



Discover Portencross Castle

Eat, drink and be merry!

Although life could be very hard in the castle people still knew how to enjoy themselves. Entertainment took place in the centre of the castle or in the communal area of the village to allow everyone to take part.

Wealthy people held elaborate feasts. The poorer people attended to serve the food to the noblemen. The wealthy people paid musicians, jugglers, jesters and dancers to entertain the guests. The poorer people earned a little money in this way to help feed themselves and their families. Theatre was very popular. Actors and players moved from town to town performing in town squares and relying on the spectators to give them some payment. Some were more fortunate and were employed by the nobles to stay in the castles and perform only for them and their guests.

A very popular form of public entertainment was the tournament. People held tournaments in various locations and knights and noblemen came together to compete in a variety of games such as sword-fighting, jousting, horseback-riding and wrestling. The noblemen were all cheered on by the crowds. Tournaments also had sideshows such as story-telling and individual musicians who travelled around the country. Sometimes a large animal would be roasted in the centre of the village or castle for everyone to enjoy. People drank mead, wine and ale.

How different to medieval entertainment is ours today and how similar?
Use the library and internet to help you plan your own medieval feast and entertainment. Create an invitation poster to invite the public.

