

Fanfare

Britain's Historic Royal Palaces

Spring 2009

Investing in the future of Kensington Palace

In Spring 2008, Historic Royal Palaces launched a fundraising campaign in order to realise our ambitious plans to transform Kensington Palace into an exciting, inspirational and engaging visitor experience, open and inclusive to all, as well as create new gardens around the palace.

When the project is completed in 2012, we aim to have: reconnected the palace to the surrounding Kensington Gardens, reinstated historic vistas and be welcoming visitors into the palace from the east entrance; created a central hub that is a 'place to be' as well as a starting point for exploring the palace's stories; and increased formal and informal education opportunities, as well as more projects and partnerships with the local community.

Also, the rooms where Queen Victoria grew up will be redisplayed and her story told using collections of pertinent and personal historic objects. The stories of Kensington's other fascinating personalities will follow after 2012.



The project will be financed by Historic Royal Palaces, significant as this will mark a major investment in the UK's heritage by a charitable organisation, as well as grants and donations from donors, sponsors, trusts and foundations. Find out more about our fundraising campaign here www.hrp.org.uk/SupportUs

Work starts onsite from March 2010 but the palace will remain open to visitors - the exhibitions *The Last Debutantes: 1958 Season of Change* and *Diana, Fashion and Style* will continue for the remainder of 2009, and there are plans for new displays too for 2010. We'll keep you up to date as the project develops.

For help and advice in organising a group visit to Kensington Palace or any of the historic royal palaces, contact the Groups and Travel Trade Team on +44 (0)20 3166 6311 or email groupsandtraveltrade@hrp.org.uk



Groups and travel ideas

Your regular news round up of what is included for groups to see and do at our palaces. For details and availability contact +44 (0)20 3166 6311 or groupsandtraveltrade@hrp.org.uk

Tower of London

Prisoners and Executions

The Tower's dark history is legendary, but you may be surprised to learn the truth about prisoners and executions! Did some prisoners live in luxury? Learn the alleged fate of the Little Princes Edward V and his brother Richard Duke of York who disappeared whilst being held in the Tower by their uncle, Richard III. Min 15, max 50. Tours take place Mondays and Thursdays 11am and 2pm. Guided tour price £120.00. Book in advance on 0844 482 7770.



Hampton Court Palace

The ultimate Henry group itinerary!

Book your joint group package to celebrate Henry to include two of his most glorious residences – Hampton Court Palace and Windsor Castle. A unique day out awaits when you visit both from Easter 2009 onwards: spend the morning exploring Windsor Castle and the Henry exhibition along with a visit to St. George's Chapel where he is interred, followed by an afternoon at Hampton Court Palace as a guest at the wedding celebrations of Henry VIII and his sixth wife Kateryn Parr. Call +44 (0)20 7766 7333 for prices and bookings.



Winter warmers for groups

Tasty Tudor treats

This year the Tiltyard Café have created some tempting lunch buffet menus to complete your Henry VIII experience at Hampton Court Palace. Served in the private area called The Snug, there is a choice of six menus, one for each wife! The choices range from the Katherine of Aragon lunch of soup and freshly-made sandwiches, to the Kateryn Parr lunch consisting of cold meat platters, pies and savoury pastries with cakes and tarts to finish. Prices are from just £8.00 per person.



Meal Deal vouchers

If you would rather save time why not offer a lunch, snack or tea stop by including our Meal Deal vouchers. At both the Tower of London and Hampton Court Palace the self-service restaurants provide meal vouchers to suit your itinerary and budget.

For details of all the options and for bookings contact groupsandtraveltrade@hrp.org.uk or call +44 (0)20 3166 6311.



Banqueting House



2009 concerts

The popular lunchtime concert series at the Banqueting House Whitehall continues in 2009 – see middle pages for details. Tickets for all lunchtime concerts are £17.50 with a 10% discount for group bookings of 15 or more and include a light buffet lunch at 12:15. Tickets available from the Banqueting House or by telephoning +44 (0)20 3166 6153.

