





Historic Royal Palaces

Historic Royal Palaces is the charity that looks after:

Tower of London Hampton Court Palace Banqueting House Kensington Palace Kew Palace Hillsborough Castle

We help everyone explore the story of how monarchs and people have shaped society, in some of the greatest palaces ever built.

We raise all our own funds and depend on the support of our visitors, members, donors, sponsors and volunteers.



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Clockwise from top left:

The White Tower, Tower of London; the West Front, Hampton Court Palace; the East Front, Kensington Palace; the South Front, Hillsborough Castle; Kew Palace; Banqueting House.

Welcome to another chapter in our story

What an extraordinary year: our first year at Hillsborough Castle, a spring of Georgian celebrations, a glorious summer of family festivals, then an autumn dominated by Poppies at the Tower of London. The result of a mighty artistic and practical collaboration, the installation 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' took over the moat from August; overcoming enormous logistical challenges before conquering hearts and minds on an unprecedented scale. Hundreds of people across Historic Royal Palaces and tens of thousands of volunteers worked together on an epic project that by November had captured the imagination of many millions across the world.

Our work is guided by four principles

Guardianship:

We exist for tomorrow, not just for yesterday. Our job is to give these palaces a future as valuable as their past. We know how precious they and their contents are, and we aim to conserve them to the standard they deserve: the best.

Discovery:

We explain the bigger picture, and then encourage people to make their own discoveries, in particular, to find links with their own lives and with the world today.

Showmanship:

We do everything with panache. Palaces have always been places of spectacle, beauty, majesty and pageantry, and we are proud to continue that tradition.

Independence:

We have a unique task, and our own point of view. We challenge ourselves to find new ways to do our work. We are a financially independent charity and welcome everyone who can support us in our Cause.

Historic Royal Palaces was established in 1998 as a Royal Charter Body with charitable status and is contracted by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to manage the five London palaces on his behalf. These palaces are owned by The Queen in right of crown.

Historic Royal Palaces is also contracted by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to manage Hillsborough Castle in Northern Ireland. The Castle is owned by the Government.

Historic Royal Palaces is governed by a Board of Trustees, all of whom are non-executive. The Chief Executive is accountable to the Board of Trustees.

Chairman

Reflection: 2014/15 and the last nine years

2014/15 was an extraordinary year, perhaps our best ever. The two headlines were Hillsborough Castle and Poppies, both momentous for Historic Royal Palaces (HRP).

On 1 April 2014, after a year of intense work with our colleagues at the Northern Ireland Office, we added Hillsborough Castle to HRP's portfolio. The castle will continue to be the official residence in Northern Ireland for Her Majesty The Queen. In the first year there were visits from both Her Majesty and HRH The Prince of Wales, as well as other members of the Royal Family. A full team of HRP operational and project staff have been appointed, almost all recruited in Northern Ireland, as have the key consultants who will be assisting us to plan the site's development as a major visitor destination over the next few years. We have also been greatly encouraged in financing this ambitious project by pledges of two early major donations, from Mark Pigott KBE and the Clore Duffield Foundation, and we are preparing a grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

At the Tower of London, 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' became the centrepiece of the nation's commemoration of the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. Created by artist Paul Cummins and installation designer Tom Piper, hundreds of HRP staff members put in an extraordinary and sustained effort to make what at times seemed impossible happen. 888,246 poppies gradually took over the Tower's famous moat from July up to Remembrance Day on 11 November. Each poppy represented a British or Colonial military fatality during the war. Over 30,000 volunteers planted and then dismantled the installation. Over five million people came to see the Poppies, and all of them were sold, raising around £9m to be shared among six service charities. As the Financial Times described it: '... the most popular art installation as well as arguably the most effective expression of commemoration in British history'.

But the year contained much more besides. We celebrated the tercentenary of the 1714 Hanoverian accession with an extensive programme of representations and events at Hampton Court, Kensington and Kew palaces. We rolled out the first full year of our new learning & engagement and digital strategies, and made a significant investment for the long term care of our collections by purchasing a warehouse in Thames Ditton. The success of our work was evidenced by another new record of 4.25 million visitors across all our palaces, an increase of 6% over the previous year's record figure.

This year, we said farewell to Sophie Andreae who stepped down as a Trustee after six years. I would like to thank her for all that she has contributed during this time. In March, Professor Sir David Cannadine and Jane Kennedy were appointed as Trustees and I am very pleased that they will join the Board from 19 May.

This is my final Annual Review as Chairman of Historic Royal Palaces and it is wonderful to be able to finish on such a high note. We have made great progress as an organisation during the last nine years. Visitor numbers have risen by 70%, we have developed a highly successful membership scheme and significantly increased our income from fundraising, retail, functions & events and catering. We have also transformed many of our other key activities, including marketing, learning & engagement, creative programming and digital. We have played our part in national landmark events including The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the London Olympics and the Commemoration of the First World War. We have undertaken many ambitious projects including the transformation of Kensington Palace, the re-presentation of the Crown Jewels and the restoration of the iconic White Tower at the Tower of London, the re-presentation of the Tudor and baroque palaces at Hampton Court, and the opening of the Royal Kitchens at Kew Palace. And in the past year, HRP has assumed responsibility for Hillsborough Castle and now the Great Pagoda at Kew. But if these have been the headlines, every year has seen many other buildings and collections conserved, events of all sorts taking place, while millions of people enjoyed and learned from our palaces and their stories.

