

# A Castle in the Making

Dear Virtual Visitors,

In this final newsletter of the 2011 season, we are proud to present the highlights of the vault-construction on the great tower's first floor. We devoted two seasons to this monumental task and, in mid October this year, the dismantling of the centring marked its completion.

This vault is the largest vault to be built at Guedelon so far: 7-metres high, 7-metres wide, one hundred cubic meters of stone and mortar is suspended above the chamber!

In just eight days, the team shifted the final 40 tonnes of material for the vault onto the tower: a tower which now stands 16-metres high.

We have dreamed of this vault for over two years and the finished result is breathtakingly beautiful: truly fit for a lord! At the beginning of next season, we will finish the fireplace, pave the floor with white flagstones and seal the chamber with fine oak doors.

Maryline Martin

## The vault is complete!

It took two seasons to finish this vaulted chamber. Here we bring you a series of photos showing the key stages of the construction.



lord's chamber on the first floor of the great tower.

1 : The fireplace's hood will be finished next season.

2 : Tiles, unsuitable for roofing, will be used to build the fireplace hood.

3 : Putlog holes: these mark where the scaffold putlogs were inserted into the masonry. Now the scaffolds are down, the holes can be filled in.



**26 August 2010:** the exterior walls are up and the 6 corbels and tas-de-charges are in place.



**29 August 2010:** the carpenters put up the scaffolding which will support the centring.



**3 November 2010:** the centring above the vault seen from below after its installation.



**1 August 2011:** the wall arches are complete and the keystone has been positioned on the centring.



**19 August 2011:** most of the voussoirs have been positioned on the centring. The counter-keystones are the final voussoirs to be inserted.



**23 September 2011:** sandstone flagstones are edge-bedded on wooden shuttering to form the vault's webbing.



**14 October 2011:** the webbing is complete and the vault is under load.



**16 October 2011:** the scaffolding has been removed and the vault's beauty is revealed for the first time.