

Press Release
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Lord Curzon and Bodiam Castle

Meet 'Lord Curzon' and Other Medieval Characters at Bodiam Castle

Visitors to Bodiam Castle can discover medieval life in Britain when they meet real characters including the last and most important private owner of the castle, 'Lord Curzon' at a special event taking place on **Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 September 2010**.

The acclaimed Bodiam players provide visitors with snap shots of medieval life as they act out fascinating stories in full authentic costume. There will be a variety of characters to meet each day, offering visitors a varied and entertaining insight into medieval Britain.

The highlight of the weekend will be special appearances by 'Lord Curzon', the castle's last private owner, whose restoration work and archaeological research transformed the castle into the monument we are able to enjoy today.

George Nathaniel Curzon, 'Lord Curzon', is a figure of enormous importance in the history of architectural conservation in Britain. After first restoring monuments in India, 'Lord Curzon' returned to England where he introduced the first act for the Preservation of Ancient Monuments.

After his return he became captivated by Bodiam Castle and purchased it in 1917, with the intention of restoring it into a habitable castle. After considering the work behind this project, 'Lord Curzon' decided upon a more conservative restoration plan in 1919, when he set about restoring the castle for public viewing. Throughout the restoration, he came across many artifacts including cannon balls, pieces of armour and the wooden footings for the original bridges to the castle.

It was thanks to 'Lord Curzon' that Bodiam became suitable for public viewing and upon his death; he left the castle to the National Trust, who continue to care for it.

Visitors can hear about 'Lord Curzon's' fascinating restoration first hand and admire the magnificent castle ruins, including the castle's original wooden portcullis in the gatehouse. Also discover the battlements and towers, which provide breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside.

The weekend's activities are included in the castle's normal admission price.

Admission prices

Gift Aid Admission: adult: £6.40, child: £3.20, 2 adult family £17 and 1 adult family £10.60. There is a reduced rate for visitors arriving by cycle, on public transport or via The Kent and East Sussex Railway.

Bodiam Castle is open until 31 October - Monday to Sunday 10:30am - 5pm.

From 3 November to 23 December the castle is open Wednesday to Sunday, 11am - 4pm.

Bodiam Castle, in the care of the National Trust since 1926, is just three miles off the main A21 at Hurst Green, midway between Hastings and Tunbridge Wells. Bodiam Castle, Bodiam, near Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN32 5UA

For more information please visit www.national.trust.org.uk/bodiamcastle or telephone 01580 830196.

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