

# KENT GARDEN *of* ENGLAND

visitkent.co.uk

## PRESS RELEASE

February half-term – 19 to 27 February

### Explore Kent this Half Term

Kent is a great place to enjoy some family fun this half term (19 to 27 February). The county is packed with a number of great attractions and events that will keep the whole family entertained throughout the week long break.

For more information on any of the attractions listed below, please see

[www.visitkent.co.uk](http://www.visitkent.co.uk)

### Snowdrop Trail at Hever Castle – 20 to 27 February

Wrap up warm and enjoy an exhilarating walk along the snowdrop trail through the magnificent grounds of Hever Castle and enjoy the early blossoms of camellia and quince. Or if you feel more energetic, try the one hour Hever Lake Walk and look for signs of wildlife. Then head for The Pavilion Restaurant, where the Lady of the Wildwood will delight young visitors with interactive stories of spring and a workshop, whilst parents can catch up with friends over a warming drink and snack.

[www.hevercastle.co.uk](http://www.hevercastle.co.uk)

### Penshurst Place and Gardens – open from 19 February

Penshurst Place and Gardens is opening early for 2011, so take advantage of this great opportunity to explore the beautiful gardens and adventure playground. Plus, if you purchase a garden season ticket or family season ticket on the day of your visit, your day's entrance fee will be refunded (terms and conditions).

[www.penshurstplace.co.uk](http://www.penshurstplace.co.uk)

### Meet Henry VIII at Leeds Castle – 19 to 27 February

From 19 to 27 February, Henry VIII will be entertaining younger visitors to the castle with tales about the darker side of life and grime in Tudor England. Join Henry VIII in a heated marquee near the maze for his fun and educational tales combining history and wicked humour.

Show times are 11am, 1pm and 2.30pm daily and shows last approximately 45 minutes. There is an additional charge of £1 per child to the marquee and shows are aimed at all children of school age.

[www.leeds-castle.com](http://www.leeds-castle.com)

### Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex Park, Birchington – 21 to 25 February

From stories across the world characters have been gathering and hiding at Quex. Join Scandal mongers as they seek to expose these fantasy characters hiding among the real animals and objects of the Powell-Cotton Museum. Are they simply here on holiday, or is there something more sinister afoot? Through stories, games and crafty arting, children will be drawn into the adventure.

Daily 11am to 12.30pm, £8 adults, £7 children, £30 families, Friends of Quex half-price (includes admission to the Museum, House and Gardens).

[www.quexamuseum.org](http://www.quexamuseum.org)

### Pirates and Princesses Week, The Hop Farm – 19 to 27 February

Youngsters can enjoy swashbuckling fun in the new Pirate Cove this half term with the ultimate experience for energetic children under 11 – Pirates and Princesses week. All budding Jack Sparrows or promising Snow Whites should dress up and pit their wits against

each other in a showdown of games and activities to decide who the ultimate winner is, plus a prize for the best dressed Pirate or Princess.

There is also the opportunity to enjoy The Hop Farm's full range of other attractions, including the giant jumping pillows, children's driving school, indoor and outdoor play areas, animal farm and The Magic Factory.

[www.thehopfarm.co.uk](http://www.thehopfarm.co.uk)

### **Get Knighted at Dover Castle – 21 to 27 February**

This half term King Henry II is in residence at Dover Castle and he is searching for brave boys and girls to train as his newest cohort of Knights. Over half term week children can sign up at Knight School in the magnificent medieval Great Tower at Dover Castle and learn all the skills required to become a bonafide Knight of the Realm, including lessons in essential etiquette, how to read poetry, dance and wait tables. Once these finer points have been mastered, personal Identures of Knighthood will be awarded by His Majesty.

Also to discover at Dover Castle is the Secret Underground Hospital, a Roman lighthouse and the battlements.

£13.90 adults, £7 children, £34.80 family of four

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/dovercastle](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/dovercastle)

### **“Shipwrecks and Rescues” at The Historic Dockyard Chatham – 19 to 27 February**

The Historic Dockyard Chatham starts a new season in February with brand new 'Shipwrecks and Rescues' themed school holiday activities for the whole family – all being held under cover in the RNLi Historic Lifeboat Collection Gallery.

The crash of waves and the cry of seagulls welcome visitors to the Gallery, where they will be inspired by the bravery of the people behind the gallant rescues. Every day there will be interactive storytelling, arts and crafts and an activity trail – perhaps the little ones might like to try their hand at making a 'self-righting' lifeboat and discover how it will cope with storm force conditions in the brilliant new simulation tank in the new No. 1 Smithery? All these activities are included in the normal admission price.

