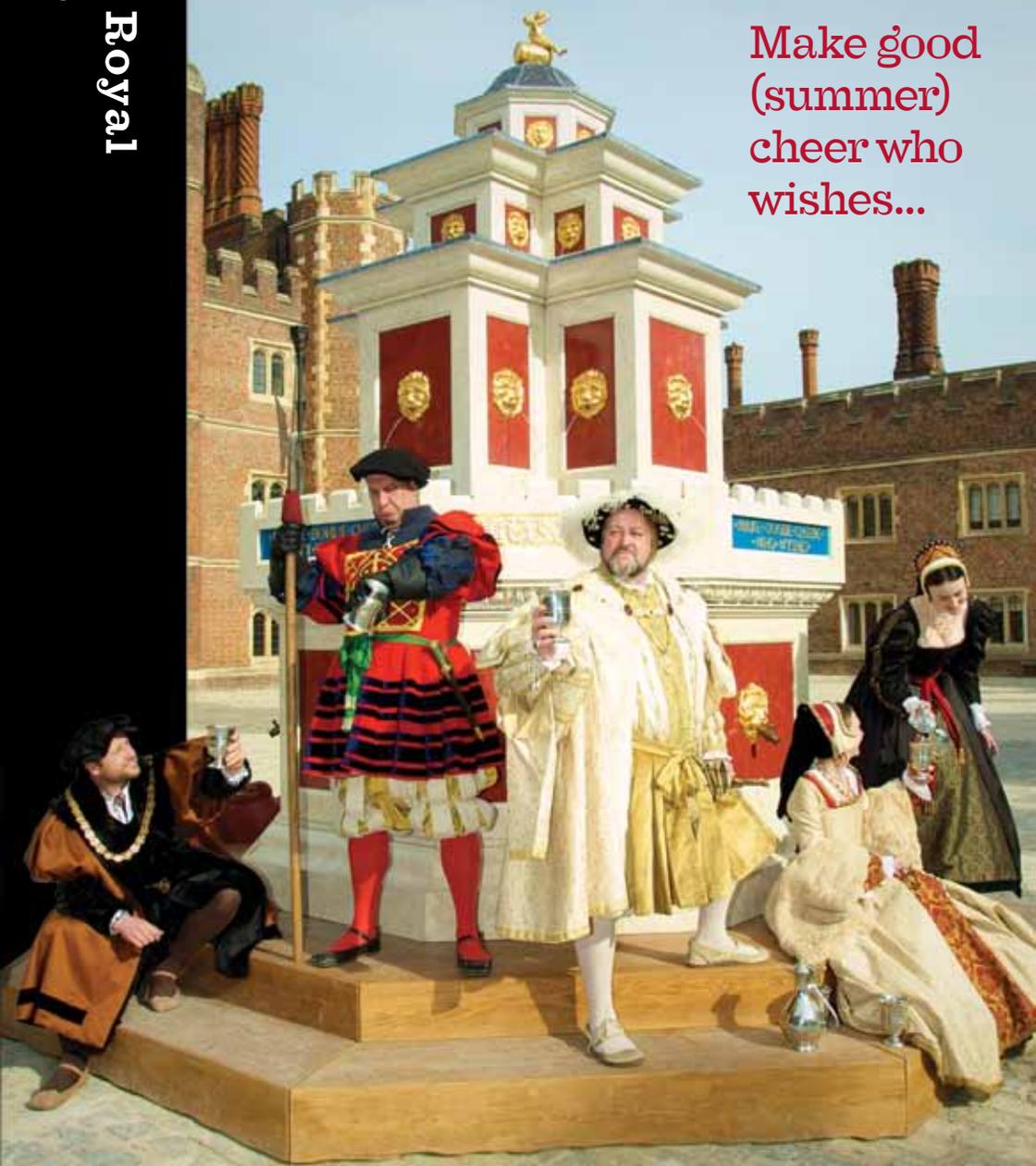


Inside Story

Make good
(summer)
cheer who
wishes...



contents

4 News

6 Conservation at the Tower of London

8 My passport to the palaces

10 Kensington Palace update

12 Summer shopping guide

14 Henry Moore member competition

16 Author series – upcoming events

18 Shakespeare's Globe ticket offer

20 Member events



As always I welcome your feedback and comments regarding *Inside Story*. This magazine is produced for the enjoyment of all our members so if there is anything you would like to see featured or have any questions for anybody at Historic Royal Palaces please write or email me at the addresses below.

Be part of the *Inside Story*.

Write to
Historic Royal Palaces
Membership Department
Apt 38, Hampton Court Palace
Surrey KT8 9AU

or email members@hrp.org.uk.

