

## Educational Visits

**Penshurst Place provides a resource for schools to explore history through the ages; to educate and inform pupils of all ages about life in England from the Romans to modern day.**

We strongly recommend that schools book a House Tour with one of our guides who are experienced at working with school groups. The Toy Museum, with toys and games from the past on display, is the perfect resource for younger children. A simple trail can be provided plus a written guide for teachers. Bags can be left in our Old Coach House and used later for follow up work and lunch. Picnic areas are also available. There is a Woodland Trail with interpretive notes and an Adventure Playground for children to enjoy before getting back on the coach.

For more adventurous children, we recommend getting in contact with The Bushcraft Company, who deliver fantastic outdoor woodcraft pursuits on the estate for school groups. Visit [www.thebushcraftcompany.com](http://www.thebushcraftcompany.com) to learn more.

In March, we hold our annual 'Elizabeth I and the Armada' presentations for schools, featuring a cast of actors who involve students in the life of an important household as troops prepare to battle the Spanish Armada. Students are able to walk through the House visiting a different character in each room with a story to tell. A real life history lesson! We provide full risk assessments and a free preparation visit for teachers.

**Visit [www.penshurstplace.com](http://www.penshurstplace.com) for more details & to book**



## Opening Times & Group Prices for 2017

**House:** Weekends from the 11th Feb to 26th March & daily from 1st April - 29th Oct. House Tours by appointment all year.

**Gardens:** Weekends from the 11th Feb to 26th March & daily from 1st April - 29th Oct. 10.30am - 6pm (or dusk if earlier)

**Gift Shop:** Open 10.30am - 4pm until 10th Feb. Open 10.30am - 6pm (or dusk if earlier) 11th Feb - 29th Oct. Open 10.30am - 4.30pm

**Garden Restaurant:** Weekends from the 11th Feb - 26th March, and daily from 1st April - 29th Oct, 10.30am - 5pm (or until Gardens close)

**Porcupine Pantry:** Daily from 9am - 6pm. Winter closing times may apply, check website for details.

**Summer Maize Maze:** Daily from 15th July - 3rd Sept, + 9th & 10th Sept.

**Non-guided visit to House & Gardens:** Adults £8.80, Children £5.00

**Gardens only:** Adults £7.80, Children £4.50

**House OR Gardens Tour:** Adults, £10.80, children £5.50

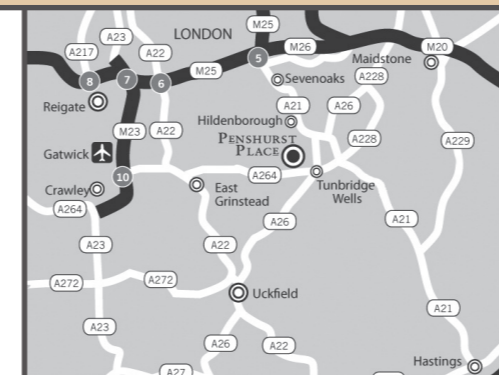
**Combined House & Gardens Tour:** Adults, £17.50, Children £10

**Head Gardener's Tours:** Adults £10.80 plus a £70 additional fee for the entire group. Prices are intended for groups totalling 15 or more

**Access:** The Baron's Hall and Nether Gallery are accessible. There is a DVD of the remaining staterooms available to view in the Baron's Hall.

A wheelchair access route map is available for the Gardens, but not all pathways are paved and so we advise that visitors using a wheelchair have an able-bodied companion to help them.

Accessible toilets are also on-site.



## Further Information

If you wish to book, please complete a booking form available on our website and return it to the address below. For more details and to discuss your visit with us, contact:

