light and the barrel-vaulted medieval kitchen is a superb room with an extensive family area alongside a practical and modern fitted kitchen. On the upper ground floor the sitting room and dining room has wonderful open stone fireplaces and fantastic wooden flooring with the adjoining conservatory opening onto the raised afternoon tea garden.

For further information, please contact Knight Frank on 01423 530088 or visit [www.knightfrank.co.uk](http://www.knightfrank.co.uk).

### Licences to Crenellate - An Update.

*Licence for John Pylkington, knight, and his heirs to build walls and towers around and crenellate his plot or manor within the parish of Wakefield, co. York, called 'Pylkington Hall,' newly built by him, and his other plots or manors of Bradeley, Elfletburgh and Turneham Hall, co. York.*

A talk given by John Goodchild for the Wakefield Historical Society on 16 July 2008 outlined the story of Sir John Pilkington. Pilkington, son of the steward of Sowerby forest, was a committed Yorkist who fought at the battles of Wakefield and Tewkesbury and received numerous offices of profit from Edward IV. These funded an expansion of his property portfolio, particularly in the West Riding of Yorkshire. In April 1477 he was created joint Chamberlain of the Exchequer, with William Hastings (of Ashby de la Zouche) and in May was granted a licence to crenellate 4 houses (Hastings had been granted a licence to crenellate 4 houses in 1474). Mr Goodchild, a local Wakefield historian, was able to identify the location of these four houses of John Pilkington and correct some assumptive errors made by me and published on The Gatehouse website.

**Pylkington Hall** - this was the manor house of Snapethorpe. A fortified tower was recorded as standing near the main road to Dewsbury until 1724 and this may have been a gatehouse to this manor house. The area is now built over but the 1854 map show a building called 'Old Hall', at SE307200, which would seem a likely site. I had previously assumed this to be, nearby, Chevet Hall, but this came into Pilkington hands much later.

**Bradeley** - this was Bradley near Huddersfield. John obtained this property, previously a grange, from Fountains Abbey. A Bradley Hall and Park are marked on the modern Map about a mile north of the parish church at SE170211. Images of England, the online listed building record, records a probably C17 house on the site. I had previously assumed this was Bradley Hall, Stainland, near Halifax.

**Elfletburgh** - was his father house at Elphaborough, SE012259, nothing remains. Previously correctly identified.

**Turneham Hall** - Called Thurnham by Anthony Emery in *Greater Medieval Houses* (1996, Vol. 1, p. 422) this was Turnham Hall on the Ouse, in the parish of Cliffe, near Hemingbrough, SE645314. Later building and flooding have destroyed any remains although slight traces of a moat were visible on a 1940's air photo. I had previously tentatively identified this site as one possibility.

What type of building and how much was done at each site is uncertain and Pilkington died only two years after the licence in 1479 with only an illegitimate son as heir. Although wealthy he did not have the money of Hastings who's work at Ashby de la Zouche and Kirby Muxloe will be well know to readers. However, clearly major work was done at Pilkington Hall and possibly some building or refurbishment was done at the other sites.

Mr Goodchild has an extensive collection of primary and secondary sources mainly related to the West Riding which is housed below the Central Library of Wakefield. This collection is open by appointment only. Telephone 01924 298929

*Philip Davis*



### **For sale: Sheriff Hutton Castle - A property with that extra bit of majesty.**

As garden features go, a medieval castle previously owned by eight monarchs including Richard III and Elizabeth I, has to rank as the most prestigious. The imposing remains of Sheriff Hutton Castle tower up to 100 feet above the lawn that nestles alongside the home of Dr Richard Howarth and his wife Jenny.

Hailed as one of the largest and finest romantic ruins still in private hands in the North of England, the castle, near York, is a scheduled ancient monument, a local landmark and a shrine for Richard III enthusiasts who have travelled from as far away as Japan and American to see it.

Now they will have the chance to own it. The castle, along with the couple's four-bedroom converted granary, an adjoining two-bed cottage, outbuildings and 11 acres of land is for sale for £1.5 million. It is only the second time in its 600-year history that the castle has been on the open market. The first was when Dr Howarth's grandfather bought it in 1940. Back then the regal ruin was part of a dairy farm and its Great Courtyard was full of barns, silos and tractors with little attention paid to its incredible past.

