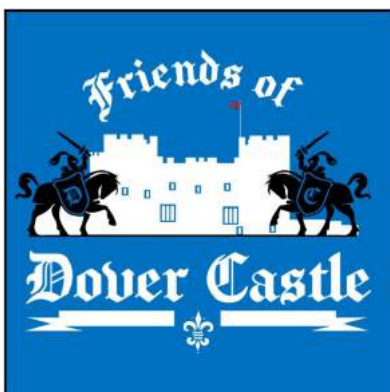


Dover Castle Chronicles



Special AGM Edition

- Annual General Meeting Saturday 12th August 2023. Constables Tower
- Chairman's Report
- New attraction improvement works at Dover Castle
- Affiliation with English Heritage
- Kitchen Garden Update
- Historic Maps Project
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- Dover Lotto
- Richborough Roman Fort



Issue No. 2
August 2023

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY 12TH August 2023. 2.30 pm

Our Annual General Meeting was due to go ahead on Saturday July 22nd but I was compelled to cancel it at short notice due to the chaos holiday traffic was causing in and around Dover making it impossible for some members to make it safely to the Castle and there was a risk of some spending hours inside their cars trying to get to the AGM after setting out. This was a real shame as it takes a lot of effort to plan an AGM and Becky and her team had already set up the Great Hall in Constables Tower to accommodate us. I had prepared all paperwork including Agendas and these had to be reprinted for the rescheduled AGM which we held on Saturday August 12th.

This was perhaps the most ambitious AGM we have organised in a long time as there were lots of issues to report, discuss and make decisions on. The Agenda went over the page!

TRUSTEES I am pleased to announce the Board of Trustees for the next 3 Years will be

Chairman & Secretary	Graham Hutchison
Vice Chairman	Mark Danson
Treasurer	Brian Rowland
Membership Secretary	Pauline Beresford
Hon. Vice-President	Mike McFarnell
Hon. Vice-President	Wendi Atherton
Trustee	Pauline Danson
Trustee	Sarah Hooper
Trustee	John Moat



The Constitution requires us to always have Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer appointed as officers of the Board. As no one came forward to be appointed as secretary, Chairman Graham has stepped forward to serve as Secretary until a permanent Secretary is appointed.

The Trustees are responsible for our Charity meeting our charitable objectives and form the Management Committee to manage the day to day running of the Charity.

Key Decisions Made

Website. We will be employing an outside Website Designer to run our website for us. Lee Davies of www.ifucantfindit.com will be looking after us from now on as we have contracted with him to create and host a new website for us and will be also doing regular updates which is something we have struggled with in recent years. It is vital we have an up to date website which works for us,

Constitution. There were a number of decisions made on changes to the constitution to make sure it was still fit for purpose. These included being able to recruit volunteers and enabling us to enter into an Affiliation Group Partnership Agreement. We also are now able to enter into a **Licence to Occupy** Land as we have our own offices at Number 1 Keep Yard at the Castle and also the Constables Kitchen Garden.

We have also agreed a **Students Membership** in order to attract younger members whilst ensuring we do not discriminate against mature students and clarified that to get the **English Heritage Member** discount, members MUST be fully paid up members of English Heritage.

We also agreed to comply with the **Fundraising Regulator** Code of Fundraising Practice and Register with the Fundraising Regulator at a cost of £50 per year.

We have also registered with the National Council for Voluntary Organisations **NCVO** and renewed membership of White Cliffs Country Tourism Association **WCCTA**.

Other Decisions

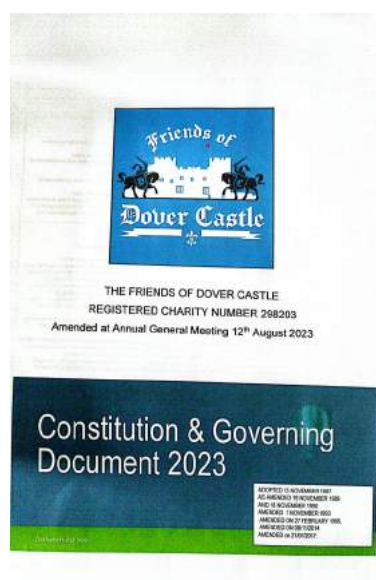
Branded Gazebo Purchase of a large branded gazebo. We agreed to purchase - approximate expenditure **£1500**. This will give us far greater opportunities to operate beyond the Castle and also within the Castle and support our aims of getting out there more, becoming more recognisable and attract more members. It will certainly help our events with our unreliable weather !

