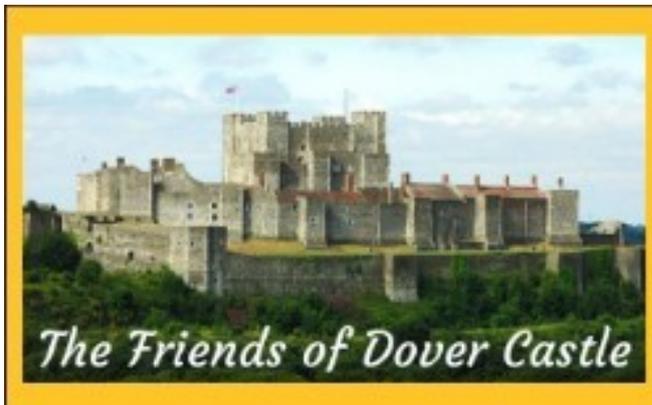


Lockdown Newsletter June 2020



DOVER CASTLE re-opening 4th July

Dover Castle will open on 4 July. You now need to book your timed tickets in advance. We have introduced limits on visitor numbers to help keep everyone safe, and you won't be able to visit without your booking confirmation. If you're a EH Member, your ticket will be free, but you still need to book in advance. There will be other new steps in place to ensure everyone's safety, so your visit will be a little different.— English Heritage (see page 6 Friends)

www.english-heritage.org.uk

Friends with Benefits

At a recent Management Committee meeting, it was decided that due to the Castle being closed all members of the Friends of Dover Castle renewing their membership will be given 18 months instead of 12. We had already introduced a free additional 3 months to renewals this year so a further 3 months will compensate you for the duration of lockdown closure. Contact membership secretary by email - secretary.friendsofdovercastle@gmail.com

Don't forget all the other benefits you get from being members, such as 10% discount in shops and café's .

Castle Grounds - these will be fully open for you to explore and enjoy.

Castle Tunnels - The Secret Wartime Tunnels and Medieval Tunnels will remain closed. On the weekends from July 18th, the Castle's WW2 stories will be brought to life with live interpretations in the open air. You can meet Admiral Ramsey as he prepares Operation Dynamo to rescue over 330,000 soldiers from the beaches of Dunkirk.

The Great Tower - will be open with a one way system in operation. The Keep Yard and Arthur's Hall Exhibition will also be open to visitors.

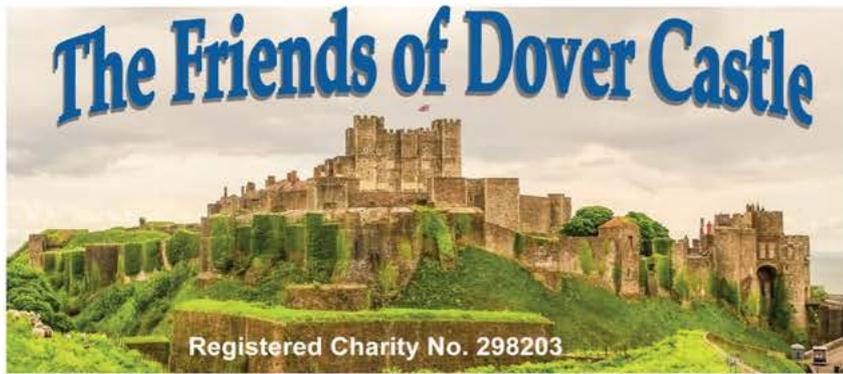
Café - a new alternative takeaway service will operate offering a range of snacks, treats and hot drinks - in two locations.

Shop - The Great Tower shop will be open with a one way system in operation.

Toilets - toilet facilities will be open and additional hand sanitising stations will be available at various locations.

Find out more on the English Heritage Website.

These revised operating arrangements have been put in place to keep each and everyone of you safe, including staff, so please be patient and abide by any instructions and queueing arrangements.



IMPORTANT NEWS RELEASE - 30/05/2020

It gives me great pleasure to announce that we have commissioned local artist Brian Cornwell to do a painting for us depicting the Battle of Britain as part of our commemorations of the 80th Anniversary of this key battle of the skies during 1940.

