

AUTUMN/WINTER 2025 PATRON EVENTS

TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

PRIVY COUNCIL DINNER



TOWER OF LONDON 19.15 - 22.15
COURTYARDS & CLOISTERS (£1,000 +)

Join us for an unforgettable evening in the iconic White Tower, hosted by Historic Royal Palaces' Chief Curator, Dr Eleri Lynn. This dinner is a special thank you to our Patrons for your support in safeguarding the future of our six magnificent palaces.

Throughout the evening, you will hear fascinating stories of those who lived and worked at the Tower of London between 1939 and 1945, brought to life through storytelling, music, and intriguing objects from our collection.

Tickets £225 pp. Great Watching Chamber (£5,000+) and Council Chamber Patrons (£10,000+) receive a pair of complimentary tickets.

TUESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

DIVINE AND MYTHICAL CREATURES FROM THE RSN COLLECTION & ARCHIVE



HAMPTON COURT PALACE 11.00 - 12.30
GREAT HALL (£2,500 +)

Join us on a curator-led tour of The Royal School of Needlework's new intimate exhibition, Divine and Mythical Creatures from the RSN Collection & Archive.

Explore a curated selection of masterful pieces, with a focus on imaginary earthly and celestial beings, both human and animal. Objects on display span multiple centuries and continents, illustrating everything from dragons to heraldic beasts and ancient gods and goddesses.

WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER

WHISKY TASTING IN THE MARTIN TOWER



TOWER OF LONDON 18.00 - 21.00
COUNCIL CHAMBER (£10,000 +)

Royal Salute has unveiled a new home for its luxury Scotch whisky portfolio at the Tower of London. Housed in the 13th-century Martin Tower, Royal Salute's exclusive tasting chamber is the first place in the world where guests can access Royal Salute's 'Treasures Collection', which includes an enviable, one-of-a-kind whisky library featuring some of the most precious Royal Salute blends released since its creation in 1953.

Every aspect within this unique space has been meticulously designed to immerse guests in Royal Salute's extraordinary kingdom, with intricate illustrations adorning the walls reflecting Royal Salute's world of enchantment and the Tower of London's history.

This immersive tasting experience provides a rare opportunity to sample a selection of the most exceptional whiskies from the range alongside a bespoke menu of canapes created with seasonal ingredients.

SPACE TO STIR AND BE STIRRED

TOWER OF LONDON • HAMPTON COURT PALACE • BANQUETING HOUSE
 KENSINGTON PALACE • KEW PALACE • HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

AUTUMN/WINTER 2025 PATRON EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER

BLenheim PALACE



© Blenheim Palace

**BLenheim PALACE, WOODSTOCK, OXFORDSHIRE,
OX20 1UL 11.30 – 16.30**
GREAT WATCHING CHAMBER (£5,000 +)

Blenheim Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is steeped in history as the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill and the ancestral home of the Dukes of Marlborough. Commissioned by Queen Anne and a grateful nation, it was gifted to John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, in recognition of his triumph at the Battle of Blenheim on 13 August 1704.

Take in spectacular Baroque architecture, richly furnished state rooms, and exquisite formal gardens designed by Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown. On our guided tour, uncover the grandeur and secrets of Blenheim Palace, and enjoy breathtaking panoramic views from the rooftops.

MONDAY 13 OCTOBER

THE STOLEN CROWN: TREACHERY, DECEIT, AND THE DEATH OF THE TUDOR DYNASTY



TOWER OF LONDON 18.30 – 20.30
COURTYARDS & CLOISTERS (£1,000 +)

In March 1603, Queen Elizabeth I, the last Tudor monarch, lay dying at Richmond Palace. The queen’s ministers clustered round her bedside, urging her to name her successor - something she had stubbornly resisted throughout her reign. Almost with her last breath, she whispered that James VI of Scotland should succeed her. She died shortly afterwards and the throne of England passed peacefully from Tudor to Stuart. Or so we’ve been led to believe...

In this illustrated talk based on her new book, Historic Royal Palaces’ Chief Historian, bestselling author, historian, and broadcaster **Professor Tracy Borman OBE** will reveal the shocking truth behind one of history’s best-kept secrets.

Signed copies of The Stolen Crown: Treachery, Deceit and the Death of the Tudor Dynasty will be available to purchase on the evening.

TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER

HISTORIC SOAP MAKING IN THE TUDOR KITCHENS



HAMPTON COURT PALACE 14.00 - 15.30
COURTYARDS & CLOISTERS (£1,000 +)

Anne Harris was the King’s laundress. For £20 a month she would wash, dry, press, and starch Henry VIII’s shirts, napkins, towels and other assorted linens. She was one of a few named women known to have been employed by Henry’s court. But what of ordinary people? How did common folk and those of the burgeoning mercantile classes keep their clothes clean, and what soapy secrets would Anne have employed to keep Henry’s laundry spotless?

In this hands-on session, you will learn about the types of soap available in the 16th century and some of the processes involved in their production. Smell and handle modern reproductions of these historic soaps and hear about some curious 17th-century recipes to remove stains – sure to be shocking! We will also delve into the politics of soap and discover how an ordinary, everyday item helped to preserve Charles I’s Personal Rule.

SPACE TO STIR AND BE STIRRED

TOWER OF LONDON • HAMPTON COURT PALACE • BANQUETING HOUSE
KENSINGTON PALACE • KEW PALACE • HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS

AUTUMN/WINTER 2025 PATRON EVENTS

THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER

CONSERVATION IN ACTION



HAMPTON COURT PALACE 11.00 – 12.30
COURTYARDS & CLOISTERS (£1,000 +)

Join us in the conservation studios at Hampton Court Palace and discover how our expert team of textile conservators care for our extensive collections. From grand furnishings to fine tapestries and costumes, their approach remains consistent—focusing on stabilising textiles and preventing any further damage.

This autumn our textile conservators will be busy preparing items of dress selected for loan and to be exhibited in the upcoming *Princesses of Resistance* exhibition next year. Discover the work that goes into conserving and presenting these important items for future generations to enjoy.

FRIDAY 14 NOVEMBER

GUN SALUTE



TOWER OF LONDON 12.30 – 13.30
GREAT HALL (£2,500 +)

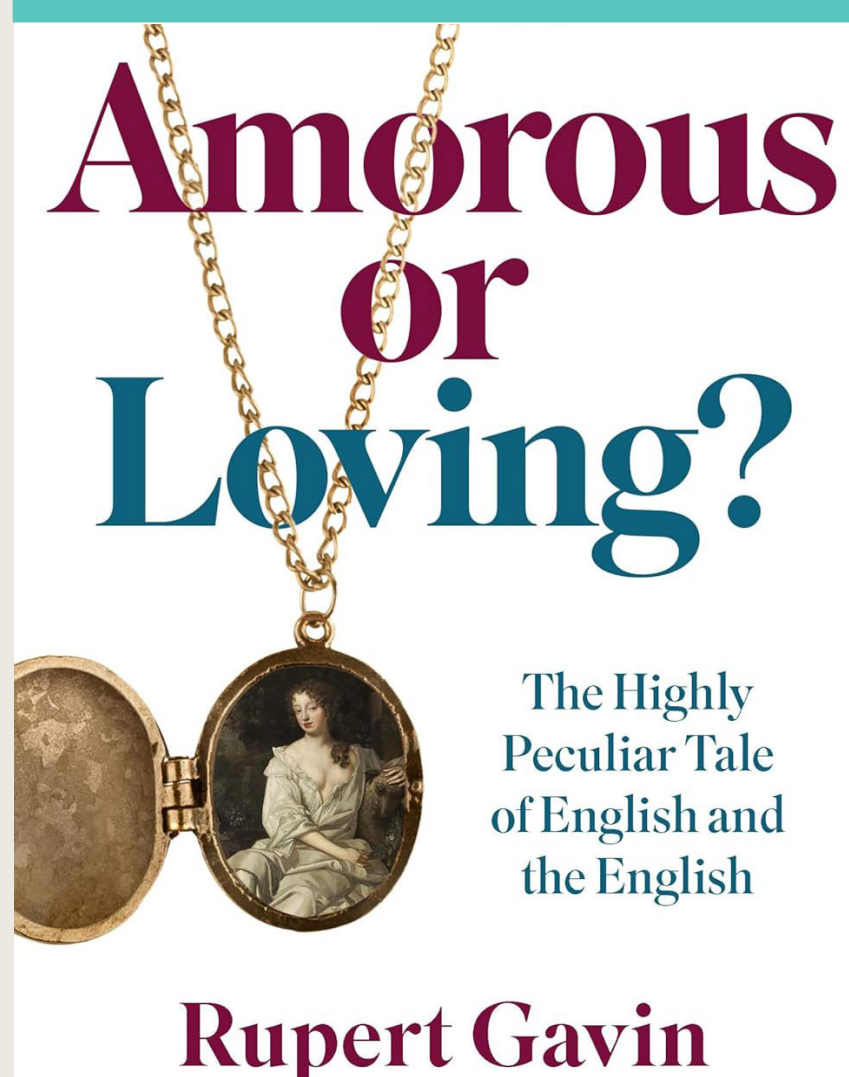
Gun salutes have marked state and royal occasions for centuries. As a Patron, you are invited to witness this unique tradition from a privileged position on the Wharf.