AFFILIATION We agreed to push forward with the incredible Affiliation Agreement - more later.

Kitchen Garden Project - we agreed a budget for this fantastic project which will be mainly on compost and soil improvements but the project will be self sufficient this year.

Historic Maps Project It was agreed to proceed with the Historic Maps project. Our Honorary Vice President, Wendi Atherton, has many maps and architectural drawings of the Castle, which she will donate to us permanently. Our Project will look at conserving them professionally in a way we are able to have some on show to the public. This is very embryonic but it was proposed and agreed to use the funds we receive from the Dover Lotto for this purpose plus other fundraising. It is also a great opportunity to work collaboratively with Dover Castle.

Volunteers - we agreed we would push forward with recruiting Friends volunteers and also encourage people to become English Heritage Volunteers. We also agreed the Volunteers Policy we have prepared.



AUDITORS Our Treasurer Brian, reported audited accounts for the year ending May 31st 2022 which shows a healthy balance of **£16564.08 with over £11000 available for projects**.

We accepted the accounts and to retain the current auditors.

Events and Tours.

Graham contacted Spencer & Fry, the conservation specialists who advise producers of films using scheduled monuments as locations for filming, be it documentaries or blockbusters. Not only do they advise on not damaging any fabric of buildings but advise on lighting, sound vibrations and anything which could harm the building or any artefacts

contained therein. Claire Fry has agreed to give us a talk on their work during filming at the Castle last year.

We are also looking at running a special Tour to Richborough Roman Fort, Kenwood House, and the Stone Hut, Dumpy and the PWRR&QR Museum at Dover Castle. Please let us know any ideas.

AGM YOUR HELP NEEDED

We have held our AGM's at various times on different days and yet we do not seem to attract as many members as we would like. The last couple of years we have held them on Saturdays but in recent years we have also tried mid week evenings. We run the Friends for you members and if we are getting it wrong, please just let us know. We would be obliged if you could let us know when you think we should hold our AGMs, month, day of week, time etc. Email graham@dover-castle-friends.org.uk



Chairmans Report



I am close to completing 10 years as Chairman and it is a great honour to serve as Chairman again and I am looking forward to many more. I am currently feeling very enthusiastic about the Friends of Dover Castle as I think we are in an excellent position. We have significant funds in the bank, the Kitchen Garden Project is doing brilliantly, we have our own offices at Number 1 Keep Yard, Dover Castle. We are entering a promising Affiliation Agreement with English Heritage which will provide us greater opportunities to work collaboratively with Dover Castle. It will also provide us with opportunities to tap into the wealth of experience, know how and resources English Heritage have. Having a home within the Castle will help us move forward with some ideas we have had for many years - we are in the best place we have been for a long time and it helps having Becky as a very supportive Castle Manager, together with Neil, the Head of Historic Properties Kent, also being very supportive.

Whilst being the Chair of the Friends it has given me the opportunity to serve on the Board of Destination Dover and represent us at many other forums, it has provided the opportunity of being Chairman of White Cliffs Country Tourism Association which means I always keep Dover Castle central to any local Tourism Initiatives. I am not saying the position of Chairman of FODC is one of great esteem but I have been fortunate to attend lunches in Constables Tower as guest of Deputy Constables and the Late Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, Admiral The Lord Boyce, who sadly passed away recently. The most recent lunch attended by many dignitaries included the Lord Warden's Chaplain, Bishop Wilmott, Ian Russell, Registrar and Seneschal of the Cinque Ports and Clerk of Dover Castle, Sir Nigel Teare, retired High Court Judge (Admiralty), Richard Bickersteth, High Sheriff of East Sussex and Commodore Rob Bellfield, CBE, ADC. There were over 20 invitees, all of certain eminence but I did not feel out of place - so perhaps our status is of greater significance than I have previously felt. With our Affiliated Partnership Agreement we can rightfully believe we are important and what we do does actually make a difference.

