

**GRANDEUR, GARDENS AND PERSONAL GUIDES WITH  
NEW THEMED TOURS FOR GROUPS AT PENSHURST PLACE IN 2014**

A range of exciting new tour options have been introduced by Penshurst Place and Gardens especially for groups in 2014. For the first time, groups will have the option to tailor their House tour by special interest.



Amongst the new topics on offer are **House tours themed to Portraiture; Needle-work and Textiles; Furniture; Architecture; Art and its Politics; Porcelain and China or Medieval Life.** Expert guides will share their specialist knowledge, explaining the beauty, treasures and history contained within the magnificent manor House dating from 1341 throughout a private group House tour. Designed to enhance the visitor experience, the new

tours are open for booking now - with prices frozen for 2014.

Ben Thomas, General Manager at Penshurst Place and Gardens says, “We are pleased to introduce the option of themed tours tailored to focus on the needs of individual groups. Our group visitors have said this is something they would like to see available so we have responded to their requests with the introduction of this exciting new range of specialist subjects, available at no extra charge.”

The themed House tours for groups will be in addition to Penshurst Place’s existing popular House and Garden tours, which include the Head Gardener’s tour and Housekeeper’s tour. See full list of tours available below together with pricing information.



**‘BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR WITH THE HOUSEKEEPER’**

For 2014 the *‘Behind the Scenes Tour’* with the Head Housekeeper has now been extended to be **available for booking throughout the season**, with a guided house tour and *introduction from the Head Housekeeper* on how the state rooms are cleaned and conserved. **Adult price £10 including House Tour** – minimum group size 15 people. Contact our Head of Visitor Services 01892 870307 or email [wendyw@penshurstplace.com](mailto:wendyw@penshurstplace.com)

### PRICES HELD FOR 2014

We are delighted to announce that our 2013 group prices have been held for 2014 and that there is no additional charge for booking a special themed house tour. **See pricing details below including opening times.**



months.

As well as exploring the glorious Gardens and the magnificent historical House dating from 1341, groups will have the option of extending their visit with catering from Leith's in the Garden Restaurant or the new Porcupine Pantry. The Porcupine Pantry café, located next to the main visitor entrance and Gift Shop is also open throughout the year, including the winter

For Penshurst Place's group booking form visit [www.penshurstplace.com/forgroups](http://www.penshurstplace.com/forgroups)

**- Ends -**

*For further press information please contact Abbie Voice, Marketing Executive at Penshurst Place: 01892 870307 email: [abbie@penshurstplace.com](mailto:abbie@penshurstplace.com) or Jacqui Green, PR Consultant on 07885 270349 email: [jacqui@penshurstplace.com](mailto:jacqui@penshurstplace.com).*

### ABOUT GROUP TOURS AT PENSHURST PLACE & GARDENS

Penshurst Place and Gardens is a popular destination in the Weald of Kent with a full programme designed specifically for group visitors. New for 2014 is the option for groups to book House tours tailored according to special interest topic. Providing good value for money with group tour prices held since 2012, the visitor attraction offers free entry to the historical Gardens (dating from 1346), a £5 refreshment voucher for the coach driver and free entrance for the group leader. Free coach parking is available next to the Gift Shop and Porcupine Pantry café, both of which are open all year.



## **ABOUT 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 King Henry and his friends as a hunting lodge.

In 1552 the property was gifted by Edward VI to William Sidney, member of the noble courtier family, in whose hands it has been ever since. Penshurst Place 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 to Ben Jonson and 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 Restaurant, 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 unusual gifts. There are also parkland and riverside walks across this ancient estate and a cycle path from Tonbridge Castle to Penshurst Place's doorstep.



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](http://www.penshurstplace.com/yourevent)

### **OPENING TIMES 2014**

House open to groups all year by prior appointment. Private House tours are to be booked in advance and conducted from 9.30am – 11.30am. Garden tours can be conducted from 10.30am – 4.30pm.

