

Press Release

30 March 2010



Experience life as a Buddhist at Chiddingstone Castle

On Monday 31 May, Chiddingstone Castle will be hosting a special Buddha day in honour of the world wide celebration of the first Buddha's birthday.

Inspired by the castle's beautiful Buddhist collection visitors can take part in a variety of activities to learn all about the Buddhist way of life

Having been in storage for many years, the Buddhist collection was exhibited in 2009 and will be re-exhibited with some further objects, in a new location for 2010. It comprises a wide variety of artefacts including Tibetan charms, prayer wheels and tangkas (wall banners), and Chinese, Nepalese and Japanese Buddhist objects.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to explore the Castle's other exhibitions which include antiques and artifacts from Japanese, Egyptian, Jacobean and Stuart cultures.

The castle's Victorian tea room will be open throughout the day serving a range of light lunches and homemade cakes and cream teas. There is a choice of indoor and outdoor seating and if the weather is fine, the castle lawns provide the perfect place to enjoy a picnic.

The 35 acres of attractive grounds surrounding the Castle are perfect for a walk and visitors can discover the beautiful lake and waterfall, award winning orangery and pretty woodland criss-crossed with paths and bridges. Throughout spring and summer the grounds are full of colour as plants come into bloom including daffodils, cherry blossom, azaleas and rhododendrons.

Families can enjoy FREE entry into the castle and grounds plus all activity days throughout the year with a family season pass which costs £48.50 for a family of four (2 adults and 2 children or 1 adult and 3 children). Please call 01892 872746 to purchase a pass or buy one on the day of your visit.

Admission for visitors without a pass: adults £7, children (5-13) £4. Please note that on activity days, a charge of £2 will apply for 2-4 year olds to cover the cost of materials and entertainment.

There is a £2.50 parking fee for all cars which gives free access to the Grounds, Gift shop and Tea Room, pedestrians (over 14 yrs) arriving on foot will be charged £1 entry.

Open: Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Bank Holidays until Sunday 26th Sept 2010. Times: 11am to 5pm. Last entry to house 4.15pm.

For information on visiting the castle and its details of all activity days please visit www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk

For further information or images please contact Caroline Edmunds at Pennington PR on 01892 616647 or email caroline@penningtonpr.com

Notes to Editors

Denys Eyre Bower was himself a Buddhist and his collection at Chiddingstone Castle consists of about 150 pieces, about half of which are Tibetan, Sino-Tibetan (Chinese style closely influenced by Tibet) and Nepalese Tibetan. The other half consists of items mainly from India, Nepal, Myanmar, China and Japan; however there are also a small number of objects from Thailand and Sri Lanka. The wide variety of items in his collection, from numerous countries and streams of Buddhism, indicates that his collecting probably stemmed from a love of beautiful objects and not necessarily from a wish to collect devotional imagery from a specific type of Buddhism.