

# FANFARE

GROUPS AND TRAVEL TRADE NEWS | ISSUE 2 | 2024

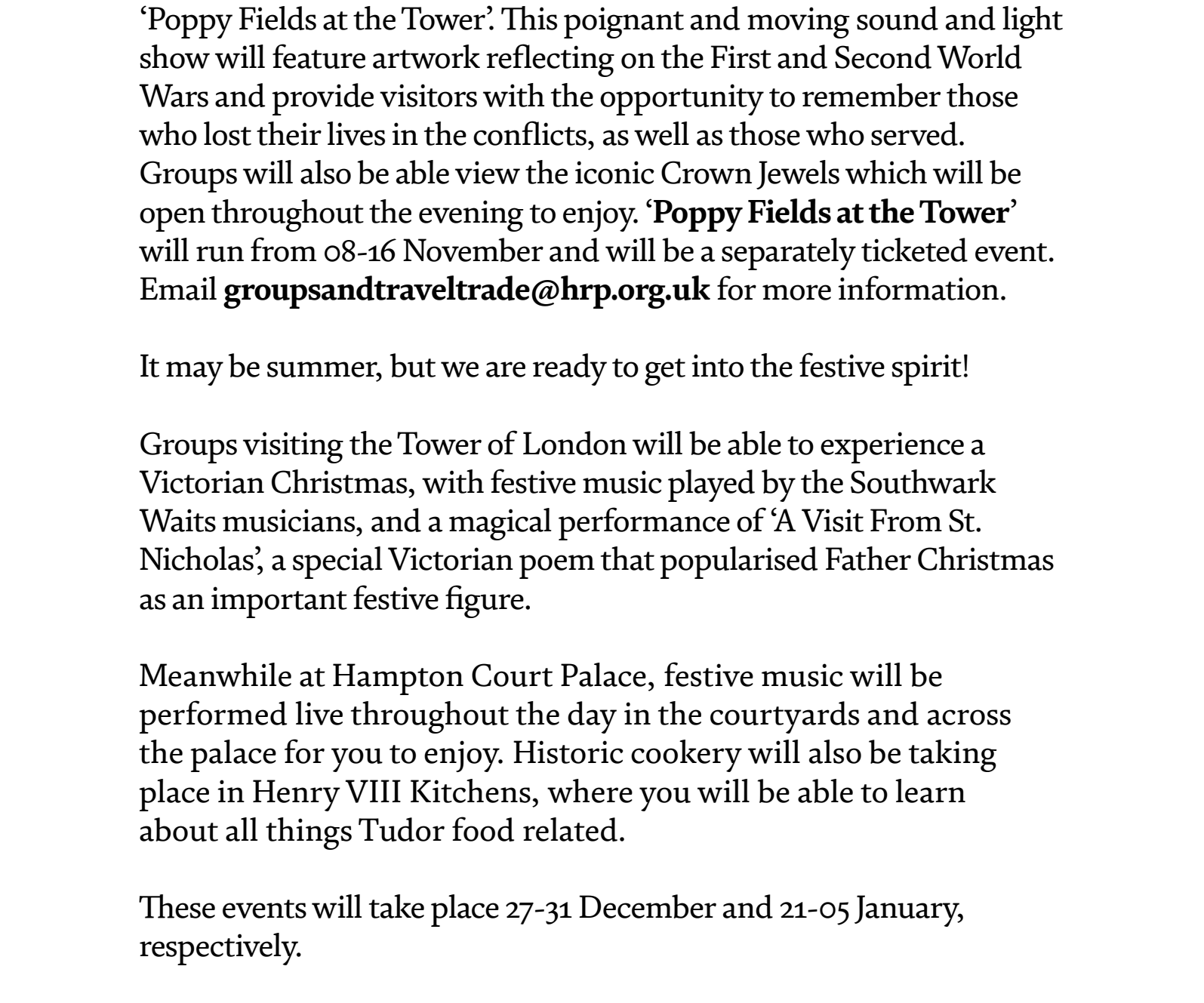


Summer is here, but at Historic Royal Palaces we are ready to put our winter warmers on as we prepare for the spooky and festive season. Get ready for haunting tales and ghostly sights followed by festive cheers at the Tower of London and Hampton Court Palace. Don't forget to discover our 'Untold Lives: A Palace at Work' exhibition, running until 29 October 2024.

Ready for 2025? We have a number of exciting annual events ready to be included in your tour itineraries, from our **Tulip and Food Festivals at Hampton Court Palace**, to the stunning **Spring Spectacular at Hillsborough Castle and Gardens**.

