

Press release

London, 15th December 2009

Events and Anniversaries in South East England in 2010

Throughout 2010, South East England is celebrating a number of momentous anniversaries, as well as playing host to a variety of exciting festivals and events. Why not head to Brighton for the first marathon in the UK to take place outside of London; take a trip to LEGOLAND for the opening of the brand new 'Pirates Landing' or experience some of the county's best loved events, from Royal Ascot to the Goodwood Festival of Speed?

For more information on any of the attractions listed below, or for recommendations for places to stay, please see:

www.visitsoutheastengland.com

DECEMBER 2009

'Launch of 'Brighton Greeters,' Brighton

December 2009

Planning a visit to Brighton but don't know where to start? Brighton Greeters is a newly launched scheme that offers a tour of the city by a local resident of the Brighton and Hove area. Whether it's a general exploration of the city or a trip to a specific area that you've always wanted to explore, the Brighton Greeters will be on hand to help you get the most out of your visit to the city. Visits are two to four hours long and are completely free.

<http://www.visitbrighton.com/greeters>

UK cinema release of 'Sherlock Holmes' starring Chatham Dockyard & Clivedon House

26th December 2009

Guy Richie directs this brand new film adaptation of Arthur Conan Doyle's fictional character of the same name. Set in 1891, Robert Downey Jr plays Sherlock Holmes with Jude Law portraying his trusty sidekick Dr Watson. Several scenes from the movie were filmed throughout South East England, including Chatham's Historic Dockyard and the grounds of the National Trust's Clivedon House in Berkshire.

<http://www.medway.gov.uk>

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk>

JANUARY 2010

10th anniversary of Brighton & Hove's city status

Brighton and Hove officially gained city status in the year 2000, to mark the start of the new millennium. The city is now one of the most vibrant and hip

seaside destinations in the UK with an enviable mixture of Regency heritage, award winning restaurants and beachfront cool.

<http://www.visitbrighton.com>

Henry VIII: Man and Monarch at the Mary Rose Museum, Portsmouth
Until 17th January 2010

The British Library's major exhibition on Henry VIII will be touring to the Mary Rose Museum at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, celebrating 500 years since his accession to the throne and 500 years since the commissioning of the Mary Rose. *Man and Monarch* highlights key moments in the life and reign of Henry VIII, including interactive displays enabling guests to see hand written notes, musings and annotations made by the monarch himself.

<http://www.visitportsmouth.co.uk>

FEBRUARY 2010

Butterflies in the Glasshouse at RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey

16th January – 28th February 2010

Exotic butterflies return for the second year to RHS Garden Wisley to take up temporary residence in the magnificent Glasshouse. The tropical butterflies will feed from special fruit feeding stations that allow visitors to get up close and view a whole host of rare and exotic butterflies under the same roof.

<http://www.rhs.org.uk/wisley>

MARCH 2010

New Pirates Landing at LEGOLAND®, Windsor

Opens on 20th March 2010

Join the crew at LEGOLAND Windsor as they set up camp in Pirates Landing - a new land for 2010! Learn swashbuckling, seafaring skills at the Pirate Training Camp before testing your nerve, and your stomach, on the new swinging pirate ship. View the 4D pirate movie before taking part in the explosive Pirate Falls Dynamite Drench interactive adventure.

<http://www.legoland.co.uk>

APRIL 2010

ProMotion at the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu

Launching Easter 2010

A brand new exhibition for the National Motor Museum, 'ProMotion' showcases a number of vehicles that illustrate the imaginative and fun techniques companies have used to promote their products over the years. Among the vehicles on display will be a Worthington Bottle delivery truck, a Bread Loaf van and the iconic Cadbury Crème Egg car.

<http://www.beaulieu.co.uk>

MAY 2010

Launch of Tours Unbound, Surrey

Launching May 2010

Tours Unbound is a brand new tour company that aims to shed Surrey's reputation as a 'commuter county' and celebrate its beauty, history and landscape. Tours are divided into 'magic, religion and power,' 'the historic inns of Surrey,' 'building tours,' 'real Surrey' and 'the best of Surrey.' All trips can be customised to suit the visitor's own interests and the six-hour tours will also include travel in a luxury vehicle and a gourmet, locally sourced three-course lunch. Gemma Turner, the company's founder, will also provide a booking service for local accommodation, activities and tables at the county's best restaurants.