It was built in 1408 by the Neville family and confiscated by the Crown in 1471 on the death of its most famous member Richard Neville, known as Warwick the Kingmaker. The castle, which sits in the centre of Sheriff Hutton village, was then owned by eight monarchs and has several claims to fame.

It was a major seat of government and Earl Rivers, brother-in-law of Edward IV, was staying there when he translated into English the first book printed in England by William Caxton. In 1471 Richard III, then Duke of Gloucester, was also based there as Lord of the North. And it can lay claim to the Princes in the Tower.

Although Richard III was condemned as a wicked uncle who murdered his two nephews, one school of thought is he sent them to Sheriff Hutton for safety along with other members of the Plantagenet family and they were

then killed by victorious Tudor Henry VII after the Battle of Bosworth.

The property was in royal hands until the early seventeenth century when it fell into the hands of the aristocratic Ingram family, who began to dismantle it. In 1919 the castle and farm was bought by its sitting tenant, who sold it to Dr Howarth's grandfather, a textile manufacturer from Huddersfield. When he inherited the farm from his father, Dr Howarth left his job as a senior fellow at the University of Bangor and moved back to his childhood home in 1995.

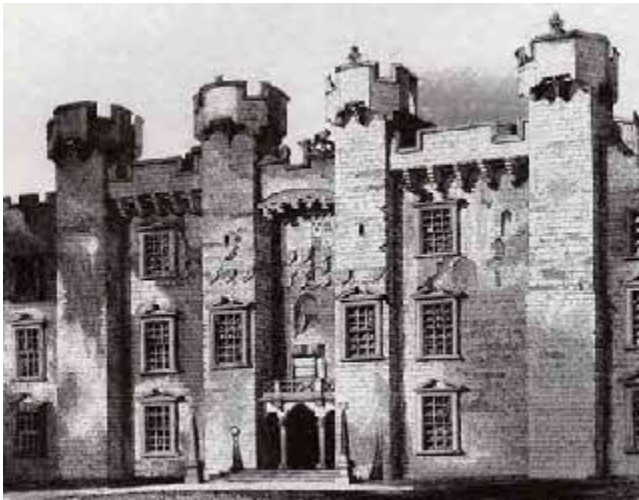
He and his wife converted the farm's cart sheds and granary into a home and made the castle courtyard into a lawn. Although the castle isn't open to the public, the Howarths have shown interested groups round the site and it has been used to host everything from church fetes, to medieval fairs and plays. A room in one of the towers, whose walls are 10ft thick, has been used for family parties.

"I love it the castle. I can remember clambering all over it as a child. For me it was a magical adventure playground," says Dr Howarth. "It's incredibly atmospheric."

But the upkeep of the castle has been a concern for the Howarths, who managed to secure a £540,000 English Heritage grant to stabilise it. Dr Howarth, 67, who is planning to downsize to smaller property, says: "It is stable and resilient, though bits do fall off it. "My hope is that we find an eccentric buyer who loves history and has a lot of money to throw at the ruin. "Leaving it is quite a wrench. It's been a privilege to own it."

Estate agent Tim Blenkin, of Blenkin and Co, adds: "This is a chance to buy a remarkable piece of English history." For more details contact Blenkin and Co, Tel 01904 671672 property reference: BLCY999000377

From the sale particulars: "The castle still contains two useable vaulted chambers: the Guard Room, used for storing farm machinery; and the Sounding Hall, some 40ft x 20ft, used as an atmospheric venue for parties and celebrations."



### New laser technology comes to rescue of Hylton Castle's medieval stonework

Experts at English Heritage have come up with an ultra-modern solution to the age-old problem of the erosion of some of Wearside's most significant heraldic stone carvings. Stonework on the early 15th century Hylton Castle gatehouse tower, which displays fine examples of royal heraldry including Richard II's White Hart badge, has suffered damage from hundreds of years of driving rain, snow and wind.

Now specialised work using high-tech scanning equipment is taking place to measure the rate of decay on the highly decorative gatehouse-tower built by the wealthy Sir William Hylton, and find the best way of stopping it. Stuart Chadwick, senior laser scanning surveyor with laser scanning specialists Greenhatch, travelled up to Wearside to carry out the scanning.

