

HOW TO JOIN THE FRIENDS

There are six types of membership and the periods run for a full year March to February or September to August

Rates commencing from October 2009 as follows:

♦ Individual subscription	£ 20.10
♦ Joint subscription (2 adults at same address)	£ 30.15
♦ Family subscription	£ 35.00
♦ Junior subscription	£ 10.05
♦ Senior Citizen subscription	£ 17.10
♦ Senior Citizen subscription (same address)	£ 25.65
♦ English Heritage member	£ 6.00

NEWSLETTER No 50

2009

Benefits of membership

- ♦ Free entry to Dover Castle
- ♦ Free Magazine
- ♦ Visits to areas of Dover Castle not open to general public
- ♦ Social events

Contact the Membership Secretary
The Friends of Dover Castle

The Friends of Dover Castle

2009 / 10

President Brigadier Iain James OBE
Vice President Mike McFarnell

Chairman Pat Sherratt
Vice Chairman Scott McFarnell
Secretary Elizabeth Dimech
Treasurer Brian Rowland
Committee Anne Beecham
Geof Hirst
Sylvia Parkinson
Walter Parkinson
Malcolm Skinner
Ken Spriggs

Dates of committee meetings
in

Dover Castle Church Hall
6.15pm

Wednesday 13th January 2010
Wednesday 14th April 2010
Wednesday 23rd June 2010
Wednesday 15th September 2010

Dates of FoDC events

Special Visit 23.11.2009

See page 6

Carols 6.12.2009

See page 12

Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 4th November 2009

6.00pm in Church Hall

Speaker Steven Lang

Refreshments provided

Membership Secretary
C/O The Friends of Dover Castle
Castle Hill, Dover, Kent CT16 1HU

OPENING TIMES

Dover Castle

1 Apr - 31st July 10.00 - 18.00
1 Aug - 31st Aug 9.30 - 18.00
1 Sept - 30th Sept 10.00 - 18.00
1 Oct - 1st Nov 10.00 - 16.00
2 Nov - 31st Jan 10.00 - 16.00*
* (closed Tues & Wed)
1 Feb - 31st Mar 10.00 - 16.00
Closed 24th - 26th Dec and 1st Jan

Walmer Castle

1 Apr - 30th Sept 10.00 - 18.00
1 Oct - 1st Nov 10.00 - 16.00
(closed Mon & Tues)
2 Nov - 28th Feb Closed
1 Mar - 31st Mar 10.00 - 16.00
Closed 10th, 11th and 12th July to 1300 hrs

Deal Castle

1 Apr - 30th Sept 10.00 - 18.00
1 Oct - 31st Mar Closed *
* (Open for Special Events)
* Closed 1700hrs on Sat

Richborough Castle

1 Apr - 30th Sept 10.00 - 18.00
1 Oct - 31st Mar Closed)
(Open for Special Events)

BRADLEYS

SOLICITORS

CAN WE HELP ?

- ◆ DIVORCE
- ◆ CONVEYANCING
- ◆ CIVIL DISPUTES
- ◆ COMMERCIAL
- ◆ PERSONAL INJURY
- ◆ WILLS/PROBATE

15 - 21 Castle Street
Dover Kent CT16 1PU
Tel: 01304 204080



2009 Entry charges for Dover Castle

(Valid to 31st December)

Adults	£ 13.40
Children	£ 6.70
Concession	£ 11.40
Family ticket	£ 33.50

(2 adults and 3 children)

Kelvin's Gardening Services

Grass Cutting * Border Digging * Hedge Trimming
Fence Painting * Any Gardening Jobs considered

Telephone Kelvin on 01304 207191

Fire Exercise



Mrs Olive Harlow

Members of the Friends of Dover Castle volunteered to help with a fire exercise in the secret tunnels. Mrs Olive Harlow in the buggy is 92 and was in the Fire Service in Walmer during WW2



Waiting for the start of a tour

Chairman's Report



Pat Sherratt
Report by Chairman

Certainly my family was most impressed with the royal household characters and the grandchildren enjoyed the experience of being trained in household tasks and knighted by Henry II.

