

PRESS INFORMATION

24 January 2012

ARMADA! at Penshurst Place



Penshurst Place & Gardens prepares for the Spanish Armada on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th March from 12 noon to 4pm

This popular family event recreates life at Penshurst Place in 1588 when the Spanish Armada threatens to invade England. On Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th March 2012, the household readies itself for the anticipated invasion and a skilled cast of costumed actors and musicians portray some colourful characters in Tudor England.

Visitors have the opportunity to take up arms and join the local militia with a musket and pike drill and will hear how the Spanish prepared for the Armada! They can also try on fine Elizabethan style clothes of the period and see what they would have eaten and drunk.



This weekend follows 4 days of living history presentations for schools where approx 1,500 pupils will take part.

This fun and interactive format make it a must for families with an interest in the past and particularly children studying Tudor history at school.

For a full listing of our events, go to www.penshurstplace.com

For Armada for schools information go to: www.penshurstplace.com/armada

- Ends -



For further press feature information please contact Jacqui Green at JGMPR

Jacqui@jgmpr.com – for urgent requests her mobile is 07885 270349.

For further general press information and jpeg photographs, please contact Tamsin Leigh,

Head of Marketing at Penshurst Place: 01892 870307 or email:

marketing@penshurstplace.com. You can also follow us on Twitter [@PenshurstPlace](https://twitter.com/PenshurstPlace).

Notes to editors:

BACKGROUND TO PENSHURST PLACE & GARDENS

Set in the beautiful Weald of Kent, Penshurst Place and the Estate have stood on the banks of the river Medway since the 14th century, when the awe-inspiring medieval Baron's Hall was built as a country retreat for the Lord Mayor of London, Sir John de Pulteney. The property was owned by many Dukes and Nobles with Royal blood in their veins, until King Henry VIII forfeited it from the previous owner, the Duke of Buckingham in 1521. It was then used by Henry and his friends as a hunting lodge.

In 1552 the property was gifted by Edward VI to a member of the noble courtier family, the Sidneys, in whose family's hands it has been ever since – and is currently owned by Philip Sidney, 2nd Viscount De L'Isle MBE, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Kent.

Used as a location for many a large film and small screen productions, Penshurst Place has a unique place in history – with literary connections from Sir Philip Sidney, Ben Jonson to Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

The historic gardens are as old as the house, with records dating back to 1346. These enchanting formal gardens were laid out in Elizabethan times and have remained remarkably true to their early design.

Over a mile of yew hedging separates this 11 acre walled garden into a series of self-contained 'rooms'. Each garden offers an abundance of variety in form, foliage and bloom, which ensures a continuous display from Spring to Autumn. The Herbaceous Borders have recently been redesigned.

In the House, alongside the unique and stunning Baron's Hall, built in 1341, there are a series of staterooms containing an impressive collection of portraits, tapestries, furniture, porcelain and armour. In addition, visitors will enjoy a reminder of bygone childhoods in the Toy Museum, a delight for all ages.

Our Garden Tea Room, managed by Leith's serves a delicious selection of hot and cold lunches; and is where you can enjoy the perfect afternoon tea. It can also be booked for group lunches and light refreshments. Our wonderful Gift Shop, *free to visit all year*, has a wide selection of gifts. There are also parkland and riverside walks across this ancient estate – and a cycle path from Tonbridge Castle to Penshurst Place's doorstep – Sustrans regional route no 12. Find out more at: www.penshurstplace.com/outdoorpursuits

Penshurst Place & Gardens is also an [award-winning](#) wedding and events venue.

The venue has three banqueting rooms of varying sizes – the awe-inspiring Baron's Hall, Sunderland Room and Buttery - each with their own history and charm, together with the stunning historic gardens, which make Penshurst Place a perfect setting for events.

www.penshurstplace.com/yourevent

OPENING TIMES & PRICES FOR 2012

	February - 1 April WEEKENDS House & Gardens	February HALF TERM Gardens & Toy Museum only	OPEN DAILY House & Gardens
DATES OPEN	Sat 11th Feb to Sun 1st Apr	Mon 13th Feb to Fri 17th Feb	Mon 2nd Apr to Sun 4th Nov
Gardens & Adventure Playground	10.30am to 6pm or dusk if earlier (last entry an hour before closing)		
House & Toy Museum	12 noon to 4pm	House CLOSED Toy Museum 12 noon to 4pm	12 noon to 4pm
Garden Tea Room	10.30am to 5pm - subject to seasonal times (last orders 15 minutes before closing)		
Gift Shop	<p align="center">Open daily all year</p> 10.30am to 6pm or dusk during open season 10.30am to 4.30pm during closed season (with extended hours for late night Christmas shopping). Closed 9th to 12th Jan, 25th to 26th Dec 2012.		
Parkland open all year to walkers - refreshments served in the winter at the Gift Shop.			

Gift Shop open daily all year, from 1 January (excl. 9-12 January & 25-26 December)

10.30am – 4.30pm when house and gardens closed.

House and Grounds open weekends from

Saturday 11 February – Sunday 1 April

Gardens, grounds and gift shop open 10.30am – 6pm, or dusk if earlier

House and Toy Museum open 12 noon – 4pm

Garden Tea Room open 10.30am - 5pm or until Gardens close if earlier.

Grounds open weekdays

13 – 17 February

Gardens, grounds and gift shop open 10.30am – 6pm, or dusk if earlier

Toy Museum 12 noon – 4pm

House closed, except to pre-booked groups.

Garden Tea Room open 10.30am - 5pm or until Gardens close if earlier.

House and Grounds open daily from

2 April – 4 November

Garden, grounds and gift shop open 10.30am or dusk if earlier (last entry an hour before closing)

House and Toy Museum open 12 noon – 4pm

Garden Tea Room open 10.30am – 5pm

Gift Shop open until 24 December

10.30am – 4.30pm

With late night shopping evenings until 8pm on selected days and Father Christmas visiting weekends in December.

Closed 25 – 26 December. Reopens 27 December 2012 then open daily in 2013 excluding 7 – 10th January.

PRICES FOR 2012

INDIVIDUALS	ADULT	CHILD	FAMILY 2 + 2
House and Grounds <i>2011 prices held</i>	£9.80	£6.20	£26.00
Gardens and grounds only <i>2011 prices held</i>	£7.80	£5.80	£23.00
Season Ticket (1 named + 1 guest)	£42.00 (£40.00 for Penshurst village residents)		
Family season ticket 2 named adults and 2 children	£68.00 (up to 5 children on one card at £6.50 per additional child)		
Family season ticket 1 adult and 3 named children	£68.00 (up to 5 children on one card at £6.50 per additional child)		

GROUP PRICES 2012	ADULTS	CHILD
Freeflow (inc entry to H & G)	£8.00	£5.00
House <u>or</u> Garden Tour	£10.00	£5.50
Combined House & Garden Tour	£16.00	£10.00
Tours with the Head Gardener an additional £65 per group.		
<i>All rates quoted include entrance to House and Grounds.</i>		
Student and garden only group rates available on request.		

For further details and to make a group booking contact Wendy Warshafsky,
Head of Visitor Services on 01892 870307 groups@penshurstplace.com