A 62-gun salute will mark His Majesty the King's Birthday on 14 November.

Upon arrival, you are warmly welcomed to join us in the King's House to raise a glass in the company of Tower officials and members of the Honourable Artillery Company.

MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER

SIR RUPERT GAVIN IN CONVERSATION WITH
 PROFESSOR MICHAEL WOOD OBE



TOWER OF LONDON 18.30 - 20.30
COURTYARDS & CLOISTERS (£1,000 +)

How did a marginal dialect spoken in the late 9th century by 200,000 people become the world's language spoken by 1,600,000,000 people today?

Join us for a captivating evening as **Sir Rupert Gavin** introduces his new book *Amorous or Loving? The Highly Peculiar tale of English and the English*. In conversation with **Professor Michael Wood OBE**, Sir Rupert will delve deeper into the research behind this thought-provoking work. Sir Rupert argues that English is ideal as the global language, not just by accident of history, but by fundamental construction and constitution. He dives into how this was determined not just by our unique language, but also our geography, our weather, our religion, the extraordinary status of London, and by a handful of inspirational figures – some well-known and some hardly known today at all.

Signed copies of Amorous or Loving: The Highly Peculiar Tale of English and the English will be available to purchase on the evening.

SPACE TO STIR AND BE STIRRED

TOWER OF LONDON • HAMPTON COURT PALACE • BANQUETING HOUSE
 KENSINGTON PALACE • KEW PALACE • HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

AUTUMN/WINTER 2025 PATRON EVENTS

TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER

HANDEL HENDRIX HOUSE



© Chris Ison

25 BROOK ST, LONDON W1K 4HB **14.00 - 15.30**
GREAT HALL (£2,500 +)

Discover the extraordinary story of two music legends who lived centuries apart – but under the same roof. In this exclusive curator-led tour, enjoy a rare glimpse into the lives of baroque composer George Frideric Handel and rock icon Jimi Hendrix.

Explore the beautifully restored Georgian rooms where Handel composed, rehearsed, and performed, including his bedroom and the elegant dining room where music once filled the air. Then, journey upstairs to 23 Brook Street, where Hendrix lived during the height of his fame in the late 1960s. This unique experience also includes access to exhibitions and the immersive *Messiah* installation in Handel's Drawing Room—a celebration of two extraordinary lives lived under one roof.

TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S CHRISTMAS DRINKS



TOWER OF LONDON **19.00 - 21.00**
COURTYARDS & CLOISTERS (£1,000 +)

Step inside London's most exclusive pub for an evening of festive cheer. Join Chief Executive John Barnes for a truly unique celebration at The Keys – the Tower of London's private pub, usually closed to the public. Run by the Yeoman Warders, the pub is steeped in tradition and boasts fascinating historic artifacts from a 16th-century axe and mace to a framed signature by Rudolf Hess.

Uncover the fascinating history of the pub and the origins of the Yeoman toast: 'May you never die a Yeoman Warder.' Raise a glass in this extraordinary setting, then put your knowledge to the test with a lively pub quiz packed with festive fun, royal trivia, and a few secrets from the Tower.

For those interested, you will also have the opportunity to witness the Ceremony of the Keys - the 700-year-old locking up ceremony.

TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT



TOWER OF LONDON **19.00 - 20.45**
COURTYARDS & CLOISTERS (£1,000 +)

Come together for a joyful celebration of the festive season in our Christmas concert exclusively for supporters of Historic Royal Palaces. Set within the magnificent Tudor Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula, this unmissable celebration features a spellbinding programme of carols—both timeless and contemporary—performed by the acclaimed Choir of the Chapels Royal. Led by Master of Music Colm Carey, the Choir is renowned as one of Britain's leading chapel choirs and proudly occupy a place at the heart of the nation's royal heritage.

With majestic music, special guest readers, mulled wine and mince pies, this event is a real highlight of the festive calendar.

This event is very popular and spaces will be limited. Please consider making a donation of £25 pp at www.hrp.org.uk/support-us to help us cover the costs of producing the concert.

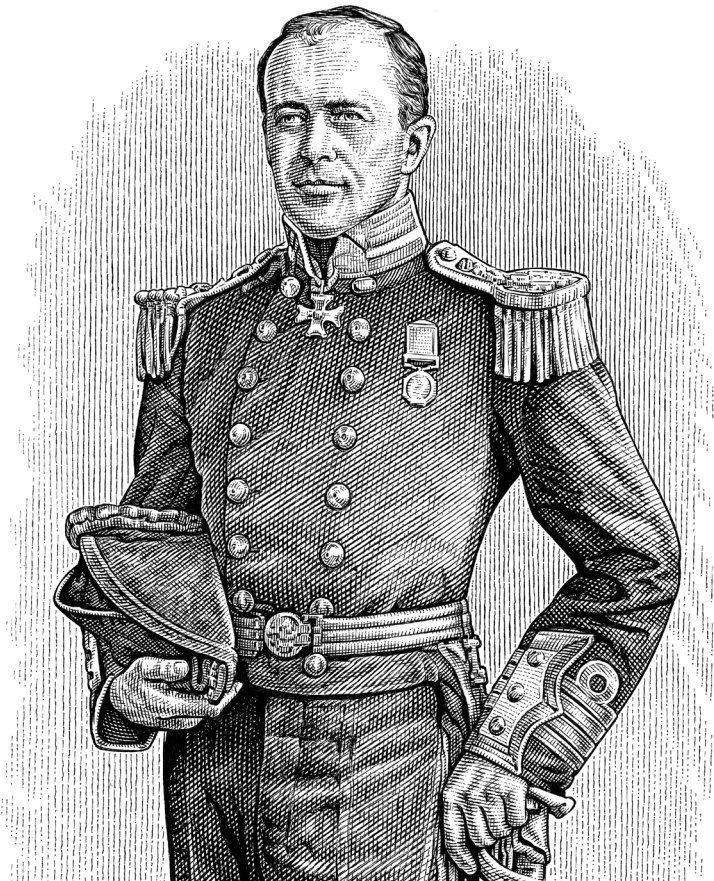
SPACE TO STIR AND BE STIRRED

TOWER OF LONDON • HAMPTON COURT PALACE • BANQUETING HOUSE
KENSINGTON PALACE • KEW PALACE • HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS

AUTUMN/WINTER 2025 PATRON EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY

THE POLAR PALACE: ARCTIC AND ANTARCTIC EXPLORATION AT HAMPTON COURT



HAMPTON COURT PALACE 11.00 - 12.30
COURTYARDS & CLOISTERS (£1,000 +)

Explore the hidden polar history of Hampton Court Palace with Historic Royal Palaces curator Minette Butler. From Tudor mariners in search of arctic gold to the wedding of Antarctic adventurer Captain Robert Falcon Scott, take a trip through the palace's lesser-known links to the iciest and most remote parts of the planet.

The frozen north has fascinated royalty for centuries and Hampton Court's Grace and Favour community boasted ties to some of the most famous expeditions and explorers of its age. This tour will not only tell tales of daring adventure and imperial ambition, but also uncover the lives of those women left behind who came to call the palace home.

THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY

KENSINGTON PALACE'S ART COLLECTION



KENSINGTON PALACE 11.00 - 12.30
COURTYARDS & CLOISTERS (£1,000 +)

Join us for a curator-led tour of Kensington Palace's picture hang. Explore the King's State Apartments, the largest of the state apartments at Kensington Palace, and see the King's Gallery almost exactly as it looked when it was transformed for George I in 1725.

Learn about the significance of the imagery on display including the seven large ceiling canvases depicting the life of Ulysses painted by William Kent, and a copy of van Dyck's noble portrait of Charles I on horseback.

THURSDAY 12 FEBRUARY

STUDIO 434



STUDIO 434, POTTERS BAR, HERTS, EN6 3AT 14.00 - 17.00
GREAT WATCHING CHAMBER (£5,000+)

Studio434® is now one of the most extensive, privately owned classic car collections in the UK. Created and owned by successful businessman and Historic Royal Palaces supporter Rodger Dudding, Studio434® is more than a home for his cherished collection. This unique venue spans two purpose-built buildings and doubles as a museum, a secure vehicle storage facility, a classic vehicle hire company, a film and photographic studio centre, and a unique event venue.

Whether you're a car enthusiast, a film buff, or simply curious, this guided tour promises an unforgettable experience. Step into a world of rare motorcycles, memorabilia, and iconic vehicles - some dating back to the early 1900s.

Studio 434® have generously supported Historic Royal Palaces through the acquisition of mobility scooters for Hampton Court Palace.

SPACE TO STIR AND BE STIRRED

TOWER OF LONDON • HAMPTON COURT PALACE • BANQUETING HOUSE
KENSINGTON PALACE • KEW PALACE • HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

AUTUMN/WINTER 2025 PATRON EVENTS

THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY

PRINCESSES OF RESISTANCE -
SPECIAL SNEAK PEAK



© Peter Bance

TOWER OF LONDON 18.30 – 20.30
COURTYARDS & CLOISTERS (£1,000 +)

Historic Royal Palaces Ambassador **Dr Lucy Worsley OBE** interviews curators Polly Putnam and Dr Mishka Sinha about their upcoming Kensington Palace exhibition, *Princesses of Resistance*. This special evening will introduce you to the Duleep Singh sisters, daughters of the last Maharaja of the Sikh Empire, around whom the new exhibition centres.

In this riveting talk, you'll get a preview of some of the most exciting objects and stories in the exhibition, including the Duleep Singh sisters' role in the women's suffrage movement, and much more.

WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH

SEURAT AND THE SEA



© The Courtauld Gallery

**COURTAULD GALLERY, SOMERSET HOUSE,
LONDON, WC2R 0RN 9.00 - 10.00**
GREAT HALL (£2,500 +)

From February 2026, The Courtauld will present the first ever exhibition dedicated to the seascapes of the French artist Georges Seurat (1859–1891).

Seurat is best known as the creator of the Neo-Impressionist technique, in which shapes and light are rendered by juxtaposing small dots of pure colour. Due to his early death at the age of 31, Seurat has a very small pool of works, and exhibitions devoted to him are rare. *Seurat and the Sea* will bring together around 23 paintings, oil sketches and drawings made by Seurat during the five summers he spent on the northern coast of France, between 1885 and 1890.

Discover the life and works of Seurat on this special out-of-hours tour led by Dr Karen Serres, Senior Curator of Paintings at The Courtauld.

WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH

PRISONERS AND PUNISHMENT AT THE TOWER OF LONDON



TOWER OF LONDON 11:00 – 12:30
COURTYARDS & CLOISTERS (£1,000 +)

Explore the iconic White Tower at the heart of the Tower of London, and discover stories of prisoners and punishment. See objects used to torture and execute prisoners, and visit the atmospheric chambers beneath the Tower that were once used as places of imprisonment.

On this tour we will explore stories of some of the Tower's most famous prisoners, featuring tales of the famous torture rack as well as the executioner's block and axe. You'll also hear about plans for a new exhibition on torture and execution that will open in the White Tower in 2027.

**ALL PATRON EVENTS CAN BE BOOKED BY EMAILING THE PATRONS TEAM AT PATRONS@HRP.ORG.UK.
SPACES ARE LIMITED. PLEASE BOOK AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.**

SPACE TO STIR AND BE STIRRED

TOWER OF LONDON • HAMPTON COURT PALACE • BANQUETING HOUSE
KENSINGTON PALACE • KEW PALACE • HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS

AUTUMN/WINTER 2025 PATRON EVENTS

FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THURSDAY 19 MARCH
Bletchley Park

TUESDAY 24 MARCH
Exhibition Preview: Princesses of Resistance, Kensington
Palace



KEEP IN TOUCH

We'd love to hear your thoughts on Historic Royal Palaces Patrons' Programme. Your feedback is incredibly valuable to us, and if you have any ideas or suggestions for future events, please don't hesitate to reach out to Lydia Lawrence and Avnika Patel at Patrons@hrp.org.uk.

If you know someone who might enjoy becoming a Patron, we would be delighted to welcome them to an event and share more about how they can support our work.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT.

SPACE TO STIR AND BE STIRRED

TOWER OF LONDON • HAMPTON COURT PALACE • BANQUETING HOUSE
KENSINGTON PALACE • KEW PALACE • HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS