



# A Castle in the Making

Dear virtual visitors,

Guédelon is now arrayed in autumn colours and the season is coming to close on a very positive note. A large number of visitors have come to see how our work is progressing. As you will see below, the castle has changed enormously, and this year we've been lucky to receive a lot of media attention. As for all the members of the public who have given up their time to participate in the construction process, we thank them for all their energy and enthusiasm! This season may not yet be over, but our thoughts have already turned to the season to come: in partnership with our scientific committee, plans for building the castle's chapel are in the pipeline. Work on the Chapel Tower has been on stand-by for several years now; next year, when the post re-opens on the tower's first-floor, it will bring together all the different trades represented at Guédelon.

Maryline Martin



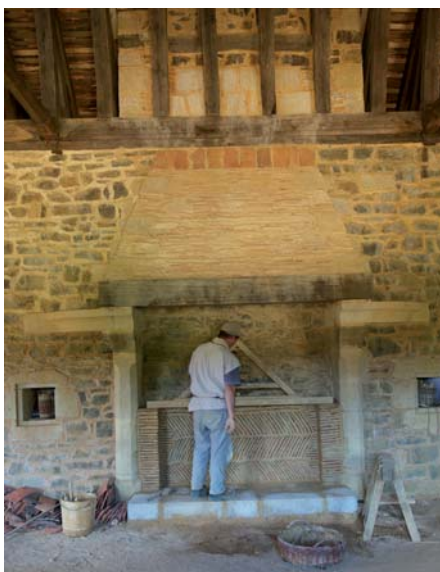
## In the North Range

### The Great Hall

The masons have finished building the Great Hall's fireplace.



The back wall of the **hearth\***, in direct contact with the flames, has been lined with tiles placed in a herringbone design. This fired-earth lining will resist high temperatures and protect the fireplace's sandstone wall. Over time it will also be easier to repair any heat-damage caused to tiles or bricks than it would be to rebuild that section of wall. This practice is borrowed from Brie-Comte-Robert (77).



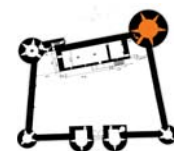
**Hearth:** the floor of a fireplace

**Window seat:** a seat below a window, especially one in a bay or alcove.

## On the Great Tower

### The 2nd-floor octagonal chamber

Work is on-going on the Great Tower's second floor (first floor = US).



The outer walls on the tower's north side are under construction, with the building of the doorway and the fixing of the first stones of a **window seat\***.





## On the West Tower



The building of the ground-floor guardroom has been completed. **Oak joists\*** have been fixed in the walls and temporary floor-boards have been laid for the duration of the building of the floor above. A team of masons has started work on the first floor (US = second floor); the bases of two of the three **arrow loops** are in place and the outer walls are under construction .



interior of chamber



arrow loop base

## Grooming a future player...



**Arpège**, a 3 year-old Comtois mare, arrived at Guédelon just a few weeks ago. Laëtitia and Aurélie, our two carters have introduced her to the site and are taking her out every day doing light harness work. By the end of the 2014 season, *Arpège* should be ready to start taking over from *Kaboul* and *Paloma*.



## On the East Tower



arrow loops

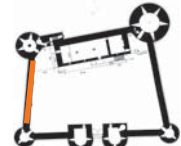
beginning of the stair

Work on the first floor (US = second floor) of this tower is well under way. Four of the stair's steps have been fixed. These monolithic (= formed from a single block of stone) steps are embedded in the tower's inner wall; this stair will lead to the future wall-walk. Two arrow-loops have been built. The East Tower now stands **9 m** above the base of the dry ditch.



first-floor chamber's two arrow loops

## On the western curtain wall



On stand-by since **2003**, work has restarted on this western section of curtain wall. The stonemasons are working to bring it level with the corner tower.



## Creating a single mass

The curtain walls are 2.10 m thick. The exterior facing walls, in coursed rubble, are built up in sections, allowing for the fixing of bonders which will tie the facing walls and rubble cores together. The bonders, or headers, serve to tie in the facing walls to the rubble infill.

**Joist:** a length of timber supporting part of the structure of a building, typically arranged in parallel series to support a floor or ceiling.

## Wind of change in the forest



Following the retirement, last June, of Bernard, our basket maker, there has been a reorganisation of the forest workshops. The dyer's hut, where the wool from our sheep is dyed using plant-based dyes, has become the "House of Colours"; it now also houses a workshop dedicated to the production of pigments.

The basket maker's former workshop has been spruced up: the floor has been paved, the walls limewashed and decorated with mural paintings of plants and herbs. This space will now be used to display the work of the spinner.