Eisteddfod 1176

The first Eisteddfod was held in 1176, at Cardigan Castle, home of Lord Rhys. A record of the festival can be found in the manuscript ‘Brut y Tywysogion’ ( Chronicle of the Princes).

Bards and musicians were invited from all over Wales and beyond to Cardigan Castle for the festival. The prize for the best bard and musician was a chair at Lord Rhys’s table during the feast that evening. It was a huge honour to sit at the table with nobility.

The tradition of awarding winning bards and musicians with a chair still exists in the Eisteddfod today.

Cardigan Castle