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Discover the delights of the Seven Wonders of the Weald this Autumn

The Seven Wonders of the Weald is a group of fascinating attractions all within easy reach of one another and close to the spa town of Royal Tunbridge Wells. Their website provides plenty of inspirational ideas for fun days out all year round www.sevenwonders.org.uk

Early autumn is a great time to visit as the Garden of England embarks on harvest time reflected in a whole host of entertaining events taking place at the attractions.

A visit to Biddenden Vineyards at harvest time is a great way to see how wine is made while sampling the delights of some of the award winning English wines they produce. Harvesting typically starts in September and lasts for about six weeks. Watch as grapes are hand-picked and transported across the vineyard in large buckets to the winery for immediate pressing. Admission and tastings are free and your favourite wine and other delights can be purchased from the vineyard's own shop. There are free guided tours run on selected Saturdays throughout harvest and the rest of the year, and group visits are welcomed by prior arrangement. For further information about Kent's oldest family owned Vineyard including events and opening times please visit www.biddendenvineyards.com or contact the vineyards direct on 01580 291726 or info@biddendenvineyards.co.uk.

Halloween also features strongly at this time of year and The Hop Farm, Chiddingstone Castle and the Kent & East Sussex Railway lead the way with their annual events programme.

The Hop Farm will be putting on ***Children's Halloween Week 'Skeletons and Scarecrows'*** from 22 - 30 October with dressing up, party dances, magic, spooky stories and much more. There will also be an adult scare attraction ***'Freak Week'*** from 27 - 31 October, 6pm until 11pm every evening with five main scare attractions including a 4D film, Torture Cellar Live, Creature Live, The 'Slaughter House' Maze, And the séance of Mary Ellen. For further information about visiting times and admission visit www.thehopfarm.co.uk

At Chiddingstone Castle on Sunday 30 October between 11.30am and 4.30pm there will be plenty of Halloween fun at the Castle. The whole family is welcome to enjoy a day of traditional Halloween favourites - from pumpkin carving to apple bobbing, with a ghostly session of face painting, a demonstration and hands-on workshop of theatrical make-up. The national Big Draw Competition will also take place at the Castle on 30 October from 1.30pm to 3.30pm with local artist Cathy Bird running a workshop for all

budding artists. There will also be a yummy chocolate stall selling Halloween treats! Normal admission prices apply, with a small additional charge for the face painting and pumpkins to take home. Adults £7, children £4 (under 5's free) Family £19.50.

The Kent & East Sussex Railway in Tenterden has a week-long programme of spooky activities in October. There will be plenty of spine tingling tricks and treats during '**Halloween fun week**' from **Monday 24 to Friday 28 October**. Enjoy spooktacular entertainment at Tenterden station and join in the 'make and take' activities, including the pumpkin carving workshop. All activities and return train journey from Tenterden station are included in the ticket price. Family ticket £37, adults £13.50, Senior £12.50, children £8.50.

As the clock strikes 6pm on **Friday 28 and Saturday 29 October** take a ride from Tenterden to Bodiam Station on the popular '**Fright Night Train**'. Enjoy scary face painting, 'make and take' activities and pumpkin carving at Tenterden Station from 4:30pm. Once on board, be prepared to be frightened silly with ghostly goings on at stations with a firework display and a few surprises along the way. Every child will also receive a delicious snack box for the all-inclusive ticket price of £14.50. Booking essential. Families are encouraged to come in fancy dress, the scarier the better!

The restaurant at Tenterden station will remain open until 6pm and visitors can choose from delicious light meals and snacks. Book tickets at www.kesr.org.uk

Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest has plenty on offer at this time of year. ***The Electric Forest** is back at Bedgebury between Saturday 22 - Sunday 30 October.* After last year's triumph this is another chance to see the trees in a whole new light. See further details at www.forestry.gov.uk/bedgebury

As well as being open to the public for late summer blooms, **Merriments Gardens** in Hurst Green is hosting *St Michael's Hospice **Autumn Splendour Craft Market** on Saturday 8th October.* Top quality foods and local Sussex produce is the name of the game for this market which will also include craft stalls carefully chosen to give you a wonderful cornucopia of choice on the day. Adults £5 and children £2
www.merriments.co.uk

Marle Place Gardens & Gallery in Brenchley is open until 2 October and offers visitors the chance to see plenty of beautiful autumn colour with beautiful mature trees and late flowering plants. Admission: Adults £5.50, Children 4-12 £1.50. For further details visit www.marleplace.co.uk

The Seven Wonders of the Weald annual pass offers great savings on admission. A pass costing £39.95 provides savings of £145. See www.sevenwonders.org.uk for further details of participating outlets selling the pass or how to purchase a pass online.

The Seven Wonders of the Weald have several partners who together make the destination perfect for a short break or holiday in the area.

Bedgebury Park Equestrian Centre and Holiday Accommodation offers fantastic horse riding in Bedgebury forest, or you can book a stay in their new self-catering cottages where walking and cycling can be added to your day's activities.

Alternatively book a stay with **Dale Hill Hotel and Golf Club** in Ticehurst, which has always been regarded as a hidden gem, just perfect for a short break or holiday. Dale Hill is the highest four star rated Hotel in the area, with 35 international standard en-suite bedrooms, indoor heated pool and Gymnasium and two 18 hole golf courses.

Visitors to the area can also choose to stay in quality self-catering holiday accommodation available through the **Garden of England Cottages**. They have a wide selection of accommodation throughout Kent and Sussex to suit individual requirements.

While in the area a visit to **Royal Tunbridge Wells** including the famous Pantiles is a must. The Pantiles is now home to a fascinating variety of chic specialist shops, antique shops and open-air cafés, restaurants and bars. The entertaining and varied programme of events includes a fortnightly Farmers' Market and music events.

The Chalybeate Spring situated at the northern end of the Pantiles still flows.

As a brand new visitor attraction, **The Mill Toy & Pedal Car Museum** houses a unique collection of interesting collectables and nostalgic pedal – powered toys. The Mill overlooks the Kent & East Sussex Railway Station at Northiam so you can visit whilst enjoying a great day out on the railway. All railway visitors can enjoy £1 per person discount on their entry price making this a great value stop. If you are coming by car The Mill has its own free car park. Adult (over 16 yrs) £4.00, Child £3.00, Senior Citizen £3.00, Family (5 persons maximum) £12.00

Chart Hills Golf Club in Biddenden is set on 200 acres of gently undulating Kentish hills. The Club is perfect for a round of golf or for lunch while visiting the area. You can even enjoy a twilight round any day except Friday for just £40pp! Tees times after 4pm. Last tee booking 6pm.

For further information or images please contact Caroline Edmunds at Pennington PR on 01892 616647 or e-mail caroline@penningtonpr.co.uk