Introduce a friend

Your incredible money-saving membership gives you and your family the opportunity to enjoy the palaces all year round, plus a host of other benefits. Why not get someone you know involved with our historic royal family and buy them a gift membership! Not many other presents will last a **whole year** saving the lucky recipient money, time and time again! Free and unlimited visiting all year round as well as many other great benefits. To buy a gift membership for someone special call us now on 0844 482 7788.

As an independent charity, we receive no government funding, so your gift membership fee will help us continue to protect and maintain the palaces for generations to come.



Hello!

Welcome to the summer edition of *Inside Story*. I hope you have enjoyed the busy start to the season with author series, book clubs and roof tours galore!

As well as the many member events, we have had lots of activity around the palaces in the shape of two new exhibitions. I think every member is aware of the Enchanted Palace at Kensington Palace but that is not forgetting the fantastically royal *Fit for a King* exhibition at the Tower – it is really worth a look and remember; members get access to all the palaces for free!

The author series hits a high point this summer with Kate Williams, our Victoria champion, hosting an evening at Kensington Palace on 5 August followed swiftly by international bestseller Tracy Chevalier in September at Hampton Court Palace.

It is only through the generosity and enthusiasm of our members and supporters that we can continue with the important work we do so a big thankyou from everyone at Historic Royal Palaces.

Samantha Brown Membership Manager

News...



Kewing for the throne

King George III on the 250th anniversary of his accession

When George II collapsed in his closet at Kensington, on the morning of Saturday 25th October 1760, his grandson George was quietly having his breakfast at Kew. At 8 o'clock, he set off for London on horseback and had just crossed the newly built Kew Bridge, when a messenger handed him a note signed by George II's page Schroder, informing him that "an accident had happened to the King". Without telling his attendants the contents of the note, the party rode back to Kew, where the new 22 year old king pondered on what he should do next...

This insider account of the morning of the accession, written by the new King George III himself, is but one of the 65 fascinating items to see this summer in a new exhibition at Kew Palace which opened on 2 April. It brings to life many episodes

of George III's life at Kew: from the young child pictured in a contemporary drawing, happily playing at soldiers in a makeshift tent in the drawing room, to the rather forced 1749 thank you for the Order of the Garter letter to King George II from "your Majesty's most humble and most dutyfull subject grand-son and servant George".

Also displayed is a tiny music programme, with notes devised and written by the King himself, reflecting his interest in music – the Queen had her own band at Kew which included such eminent musicians as Bach, Fisher, Abel and Kramer. Other highlights displayed are prints of the young princess and her first meeting with George; ribbons from a 1761 Coronation rosette; and a large silver rattle given by his governess Lady Charlotte Finch to the future George IV on his first birthday.

All these items and more can be seen at Kew Palace from 2 April to 26 September 2010.

Art students take Kensington Palace hostage!!!

From bats to princesses, frogs to showgirls, Wimbledon College of Art students have been taking inspiration from Kensington Palace and the fabulous Enchanted Palace experience to create their own fantastical costume designs.

It has been all hands on deck as the education team, Front of House explainers and **WildWorks** theatre company have all been working collaboratively with final year costume design and interpretation students to help them represent the stories of Kensington through chiffon, sequins, velvet and wax!

The project was fittingly finished off with a fashion show, led by the students at Kensington Palace. I hope you agree the costumes produced by the students really are a fantastic representation of the spectacle to be found at the Enchanted Palace.



Make good cheer who wishes

Kent Rawlinson, Curator of Historic Buildings,
Hampton Court Palace



Hampton Court Palace was a Tudor pleasure palace so, in this spirit, on May Day we revealed the remarkable new centrepiece of our recently restored Base Court: a working recreation of Henry VIII's wine fountain!

Henry VIII's palace possessed a sophisticated water system supplied by means of buried lead pipes from springs three miles away at Coombe Hill. This served a number of fountains, including an elaborate fountain built by Henry in Clock Court and a smaller fountain – or 'conduit' – in Base Court, the base of which was discovered only last year during archaeological works undertaken before we restored the cobbled surface. Henry also had fabulous temporary fountains made for feasts and revels. In 1527 one of these was decorated 'with gargoyles of gold fiercely

faced ... and on the summit of the same was a fair lady out of whose breasts ran abundantly water of marvellous delicious flavour.'

Our new fountain normally stands in Base Court in the same position as the newly discovered Tudor conduit. However, for the duration of the music festival it was in Clock Court on the spot where Henry VIII's fountain once stood.

When Henry VIII met Francis I of France at the Field of the Cloth of Gold in 1520 the political stakes were high and the stage had to be set perfectly. The centre piece of Henry's display of wealth, power and cultural prowess was a large temporary palace mostly constructed from painted timber and canvas. In front of this were a pair of elaborate fountains each made in classical style (which the Tudor's called 'antique' or 'Roman') and each with an ancient god perched on the top.

Henry VIII had these fountains and his temporary palace vividly depicted in the remarkable Field of the Cloth of Gold painting – on display at Hampton Court Palace in Young Henry VIII's Story. According to the chronicler Edward Hall, the fountain upon which ours is based served red, white and 'claret' (meaning rosé) wine.

At the entering into the palace ... was builded a

fountain ... gilt with fine gold, and bice [blue], ingrayled [carved] with antique works, the old God of wine called Bacchus burling the wine, which by conduits in the earth ran to all people plenteously with red, white, and claret wine, over whose heads was written in letters of Roman in gold: 'faicte bonne chere quy vouldra' ['make good cheer who wishes'].

A French guest was also suitably impressed:

In one place ... were two great gilded 'cuves' and in the middle of each was a large fountain, with severall flowrets, which continually spouted white wine and claret, the best that could be found, with large silver cups for any one to drink – which was a remarkable thing!

We have built our fountain, just as Henry VIII's craftsmen probably did, from timber which is painted to look like white and red marble. It is decorated with forty gilded bronze lions' heads, four beautifully carved classical friezes, four copies of the motto or invitation – MAKE GOODE CHEERE WHO WYHES – and on the top sits a naked gold Bacchus happily downing his wine! On the steps of the fountain sit two characters from the painting, carved in wood, one of whom has clearly had too much to drink...

Henry VIII's wine fountains were displays of royal wealth and generosity, but

they were not alone. For great civic celebrations – such as Anne Boleyn's coronation in 1533 – the public water fountains (known as conduits – hence, for example, 'Lamb's Conduit Street') were filled with wine. During her procession through the city Anne passed many such fountains, including one 'by the great conduit in Chepe which was newly painted with arms ... out of which conduit a goodly fountain set at one end ran continually with wine both white and claret all that afternoon.'

Wine and beer were drunk in huge quantities by Henry VIII's Court as can be seen from the great wine and beer cellars which survive at Hampton Court Palace. At the Field of the Cloth of Gold the Tiltyard had its own great Sellers couched full of wyne, whiche was to all men as largesse as the fountain.

Like the original, our fountain really works! For sake of safety the fountain and the wine we offer our visitors are kept completely separate and whilst outside our fountain is all 1520s, inside the draft wine system it very 21st century!

For an hour at the end of every Saturday and Sunday, visitors are invited to enjoy either red or (chilled) white wine and to raise their glasses and toast 'King Henry our Sovereign Lord and Master!' 🍷

Wonders of the Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection



Genevieve Muinzer

Historic Royal Palaces' Patron

A real jewel in the crown of Historic Royal Palaces is the Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection. For lovers of textiles like myself who also have a keen interest in history and people, there is a real thrill in being able to examine the clothes that have stared back at you from photographs in history books and portraits in museums since your childhood.

The collection is finding temporary accommodation in Princess Margaret's former apartment while a state of the art repository is being designed in Kensington Palace. It was here that I met Joanna Marschner, Costume Historian and Senior Curator at Historic Royal Palaces; one of the many privileges of being a patron!

This may only be a temporary home for the collection, but room after room is filled with tall stacks of meticulously labelled boxes each bearing a photograph of the contents. Within wardrobes, long gowns and dress suits peek out from their white cases that protect them from pollution, dust and the exigencies of the 21st century.

The earliest pieces in the Royal dress collection date from the 17th century; a buff coat of stout leather which belonged to Charles I is one of the oldest pieces of the collection. Little has survived before then. There are many reasons for this: one is that outfits were sometimes given as part payment of a salary or recycled to a close

member of staff. I query why so little belonging to Prince Albert was kept; surely Queen Victoria would have saved everything?

Joanna explains "One can't read too much into why certain items haven't been preserved. Some members of the Royal Family have set aside all manner of things as mementoes of moments in their family life and the life of the nation. Others have preserved very little, choosing to mark such moments in a very different way. In the case of Prince Albert we do know that Queen Victoria laid things aside, but during the Second World War when the collection was evacuated from London, some things – including this collection – were damaged. Dress



becomes very fragile as time passes and has to be looked after very carefully in order to survive well. Even climactic conditions can cause damage as can mould and damp. Some dyes can be corrosive and ironically even some of the cleaning solvents and soaps have irreparably damaged the important clothes they sought to preserve."

On a previous patron's tour of the collection I was able to see the jauntily checked knickerbockers and golfing outfits of the Duke of Windsor bright by even today's sartorial standards but fascinating for their period authenticity. Princess Diana's heavily embroidered Catherine Walker evening gown was another feast for the eyes. Urban myths can even be

rectified. Queen Victoria's accession robe was incorrectly painted as white by Henry Tanworth Wells in 1880 but was in fact black and has now turned a tobacco colour with age.

In conservators' gloves Joanna begins to unwrap the tissue of Tyvek paper and out of the cocoon emerges the monogrammed vest and stockings of William III beautifully preserved and vibrant in colour. How intriguing! This is the man who is the founding father of my alma mater in the US, the man who put the Prince into Princeton University in 1746. Having spent all my life celebrating him at Reunions and academic gatherings and worn the orange and black of the House of Nassau, I am

amused to see that his vest is a bright red and his stockings green.

A lover and student of sewing and textiles, I am delighted that this great collection with all its historical associations and beautiful craft work is in such safe hands. As always it has been a privilege to see these famous historical clothes so close to hand and one certainly feels the full force of the wearer's personalities that come across so clearly and illuminates a dull afternoon. ☺

Genevieve is a patron of Historic Royal Palaces.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a patron please call Janet Alexander on 020 3166 6319.

A right royal birthday party



On 24 May, Queen Victoria returned to Kensington Palace, her childhood home, to celebrate a very special day. Not only was it her 191st birthday (she was born at the palace in 1819), but also Victoria officially declared Historic Royal Palaces' fundraising appeal for Kensington Palace open!

Victoria was joined by her beloved Prince Albert, her favourite dog Dash and many well wishers that included members, volunteers, local councillors and donors

to our project Welcome to Kensington – a palace for everyone. As readers may remember from the spring issue of Inside Story, Welcome to Kensington is a major, £12 million project to transform Kensington Palace for the future. There will be bold new gardens, fabulous displays about the palace's wonderful stories and new places for people to learn – all in time for The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympic Games in 2012.

There are two new and exciting ways in which members can support and play a part in the palace's future. You can Join Kensington's Historic Royal Family with a donation from £50, which will be recorded in honour of Queen Victoria, Albert or Dash! Or, if you're fascinated by the wealth of momentous, intriguing and surprising stories from Kensington's past, why not own one of them forever by making a donation from £500 to our Capture a moment in Kensington Palace's story scheme. You can choose your favourite story, and make your donation, by searching a new interactive timeline on our website (www.hrp.org.uk), which also has more information about the unique and exclusive benefits donors will receive in return for their support.

For more information, visit www.hrp.org.uk; telephone 020 3166 6366; or email development@hrp.org.uk. And why not follow the appeal on Twitter: @kensington2012



Courtiers: The Secret History of Kensington Palace

Book review

The subject of our June book club was the new publication by Historic Royal Palaces' Chief Curator, Lucy Worsley. Inspired and intrigued by the host of faces painted by William Kent in 1725, the mural on the King's Grand Staircase at Kensington Palace is the focus for Lucy's dissection of court life. This much-neglected period in history is not so much the back drop of court intrigue and machinations as one might expect but a picture of the boredom and tedious routine that courting royal favour resulted in.

The courtiers singled out by Lucy are far more interesting than either monarch they seek to impress however the picture painted of these characters makes up for the dull greyness of both George I and II. Lucy's favourite characters include Queen Caroline, the long-suffering wife of George II, Henrietta Howard – a royal mistress; Mohammed and Mustapha,

the Turks who administered to the royal bottom (yes really); and Peter the Wild Boy, a feral child kept as a court pet.

All of these characters feed perfectly into the weird and wonderful world of the Enchanted Palace which can be found at Kensington Palace. The inspiration for the stories re-told in the palace are clearly seen in Lucy's book and drawn out by her wonderfully funny style. Even the designers can be seen to draw their inspiration from Kent's fantastical mural although I am not sure the origami dress found in Princess Victoria's bedchamber can be seen to stem from the stories of George I – spending his evenings cutting pieces of paper into shapes!! What a fun evening that must have been for his courtiers; a far better way to pass ones' time is to get stuck into Lucy's book...



Courtiers: The secret life of Kensington Palace by Lucy Worsley is available at Historic Royal Palaces shops and online www.hrp.org.uk/shopping.

The critics say:

'Extraordinary characters ... brilliantly described, brought me to tears ... a compelling book'.

The Daily Express

'Now the definitive work on the early Hanoverian court. Worsley's style is wonderfully readable and her talent for empathy enormous ... haunts one's imagination'.

The Sunday Telegraph

'We have a fine modern historian to guide us through the dreamlike maze of 18th-century palace life'.

The Times

Summer treats in the palace shops...

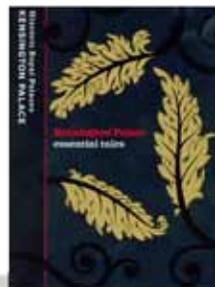


As you might expect, the wonderfully theatrical experience Enchanted Palace has inspired some fabulous shopping opportunities. The wonderful pieces from leading fashion designers are enfolded into magical installations – which have in turn inspired a fabulous range of products including two new books!

Remember that as a member of Historic Royal Palaces you receive 10% discount on all your onsite purchases at our palace shops or please visit our online shop. Please either call the mail order line on: **020 3166 6848** or visit our website: **www.hrp.org.uk**

Kensington Palace: essential tales

Who were the people that lived within Kensington Palace? There was a brave king who loved too much and a clever queen with a cabinet of curiosities, a little wild boy who couldn't talk and a lonely young princess who became Empress of India. A decorator with dazzling charm and a kitchen maid who made the King of Greece smile... Discover their stories, and many more, in this beautifully-illustrated, character-led guide to the palace's history and its colourful royal and non-royal inhabitants, from William III and Mary II's arrival in 1689 to the present day.
Paperback, 84 pages £4.99



In the Pink

An absolute must-have for every dressing up box! Available in two sizes, cute and cuter! (To fit ages 3-5 and 6-8). Also available on our website are some essential accessories to complete the transformation – these include a crown wand, hair combs and tiaras, heart slippers and a fan to keep you cool!

Dress £19.99

Fit for a King: cape and crown

This red velour cloak with faux ermine fur will transform any would-be-sovereign; perfect for all day ruling!

Cape £14.99 and Crown £8.99



Jan Constantine: Velvet diamante crown cushion

This cushion has been made exclusively for Historic Royal Palaces by one of the leading British designers in home furnishing. The crown on this magnificent velvet cushion is hand embroidered with gold thread, and worked with glittering crystals.

Velvet with mother-of-pearl fastening at the back. £99

Palace Princesses childrens book

Introducing the latest in our award-winning series of books for children is Palace Princesses. This unashamedly pink book will appeal to 9 to 11-year-olds, curious to discover more about the lives of real princesses, many of whom lived at Kensington Palace.

£5.99



Mother and baby lunchtime heaven

at the Orangery, Kensington Palace

As the parent of any tiny baby will tell you, leaving the house involves about the same amount of strategic planning as say, a medium-scale military offensive. It is not unusual, mid-way through contemplating such action, to be troubled by the thought that the only thing you cannot prepare for is how your chosen luncheon destination is going to deal with your baby, its gigantic transportation device or its unpredictable and, let's face it, potentially uncontrollable behaviour.

So it is with this familiar sensation that myself and 4-month old Freddie leave to meet our friends for what will hopefully be a successful lunch at the Orangery at Kensington Palace.

I locate my friend Alex and her daughter Evie catching some rays on a bench outside the Orangery, the queue of diners outside looks daunting but we are soon ushered in and settled at a splendid table in the middle of the room instead of being relegated to a murky corner strictly segregated from child-free diners as seems unfortunate standard policy at many establishments. Our table is swiftly altered to accommodate two pushchairs; there is no elaborate song and dance, just an obviously well-practised manoeuvre.

The Orangery is a vision of white columns and cornice, uniquely grand – one can well imagine Queen Anne and her court swishing about the place – yet there is an

air of informality: a warmth that comes from the chatter of full tables, the clatter of knives and forks, the glee of tourists and contentment of the regulars.

Babies being babies they both needed feeding within seconds of sitting down. A cup of boiling water to heat up Freddie's bottle was quickly delivered upon request (a true test of any restaurant's alleged baby-friendliness). Our attentive waiter acknowledged we both had our hands full on baby duty and returned only when we were ready to focus on the important things: wine. With a glance over the menu's helpful *Recommended Wines* factbox we settled on a 2009 South African Sauvignon Blanc, crisp, floral and full-bodied, it was an exact complement to our stately surroundings.

Manager Ludkas Perdziak stopped by to say hi to the babies, highlight the specials and advise us on the current seasonal menu, full to bursting with such lusciousness as English asparagus, Roast Caernarvon ham, Silver Hill duck and Dorset crab. Anxious to take advantage of the calm, we forged ahead with main courses: I tucked into the Suffolk chicken breast, which was juicy and well balanced by creamy Jersey Royal potatoes and the fresh cheerful tang of the garlic & celeriac coleslaw. Alex had the Smoked Invernesshire haddock and ricotta tart, which was duly proclaimed both light and delightful.



One of the first treats on entering the Orangery is the cake table, wonderfully displayed with an old-fashioned bakery feel – piles of meringues, scones, tarts and a glorious variety of cakes. To celebrate sleeping baby status being successfully achieved, I sat down to a huge piece of Chocolate Hazelnut cake which was nutty and decadent but not too sweet; Alex ordered the Raspberry Meringue which arrived laden with berries and thick cream and she was soon lost in a blissful reverie of sticky, sugary perfection.

There is a very proper tradition for afternoon tea here, the seriousness of which is demonstrated by a truly global tea selection, which includes exclusive black tea from Cornwall's famous Tregothnan Estate, Chocolate tea from Ceylon and Tulsi Mint tea from India. Alas, having reached maximum capacity we were reduced to an envy-making, vicarious tea experience via our neighbouring table, eyeing up their individual stands of delicate éclairs, finger sandwiches, clotted cream and jams. I hope they weren't too troubled by our wistful sighs.

The Orangery makes a perfect lunch date for mums and babies of all ages: spacious, elegant, accommodating and truly child-baby friendly as we found to our surprise and pleasure. Staff were helpful, doting and efficient, making time during their incredibly busy lunchtime service to ensure we were looked after, welcomed and well-fed.

Further delights await within the palace itself: a wander through the formal gardens or an enlightening glimpse into the lives of former royal residents courtesy of the stunning Enchanted Palace – after such a regal dining experience you should still have room left to indulge in a little slice of Kensington Palaces' rich history. 🍷

Review by Cintra Thorpe, member.

Anne Boleyn set to light up the Globe Member offer

Anne Boleyn

By Howard Brenton
World Premiere
24 July – 10 August 2010

In an exciting new production, the Globe are celebrating a great English heroine, Anne Boleyn dramatises the life and legacy of Henry VIII's second wife – traditionally seen as either the beautiful and virtuous victim of a tyrant husband, or as an ambitious and ruthless reformist manipulating her way into power.

But Brenton puts a very different Anne – and her ghost – on the Globe stage. Witty, flirtatious and confident, she's in love with Henry but also with the most dangerous ideas of her day. Conspiring with the exiled William Tyndale, Anne plots to produce a Bible that everyone can read – a translation that will permit her marriage to Henry, haunt her daughter's successor, and transform Britain forever.

Howard Brenton writes: *"I am fascinated by heroes and heroines who were ahead of their time, like Abelard and Heloise in my first play for the Globe. Anne was one of them. She could not know the future, of course. But she helped detonate a religious upheaval which culminated a century later in the Civil War, the breaking of divine royal power and the establishment of our Parliament."*

Miranda Raison stars as Anne Boleyn. She is currently playing Ann Bullen in the Globe's production of Shakespeare's Henry VIII and is best known for her role as Jo Portman in the BBC's hit drama Spooks.

Historic Royal Palaces' member ticket offer

For all performances of Anne Boleyn HRP members can get a top price ticket and a glass of Prosecco for just £27.50 (ticket price usually up to £35).

To take advantage of this fantastic offer visit www.shakespeares-globe.org and use promotion code 'pcdwinab' or call the Box Office on 020 7401 9919.

Subject to availability. Not in conjunction with any other offer.



Shakespeare's Globe
21 New Globe Walk
Bankside
London SE1 9DT
www.shakespeares-globe.org

Author series

The members' author series is now in full swing having had three fabulous events at the Tower of London and Kensington Palace. The July event at Hampton Court Palace was an enormous success and featured famed ghost-hunter Barbara Erskine. Thank you to all members who support these events, I know you all get a lot out of the author series and long may it continue!

As we move into August, we have a very special event focusing on the life of Princess Victoria and her struggle to become Queen. Kate Williams is an expert on Queen Victoria and her book was 'Book of the Week' on Radio 4, a Book of the Year in the Times and the Independent. In September we have a real treat as Tracy Chevalier is hosting an evening at Hampton Court Palace. I am sure you all know Tracy who is an international bestseller and now Hollywood regular!



To book tickets for the author series, please call us on 0844 4827788.

Kensington Palace

Becoming Queen

Kate Williams

Date: 5 August; doors open at 18.45 for 19.00 start
Price: £20 including champagne reception

Bestselling author and Kensington Palace appeal champion Kate Williams is joining us on 5 August to tell the astonishing story of Queen Victoria's passionate youth as she ascended the throne and escaped the clutches of her dominant mother but also how her life was shaped by the life of her forgotten cousin, Princess Charlotte, the Queen who never was. The story of Princess Victoria is at the very heart of Kensington Palace and there will be a chance to see the 'Victoria rooms' as featured in the 'Enchanted Palace'.

'Kate Williams has perfected the art of historical biography..her pacy writing is underpinned by the most impeccable scholarship. I cannot recommend it highly enough', Alison Weir

'History at its best', Guardian



Book club

Thank you to all members who have entered into the spirit of the club with such gusto, it is your contributions which really bring the books to life and ensure a lively debate. Our next meeting follows the fabulously spooky event featuring Barbara Erskine earlier this month, so please email us if you would like to join.

We hope to have a diverse and ever-changing group of members to come to the book clubs so we can have a stimulating and open debate about the books which shape our perception of the history and buildings of which we are all advocates. I encourage all members to join the book club and come to one of the future meetings. You do not have to attend the event to be part of the book club as we will email all members with the details before each meeting.

To join the member-only book club, please email us at members@hrp.org.uk with the subject heading of 'book club entry'. Tickets to the meetings are £5 to cover costs and tickets will be issued before the book club meeting.

The meetings will be held in the Clore Centre at Hampton Court Palace starting at 18.30 on the following dates.

18 August
15 September
13 October

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the meetings, more dates will be announced in the autumn.

Hampton Court Palace

Remarkable Creatures

Tracy Chevalier

Date: 27 September; doors open at 18.30 for 18.45 start
Price: £20 including refreshments

A truly accomplished writer who enthralled us with 'Girl with a Pearl Earring'; I am delighted to be welcoming Tracy Chevalier as a guest speaker at Hampton Court Palace. Tracy's new book 'Remarkable Creatures' is a story of a young fossil hunter who is trying to fight against the strict laws of society in which the main character, Mary Anning, is born into obscurity and poverty. The story incorporates the message (and character) of Jane Austen and her belief that women are as likely to succeed as men given the opportunity. It is a superb piece of writing which celebrates the life and work of Darwin as well as breaking down the class fissures of the time.

'Historical figures have rarely been so cleverly used', Guardian



Members' events Summer 2010

New member tours Summer 2010

If you have recently joined as a member but not yet had the chance to visit one of the palaces, why not come along to one of the 'New member tours' at the Tower of London and Hampton Court Palace? Each tour will give you an experts' guide of what there is to see and do at each palace. The tours are free and suitable for children of all ages.

Tower of London

Tower of London tour with an iconic Yeoman Warder.

Dates: 26 July and 23 August starting at 15.00

Please meet in the Welcome Centre at the Tower of London at 15.00 prompt

Hampton Court Palace

Come and see Hampton Court Palace with an expert State Apartment Warder.

Dates: 28 July and 25 August starting at 15.00

Please meet by the West Gate (main entrance) at 15.00 prompt.

These tours are being advertised to new members but if you happen to have missed out on the Hampton Court Palace experience then please feel free to pop along.

If you would like to attend one of the new member tours please email members@hrp.org.uk.

Tower of London

The Biographers' Club and Historic Royal Palaces' Luncheon; 'Biography and Tudor love'

Date: 9 September starting at 12.30. Please meet at the New Amouries

Price: £20 including a buffet lunch

In conjunction with the highly respected Biographers' Club; I am delighted to invite members of Historic Royal Palaces to a lecture lunch featuring one of our favourite historians, Dr Tracy Borman. Tracy's most recent book 'Elizabeth's Women' is the study of female relationships throughout the course of Queen Elizabeth I's life. An intricate and brilliantly written biography, 'Elizabeth's Women' offers an insight and understanding into the courtly interactions during the Tudor reign.



Hampton Court Palace

Curator Special Roof Top Tour

Dates: 18 and 24 August starting at 11.00 from the Members room

Price: £20

The most sought after ticket in the member event calendar, we are delighted to be able to offer these extremely special roof top tours of Hampton Court Palace led by our in-house expert curator Lee Prosser.

These tours are limited in numbers as the roof is a delicate conservation area. The tickets sell out extremely quickly so please book as soon as possible.

The tour starts promptly at 11.00 and lasts approximately one hour.

Archaeological Stores Tour

Dates: 18 and 24 August starting at 14.00 from the Members room

Price: £20

Hampton Court Palace has many secret places, several of which were once grace-and-favour apartments for the palace's residents. A few of these have found new uses; Apartment 16, high above the Queen's Apartments is now a storehouse for the many archaeological and architectural treasures which have been unearthed over the years. Come and have a look at the face of Cleopatra, a stuffed bear and the original Tudor

Membership
makes a
difference
Carry the card

roundels from the Great Watching Chamber among other items. This tour has never before been offered to members and our curatorial team will take you on a fascinating tour of the past. We'll try not to get lost in some very grand rooms, which are now peopled only by memories, and the odd ghost or two.

The tour starts promptly at 14.00 and lasts approximately one hour.

Oxford Shakespeare Company present The Tempest

Dates: 21 - 30 August at 19.30 (no performance 23 August)

Price: £20 full, £15 student conc, under 12's £10 under 5's free

Directed by Mick Gordon. Music by Nick Lloyd Webber. A magical storm. A long plotted revenge. A whirlwind romance. Journeys of tragedy, comedy and music come full circle in Shakespeare's great masterpiece.

To book tickets please call 020 7609 1800.



Sport for Kings with Anne Boleyn

Dates: 28 - 30 August August Bank Holiday weekend

Love is in the air as Queen Anne prepares for a summer's day of festivities. When the King's talent at sport is challenged, a series of contests are set up to prove who is really the best knight. Tudor sporting events such as falconry and fencing will enliven the palace throughout the bank holiday weekend.

Remarkable Creatures

Tracy Chevalier

Date: 27 September; doors open at 18.30 for 18.45 start

Price: £20 including refreshments

A truly accomplished writer who enthralled us with 'Girl with a Pearl Earring'; I am delighted to be welcoming Tracy Chevalier as a guest speaker at Hampton Court Palace. Tracy's new book 'Remarkable Creatures' is a story of a young fossil hunter who is trying to fight against the strict laws of society in which the main character, Mary Anning, is born into obscurity and poverty. The story incorporates the message (and character) of Jane Austen and her belief that women are as likely to succeed as men given the opportunity. It is a superb piece of writing which celebrates the life and work of Darwin as well as breaking down the class fissures of the time.

Banqueting House

Members' Summer Party

With special guest
Nell Gwynn

Date: 25 August starting at 18.00

Price: £10

What a summer it would be if we did not have a summer party celebrating Historic Royal Palaces and all that we have achieved this year. Of course we would not be able to carry out any conservation work without the generous help of our members. The Banqueting House has seen some of the most glittering parties ever thrown so where better to host our members party? Join us in the awe inspiring Main Hall dominated by the Rubens ceiling for what will be a great evening of fun, theatre and history. Featuring a very special guest, Nell Gwynn, who will introduce us to the court of the Merry Monarch, Charles II. Nell will use her own experiences of court to make sure you know who's who, how to dress and dance, and how to avoid 'Squintabella' - the Duchess of Portsmouth.



Don't miss it!

Members' events

Summer 2010

Kew Palace

Sunday evening tours

Dates: 15, 22 August, 12 and 19 September; starting at 17.00. Please meet by Kew Green Gate.

Price: £22

For those of you who really want to delve into Kew Palace's secrets, these guided tours take you through parts of the palace not open to the public. The tour also includes wine and nibbles in the Undercroft.

Dinner at Kew Palace

George III – 250 years on

Date: 14 September starting at 19.00

Price: £100

Tickets will sell out fast for this exclusive 250th anniversary dinner in the King's Dining Room. Numbers are strictly limited and include guest speaker and behind the scenes tour of this royal palace.



Kensington Palace

Becoming Queen

Kate Williams

Date: 5 August; doors open at 18.45 for 19.00 start

Price: £20 including champagne reception

Bestselling author and Kensington Palace appeal champion Kate Williams is joining us on 5 August to tell the astonishing story of Queen Victoria's passionate youth as she ascended the throne and escaped the clutches of her dominant mother but also how her life was shaped by the life of her forgotten cousin, Princess Charlotte, the Queen who never was. The story of Princess Victoria is at the very heart of Kensington Palace and there will be a chance to see the 'Victoria rooms' as featured in the 'Enchanted Palace'.

English wine tasting and luncheon

Dates: 19 August and 17 September; starting at 12.00

Price: £20 including lunch

Back for two last dates this summer, our ever-popular wine tasting is possibly one of the best ways to spend a sunny (or rainy) afternoon. Where better to sample the joys of our English wines than at the Orangery, Kensington Palace. The tasting will be led by an expert from our wine supplier, Bibendum and the event is followed by a superb two course lunch.

Enchanted Evening

Date: 20 August; doors open at 18.00, last entry 20.00

What could be more enchanting than a palace at night? Experience the dazzling spectacle of the Enchanted Palace after dark, when the palace doors would normally be locked.



How to book for members' events

Call us directly on **0844 482 7788** to book tickets unless stated.

For tickets to see the Oxford Shakespeare Company please call **020 7609 1800**.

