



## **Press Release**

Issued on behalf of Visit Kent

### **Unwind in the Garden of England this Bank Holiday**

With the ash cloud continuing to cause travel chaos, Kent is a great place to enjoy some family fun this May Bank Holiday, without the hassle of going abroad. The county is packed with a number of great attractions and events that will keep the whole family entertained throughout the weekend and into the half term.

For more information on any of the attractions listed below, please see [www.visitkent.co.uk](http://www.visitkent.co.uk).

#### **UK Windsurfing Association Regatta, Folkestone (29 – 31 May)**

This Bank Holiday the UK Windsurfing Association is holding a regatta with races taking place on a variety of courses. The event will attract top racers from the UK and abroad but will also be a great family day out with spectacular views for spectators at the Lower Leas Coastal Park. [ukwindsurfing.com](http://ukwindsurfing.com)

#### **King Henry and his Courtiers at Hever Castle (29 - 31 May)**

For the second May Bank Holiday the castle comes to life as King Henry VIII and his courtiers descend for a Tudor Masque with a Robin Hood theme. Visitors will be able to join in the hustle and bustle of Tudor life amidst a cast of costumed characters and enjoy music and dancing as the court prepares for the festivities.

A variety of craftsmen will be demonstrating their trades and selling their wares, including a jeweller, pin-maker, pewter-caster and leatherworker. Visitors can also learn about the little-known art of fletching (arrow-making), which was vital for archery and hunting in Tudor times, and try their hand at firing a bow and arrow. King Henry will oversee the younger visitors' efforts and award a prize to the best archer. [www.hevercastle.co.uk](http://www.hevercastle.co.uk)

#### **Operation Dynamo Dunkirk Anniversary Weekend, Dover Castle (29 – 31 May)**

To mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the evacuation of troops from France, Dover Castle will be commemorating the 'Miracle of Dunkirk' from Saturday 29 to Monday 31 May.

Take part in WWII events, experience living history encampments and find out what life was really like for English, French and German soldiers. There will also be tours of the tunnels deep within the White Cliffs where Vice Admiral Ramsay masterminded the evacuation.

The event will include military vehicles and bikes, horse displays and the firing of a 25lb Field Gun.

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

### **Penshurst Place and Gardens, near Tonbridge (29 May – 6 June)**

This May half term Penshurst Place and Gardens has a feast of activities on offer. Visitors will be taken back to the 1940's to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Britain and Dunkirk, to see how Britain helped in the war effort and take part in countryside events for all of the family.

Kent Wildlife Trust will be showing how humans can affect the wildlife around them, there will be demonstrations of basket making and willow-work, Curious Creature puppets and storytelling for children.

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

### **Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex House and Gardens, near Margate (31 May)**

The Powell-Cotton Museum is a world-class private museum set in a beautiful regency estate in the Kent countryside dating back to 1896. Collections include stunning objects and animals from expeditions to Africa and Asia by Major Percy Horace Gordon Powell Cotton.

This Bank Holiday, Quex will be hosting a 'Point and Shoot' archery session with Thanet archery club on 31 May.

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

### **Chapel Down Vineyard, Tenterden – English Wine Week (29 May- 6 June)**

From Sat 29th May to Sunday 6th June it's English Wine Week, a National celebration of English Vineyards and the fantastic wines they produce. The Chapel Down Winery will be participating all week, but specifically over the Bank Holiday weekend will be offering free guided tours of the Vineyards and Winery. Guided tours include an introduction to the company and a look at what's happening in the vineyards, the guide then leads visitors through the winemaking process for white, red and sparkling wines and the tour concludes with a tutored wine tasting of five wines. Guided Tours must be booked in advance and places are limited.

Those visitors not taking a guided tour can browse in the Wine and Fine Food Store and enjoy a free tasting or take a walk in the vineyards. 'Richard Phillips at Chapel Down' restaurant will be open throughout the weekend.

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

### **Dicken's World, Chatham – The Circus of Light (29 May – 2 June)**

Visitors to Dickens World will be sure to enjoy the spectacular 'Circus of Light' which returns to Dickens World at Chatham Maritime this half term. Spectators will join some of Dickens' favourite characters in this family friendly circus show created exclusively for Dickens World.

*Oliver* will actually *Twist* to form the most amazing contortionist duo and the audience will witness the dodging of the *Artful Dodger* as he juggles knives. The set includes a fire, magic and illusion, and a ringmaster to guide everyone from beginning to end on a unique journey through Dickens' most amazing characters!

This impressive show is bound to keep young and old entertained during the school break.

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

### **Bug and Nature Week at Kent Life**

Have you ever held a cockroach or a giant snail? Visitors can be grossed out at Kent Life's first ever 'Creepy Crawley Cuddle Corner' and be hands-on with many different bugs and insects species and even a snake. Also visitors can go on an exciting storytelling adventure around the brand new Wildlife Discovery Trail with the Kent Life entertainments team and see if they can spot all the animals on the journey, find them all and win a yummy treat!

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

### **Seafrance trip to The Somme**

With ash clouds and the tough economic climate, it is becoming harder and harder for families to get away for a long weekend. With SeaFrance Dover-Calais Ferries, families can hop over the Channel and enjoy an adventure in the Somme this May Bank Holiday, from just £25 each way for a car and up to five passengers. In the midst of the beautiful Somme Bay is the Domaine de Marquenterre, one of Europe's most important nature reserves.

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

### **Carter's Steam Fair at Dreamland, Margate**

The famous Carters Steam Fair will open at Dreamland Margate for three days this Spring Bank Holiday. Organised in association with the Dreamland Trust, this appearance is designed as a taster to the amusement park of thrilling historic rides that will be opening at Dreamland in 2012.

Established in 1976 by the late John Carter, Carter's Royal Berkshire Steam Fair is the UK's premier vintage travelling fair operator, boasting many rides from the early 20th Century. The fair's many beautifully restored rides include Gallopers, Ark, Helter Skelter, Dodgems, Octopus, Victory Dive Bomber and Swingboats to name but a few.

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

## **Enchanted Kingdom at The Hop Farm Family Park**

The Enchanted Kingdom brings popular children's stories to life with real characters, animatronics and special effects.

Imaginations will run wild in the secret Pirate Cove, where children can come face to face with 'real' pirates and explore the secret cave, overflowing with treasure and jewels, before walking through the 40ft galleon ship where visitors must take care not to wake the sleeping pirates in their swinging hammocks! Children can dig for gold doubloons lost in the sand around the ship which can be exchanged for chocolate money to take home.

Families can also enjoy interactive displays, such as the Jungle, complete with gorillas, monkeys, lions and tigers and a watery surprise. Beware of trickery and enchantment in the Land of Mirrors, where everything is not quite as it seems!

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

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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 £2.5 billion tourism industry by targeting UK and overseas markets.

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