Meanwhile, Kensington Palace will once again host a new exhibition featuring treasures from Historic Royal Palaces' Ceremonial Dress Collection from March 2025. Combine a palace visit with an Afternoon Tea or lunch in the newly re-opened **Orangery restaurant**.

Kind regards,  
The Travel Trade Team



## WINTER DELIGHTS

Winter is the perfect time to soak up the atmosphere of our historic sites with a range of activities and events sure to delight your clients.

This Halloween (26 October – 03 November), visitors to the Tower of London and Hampton Court Palace will be able to immerse themselves in the eerie sights and sounds as they weave their way down the cobbled pathways and spooky hallways and encounter ghosts from the palace's past.

Historic Royal Palaces have partnered with Luxmuralis to present 'Poppy Fields at the Tower'. This poignant and moving sound and light show will feature artwork reflecting on the First and Second World Wars and provide visitors with the opportunity to remember those who lost their lives in the conflicts, as well as those who served. Groups will also be able to view the iconic Crown Jewels which will be open throughout the evening to enjoy. **'Poppy Fields at the Tower'** will run from 08-16 November and will be a separately ticketed event. Email [groupsandtraveltrade@hrp.org.uk](mailto:groupsandtraveltrade@hrp.org.uk) for more information.

It may be summer, but we are ready to get into the festive spirit!

Groups visiting the Tower of London will be able to experience a Victorian Christmas, with festive music played by the Southwark Waiters musicians, and a magical performance of 'A Visit From St. Nicholas', a special Victorian poem that popularised Father Christmas as an important festive figure.

Meanwhile at Hampton Court Palace, festive music will be performed live throughout the day in the courtyards and across the palace for you to enjoy. Historic cookery will also be taking place in Henry VIII Kitchens, where you will be able to learn about all things Tudor food related.

These events will take place 27-31 December and 21-05 January, respectively.

Do not forget our Festive Fayre at Hampton Court Palace, due to take place 06-08 December and 13-15 December 2024, where visitors can search for their perfect Christmas gift within the iconic courtyards of Henry VIII's pleasure palace!