For all this, I pay tribute to our tremendous management team, led brilliantly by Michael Day throughout my tenure, to all our talented and dedicated staff, to my outstanding and hardworking fellow Trustees, and to everyone who has supported HRP so generously and in so many ways. I also celebrate the vital partnerships we have enjoyed, especially with Royal Collection Trust, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the Royal Armouries. It has been a huge pleasure and privilege to work with you all and to serve as Chairman of this wonderful organisation. I leave with so many memories to treasure and so many good friends and colleagues that I have made. I am delighted to welcome Rupert Gavin who succeeds me, and I know that he will chair the Board with great energy and skill in the next stage of HRP's dynamic and successful evolution.

Charles Mackay CBE,

Chairman (until 4 May 2015)



Chief Executive Michael Day (left) and Chairman Charles Mackay pictured in the Great Pagoda at Kew.

Chief Executive **Looking ahead**

After the remarkable events of 2014, our efforts in the year ahead are focussed chiefly on important work already under way.

We are making major investment into the development of learning and engagement, new creative programming across our sites, expanding our domestic market, and how all our work will be enabled digitally in the future. These strategic initiatives are coordinated through a philosophy that we call *Audiences First*, which has as its overarching objective the expansion of HRP's charitable reach and impact way beyond the 4 million visitors who we welcome to our sites each year.

Around all our sites, we have a long term programme of conservation and development, with some £20m being invested in the coming year alone. At its heart are major projects at our two latest acquisitions: Hillsborough Castle in Northern Ireland and the Great Pagoda in Kew Gardens.

We will strengthen our conservation, collections management and research strategies and plans, through the recent acquisition of a new collections store at Thames Ditton and further investment into our research capability.

Meanwhile, we will be relentless in the continuous improvement of every aspect of our visitors' experience as they enjoy their days out with us.

2015 marks the 500th anniversary of the year in which Cardinal Wolsey started to build Hampton Court Palace and we will be celebrating this momentous birthday in style with a programme of daily offers and special events throughout the year, culminating in the opening of the new Magic Garden at Easter 2016.

All this is possible because HRP has been successful during the last few years and has made the most of its independent self-financing charitable status, in tandem with productive partnerships with other organisations. This independence makes us ever attentive to generating the income we need to carry out our plans and determined to do the best we can with the responsibilities given to us.

In this great endeavour, I would like to pay my own personal tribute to our Chairman of the last nine years, Charles Mackay CBE, who has made an immense contribution to what we have achieved during this time and who has led the Board with such great distinction. I would also like to welcome Rupert Gavin, who succeeds Charles as Chairman from May 2015.

Michael Day CVO,

Chief Executive









'The art installation that has become one of the most striking war memorials ever mounted.'

The Times, 16 October

'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red is transcending conflicts and generations... renewing the potency of remembrance for future generations will be the greatest legacy.'

The Telegraph, 28 October

'The most celebrated public artwork of modern times...Wherever these poppies end up, every single one will not only be a reminder of a life lost - but also of the stunning way in which, a century later, they were all commemorated.'

Daily Mail, 11 November

'Most powerful act of remembrance of those who died in the Great War.'

The Telegraph, 11 November

"... the most popular art installation as well as arguably the most effective expression of commemoration in British history."

Financial Times, 1 November



Inspiration

Why Remember?

As we move further away from the First World War it becomes more difficult for children and young people to connect with it. We wanted to use the poppies installation as an inspiration for learning activities and as a location to prompt personal reflection. This was the ambition for the Learning & Engagement team's 'Why Remember?' schools campaign and fundraising day on 11 November. We used three simple questions to prompt further reflection, discussion and dialogue:

Why should we remember? Why is 100 years significant? How do you want to remember?

We created online resources and multi-media content to reach as many learners as possible and engage them in meaningful discussion. For schools this included links to an online mosaic, allowing learners to upload their work, creating a piece of crowd-sourced commemorative art. In addition, there were classroom resources, videos and online case studies so schools could share their work. We also held professional development days at the Tower for senior leaders, teachers and learners.

An 'Outstanding Achievement'

At the Hudson Heritage Awards in March 2015, the poppies installation was awarded a rare 'Outstanding Achievement' award, which is only given to exceptional projects. Our 'Why Remember?' programme was given a special mention and praised for its breadth and depth in engaging our audiences with First World War remembrance. The project also won the Tourism Society Award in March and the Best Temporary or Touring Exhibition category at the Museums and Heritage Awards in April, whilst the Tower of London was shortlisted for The Art Fund Prize for Museum of the Year.

Above:

country, joined Historic Royal Palaces staff and former Labour MP, Lord Jim Knight at the launch of the 'Why Remember?' Campaign at the Tower of London.

Actor Tim Piggott-Smith read the first Roll of Honour on 5 August, the anniversary of Britain's first full day in the First World War.

A pause for thought during the launch of 'Why Remember?

















Showmanship

We do everything with panache.

Previous page:

The dancing 'white horses of Hanover' perform at Hampton Court to welcome George I.

Above:

Scenes from the impressive arrival of George I at Hampton Court.

It was a year of all things Georgian as we celebrated the 300th anniversary of the Georgian accession at Hampton Court, Kensington Palace and Kew. 'Glorious Georges' featured a year of drama, dance, family festivals and spectacular events at each palace.

At Hampton Court the season began at Easter, with the arrival of King George I on his magnificent royal barge with his red-coated soldiers. Along with crowds of visitors, 'the King' and his entourage enjoyed spectacular military displays and the dancing 'white horses of Hanover' performing in his honour.

At Kensington Palace visitors discovered the glittering court of King George II and Queen Caroline, with a daily programme of live interpretation exploring court life and royal etiquette, while at Kew costumed interpreters brought the sometimes troubled lives of King George III, Queen Charlotte and their large family to life.