Daytime Events

Late Spring

Summer

Autumn

Tower of London

New! Henry VIII: Dressed to Kill opens 3 April until 17 Jan 2010

Some of the finest armour ever created for Henry VIII will be brought together for the first time in modern history this year at the Tower of London. In partnership with the Royal Armouries, this will be a spectacular exhibition exploring the man behind the majesty.

Siege and garrison: 1 April - 24 May

Come and join the king's soldiers and try your strength and skill in shooting the mighty siege weapons.

The Trial of Anne Boleyn: 2 - 4 May

Follow the last days of the tragic queen as she is put on trial for treason here at the Tower.

Attack the Tower! 23 - 25 May

Join the rebel barons or support the king as war rages around this mighty fortress...

The Peasants' Revolt: June weekends

No new taxes! Join the rebels in recreating the only successful attack on the Tower of London, which actually took place in 1381.

Siege and garrison: 1 - 31 August

Come and join the king's soldiers and try your strength and skill in shooting the mighty siege weapons.

Beat the Block and Tudor Prisoners: July weekends

Will you make it alive out of the Tower in the reign of Henry VIII, or will you, like so many others, lose your head at the Tower? Join in as we bring to life some of the actual stories of famous prisoners.

Masters of the Sword: 1 - 31 August

As the Wars of the Roses rage, come and see the skills, armour and weapons needed to make sure knights and soldiers keep their heads!

The Tower Festival: 10 - 20 September

The Tower Festival this year features dance, opera, jazz and world music. Buy tickets and find out more at www.towerfestival.com

Siege and garrison: 26 Sept - 31 Oct

Come and join the king's soldiers and try your strength and skill in shooting the mighty siege weapons.

Hampton Court Palace

New! Henry's Wedding: everyday from 10 April

In 2009 you become a guest at the wedding of Henry VIII, and his sixth wife Kateryn Parr. The Tudor rooms will be lavishly dressed and there will be feasting in the Great Hall - even the palace warders will be resplendent in their new red Tudor-inspired uniform.

New! Henry's Women opens 10 April - 3 August 2009

For the first time at Hampton Court, six rarely seen 16th century portraits and personal objects of Henry VIII's wives,

Tudor Cookery: 10 - 13 April, 2 - 4 and 23 - 25 May, 20 - 21 June

The Tudor Cooks work in Henry VIII's Great Kitchens to prepare a magnificent feast for Henry, Kateryn and the Court.

Coronation weekend: 20 - 21 June

The magnificent spectacle of a river pageant will mark the 500th anniversary weekend of Henry VIII's coronation. The palace will be open until 10pm on the 20th to host more celebratory events.

Tudor Cookery: 25 - 26 July and 29 - 31 August

The preparations for the wedding feast of Henry VIII and Kateryn Parr continue in Henry VIII's Great Kitchens.

Hampton Court Festival: 3 - 14 June

Hampton Court Festival is a highlight of the summer. Look out for more details at www.hamptoncourtfestival.com

Hampton Court Palace Flower Show: 7 - 12 July

The world's largest annual flower show returns this July with special joint Flower Show and palace packages from as little as £32. Book now on the Groups hotline +44 (0) 20 7014 8444 or the Coach Operators hotline +44 (0) 20 7014 8440.

Ghost Tours

The ever-popular evening Ghost Tours at Hampton Court Palace will return again from November 2009 to February 2010. Public tours available on Friday and Sunday evenings from 7.30pm, duration 1.5hours. Max 36 people per tour, £25.00 per person, with a 15% reduction for trade clients.

Banqueting House

Evening concert - 6 April

The Whitehall Choir and the Longford Brown piano duo Performing a fabulous four hands/one piano version of the **Brahms German Requiem**, featuring Paul Spicer Concert at 7pm, followed by a buffet supper - tickets £17.50

Lunchtime concert - 20 April

The Music Collection Featuring Susan Max on piano

Lunchtime concert - 18 May

Featuring Rebecca Rudge and Donald Maxwell

Lunchtime concert - 8 June

Featuring Susan Nataly

Evening concert - 29 June

Music through the centuries with James Bowman (counter tenor), Jose Maria Guerrero (tenor) and Simon Wilding (bass); accompanied by Richard Pearce (piano). Concert at 7pm, followed by a buffet supper - tickets £25.00

Lunchtime concert - 6 July

Concertante of London Director: Sir Nicholas Jackson. A programme of music by Handel, Purcell and WM Lawes.

Evening concert - 20 July

Classic Touch Featuring Toschko Todorov on harmonica and Dorian Todorov on piano Concert at 7pm, followed by a buffet supper - tickets £20.00

Lunchtime concert - 14 Sept

Stuart songs from the Court of King James I Featuring Nathan Vale (tenor) and Charles-Edouart Fantin on the lute

Unless otherwise stated, concerts take place 13.00h - 14.00h and tickets are £17.50 each, group bookings of 15 or more will receive a 10% discount. To book tickets or for more information call +44 (0) 20 3166 6153.

Kensington Palace

The Last Debutantes: 1958 Season of change

Explore the story of the changing world of the late 1950s as we unite some of the 'debs' of 1958 and display some original dresses.



Kew Palace



Opens 10 April

Kew Palace, the intimate and domestic side of the royal palaces, re-opens for summer 2009 on 10 April. Its location within Kew Gardens offers more options for a fantastic day out.

Sunday evening private tours

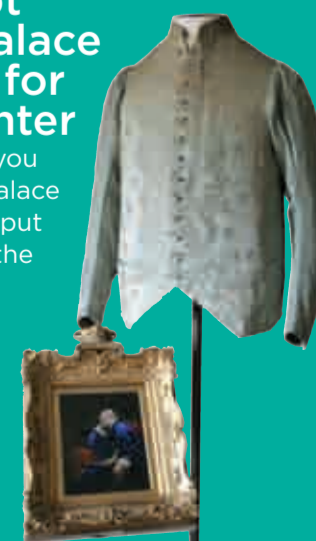
From mid May to the end of September, evening tours of Kew Palace will be available. Tours start at 17.00h and includes an expert guide. £25.00 per person including wine and nibbles. For details and booking please call Kew Palace on +44 (0) 20 3166 6140.

All the staff at Kew Palace will don Georgian costume this year, bringing this intimate royal home to life. The palace will also be marking the 250th anniversary of the beginnings of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.



27 Sept Kew Palace closes for the winter

Make sure you visit Kew Palace before it is put to bed for the winter!



Events and private tours

All five of our fantastic venues are available for events, so whether you're planning an intimate dinner or a party for hundreds, find out what we can offer here and at www.hrp.org.uk.

Tower of London

T: +44 (0)20 3166 6226

E: toweroflondonevents@hrp.org.uk

From an intimate celebratory dinner for up to 12 guests, to a banquet for 70 of your closest friends, the Tower of London has many options for you to hold a party to remember. Bigger venues within the Tower include the New Armouries and White Tower, each holding several hundred people for a drinks reception. Add in a private view of the Crown Jewels or attendance at the Ceremony of the Keys, and your fantastic party will go down in history!



Banqueting House

T: +44 (0)20 3166 6157

E: banquetinghouseevents@hrp.org.uk

The Banqueting House is our most versatile venue, and has the added advantage of being right in the heart of central London. The Main Hall, with its glittering chandeliers and fabulous Rubens ceiling, is a large room which can be dressed to create an amazing party space. Many celebrities have hosted their parties at the Banqueting House and the smaller Undercroft also offers great opportunities to amaze your guests. It has been transformed into a range of spectacular party experiences, among them a

shimmering Icelandic landscape, an emerald isle and a Venetian lagoon!

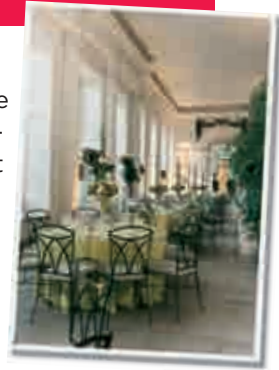


Kensington Palace

T: +44 (0)20 3166 6115

E: Kensingtonpalaceevents@hrp.org.uk

Built for Queen Anne in 1704-5, the elegant Orangery - the Queen called it her 'summer supper house' - was used for court entertainments and today is ideal for parties. It has played host to a wide variety of celebrations, from fashion shows to cocktail parties, and can be dressed and decorated to suit your theme. The capacity can be as many as 300 for a reception, but this intimate venue also suits much smaller, exclusive gatherings.



