

**Press Release  
11 August 2010**



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

On **Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 August**, visitors to Bodiam Castle can travel back to the 14 Century and enjoy a thrilling annual Grand Medieval weekend.

The event takes visitors back to a time when war had devastated the entire land as the two great houses of the realm – York and Lancaster - struggle in battle.

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 main 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. Every year the group transforms the arena 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 re create this exceptionally dangerous and exciting sport.

At 3:30pm each day visitors can witness a real castle siege as the Medieval Siege Society performs a thrilling pitched battle. The Medieval Siege Society is the largest medieval re enactment group in the UK and visitors will watch in awe as the heavily armoured soldiers clash, arrows fly and cannons roar in front of the castle ruins. The

battle, which appears remarkably spontaneous, promises visitors a realistic insight into the gruesome battles of the medieval ages.

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 also be long bow and cross bow demonstrations at 12:45pm and gunnery at 2.15pm each day.

In medieval Britain falconry was the “Sport of Kings” and expert falconers from the Hawking Centre will give visitors something to remember as they watch Kestrels, Vultures, Harris Hawks, Peregrine Falcons and Red Kites soar and swoop in front of the historic ruins in two spectacular birds of prey displays at 11:30am and 1:45pm each day.

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.

Children will also have the opportunity to try their hand at a children’s cross bow and paint and take home their very own shield!

The castle ruins are the perfect back drop for the interactive story telling sessions where costumed characters help bring ancient legends to life!

On the castle field, visitors can experience what life was like in medieval Britain as they enjoy the variety of interactive demonstrations with the Hands on History team. Costumed characters will bring the past to life in the medieval camp, where visitors can try bread making, a medieval printing press and spinning. There will also be real armour to try on and marvellous medieval music with Kit and Kate.

Inside the castle, 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.

There will also be entertaining performances of the Play's the Thing, by Heathcliffe Heroics at 12pm, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm.

**The Grand Medieval Weekend is taking place on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 August between 10:30am and 5:30pm.**

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

### **Admission**

**Event Only (event field and arenas):** Adults £7.50 (advanced booking £5), child £3.75 (advanced booking £2.50) and family (2 adults, up to three children) £20.00 (advanced booking £13).

**Castle and Event (event field, arenas and castle):** Adults £13.50 (advanced booking £10) child £6.75 (advanced booking £5), family (2 adults and up to three children) £36.00 (advanced booking £26.50).

**Book on line and save up to 35%. [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bodiamcastle](http://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 01892616647 or e-mail [caroline@penningtonpr.com](mailto:caroline@penningtonpr.com)