*"The scanner actually revolves as it moves over the surface of the stonework, and as it turns it fires lasers in all directions taking measurements at a speed of 500,000 points a second. When it has done a full sweep you get a three-dimensional image."*

The 'point cloud' image of the surface is made up of hundreds of measurements taken just half a millimetre apart, and from this highly detailed measurement 3-D meshed models and elevations can be produced. It's a method of scanning that can show up the very small changes that have taken place over a much shorter space of time - rather than the serious deterioration that can be seen by the human eye. "From this information we see what erosion is happening before it's actually visible and decide what needs to be done to arrest it and preserve this valuable stonework," explained, Ray Stockdale, works manager for English Heritage in the North East.

Committed to the long-term conservation of Hylton Castle English Heritage is using the new technology allied to age-old craft skills to help the carvings remain as a very visual display of the wealth and status of one of the north's great families.

From '24HourMuseum.org'.



### Turner's 'View of Carisbrooke Castle' returns to the Isle of Wight.

Painted 180 years ago, a depiction of Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight by JMW Turner is returning home. 'A View of Carisbrooke Castle', painted soon after the well-loved artist's 1827 visit to the island, has been acquired for the collection at the castle's museum thanks to the *Acceptance in Lieu* scheme. The tax scheme allows cultural treasures to be given to public collections in place of inheritance tax.

The painting was one of 96 watercolours in Turner's series '*Picturesque Views in England and Wales*', published between 1827 and 1838. It certainly captures the picturesque qualities of Carisbrooke, with Turner's trademark use of the effects of light casting a diagonal shaft of sunshine on the castle's imposing entrance, set off by stormy clouds overhead. There is however considerable artistic licence compared to the actuality.

### Nevern Castle, Pembrokeshire, dig.

Experts began to unearth the secrets of Nevern Castle as ancient artefacts were discovered last week (June 2008).

Clues to life at the site during the 12th century emerged during the dig, and pottery, a board game and counter, and a passageway were among the finds. The two week excavation, organised by Ever Community Council and the National Park, was led by Dr Chris Caple, senior lecturer at Durham University's Archaeology department, who was joined by a team of five helpers. Dr Caple said: 'It's been a good two weeks, and the team have worked really hard. Community involvement is very important, and I hope there will be more opportunities for local people to get involved in the future. We hope there will be plenty more digs here, as there is plenty more to find. We want to return next year, it's just a question of funds.'

Dr Caple said evidence found at the site suggested that the castle had been deliberately destroyed for military reasons, and added that further excavation would answer more questions and build up a better picture of the buildings layout. The trenches will now be covered up to protect the finds, and the pottery will be sent for analysis.



### Historic Scotland awards castles grant aid.

#### Portencross Castle

Portencross, by West Kilbride, Ayrshire

Award Offer: £367,442

Category A-listed Portencross Castle is a fine and early example of a relatively intact Ayrshire stronghold in an area that was historically a strategically important site on the Firth of Clyde. It is hoped that the traditional building skills required in the repair will provide opportunities for training. Once consolidation is complete the Castle will be opened to the public during the summer months by arrangement and there are plans to appoint guides. Interpretive panels and displays will also be introduced to explain the importance and the history of the Castle.



### Odiham Castle re-opens to the public.

Following a number of years of excavation, consolidation work to Odiham Castle or *King John's* castle began in September 2007, a project partnered by Hampshire County Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund under the guidance of English Heritage.

Although past attempts to preserve the flint work have been made, more notably during the 1960s and 1980s, the battle between the elements and this historic ruin is ongoing. Under the current restoration project much of the work has had to address accelerated weathering caused by the repairs of the 1960s. Perhaps deemed best practice at the time, a concrete mix was used to bond the flint together. In fact this mix 'pulled' the flint away allowing water and wind to get in and weaken the stones.

With this in mind and due to the position of the ruins certain sections have suffered greater than others. The initial survey of the flint identified this problem along with discovering that four types of lime-mix, dating back to the 12th century were still present. Learning from these results we have been able to apply a lime-mix in our attempt to arrest decline to this local and national feature. At this point it is appropriate to acknowledge the financial support that Odiham Parish Council and the Odiham Society have given.

Recent completion of the stone work has allowed the project to move forward into the access and interpretation stage. We have had considerable support from volunteers in clearing the moat as part this phase.



