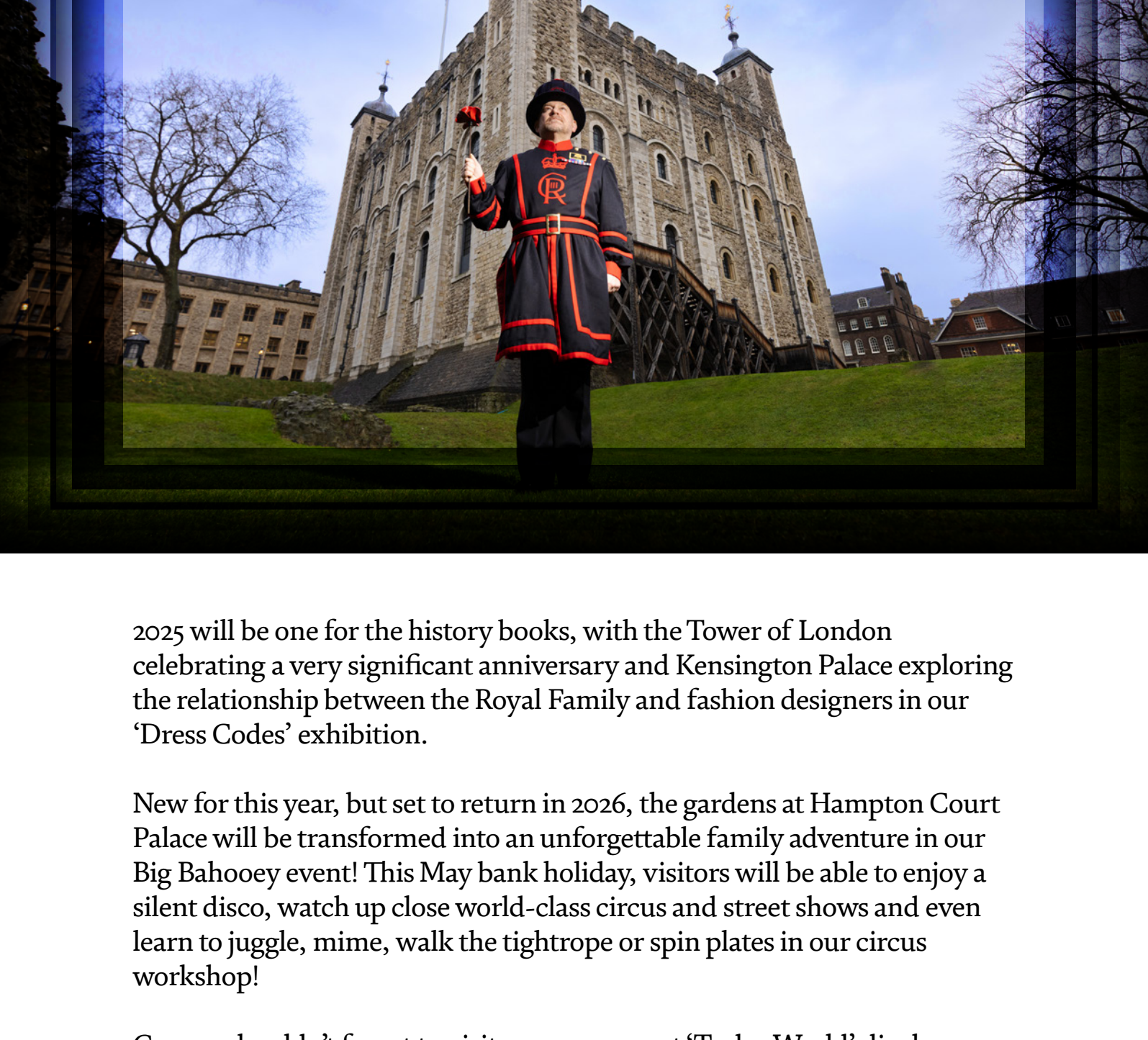


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GROUPS AND TRAVEL TRADE NEWS | ISSUE 1 | 2025



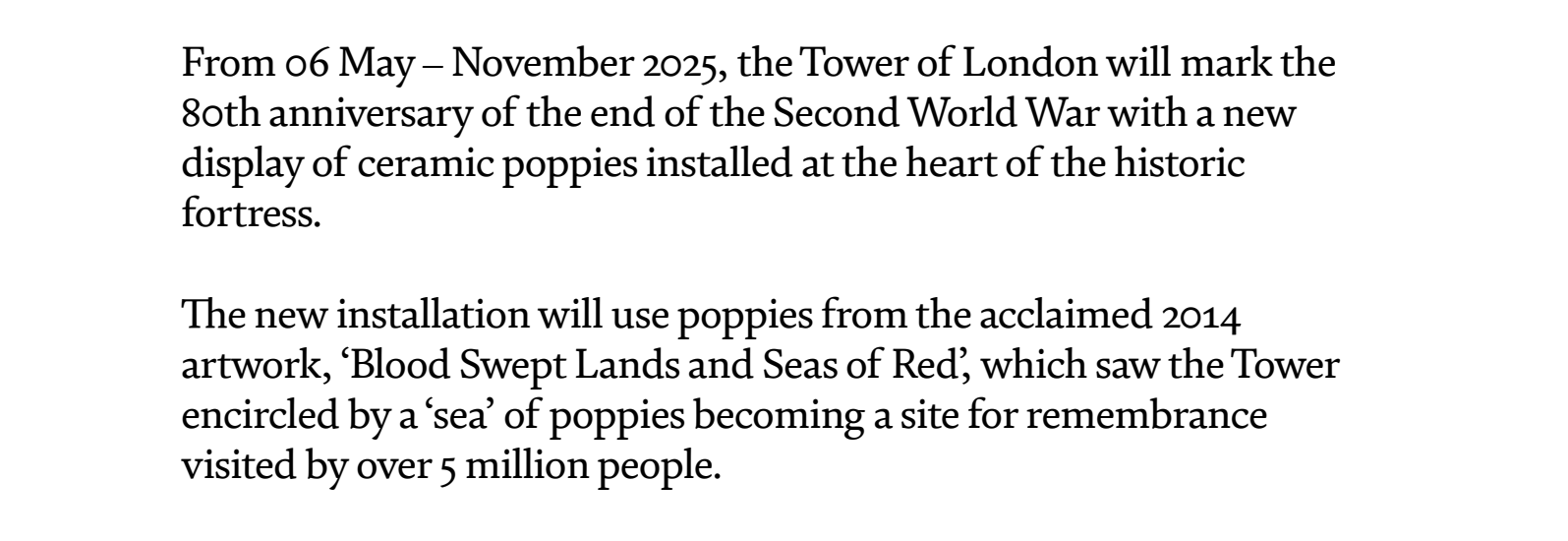
2025 will be one for the history books, with the Tower of London celebrating a very significant anniversary and Kensington Palace exploring the relationship between the Royal Family and fashion designers in our 'Dress Codes' exhibition.

New for this year, but set to return in 2026, the gardens at Hampton Court Palace will be transformed into an unforgettable family adventure in our Big Bahooley event! This May bank holiday, visitors will be able to enjoy a silent disco, watch up close world-class circus and street shows and even learn to juggle, mime, walk the tightrope or spin plates in our circus workshop!

Groups shouldn't forget to visit our permanent "Tudor World" display, unveiling the story of the men and women who enabled the Tudor court to exist and flourish, or our Indian Army exhibition which explores the forgotten story of Indian Army soldiers who camped at Hampton Court Palace in the early 20th century.

Whatever your clients' interests or ages, our palaces truly have something for everyone.

Kind regards,
The Travel Trade Team



MARKING A VERY SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY AT THE TOWER OF LONDON

From 06 May – November 2025, the Tower of London will mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War with a new display of ceramic poppies installed at the heart of the historic fortress.

The new installation will use poppies from the acclaimed 2014 artwork, 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red', which saw the Tower encircled by a 'sea' of poppies becoming a site for remembrance visited by over 5 million people.

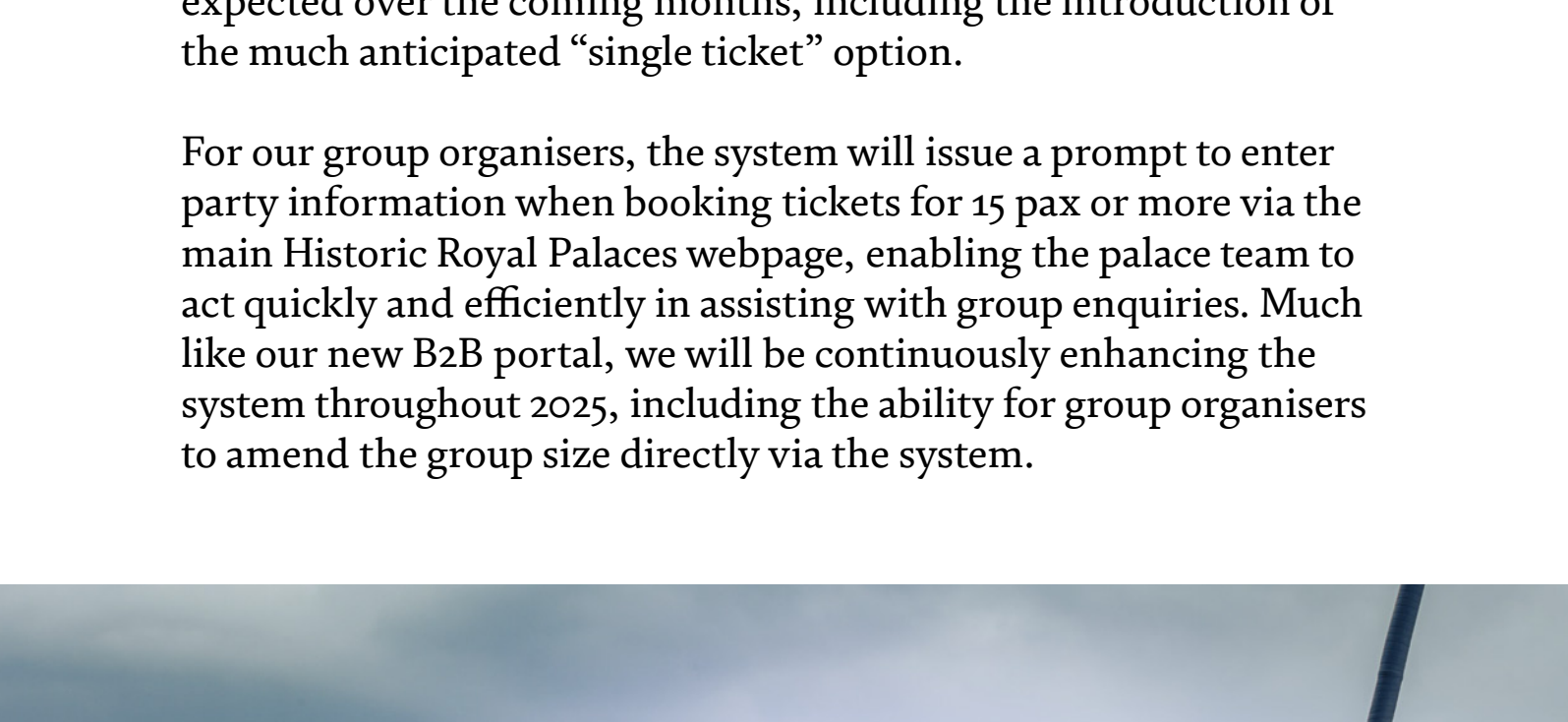
From May, nearly 30,000 poppies from the original installation, on loan from Imperial War Museums' collection, will return to the Tower to form a new display, marking and reflecting on the sacrifices made by so many during the Second World War.

The new display will resemble a 'wound' at the heart of the Tower, which was itself bombed during the Blitz and still bears some of those scars today. Indeed, one of the Tower's Yeoman Warders, Samuel Reeves, and a resident, Lily Frances Lunn, died when the fortress took a direct hit. At the end of the War the fortress was floodlit as a beacon of hope for a new beginning, but the shadow of loss hung over its VE Day festivities. Marking this loss is of deep importance to the Tower's resident community, many of whom are veterans themselves.

Poppies will pour across the lawn overlooked by the ancient White Tower, where the blood-red flowers will form a crater, with ripples flowing outwards. The installation, on display within the Tower's walls, will create striking images, reminding us of the sacrifice, loss of life, and of the long-lasting impact of conflict.

The installation opens on 6 May and is included as part of Tower of London admission. A small part of the display will be visible from the public footpath, which does not require a ticket.

Email groupsandtraveltrade@hrp.org.uk for more information.

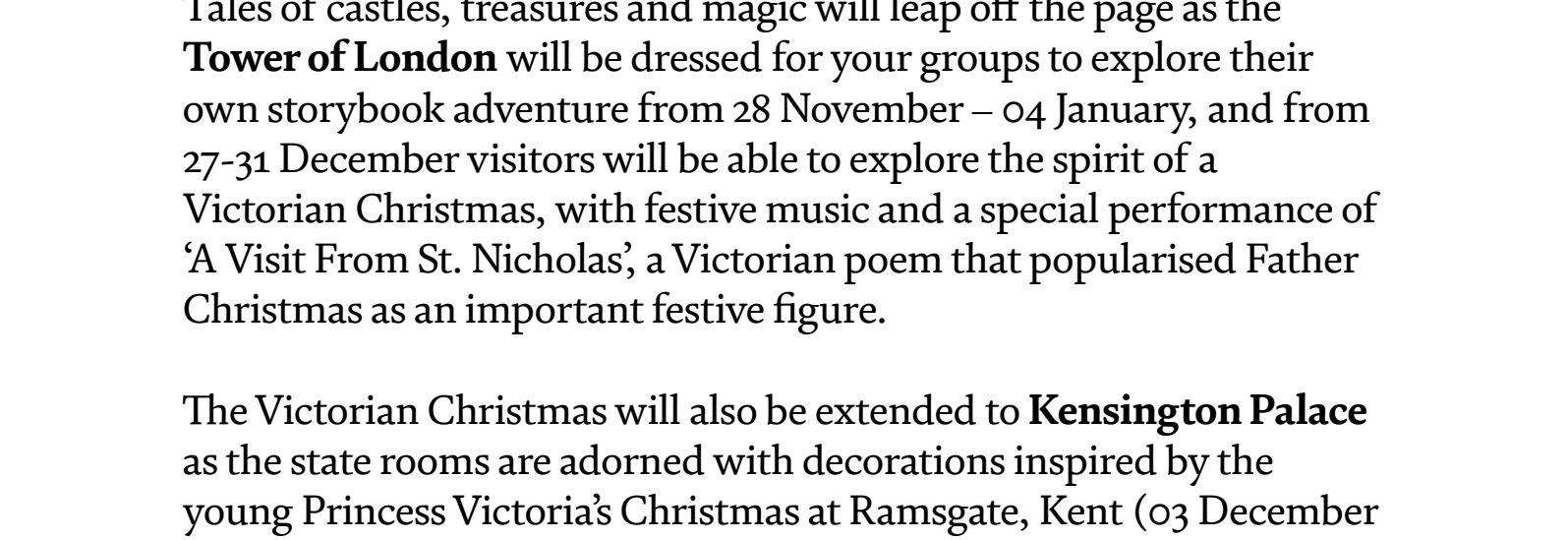


A NEW ERA HAS BEGUN

We are delighted to announce that we have recently launched our new B2B portal for our contracted clients for visits to the Tower of London, Kensington Palace and Hampton Court Palace.

The new system aims to streamline the booking process, enabling users to amend their orders within the system itself and to resend confirmation emails to internal or external individuals. Under the new system we have also removed the requirement to print palace tickets, regardless of the group size. Further enhancements are expected over the coming months, including the introduction of the much anticipated "single ticket" option.

For our group organisers, the system will issue a prompt to enter party information when booking tickets for 15 pax or more via the main Historic Royal Palaces webpage, enabling the palace team to act quickly and efficiently in assisting with group enquiries. Much like our new B2B portal, we will be continuously enhancing the system throughout 2025, including the ability for group organisers to amend the group size directly via the system.



WHO SAID HISTORY IS DEAD AND BURIED?

2025 promises to be an exciting year for palace visitors, with history being brought to life through a range of activities and displays guaranteed to add value to group visits.

From 12-13 and 19-20 July, visitors to **Hampton Court Palace** will witness a spectacle of epic proportions as Henry VIII's Joust returns to the palace. Be dazzled by daredevil tricks performed on horseback, pick your favourite knight and cheer, jeer and follow all the fun of an epic face-off until one knight reigns supreme. Look closely and you may even see the king himself taking part! At the end of July to 07 September, palace visitors will also be able to explore the extensive gardens and discover some of Beatrix Potter's beloved characters in our specially created Peter Rabbit Adventure trail.

Ghostly spirits and otherworldly figures will return to **Hampton Court Palace** and **Hillsborough Castle and Gardens** from 25 October – 02 November for a spooktacular Halloween.

Tales of castles, treasures and magic will leap off the page as the **Tower of London** will be dressed for your groups to explore their own storybook adventure from 28 November – 04 January, and from 27-31 December visitors will be able to explore the spirit of a Victorian Christmas, with festive music and a special performance of 'A Visit From St. Nicholas', a Victorian poem that popularised Father Christmas as an important festive figure.

The Victorian Christmas will also be extended to **Kensington Palace** as the state rooms are adorned with decorations inspired by the young Princess Victoria's Christmas at Ramsgate, Kent (03 December – 04 January).