As a small charity, run by volunteers, I think we can all be very proud of what we are achieving and I think we would not be out of place at local Charity of the Year Awards events - our aim is not just to try to win charity awards but being nominated adds to the sense of pride and worth and has proven to result in accessing greater grants and funding opportunities.

I am hoping we will start to attract younger members and generally increase our membership to over 200. We are developing our branding and will soon have a new website.

I must apologise for not organising any tours and events as yet this year. I am normally left to do this task and we normally run several tours for members. The most popular ones tend to be Behind Locked Doors, Dumpy and Constables so we will try to put these on sometime in the Autumn. I have delayed this aspect as we were expecting the tours to be run as part of our new Affiliation Agreement but this itself has been delayed due to the key personnel in English Heritage actually leaving employment.

With a new website, better marketing, our own home, the affiliated group status, registration with the Fundraising Regulator, Membership of the National Council of Voluntary Organisations, I

think we are really moving forward at pace and we would be delighted for many more members to join us.



Graham

Graham Hutchison Chairman

World Heritage Sites

Most of you will have heard of World Heritage Sites and that having this status affords greater protection, interest and boosts tourism.

The United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation was first thought about globally in 1942 with World War 2 still raging people were worried about heritage and culture being destroyed and a meeting of Conference of Allied Ministers of Education (CAME) in London the idea of a United Nations Conference for the establishment of an educational and cultural organisation was raised and this took place in November 1945 in London. The aim was to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the sciences and culture and hence UNESCO was borne and adopted in 1945 the constitution coming on to force in 1946.

As of January this year there are 1157 World Heritage sites and there are 33 in the United Kingdom and Overseas Territories.

Stonehenge, Giants Causeway, Ironbridge Gorge, Studley Royal Park, Durham Castle & Cathedral were included in the first batch of listings for the UK. Recently, the UK has put forward some new sites to be added and these take the form of a UK tentative list which comprise: **Birkenhead the People's Park** (Cultural), **East Atlantic Flyway** – England East Coast Wetlands (Natural.), **The Flow**



Stonehenge

Country (Natural),
Gracehill Moravian Church Settlements (Cultural, Transnational)
Little Cayman Marine Parks and Protected Areas (Natural), **York** (Cultural)



Giants Causeway



Durham Castle

WHY NO DOVER CASTLE ?

Dover Castle is the biggest Castle in England. Although the Great Tower dates from 1180, built by Henry II, there was an Iron Age Hill Fort prior to the Romans developing the site into a Roman Fort. The Roman Lighthouse dated AD43 is recognised as the oldest building remaining almost entirely in its original form in England.

The World Heritage Sites are made up of 3 types, Natural Heritage sites, Cultural Heritage Sites, and mixed Heritage Sites. There are 10 criteria which prospective sites need to meet.

1. to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius; **2.** to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design; **3.** to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared; **4.** to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history; **5.** to be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change; **6.** to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria); **7.** to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance; **8.** to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features; **9.** to be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals; **10.** to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

Dover Castle meets many of these criteria and when you consider the strategic position it has held for 2000 years, to me it is a no brainer to be considered for World Heritage Status. Situated on top of the iconic White Cliffs, it has had an incredible history, repelling a siege in 1216, referred to as the Lock and Key to England, the base for Vice Admiral Ramsay to mastermind Operation Dynamo to return 330,000 allied troops stranded at Dunkirk, chosen as Regional Seat of Government in the event of a Nuclear War, still a ceremonial site of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports being the official residence of the Deputy Constable of Dover Castle. Dover Castle also has modern use as a regular site for important local and National events, such as the 2012 London Olympics Torch Relay, Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Baton Relay and is used for filming Blockbuster Movies.