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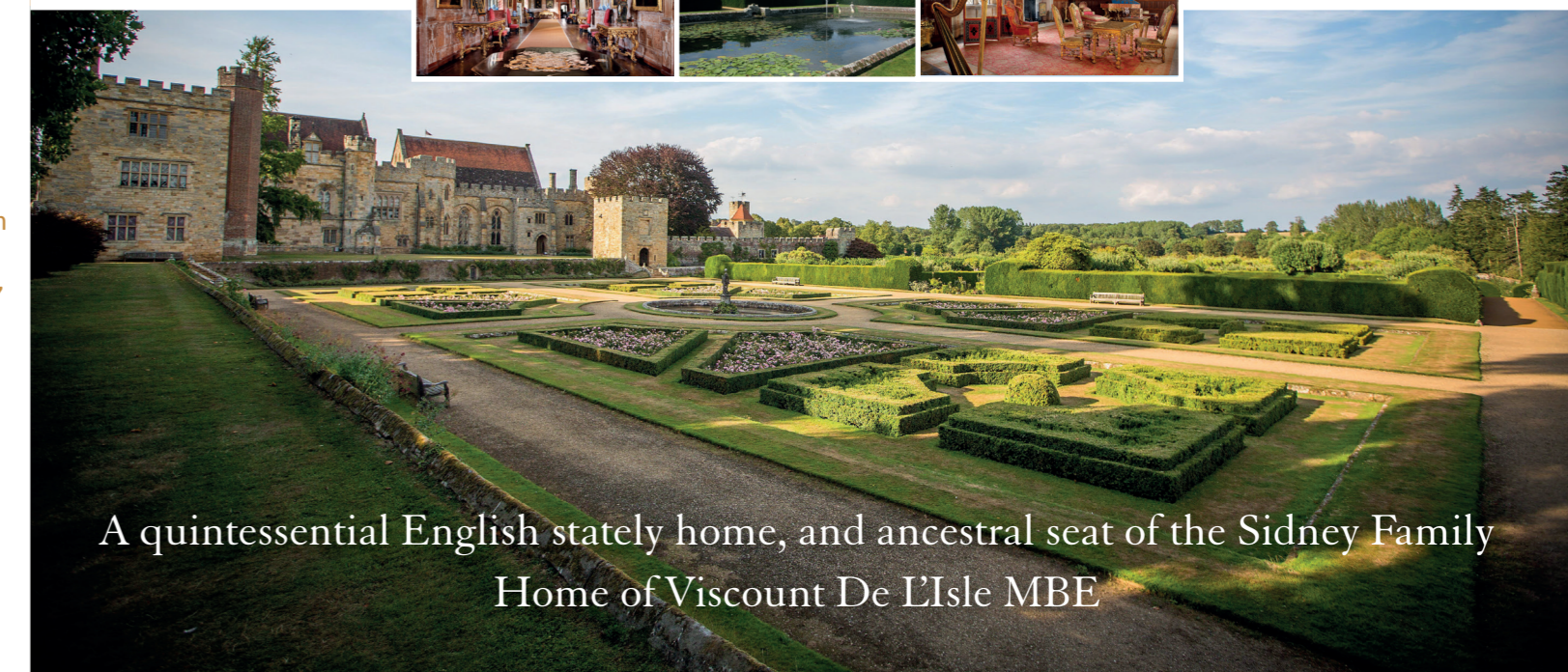
For details of our full events program, visit [www.penshurstplace.com](http://www.penshurstplace.com)

With thanks to David Fenwick, Sam Bond, Peter Smith, Jigsaw Design & Publishing, Leigh Clapp & Deborah Anne for their wonderful photography.

Times and prices correct at time of going to press, please contact us to confirm any details you wish to query.



## An Invitation to Groups for 2017



A quintessential English stately home, and ancestral seat of the Sidney Family  
Home of Viscount De L'Isle MBE

# Welcome to Penshurst Place & Gardens

## The House

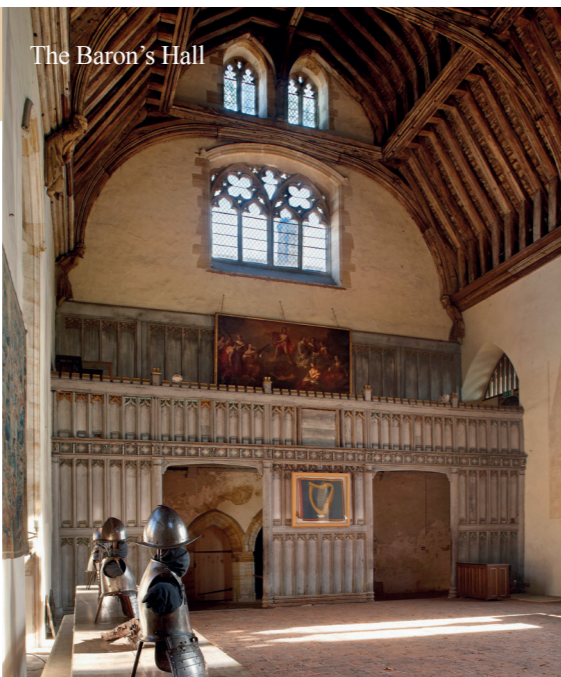
The Medieval Baron's Hall, built in 1341, is regarded as one of the best examples of medieval domestic architecture in the country; it was built with the intention of impressing all who visited, and it still does today! Within the medieval hall hangs a selection of tapestries which guide the eye up to the impressive 60 feet high original chestnut beamed ceiling. Within the further medieval and Tudor staterooms groups will find a collection of beautiful portraits, antiques and history.