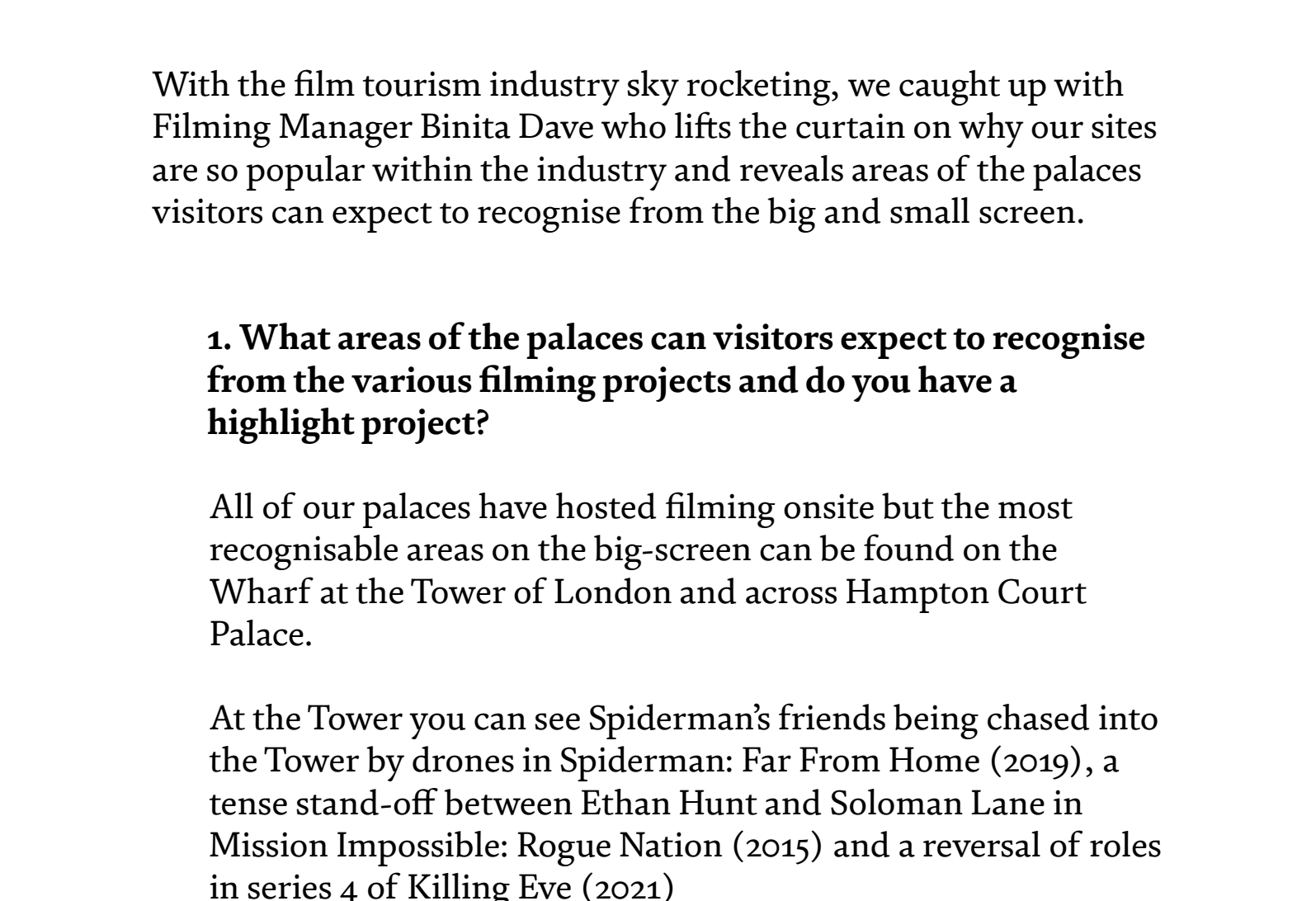
## HILLSBOROUGH: A ROYAL DAY OUT

Delve deeper into Hillsborough Castle and Garden's rich and unique history with a specially themed guided castle tour.

Discover Hillsborough Castle's array of art treasures, from Reubens to Lavery and look out for the 33 new works now on display throughout the state rooms with our 'Art tour'. Explore over 250 years of shared stories between the USA, UK, and Ireland in our 'American Connections' tour or unpick the intimate and world-shaping discussions held within the castle walls in our aptly named 'Politics tour'.

Allow extra time to visit the 100-acre garden that surrounds the Castle, but do not take our word for it! Alan Greer, Business Development and Sales Executive, recommends visiting the **Walled Garden**, a four-acre garden which features vegetables and fruit gardens as well as beautiful displays of flowers as spring gives way to summer and right through to the autumn, and the **Lost Garden**, where visitors can explore the little bridges and islands.

**The ultimate top tip from an expert:** Allow plenty of time! Explore the on-site gift shop or book an Afternoon Tea in the café. There are also lovely shops and places of interest in Royal Hillsborough!



## MEDIEVAL REIMAGINING'S AND ROYAL ROBES

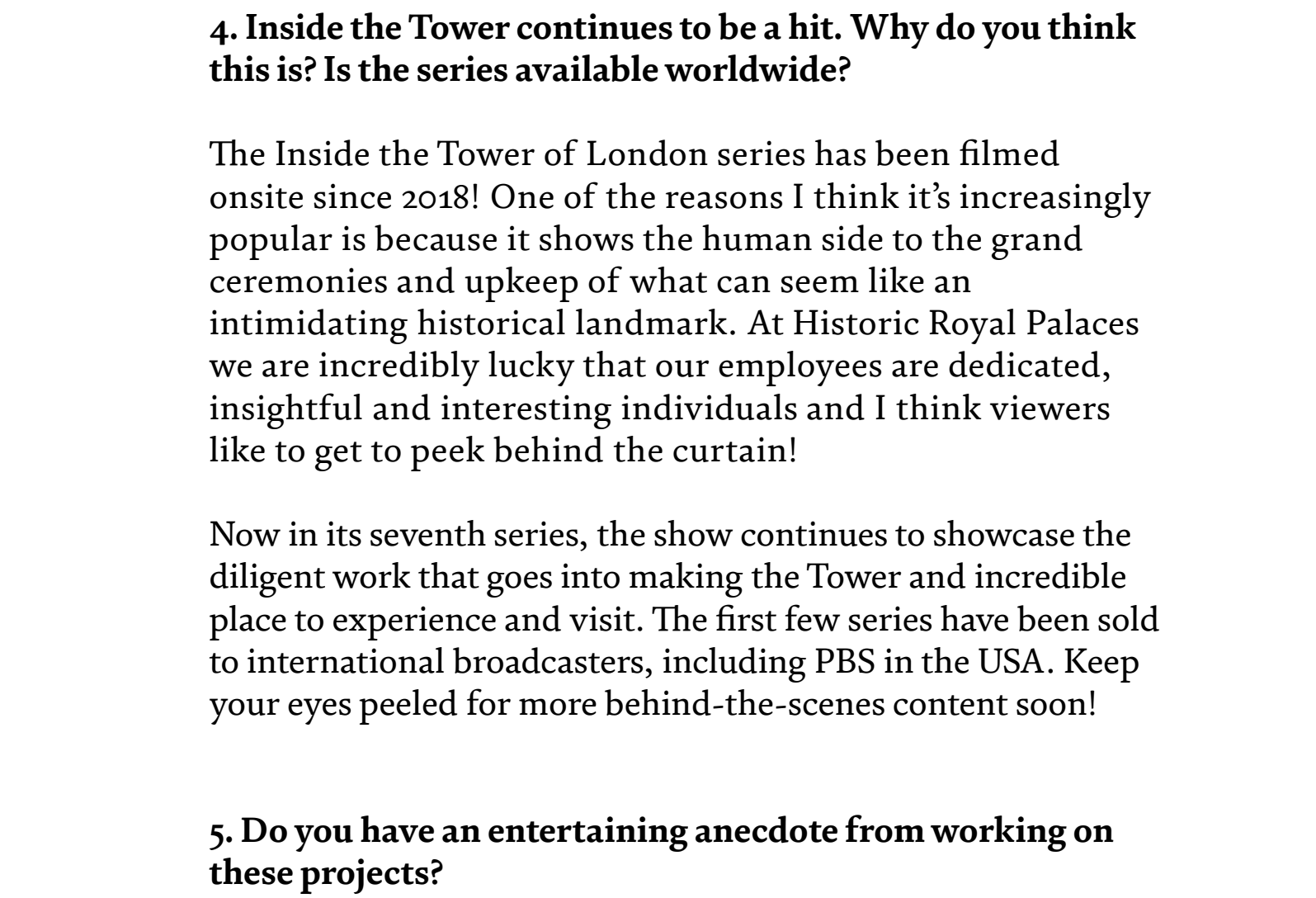
Planning your itineraries for 2025? We've got you covered!

