



a castle in the making

Dear Virtual visitors,

Many of you will already be heading off on holiday and contrary to popular belief, all roads lead no longer to Rome, but to Guédelon! We look forward to welcoming you all on site, so that you can soak up the positive energy created here! As you can see in this

latest newsletter, great things are happening on our construction site, protected as we are by a microclimate which promises beautiful sunny days in the Land of Guédelon!

Maryline Martin

The chapel is taking shape

Work on the castle's chapel is progressing well. The masonry, having attained 2 metres above floor-level, is now being built up to a height of 4 metres. The stones of the **piscina** - the washbasin - have been fixed into a niche in the wall.



The masonry on the **entrance** to the chapel and the **vaulted passage** leading to the wall-walk is finished. In a move which mirrors work on the first-floor entrance to the Great Hall, the voussoirs above the **pointed arch** which gives onto the courtyard, are arranged in alternate blocks of dressed sandstone and limestone. The sill of the chapel's **tracery window** has already been fixed, and the stonemasons are busily working on the many remaining stones for this window as well as stones for the two **lancet windows**.



The chapel back on June 25th. Since this date, several features have been built or are in the process of being finished; however, the interior scaffolding prevents, for now, a clear view of the inside.

The gothic tracery window

represents a real feat for the banker masons who must dress a total of 36 sculpted stones to complete the window. Before beginning this work of art, the stonemasons first had to set out the designs on the **tracing floor**. The sill has already been fixed and the uprights will be fixed in the coming days.



At the same time, the banker and fixer masons have dressed and fixed 12

more steps of the **spiral staircase** which starts in the courtyard to give access to the Chapel Tower's upper levels. Built into the wall, this staircase has to be built up simultaneously with the tower's outer walls. A further 10 steps will have to be dressed and fixed before the end of the season.



Inside the courtyard, the masons have fixed the three limestone **corbels** which will support the roof timbers above the wooden gallery.



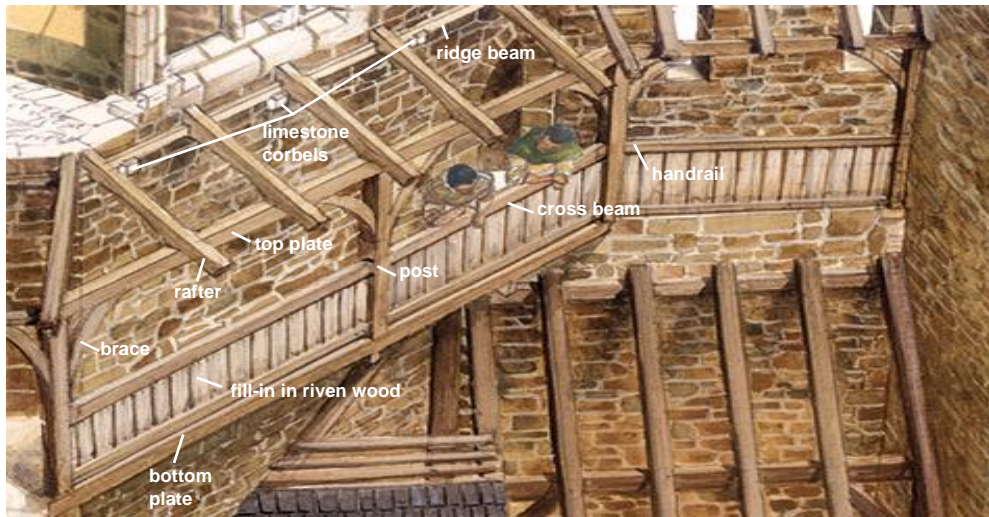
This covered passage links the wall-walk on the northern curtain wall with the western curtain wall, thus allowing guards to patrol the castle's upper level.

The carpenters also have a role to play in this year's objectives as wood meets stone on the **gallery**. Our team of carpenters first removed the scaffolding inside the courtyard in order to begin building the wooden walk-way.

The **putlogs**, designed to support the floor of the gallery, were anchored into the masonry. The **floorboards** and the **guardrail** were then positioned. The plan is to assemble the gallery's rafters at the end of August as soon as the chamfered stone wall is higher.



fixing the top plate



Castles weren't built in stone alone...

This gallery will be covered in wooden shakes. Along with the postern's lean-to, built in 2006, and the covered passage linking the Great Tower and the Great Hall, built in 2009, this gallery demonstrates the importance of wooden structures in the architecture of castles of this period. Other timber-framed buildings may later be built against the curtain walls inside the courtyard.

Guédelon on the BBC



Since March, we have welcomed on site a team from Lion Television, producing a series for the BBC. The filming of a 5 part documentary series about castle construction came to an end in late July. This team was also behind the hugely successful Victorian Farm series; after last year's Tudor Monastery Farm, the team have taken a departure from the world of farming and are exploring the world of castle medieval building. The three presenters, Ruth Goodman, Peter Ginn and Tom Pinfold, have worked alongside the Guédelon workers for nearly 5 months. The series should be broadcast this autumn on BBC Two. We'll let you know when we know more and keep our fingers crossed for a French version.

