

# A Diary of Our 2005 UK Journey (page 1)

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## A Note on How This Trip Was Planned

It should come as no surprise that you can find *almost* anything you want on the internet. Weeks of internet research, books purchased or borrowed from libraries and friends, and the BBC all served as sources of information. Everything was planned and booked online. This eliminated some B&Bs which did not have online booking or web sites, but there were plenty to meet our needs. Throughout this narrative, I've included many hyperlinks to web sites about the sites and attractions I mention. In some cases, there are photo galleries to show you

- What they look like on nicer days, or
- You have permission to photograph indoors, or
- You have a lot more time to spend getting the perfect shot.

## Saturday, 28 May 2005, Handing over recording duties and en route to London

I sent a flurry of email messages on Friday night to let Sandy and Martin know the point at which I stopped recording BBC and US programmes. I also sent all the accumulated programmes to Martin and Allan via Streamload and gave Sandy and Tony the remainder of my Streamload quota for May. Then we stumbled off to bed, knowing that it would be an early alarm on Saturday.

By 6:30 AM, we were in the shuttle van and on our way to Logan Airport. The line checking into American Airlines was unbelievable but we had plenty of time. Before we had reached the departure gate, it was already very obvious that we had too many pieces of luggage to manage and too much weight in our carryon luggage for our comfort and ease of movement.

The flight was smooth and untroubled. It was clear skies from Cork in southern Ireland all the way into London. I thought powerful greetings at Rhys as we passed over Cardiff and Bridgend. We pirouetted down through the arrival stack into Heathrow, getting a spectacular view of London as approaches were being handled from the east.

Through customs and get our bags -- all of our bags -- and walk, and walk, and walk through the endless corridors of Heathrow. Too much luggage. Three suitcases (30", 26", 24"), two carryon bags (maximum legal size, one holding

photography equipment and one holding medications and emergency clothes), Beth's utility satchel/purse and my attaché case (holding all reservations, maps, step-by-step directions, ...). Would we make it to the London Express into Paddington? Would we be able to get everything into a London cab? Would we find our hotel? Yes, obviously, though getting the luggage and US into the cab took some doing. (So would we be able to get it all into the rental car when the time came?)

10pm London time and we're in our room. We're hungry (5pm Eastern time) but the kitchen's closed. "There are all sorts of restaurants one block over", says the front desk clerk and she's right -- pubs, Italian, Indian, Turkish, Egyptian, Lebanese, Chinese, Japanese, Greek, and a lot of too familiar logos (McDonald's, Burger King, KFC, Subway and somewhere in the area though we never saw it, TGI Friday's). Can't make up our minds, hungry and tired. Almost literally fell into the Subway shop and took two sandwiches and COLD Diet Cokes back to our hotel room. Let the adventure begin tomorrow!

## **Sunday, 29 May 2005, London (Greenwich and South Wimbledon)**

Now we're ready to conquer London. With the good weather holding we decide to go for Greenwich, knowing it's the most outdoor of our planned tours. Walking Tours of London meets at Westminster, takes the London Transport BOATS down to Greenwich and then does the tour. Plenty of time, we have our route planned with the help of the London Underground web site.

Oops. The Queensway stop on the Central Line closed last week for the next year to put in new lifts/elevators. So much for the nearest station and all the planning! The next nearest, still quite close station is Bayswater on the Circle and District Lines. Bank Holiday weekend -- works on the line canceling ALL Circle and some District Line trains. BUT they do go south through Notting Hill (Central Line) to Earl's Court, where by reversing you can go eastward on the District Line. We're playing our first round of **Mornington Crescent** (There'll be something of an explanation when we get to Tuesday) and we've barely gotten started. Quite obviously we were late and missed the packaged walking tour. What the heck, we're on a roll, we'll just transfer at Bank to the Docklands Light Railway and take it to Greenwich and do the tour ourselves. Worked like a charm. We got off at Cutty Sark and did the sights.

The [\*Cutty Sark\*](#) was a tea clipper launched in 1869. It is somewhat smaller and later than the American built clippers by Donald McKay such as the *Flying Cloud*, but it is still a full-rigged ship.



Today it sits in a dry dock at the foot of Greenwich's street to the river and adjacent to the grounds of the [National Maritime Museum and Royal Observatory](#), which have been at one time or another a palace, a naval academy, a hospital and a museum.



That white mound like building on the left is the notorious Millennium Dome, butt of many jokes and controversies. Up close it looks like a giant beached sea urchin, bleaching in the sun. It's just downstream from the landing at the foot of the Greenwich grounds.

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# CUTTY SARK

the world's last tea clipper

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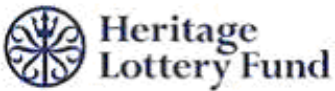
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 **OPENING HOURS**

 **CONSERVATION PROJECT 2006 -2009**



## Welcome

On the afternoon of Monday, 22nd November, 1869, a beautiful little clipper ship was launched from Scott and Linton's shipyard at Dumbarton. She bore a name that was to become famous...

[Learn more](#) →



## The Future of Cutty Sark

We have exciting plans to conserve and regenerate Cutty Sark, but we need your help to make them happen

[Learn more](#) →



## A Great Day out

A Trip to Cutty Sark offers fun for the whole family

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the world's last tea clipper

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## Image Gallery



## Concert aboard!

We organize many musical events

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## Latest News

## History & Collections

This area of the website is full of information regarding the history of *Cutty Sark*, and the collections that are held in trust by the museum.

### **Tickets still available for Marathon Brunch on 23rd April**

Visit Cutty Sark for a unique experience on London Marathon Day, 23rd April from 8am-12pm - be in the thick of the marathon action and enjoy a five star brunch sponsored ... [more](#) »

### **See the Guardian's website for interactive guide to Cutty Sark**

See the Guardian Unlimited's website for an interactive guide to the Cutty Sark's conservation programme [www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk) [more](#) »

### **Cutty Sark one of the Icons of England**

Cutty Sark features as one of 184 official icons of England on the Icons, a portrait of England website, [www.icons.org.uk](http://www.icons.org.uk). Why not visit the website and put in some comments about why you think the Cutty Sark is an important icon. [more](#) »

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## Image Gallery

## Why Cutty Sark Matters

- She is the most famous ship in the world
- She is the epitome of the great age of sail
- She is the only surviving extreme clipper, and the only tea clipper still in existence.
- Most of her hull fabric survives from her original construction and she is the best example of a merchant composite construction vessel.
- She has captured the imagination of millions of people, 15 million of whom have come on board to learn the stories she has to tell.
- She was preserved in Greenwich partly as a memorial to the men of the merchant navy, particularly those who lost their lives in the world wars.
- She is one of the great sights of London.

## Statement of Significance

- She is the world's sole surviving extreme clipper, a type of vessel that was the highest development of the fast commercial sailing ship, with the majority of her hull fabric surviving from her original construction.
- She is internationally appreciated for her beauty and is one of the most famous ships in the world.
- Her fine lines – a considerable part of her appeal – are defined by her frames which form part of the vessel's composite construction; a construction technique of which she is the best surviving example and of which she is of exceptional quality.
- She has captured the imagination of millions of people, 15 million of whom have come on board to learn the stories she has to tell.
- She is a gateway to the World Heritage Site at Greenwich and is a key asset to both the World Heritage Site and the Borough of Greenwich.
- As a tea clipper, she is tangible evidence of the importance of tea in 19th century trade and cultural





### Dinner on board the Cutty Sark

Don't forget to visit our events page!

[more images](#) »

### Latest News

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## Royal Observatory, Greenwich

The Astronomy Information Service at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich has all the news, features and links you will need to explore modern astronomy.



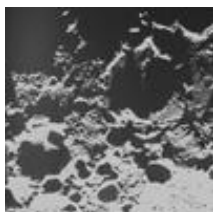
[Find out more](#) or explore some of the latest highlights below.

### Highlights



#### [Countdown to Time and Space](#)

The £15 million Time and Space project took a big step forward this week, as huge pieces of bronze cladding arrived and were set in place on the concrete cone of the Peter Harrison planetarium.



#### [SMART-1 – Europe's first mission to the Moon](#)

An overview of SMART-1's goals and achievements as the 3-year mission nears its end with a planned crash-landing on 3 September 2006. SMART-1 is currently studying the Moon with a suite of instruments, has taken images of the lunar poles and looked for water ice and sites for future lunar bases.



#### [The Greenwich Time Ball](#)

The bright red Time Ball on top of Flamsteed House, is one of the world's earliest public time signals. It was first used in 1833 and still operates today.



#### [Telescopes online](#)

The Museum has over 360 telescopes in its collection, dating from the mid-17th century. They range from fashion accessories to gun-sighting telescopes used in the First World War. Over 150 are available to view on the Collections Online website.



#### [Explore the night sky and beyond](#)

Are you a keen astronomer? We have a range of products to help you explore the night sky for yourself – all recommended by Royal Observatory astronomers.

What's on in May

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### [Not quite Earth but not much bigger: astronomers find smallest exoplanet yet](#)

Astronomers have announced the discovery of the smallest planet found to date around another star. The planet which is 20,000 light years away from our Sun, was found using a robotic network of telescopes.



### [The new Time galleries at the Royal Observatory](#)

The Time galleries are the first stage of the Time and Space Project - a dramatic redevelopment of the Royal Observatory. The new galleries explore our need for accurate timekeeping and the role it plays in our everyday lives.

### [Calendars from around the world](#)

All human societies have developed ways to determine the length of the year. These systems - calendars - also dictated when the year should begin, and how to divide the year into manageable units of time, such as months, weeks and days.



Home of the Prime Meridian of the World

Longitude 0° 0' 0", Latitude 51° 28' 38"

Inland Revenue Exempt Charity (No X94288). [Find out how to support the Museum's work.](#)











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## History of the National Maritime Museum

The National Maritime Museum (NMM) was formally established by Act of Parliament in 1934 and opened to the public by King George VI on 27 April 1937. It includes the 17th-century [Queen's House](#) and, from the 1950s, the [Royal Observatory, Greenwich](#).



The Royal opening, 1937. The Royal Family walking through the Colonnades.

There is also a small museum at [Cotehele Quay](#) on the Tamar, Cornwall, with the NMM/National Trust sailing barge *Shamrock*, and the '[Valhalla' ships' figurehead collection](#) on Treeco, Isles of Scilly.

The collections comprise about 2.48 million items, many on loan to museums elsewhere in Britain. The public galleries at Greenwich display a thematically arranged selection and the remainder are accessible for public interest and research in various ways. The majority of the NMM's small-boat collection is on display at the new [National Maritime Museum, Cornwall](#), at Falmouth.

[Find out more about the Museum's collections.](#)

The Museum is funded by Government with additional income derived from trading activity and sponsorship. Entry to all Museum sites at Greenwich is free but charges are made for some special exhibitions. The Museum's objectives and targets are outlined in its current [Funding Agreement](#).

Greenwich began to develop as a cultural visitor destination with Sir James Thornhill's completion of the Painted Hall (1707–26) in what is now the [Old Royal Naval College](#) (founded in 1694 as the Royal Hospital for Seamen). From 1823 a 'National Gallery of Naval Art', eventually including 300 portraits, paintings and artefacts, was created in the Hall, the first of its kind. A separate Naval Museum was also established in the Hospital buildings when it became the Royal Naval College - the 'Navy's university', 1873–1998.

After its foundation in 1910, the Society for Nautical Research (SNR) independently

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developed the aim of founding a 'national naval and nautical museum'. In 1927–28, following a public appeal organised by the Society, one of its wealthy members Sir James Caird (1864–1954) purchased the A.G.H. Macpherson Collection of maritime prints - over 11,000 items - with this in view. He also purchased the ship models from the training ship *Mercury*, with many other items being bought by him or otherwise donated.

All were vested in a temporary Trustee board, 1927–34, replaced by permanent NMM Trustees on passing of the 1934 Act. The contents of the Naval Museum in the College and other official material were also transferred to the care of the NMM Trustees under the 1934 Act, the Greenwich Hospital Collection from the Painted Hall being added by separate agreement in 1936.

The Museum's first Director from 1934 to his death was Professor (Sir) Geoffrey Callender (1875–1946), formerly Professor of History at the Royal Naval College, who was also both Secretary and Treasurer of the SNR and the main intellectual and organizational force behind the Museum's creation.

In 1933 the Royal Hospital School at Greenwich moved to Suffolk, vacating the Queen's House and related buildings which it had occupied since 1806, originally as the separate Royal Naval Asylum but combining with the 18th-century Greenwich Hospital School from 1821. The House was restored by the Ministry of Works and the flanking wings - added for the School between 1807–76, began a long period of museum conversion, largely at Sir James Caird's expense: this was only completed in 1951.

[Find out more about the Royal Hospital School.](#)

All the Museum buildings have subsequently been upgraded at various times and a full modern redevelopment of the main galleries, centring on what is now the Neptune Court, was completed 1999.

The Museum has the most important holdings in the world on the history of Britain at sea, including maritime art (both British and 17th-century Dutch), cartography, manuscripts including official public records, ship models and plans, scientific and navigational instruments, time-keeping and astronomy (based at the Observatory), and in many other categories.



HM Queen speaking at opening of the new Museum, 11 May 1999.

You can see many items from the Museum's holdings on the [Collections Online website](#). The [Maritime Art Greenwich website](#) is a searchable database of selected paintings plus in-depth content on some of the major themes of maritime art.

Its British portraits collection is only exceeded in size by the National Portrait Gallery

and its holdings related to Nelson and Cook, among many other individuals, are unrivalled. It has the world's largest maritime [historical reference library](#) (100,000 volumes) including books dating back to the 15th century.

The Museum is also unique in the architectural importance of its main buildings, the Queen's House in particular being the keystone of the historic park-and-palace landscape of 'Maritime Greenwich', which was inscribed as a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#) in 1997.

Flamsteed House (1675–76), the original part of the Observatory, was designed by Sir Christopher Wren and was the first purpose-built scientific research facility in Britain. Take a [virtual tour of Flamsteed House](#).

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Home of the Prime Meridian of the World

Longitude 0° 0' 0", Latitude 51° 28' 38"

Inland Revenue Exempt Charity (No X94288). [Find out how to support the Museum's work.](#)











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## History of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich

The [Royal Observatory](#), home of Greenwich Mean Time and the Prime Meridian line, is one of the most important historic scientific sites in the world. It was founded by Charles II in 1675 and is, by international decree, the official starting point for each new day, year and millennium (at the stroke of midnight GMT as measured from the Prime Meridian).



Royal Observatory

Repro ID PU2226

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The Royal Observatory is entering one of the most exciting periods in its history. The [Time and Space Project](#) is a £15 million redevelopment of the site which includes a new, state-of-the-art planetarium, new galleries and an education centre.

The first milestone of the redevelopment was the opening of the [Time galleries](#) in February 2006. Fundraising was completed in November 2005 – over a year before the planetarium and Space galleries open.

The Observatory, part of the National Maritime Museum, is one of the most famous features of Maritime Greenwich – since 1997 a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visitors to the Observatory can stand in both the eastern and western hemispheres simultaneously by placing their feet either side of the Prime Meridian - the centre of world time and space. The Observatory galleries unravel the extraordinary phenomena of time, space and astronomy, the Planetarium lets visitors explore the wonders of the heavens and Flamsteed House, Sir Christopher Wren's original building, also has London's only public camera obscura.

Charles II appointed John Flamsteed as his first Astronomer Royal in March 1675. The Observatory was built to improve navigation at sea and 'find the so-much desired longitude of places' - one's exact position east and west - while at sea and out of sight of land, by astronomical means. This was inseparable from the accurate measurement of time, for which the Observatory became generally famous in the 19th century.



John Flamsteed

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A disaster at sea in 1707 killed over 2000 men and prompted greater calls for more reliable means of navigation. In 1714, Parliament established a panel of experts, the Board of

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Longitude, and offered a massive £20,000 reward (equivalent of about £2 million today) to anyone who could solve the problem of finding longitude at sea. It took nearly 60 years for the prize to be claimed. In the end it went not to a famous astronomer, scientist or mathematician, but to a little-known Yorkshire carpenter turned clockmaker, John Harrison.



Harrison's H4 was to change navigation forever. All four of his ground-breaking timekeepers are kept in full working order on display in the Harrison gallery - the highlight of a visit to the Observatory. Find out more about John Harrison and his 50-year quest to solve the longitude problem in our [online feature](#).

Harrison's marine timekeeper H4 Repro ID D0789-1

© NMM London, MoD Art Collection

The Royal Observatory is also the source of the Prime Meridian of the world, Longitude 0° 0' 0". Every place on the Earth is measured in terms of its distance east or west from this line. The line itself divides the eastern and western hemispheres of the Earth - just as the Equator divides the northern and southern hemispheres.

The Prime Meridian is defined by the position of the large 'Transit Circle' telescope in the Observatory's Meridian Building. This was built by Sir George Biddell Airy, the 7th Astronomer Royal, in 1850. The cross-hairs in the eyepiece of the Transit Circle precisely define Longitude 0° for the world. Read more about [Airy and the Transit Circle](#).

Since the late 19th century, the Prime Meridian at Greenwich has served as the co-ordinate base for the calculation of Greenwich Mean Time. Before this, almost every town in the world kept its own local time. There were no national or international conventions to set how time should be measured, or when the day would begin and end, or what the length of an hour might be. However, with the vast expansion of the railway and communications networks during the 1850s and 1860s, the worldwide need for an international time standard became imperative.



The Meridian Line at the Royal Observatory at dusk

The Greenwich Meridian was chosen to be the Prime Meridian of the World in 1884. Forty-one delegates from 25 nations met in Washington DC for the International Meridian Conference. By the end of the conference, Greenwich had won the prize of Longitude 0° by a vote of 22 in favour to 1 against (San Domingo), with two abstentions (France and Brazil). There were two main reasons for the victory:

1. the USA had already chosen Greenwich as the basis for its own national time-zone system.
2. at the time, 72% of the world's commerce depended on sea-charts which used Greenwich as the Prime Meridian.

The decision, essentially, was based on the argument that by naming Greenwich as Longitude 0°, it would inconvenience the least number of people. Therefore, the Prime Meridian at Greenwich became the centre of world time, and the starting point of each new day, year and millennium.

In 1960, shortly after the transfer of the Royal Greenwich Observatory (RGO) to Herstmonceux (and later Cambridge), Flamsteed House was transferred to the National Maritime Museum's care and over the next seven years the remaining buildings on the site were also transferred and restored for Museum use. Here the collections of scientific, especially astronomical, instruments has continued to grow. Following the closure of the RGO at Cambridge in October 1998, the site is now again known as the Royal Observatory, Greenwich.

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#### Useful links

- visit the [ROG homepage](#) to read the latest astronomy news and ask our astronomers a question
- find out more in our [Royal Observatory fact files](#), including some little known facts
- what's on at the ROG, including [current exhibitons](#), [past exhibitions](#) and [online features](#)
- see a selection of astronomy-related artefacts on our [Collections Online website](#)

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The grounds extend from the riverfront to the summit of Observatory Hill where the Greenwich Meridian defines 0 degrees longitude. We huffed and puffed our way up the hill on a warm summer day and toured the observatory.





The view from there is also rewarding.



Then, back down the hill to see if we can find Goddard's Pie Shop, featured in the BBC radio programme *Who Ate All the Pies?* On the verge of giving up, we found it, a mere block from the *Cutty Sark*. So our first free lance meal was pie and mash at Goddard's, and the first optional slice-of-life activity could be checked off.

Now back to the hotel to drop some things off and pick up a couple of things before visiting Bruce and Alice Goatly. Another BBC programme included descriptions of taking the boats between Westminster and Greenwich so we did that in the reverse direction, seeing from the water some of the classic tourism locations such as the reconstructed model of Drake's *Golden Hind*, the reconstruction of the Globe Theatre of Shakespeare's time, the London Eye or Millennium Wheel, Tower Bridge and the Tower of London. While we were on the boat, the cell phone rang! It was Bruce wondering if we were still coming, beating us by a few minutes of calling him.



It took a LOT longer to get to Bruce and Alice that we thought it would. There was a power failure on the Central Line that stranded us at Marble Arch -- forcing a march of most of a kilometer to get to the hotel. Back on the Underground and scrambles on the District, Piccadilly, Bakerloo and finally the Northern Lines almost to its southern terminus. But get there we did, late and more than a bit tired. We did have an very enjoyable stay with tea and conversation, dinner at a nearby restaurant.



Bruce and Alice's foster daughter, Cheyenne, took this snapshot in their living room. Note that Bruce is a GBCCer in full regalia (glasses and facial hair, which is something of a continuing joke among the active members as both seem to be very common in the group). Bruce showed off his computers (there is this need to get the visiting IT expert to see one's computers, you see). Bruce is a freelance technical writer and editor and his clients require the documents in a number of formats and operating systems, so their office is tightly packed indeed. Bruce and Alice contributed a supply of Earl Grey tea, which Beth managed to carefully ration all the way to Edinburgh! All too soon we needed to get back to the Underground station to make our connections before the trains stopped. (The Central Line had been restored by the time we approached so our final walk home was not quite as long.)

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## Monday, 30 May 2005, London

On the program for the day -- THREE [London Walking Tours](#)! You did know that we were crazy, didn't you? The British Museum, Legal London, Westminster by Gaslight

1. The walk through the [British Museum](#) was a very good guided tour through selected galleries. We saw many of the famed items such as the Rosetta stone, the Parthenon frieze (Elgin marbles), the Reading Room, and the bog man. I was a bit disappointed that the Magna Carta is no longer there. (Bits of well-known comedy come to mind -- "Try out the famous echo in the Reading Room!" "Add your name to list of people on the Magna Carta!" and so on.) I find creeping along at "museum pace" to be extremely tiring -- perhaps it's my longer strides or lack of patience.

2. I decided to go back to the hotel for the afternoon, but crazy Beth proceeded as planned and took the second walking tour of "Legal and Illegal London" though the Inns of Court and surroundings.

3. After dinner in the Bayswater section near our hotel, it was back into Westminster for a tour around the outside of the Houses of Parliament and the neighboring streets. Our great fortune with the weather continued with an absolutely cloudless evening. Unfortunately, it was close to the solstice so it was still fairly light at 10pm, diminishing the night time effects of the floodlit buildings and the street lamps. I noted with envy a couple of professional or at least semi-professional photographers setting up their tripods and just waiting for the famous night time view across the Thames to the Parliament buildings. One would need to do this walk in late Autumn to early Spring to really get the effect. I found the guide of this walk to be less satisfactory than any of the others we took. Here are a couple of pictures from that walk. The picture from across the river was taken at 9:30pm.







On a disappointing note, after getting back to the hotel and downloading the memory card into my digital storage device, my brand-new digital camera refused to use any of the memory cards it had already successfully formatted and used. Despite repeated tries, it and its accessories became ballast in our luggage for the remainder of the trip and all the subsequent photography was shot using my film camera and scanned during development processing.

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## London Walks - let's start with the Dictionary definition:

① London Walks is the original (*est. 1960*) - and *foremost* - walking tour company in London

② "*London Walks are the keys to the world's most elusive city*"

"London is made for walking. It is a city of small streets and sudden vistas, of unexpected alleys and hidden courtyards. It cannot be seen from a bus or car..." Peter Ackroyd

③ London Walks is the London walking tour company whose hallmarks are **an astonishing variety** of routes, utter reliability, and - most important of all - superb guides. These are the finest walking tour guides in London.

London Walks guides include **Donald Rumbelow**, who is "*internationally recognised as the leading authority on Jack the Ripper*". Britain's most distinguished crime historian, Donald is the former Curator of the Police Crime Museum, a two-time Chairman of the Crime Writers' Association, and the author of *the definitive book* on Jack the Ripper - the best-selling *The Complete Jack the Ripper*;

The London Walks lineup also includes the distinguished BBC broadcaster and writer Charles Chilton MBE; the foremost authority on the Regent's Canal; a leading London historian; an officer of the City of London Historical Society; an eminent London archaeologist; the author of *The Absolutely Essential Guide to London*; the London Tourist Board's *Guide of the Year*; the barrister who is the Chairman of the Professional Tour Guides Association; several renowned actors and actresses; and the *crème de la crème* of professionally qualified Blue Badge and City of London Guides.

*And make no mistake, it all comes down to the guiding.*

*Which is why London Walks is in a class by itself:*

**"without a doubt the premier walking tour company in London"**

④ London Walks are **the best bargain** in London.

⑤ **But don't just take our word for it...**

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## Going On A London Walk

To go on a **London Walk**, meet your guide and fellow walkers on the pavement ("*sidewalk*" in North American parlance) just outside the designated London 🚇 Tube Stop (*Underground Station*) at the time stated.

Your guide will be holding up copies of the *distinctive* white **London Walks** leaflet. (*If you scroll right down to the bottom of this page you'll find a little photo of the London Walks leaflet.*)

There is **no need to book** for any of the **London Walks** or *Explorer Days* - just turn up. *There's no red tape with London Walks!*

But *very large groups* should book a private walk - it's even cheaper *and* you'll have your own guide! Just give us a call.

**A London Walk lasts about two hours.**

**And they always take place, rain or shine.**

Each walk ends at or near a London 🚇 Tube Stop (*Underground station*).

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## How Much Does It Cost?

A London Walk **costs £6** - or **£5** for *Super Adults (65+)*, *full-time students*, and *Discount Walkabout Card* holders. **The Walkabout Cards are a bargain so do ask your guide for one!** *Children under 15 go free if accompanied by their parent(s).*

The *Explorer Days* to Oxford & The Cotswolds, Richmond & Hampton Court Palace, Leeds Castle & Canterbury, Bath, York, Stonehenge & Salisbury, etc. are priced separately. See the ***Explorer Days*** page for particulars.

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## London Walks Operates 365 Days a Year!

Our Summer 2006 programme kicks in on March 16th and will run through October 31st.

Our Winter 2006-07 programme - which will start on November 1st and run until sometime in the second week of March, 2007 - will be available in September, 2006.

And, yes, that 365 days a year is no exaggeration. There are even London Walks on Christmas Day!

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### A word from David

**Lots of you have been asking about the dates that Donald Rumbelow will be guiding the Jack the Ripper walk. Well, just keep on truckin' - keep on scrollin' - because quite a bit further down this page - and it's a long one - you'll find Don's schedule between now and early May.**

Here's a much earlier "post"...

I hope you have a thoughtful cup of tea to hand.

You're going to need it...because you've got some reading ahead of you.

Here goes...

First of all, some great news...Donald Rumbelow - "*internationally recognised as the world's leading expert on Jack the Ripper*" - is now fully recovered from his foot operation and is back and guiding the Ripper Walk! If you scroll quite a bit further down this page I've set out a lot more information - including more dates - about Don's comeback and the Ripper Walk generally.

A new feature you're going to like is the **From the Repertory** page. When it's finished it'll give you a taster - a blurb - for virtually every single one of the **From the Rep** and **Special Walks**. As those of you who are reasonably *au fait* with our programme well know, up until now we've only ever provided a title - and the starting time and starting point - for the **From the Rep** walks. Reason being that there's only so much space on a piece of paper and the London Walks leaflet already runs to 22,000 words and there are over 300 walks in the full London Walks repertory... so if we were to "blurb" every single London Walks **From the Rep** walk...well, you'd be able to gift wrap the Houses of Parliament with a single copy of the LW leaflet!

But cyber-space is a rather bigger canvas. It bends space. It's stretchable. Elastic.

So we're on the case. John has done a heroic - a sterling (and if you've been on my [David's] Along the Thames Pub Walk you'll know how thrillingly rooted in London history that word is) job of chasing down the guides, shaking blurb dust out of them, shaping and baking it, and writing up some very tasty "descriptive" blurbs for the From the Rep offerings. (I've put one up at the end of this A Word From David page by way of example.)

And now it's down to me to tweak "em and get "em up onto this website. Needless to say it's going to take a while.

But we've made a start. I think there are about 40 of them up there now. I was taking them in chronological order. Banging them up as the walks hove into view. But a week or two ago I switched over to presenting them in alphabetical order. But anyway we've got the bunting flying, so to speak, for quite a few weeks' worth of From the Rep walks.

And as you'll see John's tacked on to each of them a couple of handy little bells and whistles. To wit: a "Latecomers Catch-up Stop" and the Tube Stop at which the walk ends. Can't be bad.

**Now something else that really needs to be highlighted...**

**The galumphing great tangeriney, kandy-coloured, pink-dappled elephant on the patio in our programme - well, the out-of-town *Explorer Day* strand of our programme - has always been the question: "why don't you have an *Explorer Day* that goes to Cambridge?"**

**The reason Cambridge has been conspicuous by its absence is that heretofore none of our guides has bagged the Cambridge Guides Badge.**

**And to do justice to the place said badge is a requirement. It's the passport.**

**Without it the best bits of Cambridge are off-limits. And since there's not much point in going up there if you can't show people Cambridge's "crown jewels" ...well, we looked longingly - yearned even - but stayed away.**

**Yup, that's right. You've got it. You've picked up the scent...now please everybody: stop baying at the moon!**

**For the record, it's Simon who's turned up trumps. Passed the exam with flying - kandy - colours and is now a new-minted, fully-fledged, rarin' to go Cambridge Guide.**

**In short, the badge is in the bag (the which idiom, incidentally, comes to us from the House of Commons... betcha didn't know that!) so Cambridge here we come. Indeed, Cambridge *and* Ely on one occasion.**

**We go to Cambridge **every Friday at 9:15 am**. That's in the Summer 06 programme. To go to "*the most beautiful city in Europe*" meet Simon by the ticket office of King's Cross  $\neq$  Railway station. N.B., there are **two** ticket offices at King's Cross  $\neq$  Railway station - **Simon will be at the one by Platform 9, by the Harry Potter sign!****

**Cambridge "blurb" reads as follows:**Cambridge. *Miraculum orbis*, a wonder of the world. Annex to heaven. The mediaeval courts and unearthly beauty of King's. The soft, emerald gardens. The calm of the tree-lined Backs. The willow-shrouded banks of the Cam. The Bridge of Sighs. The whispering wind and yellow lantern. The shadowed passage and haunted bookstore. The leafy streets and twisty alleys. The bicycling students. The cheese and fish stalls in the market. The people who talk like books.

Now here's the promised Donald Rumbelow stuff. As I've already indicated people are always chomping at the bit to know when Donald Rumbelow will be guiding the Jack the Ripper Walk. They're keen to know because Donald is **"internationally recognised as the leading authority on the Ripper"**. As anyone who kept tabs on this site last year knows, Don was out of action for a couple of months thanks to an operation on his foot. That was the bad news. The good news is that he's fighting fit again and has been back and pounding the pavements for nearly a year now. The specifics are as follows. **Don is down to guide the Ripper Walk on:**

Sunday, May 7  
Monday, May 8  
Monday, May 9  
Monday, May 15  
Tuesday, May 16  
Monday, May 22  
Tuesday, May 23  
Sunday, May 28  
Monday, May 29  
Tuesday, May 30

Friday, June 2  
Sunday, June 4  
Monday, June 5  
Tuesday, June 6  
Sunday, June 11  
Monday, June 12  
Tuesday, June 13  
Friday, June 16  
Sunday, June 18  
Monday, June 19  
Tuesday, June 20  
Sunday, June 25  
Monday, June 26  
Tuesday, June 27  
Friday, June 30

Sunday, July 2  
Monday, July 3  
Tuesday, July 4  
Sunday, July 9  
Monday, July 10  
Tuesday, July 11  
Friday, July 14  
Sunday, July 16  
Monday, July 17  
Tuesday, July 18  
Tuesday, July 25  
Friday, July 28  
Sunday, July 30  
Monday, July 31

Tuesday, August 1  
Sunday, August 6

Those dates are definite\* but with the usual proviso about the "unforeseen" - i.e., the schedule is subject to Don's not coming down with the flu - or being hit by a bus!

\*In which vein, he is going to have to take a week off - for a minor operation - sometime in the next three months. He doesn't have the op date yet, but as soon as he gets it we'll update this page.

Watch this space for Don's guiding dates from August 6th onward. We'll be updating the "Don calendar" toward the end of January. And as for why there are fewer "Don dates" in April...you guessed it: he'll be attending the big Ripper conference in the United States. And combining it with some vacationing in the "New World".

And while I'm at it on this little matter of the Jack the Ripper walk, here's a heads-up...

In short, a word of warning: if you turn up for our **7.30 pm Jack the Ripper Walk** from **Tower Hill** 🚇 **Tube Stop** please make absolutely certain that it is the *bona fide* London Walks guide you get linked up with. Or to put it another way, whatever you do, do not part with your money until you're absolutely certain it's going into the right hands! Not to put too fine a point on it, there have been some "problems" there of late. Which is by way of saying: anybody can "set out their stall" at Tower Hill tube stop. A security guard, for example. Or an individual who's been on the fringes of the Jack the Ripper "scene" going back some time now. Indeed, he has an "entry" in *The Jack the Ripper A to Z*. This is what the *A to Z* says about him: "[he] has produced three cyclostyled pieces on the Ripper, all seriously marred by habitual extreme inaccuracy and inconsistency, and atrocious spelling and grammar". (In stark contrast - I think it fair to say - to the *A to Z's* entry on our - London Walks" - Ripper guide, Donald Rumbelow. According to the *A to Z* "**Donald Rumbelow is internationally recognised as the leading authority on the Ripper**".) For the record, the individual in question - he of "the habitual extreme inaccuracy and inconsistency" - also claims to be a descendant of Jack the Ripper, Count Dracula, and Robin Hood. Well, you can draw your own conclusions. But the point is that if you do turn up for our - ***The Original London Walks***" - Jack the Ripper Walk - please be very careful about whom you're handing your money to. Don't part with your cash until you're certain you're giving it to the bona fide London Walks guide. Because if it goes into the wrong hands it's a fairly sure bet that it won't be returned to you. The *bona fide* **London Walks** guide will be holding up copies of our distinctive white London Walks leaflet, titled ***The Original London Walks***. He or she will be wearing their white London Walks badge - or else their Blue Badge, the token of the professional guides" association. And - crucially, crucially, crucially - **the bona fide London Walks guides will never - NEVER - start their Ripper Walk before 7:30 pm.**

And in this same vein - as *adumbrated* (I've always wanted to use that word!) above - we get just a ton of email wondering when Donald Rumbelow will be guiding the Ripper. And well people might ask...because going on Don's Ripper Walk is as close as you're going to get to nailing the Ripper.

How good is Donald? Well, let me repeat what *The Jack the Ripper A to Z* - the "bible" of Ripperology - says about Donald.

The *A to Z* puts it categorically: "Donald Rumbelow is internationally recognised as the leading authority on Jack the Ripper".

And here are the reasons Donald Rumbelow IS "internationally recognised as the leading authority on Jack the Ripper".

He's the author of the definitive book on the subject, the best-selling *The Complete Jack the Ripper*.\*

He's the former Curator of the City of London Police Crime Museum.


He's a two-time Chariman of the Crime Writers' Association.

He's been the chief consultant for every major television programme and film on the Ripper over the past 20 years. Indeed he's appeared on several of those programmes, including one that recently aired in the United States. And he will be appearing in another one that's in the pipeline.

Donald was the consultant for the recent Johnny Depp film on the Ripper, called "From Hell...". Indeed, Johnny came to London in order to go on a private Ripper walk with Don.

And I hasten to add, Don's not some dry-as-dust academic...he's an ex-City of London Policeman who pursued a dual career as a crime historian. Which in effect means you're taken over some of the most famous crime scenes in the world by a law enforcement professional who just happens to be the world's leading expert on those particular crimes. Can't be bad.

When Donald's Ripper Walk dates do get set out here they are definite but with the usual proviso about the "unforeseen" - i.e., the schedule is subject to Don's not coming down with the flu - or being hit by a bus!

Donald's Ripper Walk goes at **7:30 pm** from just outside the exit of **Tower Hill**  **Tube Stop**.

But please do take a look at the further particulars regarding the Ripper Walk - do a search for "Ripper" on our little search engine.

Take a look at those further particulars because we spell out there how to make absolutely sure it is Donald you've linked up with - as opposed to what a major American newspaper recently described as "a Ripper ripoff".

Or as *The New York Times* puts it, "be careful about the Ripper tour, however, since there are imitations...look for [the] one guided by Donald, who is Donald Rumbelow, the author of *The Complete Jack the Ripper* and a former curator of the notoriously grisly City of London Police Black Museum (a crime museum open by appointment only), credentials that are scary in themselves."

Or in the same vein, here's how *Frommer's* puts it in *London by Night*: "London Walks" Ripper Walk has many copycats, but it's the best".

Or here's how the recently published - and wonderful - little guide book: *City Secrets - London...the ultimate insider's guide* puts it:

"Despite initial protestations from visiting friends, they invariably return to my flat in a Victorian frenzy saying, "that [Donald Rumbelow's Jack the Ripper Walk] was the best thing we've done in London"."

\*Donald will have some of his books with him in case any of you want one. And needless to say he'll be glad to sign it for you. Makes an unbeatable present for anybody who's got a friend who's interested in the subject.



As it happens, a year ago or so I went on Don's Ripper walk. A day or so later someone asked me about his walk and because it was so fresh in my mind I banged out a rather detailed reply and e-mailed it to him. Anyway, I've put a copy of that letter in the Latest News section (see the Links column) of our web page. Take a look at it if you'd like my personal impressions of Don's Ripper walk.

And just for jolly, try this for size: **London Walks** is an anagram of *Don knows all*

Now on another note...

Famously, London Walks works "in an oral tradition". And I think the reasons for that are fairly clear. For one thing, It's just the nature of what we do...it goes with the territory, so to speak. But also - and I'm not going to pull my punches here - our material is our material. It's for us and our walkers - it's not for knock-offs and never-going-to-be's.

That said, we have just produced a CD-rom that does get down in words and pictures some London and London Walks "concentrate", so to speak. I.E., it complements - rather than duplicates - what we do. In effect, it "bottles" some London Walks essence. It's a piece of us and our town and what we do that you can take home if you want. An aide de memoire.



I, David, planned and wrote the thing. It runs to something like 20,000 words...words which accompany 500 or so photographs. And there are lots of nifty state-of-the-art bells and whistles: e.g., 360 degree panoramas (from the top of the Monument, from a couple of London bridges, that sort of thing), good sound effects, etc. etc.

If I say so myself, it's a fetching little piece of work.

And, intriguingly, it's packaged - and I think this IS brand new - I've certainly never seen anything like it before - as a Multimedia Postcard. In other words the CD-Rom is part and parcel of a postcard.

Anyway, to cut to the chase. Some of the guides are now carrying them. I certainly always have a few with me on the walks that I guide. So if you'd like one...well, just say the word. They cost six pounds, six loads of hay, and midsummer's rose. Though to be a purist about it, the six loads of hay and the midsummer's rose are optional!

And on another happy note...we've now got a facility that let's you print out a compact version of the website. Before, if you wanted a hard copy it came to something like 45! pages. But we've boiled it down to 11 normal-sized pages.

To download the compact, "printable" version of the London Walks web site simply hit the PDF button that's on the

right hand side of the Home page (as you're looking at it)...just beneath our little search engine button.

Now here's one of those aforementioned From the Rep blurbs here. For our: **Musical London - Baroque to Rock**, walk.

It's one of those walks that "push the envelope". In short, this one's a "performance" *as well as* a guided walk. Which is - happily - what you sometimes get when you turn a professional actor - Corinna in this case - loose on a patch like Musical London.

But rather than me burbling...how's about a blurb? Goes like this: **Musical London - Baroque to Rock** [Here's your Chopin Liszt! Want a Handle on Handel? Bop or Hip-Bop?](#)

Stroll through London's West End with Corinna and discover five centuries of music and musicians past and present. See theatres, churches, concert halls and dwellings on this quest for where the chrysalis for Puccini's "Butterfly" began, where Beatlemania blossomed, and where music halls of yesteryear still ring with modern musicals. Scope out where 16th-century Tallis flourished and Tavener follows on today, where Mozart virtuosity shone aged seven; where Mick Jagger still rolls on, a King wrote songs and Elton John sings for the nation. Find out how operas and operettas make and break aspiring singers; where dancing feet are shod and singers clad, and where Haydn & Handel lived and composed. Find out why Queen Victoria's parrot had to go, what Elgar's dog did, where sopranos sparred and flocks of sparrows took to flight! Let your imagination be guided on wings of song with **Corinna**. She's a West End & National Theatre actor who sings, as well as a professionally qualified London Guide. Enthused [great word, the Greek root of which means "*breathed into by God*"] by music, with luck she'll sing you a snatch or two - but she'll leave her cello at home!

Phew!

And that's the "word" from *moi*, David.

And now for that cuppa...after I punt up theaforementioned photo of the London Walks leaflet. *Voila...*



Had a fullish session here on October 25th last year. Ended it by saying, shall we hear it for October 25th? That's

bygones now, but I don't feel like taking the following down just yet...

The twenty-fifth of October  
Cursed be the cobbler  
That goes to bed sober.

The reason for that traditional rhyme is that October 25th is the feast day of St. Crispin and St. Crispinian, patron saints of shoemakers. And if you can't work out why those two don't deserve a mention on the London Walks website...well, you better stick to bus tours!

For the record, St. Crispin's Day is also the date of the Battle of Agincourt, the greatest feat of arms in British military history (Rorke's Drift being the exception that proves the rule). And it's the date of The Charge of the Light Brigade, one of the greatest debacles in British military history.

And while we're at it, Geoffrey Chaucer popped his clogs on October 25th, 1400. And Pablo Picasso *popped out* on October 25th, 1881.

But let's give Shakespeare the last word:

*This day is called the Feast of Crispian.  
He that outlives this day and comes safe home  
Will stand a-tiptoe when this day is named  
And rouse him at the name of Crispian*

...

*And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by  
From this day to the ending of the world  
But we in it shall be remembered,*

*We few, we happy few, we band of brothers.  
For he today that sheds his blood with me  
Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,  
This day shall gentle his condition  
And gentlemen in England now abed  
Shall think themselves accursed they were not here,  
And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks  
That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day.*

William Shakespeare, *Henry V*

## **New Ones for Summer 2006**

Every time we put a programme together I think, "that's it...we've summited...covered all the bases...we'll never produce a better programme than this." And every time the guides prove me wrong next time out. It's a pas de deux. As soon as I opine: there are no more rabbits in the hat the guides pull out four or five more.

It's a pas de deux. And a saga. It was a good few years ago that the full London Walks repertory broke the 300 barrier. **300 different London Walks!** And I remember thinking at the time, "well, there can't be too much we're not covering...there can't be too many more new ones to come; we've pretty well got all of London in this programme- well, distillations of all of London."

I was wrong then. And have been wrong ever since - even though 300 different London Walks is a foothill compared to where we are now. I've stopped counting, but we must be closer to 400 than 300.

And this last time out...yup, it's happened again. I didn't think they would. Didn't think they could.

They have. In spades.

It's taken eight, ten years but I've learned my lesson. Taking the pledge. Not going to think that thought ever again. From now on it's: London's a work in progress. And so is London Walks.

Anyway, that's all by way of a preamble. A preamble to what's new in the upcoming, Summer 06 London Walks programme.

Here are the newbies...in no particular order:

Not surprisingly a couple of the new bunnies have come from the astonishingly fecund Ed Glinert.

1) A football walk, called **World Cup Warm Up: *the Dark Side of English Football - Bungs, Balls Ups, Babes & Booze***. And I might also just mention here that Ed's probably the only London Walks guide - "probably" because Andy actually played professional football for a couple of seasons, so he might have been up to it - who could hoe this row. He can hoe it because in addition to being a leading London historian and the author of several wonderful books on London he's also a dyed-in-the-wool Arsenal supporter, season-ticket-holder, etc. Well, you get the picture.

2) And he's created one for The London Comedy Festival called - now here's a surprise - **The London Comedy Festival Walk - Haunts of Hancock, Cooper, Bruce, Goons, etc.**

That by the way is a decided "turn" we've taken with this forthcoming programme...wherever possible we've tried to relate walks to London "special events" on at the time.

3) In which connection - and since it's the 350th anniversary of The Return - and since September is Jewish Heritage month - Ed has come up with another new one called **The Jewish City - *the 350th Anniversary, Secrets of the Kabbalah, etc.***

4) In which connection, the equally prolific Jean's come up with a new one for London Kids' Week called, **Peter Pan to Harry Potter - A London Tellers of Tales Walk for Kids' Week!**

5) And she's got a new one called **They Shopped Until They Dropped - *Edwardian Emporia.***

6) And Alan's harpooned - okay, not harpooned, netted, gently so - Moby Dick. I.E., he's got a new one called **The Real World of Harry Potter - *Wizards, Werewolves & Vampires.***

7) And he's come up with a "sequel" to his Spies' walk. The new one will be called **On the Trail of the Spies.**

8) Hilary and I (David) have created a smasher (if I say so myself) called **Classic London Mews & Hidden Passageways.**

9) Ann's created a beaut called **Epicurean, Gourmets' London - *with tastings!***

10) Tom and Brian have fashioned a classic, bread-and-butter walk called **Royal London & Westminster Abbey.**

11) Alison's come up with a new one called **The Old University Quarter - *Exploring London's Sorbonne.*** And what's doubly special is that she's talked them into opening a couple of their special collections specially for us. So that'll be like a private viewing. Can't be bad.

12) Sue's got a new one called, **Secret Island's of Green - *The City's Hidden Gardens.***

13) And she's serving up another one called **The Old West End - *Celebrities' London.*** That's the main title and sub-title. The sub- sub-title is the wonderful - and improbable - **Little Quebec Village.** Well, it's actually not all that improbable, but you'll have to go on the walk to see why.

14) And if you look at the From the Rep offerings for Saturday afternoon at 2.30 pm, you'll see that from August 26th onward there's a tranche of walks titled **The London History Course**.

The first one - on August 26th - is **The London History Course - *Legendary London***. It'll be guided by Jean. The following Saturday Caroline will be guiding one called **The London History Course - *Roman London***.

And so on, right on through to and including 20th Century London.

Several of **The London History Course Walks - *Saxon & Viking London, Tudor London, Georgian London, Victorian London, 20th Century London*** - are new. And incidentally, the Saxon & Viking London one and the 20th Century London one are Beachcombing Walks. So for them you'll have to look in the Special Saturday Walks section. Mike, who will of course be guiding them, has, needless to say, had to fit them to the tides. To do those two walks at 2.30 pm on the Saturdays in question we would have had to have dive suits! So he's plumped for the soft option: he's scheduled them to coincide with low tide.

Final word about The London History Course. We're very excited about it. What's not to like about going "step by step" through London's history?

And that's not all.

There are also a couple of wonderful new "side dishes" - i.e., *Explorer Days*.

Gems both.

15) Richard's created a dazzler that's going to **Avebury & Lacock**.

16) And Gillian's come up with a wonder of wonders that will explore **Sissinghurst - *Tudely, Twittens & Tapestries of Kentish Countryside***.

Work in progress, indeed. And that's all, except to shrug and say, *some preview, eh? Now it's over to you*.

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## Tuesday, 31 May 2005, London

On today's schedule: one final walking tour, the pilgrimage to Mornington Crescent, and attending a performance of *The Mousetrap* by Agatha Christie in the West End.

1. We took the "Secret London" walking tour which focuses on back gardens, interior courtyards, and small squares in the Fleet Street area.





Although originally dominated by the newspapers of London, the area now includes the diamond center (including deBeers) and finance and insurance offices. Samuel Johnson's house is still in the area, including a statue to his cat, Hodge. The first dictionary of the English language was compiled in this building.



2. Mornington Crescent, as its name implies, is a curved street of town houses. Its significance is minimal -- unless you happen to be a devotee of British radio comedy. There is a long-running comedy programme *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue* which consists of comedians essentially playing outrageous party games. One of these, Mornington Crescent, involves navigating the London Underground system while following outrageous rules and avoiding blocking moves by the opposing team. The object of the game is to get to the Mornington Crescent tube stop, announced in a triumphant voice along the lines of "checkmate!" or "Gin!". Getting to the real Mornington Crescent station isn't really that hard. It lies on one branch of the Northern Line and isn't very far from central London. For the coordinator and archivist of the Global

British Comedy Collaborative, it's a pilgrimage.





3. *The Mousetrap* has been running in London's West End longer than Beth has been alive. We're both Agatha Christie fans, and while this might not be her best work, it seemed like the show to see. There would be little point in going to London and seeing an American musical, after all. We had great seats -- the house was perhaps 60% full, maybe less. A very enjoyable evening as the capstone to our London stay.

Home to pack and rearrange and prepare -- on the road for the next three weeks.

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## Wednesday, 1 June 2005, London-Gatwick-Chartwell-Leeds Castle-Canterbury

From now on, those of you unfamiliar with UK geography may want to find a map of Great Britain to follow along.

Now for something really different -- driving ourselves around the island for three weeks in a rental car. Will we remember to drive on the left, clockwise around roundabouts, etc? Will all of our luggage fit? The plan: taxi from the hotel to Victoria Station, Gatwick Express (a train) to Gatwick airport, pick up the rental car there. Why Gatwick? It's a LOT smaller than Heathrow and is south rather than west of London. As we are planning to drive EAST, Gatwick made a lot more sense.

The hotel called us a minicab. Like the jokes about the Millennium Dome and the London Eye, we now understand the jokes about minicabs. South Asian accent, hard sell to take us all to Gatwick instead of our plan (at more than 20 pounds higher cost, too), "creative" driving. Yikes! Not the mental image to have in mind as we set off on our own on the highways and byways. Our plan worked. The Heathrow and Gatwick Expresses are convenient and comfortable, designed for people with luggage. Hertz gave us a bright blue Ford Focus sedan with all of 10 miles on it. Lovely new car smell. Bags won't fit in the boot/trunk -- no surprise there -- but at least the rear seat backs fold down. Biggest suitcase in the boot with miscellany; other two suitcases on the back seats for the time being. Time to drive, starting with the M23 motorway and the dreaded M25 beltway around London. First destination: Chartwell, home of Winston Churchill.

[Chartwell](#) is in Kent, about 20 miles south-south-east of the center of London between the town of Oxted and the village of Edenbridge. It's a gorgeous property on a steep hillside. The weather got progressively worse as we toured the gardens and his painting studio, waiting for our timed entry to the main house. It was actively raining while we waited and the National Trust people at the door invited us in earlier than



scheduled. While the viewing the house is well worth it, be prepared to wait for your timed entry and to find the house REALLY overcrowded with visitors. There are probably slack times and days, but ours wasn't one of them. Like most of the National Trust properties, interior photography at Chartwell (even with existing light) is prohibited. The gallery of pictures on the National Trust web site includes interiors. (It was far less blue in the sky when we were there.)



sdfkljsd



We had planned to visit [Ightham Mote](#), a medieval moated manor house, but Chartwell took a lot of time and as did getting the car and driving. We'd still like to visit Ightham Mote -- one of the things for "next time" I guess.

[Leeds Castle](#) is near Maidstone, Kent and we can't fault it's description as "The Loveliest Castle in the World". It's been restored to more or less intact condition including furnishings -- moated and battlemented, it's certain the most complete "classic" castle we saw. As you might expect, the weather wasn't much better 30 miles down the road than it had been at Chartwell. I have to admit that seeing Leeds Castle first and then Bodiam Castle may have been the wrong order as Bodiam is ruined unlike Leeds. Unfortunately we didn't really have the opportunity to reverse their order (and the weather was even worse (!) at Bodiam as you'll learn). I think we made at least three wrong turns getting to Leeds Castle -- mostly a matter of getting used to the signage at roundabouts and learning to throw away the detailed directions I'd so carefully compiled from the RAC and AA web sites. Within a few hours of getting the car, we were driving on a 6'6" lane (yes that's how wide it is where there aren't passing cutouts) needlessly. We did find the back door (employees' entrance) to Leeds Castle and the gatekeeper set us right. Fortunately, Leeds Castle extends the hours they're open based on the daylight and we had plenty of time to see it, despite all our delay, missteps and frustrations.





From Leeds Castle, we drove to and through Canterbury to our overnight location about 5 miles east of the city. We'd made a dozen wrong turns. We'd been on motorways, A-class roads, B-class roads, unclassified roads and that 6'6" lane. New to driving in Britain and new to this particular car, I was pretty tired I have to admit. We spent most of the afternoon with the rear window wiper in intermittent mode -- could NOT figure out how to turn it off. As much out of desperation and exasperation, I managed almost accidentally to shut it off, just as we eased into the parking spot at our inn.

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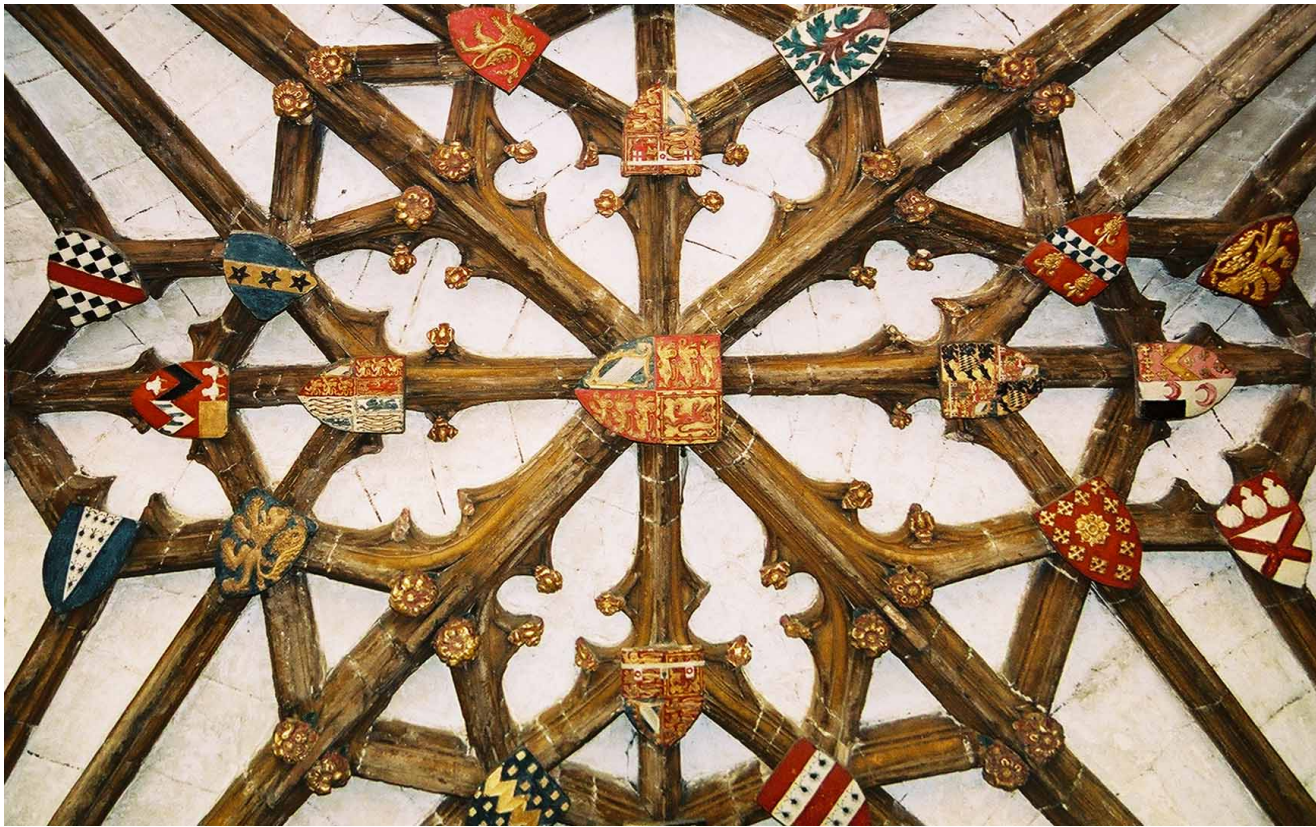
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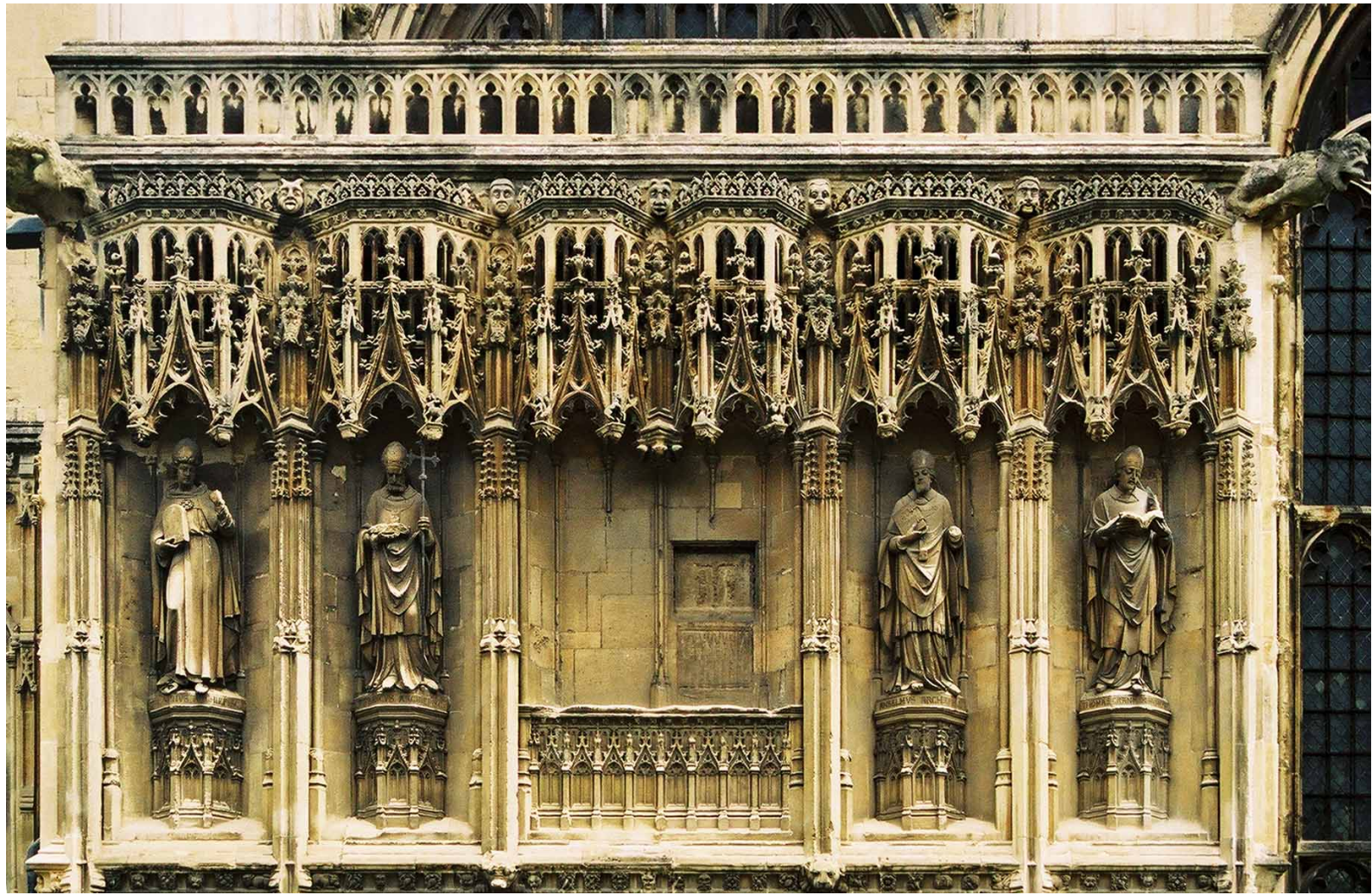
## Thursday, 2 June 2005, Canterbury-Dover-Battle

After our first full "English breakfast", we drove back into Canterbury to visit the [cathedral](#). It was something of an "obligatory" stop for Beth as an Episcopalian. We couldn't manage to attend a service, but the cathedral certainly lived up to its expectations. (We didn't tell anyone that one of Beth's ancestors was William de Tracy, one of the murderers of Thomas Becket.) Although we walked around the center of Canterbury for a bit, we didn't visit any other sites except a Post Office for the absolutely essential stamps to send all our postcards!



This is a detail from the ceiling of one side of the cloister. The coats of arms are presumably of royal and noble patrons.





It's a short drive to Dover on the English Channel. In addition to the famed white cliffs, there is [Dover Castle](#) which has figured in history right through the Second World War as tunnels were added in the cliff faces for command and control, observation and invasion defense. We never did see the white cliffs and barely saw the castle -- heavy fog and mist with a brisk wind blowing off the Channel. In fact it was very hard to even see that there was water down there. The timed tours of the wartime tunnels would have delayed us by more than three hours so we didn't tour them but we did tour the castle which is intact but mostly unfurnished. The second picture is the "pharos", in part a Roman era lighthouse though obviously added to in later eras. The interior is completely empty though you can see where floor beams would have been set into the outer wall.







Our third segment was the site of "The Battle of Hastings" which isn't really in the town of Hastings but 10 miles inland at Battle. After 1066, an [abbey](#) was constructed on the site to commemorate the victory of the Normans with legend saying that the high altar was positioned where King Harold was killed. As with virtually every other abbey in Britain, Battle Abbey is a ruin with almost nothing left of the church itself. The chapter house still has most of its walls.



We carried the audio wands on the walking tour of the battlefield, but we found here as at most of the other sites where these devices are available that the level of detail was very basic for someone who has already done the research. I'm still left with one of the great "what ifs" of history -- if, in 1066,

- Harold had not had to fight his half-brother Tostig and the King of Denmark at Stamford Bridge outside of York,
- Force-marched his badly damaged army 200 miles south in two weeks and
- Immediately closed in battle with William of Normandy,

then perhaps there wouldn't have been a conquest. The tactical situation on the battlefield certainly favored the English, but the better leadership and (undamaged) forces were on the Norman side. As our pictures show, we did see some gaps in the bad weather, so we're prepared to believe that Kent may actually have good weather once in a while but we can't prove it. (Battle and Sedlescombe are actually in East Sussex not Kent so the theory remains unproved.) The picture shows the approximate location of the Norman forces, looking uphill toward the English forces on the ridge line. The ruined Battle Abbey is the building peak on the right and behind it is the spot believed to be where King Harold died. When the abbey was built, that location was marked by the high altar. Today, a stone marker is there. Of the rest of the abbey church and its outbuildings, only some foundations remain.



After more wrong turns, we finally found our overnight stop by accident as we were driving by -- the Sedlescombe Golf Hotel. We called Nigel and Julia Vokes to confirm that we were indeed coming the next day. We agreed to call from Sissinghurst as we were leaving and to meet them at Wakehurst Place in late afternoon.

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## Chartwell photo gallery



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View across Chartwell's garden front from the north side. Pink flowering shrub in the foreground under the pergola.



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View south-east from the Balcony at Chartwell towards the Studio and cottages, the view for which Churchill bought the house. The house is set on the hillside commanding sweeping views over the Weald of Kent towards the South Downs.



©NTPL / [Andrea von Einsiedel](#)

Churchill's desk in the Study at Chartwell. It is covered with items including a bronze cast of his mother's hand, family photographs and two porcelain busts of Napoleon and Nelson.



©NTPL / [Andreas von Einsiedel](#)

View of the dining table and chairs in the Dining Room at Chartwell, Kent. This room has a low ceiling and lots of windows, the room is brightly lit with fantastic views.



©[NTPL / Ian Shaw](#)

View of one of the flower borders at Chartwell in Kent.



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Looking across the lawn to the entrance of Chartwell, home of Sir Winston Churchill.



©NTPL / [Andreas von Einsiedel](#)

View of the interior of the Studio at Chartwell. The studio was created in the 1930s and became a favourite refuge for Churchill during those years. Many of his own paintings are hung here.



©NTPL / [David Sellman](#)

View of the gardens at Chartwell in Kent. Pink roses can be seen in the foreground.





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The exterior of Chartwell, former home of Sir Winston Churchill, seen from the garden.



©[National Trust](#)

View of visitors walking in the grounds of Chartwell in Kent.



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Stepping stones across a pond at Chartwell in Kent.



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A view of Chartwell, the home of Sir Winston Churchill, taken from the garden.

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*St John's Gospel, Chapter 12:*

*"There were certain Greeks among them, who came up to worship at the feast. They came therefore to Philip, who was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we would see Jesus."*

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The first Archbishop of Canterbury was St Augustine who arrived on the coast of Kent as a missionary to England in 597 AD. He came from Rome, sent by Pope Gregory the Great.



The story goes that Gregory had seen "Angle" slaves for sale in the city market and struck by their beauty, had remarked "not Angles but Angels". Such a people he was convinced should be converted to Christianity, and ordered Augustine and a group of monks to set out for England.



On his arrival Augustine was given a church at Canterbury by the local [King Ethelbert](#) whose Queen, Bertha, was already a Christian. This building had been a place of worship during the Roman occupation of Britain.

Soon consecrated Bishop, Augustine established his seat (or "cathedra") in this place as the first Archbishop of Canterbury. The present archbishop, Most Revd Dr Rowan Williams, is 104th in the line of succession.

Until the 10th century the Cathedral community was a family of clergy, living a regulated life as the household of the Archbishop. Not until 998 do we find evidence that they were living by the Rule of St. Benedict as a formal monastic community. The Benedictine community of monks continued until the monastery was dissolved in 1540.



The next year a new Foundation, called the Dean and Chapter, was constituted by Royal Charter. Today there is a Dean and four Residentiary Canons in the Chapter, who, with the Precentor, make up the establishment of full-time clergy.

Canterbury Cathedral is linked to the lives of many great ecclesiastical and national figures. Among the former are the Saints of Canterbury – [Augustine](#), Theodore, Odo, Dunstan, Alphege, Anselm, Thomas and Edmund - all of whom were Archbishops of Canterbury and held in universal respect.



The one who became most famous of all was Thomas Becket, who was murdered in his cathedral on 29 December 1170. Appointed by his King and friend, Henry II, to bring the Church to the heel of the monarchy, he did the reverse. He espoused its rights in the face of the King's desire to control them.





Four knights, with their own agendas of complaint, thinking to ingratiate themselves with the King, came to Canterbury and killed the Archbishop in his own Cathedral



In the Reformation period Canterbury had a series of distinguished Archbishops, among them Thomas Cranmer, who compiled the first two Prayer Books and established what was to become the liturgical tradition of the Church of England and Anglican Churches the world over.

Cardinal [Pole](#) was Archbishop during the reign of Mary I, the period of the Catholic Restoration, and Matthew Parker and John Whitgift were the greatest of Elizabeth I's Archbishops.



With the Civil War, the Cathedral was sacked by the Puritans (1642), the Cathedral Chapter was dissolved, and it was not until the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 that the Church of England was re-established and life returned to the Cathedral. The fabric was repaired, the daily services were resumed and Chapter re-established.

Few changes occurred until the middle of the nineteenth century, when a series of energetic Archbishops and equally vigorous Deans, began a transformation of the life of the Cathedral.

The twentieth century has seen a major restoration of the Cathedral fabric, the revival of pilgrimage (now on ecumenical lines), a re-ordering of liturgical services and a great renaissance of the Cathedral's music. Outstanding among Archbishops has been William Temple, and Deans with international reputations have been George Bell, Dick Sheppard and Hewlett Johnson (the Red Dean).

In 1982 Pope John Paul II visited Canterbury and with Archbishop Robert Runcie prayed at the site of S. Thomas Becket's martyrdom.



The Cathedral enjoys many links with cathedrals and churches throughout the world. A special relationship, both historic and contemporary, is with the Abbaye Notre Dame, Le Bec-Hellouin, in Normandy - normally referred to simply as 'Bec'.

Archbishop Lanfranc, Abbot of St Stephen's, Caen, and previously Prior of Bec laid out the monastic plan of the Cathedral in 1070 and left the first great Romanesque church. His successor, Abbot

Anselm of Bec - arguably the greatest of the Archbishops of Canterbury - followed him in 1093.



Both lie buried in the Cathedral under stones inscribed with their names - Lanfranc in St Martin's Chapel and St Anselm in the chapel dedicated to his name. Today, a warm relationship exists with the community at Bec. This includes the sister community of nuns who live in the same valley at the Monastère Sainte Françoise-Romaine, over whom the Abbot of Bec also presides. Our common spiritual concern is for the unity of the Church, and visitors travel frequently between the two communities, just as did the monks of the 11th century.

## Through The Centuries

- 597** **St Augustine** arrived in Kent and soon established the first Cathedral
- 1070-1077** Cathedral rebuilt by Archbishop Lanfranc
- 1098-1130** New Quire built over a **Crypt (present Western Crypt)**
- 1170** **Thomas Becket** murdered in the Cathedral
- 1175-1184** **Quire** rebuilt. Eastern Crypt, Trinity and Corona Chapels added (all as seen today)
- 1220** Becket's body placed in new Shrine in Trinity Chapel
- 1377-1405** Lanfranc **Nave** demolished and rebuilt as seen today; **Cloister** vaulting inserted
- c1450** **Pulpitum** Screen constructed
- 1498** **Bell Harry Tower** completed the Cathedral

- 1538**      **Becket's Shrine** destroyed by Henry VIII
  
- 1540**      **Monastery dissolved** by royal command
  
- 1541**      New Foundation of **Dean and Chapter** established
  
- 1660-1704**      Repair and refurbishing after Puritan damage
  
- 1663**      **Quire Lectern**
  
- 1954**      Library rebuilt, repairing War damage
  
- 1986**      **Altar of the Sword's Point** (Martyrdom) restored
  
- 1988**      **Compass Rose** placed in the Nave
  
- 2000**      International Study Centre in precincts completed

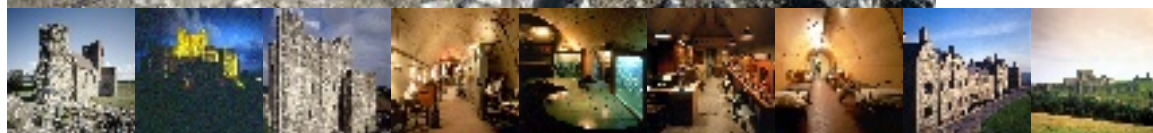


ENGLISH HERITAGE

## Dover Castle and the Secret Wartime Tunnels

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Kent



At 18:57 hours on 26 May 1940, the signal was received to start Operation Dynamo - the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force and French troops from Dunkirk's beaches on the northern coast of France. The network of underground tunnels beneath Dover Castle became the nerve centre of the whole operation. The best estimate was that only 45,000 of the troops could be brought back, yet Winston Churchill announced to the House of Commons on 4 June that 338,000 troops had been saved, despite the operation itself coming under attack. Today, you can experience life as it was lived by the 700 personnel based here in the worst days of the World War II. Relive the drama as a wounded pilot is taken into the underground hospital to fight for his life and see the Command Centre that Churchill visited to see the plans that helped lead to Allied victory.

The White Cliffs are among England's most celebrated sights, yet hidden inside them is a

fascinating and secret world. Deep underground lies an extensive network of tunnels - first dug during the Napoleonic Wars, but so strategically useful that they continued to be used right through the 20th century.

There has been a castle at Dover since the defences of an Anglo-Saxon fortress were strengthened by William of Normandy, who built the first earthwork castle in 1066 before moving on to London. Under Henry II, the castle was rebuilt, including the monumental keep - constructed in the 1180s by Henry's great architect, Maurice the Engineer - which stands at the heart of a concentric ring of defences.

An exciting presentation using the latest light, film and sound technology highlights the castle's key role when the country was threatened with invasion and retraces how, in 1216, a group of rebel barons invited the French Dauphin to invade and seize the throne from King John. It was not long before the whole South East, London and the Tower included, was under Prince Louis' control. Only two castles in the region, Windsor and Dover, held out. Louis, though, had not bargained for Hubert de Burgh's resolute defence of Dover. The castle held for several months while English forces were mustered throughout the country to march against Louis. After the French defeat at Lincoln, the siege at Dover Castle was abandoned. It was de Burgh's ship that led the English fleet to a decisive victory off the coast during August 1217.

Following the 1533 annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, his subsequent excommunication by the Pope and the 1538 peace treaty between former enemies France and Spain, Henry VIII was isolated in Europe and a Catholic invasion of England seemed inevitable. A great chain of coastal forts was commissioned by the king, who came to Dover in 1539 to inspect the work personally. An exciting exhibition at the castle offers a tableau of the preparations for Henry VIII's visit to Dover. The exhibition invites visitors into the king's chambers to witness the preparations for Henry's arrival. Hundreds of locked strongboxes preceded him, containing everything that a monarch of England could possibly require - from provisions and chests full of documents, to desks, furniture and decorations.

No fortress in England boasts a longer history than Dover Castle. Commanding the shortest sea crossing between England and the continent, the site has served as a vital strategic centre since the Iron Age. Today, visitors can enjoy the castle's wealth of history through a range of exciting exhibitions designed to take people back in time. Bringing history to life at the site are the reconstruction and exhibition of Henry VIII's visit in 1539; the 1216 siege experience; the Princess's of Wales Royal Regiment Museum and the Roman Pharos and Saxon church. You can also take one of the inclusive tours of the Secret Wartime Tunnels.

## What are the opening times?

**Dates**

**Opening Times**

**Opening Days**

1 Apr - 31 Jul	10am-6pm	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, & Sun.
1-31 Aug	9.30am-6.30pm	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, & Sun.
1-30 Sep	10am-6pm	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, & Sun.
1-31 Oct	10am-5pm	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, & Sun.
1 Nov-31 Jan	10am-4pm	Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat, & Sun.
1 Feb-31 Mar	10am-4pm	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, & Sun.
24-26 Dec and 1 Jan Closed		

Details:

Keep closes at 5pm on days of hospitality events.

## How much does it cost?

Adult:

£9.50

Children:

£4.80

Concession:

£7.10

English Heritage Members:

Free - [Join English Heritage](#)

Other:

Family ticket (2 adults and 3 children) £23.80

Details:

The last tour of the tunnels starts 1 hour before the site closes

## How do I get there?

Address:

Kent - CT16 1HU

Road Access:

On E side of Dover (OS Map 179; ref TR 326416) Local Tourist Information Dover (01304 205108)

Train Access:

Dover Priory 1 1/2 miles

Bus Access:

Stagecoach in East Kent 90C and 113 from Dover Priory station

Accommodation

[Find a hotel near this property](#)

Map Location:

[Map of location](#)

Cycle Routes:

[Find the site on the National Cycle Network](#)

Telephone:

01304 211067

## What facilities are available?

Facilities Available:



Facilities Details:

Toilets: Adapted WCs available; ramped access beside keep and Secret Wartime Tunnels.

Shop: Level access.

Restaurant and cafe: Level access.

Access:

Access to castle and grounds: Extensive grounds mainly accessible on tarmac paths but there are some very steep slopes. Wheelchair routes.

Access to Secret Wartime Tunnels: Good access for wheelchair users but entry is down a steep slope. Motorised wheelchairs and guides available.

Parking:

Within castle, 100m from keep. Disabled visitors may use Palace Green car park next to keep to avoid steep path from Constable's Tower and cobbled drawbridge. Two motorised wheelchairs available.

Visually Impaired Visitors:

Braille guide and disabled orientation map available.

Hearing Impaired Visitors:

Hearing dogs welcome. Some hearing loops available.

## What facilities are available for groups?

Group Discount:

15% discount for groups of 11 or more plus a free place for every additional 20 paying passengers. Free entry for coach driver and tour leader

Coach Parking Facilities:

Please contact telephone ++44 (0)1304 211067 or fax: ++44 (0)1304 214739

Group Booking:

Please use parking facilities at top of Castle Hill (steep), 800 metres from entrance

Average Length of Visit:

4 hours



## Further Info

The Naafi restaurant is open all year; Second World War, a themed tea bar is open Apr-Oct and through most of the winter; Light refreshments available in the Keep Yard. For private functions please call 01304 209889); Dogs on leads only in restricted areas; Zeffirelli's Hamlet, starring Mel Gibson, was filmed here

## Useful tools

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- [Print this page](#)



Email this page

# 1066 Battle of Hastings Battlefield & Abbey

## The turning point of England's history

*"It was amazing, i stood on the actual spot where Harold died"*

Tony Barnes, a visitor



Plan Your Visit  
to Battle Abbey



Take a tour of  
the Abbey and  
Battlefield



Kids' Zone





# Battle Abbey

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[What's Happening Now?](#)

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[Battle Abbey Overview Map](#)

[Take the Battlefield Walk](#)

[The Story of Battle Abbey](#)

[Timeline](#)

## Explore Now

In this section we want to take you on a trip around Battle Abbey and help you to learn about the fascinating history associated with it. Find out about the Battle of Hastings, take a tour of the famous battlefield and explore the picture galleries to read stories of the abbey through the ages.



### Interactive Map



Click here to see a **virtual tour of Battle Abbey** with 360 degree panoramas to explore

### Battle Abbey Timeline

Click here to find out what happened and when

### The Story of Battle Abbey

Picture galleries about the life and times of the Abbey and Battlefield



# A Diary of Our 2005 UK Journey (page 7)

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## Friday, 3 June 2005, Bodiam-Sissinghurst-Wakehurst Place-Hayward's Heath

The golfers were already out in force by the time that Beth and I walked up the hill from the very nice "hotel" to the clubhouse for breakfast. Bang, crash, flickering power from a thunderstorm and suddenly the place was jammed as everyone sensibly fled the course. So we were treated to rather raucous local "colour" as the locals gave each other the needles about their games.

[Bodiam Castle](#) lies only a short distance away (a half dozen miles or so) from Battle and Sedlescombe. The weather had stopped raining though it certainly was misty. We decided it was Beth's turn to try her hand at this driving bit. In retrospect, it was not a fair test -- starting on small roads was not the way to start. We got there, but I was a nervous wreck. Some it was, I admit, just the usual issue of not driving oneself and of different driving styles. But Beth also was having the same lane alignment issues that I had and that got us even closer to the roadside bushes than I had. So we knew that she could do the driving if something happened to me like a broken arm, but after Sissinghurst I did all the driving and Beth did the navigating. That still didn't avoid "adventures" but made the strain a bit less at least on me.

When we got out of the car at Bodiam, it was just misty. Like many sites, the car park was about a half mile from the castle. It seemed like forever -- halfway there the heavens opened! Thunder and lightning, heavy rain. Yes we did have umbrellas; yes we did have raincoats. Nonetheless, we were drenched and thoroughly mud spattered by the time we stumbled to the refreshment stand at the castle entrance. Beth had chosen to wear a linen pant suit this day which was now a sort of 70's tie-dyed orange below the knee. (We've just about got the last of the mud out of them now, after repeated washings and bleach).



Like most castles in Britain, Bodiam is a ruin and perhaps that makes it unfair to compare it with the intact Leeds Castle. It's more compact on its "island" and I think comes a little closer to the idea of a moated castle in my mind's eye than Leeds Castle does.



The rain held off while we were actually in the castle and we managed to see a bit of it before the hordes of continental schoolchildren arrived (they'd waited on their busses, sensibly). It was midterm holiday for British schools so the tours were from France and the Low Countries. At Bodiam, most of them were speaking French. See those mud puddles in the left corner? That's what we had all over us by this time.

From Bodiam Castle, Beth drove us to [Sissinghurst Castle Garden](#). As usual, we missed a turn or three and ended up driving a spiral outbound course from Bodiam instead of the direct route. We did get to see more of the countryside than absolutely necessary. The rains had been at Sissinghurst so it was just misty and very humid. We ate lunch there, first, to let some of the dripping end. The gardens were attractive, but to be honest, I found them to be a bit of a disappointment, considering their fame. These are gardens, so one should not expect grand landscapes (like some of the great houses) nor exceptional specimen plants (like Wakehurst Place and the Westonbirt Arboretum).





As we promised, we called Nigel and Julia as we left Sissinghurst, warning them to add 30% to whatever time estimates they made. Between just going slower on unfamiliar roads and making the inevitable wrong turns at random places, it always took longer than expected. Wakehurst Place is maybe 10-15 miles from Gatwick airport (where we picked up the car) so this was the closest we came to actually looping in our travels.

[Wakehurst Place](#) is a division of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and a National Trust site. There are two principal features:

- The Millennium Seed Bank is preserving viable seeds from endangered and important plant species around the world. It was featured on a BBC Radio Four science programme in 2004. There is a display but most of the work is carried out in labs that are not open to the public.



- There are some formal gardens, but most of the 180 acres of grounds are more along the lines of an arboretum with emphasis on specimen plants in diverse habitats. There is also an adjoining nature reserve which limits visitors to 50 a day.





The

picture of Julia Vokes, Beth and me is courtesy of Nigel Vokes and his camera.

Then, we drove to nearby Haywards Heath and the Vokes' home, where incredibly, they had invited us to stay with them for two nights. Nigel demonstrated exceptional bravery by sitting in our car while I drove, while Beth rode home with Julia. I hope I didn't give Nigel too many gray hairs! Dinner was in a nearby curry restaurant and then home for conversation and a bit of laundry (the first attempt at getting some of the orange out of Beth's slacks).

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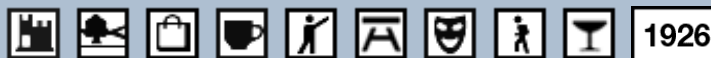
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© NTPL / Andrew Butler

Bodiam Castle

Bodiam, nr Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN32 5UA



Perfect example of a late medieval moated castle

- One of Britain's most famous and evocative castles
- Sussex Family Attraction of the Year
- Medieval battlements, ramparts and moat to explore
- Try on armour (ring ahead to check)
- Wonderful views across an archaeology-rich landscape

**What's new this year**

Audio/visual presentation brings to life the fascinating story of the castle and its inhabitants, and audio interpretation explains the Second World War pill box



Bodiam Castle is often used by education groups in term time. The only WC is located in the car park, 400yds from the castle entrance

**Opening arrangements:**

Castle

11 Feb–31 Oct '06	10:30–6MoTuWeThFr SaSu
4 Nov–23 Dec '06	10:30–4 SaSu
6 Jan–9 Feb '07	10:30–4 SaSu
10 Feb–28 Feb '07	10:30–6MoTuWeThFr SaSu

Shop/tea-room

11 Feb–31 Oct '06	10:30–5MoTuWeThFr SaSu
1 Nov–23 Dec '06	10:30–4 WeThFr SaSu
6 Jan–9 Feb '07	10:30–4 SaSu
10 Feb–28 Feb '07	10:30–5MoTuWeThFr SaSu

KEY: Dark blue=open

Last admission 1hr before closing. Castle closes dusk if earlier than stated. Closed 24 Dec-5 Jan

## Trust properties nearby

- Bateman's
- Scotney Castle
- Sissinghurst Castle Garden
- Smallhythe Place

## Events

- [Events at this property](#)

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**Contact numbers:**

01580 830436

01580 830212 (Shop)

01580 830074 (Tea-room)

**Fax:**

01580 830398

**Email:**

[bodiamcastle@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:bodiamcastle@nationaltrust.org.uk)

**Admission prices**

£4.60, child £2.30, family £11.50. Groups £3.90, child £1.95.

Reduced rate when arriving by cycle or by public transport or for visitors arriving via Kent and East Sussex Railway; stations at Tenterden and Northiam

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## Bodiam Castle photo gallery



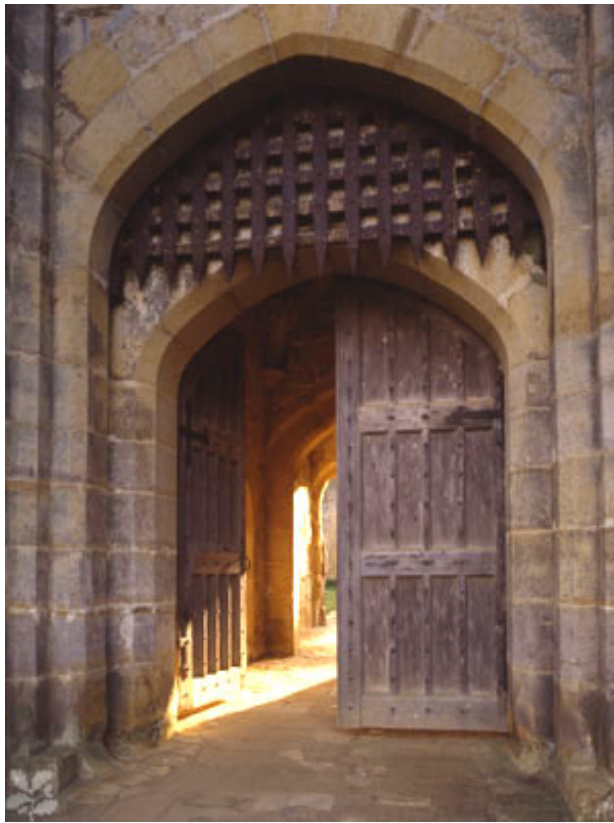
©NTPL / [David Sellman](#)

Bodiam castle is a moated, curtain-walled castle which was built in 1385 to either reiterate the status & wealth of this ambitious knight of the realm or, as protection against French raids. It was dismantled in 1643.



©NTPL / [Alasdair Ogilvie](#)

Distant view of Bodiam Castle in autumn.



©[NTPL / Alasdair Ogilvie](#)

Bodiam Castle in East Sussex. View of the Gatehouse with studded doors and portcullis.



©[NTPL / Alasdair Ogilvie](#)

The three arches of the Screens Passage connecting the Great Hall with the Kitchen, Buttery and Pantry. Bodiam Castle, East Sussex.



©National Trust

View of the courtyard where *The Tempest* is being performed at Bodiam Castle, East Sussex, during a summers evening.



©[NTPL / George Bailey](#)

A person dressed-up as the Knight, Sir Edward Dalyngrigge, who built Bodiam Castle around 1385.





©NTPL / [George Bailey](#)

A person dressed-up as a gunner at Castle Gate, Bodiam Castle in East Sussex.



©National Trust

Bodiam Castle Courtyard in East Sussex. It is only from the inside that the extent of the damage incurred during the 17th century becomes evident. However it is easy to imagine how this once grand home would have been set out.



©[NTPL / Alasdair Ogilvie](#)

Bodiam Castle in the misty autumn light with reflections in the moat.



©[NTPL / Alasdair Ogilvie](#)

Dramatic outline of Bodiam Castle against the skyline, from across the moat and framed by a bare tree.



©NTPL / [Alasdair Ogilvie](#)

Bodiam Castle in East Sussex. View of the 'murder holes' in the vaulted ceiling of the Gatehouse.



©NTPL / [Andrew Butler](#)

The south east corner of Bodiam Castle seen across the moat. The Castle is silhouetted against the cloudy sky & reflected in the shimmering water.

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Sissinghurst Castle Garden

Sissinghurst, nr Cranbrook, Kent TN17 2AB



1967

One of the world's most celebrated gardens, the creation of Vita Sackville-West and her husband Sir Harold Nicolson

- Celebrated gardens designed by writer Vita Sackville West
- Intimate setting in the grounds of an Elizabethan mansion
- Romantic little compartments filled with colourful floral displays
- Lakeside and woodland walks open all year
- Lovely unspoilt Wealden countryside

**What's new this year**

Coffee shop, extended bus link from Staplehurst Station to Sissinghurst including transport link to [Smallhythe Place](#)



The library and Vita Sackville-West's study are open 1 April–15 October: Mon, Tues, Fri 12–5:30; Sat & Sun 10–5:30. Please tel. to check details. No tripods or easels in the garden. Members are recommended to visit in the late afternoon to enjoy the garden at its quietest

**Opening arrangements:**

Garden				
18 Mar–29 Oct '06	11–6:30	MoTu	Fr SaSu	
Shop				
18 Mar–29 Oct '06	11–5:30	MoTu	Fr SaSu	
30 Oct–19 Dec '06	10:30–4:30	MoTu	Fr SaSu	
Restaurant				
18 Mar–29 Oct '06	10:30–5:30	MoTu	Fr SaSu	
30 Oct–19 Dec '06	11–4	MoTu	Fr SaSu	
Coffee shop				
18 Mar–30 Sep '06	11–5	MoTu	Fr SaSu	

## Trust properties nearby

- Bateman's
- Bodiam Castle
- Scotney Castle
- Smallhythe Place
- Stoneacre

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7 Jan–12 Mar '07 11–4 SaSu  
KEY: Dark blue=open  
Closes dusk if earlier. Garden, shop and restaurant open from 10 at weekends and BHols. Last admission 1hr before closing or dusk if earlier. Plant shop open 18 March–30 Sep, 11–5

**Contact numbers:**

01580 710700

01580 710701 (Infoline)

01580 710703 (Shop)

01580 710704 (Restaurant)

**Fax:**

01580 710702

**Email:**

[sissinghurst@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:sissinghurst@nationaltrust.org.uk)

**Admission prices**

£7.80, child £3.50, family £20

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Photo gallery

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## Sissinghurst photo gallery



©[National Trust](#)

An aerial view from the Elizabethan Tower at Sissinghurst showing the Rose Garden Cottage & the Yew Walk.



©[National Trust](#)

View along the Lime Walk in the garden at Sissinghurst with pleached lime trees, flower borders & yew hedges, in spring.



©[NTPL / Eric Crichton](#)

View to the Moat Walk from the Cottage Garden at Sissinghurst with Dahlia's in the foreground.



©[NTPL / Eric Crichton](#)

View of the Elizabethan Tower from the Rose Garden at Sissinghurst, in Kent,  
with box hedges.



©[National Trust](#)

View of the White Garden & Priest's House at Sissinghurst Castle Garden in Kent.





©[NTPL / David Sellman](#)

View of the Orchard & Elizabethan Tower in the background at Sissinghurst Castle Garden, Kent.



©[NTPL / David Sellman](#)

View of the rose garden & Elizabethan prospect tower in the background at Sissinghurst Castle Garden, Kent.



©[NTPL / David Sellman](#)

View of an archway at Sissinghurst Castle Garden in Kent.



©[NTPL / David Sellman](#)

View of the Orchard at Sissinghurst, looking through the branches of a blossoming tree towards the Elizabethan Tower.



©[National Trust](#)

The White Garden & Priest's House at Sissinghurst Castle Garden in Kent.



©[NTPL / David Sellman](#)

Red-brick prospect tower, seen from the Orchard at Sissinghurst in Kent. The Orchard has apple trees in blossom & narcissi in flower under the trees.



©[NTPL / David Sellman](#)

The Elizabethan Tower at Sissinghurst Castle Garden in Kent.

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VISITOR INFO

## Wakehurst Place

### Kew's country garden in West Sussex

Open daily from 10am

Closed only 24-25 Dec (now open 1 Jan)



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On



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Venue Hire



- 180 acres of country estate to enjoy
- Elizabethan Mansion with Gallery and Learning Zone
- Ornamental gardens and water features
- Temperate woodlands housing national birch and southern beech collections
- Bluebell weekends, autumn tints and Winter Garden
- Garden and themed tours, seasonal walks
- Carol evening and Christmas festivities.

#### More information

- [Visitor information](#), including opening times, prices, group bookings, school visits & more
- [Garden features](#)
- [Wakehurst Newsletter](#) with events, news items and seasonal features
- [Gallery Exhibition](#)

### Home to the Millennium Seed Bank

With interactive exhibition - visit the heart of this £80m international conservation project. See scientists at work and discover how Kew is helping to safeguard the world's most endangered plants. Explore the work of the project through touch screens. Learn how the seeds survive, for hundreds of years, in massive underground vaults at minus 20 degrees Celsius.

#### More information



- [The Millennium Seed Bank Project](#)
- [The Wellcome Trust Millennium Building and Exhibition](#)



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## VISITOR INFORMATION

# Visitor Information



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Visitor Info



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All the information you need to plan a visit to [Kew](#) and [Wakehurst Place](#), and what to do when you are there.

### Kew

Opening times, admission prices, travel details, tours, facilities etc.

[Find out more online.....](#)



Royal Botanic Gardens  
Kew  
Richmond  
Surrey  
TW9 3AB

### Wakehurst Place

Opening times, admission prices, travel details, tours, facilities etc.

[Find out more online.....](#)



Royal Botanic Gardens  
Wakehurst Place  
Ardingly  
Nr Haywards Heath  
West Sussex  
RH17 6TN



Find out about the Gardens and Kew's work with our comprehensive websites.

[Find out more ....](#)



Open for the first time in 10 years, Kew Palace is the oldest building within the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, built in 1631. The Palace will open from 27 April - 30 September 2006 (Tuesdays - Sundays)

[find out more about Kew Palace.....](#)

## Useful links

- [www.visitrichmond.co.uk](http://www.visitrichmond.co.uk)
- [London Treasures](#)
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[Home](#) | [Events](#)



## A Year at Kew

## Places – Wakehurst Place

Select a zone

**Choose a zone**

- Seed Bank Zone
- Gardens Zone
- Conservation Zone
- Woodland Zone

**See also:**

- Loder Valley Nature Reserve

**Wakehurst Place**

Wakehurst Place, in the beautiful High Weald of Sussex, is an outstanding botanic garden and conservation area, managed by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.






Wakehurst Place has a mild, friendly climate, a high rainfall and moisture-retentive soils, complementing the conditions at Kew and allowing many important groups of plants, unable to be grown successfully at Kew, to flourish here.

In the woodlands, there are trees from the temperate zones of the world. The planting styles range from formal walled gardens by the Mansion, through expansive specimen beds, to waterside and bog gardens. The estate is home to no fewer than four National Collections - hypericums, skimmias, birches and southern beeches.



At Wakehurst Place, there is great emphasis on conservation, with the Millennium Seed Bank - the world's most ambitious conservation project, firmly established; with the Loder Valley Nature Reserve embracing three major types of local habitat; woodland, meadowland and wetland; and the Francis Rose Reserve, probably the first nature reserve dedicated to mosses, liverworts, lichens and filmy ferns (Cryptogams) in Europe.

Here, Wakehurst Place has been divided into convenient areas which, if you move the cursor over them, reveal places of interest. Go to them, and they are dealt with in detail, with links to even greater depth if required.

**Choose a zone**

-  Seed Bank Zone
-  Gardens Zone
-  Conservation Zone
-  Woodland Zone
-  Loder Valley Nature Reserve

**Continue the tour**

-  Back up to: Places home page
-  Carry on to: Seed Bank Zone

# A Diary of Our 2005 UK Journey (page 8)

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## Saturday, 4 June 2005, Hayward's Heath (Bluebell Railway and Sheffield Park Gardens)

One of the very early topics of discussion that led to this trip was Nigel's offer to "explain cricket" to me. As time went on and the trip became a reality, our confessed interest in trains also suggested visiting the [Bluebell Railway](#), a preserved stretch of standard gauge track with restored coal-fired motive power and rolling stock (locomotives and cars to the rest of you). Nigel and Julia are members of the Bluebell, so we had an expert guide. Here's a picture of Nigel with Beth and me. Note that as a "blind CC" member of the Global British Comedy Collaborative, he isn't strictly required to display eyeglasses and facial hair.







One of the many interesting aspects of the Bluebell Railway is the ability to wander through the workshops and clearly see the restoration and maintenance work



While we were there, the railway was having a Folk Festival weekend. This gave us a chance to watch some Morris Dancing with a couple of groups performing at two of the stations.



Sheffield Park is the southern terminus of the Bluebell Railway and also the location of Sheffield Park Garden, another National Trust site. [Sheffield Park Garden](#) is a landscape garden, with grand vistas and mature plantings centered around a chain of four lakes.







On the way back to the Vokes' home, we had a chance to watch briefly a local cricket match (partially fulfilling Nigel's promise and later supplemented by television coverage) and a local village fair which was fairly damp and wind blown by the time we saw it. Nigel and Julia certainly tried to give us a glimpse into some of the local activities.

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<b>Special Events for 2006</b>	<b>Fathers' Day</b> Ploughman's Lunch 18th June	How to get to the Railway
<a href="#">Visitor</a>	<a href="#">New</a>	<a href="#">Shop</a>
<a href="#">Search</a>	<a href="#">FAQ</a>	<a href="#">Links</a>
<a href="#">Detail</a>	<a href="#">Help us</a>	<a href="#">Contact</a>

## Bluebell Railway Preservation Society

<a href="#">Click here for Timetable Information</a> or Phone (24 Hours) 01825 720825
<a href="#">Travel 1920s' style: GOLDEN ARROW Pullman Dining Train</a>



Welcome to the Bluebell Railway's [Award Winning](#) Web Site.



Français



Deutsch



Español



Nederlands



日本語



한국어

Twinned with the [Museumstoomtram Hoorn-Medemblik](#)

The volunteer run Bluebell Line was the UK's first preserved standard gauge passenger railway, re-opening part of the Lewes to East Grinstead line of the old London Brighton & South Coast Railway in 1960. Since then it has developed into one of the largest tourist attractions in Sussex, yet it still remains true to its objectives of the preservation for posterity of a country branch line, its steam locomotives, coaches and goods stock, signalling systems, stations and operating practices.

Our 100% steam-hauled passenger trains run daily from April 1st to October 29th.

See the [Timetable](#) for full details.

In addition, our steam hauled [Golden Arrow Pullman Dining Train](#) runs most Saturday evenings and Sunday Lunchtimes, as well as some other days.

Next [Special Events](#):

- **June:** Sunday 18: **Fathers' Day Special** - a ploughman's lunch on board the 1pm train with a bottle of *Pullman Beer* included in the very reasonable price of £20 per person (including travel). For more information, or to book, please contact our Customer Services Team, Tel: 01825 720800 or [e-mail](#)
- **June 24 & 25, July 1 & 2:** [Day out with Thomas](#). Book early for this popular event. Come and see "Thomas", "Percy" and "Stepney" as well as a whole host of other activities. A great family day out.
- **July:** Fri 21, Sat 22 & Sun 23: [Bluebell Railway Music Festival](#) - Three summer evening concerts in the marquee at Horsted Keynes - Book now and take advantage of the advance booking discount.



At the bottom of every page you will find navigation menus to help you find what you're looking for. A point of reference is the [Home Page](#), which is an introduction to the site and to the Railway. From there you can join a **Guided Tour of the Web Site**. Alternatively, [Visitor Information](#) is a good starting point if you're thinking of coming to visit us.



---

To the [Bluebell Railway Home Page](#), or the ["What's New"](#) page.  
[Timetable](#) - [Special Events](#) - [Travel Details](#) - [Disabled Facilities](#)

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[Visitor Info.](#) - [Catering](#) - [Contacts](#) - [What's New](#) - [Extension](#) - [Locos](#) - [Carriages & Wagons](#) - [Signals](#) - [History](#) - [Other](#) - [Links](#) -  
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[Richard Salmon](#)

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<b>Special Events for 2006</b>	<b>Fathers' Day</b> Ploughman's Lunch 18th June	How to get to the Railway
--------------------------------	---	---------------------------

# Bluebell Railway Preservation Society

[Click here for Timetable Information](#)  
or Phone (24 Hours)  
01825 720825

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Travel 1920s' style:  
→→→ GOLDEN ARROW →→→  
Pullman Dining Train



Français



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Next [Special Events](#):

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- **July:** Fri 21, Sat 22 & Sun 23: [Bluebell Railway Music Festival](#) - Three summer evening concerts in the marquee at Horsted Keynes - Book now and take advantage of the advance booking discount.

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[Your ideal Film/TV location?](#) - [A great day out for all the family.](#)



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Two different [Bluebell Railway Screensavers](#) are now available for downloading to your PC.

[Latest News and Photos](#) - [Photos on other web sites](#)

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## Welcome to the Bluebell Railway's Home Page

The volunteer-run Bluebell Line was the UK's first preserved standard gauge passenger railway, re-opening part of the Lewes to East Grinstead line of the old London Brighton & South Coast Railway in 1960. Since then it has developed into one of the largest tourist attractions in Sussex, yet it still remains true to its objectives of the preservation for posterity of a country branch line, its steam locomotives, coaches and goods stock, signalling systems, stations and operating practices.

On this web site you can find [Visitor Information](#), and details of the [Timetable](#) for the UK's only *all-steam* railway. In addition to scheduled passenger trains, there is also the [Golden Arrow Pullman Train](#) on which you can experience the ultimate "meal out", our ["Day Out with Thomas"](#) events in June/July, and in the run up to Christmas each year, the very popular [Santa Specials](#) where the children receive presents from Father Christmas, and a full programme of other [Special Events](#). The web site contains much more than just this, though.

---



*The unusual combination of a GWR "Dukedog" and an SR "West Country" depart northwards from Horsted Keynes station at the 2005 "Giants of Steam" gala. (Photo: Andrew Strongitharm)*

To view larger versions of most of the pictures on this site, just click on them.


[Why not take a tour of this web site:](#) **TOUR - This Way**

### Steam Loco Driving Courses

Details of Clive Groome's popular [Footplate Days and Ways](#) Driving and Firing Courses.

---

Also available on these web pages:

- Information on [how to get to the Railway](#);
  - Full details of [catering](#) arrangements, both on the trains and at the stations;
  -  Information for [disabled visitors](#);
  - You can order items from [our shop](#) by mail order;
  - [Contact information](#), phone numbers and addresses;
  - Details of the benefits of [membership](#), and opportunities to [join in the running of the railway as a volunteer](#);
  - For younger members there is [The Stepney Club](#) and the [9F Club](#).
  - All the [latest news](#) from the Bluebell.
  - Information about our historic collections of [Locomotives](#) and [Carriages and Wagons](#), with photos of most items of stock;
  - Comprehensive details of the [Signalling and Signal Boxes](#);
  - The [Fund-raising Football Competition](#);
  - Pages detailing the [History of the Bluebell Line](#).
  - Pages describing the role of the Bluebell Railway in [Carlton's TV film of "The Railway Children"](#), and the rolling stock used in the film.
  - [The Bluebell Railway Trust](#) (Registered Charity No.292497).
  - [Other pages](#), with information about the stations, [extensions](#) to the current line, [accommodation](#) locally, and other general background material;
  - [Links](#) to related pages, plus a full [Index and Search Engine](#) for these Bluebell pages.
- 

The railway is operated by "Bluebell Railway plc", which is majority owned by the volunteer membership through the Bluebell Railway Preservation Society, and this membership also provides the dedicated volunteer labour which enables the line to continue running. Any financial surplus made from running the trains is ploughed straight back into preservation work. The only "dividend" members receive is the immense satisfaction of seeing "their" railway provide a day's entertainment for hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.



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Please [email](#) the web site editor, Richard Salmon, with any comments or suggestions about format or content.

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Out of principle I do not normally use restrictive features such as frames, tables, Java, or coloured text, since these go against the original and laudable concept of html as a user-formatted document language. This also makes for far

faster down-loads. Pages can also be viewed and navigated acceptably with images turned off, although the colour-coded [timetable](#) is useful! One little bit of Javascript is included in this page to escape from being locked into someone else's frame, but if your browser doesn't support this, it should not be affected, and frames provide a very simple mechanism for the [360 degree view of the Golden Arrow carriages' interiors](#).

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Thanks are also due to [Lewis Nodes](#), Tim Baker, Tony Hillman, [Peter Richards](#), Martin Nichols, Malcolm Roe, John and Robin Elliott, Peter Churchman, Graham Townsend, [Mike Watts](#), Mark Smith, Roger Williams, Martin Lock, Michael Taylor, David Rider, Julian Best, Steve Gostelow, Geoffrey Snow, Jim Turtle, Roy Watts, Nigel Longdon, Kate Saker, Paul Sturm, [Katsumi Suzuki](#), Hiroshi Naito, Geoff Harris, Martijn Huibers, Mark Armstrong, Peter Forrestier Smith, [Jon Bowers](#), Martin Skrzetuszewski, Nick Beck, Fred Bailey, Terry Cole, Robert Bird, Jon Elphick, Jan Kozminski, Caroline Collins and many other Bluebell members. Like so much on the Bluebell Railway, this web site is provided at minimal cost to the Railway thanks to voluntary effort.

The **search engine** is advertising supported, provided by [FreeFind](#).

### Most Frequent Queries:

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- Details of [Fares](#)
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To search for a phrase, enclose it in quotes; e.g. "New Year"

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We are very pleased to have become only the ninth recipient of a Silver "**Smokin' Website Award**" from [smokin.kvrr.net](#).



The Bluebell Railway Web Site has been awarded a [TrainNet](#) Web Gem Award

This web site was one of the very first of [Link Rail UK's Recommended sites of the Month](#) in June 1999.

**Link Rail UK**  
Recommended Site

This Web Site is a member of the **Travelring**.



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*Formerly "The Railway Webring"*

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Sheffield Park Garden

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IDEAS

## HOLIDAYS



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Sheffield Park Garden

Sheffield Park, East Sussex TN22 3QX



Internationally renowned landscape garden

- Magnificent 'Capability' Brown landscaped garden
- Waterfalls, cascades and four large lakes
- Profusion of colours all year-round including bluebells, rhododendrons and autumn trees
- Home to the National Collection of Ghent azaleas
- Site of the first England v Australia cricket match

**Opening arrangements:**

14 Feb–26 Feb '06	10:30–4	TuWeThFr SaSu
28 Feb–30 Apr '06	10:30–6	TuWeThFr SaSu
1 May–4 Jun '06	10:30–6	MoTuWeThFr SaSu
6 Jun–1 Oct '06	10:30–6	TuWeThFr SaSu
2 Oct–31 Oct '06	10:30–6	MoTuWeThFr SaSu
1 Nov–23 Dec '06	10:30–4	TuWeThFr SaSu
27 Dec–31 Dec '06	10:30–4	WeThFr SaSu
6 Jan–11 Feb '07	10:30–4	SaSu
13 Feb–25 Feb '07	10:30–4	TuWeThFr SaSu

KEY: Dark blue=open

Open BH Mons: (April–Aug). Last admission 1hr before closing.  
Closes dusk if earlier

## Trust properties nearby

- The Devil's Dyke
- Nymans Garden
- Standen
- Wakehurst Place

## Events

- [Events at this property](#)

## Join online

- [Join the National Trust](#) and see hundreds more houses and gardens for free.

Find another place

Search for:

[Advanced search](#)

**Contact numbers:**

01825 790231

01825 790302 (Booking for powered mobility vehicles)

01825 790655 (Shop)

**Fax:**

01825 791264

**Email:**

[sheffieldpark@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:sheffieldpark@nationaltrust.org.uk)

**Admission prices**

£6.20, child £3.10, family £15.50. Groups £5.25, child £2.60. Joint ticket with Bluebell Railway available. Individual RHS members free

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Photo gallery

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## Sheffield Park Garden photo gallery



©[NTPL / Nick Meers](#)

Lush green islets, rhododendrons and palm trees on the lake at Sheffield Park, East Sussex.



©[NTPL / Nick Meers](#)

View of the Stream Garden with pink candelabra primulas in the foreground and rhododendrons beyond. Sheffield Park Garden, East Sussex.



©[NTPL / Charlie Waite](#)

View towards the House from Top Bridge at Sheffield Park Garden. The elaborate balustrade of the bridge is in the foreground & the surrounding scene is reflected in the water.



©[NTPL / Stephen Robson](#)

View of the Acers at Top Bridge by Top Lake on a summer's evening. Sheffield Park Garden, East Sussex.



©[NTPL / Ian Shaw](#)

View of Middle Lake at Sheffield Park Gardens, on a beautiful and calm autumn's day.



©[NTPL / Andrew Butler](#)

A wooden bench is set near an *Acer palmatum* by the Upper Womans Way Pond at Sheffield Park. Sunlight shows the bright red & gold foliage, with trees in dark shade across the pond.



©[NTPL / Andrew Butler](#)

View of a large, old and gnarled Sweet Chestnut tree at Sheffield Park. Some of its golden autumn leaves cling to the branches, but most have fallen to the ground.



©[National Trust](#)

Young visitor feeding the ducks at Sheffield Park Garden in East Sussex.



©[NTPL / David Sellman](#)

View of a lake and footbridge at Sheffield Park Garden in East Sussex.





©[NTPL / David Sellman](#)

Rhododendrons by the lake at Sheffield Park Garden in East Sussex.



©[National Trust](#)

Admiring the flora at Sheffield Park Garden in East Sussex.



©[NTPL / Stephen Robson](#)

View across Top Lake towards the House in Sheffield Park in East Sussex. Just catching the mid winter sun the hoar frost dusts the House, grass and trees.

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# A Diary of Our 2005 UK Journey (page 9)

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## Sunday, 5 June 2005, Hayward's Heath-Salisbury-Stonehenge-Marlborough

Westward Ho! This was one of our longer driving days as our goal was to reach Salisbury, Wiltshire and the cathedral in time to attend the 3pm Evensong service. As usual, it took longer to get there than the estimates but we didn't really have any problems except finding a place to park near the cathedral.

The [cathedral](#) is magnificent. Its spire can be seen from quite a distance even though the city is in a river valley. We had a chance to walk around the cathedral before the Evensong service. We sat in the choir, literally around and behind the guest choir (the choristers' school was still on holiday). I'm not a religious man, but a choir and an organ in a medieval cathedral will always and literally bring a shiver to my spine and tears to my eyes whether it is in Italy, the Low Countries, or England. A spiritual, emotional experience in every sense. The acoustic and visual splendour and ambience of a medieval cathedral just can't be matched in a lesser edifice.





We raced north in the fading light of an already dingy day to see [Stonehenge](#) -- something I've wanted to see from the first time I learned about it. The weather was "atmospheric", not actually raining but heavily misty. We planned our trip to avoid being at Stonehenge close to the Summer Solstice and all the druidic activity. While we were there, we heard that there are plans to either bury or relocate the road that passes by the site (actually, the site has roads passing by on either side with a nearby fork where they converge). As it is, the car park and information center are on one side of the road and the site on the other. Stonehenge IS impressive and I'm very glad we saw it. I have to confess that I imagined the stones to be larger than they are so some of the sheer monumental size I imagined simply doesn't exist. I wonder if that is a shared perception? Here is an anti-clockwise journey around the monument.











One of the things I didn't fully appreciate was how many other ancient barrows and mounds were visible from Stonehenge. I knew there were "lots" but they're everywhere you look from Stonehenge. In a sense the local topography *is* the ancient constructions. Interestingly, while we were in Edinburgh during the solstice, one of the television channels ran a two-part special in which they constructed (out of Styrofoam no less) a full size model of Stonehenge as it is supposed that it originally looked. It certainly did convey more of a sense of a building than can be seen now. Some of the science and engineering on those programmes was pretty shaky, though. And when they asked the modern day druids to dedicate it, ... hmmm.

It would have been great to have seen the nearby [Woodhenge](#) as well, but there just wasn't time or daylight left.

We continued north to the town of Marlborough for our overnight stay as this was convenient to several of the locations we planned for the next day.

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# SALISBURY CATHEDRAL

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## Online Gallery

Below are a number of pictures detailing Salisbury Cathedral and its surrounding area. The images in the gallery are taken from original photos mostly by Steve Day. To view a larger version of a particular picture **or to send a picture as an e-postcard to a friend**, click on the image and follow the instructions from there.



The Cathedral with spire added between 1285-1320



Modified photo showing the Cathedral with the addition of tower between 1285/1290





Impression of Cathedral before the tower was added in circa 1258



The West Front was completed in circa 1265



The West Front of the Cathedral in 2000 after completion of the conservation programme.





The High Altar at the East End of the Cathedral, with the Prisoner of Conscience Window by Gabriel Loire

---



The Cloisters used for prayers and processions



The original copy of Magna Carta in the Chapter House





The Cathedral during a service



The Cathedral viewed within the Close



The East Harnham water meadows



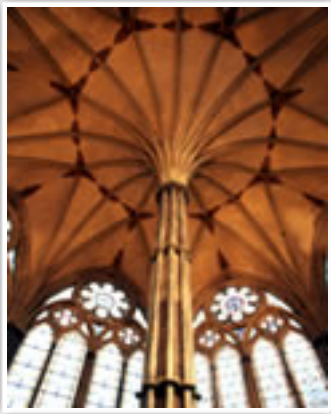


The Long Bridge in Queen Elizabeth gardens is a good spot to view the Cathedral and watermeadows

---



Winter sunset and Salisbury Cathedral



Gothic vaulting in the Chapter House, built in the mid 13th century





Jason Battle, Head Carver, works on an angel for the West Front



Cathedral Open Day June 2001.



The Cathedral viewed from the Watermeadows







The Cathedral viewed from Harnham

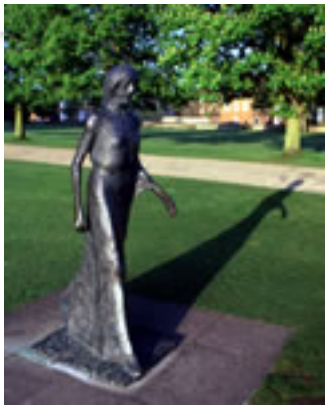


Constable painted this scene from the Bishop's Palace (now the Cathedral School)



The south side of the Cathedral as seen from the Bishop's palace (now the Cathedral School)





This sculpture can be seen as you approach the Cathedral from the north through the High Street Gate

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The Chapter House viewed from the south



The Harnham watermeadows in winter





The Cathedral spire reflected in the Harnham watermeadows



The Cathedral at sunrise



The Cathedral viewed from the Long Bridge in Queen Elizabeth Gardens





The Cathedral viewed from St Ann Street



Salisbury Cathedral viewed from the east



The Cathedral in snow





The Cathedral in snow viewed from the Bishop's Walk



The Cathedral in snow taken from the south west of the Close



East end view of sunrise over Cathedral





Embroidered hassock in the Cathedral

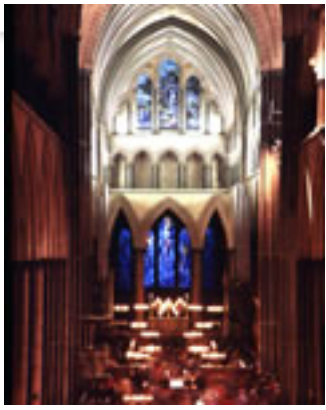


Embroidered hassock of swan in Cathedral



The Advent Procession "Darkness into Light"

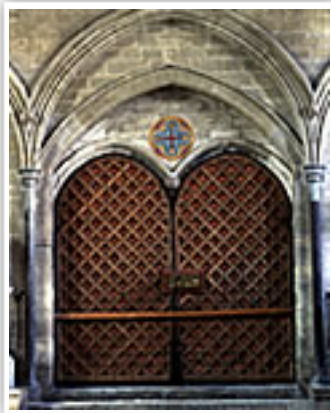




The Darkness into Light Advent service showing the Quire & Presbytery



The Consecration Cross above the West Door, based on original colours



The West Doors closed





Interior Quire and High Altar, showing vaulting



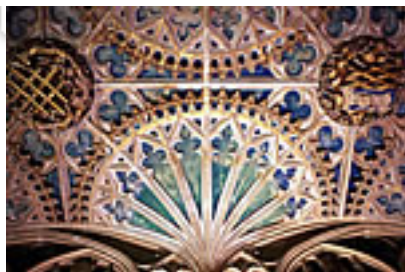
The Medieval Clock, believed to be the oldest working clock in the world



The Sudan Icon in the St Edmund Chapel



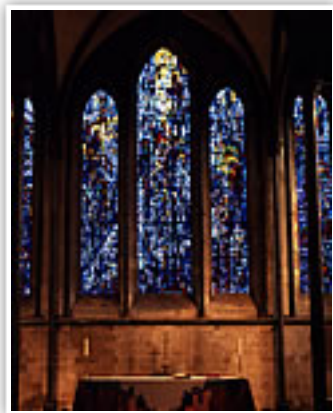




Vaulting on the north aisle Audley Chapel



The Amnesty Candle in the Trinity Chapel



The Gabriel Loire window for Prisoners of Conscience in the Trinity Chapel



The effigy of the Earl of Salisbury, William Longspee in the south nave aisle

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Cricket carving in the Quire, done during Gilbert Scott's 19th century restoration



Fish Ichthus embroidery behind the font in the morning chapel



Detail of Gabriel Loire Prisoner of Conscience window in Trinity Chapel

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St Osmund's Tomb, Trinity Chapel



Girl Choristers in the Quire



Medieval giant windlass in tower, for lifting building materials up to 700kg.





Peter Rush's papier mache figures for the Crib at Christmas



Interior vaulting in Cathedral



View of spire through roof of Refectory Restaurant





Magnolia trees in March in Elizabeth Gardens



Replica of the Seal of King John on the Magna Carta



Noah's Ark Frieze in the Chapter House





New angel on West Front carved by Jason Battle from Chicks Grove Stone, 1.60m tall.

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# SALISBURY CATHEDRAL

Home > Online Gallery

## Online Gallery



The Cathedral with spire added between 1285-1320

[Return to the gallery](#)

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- [Historical Background](#)
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- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [The Future of Stonehenge](#)
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## Stonehenge

The great and ancient stone circle of Stonehenge is one of the wonders of the world. What visitors see today are the substantial remnants of the last in a sequence of such monuments erected between circa 3000BC and 1600BC.

There has always been intense debate over quite what purpose Stonehenge served. Certainly, it was the focal point in a landscape filled with prehistoric ceremonial structures, now a World Heritage Site.

### [Explore Stonehenge & its Landscape](#)



Photos, reconstruction drawings, panoramic views, virtual walks and video clips.

### [A World Heritage Site](#)



Stonehenge and Avebury were inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1986

### [FAQs on Stonehenge](#)





Frequently asked questions about Stonehenge

## Summer Solstice 2006



English Heritage is pleased to be providing Managed Open Access to Stonehenge for the Summer Solstice.



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## Explore Stonehenge & its Landscape



Stonehenge stands as a timeless testimony to the people who built it, between 3000BC and 1500BC. An amazing feat of engineering and arguably the most sophisticated stone circle in the world, it remains a mystery.

The surrounding landscape is also fascinating. It contains huge prehistoric monuments, stretching over several kilometres like the Avenue and the Cursus, massive earthwork enclosures like Durrington Walls and the North Kite, and hundreds of burial mounds.

Most of these earthen monuments have been eroded away and often, only traces remain above ground. The [Stonehenge World Heritage Site Interactive Map](#) helps you discover this unique prehistoric landscape.

In the map, you can click on the monuments and you will find a **brief description** together with **photos, reconstruction drawings, panoramic views, virtual walks and video clips of aerial views**.

In the map's **time travel** section, you will have access to a **timeline**, a map showing the prehistoric periods when the monuments were built and more information about **prehistoric burial mounds** and funerary rites. There is also a [timeline](#) that indicates the approximate period of construction and modification of the monuments around Stonehenge.

This interactive map was funded by the New Opportunity Fund and created by Oxford ArchDigital in April 2004. It was produced in collaboration between the Stonehenge WHS Coordinator, the English Heritage web team, and the Wiltshire County Council project Window On Wiltshire. A huge thank you to Helen Shalders, Kate Turnbull, Fiona Ryan, Graham Sear,

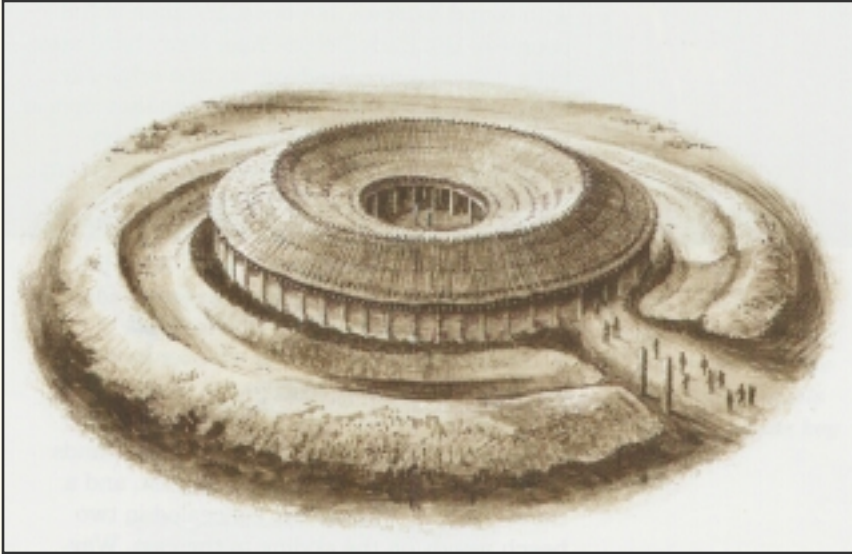
Margaret Cook, Vuk Trifkovic, Tom Goskar, Damian Grady, Helena Cave-Penney, Amanda Chadburn and all the others involved in the project.

## Useful tools

- [Email this URL](#)
- [Print this page](#)

MAP

Time Travel



Woodhenge reconstructed - it is also possible that there was no roof



## Woodhenge - The Origins of the Site

The site originally consisted of 6 rings of wooden posts radiating out from a central point. They were enclosed within an earthen bank and ditch with a north east entrance as at Stonehenge.

It has conventionally been dated to about 2300-2000BC, making it contemporary with the building of the stone circle of Stonehenge. But excavations in the 1970s using new radio carbon dating techniques suggested that it could be more recent.

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360° View

# A Diary of Our 2005 UK Journey (page 10)

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## Monday, 6 June 2005, Avebury-Lambourn-Uffington-Bath

[Avebury](#) isn't just "another stone circle", it's the largest in Europe if not the world. The stones themselves are smaller and not hewn as at Stonehenge, but the sheer extent of the circle and its enclosing rampart and ditch is impressive. Depending on your point of view, the site is either ruined or enhanced by the fact that the town of Avebury overlaps part of the circle as well as being divided by roads. It was still being quite "atmospheric" while we were in Avebury, and we were beginning to wonder whether this was going to be a feature of all ancient sites we visited!





Also in the Avebury area is [Silbury Hill](#), a 4600 year old artificial mound about 130 feet tall. This is a LOT bigger than this picture might suggest. Read the Wikipedia article.



Although we were heading west to Bath, we'd planned to sneak in a diversion further north to Lambourn and Uffington. [Lambourn](#) is one of the major areas of the British race horse industry. It occurs frequently in the novels of Dick Francis. We thought it would be interesting to drive through as we would be nearby. It was either the wrong time of day (late morning) or the wrong time of year, but there wasn't any horse activity on the downs that we could see. We did see where it happens and this panorama was shot beside one set of gallops set out by small markers in the grass only 50 yards off the road, east of Lambourn looking west toward the town in the valley.



Not too far away is Uffington, site of the [White Horse of Uffington](#), a Bronze Age hill figure cut into the chalk bedrock below the grass. We didn't really have the time to charter an aircraft (low ceiling and precipitation anyway) and we had more miles to travel, so we had to be content with standing on the slope below it with only a very oblique view. Still, it was really neat to see another one of those sites I've known about for years.



West to Bath! We had arranged to meet Giles Wood at Bath Abbey to join him for bellringing practice. Our overnight accommodations were south

of Bath and the country lanes looked a bit maze like, so we decided to find and check in before returning to see the sights, have dinner, and then watch some people ring the bells.

Bath had more up-and-down than I expected. I'm not sure what I really expected but the topography was certainly more dramatic than what I had pictured. Bath is famous for the Roman Baths, associations with Jane Austen, the Royal Crescent and many other attractions. It even has an American Museum which stages re-enactments of American Civil War battles (why, I'm at a loss to explain -- re-enacting the ENGLISH Civil War I could understand).



Pulteney Bridge



The Roman Baths





The Circus



Royal Crescent

The



Bath

## Abbey

We met Giles and his fellow bellringers, climbed what seemed like an endless, tight spiral staircase to the abbey roof, traversed it (and I an acrophobe), and entered into the bellringer chamber. Fascinating is the only word for it. Then of course (!) we had to climb two more stories to actually see the bells (they had to check on the state of one of the bells before starting the practice anyway). We're grateful to Giles and his friends for according us the privilege of watching -- something well out of our previous experience -- and for kindly inviting us along for a pint nearby even though we hadn't been exercising like they had. They never did tell us how many steps it was to the top!



And for those keeping score, Giles is a "blind CC" member of the GBCC, but nonetheless exhibits the full GBCC regalia. Sorry for the blurring here, but we tried to be as unobtrusive as possible while they practiced. So this is with existing light while Giles is in mid stroke on what I think I remember was bell number 8 of the ten.

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Avebury

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1943

World-famous stone circle at the heart of a prehistoric landscape

- World Heritage Site
- One of Europe's largest prehistoric stone circles
- Voted the country's third most spiritual place
- Follow the archaeological story of Avebury in a fascinating museum



Please note that due to conservation work some sections of the stone circle will be closed between October and March 2007

**Opening arrangements:**

Stone circle

All year

MoTuWeThFrSaSu

Museum

1 Apr–31 Oct '06

10–6MoTuWeThFrSaSu

1 Nov–31 Mar '07

10–4MoTuWeThFrSaSu

Shop/restaurant

1 Apr–31 Oct '06

10–6MoTuWeThFrSaSu

1 Nov–31 Mar '07

11–4MoTuWeThFrSaSu

KEY: Dark blue=open

Closes dusk if earlier. Closed 24–26 Dec. Restaurant may be closed for part of Jan & Feb for refurbishment. Tel. Estate office before travelling. Last admission 30mins before closing

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**Fax:**

01672 538038

**Email:**

[avebury@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:avebury@nationaltrust.org.uk)

**Admission prices**

**Alexander Keiller Museum inc. Barn Gallery:** £4.20, child £2.10, family £10.50, family (1 adult and 3 children) £7.50. Groups £3.60, child £1.80. Reduced rate when arriving by cycle or by public transport. EH members free. Stone circle free

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## LAMBOURN



VALLEY OF THE RACEHORSE

# Lambourn

*at the heart of the valley of the racehorse*

### **Welcome to Lambourn**

This is the official website for Lambourn. The village is located near the source of the river Lambourn on the beautiful chalk downlands of England.

The village is famous for its association with the training of the world's finest race horses.

There are over 2000 horses in training in the Lambourn valley with over 50 Racing Yards. The springy downland turf make the perfect gallops and

### **The Village**

[Location](#)

[Events Diary](#) (NEW)

[Historic Lambourn](#)

[Lambourn Today](#)

[Horse Racing](#)

[Pictures](#)

[Web Shop](#)

[Moving to Lambourn?](#)

[Parish Plan](#)

[Stop Crime](#)

[Discussion Forum](#)

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the large uninterrupted open spaces create an ideal environment to breed and train horses.

[The Lambourn Open Day](#)

held on Good Friday every year is a great opportunity to

experience the horses close up.

Another major event in the valley is the

[Lambourn Festival](#)

comprising of many events in the summer.

What are the views of the residents of the Lambourn valley? You can read them and join in the debate by visiting the [Lambourn Discussion Forum](#).



The River Lambourn has started to flow once more (7 May)



## ***The latest from Lambourn...***



**Young Residents write open letter to local MP [\[MORE\]](#) (14 May 2005)**

**Lambourn Valley Events Diary launched on this website - see what is there and add your event [\[MORE\]](#) (30 April 2006)**

**Lambourn Carnival Horse Show - Schedule now available [\[MORE\]](#) (30 April 2006)**

**Lambourn Centre announces Lambourn Fun Run - 26th June 2006 - [\[MORE\]](#) (29 April 2006)**

**Volunteer to save lives in the Lambourn Valley - [\[MORE\]](#) (29 April 2006)**

**[Previous news items](#)**

## **History of Lambourn**



**T**he village itself dates back to earliest times. It is mentioned in the records relating to King Alfred the Great who fought a famous battle at Ashdown, near Lambourn.

**L**ambourn today is a thriving and busy place at the crossroads of the B4001 and the B4000. Shops and businesses line the High Street leading up to the Market Place where the weekly market is held.

to find out more - click [HERE](#)

If you think you know Lambourn well - try the [Lambourn Quiz!](#)





written and produced by

[Chris Witcombe](#) - [Sweet Briar College](#) - [witcombe@sbc.edu](mailto:witcombe@sbc.edu)

## The Uffington White Horse



The White Horse is cut out of the turf on the upper slopes of Uffington Castle near the Ridgeway. It is 374 feet long and thought to represent a Celtic god or tribal symbol. For centuries, however, local people have maintained that it is a portrait of the dragon slain by St. George on the nearby [Dragon Hill](#).



The photograph above shows a view over the head of the White Horse (in foreground: eye to the left, ears to the right) along the length of the body. As can be seen, it is almost impossible to make sense of the figure while standing on the hill into which it has been cut.



The photograph above shows a detail of the eye and the "beak", both of which, close-up, are surprisingly small. I'm always amazed at how well they show up when seen from far away, such as from the vale, or in an aerial photograph (above).

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Return to [Earth Mysteries: Introduction](#)

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