

## Overview of visitors to castle

Last year 5% of our visitors came from overseas – from as far afield as Australia, Scandinavia and the Far East. We also welcomed 18% from our local community. This was a drop from previous years, which was due to the wet, cold and windy weather experienced during traditionally busy periods

## Garden history course

Archaeology of Designed Landscapes is just one of the courses that has been attended by Friends to improve their knowledge base for the project's benefit. The course was held by Aberystwyth University who agreed to run extra sessions for us because of our specific interest. Students looked at the rise of the landed elite of Wales and traced the history of park design.

## Work goes on...

Hard work has its rewards. While clearing areas of the grounds we have found some interesting items: a garden pedestal perhaps from a sun dial or bird bath, an engraved slate plaque whose history remains a mystery and a bicycle pedal. All these items are rescued and stored carefully in the hope that one day they will provide clues to some of the comings and goings on the site. Of course, more significant finds have also been made, such as mediaeval pottery and some rare types of holly.

## Royal visit

When Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall visited they were treated to a trip round the castle and they met with some of the Friends. The royal couple were very interested in the project and the plans for its future, and the Prince made it clear he wanted to return to see the finished project. He also was presented with a framed drawing of the castle made by Oliver Forsyth, a student of architecture and Friend of Cardigan Castle.

## What's happening

The first Mediaeval Day event was deemed a resounding success and it is scheduled to be held again this year on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Organised by Cardigan Castle Events Group, the day includes demonstrations of falconry, live music and the chance to learn how to do battle like a mediaeval knight. There will also be storytelling, stalls with mediaeval arts and crafts and the chance to look round the castle grounds. The Friends will be on hand to show you round.

