

media information



Blenheim Palace
Woodstock
Oxfordshire
OX20 1PX

www.blenheimpalace.com

3rd February 2011

BPPR12

▪ **A Royal Joust at Britain's Greatest Palace 29th April 2011**

If you haven't received a personal invite to the Royal wedding, but you want to celebrate this special occasion in true British style, join the celebrations at Blenheim Palace with a Royal Joust on the South Lawn! Blenheim Palace will host a special Royal Joust and celebration in honour of the wedding of HRH Prince William and Kate Middleton on the South Lawn on Friday 29th April.

At the Royal Joust brave knights meet for mighty battle on the South Lawn between the "Windsor's and the Tudors". The special tournament will begin with a Royal Parade from 1pm when the "Knights of Royal England" will make their way in full regalia on horseback through the historic town of Woodstock. Visitors can join in the procession, wave Union Jack flags in their honour, and cheer on the knights as they make their way to the tournament arena on the South Lawn.

Blenheim Palace will provide the perfect backdrop for the Royal Joust. A large screening of the Royal wedding will be in place on the South Lawn showing footage from 11am whilst you picnic and Pimms with friends and family. A falconry display will open the tournament from 2.30pm and the mighty jousting battle will commence in earnest between the "Windsor's and the Tudors" from 3pm. Who will be the victor and who will be the vanquished?

Families can watch and cheer as points are awarded to the knights who compete in the skills on horseback, riding the quintain, spearing the smallest rings, picking up Saracens heads from the ground, all at a gallop. The knights compete in hand to hand combat with their choice of medieval weapon, on the ground. As the tension mounts, the knights will gallop at full pace to meet face-to face with a three metre lance, with only a shield and a helmet to protect them!

Enjoy a host of entertainment on the South Lawn including have-a-go at archery and a puppet show. 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**'. Blenheim 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.

BUY ONE DAY, GET 12 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 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

- The Royal Joust is included within a Park and Gardens ticket: Adult: £11. Concs: £8.00, Child £5.50, Family £28.00
- Jousting tournaments (without a Royal theme) will be taking place at Blenheim Palace over the Bank Holiday weekend 30th April - 2nd May.
- Palace, Park and Gardens tickets: Adults £19.00 Concs: £15, Child £10.50, Family £50. (Buy One Day Get 12 Months Free - when you buy a ticket to the Palace you will receive an Annual Pass for free! For more information, terms & conditions visit www.blenheimpalace.com)
- Blenheim Palace and Formal Gardens open from 12th February 2011 to 16th December 2011.
- The Park opens at 9am, Formal Gardens at 10am, the Palace and Pleasure Gardens from 10.30am.
- Last admission to the Palace and Gardens is at 4.45pm. The Palace and Pleasure Gardens* close at 5.30pm and the Park at 6pm.
- Child age 5-16 inclusive. Under 5's free. Full details of ticket prices are available on request.
- Guided tours are not available on Sundays or bank holidays when a free-flow system is in place.
- Blenheim Palace is a member of the Treasure Houses of England, 10 of the most magnificent palace, stately homes and castles in England. Visit www.treasurehouses.co.uk
- Blenheim Palace is a member of the Green Tourism Business Scheme.



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

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