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**Site Name:** CARDIGAN CASTLE; CASTLE GREEN

**Site PRN:** 1082

**My Site File Ref. No.:** CARD\_CAST

**Site Type:** Castle; Masonry Castle; House

**N. G. Ref.:** SN 2178 2459

**Period:** Medieval; Post-Medieval; Modern

**History:**

Cardigan Castle is prominently located in the centre of the present town on the north bank of the Teifi estuary opposite the bridge. The ridge upon which it stands is a good natural defensive position. The discovery of three Neolithic (4, 300 B C – 2, 200 B C) flint scrapers to the north-east of the site in 2012 is evidence of early human activity here. References in the 'Brut y Tywysogion' to the name 'Din Geraint' may infer the location of an Iron Age or Romano-British defensive settlement here, although no trace of it has ever been found. References to a castle established by Earl Roger de Montgomery at the Teifi estuary in 1093 may refer to this site, or else to the earthworks at Old Castle, a mile downstream.

In 1093, following the death of the Welsh leader and Prince of Deheubarth, Rhys ap Tewdwr, at the hands of the Normans, the forces of Earl Roger de Montgomery invaded Wales and established the castle and town of Pembroke, building a number of castles along the way there from Shrewsbury, including one at 'Din Geraint' (Cardigan). Roger de Montgomery died in 1094. This first early earth and timber fortification at Cardigan was destroyed by the Welsh in 1094.

The present Cardigan Castle site was almost certainly that recorded as having been fortified by Gilbert fitz Richard de Clare in 1110. The Norman invasion of Ceredigion that year was partially in response to the abduction of Nest, the wife of Gerald de Windsor of Pembroke, from Cenarth Bychan (possibly Cilgerran) the previous year by Owain ap Cadwgan ap Bleddyn – the son of the Lord of Ceredigion. The Normans had already recently taken control of the hundreds of Cemais and Cilgerran in North Pembrokeshire, and Cardigan became the Welsh frontier within a few years, as the Welsh recaptured most of Ceredigion.

*“...After that, the King forthwith sent for Gilbert fitz Richard, who was a powerful leading man and a comrade of his. And after he had come, he said to him: “Thou didst beg me many a time before this for a portion of Wales, but thou didst not get it. Now I will give thee Cadwgan ap Bleddyn's territory.” And he warmly thanked the King for it. And he gathered a host and went to take possession of Ceredigion. And he built two castles in it, one at the estuary of the Ystwyth opposite the church of*

*Padarn, and another at the estuary of the Teifi, in the place that is called Dingeraint, which Earl Roger had begun...*" (Brenhinedd y Saesson)

By 1114 the Welsh had reasserted their authority over most of Ceredigion, destroying the castle at Blaenporth in 1116 and leaving only Iscoed Ishirwern under the control of the Norman garrison at Cardigan. Stephen de Mareis, who was the Castellan of Cardigan on behalf of the De Clares, married Nest, who was the daughter of Rhys ap Tewdwr and the widow of Gerald de Windsor, in 1116, thereby founding the Fitz Stephen family.

The first castle at Cardigan probably began as a strengthening of the natural cliffs by quarrying and the creation of earthen and rubble banks, and the digging of ditches with counterscarp banks to the north side of the site. On top of these earthen ramparts would have been a wooden defence – originally probably a simple stockade, but later a more substantial and impressive timber structure would have formed a strong fortification, surrounding a hall and a variety of domestic, military and industrial buildings. In 1117 "*...Gilbert fitz Richard died of a long infirmity...*" Cardigan then passed to his eldest son, Richard fitz Gilbert.

Richard fitz Gilbert was to prove to be a strong ally of King Stephen during the Insurrection in 1135-36 when Matilda or Maud, the daughter of King Henry I, had a rival, and some would say stronger, claim to the throne. In 1136, soon after Richard fitz Gilbert had been assassinated by the Welsh near Llanthony Priory on April 15<sup>th</sup>, Welsh forces under Owain and Cadwaladr, the sons of Gruffydd ap Cynan, began planning a major Welsh resistance, and attacked the castle at Cardigan during the Battle of Crug Mawr on October 10<sup>th</sup> 1136.

*"...Towards the close of that year they came...to Ceredigion, and along with them a numerous host, about six thousand footsoldiers and two thousand mailed horsemen ready for battle. And along with them, as support for them, there came Gruffydd ap Rhys and Hywel ap Maredudd from Brycheiniog and Madog ab Idnerth and the two sons of Hywel. All those directed their forces towards Cardigan. And against them came Stephen the constable and Robert fitz Martin and the sons of Gerald and William fitz Odo, and all the Flemings and all the knights from the estuary of the Neath to the estuary of the Dyfi. And after fierce fighting, then the Flemings and the Normans, according to their usual custom, took to flight as their place of refuge. And with some slain and others burnt, and others trampled under horses' feet, and others carried off into captivity and others drowned in rivers like fools, and having lost of their own men about three thousand, they returned home weak and despondent. But Owain and Cadwaladr, having honourably won the victory, returned to their land and along with them a great abundance of captives and spoils and costly raiment and fair armour..."*

The victorious Welsh failed to capture Cardigan Castle – perhaps because one of their leaders – Gruffydd ap Rhys ap Tewdwr, didn't want to attack the dwelling of his sister and brother-in-law! Later in the year, the widow of Richard fitz Gilbert, namely Adeliz de Mesolin, a sister of the Earl of Chester, was resident at Cardigan Castle with a small garrison. King Stephen sent the gallant Miles of Gloucester, the Lord of Brecknock, to escort her in safety to England by crossing hostile Welsh territory.

The castle passed into the possession of Richard fitz Gilbert's eldest son, Gilbert fitz Richard (b. 1115). In 1138 Owain and Cadwaladr, aided by Anarawd and Cadell ap Gruffydd (the older brothers of Lord Rhys), launched an attack on Cardigan castle from the river with the aid of a fleet of fifteen ships manned by Danish mercenaries hired from Dublin. This was the last "Viking raid" on Wales. The attack failed, and the disappointed Danes sacked and looted St Dogmaels Abbey instead. A further attack by the Welsh led by Hywel and Cynan failed to capture the castle in 1145:

*"...And Hywel ab Owain and Cynan, his brother, ravaged Cardigan. And after a fierce battle had taken place there, they returned to their land with victory and having won great spoil..."*

Robert fitz Stephen succeeded his father as the Castellán of Cardigan, and held the castle for the De Clare family. In 1147 King Stephen seized Gilbert De Clare, the Earl of Hertford, and held him a prisoner until he agreed to surrender all of his castles to the Crown. After doing so the Earl was released, but then joined his uncle Ranulf's rebellion against the King. Gilbert, the Earl of Pembroke, who up until this time had remained loyal to Stephen, then demanded possession of his nephew Gilbert's castles, maintaining that they were his property by hereditary right. When King Stephen refused to comply, Gilbert also joined Ranulph's rebellion. Stephen then retaliated by confiscating his castles as well! Not long afterwards, however, the king became reconciled with both Gilberts. Presumably all of their castles and estates were then restored to them.

Gilbert fitz Richard de Clare died unmarried in 1152 without issue and the castle and town of Cardigan passed to his younger brother, Roger de Clare (1116-73), the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Hertford. In 1157 the Castellán of Cardigan, Robert fitz Stephen, was seriously wounded whilst fighting against the Welsh on behalf of the King in Gwynedd. He survived the experience and returned to govern Cardigan. In 1158 Roger De Clare went on the offensive and attacked a number of Welsh castles and strongholds in Ceredigion, presumably using Cardigan Castle as a base. Stephen de Mareis died in 1162 – his son, Robert fitz Stephen had succeeded him as the Castellán or Constable of Cardigan Castle some years previously. In early November 1165:

*"...Rhys ap Gruffydd attacked the stronghold of Cardigan and the castle, and he destroyed and burned them; and he carried off vast spoil..."*

It was written that 'Lord Rhys', (ca.1132-1197) had captured the castle "...through the guile of the cleric, Rhygyfarch..." and elsewhere in the Brut it states:

*"... That castle and the castle of Cilgerran he had won a little before that, not through strength but by means of contrivances devised by the man and his own war-band, who was called Cedifor ap Dinawol, namely, hooked ladders which grasped the walls where they were placed. And to that man Rhys gave many gifts and freedom on his lands within his principality. And to that Cedifor he gave one of his daughters for wife..."*

Rhys ap Gryffydd then demolished the castle "...to the ground..." Robert fitz Stephen (d. ca 1182) was captured and the castle was entrusted, presumably following some form of re-fortification, to Hengyfraith, the Constable. Reference was made that year to the Chapel of St. Peter in the castle, which was probably located over the gate. From 1170 onwards Rhys ap Gruffydd was the dominant power in Wales. In 1171 Rhys ap Gruffydd moved his chief court from Dryslwyn to Cardigan and began to rebuild the castle in stone for the first time. This was probably the first stone castle ever built by a Welshman, and therefore is of huge historical and architectural significance. Unfortunately, although Rhys' builders successfully copied many of the designs of Norman castles, they did not fully understand the building techniques involved, and the castle walls were bonded with clay rather than the more effective lime mortar. In a surprising acknowledgement of his status, Rhys ap Gruffydd became the Justiciar of South Wales in 1172. At Christmas 1176, to celebrate the completion of his new castle at Cardigan, Lord Rhys held what is now generally accepted as the first National Eisteddfod in the castle hall:

*"...At Christmas in that year the Lord Rhys ap Gruffydd held court in splendour at Cardigan, in the castle. And he set two kinds of contest there: one between bards and poets, another between harpists and crowders and pipers and various classes of music-craft. And he had two chairs set for the victors. And he honoured those with ample gifts. And of the harpists, a young man from Rhys's court won the victory. As between the bards, those of Gwynedd prevailed. Each of the suitors obtained from Rhys that which he sought, so that no-one was refused. And that feast, before it was held, was announced for a year through all Wales and England and Scotland and Ireland and the other islands..."*

According to the account in 'Brenhinedd y Saesson', a harpist from Lord Rhys' court was one of the victors – the son of Eilon the Crowder. The new castle was probably visually impressive, and the hall must have been extensive. Chretien de Troyes was even moved to set the Court of King Arthur at Cardigan in his 'Eric and Enide' poem – doubtless a nod to Lord Rhys' status and reputation. In 1188 Lord Rhys handsomely entertained Archbishop Baldwin of Canterbury and Gerald de Barri (Geraldus Cambrensis) at Cardigan Castle whilst they were visiting the district recruiting for the Third Crusade.

In 1189, following the death of King Henry II, with whom Rhys had remained on friendly terms, Rhys revolted against the new King, Richard I. William de Braose led an unsuccessful attack on Cardigan in 1196. Lord Rhys, the "...prince of Deheubarth and the unconquered head of all Wales..." died on April 28<sup>th</sup> 1197 and Gruffydd ap Rhys then received Cardigan. In 1198:

*"...Maelgwn ap Rhys, after handing over Gruffydd, his brother, to the Saxons, took the castle of Cardigan..."*

Maelgwn was not above using "dirty tricks" in order to achieve his personal ambitions, and the equally devious King John saw his opportunity to break Welsh independence. On December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1199 the King drew up an agreement to purchase Cardigan Castle from Maelgwn ap Rhys, initially to no avail, but in the year 1200, in mid July:

*"...Maelgwn ap Rhys, for fear and also in hatred of Gruffydd, his brother, sold to the Saxons the lock and stay of all Wales, the castle of Cardigan, for a small, worthless price..."* (Brut y Tywysogion)

As a result of this treacherous sale of the castle to King John, Cardigan Castle was regarded as a Royal Castle from this time onwards. Maelgwn ap Rhys received 200 marks and possession of Ceredigion and Emlyn in return for this act of betrayal, along with *"...the curses of all the clergy and lay-folk of Wales..."* (Annales Cambriae).

In 1202 William Marshall (1147-1219), 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Pembroke, was granted custody of Cardigan. In 1205 King John paid the sum of twenty marks for repairs to Cardigan castle. This may have been due to fears of a Welsh attack following a harsh winter that had led to widespread famine. Marshall had a falling out with King John in 1207, and was deprived of Cardigan soon afterwards. In 1207 William de Londres, a minor Glamorgan baron, received the castle after King John took it from William Marshall. In 1208 a further twenty marks was paid to the Prior of Cardigan and Henry, the clerk to Robert fitz Richard of Haverford(west), for fortifying the castle. King John had granted the castle to Robert fitz Richard, one of the Tancred family, by that date. In 1210 King John dispossessed Robert fitz Richard of Haverfordwest and presumably of Cardigan as well. It may have passed to Falkes of Breaute' at that time. In 1211 King John campaigned against the Welsh in Ceredigion, and doubtless Cardigan was fully garrisoned. Despite his loyalty, in 1213 King John ordered Falkes of Breaute' (d. 1226) to hand the castle over once more to William Marshall, the Lord Marshal of England. In 1215 Llywelyn ap Iorwerth (1172-1240) alias "Llywelyn the Great" and his followers captured Cardigan Castle during a general uprising.

*"...And when the garrison of Cardigan saw that they could not hold out in their castle, the surrendered the castle on the feast-day of Stephen the Martyr..."* (Brut y Tywysogion)

In 1216:

*"...To Rhys Ieuanc and Owain, his brother, came the castle of Cardigan and the castle of Nantyrarian and three cantrefws of Ceredigion..."*

In 1218 Prince Llywelyn ap Iorwerth paid homage to King Henry III and kept his recent gains, but Cardigan was still regarded as a Royal Castle and Llywelyn ap Iorwerth as the custodian, rather than the owner. Llywelyn ap Iorwerth agreed to maintain the Castle at his own expense until King Henry III came of age. In 1221 King Henry III accepted the plea of Rhys Ieuanc that Llywelyn ap Iorwerth had not kept an agreement of 1216 to hand Cardigan Castle to Rhys, and the Castle was handed over. Rhys Ieuanc died in 1222, however, and Llywelyn ap Iorwerth then entrusted the castle to either Maelgwn or Owain ap Gwynedd.

In 1223, with the aid of an army from Ireland, William Marshall jnr. (1190-1231), the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Pembroke and Lord Marshall of England, landed at St David's on April 15<sup>th</sup> and marched to Cardigan, where he captured the Castle on Easter Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, possibly without much resistance:

*“...And thereupon, on Easter Monday, he moved his mighty host to Cardigan; and forthwith the castle was surrendered to him...”*

Henry de Audley (1173-1236) became the governor of Cardigan in 1225, but in August 1226 King Henry III dispossessed William Marshall of the lordship and entrusted the castle of Cardigan to his own officers. John de Breos (1197-1232) replaced Henry de Audley. John was the son of William de Braose, and had married Margaret, a daughter of Llewelyn Fawr. Repairs were undertaken at Cardigan Castle at Royal expense in 1228, Walter de Clifford (1190-1263) having received custody that year. (De Clifford, curiously, was to marry the same Margaret, daughter of Llewelyn Fawr, following the death of John de Breos in 1230.)

Richard Marshall (1191-1234) and William Marshall, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Pembroke (1190-1231), were invested with the Lordship in 1229, when they received custody. On April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1230, six thousand cut stones were ordered from St. Briavel's on the River Wye for repairs to the castles of Carmarthen and Cardigan. The quarry there produced a plum-coloured limestone. In April 1231 Richard Marshall became the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Pembroke upon the death of his brother, William Marshall. That year Hugh de Burgh (1160-1243), the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Kent, briefly had custody of Cardigan. He had formerly been the Regent to King Henry III from the death of William Marshall the elder in 1219. In 1231 Maelgwn ap Maelgwn ap Rhys attacked Cardigan.

*"...In that year Maelgwn Ieuan ap Maelgwn, son of the Lord Rhys, manfully made for the town of Cardigan, and he ravaged it all and burned it completely up to the castle gate; and he slew all the burgesses whom he found in it, and returned again in victory with vast spoil and booty. And forthwith after that he came back and broke the bridge over the Teifi, which was close by the town. The same Maelgwn and Owain ap Gruffydd and their men, and with them the Lord Llywelyn's men, went a second time to the town of Cardigan; and they laid siege to the castle. And after a few days they breached it with catapults, till the garrison was forced to surrender the castle and to leave it..."* (Brut y Tywysogion)

There is some evidence to suggest that some burning might have taken place as a result of this attack. In July 1234 Llywelyn made peace with King Henry III, and was allowed to keep Cardigan Castle, but in December 1234 King Henry III granted custody of Cardigan to the Marshall family, provided that they could capture it. This they did after Llywelyn died in 1240, when Walter Marshall (1196-1245) of Pembroke, a brother of the Earl, captured it in May 1240 and re-fortified it:

*“...And then the English remembered their old custom and sent Walter Marshal, and with him great might, to fortify the castle of Cardigan...”*

According to one source Walter Marshall *“...built the tower of Cardigan...”* On 27<sup>th</sup> October 1241 a commission appointed by the King met at the castle in order to determine the bounds between *“...the land of Cardigan Castle...”* and the lands of Maelgwn Fychan. Gilbert tried to force Maelgwn to pay homage to him and the following February the court found against him. On 27<sup>th</sup> June 1241 Gilbert Marshall, the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Pembroke, was killed in a tournament and King Henry III took direct control of Cardigan. On July 1<sup>st</sup> 1241 Hubert Huse temporarily received custody of Cardigan, Carmarthen and the Pembrokeshire castles but died shortly afterwards. John

of Monmouth (1182-1248) received custody of Carmarthen and Cardigan on October 30<sup>th</sup> 1241. He was a royal favourite, with extensive estates in South Wales. On 13<sup>th</sup> March 1242 he was re-appointed as Chief Bailiff for Carmarthen and Cardigan, and effectively acted as the first Justiciar of the Principality of South Wales.

In 1244 Robert Waleran (d. 1273) arrived in Cardigan with a strong garrison and began to rebuild the Castle and redesign the town and its' defences. The new castle was an almost entire rebuild, and included a great deal of innovative design, such as the spurs and square interiors to the North and East Towers, and the arrangement of the garderobes located in the latter of these. Reference was made to "the new keep" and "the King's tower" during this period. On November 22<sup>nd</sup> 1244 the following item appeared in the Liberate Rolls:

*"...Liberate: without any delay to Robert Waleran who is departing by order of the King to Kardigan with 10 crossbowmen, £28 for their livery and the livery of 12 serjeants who are in the castles of Kaermerdin and Kardigan till the Purification in this year, and 20 marks for expenses in going thither and returning to the King...To the bailiffs of Bristol. Contra breve to cause Robert Waleran to have quarrels for two-foot and one-foot crossbows...according to his directions, to carry to the castles of Kaermerdin and Kardigan..."*

The men of Dafydd ap Llywelyn made a failed attempt to capture the Castle in 1245. Damages amounting to 300 marks claimed by the burgesses against the Welsh raiders were donated towards the new fortifications. In August 1245 Nicholas de Molis (b. 1195) had custody of the castle. The previous year he had won a major victory against the French at Navarre. In 1246 Robert Waleran devised, and Nicholas de Meules conducted, three attacks on northern Ceredigion and drove Maelgwn from his lands. In 1247 the Constable, Miles de Hope, was attacked and robbed whilst crossing Cardigan Bridge, by John the Welshman. Robert Waleran returned and became the Constable on August 20<sup>th</sup> 1248. In 1250 he received Cardigan and Carmarthen and the sum of £400 from King Henry III for work in progress on a new castle keep and for fortifying the town of Cardigan with a stone wall. A thousand soldiers passed through Cardigan from Ireland on their way to fight the Welsh rebels that year. From about 1251 the 'Common Seal of the Burgesses of Cardigan' was used, which depicts the castle gate – which was a three storey, twin-towered structure with an arch closely resembling that of Strata Florida Abbey. The arch was presumably a remainder from Lord Rhys' castle. Above the gate passage was the Chapel of St. Peter, which also contained the mechanism for the swing bridge and portcullises. Building work at the castle was very probably still under way in 1252.

Prince Edward, then aged 15 years, was given control of the Castle on February 14<sup>th</sup> 1254 and on May 17<sup>th</sup> 1254, 12,000 cut stones were ordered from St. Briaeval's quarry on the river Wye for use in the building works in progress at Cardigan and Carmarthen. In 1258 Nicholas fitz Martin of Cemaes received custody of Cardigan and Carmarthen. That year a battle was fought at Cilgerran, which Cardigan's garrison were probably involved in. Gwilym ap Gwrwared (1212-1262) became the Constable in 1260. In 1261 Robert Waleran, who was by then the Sheriff of Kent, received the sum of £284 for raising the keep of Cardigan Castle a further stage some time earlier. Gwilym ap Gwrwared handed back the Castle to the Crown on May 13<sup>th</sup> 1262:

*“...William of Gwrward presents to the King the castle of Cardigan in the same good condition in which he received it...”*

In 1264 Roger Mortimer of Wigmore in Hertfordshire, a Marcher Lord, was installed as the Constable, and probably resided at Coedmore in the parish of Llechryd. He almost lost his life at the Battle of Lewes that year. After Simon de Montfort and the barons assumed political power that year, the barons' council ordered him to hand the castle to Guy de Brien, but he retained it until March 1265, when the Lordship and Castle passed to Prince Edmund, the younger son of King Henry III, aged ten years. In 1271 Nicholas fitz Martin of Cemaes again had custody of Carmarthen and Cardigan. In 1275 the Castle buildings included "...a good Great Tower..." and "...an adequate hall with a chamber..." Repairs which were required at the castle were estimated to cost £66. 13s. 4d. John de Beauchamp (1249-83) of Hatch in Somerset, became the Constable of Cardigan and Carmarthen on January 24<sup>th</sup> 1277. Prince Llywelyn petitioned King Edward I complaining that a servant of Hywel ap Rhys Grug was being unlawfully imprisoned at Cardigan Castle, despite letters of release from the King. That summer Edward undertook another Welsh campaign and Aberystwyth was founded that year, illustrating that Cardigan had lost its' long-standing strategic significance as a frontier castle.

In 1279 King Edward I exchanged lands with his brother, Prince Edmund, and recovered possession of Cardigan Castle, which he made the centre of administration for his new county of Cardiganshire. As such, a County Court was held in the castle hall every four to six weeks. Patrick of Chaworth succeeded John de Beauchamp as the custodian and Steward of Carmarthen and Cardigan. On January 5<sup>th</sup> 1280 Bogo de Knovill (d. 1307) received custody of Carmarthen and Cardigan as the Justiciar of South Wales. Robert de Tibetot (1228-98) received custody of Cardigan on June 8<sup>th</sup> 1281, as the Justiciar of South Wales, with custody of royal castles. Robert de Tibetot wrote to the Bishop of Bath and Wells in 1282 to inform him that the garrison of Cardigan, totalling 800 men, had attacked the Welsh castle at Trefilan under the command of Tybetot and Patrick de Chaworth, and had taken much booty, as well as releasing hostages from Cardigan who had been imprisoned there. Arraigned in Cardigan at this time were 600 foot soldiers. On November 23<sup>rd</sup> 1284 King Edward I was in residence at Cardigan Castle, which, on that date, was the seat of royal power in England and Wales.

Queen Eleanor received control of the Castle on June 10<sup>th</sup> 1290, though it was still administered by her husband, who resumed direct control of it after her death on November 28<sup>th</sup> that year. William de Camville was granted custody of Cardigan in October 1293. According to one source, Maelgwn and his army captured the Castle and slew the chief recruiting officer of the French War. The Castle was then blockaded in the absence of the Constable. The slain man was presumably the Deputy-Justiciar Geoffrey Clement, who was murdered on September 26<sup>th</sup> 1294. From June 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> 1295 King Edward I was again resident at Cardigan Castle with a massive military force. £10 was spent on June 3<sup>rd</sup> on bread alone – an indication of the massive size of the army here. After the force left, the castle would, from this date onwards, normally be occupied only by the Constable or his deputy, a watchman and a gaoler or doorkeeper. Robert Tibetot died on May 29<sup>th</sup> 1298, still in the position of Justiciar of South Wales and Constable of several castles, including Cardigan.



On May 29<sup>th</sup> 1298 Walter de Blakeney became the Constable of Cardigan Castle and remained so until 1301. He had been a burgess of Cardigan since at least 1268. The Minister's Accounts for 1299 give details of various expenditure for the castle. 3s was spent:

*“...on parchment bought for the needs of Cardigan and Emlyn castles and the rolls of the courts of Sub Aeron...”*

*“...And on the mowing, lifting and carrying to Cardigan castle of the hay on five acres of meadow for the dead garnisture there at the price of 2s the acre – 10s.*

*And on the pay of Walter Blakenye, constable of Cardigan Castle, for the keeping of the same castle and for the maintenance of a janitor and a watchman there, and for holding the county courts and the courts there, for the said period – 100s...”*

*“...And on divers works and repairs done in places in Cardigan castle during the same period by the view of the prior of Carmarthen - £8. 6s. And on 12 oxen and cows brought for the larder there, for the dead garnisture, at the price of 5s 6d each – 66s. And for slaughtering the said oxen, preparing them for the larder and salting them, at 2d each – 2s. And on eight fresh ox carcasses brought there for the larder, for the dead garnisture there, at the price of 3s. 8d. each – 29s 4d. And for preparing the same carcasses for the larder and salting them – 8d. And on 10 bushels of salt bought for the same larder at the price of 6d the bushel – 5s. And on three casks of wine bought at Cardigan for the dead garnisture of the castle there, at the price of 46s. 8d. the cask - £7. 0. 0. And on the mowing of the hay on five acres of meadow there, and the lifting and carrying of it to Cardigan for the dead garnisture – 10s. And on parchment brought there for the rolls of the county court and the courts of the bailiwick of Sub Aeron – 5s. And on the pay of Walter de Blakeneye, constable of Cardigan castle, for keeping the same castle, and for the maintenance of 1 janitor and 1 watchman there, and for holding the county courts and the courts there, for the year - £10. 0. 0 . And on the robes of the same constable and of Yeuan ab Griffyn Gogh, seneschal of the bailiwick of Sub Aeron, for the same year – 40s...”*

*“...And on the works and repairs done in places in Cardigan castle, by the view of the Prior of Carmarthen – 40s. 1d...And on 83 bushels of oatmeal bought there for the dead garnisture at the price of 9d the bushel – 69s. 9d. And on works and repairs done in places, along with the making of a new bridge, of a fireplace for the chamber and of houses there, by the view of the said prior – 104s. 7 ½ d...”*

In the year 1300 Walter de Blakeney again received 100s., for the year, the janitor was paid 2d. daily and the watchman 1½d. per day, in addition to which the sum of 64s. 11 ½ d. was spent on maintenance at the castle. On February 7<sup>th</sup> 1301 Prince Edward received possession of the castle. At Michaelmas 1301 Walter de Malley became the Constable of Cardigan. In 1303 Walter de Malley was recorded as paying the sum of £10 annually for his position as Constable of Cardigan. That year Roger the crossbowman visited the castle to conduct repairs, as did William le Plummer who was employed in repairing the roofs. Roger received 2d. a day and William received 6d. for himself daily, plus a young boy to assist him. Repairs and

other works conducted to the castle amounted to 28s. 8d in 1303 and a year later to a mere 11s. 9d. Following the death of Edward I, Robert Turberville became the Constable at Michaelmas 1307 and remained so until 1313. He was succeeded in that position by Walter de Malley, who had previously held the post before from 1301 until 1307, though his second tenure here only lasted from 1313 until 1317. From 1314 until 1317 there was severe famine after rain repeatedly destroyed the harvest – this would have affected supplies at the castle, and the after-effects continued until 1322. Geoffrey Clement became the Constable of Cardigan Castle on November 10<sup>th</sup> 1317, also acting as the Controller of Cardiganshire at the same time. He died on January 6<sup>th</sup> 1319. On January 7<sup>th</sup> 1319 Walter de Malley became the Constable of Cardigan Castle for the third time. On January 5<sup>th</sup> 1320 Thomas de Chastiel became the Constable of Cardigan. In 1321 King Edward II, in fear of a revolt by the barons, ordered the Chamberlain:

*"...to complete a turret recently begun in the angle of the wall, and also a small wooden door in the same wall..."*

Stylistically it is likely that the new turret was the South-east Tower. On March 8<sup>th</sup> 1321 Thomas de Chastiel was ordered to go to the castle in person. He was also fined the considerable sum of 40s. for allowing Ieuan Llygaid Baid to escape from the castle prison. On May 1<sup>st</sup> 1321 The Prior of Carmarthen, in his capacity as the Chamberlain of south Wales, saw to it that the castle was fully provisioned with the following items: ten quarters of wheat; five quarters of beans; two casks of wine; ten carcasses of oxen; eight bacons; four quarters of salt; six quarters of malt; two quarters of pilcorn; ten shillings worth of tubs; twenty measures of iron; ten units for carriage; and five measures of tallow. The castle was fully garrisoned at that time. On October 9<sup>th</sup> 1322, Thomas de Chastiel's position as the Constable of Cardigan Castle was confirmed to him. On April 8<sup>th</sup> 1325 Thomas Don, the Chamberlain of South Wales, was ordered to seize a Norman ship and its' cargo at Carmarthen and to send the good wine found aboard to the castles of Newcastle-Emlyn, Cardigan and Llanbadarn.

