

**Historic
Royal Palaces**

Media Guide 2018



2018

2018 will be my first full year as Chief Executive of Historic Royal Palaces and it promises to be an exciting one, with several major projects coming to fruition.

The Tower of London will take centre stage, marking important moments with a new display and live events.

On the 400th anniversary of the death of Sir Walter Raleigh, the Bloody Tower where the Elizabethan adventurer was incarcerated will be represented. It was at the Tower where Raleigh experimented with the ingredients for an 'Elixir of Life' - we can't promise to replicate it - but we will be recreating elements of the garden where he reputedly grew some of the ingredients!

The last 17 days of another famous resident, Anne Boleyn, will be explored in a major new live event from May - the anniversary of her execution. In July, a new work by Hofesh Shechter, 'East Wall', will premiere at the Tower, celebrating East London's rich cultural heritage. In November, we will create a moment of reflection in the moat to follow the powerful Poppies commemoration in 2014, which will mark the centenary of the end of World War One.

At Kensington Palace, our acclaimed 'Diana: Her Fashion Story' exhibition continues into 2018. We'll be introducing more iconic garments into the display over the course of the year. Meanwhile,

at Hampton Court Palace, the famous Tudor Kitchens are getting a makeover in May.

Our major restoration of the Great Pagoda at Kew draws to a close in 2018 after almost three years of painstaking research and conservation. We hope to unveil the finished Pagoda, restored to its Georgian splendour and complete with 80 brightly coloured dragons, in time for Summer 2018.

Looking ahead, there will be plenty of opportunities to follow our progress throughout the year as we continue the transformation of Hillsborough Castle's house and gardens, before our public opening in 2019.

On behalf of everyone at Historic Royal Palaces, I'd like to thank you for supporting our work, and we look forward to welcoming you to the palaces in 2018.



John Barnes
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 such as *The Theory of Everything* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*, manning our social media 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

A year of anniversaries at the Tower of London



The Tower of London traditionally dominated the City of London and remains one of the capital's most imposing landmarks, home of the Crown Jewels, ravens and the Yeoman Warders. With over 900 years of history, this infamous fortress is uniquely placed to share some of the most significant stories from Britain's past. In 2018, the Tower will celebrate a year of anniversaries, marking the lives of some of its most famous prisoners with a series of new displays and events.

29 October 2018 marks the 400th anniversary of Sir Walter Raleigh's death. One of the Tower of London's most famous prisoners, the adventurer Raleigh led a notorious life, first as a favourite of Elizabeth I and later as an enemy of James I. He was imprisoned in the Tower on three separate occasions, passing a total of thirteen years within its walls. During his imprisonment, Raleigh wrote the first volume of his *History of the World* (1614) and for the most part he was held in the Bloody Tower. This space will be newly interpreted from summer 2018, while elements of Raleigh's 'Lost Garden', where he reputedly grew tobacco, will also be brought back to life. Throughout the year, our expert curators will be on hand to explain how imprisonment at the Tower helped shape Raleigh's life and legacy.



From May 2018, look out for an exciting summer season of live performances exploring Anne Boleyn's last seventeen days in the Tower. On 19th May 1536 Anne was the first English queen to be publicly executed. She was led from her quarters to Tower Green where, spared the axe, she was granted the 'mercy' of beheading by a French swordsman. Following the ill-fated Queen's journey from arrest to death, this historical spectacle and state-of-the-nation exploration will pose questions about how we consume news, bringing a new contemporary relevance to this infamous moment in the Tower's history.

In July, Historic Royal Palaces, Hofesh Schechter Company, East London Dance and LIFT are coming together to bring a large-scale spectacle of dance and live music at the Tower of London. '*East Wall*', will feature up and coming choreographers from East London, and a large cast of dancers, musicians and community participants from Tower Hamlets and surrounding boroughs to celebrate East London's rich cultural heritage.

Finally, reflecting on the powerful poppy installation at the Tower of London in 2014, Historic Royal Palaces will deliver a new temporary installation in November 2018 to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War.



FAST FACTS

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.

With around 3 million visitors a year, the Tower of London is the UK's most visited heritage attraction.

Yeoman Warders have been guarding the Tower of London since Tudor times. Nicknamed 'Beefeaters', the Yeoman Body of 37 men and women are all drawn from the Armed Forces.

The Tower of London has been home to the world famous Crown Jewels since the beginning of the 14th century.

From the 1200s to 1835, the Tower housed a menagerie of exotic wild animals, never before seen in London, including lions and a polar bear given as royal gifts.

The transformation of Hillsborough Castle continues...



From its humble beginnings in the 1770s as the family home for the Hill family to its pivotal role in the Peace Process in the 1970s, Hillsborough Castle has played a key role in the history of Northern Ireland. Now Historic Royal Palaces is opening a new exciting chapter in the history of Hillsborough Castle, in preparation for a grand re-opening in 2019.

2018 will see us progressing with our restoration of Hillsborough Castle's world famous gardens, which boast over 100 acres of ornamental grounds, peaceful woodland and meandering waterways. We plan to restore the 'Walled Garden', which once produced fruit and vegetables for the castle, along with the 'Lost Garden', an Edwardian wild garden, which we'll be bringing back to life with new planting and family friendly features.

Inside the Castle, a team of traditional craftspeople are working alongside our expert curators and conservators to represent the Castle's majestic State Rooms, which have functioned as both a royal residence and the venue for some of the most important political discussions in Northern Ireland's history. Meanwhile, to make it all possible, we're building new visitor facilities and a learning centre to support our work telling the story of this fascinating building.

We will continue to develop a rich programme of learning, participation and public programmes to appeal to people of all ages and backgrounds to discover more about the Castle's history. All activities will draw inspiration from and explore the gardens, the buildings, the history of the Hill family and the town, the Governors of Northern Ireland, and Hillsborough's role in the Peace Process, up to the present day. We hope that the

Castle will become a centre for cross-community learning and engagement programmes.

Even as the work continues throughout the year, the Castle will be open for the summer season and staging a series of activities for all, such as daily tours of the castle and grounds, fun-filled family weekends, talks and musical evenings. If you're interested in finding out more about our journey transforming Hillsborough Castle, then do get in touch throughout the year to find out what we're going to do next!



FAST FACTS

Hillsborough Castle' is a Georgian mansion house which sits at the heart of Hillsborough village. Both the house and village were planned and built by Wills Hill, the first marquis of Hillsborough, and his descendants in the late 18th and early 19th century

Since 1925 the Castle has served as the official royal residence in Northern Ireland and is also the residence of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

Hillsborough Castle became a centre for peace talks in the late 1960s and 1970s, with the Anglo-Irish Agreement signed here in 1985, followed by decommissioning talks in 1999, and the negotiation of the devolution of policing and justice powers (The Hillsborough Agreement) in 2010



Banqueting House

Banqueting House is the sole surviving complete building of what was once the largest palace in Europe – the Palace of Whitehall. Famously the site of King Charles I's execution the building has a rich history and is best known for its magnificent ceiling, painted by Sir Peter Paul Rubens. This masterpiece was commissioned by Charles in 1629 and celebrates the reign of his father King James I. The three main canvases depict The Union of the Crowns, The Apotheosis of James I and The Peaceful Reign of James I. However, it was also under this ceiling that Charles walked to his execution. In early 2018, our conservation experts will be building a scaffold to reach the painting, using new methods to inform and update our knowledge of this magnificent artwork. This is a rare opportunity to get a close look at this unique painting.

Another famous feature of Banqueting House is the vaulted undercroft designed as a drinking den for James and his friends. James' reign is remembered today for the gunpowder plot and the implementation of the King James Bible. Less well-known was his popular nickname 'Queen James', and his penchant for a succession of male favourites who wielded their influence in the political sphere as well as within the confines of the King's bedchamber. In February 2018, as part of LGBT History Month, 'Long Live Queen James' returns to Banqueting House. This adult event explores ideas of gender and sexuality

in the 17th century and how the Stuarts blurred these boundaries.

Contact the Press Office for opportunities to learn more about Banqueting House and events taking place there, or to arrange a visit to view the stunning ceiling.



FAST FACTS

Banqueting House was built to hold state occasions such as masques, balls and banquets

The Palace of Whitehall was almost totally destroyed by fire in 1698 with Banqueting House being the only complete building that remains

At its peak the Palace of Whitehall comprised of a labyrinth of 1,500 rooms spread over 23 acres. It saw the secret marriage of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn and one of the first performances of King Lear

After 1698, Banqueting House had a number of different uses. It was used for much of its history as a Chapel Royal. Prior to becoming Queen, a young Princess Victoria attended services there with her family



Kew Palace

2018 is set to be an exciting year for Historic Royal Palaces at Kew, with the unveiling of the newly conserved Great Pagoda and the launch of an accompanying family trail. Following a major restoration project, the Pagoda will be returned to its original 18th century splendour, complete with eighty decorative dragons adorning the structure. Find out more about this project on pages 10-11.

The picturesque Kew Palace will also open its doors for the summer months (Easter until the end of September) and in 2018 marks the 200th anniversary of the death of Queen Charlotte at the Palace. A new display, which will offer a personal look at her life and interests, will see her last surviving dress go on show, along with examples of fine porcelain (which she was a patron and great collector of) and the diary she kept during her lifetime. The beautiful lace gown, on display at Kew for the first time, will be installed onto a new specially-created mount, reflecting Queen Charlotte's body shape in middle age. This thought-provoking display will also explore her intellectual pursuits, and includes mathematical books from her personal library. Most poignantly of all, the chair in which Charlotte died remains at the Palace, and will be displayed within the very room she died.



FAST FACTS

Kew Palace was built in 1631, and was originally created for a Flemish merchant

George III spent much of his life at Kew Palace during his bouts of mental illness

An early 19th century bath tub was discovered in the Kitchens, possibly used by George III for his medicinal baths

Following the death of Queen Charlotte, the Kitchens were locked and left untouched for almost 200 years before their restoration





Kew Pagoda

It was one of the jewels in the crown of Georgian London: a building so unusual that when it was built in 1762 a suspicious public were unconvinced it would remain standing. Designed at the height of the 18th century craze for Chinoiserie, The Great Pagoda at Kew was famously adorned with eighty brightly coloured wooden dragons, which were the talk of the town before they disappeared in the 1780s.

In summer 2018, following a landmark two-year conservation project by Historic Royal Palaces, the dragons will once again return to the Great Pagoda as the building is restored to its 18th century splendour. As the Pagoda's original eighty dragons vanished 20 years after the building was constructed in 1762 – with our curators suspecting they were removed after a prolonged cold snap at the end of the

18th century – their 2018 counterparts have been made using a combination of traditional woodcarving and the very latest in 3D printing technology. For the first time in over 250 years the Pagoda will be presented as its architect, William Chambers, intended.

On its completion, Londoners and tourists alike flocked to see the striking 163ft (nearly 50m) tall building, with the Pagoda providing an unusual window into Chinese culture at the time. Through this project, we're delighted to be able to re-open the Pagoda permanently to visitors, offering one of the earliest and finest bird's eye views of London.

To coincide with its opening, there will also be a trail of dragons created within Kew Gardens. Designed by children as part of a competition run in partnership with Blue Peter, 5 dragons will lead a trail across the gardens, offering a chance for families to discover more about the Pagoda. The story continues in an exhibition at the Kew Palace Welcome Centre, allowing visitors to learn more about this fascinating piece of history, brought to life once more in 2018.





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 2018 will be filled with live performances and historic cookery to immerse visitors in Tudor life.

May 2018 will see a complete re-imagining of the famous Tudor Kitchens, transporting visitors back to a time when it was the beating heart of life at Hampton Court Palace, and overseen by the tenacious Thomas Cromwell, Henry VIII's chief minister. New displays in the Kitchens will feature interactive technology and sensory experiences, so for the first time ever visitors will be able to see, smell and touch their way through the process of preparing a meal fit for a king. The Tudor Kitchens seen today – including the Great Kitchen and associated preparation areas – represent the most extensive royal Tudor kitchen range surviving anywhere, and in 2018 they'll be ready to be experienced like never before!

The Kitchens fed hundreds of visitors throughout the Tudor period, making it one of the hives of industry at the palace. Throughout the year, the Tudor court will also be explored with live daily performances – included in palace admission – focussing on Hampton Court's role in international relations during the period, entertaining and hosting people from far and wide.



FAST FACTS

In just ten years Henry VIII spent more than £62,000 rebuilding and extending Hampton Court. This vast sum would be worth approximately £18 million today

Henry VIII's Kitchens at Hampton Court Palace were the largest in Tudor England and were designed to cater for around 400 people twice a day

In one year towards the end of the 16th century the provision of meat for the whole Tudor court included 8,200 sheep, 2,330 deer, 1,870 pigs and 53 wild boar, as well as over 600,000 gallons of beer

The Palace's maze is perhaps the most famous maze in the world, with around 350,000 people getting lost in it every year!

The gardens of Hampton Court Palace comprise 60 acres of formal gardens and 750 acres of royal parkland, tended by a team of over 40 gardeners



Kensington Palace

Kensington Palace will continue to celebrate some of its most famous female royal residents in 2018.

Last year saw the opening of the much-anticipated exhibition '*Diana: Her Fashion Story*', which will continue into 2018, celebrating the enduring style legacy of Diana, Princess of Wales. As the exhibition evolves throughout the year, there will be a number of exciting new outfits going on display – including objects recently acquired by Historic Royal Palaces. You can find out more about the exhibition on page 14.

The palace's popular '*Victoria Revealed*' exhibition will also be re-presented in 2018, complete with a host of new personal items on display. The exhibition will continue to recount Victoria's life and reign within the very rooms she grew up in, with a new focus on Victoria's time in mourning and retreat from public life after the death of her beloved Prince Albert. It will also celebrate the length of her reign (Britain's second-longest), telling the story of the pomp and pageantry that accompanied both her Gold and Diamond Jubilees. In addition, the revamped display will, for the first time, explore Victoria's great passion for writing and correspondence, with letters and diary entries going on show to provide a fascinating insight into the mind-set of the monarch dubbed 'the Grandmother of Europe'.



FAST FACTS

The Palace began life as a private country house called Nottingham House in around 1605, before being purchased by King William III and Queen Mary II in the summer of 1689 at a cost of £20,000

Queen Victoria was woken early in the morning of 20 June 1837 at the Palace with news of her accession to the throne, and her first Privy Council was held in the Red Saloon on this day

In April 1897, Parliament was persuaded to pay for the restoration of the State Apartments on condition they should be opened to the public

On 26 March 2012 Kensington Palace re-opened after major £12 million renovation of the public areas by Historic Royal Palaces

Diana: Her Fashion Story

Following its phenomenal success in its opening year, 'Diana: Her Fashion Story' continues throughout 2018, with a series of exciting new additions.

Discover the style evolution in one of the world's most photographed women in this exhibition of dress from the collection of Diana, Princess of Wales. Follow her story from the demure, romantic outfits of her first public appearances, to the glamour, elegance and confidence of her later life through a display of some of her most famous outfits. From her earliest royal engagements; everything the Princess wore was closely scrutinised, and this special exhibition at Kensington Palace – her home for over 15 years – explores 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.

The display brings together an extraordinary collection of garments, from glamorous and glittering evening gowns to examples of Diana's 'working wardrobe' in the 1990s. Throughout 2018, the exhibition will showcase a changing selection of exquisite outfits from throughout the Princess's public life – including some items never before displayed at Kensington Palace!



Digital Media



Social media


With over 1.3 million followers across our social media channels, Historic Royal Palaces engages online audiences with the history and stories of our palaces. Our six palaces are represented on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Tumblr. Like, follow or subscribe to us for the latest news, photos and facts from the palaces.

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Multimedia content

We tell old stories in new ways through the use of a broad range of multimedia content including videos, photos and GIFs, as well as through Facebook Live and Instagram Stories.

We produce multimedia content to support exhibitions, events and anniversaries, and can work with you to supply or produce content which fits your needs. Similarly, we can help facilitate and collaborate with you on Facebook Live streams and Instagram Story content that you wish to produce.

Influencers

We're always looking to expand our base of digital influencers who are interested in telling the stories of the palaces in new and innovative ways to new audiences. If you have a great idea get in touch!

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 what it takes to conserve a throne canopy, learn gossip about secret Tudor weddings from our curators and hear how we wage war on bugs in the palace gardens!

Media Image Library



New for 2018, the Historic Royal Palaces Press Office has launched a dedicated Media Image Library, showcasing the very best of what we have to offer across our sites.

This collection of high quality images of our six palaces is made available to media for editorial use at no charge. All we ask in return is that you use these pictures to accompany lots of lovely stories about the palaces! From stunning landscape shots of all of the historic buildings we care for, to detailed images of each of our exhibitions and displays, the library offers everything you need to complete your feature.

It's quick and simple to register, and if you were already registered with our previous site, your details will automatically have been transferred over to the new site – you just need to reset your password.



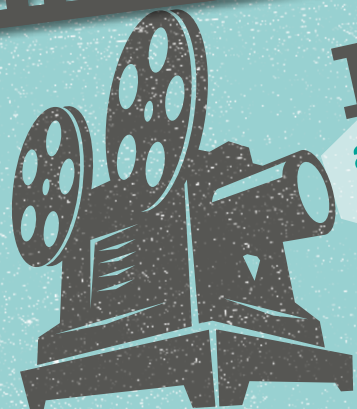
To register...

Please go to:
**historicroyalpalaces.
picturepark.com/site/Press**





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 regularly host filming across our six sites and facilitate everything from news and history documentary crews 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 *'The One Show'* and *'Strictly Come Dancing'*. Hampton Court's stunning gardens have hosted feature films such as *'The Theory of Everything'*, whilst the famous Tudor State Apartments were the perfect setting to explore the stories of the key characters of the Tudor court, such as statesman Thomas Cromwell, in BBC One's *'Who Do You Think You Are?'*. Kensington Palace is a popular choice for documentaries and has recently hosted a visit from *'Songs of Praise'*, while the spectacular Rubens ceiling of Banqueting House offers a stunning location. As a royal palace on a domestic scale, Kew Palace also has some enchanting stories

to tell, and recently appeared in the BBC documentary *'George III: The Genius of the Mad King'*. Further afield, Hillsborough Castle's 98 acres of gardens provide a beautiful setting, which were explored in the BBC's *'Britain's Home Truths'* as well as 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 interview 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 www.hrp.org.uk/NewsAndMedia/filmingandphotography.

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

How do I...?

Online at www.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 www.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 palace. To access these images, please register to our new Media Image Library at historicroyalpalaces.picturepark.com/site/Press follow the 'Register as press user link' and fill out your details. You will then receive an email and be asked to fill out your email address. If you registered with our last site, then you don't need to register again as we've already transferred all your details over to the new site. All you need to do is reset your password. Our collection of professional quality images is made available for you to access for editorial use at no additional charge. If we haven't got what you're looking for go to <https://www.hrp.org.uk/media-and-press/> 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 State Apartment 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 www.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.