Over the May 2014 bank holiday visitors enjoyed performances of 'Echo to the Vaulted Sky', a contemporary dance piece inspired by court dances of the 18th century. Audiences were enthusiastic, describing the piece as 'creative, beautiful' and 'spontaneous'. The production was repeated at the Latitude Festival in Suffolk in July, Historic Royal Palaces' first appearance at this now famous event.

Right:

A big sell-out Georgian-inspired fashion show - 'Georgian Fashion Remix' - took place in the Orangery at Kensington Palace in October. It featured clothes and accessories from the collections of Giles Deacon and other contemporary British fashion designers who have taken inspiration from Georgian silhouettes, materials and decoration.





We brought the 'Glorious Georges' season to a close at Hampton Court on 14 September with a sell-out programme of Handel's music by Arcangelo's 30-piece orchestra, culminating in a specially-commissioned period firework display accompanied by the famous *Music for the Royal Fireworks*. Over 900 guests enjoyed the spectacular evening.



Fabulous fireworks set to Handel's music, thrilled the capacity crowd gathered at Hampton Court and brought the Georgian celebrations to a glorious end.

Opposite and below:

Cumberland Art Gallery, which will host a rotating display of some of the Royal Collection's finest artworks. More excitement at Hampton Court surrounded the opening of Cumberland Art Gallery in November. This new, dedicated space for artworks occupies the former Cumberland Suite, restored and re-presented following two years of meticulous research. Visitors can now enjoy a rotating display of some of the finest paintings from the Royal Collection in a permanent gallery setting.

The Christmas season at Kensington Palace was celebrated in Georgian style, with 18th-century inspired decorations and activities and a focus on live music. Carol singing proved so popular that the number of planned events was doubled.

We've had a busy year showcasing the palaces in front of the camera too. Chief Curator, Lucy Worsley presented a three-part primetime history series on BBC Four, 'The First Georgians:











At Hampton Court 'Light up the Palace' ran for 11 evenings leading up to Christmas, transforming the gardens into an illuminated wonderland trail.





Dr Lucy Worsley and Dr David Starkey co-presented BBC Two's 'Britain's Tudor Treasures: A Night at Hampton Court', which featured the christening of Edward VI

Above right:

Staff and volunteers enjoyed bringing Prince Edward's christening procession to life for the BBC Two programme, broadcast in January 2015. The German Kings Who Made Britain'. The first episode, featuring the Tower, Hampton Court and Kensington Palace, was broadcast on 1 May 2014 and attracted 1.2m viewers, the fourth highest audience ever on BBC Four, beating BBC Two, Channel 4 and Channel 5 in the audience ratings that evening.

Lucy Worsley also presented an hour-long documentary for BBC Four, 'Tales from the Royal Wardrobe', broadcast on 7 July. Footage was filmed at Hampton Court and Kensington palaces, incorporating interviews with curators Deirdre Murphy and Eleri Lynn and showcasing items from the Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection.

Meanwhile, Historic Royal Palaces embarked on its first formal partnership with the BBC with a new three-part BBC Four series, 'Majesty and Mortar', presented by historian Dan Cruickshank and broadcast during June 2014, reaching 1.5m viewers. Extensive filming took place at all the London palaces, with staff contributing interviews. For the first time in a BBC deal, we negotiated the right to re-use footage and other graphic assets for our own creative and learning programmes.

Britain's Tudor Treasure: A Night at Hampton Court', presented by Lucy Worsley and David Starkey, was broadcast on BBC Two in January 2015. The programme re-created the christening procession of Edward VI at Hampton Court Palace, involving staff and volunteers. It was watched by almost 2m viewers in the initial transmission, followed by a further 1.2m for a repeat showing. Both broadcasts were supported through 'multiscreen' content for social media, including live Twitter Q&As with the presenters, resulting in high levels of interaction across Twitter and Facebook.

We also hosted an entire episode of BBC One's 'The One Show' at Hampton Court to coincide with the palace's 500th anniversary. This reached around 3.6 million viewers.



We were similarly delighted to receive the pledge of £500,000 from the Clore Duffield Foundation to fund a new Clore Learning Centre, located in the Stable Yard. This will enable the provision of a bespoke learning and engagement programme for Hillsborough Castle.

We have a lot of work to do and money to raise for Hillsborough Castle with the project scheduled for completion by 2019.







Previous page:

HRH The Countess of Wessex opens the Royal Kitchen Garden at Hampton Court with a flourish!

Riaht:

The Royal Kitchen Garden is now bursting with rare varieties of fruit, vegetables and herbs, and give visitors a taste of the work involved in supplying a royal kitchen.





Guardianship

Our job is to give the palaces a future as valuable as their past. In spring 2014 the newly-restored Royal Kitchen Garden at Hampton Court Palace burst into life, and by the time of our royal opening on 25 June, we were able to present the Countess of Wessex with a basket of fresh produce. The area re-creates part of the gardens as they were in the 18th century, and is planted with many rare varieties of fruit and vegetable.

This year we completed two important projects that have occupied us for several years. At the Tower, following extensive supporting research, the Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula was cleaned, refurbished, redecorated and repaired, with HM The Queen, patrons and supporters attending a service of thanksgiving at the re-opening on 16 October.

Also at the Tower, the final section of the Wall Walk was opened to the public after a five year programme of conservation-led repairs and refurbishments.

