

**Historic
Royal Palaces**

Media Guide 2017



2017

2017 is set to be another remarkable year for Historic Royal Palaces. We're looking forward to revealing several intriguing new exhibitions, complemented by an exciting programme of events throughout the year.

Kensington Palace will take centre stage with two new major displays. Opening in February, *Diana: Her Fashion Story* will explore the style evolution of Diana, Princess of Wales. The exhibition will bring together a fascinating collection of memorable ensembles, ranging from outfits worn in her earliest public appearances, to the glamorous gowns and chic tailoring of her later life.

In June, we will unveil an exhibition created in partnership with the Yale Center for British Art, entitled *Enlightened Princesses: Caroline, Augusta, Charlotte and the Shaping of the Modern World*. This display will shine a light on the wide-ranging interests of three influential royal women who played an important part in shaping the nation's culture during the 18th century.

In March, the Tower of London will host a new after-hours immersive experience following the success of NIGHTWATCHERS in 2015-16. Horrible Histories will return to Hampton Court in May, after a sold-out debut at the palace in 2016 and a medieval family festival will take place at the Tower over the early May Bank Holiday.

As the custodian of six renowned heritage sites, we aim to give the palaces the care they deserve. In addition to our on-going conservation and collections care programme, we are undertaking several important re-presentation projects.

Our transformation of Hillsborough Castle is underway, with major works due to commence in summer 2017. Work will also continue on the restoration of The Great Pagoda at Kew, ahead of its reopening in 2018.

This is my final year as Chief Executive of Historic Royal Palaces, as I will retire in July 2017. It has been a great honour and privilege to have served as Chief Executive for the past 13 years and I would like to thank you for your continuing interest and support.

Michael Day
Chief Executive,
Historic Royal Palaces



Welcome to the Historic Royal Palaces press office

Historic Royal Palaces is the independent charity that looks after the **Tower of London**, **Hampton Court Palace**, the **Banqueting House**, **Kensington Palace**, **Kew Palace** and **Hillsborough Castle**. 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. That's where we come in...

The press office handles all media enquiries related to the palaces, from sharing news stories and photographs of our exhibitions to facilitating documentaries and feature films (including, most recently, 'Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation'), manning our Facebook pages and tweeting 1,000 years of history.

We want to make sure that you know about everything we have planned. We know that you are immersed in deadlines and working under pressure, so this guide is aimed at helping you get the most out of us.

Find out who you can interview about our exciting upcoming projects, how to organise a press visit and how we facilitate filming and photography. If you're looking for a story or inspiration, check out our plans for the year ahead!

Get in touch!

Call the Press Office on
+44 (0)203 166 6166 or
email **press@hrp.org.uk**.
We even tweet at
@HRP_PressOffice

Diana: Her Fashion Story



From her first public appearances in 1981, Diana, Princess of Wales, captivated the world's attention as a princess, as a trendsetter and as a patron and advocate of charities. Twenty years on from her death, a new exhibition and temporary garden celebrating her life will be opened at Kensington Palace, her home for over 15 years.

Opening in February, the exhibition *Diana: Her Fashion Story* will trace the evolution of the Princess's style, from the demure, romantic outfits of her first public appearances, to the glamour, elegance and confidence of her later life. From her earliest royal engagements, everything Diana wore was closely scrutinised, and the exhibition will explore how she navigated her unique position in the public eye: learning to use her image to engage and inspire people, and to champion the causes she cared about.

Replacing the popular 'Fashion Rules' exhibition in Kensington Palace's Piggott Gallery, *Diana: Her Fashion Story* will display exquisite and celebrated outfits from throughout the Princess's public life. The exhibition will bring together an extraordinary collection of garments, ranging from the glamorous evening gowns worn on engagements in the 1980s, to the chic Catherine Walker suits

that made up Diana's 'working wardrobe' in the 1990s. The Princess's relationship with her favourite designers will be explored through a display of some of their original fashion sketches, created for her during the design process.

Exhibition highlights will include the pale pink Emanuel blouse worn for Diana's engagement portrait by Lord Snowdon in 1981, and Victor Edelstein's iconic ink blue velvet gown, famously worn at the White House when the Princess danced with John Travolta. A blue tartan Emanuel suit, worn for an official visit to Venice in the 1980s, will go on display in public for the first time. The suit, a rare survival of the Princess's daywear, was only recently rediscovered and acquired by Historic Royal Palaces at auction.

Opens 24 February 2017



The White Garden at Kensington Palace In place for spring/summer 2017

Whilst in residence at Kensington Palace, the Princess admired the changing floral displays in the historic Sunken Garden and would often stop to talk to the gardeners who care for it. In 2017, the gardeners at Kensington Palace will dedicate the new planting in the garden to Diana, creating a temporary White Garden.

Complementing the palace's exhibition, *Diana: Her Fashion Story*, the garden will be planted with flowers and foliage inspired by memories of the Princess's life, image and style. Spring planting will include an elegant palette of tulips and scented narcissii through a carpet of 'forget me nots'. In the summer, pots of classic English white roses will surround the reflective pool in the centre of the garden and the planting will become more exuberant, with glowing ornamental grasses weaving through Cosmos daisies and billows of graceful Gaura. The garden will be installed for spring and summer 2017.



Enlightened Princesses:

Caroline, Augusta, Charlotte and the Shaping of the Modern World



Opening at Kensington Palace in June, a major new exhibition *Enlightened Princesses: Caroline, Augusta, Charlotte and the Shaping of the Modern World* explores the lives of three German princesses, whose wide-ranging interests – and marriage into the British royal family – placed them at the very heart of progress in the 18th century.

While much has been written and discussed about the Hanoverian Kings – in connection with the birth of a new dynasty, the dynamic between Britain and Europe, the growth of empire and the loss of America, the important role played by their wives has never before been carefully evaluated. This exhibition will see these three intelligent and dynamic royal women celebrated for their many achievements for the first time.

In this period of immense change, Caroline and Charlotte left Germany to become queens consort to George II and George III respectively, while Princess Augusta held the titles of Princess of Wales, Regent, and Princess Dowager, and was mother to King George III. Though today largely forgotten by history, throughout the 18th century, each of these women in turn played a vital

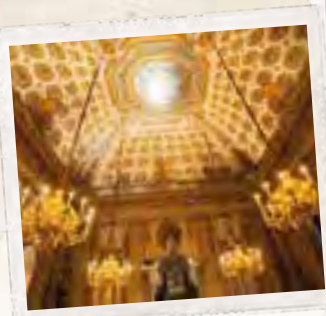


part in the shaping of the nation's culture. From advocating the latest scientific and medical advances – crucially in women's health – to their involvement in charity work and roles as major patrons of trade and British manufacture, Caroline, Augusta and Charlotte redefined what it meant to be a royal woman, and created a legacy which resonates in the world today.

“Until this point, their contributions have been little understood and it is the aim of this exhibition to demonstrate how they influenced their era in the most vibrant of ways”

Joanna Marschner, Senior Curator at Historic Royal Palaces

The exhibition, in partnership with the Yale Center for British Art, draws together for the first time at Kensington Palace almost 200 objects from across the globe – including many highlights from the Royal Collection, and the royal collections of Denmark and the Netherlands. Portraits, artworks and fine ceramics commissioned from some of the greatest artists and craftsmen of their day will be displayed alongside the princesses' personal possessions to create a rich tapestry of 18th century culture.



Kensington Palace

Kensington Palace began as a rural retreat for King William III as he escaped central London due to his ailing health. William and Mary's royal residence quickly became the epicentre of courtly life for late Stuart and Hanoverian monarchs.

Today, Kensington Palace still serves as a private royal residence, while its public side welcomes visitors to the King's and Queen's State Apartments. In 2017, the palace will play host to two exciting new exhibitions; *Enlightened Princesses*, a look at the intellectual pursuits of three Georgian princesses, and *Diana: Her Fashion Story*, a celebration of Princess Diana's enduring style legacy.

With royal style central to Kensington's story, one of the jewels in this palace's crown is the Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection; its beautifully preserved textiles feature in exhibitions and are available to view by media by appointment.

Queen Victoria was born at Kensington Palace and spent her childhood there under the watchful eye of her mother. It was at Kensington Palace where she was informed of the death of her uncle King William IV in 1837 and became Queen, and also the place where she first set eyes on her beloved Prince Albert. It was also Queen Victoria who first opened Kensington Palace to the public in 1899. The palace's *Victoria Revealed* exhibition, which will be redisplayed in 2017 - set in the very rooms she grew up in - recounts her

life and reign through diary quotes and personal artefacts. From the Red Saloon, where Victoria met with her Privy Council for the first time at the tender age of eighteen, to the room in which she was born in 1819, this object rich display features personal items exploring Victoria's love of art, music and the theatre, alongside gifts Victoria and Albert exchanged with one another during their famous romance.

Meanwhile, within the opulent William Kent designed King's State Apartments, the story of the glittering court of King George II and Queen Caroline will once again be brought to life in the very rooms in which they entertained. Following conservation work, in 2017 Queen Caroline's Closet will display a selection of Holbein's famed drawings, famously discovered forgotten in a drawer in this room by Queen Caroline and displayed alongside other treasures from the Royal Collection for the delight of her guests.

The Queen's State Apartments - built in 1690 and amongst the oldest rooms in the palace - are home to a display about the later Stuart monarchs, from the Glorious Revolution to the death of Queen Anne at the palace in 1714. This year they will provide the backdrop for family activities, live musical performance and even Christmas carols.



Hampton Court Palace

The centre of court life for over 200 years, Hampton Court Palace is one of Britain's best-loved treasures, and in 2017 will come alive with jousting, live performance and historic cookery.

The historic building - which is split into two distinct halves: the iconic Tudor palace famous as Henry VIII's pleasure palace, and the baroque State Apartments created for joint monarchs Mary II and William III in the 1690s - has many stories hidden within its walls.

Since Henry VIII seized the palace from Cardinal Wolsey in 1528, Hampton Court has been a witness to the honeymoons of Henry VIII, Mary I and Charles II, and the birth and baptism of Henry VIII's much longed for heir. It has been the setting for confrontations and private meetings between Mary I and Elizabeth I; Elizabeth and her many suitors; Charles I and Cromwell. It is the place where Jane Seymour died, where Charles I was imprisoned, and where William III suffered a fatal accident. Shakespeare performed in the Great Hall; Handel played in the Chapel Royal, and Jerome K Jerome's *Three Men in a Boat* got lost in the famous maze.

The palace's sumptuous interiors have delighted generations of visitors, with the King's and Queen's State Apartments home to a selection of masterpieces from the Royal Collection, set against a backdrop created by some of the greatest talents of the era: Sir Christopher Wren, Antonio Verrio, and William Kent.

Henry VIII's apartments, once the scene of court feasts and entertainment, will in 2017 play host to a programme of daily costumed activities bringing the rich stories of Hampton Court's history to life.

Below stairs, Hampton Court's celebrated kitchens are a living monument to 230 years of royal cooking and entertainment. Between their construction in 1530 and the royal family's last visit in 1737, they formed the beating heart of palace life. The Tudor Kitchens seen today - including the Great Kitchen and some of the subsidiary preparation areas - represent the most extensive royal Tudor kitchen range surviving anywhere, and in 2017 will delight with a series of special cookery events and weekends. Elsewhere, the royal chocolate making kitchen which once catered for three Kings: William III, George I and George II - is the only surviving royal chocolate kitchen in the country. Having been used as a storeroom for many years, it is remarkably well preserved with many of the original fittings, including the stove, equipment and furniture still intact, and plays host to regular chocolate making demonstrations.

The palace's 60 acres of formal gardens contain a multitude of treasures, from the world famous maze to a working royal kitchen garden and the Great Vine - planted at Hampton Court in 1768 by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown - now the largest grapevine in the world.



Kew Palace and The Great Pagoda

Set within the iconic gardens at Kew, in 2017 step into this tiny dolls house of a palace and experience the joys and sorrows of King George III and his family, told through an engaging soundscape and displays of fascinating personal artefacts. With its humble origins as a country home built for a Flemish merchant in 1631, Kew Palace gained its first royal occupants almost a century later with King George II and Queen Caroline's three eldest daughters: Anne, Caroline and Amelia.

Famously associated with George III and his wife Queen Charlotte - for whom the palace and gardens became a rural

retreat - a new display will explore the learned pastimes of Queen Charlotte, a keen amateur botanist and patron of the arts. The first letter the Queen ever wrote in English - addressed to her children's governess - will be on show alongside a miniature house from c. 1780, the interiors of which were designed and crafted by the young princesses.

During the summer months, the palace's restored Royal Kitchens will host live cooking demonstrations, offering the chance to delve into the tale of these historic royal kitchens, the servants who worked in them and Georgian culinary life.

Kew Pagoda

2017 will see Historic Royal Palaces embark on a fascinating new project to restore the Great Pagoda at Kew to its original Georgian splendour. After a period of extensive archival and archaeological research into this history of this unique building, we will begin conservation work on the Pagoda in 2017, in time for a public opening in 2018.

Famously, the Pagoda was once adorned with eighty dragons, which vanished 20 years after the building was constructed in 1762. Rumours about the disappearance of these mysterious dragons have abounded since, but our curators suspect they were removed after a prolonged cold snap at the end of the 18th century.

Our plan is to restore the eighty dragons to the building once more, using a combination of a traditional method - wood carving, and innovative new 3D printing technologies. Look out for the unveiling of the first of our new dragons early in the New Year. Work on the building will commence in the spring, and will also include a restoration of the Pagoda's original colour scheme. Keep an eye out for press tours and media opportunities as our work on this exciting project progresses throughout 2017.



Banqueting House

Once the jewel in the crown of the vast Palace of Whitehall, Banqueting House is the sole surviving building of what was once the largest palace in Europe. Banqueting House is most famous as the site of Charles I's execution in 1649, but has a wealth of history to discover. Built to hold state occasions such as masques, balls and banquets, its most famous feature is the magnificent ceiling painted by Sir Peter Paul Rubens. King Charles I commissioned Rubens in 1629 to paint the lavish canvas to celebrate his father King James I, but it was under this painting that Charles walked to his execution.

The Palace of Whitehall was the largest royal residence for the Tudor and Stuart courts and at its height it comprised of a labyrinth of 1,500 rooms spread over 23 acres. It saw the secret marriage of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, one of the first performances of King Lear and the many mistresses of Charles II before it was destroyed by fire in 1698. The Lost Palace, an immersive digital experience, brings to life these forgotten stories and more on the streets on the modern day streets of Whitehall and will return to Banqueting House in 2017.

Contact the press office for opportunities to learn more Banqueting House and The Lost Palace, to talk to one of our experts or to arrange a visit to view the stunning Rubens ceiling.





Tower of London

For over 900 years the Tower of London has dominated the City of London and is still one of the capital's most prominent landmarks. Throughout its long history, the Tower has served as a royal palace and fortress, prison and place of execution, an arsenal, royal mint, menagerie and jewel house. Today, London's great royal fortress is home to some of the most potent symbols of British history: the Yeoman Warders, ravens and Crown Jewels. Throughout 2017 there will be special events, family festivals, traditional ceremonies and exhibitions to illuminate the Tower's long and intriguing history.

In 1078, William the Conqueror began work on a great stone palace with walls 15 feet thick, known since the medieval period as the White Tower. It now houses a collection of historic royal arms and armour belonging to the Royal Armouries, including the magnificent armour of Henry VIII. Throughout 2017, a new permanent exhibition will delight families in the White Tower. *Armour in Action* brings interactive displays and hands on activity to reveal the history of arms and armour through the centuries, from medieval archery to Victorian firearms.

The Yeoman Warders, often called Beefeaters, are descended from the ancient band of warders who, from early in the Tower's history, had the responsibility for guarding the gates and royal prisoners. In 2017, we will welcome a new Chief Yeoman Warder

to lead the Yeoman Warders and take on the mantle of this distinctive role.

The Tower of London has been home to the world-famous Crown Jewels since the beginning of the 14th century. Still used by the Queen and her family today, the Crown Jewels on display in the Jewel House are largely those items used at the coronation of a sovereign and are collectively known as the Coronation Regalia. Much of the collection dates from the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, when Charles II ascended the throne.

Around 3 million visitors a year surround themselves with one thousand years of British royal history and heritage at the Tower of London, making it the UK's most visited historic attraction. In 2017 a diverse programme of events from immersive theatre experiences after dark to medieval family festivals all promise to make you think differently about the cobbles on which you tread and the history that surrounds you.

To find out more or to arrange a visit, please contact the press office.



Hillsborough Castle

The official royal residence in Northern Ireland, Hillsborough Castle is one of the most beautiful and interesting historic properties in the region. From its humble beginnings in the 1770s as the family home for the Hill family to its prolific role in the Peace Process in the 1970s, Hillsborough Castle has a unique and significant role in the history of Northern Ireland.

All year round there is something new for visitors to discover in the Castle's magnificent landscaped gardens, which boast over 100 acres of beautiful ornamental grounds, woodland and waterways.

From Easter 2017, when the house re-opens for the summer, visitors will

be able to see a number of newly-hung paintings on display in the recently conserved and refurbished Throne Room, including some beautiful artworks on loan from Royal Collection Trust.

During the 2017 season Hillsborough Castle will host an array of activities for all, from fun filled family weekends, tours of the house and grounds to talks and musical evenings. Our aim over the next few years is to further develop and re-present Hillsborough Castle to make the Castle and its gardens more widely accessible for future generations to enjoy.

Please contact the press office for photos and editorial information or to talk to our knowledgeable experts as we enter this exciting time in the Castle's history.



Hillsborough Castle Project



Historic Royal Palaces is embarking on an exciting project - we're opening the doors of Hillsborough Castle for everyone to explore the stories of this extraordinary place, and take part in its inspiring new future.

We plan to transform the visitor experience at Hillsborough Castle, ready to welcome 200,000 visitors a year by 2019. Through this major project, new facilities including car parking and a learning centre will be introduced, the State Rooms will be re-presented and the beautiful gardens will be restored.

To date, we have re-presented elements of the interior including the State Entrance and adjacent Candlestick Hall with new decorative schemes, furniture and paintings that reflect the history of the Castle and town of Hillsborough.

Work will now continue to focus on the restoration and re-presentation of the Throne Room, Drawing Room and Staircase Hall. Many of the original features in these rooms were destroyed by fire in 1934. We will re-present the State Rooms to provide an insight into the castle's use as both a royal residence and as a venue for entertaining and political discussion, whilst retaining elements that capture the history of the castle.

The gardens at Hillsborough Castle cover over 100 acres. Over time the significance and beauty of these wonderful gardens will be restored and brought back to life for visitors to explore and enjoy. We have already created a new South Terrace and Jubilee Garden and work continues to restore the Yew Tree walk and other areas.

We will also create new access, welcome, and visitor facilities that will ensure a great day out at Hillsborough Castle. The Stable Yard located at the upper end of the estate will provide visitor facilities adjacent to the castle. The 18th-century Stable Yard buildings will be restored and the ground floor will be adapted to create a café, shop and facilities for local communities. The first floor will be developed into an inspiring learning space. The new Clore Learning Centre will provide facilities for learning and engagement activities with schools, families, youth and community groups, as well as talks and workshops for adults. At the lower end of the site, new facilities will include a café, toilets, visitor information, ticketing and meeting spaces for visitors, schools and groups arriving by car.

Contact the press office to find out more about this project and to follow what we do next!



Filming at Historic Royal Palaces

With everything from regal interiors to rustic courtyards, our palaces make the perfect location for your shoot. From the medieval grandeur of the Tower of London to Hampton Court's majestic Tudor palace, these locations tell the story of almost 1000 years of history and provide a captivating backdrop for filming. We host small scale news and history documentaries right up to major Hollywood blockbusters. The funds raised through our filming activities help to conserve these historic buildings, ensuring they are here for future generations to enjoy.

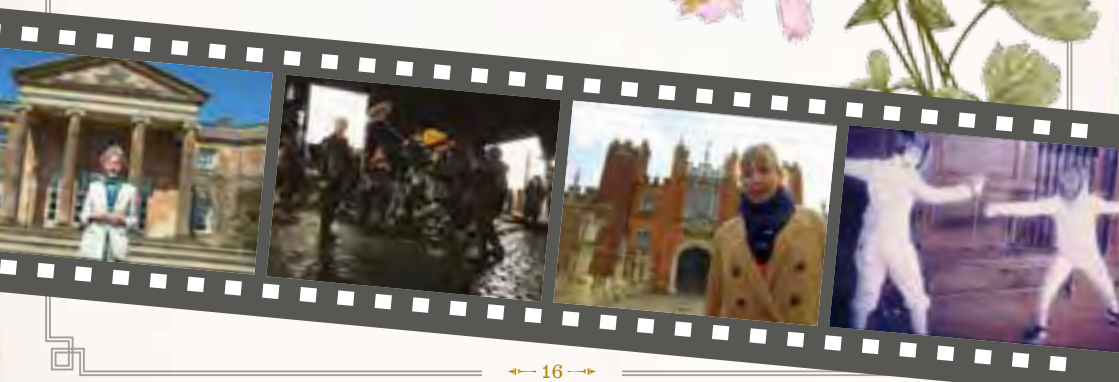
Famously known as a prison and execution site, the Tower of London has been spotted in films such as 'Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation', as well as in popular television series such as the BBC's 'Strictly Come Dancing'. Hampton Court's stunning gardens have hosted feature films including 'The Theory of Everything', whilst the famous Tudor kitchens were the perfect place to explore Tudor confectionery for 'The Great British Bake Off'. Kensington Palace is a popular choice for documentaries, while the spectacular Rubens ceiling of Banqueting House offers a stunning location. As a royal

palace on a domestic scale, Kew Palace has some enchanting stories to tell. Further afield, Hillsborough Castle's 98 acres of gardens provide a beautiful setting, which were recently explored in Channel 4's 'Penelope Keith at Her Majesty's Service'.

Furthermore, with a team of expert spokespeople on hand who research and care for these incredible royal residences, we'll always try to find someone to fulfil your on-camera requests.

If you would like to make an enquiry about filming at one of our sites, please contact the Press Office. Further information can be found on our website at hrp.org.uk/NewsAndMedia/filmingandphotography

Just looking for b-roll? We have broadcast quality footage of Hampton Court Palace, Kensington Palace, Hillsborough Castle and the Tower of London available for purchase.



Digital Media



Social media






Each year Historic Royal Palaces engages millions of people on social media with the history and stories from our palaces. Our six palaces are represented on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, Vine, Periscope and YouTube. Like, follow or subscribe to us for the latest news, photos and facts from the palaces.

Blogs

On our blog, discover the latest stories from our palaces' past and present and go behind the scenes in the world of our specialist teams, including the curators, conservators and gardeners. Find out why our conservators spent 100 hours dressing a bed, what our curators found beneath the floor boards and how you grow apricots in April.

Multimedia content

We tell old stories in new ways through the use of a broad range of multimedia content including photos, videos and gifs. We produce multimedia content to support exhibitions, events and anniversaries, and can work with you to supply or produce content which fits your needs.

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How do I...?

Online at hrp.org.uk/newsandmedia you'll find our latest press releases, factsheets on the palaces and more information on filming and photography. But to make it even easier, here are the answers to a few common questions...

Q I've been commissioned to write a piece about Hampton Court Palace; do I get complimentary tickets?

A If you've been commissioned to write about us, we can organise complimentary press tickets. Complete the application form on our website at hrp.org.uk/newsandmedia and email it to us at press@hrp.org.uk

Q My editor needs a photograph of Kew Palace to accompany the exhibition review I've written. What do I do?

A Easy! We photograph all our big events and stories, as well as behind the scenes work at the palaces, so first check our online gallery at hrp.newsteam.co.uk. Here you can browse shots of all the palaces, then download hi-res versions immediately, free of charge. If we haven't got what you're looking for go to hrp.org.uk/newsandmedia to find out how to set up your own photography at the palaces.

Q I want to find out more about the role of the Duke of Wellington at the Tower of London - who should I ask? How do I go about setting up an interview with an expert?

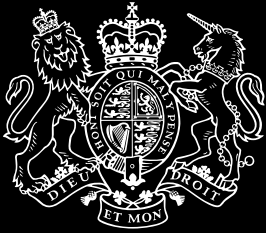
A Call us! If we can't answer your questions ourselves, we'll ask our experts, whether this be one of our curators, a tapestry conservator, a gardener or one of our warders. If you need more detailed information we can arrange an interview for you with the person you need.

Q I've been commissioned to film a documentary about Charles I at Banqueting House. How do I go about it?

A Go online to hrp.org.uk/newsandmedia where you'll find everything you need to know, from background information about filming and application forms to how you can obtain pre-recorded broadcast quality footage of the palaces from us.

Remember

You can also call the Press Office on +44 (0) 203 166 6166, email us at press@hrp.org.uk or tweet us @HRP_PressOffice



Historic Royal Palaces

Historic Royal Palaces is
the charity that looks after:

Tower of London

Hampton Court Palace

Banqueting House

Kensington Palace

Kew Palace

Hillsborough Castle

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

We raise all our own funds
and depend on the
support of our visitors,
members, donors,
sponsors and volunteers.