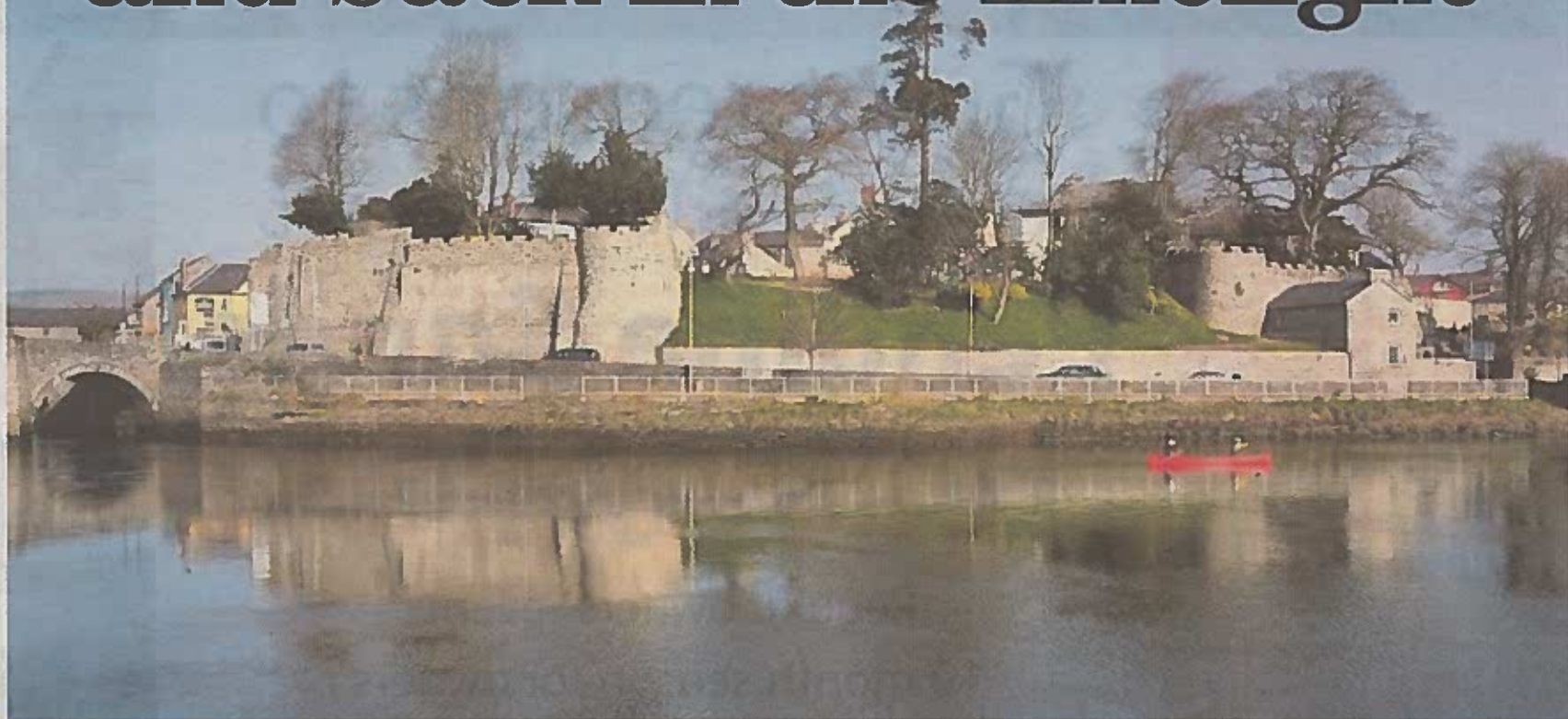


Castle restored to old glory - and back in the limelight



Cardigan Castle has won a nationwide search for Britain's best Georgian restoration project on national television.

A HISTORIC Ceredigion landmark has won a nationwide search for Britain's best Georgian restoration project on national television.

Cardigan Castle featured on Channel 4's Restoration of the Year, a series which aims to find the best buildings across the UK that have been saved from ruin and neglect.

In the first episode, Cardigan Castle was up against seven other projects including a Cambridgeshire watermill, a seaside villa in Lyme Regis, and a curvilinear greenhouse in the north of England as it aimed to be named the best restora-

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tion in the Georgian category.

Host Kevin McCloud, who had called the site a "shored up relic" and a "source of local embarrassment" having seen it before its restoration, was amazed at the transformation seen at the castle and said that it was now a site of "immaculate appearance."

The castle itself dates back to the 11th Century and was bought by Ceredigion Council in 2003. The regeneration project was commissioned by the Cadwgan Trust, who

raised the £12 million needed to restore the landmark.

Work began in 2011 and the castle was officially opened in 2015 as a heritage attraction, a restaurant and an accommodation and events venue.

Marianne Suhr, a chartered building surveyor and expert on historic buildings, said that the work carried out represented a "very simple but perfect restoration."

Non Davies, chair of Cadwgan Trust, said: "We are really proud of what we have achieved and in gaining recognition on such a national level it is a testament to all the hard work put in by the local

community and all those involved with the restoration."

Cardigan mayor Clive Davies added: "On behalf of the town council, I would like to congratulate Cardigan Castle on winning the Georgian category."

"This will hopefully encourage more people to visit Cardigan and its castle in the year ahead."

The castle now has the opportunity to be named overall Restoration of the Year when the series concludes.

■ The episode featuring Cardigan Castle is available to watch now on Channel 4's All 4 catch up service.