#### **GIFT SHOP**

1st January – 14th February, 10.30am - 4.30pm (excluding 6th - 9th January)

15th February - 2nd November, 10.30am - 6pm (or dusk if earlier)

#### **PORCUPINE PANTRY**

1st January – 14th February, 9am - 4.30pm

15th February - 2nd November, 9am - 6pm (or dusk if earlier)

#### **GARDENS**

Open weekends from Saturday 15th February - Sunday 30th March, 10.30am - 6pm (or dusk if earlier)

Open for Half Term weekdays from Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February, 10.30am - 6pm (or dusk if earlier)

Open daily from Monday 31st March - Sunday 2nd November, 10.30am - 6pm (or dusk if earlier)

#### **HOUSE**

Open weekends from Saturday 15th February - Sunday 30th March, 12noon - 4pm

Open daily from Monday 31st March - Sunday 2nd November, 12noon - 4pm

#### **TOY MUSEUM**

Open weekends from Saturday 15th February - Sunday 30th March, 12noon - 4pm

Open for Half Term weekdays from Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February, 12noon - 4pm

Open daily from Monday 31st March - Sunday 2nd November, 12noon - 4pm

**GARDEN RESTAURANT**

Open weekends from Saturday 15th February - Sunday 30th March, 10.30am - 5pm or until Gardens close (last orders 15 minutes before closing)

Open daily from Monday 31st March - Sunday 2nd November, 10.30am - 5pm or until Gardens close - subject to seasonal variations (last orders 15 minutes before closing)

**MAIZE MAZE**

Open daily from Thursday 24th July - Sunday 7th September and then the weekend of Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th September, 10.30am – 6pm (last entry 5pm)

**GROUP PRICES FOR 2014**

<b>GROUPS (15+ PEOPLE)</b>	<b>ADULTS</b>	<b>CHILDREN</b>	<b>STUDENTS</b>
<b><u>HOUSE &amp; GARDENS FREEFLOW</u></b> <i>Non-guided entrance to the House and Gardens.</i>	8.00	5.00	6.00
<b><u>HOUSE &amp; GARDENS COMBINED TOUR</u></b> <i>Includes entrance and a guided tour of both the House and Gardens.</i>	16.00	10.00	11.00
<b><u>GARDENS FREEFLOW</u></b> <i>Non-guided entrance to the Gardens only.</i>	7.00	4.50	5.50
<b><u>GARDEN TOUR</u></b> <i>Non-guided entrance to the House plus entrance and a guided tour of the Gardens.</i>	10.00	5.50	7.00
<b><u>HEAD GARDENER'S TOUR</u></b> <i>Non-guided entrance to the House plus entrance and a guided tour and talk of the Gardens from our Head Gardener.</i>	10.00 + additional £70 per group	Not available to children	Not available to students
<b><u>STANDARD HOUSE TOUR</u></b> <i>Non-guided entrance to the Gardens plus entrance and a guided tour of the House.</i>	10.00	5.50	7.00
<b><u>NEW: THEMED HOUSE TOURS</u></b> <i>Non-guided entrance to the Gardens plus entrance and a guided tour of the House with a key focus on one of the following interests of the group:</i> - Portraiture - Needlework and textiles - Medieval life - Architecture - Art and its politics - Furniture - Porcelain and china	10.00	5.50	7.00
<b><u>NEW: BEHIND THE SCENES HOUSE TOUR</u></b> <i>Non-guided entrance to the Gardens plus entrance and a guided tour of the House. Also included is a talk from our Head Housekeeper on how the State Rooms are cleaned and kept.</i>	10.00	5.50	7.00
<b><u>CREAM TEA AND TOUR</u></b> <i>Non-guided entrance to the House and Gardens with a guided tour of either the House or Gardens, followed by a cream tea.</i>	14.00	Not available to children	Not available to students

<p><b><u>IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE TUDORS TOUR</u></b>  <i>A combined ticket: includes entrance to the House &amp; Gardens at Penshurst Place with a guided tour of either the House or Gardens followed by a non-guided visit to Hever Castle. Guided tours of Hever can be arranged for an additional fee.</i></p>	20.50	11.50	11.50
<p><b><u>WINTER BEHIND THE SCENES HOUSE TOUR</u></b>  <i>Exclusive to groups. This tour includes private entrance to the House during the closed visitor winter months, a guided tour of the House, plus a talk from our Head Housekeeper on how the State Rooms are cleaned and kept. Seasonal refreshments also included in the price.</i></p>	15.00	Not available to children	Not available to students