It has been my privilege to represent the Friends at the official opening of the new Visitor Centre as well as the Great Tower Illumination evening, however, I have to be honest I think there was possibly greater impact of the illuminated castle at a distance and those brave enough to be on the Western Heights that evening possibly had the best view.

Well here we are with the 50th edition of "The Magazine" and how opportune that it heralds a new era at the castle with the completion of The Great Tower project that is reported on within this edition.

Since the last edition The Friends have enjoyed three special tours which were all fully booked. Due to the popularity a special tour of 'the Spur' has kindly been arranged with the help from Christine Pascall on **4th November 2009** and details are on page 6, with a maximum of 20 people early booking is essential.

The special tour on the 22nd July gave members the opportunity to see the Great Tower project prior to opening to the public. With the ability to experience a "hands on" to many of the items all agreed that the standard of workmanship was exceptional and more detail is reported in this edition.

I am sure most members have taken the opportunity to visit during August/September and the visitor numbers (August over 70% increase on August last year) indicates the popularity of the new feature.

In past "Magazines" I have raised the need to strengthen the Committee and I am delighted that we have three new members who are already helping to take the workload off Mike. Firstly Malcolm Skinner joined us at the July meeting and has started updating the website; Malcolm is a regular visitor to the castle. He has an intimate and detailed knowledge of the castle. From September Anne Beecham and Geoff Hirst joined us and (subject to AGM) have offered to jointly take on the important task of Membership Secretary. Anne and Geoff have been regulars on the members tours.

This leads me into reminding members that the AGM takes place on the 4th November. We are still in need of strengthening the Committee and any nominations (including "officers" positions) should be sent to our Secretary.

Make Haste the King



Young Henry VIII



Tudor gun



Tudor canon



Tudor hand gun

Make Haste the King

Young Henry VIII who was the Prince of Wales was Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. He was very interested in cannons and came to Dover to try them out.

Tudor cannons came in many different sizes, from cannons firing a ball weighing 1 lb (0.45 kg) to ones firing a 48 lb (21.8 kg) ball. Different size cannons had different names such as minion, saker, and culverin. Whatever size a cannon was, it was loaded and fired in the same way. First a charge of gunpowder was placed in the muzzle (the opening at the mouth of the cannon) and pushed down to the breech (the back end of the barrel). Next a cannon ball was pushed down to sit in front of the gunpowder. Third, a wad of linen was pushed down after the ball to hold it all in place. Lastly a small amount of gunpowder was poured into a hole in the breech called a touch-hole. The gunpowder in the touch-hole was lit using a piece of smouldering match-cord, which then set off the main charge in the breech.

World War 11 Weekend



Palace Green car park



Veterans gunnery display



German soldier



Evacuees

World War II Weekend

Fighter pilots of World War II waiting for the call to scramble.

World War II Weekend

Veterans on Palace Green with a gunnery display.

World War II Weekend

Loading a cartridge for a machine gun

World War II Weekend

Slightly out of context with young evacuees being shown the enigma machine by a German soldier.

Friends of Dover Castle Carol Concert

Sunday 6th December 2009 at 4.30pm in St Mary-in-Castro.

St Eanswythe's C of E Primary School Choir Folkestone will join the Sandwich Music Group to sing carols for the Friends



Sandwich Music Group enter the spirit of Christmas"

RSVP.

Refreshments are provide for the AGM and the Carols.

Please advise if you plan to attend.

Telephone 01304 201711

Or Email mmcfarnell@hotmail.com

Or write C/O Friends of Dover Castle, Castle Hill, Dover CT16 1HU

The Great Tower Opens at Last

It doesn't seem any time since I was writing about the closure of the Keep and we were filled with trepidation about what the winter, spring and early summer would hold without our most iconic part.

On the 1st August the Great Tower opened its newly hung and painted doors to the public, the climax of a project two years in the making.

We thought we had planned for every eventuality but nothing had prepared us for the volume of enthusiastic visitors that we received not only that day, but every day in August and through into September. Edinburgh field was used everyday as an overflow car park and a fleet of mini buses was used to ferry visitors to the new ticket office

For us as a visitor operations team we'd learnt new skills, such as fire lighting (x2), wood management and crowd control. We had crammed knowledge like expectant students, of tapestries, embroidery and a huge array of other objects and still were asked questions we didn't have any idea about. We developed very quickly a list of most frequently asked questions so we were ready with more answers, but the list was constantly changing depending on who was asking the question. Who would have known how many different sorts of stitch there were in medieval England.

We do – now!

For the visitor it was a whole new experience. There is no where else with the extent and range of a medieval palace.



Dover Castle is the first of its kind. (Who would have thought you would import grey squirrel skins for your most important cloak and the plentiful red squirrel would be relegated for least important garb).

Our new tasks have proved rich and varied, including politely asking one visitor to vacate the royal bed as she snuggled in under the linen sheet and ermine throw, dislodging the carefully laid tissue paper protecting the layers. Fortunately Henry was not in the room at the time so no medieval punishment was meted out. We have lost 50% of our roasted chickens in the kitchen; I have them in a carrier bag by my desk - both with broken legs!

We have been lucky enough to have the whole royal household in residence for August and September and visitors have been able to get involved in how a royal palace is run, all the different characters that are involved and for some lucky visitors they have even been knighted or allowed to serve food to the King in the guest hall.

Great Tower (continued)

Continued from page 5

Arthur's Hall has been transformed with inter actives for all abilities and interests. There is a virtual tour of the inside of the Great Tower and an "ask the expert" function. Become a pilgrim trying to get to Canterbury. How far and how quickly you get there will depend on the answers you give; Its all about making history fun and exciting.

As we approach autumn we can draw breath and regroup. We can look forward to winter days with a roaring fire in the Tower.

I think if Henry Plantagenet popped in for a visit he would be very proud of what we have done to his royal palace, and you never know who you might bump into these days as you stroll around the magnificent rooms of Dover castle's Great Tower.



Chris Pascall
Visitor Operations Man-



SPECIAL TOUR

FOR MEMBERS OF FRIENDS OF DOVER CASTLE.

Visitor Operations Manager, Chris Pascall at English Heritage Dover Castle has kindly offered a special tour for FODC members.

Wednesday 4th November 2009.

The Spur "Twiss further strengthened the Spur at the northern end of the castle, adding a redan or raised gun platform. Chris will elaborate on this very important part of Dover Castle"

Not suitable for people with mobility problems
Members must supply their own torch

Don't miss this- special event - Register now. Places limited

Advance booking is required.

Contact Pat Sherratt, Chairman on 01304 228129 who will send out tickets

Each tour will commence from outside the NAAFI at **10.00hrs** and is limited to Max 20 so early booking is advisable.

Tudor Merriment



Tudor musician



Tudor musicians



The Band of The Brigade of Gurkhas



The Band of The Brigade of Gurkhas

Tudor Music

Music was of great importance in both secular and sacred life in Tudor times. Musicians were supported by the Church, city and state, and particularly in royal and aristocratic courts. As interest in music widened, there were many more job opportunities and possibilities for apprenticeship. For example, there were now jobs for choirmasters, singers, teachers, composers, and instrument makers. The rising merchant class of the later Tudor period also gave rise to more musical patrons.

The Band of The Brigade of Gurkhas

In 1814-16 when the British East India Company went to war with Nepal they were so impressed with their Gurkha opponents that after the war a native regiment was raised that eventually became the 1st Malaun Regiment. This began an association with the British that it still exists today.

The Band gave a fine display on Palace Green which was much appreciated by the many visitors to the Castle.

Committee Meeting



Brian Rowland (treasurer)
Pat Sherratt (chairman)

Malcolm Skinner, Sylvia & Walter Parkinson
and Ken Spriggs

All aboard the land train. A glorious sunny July evening was subject to an unexpected shower of rain. The committee was forced to make a rapid retreat into the land train. The meeting concluded by a tour of the Great Tower with the final touches for the project about to be completed.

Website



Malcolm Skinner has taken on the website and he would be very interested in receiving comments and suggestion from members.

Email him on :

dovercastle@skires.fsnet.co.uk

Letter to Editor

Dear Editor,

I love to take my grand children to Dover Castle but I wish they provided an area for children to play. A wooden castle themed climbing frame and slide for example.

Many other castles offer this facility, like Leeds Castle, and this makes a big difference to the enjoyment of the day. Is this something that could be considered?

Jane Wagstaff

Dunkirk Poem



Friends of Dover Castle gave the funds needed to display this very poignant poem written by a survivor of Dunkirk in the entrance hall of the secret tunnels. A 'Thank You' was received from Maggie Francis on behalf of Sonny Rigden family who much appreciated the help given by the Friends towards this project.

2009 Events at Dover Castle

Wed 4 November	10.00 hrs	Special Tour of the 'Spur'
	18.00 hrs	Annual General Meeting
Mon 26 Oct 2009		The Haunted Castle
Sat 31 Oct 2009		Family Fright Night
Sun 6 Dec 2009	16.30 hrs	Carols (Refreshments from 15.30hrs)



Tudor Dance performed on Palace Green on 6th & 7th June 2009

Tudor Music complemented the different forms of Tudor Dance. Dancing was an extremely popular pastime during the Tudor era for both the rich and poor people. Dancing in the Tudor era was considered "a wholesome recreation of the mind and also an exercise of the body". The emergence of different styles of music and new musical instruments during the Tudor period, combined with various experiments combining different instruments, led to new dances being created. Tudor dance varied according to the social class. The court dances enjoyed by royalty, nobility and the rich were often imported from Italy, Spain or France. These Tudor dance forms varied considerably from the energetic Galliard to the refined Pavane. The poor lower classes enjoyed the more traditional country dances such as the Jig, Morris Dancing, the Brand or the Brawle. These Tudor dances for poor people were closely associated with the customs and festivals celebrated in Tudor England.

New Chairman of English Heritage



Baroness Andrews was formerly parliamentary under secretary of state for Communities and Local Government. Her appointment followed an open competition and will run for four years from 27 July 2009.

Ben Bradshaw said: "English Heritage plays a key role in so many of my department's programmes, and we greatly value its expertise and experience, and the important work it does to bring our historic environment alive for everyone.

"Kay Andrews was the unanimous choice of the independent panel that assessed all the applicants for the position of chairman, and takes on the chairmanship at an important time for the organisation.

Public interest in our history and heritage is really high at home, and looks set to captivate the huge numbers who will come to the UK in 2012. There are exciting times ahead and she is wonderfully well-qualified to lead English Heritage through them.

"I must also thank Sir Barry Cunliffe who has been a most diligent interim chairman since last September and I thank him warmly for stepping in to lead the organisation following Sandy Bruce Lockhart's death in August."

Baroness Andrews added: "I am delighted to be appointed the new chairman of English Heritage. I am conscious that I do so following last year's tragic death of Sandy Bruce-Lockhart. He was a great man and a wonderful champion of England's heritage. It will be the greatest privilege for me to take up the baton and be directly involved in the protection and promotion of the historic environment all around us and under our feet.

"Living, as I do, in the middle of Lewes - one of our most beautiful towns - I appreciate, on a daily basis, the living history we see in our streets and downland landscapes. But we hold our unique historic environment in trust not just for those who are lucky enough to live with it but also for those who come to marvel at it from all over the world.

"But the greatest responsibility we have is to enthuse the next generation so that they understand the significance of the historic environment for them."