#### Baltersan Castle.

Kirkoswald, South Ayrshire

Award Offer: £492,406

Though ruinous, A-listed Baltersan Castle is still of considerable importance and distinguished by very sophisticated stone detailing. The repair will require traditional building skills and may provide training opportunities for apprenticeships. It is hoped that the repair and reuse of Baltersan Castle as a private residence club will contribute to regenerating the surrounding area and its tourist market.



### Cadzow Castle set for new lease of life.

From the *Hamilton Advertiser*, June 12th.

An agreement sealed last week has paved the way for the further restoration of a historic Hamilton landmark. Cadzow Castle, which dates back to the 1530s, sits on the edge of the Avon Gorge. The main part of the castle is owned by the Scottish Government and maintained by Historic Scotland.

Other walls and stonework associated with the castle can be found in Chatelherault Country Park, on land owned by South Lanarkshire Council. Historic Scotland asked the council to enter into an arrangement in which they (Historic Scotland) take over the maintenance and upkeep of those parts of the castle in Chatelherault. Details of the application were outlined to councillors last Tuesday at a meeting of the council's estates committee.

Enterprise director Ian Urquhart said the Scottish Government did not want to take over ownership of the additional area as it was "remote" from the main part of the castle. He said the council had an obligation to maintain the parts of the castle in their ownership. They could, however, agree to pass on the obligation to another body. Mr Urquhart added: "Historic Scotland have asked the council to enter into a guardianship agreement. "It will enable Historic Scotland to undertake restoration and maintenance works to ensure the historic remains are preserved in perpetuity while the property remains in council ownership but without liability for maintenance." Councillors rubber-stamped Historic Scotland's application.

The ruined castle was once thought to be an 18th Century folly. However, excavations in 2001 identified the remains as a stronghold constructed between 1500 and 1550.

It is thought to have been built by Sir James Hamilton of Finnart for his half brother, the second Earl of Arran, and overlooks the famous Cadzow Oaks. Historic Scotland, who named the castle "one of the most mysterious in Scotland", did further work to try and discover how the building looked in its heyday. They believe it may have had a role in the great political events surrounding the abdication of Mary Queen of Scots in 1567. Experts think this could have led to its destruction in 1579. At present, only the exterior of the castle can be viewed.



### Cassillis Castle, Ayrshire - For Sale.

Cassillis has been owned and occupied by the Kennedy family since the late 13th century. It was from here that David Kennedy, First Earl of Cassillis, took his title in 1502. The Earls of Cassillis wielded such power over South West Scotland in the 16th and early 17th centuries that they were known as the Kings of Carrick. In more settled times, the earldom passed in 1759 to Sir Thomas Kennedy of Culzean, and Culzean Castle became the family seat. Culzean was presented to the National Trust for Scotland in 1945 by the 5th Marquess of Ailsa and in the 1950s the family took up residence once again at Cassillis. The name Cassillis derives from the Gaelic *caiseal*, meaning stone fort.

There is some debate over the date of the original castle. Grose, in his *Antiquities of Scotland* (1789), put it no earlier than the reign of Queen Mary or her son James VI, that is, the second half of the 16th century. However, Nigel Tranter in *The Fortified House in Scotland*, writes: 'It is an extensive mansion belonging to three main periods, of which the oldest part is a massive oblong tower dating possibly from the 14th century. This was greatly altered in the 17th century, a square stair-tower being added at the south-east and all above parapet level remodelled. The early castle has immensely thick walls, 16 feet thick at base, roughcast and rising four storeys to the parapet. The interior has necessarily been much altered to suit later requirements, but many original features remain. The two storey front was added by David Bryce between 1830 and 1832 for the 12th Earl. David Bryce was a partner in William Burn's architectural practice, and his work was heavily influenced by Burn. The Kennedy family crest features a dolphin and the motto - 'Avisé la Fin' ('consider the end').



## Facelift for Stirling Castle.

16 June, 2008

Stirling Castle is to undergo a £12 million facelift by Historic Scotland architects, restoring its royal apartments to their sixteenth century heyday. The project involves conservation of the Queen's Outer Hall, Queen's Inner Hall and Queen's Bed Chamber, re-presentation of the King's Outer Hall and the creation of a Renaissance gallery on the palace's upper floor.

