

4TH FEBRUARY 2014

HALF-TERM HEROES NEEDED AT PENSHURST PLACE & GARDENS

TO COMMEMORATE THIS YEAR'S WW1 CENTENARY PENSHURST PLACE AND GARDENS IS KICKING OFF A 'SIR AND SOLDIER' THEME FOR 2014 WHEN THE HOUSE AND GROUNDS OPENS FOR THE SEASON ON 15TH FEBRUARY.

The historic Kent venue will be running war-themed activities for visitors throughout the year, starting this month during half-term with a couple of fun children events designed to help young visitors experience life as a soldier.

SECRET SPY HUNT: 15TH – 23RD FEBRUARY (10.30 AM TO DUSK)

Reconnaissance soldiers are needed in Penshurst. Their mission: to transform into a WWI spy to help save Penshurst Place from enemy invasion. The soldier spies will need cunning skills to hunt down and solve war-themed secret clues to find ten missing objects that are hidden around the gardens and adventure playground.

This fun children's trail is included within the admission fee and will be running throughout the half-term school holiday from 15th – 23rd February 2014 from 10.30am – dusk. **Normal garden admission prices apply**



For more information www.penshurstplace.com/whatson

WAR WOUNDS MAKE-UP WORKSHOP: 19TH FEBRUARY (4PM TO 6PM)



The Porcupine Pantry at Penshurst Place will be transformed into a WWI wounds clinic on Wednesday 19th February between 4pm and 6pm when award-winning special effect artist Kate Griffiths runs a 'War Wounds' make-up workshop.

Designed by Kate especially for Penshurst Place, the event will show older children (age 7+) how to create fake wounds using everyday household materials and how to bandage their injuries in the same way as they would have been during WW1.

Tickets £10 (For children aged 7+)
www.penshurstplace.com/etickets

Selected upcoming **March highlights** at Penshurst Place & Gardens include **Mothering Sunday** family activities with special lunch menu on 30th March; an adult **Spring Stroll and Lunch** on 16th March and spring bulbs and blossom displays in the gardens.

SPRING STROLL & LUNCH – ADULT EVENT: 16TH MARCH

Dust off your walking boots for a leisurely two hour stroll and reap a tasty reward for your physical exertion. A brand new walking event for adults to enjoy at Penshurst Place & Gardens on 16th March between 11am and 2pm. Journey across the beautiful estate and learn about its Tudor history on the way. This special Sunday walk is led by Penshurst Place's General Manager and is followed by a delicious two-course roast lunch in the Garden Restaurant. **Tickets £22 (to include private parking, guided walk, lunch and garden admission)** www.penshurstplace.com/etickets

THE GREAT ARMADA ADVENTURE: 22ND & 23RD MARCH (12 NOON TO 4PM)

Experience life at Penshurst Place as the militia prepares to ward off the Spanish Armada. Skilled costumed characters bring history alive as they invite visitors to join them in the Staterooms as the Penshurst Place household prepares for invasion. **Normal garden admission prices apply. For more information visit** www.penshurstplace.com/whatson

CELEBRATION OF MOTHER'S DAY: 30TH MARCH

Families can celebrate Mother's Day at Penshurst Place with fun craft activities to suit all ages and a special menu in the Garden Restaurant. Children will be able to treat their Mums to a handmade Mother's Day poetry card or present her with a hidden Morse code message on a necklace made in the Education Room. **Normal garden admission prices apply. For more information visit** www.penshurstplace.com/whatson

Other things to see and do while visiting Penshurst Place and Gardens during February and March:-

- Toy Museum
- House (Sats & Suns only)
- Woodland Trail
- Adventure Playground
- Garden Restaurant
- Porcupine Pantry
- Gift Shop
- The Gardens:

February - early spring flowering bulbs in the Orchard, Nut Garden, Lime Walk and Horse Pond

March – spring blossom in the Orchard, Nut Garden and Flag Garden

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 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. 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.