I have already written to Laura Davies, the UK Permanent Representative to UNESCO asking why. Dover Castle is not yet recognised.

DOVER LOTTO

The Dover Lotto is a valuable source of regular income for us and was well worth the effort I took to get us registered and attend the launch just a few years ago. I am grateful to the many supporters we have had who signed up to regularly buy Lotto tickets with us as their recognised worthy cause. Every £1 ticket benefits us with 50 p with opportunity to gain more than the 50p by applying for Dover Community Grants funding.



Our target when we started, was 50 tickets per week which would gain us roughly £100 per month in additional funds. We are currently running at 15 tickets per week which gains us up to £390 a year and I'd like to thank the supporters still buying tickets each week, we are so grateful and appreciate your generosity. This funding made our fantastic Dover Community Time Capsule Project possible and will now be put towards our Historic Maps Project which will see some ancient maps and charts properly conserved and shown to the public for the first time .

Win a £1500 IKEA gift card

In our first big Super Draw, you'll have the chance to win a whopping £1,500 IKEA gift card when you support your favourite good cause this September! Give your home an autumn makeover with this fantastic prize – and with new and flexible ways to play, there's an option to suit everyone. Sign up for our weekly draw, or top-up with Super Draw-only tickets!

Get your tickets before **Saturday 30th September** to be in with a chance to WIN!

MY PLEA IS please carry on buying lottery tickets, please tell your friends and family and anyone you know and encourage them to buy a lottery ticket with us as your worthy cause you are supporting.

[Support The Friends of Dover Castle when you play Dover District Lotto - Dover District Lotto \(doverlotto.com\)](https://www.doverlotto.com/support-the-friends-of-dover-castle)

Just 1 ticket gives us £26 a year; 2 tickets gives us £52 - but please only if you can afford it, we know times are tough. Thank you for reading this and considering us.



CURRENT WORKS AT THE CASTLE This is guidance given to staff and volunteers and it is important the Friends also follow this advice so we don't spill any beans too early.

We are very pleased to say that the next phase of the Dover Castle Masterplan has been approved and as part of the preparations for the first contractors arriving on site the medieval tunnels will be closed from Monday 24th July 2023

A contractor compound will be set up reaching from the stables at Constables Tower round past the Spur and the entrance to the medieval tunnels and as far as Fitzwilliam's Gate. There will also be no access out of the keep yard through Kings gate to the barbican. This will mean that as well as the medieval tunnels being



unavailable, the spur toilets and the mobility bus stop by the trebuchet will also be unavailable. Visitors will still be able to access Pencester's Gallery and then climb up into Avranches, although this is obviously not a wheel-chair/pushchair friendly route.

We have reprinted the site maps with these changes listed on them

which will be available in all admission points .

Site of compound

By the beginning of August, the hoardings will have interpretation signage on them explaining why the area is closed off. Should you get any questions from visitors, please can you reply using something like the wording below as our marketing team are keen to keep any details about the new project a closely guarded secret until nearer the launch date, which is likely to be September 2024.

EH Marketing :- We are working on an exciting new visitor experience which will reveal the dramatic history of Dover Castle's northern defences and will be opening autumn 2024.

During this time the route past the northern defences and medieval tunnels is closed whilst works are underway, and we apologise for the inconvenience.

If you want to find out more about the project please head to our website."

What is happening at the site?

We are working on an exciting new visitor experience which will reveal the dramatic history of Dover Castle's northern defences giving visitors the opportunity to place themselves within the story of the castle, stepping into the shoes of those who lived, worked in and protected it during the most testing times in the fortress's history.

There will also be an interactive play area which the whole family can enjoy and access to parts of the castle which have never previously been open to the public.

The new experience will open autumn 2024.

How much is the project costing?

This is a multi-million-pound project and is the biggest interpretation project English Heritage will have ever done.