The palace block was built by King James V in 1538 as a residence for himself and his Queen, Mary de Guise. The team behind the project insist extensive archaeological and historical research has taken place so that restoration work in the lodgings can be as authentic as possible.

Chris Watkins, head of Historic Scotland's major projects team, said: "The conservation and presentation of James V's magnificent Renaissance palace is the most ambitious phase of Historic Scotland's project at Stirling Castle. It will mark the culmination of many years of research and skilled conservation and craft work that have helped reinstate the splendour that the Stewart monarchs gave to Stirling."

The announcement comes after a recent refurbishment to the Great Hall and the Chapel Royal. A budget of some £9 million from Historic Scotland has been supplemented by £3 million from the Scottish Government for the project.

## Rowallan Castle summer tours.

A series of daily guided summer tours of Rowallan Old Castle will take place between 16 and 25 July. Set in rolling Ayrshire countryside this extraordinary Renaissance building was home to the Muirs, one of the area's most influential families for more than 400 years.

By the 17th century the family were renowned for their cultural interests as writers, historians and composers. Indeed the earliest surviving lute music in Scotland was written at Rowallan Old Castle. The building itself is equally fascinating, and visitors can see evidence of how it evolved from the 13th to the 18th centuries.

Peter Yeoman, Historic Scotland Head of Cultural Resources, said: "We are delighted to be able to offer these daily tours of what it is one of Ayrshire's hidden gems. More than that Rowallan Old Castle, is an important part of Scotland's national heritage, as a rare example of a well preserved house of the middle ranking nobility. Parties will be shown round by an expert guide who will offer them a host of fascinating insights into the history of the castle and the remarkable people who lived there."

The castle features at least seven identifiable architectural styles. Excavations on the site have also revealed evidence of prehistoric settlement and burial. Historic Scotland has just reinstalled a display on the archaeological finds made during the excavation, with objects on loan from East Ayrshire Council.



### Ruthin - Castle lodges plans put on hold.

A decision to erect 15 "woodland lodges" in the grounds of a medieval castle in Denbighshire has been put on hold by planners. The owners of Ruthin castle are seeking consent for the lodges which would be leased out to tourists. The original plans for the development were rejected by Denbighshire councillors earlier this year. A revised application has now been deferred after a call for the Welsh Assembly government to review the plans. The site is designated a Grade II historic park and garden, and is also home to the protected lesser horseshoe bat. But the developers, Countryparks Hotels Ltd have said the project could help secure the future conservation of the castle.

However, Glynis Shaw, who is campaigning against the development has requested that the plans are called in by Assembly government officials. "It's in a conservation area, the park land has a Grade II listing and so does the castle, so it should be a very well protected heritage site," she said. "If a development like this can be considered in such an area, then it means that these conservation measures are pointless." She said the move to defer any decision while the matter was potentially reviewed by Assembly planning officials was "brilliant news."

"Welsh heritage does not deserve to end up in a chalet park," she added.

They want to build five lodges on the southern side of the castle and 10 in an area of mature woodland to the north. Planning officers at Denbighshire council had recommended that members approved the latest revised application, after the owners of the Ruthin Castle Hotel agreed to set up a charitable trust to ensure the conservation of the medieval castle. However that decision will now be delayed while the assembly government considers the request to review the proposals.



*Castle Green House, Cardigan, October 2007.*

### Cardigan: Castle conversion plan unveiled.

A multi-million pound action plan has been unveiled to breathe new life into a derelict 12th Century castle in Ceredigion and open it to the public. The project to convert Cardigan castle and its buildings has been approved by Ceredigion Council which owns it.

Plans include opening a heritage centre, a Welsh language school, a cafe and some self-catering accommodation. The castle featured in the BBC's Restoration series in 2004, but failed to make the final. A few weeks later Ceredigion Council received more than £200,000 in grants to help restore the old building.

Then, two years ago, plans to transform it into a museum of Welsh paintings fell through. Recently, Cadwgan Building Preservation Trust, set up to safeguard the castle, has been working with The Prince's Regeneration Trust and the council. Prince Charles visited the castle last year.

Fred Taggart, projects director for The Prince's Regeneration Trust, said: "For decades Cardigan castle has been hidden from view, and visitors to the town have been greeted only by the vast metal props holding up the walls. The Prince's Regeneration Trust has been delighted to help the Cadwgan trust develop this action plan to conserve the site, bring the buildings back into use, and open the castle to the public."

