



The Friends of Martello24 is a Registered Charity No.1172376

Welcome to this, the second issue of our Newsletter about Martello Tower No.24 in Dymchurch, aiming to keep you up to date with what is happening at this unique Martello Tower. The Friends of Martello 24 work in partnership with English Heritage, who own the tower, to ensure that the tower is open to the public on a regular basis.

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Openings 2019

The tower will be open to the public from 2pm until 4pm on Saturday 6 April and then every Saturday, Sunday and BH throughout April, May, June and into early July. The tower will then probably have to close for the repair works (*see next item*) until September.

Martello24 Tower Repair Works

Firm plans for conservation repair work and some re-decoration to Martello24 have been produced by English Heritage and have been put out for contract. The work needs to be done in the warmer weather and is currently planned to be undertaken July, August and September 2019.

It is likely scaffolding will need to be erected, in which case it is very probable that the tower will not be open to the public during this time. There may be scope to open for some days during this period.

Keep up to date with the progress of the repair works at www.martello24.net

FoM24 Display Committee

We have a sub-committee comprising three of the Trustees, who are looking into how we can improve the displays inside the tower once the ingress of water problem has been solved.

A start has been made with the purchase and display of five replica 'Brown Bess' flintlock muskets with bayonets. They have been installed in the musket racks which are fixed to the central column - see picture right.



Become a Volunteer Steward

We are in need of more volunteer Stewards to help with manning the tower when we open it to the public. If you are interested in the tower and are happy to meet and greet visitors, then please contact the Secretary, Peter email peter@martello24.net or telephone 01797 212507.

Shop Online & Support the FOM24

You can help Friends Of Martello24 raise funds for FREE just by shopping online?

Every time you shop online via [Give as you Live](#) at 4,000+ top retailers including Amazon, eBay, John Lewis and Expedia, a FREE donation will be made to us and it won't cost you a penny extra!

[Give as you Live](#) is the free and easy way to raise free funds, simply by shopping online at your favourite stores. Shop Online. Click on a store you want to shop with and you will be directed to the store's website where you can continue to shop as normal.

Your purchase will automatically generate free funds for Friends of Martello24. From holidays and travel to clothing and gifts, you can raise hundreds of pounds from all your online purchases.

Find out more at <https://theromneymarsh.net/supportmartello24>

Greeting Cards, Postcards and Keyring

We have two postcards, two greetings cards and a keyring (*pictured right*) which are available for sale as mementos and to help with our fundraising. The greetings cards are prints from two donated original water colour paintings; one of a tower on the coast, and the second specifically of Martello24. They are priced at £2.00 each.

The two postcards are photos of the tower and are priced at 60p each.

The keyring is priced at £1.00.

They are all available from the Arcade Gift Shop in Dymchurch or from [Peter](#).

The two greetings cards are also available from the Romney Marsh Visitor Centre.



Other Martello Towers

Martello Tower No.25

Planning applications were submitted in November 2018 for works to Martello Tower No.25, to include division into four storeys with a spiral staircase together with glazed panels to the fourth floor around the perimeter and installation of a new roof. In addition, two new window openings are proposed to the third floor in association with the change of use to a holiday let.

The outcome of these planning applications are awaited.

Quiz

The answers to the quiz in the January Newsletter are:

1. Who made the cannon and when? *Samuel Walker & Co. c1804*
 2. Why were Towers 24 and 25 sited where they are? *To protect the main Marshland Sluice in Dymchurch*
 3. What are the three ingredients that were mixed to make the very strong mortar used to bind the bricks together? *Lime, ash & hot tallow to create hot lime mortar*
 4. What type of muskets would have been used? *'Brown Bess' flintlock muskets, most likely the India Pattern version*
 5. What is the largest Martello Tower in England? *Tower CC in Aldeburgh, Suffolk*
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Martello24 Website

You can find out a lot more about Martello24 from our website at www.martello24.net. We are gradually adding more information and photos about the tower.

Future Newsletters

If you would like to receive future copies of our Newsletters, please email Peter your email address at peter@martello24.net.

Your email address will only be used to send you our Newsletters and other information about Martello Towers. We will never give or sell your information to any third parties.

If you have received this Newsletter by email and do not wish to receive future copies, please email Peter peter@martello24.net

Contact

You can contact the Secretary of the Friends of Martello24, Peter, by email peter@martello24.net and/or telephone 01797 212507.

History of the Tower – 'Brown Bess' Musket

The Infantry Musket, nicknamed the 'Brown Bess', was the most common firearm used by the soldiers and militia manning the towers, particularly those towers built in England from 1805 onwards. The musket and its derivatives were the standard long guns of the British Empire's land forces from 1722 until 1838, when they were superseded by a percussion cap smooth bore musket.



There were many different patterns of musket fired during the 18th century, but the weapon normally favoured a flintlock mechanism which was more reliable than the preceding matchlock system used during the English Civil War in the 17th century.

Bayonets were used in conjunction with the musket for close range fighting – the bayonet was fitted into the socket the musket barrel, allowing it to be fired while the bayonet was fixed (unlike earlier screw or plug bayonets) and effectively turned the musket into a pike-like instrument.

The accuracy of the Brown Bess was fair, as with most other muskets. The maximum effective range (lethal range) is often quoted as 175 yards (160 m) which was fairly good, but the Brown Bess was often fired en masse at fifty yards to inflict the greatest damage upon the enemy.

A well-trained soldier could fire up to three rounds per minute, soldiers completely off target or too slow at priming and loading would often be lightly punished. The use of the platoon formation by the British army meant that a constant volley of fire could be employed. There was much that could go wrong with the musket – from misfires in wet weather, to the gun firing at random due to sparks which set the powder off. In the heat of battle, a soldier may forget to remove the ramrod from the barrel before firing.

Find out more at <https://martellotowers.co.uk/musket>