Finally, from 29 November – 04 January, the magic of Christmas will come alive at **Hillsborough Castle** with a themed garden trail and decorations within the castle rooms. Keep your eyes peeled a special appearance!



2025 EXHIBITION ROUND UP

Still planning your 2025 itineraries? We've got you covered!

From 13 March - 30 November 2025, visitors to **Kensington Palace** can explore the codes and conventions of royal clothing in our 'Dress Codes' exhibition. Pieces worn by a young Queen Elizabeth II, Diana, Princess of Wales, Dame Vivienne Westwood and Queen Victoria will be on display, alongside stunning items from the Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection, including an extremely rare Japanese court suit dating from the early 20th century.

Groups to **Hillsborough Castle and Gardens** will be able to step into the world of regal elegance from 15 March 2025 with 'Royal Style in the Making'. Showcasing three stunning outfits worn by prominent figures within the Royal Family, the display will unveil the intimate bond between royal clients and fashion designers and explore how the British fashion industry has crafted the iconic style of the royal women.

Lastly, from 23 May 2025, **Tower of London's** Medieval Palace and Cradle Tower will be re-imagined, transporting visitors to the medieval period through innovative storytelling, hands-on interactives and multisensory displays. 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 households who served them.



TOWER OF LONDON

The Poet's Predicament
05 April – 29 June 2025

Medieval Palace
Opening May 2025

Tower Remembers 2025
06 May – 11 November 2025

Christmas at the Tower of London
28 November 2025 – 04 January 2026



HAMPTON COURT PALACE

The Tudor World
Permanent display

Indian Army at the Palace
Until 28 September 2025

Tulip Festival
11 April – 05 May 2025

The Feel Good Festival
16 – 18 May 2025

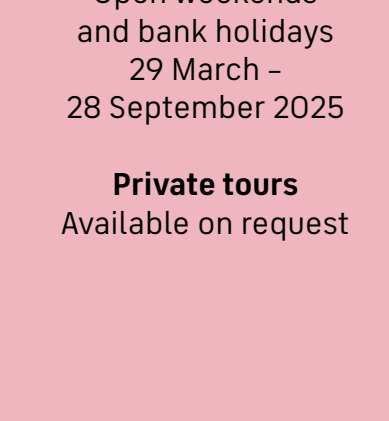
The Big Bahooley
24-26 May 2025

Henry VIII's Joust
12-13 and 19-20 July 2025

The Peter Rabbit Adventure
25 July – 31 August 2025

The Food Festival
23 – 25 August 2025

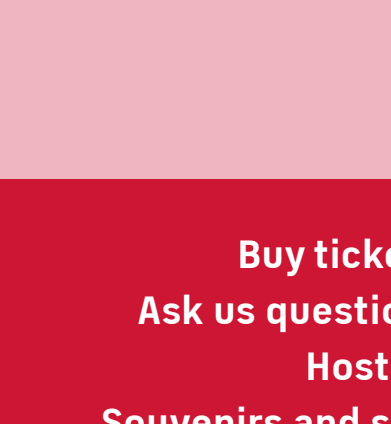
Halloween at Hampton Court Palace
25 October – 02 November 2025



KENSINGTON PALACE

Dress Codes
13 March – 30 November 2025

Victoria's Childhood Christmas at the Seaside
03 December 2025 – 04 January 2026



BANQUETING HOUSE

Open in Summer 2025

Available for private events from 01 October 2025



HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS

Spring Spectacular
15 March – 05 May 2025

The Lindt Gold Bunny Hunt
12 – 27 April 2025

Royal Style in the Making
04 March 2025 – 04 January 2026

Winnie the Pooh's Hunny Hunt
28 June – 31 August 2025

Scarecrow Parade
04 October – 06 November 2025

Halloween at Hillsborough
25 October – 02 November 2025

Christmas at Hillsborough
29 November 2025 – 04 January 2026



KEW PALACE AND ROYAL KITCHENS

Open daily
29 March – 28 September 2025

The Great Pagoda
Open daily
29 March – 28 September 2025

Queen Charlotte's Cottage
Open weekends and bank holidays
29 March – 28 September 2025

Private tours
Available on request

Buy tickets – www.hrp.org.uk/travel-trade
Ask us questions – groupsandtraveltrade@hrp.org.uk
Host an event – events@hrp.org.uk
Souvenirs and shopping – www.historicroyalpalaces.com



SPACE TO STIR AND BE STIRRED

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

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