Christmas in the Queen's House

Thursday, 1 December 2016

18.30-21.00

PROGRAMME

Time	Music, talks and workshops	Location
18.30-20.45	**Drop-in workshop:** Join Miss Libby Rose making aromatic festive hangings using lovely Christmas fabrics and ribbons we will stitch and stuff using a mixture of polyfill and festive herbs to make gorgeous hangings for your home	Governor's Parlour
19.00	Star-gazing from the lawns (weather permitting of course)	North Lawns
19.00-19.45	Christmas wreath-making with Catherine Clancy*	Undercroft
19.00-19.45	Period dancing demonstrations and instruction in the Great Hall with Nicola Gaines-Armitage and students from Canterbury Christchurch University*	Great Hall
19.15-19.45	Rooms of loving union: the Queen's Bedchamber and Queen's Cabinet Room explained – Dr Gordon Higgott	Queen's Presence Chamber
	Deciding on the date of Christmas: Tudor politics, religion and science – Dr Louise Devoy, Royal Museums Greenwich	King's Writing Closet
	Celebrating the Season: Culinary insights into 17th-century Christmas through the eyes of Samuel Pepys. – Janine Catalano	King's Privy Chamber
	The Queen who built this 'House of Delight' – Dr Sarah Fraser	Queen's Privy Chamber
	Winter with Shakespeare – Dr Jane Darcey, UCL	King's Presence Chamber
19.45-20.00	**Performance by the London Oriana Choir**	Great Hall
20.00-20.45	Christmas wreath-making with Catherine Clancy*	Undercroft
20.00-20.45	Period dancing demonstrations and instruction in the Great Hall with Nicola Gaines-Armitage and students from Canterbury Christchurch University*	Great Hall
20.15-20.45	Rooms of loving union: the Queen's Bedchamber and Queen's Cabinet Room explained – Dr Gordon Higgott	Queen's Presence Chamber
	Deciding on the date of Christmas: Tudor politics, religion and science – Dr Louise Devoy, Royal Museums Greenwich	King's Writing Closet
	Celebrating the Season: Culinary insights into 17th-century Christmas through the eyes of Samuel Pepys. –Janine Catalano	King's Writing Closet

	The Queen who built this 'House of Delight' – Dr Sarah Fraser	Queen's Privy Chamber
	Christmas with Dickens – Dr Jane Darcey, UCL	King's Presence Chamber
20.45-21.00	**Performance by the London Oriana Choir**	Great Hall
21.00	Departure	Undercroft and Royal Gate

* Indicates limited capacity

Abstracts

Rooms of loving union: the Queen's Bedchamber and Queen's Cabinet Room explained – Dr Gordon Higgott
What is the meaning of the intricate 'grotesque' and 'cartouche' decoration on the ceiling of the Queen Henrietta Maria's Bedchamber (now the 'Queen's Presence Chamber')? And why, in 1640, after the Bedchamber was finished, did King Charles I seek to commission from the Flemish artist Jacob Jordaens a suite of twenty-two paintings on the theme of 'Cupid and Psyche' for the Queen's Cabinet Room on the opposite side of the north range (now the 'King's Presence Chamber')? The suite was not completed, but its arrangement can be reconstructed. This talk will explain how the theme of loving union determined the choice of paintings and emblematic motifs in the decoration of Queen Henrietta Maria's 'House of Delight' between 1635 and 1641.

Deciding on the date of Christmas: Tudor politics, religion and science – Dr Louise Devoy, Royal Museums Greenwich
Christmas 1582 marked a turning point in our use of the calendar. While Englishmen celebrated Christmas on 25 December, their European neighbours in France, Spain and Portugal celebrated the festival during the same 24 hour period, but on the 7 January, according to their calendars. Why was this so significant? Come and find out how Tudor politics, religion and science played a role in this important social change which still governs the dates of Christmas and Easter today.

The Queen who built this 'House of Delight' – Dr Sarah Fraser
Sarah Fraser introduces the first Stuart family. Their achievements and failures inaugurate a century of transformation for Britain.

ARRIVAL
Arrival via the Royal Gate and Queen's House Undercroft.

FOOD &DRINK
There will be cash bars in the Orangery and Undercroft. Treat yourself to wine, ale, mulled cider, white hot chocolate and hot and cold snacks.

£25 adults | £20 concessions

To book a place contact 020 8312 6608, e-mail bookings@rmg.co.uk
or visit rmg.co.uk/tickets