"It will be a great new visitor attraction. This decision by Ceredigion Council unlocks the situation and the Prince of Wales will be delighted to hear about the progress being made."

The castle, which is believed to have hosted the first eisteddfod in 1176, was bought from a private owner by Ceredigion Council in 2003 for £500,000. The plans include applying for funding from the Welsh Assembly Government and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

[www.cardigancastle.com/eng/cadwgan-trust](http://www.cardigancastle.com/eng/cadwgan-trust)



### True-blue audio at new Raglan visitor centre.

A pilot project using Bluetooth technology to deliver audio files to visitors' mobile phones is currently underway at Raglan Castle as part of the ongoing commitment by Cadw to improve heritage interpretation at its sites. The fifteenth-century castle has also unveiled a new environmentally-friendly visitor centre designed to lend itself to its historic surroundings.

Designed by Bremner & Orr Design Consultants, the new Bluetooth initiative is the first to be trialed in the UK. It allows visitors to download MP3 audio stories on to their mobile phones for free. The stories, which take visitors on a guided tour of the castle, recount life at the castle during the Civil War siege of 1646. The hope is that the stories will encourage visitors to explore the castle's history further through other on-site interpretation, events, the guidebook and the website.

The new visitor centre has been constructed within the White Gate entrance to the castle, and includes a visitor reception, retail merchandise area, an office for the castle's custodian and an accessible toilet. The structure has been designed by Davies Sutton Architects and constructed by Cowlin Construction Ltd of Cardiff. Davies Sutton also designed Caerphilly Castle's acclaimed new visitor centre and took part in the restoration of Sker House. This Cardiff-based practice specialises in heritage related projects and in designing new buildings on sensitive sites.

The new centre has a design philosophy based upon a neutral modern approach using oak, glass and metal, contrasting with but also sitting comfortably in its historic setting. The design also follows the latest in environmentally-friendly building processes using sustainable materials and sources including an innovative ground source heat pump system to provide heating for the building.

Research has revealed that, of the thirteen Cadw monuments sampled, a third of all visitors (33%) to Raglan Castle come from within Wales, making it the fifth most popular Cadw site overall in terms of proportion of visits by Welsh residents. Raglan is also the seventh most popular Cadw site with overseas visitors, which accounted for 12% of all visitors to the site. In addition, almost 60% of all visits to Raglan are made by families, the fifth highest of all Cadw sites, while 50% of all visitors to Raglan were aged between 35 and 54 years old.



### William the Conqueror's Castle at Falaise, Normandy.

*A cautionary note from CSG member Rob Morgan.*

"I returned in early June from a visit to Normandy, during which I had the opportunity to go to Falaise and take a look at what I hoped would be a magnificent, well-restored site.

The great square keep of Henry I, and the lower keep built by Henry II as well as the huge round tower of Philip Augustus are open to visitors with some delightful exhibitions based on an interpretation of medieval chess. While the shop contains a far wider choice of educational and specialist materials than most Cadw or English Heritage sites, yet visitors should beware.

Access to the castle site is, to say the least, now difficult. A five year restoration plan is underway, and to get into the castle's visitor's centre involves some effort. The main path into Falaise, which is clearly signposted behind the City's *Mairie* requires climbing dozens of steep steps, and negotiating a narrow mesh-enclosed pathway across the ditch. The final approach to the entrance is over fifty metres of stone and scree. Inside the bailey between the gate and the visitor's centre and shop is a building site with cranes and heavy machinery, unsupervised, which would turn any Health & Safety Advisor pale.

My wife refused the awkward climb in, point blank. Indeed it is, members should be warned totally unsuitable, I'd even say virtually inaccessible to anyone who has less than 100% mobility, or is using an aid, and is a difficult passage for a pram or pushchair. Supervision of children within the site should be extremely close!

The plans on display indicate that the curtain wall, towers and the bailey in particular is likely to be under reconstruction for at least two or three more years, but hopefully by then access will be much easier. I'd also want to point out that as far as a 'Family Ticket' is concerned at Falaise a family is 2 adults and 1 child, any additional children enter at a cost of 3 Euros each.

*Rob Morgan.*



## Diary Dates

### The 2009 Annual CSG Conference: Limerick, Ireland.

Date: April 16 -19 2009.

