



Woodstock
Oxfordshire
OX20 1PP
6th September 2011

BP PRG 1

New Themed Tours announced at Blenheim Palace - Groups

Blenheim Palace is delighted to announce the launch of three brand new Themed Tours available for groups in 2012. Groups will be able to discover how the Palace has been used as a location for many exciting feature films and documentaries, or learn what life was like at Blenheim Palace during WWI, or gain insight into the great military heroes of Blenheim Palace. The new themes will compliment the popular series of Themed Tours and Talks for groups providing new and intriguing perspectives on the rich history of the Palace and its gardens, the people who have lived here, and also life at the Palace today.

New

Lights, Camera, Action: Blenheim Palace, the star of film & TV

Blenheim Palace has played host to many film & TV crews over the years. The most recent large productions filmed here included *Gulliver's Travels*, *The Young Victoria* and *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. Some films place the Palace centre stage but others come to film small aspects you might not recognise at first glance such as part of a staircase or a tree or for a glimpse of the maze. With large-scale productions the Palace has to cope with an invasion of an enormous amount of equipment, people and at times animals. The Palace has on film at least, been set on fire; been the scene of massed dancing, feasting, intrigue and murder. It is a wonder we are all still here! The talk will explain what actually happens at the Palace when Hollywood descends and will also look at how TV documentaries and films are made here sometimes involving the colourful characters who work at Blenheim Palace.

New

A Palace at War: How Blenheim Palace fought the First World War

The First World War was a time of immense change and sacrifice and this talk will show how the people who lived and worked at Blenheim Palace played their part to the full. Many members of the family fought in the army at the front whilst some served in the Navy and the newly formed Air Force. Some of the women in the family served as nursing auxiliaries and at times were in great danger. Many men who worked on the Estate joined up and served under extremely dangerous conditions in France. The Palace Library became a hospital and as much food as possible was grown in the gardens and farms. Amidst all the hard work and bad news from the Front there were

also moments of humour and ‘near misses’ that left all involved with a determination to live life to the full.

New

The Military Marlboroughs

This talk concentrates on the famous hero of the Battle of Blenheim, John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, and his victories during the War of the Spanish Succession. In addition, it looks at other members of the Marlborough family who have been involved in various military actions, including the 3rd Duke, Charles Spencer, who was involved in the Seven Years War (1756-1763), the 9th Duke at the Boer War in South Africa (1899-1902), together with his cousin, Winston Churchill, his involvement in both WWI and WWII, and how he was inspired by his illustrious ancestor John Churchill.

The following themes will continue to be available in 2011-12. Please contact the Groups Coordinator for further information about each tour or visit the Group section of the website.

Tours led by Karen Wiseman and Antonia Keaney, Education Department, and the Blenheim Palace Guides. For further information and to book call the Groups Coordinator on 01993 811091 or e mail operations@blenheimpalace.com

Odd Men and Necessary Women - Servants of a Great Palace

Creating an Architectural Masterpiece - The People Who Built Blenheim Palace

Behind the Scenes at Blenheim Palace

Winston Spencer Churchill and Blenheim Palace

A Palace at War - Evacuees and Espionage

The Ladies of Blenheim Palace

The Gentlemen of Blenheim Palace

A Walk in the Past - The Park and Gardens at Blenheim Palace

Situated just eight miles from Oxford in the heart of the Oxfordshire Cotswolds, Blenheim Palace is home to the 11th Duke and Duchess of Marlborough. For more information visit www.blenheimpalace.com or call 24 hour free information on 0800 8490 6500.

Notes to Editors

- Themed tours include morning coffee or afternoon tea with biscuits on arrival.
- Groups constitute a booking of 15 people or more.

- For information on booking procedures and prices please contact the Groups Coordinator on 01993 811091 to book or email operations@blenheimpalace.com
- To book a tour with Jeri Bapasola email jbapasola@blenheimpalace.com
- New seasonal menus are available for groups, as well as Sunday lunches and traditional afternoon teas. For information call 01993 813874 or email sales@blenheimhospitality.com

Themed Tours prices 2012 (includes Palace entry)

	Individuals	Groups High/Low Season	Friends members and Annual Pass holders
Adult	£25.00	£18.20/ £16.00	£5.00
Conc.	£20.50	£16.40/ £14.80	£5.00
Child	£16.00	£12.10 / £11.40	£5.00

General Admission prices 2012:

Palace, Park & Gardens Ticket (valid for free Annual Pass)	Individuals 11 Feb - 14 Dec 2012	Groups Main Season 11 - 19 Feb 31 March - 4 Nov	Groups Low Season 20 Feb - 30 Mar 7 Nov - 14 Dec
Adult	£20.00	£13.20	£11.00
Concessions	£15.50	£11.40	£9.80
Child	£11.00	£7.10	£6.40
Family	£52.00	n/a	n/a

Park & Gardens only	Individuals 11 Feb - 14 Dec 2012	Groups Main Season 11 - 19 Feb 31 March - 4 Nov	Groups Low Season 20 Feb - 30 Mar 7 Nov - 14 Dec
Adult	£11.50	£7.40	£5.80
Concessions	£8.50	£6.00	£4.60
Child	£6.00	£3.50	£2.20
Family	£30.00	n/a	n/a

Opening Times:

Season	Description
Overall Dates 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday 11 February to Friday 14 December 2012 • Saturday 11 February to Sunday 4 November open daily • Wednesday 7 November to Friday 14 December 2011 open Wednesday to Sunday inclusive.
Opening Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palace & Gardens open daily from 10:30 am to 5:30 pm (last admission 4.45pm) with areas to be vacated by 6:30 pm (Main Season) • Park open daily from 9:00 am to 4:45 pm (last admission), except Christmas Day

For further information about Blenheim Palace please call the 24 hour information line on 0800 849 6500 or visit the website at www.blenheimpalace.com for media information contact: Hannah Payne at Blenheim Palace Telephone: +44 (0) 1993 810524 Email: marketing@blenheimpalace.com
