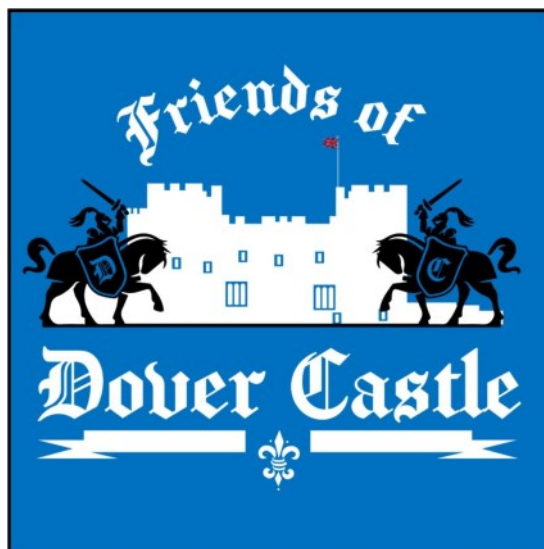


Dover Castle Chronicles No. 5



October 2024

In This Bumper Edition

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- ◆ Dover Castle Under Siege - the new attraction;
- ◆ Friends Tours Recommence;
- ◆ Friends - Bringing people and memories together;
- ◆ New Lord Warden Appointed
- ◆ Free Entry (off peak) to Richborough Castle, Walmer Castle, Deal Castle, St Augustine's Abbey;
- ◆ A.G.M Special Report
- ◆ The new Board of Trustees

We are a small charity made up of volunteers and members, supporting the biggest Castle in England. The more members we have, the better able we are to raise funds to help the Castle be the best possible attraction to visitors.

Spread the word to your family and friends. The Friends of Dover castle is actually "a Thing"

A.G.M. SPECIAL EDITION

SPREAD THE WORD

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| • 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 |

JOIN the FRIENDS

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 - so joining the Friends makes even more sense!

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



The new Commandant of the Royal School of Military Engineering 1 RSME is Brigadier James D Webster. As such, he becomes the 217th Deputy Constable of Dover Castle. Whilst nowadays it is a Ceremonial position it is still of high importance and he will be supporting the new Lord Warden of Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover Castle, Admiral Sir George Zambellas.

Brigadier Webster is also Vice President of the Chartered Institute of Royal Engineers

Jim Webster was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1998, having previously graduated with a Mechanical Engineering degree. He has commanded *Sappers* at every rank, from Troop, Squadron, Regiment to Group, in roles from close support to air support, and on exercises and operations across the globe. At staff, he has worked in

both the Ministry of Defence and three times in the Army Headquarters, in the capability development, operations, and personnel career fields, most recently as Chief of Staff of the Personnel Directorate.

I have written to Brigadier Webster inviting him to become our Honorary President.

Lord Warden and Admiral of the Cinque Ports Announced

The King has approved the appointment of Admiral Sir George Zambellas GCB, DSC, ADC, DL, as Lord Warden and Admiral of the Cinque Ports, in succession to Lord Boyce.

Sir George was educated at Stowe School and Southampton University and was commissioned into the Royal Navy in 1980. He was promoted Lieutenant in 1982, flying with the Fleet Air Arm, to Commander in 1994 and Captain in 1999. In 2001, he received the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) following operations in Sierra Leone. In 2002, Sir George was made Commodore and was appointed Principal Staff Officer to the Chief of the Defence Staff, serving Admiral Boyce and General Walker, before command of the UK Amphibious Force, and the UK Maritime Force. He was promoted to Vice Admiral in 2011, and to Admiral in 2012 as NATO Maritime Commander and UK Commander in Chief. He was appointed KCB in 2012 and became First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval staff in 2013. In the 2016 New Years Honours he was appointed GCB. Beyond his commercial career in small hi-tech companies, he holds charitable positions, as an Elder Brother of Trinity House, in the White Ensign Association, the VC & GC Association, The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights, The Shipwrecked Mariners Society, the Navy Wings Trust and the Fly Harrier Trust. He is Gentleman Usher to the Sword of State.



to

The office of Lord Warden and Admiral, now ceremonial in nature, was once one of the most powerful in England. It was a vital link between the Crown and ports on the South-East coast which provided a fleet to serve successive Kings for 500 years before the foundation of the Royal Navy. Recent holders of the office have included Sir Winston Churchill (1941-1965) and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother (1978-2002). Sir George is only the third Admiral to have held the office during its 800 year history. He also holds the position of Constable of Dover Castle.

