

Historic Royal
PALACES

Outreach and Community Involvement



Helping everyone to explore the story of how monarchs and people have shaped society, in some of the greatest palaces ever built.

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This is what we do...



The Outreach & Community Involvement team is there to make sure that everyone can be included in exploring our stories and our palaces: to learn and to have a great time.

Hearing and acting on people's views are key to developing appropriate services. We have disability access panels at our main sites and we're developing a youth panel. They've helped us improve things for all our visitors.

We want as wide an audience as possible to get involved at our palaces. We work with groups who traditionally have not had easy access to heritage. Our focus is on engaging families and older people on lower incomes, young people and people with disabilities. We concentrate our resource and expertise on people who live near to our palaces. Wherever possible we take a partnership approach. We collaborate with local organisations to deliver creative and site-inspired projects, always designed with the needs of the participants in mind.

We also run special events. Rock around the Palace brings dance to Kensington. The annual archaeology weekend at the Tower of London has inspired many existing and budding investigators. Citizenship ceremonies give new Britons a palace day to remember. Although we'd love everyone to come to our amazing palaces we recognise this isn't always easy. So, we offer themed programmes of art workshops and illustrated talks at community venues as well as at our sites.

On the following pages you can get a taste of how other people have been inspired by what we have been able to accomplish. If you'd like to take part or would like to discuss your ideas please contact the team on outreachandcommunity@hrp.org.uk

We hope to hear from you soon!

Nikki Lindsey
Outreach & Community Involvement Manager

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

Each of these five royal palaces in our care has survived for hundreds of years. They have witnessed peace and prosperity and splendid periods of building and expansion, but they also share stories of much more turbulent times, of war and domestic strife, politics and revolution.

Throughout their history, the palaces were places where people young and old, ordinary and extraordinary, famous and infamous loved, lived and died. These are story boxes just waiting to be opened.

The Outreach & Community Involvement team works with people who traditionally have never considered visiting a heritage site. We work alongside our local communities to provide opportunities for everyone to discover the fascinating stories of yesterday and relate them to their own lives.



Tower of London

Ancient, powerful and intriguing...

For over 900 years, the fortress and palace, the Tower of London has dominated the City of London and today is still one of the capital's most prominent landmarks, a world famous visitor attraction and World Heritage Site.

Hampton Court Palace

Romantic, flamboyant and majestic...

King Henry VIII is most associated with this majestic palace, which he extended and developed in grand Tudor style after acquiring it on Cardinal Wolsey's death in 1530. The elegance and romance of the palace also owes much to the baroque buildings commissioned at the end of the 17th century by William and Mary.

Banqueting House

Dramatic revolutionary and exuberant...

Completed in 1622, the Banqueting House, the last remaining part of the Whitehall Palace, astounded London society, and it still has the power to dazzle and impress today. It was through here, on 30 January 1649, that King Charles I was led to a scaffold erected outside in Whitehall.

Kensington Palace

Feminine, stylish and fashionable...

Built amid the tranquillity of Kensington Gardens and acquired by William and Mary, Kensington Palace has been a royal residence for over 300 years. Today it houses a stunning collection of royal court and ceremonial dress. The palace was notably the birthplace and childhood home of the future Queen Victoria.

Kew Palace

Intimate, domestic and intense...

Kew Palace, this 'doll's house' of a royal residence, has been restored after a major conservation project lasting ten years, and recreates the palace as it was used by George III and some of his family.

Children and families

Children of all ages and their parents are a really important audience for us. The palaces are great sites for families to explore and to inspire children's imaginations. With an officer dedicated to working with children and family groups, we develop and offer a varied programme and tailor everything we do to your group's needs. We work with nurseries, supplementary schools, play clubs and young carers or anyone working with children outside of formal education. We can also provide visits for parents' groups tailored to individual needs.

Some of the sessions we have been developing include creative writing and mask making, workshops about gorgeous Georgian fashions, stencil making of royal symbols for nursery children, Victorian drama and puppet making.

Please contact us to discuss your group's specific needs. You can email outreachandcommunity@hrp.org.uk with children and families in the subject line; or call the Children and Families Officer direct on **020 3166 6649**.



Young People



What links Georgian music, Peter the wild-boy, Princess Victoria and prisoners of the Tower? Historic Royal Palaces' Youth Outreach sessions!

From long term projects to one-off holiday sessions, Historic Royal Palaces work with youth clubs, community groups, local authority agencies and hospitals. Workshops can be tailor-made to reflect the needs of an individual group.

In the past our sessions have included music, drama, fashion illustration, photography and film-making.

For more information on our young persons' programme, as well as upcoming events, e-mail: outreachandcommunity@hrp.org.uk or call **020 3166 6643**.

“Thanks for Saturday the girls came back buzzing. They loved it”

Youth Worker, Tamezin



Adults

Historic Royal Palaces is committed to reaching out to as many people of different ages and backgrounds as possible. Complementing our focus on children, youth and families, we also aim to engage adults, particularly older people in our communities. This happens through craft workshops, talks, oral history projects, special events and involvement in exhibitions.

For more information on our adults programme, as well as upcoming events, e-mail: outreachandcommunity@hrp.org.uk or call **020 3166 6637**



Improving access to all our sites

At the heart of our Cause is the challenge to help everyone explore the story of the palaces. As these are important historic buildings we are presented with a unique set of challenges - but with the help of members of our Access Panels, all drawn from the local community we can meet these challenges. We have created access leaflets, virtual tours, Braille and large print booklets, and sign language tours. These are all so that people with disabilities can come and enjoy the palaces with the minimum of effort and fuss.

For information about access at the palaces, visit our website www.hrp.org.uk or call our Contact Centre on 0844 482 7777.

For outreach and community access initiatives, e-mail: outreachandcommunity@hrp.org.uk or call **020 3166 6512**.



Tower of London

Hampton Court Palace

Case Study Tower Hamlets Pupil Referral Unit

The Tower of London has undertaken many art based projects with the Tower Hamlets Pupil Referral Unit since 2005. Using the stories and buildings of the Tower as inspiration, students have worked with professional artists on photography projects, poetry booklets, dance DVDs, printed wall hangings and more.

Through our projects with the PRU, students get the chance to visit and learn about the great events that happened in the World Heritage Site on their doorstep, as well as to appreciate the impressiveness and beauty of the architecture. Artists have the time to let each student learn new skills and to grow in confidence. For the students, they get a new sense of belonging.

Case Study Tower Beach

In 1934 a beach was created on the foreshore of the Tower of London, but despite its popularity, it closed in 1971. Yet the memories of the beach live on, and so, in 2009, to mark the 75th anniversary of the original opening of the beach, an oral history archive of people's memories has been created. Through reminiscence sessions, we record local people's oral histories and put them on to dedicated Tower Beach pages on the Historic Royal Palaces website. This also contains archive images and film footage, a history of the beach and more. A travelling exhibition went on display at local libraries and community centres around the Tower's local area, and a booklet brings together people's memories with classic pictures of the beach in its heyday.

Case Study Henry Wall Hanging

Over a hundred people, drawn from our Community Partners*, worked with an artist to create beautiful wall hangings inspired by Henry VIII and Tudor food, to mark the 500th anniversary of Henry's accession to the throne in 2009. Groups of all ages and abilities drew, stitched, embossed and printed onto different materials such as silk and copper, to create six hangings. These are on display in the Privy Kitchen Coffee Shop at Hampton Court for thousands of visitors to admire.

“It is fantastic that the work of the community partnerships is on display and looks so wonderful – our clients really enjoyed taking part”

Gary Blackmore, Grove Care Partnership

Case Study Young Henry VIII exhibition virtual tour

Hampton Court Palace has good vertical access but one area, the Wolsey Rooms, is not on the same level as the rest of the first floor. Access is only possible via three narrow steps that cannot be ramped. As these rooms were probably Cardinal Wolsey's private lodgings they were the ideal location for our new, permanent exhibition about the first years of Henry VIII's reign, his relationship with his first wife, Katherine of Aragon, and his chief minister, Cardinal Wolsey.

To give all visitors an opportunity to see this exhibition, a virtual tour was commissioned by HRP on the recommendation of the Hampton Court Access Forum. The finished tour is available in the Information Centre off Clock Court and can also be viewed from the visitor access page of our website.



* At the time of writing, our Community Partners are:
Chelsea Methodist Centre,
Children & Families Directorate;
Clement James Centre and Into University; Grove Care Partnership;
Lindon Bennett Primary School;
Stitches in Time; Tower Hamlets Children's Services Directorate

Kensington Palace

Case Study Within the Wardrobe

Open the door and what do you find?

Taking pieces from the Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection as inspiration, five community groups and a primary school class from Kensington & Chelsea shared their family stories about clothes and fashion. The groups worked with professional artists over several weeks to transform their stories into multi-media sculptures inside miniature wooden wardrobes and to record their stories. Their final pieces and accompanying DVD were displayed in a delightful public exhibition at the palace.

Case Study The Palace Take Over

Using photography, drama, music, creative writing, mask-making and story building, a group of young people with learning difficulties and physical disabilities took over Kensington Palace every Thursday for six weeks. They explored stories about the people who used to live there. The stunning building, and items from the collection including Queen Victoria's wedding dress, helped inspire them.

**“I liked the presentation.
I think it is easier to
understand royal history
through play rather than
reading books.”**

Steph (participant)



Banqueting House

Case Study Citizenship Ceremony

Our Cause is an expression of citizenship, and we have promoted the use of our palaces as a venue for the ceremonies to admit new British citizens. At the Banqueting House, new ground was broken when forty citizens from each of the four London boroughs in which our palaces stand – Tower Hamlets, Kensington & Chelsea, Westminster and Richmond – came together for what is believed to have been the United Kingdom's first joint citizenship ceremony.

Taking this historic step in such an iconic British building not only symbolised that history is there to be enjoyed and embraced by these new citizens, but also that they can now play their part in shaping the future of this country.

Case Study 21st Century Masque workshop

A youth workshop saw the popular masques of the 17th century come alive in a new and innovative way. Working with an artist, teenagers used the themes of celebrity, costume, drama and dance to create their own interpretation of the popular masques which took place in the Banqueting House during the reign of James I and Charles I.



Kew Palace

Case Study Into the Light

Kew Palace served as the inspiration for a number of community groups to create beautiful lanterns in artistic workshops over the course of several months. The lanterns were displayed and lit in the Queen's Gardens around Kew Palace in a night-time event that celebrated the creative work of the participants.

The event also included a soundscape, jointly commissioned by Historic Royal Palaces and Drake Music. They work with musicians who are disabled to explore sound worlds, compose and perform. This soundscape drew inspiration from the music of Handel, one of the favourite composers of King George III.

As the audience followed the light and sound path, the BYT Experimental Theatre Group performed along the route of the lantern procession. It was an enchanting, multi-sensory and enveloping experience.

At Kew Palace, we offer fun workshops with a storyteller or creative writer as well as longer programmes of work on larger-scale projects. Much of our work is carried out in partnership with Kew Gardens. We share an ambition with them to broaden and deepen community participation across a range of audiences.

Case Study Temple of the Imagination

In 2006, to mark the re-opening of Kew Palace, the Temple of the Imagination first appeared in Kew Gardens. This version of the temple was created by community groups working alongside professional artists and inspired by the beautiful historic and natural surroundings at Kew.

And demonstrating that imaginations work in many ways, this delightful community space will be re-imagined and re-created during 2009 by new groups of people in different ways.



Supporting our work

Outreach and Community Involvement is central to Historic Royal Palaces' Cause of helping everyone explore the stories of the palaces in our care. It is also central to the ambitions of a £20m fundraising campaign which is designed to transform the way that Historic Royal Palaces works as a whole, whilst securing the future of the palaces and the activities that take place within them.

Historic Royal Palaces has an admirable track record of working with donors and sponsors to achieve mutually beneficial objectives. Our donors and supporters share our passion for history, spectacle and majesty. Many of our most ambitious projects would not have been accomplished without their generosity and participation. We work tirelessly alongside our partners, sponsors and supporters to achieve so much more than would have been possible with visitor income alone.

From becoming a Member or a Patron through to leaving a legacy or making a donation to a specific area of our work, individual donors are sure of a unique experience that reaches far beyond the confines of a specific gift. Historic Royal Palaces' individual donors gain an insight and play a part in the palaces' private lives as well as their public roles.

Corporate Partnerships with Historic Royal Palaces represent an alliance and opportunity that is unrivalled worldwide.

From the sponsorship of specific exhibitions through to our enormously successful corporate membership scheme, Historic Royal Palaces offers bespoke partnerships that not only represent excellent value but also are benefits that cannot be matched.

Gifts, grants and corporate partnerships can be specifically directed into our work in the field of Outreach and Community Involvement to make a real difference in this area. We will work with sponsors and supporters to develop a partnership that address a mutually-agreed area of interest whilst providing an insight and access into our work as a whole.

Join with us and help everyone explore the story. You will be working with one of the largest providers of heritage education and outreach in the country. The news of your involvement will reach over 3m individuals. You will be working with us in achieving something that would not be possible otherwise and you will be securing and underpinning a service that makes a difference and is of enormous value to its participants. What's more, you will develop, with us, a relationship that is tailored to meet your own needs, passions and objectives.

Together we can help everyone explore the story.

For information about supporting our Outreach & Community Involvement programme, e-mail: chris.martin@hrp.org.uk or call 020 3166 6322.

Contact details:

Outreach & Community Involvement Manager:

nikki.lindsey@hrp.org.uk
or 020 3166 6636

General enquiries about our programme:

outreachandcommunity@hrp.org.uk

For enquiries relating to:

Children and Family projects

please call 020 3166 6649

Youth Outreach

please call 020 3166 6643

Adults and Older People

please call 020 3166 6637

Outreach & Community Access

please call 020 3166 6512

If you would like to discuss supporting our work please e-mail

chris.martin@hrp.org.uk

or call 020 3166 6322

Thanks are due to our supporters in 2008/09:

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Citizenship Ceremony: Cameo Photography
21st century masques: Sofie Layton

Page 11:

Temple of the Imagination: Sofie Layton

Rock around the Palace - Kensington Palace



Gorgeous Georgians at the Royal London Hospital



Into the light at Kew Palace



Definitely Theatre - Tower of London

Within the Wardrobe - Kensington Palace



Henry VIII wall hanging at Hampton Court Palace



Nursery school workshop at Kensington Palace