



# a castle in the making...

Dear virtual visitors,  
Guédelon forest in spring is a hive of activity. On the Chapel Tower, a vault is being built, in the woodland, a new workshop is under construction; in the quarry, stone is being extracted; some are busy dressing stone, others working wood, making paving tiles or preparing pigments to paint the walls of the castle with magnificent murals. In the barn the new film about the Guédelon venture is on show, whilst in the forest the millstones are turning...

And what's more, throughout the season, we'll be receiving a helping hand from potters, the woodturner, the baker and our castle cook.

In the forest, you'll have to watch out for the horses hauling wood, the donkeys delivering grain to the mill, the pigs, the chickens, the geese...

But don't take my word for it: come and see for yourself!

Maryline Martin

## save the last vault for me



Building the vault on the Great Tower's first floor (US = 2nd floor) in 2011

## a rib-vault in the making

During this 18th construction season, the team is building the castle's **final rib-vault**. This **quadrupartite vault** will cover the 1st-floor (US = 2nd-floor) chapel. The stonemasons are sculpting **4 corbels**, **50 voussoirs** and the **keystone**. The masons must build up the walls of the Chapel Tower, build the **3 lancet windows** and the **spiral staircase** which leads from the courtyard to the upper levels of the tower. The carpenters must finish the **wooden gallery** which skirts around the place of worship.

The construction of the castle is far from over, but the building of this final rib-vault marks an important moment in Guédelon's history.

## a crenellated wall-walk

On the western curtain wall, the quarrymen are busy extracting enough stones to keep the banker and fixer masons building the **crenellated wall-walk** supplied with enough material.

In the Great Hall, the masons are going to pave the floor; the **4000 paving tiles** needed were fired last season by the tilers.

## bridging the gap

The woodworkers and the carpenters are building a temporary bridge which will span the deep ditch to the east of the castle. This bridge will be needed once work on the southern curtain wall begins in earnest in a few seasons from now.



dressing a corbel for the future vault



the castle's northern side

## ■ a millwheel a-turning

Built in partnership with a team of archaeologists from Inrap\*, this working model of a medieval water mill is now open to the public every day throughout the season. In the heart of Guédelon forest, the miller explains how the mill was built and how flour is produced. Be transported to another age by the sound of water running in the millrace and millstone grinding on millstone...

\*Inrap = French National Institute for Preventative Archaeology

## ■ on the move

The woodworkers and carpenter-joiners are setting up camp on the edge of the forest, on the eastern counterscarp. They are raising a new workshop with a covered tracing floor\*, large enough for drawing and assembling the roof timbers of the towers and the hoarding which are to be built in the years to come. The simple structure is easy to construct; the workshops will be covered with large shakes (=split wooden tiles).

**Tracing floor:** surface on which the carpenters and stonemasons draw full-scale designs. The tracing floor is also used for mock assemblies before the transport of timbers for their final assembly in the castle. Once the ground has been levelled, this new, much larger, tracing floor will be covered with sieved sand and then covered with a lime render to give a clean surface on which to draw.



## ■ a film and an exhibition

Many friends of Guédelon will already have had a sneak preview of the new animated film:

### a future return to the past

This little animated version of our creation story, beautifully drawn and guaranteed to raise a smile, is now being shown on a loop in Guédelon's entrance barn.

Another new feature this season is the **exhibition** about the building of Guédelon's **water mill** and **hydraulic power in the middle ages**. Before making your way to the miller and his mill, this exhibition will give you an understanding of how this further example of experimental archaeology was realised, and for our younger visitors, there is a quiz to help make the learning experience fun!

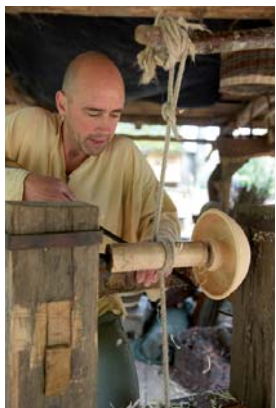
## ■ special events throughout the season

Throughout the season, in addition to the daily construction work at Guédelon, the site offers a range of different events:

**the painting of murals - the baking of bread with flour from the mill - demonstrations of medieval cuisine - the turning of wooden bowls on a polelathe - potters working on medieval-style stick-propelled pottery wheels - the firing of paving tiles in the wood-fired kiln...**

For more information about the dates of these events, please consult our website

[www.guedelon.fr](http://www.guedelon.fr) where you can download our 2015 leaflet.



The arrival of our first spring visitors also saw the arrival of the first Ouessant lambs of the season. 6 newborns are now on site, to the delight of both our younger – and not so young – visitors.

