



# A Castle in the Making

Dear virtual visitors,

Spring is finally here: the swallows are flying high over the castle and the forest is bursting with new life. The construction site is no less active; on Saturday June 1st the Guédelon team hosted the 2nd Master-Builder Gathering. 600 baskets of earth were transported from the courtyard up to the Great Hall, 500 paving tiles were made, and work began on a new bloomery furnace which will allow us to continue experimental iron smelting. Our thanks to all our faithful “*bâtisseurs*”\*!

Maryline Martin Managing Director



A human chain was formed in order to transport the last 9\* tonnes of earth stocked in the courtyard to form the final section of beaten earth floor in the Great Hall.

\*In total, 23.5 tonnes of earth have been laid on the floor boards of the chamber.

The *Bâtisseurs* tamp down the earth with their feet and with the help of tamps\*.



\**Bâtisseur*: individuals who participate actively on the construction site alongside the Guédelon employees.

\*A *tamp*: A person or thing that tamps something down, esp. a machine or tool for tamping down earth.

The construction of a new bloomery furnace based on the remains found near Saint-Dizier. ➤



## In the North Range



### The Great Hall

Thanks to the help of our 140 “master-builders” the final section of beaten earth floor was laid in the Great Hall, allowing the hall to be opened up completely to the visitors for the first time.

The paving of the floor will begin following the firing of the tile kiln, scheduled for the first weekend of July.



The Great Hall is now fully accessible.

### The kitchen



The carpenters and the blacksmiths have made the first of the three kitchen doors, the door on the partition wall leading to the storeroom. They will now start work on the door on the eaves wall.

The kitchen door ➤



## On the Chapel Tower

The rendering of the Chapel Tower’s ground-floor guardroom is under way.



This chamber, with a limestone cross-ribbed vault, was the first closed room to be built inside the castle in 2002. In order to prevent rain water seeping through the masonry before the chapel above is finished in 2014 or 2015, a temporary roof will be rapidly installed in order to prevent lime blooms\* forming and to allow work to begin on the rendering, lime washing and mural painting of the chamber.

**Lime bloom:** lime deposit on the surface of facing walls caused by water seeping through the masonry.

## On the West Tower

The masons have finished two of the three arrow loops; they have fixed the lintel above the last arrow loop and have started work on the relieving arch.



The relieving arch above the lintel ➤

The last arrow loop’s lintel ▼



## On the East Tower

Another team is working on the 1st-floor of this flanking tower; the first steps of the stair leading to the wall-walk have been fixed.



Laying out the 1st floor (US = 2nd floor) of the East Tower ➤



### Save the dates:

**23rd June:** iron smelting in a bloomery furnace

**30th June:** medieval cuisine demonstrations in the castle kitchen

**7th July:** firing of the tile kiln in Guédelon forest