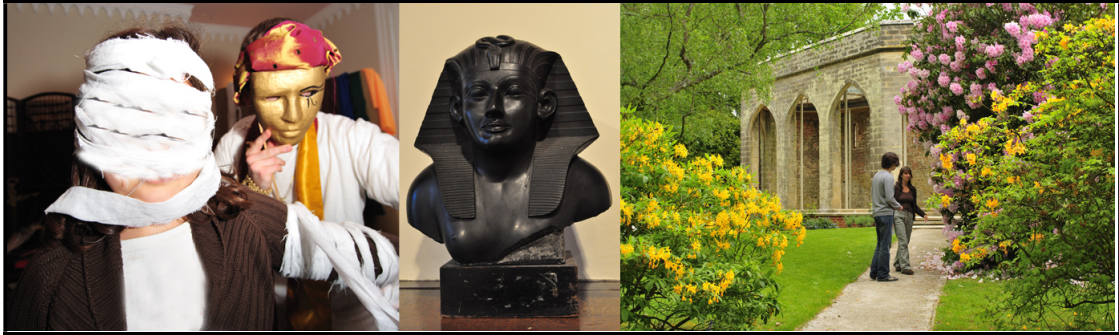


## Press Release

9 May 2011



### **Ancient Egyptian Festival at Chiddingstone Castle**

Chiddingstone Castle will be celebrating its amazing Egyptian collection with a festival dedicated to this popular culture on **Sunday 29 May 2011 between 11am and 5pm.**

Events will be held throughout the day including specialist talks by an Egyptology society, to give visitors a fascinating insight into the mysteries of ancient Egypt, including mummification.

The whole family can join in interactive performances with the castle's very own Egyptian Pharaoh; whilst children will have the opportunity to enjoy themed arts and crafts activities and face painting.

Special belly dancing workshops will bring the essence of Egypt to life as visitors test their dancing skills. In addition, the food stalls will provide an insight into the culinary arts of the ancient Egyptians. The harsh desert conditions of Egypt meant food was limited but visitors will be surprised by the unique dishes available.

The Festival is the ideal time to explore the castle's own Egyptian Collection which brings to life many aspects of ancient Egyptian culture from farming and writing, to religion and their perceptions of death and the afterlife.

The exhibition shows us aspects of the daily life of ancient Egyptians including their professions and the roles played by the pharaohs and the gods.

The exhibition also introduces us to Denys Eyre Bower who, inspired by the discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb in 1922, began amassing this fine collection which includes beautiful Shabti figures (which were placed in the tombs of the deceased as companions or workers for the dead in the afterlife), a fantastic 5000 year old funerary boat and a mummified cat from 150 BC.

During the event visitors can also explore the stunning 35 acres of grounds and gardens with a large lake and waterfall. There is also an award winning orangery surrounded by rhododendrons.

**Admission:** £7 adults, child 5 – 13 £4, under 5's £2, family £19.50 (2+2). Parking £2.50

Chiddingstone Castle hosts events all year to highlight the wonderful collections inside the Castle which include: The Japanese Collection, The Egyptian Collection, The Buddhist Collection, The Stuart and Jacobite Collection and refurbished rooms from the Victorian Era.

For more information please visit [www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk](http://www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk)

Chiddingstone Castle is open between Sunday 27th March and Sunday, 30th October on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Bank Holidays, between 11am and 5pm.

For images or more information about Chiddingstone Castle please contact Caroline Edmunds on 01892 616647 or email [caroline@penningtonpr.com](mailto:caroline@penningtonpr.com)