Brian has lived in Dover for 24 years and has been happily married to local girl Sharon for 20 years.

He took up painting in 2003 after watching videos of American artist Bob Ross who inspired him to take it up. Brian was suffering from depression at the time and found it helped him through it. Bob Ross was an ex military man who took up painting and hosted "The Joy of Painting" which was an American instructional TV programme (1983 - 1994).



Other than watching Bob Ross, Brian is self taught and says that he mostly paints now, only to show people and to try to put a smile on people's faces.

Brian contributed to our Art Exhibition last year by loaning 4 lovely paintings.

I was impressed with his artwork of Dover Castle and of some paintings of Spitfires he has done.

You can see examples of Brian's work on Facebook.

We are incredibly excited by this as it is the first ever painting we have commissioned and Brian says this is an honour and is as excited as we are. We will bring you more news and details of where it will be on display in due course.

Any questions you have regarding this commission should be addressed in the first instance to the Chairman, Graham Hutchison by email

chairman@dover-castle-friends.org

Graham

I have today been advised by Brian that he has finished the commission and is ready to deliver the Battle of Britain Painting to us. He has been working hard, sometimes 6 hours a day, to get this completed for us - our first ever Commission.

PWRR & QRR MUSEUM



<http://www.armytigers.com/museums/princess-wales-royal-regiment-and-queens-regiment-museum-dover-castle>



The Princess of Wales Royal Regiment and Queen's Regimental Museum which is based in the Keep Yard at the Castle will also open on July 4th. It is free to enter - once you have paid to enter the Castle that is. There will be new arrangements to comply with social distancing and provision of hand sanitisers for use on entering and leaving the museum.

The museum is a fascinating place to visit so perhaps, instead of visiting the Secret Wartime Tunnels which remain closed, you will visit this museum.

The Museum is a charity and need funds to make improvements so please give generously if you are able - Donations are always welcome .



Battle of Britain over Dover Castle by Brian Cornwell. ©FODC - BattleofBritainoverDoverCastle-BC-2020

This is the final result! Our first commission - a painting to portray Dover Castle in the Battle of Britain in order to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain, which took place above our skies during July to October 1940.

Brian completed this for us using top grade canvas and a mixture of oils and acrylics and it took him about 90 hours. He based the painting on an photographic image of Dover Castle I sent him which was taken by Matt Pennal.

We will organise an official unveiling at the Castle once we are allowed. My photograph of the painting is okay but does not really do it justice, you will need to see it for yourselves.

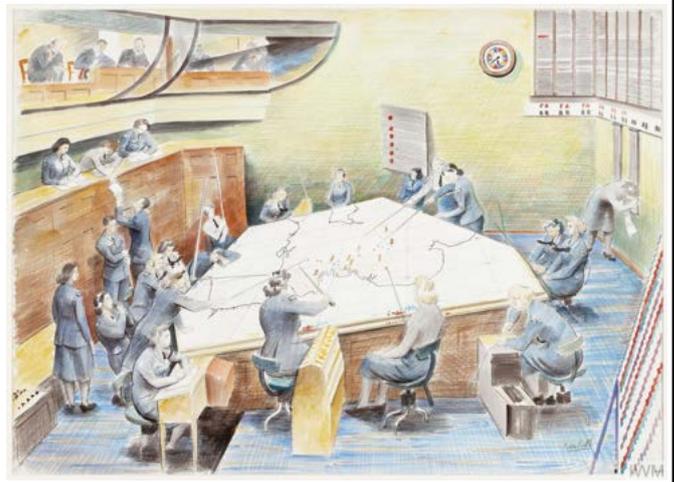
COPYRIGHT reminder, this is a commission and is copyrighted, so it may not be copied, reproduced or used in any way without prior permission. Any application should be made to the chairman via email chairman@dover-castle-friends.org



I presented Brian with a Certificate which he was well pleased with. Brian is a self taught artist but says he watched quite a few videos of US painting legend Bob Ross.