[www.thedockyard.co.uk](http://www.thedockyard.co.uk)

### **Make a bird box at Bedgebury Forest and National Pinetum – 22 February**

The session will start with a brief introduction to wild birds and how to care for them, followed by a walk to look at birds in the Pinetum. Finally there is an indoor workshop to make a bird box, which participants can then take home with them.

Booking essential, cost £6 per young person

[www.bedgeburypinetum.org.uk](http://www.bedgeburypinetum.org.uk)

### **Medieval Sights at The Canterbury Tales – 19 to 27 February**

Where better to experience the middle ages than at The Canterbury Tales? Take part in a Medieval Sights Sounds and Smells quiz – goodie bags for the winners.

[www.canterburytales.org.uk](http://www.canterburytales.org.uk)

### **Horrid Half Term Histories at Scotney Castle – 23 to 27 February**

Explore the trail through the house and gardens in search of frightful historical facts. There will be items on display such as an electric shock box that was used to 'shock' hysterical ladies in Victorian times with the view that this would rid them of their hysteria! There will also be stories about ghosts from the medieval moat, a doodlebug and a hyena's head!

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/scotneycastle](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/scotneycastle)

### **The Spectacular Circus of Light at Dickens World – 19 to 25 February**

Visitors to Dickens World will be sure to enjoy the spectacular Circus of Light, the Time Traveller's guide to 1850. Join some of Dickens' favourite characters in this family friendly circus show created exclusively for Dickens World. The show includes fire, magic and

illusion, a tightrope walker and a clown, and is led by the lispng ringmaster from 'Hard Times', Mr Sleary, who guides the audience from beginning to end on a unique and exciting journey through Dickens' most amazing characters.

Daily at 3.30pm in the Britannia Theatre

Including entry to Dickens World, the cost is £17 adult, £12 children and £15 concessions.

Circus only the cost is £8.50 adult, £6.50 children, £7.50 concessions

[www.dickensworld.co.uk](http://www.dickensworld.co.uk)

### **Kids for a Quid at Kent and East Sussex Railway – 22 to 25 February**

The Kent and East Sussex Railway and Bodium Castle have collaborated on a special promotion to offer great days out for families at affordable prices this half term. Available between 22 and 25, 'Kids for a Quid' offers families the chance to enjoy rides on the Kent and East Sussex Railway for just £1 per child and a free children's 'Sir Edward's Quest' activity in the castle.

Vouchers need to be downloaded from the Railway's website, terms and conditions apply.

[www.kesr.org.uk](http://www.kesr.org.uk)

### **Wild Child: Make a Bird Feeder at Ightham Mote – 24 and 25 February**

Learn how to make a bird feeder and then take it home for the garden.

£3 per child, booking essential.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

### **Or if you fancy a day trip to France.**

#### **DFDS Seaways**

£19 return for a car and up to four passengers

Midweek special - £24 each way for a car and up to four passengers

5 day return - £10 off for a car and up to four passengers

[www.norfolkline.com/EN/Ferries to France/Fares and offers](http://www.norfolkline.com/EN/Ferries%20to%20France/Fares%20and%20offers)

#### **Seafrance**

Day trip fares if traveling mid week - from just £19 for car + 5!

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

#### **Eurotunnel**

Half price day trip tickets - £22 per car, return

Valid for travel on 22, 23 and 24 February

Offer only bookable via all Centre on 0844 879 7371. Bookings must be made at least 1 day before travel. Terms and conditions on website.

Plus Eurotunnel have negotiated other exclusive offers which include savings of over €12 on the standard adult entrance price to Nausicaa, France's top seaworld attraction, menu for €11.50 at Café de Paris in Calais, plus buy 3 get 3 free on Chateau Gran Champ, Bordeaux rouge in Eurotunnel's Calais Terminal.

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

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For enquiries please contact Julie Edwards on 01227 812914 or [julie.edwards@visitkent.co.uk](mailto:julie.edwards@visitkent.co.uk)

#### **About Visit Kent:**

Visit Kent Limited is a public/private sector partnership supported by Kent County Council, Medway Council, the district and borough councils, Tourism South East and the leading sector tourism businesses in Kent. Visit Kent champions Kent's £3.2 billion tourism industry by targeting UK and overseas markets.

For further information visit [www.visitkentbusiness.co.uk](http://www.visitkentbusiness.co.uk)

**Greet the World** is part of the Kent Campaign for the 2012 Olympic Games, a partnership led and managed by Kent County Council to maximise the benefits and long term legacy to the County off the back of the 2012 Games. The award winning Campaign primarily works across eight sectors, including tourism, sport, the arts, and education. Further details can be found at [www.kentsport.org/london2012](http://www.kentsport.org/london2012)