On April 17<sup>th</sup> 1326 Gwilym ab Einon received custody of the castle on the understanding that it was not to be given up to anyone else. On October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1327, after the death of King Edward II, Gwilym ab Einon was ordered to hand over his custody of the castle to Geoffrey Beaufou, who received the demesne lands the following January. A disgruntled Gwilym ab Einon then petitioned King Edward III pleading for his reinstatement, but without success. He referred to the brief abandonment of the castle by his predecessor. On October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1328 the position of Constable of Cardigan Castle was confirmed to Geoffrey Beaufou (or Bellafago) for life. On December 18<sup>th</sup> 1330, following the removal of Geoffrey Beaufou from office, Hugh de Frene was granted the custody of Cardigan Castle. In 1331 it was complained that the courts formerly held in the castle had been removed to Carmarthen by Sir John de Giffard, the Deputy-Justiciar. They were later reinstated. On October 27<sup>th</sup> 1332 Hugh de Frene was granted the position of Constable of Cardigan Castle for life. In February 1336 Hugh de Frene abducted Alice de Lacy, the Dowager-Countess of Lincoln, from the Royal castle of Bolingbroke and then took her to Somerton Castle in Lincolnshire. His estates in ten counties were seized for a month, but he seems to have retained the position of Constable at Cardigan Castle until his death the same December. In 1336 the Abbot of Strata Florida Abbey

complained that the Constable of Cardigan Castle was demanding payments not due from him at the Court of Cardigan. From Michaelmas 1336 until February 9<sup>th</sup> 1337 John de Hampslope was the Deputy-Constable of Cardigan Castle. On January 28<sup>th</sup> 1337 Gilbert Turberville (1302-47) became the Constable of Cardigan Castle and the position of Constable was granted to him for life on February 9<sup>th</sup> 1337. From Michaelmas 1338 William Deneys was the Deputy-Constable of the castle. On October 17<sup>th</sup> 1338 repairs to the castle were ordered together with other south Wales castles, which were threatened by invasion and local indifference. On March 6<sup>th</sup> 1339 William Deneys was the Deputy-Constable of Cardigan Castle. In 1341 a survey was made of the defects in the castle buildings. We are told that:

*"...the bridge of Cardigan castle is a turning bridge with a great double gate and the half of a little tower...The tower which is for the prisons is completely collapsed...the roof of the tower which is covered in lead is fairly good, provided that it be repaired by covering it in time. It is necessary to make anew the doors and windows of both the tower and prison, and to re-erect the roofing of the hall and the fireplace of the chamber. And to make a walkway. And to cover the porter's house with stone and whitewash. And to make a chambre coy (garderobe) at the end of the castle..."*

A more extensive survey of the castle followed in August 1343, which was conducted by William Deneys, the Deputy-Constable. Defects were observed in a bakery; a kitchen; a larder; two rooms on either side of the Great Gate; a hall, room, garderobe, pantry, and store for victuals – all under one roof; a room; a stable; the garret of the Great Tower; a certain tower joined to the Great Tower called "*...the Prisontower...*"; the bridge of the Great Gate between the castle and town; a Chapel in the same castle; 22 darts which were lacking heads; 9 weak lances with heads, for mariners – valued at 20 d; 1 halberd (a combined spear and battleaxe) – valued at 6 d; 1 leaden vessel containing 12 gallons – valued at 12 d; 6 pairs of fetters; 2 pairs of manacles; 1 collarette and iron chain – with a total value of 18 d. The survey concluded that Cardigan was the most dilapidated Royal castle in Wales – needing the enormous sum of £814 worth of repairs. Also in August 1343, Thomas le Arblaster was one of the jurors who testified at the handing over of the castle to the officers of the Black Prince.

In 1344 William Deneys was accused of extortion in his capacity as the Deputy-Steward of Cardiganshire. This may have resulted in his dismissal and he was dead by 1349. The Prince of Wales' sessions which assembled at the castle in 1344 were informed that Strata Florida, Whitland, Talley, Cwmhir and Llanllyr had all failed to pay their customary suit of court at Cardigan for forty years. In 1344-5 John de Turberville was the Deputy-Constable of Cardigan Castle and presided over the Cardiganshire County Court. In September 1344 Trahaiarn ap Maredudd was imprisoned for the crime of having falsely imprisoned John ap Leisian in the castle. On August 20<sup>th</sup> 1347 Gilbert Turberville, the Constable of Cardigan, died – possibly at the siege of Calais. On September 1<sup>st</sup> 1347 Roland Deneys became the Constable of Cardigan Castle, the position being extended for life on September 21<sup>st</sup> 1347 and confirmed on January 30<sup>th</sup> 1348 by King Edward III.

Prior John of Cardigan supervised some repairs to Cardigan Castle in 1348. Before January 30<sup>th</sup> 1349 John of Castle Goodrich was the Deputy-Constable of

Cardigan. He died of the Black Death in March 1349. The Black Death reached Cardigan that year. Most of the town's inhabitants fled or died – it has been claimed that the number of burgesses that year fell from 104 at the outset of the year to just seven by the end of the summer. The discovery of a cleric's personal seal of this date at the castle may suggest that he died here attempting to seek shelter from the plague.

A separate Petty Sessions was established at Cardigan in 1349, and courts were held monthly. In 1353 Roland Deneys, the Constable of Cardigan, joined the Breton expedition and was captured, and a ransom of £100 was paid by King Edward III. On August 21<sup>st</sup> 1355 John de Wodhill was appointed to be the Constable's attorney at Cardigan while Roland Deneys was overseas. He shared the position with Robert ap Dafydd and Adda ap Llywelyn Fychan. By October 1356 Roland Deneys, the Constable, had been knighted. On November 26<sup>th</sup> 1359 Sir Roland Deneys was ordered to see to the provisioning of Cardigan Castle whilst the prince was overseas. From March to August 1360 John Langley and William de Northam were the keepers of stores at the castles of Carmarthen, Cardigan and Dryslwyn, and from April to August 1361 that same duty was conducted by Philip Hogekeyn and Philip ap Madoc. Roland Deneys, the Constable of Cardigan, died in the autumn of 1361. In 1362 the language of the courts here switched from Latin to English and the Quarter Sessions were established.

In 1376 Princess Joan (1328-85), the widow of Prince Edward the "Black Prince" (1330-76), ran an administration from Cardigan Castle that was answerable to herself and not to the Crown. The Castle was granted its' own exchequer at this time. Following the death of King Edward III on June 21<sup>st</sup> 1377, Joan became extremely powerful as the mother of King Richard II, then aged 10 years. On March 13<sup>th</sup> 1378 Sir Lewis Clifford was appointed as the Constable of Cardigan Castle. The Office of Works was formed that year and would have overseen all major structural works at the castle from that date onward. In 1381 Philip Rous, a master carpenter, was active in Cardigan and may have worked on repairs at the castle. Princess Joan died on August 7<sup>th</sup> 1385 and Carmarthen immediately attempted to have all of Cardigan's privileges abolished. This led to petitions being sent to King Richard II the following year, one of which stated that:

*"...your castle of Cardigan, which has the Great new roof, is in such a condition that if it is not repaired in time, it will be a great loss to you and a disaster for your loyal people who would be in perilous case if such a mischance occurred..."*

On February 17<sup>th</sup> 1386 a Royal charter granted Cardigan the right to hold its own great and petty sessions and county court, which were held in the castle hall. On 7<sup>th</sup> July 1386 Michael de la Pole defied the afore-mentioned charter and removed Cardigan's courts to Carmarthen. Cardigan then petitioned the Crown to have them restored. Reference was made to the decaying state of the town walls and castle defences. In May 1387 Sir Lewis Clifford was confirmed as the Constable of Cardigan Castle for life. Reference was made on August 8<sup>th</sup> 1387 to Nicholas the castle janitor, who held that position until August 10<sup>th</sup> 1388. Philip Rous, a master carpenter, was active in Cardigan again in 1387 and may have conducted works at the castle. In May 1388 the Deputy-Justiciar of South Wales, John Clement, was accused of wrongly imprisoning men at the castle. William Dier Snr. and Philip ap Madoc were among those whom he had locked up. On August 10<sup>th</sup> 1388 the aforementioned

William Dier, the son of Philip Dier of Cardigan, became the Janitor of Cardigan Castle – a position that he held until March 1400. On September 22<sup>nd</sup> 1388 it was confirmed by the Crown that the exchequer at the Castle, carrying its' own seal, should continue. In 1394-5 John Banow sold rope to the Crown for use at the Castle well. A Royal letter of September 22<sup>nd</sup> 1395 conferred the right for the burgesses of the town of Cardigan to hold County Sessions and the Great and Petty Sessions in the castle hall and for the castle to retain its exchequer. In 1398-99 William Dier was the keeper of the gaol in the castle. In June 1399 William Dier was described as being the Deputy-Constable, although he was still the janitor.

Thomas de Percy ("Hotspur") (1368-1403) had custody of Cardigan in November 1401 and on March 31<sup>st</sup> 1402 and was licensed to buy military equipment in order to provision the castle against the Owain Glyndwr rebels. The military presence at the castle would have been increased in the wake of Glyndwr's attack on Aberystwyth in 1401. On September 26<sup>th</sup> 1402 Richard, the 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Grey of Codnor (1371-1418), was appointed as Royal Lieutenant in South Wales with custody of Brecon, Hay, Builth, Aberystwyth, Carmarthen and Cardigan castles, with 120 men at arms and 600 archers. By December 2<sup>nd</sup> 1402 Sir Hugh Mortimer (d. 1416) was the Constable of Cardigan.

In September 1403 William Dier Snr. conveyed £20 from the treasurer of Prince Henry's chamber to the new Deputy-Constable of Cardigan, Andrew Lynne. On October 26<sup>th</sup> 1403, Edward of Norwich (1373-1415), the 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of York, received custody of Cardigan Castle and other castles in South Wales as Royal Lieutenant. He later died at the Battle of Agincourt. Between March and November 1404 Thomas Burton was the custodian of Cardigan Castle. John Madoc and John Saer served as archers in his retinue. On May 12<sup>th</sup> 1404 Sir Rustin de Villeneuve took custody of the castles of Cardigan, Carmarthen and Newcastle-Emlyn, with a force of 350 men to garrison them until at least 30<sup>th</sup> June. Andrew Lynne, the Deputy-Constable, received protection for one year to attend to the castle's safe keeping. That year John Sely of Carmarthen delivered victuals to Cardigan castle. On June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1404 Andrew Lynne was retained as one of the men-at-arms in the retinue of Sir Rustin de Villeneuve at Cardigan. On March 24<sup>th</sup> 1405 Sir Thomas Beaufort (1377-1426), the Constable of Cardigan, elected to stay at the Castle with sixty men-at-arms and three hundred archers for one year from April 27<sup>th</sup> 1405. Thomas was the Duke of Exeter and in 1410-12 was the Chancellor of England. On June 20<sup>th</sup> 1405 orders were given by the Prince of Wales for the county commanders to victual and relieve the heavily besieged garrison at Cardigan. Supporters of Owain Glyndwr had attacked the castle, and inflicted a great deal of damage to it, but despite the fact that the help ordered probably never arrived, the castle is unlikely to have been taken.

Prince Henry had custody of the castle from January 29<sup>th</sup> 1406 as the Lieutenant of Wales. On June 20<sup>th</sup> 1406 Andrew Lynne was the Deputy-Constable with John Smyth, a Cardigan merchant, acting as his Deputy. Between Michaelmas 1408 and 1409, Sir Hugh Mortimer was the Constable of Cardigan Castle once again. Between Michaelmas 1409 and mid-1413 Andrew Lynne was variously described as being the Constable, Deputy-Constable and porter of the Castle. By September 4<sup>th</sup> 1409 Richard Oldcastle was the Deputy Constable and remained so until at least 1413. On July 19<sup>th</sup> 1410 Andrew Lynne received a pardon for allowing a number of Welsh prisoners to escape from the prison at Cardigan Castle some time earlier. The

Glyndwr uprising effectively ended at about that time. In 1411 estimates were made for the cost of constructing a new hall and stable for the constable at the castle amounting to £19. 2. 0. Estimates for a new tower came to £129. 6s. 6 1/2d. Although there is no evidence that the work was ever conducted, it suggests that a tower and hall were becoming or were already unfit for purpose. The acting Deputy-Constable and janitor from 1413 until 1415 was Hugh Eyton. In 1413 Thomas White was described as having lately been the janitor at Cardigan Castle. On July 19<sup>th</sup> 1413 Andrew Lynne received a pardon for allowing a number of Welsh prisoners to escape from Cardigan castle while he was abroad with Sir Hugh Mortimer at some point between 1406 and 1411, but still acting as the deputy-constable for the castle. Thomas ap Rhydderch ap Thomas was imprisoned in the Castle late in 1413 for the non-payment of issues of his manor of Cellan. Between February 19<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> 1414 a garrison was maintained at the Castle:

*"...lest John Oldcastle and other heretics, adherents, should take the castle by night after they had fled from England into Wales as the King is informed and rumour hath it..."*

A Lollard leader, John Oldcastle was the son of the former Deputy-Constable Richard Oldcastle, and was eventually captured and burnt as a heretic. At Michaelmas 1414 Sir Hugh Mortimer was the Constable of Cardigan again. He held the post until his death, which took place on or about May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1416. For 1414-15 Hugh Eyton was the castle janitor, Deputy-Constable and clerk of works. On June 7<sup>th</sup> 1416 John Burghope, a diplomat serving King Henry V in France, was appointed to be the Constable of Cardigan Castle for life. For 1418-19 Thomas Walter may have been the janitor again. From 1426 until 1432 William Burghill acted as the Deputy-Constable of Cardigan. Geoffrey Porter acted as the janitor of Cardigan Castle from 1426 until 1437. After returning from France in 1427 John Burghope concentrated his activities on Cardigan.

Extensive repairs and renovations began at Cardigan Castle in 1428. Hugh Eyton was the Deputy-Constable of Cardigan for 1428-29. Elements of the castle referred to by the accounts written during the renovation work included:- The King's Stable (implying that there was more than one stable); the exchequer over the gate; the Exchequer Ward – one of the two wards of the castle; the kitchen; the Ward of the Great Tower or Constable's Yard; the Hall – reference was made to a louver-board in the roof; the Justiciar's Hall (presumably different to the previous hall?), presumably in the Exchequer Ward. Reference was made to a rail for the dossal, which was an ornamental hanging. This would have been the hall where the Sessions were held; the Stable; the larder; the yard – a thatcher was employed there; the Chamberlain's Stable; the Justiciar's Room – the gable of which was rebuilt; the Chamberlain's apartment over the Great Gate; and two rooms for the constable, possibly in the Great Tower. In May 1429 Philip Eurych sold iron to the authorities at Cardigan which he moulded and bent into hinges, hooks and bars for a window of the Justiciar's room at the castle. In October 1429 Walter Blakeney helped to transport thirty oaks from Cilgerran for use in the repairs to the Castle. John Rous, an Officer of the King's Works, was paid to assemble the workmen there. Reference was made on October 7<sup>th</sup> 1429 to:

*"...costs concerning the manufacture of a palisade at the gate of the castle of Cardigan for lack of a wall there..."*

This reference suggests great dilapidation, in addition to which:

*"...the forester of Cilgerran was paid for 46 oaks for use of the said wall..."*

Expenses that week amounted to £7. 1s. 8d. Adam Saer, a carpenter, received 5d per day for his work. Accounts and references to the works conducted and persons involved, survive and are recorded. Thomas Water provided transport facilities for the repairs from 1429 until 1432. At the same time David Richard Snr. was employed as a stone-cutter and tiler, as was John Richard. In 1430 Robert Delamer was employed at the castle as a craftsman, John Underwood, a Master Mason, was at work there and from 1430 until 1432, Owain ab Einion was employed there regularly as a stone cutter. Imprisoned at the castle in 1431 were the Cardigan bailiffs – Rhys ap Dafydd ap Thomas, Philip ap Maredudd and Dafydd Fychan – all of them as punishment for unpaid arrears. In 1432 the same offence caused the imprisonment here of Dafydd ap Rhydderch ab Ieuan Llwyd and Llywelyn ab Owain ab Ieuan ap Rhys. Robin ap William Philip was another prisoner at the castle that year. The repairs at the castle may have ended prematurely in 1432 owing to a national financial crisis.

In 1433 two messengers were paid for delivering documents from the "treasury" or records office, situated in the castle chapel, to Carmarthen. At Michaelmas 1433 Hywel ap Llywelyn Du and Thomas ab Owain Sais were imprisoned at the Castle for unpaid and accumulated arrears. In 1434 a petition was sent to King Henry VI from Griffith Goughe ap David ap Yeuan of Caerwedros, which resulted in an enquiry into the detention of an aged prisoner at the Castle:

*"...The suppliant now...by the King's commandment was arrested within the King's castle of Cardigan by James Audele, his Justice of South Wales, and put into prison in the castle for no apparent cause, to his final destruction and confusion, inasmuch as he is an old man, impotent and sick, and in point to perish for want of succour. Therefore, may the King be pleased, of his especial grace, by the advice of his Council, to grant a commission to the Justice, to enquire the cause of his imprisonment; and if no reasonable cause be found..."*

James Tuchet, Lord Audley, was investigating the case mentioned in the petition on February 15<sup>th</sup> 1434. In 1435-36 William Burghill was acting as the Deputy-Constable and Richard Hampton, a master plumber, was working at Cardigan Castle at that time. The same year Ieuan Lang supplied ink to the authorities at Cardigan and Davy Parchment supplied 8 dozen parchments to the government for use at Cardigan castle for £2. 4s. 0d. William Burghill was the acting Deputy Constable of Cardigan again from 1438 until 1440. On February 21<sup>st</sup> 1438 William Barbour was appointed as the castle janitor for life as a reward for good service. On April 13<sup>th</sup> 1438 John Burghope and Giles Thorndon were the joint Constables of Cardigan Castle. On May 20<sup>th</sup> 1438 Giles Thorndon was licensed to buy 60 quarters of wheat and 60 quarters of malt in Ireland and to ship them to South Wales to victual the town and castle of Cardigan, provided that the King was paid the customary dues. In 1439 the royal auditors committed William Burgill to imprisonment at Cardigan castle, of which he was the Deputy Constable, for failure to pay £7 with which he was charged for Iscoed Is Hirwern. He was soon released and the money was paid the

following year. In 1440 Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, presided over the Cardigan courts:

*“...to repeace the grete debates and strifes betwix the people there...”*

For 1442-43 William Burghill and Owain Mortimer of Coedmore, Llechryd, acted as the Deputy-Constables of the Castle. On September 14<sup>th</sup> 1442 Sir Walter Scull was appointed the Constable of Cardigan for life. At Michaelmas 1442 Rhys ap Hywel ap Rhys was released in order to appear at the Cardiganshire Sessions, which he failed to do.

In 1443 James Ormond, the Sheriff of Cardigan; Giles Thorndon, the Constable of Cardigan Castle; and William Burghill, the Deputy-Constable of Cardigan Castle, were all fined for the escape of three prisoners from the castle, in separate incidents. The fine on each occasion was £5 – a considerable sum of money. On September 26<sup>th</sup> 1447 Richard Belth was appointed as the porter of the Castle for life and was still in office in 1457. On March 1<sup>st</sup> 1449 Hugh Scull briefly shared with his father, Sir Walter Scull, the position of Constable, though he appears to have died shortly afterwards. From 1453 an unsettled period, known as the 'Wars of the Roses' divided the country into factions. In 1457 Sir Walter Scull and his former deputy, William Harry, were fined £5 for the escape of Rhys ap Gwilym ap Adda from the castle. In 1460 Maurice ap Madog was fined 5 marks for the escape of Owain ap Llywelyn ap Robin Llwyd from Cardigan. On August 2<sup>nd</sup> 1461 William Herbert (1423-69), the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Pembroke, became the Constable of Cardigan, Pembroke and Cilgerran. William Herbert, the Constable of Cardigan, was killed in battle in 1469 at the Battle of Edgecote.

On July 28<sup>th</sup> 1469 Morgan and Henry ap Thomas ap Gruffydd ap Nicholas seized the castle. On August 17<sup>th</sup> 1469 Richard Neville (1428-71), the 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Warwick, was appointed as the Constable of Cardigan Castle for life as Justiciar of South Wales. He was known as “Warwick the King-maker” and was the wealthiest and most powerful peer of his age, as well as a principle protagonist in the Wars of the Roses. He was later killed fleeing the field of the Battle of Barnet in 1471. On December 16<sup>th</sup> 1469 Richard, Duke of Gloucester, was empowered to recover the castle from Morgan and Henry ap Thomas. On February 16<sup>th</sup> 1470 Sir Roger Vaughan was appointed as the Constable of Cardigan Castle for life. He was a Yorkist and after the Battle of Mortimer’s Cross he was said to have led Owen Tudor to the block. After the Battle of Tewkesbury in 1471 Sir Roger Vaughan fell into the hands of Earl Jasper Tudor of Pembroke, who avenged his father’s death by having Sir Roger Vaughan executed at Chepstow.

On June 27<sup>th</sup> 1471 Robert Dwnn was appointed as the Constable of Cardigan Castle for life. At Michaelmas 1472 the custody of the Castle until 1479 was granted to Dafydd ap Robin, by agreement of the Prince’s Council and in the absence of the Constable. In the summer of 1478 Anthony Woodville, Earl Rivers – the Protector and Ruler to Prince Edward, travelled to Cardigan at the head of a judicial commission from the Prince’s Council, with the specific intention of holding sessions. From 1479-80 Thomas Bole had custody of the castle, and was paid 30s. On May 16<sup>th</sup> 1483 Henry Stafford (1455-83), the Duke of Buckingham, became the Justiciar of South Wales and Constable of Cardigan Castle. He rebelled against King Richard III



in October 1483, sending for Henry Tudor, and was executed as a traitor in Salisbury on November 2<sup>nd</sup> 1483. On November 15<sup>th</sup> 1483 William Herbert II, Earl of Huntingdon, succeeded him as the Constable of Cardigan. On August 10<sup>th</sup> 1485 Richard Griffith and John Savage met Henry Tudor at Cardigan Castle as he marched through the town on his way from Dale via Haverfordwest, all of them en route to Bosworth field. Only a janitor then occupied the castle.

On September 23<sup>rd</sup> 1485 Owain Lloyd became the Constable of Cardigan Castle. On February 27<sup>th</sup> 1486 Rhydderch ap Rhys ap Mauredudd ab Owain of Towyn in the parish of Ferwig, became the Constable, paying his predecessor an annuity of £10 for the position. By 1487 the Sessions had been removed from the castle and were being held in the Shire Hall. On February 1<sup>st</sup> 1491 William Vaughan became the Constable of Cardigan. In 1500-01 Rhydderch ap Rhys ap Mauredudd ab Owain of Towyn, Ferwig, was acting as William Vaughan's deputy. He was fined £40 for the escape of a prisoner from the castle. In 1501 Rhydderch ap Rhys ap Mauredudd ab Owain was succeeded as the Constable of Cardigan by Maurice Rede, a yeoman. In November 1501 Katherine of Aragon received the castle, along with many other possessions, as part of her dowry upon marrying Prince Arthur – the eldest son of King Henry VII.

In 1514 Sir William Tyler, who had fought alongside Henry Tudor at the Battle of Bosworth, became the Constable of Cardigan Castle until 1527. Small-scale repairs to Cardigan Castle were conducted in 1519-20 under the orders of Sir Rees ap Thomas, the Chamberlain of South Wales. In 1520 Sir William Tyler, the Constable of Cardigan Castle, was present at the Field of the Cloth of Gold. Sir William Tyler was dead by September 30<sup>th</sup> 1527. On September 30<sup>th</sup> 1527 Morris Parry was the Constable of Cardigan, holding the office until he died in 1541. At the time of the Dissolution of St. Dogmaels Abbey in 1537, that Abbey still paid 10/- per annum to Cardigan Castle. It is likely that the castle's chapel of St Peter went out of use at that time. On January 5<sup>th</sup> 1541 King Henry VIII granted by Letters Patent the position of Constable of the Castle of Cardigan, to be occupied by himself or a deputy, together with the keepership of the forest of Radnor and £10 per annum, to William Abbot, to hold in the same manner as did Maurice ap Harye. On March 29<sup>th</sup> 1564 William Abbot, a sergeant of the Queen's cellar, still serving as the Constable of Cardigan Castle, appointed John Tamworth as his Deputy, in return for payment of £20. During this period, part of the castle was modified with the insertion of transom and mullion glazed windows, suggesting the provision of new high quality residential apartments. The castle may have been the location of the Cardigan town gaol, which was referred to in 1599. According to Crown accounts, there was still a Constable of Cardigan Castle in 1602.

In 1610 as part of his map of Cardiganshire, John Speed illustrated the castle ruins, showing square towers where round ones remain. The Great Tower appears to be free standing, and in a state of collapse. John Speed wrote:

*“...The Castle is higher built upon a Rock, both spacious and fair, had not storms impaired her beauty, and time left her carkasse a very Anatomie...”*

On October 9<sup>th</sup> 1633 Richard Steele of Newtown, Valentine Oldis of London and Thomas Herbert of Bridgewater, assigned the castle site to Sir John Lewis of

Abernantbychan and Coedmore, Llechryd, and it was included in a document of sale two days later. In 1634 Sir John Lewis was the Sheriff of Cardiganshire. On October 13<sup>th</sup> 1641 “...the castle or manor house called Cardigan Castle...” formed part of a marriage settlement between Sir John Lewis and James Lewis on the first part and John Wogan the younger of Wiston and George Lewis of Cardigan on the other part. On November 9<sup>th</sup> 1641 Sir John Lewis leased the castle for 4 years to his son, James Lewis – the Sheriff of Pembrokeshire that year.

The Civil War between King Charles I and Parliament began in 1642. In June 1644 Col. Charles Gerard took the town and castle for the Royalist cause as the Civil War raged closer to the area. In doing so he captured or killed 200 Parliamentarians. The 'Mercurius Aulicus' of July 14<sup>th</sup> 1644 notes:

*“...at Cardigan he killed and tooke Prisoners above two hundred Rebels, having beaten, cut off, and taken, all the Rebels got into that County: he strongly Garrison'd Cardigan Castle, and then advanced into Pembrokeshire...”*

The castle was fortified with ordnance taken from a wrecked frigate called “The Convert” and was considerably strengthened by the construction of a “half-moon” earthwork in the castle yard, enabling their guns to fire over the walls. This must have required the demolition of various internal walls to provide material. In December 1644 General Laugharne and his forces reached Cardigan. The town surrendered to Parliament and the castle was attacked. The event was described as follows:-

*“...A Letter sent to the Right Honourable, the Earle of Warwick, from Captain Richard Swanley. Right Honourable, Since my last of the 20 of November...Major General Laugharne keeping the Field, with such Forces as the indigenceie of the County gave a possibility of subsistence... advanced from his Quarters to the towne of Cardigan, where the Countrey, formerly invited, made a party to assist the Generall, to complete the designe in agitation, and the town (faced at distance) willingly surrendered and complied; the castle (being a considerable place, ably manned, having the ordnance of the Convert Frigate, there shipwreckt), most obstinately held out, til a Demi-Culverin [cannon] of brasse, belonging to the Leopard [ship], was mounted [at Pentod] and played three dayes upon them, forcing a breach which was gallantly entered and made good by our party, and the Castle stormed, wherein were 100 Commanders and Souldiers, with their Armes and good plunder; not forgetting the Convert's Ordnance, returned by Divine Providence, and works of mercy in a Commander, adding honour to acts of chivalry – invited the Generall to give the Steward life, who contemned quarter. The town and castle reduced and the Country in the major part (as conceived) well-affected, our Army are advancing towards Newcastle...”*

Captain William Smith wrote the following account to the Lord High Admiral on February 5<sup>th</sup> 1645:

*“...Touching the taking of Cardigan Castle and Town, and of the Defeat of an Attempt to Repair it – An Extract out of a Letter written by Captain Wm Smith to the Lord High Admiral from aboard the ship called the 'Swallow', in Milford Haven. Dated the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 1645.*

*After many great rains which have fallen in these parts (which was no invitation for a soldier to lye in the fields), yet such was the gallantry of Major-General Laugharne to promote the cause in hand, that the Almighty no sooner crowned his designs with a happy season, but in a grateful acknowledgement he placed a garrison in Laugharne Castle, and from thence marched towards Cardigan with about five hundred horse and two hundred foot, and on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 1644, he sate down before Cardigan Castle demanding the surrender thereof for the service of the King and Parliament. But Major Slaughter, who commanded in chief, replied he held the castle for the service of the King and so long as he had life he would keep it for his Majesty (though herein he was not a man of his word). After three days' siege, the Major-General perceiving all further attempts would be in vain unless a breach could be forced, and having no artillery with him, he forthwith gave order the demy-culverin should be brought from Laugharne, which with much difficulty and industry came safe to Cardigan and being placed to the best advantage he fell to battery.*

*The enemy within the castle yard cast up a half-moon some distance from the place on which the demy-culverin played, in which they placed their great guns laden with case shot, that in case a breach should be made those guns, might disanimate our men in entering or perform sudden execution upon them. Our men playing the demy-culverin forced a breach, and being full of resolution entered running into the mouth of their guns, recovering the half-moon, where the enemy, as men bereft of all sense, having not the power to give fire to their guns, although the linstocks were in their hands ready lighted, cast down their arms and cried for quarter, the which was granted; From thence we entered the castle and took prisoner Major Slaughter and his wife, one Captain Vaughan, with their Lieutenant and Ensign, one Doctor Taylor, a Divine, with about an hundred common soldiers, six great guns, a hundred and fifty arms, a quantity of powder, ball, and other provisions, and this was done the 29<sup>th</sup> of December last....”*

There had already been a fortnight-long siege before the cannon fire began. The 'Leopard' or 'Leopard Regis' was a 3<sup>rd</sup> rate vessel which had a crew of 160 men and 38 guns and weighed 520 tons. Some Royalist broadsheets claimed that the castle fell because of the treachery of a Sergeant who had been bribed to open a sally port. One of the prisoners held by the Puritans at Cardigan Castle after being captured when it was taken, was the distinguished divine and scholar, Dr. Jeremy Taylor (1613-67). Another prisoner here was Evan Gruffydd Evans of Penywenallt – “Captain Tory”, who had served in Charles I's army. One of the soldiers besieging the castle was David Scourlogge, mercer, the Mayor of Cardigan. Rather than comply with the Royalist occupation of Cardigan, he had left his estates to their mercy, and joined General Laugharne at his Pembrokeshire Quarters, where he took the National Covenant. A rather belated report in the 'Mercurius Britanicus' of February 3<sup>rd</sup> 1645 states:

*“...Out of Wales we hear of a designe of Col. Gerards against Cardigan Castle, which by the assistance of Langhorn out of Pembrokeshire, was happily releived. The particulars run thus: Our forces sallied out of the Castle, while at the same time Col. Langhorne fell upon them in the reare, and carried it with such courage and discretion, that the insolent enemy were immediately routed, 200 of them*

*slaine on the place, 4 brasse pieces of Ordnance, 600 Armes, and 150 prisoners taken; wherof one Major, two Captaines, two Lieutenants, one Ensign, and one Doctor, whom because I know very well, I cannot but name, Doctor Jeremie Taylor, a most spruce neat formalist, a very gingerbread Idoll, an Arminian in print...*"

On January 1<sup>st</sup> 1645, following the capture, General Laugharne sent Col. Rice Powell to hold Cardigan. On January 4<sup>th</sup> 1645, just three days after the capture, Col. John Gerrard, having been released from North Wales by the release of Beeston Castle, appeared before Cardigan with 1200 horse and 1300 foot soldiers. He occupied the town without difficulty and seized the boats carrying provisions for the garrison, who were then called upon to surrender. Col. Rice Powell sent word to General Laugharne and a defiant reply was received. Col. John Gerrard's men then demolished the greater part of Cardigan Bridge, but lost 150 men besieging the castle without success. General Laugharne's troops, comprising 300 foot soldiers including 120 sailors from the '*Leopard regis*', and 600 horsemen, marched to the Pembrokeshire side of the river. As they approached, they were met by a second messenger from the castle – a soldier who had left the castle under cover of darkness and swam across the river. He informed them that the garrison in the castle could hold out for no longer than eight days, and that the men were desperate for provisions. A boat was found and filled with supplies, and this was lashed to a number of other boats – four to either side. These were manned by musketeers and some 120 men crossed the river with supplies under heavy Royalist fire from about 300 of Gerard's troops positioned along the river bank. Despite the onslaught, the musketeers managed to pick off several of the Royalists, and landed the supplies safely, delivering them into the castle. On January 19<sup>th</sup>, Gerard led the greater part of his army north to meet a Parliamentary force that was heading south towards Cardigan, leaving only a token force to continue the siege against Cardigan Castle. This seems to have been a ruse, allowing the Parliamentary forces an advantage. A message had been sent to Powell by arrow into the castle, asking him to launch a sortie as soon as Laugharne's troops had secured the north bank of the river. The damaged bridge was crossed using faggots of wood, and Powell's troops at the same time emerged from the castle, driving the Royalists out of their first and second barricades, and then from their main guard. Captain Smith's account continues:

