

Press Release

6 February 2009



See the Baby Lambs at Chiddingstone Castle this Easter

There is plenty of fun to be had at Chiddingstone Castle this Easter and visitors with children can enjoy 3 exciting themed activity days over the Easter holidays starting on Monday 13 April 2009 followed by events on 10 and 16 April 2009.

All through Easter, including on event days, the grounds will be home to adorable spring lambs which children can pet. The lawns in front of the Castle will also be awash with thousands of daffodils at this time of year.

On Monday 13 April the day begins at 11am when children are invited to try out various arts and crafts on the lawns of the Castle if the weather is fine (in wet weather the event will be held in the Castle's activity rooms). There will also be a bouncy Castle for youngsters to bounce the day away. The daffodils provide a wonderful setting for the guided nature trail event at 2pm when children can hunt for nature finds among the trees in the grounds and put them in the matchboxes provided.

During the Easter events families will be able to explore the stunning grounds with Chiddingstone's new bingo spotter sheet and in keeping with the Easter theme each child completing the game will win a delicious Easter egg prize!

The other activity days taking place during the April holidays are:

Walk like an Egyptian! (10 April 11am-5pm)

Chiddingstone's fascinating Egyptian collection is the perfect back drop as Ancient Egypt is brought to life with face painting and authentic costumes for children to dress up in. Children will learn about this fascinating culture as they write their name in hieroglyphs and make their own match box mummy or amulet to take home. Rising from the dead will be Chiddingstone's personal Egyptian Pharaoh who will be doing interactive performances at 2pm. *Dates: 10 April (Good Friday) and 9 August 11am – 5pm*

Crafty stories: Princesses and knights at the Castle (16 Apr 2-5pm)

The historic Castle is the perfect setting for this fairytale themed activity day. Children will be able to enjoy an afternoon of arts and crafts where they can make their own wand or crown to take home. There will be the opportunity to have their faces painted as their favourite fairytale character before they enjoy listening to some exciting stories.

Enjoy all the activities for free with a family pass

New for 2009 - families can enjoy all the activity days for free when they purchase a family season pass from the Castle. The pass costs just £38.50 for a family of four (2 adults and 2 children or 1 adult and 3 children) and the pass entitles a family to free entry all season including the 15 themed activity days taking place throughout the year. Non family pass holders can also enjoy the activity days which are included in the normal admission price. To purchase a family pass for £38.50 please call 01892 872746.

Chiddingstone Castle is set in stunning grounds, has a lovely courtyard rose garden, an orangery in the rhododendron gardens and a lake for fishing. The Castle is home to the fascinating Egyptian, Buddhist, Japanese, Jacobean and Stuart collections of the late Denys Bowers. Children can explore the Castle with "Alex the Explorer"

backpacks which contain activity cards. The onsite family friendly tearoom offers home made refreshments with indoor and outdoor seating.

Chiddingstone Castle is open from Good Friday, 10 April 2009 until 27 September 2009. Chiddingstone's grounds and tea room can be accessed without a Castle pass. For more information about the Castle and all events please visit

www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk

Editors Notes

- Chiddingstone activity days are free for family pass holders. All arts and crafts will take place on the lawns in fine weather or in activity rooms if raining. To purchase a pass please call 01892 872746.
- Chiddingstone Castle is open between 10 April and 27 September on Sunday's, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Good Friday, and some Thursdays for special activities between 11am – 5pm. Please check what's on page on the website for forthcoming events and activity days and any changes to opening times and days. Admission: Adult: £6 Children: (aged 5-13) £4 (children under 4 are free) Families: (2 adults and 2 children) £18 Adult season ticket: £20.00 Family season ticket: £38.50. Groups are welcome by prior arrangement: £5pp (min 20 people) All visitors visiting the grounds and the café only are free. The bingo spotter will be available throughout the season and are themed for particular activity days.
- Chiddingstone Castle is located on the outskirts of Chiddingstone, and is best approached via the B2027 road from Tonbridge to Penshurst, turn into Mill Lane when you reach Bough Beech and keep straight for one mile.
- Chiddingstone Village has been used as a location in many films, most notably *A Room with a View*, but also in *The Wicked Lady*, and *Elizabeth R* starring Glenda Jackson.
- The Castle can be hired for weddings, corporate and private functions and as a conference centre.
- The k in Gothik is the correct architectural term to describe the Castle, since it is part of the Victorian Gothik Revival and not actually Gothic