This is part of the £30m Master Plan launched in 2018 - 2019 but then significantly curtailed due to the Covid Pandemic and consequential closures.

Obviously this is going to affect our access to Constables Kitchen Garden but Becky is keen to work with us so we are not inconvenienced too much. The main impact will be we will not always be able to park right by the entrance to the garden and visitors may be put off having to seemingly enter a building site in order to get to us. However, once the work is complete and there is a major new attraction in the Northern section of the Castle, our footfall should increase as visitors will be coming past us in their droves.



KITCHEN GARDEN UPDATES

It would be a rare occasion indeed for us to publish a Newsletter without an update from the Constables Kitchen Garden Project.

Our Dynamic Duo, Mark and Pauline Danson, are still doing an absolutely wonderful job not only keeping the weeds at bay but keeping plants and produce growing. They are ably supported by John Moat and Sarah Hooper, both now also Trustees of our charity.

We have attended one village fete and plans will be to attend more village fetes next year.

More volunteers are signing up to support this project which is going from strength to strength.

This Bank Holiday weekend provided us the opportunity to again open up the Garden to members and the public.

There were :-

Leek and Potato Soup,
Roasted Carrot & Shallot Soup,
Carrot & Courgette Fritter served with Sour Cream & Spring Onion Dip,
Potato & Beetroot Patties served with Sour Cream and Spring Onion Dip





There is a fantastic replica of a Claudian Gateway at the Roman Fort at Richborough. English Heritage have built this replica on exactly the same site as the original which dates from when the Roman Armies first landed in Britain. It is well known that Julius Caesar invaded Britain, first in 55 BC and again on 54 BC. He originally wanted to land at Dover but was put off by the massed Bretons gathered on the cliffs, so carried on to Thanet landing at Ebbsfleet in the Wantsum Channel. Failing to gain momentum other than establish a landing site, he invaded again in 54 BC with 40,000 troops and established what was to become Richborough Roman Fort and port where the majority of Romans landed or departed over the next 400 years. It is estimated that between 3 and 4 million Romans landed and settled in England and Wales - Scotland, they found impenetrable and although other ports were developed, most would have entered through Richborough, which is why this is so important. English Heritage has also re-developed the Museum and it is well worth a trip over to see. **RICHBOROUGH ROMAN FORT**



Historic Maps Project

This is our latest project which was discussed and agreed at our recent AGM. Basically, our honorary vice-president, Wendi Atherton, has in her possession a number of maps and charts of Dover Castle which she would like to donate to us so that we can have put into frames and have on display to the public at special events, open days and in our office accommodation at the Castle.

The issues we have are that some of the items are quite large and will have to have them professionally

