

Historic
Royal Palaces

Media Guide



2020



Media Guide 2020





2020

2020 promises to be a busy year for Historic Royal Palaces!

You may notice our Media Guide this year has a gold theme. We're marking the 500th anniversary of 'The Field of Cloth of Gold' – a spectacularly grand meeting between King Henry VIII and King François I of France – with a dazzling new exhibition at Hampton Court Palace. In May, we'll be inviting King François back for a 'rematch' at Hampton Court Palace, where we'll stage a nine day extravaganza of Tudor festivities, inviting our visitors to join us for a party like it's 1520!

At Kensington Palace, we'll be exploring a world close to many of your hearts – royal photography – with a new exhibition, 'Life Through a Royal Lens.' Taking a long view, from the reign of Queen Victoria to the present day, the exhibition will examine royal image-making and photographic portraiture in detail. We will feature a stunning collection of images – many taken by your predecessors and counterparts in the media over the past two centuries. We're excited to unveil the exhibition in May.

This year, we're introducing new perspectives into our work with some thought-provoking new programming and displays. I'm delighted that we'll be launching our first new 'promenade style' LGBT+ tours at Kensington Palace, with accompanying tours running at Hampton Court Palace and the Tower of London. Meanwhile, at Kew Palace, we'll be looking at the life of King George III and bringing contemporary perspectives on mental health into our exploration of 'The Mind Behind the Myth.'

Beyond our exhibitions and events, our busy team of conservators, surveyors and project managers work extremely hard to conserve the six remarkable buildings in our care. You can read more about their work in an interview with Preethi Narasimhan, one of our surveyors, in this year's Media Guide. We're always looking for opportunities to showcase the brilliant work of our conservation teams in the media – so do keep in touch with the Press Office to arrange future opportunities.

On behalf of everyone at Historic Royal Palaces, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the support you continue to offer us. We look forward to welcoming you at the palaces in 2020.

John Barnes, Chief Executive
Historic Royal Palaces



Welcome to the Historic Royal Palaces Press Office

Historic Royal Palaces (HRP) is the independent charity that looks after the Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace, the Banqueting House, Kensington Palace, Kew Palace and Hillsborough Castle and Gardens. We bring to life six remarkable buildings for the public to enjoy and conserve them for future generations. That's where you come in – we rely on your support to help us spread the word!

The HRP Press Office handles all media enquiries related to the palaces, from sharing news stories and images of our exhibitions to facilitating documentaries and feature films, manning our social media pages and tweeting 1,000 years of history.

We want to make sure that you're aware of all the exciting things 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.

Turn the page to find out what we've got coming up, 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!

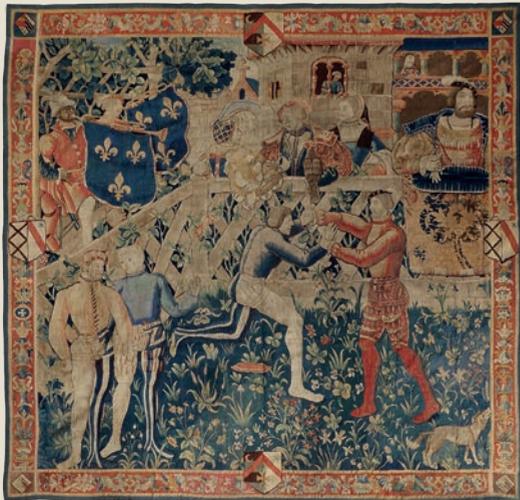
**Call the press office on +44 (02)203 166 6166
or email press@hrp.org.uk.
We also tweet at [@HRP_PressOffice](https://twitter.com/HRP_PressOffice)**

Field of Cloth of Gold

The 500th anniversary of The Field of Cloth of Gold.

500 years ago, in the summer of 1520, Henry VIII of England met François I of France near Calais, for an astonishingly grand European festival, designed to improve relations between the two great rival kingdoms. The competing royal dynasties, along with thousands of their courtiers, enjoyed a lavish 18 days of feasts, tournaments, masquerades and religious services set amidst a sea of specially built - and incredibly elaborate - tents, banqueting houses and 'portable palaces'. So magnificent was the occasion that it became known as 'The Field of Cloth of Gold'.

Now, from 10 April 2020, Historic Royal Palaces will be celebrating the anniversary of this legendary meeting of kings with a special exhibition at Hampton Court



Palace exploring the drama, diplomacy and discord behind the dazzling spectacle. *Gold and Glory: Henry VIII and the French King* will be situated at the heart of the Tudor palace, in the very rooms built for Cardinal Wolsey - Henry VIII's chief minister and one of the principal organisers of the Field of Cloth of Gold.

Featuring a treasure trove of precious objects from the rival courts of Tudor England and Valois France - renowned throughout Europe for their opulence and sophistication - the display will unite for the first time priceless artworks, the finest armour, richly decorated textiles and surviving examples of the lavish gifts exchanged by the two courts. Star items will include the spectacular Stonyhurst

vestments - woven from luxurious cloth of gold and selected by Henry for use at the religious services held in Calais - and two of only a handful of remaining visual accounts of the meeting produced in the 16th century: the famous painting of the scene from the Royal Collection, and a richly coloured tapestry depicting a bout of wrestling at the Field of Cloth of Gold presided over by François I, which goes on show in the United Kingdom for the first time.

From 23 to 31 May 2020, Hampton Court Palace will also play host to *Henry VIII vs. François I: The Rematch*, a 9-day festival of jousting, wrestling and foot combat complete with feasting, drinking and courtly entertainment, as Henry VIII

invites François I to visit his Thames-side pleasure palace for Round Two! The palace's famous wine fountain will be in full flow for the occasion, and a 'portable palace' - a specially recreated lavish tent from the period - will take centre stage as history comes to life in the East Front gardens. Pitching the Tudor Court against its French counterpart, it promises to turn the delicate art of diplomacy into a deadly competition!

Throughout the year, a host of other seasonal events and activities will be taking place across the palace, including a special summer of sport in the palace's formal gardens featuring a variety of Tudor games for little ones to enjoy, alongside the return of the Lindt Gold Bunny Hunt for Easter.

What's Happening at Hillsborough Castle and Gardens

In 2014 Historic Royal Palaces set out to transform Hillsborough Castle and Gardens, Northern Ireland, into a major visitor destination, opening up the building and its fascinating history to the widest possible audience. Last April, following a £24 million investment in the Castle, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and other generous donors - we unveiled a transformed Hillsborough Castle and Gardens to the public once more.

Surrounded by 100 acres of ornamental grounds, peaceful woodland and meandering waterways, this elegant Georgian house is a royal residence and the official residence of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. It began life as the home of the important Hill family in

the 18th century, and has since played host to royalty, peacemakers and presidents. Important political negotiations were conducted at the Castle during the last century - including negotiations for the 1998 Good Friday agreement.

In 2020 Hillsborough Castle and Gardens will run a series of exciting events and activities for all to enjoy. This spring visitors can explore the Castle's diverse history through a variety of themed tours. We will be unravelling the hidden stories of the Castle's past, from LGBT+ tours that delve into the impact of the LGBT+ rights movement in Northern Ireland, through to specialist art tours showcasing a world class art display, including celebrated works from the Royal Collection.



2020 is also the tenth anniversary year of the Hillsborough Agreement, which allowed the devolution of policing and justice powers to the Northern Ireland Executive. To coincide with this important anniversary, we will run a special programme of talks and events through the year. From our 'Justified' season of film screenings - courtroom dramas in an actual Courthouse - to a summer craft exhibition at the castle focused on politics and making, the programme will explore the theme of 'Challenge and Change.'

Easter will see Hillsborough Castle and Gardens hosting an Easter bunny hunt - with a chocolate prize at the end! Then, in the summer the gardens will be in full bloom, with our popular fun-filled family 'Wonder Weekends' returning for a second year. In August, the outrageously entertaining Horrible Histories: Live On Stage, rolls into Hillsborough Castle and Gardens. This outdoor show, presented by the Birmingham Stage Company, dives into some of history's most gruesome stories and is the perfect tonic for families with a taste for all things awful and amusing!

If you're interested in finding out more about our exciting programme of activities in 2020 then do get in touch as we begin a new chapter in the Castle's history!



Life Through a Royal Lens at Kensington Palace

They are one of the most photographed families in the world, with everything from state ceremonies to royal tours captured on camera. Now, from May 2020, a major new photography exhibition at Kensington Palace will explore the British Royal Family's enduring relationship with the camera; from Queen Victoria right through to the present day.

Life Through a Royal Lens will see some of the most iconic photographs ever taken go on show alongside a host of images providing a glimpse of the royal family off duty. From the stiff formality of the Victorian era, through the high glamour of Cecil Beaton's photographs of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, to the relaxed informality of the digital age, for almost 200 years the medium of photography has created an unprecedented intimacy between crown and subject. Included as part of standard palace admission, this stunning display promises to shed new light on the art of royal image making.

Beginning with Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's enthusiastic patronage of photography during its infancy, the exhibition will consider how their support helped this new invention to receive greater scientific and public attention. Examples of some of the earliest photographic images collected for the Royal Collection will go on show, as well as lesser known examples of the intimate family portraits the couple commissioned from pioneering photographers of the day. The display will also explore the impact of Cecil Beaton and Norman Parkinson - the great shapers of royal image in the twentieth century - and their work in redefining modern royal portraiture. Stunning images of Her Majesty The Queen and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, among Beaton's most faithful sitters, will reveal how his work shaped changing public perceptions and helped present the young Queen Elizabeth II as an accessible and relatable figure.

As well as being some of the most photographed people in the world, the royal family has produced a number of keen amateur photographers, and a selection of images taken by the Royal Family themselves will go on display at Kensington Palace for the first time. These include a selection by celebrated fashion photographer Antony Armstrong-Jones, husband of Princess Margaret, who as one

of Britain's best-known photographers executed some of the most revealing and 'modern' images of monarchy of the twentieth century, showing a different, rebellious, fashionable and more informal side to the Royal Family. Iconic magazine photoshoots including the Duke of Cambridge's cover photo in *Attitude* Magazine and the Duchess of Cambridge's centenary issue of *Vogue* in 2016 will explore how photography and image remains central to the modern Royal Family today.

In addition to the new exhibition, in 2020 Kensington Palace will play host to an exciting series of events and activities, including a new project with the renowned theatre company *Les Enfants Terribles* opening in February. Titled *United Queendom*, this after-hours immersive theatre experience at the palace will explore the stories of Queen Caroline and Lady Henrietta Howard, and will be staged within the palace's sumptuous State Apartments, delving into the world of political intrigue, court games, high drama and scandalous gossip. Also new for 2020, HRP's popular LGBT+ tours will launch at the palace, where guests will have the chance to follow in the footsteps of Queen Anne, Lord Hervey and many more who lived, loved and called Kensington home.



Kew Palace

2020 marks the bicentenary of the death of George III, the monarch most strongly associated with Kew Palace. It was here that the young George spent much of his childhood, learning the art of kingship under the tutelage of some of the most celebrated theologians, architects and musicians of the day. In later life, it was also at Kew that George was treated for periods of mental and physical ill health, resulting in his life and achievements being almost entirely eclipsed by the story of his still poorly understood 'madness'.

To celebrate the achievements of this remarkable king - and explore his often cruel treatment at the hands of his doctors at Kew - a new exhibition opening in April will consider the man behind the much-peddled myth, and will be joined at Kew Palace by a display reflecting on lived experiences of mental health problems today.

Set in the atmospheric surroundings of the palace's second floor - left untouched since George was in residence - this intimate display will explore how personal objects can help articulate and process difficult thoughts and feelings, as well as how they might support recovery, reduce isolation or encourage conversation.



Meanwhile, on the ground floor, George III: The Mind Behind the Myth aims to challenge what we think we know about this complex and brilliant man. Among the items going on show in this new exhibition will be notes made by George's doctors and instructions for the king's care written by his daughter, Princess Mary. These will be contrasted with examples of the exquisite artworks he acquired for his own collection and even a concert programme drafted in his own hand, revealing his passion for the arts.

Across the gardens, the story of George's time at Kew continues in the Royal Kitchens and picturesque Queen Charlottes Cottage, while the Great Pagoda will reopen to visitors on 3 April, offering visitors one of the best bird's eye views of London. Standing at nearly 50m high and with a whopping 253 steps, the Pagoda's eighty brightly coloured dragons were recently reinstated as part of a Historic Royal Palaces restoration project.



Tower of London

As a palace, formidable fortress and infamous prison, the Tower of London has dominated the City of London for nearly 1,000 years. The capital's iconic landmark is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to the Crown Jewels, Yeoman Warders and legendary ravens, making it uniquely placed to share some of the most intriguing stories from Britain's past.

This year marks the 500th anniversary of the Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula. Built in 1520, the Chapel is perhaps best known as the burial place of some of the Tower's most famous prisoners, including three Queens of England: Anne Boleyn, Catherine Howard and Jane Grey. Today it still operates as a place of worship for the 150 or so people that live within the walls and the community surrounding the Tower. To mark the 500th anniversary, there will be a series of commemorative events from lectures exploring the fascinating history of the Chapel to intimate choral performances by one of the nation's finest chapel choirs, the Choir of the Chapels Royal, HM Tower of London.