Provisional Itinerary:

Day 1: Co. Tipperary - Beal Boru, Nenagh, Terryglass, Ballingarry, Lackeen.

Day 2: Co. Limerick - Limerick, Adare, Askeaton, Newcastlewest, Tomdeely.

Day 3: Co. Clare - Bunratty, Quin.

Approx costs: 300 Euros sharing.

Further details will be announced in the *Journal* mailing.

## Announcements

- John Kenyon's milestone bibliography: '*Castles, Town Defences and Artillery Fortifications in the United Kingdom and Ireland. A Bibliography 1945-2006*', is the publication of the year. Members should find a flyer enclosed with the *Bulletin*, from Shaun Tyas, offering the book at a very special price of £30.00 post free. Contact Shaun on 01775 821542.
- The Castle Studies Group are looking for a member to take over the editorship of the Summer *Bulletin* starting with the next edition a year from now - July 2009. It involves compiling the *Bulletin* news and other timely information for members and arranging for the annual Bibliography to be typeset, printed and mailed together with the *Bulletin* and any flyers. Ideally the volunteer should be able to work with Serif PagePlus or Microsoft Publisher, have broadband, the ability to produce PDF files and facilities to handle the UK / European and International postage. Interest should be directed to the CSG Editor, Neil Guy, at the email address shown below.
- **Realms of Gold** tours for 2009:  
March 23<sup>rd</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup> "The Borders" based at Dryborough Abbey Hotel  
May 30<sup>th</sup> - June 6<sup>th</sup> "Castles in Dordogne" based at Hotel Plaisance at Vitrac.  
July 25<sup>th</sup> - August 2<sup>nd</sup> "An Introduction to Historic Slovakia" - circular tour around the country ending with Bratislava  
September 5<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> "Archaeology and Architecture of the Ancient Pueblos" - tour of New Mexico, Colorado and Arizona.  
  
Also - dates to be confirmed - "Medieval North Yorkshire" and "Medieval Paris". Contact: *Pamela Marshall*:  
secretary@castlestudiesgroup.org.uk

## Diary Dates

### Sea Coast Fortification: from the onset to modern times - Portugal

The VIII Conference on Military Monuments shall take place between 27 and 29 November, 2008, in the Algarve University facilities, in Faro.

The Conference theme, "Sea Coast Fortification: from the onset to modern times", reflects the international debate that is going on about the past and present of these forts. The emphasis will be on the future: how to guarantee their maintenance, what actions can be done, what uses can be applied?

The Conference shall be attended by a significant group of internationally recognized speakers who will contribute to an innovative discussion that leads to conclusions on how to preserve and re-use the military heritage.

This event is organized by the Portuguese Association of the Castle's Friends, together with the Algarve University.

#### Contact:

Secretariado do VIII Congresso dos Monumentos Militares, Conference Office  
Associação Portuguesa dos Amigos dos Castelos  
Rua Barros Queirós, 20, 2º  
1100-077 Lisboa

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## CSG Research & Conference Grants.

#### Small Projects Fund:

There is some limited funding each year for castle-related research and excavation undertaken by CSG members. Members are invited to send in proposals, which will be reviewed by the Funding Committee, consisting of Pamela Marshall, Richard Eales and Peter Purton. Grants totaling £500 will be available each year. Applications will be considered on their merits and any funding will be granted on a one-off basis. Applications should be made by letter to the Secretary and should arrive no later than October 31st for projects in the following year. Decisions will be agreed by January 31st of each year. Successful applicants will be expected to submit a report on completion of the work, which may be published in the *CSG Bulletin* or *Journal*.

#### Student Conference Support:

Undergraduate and postgraduate students who are writing a dissertation or thesis on a castle-related subject may apply to attend the Annual Conference at half cost. The Conference normally takes place in the Spring during University vacation. Application, outlining the theme of the dissertation, should be made by letter to the Secretary and should arrive no later than October 31 2008 for 2009 conference. The successful applicant will be expected to submit a short report and they will be encouraged to join the Group. University tutors are asked to draw this scheme to the attention of their students.

For further information see the CSG web page at:

www.castlestudiesgroup.org.uk/page4.html. Email the Secretary at: secretary@castlestudiesgroup.org.uk