*"...On the 4<sup>th</sup> of January, General Gerard sat down before the castle with about 1, 200 horse and 1, 300 foot; Major-General Laugharne recruited his forces to about 600 horse and 300 foot, and advanced towards Cardigan to redeem his friends who were in the castle out of the power of the enemy. Lieutenant-Colonel Powell in the night sent a soldier, who swam through the river and informed Major-General Laugharne that unless he would relieve the castle within eight days he should be enforced to surrender it for want of victuals and ammunition, which he believed might be supplied if dome seamen versed in managing a water fight and climbing up rocks were employed. So 120 seamen were sent, who, after a view had of the place, undertook it, which was performed in this wise – A boat laden with provisions was placed in the middle between four boats on each side, two of which were manned with seamen, who in flanks fired both ways, playing with their muskets on the enemy, who from the shore played on them with about 300 musketeers, yet our seamen gallantly proceeded, put all the provisions in the castle and returned without the loss of one man, only two slightly wounded. After this Col. Laugharne, having drawn his foot into a body, being without seamen, in all about 250, he encouraged them to give an*

*assault on the town, which, after some debate, was attempted, and on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January last our foot forced their passage over the bridge, in which we lost but one man; and having beaten the enemy out of their first guard, they pressed on to the second, which they also took, and pursuing the victory, beat them out of their main guard, which was at the market place, and then out of the church, where our forces took two brass demy-culverins which Gerard brought from Bristol, with some powder, ball, and other provisions, and following the enemy, beat them all out of the town, and so we are now masters both of the town and castle. Of the enemy were slain in the place 85, besides those that were slain before the castle, 100 prisoners were taken and their whole forces routed, and I believe in their flight they never looked behind them until they came to Castle Emlyn which is six miles from Cardigan. In the town we also took 250 arms...”*

The 'Perfect Diurnall of Some Passages in Parliament' of February 3<sup>rd</sup> 1645 carries the following item:

*“...We had it certified by letters this day, of the great successe of Major-gen, Langhorne against Col. Gerards forces neere Cardigan castle in Wales: That the said Gerrard having beseiged Cardigan castle, kept by Lieu. Col. Poole, and by stratagems got into the Towne, and cut downe the bridge to prevent any reliefe coming to them, the Castle at that time being in great want of provisions, the said Gerrard sent a summons to them, that if they did not surrender by such a time, they might expect no quarter; yet such was the gallant resolution of the Governour and Souldiers, they returned answer, that when they wanted necessary provisions (Gerrard having a little before Intercepted some boates of provisions going to them) they had in the castle divers raw beasts hiden, they would eate them, and when they were spent they would come out and fight for their lives, but would not deliver the castle. In the meane time the Governour sent to Major Langhorne then in Pembrookshire to come to his relief, which he promised and did; but when he came at the bridge he found it broken down, which was some impediment, yet he like a brave Souldier, making use of faggots and other pieces of wood, got over the River, and sent an Arrow into the Castle with a Letter to give them notice of his coming, and that they should sally out upon the enemy the same time that he fell on. All which was performed with such successe, that the enemy was soone routed, 200 of them slaine on the place, four Brasse pieces of Ordnance, 600 Armes, and 250 prisoners taken, wherof in chief Major Slaughter, Captaine Butler, Capt. Richard Price, Dr. Taylor, Lieut. Barrow, Lieut. Matthews, Ensign Burrow, and divers others. By this defeat the enemies late boasting of the great powers raised by Gerrard to conquer Wales will no doubt be solely quelled...”*

On January 22<sup>nd</sup> 1645 the town was attacked, Cardigan Bridge was crossed using faggots of wood, and the Royalists were driven out again. There are conflicting reports as to what followed. The Royalist reports claim that Gerard returned to Cardigan and recovered his guns and released the prisoners, and the Parliamentary reports state that the Royalist troops made for Newcastle Emlyn. Another account of the events of January 22<sup>nd</sup> states:

*“...The most considerable exploit that hath been performed in any of our armies since my last was by Lieut-Col. Powell and Col. Laugharne, near Cardigan Castle, in Wales, against Gen. Gerrard...The enemy having intelligence that there was*

*great want of provisions in the castle, whereof Lieut-Col. Powell was Governor, Col. Gerrard having gathered all the forces he could to besiege it, for that purpose marched towards it with a great party, and in his march intercepted some boats of provisions that were going for their relief. Upon his approach and sitting down before the castle, having by a stratagem got possession of the town, he sent in by a trumpet a menacing summons to the Governor, requiring him in his Majesty's name to surrender the castle, with all the ordnance, arms, and ammunition therein, unto him, together with the provisions therein, for the prisoners who were taken therein of Col. Gerrard's, whereof I gave you an account some weeks since, remained there; and further threatened the Governor that if he would not surrender it by a day which he named, he would not give quarter to him or any of his soldiers, with some other haughty and lofty expressions to that purpose. Upon the reading of this summons, the gallant Lieut. Colonel called his officers and soldiers together, and used many notable encouragements unto them to behave themselves like brave spirits, further telling them that whereas Col. Gerard threatened to give no quarter, he would neither give nor take quarter, adding that he would rather feed upon those hides (there being 300 in the room he pointed to) before he would starve, and that those who loved him would do the like before they would yield to the enemy, and thereupon, by the concurrence of his officers and soldiers, he sent the enemy an absolute denial, and in the meantime, got an opportunity to send to Col. Gough to come with a party to his relief.*

*Upon this the enemy broke down the bridge between Cardigan and Pembrokeshire, that so no relief might come, and fell to making their batteries and planting their ordnance against it, for the storming of it, which they endeavoured to do oftentimes, but were still repulsed, losing about 150 men upon their several onsets. While the enemy were in this posture, Col. Laugharne came out of Pembrokeshire to the relief of the castle, but when he came to the bridge, he found it was broken down, which was some impediment unto him; whereupon he caused an arrow with a letter to be shot into the castle, to give them notice he was coming, and that they might sally out upon the enemy the same time he fell on. After this, leaving the horse behind them, the foot soldiers (being led by their valiant Commander, who told them that if but an hundred went he would lead them on) making use of faggots and other pieces of wood, got over the river and fell upon the rear of the enemy, and those in the castle falling upon them at the same time, the enemy were quickly put to the rout; 200 of them slain on the place, four brass pieces of ordnance, 600 arms, and 150 prisoners taken. The chief of the prisoners were Major William Slaughter, Capt. Nicholas Butler, Captain Richard Pryse, Dr Jeremy Taylor, Lieut. Thomas Barrow, Lieut. Morgan Matthews, Ensign Edward Barrow, and others...”*

A contemporary Royalist newspaper reported the events differently and rather unconvincingly:

*“...The forgery they (the parliamentary press) most insist on is their victory over General Gerard wherein they'll abate nothing of 800 killed and taken, with four pieces of cannon, The truth whereof was impartially thus: The rebels of Pembrokeshire having besieged Cardigan Castle above a fortnight despaired to master it, for they heard General Gerard was on his march to relieve it, therefore in haste they bribed a sergeant to betray a sally port, which was done accordingly, and the castle surprised without a blow struck. General Gerard (who came the next day*

*after this treachery) presently sate down and laid siege to the castle, wherein having continued fifteen days, intelligence came (from some pretended friends) that Myddleton and his fellows were coming upon him; hereupon he left a strength to continue the siege, and keep them of Pembrokeshire from passing the river at Cardigan, and marched with the rest to meet Myddleton; but when he had marched twenty miles he found his friend's letters had betrayed him into a false alarm, and therefore returned back to Cardigan, where the rebels that very day had made a pass over the river, relieved the castle, fallen upon his force in the town, and mastered four pieces of cannon; whereupon, with his own troop, he charged into them and rescued his cannon; the sum of the rebels' victory being twelve men killed, twenty taken with two drakes...next night he fell into the rebels' quarters, regained most of his prisoners, and took a whole troop of horse, both officers and common soldiers, which done, he marched after the rebels into Pembrokeshire..."*

In May 1645 after hearing of a Royalist victory in Newcastle Emlyn, the garrison at Cardigan "slighted" the castle, set fire to the buildings and left for Pembroke in a flotilla of small boats. A Royalist newspaper stated:

*"...For that other garrison which the rebels held at Cardigan Castle, is now to be restored ours, for the very day the rebels there had intelligence of this great defeat at Emlyn and the gaining of Haverfordwest, they conceived themselves but lost men to stay there to be taken; and, therefore, in as much haste as their bretheren, they all ran from Cardigan, both town and castle, after they had fired the castle, where they durst not stay to see it quite burned, but fled in haste to sea – their last refuge – leaving behind them at Cardigan four pieces of ordnance which they did not so much as dismount..."*

After the war ended it seems that the castle was returned to the Lewis family of Coedmore, Llechryd. It may have been in 1649 when Britain was declared a Commonwealth that ownership of the castle was considered to have passed from the Crown to the private ownership of Col. James Lewis. On May 9<sup>th</sup> 1653 a Grand Inquest, sworn in at the Leet Court, was held at Cardigan Castle before a jury, presided over by the Mayor, David Morgan, to decide the future local government of Cardigan. The result of this meeting was the resolution that:-

*"...it is necessary that a Counsell of Twelve beings, Aldermen and such sufficient Burgesses within the Towne be added to the Maior for the tyme beinge and for the future to governe the towne and Corporation..."*

It was enacted that the Council should meet with the Mayor at a convenient time and place *"...to do good for the towne..."* James Lewis became the Mayor of Cardigan later that year. In 1661 John Lewis of Coedmore was the Mayor of Cardigan. He may have lived at the castle at that time. By 1666 houses had been built beyond the castle ditch along Bridge Street. In 1669 a deed referred to a lease of:

*"...All that site of the Castle of Cardigan now or late in the occupation of John Lewis Esq...therein mentioned to be the annual rent or value of twelve pence..."*

In 1673 a church warden named Abel Griffith was living here and renting the property from the Parry family. In 1700 the Lewis family sold Coedmore, Llechryd

and its estates, including Cardigan Castle, to Nathaniel Wade of Bristol. On May 26<sup>th</sup> 1712 Nathaniel Wade sold:

*“...all that piece of ground in Cardigan aforesaid called by the name of the Castle green...”*

It was sold together with other meadows and lands for £360 to Thomas Brock of Haverfordwest and others. In November 1713 the Cardigan Borough Council, with approval from the Mayor and Lord of the Manor of Cardigan, Lewis Pryse of Gogerddan and the Priory, devised and oversaw a massive landscaping project here, capping tons of earth and rubble from the demolition of mediaeval and later buildings here, with turf from the Cardigan Common to make a bowling green. From this date the site was generally known as “Castle Green”. The Borough Records for November 18<sup>th</sup> 1713 state:

*“...Ordered than agreed that there shall be so much loads of Turf cut on ye Common, as shall be needful to make a Bowling Green at ye Castle Green of Cardigan, provided Lewis Pryse Esq., Lord of the Manor Consents thereto. Walter Lloyd – Dpty. Mayor; Hy En Davies; Edward Phillips...”*

It seems likely that Green Street was created as the new castle entrance at about that time, and that No 1 and 2 Green Street were built soon afterwards. On May 26<sup>th</sup> 1725 Thomas Brock of Cardigan wrote his will. Probate was made in 1727. Before that time Mary Pryce had leased Cardigan Castle from him for three lives. This Mary Pryce nee' Picton, the daughter of Thomas Picton, was the wife of Richard Pryce, a surgeon, who died in 1743 leaving daughters Elizabeth, Mary, Brigett, Phillis and Jane, and a son, Thomas. (Another source claims that Mary Pryse was the daughter of Elizabeth nee' Picton and David Jones of Penrallt Uchaf, Llangoedmor.) In 1741 the brothers Samuel and Nathaniel Buck produced an engraving of the castle ruins, which was later plagiarised by many other artists. It was, presumably, fairly accurate, and shows both recognisable and lost features. On April 1<sup>st</sup> 1756 Mary Pryce, a widow, probably residing at Castle Green, appeared at the Assizes at the Shire Hall, where she was accused of causing a nuisance by unlawfully erecting a lime-kiln on a piece of ground called the Strand, where a fair was annually held on December 19<sup>th</sup>. John Morris prosecuted, but no charge was brought.

By 1760, and probably earlier, the kitchen in the North Tower had been fitted out as part of a substantial house, the property of Mary Pryce. On March 29<sup>th</sup> 1761 John Bowen of Cardigan married Mary Pryce, the daughter of the aforementioned Mary Pryce by license, at the parish church. The couple probably made their home at the Castle Green. On June 17<sup>th</sup> 1761 Hannah Mathias of Cardigan, a widow, the daughter of Thomas Brock, assigned the close called Castle Green to Thomas Lloyd of Bronwydd and John Morgan of Cardigan as Trustees. She made reference to her children David Mathias and Elizabeth Mathias.

In 1763 Mary Pryce wrote her will:

*“...In the name of God Amen I Mary Pryce of the Town of Cardigan in the County of Cardigan, Widow, being in Good health and of sound mind, memory and understanding (praise be to God for the Same to make and Order this my Last Will*



*and Testament in manner following. That is to Say I Give and Devise unto my son Thomas Pryce All That My House and Garden with the Appurtenances now or late in the Tenure or Occupation of John Bowen, Surgeon, his Undertenant or Assigns and situate lying and being in the Said Town of Cardigan in the said County of Cardigan...That my Said son Thomas Pryce shall permit and Suffer my Son in law the said John Bowen to have hold and Enjoying the said House and Garden...for the Term of five years from May last...”*

In May 1763 Mary Pryse, a widow, died, leaving the castle property to her son, Thomas Pryce, with her son-in-law, John Bowen, a surgeon, and her daughter, Mary Bowen, as the tenants, with a guaranteed tenancy until May 1768. She had been granted the castle by the late Thomas Brock. On July 13<sup>th</sup> 1776 Jabez Maud Fisher – an American visitor to the town – wrote the following:

*“...In this town is a noble castle, built on a rock now tottering from its case, and mouldering to dust, though sheltered from the inclemency of the air by a Garb of green Ivy...”*

The Castle Green was leased by Phyllis and Jane Pryse on April 6<sup>th</sup> 1784 to Thomas Colby of Rhosygilwen, Cilgerran. The lease included the remains of the North Tower, which by then had been converted and extended for use as a barn. In 1786 Phyllis Pryse, a spinster, wrote her will, leaving her property to her sister, Jane Pryse. She also referred to her sister, Mary Bowen, the wife of surgeon John Bowen. On December 22<sup>nd</sup> 1788 advertised for sale was:

*“...All the undivided moiety, or one half part, of all that very desirable Estate, well known by the general name of The Castle Green Estate. N.B. The last mentioned premises consists of the seite of the old castle, several messuages or dwelling houses and gardens, a barn, a malthouse and a certain piece of ground called the Castle Green, with a lime kiln contiguous thereto, all situate in the town of Cardigan...”*

On June 11<sup>th</sup> 1793 Sir Richard Colt-Hoare visited the ruins and made a painting of them. He remarked:

*“...The walls of this castle are washed by the tide. The ruins are trifling and do not form a picturesque object. There is a platform at top commanding a good view of the river...”*

On December 19<sup>th</sup> 1794 Mary Bowen, the wife of John Bowen, a surgeon, wrote her will. She referred to:

*“...the Castle Green Houses and all appurtenances thereunto belonging...as left me by the will of my late sister Jane Pryse...”*

These properties were left to her husband. She referred to her daughters – Martha Maria Bowen and Elizabeth Bowen. She died in January 1795. leaving her property to her husband, Dr. John Bowen. In 1797 Wigstead stated that:

*‘...the remains of the castle are covered with ivy, and may be passed unnoticed...’*

In 1798 Henry Skrine mentioned the castle “...of which there are considerable remains...” By 1799 John Bowen was leasing ‘Castle House’ to Thomas Colby of Rhosygilwen, Cilgerran, implying that there was already a habitable dwelling on the site. On January 17<sup>th</sup> 1801 the “...parcel of ground called Castle Green...” was surrendered by Thomas Colby of Rhosygilwen, Cilgerran, to its owner – John Bowen. Bowen was said to have purchased the property for £73. 10s. 0d. The property was associated with ‘Tuy Brith’ on High Street and included:

*“...all that Vault or Cellar under a certain Building called the Barn situated betwixt the said Mansion House [i.e. Ty Brith] and the said Castle Green...”*

George Lipscomb described it in 1802:–

*“...A few old walls and towers matted with ivy and built with the dingey, slately stone of the country...mark the ancient site of the castle...”*

The same year Cardigan castle was mentioned by Walter Davies:

*“...Cardigan Castle. Remains of it near the bridge, built by Gryffydd ap Rhys ab Twdwr. I hope the poetry produced here in the great Eisteddfod was less rude than the masonry and general architecture of this castle, Rude it may be termed in a wonderful degree, built round a rocky knoll, the top of the knoll forming a green platform or lawn, as it were on the top of the castle whose rude towers, apartments etc. surround its sides, the lawn at the top affording room for a large garrison, or even army; it is however, a very curious kind of castle. Small, silly limekilns at Cardigan Town waste coal and limestone...”*

Benjamin H. Malkin thought the ruins were “...inconsiderable fragments...” in 1803. On July 4<sup>th</sup> 1804 John Bowen wrote his will in which he referred to his grandsons Erasmus and John Gower of Tenby, the sons of his daughter, Martha Maria, and her husband, Richard Gower. In September 1804 Elizabeth Bowen, the daughter of John Bowen, surgeon, married Henry Peach (d.1809), formerly of Bristol, at the parish church. John Bowen, a respected surgeon and having been for many years the Comptroller of the Port of Cardigan, died in April 1805, leaving his property to his daughter Elizabeth Bowen. This may have been at the castle and comprised:

*“...all that House that I now live in with the Two Houses under the garden, outhouses, garden, stable, carthouse and the Quay with all the appurtenances thereto belonging, during her life...”*

The two house later became part of Bridge Parade. The stable referred to is probably what was later called the “Stores”. She must quickly have passed it on to his namesake and possibly relative, John Bowen of the Priory. About that year Walter Davies described it again:

*“...The architecture of Cardigan Castle the rudest that can well be conceived, and yet it is a curiosity. It is built round the sides of a knoll or rock on three sides [small sketch of a tower] The top of the knoll forms a spacious green, very level, surrounded by the turrets and battlements of the castle on three sides or rather on*

*four out of five sides. One of the five is on a level with the upper part of the town, the green was entered from the upper apartments of the castle or its towers, a congress of Bards was held at this castle under the patronage of Prince Rhys ap Gruffudd in the year 1176..."*

John Bowen, a barrister, of the Priory, who previously owned Tyllwyd, Blaenporth, had begun an extensive landscaping of the castle site by this time. He was the second son of William Bowen of Troedyr aur and the younger brother of Rev. Thomas Bowen of Troedyr aur – a noted agriculturalist. His first wife, whom he married at St Mary's Church, Cardigan, on October 26<sup>th</sup> 1781, was Mary Lloyd (Morgan?), the youngest daughter of David Lloyd Morgan of Cardigan. In 1808 Samuel Rush Meyrick described:

*"...The castle and the ground contained within its outer walls (called the Castle-green) now belong to John Bowen, Esq., who is erecting a house on the site of the keep, the dungeons now serving as his cellars..."*

Aside from this, *"...All that now remains of it are two towers and a wall..."* It seems strange that no mention is made of the extensive landscaping of the site being carried out at that time. From stylistic similarities with Berry Hill, Nevern, and other properties, it is probable that the architect of the new house was David Evans. His son, Daniel Evans, was later employed to design an extension to Castle Green House. The development included the building of Ty'r Ardd, stables, and possibly the Coach House. On January 14<sup>th</sup> 1809 John Bowen married his second wife – Elizabeth Hughes of Aberllofwyn in the parish of Llanfarian, near Aberystwyth. In 1811, during landscaping of the site by John Bowen, N. Carlisle described:

*"...the wall between the two towers being lowered and the Green sloped down so as to form a hanging Garden..."*

On November 30<sup>th</sup> 1811 the following advertisement appeared in the 'Cambrian':

*"...CARDIGANSHIRE. TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION, At the Black-Lion-inn, in the town of Cardigan, on Wednesday the 18th day of December, 1811, if not disposed of in the mean time by private contract, of which timely notice will be given, THAT much-admired, modern-built DWELLING-HOUSE, called the CASTLE, situate on an eminence on the banks of the river Tivy, in the borough town of Cardigan, commanding most delightful picturesque views of that river, the bridge, and of the surrounding Country, with Coach-House, Stabling, Barn, Haggard, and replete in convenient and requisite Outhouses, all in perfect repair, being lately built, and fit for the immediate reception of a genteel family. The front of the premises (which is laid out with much taste in gravel walks, shrubs, and fruit trees) is bound by the towers and ruins of the ancient castle of Cardigan. A spacious Kitchen-Garden, surrounded by a Wall, in the highest order, abounding also with fruit-trees, and a complete, well stocked Green-house. Cardigan is about two miles from the sea, with good roads, and the salubrity of the air well. ascertained; a market well supplied (particularly famed for salmon at a moderate rate) and a genteel neighbourhood. Also, about Forty Acres, with FOUR COTTAGES, of rich MEADOW LAND, contiguous to the town, well sheltered and watered, with a turnpike-road. And also, a*

*modern built DWELLING-HOUSE, adjoining the premises, part of which is now occupied by Government as a Custom-house under a lease. N. B. The premises are now occupied by the proprietor. For further particulars apply (by letter post paid) to John Bowen. Esq. Aberlloellwyn, near Aberystwyth, or to Mr. Evan Davies, of Cardigan, Solicitor..."*

The property was quickly sold by private contract before the auction date. The following notice appeared in the 'Cambrian' on December 7<sup>th</sup> 1811:

*"...CARDIGANSHIRE.*

*NOTICE is hereby given, that the CASTLE and other Premises, advertised for Sale by Auction, at the Black-Lion-inn, in the town of Cardigan, on the 18th day of December inst. have been disposed of by Private Contract. Cardigan, Dec. 2, 1811..."*

The buyer at that time was David Powell Lucas – an Officer of the Customs for Cardigan. In 1812 Richard Fenton wrote of the castle that:

*'...but from the trifling ruins that now appear of a few truncated bastions surmounted and disfigured by a modern house, you can hardly form an idea of the capaciousness of its ancient outline...'*

*'The Cambrian Traveller's Guide' of 1813 says of Cardigan:*

*"...The ruins of its' Castle, appearing on a low cliff at the foot of the bridge, are very inconsiderable; little more than the fragments of 2 circular bastions, overgrown with ivy; yet it was once a large and important fortress..."*

In 1815 Thomas Rees noted:

*"...Cardigan Castle occupied a commanding, though not a very elevated, situation close to the river, above the present bridge. The existing remains are not considerable, consisting chiefly of the wall on the river side, and a portion of two towers by which this part was protected. Its original extent may be traced without much difficulty. It does not appear to have covered at any time a very large space of ground, but was evidently a place of great strength..."*

*'...The ground is now the property of John Bowen Esq. who has erected an elegant mansion on the site of the keep, the dungeons of which he has converted into cellars..."*

By that date David Powell Lucas occupied Castle Green. On November 9<sup>th</sup> 1818 Peter Taylor Walker was curiously referred to in the 'Times' as *'...a magistrate of the county and constable of Cardigan Castle...'* He lived at Bolton Street, Westminster.

By May 1827 the property had been sold by David Powell Lucas to Arthur Jones, the Sheriff of Cardiganshire, who was then erecting a new front range of Castle Green House. According to the Rev. John Herring of Bethania Baptist Chapel, Pendre, Cardigan, writing in August 1827:

*“...There is a magnificent building being erected in the town of Cardigan at Castle Green at the expense of Arthur Jones, Esq., Sheriff of Cardiganshire. The architect and master builder is Mr. Daniel Evans of Eglwyswrrw and his son, John Evans. On the occasion of laying the foundation stone of the mansion on May 31 of that year, a banquet was given by the High Sheriff in the Angel Hotel to 42 men, who were engaged on the building. The guests were lavishly entertained by the mine host Mr. Davies at the Angel. The cloth having been removed, the best beer was brought forward.. The health of the generous gentleman and his family was drank “three times three”. A speech was delivered by Mr. David Evans, the contractor. At present the erection is proceeding in a very satisfactory manner, and with the greatest speed. The work of the masons is a revelation to the neighbourhood. It is not inferior to the wonderful work executed here 700 years ago, the foundations of which will remain a part of the new building. Immense stones have been brought here such as have not been seen within living memory. The foundation stone has a niche carved out of it, into which Arthur Jones Esq. deposited gold and silver pieces as a memorial for some future generations. A flagstone measuring 78 square feet, has been laid at the entrance, under the verandah. In a like manner, the work of the carpenters is excellent. There are 43 men regularly employed in the construction, not counting smiths etc., etc. The wishes of the inhabitants are that many other generous gentlemen will follow in the footsteps of this benefactor of the town...”*

This redevelopment included a new 4-stall stable on the site of an earlier lime kiln and probable further landscaping. The hall of the new extension of the house carefully used medieval foundations. Arthur Jones, a banker, lived at Castle Green with his wife Mary Anne Jones (probably his second wife as he had married Anna Jane Howell on March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1820 at Cardigan), and their daughter Anna Jane Jones. In 1830 the Wern Newydd estate, then the property of Edward Pryse Lloyd, rebuilt a boundary wall between Castle Green and a neighbouring High Street property, more or less on the site of the mediaeval curtain wall. Arthur Jones required the rebuilding of the said boundary as a ‘hot wall’ for his new conservatory. In 1831 Cardigan was given its’ first reservoir, and piped water may have replaced the well for use in Castle Green House soon afterwards. On July 13<sup>th</sup> 1832 an auction advertisement appeared in the ‘*Carmarthen Journal*’:-

*“...Capital modern mansion. Drawing room and dining room each 27’ by 18’ by 11’ high with mahogany doors, breakfast room, study, kitchen, bathroom and dressing room, six bedrooms and arched cellar being part of old castle. Hot house and pinery 87’ long recently erected at great expense. Four stall stable and coach house...”*

Another advertisement from the same newspaper offers for sale:

*“...All that Capital Mansion House, called the Castle Green, Now in the occupation of Arthur Jones, Esquire, beautifully situated on an eminence, commanding a fine view of the river Tivy, and of the adjacent county, standing on an acre and a half of ground, tastefully laid out as a pleasure ground; and Gardens, with a newly built Hothouse, 67 feet long, and a Pinery about 20 feet long, both glazed and heated in the most approved manner, and well filled with fruit. Together with a Four-Stall Stable, Saddle-Room, Coach-house, but quite hid from observation from any*

*part of the grounds. - The Dwelling-house consists of a drawing and dining rooms about 27 feet long by 16 feet each, broad, and 11 feet high, with mahogany doors, a breakfast room, study, a capital Kitchen, Out-Offices, and a Bath, 6 bedrooms, besides servants' sleeping-rooms, an excellent arched cellar, and every convenience attached to an elegant and comfortable residence..."*

David Davies of Carnarchenwen near Fishguard, formerly of Aberystwyth, the Sheriff of Cardiganshire that year, purchased it. He moved here with his wife, Mary Davies nee' Evans, the daughter of Arthur Evans, gentleman. It is possible that an addition was made to the stable range by roofing over the angle between the two ranges at about that time. In Samuel Lewis' *'Topographical Dictionary of Wales'* published in 1833, but written slightly earlier, the castle is described:

*"...The castle was, from its situation, well calculated for defence, and admirably adapted to command the entrance into the western part of the principality, of which it was considered the key: it occupied the summit of an eminence rising to a considerable elevation above the river, and overlooking the town and a large tract of the open country. The remains at present consist only of two bastions and a portion of the curtain wall; the site of the keep is at present occupied by a handsome modern villa, the cellars of which are formed out of the dungeons of that ancient tower, of which the walls in some parts are from nine to ten feet thick; and the outer ward has been converted into a verdant lawn, tastefully disposed in parterres, the whole effected by John Bowen, Esq. but the property now belongs to Arthur Jones, Esq., by purchase in 1827..."*

At about that time the castle boundary wall behind Argyle House, No. 3 Bridge Parade, collapsed and had to be rebuilt. On September 25<sup>th</sup> 1834 Frances Jones of the Stable Yard was buried at St. Mary's Church, having died aged 60 years two days earlier. David Davies died on May 1<sup>st</sup> 1836 aged just 31 years and was buried at St. Mary's Church in the town on May 11<sup>th</sup> 1836. The *'Cambrian'* of May 14<sup>th</sup> 1836 reported the following:

*"...On the 1st inst., at Worcester, aged 33, David Davies, Esq. of Castle Green, Cardigan, a gentlemen whose piety and benevolence shone conspicuously in all the acts of his life..."*

On September 17<sup>th</sup> 1839 Mary Davies, a widow, of Castle Green, the daughter of Arthur Evans, a gentleman, married solicitor John Parry of Glanpaith, near Aberystwyth, the son of John Parry, a gentleman. On January 9<sup>th</sup> 1840 a sales advertisement was written, which appeared the following day in the *'Carmarthen Journal'*:

*"...COUNTY TOWN OF CARDIGAN.*

*Sale of elegant MANSION HOUSE called the CASTLE GREEN. Mr Geo. Goode Respectfully begs to announce that he has been favoured with instructions to submit for PUBLIC COMPETITION and will On SATURDAY the 8<sup>th</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 1840, between the hours of 4 and 6 in the afternoon, at the BLACK LION, in the Town of Cardigan, sell by Auction, All that capital Mansion House, Premises and Four Cottages, called the CASTLE GREEN. The House was erected by*

*the late Arthur Jones Esq., who to secure every possible convenience and comfort, spared no expense, is pleasingly situated on an eminence in the centre of the Town of Cardigan, occupies an acre of Land, which is tastefully laid out as a pleasure Ground, and commands many pleasing and delightful views of the adjacent country, the ruin Cilgerran Castle, and the river Tivy. The Gardens are tastefully laid out with Hot House, 67 feet long, and Pinery 20 feet long, glazed and heated in the most approved manner, and well stocked with Fruit. The Mansion contains in its basement Wine and Beer Cellars, of excellent temperature; on the first floor, a Drawing and Dining Room, each 27 feet long, by 16 feet wide, with a proportionate height; a Breakfast Room, study, and a capital Kitchen, Scullery, &c, &c, a large and convenient Bath Room. The sleeping apartments are exceedingly well arranged, and embrace every requisite for comfort and convenience that can be required for an elegant residence. There is detached a four stall'd Stable, Saddle Room, Coach House, and other out Buildings, convenient to the Dwelling-House, but quite concealed from observation from any part of the Grounds. There are four Cottages and Premises, respectably Tenanted, which will be sold with the Mansion. N. B. The above splendid Mansion is situate within the walls of the old and ancient castle of Cardigan, only accessible at one place, and although placed in the centre of the town, it possesses all the advantage of scenery and privacy, as much if situated in a fine picturesque country, the Premises are all in excellent repair. The Mansion House has lately been painted, papered and otherwise ornamented throughout. Immediate possession of the whole (excepting the cottages which are let from year to year) may be had..."*

David Davies' widow, Mary Parry, and her husband, John Thomas Herbert Parry of Glanpaith, put Castle Green up for auction at the "Black Lion Hotel", High Street, Cardigan, on February 8<sup>th</sup> 1840. It was purchased by David Davies of Bridge House and Bank House, Cardigan, comprising:

*"...the mansion house, garden, pleasure ground, stable, saddle room, coach house and other outbuildings known as Castle Green..."*

David Davies was a merchant and ship owner, *Lloyd's* agent for the port of Cardigan, and owned sail-lofts and other businesses, as well as an extensive estate. He owned shares in numerous Cardigan ships. His wife, Anna Letitia Davies, was the daughter of the Rev. D. Griffith, the Vicar of Nevern.

