

# The Dunstable Tudor Festival

Saturday 23rd November 2002

The Dunstable Tudor Festival is one of the largest events in the Dunstable entertainment diary and you only have to visit Dunstable town centre on Saturday 23rd November to find out why. This annual flirtation with the Tudor days has received acclaim both locally and nationally winning a tourism award in 2000 and the Rotary Award in 2002. Those from surrounding areas and beyond will join Dunstablian's, as Dunstable goes back over 500 years.



Dunstable Town Centre Partnership began this event in 2000 and it is now in its third year. The Dunstable Tudor Festival provide fun and entertainment for all the family, people young and old will find plenty to do. Best off all, all the main attractions are entirely free, all you have to do is show up.



The Festival offers a full day's entertainment for everyone whether you chose to pay your loyal respects to Henry VIII and his six Queens and be rewarded with a gift. Alternatively take a gander at Henry's Court, meet the King's Falconer and the Royal Militia together with the Household Troops. Best of all you can laugh at the street entertainers, sing and dance with the minstrels, watch the jugglers and jesters.

There will be demonstrations of traditional crafts including lacemaking, quilting, embroidery, calligraphy, spinning and miniature painting. If you would like to get your hands on our brasses, drop into the Priory Church. You are invited to bring your questions to the

local history society and your local finds to the archaeological society.

For the serious historian there will be tours of the Priory Church, talks on the Reformation and town tours of 'Odd and Unusual Dunstable'. Listen to the Travelling Preachers or watch Morris dancing. Start your Christmas shopping in the town, where the local traders will be in character for the day and there are bargains to be had.

The kids can learn how to drill using pikes and muskets with Henry's Militia, (the Sealed Knot) and admire the skills of the Dunstable Bowmen with their longbows and see the House of Bayard in tourney foot combat in armour. On the day you will be able to take your turn in the stocks or buy a shield, crest or sword and paint your own coat of arms!

The falconers will fly the birds of prey and children will be able to handle a hawk as Henry VIII did some 500 years ago on Dunstable Downs or try their hand at throwing a pot.

For those who prefer to take it easy, sit back and enjoy a glass of mulled wine and some Tudor Fare in one of the coaching inns or pubs or sample the hog roasts.

