



## media information

**Blenheim Palace**  
Woodstock  
Oxfordshire  
OX20 1PX

[www.blenheimpalace.com](http://www.blenheimpalace.com)

10<sup>th</sup> February 2011

### ▪ **Jousting Tournament at Britain's Greatest Palace** featuring 'The Knights of Royal England' 30<sup>th</sup> April - 2<sup>nd</sup> May

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If you are looking for an unforgettable day out during the May Bank holiday there is no better place than Blenheim Palace. Join 'The Knights of Royal England' on the South Lawn for a momentous jousting battle sure to thrill the whole family.

From Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May the gallant Knights and their mighty steeds will meet at Blenheim Palace to battle for glory in a spectacular jousting tournament. The weekend will be packed with action and entertainment including falconry displays and knights charging in the traditional tilt and battling on foot with the mighty mace and quarter staff.

Falcons and Harris Hawks will circle high above the crowd before swooping into the arena with precision and skill and an Eagle Owl will glide, displaying his impressive wingspan. Trumpeters will herald the start of the tournament, followed by the parade of the Knight Marshall of the lists, the Judges and the Ladies of the Court to relive a time when Knights fought to prove their bravery and skill, following mediaeval codes of chivalry and honour, and of course, to impress the ladies.

A cloud of dust, the thunder of hooves, the clash of sword and shield, a shout, and the battle will be underway. Two tournaments will take place each day and the combined scores of each Knight from both jousts will produce the champion of the day.

Blenheim Palace will provide a magnificent backdrop whilst you enjoy a host of costumed entertainment all day from 11am onwards including falconry displays and have-a-go at archery. Toys, swords, shields and souvenirs for little lords and ladies will be available from a special retail marquee throughout the weekend. Organic burgers, sandwiches and refreshments will be available and delicious Blenheim Palace picnics are available to order in advance by calling 01993 813874.

Make your day complete by visiting the magnificent Palace to see the State Rooms, and discover more about the palace's fascinating inhabitants in the visitor experience '**Blenheim Palace: The Untold Story**' where 300 years of enticing tales are told. The Palace is surrounded by beautiful Formal Gardens including the Secret Garden, Rose Garden and the ornate Water Terraces.

Families can take a ride on the miniature train to the Pleasure Garden which includes the giant maze, giant games and the Butterfly House.

For more information about Blenheim Palace call 0800 849 6500 (24 hour recorded information) or visit [www.blenheimpalace.com](http://www.blenheimpalace.com)

### **BUY ONE DAY GET TWELVE MONTHS FREE!**

Blenheim Palace is offering an amazing annual pass ticket deal in 2011. When you buy a single day ticket to the Palace, Park and Gardens you will be able to convert it into an annual pass offering you unlimited entry for 12 months from the day of purchase. Terms and conditions apply. For full details visit [www.blenheimpalace.com](http://www.blenheimpalace.com) or call 0800 849 6500 (24 hour recorded information)

Blenheim Palace is set in 2,100 acres of spectacular parkland in the heart of the Oxfordshire Cotswolds and is only eight miles from Oxford.

### **Notes to Editors**

- Blenheim Palace and Formal Gardens are open until 16<sup>th</sup> December 2011
- The Park opens at 9am, the Formal Gardens at 10am and the Palace and Pleasure Gardens from 10.30am.
- Tickets for Jousting are included within the Park & Gardens admission price and are available to purchase online by visiting [www.blenheimpalace.com](http://www.blenheimpalace.com)
- Small extra charges apply for archery.
- Picnics are available to pre-order online or call 01993 813874 or email [sales@blenheimhospitality.com](mailto:sales@blenheimhospitality.com)
- 'Blenheim Palace: The Untold Story', guided tours of State Rooms and family tours are included within the Palace, Park and Gardens ticket price.
- Guided tours are not available Sundays or bank holidays when a free-flow system is in place.
- Child age 5-16 inclusive. Under 5's free. Full details of ticket prices are available on request.



Blenheim Palace is a member of the Green Tourism Business Scheme

Blenheim Palace is a member of the Treasure Houses of England, 10 of the most magnificent palaces, stately homes and castles in England [www.treasurehouses.co.uk](http://www.treasurehouses.co.uk)

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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](http://www.blenheimpalace.com)

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