Opening May 2025, the Tower of London's Medieval Palace and Cradle Tower will be re-imagined, transporting visitors to the medieval period through innovative storytelling, bringing to life the fascinating characters who lived and worked here. For the first time, visitors will not only experience the stories of the kings who built and inhabited these spaces, but also of the queens who ruled with them and the household who served them.

From March – November 2025, a new exhibition at Kensington Palace will display treasures from Historic Royal Palaces' own Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection. Never-before-seen items from the 10,000-strong collection will go on show, exploring the dress codes required in both royal and court life through the centuries.

Finally, opening in March 2025, a new temporary exhibition in the Stable Yard Gallery at Hillsborough Castle will explore the intimate relationship between fashion designer and royal client, revealing the process behind the creation of some of their most important couture commissions. It will feature original sketches, fabric swatches, embroideries, samples, letters, unseen photographs and film footage, as well as three items of royal dress.

Contact [groupsandtraveltrade@hrp.org.uk](mailto:groupsandtraveltrade@hrp.org.uk) for more information.



## PALACES ON FILM

With the film tourism industry sky rocketing, we caught up with Filming Manager Binita Dave who lifts the curtain on why our sites are so popular within the industry and reveals areas of the palaces visitors can expect to recognise from the big and small screen.

### 1. What areas of the palaces can visitors expect to recognise from the various filming projects and do you have a highlight project?

All of our palaces have hosted filming onsite but the most recognisable areas of the big-screen can be found on the Wharf at the Tower of London and across Hampton Court Palace.

At the Tower you can see Spiderman's friends being chased into the Tower by drones in Spiderman: Far From Home (2019), a tense stand-off between Ethan Hunt and Solomon Lane in Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation (2015) and a reversal of roles in series 4 of Killing Eve (2021)

At Hampton Court Palace we were featured extensively in The Favourite (2019) and of course, Bridgerton (2020-onwards), but we have also filmed a variety of other projects at the Palace. Key locations which have been used include: Base Court (featured in Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (2011) Clock Court, Master Carpenter's Court, the Cartoon Gallery, the King's Staircase, the Orangery, and of course, our beautiful gardens (including a fabulous scene in Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again (2018)!)

### 2. Are you able to provide information on how the film tourism industry has impacted our sites?

With the growth in our Palaces' popularity as a filming location, visitor interest in this aspect of the palaces has never been higher. Anecdotally we have visitors coming up to us when there is a documentary shoot at the Tower of London to say that they have come to visit specifically because they saw our Channel 5 programme, Inside the Tower of London, which is also syndicated internationally. I'm always surprised to meet people from as far away as Australia saying they've enjoyed the show!