## The Gardens

The historic Gardens of Penshurst Place were laid out in Elizabethan times and are considered to be among the most beautiful in England, with early records dating back to 1346. Over a mile of yew-hedging separates this 11 acre walled garden into a series of distinctive "rooms". Each garden room offers an abundance of variety in form, foliage and bloom from Spring to Autumn.

## The Place

Set within the larger Penshurst Place Estate, the House and Gardens encompass parkland walks and a beautiful Woodland Trail. Visiting groups can also enjoy a charming Toy Museum, a Gift Shop and our on-site Garden Restaurant, brimming with local produce and delicious menu choices. Book your meal in advance to receive a discounted rate.



## Make the Most of Your Visit

Groups visiting Penshurst Place and Gardens can either pre-book a private guided tour, or visit as a non-guided freeflow group. Both options offer full access to the House and Gardens and both can be combined with a set Lunch or Tea.

## Private House Tours

All of our House tours are private and operate outside of our public opening times of 12noon - 4pm to allow our groups to get the most out of their tour. We are happy to offer House Tours out of our seasonal opening times and are happy to tailor our content to suit your group's special interest if required. Tours of the House take approximately one hour and are also available in French, German, Dutch., Danish and Norwegian.

## Private Garden Tours

Garden Tours can take place at any time between 10.30am and 4pm. A tour with our Head Gardener is also available for an extra charge. Garden Tours take approximately one hour. There is also the option of a combined House and Gardens tour which, when combined with a relaxing lunch break in between, makes for a wonderful day out.

## Non-guided Visits

Groups are welcome to wander around the House and Gardens at leisure. Room guides in several languages are available in each of our staterooms, as are large print and Braille versions. We also have knowledgeable stewards in each room who will be able to answer any questions you may have.

## Special Joint Tours & Visits

### On The Tudor Trail

Hever Castle and Penshurst Place & Gardens  
Two historic places in Kent, just a few miles apart, brought together by King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. This ticket includes a guided tour of the House or Gardens at Penshurst Place in the morning, followed by a non-guided visit to Hever Castle in the Afternoon.

### House and Historic Penshurst Church Tour

Through the private gate in the garden walls of Penshurst Place stands the Village's picturesque medieval church. Begun in the 12th century, it houses the chapel and burial vault of the Sidney family. The church's outstanding architecture and art bear witness across the centuries to the story of an English village and its most famous family. Tour the House between 9.30am and 11am or at 4pm, and combine with a tour of the church between 10.30am and 4pm.



## Don't Miss

### Relax In The Garden Restaurant

Begin your tour with a tea or coffee waiting for you upon arrival, before enjoying a delicious lunch or cream tea in the Garden Restaurant, with cosy seating indoors and a shaded terrace perfect for the summer months. Both hot or cold self-service meals are available in the Restaurant, or you can pre-book your lunch and enjoy a special groups rate and a guaranteed seating area and table service.

### Annual Events

Glorious Gardens Weekend  
3rd & 4th June

A weekend dedicated to celebrating our unique Gardens and their history. 2017 will feature artists capturing our Gardens at their best as they paint, draw and sketch live in the Gardens over the weekend.

### Weald of Kent Handmade Fair

29th April - 1st May & 8th - 10th September

Discover homeware, furniture, jewellery, fragrances, art, food and more as we welcome stallholders from the Weald of Kent and further afield. Joint day tickets with the House and Gardens can be purchased from [www.ichf.co.uk](http://www.ichf.co.uk).

Further details of our annual events can be found in our events leaflet

### Special Interest Tours

Behind the Scenes - Head Housekeeper's Tour  
Discover how we keep Penshurst Place looking its best, as well as protecting our fragile artwork and furniture, with our Head Housekeeper. Followed by seasonal refreshments around the Baron's Hall Fire.

### Design Your Own Tour

Our senior guides offer a range of specialist tours to appeal to a variety of groups and niche interests. Subjects include portraits, needlework and textiles, politics, furniture, china and porcelain.

### Seasonal Tours

A limited number of "Old Christmas Traditions" tours are available upon request during December, when the Baron's Hall is decorated ready for the festive period.

### Connoisseur's Tour

An exclusive up close guided tour of the staterooms, where the Head Housekeeper reveals artefacts, opens doors and divulges secrets on some of the wonderful items in the collection not normally seen by visitors. Follow this with your choice of a Garden or village church tour.