On 6<sup>th</sup> June 1841, at the time of the Census, Castle Green was occupied by the following persons:- David Davies, aged 45 years, the Head of the household, a merchant; Anna Letitia Davies, aged 45 years, his wife; David Griffith Davies, aged 5 years, their son; Thomas Davies, aged 3 years, their son; Servants – David Evans, aged 35 years; Mary Pugh, aged 20 years; Elizabeth Harris, aged 34 years; Jane Davies, aged 35 years; Martha Rees, aged 20 years; Elizabeth Williams, aged 15 years; David Laise, aged 14 years; and Edward Mathias, aged 14 years. The Groom's Cottage at the stable yard was occupied by the following persons: David Thomas, aged 30 years, a manservant; Hannah Thomas, aged 35 years, his wife; Sarah Thomas, aged 9 years, their daughter; Thomas Thomas, aged 7 years, their son; and Lewis Thomas, aged 3 years, their son.

By October 4<sup>th</sup> 1843 Evan Elias of Green Street was the gardener at Castle Green. In 1844 David Davies was trading as a sail-maker, a rope-maker and an iron founder. On November 21<sup>st</sup> 1845 the following item appeared in the '*Pembrokeshire Herald*':

*"...CARDIGAN.*

*The election for Mayor, agreeable to the municipal act, took place, when David Davies, Esq., of Castle Green, was proposed by Aldermen Nugent, and seconded by Alderman David Jenkins. and unanimously elected to fulfil the office for the year ensuing..."*

At the time of the Census on March 30<sup>th</sup> 1851, the occupants of Castle Green were:- Anna Letitia Davies, aged 54 years, born in Nevern; and servants – Sarah Jones, aged 30 years, born in Llantood; Mary Williams, aged 22 years, born at St. Dogmaels; and Elizabeth Phillips, aged 18 years, born in Monington. The following persons were probably living at the Groom's Cottage in the Stable Yard: Mary Owens, aged 50 years, a groom's wife, born in Nevern; Owen Owens, aged 17 years, her son; Margaret Owens, aged 15 years, her daughter, born in Cardigan; and Elizabeth Owens, aged 13 years, her daughter, born in Cardigan. On November 5<sup>th</sup> 1851 Anna Letitia Davies was buried at St. Mary's Church having died aged 55 years. On November 7<sup>th</sup> 1851 the following article appeared in the '*Pembrokeshire Herald*':

*"...The funeral of the late Mrs. Davies wife of David Davis. Esq., of the Castle Green, Cardigan, which took place on Wednesday last, nearly every tradesman in the Town closed his shop and discontinued business, as a tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased lady and a vast con- course of the inhabitants attended her remains to the Saint Mary's Churchyard, where the body was interred..."*

On December 4<sup>th</sup> 1851 a full inventory was made of Castle Green House, perhaps as the family was to be absent for a time, possibly due to building works.

***"...Inventory of Castle Green House, Cardigan Castle, 4<sup>th</sup> December 1851.***

### ***Library.***

*Book-case; sofa; easy chair; six mahogany chairs; mahogany table; mahogany card table; mahogany small round table; music stool; pier glass [mirror]; tea caddy; mahogany celeret [small drinks cabinet]; carpet, drugget [coarse mat] and two slips of oil cloth; fender, fire irons and guard; hearth rug; map of England and Wales – framed; map of North Wales; map of South Wales (worked); Map (County of Pembroke); Chart of the World; 8 pictures – framed and glazed; 1 oil painting; window curtains and blinds; chimney ornaments and 3 on book case.*

### ***Dining Parlour a.k.a. Dining Room.***

*Six family likenesses – framed and glazed; seventeen pictures in frames and glass; Large chimney-glass [decorative mirror]; time piece; one vase; two glass candlesticks; two glass candlesticks; two hand-screens [small hand-held screens]; glass scent-bottle; one mirror; side board; Dining Table – in four pieces – when put*



*together; small round table; easy chair; twelve chairs; mahogany portable desk; mahogany knife case containing – 2 carvers and forks (common case); 12 knives and 12 forks plus 12 small knives and 12 small forks, all with ivory handles; knife case covered with leather containing 12 knives and 12 forks – silver with ivory handles; another mahogany case containing 3 carving knives and forks, 18 knives, 18 forks, 18 small knives, 1 cheese scoop, 1 steel sharpener – all with ivory handles; table lamp; fender and fire irons; window curtains and blinds; pair bell pulls; Turkey carpet – hearth rug, drugget; large screen covered with green baize; two foot stools; one hassock; Japan bottle stand and holder; two slips oil cloth.*

### ***Drawing Room.***

*Sofa; smaller sofa with cover; easy chair; two 3-corner chairs with covers; sixteen chairs and covers; rosewood Lao table; two rosewood card tables with oil covers; rosewood chiffonier [low cupboard]; rosewood work table; one small mahogany round table; two fire screens; one other screen; inlaid square work table; inlaid square work box; large chimney glass.*

*Chimney Ornaments: 3 vases; 2 card racks on holders; 2 candelabras; 2 small china ornaments; 1 shell; 1 clock-face tall ornament.*

*With the Chiffonier: 37 sundry size shells; 27 sundry shells in a basket; china bowl; china dish; china tea pot stand and 18 other pieces – cups etc.; 15 sundry smaller pieces; china ink stand; round glass china ink stand; two china cups and saucers of different descriptions; large size glass scent bottle; two glass flower stands; two ivory paper knives; Tortoise shell card case; glass shade; tall glass scent bottle with bronze stand; ornament – bee-hive bronze scales; leather portfolio; ostrich egg shell; large chimney glass.*

*On Work Table: 2 glass ink stands; work-box; leather portfolio with lock; musical box; another music box; church missionary box; Backgammon board; two accordions.*

*On Another Table: Rosewood tea caddy with glass sugar basin and two glass deposits for tea; a cardboard box; small French fancy box; another French fancy box; silver ink stand.*

*Pictures: Two, Chinese, not framed; one family likeness; five study pictures, framed and glazed.*

*Carpet and Brown Holland cover; Hearth rug; two small fancy bellows; door stopper – piece of matting.*

### ***Best Passage a.k.a. Front Hall.***

*Large Oil painting; side board; portable desk; work box; table – being a fifth piece of Dining Table; pair of glass flower vases; pair of smaller glass flower vases; three smaller glass flower vases; 5 shells; stove; two door stoppers; seat; two weather glasses; bracket clock; lamp; floor drugget – 3 mats; umbrella stand.*

### ***Lower Parlour a.k.a. Breakfast Room.***

*Two mahogany dining tables; one round table; one desk table; one small desk; one book stand; one Welsh straw easy-chair; 8 chairs; pier glass; chimney glass; mahogany book case; two pictures framed and glazed; two maps; fender and fire irons.*

### ***Servants' Hall.***

*Seven tin covers; old sofa; one bench; 5 chairs; deal table; sundry strips of oil cloth; cupboard.*

### ***Kitchen.***

*Clock and case; settle; square deal table; round deal table; 6 chairs; shelf and dresser.*

*In Dresser Drawer: 2 large carvers and forks, buck handles; 1 carving knife and fork; 19 large knives, ivory hafts; 6 large forks, ivory hafts; 12 small knives, ivory hafts; 8 small forks, ivory hafts.*

*Pin screen; fender, tongs, poker; iron fountain; two tea kettles; warming pan; two brass ladles; tin candle box; four toasting forks; 12 iron skewers and six double skewers; 7 iron smaller skewers; 9 pewter dishes; two tall brass candlesticks; three smaller brass candlesticks; Japan box and padlock; two tin coffee pots; one tin flower box and pepper box; one pewter tankard; one tin cup and one tin strainer; one tin plate cover; 8 chocolate tin boxes; 1 oyster knife; 1 iron digester; 3 baking tins for bread; 1 block tin steamer; 1 tin fish kettle; 3 iron boilers; 1 iron pot; 2 frying pans; 1 cheese toaster; 4 tin saucepans; 1 tin boiler; meat saw and a cleaver; parrot cage.*

*On the Dresser: 19 blue dishes – sundry sizes; 35 blue plates; 5 blue vegetable dishes (two only whole) and 2 extra covers; 35 jugs.*

*1 suet chopper; 1 small hand lantern.*

### ***Pantry.***

*1 sugar nipper; 7 earthen jars; 1 hair sieve; 1 salt box; 1 marble pestle and mortar; 2 chopping boards; 1 wooden bowl; 1 peach jar; 2 tin jugs; 1 tin strainer; 1 tin grater; 1 tureen without cover; 6 white plates; 2 blue dishes; sauce tureen; sugar basin; fish strainer; paste-board; jelly stand; two rolling pins; scales and weights – three of 2 lbs, one each ½ lb; one ¼ lb and an Oz; 1 jar for warm water; 3 blue tart dishes; 1 pudding strainer basin; an earthen ware water plate.*

### ***Scullery.***

*1 small oval tub; 2 earthen ware jugs; 2 wooden bowls – 5 wooden spoons and stand; 1 small brass pan.*

### ***Butler's Pantry.***

*Table cloth press; plate basket; plate warmer; Japan'd sugar box; copper tea kettle and stand; 2 Britannia kettle tea pots; 2 Britannia coffee pots; 1 double lamp stand; 3 lanterns; knife box lined with tin; 3 Japan'd knife trays; 2 Japan'd bread trays; tin candle-box; 2 plated candlesticks; 2 smaller candlesticks; 1 brass chamber candlestick; 2 Japan'd candlesticks; 2 tin candlesticks; 3 Japan'd round waiters; 4 square larger waiters; 3 Japan'd trays; Salts – pepper – mustard.*

*Metal: plated cruet stand – complete; plated toast rack; 2 round tin covers; Lamp for Back Passage on largest shelf; 14 blue basins; 2 soup basins, covers and stands; 3 earthenware jugs.*

*Dessert Service: Wedgwood ware: 8 dishes; 12 plates; sugar basin – ladle – cover of stand; 5 china tea cups and 11 saucers; 6 tea plates; 1 basin; 2 toast plates; 1 china muffin plate; 4 china plates.*

*Imperfect Breakfast set: 4 cups and saucers – 3 without handles; 2 toast plates; 6 plates; 1 slop basin; 1 china honey basin, cover and stand; 6 large and 6 small spirit bottles; glass salts; 4 pickle bottles; 14 ale glasses, various patterns; 2 small tumblers, gilt; 4 salts, various; 2 tumblers, cracked; 6 glass egg cups; 2 glass sugar basins; celery glass; 3 tumblers; 6 wine glasses; wine strainer; 18 blue soup plates; 15 blue plates; 7 blue small plates; a portable tray stand; plated snuffers and tray; coal scuttle and scoop shovel; copper coal scuttle.*

#### ***Cloakroom.***

*Double barrel gun and case; 2 large baskets; 4 covered small baskets; 2 benches; 2 pillows; 2 travelling rugs.*

#### ***Back Kitchen a.k.a. wash-room.***

*Three brass pans; two tubs; one kive (?); tin dish and mesh sieve; wooden bowl, plate rack.*

#### ***Back Yard.***

*Three large and one small tubs (washing); culm box; black butter pot; earthenware pan; three beer casks; an oval tub; two pails.*

#### ***Laundry a.k.a. Servants' Kitchen.***

*Mangle; square table; two clothes-horses – box, heaters, 5 flat irons; fender, poker.*

#### ***Larder a.k.a. Linen Room.***

*Nine large pans; three black pots; two large meat tubs; seven bottles (catsup); three bottles (gooseberries); two bottles (bog-berries); six pewter dishes and four plates.*

#### ***Malt Room a.k.a. Fruit Cellar.***

*Slipper bath; post bed-stead; three small casks; a night chair.*

***Meal Room a.k.a. Coal Cellar.***

*Three flour casks; meat chest; kive (?).*

***Bathroom.***

*Five flour casks; bread-pan; tin tea canister; black butter-pot; black jug; meat screen; fire board; marble slabs (wash stand incomplete).*

***Best Bedroom No. 1 (Mrs Davies) a.k.a. Master Bedroom.***

*Feather bed (numbered 6) weight 121 lbs; bolster weight 10 ½ lbs; pillow 7 ½ lbs; pillow 6 ¾ lbs; feather bed (belongs to servants' room) No. 7, weight 54 lbs; bolster 7lbs; 2 English blankets; 1 Welsh blankets; 1 Marseilles quilt; 1 silk quilt; Servant's bed – 3 blankets, 1 counter pane.*

***Bedroom No. 2 (Mr Davies) a.k.a. SE Bedroom.***

*Feather bed (numbered 1) weight 132 lbs; bolster 14lbs; pillow 8 ¾ lbs; pillow 9 ¼ lbs; hair mattress; feather bed (no. 2) 92 lbs; bolster 15lbs; pillow 2 ¼ lbs; pillow 3lbs; a hair mattress; feather bed (no. 3) 36lbs; bolster 5 ¼ lbs; mahogany 4-poster bedstead; chintz curtains; window curtains and blind; 1 pair English blankets; 1 pair Welsh blankets and lone Welsh blankets; Marseilles quilt; 1 teak bedstead; 2 English blankets; 1 Welsh blanket; 1 counterpane; oak wardrobe; oak bureau; dressing table; large swing glass; washing stand – ware complete; bidet; three rush-seat chairs; two cane-seat chairs; carpet and hearth rug; piece of carpet; fender and fire-irons; mahogany towel-stand; three china candlesticks.*

***Dressing-Room.***

*Dressing table; swing-glass; two chests of drawers; wash stand and ware; three chairs; chimney glass; towel-horse; wire fender; carpet and piece of drugget; three pictures – framed and glass.*

***Middle Dressing Room a.k.a. Linen Room.***

*Two tables; two chairs; deal box; swing glass; carpet.*

***Best Landing a.k.a. Main Landing.***

*Drugget, stair-carpet and covering; mahogany card table; window blind; two ornament figures on window sill.*

***Bedroom – Lower Room a.k.a. room at E end of E Wing?***

*Mahogany 4-post bed-stead; 2 Welsh blankets; 1 English blanket; Marseilles quilt; chintz hangings; feather bed (no. 5) 116 lbs; bolster 14 ½ lbs; pillow (large size) 7 ¾ lbs; pillow 4 ½ lbs; hair mattress; patchwork bed-covering; swing-glass; mahogany*

*wardrobe; 3 mahogany chairs; 1 armchair; 1 towel-horse (mahogany); painted wash-stand with matching ware; two pairs of window curtains; two blinds; carpet; 2 fire boards; piece of carpet; earthen-ware chamber candlestick; three rods for holding foot valance.*

***Master Tom's Room (Thomas Davies) a.k.a. small guest room?***

*Couch; swing looking-glass; long dressing table (painted), boot-holder; small mahogany washing-stand; blue basin and ewer – soap and brush stand; two clothes flasks; 4 pieces of carpets; two rush-seat chairs; one other chair; painted towel-horse.*

***Master Davies' Room (DG Davies) a.k.a. guest room?***

*Three pieces of carpet; towel horse; chest of drawers; dressing table; swing looking-glass; a chair; three fire-boards.*

***Nursery a.k.a. Servant's Room – W Tower room ?***

*A four-post bed-stead and curtains; feather bed (no. 4) weight 102 lbs; bolster 10lbs; pillow 4 lbs; pillow 7 ¼ lbs; bed covering; 2 pairs Welsh blankets; 1 counterpane; chest of drawers; painted washing stand; jug and ware; dressing table and swing-glass; three chairs; three pieces of carpet; small looking-glass; 4 pictures; window curtain and blind.*

***Back Room a.k.a. Rainbow room?***

*Large cupboard; small cupboard; mahogany desk and drawers; deal box; cupboard bedstead; washing stand and ware; night chair; oak carriage box.*

***Servants' Room a.k.a E Tower room?***

*Four-post bedstead and curtains; feather bed (no 8) weight 80 lbs; bolster 8 ¾ lbs; 3 Welsh blankets; 1 cloth quilt; 1 cotton quilt; teak bedstead; feather bed (no.9) 66 lbs; bolster 10lbs; Straw Paillasse; three Welsh blankets; 1 cotton quilt; three chests of drawers; table; looking-glass; wash stand and ware; five chairs; towel-horse; four pieces of carpet.*

***Lumber Room a.k.a. small store-room.***

*Six mahogany chairs; a broken chair – cane seat; mahogany dining table (five leaves); crib; bed-stead; 13 carpet brushes; map of London; 2 sofa pillows – which belong to sofa in Servant's Hall; 3 flower stands (green); large fire guard fender; old chest; swing glass; chimney glass and glass frame; an old American clock; small table; wash stand; five small baskets; piece of old carpet; sweeping brush, carpet brush and mop; an earthen-ware bed-pan; slop-pail; two earthenware foot-baths.*

***China Closet.***

*Pair of glass wine decanters (Quarts) best; glass claret jug to match; three glass wine, quarts, best; four glass wine pints (best); four glass spirit decanters and plated stand; large glass jug; two smaller jugs; pair glass wine decanters and an odd one; pair smaller decanters; three dozen plus ten wine glasses; two dozen wine glasses; twenty ale glasses; twenty-two claret glasses; one dozen claret glasses (green); 16 large tumblers; two dozen finger glasses; fourteen water bottles (dinner); twenty-two jelly glasses; 18 custard glasses; 19 other custard glasses (old) Bridge House; five glasses (preserves); 8 glasses, smaller; three large dessert plates; two smaller plates; eighteen small plates; one small plate (partly cracked); three glass plates - saucer pattern; 1 glass trifle dish and stand; two other trifle dishes; one other trifle dish – old pattern; one old large glass plate; one glass cream jug; two glass butter tubs; two glass smaller butter tubs (silver tops and stands); two glass sugar basins with covers; one glass sugar basin without cover; six glass salt cellars; one mustard glass; three small tumblers; one plated cruet stand (7 cruets); one plated cruet stand; 197 large tumblers.*

*Set – dinner service, stone china, burnished gold, consisting of: two large dishes, two smaller dishes, two smaller dishes, four smaller dishes, four smaller dishes, four smaller dishes, two soup tureens, covers and stands, one salad bowl, four cover dishes and covers, four sauce tureens, covers, ladles and stands, one cheese stand, four dozen and 11 plates, two dozen soup plates, and two dozen small plates.*

*Dessert service – One centre piece; four round dishes; four square dishes; four oval dishes; two cream bowls and one cover.*

*Breakfast and tea service – Teapot; sugar basin and cover, basin; cream jug; two toast plates and covers – one without top; two dishes; two small dishes; two bread and butter plates; 12 small plates; six egg-cups; 12 large cups and saucers (2 cups without handles); 11 coffee cups (1 without handle); 12 saucers and tea cups – two without handle.*

*Breakfast and Tea Service – stone china – teapot; cream jug; sugar basin and cover; basin; two toast plates; 12 other plates; six egg-cups and one stand; 12 large cups and saucers; 12 coffee cups; 12 tea cups and 11 saucers; two dishes (not matches to the set); two smaller dishes.*

*Set of blue stone jugs – 3; four cream colour, gilt-edge; one water jug and cover; three large stone jugs; three smaller stone jugs; four china jugs with gilt edge; one large water-jug and cover.*

*Set of three trays – papier mache; set of two trays – papier mache; two square trays, large, papier mache.*

*On the shelves – blue ware – eight large cups and four saucers; five basins; three soup plates; one small dish; teapot; another teapot; two dozen plus two large saucers; five small saucers; seven large cups; eight smaller cups; two smaller cups; three basins; one smaller basin; 14 small plates; 3 cups and saucers; four cups, six saucers (odd); one cream jug; two odd saucers; one jug.*

***Linen.***

8 dozen plus 11 dinner napkins; 2 dozen doyleys; 1 dozen breakfast napkins; 21 breakfast napkins; 22 towels marked 24; 24 towels, not marked; 4 sideboard cloths; 5 table cloths (large); 5 table-cloths, next size; 4 table cloths, next size; 13 table cloths, common; 8 pairs of sheets, fine; 4 pairs of sheets, fine; 16 pairs of sheets, common; one pair of small sheets (crib); 18 pillow-cases; six small pillow-cases; four servants' bolster cases; 8 table covers; 5 spare Marseilles quilts; 2 spare counterpanes.

### **Plate.**

2 dozen large forks; 2 dozen small forks; 2 dozen table spoons; 2 dozen dessert spoons; 2 gravy spoons; 1 soup ladle; 2 dozen tea spoons; ½ dozen egg spoons; 4 sauce ladles; fish slice; 6 salt spoons; 1 sugar tongs; 1 marrow spoon; 2 skewers; 6 pickle forks; 1 butter knife; 3 pairs other sugar tongs; 6 table spoons; 4 table spoons –marked; 13 tea spoons – odd patterns; 12 tea spoons; 2 gravy spoons; 6 dessert spoons; 4 salt spoons; 4 salt spoons; 1 mustard spoon; 6 tea spoons (marked); 6 bottle labels – 'port', 'sherry', 'madeira' – 2 each; wine strainer; 2 nut crackers; 2 salvers; 3 butter covers and plate; tea pot; coffee pot; sugar basin; cream jug to match; 3 other cream jugs to match; 4 wine coasters (stands); 1 silver mustard pot.

### **Plated.**

3 pairs bedroom candlesticks; 1 pair candlesticks branches; 4 smaller candlesticks; snuffers and tray.

### **Library Catalogue.**

#### *Top shelf:*

'Saturday Magazine', 7 volumes [ran from 1832-33]; Bell's 'Geography', 6 volumes [published in 1830, written by James Bell]; 'France' by Lady Morgan, 2 volumes [published 1817, written by Lady Sydney Morgan]; 'Analysis Voyage China' – H Wise [An Analysis of One Hundred Voyages To and From India, China &c. Performed on Ships in the Honourable East India Company's Service; With Remarks of the Advantages of Steam Power &c. By Henry Wise]; Ozenam's 'Mathematical' in French [by Jacques Ozenam (d. 1717), probably a 19<sup>th</sup> Century commentary on his works]; Rich's 'Residence in Koordistan and Nuieben' – 2 Volumes [Narrative on a Residence in Koordistan, and on the Site of Ancient Nenevah; With Journal of a Voyage Down the Tigris to Bagdad and an Account of a Vist to Shirauz and Persepolis, by the Late Claudius James Rich. Ed. by His Widow, 1836]; Howell's 'History of the Bible' by Burden, only 1 volume [by Laurence Howell, 1752]; 'Duchess of Berri in Lavender' by General Decuconcourt; 'Figures of the Earth' by Abbe Outhier and McCelsius [The Figure of the Earth, Determined from Observations Made, by Order of the French King, At the Polar Circle: by Messrs. De Maupertius; Camus; Clairaut the Abbe' Outhier and Mr Celsius]; 'Waterlands and Sermons' [Daniel Waterland's Collected Sermons were posthumously published in 1823]; Cennick's 'Village Discourses' 2 Volumes [writings by Rev. John Kennick circa 1815]; Moorson's 'Letters from Nova Scotia' [Captain William Scarth Moorson, 1830]; Alp Usher's 'Answer to a Jesuit's Challenge'; Brooke's 'Gazetteer' [by Richard Brooke, 1796]; Goodwin's Exposition [The Exposition of Thomas Goodwin

on the Book of Revelation']; *Roman History and Antiquities*; Evans' *Gwenillau y Bardd* (Welsh); *Welsh Bible*; *Abbess* – 3 volumes; *Women as They Are* – 3 volumes; *Country Houses*, 3 volumes; *Diary of a Nun*, 2 volumes; *Highland Smugglers* – 3 volumes; *Curate of Stenholt* 2 volumes; the *Headsmen* – 3 volumes; *Maid of La Vendee* – 3 volumes; *A Whim and its Consequence* – 3 volumes; the *Manoeuvring Mother* – 3 volumes; the *Contrast* – 3 volumes; Roberts' *Scenes and Characteristics of Hindustan* – 3 volumes; *Trevelyan* – 3 volumes; *Modern Flirtation* – 3 volumes; Barrow's *Bible in Spain* – 3 volumes; the *Invasion* by Author of *Collegian* – 4 volumes.

### Second Shelf:

Thomson's *Seasons*; *Theological Library* by Webb Le Bas – 4 volumes; Galf's *Life of Lord Byron*; *Light and Darkness* by a Village Rector; Dr Owen on *Indwelling Sin*; *Remains* of Henry Kirke White; Col. Holcombe's *Memoir 'the Change'*; Whitehead's *Key to the Common Prayer*; *Journey of Life* by Miss Sinclair – 3 volumes; *Tremaine* – 3 volumes; *Memoirs* of John Elias; Wilberforce's *Practical View*; Wilkinson's *Reverend Watts' Sermons Selected from Penny Pulpit*; Fleming on *The Papacy*; *The Priestess*; *Memoirs of Lady Hester Stanhope* 3 volumes; Peranzabuloe's *Lost Church Found*; Hill's (Rev. Rowland) *Village Dialogues* – 3 volumes; James *On Christian Watchfulness*; James *Comments on the Collects*; Eden's *Churchman Theological Discourses*; Mudge's *30 Sermons*; *Lady Greenly's Sermons* 2 volumes; Slade *On the Psalms*; Nicholls' *Help to Reading the Bible*; Scott's *Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress*; *Christian Family Library* 2 volumes; *Newton's Life Observed* by Bickersteth; Grimshaw's *Life of Rev. L. Richmond*; *Conversations at Cambridge*; Harvey's *Theron and Aspasio* volumes 2 and 3 only; Tomkin's *Poems*; *Madam's 12 Months in the West Indies*; Freeman and John's *Persecution in Madagascar*; *Sir Robert Peel and his Era*; *Memoirs of Reverend Basil Wood*; Timpson's *Memoir Mrs Fry*; Shakespeare's *Dramatic Works*; *Record of Providence*; *Treatise on Punctuation*; *New Aid of Memory*; *Churchman's Penny Magazine* 4 volumes; *Christian Retirement*; *Memoir of Rev. Henry Martyn*; Bridge *On 119<sup>th</sup> Psalm*; Coles on *God's Sovereignty*; Watkins *Scripture Biography*; *Doddridge's Sermons* 4 volumes; *Klopstock's Messiah by Raffles* 3 volumes; Hareway on *The Sacrament*; *History of the Church Previous to Ye Reforms* 3 volumes; *The Modern Pythagoran* 2 volumes; SW Wilkes *Memoir of Lord Teignmouth*; Taylor's *Memoir of Cowper*; Warton's *Death Bed Scenes* 1 volume only; *Dwight's Theology* 6 volumes.

### Third Shelf:

*The Four Gospels Combined*; *Autumn Near the Rhine*; Robinson's *Scriptures Characters*; Serle's *Horae Solitariae* 2 volumes; Mather's *Ecclesiastical History* 6 volumes; Pearson's *Memoirs of Swartz* 2 volumes; Blair's *Sermons* 5 volumes; Tivener's *Sacred History of the World* 3 volumes; Humes' *England* 3 volumes; *Rev. Henry Martyn's Journal*; *Bunyan's Choice Works*; Sargant's *Life of Thomason*; Hayley's *Life of Cowper* 4 volumes; Booth's *Memoirs of Princess Charlotte*; *Ebenezer Erskine's Works* 3 volumes; *History of Curricular Confession* 2 volumes; *Demolition of Port Royal Deschamps*; William Bridge *7 Sermons on Faith*; Scott's *Lady of the Lake*; Roberts' *Oriental Illustration of the Scriptures*; Sidney's *Life of Walker*; *Berridge's Works*; *Life of Wilkinson*;



*'Simeon's Memoir' by Carces; 'Memoir of Sophia Dorothea, Consort of George I'; Lain's 'Tour in Sweden'; Guthrie's 'Geographical Grammar'; Lucca's 'Enquiry After Happiness'; 'Don Juan' by Lord Byron; Miss Bierney's 'Evelina'; 'Spectator' 8 volumes; 'Five Years in the East' 2 volumes; Gurnal's 'Christian Couple A???? 4 volumes; 'Conybear's Sermons' 2 volumes; 'Wilcox's Sermons' 3 volumes; 'Hughes' Sermons' the 2<sup>nd</sup> volume; 'Peninsular Scenes and Sketches'; 'Ebenezer Erskine's Sermons' 2 volumes.*

#### *Fourth Shelf:*

*'Church of England Magazine' Volumes 1839-1850; 'Scott's Bible' 6 volumes; 'Imperial Dictionary' 2 volumes; Camden's 'Concordance'; 'Byron's Works'; 'Wright's Gazetteer' 4 volumes plus supplement; Bartlett's 'Walks About Jerusalem'; Cunningham's 'Lives of Eminent Englishmen' 8 volumes; 'Memoirs of Dr Morrison' 2 volumes; Wright's 'Life and Campaigns of the Duke of Wellington' 10 volumes; Jay's 'Morning Exercises' 2 volumes (2 copies of each); Jay's 'Evening Exercises' 2 volumes; 'Milner's History of the Churches of Asia'; Gutzlaff's 'History of China'; Dale's 'Sermons' 2 volumes; Wright's 'Life and Reign of William IV'; Doddridge's 'Devotional Letters'.*

#### *Fifth Shelf:*

*'Henry's Commentary' 6 volumes folio and New Testament volumes 2<sup>nd</sup> copy; Ainsworth's 'Annotations on Genesis' folio; Andrews' 'Sermons' folio; 'Lives of the Martyrs' folio; Watson's 'Body of Divinity' folio; Jewel's 'Apology'; 'Bishop Hopkins' Works' folio; 'Pearson (Bishop of Chester) on the Creed' folio; 'Burnett on 39 Articles' folio; Hieron's 'Sermons' folio; Walter's 'English-Welsh Dictionary'; Pinkerton's 'Geography' 2 volumes; Jacob's 'Law Dictionary' folio; 'Duoglott Bible' 2 volumes; Clarke's 'Geographical Dictionary' 4 volumes; Clarke's 'History of the War' 3 volumes; Whiston's 'Josephine' small folio; Morrison's 'Family Prayers'; Gay's 'Fables' 4 volumes; Burnett on 'Errors of Romanism'; 'Holy Bible' Old Edition 1615; 'Theological Dictionary'; Walker's 'English Dictionary'; Brown's 'Dictionary of the Bible'; 'Brook's Gazetteer'; Edmund Calarey on 'Inspiration of Scripture'.*

On January 18<sup>th</sup> 1856 the following item appeared in the 'Welshman':

*"...MARRIAGES. On the 17th inst, at St. Michael's church, Pembroke, by the Rev. William Morgan Davies Berrington, rector of Nolton, David Davies, Esquire, of Castle Green, Cardigan, to Elizabeth, daughter of the late Rev. John Holcombe, of Cocheston, in the county of Pembroke..."*

David Davies married his second wife, Elizabeth, the daughter of Rev. John Holcombe, the Rector of Cosheston and Rhoscrowther in Pembrokeshire. In 1859 David Davies was still a rope and sail maker, and owned "The Castle Inn" and much of Castle Street, Bridge End, Cardigan. He gave 10/- towards the meeting of the *Cambrian Archaeological Association* in Cardigan in August 1859. On August 16<sup>th</sup> 1859 they visited and described the castle ruins:

*“...the castle, which is so surrounded by buildings, and has suffered such dilapidations, that, without more careful examination, it was not easy to ascertain all its original details. It appears, however, to have been of a triangular form. Of the external works, two bastions and a connecting curtain are the principal remains, the latter later than the former, as appears from its junction with the towers. In the most northern of the bastions are two passages descending towards the river, one of which is said to have communicated with it by a sally-port, the other to lead to a chamber where a well supplied the inmates of the castle. In addition to these remains is what is called the keep, now converted into the mansion of the present owner, - a circular tower of massive and strong masonry, still retaining its underground apartments and passages, now used as cellars, and presenting some peculiarities of vaulting. Whether this tower was connected with the outer defences of the castle, or occupied a more central position, was not stated, that portion of the castle not being easily made out. The masonry is decidedly superior, and older than that of the bastions, which exhibit none of the work usually found in Norman castles. Gilbert Marshall is said to have rebuilt this stronghold in the middle of the thirteenth century, or rather to have increased and strengthened the works; for it is doubtful whether any part of the original structure still remains, unless the keep be a portion. Few castles appear to have undergone more assaults...”*

The occupiers of Castle Green at the time of the Census on April 7<sup>th</sup> 1861 were:- David Davies, aged 66 years, a merchant and ship-owner, born in Cardigan; Elizabeth Davies, aged 53 years, his wife, born in Cosheston; David Griffith Davies, aged 25 years, his son, a lime and slate merchant, born in Cardigan; Thomas Davies, aged 23 years, his son, born in Cardigan; servants – Mary Millar, aged 53 years, the cook, born in St. Dogmaels; Anne Mathias, aged 24 years, the Ladies Maid, born in Cilgerran, Mary Williams, aged 28 years, the house maid, born at Eglwyswrrw; and Sarah Evans, aged 18 years, the kitchen maid, born in Cilgerran. The following persons lived at the Groom’s Cottage in the Stable Yard: James James, aged 39 years, the coachman and groom, born in Llantood; Martha James, aged 38 years, his wife, born in Meline; David James, aged 16 years, their son, born in Meline; Mary James, aged 12 years, their daughter, born in St. Dogmaels; and Lewis James, aged 1 year, their son, born in Cardigan. In about 1863 Rev. Henry James Vincent, the Vicar of St Dogmaels and a keen antiquarian, wrote the following notes:

*“...The following is a rough calculation of the dimensions of the remains of the castle. Wall running northeast by southwest commencing near the pump to a square projection, the circumference of which is about 35 ft. Curtain wall running from the said projection to a round tower – 48 ft. Width of wall – 2' 6". Width of wall of round tower 3' to 1' 6". Circumference of tower on outside – 63 ft. In this tower are two flights of steps – North, 22, window above, South 28, window below...Distance between it and another round tower – 148 ft...Height – 46 ft...A little more southerly...Ropewalk field supposed to be the place from which it was attacked. Part of the wall between the towers is surmounted by a railing. Length of wall from the railing to the turning – 64 ft. From the turning to the back of Mr J J's home – 48 ft. [John James Jones, Argyle House, No. 3 Bridge Parade]. From the shop to greenhouse – 26 ft. The wall behind Mr J Jones' house fell down in the time of the first Mr Davies. The wall behind Charlotte Williams' house [No. 8 Bridge Parade, near the SE Tower] fell down in the time of the present proprietor, so that no part of the curtain wall remains except that first mentioned. The curtain wall between the two*

*round towers seems to have been pear-shaped...adapted to the sinuosity of the spot. The present straight wall has been built much on the outside of it. Length of the bailey from North East to South West – 350 ft.*

*Circumference of North Tower outside – 61 ft. Height – Donjon, Keep – 22 ft. From the tower in the garden to the South or highest tower – 215 ft. Height of tower near the bridge – 30 ft. North-east by the stable – height 24 ft. Walls of dungeon, thickness – 12ft. Height of arch, obtuse gothic – 12 ft. Width of vault – 18 ft. Length about 18 ft. Three openings opposite each other, width – 5 ft. Outside width 4 ft. Width of wall at entrance of vault – 9' 4". Height of arch inside the vault at the entrance – 9' 5". Width of the wall of the Tower in the garden forming the kitchen – 9' 2"*

*"...In building houses near the castle walls the remains of those who perished in the various battles fought there and probably the ashes of a many a departed hero were discovered..."*

On August 6<sup>th</sup> 1864 Thomas Davies, the younger son of David Davies, Castle Green, was buried at St. Mary's Church having died aged 27 years on August 1<sup>st</sup>. In 1865 David Davies passed his business on to his son, David Griffith Davies, and Launcelot Lowther. In 1866 John Rowland Phillips wrote that:

*"...it is quite clear that a...underground communication with the river exists at Cardigan castle..."*

On June 18<sup>th</sup> 1869 the Davies-Lowther partnership ended and David Griffith Davies continued with the business alone. At the time of the April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1871 Census the occupiers of Castle Green were: David Davies, aged 74 years, the Head of the household, a Deputy-Lieutenant, magistrate and Alderman, landowner, born in Cardigan; Elizabeth Davies, aged 62 years, his wife, born in Cosheston; Mary Millar, aged 63 years, the cook, born in Cenarth; Anne Griffith, aged 32 years, the house maid; Mary Davies?, aged 22 years, the kitchen maid; Margaret Jenkins, aged 21 years, the chamber maid; and Anne Lloyd, aged 18 years, the scullery maid. David Owens, aged 71 years, a widower, the groom, lived at the Groom's Cottage in the stable yard at that time. David Griffith Davies married Arabella Ann Berrington, the eldest daughter of the Rev. W. M. Berrington of Druidstone Villa, the Rector of Nolton, on June 30<sup>th</sup> 1871 at Nolton Church. According to the report in the '*Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser*':

*"...For a week or ten days previous to the event, great preparations were made to honour the occasion...and in addition to the dinners which were given by Mr Davies to his tenants and workpeople, a committee, formed of 24 tradesmen and others of the town...to collect subscriptions, and get out a programme for the day that should suitably testify the respect of the townsfolk generally to the Castle Green family, both as private individuals and large employers of labour About £30 was raised by subscriptions, a portion of which was expended on illuminations at the Guild-hall and on the bridge, in fireworks and powder, and a monster bonfire; and the remainder will be devoted to a demonstration on a grand scale on the return of Mr and Mrs Davies from their wedding tour Tuesday morning was ushered in by heavy firing in the neighbourhood of Bridge-end, and soon afterwards the general*

*decorating of the houses commenced. At 8 a m, the two brass guns belonging to the town, which had been placed in position the previous day in a lighter moored in the river above the bridge, opened fire, which was immediately answered by the large gun from the yard, re-bored and mounted for the occasion by Mr T Thomas, the Foundry, the booming of which was, we have been given to understand, heard at a distance of twelve miles. Simultaneously with the commencement of the firing, the church bells struck off, and continued ringing with but slight intermission throughout the day...The entrance gate to the Castle Green was transformed into a splendid floral arch, whilst the trees on the grounds were hung with festoons of evergreens, interspersed with flags...At 6 o'clock, 24 workmen and part servants of the estate sat down to a bounteous spread at Castle Green, provided by Mrs. Millar, the house-keeper, in first rate style, consisting of roast beef and mutton, plum puddings &c., with a good supply of cwrw da and punch...*

*...The grand "sit down" of the day, however, was at the Stores in the yard, which had been turned into a capital supper room, hung with evergreens, flags of various kinds...Upwards of 80 besides the band sat down...Castle Green grounds were hung with festoons of coloured Chinese lamps, which had a most charming appearance..."*

Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Davies moved to Castle Green from Pantygrwndy, Llantood, on July 7<sup>th</sup> 1871. A son and heir, David Berrington Griffith Davies, was born to Mr. and Mrs. David Griffith Davies on June 26<sup>th</sup> 1872. On February 8<sup>th</sup> 1873 David Davies, a J. P. and the Deputy-Lieutenant of Cardiganshire, died aged 77 years. The 'Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser' of February 14<sup>th</sup> 1873 reported his demise in the following terms:

*"...Death of David Davies, Esq., CASTLE GREEN.*

*It is with the deepest regret, which we are sure will be shared in by the inhabitants of the town and district generally, that we are this week called upon to record the death of the above estimable gentleman, which sad event took place at his residence, Castle Green, in this Town, on Saturday evening last, in his 77<sup>th</sup> year. Mr Davies was for many years Alderman of the borough, a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Cardigan, Magistrate of the Counties of Pembroke and Cardigan, and in the year 1841 filled the important office of High Sheriff for this County; he was for the greater part of his long and useful life most intimately connected with the shipping interest, trade, and prosperity of the town, being himself a large shipowner and general merchant, and was always ready at any time to do all in his power, both personally and pecuniarily, for its benefit. To his numerous tenants, employees, and dependants he was kind and considerate; and to the poor truly a friend in need, and he will long be missed by many of the recipients of his bounty. The deceased gentleman's remains will be interred tomorrow (Saturday) morning, in the family vault in St. Mary's Churchyard..."*

David Davies was described in 1893 as:

*"...the late Mr. Alderman David Davies of Castle Green, the acknowledged little king of the working classes both in Cardigan and St. Dogmells. He was tall and*

*stout, had a good presence, and his influence extended far. His disposition was genial and kind-hearted, though hasty...*

A private service was conducted at Castle Green House on February 15<sup>th</sup> before the coffin was borne through the town to St. Mary's Church for the public funeral. The 'Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser' of February 21<sup>st</sup> 1873 commented:

*"...The funeral cortege was announced to start at 11 o'clock, but for sometime previous to that hour, Castle Green, the residence of the deceased gentleman, showed unmistakeable signs of the mournful event about to take place, a large number of persons – tenants, ministers of all denominations, the gentry, and tradesmen and others of the town and neighbourhood, uniting to pay the last tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased. At the request of D. G. Davies, Esq., the only surviving son of the deceased, the service in the house was conducted in Welsh by the Rev. Griffith Thomas, the venerable and much-respected vicar of the parish. The remains, enclosed in three coffins, the outer one of polished Welsh oak, and covered with a rich black velvet pall trimmed with white silk, was borne on a bier on the shoulders of the employees, some of whom also acted as pall-bearers. The shops on the route to the church were closed, and the blinds of the private houses drawn down. In St. Mary's Church the communion table, the pulpit, reading desk, and stools were heavily draped in black cloth, and the gasoliers hung with crepe; the bells tolled mournfully throughout the day, immediately after the service a muffled peal being rung; & the flags on the shipping in the river were hoisted half-mast high. The beautiful burial service of the Church of England both in the church (which was crowded) and at the grave, was most impressively read in Welsh by the Rev. T Jones, curate, some of the older tenants, and others claiming the lamented gentleman as their friend, being visibly affected. We should not forget to add that the funeral arrangements were entrusted to, and ably carried out by Mr. John James, Manchester house, in this town..."*

On February 17<sup>th</sup> 1873 David Griffith Davies stood for his father's seat on Cardigan Borough Council and was elected on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1873. In a report on the sanitary state of the town in 1873 it was noted that liquid manure ran freely from the Castle Green stables, though this was not perceived as a problem. About the year 1875 it is alleged that David Griffith Davies allowed a party of visitors to descend the "Secret Passage" at Castle Green. Written many years later, Owen Williams' 'Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser' account states:

*"...Several have asked me to write my recollection of Castle Green of the 70's and if it is true, that one could walk a mile or so through a secret underground tunnel that connected up with some historical place, etc., etc., at that time...as far as I was concerned, matters came to a head one Sunday afternoon...I was talking it over with my uncle, the late Mr. James Evans, and he too was as enthusiastic about it as myself and just as keen about the idea of seeing for ourselves what there really was to be seen at Castle Green. So we decided to explore. We were very kindly received by the gentleman in residence at the time...but he was very reluctant to allow us to go down into the passages because of the danger of loose stones and earth-works being disturbed and blocking our return passage. Anyway, we at last persuaded him, that although very eager, we would proceed with the utmost caution, and so we lit a small piece of candle which we had brought with us for the occasion, and slowly down we*

*went, step by step, until there were no more steps – we had reached bottom. I can still remember that the subterranean road that led on from there was well-made, and in good order. Excitement by now was running very high for us, and, with our 'hearts in our mouth', on and on we slowly went. Of course we had to proceed very slowly because of the dim and ghostly light the candle shed which only permitted us to see but a few yards ahead of us. Couple this with our strange and unfamiliar environment, and you will understand our feelings at the time. But alas, after going along for quite some time, we were suddenly halted, for right in our path was a big fall of roof, making it impossible for us to go further. This disappointed us rather badly, there was nothing for it but to retrace our steps.*

*Before I finish with this subject I may say that we both went down again some time later, but of course with the same result...As near as I can make it, the year of this adventure would be somewhere between 1874 and 1877...In passing may I venture to say that, judging by the skill and workmanship in the construction of the Castle Green tunnel, it was a very important factor in the military strategy of that ancient Castle. That's all I know of that traditional and mysterious passage and if asked in what direction it led to, I'm afraid I could not answer with any degree of certainty; but this I can say, I do not recall any turning while down there, and as a guess, I would say that our farthest point reached – where fallen roof blocked our way – would be underneath the middle of the river Tivy. The fact that we faced in that direction when going down, and there being no turning that would confuse our bearing after reaching bottom, plus the distance travelled straight on, makes my guess a very feasible one..."*

On January 1<sup>st</sup> 1876 David Griffith Davies announced via letter that his business interests would be immediately transferred to a new company called "*The Cardigan Mercantile Company*". On October 15<sup>th</sup> 1880 David Griffith Davies was about to step down from Cardigan Borough Council. On April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1881 at the time of the Census, only Archibald Arroll, aged 32 years, the gardener; his wife, Janet Arroll, aged 34 years; and their infant son, Robert Arroll, aged 3 years, occupied the property. The Davies' were probably at their Clifton house at that time. On September 29<sup>th</sup> 1882 until at least February 1884 Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Cobb were resident. They were probably tenants at Castle Green. In 1883 William Phillips was first employed as the gardener at Castle Green – and remained here until the family sold the property in 1923. In June 1887 the trees at Castle Green were festooned with Chinese Lanterns to celebrate Queen Victoria's jubilee. On September 5<sup>th</sup> 1890 the '*Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser*' carried the following story:

*"...SAD GUN ACCIDENT AT CARDIGAN.*

*On Monday last, a sad accident occurred to Mr. Berrington Davies, eldest son of Mr. D G Davies, Castle Green, in this town, which has drawn forth an universal feeling of sympathy throughout the town and neighbourhood. Very little is known of the sad affair, except that Mr. Davies went up the river in his canoe, taking his gun with him, and when near the Forest quarries, having evidently lifted the former out of the water, the gun exploded, shattering the right arm between the wrist and the elbow, in a very shocking manner. The gun was found lying in the canoe, in the place he usually carried it. The unfortunate young gentleman, with much presence of mind, made at once for Carnarvon cottage, where he fainted. Medical aid was at once sent*

*for, and Dr. Phillips was speedily in attendance, and in the afternoon Mr. Davies was conveyed by water to Castle Green, where his injuries were more carefully seen to, with the sorrowful result that his arm had to be amputated a little above the elbow. Mr. Davies was well known and respected in and about Cardigan, and the utmost sympathy is consequently felt for him and for his parents, throughout the country..."*

On April 5<sup>th</sup> 1891 at the time of the Census, Castle Green was occupied by the following persons: David Griffith Davies, the head of the household, aged 55 years, living on his own income, born in Cardigan; Arabella Anne Davies, aged 45 years, his wife, born in Nolton; David Berrington Griffith Davies, aged 18 years, their son, born in Cardigan; George Aubrey Davies, aged 11 years, their son, born in Cardigan; Mary Evans, aged 37 years, the cook and domestic servant, born in Cardigan; Sarah Davies, aged 29 years, the housemaid, born in Cilgerran; and Sarah Harris, a teacher, aged 21 years, teacher 'Nursery' ??, born in Clifton, Bristol.

On December 18<sup>th</sup> 1897 George Aubrey Davies, aged 18 years, the son of David Griffith Davies, was killed in a shooting accident. The '*Cardigan Observer*' carried the following report of the tragedy:

*"...TERRIBLE SHOOTING ACCIDENT AT CASTLE GREEN, CARDIGAN.*

*SAD END OF A YOUNG GENTLEMAN.*

*A great sensation was caused at Cardigan on Saturday evening last by the news that Mr George Aubrey Davies, youngest son of Mr D. G. Davies, J.P., The Castle, had been found dead in his bedroom, with a bullet wound in the head. It appears that the deceased had only returned home from College on Thursday for his holidays. On Saturday at two o'clock he had partaken of lunch with the family and Mrs Saunders-Davies (Pentre) and the Rev. Rhys J. Lloyd (Troeddyraur), after which he went to the stables for his gun, but finding that he was short of tobacco went to town to buy some, as he intended going out to shoot over his father's farm at Pentood-isaf, where, it was assumed, he had gone, as he was not seen afterwards, and Jas. Barber was despatched after him with his overcoat, &c. About half-past five o'clock, the kitchen maid had occasion to go into the bedroom, when she observed the deceased lying on the floor of the room. Concluding that something was wrong she summoned the gardener, who, on entering the room, found his young master lying dead on the floor. There was a bullet wound in the head. On the floor close by he found a six-chambered revolver, five chambers of which were empty, and one contained an exploded cartridge. On the bed were found five cartridges, and the bedroom window was partly open. It is surmised that the deceased had gone to his bedroom to seek for cartridges for his rook-rifle, as he was short and found some in his brother's bedroom, together with the six-chambered revolver, and that he was either in the act of extracting the cartridges or examining the barrel, when the charge exploded, and the bullet penetrated his eye when open, as there is no mark on the lids, coming out at the crown of the head, and lodging in the ceiling of the room, where it was found and subsequently extracted. Dr. Phillips and Dr. Jones were soon in attendance, but found that life had been extinct for some time.*

*From what can be ascertained it appears that some of the servants heard the sound of firearms about half-past three o'clock, but as that was not unusual, birds*

*being shot in the garden and grounds, they took no notice of the occurrence. It further transpires that the revolver did not belong to the deceased, but to his brother, who is from home, and that deceased must have taken it and the bag which contained the cartridges from his brother's room. Great sympathy is felt with the family in their great and sudden bereavement. Some seven years ago the eldest son lost an arm through the explosion of a gun whilst shooting wild ducks in a boat on the river.*

#### *THE INQUEST AT CASTLE GREEN.*

*At noon on Monday last, an inquest was held in the dining-room at Castle Green, the residence of deceased's father, touching the death of Master George Aubrey Davies, who was found dead in his room on Saturday evening, before Mr J. H. Evans, district coroner, and a jury, of which Mr Levi James, J.P., Caemorgan, was foreman, which lasted for four hours. The jurymen were Messrs. D. O. Jones, E. Ceredig Evans, J. C. Roberts, Owen Evans, H. Morgan, John Daniel, A. Clougher. Wm. Rees, George Thomas, Lewis Evans, W. R. Thomas, and H. L. L. Williams. Mr Henry R. Daniel was present on behalf of the family. The coroner, in his opening remarks, said he had attended that day at some inconvenience so as to comply with the wish of his old friend Mr D. G. Davies, with whom he deeply sympathised in his sudden and sad bereavement, as the incident was a very melancholy one—a young and promising life being cut short with such a sad ending. Indiscriminate use of fire arms seemed to be made by the sons about the house, which, to him, did not seem judicious especially after the sad accident which befell the eldest son some years ago, which necessitated amputation of an arm. After an allusion to the circumstances of the case, the coroner and the jury went to view the body, which was laid out in the room where the sad event took place. Mr Henry R. Daniel having called the attention of the coroner to the report which had appeared in the Western Mail that morning, and which, he thought, reflected on the family, expressed a hope that the jury would not take cognisance of, the coroner replied that he thought they would not; and besides there was nothing objectionable in the report to which attention had been called.*

*The following evidence was taken on oath:— Mrs Saunders-Davies, Pentre, stated that she was a guest at luncheon at the Castle Green on Saturday. She saw deceased, who seemed perfectly cheerful, and asked him to come and stay at Pentre with her. He accepted the invitation cheerfully, remarking that he would be very pleased to come. She meant the invitation for a period after Christmas, when it would be convenient for his mother to part with him. Deceased had spent much time with her. Mr Daniel Deceased was bright and cheerful—more so than usual, and assisted at the table during lunch.*

*Ellen Owen stated that she was a house and parlour maid at Castle Green. Deceased came home from college on Thursday evening last, and was the youngest son of Mr & Mrs Davies. He was fond of sporting, as also were his brothers, who were from home. When home they used frequently to go out shooting together. On Saturday morning last the residents of the Castle Green were Mr & Mrs Davies, deceased, Wm Hartnett (valet), Maggie Evans- (kitchen maid), Rachel Evans (cook), James Barber (stable boy), and herself. Deceased was out shooting in the morning. She saw him at 9 a.m. at breakfast; at 11 a.m., when she gave him a glass of milk; and at about 1.30 p.m., when he came to lunch with his father and mother and the Rev. R. J. Lloyd (Troedyraur), and Mrs Saunders Davies (Pentre). Then he seemed quite*



*cheerful as usual. The last time she saw him alive was between 2.30 and 3 p.m., when he left the lunch- room.*

*It was her duty to look after deceased's bedroom. About 4 p.m., when Mr & Mrs Davies and herself were in the dining-room they heard a shot, and the impression she received was that it was fired in the house, and that some- one was shooting through the window, as the sons were accustomed to do sometimes; but Mrs Davies was startled and asked where was Master George (meaning deceased). Turning to Mr Davies she enquired Where is Georgie? Has he got his gun again?" At this time Mrs Saunders-Davies and the Rev. R. J. Lloyd were in the drawing-room. She thought her mistress was a little startled at the sound they had heard, but Mr Davies passed it off as a joke. He said nothing, and only laughed in a jocular manner. Mrs Saunders-Davies and the Rev. R. J. Lloyd left afterwards. About 4 p.m. the cook and her-self went upstairs, the former to make her master's bed, and she to close the windows. On entering deceased's bedroom she saw a revolver on the floor, it being between her and deceased's body entering the room through the door she went. She did not know what it was, and looked at it. She afterwards saw deceased's left foot on the dressing-table, with the body lying partly on the right side. She looked at deceased's face, and observing that there was blood on it ran for the cook, who was in her master's bedroom. She came back with her, and after seeing what had taken place went downstairs and told the kitchen maid to go to fetch Wm. Phillips, the gardener. Neither of the servants touched the condition of things in the room, and she went to call Dr. Jones, the family doctor, but he was not at home consequently she called Dr. Phillips, who came without delay.*

*Outside Dr. Phillips' door the gardener brought a word that deceased was dead, and they proceeded to the house together. Their master and mistress were much attached to the deceased. She had been in service at Castle Green for two years before her present engagement, but had never noticed any fire arms in the bedrooms. Sometimes the sons would shoot from the bedroom windows at birds, etc., in the gardens. Some seven years ago deceased's brother's arm had to be amputated owing to a gun shot wound received. There was no sort of unpleasantness in the family. Mr Daniel did not think the sound of a gun unusual, as the sons used to shoot a good deal about the grounds. Deceased used firearms. he had been shooting in the front in the morning, and had brought into the house a pigeon. It was the duty of the cook to make her master's bed, and she to close the windows. Mrs Davies was always a bit anxious and fidgety about the children, He seemed very merry with the guests at luncheon. By the Coroner She thought the revolver belonged to Master Bowen (deceased's brother). Deceased used to sleep by himself, and the revolver was in his brother's bedroom. She never knew of any other revolver being in the house, and never saw deceased firing one. She found deceased lying opposite the window which opened into the gardener's garden. She could not tell where the gardener was at the time. Deceased used to shoot with a gun. She had never seen the revolver produced before last Saturday evening on the floor of the bedroom. She had never heard that deceased was in difficulties or trouble of any kind which might lead to a rash act.*

*By Mr Daniel: When shooting through the window she could not tell whether the boys used a revolver or a gun. By the Coroner Had not observed any cartridges about the bedrooms, but had seen a revolver in Master Bowen's possession. By Jurymen: She had seen deceased shoot with an air-gun once. The bedroom window*

*was partly open when she entered the room, and it was dark, necessitating a candle. The revolver was on the left side of the body. She heard no groans or any signs of life when she entered the room. Deceased's father was not in the house, but at Pentood, when the accident was discovered, but his mother was in the drawing-room with Mrs Pritchard, The Priory. When Mrs Davies went upstairs to dress for the purpose of going out with Mrs Pritchard, she told the latter what she had discovered, Mrs Pritchard breaking the sad news to Mrs Davies, who became very wild and rushed upstairs in spite of the endeavours made to keep her back. Mr Davies had gone to Pentood soon after the sound of a shot was heard.*

*Rachel Davies stated that she was a cook at Castle Green, and remembered being called by Ellen Owen last Saturday to deceased's bedroom. When she entered the room she saw deceased on the floor with his head partly under the bed, and the point of his left foot on the dressing table, the revolver on the floor beside him and close to his right foot. There was a pool of blood on the floor near his face. Nothing was touched until the gardener came, who removed a little of the head out and the foot from the dressing-table, inspecting the hands to see whether life was extinct. She had always noticed that the deceased was of a cheerful disposition and very happy. Did not see him using a revolver, but witnessed him taking down a rifle from its place in the kitchen on Friday together with some cartridges. She had never seen the revolver before. She had been there six months.*

*By Mr Daniel She had heard a shot and a bump about 3.30 p.m. or 4 p.m. upstairs. Deceased had been shooting in the morning, as he had brought in a wood-pigeon to her before lunch time. She believed Wm. Phillips, the gardener, was at Pentood at 4 p.m. James Barber, the stable boy, she believed, saw deceased about 3 p.m. in the saddle room. The kitchen was just under deceased's bedroom.*

*James Barber said he was coachman at Castle Green. He had last seen deceased alive about 2.30 p.m. on Saturday last, when he came from the house to the stable with him. Taking out his pouch, deceased found he had no tobacco, and left saying he was going to Mr Jones, chemist, for some, at the same time requesting him to leave the rifle where it was, as he was going to shoot at Pentood that afternoon. He did not see deceased afterwards till it was about 6 p.m., when he was called up to the bedroom by one of the maids, and found he was dead on the floor, with a wound apparently in the eye, and blood on the floor. Dr. Phillips arrived soon after him. He was not aware of any vexation or trouble which might have affected deceased. Deceased was in the best of spirits when he left the stables.*

*By Mr Daniel: Master George had been out for a ride that morning, had put the horse in the stable, and taken off the bridle in his absence. It was after witness had had his dinner that deceased accompanied him to the stables, and he found he was without tobacco. By a juror: Did not hear a shot, neither did he see deceased using a revolver. By Mr Daniel: He had been sent to Pentood with deceased's overcoat, for fear he would take cold, as his mother was under the impression that deceased had gone there to shoot. When he had failed to see deceased, and returned to the house, the first news he had was that deceased had been found dead in his bedroom. It was Ellen Owen, by request of Mrs Davies, had sent him to Pentood with the overcoat. Deceased did not tell witness that he was short of cartridges for the rifle.*

*Mr T. M. Daniel, ironmonger, stated that he had had a conversation with deceased between half-past one and two o'clock on Saturday respecting the state of his bicycle. As he was very busy that day, it being market day, he said that he would bring it to him on Monday for inspection. The rifle produced was a rook-rifle. The revolver cartridges would not fit the rifle, as they were too large, and the rifle cartridges were much too small for the revolver. Sometime ago he had supplied a box of 50 cartridges for the rifle, but none for the revolver.*

*Dr. Phillips stated that he was a registered medical practitioner at Cardigan. He was summoned to Castle Green about 6.10 p.m. or 6.15 p.m. on Saturday last. When he went to the bedroom he saw deceased lying on his right side between the bed, the dressing table and the wall, his head being a little under the bed, and his legs slightly bent. The gardener had informed him that he had removed deceased's foot, which was resting on the dressing table, on to the floor. He knew the body to be that of Master George Aubrey Davies. He noticed that there was a good deal of blood coming from the right eye and over the right cheek. There was also a quantity of blood on the floor under and behind the head. He was dead when he saw him. From his examination of the body he was satisfied that the bullet entered the right eye and came out through the top part of the skull (near the crown). The ball had gone through the brain, as there were found small portions of it mixed up with the blood. There were instances on record of life not becoming extinct for days after the brain had been penetrated, and he treated a case of a boy who had fractured his skull, and the brain protruding, but he recovered, and was still alive, feeling alright. An injury to the brain might, or might not, cause paralysis. Assuming that deceased was standing up by the table and in front of the window, and falling simultaneously with the explosion, he might have been sufficiently conscious to rest his foot on the dressing table, and quoted instances of persons living for days after injuring the brain. The shot had been discharged very close to the face, as the skin, nose, and lip were scorched, and powder grains found in the skin. In his opinion it was impossible for the shot to have been fired outside the room, taking all the circumstances into consideration, as well as the angle of the shot. He had seen the bullet mark in the ceiling of the room almost directly above where the body was found. The bullet produced was found embedded in the ceiling, and extracted by Wm. Phillips, the gardener. The cap produced, which was worn by deceased, has a bullet mark behind, corresponding with the hole in the scalp, which was big enough for him to put his finger in. He had no hesitation in saying that death was caused by a gun-shot wound through the brain, and believed it was self-inflicted. He had heard the evidence of the previous witnesses, which had assisted him to arrive at his conclusions.*

*By Mr Daniel: The wound was caused when deceased was standing, the direction of the bullet indicating that such was the case. There were no indications of a struggle having taken place in the room. All the circumstances pointed to the fact that the injuries were self-inflicted. He had never before noticed a small spring trigger behind the main one in a revolver, which let off the shot at half-cock. He had examined the revolver, which was found at the foot of the bed, and the dressing-table which was in front of the window and filled the recess, and concluded that deceased must have been close to the dressing-table when the shot went off. There was blood on the table, but it was brought there when they were examining a particle of brain. The revolver which had six chambers was examined by him, five of which he had found empty, and one containing an exploded cartridge case. The red bag produced was*

*found unbuttoned and on the bed near the foot. It contained five cartridges—three fitting the revolver and two the rifle. Deceased had been dead an hour or an hour and a half before he saw him.*

*Dr. Jones said he arrived at Castle Green about 6.30 p.m., and had examined the body con-jointly with the last witness, and confirmed the opinions expressed by him that death was self-inflicted and accidental. On examining deceased's pockets he had found in the left pocket of the trousers two rifle cartridges in the left pocket of the coat a box of matches, and in the other a packet of tobacco unopened. William Phillips, gardener, stated that he had been in service with Mr Davies for the last 12 years. He last saw deceased alive between 10 and 11 o'clock on Saturday morning, he having passed him on horse-back going for a ride, whilst he was on the road going to Pentood to plant trees. Deceased returned soon. He had never seen deceased using a revolver, but saw Master Bowen, who had gone to Africa, using one many times. The boys were in the habit of shooting from the windows at birds, &c. He did not think deceased knew anything about a revolver. Deceased was in the best of spirits. The Coroner having summed up, the jury brought in a verdict without retiring of "Accidental death," and expressed profound sympathy (as also did the Coroner) with Mr Davies and the family in their sad bereavement..."*

On April 14<sup>th</sup> 1898 David Griffith Berrington Davies married Miss Mary Charlotte Stewart Banfield in St. Erth's Church, Penzance. According to the '*Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser*':

*"...During the day the employees, &c., on the estate were entertained to dinner at the Castle...At the entrance to The Castle grounds from Green Street was a pretty arch, composed of choice flowering plants, evergreens, art muslin, and flags, the centre being an orange tree in full bloom, erected by Mr William Phillips, the gardener. In the grounds were also several flags placed among the foliage..."*

At the time of the Census on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1901 the inhabitants of Castle Green were: David Griffith Davies, aged 65 years, living on his own means, born in Cardigan, bilingual in English and Welsh; Arabella Ann Davies, aged 57 years, his wife, born in Nolton, English-speaking; Sarah James, aged 38 years, the cook and domestic servant, (born in Llangoedmor, bilingual; Ellen Davies, aged 36 years, the housemaid, born in Llechryd, bilingual; Ellen Owen, aged 20 years, the kitchen maid, born in Cilgerran, bilingual; and William Hartnett, aged 53 years, the valet, born in Limerick, English-speaking. On October 28<sup>th</sup> 1901 John Rowlands, the valet to David Griffith Davies, was the subject of an inquest after his death on October 26<sup>th</sup> 1901 aged 61 years. The '*Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser*' of November 1<sup>st</sup> 1901 carried the following report:

*"...STRANGE FATALITY AT CASTLE GREEN, CARDIGAN.*

*On Monday evening last, an inquest was held at The Castle, on the body of John Rowlands, a valet in the employ of Mr D. G. Davies. Dr. Powell of Newcastle-Emlyn, was the deputy coroner, and Mr. Henry F. Davies foreman of the jury, which was composed of the principal tradesmen of the town. - Dr. Powell said he thought the case was a very simple one, and one of those sudden deaths, over which no one*

had any control, and one which really they could scarcely deal with. --The body having been viewed, the pith of the evidence was as follows:-

*Ellen Owen said she was a servant at Castle Green, and knew the deceased as her fellow servant for the last three months. She last saw him alive about half-past five o'clock on Saturday evening. She passed him on the stairs, and he was passing from the drawing room at the time. She did not speak to him; he appeared to be all right; and in his usual health. She did not see him alive after that. He was going from the drawing-room to the dining-room; but she did not see him turn into the dining-room. At about a quarter past 7 she had occasion to go to the coal cellar, and then she saw the deceased with his head against the door post leading to the coal cellar, with his body on the steps. She looked at his face, and found he was quite dead; but he did not touch him, and called the gardener. At tea-time she thought the deceased was somewhat merry, which was rather unusual with him. She thought he had had a drop of drink, but he was far from being drunk, and was only merry. She had seen him merry before, but he was always steady. The lavatory was in the direction of the cellar, the deceased seemed to be going to. Deceased was decidedly not in drink, only merry.*

*David John Thomas said he was a plumber, living at the Drawbridge, in this town. On the evening in question he was standing outside New Manchester House, about quarter-past seven, when Mr. John James Jones called to him to come down to Castle Green. He at once ran down, and found several persons in the side hall, waiting with candles, and they found the deceased lying on the stairs of the cellar, with his head at the bottom of the stairs, against the door post, and his left arm under him. The top of his head was touching the frame of the door. He took hold of the body, and examined it. He was bleeding from the left ear and left nostril, but he thought the blood from the ear was not so much as from the nostril. There was blood also on the floor. There was a small wound on the left side of the head, which was bleeding. The deceased had some bread in his mouth, and there was some on the stairs. There were no marks on the stairs as if of slipping, and taking the level of the steps, he thought the deceased could have only fallen about four or five feet. Dr. Stephens arrived in about five minutes, and examined the body, which was then quite cold; and afterwards Inspector Williams arrived.*

*Inspector Denis Williams said he was called to the Castle about 7.35, and he saw the body as described by the last witness. There was a considerable quantity of blood by the door post, against which the deceased's head had struck. There was bleeding from the left ear; a wound on the right side of the head, with a deep indent on the top of the head. The wound on the right side of the skull was down to the bone, and he could feel the bone. There was some bread in the mouth of the deceased, and some toasted bread on the ground where the body was found. The body was quite cold. He (the witness) was a certificated Ambulance man, and he thought death was due to the fracture of the base of the skull.*

*The jury then examined the stairs, over which the deceased must have fallen. - A jurymen suggested one of the doctors called in should have given evidence, but the foreman of the jury thought with the evidence of Inspector Williams as a certificated Ambulance man, and the fact that Dr. Powell, the deputy coroner, was quite capable of stating the cause of death, nothing more was needed, and that a verdict of death by*

*misadventure by falling over the stairs should be returned. - This was at once agreed to, and the enquiry terminated. - The deceased was a native of Brynmawr, Monmouthshire, and was about 65 years of age..."*

On January 4<sup>th</sup> 1906 David Griffith Davies died aged 70 years after a long illness. The 'Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser' the following day carried the following obituary:

*"...After a period of intense suffering lasting over many years, Cardigan is again bereft of a member of an old resident family, who in his earlier years was an active public personage, and one of Cardigan's magnates. We allude to the death of Mr. David Griffith Davies, J. P., of The Castle. Very few indeed of the present generation remember him owing to his latent afflictions, but those who had the privilege of doing so in the time gone by, will long regard him as an ardent supporter of every good cause in the town, and as an owner of property always a considerate landlord. Blunt in exterior and speech, he wore a warm heart underneath, and probably none but those who knew him intimately knew what he felt under a somewhat severe countenance. After all there was a sunny smile which greeted his acquaintances as long as affliction allowed him to be about and those who remember him at all will cherish his memory as a kindly friend, a good neighbour, and as one innocent at heart who would wrong no man, and the old family vault in St. Mary's churchyard will receive no member of the family more respected. As an agriculturalist the deceased was always to the fore, and the many improvements introduced by him will be of lasting importance..."*

On January 10<sup>th</sup> 1906 David Griffith Davies was buried at the family plot in St. Mary's cemetery. On January 12<sup>th</sup> 1906 the following article appeared in the 'Cambrian News':

*"...Death of Mr D. G. Davies, The Castle, Cardigan.*

*After some eight years of suffering, the death of Mr David Griffith Davies, J.P., The Castle Cardigan, took place at six o'clock on Thursday morning, January 4th. For some months, deceased had been confined to his chamber and had suffered intensely. His age was seventy years. Deceased was connected with several of the oldest families in the district. In 1826, deceased's grandfather (Mr Thos. Davies) filled the office of high sheriff of Cardiganshire, as also did his father in 1841 Deceased leaves a wife and two sons to mourn their loss—the eldest, Mr. Berrington Davies, will succeed the deceased to the estate and the youngest son is in South Africa. The interment took place in the family' vault at St Mary's Church, Cardigan, on Wednesday last..."*

David Griffith Davies' widow Arabella Ann Davies remained resident at Castle Green until 1923. On February 21<sup>st</sup> 1907 Mrs. Arabella Ann Davies entertained 80 children who were members of a penny savings scheme to tea at the castle. The Cardigan Guide of 1907 gives the following description:

*"...What remains of the Castle to-day are survivals of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Centuries, the oldest and most perfect remains being the round tower on the north side, formerly part of the keep, around and over which the modern structure has been*

*built. The original ground line is about 12ft below the present ground line. Within this tower are the kitchen and offices of the present mansion and beneath these is a vaulted chamber used as a wine cellar, the floor of which is hollow. The existence and character of the old circular stair well indicate the presence of a still lower chamber. The principal other remains are on the south side and include two round towers, a portion of a square tower, with parts of the curtain wall attached, all more or less strengthened by modern masonry and filled with debris..."*

It appears that the property was temporarily unoccupied at the time of the Census on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1911. On 7<sup>th</sup> April 1913 Arabella Ann Davies purchased her first car – it seems likely that the Coach House had been converted into a garage by that date. On December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1914 sixteen Belgian refugees were entertained to tea and cake at the castle during their stay in Cardigan. Mr Harold Squibbs took their photograph there, which was offered for sale – the proceeds going towards the local fund. On October 19<sup>th</sup> 1917 the 'Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser' reported the following item:

*"...The tenants of the Castle Green Estate were entertained to dinner at Castle Green on Wednesday afternoon, at the invitation of Mr & Mrs D Berrington G Davies, Parcygors, and Mrs. Davies, Castle Green, to celebrate the wedding of Sec.-Lieutenant George Stuart Berrington Davies, the young heir to the estate, to Miss Joyce Prioleau, the daughter of Major W L Prioleau of Penylan. About 75 of the invited guests attended, others being unable to be present owing to various causes, and the function proved a most pleasant one for all concerned.*

*A spacious marquee had been erected in the grounds, and flags of all descriptions lent a note of colour to the scene. A dinner of excellent quality had been prepared by Mr. W L Miles, Victoria Restaurant, and his staff, and all were satisfied with the good fare provided..."*

On December 7<sup>th</sup> 1922 Henry Starkey, aged 22 years (d. 1994 aged 94 years), a member of the Welsh Regiment at Cardiff, married servant Sarah Smith, aged 24 years, of Castle Green, the daughter of the late Frederick Smith. On December 8<sup>th</sup> 1922 the following article appeared in the 'Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser':

*"...A ROMANCE. SOLDIER COMES TO CARDIGAN FOR HIS BRIDE.*

*A pretty romance is revealed by a wedding which took place at St. Mary's Church, Cardigan on Thursday morning. Years ago a boy and girl made acquaintance with each other in a London home. The lad was in course of time sent to work on a farm in the Cardigan district, and eventually the girl also was sent into service in this district. They renewed their acquaintance just over seven years ago, only to be again separated, the young man joining the Army. About two years ago the young woman entered the service of Mrs. Davies, Castle Green, and remained there until this week, when the soldier returned seeking his sweetheart. A happy meeting was the result and on Thursday morning the "wedding bells" rang out and the couple were made man and wife at the parish church.*

*When our representative visited Castle Green on Thursday morning he was just in time to join the happy wedding group which was being photographed by Mr. Squibbs in front of the house. Mrs. Davies, Castle Green took the greatest interest in*

*the bride and accompanied her to church, where she gave her away. The popular Curate of Cardigan, the Rev. Evan G. Jones, acted as the bridegroom's "best man", and the nuptial knot was tied by the Vicar, the Rev. D. M. Jones. After the ceremony, the party drove back to Castle Green, where Mrs. Davies had generously prepared a sumptuous wedding breakfast, after which the happy couple went for a motor trip to Newcastle-Emlyn in a car also provided by Mrs. Davies. The bride's name was Miss Sarah Smith, and the bridegroom Private Henry Starkey, of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Welch Regiment, stationed at Cardiff.*

*They were the recipients of numerous presents and the blushing bride wished our representative to put the report in our paper as nicely as possible to show how kindly the people of Cardigan had treated two strangers in our midst. Thus is added one more romance to the annals of the history of the castle..."*

On June 25<sup>th</sup> 1923 Arabella Ann Davies, the widow of David Griffith Davies, died here aged 80 years (b. 09/06/1843) "...after a painful illness borne with Christian fortitude..."

On February 8<sup>th</sup> 1924 Castle Green was advertised for sale or let. On July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1924 a fête was held at the castle for Mr. and Mrs. David Berrington Griffith Davies in aid of the *Cardigan Nursing Association*. On July 4<sup>th</sup> 1924 the following comments were made in the '*Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser*':

*"...NURSING INSTITUTE.*

*EXCELLENT GARDEN FETE AT CASTLE GREEN.*

*The pleasant grounds of Castle Green were transformed into a veritable fairy dell on Wednesday afternoon on the occasion of the garden fete in aid of the fund of the Cardigan Nursing Institute. The weather in the morning was not very promising, but to the delight of everyone, the afternoon brought brilliant sunshine. Flags and gay bunting intermingled with the green of the trees and shrubberies, and the flowers of the borders lent a charming note of colour to the scene and people began to crowd in early in the afternoon and continued to do so until there were between 700 and 800 in the grounds. Stalls had been arranged around the grounds, filled with good things given by the many friends of this excellent Institute, and willing helpers rapidly disposed of the contents of the stalls to eager buyers. Side shows were dotted over the grounds and these too did a roaring trade.*

*The fete was declared open by Lady Webley-Parry-Pryse, who was supported by the Mayor of Cardigan (Mr David Davies). Her ladyship said she had great pleasure in opening the fete, the proceeds of which were towards the Nursing Association, an institution which was doing excellent work in the town and district. The stalls were loaded with beautifully articles, and she hoped all would contribute as much as possible to the fund. The ladies had been very energetic in carrying out the arrangements and she hoped everybody would show their appreciation by helping as much as possible.*

*Among the stalls and sideshows were fancy work, bargains, produce, and ice cream stalls, Aunt Sally, Fortune Wheel, Squares, Bagatelle, Racing Pigs, Klondyke,*



*Hoods, Table Skittles, Fortune-telling tent, and conducted tours of the dungeons, all of which were largely patronised. The services of the well-known Broadway Band from Carmarthen had been secured, and they discoursed music at intervals during the afternoon. Afterwards there was dancing on the green, which proved very popular. Excellent refreshments were provided in the marquee placed in the small garden...*

On August 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> 1924 a furniture sale was held at Castle Green. The following items were listed for sale:

*“...GROUND FLOORS:- Walnut Pedestal Writing Desk, Carved Writing Table, 2 PIANOS by Broadway and Chappell, Augelus PIANOLA, Mahogany Music and China Cabinet, Mahogany Revolving Book Rack, Inlaid Mahogany do. do. do., Mahogany, Walnut and Oak Overmantels, 2 sets Mahogany Dining Room Chairs, Butler's Tray and Stand, Brass Dinner Gong, Oak Hall Stand with Curtains, Walnut Hall Chairs, Carved Hall Chair, Carved Oak Hall Settle, Mahogany Occasional Chair, Rosewood Lamp Stand, Oak Book Shelves, Pedestal Writing Desk, Oak Table with Marble Top, 2 Winged Tables, Mahogany Chiffonier, 2 Sevres Vases, Copper Kettle on Stand, Combined Silver Lamp and Rose Bowl on Plinth, large Silver Plated Kettle with Spirit Lamp to match, Silver Plated Coffee Pot, Copper Coffee Pot, 3 Arm Chairs, Easy Chairs, large Self-propelling Invalid's Chair, Ladies Leather Travelling Bag with solid Silver and Ivory fittings, Fitted Luncheon Motoring Basket, Fitted Tea Basket, Whatnot, Inlaid Whatnot, Eastern Koran Stand, Hall Stand, Draught Screens, Sofa, Child's Chair, Brass Fern Stand, Antique Mahogany Fountain, Sea Gulls in Case, Fox and Crow in Case, Grouse in Case, Valuable Oil Paintings, Old Prints, Pictures, Brussels Drawing Room Carpet, Velvet Pile Stair Carpet, Brussels Carpet, Hearth Rugs, Plush and other Curtains, quantities of China and Glass, Fire Screen, Fire Guards, Fenders, several sets of Fire Irons, Coal Scuttle, Hanging and other Lamps, Window Poles and Rings, several sets of modern Golf Clubs, Bankers' Scale and Weights, Letter Press, 3 Settles, Iron Fern Stand, Wall Brackets, Treadle Fretsaw Machine, Linoleum, Oil Stove, Silver Plated and other Meat Covers, Kitchen Utensils, etc., large quantity of books.*

*“BEDROOMS – Mahogany Half Tester Bedstead (small). Mahogany do. do. do., 3 Brass and Iron bedsteads, 2 Single Bedsteads, 2 Wooden Bedsteads, Spring and Hair Mattresses, Mahogany Marble Top and other Washstands, Dressing Tables, several Toilet Mirrors in Mahogany Frames, Odd Toilet Ware, 3 Mahogany Step Commodes, 2 Mahogany Chests of Drawers, 2 other Chests of Drawers, large Birch Wardrobe, Painted Wardrobe, Ash Occasional Table, several Bedroom Chairs, Invalid's Chair, 2 small tables, large Deal Cupboard, Linen Cupboard, 2 other Cupboards, Hip Baths, Foot Baths, Bedroom Pictures, quantity of Blankets, Quilts, Counterpanes and Bed Covers, Old Damask and other Curtains, Travelling Trunks and Bags, etc., etc...”*

*“...OUTDOOR EFFECTS – Green's Lawn Mower, Garden Roller, 14 inch Lawn Mower, Croquet Set, Corn Bins, Wire Rope, Firewood, etc., etc...”*

Soon afterwards, the castle was leased and later sold to John Evans, a local auctioneer and estate agent. He and his wife, Elizabeth Evans, were both magistrates for the Borough of Cardigan. On April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1925 there was discussion regarding the filling up of “...holes in the wall...” of Castle Green, following the demolition of

cottages at Carrier's Lane. In December 1926 it was proposed to demolish two more cottages in Carrier's Lane, in order to provide stone for the new retaining wall at Castle Green. In 1927, J. G. Evans and Mr. Esau redecorated the Breakfast Room at Castle Green House. On February 28<sup>th</sup> 1930 the writer "Kuklos" of "*The Daily News*" wrote:

*"...Cardigan...has a ruined castle, of course, but doesn't think much of it, and had camouflaged and concealed it..."*

On July 5<sup>th</sup> 1930 there was a sale held at the stable yard of a horse and various items of equipment. At about that time the battlements were added to the west wall and the wall repaired, following the demolition of the Bridge Street houses, at the expense of John Evans. On November 9<sup>th</sup> 1931 John Evans became the Mayor of Cardigan for his fifth term of office. On July 27<sup>th</sup> 1932 a garden fête, carnival and baby show was held at Castle Green, opened by Lady Webley-Parry-Pryse. On July 29<sup>th</sup> 1932 the event was reported in the '*Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser*':

*"...CARDIGAN CASTLE FETE.  
SUBSTANTIAL SUCCESS DESPITE COUNTER ATTRACTIONS.*

*Despite numerous counter attractions the garden fete and carnival arranged by the Mayoress (Mrs John Evans, J P) and held on the Castle grounds, Cardigan, on Wednesday, proved a great success, and a substantial amount was netted for the augmentation of the funds for the hard tennis courts which are now in the course of preparation at the Common Gardens.*

*The weather in the morning was rather boisterous and threatening, but the afternoon was beautifully fine and the beautiful grounds of the Castle were seen at their best by a large and happy crowd.*

*The function was gracefully opened by Lady Webley-Parry-Pryse, O B E, Noyadd Trefawr, who was introduced by the Mayor (Mr John Evans, J P), who explained the object of the fete.*

*Lady Webley-Parry-Pryse, who was presented with a beautiful bouquet by Master Keith Spickett (the Mayor and Mayoress' grandson), said she was very glad to come and open the fete which was for the provision of tennis courts for the young people. The Mayor and Mayoress deserved every help in their efforts for the town which were always successful. The Mayoress for some years had very kindly let the young people play tennis on the Castle grounds for a small charge, and the money had been given to the hospital.*

*A vote of thanks to Lady Webley-Parry-Pryse was moved by the Mayoress, who said that Lady Pryse was ready at all times to help any good cause.*

*Dr Stuart Spickett, Haverfordwest, seconded, and the vote was carried with applause.*

*The carnival...assembled at the Fair Field and marched through the town to the Castle grounds, where they were judged by Mrs Saunders-Davies, Pentre, Sir*

*John and Lady Lynn Thomas, Llwyndyrys, Mrs Bickerton Edwards, Ffynone, and Mr D Berrington G Davies, J P, Plas Llangoedmor.*

*There was a large entry for the baby show which was held in Castle Green, the secretary being Mrs Rees Evans, Richmond. The judges were Dr Ernest Jones (M O H for Cardiganshire), Dr David Havard, J P, and Dr Milton Davies, Newport, Pem.*

The event also included stalls for Needlework, Little Kitchen, Beauty Salon, Candy Shop, Devonshire Teas, Arts and Crafts, Soda Fountain, Fruit and Flowers, Refreshments, Ye Olde Tombola, Supply Stores, Pig Race, Putting Green, Klondyke, Shooting Gallery, Bagatelle, and Coin in the bucket. During 1932 'E. G.' conducted some alterations or repairs to the north range of the stables.

On March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1934 John Evans became the Sheriff of Cardiganshire. On November 16<sup>th</sup> 1934 reference was made to the new garden below the castle wall on Bridge Street – part of the wall there having been rebuilt. In March 1937 John Evans became the Chairman of the Cardiganshire County Council. On February 9<sup>th</sup> 1939 John Evans died aged 73 years. His private funeral service was held at Castle Green, followed by a public service at St. Mary's Church on February 14<sup>th</sup> 1939.

On May 12<sup>th</sup> 1939 Castle Green was advertised for sale. An article appeared in the "Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser" on that date which commented:

*"...A very interesting suggestion which we commend to the consideration of the Cardigan Town Council, was made by a writer in the 'Western Mail' on Thursday. He says:-*

*"Since it was published in the "Western Mail" that the historic castle of Cardigan was to be offered for sale the opinion has been expressed by many ardent Welshmen that this ancient relic should be preserved for the Welsh nation and should be acquired by the National Trust..."*

*The castle at present is a picturesque imposing pile, whose beauty is marred by modern buildings which hide it from site, but it could easily be restored at no great expense.*

*Inside the walls the grounds have been beautifully laid out, and there is also the advantage that a large and substantial residence has been built which might very well be used to house many of the treasures of ancient Wales – as a kind of extension of the National Museum. Indeed, Cardigan Castle could be so used without much expense after the initial purchase price has been paid..."*

About September 1939 the house was occupied by Mrs Elizabeth Evans, aged 68 years (b. 06/10/1871), a widow, and Margaret S Evans, a domestic servant, aged 20 years (b. 01/10/1919). Ty'r Ardd was then occupied by Frederick A Sharpe, aged 45 years (b. 25/06/1894), a gardener, and his wife Susan A Sharpe, aged 46 years (b. 16/01/1893). By October 27<sup>th</sup> 1939 Mrs. Gladys Mary Wood, the wife of Francis Arthur Wood of Bronwen, Newlands Avenue, Radlett, Hertfordshire, had offered £2, 500 for the property, originally reserved at £3, 500. The stables were then being

rented out. In early November 1939 some evacuees that had been housed at Castle Green, left. They were pupils from Oulton School, evacuated from Liverpool. In February 1940 G. J. and B. A. Sharpe, both of Ty'r Ardd, were serving in the forces. G. J. Sharpe was L. A. C. in the R. A. F. and B. A. Sharpe was in the merchant navy. On May 17<sup>th</sup> 1940 the castle and Castle Green House were sold to Miss Barbara Olwen Wood of Bronwen, Newlands Avenue, Radlett, Hertfordshire. In July 1940 the Home Guard built a defence post or "pill-box" gun emplacement on top of the south wall, overlooking Cardigan Bridge. On July 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 1940 the following items were sold at the castle grounds:

*"...MODERN AND ANTIQUE FURNITURE, Drawing Room, Dining Room and Bedroom SUITES in Mahogany, Oak and Walnut, OIL PAINTINGS by Farquharson, Bundy, Kinsley, White, Caffieri, and Reginald Jones, ANTIQUE CHINA comprising of Chamberlain, Worcester, Dresden, Crown Derby, Chelsea, Worcester, Swansea, Spode and Lowestoft; Persian, Turkish, Wilton and Super Axminster CARPETS AND RUGS; Old Mason DINNER SET, TEA SERVICE, and various China; Brass, Copper Urns, Kettles, Candlesticks..."*

Miss Barbara Wood and her mother, Gladys Mary Wood, moved to Castle Green on July 25<sup>th</sup> 1940. They advertised the East Wing to let as accommodation or offices for 6 guineas per week and expected to install a bathroom in due course. A greenhouse was blown down during a gale in mid-September. It was noted that dry rot was present in the Drawing Room at that time. Miss Barbara Wood altered the room usage as follows – the Drawing Room became the Music Room, the Dining Room became the Lounge and the Morning Room became the Dining Room. The garden immediately began to decline.

In October 1940 a contingent of thirty three South Wales Borderers was billeted at the castle, having requisitioned the East Wing of Castle Green House and part of the grounds. By November 1940 several window panes at Ty'r Ardd had been broken. There were weeds growing freely from part of the roof of the stables at that time. That December, the basement of Castle Green House was requisitioned separately. On December 2<sup>nd</sup> 1940 Brinley Sharpe, the son of Mr & Mrs F Sharpe of Ty'r Ardd, was lost at sea whilst serving in the merchant navy, aged 20 years. A concrete hearth was installed in the former Dining Room that month. On February 20<sup>th</sup> 1941 the South Wales Borderers left the East Wing.

In January 1942 Mr. & Mrs. F Sharpe moved out of Ty'r Ardd. In March 1942 the East Wing of Castle Green House was again requisitioned and occupied by the Deputy Commander, Royal Engineers. Also requisitioned were a drive, two entrances and Ty'r Ardd – the Gardener's Cottage. In May 1942 the troops were digging up the driveways east of Castle Green House in order to install new drains. In April 1944 Francis ("Frank") Arthur Wood, the father of the owner, died. Following the end of the war, the East Wing was released from requisitioning circa November 16<sup>th</sup> 1945. In March 1946 the Housing Committee of Cardigan Borough Council was considering plans to requisition the East Wing of Castle Green House for use as residential flats. On May 20<sup>th</sup> 1946, following much discussion, they requisitioned "Ty'r Ardd" for housing. In 1946 the roof and floors of the Coach House collapsed, flattening the Morris 8 and Armstrong-Siddeley cars inside. It was noted that two reception rooms

in Castle Green House required replacement parquet flooring and some panelling due to dry rot. Reference was also made to smashed panes in the windows of the house.

In 1949 it was claimed that the repairs required to the East Wing included certain new floors and ceilings, suggesting increasing dilapidation. By 1950 the stables were becoming vandalised and the boards and fittings were being stolen. On September 28<sup>th</sup> 1952 the south-west corner of the castle was said to be in a very poor state of repair. On January 16<sup>th</sup> 1953 the same corner was said to be in danger of collapsing - £200 would be needed to repair it. On January 15<sup>th</sup> 1954 it was announced that the medieval remains of the castle were to become a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

In June 1956 reference was made to the leaking roof to the SE angle of Ty'r Ardd. By June 17<sup>th</sup> 1960 a section of the castle wall by the Strand had been damaged and was very overgrown again. On June 16<sup>th</sup> 1961 Cardigan Castle became a Scheduled Ancient Monument and Castle Green House became a listed building. On March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1968 Cllr. Dr. Gwyn Jones of Tymawr, High Street, proposed the use of Castle Green as a car park. On July 25<sup>th</sup> 1969 a "...large gap..." was observed in one of the buttresses on the castle wall.

On April 17<sup>th</sup> 1970 a Health Officer was allowed into the property following a "siege" of three months, during which time a warrant for entry had to be obtained. He was quite happy with the living conditions, despite the lack of water, electricity, gas or proper sanitation. On March 18<sup>th</sup> 1973 Mrs. Gladys Mary Wood died aged about 89 years. Vandalism in the castle grounds was rife at that time and many windows had been smashed. A report was written on January 8<sup>th</sup> 1975 by Douglas B. Hague, in which he described the ruins as he had seen them on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1974:

*"...The full plan of the castle is not known and could only be recovered by extensive clearance of infrangible bosage and some excavation. The boundaries of the castle appear to lie within an oval enclosure about 350ft by 200ft on a N. E. S. W. axis. The central area is now roughly levelled as a garden or terrace about 40ft above river level. The medieval fabric is most evident in the south face of the curtain, where the walls originally rose up directly from the river, but are now encircled by roads. They have been greatly patched and repaired, but included in their circuit are two projecting turrets. These are on the S. E. section – their round fronts now largely obscured by growth, but they are shown in several early sketches by Colt Hoare and others around 1800. I was able to examine the N. E. tower and found it to be solid but it did contain two stairs leading down from the terrace to latrines with small windows now level with a terrace formed between the two towers in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The tower may have been built solid because at this point the rock strata is very steeply inclined and this would have put too much strain on the horizontal bond of any hollow-walled structure. A little further north some of the curtain has fallen away and revealed the shaft of a well; beyond this point the line of the curtain is lost, but it must have turned sharply to the west to join the main tower. Recent clearances have removed houses built against the west side of the castle and revealed the wall to its full height, but again where the ground level rises to the north of the present entrance via Green Street the line of the curtain is lost, although it must be represented by modern walls. Green Street must have provided an original entrance*

*and it is possible that early fabric may be contained with the cottages flanking the passage...”*

*“...The most substantial part of the medieval castle still standing is that incorporated in the back of the Georgian house built ca. 1808. This is the northern half of an elliptical ended tower with walls about 8ft thick, it is about 35ft wide externally and on evidence obtained from its basement it must have been about 45ft long. This tower is almost certainly the 'keep' built ca 1250 by Waleran and also referred to as the 'Great Watch Tower' and the 'Great Round Tower'. It probably formed part of the enceinte or curtain wall, and its two partly buried spurs or angles visible on the north would have continued down to the bottom of a filled-in ditch. At ground floor level there are three original window embrasures all widened or partly blocked, the ceiling has a modern covering, but its stone floor is carried on a 'two-centred barrel-vault' exposed in the cellar. This basement is of similar width to the chamber above, but it has its original south wall. It is now entered by a stair broken through a slit-window in the east wall from the later wing. Originally it must have been reached by the wide newel, from which the steps have been removed, which is contrived in the west wall and which must have given access to the window embrasure above. When the cellar was used for coal its north loop was widened to form a chute and an internal cross wall was built. Nothing in the tower can be closely dated but character of the basement and its vault suggests a 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> century date. The top stage of the tower has been modernized, but is now inaccessible as the stair in the adjacent east wing has been destroyed. The total disappearance of the back of this tower almost certainly points to an early collapse, a theory which is given some support by Speed's aerial view. He has carefully represented a massive half-round tower of three stages, the top one being backless, albeit his orientation is about 90 degrees out. The internal south wall at ground level and the whole of the late house seem totally unrelated to any medieval work.*

*The Georgian house...consists of an elegant yet severe rectangular block about 48ft long by 27ft deep. The fenestration is sparse, there being three sash windows on the first floor and only one on each side of the front door. The roof is of shallow pitch and is hipped with very wide eaves supported on modillions common in the area at this date. Internally a straight passage leads past the good stair on the east to the kitchen which occupies the medieval tower. Two reception rooms flank the passage, the larger on the west has been abandoned, having been ravaged by a severe outbreak of wet-rot, this is also evident in the smaller east room. There is now no internal access to the fine three-storied east wing, which is very well built with fine ashlar quoins. All its windows have been broken in comparatively recent times and the building is becoming dilapidated...”*

*“...The entire house is in urgent need of repairs to save it from collapse. The ground floors need replacement with ventilated cavities and at the same time a damp-proof course should be inserted to prevent rising damp. The entire building needs new fenestration to provide both light and ventilation; the roofs were inaccessible they are almost certainly in need of repair. The walls of the house and the medieval tower seem to be sound and free of any severe cracks; the tower would need pointing and its roof secured. The curtain wall which has undergone continuous repairs is now in need of attention, especially where it skirts a public right of way. There is a crack facing Bridge Street, whilst directly opposite the line of the bridge there are some*

*serious cracks and loose masonry at terrace level, and these faults are not visible from below. Consolidation of the curtain around the area of the well and the possible removal of abutting late buildings adjacent to the passage from the Strand should also be considered. A selected number of trees and undergrowth would have to be removed from the wall tops and terrace both for structural reasons and to give light and ventilation to a house which must have been as delectable as any in the county..."*

In September 1975, the south wall was reinforced by three unsightly metal buttresses at a cost of £45, 000. A precautionary measure against vibrations caused by pile-driving for the nearby footbridge, they were stated to be "a temporary measure", and they remained in situ until 2013. A dispute over repairs to the wall between Castle Green and No. 43 St. Mary Street was raging at that time, eventually resulting in the serving of a repairs notice. On June 7<sup>th</sup> 1977 a Mediaeval Pageant was held in the castle grounds to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee, and the Mayor of Cardigan, Cllr Hugh Morgan, attended. In August 1979 there was a dispute regarding responsibility for a crumbling boundary wall between the castle and No. 43 St Mary Street.

On October 4<sup>th</sup> 1981 D. J. Cathcart-King examined the remains and wrote the following report:

*"...It is 32 years – half a lifetime – since JCP and I failed to get into this place. We heard that its two female occupants were une araignee sur le plafond, which was clearly true. In the interval, I have repeatedly gone down Green Street, only to find the gate fastened tight. All the same, it appears that (a) the older woman (the mother) died a few years ago; (b) that Douglas Hague got in, to make the appended plan, in January '75. It appears that he owed his success neither to his office as Inspector of Ancient Monuments, nor to his brass neck (though he has that, too). He was able to get in by the intercession of an Irish Priest, Canon Cunnane, to whom I owe a good deal of thanks on this occasion. The Cambrians' Autumn Meeting at Gwbert was so heavily subscribed that we had to be divided into three parties, with myself in charge of all three; as I knew sweet nothing of the interior, and needed to learn it, the Fr. Took Party 1 around, and then retiring, to show this party about the line of the Town Walls; as to 2 & 3, I did the talking.*

*At long last the Green Street gates were unlocked and we were admitted. At the entrance we met the chatelaine. She was about my age (68) or less; it follows that she wasn't an elderly woman in 1949. Nor was she the shabby recluse I expected; in trouser-suit, waterproof (PVC) and gumboots, she was a very conspicuous figure, all bright yellow and scarlet, like a high-explosive shell. In spite of this up-to-date appearance and her present practice of letting people in at 50p a head, a short experience of the lady's voluble conversation will reveal that she is 'as daft as a brush' (Somerset expression). There are two underground passages; one from some uncertain place, another from the 'dungeon', which must be the basement of the Keep. In spite of the fact that there is no sign of its' entrance (we looked for it) a party of people had followed it to a fork; one branch went to Cilgerran Castle (2 miles) and the other to St. Dogmaels Abbey (1 mile)...now how did they know this? It will not have escaped geographers that the terminals of these routes are on the opposite sides of the tidal estuary of the Teifi; all the same, large numbers of our contemporaries,*

*who are in no danger of being classed as lunatics, are prepared to believe in such secret passages.*

*Of those who passed this lady, and went round the castle, nobody returned quite the same. We had seen the **Abomination of Desolation** – I had to see it three times – as it can affect the British Isles; an abomination of unchecked growth overrunning everything. The whole centre of the ward is a mass of impassible undergrowth beneath towering trees; the house is either falling down, with leaking roofs, smashed panes and broken frames; or overtopped by masses of Old Man's Beard and similar creepers, hiding the structure almost completely from view. I believe the place is cut off from water, gas, electricity etc. It looks like it.*

*On entering at the Green Street gate, Fr. Cunnane led us right-handed; then, some short distance to the SW, right again, to arrive at the 'Battlements', where there is a continuous modern parapet with a footpath along behind it, dating from a happier modern period of occupation. This follows the Teifi bend from W to S. I didn't see Hague's two cracks – which he says were alarming, but invisible from the outside; but the authorities seem to have seen them, for the SW part of the defences is underpinned by massive shores in concrete and steel. The line turns to the E; it is hard to believe that there was not a tower here.*

*Midway along the S side is a pillbox of c.1940; then a sharp flight of descending stairs, leading to the SE Tower. This is conspicuous from the outside; internally it is evidently solid underfoot; a sort of firestep is formed across the curve of the tower. Its battlements are continuous with those mentioned above; below these there is another level of battlements, blocked in; both of these are spurious, of the late Romantic period.*

*From the flank of the SE Tower the curtain breaks off, showing an L-shaped fracture. No curtain survives until we reach the East Tower.*

*Here again the ground is solid beneath one's feet, the tower-face is curved with a sort of introduced step. The flanks are pierced longitudinally, in a manner I have never seen elsewhere, by sharply descending flights of steps, ending in latrines...I was not at my bravest here, and as leader of the party I sent down two younger participants...*

*...Beyond here the defences peter out. The apparent continuation is the revetment of the upper element of a modern (19<sup>th</sup> Century) drive, with a hairpin bend. The revetment of the lower arm is considered to follow the line of the town wall...*

*...In the upper revetment is visible part of a well-shaft. Personally I can only explain this, and the other features hereabouts, by postulating the existence of a round tower...*

*...I did not get to the outside of the Keep; it can be seen through a breach...formerly a window, in the ruinous outbuildings. Several people climbed through and examined the front of the tower; I am a little ashamed that I was not of their number, but time had to be considered. The reports they brought back confirmed Hague's story of a round tower-face with angle spurs. This is further confirmed by the*



*view from a window...on the stair which gives access to the basement of the Keep. At least two close-quarter observers supported the observations made...that these spurs were completely bonded into the body of the tower. These spurs are a remarkable feature indeed. Generally such buttresses have been accepted as a feature of c1300, but the tower is mentioned as in existence, with work being done on it, in 1252; the basement, inevitably, being the earliest part.*

*This comes as a surprise, but one expects new developments to appear in the work of major proprietors (Perks' Law).*

*The basement of the tower is entered down two flights of steps on the E. The entrance was a lighting-slit, long but well up from the floor. This has been broken out to let the cellar be reached. There are two others to N (opened out, it is suggested, to form a coal-shoot) and W. Remarkably for a round tower, our keep has a rectangular basement, a feature generally only found in Crusader castles. In this case there may be a connection with the spurs. It is covered in a barrel-vault which I regard with a total lack of geniality; it has a secondary look, and the heads of the loop-recesses are cut into it in a clumsy fashion; but the unworthy idea that it is a part of the 1808 house must be dismissed; that house required the enlargement of the E loop and its recess. No doubt there may have been tidying up at this time, and certainly there was damage; the newel stair opening in the SW corner was condemned, the stair being removed to within about 3ft of the floor, and the surviving treads blocked. What the resulting cupboard was used for is obscure; there are horizontal slots, as if for shelving, in the walls, and to NW a vertical shoot, or what looks like one. A light partition divides off the rear part of the room; this has the bins of a typical wine-cellar. I don't trust the rear of the tower at all. Hague says the first floor face of the Keep had three (abused) arrow-slits, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor is modernised but inaccessible..."*

Left out of the national 'Year of the Castles' celebrations, on July 8<sup>th</sup> 1983 the 'Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser' reported the following comments about Miss Wood and the castle in the following article

*"...'Year of the Castles? You Could Have Fooled Me' – Miss Woods  
by Gabrielle Karminski*

*Cardigan's most precious asset, her Castle, has been left out in the Year of the Castles celebrations. Undaunted, the bent and crippled owner of the Castle, Miss Barbara Wood, is determined however to open her castle gates later this month and let the public view her ancient home. She will be sitting by the gate herself to collect the entrance fees from visitors. She told the 'Tivy-Side' crossly, "There hasn't been the slightest offer of help and they call this the year of the castles. They seem to have utterly forgotten this one, yet they are making a lot of fuss about some which are just a mere handful of stones."*

*Miss Woods and her castle have been overlooked perhaps by the authorities organising the castle celebrations, but she has not been forgotten by Cardigan town. Her plan to open her home to the public is causing concern to bodies such as the environmental health department, the welfare people, the police, and social workers and discussions are taking place this week. The Director of Public Health and*

*Housing for Ceredigion, Mr Trevor Rees, told the 'Tivy-Side' this week: "We would like Miss Woods to accept our help, we are very concerned about her well-being. There is another winter to face and she is now an elderly lady."*

*Dependant on social security, Miss Woods has no luxury – no telephone, no radio or television – to while away the time.*

### **CANDLES**

*Living mainly in a dark kitchen devoid of any proper heating, no electricity or gas, Miss Woods is almost a recluse. An ancient black iron range provides the only heating in the old building. Candles are her only means of lighting the rooms. Daylight is sparse, only coming in from a small ivy-clad two foot by three foot window. Miss Woods has no proper facilities for taking a bath or doing her washing with running water and there are no toilet facilities at the castle. All the water she uses comes from a stand-pipe situated just outside the castle grounds. Fast crumbling walls surround her, chimney stacks are giving way and falling in and wooden beams are rotting. There is an air of decay surrounding Cardigan Castle which is not all romantic beauty.*

*Ivy clings in thick clumps around the walls, guttering dangles from broken ledges and drains are hopelessly blocked with the fallen leaves of many years turned into a fine mould. Weeds and nettles smother the driveway which was once a smooth tarmac drive where carriages and sporty custom-made cars glided up and down. The ground is now covered with years of rotting vegetation making a sponge-like surface underfoot. The gardener's cottage stands a miserable ruin, lovely spacious rooms wasting away into time. Steps leading down to the dungeons of the castle are encrusted with damp moss. At the entrance the masonry is crumbling and precarious stones are bared to the elements. There are no 'Don't Touch' signs, so there could be a temptation to poke and prod a little in the hope perhaps of finding the old secret tunnel which is reputed to have led to St Dogmaels Abbey and Cilgerran Castle. Deep in the dark ten foot thick walled dungeon there is an icy chill. Cunningly formed, the roof is still a delight in architectural terms, but the danger of slipping on the stones or some of the masonry falling near the entrance is acute.*

*During the war, some of the armed forces based at Aberporth used part of the castle. They put up partitions and asbestos lined the walls of the north side of one wing. These walls have been vandalised over the years by youngsters who have used the overgrown grounds as a playground. Nothing remains of the splendid croquet lawn, the orchard or the vegetable garden. Not even the magnificent stables remain and the garage which once housed a maroon cloth covered limousine is a roofless ruin where two cars still linger rusting away into the ground.*

### **PRIDE**

*Lack of funds, the war and Father Time have all taken a toll on the Castle and now it is in urgent need of a complete face-lift. But it needs more than just cosmetic surgery. Taking pride of position in the town, Cardigan's castle could be the show-castle for miles around. Both the castle and the maid who owns it do need help urgently. In this Year of the Castles, sluggish wheels are beginning to move. Perhaps*

*in years to come the people of Cardigan will look back with pride to the year of 1983 – the year of their own special castle's recovery and return to splendour.*

### CATS

*With the exception of her seven cats, Miss Woods lives alone, closed in by dank walls and peeling paint. Only one room retains its original splendour with its baby grand and beautiful furniture from days gone by. Once the home of titled people, Cardigan Castle was bought by Mrs Gladys Wood in her daughter's name at the outbreak of the last war for a reputed £4, 500. Barbara Woods was just a young girl of 22 when she first stepped into the castle. Then the gardens were a joy to behold and the house in good repair. As the years have rolled by Miss Woods has lived a lonely life after the death of her mother. Shunning other company she is something of an enigma. But she confided to the 'Tivy-Side' last week: "I don't get any help because I don't have any money. I don't want to leave the castle but I do feel the council should do something to help me enjoy my home better. I haven't even been asked if some of the unemployed youth could help me. There is so much the job creation people could do if they wanted to."*

### ELEGANT DAYS

*When Mrs Gladys Reed who lives in a cottage at the foot of the castle grounds heard that the authorities were beginning to take an interest she exclaimed: "How wonderful. If only something could be done about the castle before it falls down. It would be a dream come true if there were people wandering about enjoying the grounds once again as they did not so very long ago." Mrs Reed takes a pride in the castle. It is not her castle, but she loves the ancient walls and her folk-lore about the castle would fill many a book. As a young girl she watched the old gentry come and go. She saw the horse-drawn carriages prance up the drive, the gentlemen pay court to the ladies. She watched croquet on the lawn where there is now only a mass of knee-high weeds. "My husband was the chauffeur gardener" she explained to the 'Tivy-Side'. "It was a beautiful place then. I remember the rose garden. And the cook was able to get fresh vegetables always from their own vegetable garden. The car was my husband's pride and joy. It had a maroon cloth top and he polished the upholstery and leather until it shone. They were elegant days, and I remember the parties on the lawn. My wish is to see the castle and the grounds restored to their old glory before I die."..."*

In January 1984 Barbara Wood was hit by a car and after a prolonged stay in hospital, she returned to live in a caravan parked at the door of the mansion – which had been declared "unfit for human habitation" that year. In March 1984 the 'Castle Subcommittee' of Cardigan Town Council produced a Feasibility Study for the castle, penned by David Austin and Terry James. Trial excavations by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust, under Ken Murphy, proved disappointing, although the ditch to the north of the North Tower was identified, and the medieval date of the South Curtain was confirmed. Part of the post-medieval west wall was made the subject of a 'Dangerous Structures Notice' that year. A 30 feet long stretch of the wall collapsed in the night of December 16<sup>th</sup> 1984. The chief cause of the structural distress appeared to have been the roots of a large tree. CADW offered a 90% grant to rebuild the wall, but Ceredigion County Council were unwilling to fund the remainder.

The article '*Excavation & Survey at Cardigan Castle*' by Ken Murphy was prepared that year. It revealed the following information: Trench 1: The bank beyond the buried ditch north of the North Tower was at least 7m wide and survived to a height of 1.2m, though it must originally have been at least 2m high. Beneath the counterscarp bank was a cobbled surface. The ditch was 7m wide. The present floor inside the North Basement equates with the original external ground level. Trench 2: The internal bank against the south wall was of building rubble, and the top of the medieval wall lies 40cm below the present ground surface, the wall being 1.9m thick. Trenches 3,4 & 6 failed to locate any trace of the wall between the two towers facing the Strand. The results were considered disappointing, and much of the site was considered to be archaeologically barren. Most of the pottery was Gwbert Type Ware, mainly cooking pots and jugs – locally produced, hand-made and wheel-finished, and rather thick and lumpy. Also present was Ham Green (Bristol) Ware in the form of cooking pots and jugs. Unstratified finds included medieval French, Spanish or Portuguese (Merida-type) and stoneware from Frechen, Germany.

In April 1985 a group of teenagers formed themselves into the 'Cardigan Castle Volunteers.' During the Spring of 1985 a grass bank was created on the site of the collapsed section of the west wall. Clearance of some of the dense vegetation by the 'Cardigan Castle Volunteers' began. In September 1986 a further meeting between Ceredigion County Council and CADW agreed that further progress could not be made regarding the future of the castle without a deed of guardianship, and that a study of the implications of a guardianship agreement between Ceredigion County Council and Miss Wood should be undertaken. The Director of Administration, Mr Owen Watkin, and the Chief Executive, Mr Deulwyn Morgan, both advised the council to be cautious.

In January 1987 Glen Johnson and Adam Greenland, C. C. V., conducted an amateur structural survey of the site, which included sketch plans of Castle Green House. Amongst the defects recorded was a 14ft long bulge in the retaining wall near the Strand, below the southeast tower. The front wall of the Coach House was also in a state of collapse. The Strand wall became the subject of a Dangerous Structures notice soon afterwards. In April 1987 "*The Forgotten Castle of Cardigan*" guide book went on sale, written by Glen Johnson and Adam Greenland. A section of wall by the Strand was declared unsafe, and had to be dismantled and rebuilt in the summer of 1987 at a cost of £4000 by Jamson Estates. In the summer, further meetings confirmed that CADW were willing to fund 50% of the costs of a survey of the castle, to assess the full extent of repairs required to the outer walls, North Tower and Castle Green House. Concern was expressed over Miss Wood's unwillingness to enter into a guardianship agreement, which would be required before any long-term maintenance issues could be resolved. Ceredigion District Council were concerned about the possible long-term financial implications. At the end of December 1987 the reported theft of a valuable painting from the castle appeared in the newspapers. The painting was by French artist E Boudin and depicted "a stormy riverside scene", which was purchased in the 1930's by Frank Wood.

On January 1<sup>st</sup> 1988 the '*Cardigan & Tivy-Side Advertiser*' carried the following story:

*“...The scandal of CARDIGAN'S FORGOTTEN CASTLE by Alison Heighton.*

*For nine centuries Cardigan Castle has stood sentinel over the town from its elevated position on a broad sweep of the River Teifi. Throughout its illustrious history it has played a key role in the cultural and political development of Wales – hosting the first Eisteddfod in 1176, withstanding the Glyndwr revolt until 1405 and rising again from the ashes of civil war with the building of Castle Green House. It has been a focus for the social life of Cardigan and it is recorded that Mrs Lloyd George came to the castle to open a fete and stayed to browse among the stalls and marquees erected on the Green. Cardigan Castle is no stranger to the sights and sounds of battle – the clash of armour, the strident call of alarms and the glint of swordplay. Now, more than 900 years after its foundation, Cardigan Castle is fighting a last desperate battle for survival with the outcome very much in the balance. This time the assailants are the ravages of time and the elements, the wanton destruction of vandals and the ignorance and apathy of a town that seems content to pretend the castle never existed. No armoured knights are at hand to relieve this last, most insidious, siege. The correspondence of official bodies and the deliberations of councils are straws in the wind that is gradually obliterating Cardigan's heritage. But the castle does have its defenders – ill-equipped, without influence and regarded by many as, at best, slightly eccentric.*

*Three years ago a 14-year-old Cardigan schoolboy called Glen Johnson decided to find out about the castle as part of a local history project. Two months later his friend Adam Greenland from Aberporth was infected with Glen's enthusiasm for the crumbling pile and the two boys began to spend much of their spare time on Castle Green, listening to the reminiscences of the castle's elderly owner, Miss Barbara Wood. At her suggestion they agreed to show visitors around the castle at Easter 1985 to put their knowledge into practice, and with Simon Williams and another school chum they spent a week hacking at the undergrowth to make a path round the wall. From these small beginnings the Catdigan Castle Volunteers were born. In the last two years their fight to win back the castle from the weather and the vandals reads like a 'Boy's Own' adventure. It's a story that has everything – an elderly chatelaine presiding like Miss Havesham in 'Great Expectations' over piles of rotting mementoes and determined to cling on to her home, a haunted room that has never been slept in since its occupant committed suicide, rumours of a secret passage that has never been found. Lurking in the shadows are the faceless figures of 'the vandals'. Creeping into the house by night to plunder and smash at will. Then there are the volunteers, grimly determined, despite constant discouragement and disappointments, that the castle on which they have expended so much effort, will survive. “The castle has protected the people of Cardigan for 900 years, but where are they when the castle needs them?”, asks Adam Greenland.*

### **DISPIRITING**

*“If a volunteer group of teenagers, unskilled and unpaid, can come in here and at least make a start I don't see why other people can't do something” added Glen.*

*A tour of the castle in the company of Glen and Adam is an experience not to be missed. Sadly it's one that few people in the town have taken the trouble to enjoy,*

*since of the 4, 000 visitors the Volunteers have shown around Cardigan Castle in the last three years, less than one percent have been local people. "We find it so dispiriting when we are working on the grounds and people come in to tell us we are wasting our time and we should just give up."*

*For the first few weeks back in 1985 the Volunteers attempted the impossible task of trying to clear a path round the walls with one old pair of hand clippers. The whole of the three acres of grounds surrounding the house had gone back to nature – ornamental shrubs had run riot, sycamores had seeded and taken root on the lawns and tennis court, and all the stonework was covered with a thick layer of choking ivy. The Adam's parents lent the group a strimmer and at last they managed to beat back the foliage from around the walls giving access to the battlements. Since then it's been a slow process of clearing away dead trees, burning, trashing and strimming. It's a "two steps forward, one step backward" business, for as fast as they achieve some measure of control over one area, the undergrowth returns in another. By now more people had joined the group and they became increasingly ambitious, turning their attention to the towers and the house.*

*This year has been a strange mixture of successes and failures for the Volunteers. With all the information he had gleaned about the castle during his research, Glen decided it was time to share his knowledge with the people of Cardigan. "I decided to give a series of talks, with photocopied handout, called The Key of Wales. On the first night two people turned up – and they were visitors – and on the second there was no-one at all." With this disappointment in mind, it was with no great optimism that the volunteers decided to go ahead with the compilation of a guide book for the castle. Here again the book was made possible only with the help of two visitors who ran a printing business and were so impressed with the boys' knowledge that they offered to print 200 copies of the book for them. To their amazement, a sales drive around shops in the town netted orders for 500 copies and the initial print run of 1000 copies was sold within weeks of appearing on the shelves. The reprint of a further 1500 copies meant that the group could afford to buy another strimmer to replace the original machine, which was now defunct. It is difficult to equate this obvious interest in the castle with the general lack of encouragement the Volunteers have had since their formation. Some people have even suggested that they are doing more harm than good, which Glen Johnson, not surprisingly, hotly disputes. "In the past we have been criticised for stripping ivy from the walls, but more damage would have been done if we'd left the ivy in place! All the stuff we've taken off has been surface ivy, not ripping out roots but stopping the ivy's growth to take the pressure of the walls."*

### **GUIDED TOURS**

*The knowledge the youngsters have acquired during the years of work at the castle is formidable. "Our most useful sources of information have been Canon James Cunnane and the National Library of Wales. Then we go round talking to local people who remember the castle in it's heyday, and gradually build up a picture of what it must have been like. In our first year the guided tour was a lot more sketchy than it is now and contained several inaccuracies which we are only now correcting." Glen's tour starts at the castle gates on the site of the medieval gatehouse, where a neighbouring white cottage may contain medieval stonework. Moving around the*

West walls, Glen stops by the unsightly wire fence and grass bank where a section of the wall collapsed in 1984. "This is where people get in – and they don't just climb over, they come with wire cutters and hacksaws. The place is like a sieve." For those who thought the castle was simply a big square house inside the remains of medieval walls, there's a surprise in store at the East Tower. Plunging down into the belly of the tower are two flights of stone steps, angled from the back of the tower towards the modern road. "When we started work you couldn't see the East Tower from the road, but we cleared away mounds of soil and vegetation and found an arrow-slit no-one realised was there." The volunteers are convinced that a small-scale excavation of the South-East Tower and the East Tower would yield rich archaeological pickings. "When the ground was levelled to form a bowling green in 1713, soil was heaped on top of what was here in medieval times and there may be layers of undiscovered deposits."

Despite all their work, it is difficult to believe that Castle Green once housed a vegetable garden, rose gardens, a croquet lawn, fernery and walled garden. The trees which dominate the skyline are mostly sycamores gone wild. The most interesting tree in the grounds is a massive Turkey Oak, 250 years old and now threatening the East Curtain, beneath which the volunteers believe there are medieval buildings. Like many buildings of its type, the house is a conglomeration of old and new. One section of it incorporates the old North Tower of the castle, and its 15 foot thick walls form a "dungeon" or keep which in later years was used as a storeroom. Here the volunteers uncovered a spiral staircase and somewhere in the tower may lie the entrance to the rumoured secret passage. It is in the house itself that the attacks of vandals are most virulent and depressing. "They usually brea into the castle a couple of times a week, often armed with hammers and crowbars. A couple of weeks ago they stripped out a Georgian fireplace, smashed the lock off the room we use as a staffroom and turned everything upside-down. They've ripped out the lower landing window when they could have walked through the door, and pulled down plaster. It is very difficult to keep up with them because at the end of the day it is far easier to destroy something than to put it back together." Now Glen and Adam are resorting to the expedient of spending nights in the castle in their sleeping bags, hoping to catch the intruders red-handed.

### COLLAPSE.

Despite their efforts the Volunteers can see the castle deteriorating almost before their eyes. "People who used to come in a few years ago don't realise how much it has deteriorated. When we started the grounds were much worse, so at least we've achieved something there, but the walls and the house are going down hill rapidly. In the house the Study ceiling, a section of the rainbow room and some of the ceilings upstairs are on the point of collapse and the garage could go any time. Part of the Georgian edging of the East Curtain is coming away, exposing the medieval stonework to weathering. And we're certain that after two more winters the roof of the house will be almost beyond repair."

Glen and Adam place the blame for the state of the castle squarely on the shoulders of the statutory bodies, to whom they have written on countless occasions, getting either no replies or 'holding' letters months afterwards. "I wrote to the 'Tivy-Side' last year about the castle and at the end of the latter I asked the council to state

*publicly why they didn't reply to any of my letters. And guess what? They didn't reply to that either. "We've made some impression on the grounds and the house, but we've seen no change at all in the political situation. No matter how much we clear the grounds, no matter how many vandals we keep out, if the authorities don't do something now, the castle will still collapse."*

*By this time next year it will no longer be Glen's and Adam's problem. The two boys will be leaving in September to go to college and the volunteers will either continue with younger members or disband. Yet for them the battle of Cardigan Castle has been a unique experience. How many youngsters have the chance to try and preserve a bit of local history, knowing that they are the only people prepared to raise a billhook in anger? "In our visitors' book, one person described coming to Cardigan Castle as a 'unique eccentric experience'. That just about sums up what the Volunteers are all about. We've learnt a lot and done a lot, and every day is different, whether it's finding stolen china under the floorboards or chasing vandals through the corridors." Being a Cardigan Castle Volunteer has something of the flavour of an addiction. "People tend to find it's difficult to give up once they have started. Andrew Mason originally did 60 hours for his Duke of Edinburgh award and has been here ever since; Simon Osborne left to join the Navy but still comes back to help us when he's on leave. The ting I value most is the experience of having worked well together as a team for a common purpose. Before they close the gates of the castle for the last time, however, Glen and Adam are hoping to enlist a formidable ally on their behalf who may at last be able to tip the scales in their favour. "We're going to write to Prince Charles and suggest that he sees for himself what is happening at the castle. He's keenly interested in architecture and I'm sure he'd find it a real eye opener, and as Prince of Wales and future King of England surely he could do something." Whatever fate has in store for Cardigan Castle, the Volunteers can hold their heads high when the recriminations start. "Whether the castle stands or falls no-one can say we haven't done our best. If it isn't here for future generations – at least we tried..."*

In March 1988 a report on the site was written by CADW. In March 1988 the Ceredigion District Council condemned the caravan at Cardigan Castle as being unfit for human habitation, and attempted to move Barbara Wood into a bungalow at Rhosydre in the town. The same week the Cardigan Castle Volunteers announced the likelihood of this being their final season. In April 1988 local haulage contractor, Brian Rees, acquired a new static caravan for Barbara Wood and had it lifted over the castle wall with a crane. In July 1988 Ceredigion District Council agreed to co-fund a structural survey of the castle with CADW. The Cardigan Castle Volunteers ceased work in September 1988. Part of the parapet of the Northeast Bastion collapsed later that month.

In 1989 Ove Arup & Partners conducted a structural survey of the castle that year and in 1990, estimating that Castle Green House and the Outer walls could be restored at a cost of £390, 000. Portions of the ancient fabric were discovered during the digging of test pits. The outer walls were suffering from the use of poor cement mortars and extensive vegetation growth, but were generally structurally sound. The section adjoining the South-East Tower was noted as leaning outwards with the top overhanging the base. The crack in the South-East Tower was considered to be of some antiquity. Some bulging was noted in the North-west Curtain wall. The North-east Bastion was considered to be under more serious risk following the recent



collapse of material from the parapet. One of the test pits, near the South-east wall, revealed, 2m in from the present wall, a shale cliff bearing a 13<sup>th</sup> Century wall with the base of an arrow-slot. This seemed to sit on an un-mortared wall of earlier date. Castle Green House was observed to have a stack near the East Wing junction that was leaning heavily, and rainwater ingress through the roof over the North Tower and around the chimney stacks of the main building. This had resulted in timber decay and the collapse of some plaster ceilings internally.