Hampton Court Palace in particular is famous more recently for its starring role in viral TV productions like Bridgerton and The Great. However, it has been a location for a wide variety of films from as early as 1933!

### 3. What makes our palaces the perfect filming location?

Our buildings were once home to historic Kings and Queens, and radiate luxury and beauty but we also have unusual spaces across our sites, such as the historic kitchens at Hampton Court Palace, small-prison cells at the Tower of London, a Courthouse and a faux Medieval fort at Hillsborough Castle and Gardens, the Pagoda at Kew and beautiful Victorian rooms at Kensington Palace. Across our sites we also have a range of architectural styles that can be used as a backdrop for many different places and genres – we have doubled up for Versailles, Victorian London, Medieval Paris and more! Filming in London is increasingly popular with Hollywood crews and we're very fortunate that most of our sites are within the heart of the city.

### 4. Inside the Tower of London series has been filmed onsite since 2018! One of the reasons I think it's increasingly popular is because it shows the human side to the grand ceremonies and upkeep of what can seem like an intimidating historical landmark. At Historic Royal Palaces we are incredibly lucky that our employees are dedicated, insightful and interesting individuals and I think viewers like to get to peek behind the curtain!

Now in its seventh series, the show continues to showcase the diligent work that goes into making the Tower and incredible place to experience and visit. The first few series have been sold to international broadcasters, including PBS in the USA. Keep your eyes peeled for more behind-the-scenes content soon!

### 5. Do you have an entertaining anecdote from working on these projects?

I've been very lucky to have worked alongside some incredible creatives, from Art Directors who have transformed courtyards into printing presses, Directors who have enjoyed filming so much that they come back again and again and of course, the incredibly talented actors who are the onscreen faces of the films we love to watch. However, one of the most unique and strangest moments for me was watching a real-life Zebra being paraded around the West Front of Hampton Court Palace for a Bridgerton shoot. It was baffling to see those black and white stripes in such a historic setting!

There are also some practicalities which come with filming management that make for interesting stories. Filming needs to fit around the day-to-day activities of our Palaces so we're often hosting shoots in the middle of the night, when it is supposed to look like daytime! I love a bit of movie magic like this!

Special interest groups visiting Hampton Court Palace can now enjoy our filming-specific **Digital Visitor Guide** at Hampton Court Palace. Available in a variety of languages, the guide takes visitors across some of the key projects filmed onsite and gives a behind-the-scenes look at how these shoots were managed. Groups of 20 pax or more can also enjoy our **Queen Charlotte Afternoon Tea picnic box**, inspired by the Netflix phenomenon, Bridgerton.



### TOWER OF LONDON

**Tower Moat**  
Until 29 September 2024

**Traillblazers: Woman at the Tower of London**  
Until 01 September

**Halloween**  
26 October – 03 November

**Poppy Fields at the Tower**  
08 – 16 November

**Christmas at the Tower of London**  
27 – 31 December

**Medieval Palace**  
Opening May 2025



### HAMPTON COURT PALACE

**The Tudor World in the Wolsey Rooms**  
Opening 13 July

**Food Festival**  
24 – 26 August

**Indian Army at the Palace**  
Until 29 September 2024

**Halloween**  
26 October – 03 November

**Festive Fayre**  
06-08 & 13-15 December

**Christmas at the Palace**  
21 December – 05 January 2025



### KENSINGTON PALACE

**Untold Lives: A Palace at Work**  
Until 29 October 2024

**Orangery Restaurant**  
Open daily

**Dress codes**  
March – November 2025



### BANQUETING HOUSE

**Banqueting House is currently closed to visitors and for events,**

**Please email** [groupsandtraveltrade@hrp.org.uk](mailto:groupsandtraveltrade@hrp.org.uk) for more information



### HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS

**Hillsborough Castle Summer Fair**  
24-26 August

**Life Through a Royal Lens**  
Until 27 October

**Special interest tours**  
Running July – November

**Royal Style**  
Opening March 2025



### KEW PALACE AND ROYAL KITCHENS

**Open until 29 September**

**Queen Charlotte: A Kew Palace Story Tour**  
Until 29 September

**Queen Charlotte's Cottage**  
Open weekends and bank holidays

**Private tours of Kew Palace and Pagoda available on request**

BUY TICKETS – [WWW.HRP.ORG.UK/TRAVEL-TRADE](http://WWW.HRP.ORG.UK/TRAVEL-TRADE)  
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## SPACE TO STIR AND BE STIRRED

TOWER OF LONDON • HAMPTON COURT PALACE • BANQUETING HOUSE  
KENSINGTON PALACE • KEW PALACE • HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS