

# Mosaic

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## **A Taste of History in the Making**

King Henry VIII's Tudor Kitchens at Hampton Court Palace re-opened to the public on 8th April, communicating a living record of the scale of production that was necessary to nourish the Royal Court during major reforms of the Monarchy, Church, and Parliament. The new presentation of the largest surviving Tudor kitchens in the world, is the culmination of a five-year project undertaken by Palace Food Archaeologists with the aim of understanding the kitchen's dynamics, and gaining an insight into how they were used during the Renaissance.

The kitchens were a huge production line with raw food entering through the West Front of the palace and coming out at the servery ready for delivery to the Great Hall for consumption, *via* a huge and skilled production team distributed throughout the fifty-five rooms of the kitchens, covering around 36,000 square feet (3,350 square metres).

The use of recreated 16th-century kitchen equipment in the kitchens is the key to accurately investigating how such an enormous Court was fed in Royal style. Each item has a unique story, is sourced from traditional craftsmen, using authentic materials and techniques; their use is seeking to explain what you would have seen in the kitchens, why they look the way they do, and what function they would have had.

The visitor will journey through the entire process of food preparation – hearing sounds of horse and carts arriving at Seymour Gate to deliver supplies, the constant hubbub of an army of cooks hard at work in the kitchens, smells of the delicious aroma of bread baking and the unexpected whiff of seaweed coming from a barrel packed with fish from the coast.

Live cookery events will be held throughout 2006 (see Diary), during which food archaeologists will experiment in the kitchens with Tudor recipes, ingredients, utensils and traditional cooking methods, preparing a typical meal, and giving visitors an exclusive and fascinating look at the historic kitchens up-and-running as they would have been used when King Henry VIII lived at the palace. Fact-sheets about cookery and recipes are also available, and images can be viewed and downloaded for free by registering on the website [hrp.newsteam.co.uk](http://hrp.newsteam.co.uk).

## **Kew Palace open to the public**

Kew Palace, George III's country retreat and now in Kew Gardens, opened to the public on 27 April, after a 10-year programme of conservation and representation. The Palace, originally known as the Dutch House, was built in 1632 for Samuel Fortrey, a Flemish merchant. Royal associations began in 1728 when Queen Caroline leased the house to be used for accommodation for the three elder daughters of George II. It was used to house various members of the royal family, most notably by George during some of his spells of illness. Its use as a royal residence in 1818, and in 1898 it was opened to the public by Queen Victoria.

Kew Palace is open from 10 am to 6 pm (last admissions 5 pm) from Tuesdays to Sundays until 30 September. Admission costs £5 (concessions £4, children £3.50), but admission to Kew Gardens must be purchased first. *Kew Palace: the Official History*, by Susanne Groom and Lee Prosser, is published by Merrell Publishers, price £12.95.

## **London's past for sale**

The Museum of London has announced plans for an £18 million development of the Museum, including a £4 million fundraising campaign, which will give supporters the chance to buy *A Year of London's History* from the Great Fire to 2012. Donors can buy years of historic, personal, sporting, political or business significance for £5000, and will have the opportunity to be included in the city's timeline which will feature in the new galleries. People of all ages and incomes will be able to get involved by buying *Favourite London Moments* like their birthday, wedding or graduation day, at prices starting from 50p.

## **MA in Metropolitan and Regional History**

This MA at The Centre for Metropolitan History of the University of London offers the opportunity to study cities and their regions in historical perspective, focusing on the history of London and the English localities from the middle ages to the present day. Details of the programme, and bursaries, are available at: <http://www.history.ac.uk/degrees/metma>, or contact Dr James Moore ([james.moore@sas.ac.uk](mailto:james.moore@sas.ac.uk)), Centre Metropolitan History, Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU.