

Why not visit
The Flower Festival
at
St. Peter's Church

just a short walk from the playing field

The theme is
"Fairy tales with a medieval flavour"

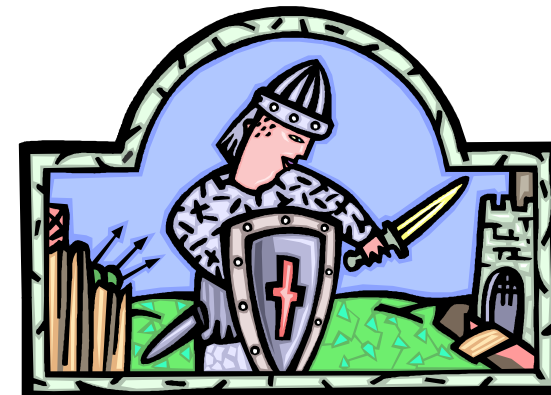
Gannock Castle Medieval Fayre

at
Tempsford
Church End Playing Field

on
Sunday 19th. June
from 12 noon onwards

Restored medieval site
to be opened by Alistair Burt MP

The "**Friends of Gannock Castle**"
would like to thank the Local Heritage Initiative for funding
the restoration of the Gannock Castle site. Thanks also to
those who have given and continue to give so generously of
their time in order to bring this project to a successful
conclusion.



Performing at the Medieval Fayre are

- ◆ the Paladins of Chivalry
- ◆ Bedford Waits (Medieval musicians)
- ◆ Belly dancers
- ◆ the Bedford Morris Men
- ◆ Punch and Judy
- ◆ Strolling minstrels



Stalls and Demonstrations include

- ◆ Bee keeping, honey and sweets
- ◆ Wood burner
- ◆ Bodger
- ◆ Candle maker
- ◆ Pottery
- ◆ Flowers and plants
- ◆ Jewellery
- ◆ Home made cards
- ◆ Ribbons and lace
- ◆ Rural Bedfordshire
- ◆ Cake stall



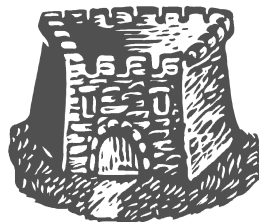
Food and drink

- ◆ WI Tea tent
- ◆ Beer tent
- ◆ Medieval barbecue roast
- ◆ Ice cream van



Other attractions include

- ◆ Bouncy castle
- ◆ Childrens games corner
- ◆ Childrens raffle
- ◆ Stocks
- ◆ Farmer Bettles' vintage carts
- ◆ Fun tug o' war
- ◆ Pen of geese
- ◆ Childrens fancy dress



Wildlife

As well as being of great historical importance, Gannock Castle is also a haven for wildlife. The moat itself is home to amphibians, including newts, and many pond snails, water beetles and dragon and damselflies. The trees and bushes around the moat provide food and shelter for many birds including wrens, blue tits and great tits, woodpeckers, blackbirds and song thrushes. Other birds occasionally visit in the summer, including willow warbler, chiffchaff, blackcap and spotted flycatcher. The moat occasionally dries out completely, killing off any fish which would predate upon spawn and small pond life. Because of this, the occasional kingfisher visiting from the nearby River Ivel usually leaves hungry!



Kingfisher Way

The Kingfisher Way, a 21 mile/ 34km walk along the River Ivel passes close by Gannock Castle. Starting at the source of the Ivel in Baldock, the walk passes through the picturesque countryside and villages of east Bedfordshire. Mill Lane and Church End in Tempsford, the walk finishes where the Ivel feeds into the River Great Ouse at Roxton Lock, just ½ mile north of here. This walk is a great way to explore the Ivel valley and find other 'hidden treasures' such as Gannock Castle.

About Gannock Castle

History

Gannock Castle is a medieval moated site, believed to have been constructed between 1250 and 1350 AD. It is owned by Bedfordshire County Council and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, which means it is of national importance and is protected. It is a well-preserved example of a defensive moated enclosure with important earlier connections. It is believed to be built on the same spot as an earlier Danish Fortress referred to in the Anglo Saxon Chronicle as being built in 921 AD.

Although the name 'Gannock' was recorded as far back as 1492, it is not associated with any of the leading medieval or later families in Tempsford, so it remains a mystery as to how this site got the name Gannock. It is thought the 'Castle' part of the name has come, in error, from the military defensive appearance of the site; particularly the moat's inner earth banks and corner mound which some have believed to be ramparts and a motte.

The Friends of Gannock Castle

Neglected for many years, the site was all but forgotten, hidden under a cover of brambles and bushes (scrub). In the late 1990's and early 2000's some work was undertaken to remove the scrub, as the roots, and burrows dug by rabbits under the scrubby cover, were damaging the archaeological value of the site. This work raised local interest in Gannock Castle and in 2003 a group of Tempsford residents formed the 'Friends of Gannock Castle'. Working with the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity and Bedfordshire County Council, the group drew up plans for enhancing the site and received a Local Heritage Initiative grant to implement their plans.

The Friends undertook scrub clearance, tree surgery, access improvements, bench installation and wildflower planting; and with the help of local school children, planted a hedge and fruit trees.

A geophysical survey of the site was also undertaken, which showed evidence of possible building on the island, and linear boundary or track within the field you have walked across. Another heritage feature of this field, which can still be seen if looked for closely, is 'ridge and furrow' - a cultivation system dating from Middle Ages

Arena Events

12 noon	Fayre opens
12.30	Official opening
1.00	Bedford Waits <i>Medieval music</i>
1.30	Paladins of Chivalry <i>The Dance Show</i>
2.00	Belly dancing
2.30	Paladins of Chivalry <i>Arming a Knight</i>
3.00	Morris dancing
3.30	Paladins of Chivalry <i>The Tourney</i>
4.00	Fun Tug o' War

All the above times are approximate



The Paladins of Chivalry is one of the few re-enactment societies to cover the period of the mid to late fourteenth century from the beginning of the reign of Edward III to the end of the reign of Henry V (1327-1422). This was a period of huge change, seeing innovation not only in warfare, religion and politics, but also tremendous social upheaval as the peasants revolted against crippling taxes, threatening to destroy the traditional order. It was a bloody time, with England engaged in the continuing struggle with France, now known as the Hundred Years War, which encompassed the great battles of Crecy, Poitiers, and Agincourt. Even within its own borders, England was occupied in a constant war with Scotland and Wales.

Yet in this age of conflict, the fourteenth century saw the high point of chivalry as we know it. Amidst the blood and frenzy of the battlefield, deeds of such honour and bravery were performed that the tales of their doing still echo even today.

Dance show

The dance shows last for about twenty minutes, during which time five or six dances will be performed. This includes both courtly dances, performed exclusively by the nobility, and peasant dances, which involve most members.

Audience participation is encouraged!

Arming a Knight

This show consists of a number of different fighters, i.e. men at arms, mercenaries, archers, and knights. During the show the fighters are gradually armed, piece-by-piece, with the armour and weapons being described and explained by the narrator. There is normally a short weapons demonstration at the end of this show.

Tourney

The Tourney is the last, and most spectacular show, forming a natural climax to a day's entertainment. It consists of a series of combats between the different fighters, and usually ends with a Grand Melee, in which all participate.