

Inside Story



**The King is
coming...**

Find out how we are celebrating Henry VIII's life and loves on page 6

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Be part of the Inside Story

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

Write to:

Historic Royal Palaces
Membership Department
Apartment 38
Hampton Court Palace
Surrey KT8 9AU

or email: members@hrp.org.uk

Membership

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 including:

- Free and unlimited access to our five Historic Royal Palaces
- Members-only special events including access to Ceremony of the Keys, discounts to the ice rinks, gastronomic wine tastings and much more
- A 10% discount in all our catering outlets and shops on site
- A free copy of our unique storybook, *The Private Lives of Palaces*
- Use of the private Members' Room at Hampton Court Palace

And just as you benefit from being a member, so do we. As an independent charity, we receive no government funding so your contribution helps us to continue with the important work we do.



Hello!

Hello and welcome to the winter edition of *Inside Story* – the magazine produced exclusively for members of Historic Royal Palaces. You can probably guess from the front cover we are all eagerly anticipating 2009 and the celebrations to mark the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII ascending the throne. As members you are getting a sneak preview of our plans for next year and how you can get involved with the various projects going on at both Hampton Court Palace and the Tower of London.

Your membership subscription is extremely important to Historic Royal Palaces and you can see, later on in the magazine, how your money has helped ensure that Base Court is returned to its former Tudor glory amongst other projects.

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 thank you from everyone at Historic Royal Palaces.

I hope to see you all at one of the members events over the festive period and remember to make someone very happy this Christmas – buy them a gift membership so they can get involved as well. See page 16 for the special members offer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samantha Brown'.

Samantha Brown
Membership Manager

Kensington Palace

Join our campaign

Kensington Palace is on the cusp of an exciting re-presentation and despite narrowly missing out on a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund we are all committed to this project.

Central to the £12 million project is creating new public gardens to reopen the vistas to and from Kensington Palace, making a new visitor entrance and new routes to explore the palace that are accessible to everyone, revealing the hidden stories of the past in lively and relevant ways, building further partnerships with the local community and realising formal and informal education opportunities.

Whilst Kensington Palace is a popular London visitor attraction, this project will enable us to make major improvements to ensure it remains a visitor destination that attracts an even broader, more diverse audience. Only a small proportion (250,000) of the millions of people who annually pass through Kensington's surrounding park venture beyond the railings and foliage that

enclose the palace. Inside the palace the wonderful historic rooms and collections are not shown to their best because of complicated visitor routes and dated methods of presentation. Many of Kensington's most compelling stories remain untold. Without the necessary physical changes to the layout of the palace it will not be possible for people with disabilities to share the same experience as others. The lack of spaces for education and community uses limits Historic Royal Palaces' ambition for sharing Kensington Palace's rich past and historic collections with local communities and a wide range of learners.

When the project is complete in 2012:

- Kensington Palace will be completely opened up and linked once again to Hyde Park and the surrounding landscape with gardens inspired by the historic layout of the area. Historic vistas to and from the palace will be reinstated, and a new outdoor space for public use and enjoyment created.
- The main visitor entrance will be relocated to welcome and draw visitors into the palace directly from the Broad Walk and the Round Pond.
- There will be a central hub inside the palace, free of charge to enter, where visitors will get a taste of a royal palace and can choose to explore further or just stop and enjoy refreshment in relaxing surroundings.
- The rooms where Queen Victoria grew up will be redisplayed and her story told using collections of pertinent and personal historic objects. The stories of Kensington's other fascinating personalities will follow after 2012.
- Children will enjoy free admission to the palace, where fun, engaging and relevant children-friendly events and activities will encourage more families to visit.
- Physical access into and around Kensington Palace will be transformed, aided by the addition of a lift providing level access to all floors.



- Historic Royal Palace's award-winning education service will be extended to Kensington with an education strategy drawing on the palace's relevance to the National Curriculum. Dedicated spaces will be created to accommodate formal and informal learners, including local community groups.

The project will be financed by Historic Royal Palaces supported by grants and donations from our supporters and donors. A fundraising campaign has already begun and you will hear about the public appeal in the near future. 🎯

Rubens Banqueting House Sketch Saved for the Nation

Many thanks to all members who gave so generously to the Tate's appeal to help save the first preparatory sketch made by Sir Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640) for his magnificent scheme of ceiling paintings in the Banqueting House at Whitehall which is one of the five palaces in the care of Historic Royal Palaces.

The vendor of The Apotheosis of James I and other studies: sketch for the ceiling of the Banqueting House, Whitehall 1628-30, whose family has owned the work for over two centuries, also generously agreed to waive £300,000 from the asking price of £6 million and accept £5.7 million net of tax. The work was valued at £11.5 million.

Stephen Deuchar, Director of Tate Britain said: "I am simply thrilled that the Rubens sketch has been saved for the nation and that it will now hang on permanent display at Tate Britain. This is the first Rubens work to enter Tate's Collection and is a unique treasure in the history of British art. It is the only sketch for the overall

composition of the Banqueting House ceiling that exists, and by acquiring this painting we can begin to reappraise the magnitude of Ruben's importance in British culture."

David Starkey joined the public campaign to save the work in June when the sketch was united with the paintings of the Banqueting House ceiling in Whitehall for the very first time. Speaking about the sketch, David Starkey said: "This work is of the utmost significance to British history. The Banqueting House with its stunning Rubens ceiling is all that remains of the original Whitehall Palace after it was destroyed by fire in 1698. The ceiling was originally commissioned by James I of England and VI of Scotland to celebrate his achievement in bringing about the peaceful union of Scotland and England with his accession to the English throne after the death of Elizabeth I. The Banqueting House ceiling is the most important painting set within an architectural context in England and this sketch is the key to its composition.



The King is coming!

The 21st of April 2009 marks the 500th anniversary of **Henry VIII's** accession to the throne.

Historic Royal Palaces will be dedicating the whole year to celebrating the lasting legacy of the mighty monarch with permanent representations, temporary exhibitions and exciting events for everyone to get involved with - from jousting and cooking to a Tudor music festival. There will be something for everyone!

As part of these celebrations, Hampton Court Palace will be hosting a wedding party in honour of Henry's marriage to Katherine Parr - his sixth wife. The palace will be made ready for the wedding with lavishly dressed rooms throughout the Tudor route, including feasting in the Great Hall

and debates in the newly-opened Council Chamber. Whether seeing the palace front decked out in splendour, passing warders in their new Tudor-inspired uniform, or meeting a live Henry and Katherine on site every day, visitors will revel in this moment of history that happened at Hampton Court in 1543.

This great king is known for his propensity for the ladies of his court and the rhyme 'Divorced, beheaded, died; divorced, beheaded, survived' serves to remind us that Henry's wives played an important part in the story of the Tudor dynasty, and each deserves the space to tell their own story. ➤



At home and abroad, for good or ill, Henry had left his mark as a sportsman, warrior and monarch.

The stories of each Queen will be brought together for the first time at Hampton Court Palace. Six rarely seen 16th-century portraits of each of the wives will be on show in the Council Chamber alongside portraits of Henry VIII himself, and Henry's other women, his favourite sister Mary, and his daughters. There will also be some rather evocative objects, from a lock of Katherine Parr's hair, to the music book written for Anne Boleyn by one of her alleged lovers.

As you will all know from visiting the Young Henry exhibition; it was no fat tyrannical Henry who ascended the throne but a slim handsome 17 year old prince who loved art, literature and revelled in

many sports. 37 years later Henry VIII died, his corpse bloated and scarred with the sores and afflictions of time - made infamous by Holbein's unforgettable painting.

During his reign England changed almost as much as the King's body. At home and abroad, for good or ill, Henry had left his mark as a sportsman, warrior and monarch. At the Tower of London in 2009, you will be able to journey back with Henry through his historic reign at a spectacular exhibition of his armour and weapons bought together for the first time in modern history.

So join us to welcome the Great King Henry back to his court and fortress with all the pomp and ceremony he deserves. 🐉

Images (left to right):
The Royal Collection
2007, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Portrait of Katherine of Aragon.
Portrait of Anne Boleyn

Henry's garden in Chapel Court

A heraldic **Tudor garden** fit for a king



In partnership with Squires Garden Centre, Historic Royal Palaces are creating a garden inspired by Henry's Privy Gardens of the 16th century. The design team's plan - including work by renowned garden designer Todd Longstaffe-Gowan - is based on three historical sources and will include the defining features of the Tudor Court garden.

As its name suggests Chapel Court is bordered on one side by the Chapel Royal. It also sits beside the rooms of Prince Edward, later Edward VI. Sources for the proposed garden include the portrait of Henry VIII and his family which hangs in the Haunted Gallery and shows the detail of a garden of the period and depicts how colourful it would have been.

Another source is the view of Hampton Court by Wyndegaerde of about 1555 showing the Privy garden laid out with rectangular beds and 'Kyngs Beestes'. The garden will comprise eight rectangular beds separated by gravel paths and bounded by painted timber posts and rails. So the garden is as realistic as possible we have also commissioned eight wooden 'Kyngs Beestes' - a bull, dragon, falcon, leopard, greyhound, lion, white hind and a yale. These will be hand carved in dried oak, painted then gilded, and will sit proudly on tall wooden posts painted in the manner of those shown in the portrait of Henry and his family. The planting will be evocative of the period including culinary,

medicinal and symbolic herbs and flowers.

We are so pleased to have the support of a popular local business such as Squires as we have many opportunities for businesses to get involved with our many projects and help us conserve these wonderful buildings for generations to come. Squires, a family business, was founded over 70 years ago in Twickenham and, although this is no time at all compared to the age of the Palace, it has a great affinity to Hampton Court Palace and its community.

As Sarah Squire herself explains, 'it is very exciting to see the Palace and its gardens evolve and to be a part of projects such as this which bring history vividly to life. We often see history against a backdrop of tapestries and portraits which, unless they are newly restored, can appear muted. It is easy to forget how bright these would have been when they were new. The Tudor court loved colour. It will be great to give visitors an insight into the vibrancy of court life and this garden will do just that.' 🐉

SQUIRES
GARDEN CENTRES

Restoring Base Court

What is going on in Base Court I hear you cry. Well we caught up with one of the team, curator **Kent Rawlinson** to find out what is going on behind all those closed doors...

Five hundred years ago guests visiting King Henry VIII at Hampton Court Palace were ceremoniously received and luxuriously accommodated in Base Court. Over the centuries this courtyard has undergone many changes, but now, as part of our celebrations marking the 500th anniversary of Henry's accession to the throne, we are restoring Base Court, once again creating an arena for activities, drama and events welcoming courtiers and visitors alike to Henry's magnificent palace in 2009.

We know Henry cobbled in and around Base Court with 'pybbylls' in 1535, a scheme that remained until 1700 when Christopher Wren's workmen laid new surfaces. Wren created a central

carriageway for William III and outer paths (features still in place today) with irregular paving as seen in Clock Court. These stone paved areas were replaced with grass in 1891. Between now and February next year we will reverse this Victorian work, removing the grass

...we didn't stop there – we kept on digging! Beneath Henry's cobbles we made two further remarkable discoveries.

and reinstating the irregular paved areas to create a more dramatic, and seemingly larger, courtyard; a central hub from which you will be able to explore Henry's Hampton Court Palace.

To undertake such a project we needed first to better

understand what lies beneath the surface. Back in May 2008, Oxford Archaeology began the subterranean investigations digging six 'trial trenches', which proved to be true windows into the past life of Base Court. We made some

fascinating discoveries, some dating back to perhaps the 15th century medieval period.

Peeling back the layers we first discovered that Wren, having demolished parts of Henry's palace, used crushed Tudor bricks,



The second, and most remarkable find, was the discovery of two walls and the floor of a substantial brick (or partly timber-framed) building. We had no idea it was here and as yet we don't know what it is or how much more of it there is. It is one of the most unexpected and significant archaeological discoveries at the palace for many years! Knowing so little about the medieval history of the area upon which Wolsey built Base Court, these finds are helping us piece together more information about the history of Hampton Court.

Work is now fully underway in Base Court with our contractors slowly removing the existing surfaces of the courtyard, preparing the courtyard for resurfacing. Our curators and beady-eyed archaeologists will continue working hand-in-hand with them throughout the project and we are expecting many more discoveries! By early 2009 we should have not only a restored Base Court, but also a much greater knowledge of the story of this unique medieval and Tudor courtyard. 🐦

Images:
Birds eye view of the work in Base Court

broken masonry, parts of windows, doors and mouldings etc to form the foundations for his new paved surface. In amongst this 'hardcore' we found part of the moulding of a Tudor window, with its original whitewash, hundreds of carved pieces of stonework and masonry some of which was inscribed with writing, and a single fragment of elaborately moulded terracotta, part of the decoration of Henry's palace.

Digging deeper still we uncovered a cobbled surface that, disappointingly earlier archaeological investigations had failed to find: Henry VIII's original 1530s 'pybbylls'. Amongst these cobbles we stumbled upon a James I farthing (minted 1622-23) nestling

between the stones, telling us that Henry's Base Court scheme was still being used in the 1620s.

But we didn't stop there – we kept on digging! Beneath Henry's cobbles we made two further remarkable discoveries. We revealed another earlier (medieval, perhaps 15th century) surface, composed of small pebbles and broken tiles, directly underneath the central carriageway. We also found a leather artefact – possibly the scabbard of a small knife – at this level, as well as the remains of straw and other animal detritus. This suggests the area was used as an informal courtyard (almost a farmyard) in front of the medieval manor house which predated Wolsey's palace.

A day in the life of... a volunteer

Ever wondered what our volunteers get up to in their smart blue sashes? Here is the inside story!

Winifred Bindley

Working as a Visitor Support Volunteer at Kew Palace is one of my favourite volunteering tasks. The palace is such a small, friendly house and visitors immediately feel at home. Stationed in the Breakfast Room or the Drawing Room, there are so many stories to tell and visitors love to hear them. If it is a long story, I always ask if the visitor has time before starting, but many of the stories, especially those about the restoration are short but interesting. The longer stories give a picture of what the palace was like in the time of George III, and the characters start to come to life. Even drawing attention to the door furniture (recycled from the White House) interests people. Other stories involve the architecture ('Samuel Fortrey was showing how wealthy he was'), the artefacts ('George III played the organ, but never in public because...') or the restoration ('We know this is the correct colour and pattern for the carpet because...'). Since I love telling stories, what more could I wish for?

Why do I do it? Well, I love the Palaces, I'm interested in their history and their stories, and I love meeting people. I enjoy answering visitors' questions, creating an atmosphere for them, finding I don't know all the answers and trying to learn more and more. I enjoy meeting those visitors who know more than I do about various aspects of the Palaces and their inhabitants (and many people know a lot more than I do!). I like finding special things to amuse younger visitors and to get them interested, and above all I love telling stories and making people, places and happenings from the past come alive. I am grateful to the permanent staff who share their expertise and their vast knowledge with me - and chat to me at quiet times - and to other volunteers who know so much more than I do. I enjoy always learning, always wanting to know more and volunteering in such fascinating places. 🍷

If you are interested in volunteering opportunities then please get in contact with us using the contact details on page 2.

Groundbreaking work on Henry's Tapestry



The nature of our buildings means that often we need to work right at the cutting edge of research and with relevant scholars. We are experiencing this at this very moment with one of the tapestries commissioned by Henry VIII for the Great Hall at Hampton Court Palace in 1541.

Have you ever wondered how the Tudor tapestries looked during the reign of Henry VIII? As these tapestries have been on almost constant display since they were woven, the once-bright colours have faded and the gold threads have tarnished. Although still magnificent, until now we have only been able to imagine how they would have looked when new.

We are trying to answer these questions by developing new technology which will produce a virtual colour reconstruction of the Story of Abraham tapestry 'The Oath and Departure of Eliezer', which usually hangs in the Great Hall. High resolution digital images have been taken of the tapestry and highly accurate measurements of the colours of the threads on both the front and reverse. As the reverse has been protected from light, the colours have hardly faded and give us a clear idea of how they would have looked when new. By subtracting one colour measurement from the other we can reconstruct the missing portions of colour and project them on to the faded front of the

tapestry. It will then be possible to view them as Henry VIII would have done, for the first time in centuries.

The painstaking imaging research will be finished by early 2009 and the resulting re-coloured projection will be presented as part of the wider celebrations in that year to mark the 500th anniversary of Henry's accession to the throne in 1509. This work is being carried out by Historic Royal Palaces' conservation scientists and tapestry conservators in partnership with the School of Materials at the University of Manchester. 🍷

Chief curator hits the big time!

As well as being chief curator for Historic Royal Palaces, **Lucy Worsley** is now a novice TV presenter... here she shares her experience of working on BBC1's *The One Show*!



In early June I found myself looking down a scary black hole: not the powerful-gravitational-field kind, but the maw of a camera on a robotic arm worth £100,000. This clever steadicam thingy, as they call it, was following me round Hampton Court Palace. During the summer just past I found myself in the fun but in many ways humiliating role of television presenter, reporting on history topics for *The One Show* on BBC 1.

Luckily *The One Show* is at 7pm: a time when most of my friends are still at work, in the pub, or putting their kids to bed, so most of the time I slipped below their radar.

Not below the radar altogether though, because between four and six million viewers usually tune in every night!

Lots of fun was had by all as we made films about the eighteenth-century pornographic graffiti at Hampton Court, a dress of Queen Victoria's at Kensington Palace, and the horrible death of a Second World War spy at the Tower. Then we began to branch out into history in general: witches, Nazis and eighteenth-century duchesses.

One week I was terrifyingly put on stand-by to appear live on the sofa in the *One Show* studio, and I was told to wear bright colours. I was all ready with my new turquoise dress. Unfortunately I got knocked off the billing by Anne Widdecombe, extraordinarily in the same turquoise dress as I had planned to wear. Golly. (Ann Widdecombe + Lucy Worsley = same fashion sense? Please no!)

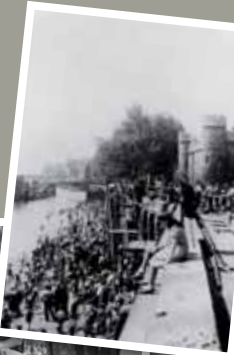
So these are my tips for surviving on the (small) silver screen:

- Eat as much as you can whenever you're given the opportunity, because it might not come along again for hours.
- Don't take it seriously when they call the presenter 'the talent': the same word applies to the most hopeless loser on a shopping channel as well.
- TV people really don't mind making you stand in the rain for ages while the traffic is held up and cars are hooting and you're getting it wrong.

And here's my Favourite Fact. You know those big fuzzy microphones? They come with their own hairbrush so that the sound man can fluff them up again if they get matted. Isn't that sweet? 🐶

Lucy Worsley will be on The One Show, BBC1, 2 December 2008.

Memories of Tower Beach



The Tower of London is famous for many things, but not many people realise that it also has its very own beach!

In the early twentieth century, children of the East End would climb down onto the Tower's rocky foreshore, and play by the Thames when the tide was low. Yet this pastime was dangerous, sometimes even fatal - and so, in 1934, a local charitable organisation which sought to improve the area around the Tower - the Tower Hill Improvement Trust - decided to create a proper, safe beach for the children of the local area. The Trust stated in a report

at the time that: 'Now, on this very spot where, in the Middle Ages the penalty for trespass was also death for man, woman or child, a safe playground for little ones is to be constructed'. 1500 barge loads of sand were deposited on the foreshore, and a guard and patrol boat were paid for by the Trust to make sure that the children could play in safety.

In just its first five years, more than 400,000 people flocked to the beach - an astonishing figure considering it was only open for two hours a day at low tide, and even then, it was only open for certain months of the year.

On the beach the usual seaside activities took place - collecting shells (or bones and clay pipes as was often the case by the Tower), building sandcastles and paddling in the Thames.

As one lady who visited the beach as a child recalls: 'It was pure joy...it was our Southend. It was something you looked forward to.'

It is people's memories of this that we are trying to collect in a community project at the Tower over the next year, resulting in an online archive of memories of Tower Beach. In time for the beach's 75th anniversary in 2009, we are recording oral histories, gathering images and finding out as much as we can from the people who experienced this beach in its heyday, before it closed to the public in 1971. Perhaps you remember Tower Beach - if you do, we would love to hear from you. 🐶

Please e-mail: outreachandcommunity@hrp.org.uk or call 020 3166 6637.

Find out more at www.hrp.org.uk/towerbeach

Whispers from the past

An Artistic Residency at Hampton Court Palace



In November 2007 Rachel Gadsden was selected and appointed to be the Artist in Residence for Hampton Court Palace. For the past year, Rachel has been exploring the palace and uncovering stories trapped within the fibres of the buildings. Her main motivation is people; this compels her to create art that draws the viewer closer to an understanding of the human condition. The artistic residency has fostered a creative collaboration between the artist, palace staff, visitors, families and schools.

This residency culminates in a week-long exhibition of Rachel's work in: **The Clore Learning Centre from 20th -26th November.**

The exhibition is an opportunity for visitors to purchase Rachel's work as well as exploring the process of the residency through the eyes of the artist and the education audiences she worked with. The exhibition will be open from **11am-5pm**; we would love you to be able to join us!

We look forward to seeing you at the exhibition!

Rachel Gadsden is a figurative artist who uses painting, drawing, installation, video and performance to consider themes of fragility, vulnerability and hope.

Rachel's work has been widely exhibited in the UK and overseas. She is the recipient of many prizes and awards, most recently, DADA Visual Artist of the Year (2005), Holton Lee International Art Competition, People's Choice Prize (2007) and Beijing - London handover Paralympics Games commission. 🎨

A Christmas gift which saves people money?



As a member of Historic Royal Palaces, you know how great it is to be involved and reap all the benefits membership offers all year round. Access to the Ceremony of the keys, rooftop tours, events featuring celebrity members and much more. We also rely on your generosity and support to keep these magnificent buildings

looking as majestic as they do today. Give membership as a gift this Christmas and you will be giving someone so much more - a gift which keeps on giving throughout the year offering more opportunities to enjoy and experience all five palaces.

This Christmas we have a fabulous offer available to all existing members, if you buy

a membership as a gift you will receive one of these lovely Henry mugs **absolutely free**. It is our gift to say thank you for doing even more to support us.

So call us today on 0844 482 7788 or join at any palace to buy someone the perfect Christmas present.



Christmas presents which reflect a thousand years of craftsmanship

Join us for one of our late night Christmas shopping events to really make the most of the wide range of gift ideas we have available. These dates are not exclusively for members however you will be able to claim your 10% discounts at all the events. Festive refreshments will also be served.

2 December
at the Tower of London shop 17.30-20.30.

3 December
at Hampton Court Palace 17.30-20.30

4 December
at Kensington Palace 14.00-17.00.

I look forward to seeing you all over the festive period!



Members only Events

Autumn/Winter 2008

Tower of London

Ceremony of the Keys

Date: 5 December and 16 January

Price: Free but booking is essential as places are extremely limited.

The Ceremony of the Keys is the traditional locking up of the Tower of London and has taken place on each and every night, without fail, for at least 700 years. We have a limited allocation of places so book early to secure your place.

Please be there promptly at 21.30 as latecomers will not be admitted.

Please call us directly on **0203 166 6327** to book.

Telling Tales at The Tower

Price: £20 for HRP members

Performances:

Monday 17 November.
Doors open 19.00.
Performance 19.30 - 20.30.

Tuesday 18 November. As above

Friday 21 November
2 performances
Show 1 - Doors open 18.00
Performance 18.30 - 19.30.
Show 2 - Doors open 19.30.
Performance 20.00 - 21.00.



Medieval Christmas

Open to public

Date: 27-31 December
Accompany King Edward I and his court enjoying Christmas as it was in 1284. Hear tales and experience live court entertainment as fools and musicians perform for you.

Hampton Court Palace



Phillipa Gregory introduces 'The Other Queen'

Date: 22 November 2008 starting at 19.00

Price: Tickets are £20 including champagne reception

To celebrate the launch of Phillipa's most recent book 'The Other Queen', we are delighted to be hosting this evening in the Great Hall exclusively for members of Historic Royal Palaces. There will be the opportunity to meet Phillipa and get your book signed.

Members Carol Service in the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace

Date: 2 December starting at 18.45

Join us in the Chapel Royal at Hampton Court Palace to kick the festive season off. Featuring the choir of the Chapel Royal this service is for members only and booking is essential.

Please call us directly on **0203 166 6326** to book a place.

Members Carol Singing

Date: 18 and 19 December 2008

Price: Adults £8.00 and children £4.00 including festive refreshments.

I hope you will clear your throats once again and join us for our annual carol singing around the place courtyards and gardens. Accompanied by the Silver Band - this is definitely a family occasion. Space is strictly limited so please book early to avoid being disappointed. There will be refreshments available.



Membership makes a difference
Carry the card



Special rate for Members Ice Rink tickets

Festive Fun for all the family
10% members discount at Hampton Court Palace and the Tower of London

The ice rinks return to Hampton Court Palace and the Tower of London for the fifth consecutive year. What could be more evocative than skating in the frosty air with a fabulous palatial backdrop? Those who just wish to watch can do so in the comfort of the ice rink café armed with a hot chocolate or glass of mulled wine.

To get your 10% discount, please have your membership number to hand and book your tickets directly with through the Historic Royal Palaces booking office on **0844 482 7788**.

Terms and Conditions

Each member can book up to 4 individual tickets or one family ticket with the 10% discount. A valid membership number must be quoted when booking the ice rink tickets. No cash alternative. Defective or photocopied membership cards will not be accepted. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer, promotion or discount. Hampton Court Palace ice rink is open from 29 November - 11 January 2009. The Tower of London ice rink is open from 22 November - 11 January 2009.

Banqueting House

The Dufay Collective – Medieval Christmas

Date: 1 December, Buffet lunch at 12.15, concert starts at 13.00

Price: £17.50

Enjoy music that would have been heard during Christmas festivities in the courts of medieval Europe, including some familiar songs still sung today.

Jose Maria Guerrero

Date: 26 January 2009, concert starts at 19.00 followed by buffet supper
Price: £20.00

Jose Maria Guerrero accompanied by John Knight on the guitar, sings songs from his native Spain

NB: Tickets for this concert need to be booked via the Banqueting House box office on 0203 166 6153.

Kensington Palace

English Wine Tasting

Date: 5 December, 15 January and 12 February at 12.00.

Price: £30 including lunch

This series of wine tastings is the first of its kind at the Orangery restaurant at Kensington Palace. We have a wine expert coming in from the vineyards to talk us through each individual wine and explain more about the emergence of the English wine business.



How to book for members' events

Unless stated, please book tickets through the Historic Royal Palaces box office on **0844 482 7788**.

Please bear in mind that many of our events have limited capacity so book early to avoid disappointment.



Historic Royal Palaces is the independent charity that looks after the Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace, the Banqueting House, Kensington Palace and Kew Palace. We help everyone explore the story of how monarchs and people have shaped society, in some of the greatest palaces ever built.

We receive no funding from the Government or the Crown, so we depend on the support of our visitors, members, donors, volunteers and sponsors.