© Press Release HM Government. May 2024 I have written to Sir George to congratulate him on his appointment and to invite him to come to Dover Castle to meet us.



CHAIRMAN'S JOLLY DAY OUT I have been wanting to treat the Committee of The Friends of Dover Castle to a Jolly Day Out for quite a while. I have also wanted to organise a River Boat Trip from Sandwich to Richborough Roman Fort and also take in a meal if possible. I had met Captain Colin of Captain Colin's Riverbus before at a Tourism Event, so I thought I'd make contact and this turned out to be a wonderful trip. A great trip along the River Stour, a guided tour around Richborough Roman Fort and a meal in the Dog and Duck at Plucks Gutter. Really nice!

Unfortunately none of the Trustees were available but several volunteers were able to make the trip so we went ahead and some of the volunteers later became Trustees so it all turned out rather well.



Captain Colin Carr and his First Mate, Liz Fowler had been running the Sandwich Riverbus from Sandwich Quay for trips to not only Richborough Fort, but also to see the Seals at Pegwell Bay . They are now based at Plucks Gutter and use the Ferry Nymph, which is a genuine Little Ship which sailed to Dunkirk to rescue British and Allied Soldiers in 1940 during the Second World War. It had originally been based with a sister ship, Southern Queen, in Poole Harbour, taking passengers across Poole Harbour. On 29 May 1940 it was ordered by the Admiralty to Dover where it was taken over by Royal Navy Commander Gerrard where it joined the little ships making 2 trips, saving 72 soldiers on the 1st trip and 90 on the other, taking them safely across to Ramsgate . She was returned to Poole in July 1940, resuming Ferry Trips until 1953 when sold to the Great Yarmouth Ferry Company. Then sold to a local fisherman in 1963 who renamed her Shepherd Lad, she became a Herring Drifter for 22 years, when she became used for stern trawling in the Thames but sank in rough weather in 1994. She was salvaged by the Dunkirk Little Ships Association and restored. Captain Colin managed to purchase her in 2021 when she was restored to her original name, Ferry Nymph and she is registered with the National Historic Ships UK. Captain Colin is registered with the Association of Dunkirk Little Ships and takes her over each May to join the Commemoration of Operation Dynamo.



The vessel is only licenced for 12 passengers. We were a group of just 7 plus crew and that felt cosy enough, so I can't imagine how crowded it felt with 90 soldiers on board but all credit to this little ship, like so many exceeding capacity in order to save our troops. Incidentally, the number of troops landing at Normandy on DDay was 133,000—the number of troops saved from Dunkirk was 338,000. Just makes you think, doesn't it?



One of our volunteers is Jan and she provided me with some images of our trip. Above is picture of Captain Colin, Jan cheekily got it from the "Bridge" so I thought I'd show it again. One minute Jan had need of a Parasol, the next it was teaming down with rain. Whilst this made the boat trip to Richborough a little unpleasant, at least the rain stopped for our guided tour around Richborough Castle. Below are some images Jan took of the Roman Fort.



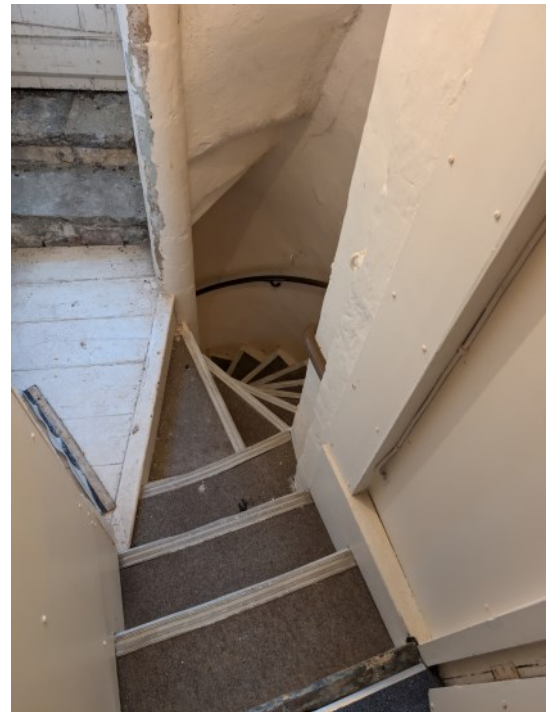
Our small group enjoyed a wonderful boat trip. Imagine the space we occupied being occupied by at least 30 soldiers evacuated from Dunkirk. (The boat actually carried 90). We had a brilliant volunteer Tour Guide who was very knowledgeable on all things Roman, not just Richborough. This really had been a Jolly Day Out.



