



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

FANFARE

GROUPS AND TRAVEL TRADE NEWS | ISSUE 3 | 2023



The autumnal weather may not be with us just yet, but the darker nights are drawing in, making people think about their next travel adventure.

Therefore, there is no better time to offer some tour inspiration for 2024 and beyond! From the secret tales of palace servants in **Untold Lives: A palace at work** at Kensington Palace to the little-known stories of the people who worked within the lavish Tudor court at **Hampton Court Palace**. To the blooming gardens at the **Tower of London** and **Hillsborough Castle and Gardens** to the **spooktacular Halloween** offering across our sites, 2024 has something in store for every client!

Just like the changing of the seasons, we would also like to take this opportunity to announce some recent changes to the Travel Trade Team.

We are delighted to welcome Isobel Gomer and Chenbei Xu to the team - be sure to keep an eye out for them at Trade shows!

Kind regards

The Travel Trade Team



STORIES OF THE TUDOR COURT

From May 2024, your clients will be able to explore a stunning new display that will introduce them to the transformative age of Henry VIII's early reign, set within the newly reopened Wolsey Rooms at Hampton Court Palace.

Revealed through original artworks and historic objects – including famous 'History paintings' like *The Field of Cloth of Gold* – your clients will discover the people of the Tudor court: soldiers in Henry's army, the craftsmen who made his palaces, and the influence of the wider world.

Alongside four surviving history paintings, visitors will see portraits of European Kings and Queens, sailors and soldiers, musicians and jousters, and displays of rare surviving artefacts from the Tudor era.

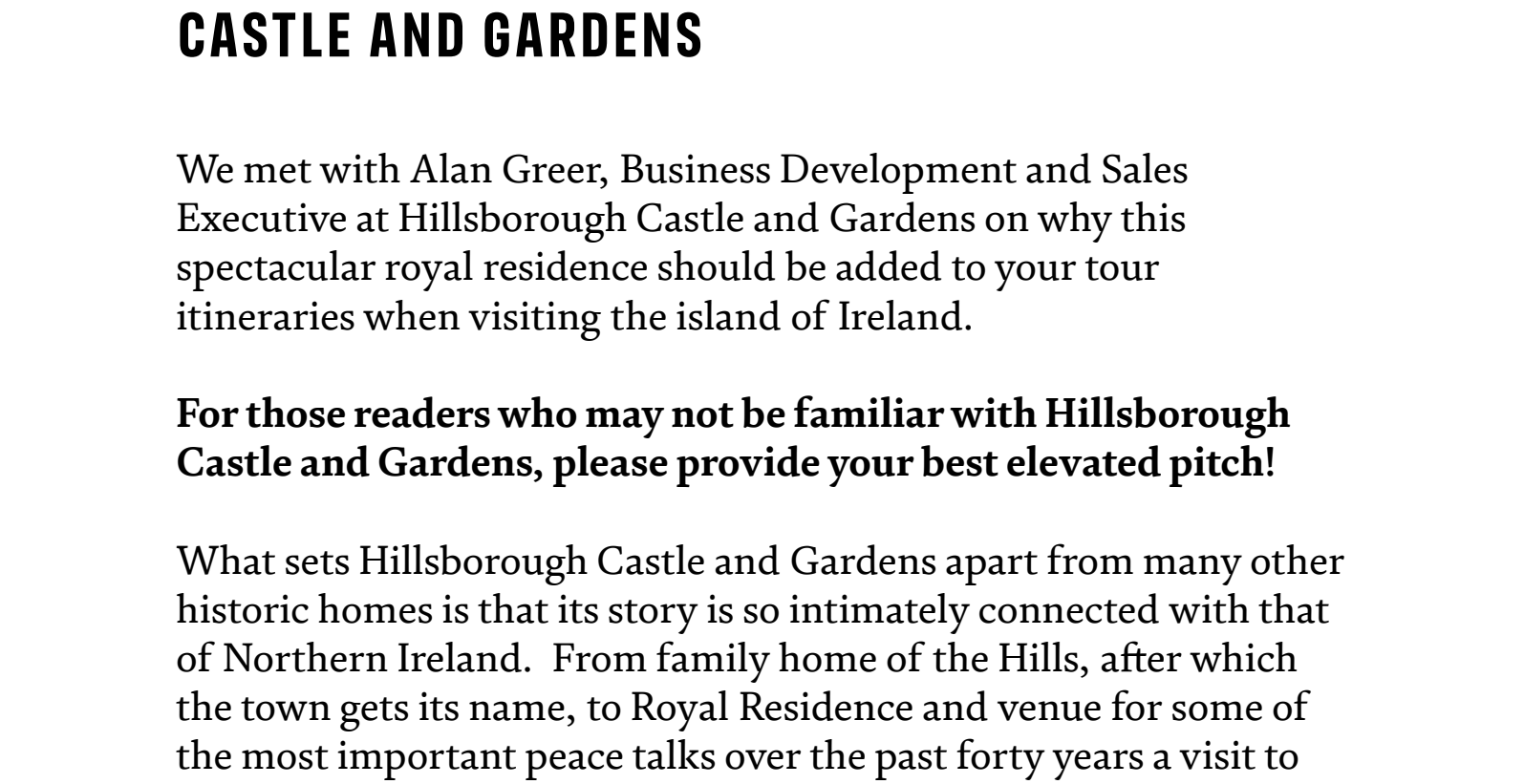
The Wolsey Rooms and the Tudor display will be included in admission to Hampton Court Palace.



A DOWNSTAIRS VIEW ON UPSTAIRS LIFE

In March 2024, Kensington Palace will unveil a new exhibition, telling the stories of the forgotten individuals who have worked behind the scenes at the palace over the centuries. It will explore their origins and identities, extraordinary skills, and the intimate roles many of them had in keeping the palace running. Taking place inside the Pigott Gallery, this temporary exhibition will see a range of fascinating objects go on display, from portraiture to personal mementoes.

Further information on this thought-provoking exhibition will be released soon.



A SPOTLIGHT ON HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS

We met with Alan Greer, Business Development and Sales Executive at Hillsborough Castle and Gardens on why this spectacular royal residence should be added to your tour itineraries when visiting the island of Ireland.

For those readers who may not be familiar with Hillsborough Castle and Gardens, please provide your best elevated pitch!

What sets Hillsborough Castle and Gardens apart from many other historic homes is that its story is so intimately connected with that of Northern Ireland. From family home of the Hills, after which the town gets its name, to Royal Residence and venue for some of the most important peace talks over the past forty years a visit to Hillsborough Castle and Gardens is both a beautiful and tranquil day out and an opportunity to understand Northern Ireland and its fascinating story better.

In your opinion, why should group organisers and tour operators consider including Hillsborough Castle and Gardens year-round rather than just event days?

The castle gardens are beautiful and refreshing in all weathers and seasons. Event days are certainly special and great fun, but just as much delight can be found in exploring the gardens at times of the year when we are less busy and finding that you have parts of it just to yourself, to share with the birds and wildlife that are on site or to take extra time to speak with our knowledgeable Castle hosts.

There are also a range of special Castle tours available all year round, from art and politics to Royalty and our LGBTQ+ tours in late July/early August to coincide with Belfast Pride. Each host brings their own personality and character to the tour, so revisiting the Castle and Gardens throughout the year is sure to be a rewarding experience.

Speaking of event days, what special events and activities can visitors look forward to in the coming months and in 2024?

The season kicks off with our **Spring Spectacular** running from March to May where the grounds are awash with swathes of colour. Unusual daffodils, bred in Northern Ireland, can be found on the west lawn and in the Walled Garden, a river of blue muscari snakes its way between trees and pots of tulips provide pops of colour at the Castle.

There will be family fun on offer over the Easter period. Our food festival, the Honey Fair will return in August along with spooktacular events at Halloween and Christmas Castle tours.

Coming soon! Our American Connections tour will explore the castle's intimate connection with America's most notable figures, including President Bush, Clinton, and Benjamin Franklin.



THE SECRET STORIES OF THE PUBLIC LIVES

The *Bridgerton* series captured the hearts of millions around the world and renewed the interest in the lives of King George III and Queen Charlotte.

Visit Kew Palace, nestled in the heart of Kew Gardens, and join our Queen Charlotte tour, where clients can discover what really happened on the day of Charlotte and George's wedding. Did George ignore Charlotte for the first few weeks of their marriage and did he give her a Pomeranian (otherwise known as a deformed bunny) as a gift?

Your clients' burning questions will be answered as they join our costumed hosts for a 30-minute tour where they will learn the true stories of Charlotte's younger life, her relationship with George III and who she really was.

Alternatively, book a 30-minute 'Hidden Spaces' tour and see areas of the palace usually off-limits to the public. Discover the attics and learn about the 17th-century witches' marks and the undercroft linked to a very significant Tudor figure.

Both tours are £5 per person and bookable upon arrival at the palace, just speak to a Palace Host. A reminder that Kew Palace is only open from April - September each year, so do take this into account when planning your excursions.



TOWER OF LONDON

Crown Jewels
Permanent display

A Coronation Christmas
27 Nov - 04 Jan 2024

Moat in Bloom
May - September 2024



HAMPTON COURT PALACE

Tudor Cookery and Roasting
Selected dates
until 31 Mar 2024

Ice Rink
17 November 2023
- 07 January 2024

Indian Army at the palace
Until 03 March 2024

Festive Fayre
01 - 03 & 08-10 Dec 2023

Tulip Festival
15 Apr - 06 May 2024

Thomas Wolsey Rooms
Opening May 2024

Artisan Festival
12-14 May 2024

Food Festival
26 - 28 Aug 2024



KENSINGTON PALACE

Christmas at the palace
26 Nov - 01 Jan 2024

Untold Lives: A palace at work
14 Mar - 29 Oct 2024

Orangery reopening
Spring 2024

Coming in 2025: Dress Codes
Spring 2025



BANQUETING HOUSE

Guided tours available
on selected dates.

Email groupsandtraveltrade@hrp.org.uk to enquire



HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS

Walking With The Snowman
18 Nov 2023 - 07 Jan 2024

Spring Spectacular
March - May 2024

Life Through A Royal Lens
March - October 2024

Halloween
21 - 29 Oct 2024



KEW PALACE AND ROYAL KITCHENS

Open daily
April - September

The Great Pagoda
Open daily
April - September

Queen Charlotte's Cottage
Open weekends and bank holidays
April - September

Private tours
Available on request during open season

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

© Historic Royal Palaces 2023. Historic Royal Palaces is a Registered Charity (No. 1068852)