<http://www.toursunbound.com>

"The Knights of Royal England" Jousting Tournament , Blenheim Palace

1st – 3rd May 2010

Taking place over May bank holiday weekend, Blenheim Palace's hugely popular jousting tournament returns as gallant Knights and their mighty steeds battle for glory. 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.

<http://www.blenheimpalace.com>

Brighton Festival, Brighton

1st – 23rd May 2010

The Brighton Festival celebrates its 44th year in 2010 with over 150 events taking place throughout May, including theatre and performance, book readings, dance and music.

<http://www.visitbrighton.com>

Brian Blessed supports The Isle of Wight Walking Festival

8th – 23rd May 2010

The UK's largest walking festival returns in 2010 with support from celebrated British actor Brian Blessed who will be on hand to share his own inspirational stories from his Mount Everest climb. The two-week festival comprises over 300 walks aimed at participants of all ages and abilities, and includes themed itineraries based on the island's history, culture and landscape. 'An Evening with Brian Blessed' will take place on the 21st May at an additional cost. Travel with Red Funnel from the UK for just £32 for a day return.

<http://www.redfunnel.co.uk>

UK cinema release of 'Robin Hood' starring Farnham, Surrey

14th May 2010

Ridley Scott directs this brand new adaptation of the classic story, featuring Russell Crowe in the title role and Cate Blanchett as his Maid Marian. Several of the scenes from the movie were filmed in Farnham, Surrey, where a castle and peasant village were specially constructed for the film in the midst of Bourne Woods.

<http://www.visitsurrey.com>

JUNE 2010

Opening of Jury's Inn, Portsmouth

June 2010 (TBC)

Jury's Inn is opening a city-central new hotel in Portsmouth in June 2010. The hotel is ideally placed for visiting Portsmouth's sights, including its Historic Dockyard and Spinnaker Tower. Accommodation at Jury's Inn Portsmouth will include spacious and comfortable bedrooms complete with air-conditioning, multi-channel TVs and high-speed internet. Family rooms are available sleeping up to two adults and two children sharing. Jury's Inn also offers excellent value for money.

<http://www.visitportsmouth.co.uk>

100th anniversary of Shoreham (Brighton City) Airport

June 2010

Founded in 1910, Shoreham (Brighton City) Airport is the oldest licensed airfield in the UK. Celebrating its 100th birthday in June, the airfield is now used by privately owned light aeroplanes and flying schools, as well as playing host to the Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA) Shoreham Air show each summer.

<http://www.visitbrighton.com>

Summer Dickens Festival, Medway

4th - 6th June 2010

Charles Dickens spent five of his childhood years in the Medway, and the Rochester area is said to be the inspiration for many of his greatest works. For over thirty years, the Medway has played host to a Summer Dickens Festival where thousands of visitors soak up the Victorian atmosphere. The three-day event includes a unique combination of music, dance and street theatre, all culminating in a Victorian parade through central Rochester.

<http://www.medway.gov.uk>

The Isle of Wight Festival

11th - 13th June 2010

Now in its ninth year, the iconic Isle of Wight Festival, is back with a bang for 2010 as a host of international superstars including Jay-Z, The Strokes, Blondie, Pink, Orbital and Squeeze are set to descend on Seaclose Park, kicking off the festival season in true Isle of Wight style. Special offers, combining festival tickets and return ferry crossings are available through Wightlink.

<http://www.wightlink.co.uk>

Royal Ascot

15th - 19th June 2010

Royal Ascot is a unique event in the summer social calendar, steeped in tradition, heritage and pageantry dating back almost three hundred years. Regarded by many as being one of the greatest race meetings in the world, the five-day event acts as a celebration of everything that is uniquely British and is annually attended by over 300,000 people, making this Europe's best-attended race meeting.