Hampton Court Palace

T: +44 (0)20 3166 6505/6/7

E: hamptoncourtpalaceevents@hrp.org.uk

Hampton Court Palace is a fantastic place to hold a party; from the stunning grounds to the magnificent interiors, this unique palace on the bank of the Thames was Henry VIII and Elizabeth I's party venue of choice. The Tudor and Baroque state apartments offer a range of capacities and now, for the first time, dancing can be held in the Undercroft. The palace also offers the opportunity of competitive rates if booking on a non-exclusive basis and there are also great deals available for Friday to Sunday hire. Contact the Events team to discuss your requirements.



Kew Palace

T: +44 (0)20 3166 6115

E: Kewpalaceevents@hrp.org.uk

It was in the King's Dining Room at Kew Palace that HM The Queen celebrated her 80th birthday, surrounded by her close family, on a memorable night in 2006, so why not follow in her footsteps and hold your own intimate dinner for up to 24, or drinks reception for up to 40 people, at this delightful palace. Available from April to September, Kew Palace is perfect as a summer venue for an intimate group of friends, family or very special corporate guests.



YouTube channel for the palaces!

In order to provide a behind-the-scenes introduction to both our palaces and the people who tell their stories, we've set up our very own YouTube channel. Have a look here <http://uk.youtube.com/HistoricRoyalPalaces>. You can subscribe to the channel and receive notifications when we add new content.

Highlights to date have included a personal Christmas message from Henry VIII and a guided tour of 1000 years of royal toilet history! Plans for Henry's 500th anniversary year; include, online Tudor cookery, Tudor sing-a-longs, and much more.



Why not link from your website to the HRP YouTube channel homepage, or even embed our videos on your own site? It's a great way to give your potential customers a real feel for these amazing buildings and their stories - it might add to your

bookings! You can also let us know what you think by leaving comments or even posting your very own video response!

Creating Henry's heraldic Tudor garden

As part of the 2009 celebrations, the Gardens and Estates team at Hampton Court Palace are creating a special garden inspired by Henry VIII's 16th century Privy Gardens at Hampton Court Palace and Whitehall Palace, opening in June 2009.

The design will include the defining features of the Tudor Court garden: beds of flowers, herbs and topiary; and decorated rails. We are also commissioning eight carved, painted and gilded wooden 'Kings beestes' - a bull, dragon, falcon, leopard, greyhound, lion, white hind and a yale.



Artist's impression of the completed Chapel Court Garden

Need help?

Visit us

Buy tickets for 15 or more people: T: 0844 482 7770
E: traveltradeorders@hrp.org.uk
Find out more about the five palaces on our website: www.hrp.org.uk

Calling from overseas, please dial T: +44 20 3166 6000

Ask us questions T: +44 (0)20 3166 6311 or
E: groupsandtraveltrade@hrp.org.uk

Party in style!

Functions and Events:
Tower of London T: +44 (0)20 3166 6226
Hampton Court Palace T: +44 (0)20 3166 6505/6/7
Banqueting House T: +44 (0)20 3166 6157
Kensington Palace and Kew Palace T: +44 (0)20 3166 6115
E: events@hrp.org.uk

Retail therapy!

Souvenirs and shopping: T: +44 (0)20 3166 6848
E: mailorder@hrp.org.uk
W: www.historicroyalpalaces.com

Corporate gifts: T: +44 (0)20 3166 6857
E: corpgifts@hrp.org.uk



Historic Royal PALACES

Historic Royal Palaces is the independent charity that looks after the Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace, the Banqueting House, Kensington Palace and Kew Palace. We help everyone explore the story of how monarchs and people have shaped society, in some of the greatest palaces ever built.

We receive no funding from the Government or the Crown, so we depend on the support of our visitors, members, donors, volunteers and sponsors.