In February, the ever-popular Knight School returns to the Tower of London. Throughout the half term holidays families can immerse themselves in a very different education and find out what it takes to become a knight - from manners, etiquette and entertainment, to martial skills and fitness. Also in February we will also be celebrating LGBT+ history month with the launch of our new promenade LGBT+ tours at the Tower.

This summer look out for an exciting season of live performances exploring Anne Boleyn's imprisonment at 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. Examine the evidence of her crimes and play a role in her trial in this infamous moment in the Tower's history.

To find out more about the Tower of London and to arrange a media visit, please contact the press office.



Banqueting House

The jewel in the crown of the vast Palace of Whitehall, the Banqueting House on Whitehall is the sole surviving building of what was once the largest palace in Europe. When it was completed in 1622, architect Inigo Jones had created a building unlike anything Londoners had seen before - inspired by the classical architecture of ancient Rome.

Banqueting House has a rich history of hosting exuberant masques and balls, as well as majestic state receptions. It is best known for its magnificent ceiling, created by Flemish artist Sir Peter Paul Rubens.

The Rubens ceiling was commissioned by King Charles I in 1629-30 to celebrate the reign of his father King James I. However, a mere twenty years later the ceiling would be one of the last things Charles would see as the Banqueting House played its part as the dramatic backdrop to his execution in 1649. Today it remains the largest surviving work by Rubens still in its original location in Europe.

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

Bringing the Palaces to the communities

At Historic Royal Palaces we are committed to making our magnificent locations accessible for all to enjoy, including guests who experience real or perceived barriers to visiting, whether that be physical, financial, social, or cultural.

Our dedicated Communities team strive to empower communities to explore the palaces' stories in meaningful and personal ways. We believe that 'everyone's in' and we are ambitious to do more work to incorporate diverse perspectives into the way we present the palaces to our visitors.

Communities programme

The Community Access Scheme provides free access and support to local groups exploring our palaces. We train community gatekeepers to learn the stories of the palaces and navigate our spaces so they can confidently deliver group visits. All guests get two £1 cards at the end of their visit so they can come back with a friend, only paying £1 each.

Sensory Palaces is an interactive wellbeing programme at Hampton Court Palace and Kew Palace for people living with dementia and their carers. It is a specially designed programme, using sensory techniques to help people living with dementia explore the story of the palaces. The Communities team also lead the industry-wide Dementia Friendly Heritage Network which champions making heritage more accessible for people living with dementia and supports professionals and volunteers across the UK to develop and implement best practice at their sites.

The year ahead

In April we will launch two Kew 2020 community projects at Kew Palace to mark the 200th anniversary of King George III's death. There will be interpretation on display written by men with lived experience of mental ill health, reflecting on George III's life, treatment and legacy, in addition to an exhibition of contemporary objects and stories, exploring mental health today.

In June in support of the 500th anniversary commemorations at Hampton Court Palace for Field of the Cloth of Gold, the Communities team will deliver Field of the Cloth of Gold Community Festival. This outreach event will involve taking a portable pop-up palace out into the community.

Through 2020 at Kensington Palace we will be working closely with the local community to develop our new Orangery Learning Centre. This will include interpretation, artwork and resources.

Meanwhile at Hillsborough Castle and Gardens, the team will continue their work on How Do We? This five-year community engagement programme aims to build relationships across Northern Ireland reflecting our commitment to open up the building and its fascinating history to the widest possible audience.

Historic Royal Palaces has a variety of specialists who can talk about the organisation's extensive work with communities. For interview opportunities and more information, please contact the Press Office.

A Day in the Life

with Tower Surveyor Preethi Narasimhan



Preethi Narasimhan is a Historic Royal Palaces project manager, working as a Surveyor of the Fabric for the Tower of London. Since joining the organisation in 2017 she has worked on several fascinating projects to care for the historic UNESCO World Heritage site.

I started my career as an architect in India and when I worked for a heritage consultancy, I realised that my true calling was in the heritage sector. Shortly after this, I came to the UK to study Heritage Management at the University of York, focusing on historic buildings. I moved back to India after my studies and worked as a conservation architect for a while however, I decided to return to the UK and take on a great internship with Historic Royal Palaces as a Building Surveyor at Hampton Court Palace. The role essentially involved keeping an eye on the buildings and scheduling necessary repairs and conservation works as required. Today as a full-time project manager at the Tower of London, I manage conservation and repair works within the Tower walls, from the early project identification stage right through to implementation.

My average day starts, like most jobs, with me checking my emails to see if there are any urgent project queries I need to respond to. I then go on site if I have any works running, to check if things are going to schedule. This is, I guess, where my job differs from the norm, it's not like everybody can call their office a listed world heritage site and home to the British Crown Jewels! As well as managing external contractors I also work very closely with our curators and conservators to ensure that the historic fabric is protected throughout our projects. I also carry out condition surveys from time to time where I inspect the status of various building features and record any repairs required. As the Tower is almost 1,000 years old and has played such an important role in British history, we can't just let people bang in random nails or knock down walls without speaking to me first!

I think I'm working on some exciting projects at the moment: I'm installing some new visitor toilets! This is actually a great project because for the first time we will have a Changing Places toilet facility at the Tower of London, meaning we are able to offer a more accessible facility for some of our visitors with special needs. I'm also working on making the Tower of London generally more accessible by carrying out some tweaks to the visitor routes to make them more wheelchair friendly.

What fascinates me most about my job is that we can leave our legacy behind on these iconic heritage buildings when we conserve them, or work to make them more accessible. It's also incredible to uncover building features that haven't been touched since their construction centuries ago. It gives us an insight into the construction techniques, details and materials that were used through different periods in history. It is very fulfilling to be working so close to tangible connections with our history and making sure they are preserved for future generations.

Preethi is one of a whole host of fascinating people who work at the Tower of London. For interview opportunities please contact the Press Office.

Digital Media

Social media

Through our playful digital storytelling, Historic Royal Palaces engages online audiences with the histories of our palaces on a daily basis. With over 1.8 million followers to date, our six palaces are represented on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Follow us for the latest news, photos and facts from the palaces. And don't forget to follow @HRP_PressOffice for our latest press releases and media announcements!



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Multimedia content

We bring history to life through playful and engaging multimedia content including videos, 360 photography and animations, Facebook Lives 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 Queen Caroline's bed, learn gossip about secret Tudor weddings from our curators and hear how we wage war on bugs in the palace gardens!



Media Image Library

In need of some images to accompany your piece? The Historic Royal Palaces Press Office has 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 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, simple, and completely free to register.

To register, please go to:
www.historicroyalpalaces.picturepark.com/site/Press





Filming at Historic Royal Palaces

With everything from gilded interiors to stately gardens, our palaces are the perfect location for any shoot. We regularly host filming across our six sites and facilitate everything from news and history documentary crews to major Hollywood blockbusters. The funds raised through our filming projects help to conserve these historic buildings, ensuring they are here for future generations to enjoy.

An infamous fortress and execution site, the Tower of London has recently been the focus of an 8-part series for Channel 5, 'Inside the Tower of London'. It can also be spotted in the final battle scene of Marvel's 'Spiderman: Far From Home' which showcases this iconic London landmark, in a modern day context.

Hampton Court Palace's impressive mix of architecture has hosted an array of filming projects, with King Henry VIII's Kitchens and the Baroque State Apartments providing the perfect setting for large-scale period dramas, including the Oscar-winning film 'The Favourite'.

Kensington Palace is a popular choice for documentaries and has recently

hosted BBC's 'The One Show' for a week's worth of clips focusing on the life of Queen Victoria. Hillsborough Castle and Gardens is surrounded by 100 acres of ornamental grounds, peaceful woodland and meandering waterways and offers a range of stunning filming opportunities. Meanwhile the majestic Rubens Ceiling at the Banqueting House, and the intimate Kew Palace, are both equally intriguing destinations for crews.

With a team of expert spokespeople on hand who research and care for these magnificent locations, 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 have broadcast quality footage of Hampton Court Palace, Kensington Palace, Hillsborough Castle and Gardens 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, a digital copy of this Media Guide 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 the Tower of London; 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 Kensington 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 with our Media Image Library at <https://historicroyalpalaces.picturepark.com/site/Press> - follow the 'Register as press user link' and fill out your details. You will then receive an email with confirmation of your request. Our collection of professional quality images is made available for you for editorial use free of charge. If we haven't got what you're looking for, go to 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 Field of Cloth of Gold- 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, be it 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 Hillsborough Castle and Gardens. 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 to obtain pre-recorded broadcast quality footage of the palaces from us.



Contact us

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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
and Gardens**

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.