FRIENDS TOURS On Sunday 18th August we were treated to a wonderful special Tour of Constables Tower. Our guide was the inimitable Gavin Wright who not only took us around the interior but also included the entrance, gardens and stables.

Gavin is very knowledgeable and gave us lots of information but also alternative scenarios and his own perspective on some reported events in the Castle's history.

It was pleasing the main Garden had been tidied up which just showed how nice it would have been to relax in a beautiful flowered and cared for garden with stunning views of the port and channel as well as the backdrop of England's biggest Castle.



Constables is quite a bit of an architectural mish mash, having been built in approximately 1218, and added to over the next few hundred years. Hubert de Burgh was Keeper of the Coast*, Constable of Dover Castle and Chief Justiciar of England. He wanted to create a main entrance to Dover Castle away from the Northern Defences which had almost succumbed to French invaders during the 1216 siege. This was part of the works reinforcing the outer curtain wall and making the fortress quite impregnable. Constables is fascinating. It has reused archways, corridors leading to just a toilet, spiral staircases galore, rooms leading to rooms and doors to the roof.

It was great to see the Stables in almost working conditions and there is still a great upstairs/downstairs feel. about the place.

FRIENDS - Bringing people and memories together.

As Chairman of the Friends of Dover Castle I receive numerous and varied requests.

On the 26th May this year, I received an email from a resident of Hawkinge who was hosting friends from Tenerife on their holidays to the UK. The friend was the daughter of a former Housekeeper of Constables Tower and wondered whether I could arrange a visit for her to see Constables Tower so she could see where her mum had worked. Also, she had only really seen it from the servants quarters side which would also bring back great memories she feels. She would also like to show her daughter Andrea, and granddaughter Isabelle, where their grandmother/great grandmother used to work.

I met with Becky Smith, Manager of Dover Castle, and we agreed I could open up Constables to do a private tour.

On Saturday 8th June I met with Cheryl Phipps, Daughter of Rosina Bradbury, who was the Housekeeper of Constables from 1962 until 1987, serving 8 Deputy Constables from Major General Grimshaw to Brigadier Lee. Cheryl was accompanied by her daughter Andrea Troy and her granddaughter Isabelle Troy.

Coincidentally, our Honorary Vice-President of the Friends of Dover Castle is Wendi Atherton, who lived in Constables as the wife of the 200th Deputy Constable of Dover Castle, Brigadier Maurice Atherton. Rosina was housekeeper to the Atherton's and their family during Maurice's term from 1976 until 1981 - this was an extended term from the normal three years, due to HM the Queen Mother being appointed as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover Castle in 1978.



Pictured here - Wendi Atherton, Cheryl, Andrea and Isabelle, three generations of the former Housekeeper of Constables Tower.

and below

Rosina pictured with HM The Queen Mother and receiving a Commendation for Highly Meritorious services to the Army, on her retirement.

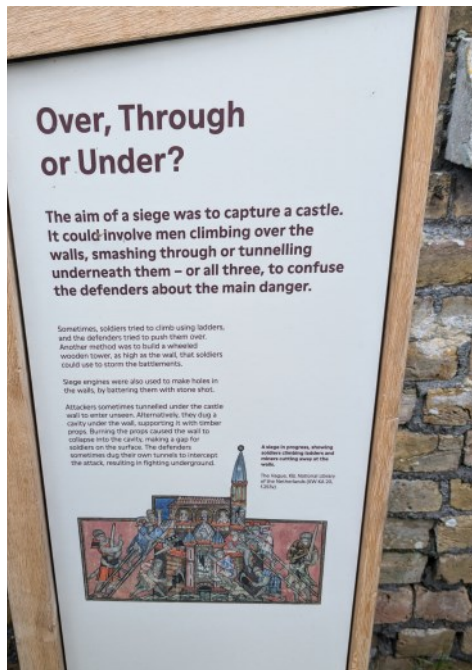
They have since joined the Friends and are keeping in touch. Cheryl has recently sent me some more photographs of her mum at Constables.



