

THE ERMINE STREET GUARD EVENT PACK



Contact Details

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About The Ermine Street Guard



The Guard, which is a registered charity, is the leading society studying the Roman Army and its equipment. Founded in 1972, the Guard has been giving displays for 46 years.



Authenticity and Research



Each piece of kit is made as authentically as is practicable based on the latest research. The majority of the equipment is made by Guard members to high standards of workmanship and accuracy and is continually being added to and improved as new information and finds become available. The Guard works closely with leading academics in the field to ensure the kit is correct.

Education

Public displays are given at major Roman sites throughout Great Britain and Europe. The displays include an explanation of the armour and equipment of the Roman soldier, a demonstration of their training and manoeuvres, the shooting of artillery pieces and a living history army camp display. At appropriate venues the Guard is also joined by fully equipped Roman cavalrymen.

If you would like to discuss the possibility of The Ermine Street Guard appearing at your event please contact Chris Haines MBE, Chairman of the Guard for further details.

About The Ermine Street Guard Displays

HADRIAN'S WALL - VINDOLANDA, HOUSTEADS, BIRDOSWALD and CHESTERS



XANTEN - GERMANY

The Ermine Street Guard has provided displays at some of the most prestigious Roman sites and venues in Europe



AALEN - GERMANY



YORK - UK



CAERLEON - UK



BATH - UK



THE BRITISH MUSEUM
AND MUSEUM OF LONDON

FISHBOURNE ROMAN VILLA



Displays have also taken place at Chester, Lincoln, Wroxeter, Exeter, Richborough, Portchester, Old Sarum, Dover, Namur, Marle and at a number of major multi-period events.

Displays

A display by The Ermine Street Guard includes:-

- a) a detailed description of the armour and equipment of the Roman soldier and their officers,
- b) training exercises by the soldiers,
- c) tactical manouevres and
- d) the shooting of artillery.

The display can also include fully equipped cavalry.

See below for more detail



Description of the armour and equipment



Training



Cavalry



Manouevres



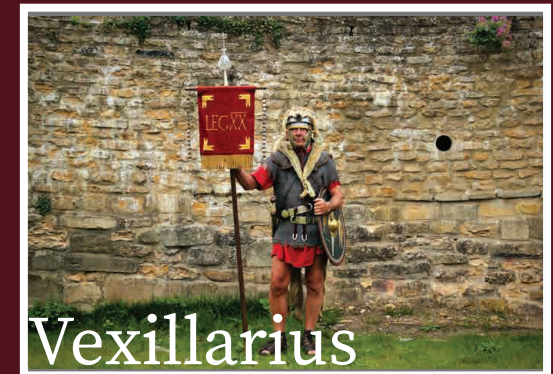
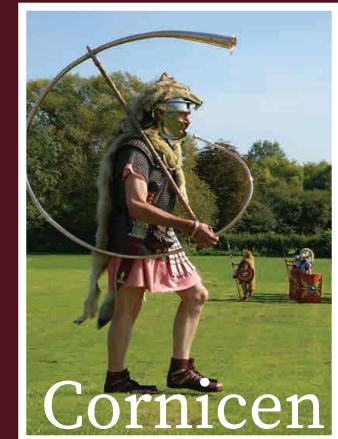
Artillery

After the display the audience are encouraged to visit our living history encampment and engage with the soldiers.

Roman Officers



The Ermine Street Guard brings a complement of Roman Officers to a display. The equipment is of a very high standard and has been the subject of detailed research. During the display the role of each officer is explained and his equipment shown to the audience. After the display the audience is encouraged to talk to the Officers and take photographs. Additional information about the officers can be accessed on our website or an Information Pack can be downloaded.



The Legionary Soldier

Legionary soldiers form a core part of the display. Each Legionary is kitted out in equipment that soldiers would have worn in the latter part of the 1st Century AD and is based on the latest academic research and archaeological finds. The armour and equipment will be described during the display (including soldiers with their marching packs). Then the soldiers will demonstrate the training exercises a Roman soldier would have had to undertake. This is followed by a display of military manoeuvres, including the famous Testudo. All commands are given in Latin,



After the display the soldiers man the living history encampment and explain the armour and equipment to the audience as well as demonstrating the museum quality artifacts forming part of the living history display including medical equipment, writing implements and tools.



Examples of Legionary Equipment on Display



Helmet - Imperial Gallic



Armour - Lorica Segmentata



Sword - Gladius



Mail - Lorica Hamata



Sandals - Caligae



Shield - Scutum



Dagger - Pugio



Javelin - Pilum

Auxilia



As well as Legionary soldiers the display includes Auxilia.

Auxilia means 'helper' in Latin and they would perform a variety of roles assigned to light infantry including scouting ahead for ambushes, taking part in preliminary skirmishing, shooting arrows and slingshot at the enemy and then engaging in close quarter combat.



The equipment is simpler than that of the Legionary and includes a mail shirt, a bronze helmet, oval shield, a gladius and stabbing spear



The Auxilia will have their equipment explained during the display and in addition will man the Ballista and provide archers.



CAVALRY



As part of the display The Ermine Street Guard can provide Roman cavalry.

The cavalry are equipped to a very high standard including Roman saddles. During the display the cavalry are described to the audience and then take part in training exercises including throwing darts, using the stabbing spear and engaging with infantry.



On parade the cavalry wear elaborate equipment including face masks. The harness and tack are designed to impress with many medallions and ornamentation



The cavalry had no stirrups, but the saddle had four horns which kept the rider securely in place. We use reproductions of Roman saddles, produced originally by Peter Connolly, a renowned scholar and former President of the Society.



Equipment includes a mail shirt, a helmet designed to provide all round protection, a flat oval shield, a sword called the spatha that was longer than the legionary gladius, a stabbing spear and darts



Artillery



Artillery were essentially torsion weapons. They used animal sinew and hair braided together to make torsion-springs



Onager

A highlight of the display is the shooting of the artillery.



Ballista

The Ermine Street Guard shoot three artillery pieces and also have a number of archers using authentic bows. This part of the display takes place after the manoeuvres by the Roman soldiers. Each artillery piece is described before being shot.

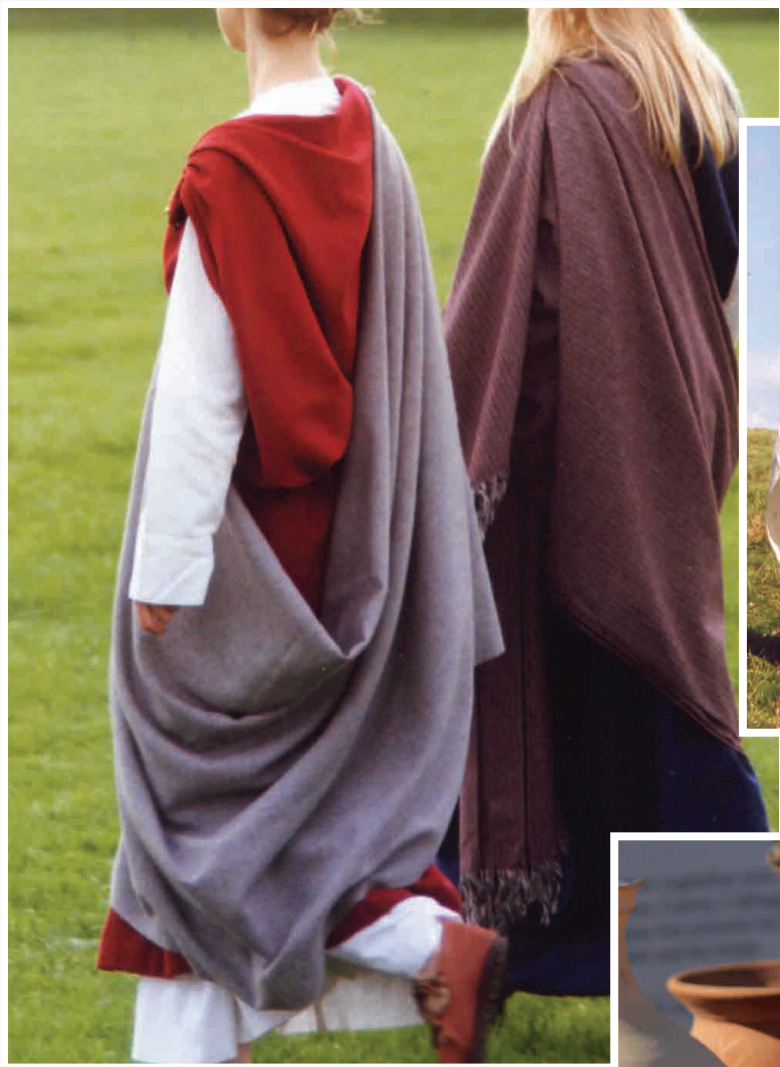


Gatapulta

Civilians

In addition to the military aspects of the display there are normally civilians present demonstrating the type of clothes worn by Romans in Britannia. This includes their jewellery, brooches and footwear.

There is also a display of utensils used in food preparation.



Camp and Equipment



As part of the display the Ermine Street Guard provide a living history military encampment including two authentic goatskin tents, examples of the tools and equipment used by the Roman army and the food eaten by them. The audience are encouraged to view the encampment and interact with the soldiers. Equipment is provided to touch and wear including helmets.



The Ermine Street Guard provides a large tent with display boards explaining all aspects of the Roman Army, with graphics from world renowned artist Peter Connolly, who was a former President of the Society.

Filming and Photography

A key objective of the charity is to educate the public on all aspects of the Roman military. As such the Guard has been asked to appear in many television programmes and documentaries for the BBC and others. If required the Guard can supply non Roman participants (Celts). Chris Haines, the Chairman of the Society was recognised for his services in this area with the award of an MBE.

The Guard has also provided photographs and information for many books and magazines on the Roman Army.

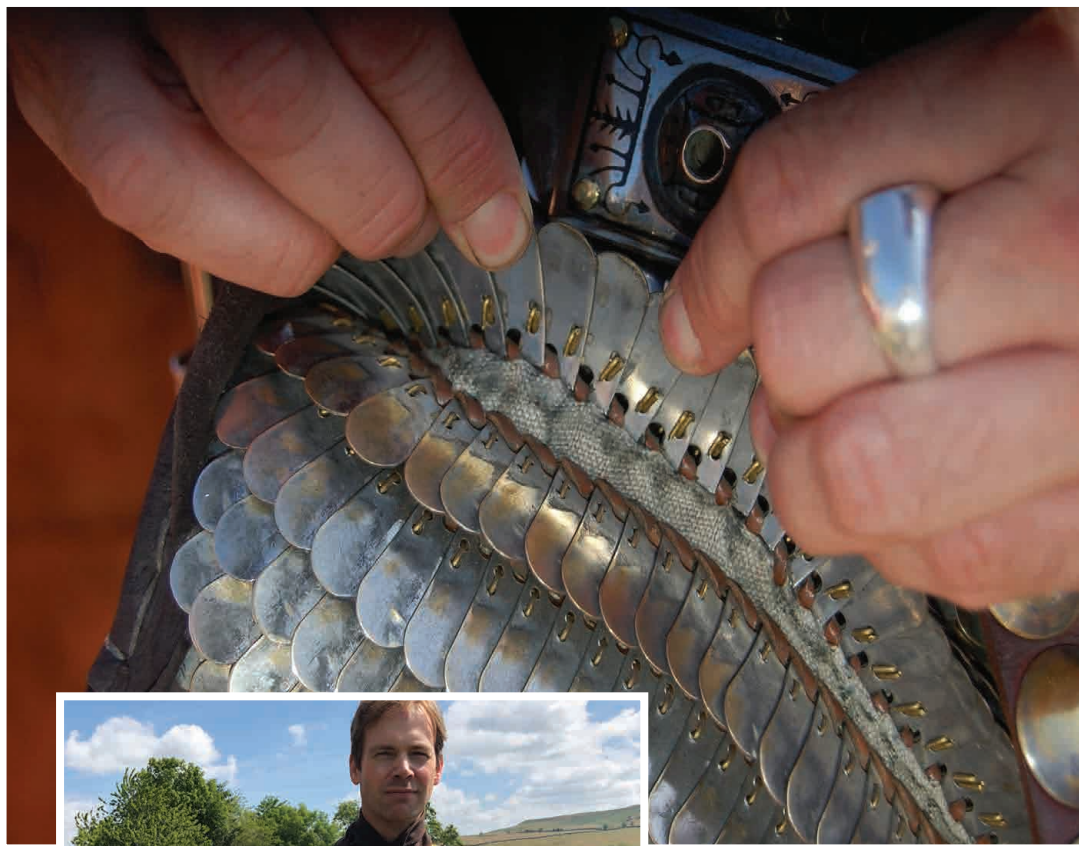
Please contact Chris Haines MBE of The Ermine Street Guard for details



Research

The Ermine Street Guard continues to maintain close links with academics in the Roman military field to ensure its equipment is as authentic as possible. The Guard also provides feedback on the practicality of equipment and ideas. As an example of the research undertaken by the Guard, it has produced two goat-skin tents, which took over 800 hours to hand stitch.

The Ermine Street Guard's President is Professor Simon James.



Website



The Ermine Street Guard offers a unique opportunity for modern audiences to learn about, engage with and experience the Roman Army and its soldiers.

It also has a website which advertises the displays and provides additional information, videos and photographs for audiences to refer to both before and after the event - www.erminestreetguard.co.uk.

The Guard also has an extensive online and offline archive of photographs.

Additional Information



The Ermine Street Guard is a UK registered charity, with a Chairman and Trustees - charity number 800014.

The Chairman is Chris Haines MBE.

The President is Professor Simon James.

It has full insurance to cover its displays in the UK and Europe

It has a comprehensive Health and Safety policy and compliance officers. The policy can be made available on request

On displays the Guard will also follow the Events Health and Safety policy and communicate this to all participants

The Ermine Street Guard has a comprehensive GDPR policy and compliance officer

The membership comes from all over the UK and displays can be tailored for the size of the event and intended audience

Guard HQ is at Oakland Farm House, Dog Lane, Witcombe, Gloucester, GL3 4UG

The Guard has a fully equipped workshop for the production and repair of equipment