

# Maison Dieu: Reawakening a Gothic Fantasy

The Dover Society has been working in partnership with Dover District Council and Dover Town Council on the Maison Dieu project for a number of years. As part of the restoration project, if we are successful with our 2nd round application to the Heritage Fund next year, the project team will deliver a range of educational activities from 2020 to 2024 and beyond; we hope that members of the Dover Society may like to become involved. We are keen to present a summary of the

emerging activities to members of the Dover Society and receive any feedback members may have. A summary the activities and a comments box is provided below (some of these activities are under development and will change over the next few months). If you have any comments, please write them in the comments box and return the form to Kevin Charles, Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, CT16 3PJ. [Kevin.Charles@DOVER.GOV.UK](mailto:Kevin.Charles@DOVER.GOV.UK)

Activity Title	Activity Description
<b>How to Look After Your Building</b>	This activity will deliver a series of workshops providing practical advice to owners and leaseholders in Dover on how they can maintain and repair their own historic buildings.
<b>Maison Dieu Festival of Skills</b>	This activity will deliver an annual Festival of skills based on the historic and current uses of the building and the range of skills and professions required.
<b>Maison Dieu: Brokering Skills &amp; Apprenticeships</b>	This activity will encourage contractors and tenants procured to deliver capital works to employ or mentor at least one individual and ensure that they have policies in favour of apprenticeships.
<b>Burges' Furniture Studio</b>	This activity will deliver a furniture restoration studio within the Maison Dieu during the physical works to restore the Burges furniture and other items.
<b>Restoring the Maison Dieu's Collections</b>	This activity will deliver two work-streams that will address the collection at the Maison Dieu and across Dover more generally: 1) An artefact restoration studio will be established within the building during the physical works. 2) A series of workshops will be delivered for local volunteers and professionals in object handling, cleaning and storage, with practical sessions using the collection at the Maison Dieu in preparation for the physical works.
<b>Exploring the Secrets of the Maison Dieu</b>	This activity will deliver a series of workshops, lectures and tours related to the various crafts and professions involved with both the building of the Maison Dieu and its restoration.
<b>Maison Dieu: Gothic Story</b>	This activity will assemble a team of volunteers. The researchers to define and investigate a series of five questions relating to the medieval Maison Dieu.
<b>Welcome to Europe's Gateway</b>	This activity seeks to develop and deliver a series of practical workshops focussing on hospitality and skills training for volunteers and those involved in the local tourism industry.

<b>The William Burges Society and Archive</b>	This activity proposes to develop a new international William Burges Society working in partnership with key Burges' custodians such as Cardiff Castle, The Higgins Bedford, Trinity College Connecticut and the Victorian Society. In parallel the activity will create an entirely new online archive of William Burges work.
<b>Friends of the Maison Dieu</b>	Creating a local Friends of the Maison Dieu group to input to and provide volunteering resource for future events and activities.
<b>Maison Dieu Website</b>	The purpose of this activity is to develop a website for the Maison Dieu.
<b>Maison Dieu Festival of Arts</b>	This activity will deliver an annual arts and culture festival hosted in the Maison Dieu following the completion of the capital works.
<b>Dover's History at Night</b>	This activity seeks to establish, as part of the national 'Museum at Night' festival organised by Culture 24, a formal cluster of venues in Dover opening their doors and holding events as part of the national programme.
<b>Uncovering the Past: Community Archaeology</b>	This activity will deliver a number of community archaeology events at the Maison Dieu during the delivery phase.
<b>The Reawakening Through a Photographers Eye</b>	This activity will deliver a series of photography workshops with a specialist architectural photographer throughout the capital works programme.
<b>People's Pilgrimage</b>	This activity will place the Maison Dieu back on the European map for religious pilgrims, secular walkers, cyclists and visitors.
<b>Reawakening a Gothic Fantasy</b>	This activity will deliver a comprehensive, 3D, interactive interpretation scheme to aid the reawakening of this gothic fantasy. The completed interpretation will be housed within the Stone Hall.
<b>Heritage Open Days</b>	This activity will ensure that more of the Maison Dieu is open during the national Heritage Open Day initiative and that collections and interpretation is available for all to see.
<b>The Big Bang!</b>	This activity will deliver a series of marketing and promotional projects that seek to raise the profile of the Maison Dieu within the local community, regionally, nationally and internationally and drive engagement.
<b>Community Consultation</b>	This activity proposes to hold a programme of community consultation events throughout the Delivery Phase of the project.
<b>Maison Dieu: User and Focus Groups</b>	This activity will deliver a series of workshops with existing and potential building users and focus groups to ensure that their views and requirements are fully taken into account.
<b>A Reawakened Gothic Fantasy</b>	Once the restoration has taken place the Maison Dieu will be opened to the public by way of a community launch event.
<b>Comments</b>	