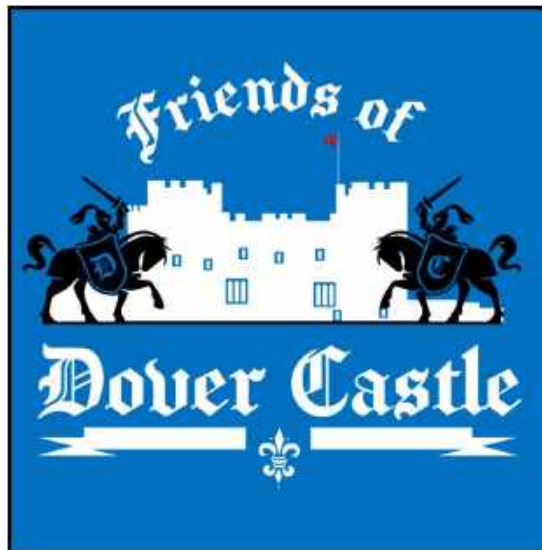


**MARCH
2024**



**Dover
Castle
Chronicles
No. 4**

Dover Castle Chronicles

Benefits of Membership

- ◆ Free entry to the Castle all year;
- ◆ Up to 6 accompanied children go free;
- ◆ 10 % Discount in shops and café's;
- ◆ Special Tours and Events - see places not normally open to the public ;
- ◆ Free Entry (in winter) to Richborough Castle, Walmer Castle, Deal Castle, St Augustine's Abbey;

- 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

Where else can you entertain the kids for only £42 a year?

Not only at Dover Castle, where there will be numerous big family friendly events and activities throughout the Season, but you can also visit the other English Heritage sites in our region during the winter season - if you consider the entrance prices to those places, that will more than save you the annual Friends membership !

Hopefully, the next few pages will also convince you to join up - it really is a great time to join us.

JOIN THE FRIENDS

The Friends are Accommodating



We now have our own place at the Castle which we hope to be able to use more and that it will be a place to pop in to for a coffee and a chat when you are visiting the Castle. This will of course rely on permission by EH, and Trustee availability to open up and manage the office but this really is a fantastic time to be a friend of Dover Castle.

Having our own accommodation at the Castle has given us so much more opportunity to support the Castle. It is great to have a base and somewhere to store and display items of interest.

We were able to have a Festive Cheese and Wine style buffet at our regular monthly meeting before Christmas and Mark was able to display his incredible model Spitfire which he painstakingly built as a special lockdown project and he has kindly donated to The Friends. The Model actually flies! If you want to see how, you will have to arrange to come and see it - we will be using our rooms more often this coming year so I am sure there will be opportunities to pay us a visit.

We try to have a theme to each regular monthly meeting which are intended as Trustee meetings but we do open them up and invite guests at times. If you would be interested in attending a meeting please let us know.

Hopefully we will be able to publish the planned themes of the meetings later in this magazine but also on our website. We are hoping to hold film nights, talks, art and craft days, fundraising events and of course meetings. All subject to permission by Becky, the General Manager at Dover Castle.

We are even setting up our own library!

Mark is a model Trustee.





CONSTABLES KITCHEN GARDEN

This continues to be major project of ours and our team is very keen to help the garden to grow and harvest produce to match our ambitions.

We will be planning Open Days where we will be inviting visitors to learn about the project and about the Friends.

Members will always be welcome to pop in to see us when we have the garden open and there will always be opportunities to help.

The overall aim is to develop the project to be self sustaining so we will need to have plants and produce to exchange for donations and we aim to be out and about in the community more at village fetes and similar events.



Constables Tower Kitchen Garden Project 2024

The Friends of Dover Castle are proposing the following open day dates to show case the Kitchen Garden Project 2024.

The public/ Visitors to Dover Castle will be able to explore the Kitchen Garden, Treasurers Tower and experience the view from the Rampart Walkway over the town of Dover.

Project volunteers will be on hand to supervise visitors and answer questions about the project.

We will be continuing to run our 'Dig For Victory' theme throughout the year with volunteers dressed in authentic 1940's costume together with an ever increasing collection of props and memorabilia.

We also plan to have plants and herbs available. We operate a 'suggested donation amount' for all garden related produce and this raises valuable funds for our small charity

PROPOSED DATES FOR OPEN DAYS :

- **Sat 16th March - To coincide with the 'Long Lost History event'**
- **Sat 30th March - Cancelled due to exigencies**
- **Sat 20th / Sun 21st April - Spring Open weekend**
- **Sun 5th May - Hedgehog awareness day***
- **Sat 25th May > Mon 27th May - To coincide with 'WW2 Weekend'**
- **Sat 8th June - General browsing day**
- **Sat 6th July - General browsing day**
- **Sat 20th / Sun 21st July - To coincide with the Medieval Season**
- **Sat 3rd Aug - General browsing day**
- **Sat 24th / Sun 25th Aug - Kitchen Garden Produce Taster day**
- **Special event aimed at children. Information, props, leaflets and prizes.**



All dates are proposed at this stage and not confirmed, as we always need consent from the General Manager of Dover Castle.

LICENCE TO OCCUPY

The Friends have been in existence for 38 years and it is believed to be the first time we have had a formal licence to occupy at the Castle. Our first accommodation was a converted family size tent and then for a couple of years were allowed the use of a casemate which did not prove sustainable as was considerably damp and actually leaked rainwater - even when it wasn't raining! We have now signed a Licence to Occupy in relation to the Offices in the Education Suite Building in Keep Yard and Constables Kitchen Garden. This gives us use of these parts, subject to certain conditions, for 3 years when we hope it will be renewed. This shows how our working relationship is developing and we look forward to the Affiliation Group Status Agreement being signed soon too.

Our regular gardeners and Project Leaders, Mark and Pauline Danson, have become regular customers of a small local garden centre, Archers Low Nursery situated on the Ash Road in Sandwich. The weather has so far been horrendous but hopefully soon the Garden will become awash with greens and beautiful colours.

Mark writes, "Archers Low were chosen because of their prices, these being very competitive and they were prepared to give us a discount.

The main items purchased have been 'soil improver', bark chippings and 'peat free' compost. They also deliver which makes things easier for us and they are happy to provide invoices with time to pay which means I can order without having to front the costs upfront. Soil improver has been needed because the Kitchen Garden drainage is impaired by a complex tree root system throughout the main part of the garden.

With the extra help we've had this year the garden is looking very good and we are well on top of things to date. The entire plot has now been prepared ready for this year's planting and the green house is slowly filling up with seedlings.

We have also planted more bulbs so Spring should give us a nice splash of colour. We've also planted a couple more fruit bushes and the fruit cage will be erected soon.

I have sourced the scaffold boards for the raised beds and I will arrange to have the necessary parts delivered soon, although this is going to be an Autumn project. The reason being is that if we construct now we'd have to fill the beds and this will take a lot of soil which we'd have to buy in at quite a cost, which I'm not comfortable with, given the expenses to date. I plan to use some of the funds from this year's events to help fund this part of the project. The Autumn period will allow us to fill these raised beds with a combination of cardboard, wood chippings, uncooked food waste and compost. This will ensure that the structure of the soil develops over the Winter and will be ready to go in the new year with a much improved water retention capability."

Look out for this banner which will be on display when the Kitchen Garden is open.



As well as seeing the garden and being able to talk to us about the project you can find out more about the Friends of Dover Castle and you could join and become members.

An additional benefit for members and visitors to the Castle is that our Open Days are the only times Treasurers Tower is open to view. It is one of the towers of the outer Curtain Wall and is the next one north of Constables Tower and connected by the Rampart Walk which affords visitors one of the best views from the Castle.

Stephen De Pencester when he was Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover Castle (1267-1299) assigned this Tower to the Treasurer and Paymaster, whereby all important records, archives of grants, charters, and monies in and out took place here. This Tower became one of the most important buildings in the Castle.

During the reign of Edward VI (1547-1553) the majority of all the important documents of Kent were looked after here, including those relating to Castle Guard duties, Manors, Barons and Military Knights, Rolls, Grants and Charters, regulations, rules and ordinances, Marshals Courts and a host of administrative records. Unfortunately, when a scoundrel named Levenste (or Levenishe) was overlooked as Lieutenant of Dover Castle in favour of John Moynings, he decided to show his disappointment by destroying all the records by burning them, most likely in this fireplace.

Due to records being destroyed some history is disputed, for example some state that Levenste did this during the reign of Henry VIII and others apparently invented false ancestry.





There would have been at least two floors with plenty of Archers Arrow slits. You can see the door on the upper floor which is the exit from Treasurers to traverse the Rampart Walk to Constables



This shows Treasurer's Tower from the outside—the ditch, in between Constables Tower and Godfoe's Tower to the North along the Outer Curtain Wall. It has also been known as Devil's Tower, presumably as the Devil is regarded as the enemy of God ! Godfoe's Tower is unusual in that it is rectangular and was attached to a large hall as part of the St John's Towers complex. Treasurer's Tower itself is unusual as it is hexagonal shape whereas most Towers are round or oval other than Avranches which is octagonal.

Make sure you take the opportunity to visit Treasurer's Tower and walk the Rampart Walk when you visit us on Open Days.

CASTLE EVENTS 2024

- **Saturday 16th March Members Event DOVER CASTLE'S LOST HISTORY**

Discover the lost history of Castle Hill and learn about Iron Age people, Roman building techniques and Saxon history spanning 500 years. From medieval times to the Second World War, much has been lost but we can tell the story of Dover Castle with the help of landscape archaeology. This event is graded as moderate access.

- **Saturday 23rd March 2024 to Sunday 14th April 2024**

EASTER ADVENTURE QUEST

Join us for a cracking adventure quest at Dover Castle this Easter holiday. Hunt for clues in the castle, track down the Easter eggs and get rewarded with a tasty chocolate treat. You can take on the quest every day of the school holidays, and it costs just £2 to take part. This is on top of the ticket price.

There's no need to book, and you can pay when you arrive at the site. BUT **Book online and save 15% on your entry ticket.**



- **Sat 6 Apr - Sun 14 Apr 2024**

THE BIG BRICK BUILD AT DOVER CASTLE

Get building with our brick artists and help us make a LEGO® brick sculpture at Dover Castle. Following in the footsteps of Henry II, we're building Dover's mighty Great Tower with brick art. Once you've built your section, our brick builders will put all your creations together into one amazing recreation of the heart of the Dover Castle.



(LEGO is a trademark of the LEGO Group which does not sponsor, authorise or endorse this event. ©2023 The LEGO Group)

Book online and save 15%.

- **Sat 25 May - Mon 27 May 2024**

WORLD WAR TWO WEEKEND



Embrace the atmosphere and action of the 1940s as our celebrated WWII Weekend returns for another bank holiday spectacular. Witness a tense, action-packed battle between the allied and German forces featuring striking pyrotechnics and real-life vintage army vehicles. Experience life on the Home Front, listen to live music from the era, and meet the re-enactors whilst you set the kids off to play at hands on activities including the Sergeant's infamous assault courses
NOTE LOUD NOISES

Book online and save 15%.

- **Sat 3rd August to Sun 4th August 2024**

PIRATES

Ahoy, me hearties! Set sail for Dover Castle this summer and get ready for a spectacular adventure on the high seas. See some of history's most famous pirates fight it out at close quarters, and listen to them tell their tales of booty, bounty and barnacles.. With shows, demonstrations and hands-on activities, there'll be plenty of piratical fun for the whole family set against the majestic Dover Castle - whether you're a scallywag, a salty sea dog or a lily-livered landlubber..
NOTE - LOUD NOISES





Historical Maps Project

Our Honorary Vice-president Wendi Atherton has a significant collection of historical maps and charts which she is donating to the Friends on permanent loan, so we are able to look after in perpetuity. We will be able to show interested members and visitors and to better facilitate this we have purchased an antique chest. The project also includes the conservation of these items which means acquiring some archival tissue paper and archival quality sleeves. This project, estimated at £1000, will be funded by the money we receive from the Dover Lotto, which if you recall also funded our Friends of Dover Castle Dover Community Time Capsule Project, which we obviously don't need to fund anymore.



www.doverlotto.com

We are registered as a Good Cause so every £1 ticket you buy in support of us earns us 50p plus a chance of more through the Community Fund

DoverLotto

Sign up today

We have a few regular supporters who buy tickets every week and we thank all of you for supporting us but we need more members and supporters to commit to purchase tickets every week. This gives us valuable funds to put towards projects. Our aims are to support and promote Dover Castle and enhance the visitor experience of members and Castle Visitors alike.

We appreciate there are thousands of other Charities and Good Causes all eager for you to make regular donations to them but we just ask that you do not over stretch yourselves and cause financial hardship. Yes, we need and will be very grateful for all donations and funding we receive but please make sure you can afford to buy any tickets you do. We are members of the Fundraising Regulator and comply with the Code of Fundraising Practice.



An article about the Roman Pharos at Dover Castle by Graham Hutchison

There are some really ancient buildings in the UK, such as the Knap of Howar on Island Papa Westray in the Orkneys Scotland which dates to 3700 BC but the oldest Tower building in Mainland Britain is the Roman Lighthouse at Dover Castle estimated to have been built in AD43 in the time of Emperor Claudius. During it's long life it has been a lighthouse, a guard house and bell tower and at one point was attached to the Church situated adjacent to it.

There are in fact only 3 Roman Lighthouses still standing, the Pharos at Dover, the Tower of Hercules (Farum Brigantia) in A Coruna, Spain and the remains of a Lighthouse at Leptis Magna in Libya.



The Lighthouse in Leptis Magna in Libya is only a ruin but claims to be one of the last 3 Roman Lighthouses still remaining and dates from around 500 BC.

Leptis Magna was a city of the Carthaginian Empire and is on the Northern Coast near Tripoli.

The Tower of Hercules is situated on the north coast of Spain and attracts 125,000 visitors a year but the current Tower, has been so extensively renovated since it's Roman build that it would hardly be recognised as Roman.

Like many medieval buildings, the Lighthouse fell into decay until it

was repaired and virtually rebuilt in 1788. It is still a working lighthouse and as such is actually the oldest working Lighthouse in the world.

These three existing Roman Lighthouses could not be more different. One is basically a ruin with rubble only rising a few feet and not actually resembling a tower at all and sadly is situated in lands not accustomed to tourism until recent years.

Another, has been virtually rebuilt so as to not actually resemble being Roman at all but it is an iconic tourist attraction.

Ours, well we can take pride in it being the oldest existing Tower in mainland Britain and still looks very Roman, undeniably Roman and is on the site of Dover Castle which attracts nearly 400,000 visitors a year.

Two of the three Roman Lighthouses are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Guess which one is not - that's right - our Roman Pharos at Dover Castle !





St Mary-in-Castro Church is a Saxon Church dating from about 600 AD. It is thought there may have been a Roman church here as archaeological digs have found Roman remains beneath Saxon remains, and experts believe there would have been a Church within the grounds of the Iron Age Hill Fort which was here, pre-Roman. The Church we see today was built around 1000 AD. It has undergone several major restoration projects, as at times during its lifetime it has been neglected. In the 16th and 17th Centuries there were periods when it was used for storage and further demise in 1808 led to it being used merely as a coal store, which it was until 1860 when a major restoration took place, by George Gilbert Scott. A further restoration took place in 1888 by William Butterfield. E H undertook further conservation work in 2016 when visitors could climb up to a viewing platform at the top of the scaffolding. This view was fantastic.

The Pharos is well preserved, in fact the lower 13 metres of the structure is Roman with only the top few metres being more modern. Having a roof has allowed visitors to explore inside it, in the dry and safely and it is well worth a trip - remember it is one of only 3 still standing in the World and is the best and most original.

Having the Pharos on the Cliffs at the Eastern side of the estuary, it was therefore necessary to have a similar lighthouse at the opposite side of the valley and there is evidence there was a similar structure built as a lighthouse at the Western Heights

All that is left of the one at the Western Heights is the Bredenstone - image on the right which is a conserved mound of Roman flint and stone. It has been used in modern times as the Traditional place for the installation of Lord Warden's of the Cinq Ports .

It is thought that there is hardly anything left of this lighthouse at the Western heights as it was demolished to use as building materials for the substantial construction known as the Drop Redoubt and Grand Shaft Barracks.

It has also been known as Caesar's Alter and Devils Drop and the engraving below exaggerates it somewhat



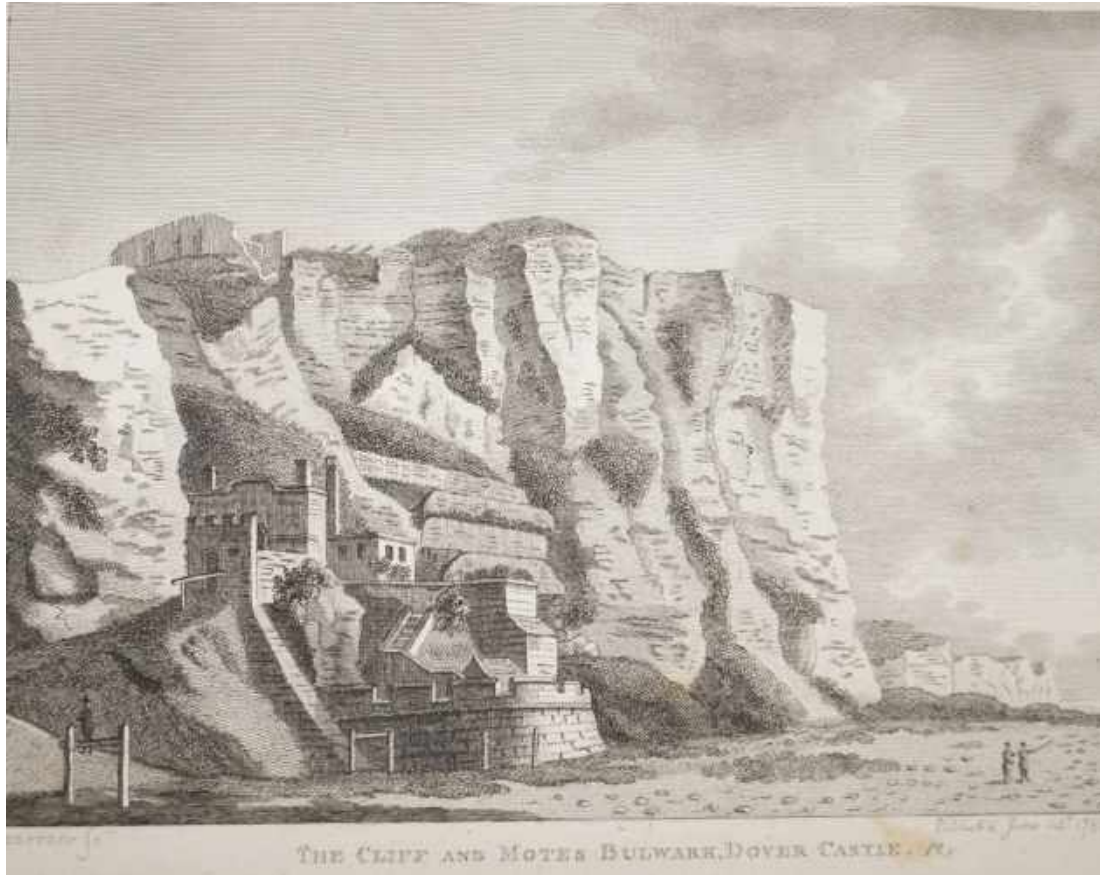
Bredenstone, or the Devils Drop.

. **UNESCO World Heritage Sites.** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation set up the World Heritage List in 1975 following the World Heritage Convention in 1972 where 20 Nations agreed to set up a Fund to help preserve places of Natural and Cultural Heritage importance. By the time the first site was established - that being the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador. 40 Nations had signed up to the Convention and there are now 195 nations signed up, and over a 1000 sites listed of World Heritage Status.. The UK has 33 sites listed, including Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey and St Martins Church; Durham Castle and Cathedral; Forth Bridge; Giant's Causeway; Stonehenge: Tower of London; Liverpool - Maritime Mercantile City was removed due to irreversible loss of attributes following recent building developments were considered to ruin Liverpool's authenticity and integrity. Stonehenge may lose it's status as there are plans to build a road tunnel which will cause it to be listed as "in Danger".

When you consider what we have, Dover Castle, the Lock and Key of the Kingdom;; Iconic White Cliffs of Dover; Western Heights - Drop Redoubt, Napoleonic Grand Shaft Triple Staircase; The Port - Dover Harbour with cross channel links for 2000 years - Royal Charter since 1606; **Why is Dover not a World Heritage Site???**

SOME HISTORICAL IMAGES

This image is of the Motes Bulwark, an addition to the Castle's defences made by Henry VIII in about 1540. Wouldn't it be great to get this open to the public in some format.



The image below is of the Ropewalk which went right along the seafront from the western reaches right to beyond the Motes Bulwark in the East (as you can see in above image). Imagine the miles of rope made along the seafront at Dover.

