

21ST FEBRUARY 2014

EGGS EXIT AS HERO BIRDS FLY IN FOR EDUCATIONAL WW1 EASTER AT PENSHURST PLACE

- Pigeons' Rule at Penshurst Place in an Easter trail with a difference!
- Heroes of WW1 Communication brought to life through storytelling and brand new fun activity trail

Penshurst Place will have an educational flavour with lots of fun craft and trail activities available for visitors as part of its 'Sir and Soldier' themed season of WW1 commemoration events running in April.

EASTER HOLIDAY FUN: 5TH – 21ST APRIL



Every day during the Easter school holidays, families can join an egg hunt with a twist! Rather than seeking Easter eggs, visitors to Penshurst Place will be able to hunt for WW1 carrier pigeons with hidden secret messages, in a fun trail around the playground.

Pigeons played an important communication role during World War 1 and proved an extremely reliable way of sending messages across enemy lines. Using the story of carrier pigeons, children will learn more about the

communication methods used during the Great War and enjoy a fun trail that will take them on an inspiring educational journey of discovery.

The education room will continue the war-theme with family craft activities available from 12 noon each day. Youngsters can create their very own carrier pigeon or soldier bonnet and enjoy Easter colouring activities.

Normal garden admission prices apply. For more information visit www.penshurstplace.com/whatson

STORYTELLING: EASTER SUNDAY, 20TH APRIL & BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY, 21ST APRIL



The story of Cher Ami, a WW1 carrier pigeon and her friends will be unveiled as part of Penshurst Place's 'Sir and Soldier' themed season of WW1 commemoration events. Families will be able to gather in the medieval buttery at 2pm, 2.45pm and 3.30pm to hear skilled story tellers from Aardvark Productions bring the account of a Great War carrier pigeon to life and explain through tale, the critical communication role these homing birds had throughout World War 1. Hear how Cher Ami embarks on a daring mission with her friends to help save the Allied forces from danger.

Normal garden admission prices apply. [Performance times 2pm, 2.45pm and 3.30pm]

For more information visit www.penshurstplace.com/whatson



ALSO AT PENS Hurst PLACE IN APRIL

Eggstraspecial treats in the Porcupine pantry and Garden restaurant

There will be eggstraspecial treats and menus available throughout the Easter period in the Porcupine Pantry and Restaurant.

Penshurst Place Gift shop

Easter and Spring-themed gifts will be available in the Penshurst Place Gift Shop from March. With no need for admission and large free car park the gift shop offers a stress-free shopping experience for those on the hunt for Easter gifts. Open daily from 10.30am – 6pm.

The Gardens

The Gardens in April are starting to come to life with an excellent display of flowering bulbs in the Orchard, Nut Garden, Lime Walk and Horse Pond and with spring blossom in the Orchard, Nut Garden and Flag Garden.

Additionally, work on the new Blue and Yellow border is near completion and visitors in April will be amongst the first to see the early results of the Penshurst Place Gardening team's hard work in regenerating this historic border.

Most events are included in standard admission price unless otherwise stated. Full details of the event calendar for 2014 can be found at www.penshurstplace.com/whatson.

- 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 email: abbie@penshurstplace.com or contact Abbie Voice, Marketing Executive at Penshurst Place: 01892 870307.

Notes to editors:

BACKGROUND TO PENS Hurst 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. 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 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.



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 into the stunning Jubilee Walk.

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 Restaurant, managed by Leith's serves a delicious selection of hot and cold lunches; and is where you can enjoy the perfect afternoon tea. Our Porcupine Pantry cafe is an alternative to the Restaurant serving freshly baked hot and cold pastries. Both 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

OPENING TIMES & PRICES 2014

**OPEN SEASON: Weekends from 15th February to 30th March. Half Term 17th to 21st February.
Daily from 31st March to 2nd November.**

CLOSED SEASON: 3rd November to 31st December (excluding 25th & 26th December)

	OPEN SEASON	CLOSED SEASON
HOUSE	12 noon – 4pm <i>(closed 17th – 21st February)</i>	Closed
GARDENS & GROUNDS	10.30am – 6pm <i>(or dusk if earlier; last entry 1 hour before close)</i>	Closed
ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND	10.30am – 6pm <i>(or dusk if earlier; last entry 1 hour before close)</i>	10.30am – 4.30pm <i>(weekends only; for Season Ticket holders only; last entry 1 hour before close)</i>
TOY MUSEUM	12noon – 4pm <i>(last orders 15 minutes before close)</i>	Closed
GARDEN RESTAURANT	10.30am – 5pm	Closed
GIFT SHOP	10.30am – 6pm	10.30am – 4.30pm
PORCUPINE PANTRY	9am – 6pm	10am – 4.30pm
PARKLAND	Free to visit and open all year to cyclists and walkers	

	HOUSE, GARDENS & GROUNDS	GARDENS & GROUNDS
ADULT	£10.00	£8.00
CHILD (ages 5-16) <i>(Under 5s max 2 children per adult charged at £5.00 per child, per visit thereafter)</i>	£6.50	£6.00
FAMILY (2 adults + 2 children or 1 adult + 3 children)	£28.00	£25.00
FAMILY (2 adults + 1 child)	£24.00	£20.00
INDIVIDUAL SEASON TICKET (Cardholder + 1 guest) <i>(Free entrance for up to 2 children under 5 per cardholder, per visit. £2.50 per child under 5 thereafter)</i>	N/A	£45.00
FAMILY SEASON TICKET (2 adults + 2 children or 1 adult + 3 children) <i>(£7 per additional child, maximum of 5 children per card)</i>	N/A	£70.00

For cyclists and those arriving by public transport £1 off entry per person.