Autumn 2014 saw the opening of a new route for the display and interpretation of art at Hampton Court Palace (see page 18) in the former Cumberland Suite - now called Cumberland Art Gallery. In preparation, we completely refurbished the space, upgraded the electrical infrastructure, lighting and heating and installed a flexible





We've been comparing various restoration techniques for the faded Laguerre roundels in Fountain Court. The roundel on the left has been treated to make its coating more transparent – and the painting more visible – although this is only a temporary solution. The roundel on the right has been covered to protect original material while allowing a 'virtual' restoration. The effect of the cover on the central roundel will be monitored over time.

Below:

A view of the recently restored Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula at the Tower of London.

Below right:

A dramatic cover-up at the Banqueting House.

picture hanging system. We worked in partnership with colleagues from Royal Collection Trust on the new gallery, which now displays a wonderful collection of Royal Collection artworks.

We have embarked on the first phase of our project to conserve and restore the exterior and then the interior of the Banqueting House. Scaffolding went up in January 2015, which was then 'dressed' in a wrap featuring the spectacular Rubens ceiling.

At Kew, we have started the design and development phase of an exciting project to restore the Great Pagoda, working in partnership with Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The ambition is to return this remarkable building, designed by William Chambers and built in 1762, to its former glory.

Home Park at Hampton Court Palace has now been officially recognised as being among the most important places for wildlife in England and designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The preservation of the faded Laguerre roundels around Fountain Court at Hampton Court is one of our most important and complex conservation challenges.







Conservators at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York prepare the 'Meeting of Abraham and Melchizedek' tapestry for its journey home to England. The tapestry was loaned for the Met's exhibition, 'Grand Design: Pieter Coecke van Aelst and Renaissance Tapestry'. It went back on display at Hampton Court Palace in April 2015.

Above right:

Attendees at the conversation training workshops learning to 'Protect and Enjoy!'







Over the past year staff from across Historic Royal Palaces have been working together to produce our first set of published policies and procedures (above) to guide collection activities for the 60,000 plus objects in our care. By the end of March we will have trained over 65 staff on searching, reporting, location and movement control and data standards for object and conservation information.

In 2014 the Collections Management team started a project to photograph and catalogue every item in our collections to preserve it in the long term via digital records.

















Discovery

Learning is at the heart of everything we do. Our new Learning & Engagement strategy is in full swing with some large-scale events taking place: 'Tudors at the Tower' in the May bank holiday, and three 'Glorious Georges' Family Festivals.

We planned these festivals as distinctive, large-scale, participatory learning experiences for families, to attract new and more diverse visitors. Over three days, rain and shine, 10,000 visitors enjoyed discovering what life was like in Tudor times at 'Tudors at the Tower'.

The summer 'Glorious Georgian Garden Parties' at Kensington, Hampton Court and Kew palaces were more genteel affairs, with families invited to immerse themselves in a Georgian world and adopt the etiquette needed to become courtiers.

Our adult 'Uncover' programme highlights included 'Meet the Expert' talks and debates, including 'Who was the most glorious George?' At the other end of the spectrum, 'Tiny Explorers', a new messy and wet playgroup for under-5s, got off to a great start at

Previous page:

'Tudors at the Tower', June 2014



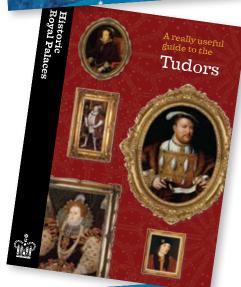
Some of the many and varied learning activities that took place at the palaces over the year, appealing to schoolgroups, families and adults.

Kensington Palace. We successfully completed the pilot phase of the digital 'missions' for school groups and families at Hampton Court Palace and will now feed that learning into a brand new digital mission for the Tower in 2015.

February 2015 saw Learning & Engagement plans for our Hampton Court 500 years' anniversary activities spring into action. At half term we launched the Movie Maker Mission competition, with the ultimate aim of recruiting over 500 children and young people to contribute to a special new animated film, scripted and produced with Aardman Animations. A year of movie-making workshops will culminate in the creation of a film, telling the story of 500 years of Hampton Court stories in five minutes, which will play at the palace in October 2015.

Also over February half term, auditions began to recruit 16-20 year-olds as 'Young Explorer Guides'. Working with the Rose Theatre, Kingston, the 70 young people who auditioned successfully will receive professional theatrical and historical







training, culminating in their performances at the exciting interactive 'TimeQuake' event in May 2015 at Hampton Court Palace.

In a new publishing venture to celebrate Hampton Court 500, we launched *TIME for fun!* a children's activity magazine for 7-9 year-olds, with stickers, games, puzzles, makes and an exclusive short story. To coincide with this special year, we also co-published with Merrell an updated *Story of Hampton Court Palace* in a new format hardback and softback. Another in our popular series, *A really useful guide to the Tudors*, hit the presses in spring 2015, along with a book on modern royal dress written by our dress curators.

We held an international symposium in July at Hampton Court Palace on the theme of 'Enlightened Princesses: Caroline, Augusta, Charlotte and the shaping of the Modern World'. Co-organised by Historic Royal Palaces, the Yale Center for British Art and the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, the symposium was part of a wider partnership project between the three organisations, which will result in a major exhibition and a publication on the same theme in 2017.

Our application for Independent Research Organisation (IRO) status has now been submitted, and our first research assignees have delivered their articles, each after a three month sabbatical.

A remarkable survival, this very rare Tudor hat (below), has recently found a new home at Hampton Court Palace. It was for centuries passed down through the same family, who are descended from Tudor courtier Nicholas Bristow, Henry VIII's Clerk of the Wardrobe. According to family tradition, the hat belonged to Henry himself, and was caught and kept by Bristow after the King flung it into the air. It is now the oldest item of dress in the collection.

We recently acquired a throne canopy, made by Queen Anne's royal craftsmen for her ambassador in Hague, Lord Townsend. On his return to England he had it made into a bed at his home, Raynham Hall. Purchased by HRP with assistance from the Art Fund, the canopy is now undergoing restoration at Hampton Court. It will eventually be displayed at Kensington Palace.









Top left:

A recent acquisition: Queen Anne's Canopy of State, made for her Dutch ambassador. Purchased from Raynham Hall with assistance from the Art Fund, it is now undergoing conservation at Hampton Court.

Top right and above:

Satirical Georgian prints and details of our fabulous wall paintings are among the unique images now offered by HRP's online Image Library. To date, 7,000 images have been digitised for future generations to enjoy, and we have an ambition to offer Print on Demand for many images by summer 2015.





Independence

We challenge ourselves to find new ways to do our work.



Previous page:

'Georgian Fashion Remix' at the Orangery, Kensington Palace.

We were delighted to welcome 4.25 million visitors to the palaces, a record-breaking year for Historic Royal Palaces. Over 134,000 people visited in the week ending 24 August, the highest non-Easter week ever recorded. We saw an increase among those who booked their admissions through the travel trade or came as a group. The poppies' publicity swelled visitor numbers at the Tower; overall travel trade admissions in October were 16,000 up on the previous year and 10,000 up in November! The 'BBC Good Food Festival' also contributed towards Hampton Court being ahead of target.

In our efforts to improve the visitor experience we have been working hard behind the scenes on a project to speed up ticket sales and admissions at all our palaces. We are testing and piloting scanning devices that will be launched in 2015, allowing online purchasers to print their tickets at home and avoid the queues.

We could not achieve what we do without our 300 regular volunteers, with volunteers citing Historic Royal Palaces as a 'great place to volunteer'. We are also a great place to work, recognised as a Silver Investors in People organisation - in the top six per cent of all organisations in Britain.

Our retail division has had a similarly successful year with record sales and several notable achievements in licensing. Our partner Briers won two industry awards at the Glee tradeshow with their collection of gardening products inspired by our palaces, while our third Hobbs collection won an award at the Association for Cultural Enterprises annual conference.

This past year saw our second major fundraising campaign, 'The Next Chapter in our Story', achieve some notable results and reach the halfway mark of its fundraising target of £30m. As ever, membership remained central to our fundraising in 2014/15. We now have over 80,000 members and exceeded £2m revenue. Members were given a unique insight into our work through events and private views, all designed to show what a difference membership continues to make.

A number of major gifts, sponsorships and pledges were received during the course of the year. In addition to the donations for Hillsborough Castle, The Gosling Foundation and the Cadogan Charity generously pledged their support to the Magic Garden Project at Hampton Court. The Cumberland Art Gallery was opened thanks to the support of the Foyle Foundation and Bruce and Jane Carnegie-Brown. The Mallinckrodt and The Schroder Foundations supported the re-presentation of the King's State Apartments at Kensington Palace. Mr and Mrs John Short and Dr Martin Clarke joined as individual members of the King's Presence Chamber and, as ever, we were fortunate to have the support of many other patrons, legators and other donors.

Our Corporate Partnerships programme continued to attract considerable support, with Cass Business School joining as a corporate member and Catlin Group Ltd and Santander UK sponsoring the programme of events and activity surrounding the poppies project. The donors and sponsors to the appeal to restore





Top:

Award-winning garden products created under license by our partners Briers.

Ahove:

A new licensed table top range from Maxwell & Williams, working in collaboration with acclaimed British designer William Edwards, inspired by the architecture, collections and gardens of Hampton Court and Kensington palaces.

Right

This Hobbs floral midi dress is inspired by an early 18th-century mural painted by Antonio Verrio in the Queen's Drawing Room at Hampton Court. This dress is part of our third licensed collection with Hobbs, inspired by the Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection and also the interiors of Hampton Court Palace. It has been our most successful to date. The collection launched in September 2014 in Hobbs' flagship store in London's Covent Garden, as well as other London and Windsor stores and on the Hobbs website. The collection also sold very well in Bloomingdale's stores in the USA, including New York, New Jersey and in Washington DC.

Right:

Charles Mackay, Chairman of Historic Royal Palaces until 4 May 2015 (left), with Rupert Gavin, Chairman from 5 May. and re-present the Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula, successfully accomplished under the leadership of The Constable, General the Lord Dannatt, were invited to join the service of thanksgiving and celebration in the presence of HM The Queen. Our programme in the USA continued to gain momentum with lecture tours and visits by Dr Lucy Worsley and dress curator Deirdre Murphy.

The highlight of this year, 'Blood Swept Land and Seas of Red' at the Tower of London, has meant we have significantly changed people's perception of Historic Royal Palaces and our own belief in what we are capable of in the future. We look forward with renewed optimism and confidence at the challenges ahead.





Money matters

The number of visitors that spent a day out at one of our palaces in 2014/15 increased by 6% to 4.25m, a new record in our history. We saw the highest numbers ever at the Tower of London and also at the Banqueting House, which opened to the public more frequently and saw an increase of 14% in visitor numbers.

Admissions income for 2014/15 was £56.2m-61% of total income and an increase of 8% from 2013/14.

The increase in income has been assisted by another strong year for the retail and functions & events businesses, income from catering & other concessions, and sponsorship, all of which contributed to a 12% increase in generated funds.

Fundraising has also had another successful year, attracting generous donations for our major projects. Income from grants and donations in the year reached £8.7m, including restricted funds of £6.1m. In the second year of our major five-year fundraising campaign, 'The Next Chapter in our Story', we are half way to achieving our target of raising £30m by 2018.

All of this activity was achieved within budgeted expenditure and we have maintained our free reserves target of £5m.

The strong financial performance in the year has meant that we are able to designate more funds towards the cost of projects within our ambitious strategy for the next three years and beyond, including conservation of the exterior of the Banqueting House, our programme of work at Hillsborough Castle to increase public access and improve the visitor experience, and our plan to improve the entry arrangements at the Tower of London.

The full statutory accounts were given an unqualified audit opinion on 29 June 2015 and will be filed with the Charity Commission. The full statutory accounts can be obtained from our website www.hrp.org.uk or by writing to:

The Chief Executive's Office Historic Royal Palaces Hampton Court Palace Surrey KT8 9AU

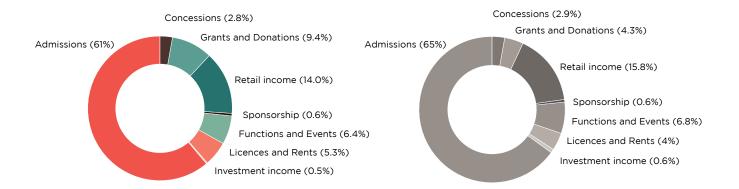
Our performance is measured by the Secretary of State by submission of the annual Strategic Plan and by this report.

Income 2014/15

(Total £92 million)

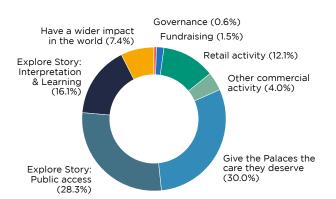
Income 2013/14

(Total £80 million)



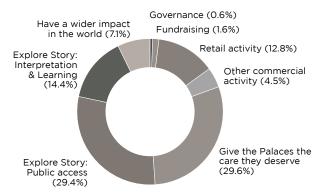
Expenditure 2014/15

(Total £85 million)



Expenditure 2013/14

(Total £77 million)



Visitor trends

Total	3,338	3,265	3,410	3,498	4,032	4,254
Hillsborough Castle	=	=	=	=	=	3
Kew Palace	29	30	25	31	152	134
Banqueting House	23	27	27	31	51	58
Kensington Palace	259	245	186	405	408	400
Hampton Court Palace	624	554	590	524	562	582
Tower of London	2,403	2,409	2,582	2,507	2,859	3,077
	2009/10 (000's)	2010/11 (000's)	2011/12 (000's)	2012/13 (000's)	2013/14 (000's)	2014/15 (000's)

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2015

		Total 2014/15	Tota 2013/14
INCOMING RESOURCES		£000	£000
Incoming resources from generated funds:			
Voluntary income	Grants and donations	8,673	3,414
Activities for generating funds:	Retail income	12,968	12,634
	Functions & Events	5,896	5,449
	Licences and rents	4,942	3,186
	Sponsorship	583	488
		24,389	21,757
Investment income		433	419
Incoming resources from charitable activities:	Admissions	56,190	51,857
	Concessions	2,551	2,34
Total incoming resources		92,236	79,788
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Costs of generating funds:	Fundraising	1,288	1,219
	Retail activities	10,284	9,834
	Other commercial activities	3,390	3,478
	Investment management costs	23	
		14,985	14,53
Charitable activities:	Give the palaces the care they deserve	25,472	22,765
	Transform the way visitors explore their story:		
	Public access	24,044	22,557
	Interpretation and learning	13,628	11,03
	Have a wider impact in the world	6,272	5,464
Governance costs		515	472
		69,931	62,289
Pension finance (income)/costs		(387)	(373)
Total resources expended		84,529	76,447
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		7,707	3,34
	Actuarial gain/(loss) on pension plan	(5,724)	(1,153)
Net movement in funds		1,983	2,188
		70 717	70100
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April		38,313	36,125

Summary Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2015

		Group 2015 £000	Group 2014 £000
Fixed assets		25,226	25,024
Net current assets		22,070	15,794
Total assets less current liab	pilities	47,296	40,818
Creditors: amounts falling du after more than one year	ue	(24)	(24)
Provision for liabilities and c	narges	(38)	(574)
Pension plan liability		(6,938)	(1,907)
Net assets		40,296	38,313
Represented by:			
Restricted funds		4,352	2,113
Unrestricted funds	Pension plan	(6,938)	(1,907)
	General fund	42,882	38,107
Total funds		40,296	38,313

The summary financial statements of Historic Royal Palaces were approved by the Trustees and the Accounting Officer on 22 June 2015 and signed on their behalf by:

Rupert Gavin

Michael Day CVO

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Chief Executive and Accounting Officer

Independent Auditor's Statement to the Trustees of Historic Royal Palaces: I have examined the summarised financial statements of Historic Royal Palaces for the year ended 31 March 2015 on pages 42-43.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees, the Chief Executive and the Auditor: The Trustees and the Chief Executive as Accounting Officer are responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements.

My responsibility is to report to you my opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full annual financial statements. I also read the other information contained in the Annual Review and consider the implications for my report if I become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summary financial statements.

Basis of opinion: I conducted my work in accordance with Bulletin 2008/3 issued by the Auditing Practices Board. My report on Historic Royal Palaces' full annual financial statements describes the basis of my opinions on those financial statements and the Trustees' Report.

Opinion: In my opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and Trustees' Report of Historic Royal Palaces for the year ended 31 March 2015.

Sir Amyas C E Morse

Comptroller and Auditor General

29 June 2015

National Audit Office 157-197 Buckingham Palace Road Victoria, London, SW1W 9SP

The Board of Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2015

Charles Mackay CBE, Chairman (until 4 May 2015)

Charles Mackay is also Chairman of The Opera Holland Park Trust, a Member of the Business Board of the House of Habib, a Member of the Advisory Council of INSEAD and a Trustee of the Development Trust (for the Mentally Handicapped). He was Chairman of Production Services Network Limited from 2009 to 2011, of TDG plc from 2000 to 2008 and of Eurotunnel Group from 2001 to 2004 (having been Deputy Chairman from 1999 to 2001 and a Non-Executive Director from 1997). He has also served on the Boards of HSBC, British Airways, Johnson Matthey (Senior Independent Director). Thistle Hotels (Deputy Chairman), Gucci and INSEAD among others. He was Chief Executive of Inchcape plc between 1991 and 1996, having been Executive Chairman of Inchcape Pacific from 1986 to 1991. He worked previously with BP, McKinsey, Pakhoed Holding and Chloride. He has lived and worked in Continental Europe, Asia and Africa as well as the UK.

Sir Alan Reid GCVO

Deputy Chairman Keeper of the Privy Purse and Treasurer to HM The Queen since 2002 and Receiver General of the Duchy of Lancaster. Formerly Chief Operating Officer for KPMG in the UK, his career at KPMG included being Global and European Chairman for Management Consulting, and Global and European Chief Financial Officer. Sir Alan is Chairman of Royal Collection Enterprises Limited, a Trustee of the Royal Collection Trust and Chairman of The Queen's Trust.

Sophie Andreae DSG FSA

(until 31 December 2014)

An experienced historic buildings professional, who was a Trustee of the Greenwich Foundation until March 2015, a Council Member of the National Trust and Chair of the HLF Project Board, Auckland Castle Trust. She was a Member of St Paul's Cathedral Fabric Advisory Committee 1991 to 2011 and a Trustee of the Georgian Group 1992 to 2011. Prior to this, she served as Head of London Division of English Heritage,

before being appointed Commissioner of the Royal Fine Art Commission and of its successor body, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), where she served two terms before standing down in 2004. She is a Member of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation.

Dawn Austwick OBE

Chief Executive of the Big Lottery Fund since October 2013. She was Chief Executive of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation 2005 to 2013 and formerly Deputy Director of the British Museum and Project Director of Tate Modern from 1995 to 2000. Previously, she was Principal Consultant at KPMG, Theatre Manager of the Half Moon Theatre and Projects Co-ordinator at Arts & Business. She is a Board member of Go On UK and was a Director of Big Society Capital during its start-up phase from 2011 to 2013. She has an MBA from the London Business School and an honorary doctorate from London Metropolitan University.

Bruce Carnegie-Brown

Bruce Carnegie-Brown is Non-Executive Chairman of Aon UK Limited from 2012 and Chairman of Moneysupermarket. com Group plc since April 2014. He is also a Non-Executive Director of Santander UK plc, Vice Chairman of Banco Santander SA and a Trustee of Shakespeare's Globe Trust. Bruce was previously Managing Partner of 3i Group plc, CEO of Marsh Limited and a Managing Director of JP Morgan and Senior Independent Director of Close Brothers Group plc. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Bankers and was both President and Chairman of the IFS School of Finance. He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London in February 2015.

Liz Cleaver

An experienced media professional with a long and distinguished career at the BBC. Here she fulfilled a variety of roles from radio and television production to launching BBC Knowledge, the forerunner of BBC 4, setting up the interactive capability for all factual and learning programmes and as Controller, BBC Learning, responsibility for the BBC's learning output and activity. Before moving to the BBC, Liz originally worked as a history teacher. Liz is currently a Digital Consultant, Chair of The Reading Agency, Chair at Wac Arts and also a Trustee of the Royal Free Charity.

General the Lord Dannatt

GCB CBE MC DL

159th Constable of the Tower of London, following 40 years in the British Army. Final appointment was as Chief of the General Staff from 2006 to 2009. He is a Trustee of the Royal Armouries: President and Founder Patron. Help for Heroes; Patron, Royal British Legion Norfolk; Patron, Hope and Homes for Children; Patron, Street Child of Sierra Leone; Army President, The Not Forgotten Association; Governor, Sutton's Hospital in Charterhouse; President, ABF / The Soldier's Charity Norfolk; President of YMCA Norfolk, Veterans Norfolk and President of the Norfolk Churches Trust. He is a Senior Adviser to a number of companies in the defence and security sectors and Chairman of the Durham Global Security Institute Strategic Advisory Board. He is a Crossbench Member of The House of Lords and a Deputy Lieutenant for the counties of Greater London and Norfolk.

Val Gooding CBE

Val Gooding is currently Chairman of Premier Farnell plc, and a Non-Executive Director of TUI AGand Vodafone Group plc. She is also a Trustee of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew and the English National Ballet. She was Non-Executive Director of Standard Chartered Bank plc, the BBC, J Sainsbury plc, the Lawn Tennis Association and Lead Non-Executive Director at the Home Office. She was previously Chief Executive of Bupa for 10 years until 2008 and served as Deputy Chairman and Trustee of the British Museum for eight years. Her earlier career was in general management, customer service and marketing roles at British Airways, where she was latterly Director of Business Units and Asia Pacific.

Jonathan Marsden CVO FSA

Director of the Royal Collection and Surveyor of The Queen's Works of Art since May 2010. He was Deputy Surveyor of The Queen's Works of Art from 1996 to 2010, with curatorial responsibility for the decorative arts. He is a Council Member of the Attingham Trust. He was a Trustee of the Georgian Group for ten years until 2005 and is currently a Trustee of the Art Fund, the City and Guilds of London Art School and the Royal Yacht Britannia Trust.

Sir Trevor McDonald OBE

The television presenter who in the past has anchored 'News at Ten' and led ITV's flagship current affairs programme, 'Tonight with Trevor McDonald'. He has enjoyed a long and distinguished news career, interviewing some of the world's most high profile leaders such as Nelson Mandela and George Bush. More recently he has presented the documentaries 'Secret Caribbean' and 'Secret Mediterranean'. He serves in a number of charitable organisations including DePaul Trust, Action for Children, Friends of Barnes Hospital, Missing People, Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research, and The Queen's Trust. He is President of Surrey County Cricket Club. He was Chancellor of South Bank University from 2002 to 2009

Malcolm Reading FRSA

(until 3 April 2014)

Chairman of Malcolm Reading Consultants, a strategic architectural consultancy, which specialises in heritage masterplanning and the selection of contemporary designers. He is a Chartered Architect and a Fellow of the Chartered Society of Designers. He was Director of Architecture and Design with the British Council from 1991 to 1996 and is a Fellow of the RSA since 1992. He has provided advisory services to the UK Supreme Court and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and was the architectural adviser to the British Antarctic Survey for Halley VI, the new UK base on Antarctica. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, Trustee of Edinburgh World Heritage and is also Chair of the Tower of London World Heritage Site Consultative Committee.

M Louise Wilson FRSA

Louise established her career at Accenture and gained her marketing and commercial expertise at Procter & Gamble, Pepsi-Co and The Coca Cola Company. Louise founded Signature Sponsorship Limited, an international marketing and sponsorship company of which she is now Chairman. Following London's successful bid. Louise was appointed as the Client Services Director for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. A Non-Executive Director of the University of Nottingham and a Trustee on the DRET Academy Trust, Louise is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and The College of St George, Windsor Castle; a Board Member of The Marketing Group of Great Britain and the International

Women's Forum, and an award winning contributor to the European Sponsorship

Trustees joining the Board after 31 March 2015

Rupert Gavin - Chairman

(from 5 May 2015)

Rupert Gavin is a well-established figure in the world of business, media and the arts. From 2005-2014 he was CEO of Odeon and UCI Cinemas Group, building it to be the largest cinema company in Europe. Prior to this, he was CEO of BBC Worldwide for seven years, during which time he was responsible for all global commercial activities, including TV channels, co-productions, magazines, books and home entertainment, was recipient of the Queen's Award for Exports, and a member of the BBC's Executive Committee. Other senior business appointments have included: Managing Director, Consumer Division of British Telecom, Deputy Managing Director of Dixons Stores Group and Board Director of Virgin Mobile. For many years, Mr Gavin was a director and shareholder of The Ambassador Theatre Group, now the most substantial theatre company in the world. He has produced/coproduced over 100 theatre productions since 1981, many of them awardwinning. He has also served as Governor of the National Film and Television School, and Treasurer of the Contemporary Art Society. Currently, Mr Gavin is a board director of Wyevale Garden Centres, a board director of Countrywide plc, executive chairman of his West End theatre producing company Incidental Colman, chairman of Theatre CoProductions Ltd., and fourth Warden of the Worshipful Company of Grocers.

Professor Sir David Cannadine

(from 19 May 2015)

Professor Cannadine is Dodge Professor of History at Princeton University, Visiting Professor of History at the University of Oxford, and Editor of the Dictionary of National Biography. He is the author of fifteen books, including The Decline and Fall of the British Aristocracy, G.M. Trevelyan: A Life in History, Mellon: An American Life and, most recently, A life of King George V. Sir David has also served as a Commissioner of English Heritage, a member of the Eastern Regional Committee of the National Trust, a

member of the Royal Mint Advisory Committee, and also is the Vice-Chairman of the Westminster Abbey Fabric Commission. He is also a former chair of the Trustees of the National Portrait Gallery. He is a Trustee of the Wolfson Foundation.

Jane Kennedy

(from 19 May 2015)

Jane Kennedy is a senior partner and former Chairman of Purcell, a large international firm of architects specialising in the conservation and development of historic buildings and places. She has over 35 years' experience in the care and development of historic buildings and has played a key role in securing the future of some of the finest historic buildings in the country. Jane has been Surveyor to the Fabric of Elv Cathedral since 1994, and has overseen a period of major restoration within the Cathedral and its precincts. Jane has also served as a Commissioner for English Heritage and is a Trustee of the Chiswick House and Gardens Trust and a member of the Canal and River Trust's Heritage Advisory Committee.

Directors

Michael Day CVO

Chief Executive

John Barnes

Director of Conservation & Learning

Tania Fitzgerald (maternity leave from 23 January 2015)

Finance Director

Gina George

Retail and Catering Director

Paul Gray

Palaces Group Director

Richard Harrold OBE

Tower Group Director

Danny Homan (until 30 June 2014)

Director of Communication & Development

Graham Josephs

Human Resources Director

Jane McKeown

(from 23 January 2015)

Acting Finance Director

Dan Wolfe

(from 29 October 2014)Director of Communication

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A full register of interests is available from the Trust and Company Secretary.

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Dan Wolfe Historic Royal Palaces is immensely grateful to those

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Historic Royal Palaces

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^{*} Made to Historic Royal Palaces, Inc.



