

Press Release

July 2011



Jousting, Sieges and Gruesome Battles at Bodiam Castle's Medieval Weekend

Get ready for Bodiam Castle's biggest event of the year. The Medieval Weekend will take place on 13 and 14 August and visitors can relive the 14th Century with jousting by the Knights of Arkley, sieges, gruesome battles, medieval musicians and a living history encampment.

New this year will be an array of stalls selling crafts and artefacts associated with history and medieval times.

Each day the Castle and event arena will be opened in true medieval fashion with a procession of Men at Arms and the Black Knight at 10.45am.

One of the many highlights of the weekend will be the mounted jousting displays by professional re-enactment group, The Knights of Arkley, with performances at 12pm and 2:45pm each day. During the heroic performances the arena is transformed into a tiltyard of the Middle Ages with authentic tents, tilt and quintains, real weapons and spectacular period costumes. Visitors can watch the gripping displays as the knights armed with real lances, mount their horses to recreate this dangerous but thrilling sport.

The Medieval Siege Society is the largest re enactment group in the UK and visitors will watch in awe as they perform a mock battle each day. Experience the excitement as heavily armoured soldiers clash, arrows fly and cannons roar in the events arena.

Throughout the weekend the Medieval Siege Society will also be performing a variety of arena events including a Display of Men at Arms at 11:00am each day, when visitors can admire the fabulous authentic costumes and weapons, followed by a Bill Block Drill at 1:15pm. There will be long bow and cross bow demonstrations at 12:45pm and gunnery at 2:15pm each day.

Visitors will be able to really experience the magic with hands on activities for the whole family. On the Castle green, visitors can enjoy a variety of interactive activities taking place all day over the weekend, including have-a-go archery and paintball cannon. Younger visitors will also have the opportunity to try their hand at a children's cross bow along with painting their own shield which they can take home with them! Visitors can also try bread making, medieval printing press and spinning on the castle field where the Hands on History team provide a variety of interactive demonstrations, real armour to try on and marvellous medieval music with Portcullis.

Visitors can also enjoy medieval toys and games, try on clothes and discover the past first hand from the different Castle characters, who have fascinating stories to tell.

The Grand Medieval Weekend is taking place on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 August between 10:30am and 5:00pm.

For more information please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bodiamcastle or telephone [01580 830196](tel:01580830196).

Admission per day

13 August 2011 10:30am and 14 August 2011 10:30am

Price: Adult £14.50 (Combined Ticket), Adult £6.80 (Castle Only), Adult £8.50 (Event Only), Child £3.40 (Castle only), Child £4.25 (Event only), Child £7.25 (Combined ticket), Family £18 (Castle only), Family £23 (Event only), Family £39 (Combined ticket)

Save 15% by pre-booking tickets (booking fee applies)

Box Office No. 0844 249 1895

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bodiamcastle

Bodiam Castle, in the care of the National Trust since 1926, is just three miles off the main A21 at Hurst Green, midway between Hastings and Tunbridge Wells.

For images or to arrange a press visit to Bodiam Castle please contact Caroline Edmunds on 01892 616647 or e-mail caroline@penningtonpr.com