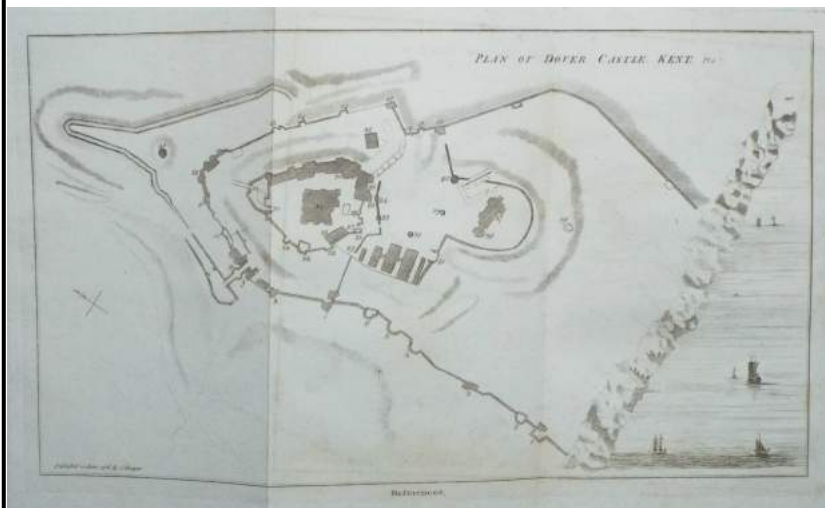


conserved in archival quality envelopes and/or frames. We were thinking along the lines of free standing displays such as you used to get in music stores displaying posters which you flipped through to find the ones you wanted. Becky, the Dover Castle Manager, managed to find an old Map Cabinet they no longer have in use at the Castle and has offered us this free of charge but it will need some TLC as it is old and a little rusty in places but these types are about £2000 to buy new. We do not have to accept this kind offer but would mean we would then only have to buy the map hangers and have more funds to spend on framing and displaying. This map cabinet, we may use for storing and select ones to have on display and rotate the selection so different ones are made available throughout the year.

At our last regular monthly committee meeting we measured the maps and drew up an itinerary and I took some images on my phone. Unfortunately I have been unable locate on my digital device so am unable to reproduce here. There are some showing just Constables, some of the whole site, floor levels of the Keep

and many have different names for towers than present names. There are between 30 and 40 but some are not as presentable as others but this is why we are developing the project - to itemise, record, conserve and display. Maps may only appeal to just a few enthusiastic visitors but how great it will be to enhance the visitor experience when we are able to display rare historical maps. We are also thinking of recording them digitally, which we can put on our new website.

Watch this space for updates on this project.



EVENTS AT DOVER CASTLE

The Medieval season at the Castle ends on 3rd September and the next big event is Halloween at Half Term between Saturday 21st and Sunday 29th October 2023.

English Heritage website states

“Grab your broomsticks and get ready for a bewitchingly brilliant day out. Gather round for tales from our spooky storytellers and solve creepy clues in our Halloween Quest.

Book online and save 10%.

[Dover Castle & Halloween Half Term | English Heritage \(english-heritage.org.uk\)](https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visiting/visiting-dover-castle/halloween-half-term/)



Image - courtesy of English Heritage

DOVER CASTLE MASTER PLAN

Many people may have thought that the Dover Castle Master Plan had been postponed due to the Covid pandemic as the lockdown closures had seriously impacted English Heritage finances. However, the Master Plan is very much still on but inevitably there has had to be some changes. Phase 1 was actually completed in 2020 with the refurbishment and redesign of two visitor cafes - the NAAFI restaurant and the Keep Yard Café plus some vital conservation and repair works to the Northern Defences. Specialised work, such as innovative new techniques as “soft capping” was necessary to the Spur Casemates, Medieval Tunnels, East Curtain Walls and Constables Tower.

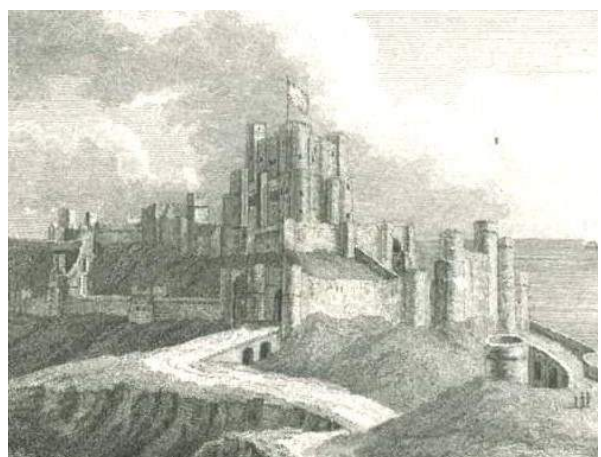
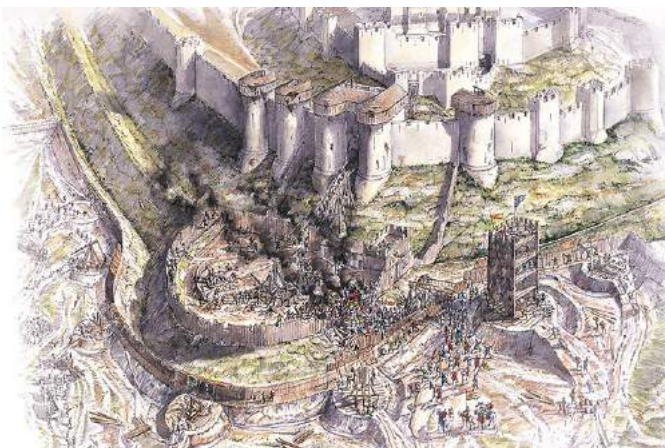
The Building Conservation and Research Team (BCRT) at Historic England have undertaken an extensive conservation research work on a number of sites and have concluded that soft capping offers benefits, such as creating a better thermal blanket for wall heads than hard capping or bare stone. The full report can be viewed at [SoftCappingonRuinedMasonryWalls \(historicengland.org.uk\)](https://www.historicengland.org.uk/conservation/soft-capping-on-ruined-masonry-walls/)

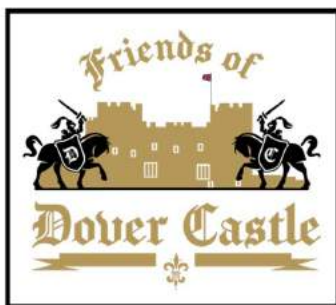
The work recently started in the northern part of the castle site is part of the improving attraction phase of the master plan and the following I have gleaned from the architectural websites.

The plan is to design and install different methods of display which will integrate digital storytelling, improved reality and authenticity, sound and light and tactile experiences. The aim is to create an immersive narrative that tells of the history of Dover Castle and beyond so that visitors feel they are part of the historical journey.

There will also be an interactive and layered new game attraction centred around the Great Siege of 1216 which will be aimed at teenagers which will add an exciting and educational connection to the castle's historical context.

Below is the depiction of the Siege in 1216 and the old image shows how the main entrance to the Castle was through the northern towers which were seriously undermined during the siege.





Membership APPLICATION FORM

www.dover-castle-friends.org.uk
Registered Charity. No. 298203

APRIL 2023

**Please remember to
GIFT AID us
Tick here and sign at
bottom of form**



**I /We wish to join The Friends of Dover Castle
and have ticked the appropriate subscription category.**

Mr / Mrs / Ms/ Miss

Full name

Address.....

Post code

Tel: No

E-mail address for contact.

.....

(By quoting your email address you are agreeing to The
Friends communicating with you by this method . We will
not disclose addresses to any third party.)

Name of 2nd member for Joint Applications

.....

Categories of Membership

There are different subscription categories -

- Individual subscription £30
- Joint subscription £42
- Senior Individual £27
- Joint Senior £39
- English Heritage Member £10
- Joint EH Members £15
- Staff members £10
- EH Volunteers £10
- Students (18 +) £10

English Heritage/ Staff/ Volunteers

Membership Number

Expiry

Student - Full time course details

College

Course

End date ...

GDPR & PRIVACY STATEMENT. The Friends of Dover Castle fully complies with GDPR 2018. We only hold sufficient personal data for us to be able to manage your membership. We do not pass on your details to anyone else without your specific consent. By applying for membership, you consent to us processing your personal data to manage and administer membership until such a time as you resign membership. You may amend your personal data at any time by informing the membership secretary. We will store your personal data securely and ensure no unauthorised person gains access to it. We will notify you immediately if we discover any suspected breach.

GIFT AID DECLARATION :

I confirm that I am resident in the UK . I pay UK income tax . I have paid tax at least equal to that which may be claimed by a charity on my subscription in the current tax year. I agree The Friends of Dover Castle may claim Gift Aid on my subscription and that Income Tax will not be claimed elsewhere -

signed

The subscription of £ is enclosed.

Please complete and send your cheque.
(Cheque payable to : The Friends of Dover Castle:

Pauline Beresford, Membership Secretary,
5 Minnis Terrace, Crabble Avenue,
Dover, Kent. CT17 0JF

Payment of £ has been made by BACS

Payment of £ has been made online

Reference

Santander. Sort Code 09-01-55
A/c No. 18425703

Email : secretary.friendsofdovercastle@gmail.com