<http://www.ascot.co.uk>

MAD about Waddesdon at Waddesdon Manor

26th – 27th June 2010

MAD About Waddesdon continues to be one of the highlights of the National Trust property's summer events programme. Now in its fifth year, this celebration of Music, Art, Dance and Drama continues to grow in popularity, with over 2,500 performers taking part each year. Get two for the price of one on entry to Waddesdon Manor when you travel with Chiltern Railways in 2010.

www.chilternrailways.co.uk

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/waddesdon>

No 1 Smithery, Chatham

Opens mid 2010

No.1 Smithery is a new cultural venue and centre for world-class maritime collections at the heart of The Historic Dockyard Chatham, Kent. Opening in mid 2010, the venue is a unique partnership between Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, the National Maritime Museum and the Imperial War Museum which features galleries showcasing artworks, artefacts and objects of everything from lighthouses to prisoner of war models and shipwreck disasters to gallant actions.

<http://www.thedockyard.co.uk>

JULY 2010

Festival of Speed at Goodwood, Chichester

2nd – 4th July 2010

Now in its eighteenth year, the world's biggest and most prestigious historic motorsport event will this year be taking place between the 2nd-4th July 2010 in the grounds of Goodwood House, West Sussex. The annual uphill climb features some of the greatest competition cars and star drivers from all eras in action: everything from 19th century steam carriages to current Formula One; fabulous racing motorcycles; classic rally cars to 3000bhp dragsters.

<http://www.goodwood.co.uk/>

Navy days at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

30th July - Sunday 1st August 2010

Navy Days at Portsmouth Naval Base will feature serving warships from the Royal Navy, as well as foreign navies, alongside the famous historic ships and attractions that have made Portsmouth Historic Dockyard one of the country's leading visitor venues. Activities include the chance to go aboard and see behind the scenes of modern warships, marvel at the spectacle of naval demonstrations and displays in the harbour, in the air and on the dockside, and experience 800 years of fascinating history with re-enactments on iconic vessels like HMS Victory and HMS Warrior 1860.

<http://www.visitportsmouth.co.uk>

AUGUST 2010

Isle of Wight Garlic Festival

14th – 15th August 2010

Now in its 22nd year, the Isle of Wight Garlic Festival returns this year to showcase the best of local produce, music and entertainment, including a full range of garlic products including the more unusual delights such as garlic beer and garlic ice cream! Ferry inclusive packages are available through Red Funnel.

<http://www.redfunnel.co.uk>

Portsmouth International Kite Festival, Southsea Common

28th – 30th August 2010

The 19th annual kite festival takes place over the Bank Holiday weekend and will feature an amazing array of soft inflatable kites, beautiful artistic creations by celebrated kite fliers from all over the world, intricately appliquéd kites and skilled team flying.

<http://www.visitportsmouth.co.uk>

SEPTEMBER 2010

100th anniversary of the Duke of York's Picture House, Brighton

September 2010

The Duke of York Picture House is the oldest continuously running purpose-built cinema in Britain and 2010 sees its 100th anniversary. The cinema originally opened in 1910 and is s now a much-loved independent cinema that annually plays host to the Brighton Film Festival.

<http://www.visitbrighton.com>

The Great British Duck Race, River Thames

September 2010 – date tbc

This annual charity race returns in 2010 as thousands of yellow rubber ducks race against each other down a 1km stretch of the River Thames. The colourful event attracts spectators from the start of the race at Molesey Lock all the way down to the Sheriff Boat Club at Albany Reach. Refreshment stalls and funfairs are set up along the course of the route and all proceeds go to charity. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.thegreatbritishduckrace.co.uk>

Blenheim Palace International Horse Trials, Oxfordshire

9th – 12th September 2010

The Blenheim Palace International Horse Trials is one of the world's premier three-star three-day events. Cross Country is on two days and set in the magnificent grounds of Blenheim Palace. The horse trials offer a fabulous opportunity to see some of the world's finest riders and their horses compete against one another in a truly spectacular venue.

<http://www.blenheim-horse.co.uk>

'Pre-Raphaelites and Italy' opens at the renovated Ashmolean, Oxford

15th September – 5th December 2010

The newly renovated Ashmolean will inaugurate the major new exhibition programme with a show dedicated to The Pre-Raphaelites in four new exhibition galleries. Italy, its landscape, literature, art and history, was a central reference point for the movement known as Pre-Raphaelitism in the

1850s and 1860s. The exhibition will explore the Pre-Raphaelites's interest in Italian literature and landscape for the first time. Oxford's 300-year-old art museum, The Ashmolean was reopened in December 2009 following a £61m redevelopment programme. Stay at the Four Pillars Oxford Thames for as little as £35 per person, per night.

<http://www.ashmolean.org>

<http://www.four-pillars.co.uk>

Windsor Festival, River Thames, Berkshire

18th September – 3rd October 2010

Now in it's 41st year, the Windsor Festival promises to be bigger and better than ever before. Events take place in a variety of venues including within Windsor Castle itself, as well as other notable venues in the town such as the Royal Chapel and Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Great Park, Windsor's Guildhall and Eton College. The programme includes concerts by international and local performers, literary talks, heritage walks and music nights.

www.windsorfestival.com

www.visitthames.co.uk

OCTOBER 2010

Guildford Book Festival, Surrey

October 2010 – dates tbc

Literature lovers will once again descend on Guildford for the annual Guildford Book Festival, held at venues throughout the town. The festival features a wide array of writers and celebrities from fiction authors, travel writers and chefs to musicians and sports personalities – all hosting readings and workshops throughout the ten-day event.

<http://www.visitsurrey.com>

NOVEMBER 2010

A Victorian Festival of Christmas, Portsmouth

26th – 28th November 2010

Visitors to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard will be magically transported into a Dickensian-style by-gone era of snowy white streets with a festive fairground and seasonal carols this Christmas. Hearty food is on the menu including roasted chestnuts and mulled wine. Parlour games, bawdy Music Hall, a nativity farm and a traditional 'green' Santa are also on hand to keep the whole family entertained. Visitors will be met by a host of colourful characters including the Town Crier, suffragettes, chimney sweeps and cheeky scamps.

<http://www.christmasfestival.co.uk>

DECEMBER 2010

UK cinema release of 'Gulliver's Travels' starring Blenheim Palace

26th December 2010

Join Jack Black, Emily Blunt and Billy Connelly in this brand new film adaptation of Jonathan Swift's 'Gulliver's Travels'. Keep your eyes peeled for

scenes filmed at Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, which was used during filming in the spring of 2009.

<http://www.blenheimpalace.com>

UK cinema release of 'Ironclad' starring Rochester Castle

December 2010 – date tbc

'Ironclad' recreates the famous siege of Rochester Castle by King John in 1215. With a budget of £12million, the movie is the largest independent film currently in production in the UK with a cast that is rumoured to include Paul Giamatti, Jason Flemyng and Sir Derek Jacobi. Although Rochester Castle was rebuilt in Wales for the purpose of the film, 'Ironclad' looks set to regenerate interest in the original Norman castle, which still towers over the River Medway.

<http://www.medway.go.uk>

Discounts and Offers

New winter savings website from Four Pillars Hotels

Four Pillars Hotels has launched a brand new website for winter 2009/2010, detailing all of the special offers and deals available for those looking for a great value winter break. Offers include one nights free dinner, bed and breakfast on stays of two nights or more in January 2010, meaning a three night break starts from as little as £23 per person, per night. 'Children stay and eat for free' packages are also available throughout the winter months, including school holiday dates. Offers are valid on all Four Pillars properties, which includes four hotels in Oxfordshire.

<http://www.four-winter.co.uk>

-Ends-

For information on where to stay in the South East, from B&Bs to boutique hotels, please go to: www.visitsoutheastengland.com

For more information about visiting South East England with your family, please visit: www.funfamilydaysout.com

Fore more information about visiting South East England as a couple, please visit: www.timeforus.co.uk

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