DOVER CASTLE UNDER SIEGE

This is the new attraction at Dover Castle and was a major project which was actually delivered early. The aim was to utilise the Northern defences, bringing Casemates into use and providing a re-interpretation of not only the Siege of 1216 but of soldiers garrisoned at Dover Castle throughout the ages. The Castle was a full military garrison until 1958.

Thought to be the most expensive and extensive re-interpretative project English Heritage have ever completed, it is a fantastic interactive experience with information panels, digital and interactive displays and lots to do for children with play areas on siege themes.



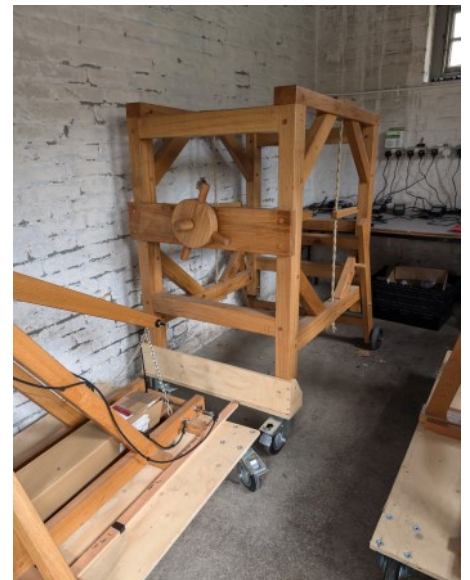
The casemates are now adorned by information panels, images, banners etc including an interactive crossbow where you can try to shoot invaders. The Digital model took over 800 hours of work to put together involving historians and IT specialists. These are a few images but you really need to visit to see it properly and immerse yourself in England's history. As well as the reworked medieval tunnels you can also now access the Spur and Redan. Great views!



A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

Dover Castle, as a fortress, was never taken in battle but the closest it came to being was in the Siege of 1216. The Barons of England had fallen out with King John who was seen as somewhat of a failure compared to his popular brother "Richard the Lionheart" who died in 1199 after 10 years as sovereign. King John lost most of his lands in France to King Philip II of France, such as the vast Duchy of Normandy, Britany, Anjou and Aquitaine. In fact this signalled the end of the Angevin Empire. King John was desperate to recover his lands in Northern France and started accessing funds to build an army and this caused the Barons considerable consternation as he acted without consulting them, so much was their chagrin that they demanded he sign the Magna Carta - which was an agreement of how he will serve better. King John reneged on the agreement and thus the Barons rebelled against him and offered Prince Louis of France the English throne if he helped them overthrow King John. Prince Louis landed in Thanet with a huge army in May 1216, and was greeted by all the local Barons who in fact proclaimed him as King at St Paul's Cathedral because King John had fled to Windsor. King Philip II apparently teased his son that he could not be crowned King of England unless he had taken the Lock and Key to England - Dover Castle. Prince Louis thus lay siege to Dover Castle, from about 22nd July 2016.

Dover Castle was protected by Hubert De Burgh, the Justiciar, with around 140 Knights and their soldiers and he was well used to defending sieges having held King John's Castle of Chinon for a year against King Philip II in 1204-5. The Castle garrison held firm and despite the French having all manner of siege engines targeted on the Castle, Hubert De Burgh held the Castle and a Truce was agreed on October 14th.



King John died some 5 days later so the Baron's quarrel with him basically ceased and his successor was Henry III, who was only 9 years of age so William Marshall was appointed as his protector. Louis and his army remained encamped in England as the Civil War (First Baron's War 1215-1217) continued, with Louis staying mostly in London. A large French fleet bringing more troops and supplies was easily defeated off Sandwich, (Battle of Sandwich 24/08/1217) by the English fleet led by Hubert de Burgh. The result was that peace was declared (Treaty of Kingston) on 12th September 1217 where Prince Louis renounced all claims to the throne in return for being allowed to return to France unmolested. Rebel Barons were ordered to pay Louis 10000 marks to help him on his way. Funny to think that hundreds of French troops stayed in and around Dover, mixing with locals whilst they camped here waiting further developments.

The Siege of Dover Castle showed off a large number of different ways medieval armies tried to gain access to defended fortresses. Huge Trebuchets were able to hurl large boulders some 400 yards. Siege towers allowed bowmen to fire arrows at high levels. Dover Castle Under Siege project includes three replica scale models of siege engines, as shown above, which will be able to be displayed at the attraction when trained volunteers are available to demonstrate how they would have been used. I have been trained in how to safely demonstrate these siege engines, which will enhance the visitor experience of the new attraction. On one day during half term I had over 100 children participating in launching pretend boulders and they loved being able to fire a genuine replica siege engine whilst learning more about the Siege.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING :

The AGM was held in the wonderful setting of Constables Tower on Sunday 13th October 2024.



The business part of the AGM took place in the Great Hall of Constables Tower and there were some 30 members present. There were reports from, Graham, the Chairman, Brian the Treasurer, Pauline, the Membership Secretary, and Mark, the Kitchen Garden Project lead. There were no elections of officers as such but new Trustees were confirmed which means we now have a full management committee. One of the new Trustees is Chris (new Secretary) and Stacey, who is taking the lead in our Marketing and Publicity and she spoke about her ideas about raising our profile and increasing membership. Becky Smith gave a report on English Heritage and Vicky Fannon, the Dover Castle Volunteers Manager was also present.

President : Brigadier James Webster Deputy Constable of Dover Castle

Hon. Vice President Wendi Atherton

Hon. Vice President Mike McFarnell

Chairman Graham Hutchison

Treasurer Brian Rowland

Secretary Chris Wornell

Membership Secretary Pauline Beresford

Trustee Mark Danson Kitchen Garden Project Lead

Trustee Pauline Danson Kitchen Garden lead gardener

Trustee Stacey Hall Marketing & Publicity Lead

Trustee Sarah Hooper Volunteer

Trustee John Moat Volunteer

Trustee Mia Shephard Volunteer

Trustee Loren King Volunteer

Trustee Paul King Volunteer



(Special mention to Jan and Chris Reed, who are also regular volunteers and have been attending the monthly meetings)

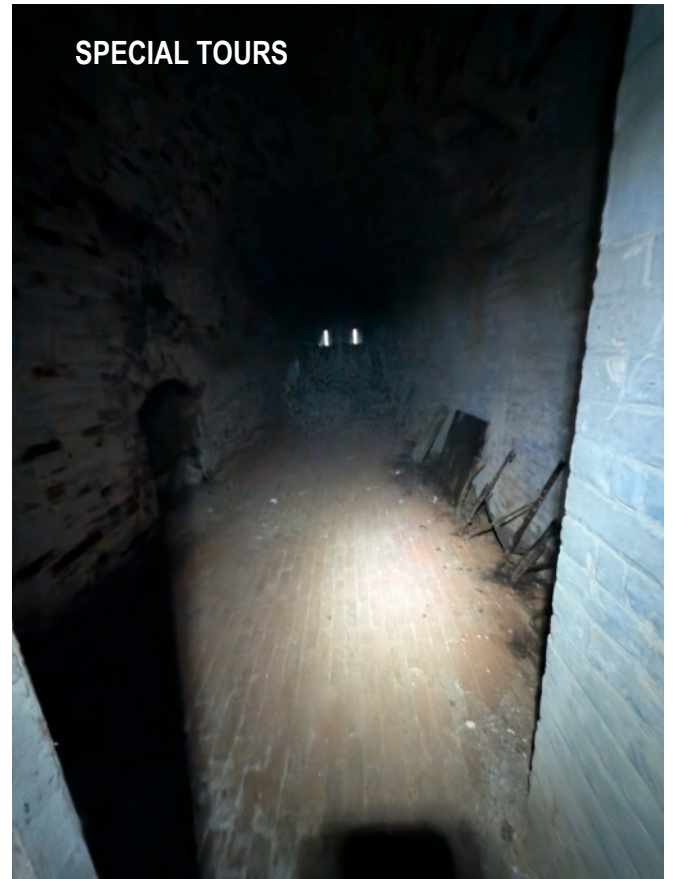
Several projects were discussed.

Defibrillator: Graham made a presentation to Becky Smith, General Manager of Dover Castle who confirmed it is the Castle's first ever Defibrillator and it will be installed at the main ticket office.

Historic Maps and Charts : Our Historical Maps and Charts Project is progressing we aim is to display these next year.

Postcards Project: Collaboration with the Curatorial Team resulted in this Project where we have obtained a large collection of Postcards of Dover Castle plus other photos and information. The Curator selected ones they need and we have donated them to the Castle as per our new Collections Policy but we have a large collection of duplicates and others which will be another project looking to be able to display and show them to visitors.

The meeting was very upbeat and we were treated to some home made scones, courtesy of Brian, with an afternoon cream tea in Constables Lounge where conversations about all things Castle took place. The Minutes will be available to members very soon. Many thanks to Becky for allowing us to use Constables and setting it up for us.



There are many places to go where visitors are not normally allowed - many are situated in the Eastern works areas. Normally, Hudson's passage is accessible for special tours and is a myriad of tunnels, corridors, spiral staircases, batteries and magazines. Horseshoe Bastion is another historic part of the Castle and there is also East Demi Bastion which is an incredible place to explore if accessible - currently the growth of brambles, stingers, weeds and undergrowth prevents running any special tours there. Some of the brickwork is amazing - General William Twiss undertook substantial reformation of Dover Castle as there was still a threat of Napoleon invading our shores and there was a focus on the outer curtain wall and defences on the North and East sides. There was also a self contained separate bastion named East Arrow Bastion which dated from earlier than the others mentioned and has been bulldozed - so is totally inaccessible and unfortunately there appears little by way of pictorial evidence that it actually existed. Have you any photographs of old Dover castle?

What do our logos mean?

National Council for Voluntary Organisations NCVO is the leading umbrella body for the voluntary and community sector in the UK. There are more than 165,000 voluntary organisations of which 96% are regarded as small. There are 168,000 charities registered with the Charity Commission.. The vast majority of voluntary organisations are regarded as micro or small (with less than £100k income pa.) and these make up 80% of the sector. The Voluntary Sector is worth nearly £70 billion a year.



We are members of NCVO and I recently attended the AGM which was done virtually by Zoom video. The AGM highlighted how important the Voluntary Sector was to the UK economy and how small charities were struggling. NCVO provides resources for members, training, guidance to Trustees, funding advice and a whole host of information so it is a good organisation to be a part of. A current major project is creating a **Civil Society Covenant** which will be an agreement of positive collaboration between Civil Society Organisations and the Government.



I have also signed us up with **Charity Excellence Framework** which is an organisation set up to offer a Free One- Stop -Shop for Charity Funding Policies, Help & Resources.



I have also joined us to the **Association of Chairs** which is an organisation with the aim of being the Champion for all Charity Chairs. Again this is a good source of resources and advice and members have a wealth of experience with small charities to global multinational charities. Sometimes it can be lonely being the Chair of a charity and this provides support and advice and a members forum to discuss various issues.



I registered the Friends of Dover Castle with these societies after I had undertaken training. It is important we support initiatives to help and support sufferers and their carers, especially when they are visiting the Castle.



I am registered as a **Mental Health First Aider** and I receive regular updates and undertake refresher training every 3 years.

Welcome to Excellence: I undertook this training designed for anyone in hospitality and visitor attractions. I agree with the ethos that people should not just visit but



have an experience. The Friends of Dover Castle are able to enhance the visitor experience and when we interact with visitors we should do itexcellently.



We are registered with the **Fundraising Regulator** which means we abide by the Fundraising Code of Practice. The emphasis is on ethical fundraising and being open and transparent and honest. I am also a member of the **Chartered Institute of Fundraising** following gaining an Advanced Diploma in Fundraising. This gives us access to valuable resources and information regarding fundraising strategies etc.



REMEMBER During Winter Season Months - November to March, our members are allowed to use their Friends of Dover Castle membership to gain free entry to the other English Heritage sites in our region.

DEAL CASTLE, **WALMER CASTLE,** **RICHBOROUGH ROMAN FORT,** **St AUGUSTINES ABBEY**

What a bargain — all for only £30 a year (Individual) or only £42 for a family.





Some random images - Why we love Dover Castle

The installation of the new Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports and Constable of Dover Castle which took place on October 29th at the Duke of Yorks Royal Military School.

Admiral Sir George Zambellas.GCB, DSC, ADC, DL was appointed by King Charles III on 21st May 2024 and was installed at a ceremony this week.

Below are two night scenes of Dover Castle, one showing the comet (image courtesy Paul Dixon), the other showing our Castle in the Aurora sky.

The Granville Dock in Dover's Western Docks Regeneration Programme is being described as a huge sandpit at the moment as it is being filled in to reclaim more land. Sand Sculpture artists took the opportunity to build a replica.