On March 13<sup>th</sup> 1990 the following items were recorded inside Castle Green House: Bedroom 1: A painted pine cupboard; two dressing stools; a dressing table and mirror; a brass double bed; two bedside tables; a long footstool; two bedside lamps; two stools. Back Rooms: A white painted chest of drawers; a quantity of curtain rails. Upper Hall: Two Queen Anne style chairs; an artisan's chest; a child's wheelchair. Back Kitchen: A large pine dresser; a single chair. Bedroom 2: A bergere armchair; a can seated armchair; an overmantel mirror; a low mahogany centre table with turned legs. Outer Hall: A George III Oak linen press of small proportions with a pair of cupboard doors above an arrangement of six dummy and real drawers (1 door off hinges, otherwise condition good); a 'Jacobean' oak monk's bench; a polychrome figure of a crane; a circular oak table on bulbous column. Inner Hall: A late Georgian oak Cardiganshire dresser with three shelf superstructure, the base with central arch surrounded by 5 drawers on turned supports united by a potboard; a Victorian gilt wood and composition pier table and glass, the rack with serpentine marble top (composition in state of distress, but structurally sound); a set of four Queen Anne style dining chairs (scattered throughout the house); a late Georgian oak ball back dining armchair (arm damaged); a late Victorian octagonal mahogany centre table with moulded border, the turned legs united by a platform; a German scuttle helmet 1915-45. Room 1, Ground Floor: A small Victorian ottoman on cabriole legs, three seater, circular. Upholstery and interior badly distressed, frame sound; a George III mahogany tripod table; a French Louis XV style Boulle long case clock of waisted form with gilt dial. Chapters missing, movement incomplete, case in pieces; a Builder's Half Hull Model of a Freighter, reg. Baltic exchange. Length approximately 60". Condition good, except superstructure; a brass stand in the form of three crossed golf clubs with golf ball finials; eleven golf clubs; two shooting sticks; four Indian Katars, rusted; three Indian sword, tulwars, rusted; a Pata gauntlet dagger, rusted; three pikes, cut down; a pair of caned armchairs, 1920's; a pair of bergere armchairs; a brass coal scuttle with swinging handle; a brass trumpet; a copper kettle, electric; a brass box; a model galleon; a pair of repousse brass portrait plaques of Milton and Shakespeare; a three train wall clock in distressed condition; a Masons ironstone blue and white willow pattern meat dish and six plates, some AF c1900; a blue and white standard willow pattern meat dish, modern, and two plates; an art deco three lobed dish; two Verandah pattern soup plates; a Crown Devon ship plaque. Paintings: a pair of oval oil paintings on canvas of classical scenes. Music Room: A Victorian figured walnut card table of serpentine outline, on a moulded pillar terminating in four moulded cabriole legs. Condition good; a white gate leg dining table, the two flap rectangular top of wavy outline; a white framed blue upholstered chair, 1920's; an ottoman/settee ensuite; a white standard lamp; a brass standard lamp; a white Steinway & Sons concert grand piano, on turned, fluted legs; a white piano stool with oval padded top; a pair of oak armchairs with carved front stretchers; a small oak Sutherland type table, the two flap top surface on turned legs with wavy stretchers; a Victorian mahogany tripod stand on moulded cabriole legs; a 3 piece upholstered

suite including a drop-ended settee; a cream upholstered settee; a 12 branch frosted and clear glass chandelier with prismatic beads droppers. Dolls: A Heubach Kappelsdorf bisque headed bent limb baby doll, impressed on back of head, 300 710; with glass sleeping eyes, and open mouth; wig and pate missing. Condition good; a German bisque headed doll with fully jointed body, the sleeping glass eyes loose and damaged. Condition except eyes fairly good.

In 1993 local heritage group Hanes Aberteifi erected a plaque commemorating Cardigan Castle as the birthplace of the National Eisteddfod. The Eisteddfod plaque was unveiled on October 9<sup>th</sup> 1993 by Rev. John Gwilym Jones, the Arch-Druid of Wales. In November 1996 Cllr Glen Johnson produced a report entitled 'Cardigan Castle: A Complex Monument' which was supplied to Cardigan Town Council and Ceredigion County Council. In April 1997 Glen K Johnson released his new book, entitled '*The History of Cardigan Castle*'. By April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1997 Ceredigion County Council enacted that no further discussion on the future of the castle could take place while Barbara Wood remained resident. In January 1999 Barbara Wood left the property for the last time, entering Brondesbury Lodge Nursing Home soon afterwards. At the end of that month the Ove Arup report on the castle was made public.

In July 2001 Ceredigion County Council discussed the future of the castle. This may have been, in part, due to the initiative begun by the formation of the Cadwgan Building Preservation Trust to purchase the cottages at the Green Street entrance with a view to restoration. Concerns were voiced regarding the declining condition of the outer walls to the south. A row began over comments allegedly made by CADW in September 2001. The '*Tivy-Side Advertiser*' commented:

*"...Town castle is 'of no importance'.*

*Cardigan Castle – home of the National Eisteddfod and seat of the mighty Lord Rhys – is of no national importance. This is the conclusion of CADW following an investigation of the site and detailed discussions with the Ancient Monuments board. The announcement means that Ceredigion County Council faces full responsibility for the castle's future and an estimated £8 million bill for its restoration. Hopes of a CPO being imposed on the site have also been dashed as CADW is the only organisation empowered to compulsorily purchase an ancient monument. "Although the castle is important to Cardigan, the Ancient Monuments Board doesn't consider it justifies coming into state care" a CADW spokesperson confirmed this week. "Whilst every effort must be made to save buildings such as the castle, it doesn't automatically follow that the state must take them over." But CADW hasn't totally wiped its hands of the problem with promises of grant aid and expert technical support when the council's salvage scheme is eventually implemented..."*

The local '*Tivy-Side Advertiser*' newspaper began a 'Save the Castle' campaign in October and launched a petition calling for Ceredigion County Council to acquire the site. The following week Canon Seamus Cunnane composed a public letter, accusing CADW of carelessness in its' recent comments, but placing the blame on the castle's continuing decline on the Ceredigion County Council. On October 17<sup>th</sup> 2001 the '*Tivy-Side Advertiser*' published an open letter of their own to Owen

Watkin, asking for a statement from the Ceredigion County Council, of which he was the Chief Executive. He responded in the following edition of the paper by stating that the County Council were very interested in the castle and fully acknowledged the importance of the site, but that a lack of money was the reason that the Council was reluctant to take it on. Council leader Cllr Dai Lloyd Evans was more optimistic, and said that the Council would even give consideration to serving a Compulsory Purchase Order if all else failed. Cardigan Town Council agreed to form a working group to look at the problem, with Cllr. Glen Johnson as the Chairman. On 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2001 the Mayor of Cardigan, Cllr John Adams-Lewis, read a statement from Trevor Griffiths, Canon Cunnane and Glen Johnson to the Mid Wales Regional Committee of the National Assembly of Wales, on behalf of the residents of the town, calling for their support in rescuing Cardigan Castle. CADW reiterated that there was insufficient medieval fabric left at Cardigan Castle for them to justify bringing the site into State care, but that they would support moves to restore the monument.

In November 2001 Cardigan Castle was advertised for sale for the sum of £1.25 million. In January 2002 Ceredigion County Council were handed a petition signed by more than 3000 people calling for them to take action regarding the castle. Within days the Council mooted the idea of serving a Compulsory Purchase Order on the property. At the same time, they entered negotiations with Brian Rees to try and purchase the property on the open market. The Cadwgan Building Preservation Trust, in association with the Cardigan Castle Working Group, the latter now independent of Cardigan Town Council, decided to offer to take the castle on if it came into public ownership. In January 2003 the roof of the stables finally collapsed. In late January 2003 Brian Rees announced that the asking price had been reduced to £500, 000. Money granted towards the regeneration of Cardigan by the National Assembly for Wales included a sum towards the purchase of the castle. The Secretary of State for Wales, Rhodri Morgan, said that the castle was the key to the regeneration of the town. On April 14<sup>th</sup> 2003 Cardigan Castle finally became public property when it was sold by Barbara Olwen Wood to Ceredigion County Council for £500, 000, with £100, 000 paid back to the authority to cover care costs and other debts.

In early July 2003 the clearing of some of the vegetation in the grounds began before work was temporarily halted because of the horseshoe bat on site. The same month, a pair of cottages at Nos. 1 and 2 Green Street, near the entrance, were acquired as part of the estate. An archaeological dig at the Green Street cottages in September 2003 revealed part of the medieval structure – perhaps a wall tower or more probably a part of the gatehouse. In October 2003 Davies Sutton Architects conducted an Emergency Works Survey for Ceredigion County Council, which made a number of recommendations, including repeating the desirability of cocooning the house to protect it from the elements. On October 15<sup>th</sup> 2003 David Green, a long-standing critic of the castle project, wrote:

*“...Turning the entire centre of Cardigan Castle into a car park would prove the best use the town could ever hope to make of it...”*

The castle was opened to the public on November 12<sup>th</sup> 2003 for four days. A further opening on November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2003 brought 460 visitors in just two hours. The open days were a great success. By early December, some 3, 200 visitors had toured the site. On December 18<sup>th</sup> 2003 No. 43 St. Mary Street was acquired by Ceredigion

County Council as part of the Cardigan Castle complex. The castle opened to the public again from May 29<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> 2004, attracting 2, 000 visitors over the three days and raising more than £1, 600 towards the recently-launched 'Cardigan Castle Appeal' Fund. In June 2004 Welsh Assembly Culture Minister Alan Pugh visited the castle. The same month a letter of support for the project was received from Prince Charles. Cardigan's annual Gwyl Fawr Eisteddfod was launched from the castle on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2004. The castle gates were opened to the public at weekends through July. The same month an Options and Feasibility Study was produced by Richard Keen Associates. Suggestions for the future use of the site included a National Centre for Welsh Family History. The use of the site as a museum/interpretation centre was considered not to be viable. The castle was open to the public daily from mid-July until early September.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2005 the following comments were made in the 'Carmarthen Journal':

*"...Let's turn castle into a car park. By John Adey*

*CARDIGAN CASTLE is "a heap of rubble" which should be demolished and turned into a multi-storey car park. Local solicitor Colin Taylor says that would be the perfect solution to two problems facing the town: 1. a lack of parking and 2. poor progress on restoring the castle. It is more than two years since Ceredigion Council bought the 12<sup>th</sup> century relic for £500, 000 and concern is mounting over a lack of progress in the restoration. Now Pendre-based Mr Taylor has spoken out: "If the castle ever had any historical, economical or social worth it would have been salvaged for the nation years ago. It is an unattractive heap of rubble with an ugly box of a building in its midst (Castle Green House). It is an abomination, which offends the eyes and sensibilities of those who travel through the town, shored up as it is by two pieces of yellow Meccano. Let no one believe its refurbishment will attract hordes of national or international visitors. The camcorder brigade wants to see the real castles of Wales," he added..."*

In February 2005 work began on constructing a protective cocoon around Castle Green House. On June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2005 David Maynard became the Cardigan Castle Project Officer on an 18-month contract, co-ordinating reports and information-gathering to enable proposals for the development of the castle to go ahead. In early June 2005 new Ceredigion M. P. Mark Williams visited the site. In December Cadwgan B P T applied for a loan from the Architectural Heritage Fund for the purchase of Ty Castell, No 3 Green Street. In February 2006 architect Niall Phillips of Bristol submitted a fee tender for the project, which was accepted by the Cadwgan Trust. On July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2006 H. R. H. Prince Charles, The Prince of Wales and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, visited the castle and met with members of the Cadwgan Building Preservation Trust. Work on a feasibility study was undertaken in September 2006-February 2007. In October 2006 some stone quoins in Castle Green House were identified as having come from the Forest of Dean, and presumably re-used from the medieval castle ruins.

By March 2007 the Cadwgan Trust were considering the castle for use as a Heritage Centre; Welsh Language Learning Centre; a destination Restaurant and Cookery School and Self-Catering Holiday Accommodation with an historic gardens.

In May 2007 fears were raised about the condition of the North-east Bastion. In July 2007 a slate plaque was discovered in the grounds, inscribed "*THIS PINE END WALL WAS BUILT ON THE PROPERTY OF THE LATE JONATHAN GRIFFITHS DECEASED IN 1839*". In September 2007 Cadwgan B. P. T. revealed their plans to convert the front range of Castle Green House into a Welsh Language Learning Centre and the remainder of the building and all of the outbuildings into holiday accommodation. They also proposed creating an historic garden in the grounds and building a restaurant on the site of the hot house. In October 2007 the new Welsh Heritage Minister Rhodri Glyn Thomas visited the castle. In December 2007 Ceredigion County Council agreed to lease the property to the Cadwgan Building Preservation Trust.

Former castle owner Barbara Olwen Wood, died at Brondesbury Lodge on February 9<sup>th</sup> 2009 at the age of 91 years. In 2009 Cadwgan B. P. T. signed a lease of the site from Ceredigion County Council. On September 12<sup>th</sup> 2009 Liz Whittaker launched her new book "A Court in Splendour" at the castle. In November 2009 £300, 000 of Heritage Lottery funding was awarded to the castle. In June 2010 vandals ransacked Castle Green House and destroyed several original features. On Saturday August 21<sup>st</sup> 2010 a 'Concert of Young Talent' was held at Cardigan Castle. In September 2010 test pits were dug on the site of the Fern House and to the south of Ty Castell. In October 2010, CADW began £250, 000 of repairs to the Northeast Bastion, East Tower and curtain wall between, including some archaeological work. This was largely due to concern over the damage being caused to that section of the castle by the Turkey Oak. The work revealed the stores in the stable yard to be older than previously thought. In December 2010 Planning Permission was given for the Cadwgan B. P. T. proposals, including alterations to the entrance, building of a restaurant and installing a steel and glass staircase into the former Breakfast Room. A £4.5m Heritage Lottery bid was submitted at that time.

In January 2011 Welsh First Minister Carwyn Jones visited the castle. In March 2011 it was announced that Cardigan Castle had secured £ 4.7 million of funding towards the restoration. In May 2011 an intricately-carved slate plaque commemorating Cardigan Castle as the site of the first National Eisteddfod, carved in 1976, was donated to Cadwgan BPT by Cardigan Town Council. At the end of the month the project received £35, 000 of Community Asset Transfer funding. The castle opened to the public again for one week in August 2011. In October 2011 the rest of the grant funding for the £ 11 million castle project was secured.

In February 2012 a number of trees were felled – notably in the Croquet Lawn and along the Strand. Bethan Jones became the first new officer at the castle that month as the Trust administrator. In March and April 2012 a number of new officers were employed by the Trust to oversee the restoration, including Project Officer Steffan Crosby. In July 2012 an archaeological dig began here under the auspices of NPS Archaeology, and led by Nigel Page assisted by Lily Hodges.

In August 2012 work began on repairing the outer walls by contractors Andrew Scott. By September a portion of a Twelfth Century square structure or platform with stone bonded in clay, had been found in the former Croquet Lawn. Immediately North of Ty'r Ardd was a surface and a curved wall of similar date. Behind No. 43 St, Mary Street, three Neolithic flints were found. In September the

outer walls were scaffolded and under repair and the driveway to the East of Castle Green House was removed for the building of new revetments, revealing Eighteenth Century retaining walls and a small structure near the well. Steffan Crosby resigned in September 2014 and his place was taken by Finance Officer Cris Tomos.

In January 2013 most of the sycamore trees on the site were felled. In February 2013 the contract for the castle interior and buildings went to Andrew Scott Construction – who were already engaged in working on the outer walls. On 15<sup>th</sup> February the “cutting of the first sod” was attended by Cadwgan Trust Chair Jann Tucker; Ceredigion County Council Chairman Cllr Mark Cole; CADW Director Marilyn Lewis; Dr Madeleine Havard of the HLF; Mayor of Cardigan Cllr Catrin Miles; and Mark Davies, Site Manager for contractors Andrew Smith. In March 2013 the first of the steel raking shores, that on the SE wall, was removed. By April the roof of Castle Green House was under repair, about 65% of the original roof structure was retained. On April 15<sup>th</sup> 2013 the remaining two raking shores on the south-west corner of the castle wall were removed. The removal of the scaffolding and stanchions allowed the restored outer walls to be seen and admired for the first time. In May 2013 work began on a new roof at the stables. At the end of May 2013 the northern section of the west wall immediately north of the collapsed section was demolished. In June 2013 the Cardigan Castle Volunteers were awarded the W. C. V. A. Wales Volunteers of the Year 2013 award. In June 2013 repairs were undertaken to the stable yard wall, the former hot wall and the retaining wall east of Castle Green House. The same month a subterranean heating chamber was discovered beneath the site of the small fernery to the south of the main entrance. This was removed for the construction of the restaurant.

In July and August work progressed on Castle Green House and some of the garden walls. In September the stores and Ty'r Ardd were re-roofed and work began on the new restaurant, for which the remains of the west wall were removed and a new wall constructed of concrete. A refurbishment of the cottages at No. 1 and 2 Green Street was also undertaken. In September more remains of the medieval castle were found to the south of the site near the pill-box -possibly a portion of a tower, but more likely a Civil War lime-kiln. Medieval deposits were observed in the same area during construction of a soak-away.

During October 2013 work progressed at pace on the new restaurant and the installation of a new lift shaft at Castle Green House. A probable pre-1827 garden-feature was located beneath the Dining Room. Medieval remains associated with the North Tower were located beneath the Breakfast Room and Pantry in November and December 2013. At the end of February 2014 a medieval archway and wall associated with the North Tower were discovered beneath the hallway of Castle Green House. In April 2014 the scaffolding was removed from over the roof of Castle Green House, and the walls were uncovered soon afterwards. In June 2014 Cadwgan B P T Chair, Jann Tucker, was awarded the M B E for her services to heritage. In August 2014 the remains of the NW curtain wall were discovered to the west of Castle Green House. In December 2014 the restored gates and railings were re-installed and the lawn turfed. Internal redecoration of Castle Green House was almost complete at that time. In April 2015 a furore began over the choice of the band 'Bellowhead' to play at the castle's “opening concert” in late July.

A “soft-launch” for volunteers and supporters was held on April 14<sup>th</sup> 2015 and the castle was declared open by Cllr. H. Gwynfi Jenkins and Rev. Seamus Cunnane. On April 15 the castle opened to the public and admitted over 400 visitors on the first day. A new castle guide book went on sale that day, written by Glen K Johnson. On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015 the First Minister, Carwyn Jones, officially opened the castle. That evening there was an enormously successful concert entitled “Beirdd a Chantorion” held at the castle, featuring artists such as Claire Jones, Robert Jenkins & Glyn Morris, Ceri Wyn Jones, and Ar ol Tri. In July 2015 M P Mark Williams tabled a motion in Parliament recognising the official opening of Cardigan Castle. In September 2015 Rev. Seamus Cunnane, Cllr. H Gwynfi Jenkins and Glen K Johnson were elected patrons of the Cadwgan Trust. The same month the new glasshouse in the Kitchen Garden by Griffin Glasshouses was completed. By mid September more than 20, 000 persons had visited the site. In October 2015 Dr Hedydd Jones became the Chair of the Cadwgan Trust.

On April 15<sup>th</sup> 2016 the castle celebrated one year since opening to the public. The High Sheriff of Dyfed presented a framed certificate, recognising the cultural, historical and economical contribution made by the castle to the region. The same month Cardigan Castle received both the Welsh Architecture Award and the RSAW Conservation Award. In May 2016 it received the Project of the Year Award by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. During the summer the 18<sup>th</sup> Century kitchen dresser was returned to Castle Green House following restoration by Richard Perry Evans. In October 2016 the castle received a high commendation at the RCIS Awards.

In March 2017 Cardigan Castle won the Conservation Project category at the 2017 Civic Trust Awards. Also in March 2017 Cardigan artist Meirion Jones donated a portrait of Barbara Wood to the castle which he had recently completed. On the same day the castle was declared 'RICS Georgian Restoration of the Year' on a Channel 4 television series. On April 12<sup>th</sup> 2017 Mrs Susan Carol Balsom was declared the new High Sheriff of Dyfed at a ceremony held at Cardigan Castle – the first such event to be held at the site. A few days later Cardigan Castle won the 'Great British Buildings Restoration of the Year' Awards from the RICS on Channel 4 Television. In September 2017 Jac Owen Davies was named as the new Castle Director. Later that month 1176 Restaurant chef David Coates received the award for Best South West Wales Wedding Caterer 2017 by Lux Wedding Magazine. The same month a new piece of sculpture in slate and stained glass was unveiled at the castle. In November 2017 a hand-carved mantelpiece that had won the arts and crafts section in the 1903 Llanelli Eisteddfod was donated to Cardigan Castle and mounted in the lobby. It had been carved in Cardigan by Thomas Richard John. In December 2017 David Coates left as Head Chef of the 1176 Restaurant.

In January 2018 Tom Holden became the new head chef at the 1176 restaurant. At the end of that August Sue Lewis left the castle after a 17 years association, to take up a post at Queen's Hall in Narberth. On 8<sup>th</sup> November 2018 the castle received a 'Highly Commended' certificate at the first Welsh Heritage Angels Awards held at Caerphilly Castle. At the end of January 2019 the castle was handed a quality assurance award as an Accredited Visitor Attraction from Visit Wales, along with an award for 'Best Told Story 2019' and a Cafe Quality Award. The self-catering accommodation was given a 5\* rating and the B & B Accommodation was awarded 4\*. In early 2019 the visitors' entrance was improved. In October 2019 Castle Director

Jac Davies left. In December 2019 Jonathan Thomas was appointed as the new Director of Cardigan Castle. On 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 the castle was temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The site began to re-open, allowing for social distancing, in July 2020. On 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020 the castle closed again owing to a spike in COVID-19 cases in the town and district. Another full lock-down began on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

On 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021 the '1176 Deli' opened in the ground floor of Ty Castell. In February 2021 the 'Pavilion' was given new flooring and a thorough overhaul including a new bar. On 20<sup>th</sup> February 2021 the 200-year old turkey oak by the north-west curtain was felled owing to a fungal infection. At that time, concerns were raised over the “slumping” of the ground beneath the pillbox, believed to be caused by the rotting of the root structures of elms felled in the early 1980's. On 30<sup>th</sup> March work was completed on a sculpture of Lord Rhys at the castle made from the trunk of the recently-felled turkey oak. Soon afterwards the press revealed that former Castle Director Jac Davies had been found guilty of fraudulently taking thousands of pounds of money from the castle while he was working there. In May 2021 the relaxing of some COVID-19 restrictions meant that Castle Green House was re-opened, complete with new interpretation produced by Heritage Interactive, including reconstruction drawings of the castle by John Cook.

### **Description:**

In 1992 the listed elements of the castle complex were described by CADW:

*“...CARDIGAN CASTLE – C13 remains, probably mostly dating from a rebuilding of c1244-54 under Robert Waleran, though the castle was in existence in 1136, was rebuilt in stone under the Lord Rhys in 1171 and repaired c1204 and in 1220s. Waleran became constable in 1248 and a new keep and town walls were built. In 1261, further sums were given to Waleran to complete the keep, but repairs were still needed in 1275, in 1321 a tower was hurriedly completed but by 1343 the curtain walls were partly in ruins. After the Glyndwr revolt a new hall and tower were built. The castle was slighted during the Civil War, and Castle Green House was built within 1827 incorporating the largest tower.*

*The principal remnants are the curved SE and E towers and NE bastion with portions of the curtain wall surviving between and to W of SE tower, in the tall embankment overlooking the bridge, surmounted by a c1940 pill-box. The Great Tower is listed as part of Castle Green House. Grade I for its origins as a medieval castle and for its importance to Cardigan.*

*CASTLE GREEN HOUSE – 1827 house by David Evans for Arthur Jones, High Sheriff, possibly including parts of a house said to have been under construction for J Bowen c1808-10 (Meyrick) and incorporating to rear a round C13 tower of Cardigan Castle. Stucco fronted villa with hipped deep eaved slate roof and stone rear stacks, the rest of rubble stone, banded in blue lias slate on prominent east elevations, hipped slate roofs and stone stacks.*

*Front Range is 2-storey, 3-window villa with channelled ground floor, arched ground floor windows and broad centre door, raised plinth, band and first floor sill-*



*course under 12-pane sashes. Bracketed eaves. Double 6-panel doors and wrought iron traceried fanlight. Large timber trellis porch with wrought iron rails above. Arched ground floor window to E end wall.*

*Rear Range is long, extending far beyond main house on east side to terminate in prominent 3-storey banded stone east-end with hipped roof. Sash windows with cut stone voussoirs and cambered heads, 6-pane to upper floor, 12-pane to main floor and ground floor half-size semi-basement windows. One-window range to east end, south front has 2-window range, widely spaced, door to left, then in return to north east angle of main house, a pointed stair-light with intersecting glazing bars. Rear of rear range has from east, service court with high walls linking to 2-storey hipped-roofed cottage in matching style, then 3-window range, 3-storey, then one slightly recessed bay, projecting round tower and 2 further bays, all 2-storey, to same ridge height. Round tower appears to be medieval masonry to first floor mid window level with big angle spur buttresses. Door to basement, big first floor 12-pane sash and rounded slate roof. Two smaller windows on west side and one on east. West end wall of range projects beyond front range with one large window below and 6-pane window above. Rear cottage has centre ridge stack and 2-window north front, 6-pane above, 12-pane below, similar 1-window east end matching taller end of service range adjoining.*

*Interior wholly derelict (1991). Hall has plaster cross vault and cornices, plaster cornices to south east and south west main rooms and marble fireplaces. Apse ended stairs with stick balusters. There is said to be a vaulted ceiling to tower basement.*

*Castle Green House is shown to its present plan form on 1834 map of Cardigan, when it was owned by David Davies, merchant. Small scale excavation has not established whether the detached keep shown in Speed's 1610 map existed or whether the tower incorporated in the house was the keep, on the north curtain wall, built c1246-52 under Robert Waleran and completed with second floor c1261.*

*GATEPIERS AND GATES – Circa 1828 formal entrance gates, of 4 big panelled blue lias piers, corniced, with stepped caps and cast-iron urns, the piers set at corner of square and linked each side by semi-circular dwarf wall with spearhead railings. Outer gatepiers have paired wrought iron paired gates, possibly moved, as they are hung on added stuccoed inner piers. Inner gatepiers have posts only of wrought iron gates.*

*OUTBUILDINGS AT CASTLE GREEN STABLE YARD – Circa 1828 range of outbuildings in rubble stone with slate roofs. L-plan, 2-storey with cut blue lias stone voussoirs to openings. West range is gable ended to street with 3-window range, first floor window, window and loading door; ground floor door, window and door. Derelict interior with collar truss roof. Slightly recessed bay to right with superimposed cambered-head openings, linked to north range, also 3-window, but roof is lean-to against cliff face behind. Smaller windows above with slate sills, centre window part blocked, ground floor 3 doors, left door part blocked, and small square window to right.*

*Stable yard enclosed on north east and east sides by rubble wall with 2 ashlar gate piers.*

*Main range has south end wall in banded stone with one window each floor.*

*RETAINING WALL IN GROUNDS EAST OF HOUSE – C19 retaining wall with raking castellations along east side of steep rear access drive. Rubble stone, some 50m in length. Castellations match those on Carrier's Lane boundary wall which was built c1906-7 but line of this wall is marked on 1834 map of Cardigan.*

*BOUNDARY WALL AT CARRIER'S LANE – Early C20 boundary wall in rubble stone with back-sloping crenellation, some 3m to 4m high, running from rear of No 42 Saint Mary Street along Carrier's Lane and curving round into The Strand to terminate at service drive entry. Short section behind No 42 is restored or rebuilt, with door to rear yard, further on is panelled door giving access to garden of No 43. Some 70m length to service drive. There is evidence of the wall being heightened and the crenellations added.*

*PEDESTRIAN GATE BETWEEN NO 43 SAINT MARY STREET AND THE OLD STABLES – Early C19 wrought iron pedestrian gate to Castle Green House with pointed overthrow. The overthrow has wrought iron scrolls and urn finial. The gate has close set dog-bars, band of circles to mid-rail and spear finials above ramped top rails meeting at centre wrought iron scrolled finial. Wrought iron scroll decoration to centre bar. Slate step..."*

ADDITIONAL (2001) – Prior to collapse, the COACH HOUSE here was a two storey 2-window building with hipped slate roof in squared rubble banded in blue lias. Front wall had pair of first floor 6-pane sashes with slate sills and timber lintels. Ground floor had small pedestrian door with timber lintel to left and large single cart entry beneath timber lintel centre and right. Interior completely collapsed. Formerly had exposed timber beams and boards to coach-house and boarded floor over. Staircase to west side in timber.

TY'R ARDD is two storey small rectangular cottage in rubble stone with hipped slate roof and centre stone stack. South side to courtyard is featureless save for ground floor doorway, set to left, formerly with panelled timber door. Stone voussoirs. This side formerly lime-washed to ground floor. W side has, to right, 12-pane timber sash with stone sill and cambered head with stone voussoirs. N side is two window range with 12-pane ground floor sashes with stone sills and corresponding 6-pane sashes over, similar sills. Hornless sashes with plain reveals and stone voussoirs to cambered heads throughout. E wall is one-window with 12-pane hornless timber sash to ground floor, stone voussoirs and stone sill. Similar 6-pane corresponding sash over. Timber eaves board and cast iron rainwater goods. INTERIOR: Small entrance lobby with flagged floor, staircase to left in timber with stick balusters and ramped handrail, plain treads, and small cupboard beneath. Sitting room had fitted range, formerly with slate mantle – since removed. Salting Room had meathooks to ceiling, timber shelves and massive Cilgerran slate salting slabs. Upper floor had two bedrooms with 6-panelled timber doors, timber fireplaces with paired brackets supporting mantle shelves. Recessed stucco ceilings. The whole interior now largely collapsed.

Attached COURTYARD flagged in slate with colourwashed walls and lean-to structures to west having slate roofs and cast iron rainwater goods. Small privy to NE angle in rubble stone with panelled door, colourwashed walls and rendered slate roof. Arch to east has flanking pilasters continuing above coped parapet to corresponding capped piers, all in blue lias. Arch has cambered head with stone voussoirs.

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Cardigan Castle from SW – IMG\_3346 (2016)

South East Tower – IMG\_1130 (2019)

South East Tower showing damage from Civil War cannon fire – IMG\_1666 (2019)

East Tower – IMG\_2683 (2015)

East Tower passageway – IMG\_5389 (2018)

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East Tower – site of fireplace? - IMG\_7301 (2021)

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North-East Bastion – site of window – IMG\_1080 (2019)

North Tower – IMG\_1107 (2019)

North Tower – IMG\_5643 (2020)

North Tower basement vault – Top-471 (2003)

North Tower basement arrow-slit – Top-470 (2003)

North Tower blocked arrow-slit – IMG\_5520 (2020)

Probable remains of Gatehouse – IMG\_9061 (2003)

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Medieval wall under Ty'r Ardd – IMAG0049-002 (2012)

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Castle Green House 1827 front range – IMG\_5401 (2018)

Castle Green House 1827 interior – IMG\_3125 (2015)

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castle reconstruction by John Cook