

SOLDIERS, SHOOTING AND SINGING FOR SPRING HALF TERM AND MAY BANK HOLIDAY AT PENSHURST PLACE & GARDENS

- Dress up in period uniforms for family portrait
- WWI paintballing range
- Singing in the Baron's Hall
- Craft spy binoculars, parachutes and much more

WWI family fun will be the theme at Penshurst Place during May. The half term kicks off with a series of crafts and activities that will create a fascinating insight into the life of a frontline WWI soldier.

The popular Hands of History team will be at Penshurst Place during the late May bank holiday to transport visitors back to the Great War time with genuine period clothing including military uniforms, plus the chance to have a go at the WWI paintballing range.

SPRING HOLIDAY FUN: 24th May – 1st June

Throughout the week children will be able to try their hand at making spy binoculars, or creating their own red poppies in the Education Room, every day from 12noon to 4pm.



On 24th May, the ladies choir 'Acapella' from nearby Edenbridge will be singing in the Baron's Hall. The choir started out by singing for family services at the local Parish Church and has since evolved into a vocal harmony group, with a wide-ranging repertoire.

They will be performing a range of spring time songs for visitors at 2pm and 3pm.

MAY BANK HOLIDAY: 25th & 26th May, 11am – 5pm

Step back in time with two days of events tailored to the First World War:

WW1 family portraits



Back in the days before camera phones, soldiers heading for the front would make a point of having a professional picture taken to present as a memento to their loved ones. With so many young men leaving home to join the war these pictures were highly treasured by the families they left behind.

Hands on History will invite visitors to transport back in time to the early 1900s to recreate this nostalgic act by dressing in WWI uniforms and clothes worn during the period. There will be the opportunity to have your picture taken in period dress, from civilian clothing through to military uniform to create a complimentary memorable family photo.

Genuine replica uniforms for children as young as five years old will be also be available to try out, since in the early part of 1914 these were sold by stores such as Hamley's so that even the very young could dress up to wave goodbye to the troops.

WWI paintball firing range

Another fascinating attraction is likely to be the chance to see, as well as try out, hand built replica machines from the era including the iconic Vickers and Lewis used by the British. Available to try in a safety-netted firing range, they use paint pellets that can be aimed safely at targets including a bell, an armoured car and bi-plane.

All activities and events are free with garden and grounds admission prices other than the paintballing that will require an extra charge of £2.50 per 12 balls on the day.

- 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.

EVENTS IN JUNE AT PENSHURST PLACE

As May gives way to June, Penshurst Place hosts a packed programme of events to celebrate Glorious Gardens Week and Father's Day, including:

Master Class in Floristry - 2nd June, 2pm - 3pm

Master florist Lesley Young will be putting on floristry demonstration on how to create a Pedestal arrangement, a Bridal bouquet, a Table Top arrangement and a Hostess bouquet.

The Art of Seeing – Photography Workshop - 4th June, 11am - 1pm

Professional garden photo journalist, Leigh Clapp, hosts this informative demonstration which will give you the skills to capture the details of the wonderful plants at Penshurst. Ticketed event, pre-booking necessary.

Lady De L'Isle's Garden Tour - 6th June at 2pm

Viscountess De L'Isle will be sharing her detailed knowledge and passion for the historic Grade 1 listed Elizabethan gardens at Penshurst Place. Ticketed event, pre-booking necessary.

Read not Dead from Shakespeare's Globe - 8th June, 11am - 5pm

A unique opportunity to see classically trained actors practising in the house or grounds as thespians from Shakespeare's Globe rehearse for Love's Victory.

Love's Victory by Lady Mary Wroth - 8th June at 5pm

This is a unique opportunity to witness this 400 year old play brought to life for the first time in public by Read not Dead, the educational unit of Shakespeare's Globe. Ticketed event, pre-booking necessary.

Head Gardener's Tour - 1st June & 8th June

Cory Furness will be holding two tours where he will be revealing future plans for the gardens at Penshurst Place and highlighting work undertaken in recent times. Ticketed event, pre-booking necessary.

Father's Day - 15th June

A perfect day out for spoiling Dads with WWI paintballing, "medals", hand made cards and speciality beers on offer, combined with a special Father's Day menu in the Restaurant.

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: Daily to 2nd November

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

	OPEN SEASON	CLOSED SEASON
HOUSE	12 noon – 4pm	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.