

## Welcome



*I am delighted that you have chosen to visit Rockingham Castle and I hope that you will thoroughly enjoy your time here.*

*Rockingham Castle has been the residence of my family for a remarkable 450 years, as well as being an ancient Castle it is also a contemporary*

*home for our young family to grow up in. It is a fascinating thought that Rockingham has been a Royal Castle and a 'home' now for 900 years during which time so much has taken place within these walls.*

*We have strived to ensure that all our visitors leave Rockingham having been both entertained and engaged by what they have seen, be it in the Castle or in the wonderful gardens.*

*I very much hope that you will visit us again to enjoy an event or to see the gardens.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Saunders Watson".

James Saunders Watson

## Visitor Information

The Grounds and Tea Room open at 12 noon.

The Castle opens at 1pm.

Last entrance to the Castle at 4.30pm.

The Castle and Grounds close at 5pm.

- Access to Salvin's Tower is via the Gift Shop entrance in the Courtyard.
- The walk around the Wild Garden requires a reasonable level of fitness. There are seats at regular intervals throughout the gardens. Beware, there are deep water ponds in the Wild Garden.
- You should be aware that there are, within Rockingham Castle, irregular and worn stone steps, flagstones and uneven footpaths which could create tripping hazards.
- For visitors with limited mobility, a photograph album is available in the Gift Shop showing images of the Long Gallery, the views from Salvin's Tower and the gardens.
- We regret that with the exception of special needs guide dogs, dogs are not permitted in the Castle. Dogs on a lead are welcome in the gardens and grounds.
- For reasons of conservation, security, and to avoid the inconvenience to other visitors, we regret we cannot allow pushchairs or photography of any kind in the Castle.
- The Castle is available for a variety of private events including weddings, receptions, dinners, lunches and meetings. Please ask for an information pack.
- First Aid Box is available with the Guides at the Castle Entrance and in the Tea Room.
- If you have any questions during your visit please ask any member of staff who will be wearing a Castle badge.
- Audio tour available at the Entrance Hall.



Rockingham Castle, Rockingham,  
Market Harborough, Leics. LE16 8TH

Tel 01536 770240

estateoffice@rockinghamcastle.com

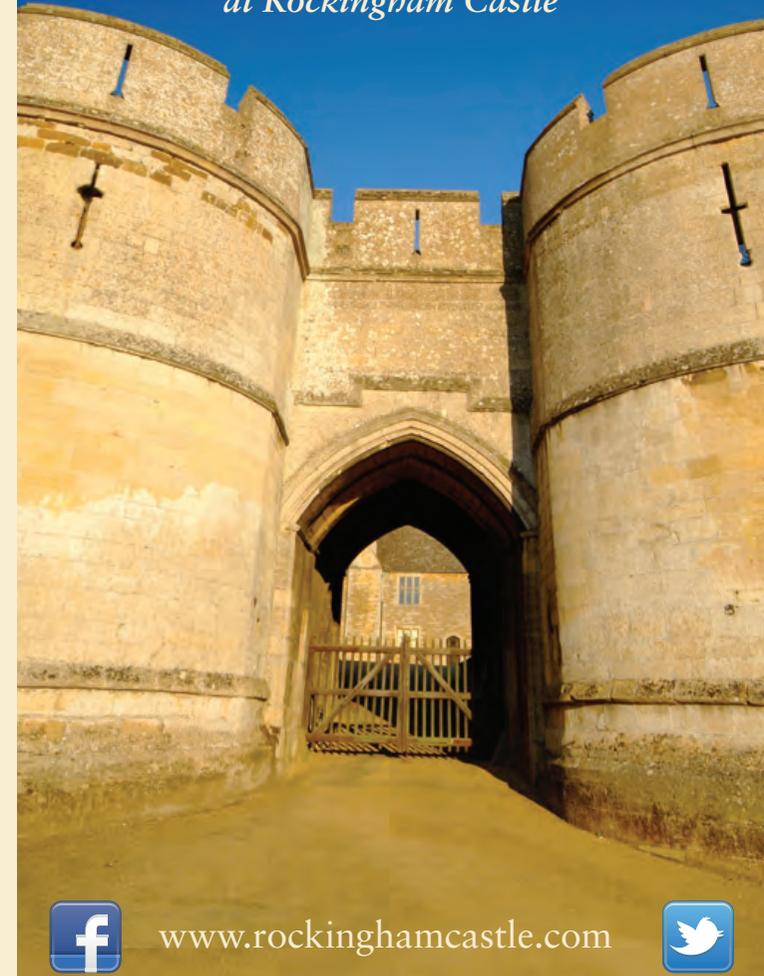
Please visit our website to see the  
forthcoming events list

[www.rockinghamcastle.com](http://www.rockinghamcastle.com)

# Welcome to ROCKINGHAM CASTLE

*Discover 900 years of living history*

*Your guide to the exciting  
history and gardens  
at Rockingham Castle*



[www.rockinghamcastle.com](http://www.rockinghamcastle.com)



# ROCKINGHAM CASTLE



## The Castle

Rockingham Castle was built on the instructions of William the Conqueror following his invasion of Britain in 1066. Construction began shortly after the Battle of Hastings with work starting on the outer wooden defensive wall.



Over the following years a number of buildings including the Great Hall were put up along with a stone replacement for the wooden walls. For 450 years the Castle would have undergone many changes and improvements until it was abandoned by Henry V11 in 1485.

The Castle and Estate were subsequently bought by the Watson family who restored and improved to create the Rockingham you see today.

## The Gardens

The gardens at Rockingham extend to about 18 acres and fall into two distinct garden types. The formal gardens surround the Castle and are in part laid out to reflect the foot print of the medieval Castle. The Elephant Hedge bisects the formal garden and is reputedly 400 years old.



The second part of the garden is the Wild Garden which extends across the valley to the east of the Castle. This valley is home to a remarkable collection of fascinating plants and trees. The plants that are of particular interest are labelled to assist identification. We have one full time gardener and two volunteers working under the Head Gardener, Richard Stribley.

## Walker's House Tea Room

The licensed waitress-service tea room is open from 12 noon serving a delicious selection of hot & cold light lunches and afternoon teas. We pride ourselves on providing, where possible, fresh food sourced from local farmers and suppliers.



## The Gift Shop

The Gift Shop is stocked with a carefully selected range of distinctive items, including jewellery, cards, porcelain, books, hats, toys and games, gardening things and much more.

Located at the end of the Castle tour, the Gift Shop is also accessible from the Castle Courtyard.

The Gift Shop opens at 1pm.