I think Brian has done a brilliant job for us and it is exactly how I described to him what I wanted in order to commemorate the Anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Well done Brian !



Battle of Britain 1941 by Paul Nash © IWM (Art IWM ART LD 1550)

Group Headquarters—Radiolocation plotters by Roland Pitchforth ©IWM (Art IWM ART LD 2320)

Any organised events to Commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain are largely on hold due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The Imperial War Museum have lots of information on their website, which is where I came across some artwork, a couple of which I reproduce above—courtesy of IWM Non Commercial Licence . Visit the IWM website ...

www.iwm.org.uk/history/7-artworks-of-the-battle-of-britain

<https://>



The wonderful Memorial at Capel has obviously been closed during Lockdown and as such has had no income to speak of and is not publicly funded yet still has overheads which need to be paid. They have started a national campaign to try to raise funds and also set up a Crowdfunder page https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/save-the-national-memorial-to-the-few?utm_source=Social%20Channels&utm_medium=social Please support if you are able.

OTHER NEWS

I have been communicating with other "Friends of" associations of historic properties in order to share ideas especially on best supporting our properties when they re-open. Some are scheduled to open on 4th July and others in August. Most are not operating at all, the Lockdown seriously affecting their ability to function. Others are conducting meeting via video link as we are and also publishing regular newsletters. It is very difficult to know how Associations such as ours can best help our English Heritage properties to come out of lockdown all guns blazing. Nearly everywhere will see dramatic changes to operations as there will still be Government Guidelines and rules to follow. Visitors to Dover Castle will not be allowed to go underground until Covid-19 Safety Inspectors advise it is safe to do so. This means prime attractions such as the Secret Wartime Tunnels and Medieval Tunnels will not be open to the Public. Fewer people will be allowed in at any one time and this seriously impacts on cash flow as coming out of a period of closure a historic property really needs increased visitor numbers. It is a challenging task for Senior Managers in English Heritage to get things right.

DOVER CASTLE QUIZ



We are unable to hold a physical Quiz at the Castle yet but Anne Beacham, committee member has decided she would like to hold a

Virtual Castle Quiz and is currently putting some questions together to form a quiz. Look out for joining instructions on our Web-site or social media pages.

IMPORTANT—MEMBERS

Accessing the Castle from the 4th July will be by advance bookings only, which will generally be via online using the English Heritage website. For members of the Friends of Dover Castle who are also English Heritage members this is easily done online but for non English Heritage members the system will not recognise Friends of Dover Castle Membership Numbers so you will have difficulty completing bookings.

Therefore, for Members of The Friends of Dover Castle who are not English Heritage Members please contact Neil McCollum or Becky Smith to book slots.

01304 209871 01304 209891 or email
becky.smith@english-heritage.org.uk or
neil.mccollum@english-heritage.org.uk

**YOU STILL NEED TO BOOK EVEN IF JUST
WANTING TO WALK THE DOGS**

OUR NEW HOME - UPDATES

For the last couple of years I have been reporting that we have been promised our own accommodation at the Castle which will make things much better for us as an organisation and help us better support Dover Castle.

Initially we were offered a Room in Constables Tower which would have been great in terms of having a Grandiose home and address but perhaps a little restrictive in our use of such a fine building. Following a rethink by Properties Director, Neil McCollum we have been offered the rooms



underneath the Education Suite in the corner of the Keep Yard. The Pandemic has prevented us taking over this new home but it

is still part of plans but obviously must take a back seat whilst the Castle re-opens to visitors. It needs to have more staff on site and a site surveyor who will need to inspect the areas we are to be offered and set up a Licence to Occupy - so it is not simply a case of us just moving in.

However it is still something I am really looking forward to and I feel it will help us thrive as an Association. The Friends groups at other sites, who have their own accommodation appear to be a more integral part of the property they support, which can only help more collaborative working. For example the Friends of Kenwood House met with staff to discuss the re-opening arrangements the day before it opened to the public on 13th June. Kenwood House report high attendance numbers from day 1 and this appears to be replicated across all sites which re-opened in June. I hope this continues with all sites opening on 4th July and the 3rd phase in August.