

THE ERMINE STREET GUARD



Membership Information

Membership

Full membership of the Ermine Street Guard is open to anyone with an interest in the Roman Army and the aims of the Society.

Members need to be reasonably, but not ultra, fit to be able to wear and function in armour weighing about 20 kilos (44 lbs) over the two days of a display weekend.

In kit the Guard operates as a military unit so it is essential that all members are willing to work as part of a team and accept orders and discipline. Off duty and out of kit we operate as an informal club where members are expected to maintain the longstanding good reputation of the Guard.

Potential recruits are asked to take part in three display weekends before being interviewed by the elected management committee and accepted into the ranks. This ensures recruits are fully aware of the Society's mode of operation and are still keen to join.

Membership fees are, at present, £30 per year but we do not need any payment until you are established.

Armour and Equipment

To participate in Guard displays it is **not** necessary to purchase or acquire any armour or equipment. This will be provided by the Society. Once established, members may be allocated a set of kit which they are expected to maintain and keep clean. This kit remains the property of the Guard, but can be kept at home.

Most of our armour and equipment is made by Guard members who are encouraged to come to our HQ at various times and under instruction, help to make and maintain all types of kit.



Some members do purchase items of kit from outside the society. It is important that these pieces of kit are of a quality and authenticity that we will allow to be used on parade.

Displays

Full displays are given at Roman sites throughout Britain and we go abroad at least once each year. The main season is from April to October and the displays are normally three to four weeks apart. Displays are designed to be not only entertaining but educational. The public are asked to imagine that they are watching a Roman Army training display. Some man to man fighting with wooden swords and wicker shields to show army training is shown but we do not engage in battles except on occasion for filming.

Members travel using their own transport to the venue, sharing vehicles where possible, with other Guard participants. Accommodation will have been arranged in a village hall or similar. In most cases members will need to provide their own sleeping bag and camp beds. Typically members should bring food for the two lunch breaks on Saturday and Sunday and any utensils required for breakfast and drinks.

All members help to erect our living history camp before getting into kit.

Normally two displays of about half an hour are given each day and the camp is manned for the duration of the event. On Saturday evenings the Guard retires, in civilian clothes, to the local pub to eat and relax.

Sunday the camp is manned from the event start and displays are given as before. At the end of the day, after dismantling and loading the equipment, members depart for home.

If you are interested in membership contact Chris Haines MBE on 01452 862235 or email erminestreetguard@gmail.com.