

Many adjectives have been used by writers to describe **St. Donat's Castle** which is situated two miles west of Llantwit Major. Its present magnificence is due to the late William Randolph Hearst, an American newspaper magnate, who purchased it in 1925 and carried out extensive repairs, alterations and additions, taking care at the same time to preserve as far as possible the ancient parts of the building. He also built a superb swimming pool in the grounds.

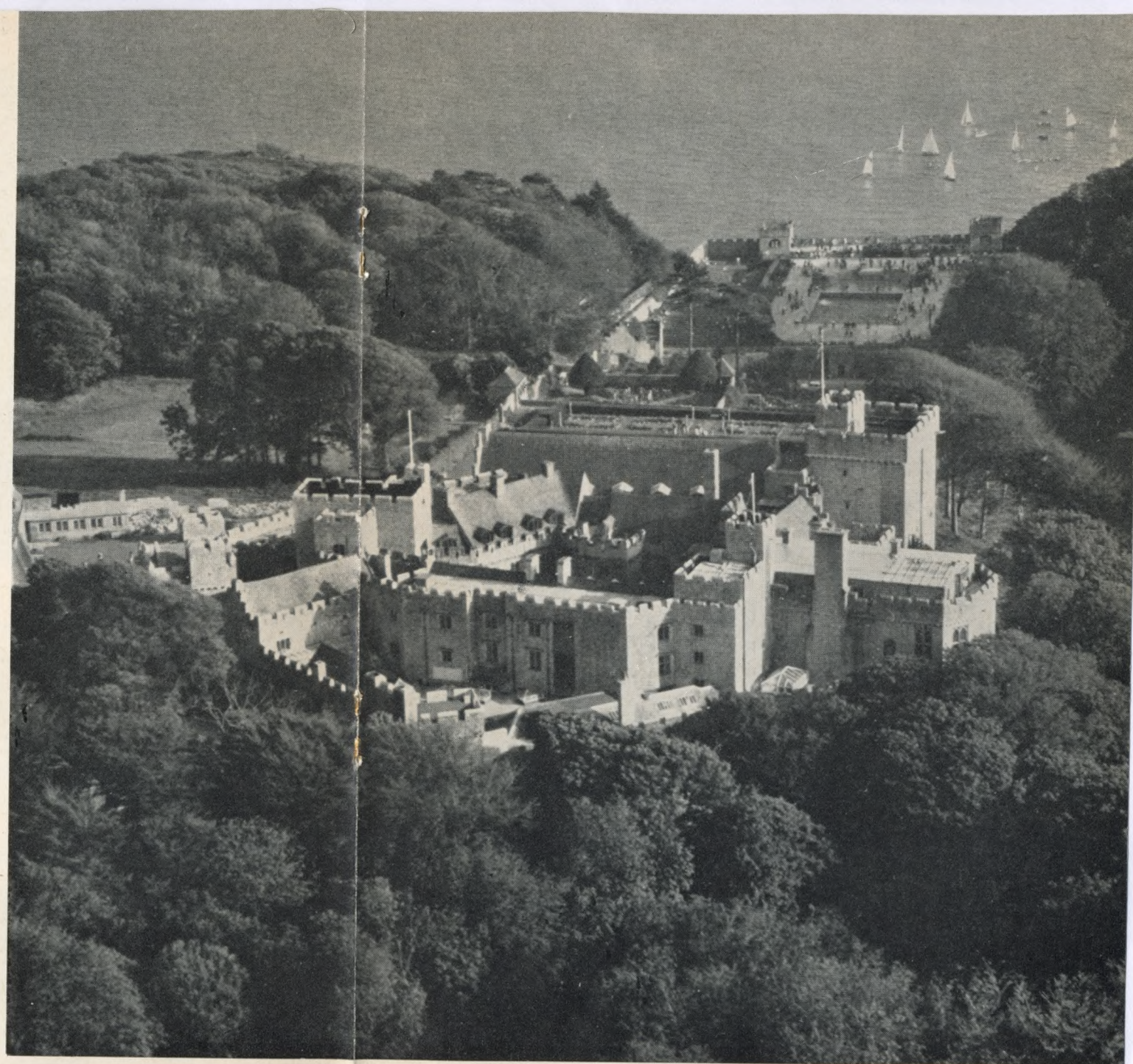
A splendid view of the Bristol Channel and the descending gardens can be obtained from the terrace.

There was a fortress on this site in Roman times, and we know that it was rebuilt in 1092. * For six hundred years the Castle was owned and occupied by the Stradling family.

Its present owners are the United World College of the Atlantic, and it is generally known as the Atlantic College. It was opened in 1962 as the first of a number of international Colleges to be established throughout the world, designed to offer to selected students of different nationalities and high ability a two year academic course immediately before entry to university. The Project has two main aims: to promote international understanding through education; and to provide a pattern of education adapted to meet the special needs of our age. The responsibility for co-ordinating the development of the whole United World Colleges project is now vested in an International Council under the Presidency of Lord Mountbatten. Of the total of just under 300 students roughly one third are girls.

The beautiful church of St. Donat's lies in a dingle be'ow the Castle walls. It dates from the 11th century and has a 14th century tower. It contains many memorials to the Stradling family. The churchyard cross is one of the most interesting in the county.

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