

PRESS RELEASE:
MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2024



FREE FAMILY ACTIVITIES AT THE CHELSEA HISTORY FESTIVAL INCLUDE A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME AT HISTORY STREET

Returning for a sixth year, the Chelsea History Festival offers an exciting array of free family activities on the weekend of Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 September, including:

- A chance to step back in time at the immersive History Street on Saturday 28 September
- An open weekend at the Chelsea Physic Garden with free family activities
- An opportunity to step into the lives of soldiers and assist in a war hospital at the National Army Museum
- Hands-on family workshops in the newly-renovated Soane Stable Yard at the Royal Hospital Chelsea

The Chelsea History Festival is the flagship annual event of the newly-launched Chelsea Heritage Quarter, bringing together the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Chelsea, Chelsea Physic Garden and Cadogan in a year-round collaboration to promote heritage in Chelsea.

For more information and to book free tickets for the Chelsea History Festival family programme visit: www.chelseaheritagequarter.co.uk

History Street:

On Saturday 28 September from 10am - 4pm, on the grounds of Burton Court on Royal Hospital Road Chelsea, families can step back in time with History Street's Time Walk. Professional re-enactors will take visitors through key periods in history from the Romans to the Swinging 60s, with a special focus on Chelsea and London.

Displays will feature the Romans, England's Civil War, and the impact of the Blitz on Chelsea and key historical figures including King Henry VIII, Christopher Wren and Elizabeth Garrett Anderson will make an appearance. Interactive activities make the Time Walk engaging for younger visitors and include archery, Tudor games and Morse Code.

The talented re-enactment groups involved in History Street include Britannia, Herigeas Hundas, Tastes through Time, English Civil War Society, Zoom through Time and Old Time Design.

Free Open Weekend at Chelsea Physic Garden:

On both Saturday and Sunday, Chelsea Physic Garden opens free (advance tickets are required). Throughout the weekend the Garden will host family story-telling sessions, tours of the garden and pond dipping opportunities - a popular activity where children get to

meet the amazing creatures of the historic listed pond including water snails, newts, frogs, pond-skaters and more!

Family activities at the National Army Museum:

Throughout the weekend, the National Army Museum will keep younger visitors entertained with tours and workshops which include *Warts and Wounds*, a look at the medical hospitals of the Crimean War and how Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale kickstarted a hygiene revolution and *Soldier Stories*, an opportunity to meet characters real and imagined from the Army's past and hear their amazing stories.

The popular *Soldier Gallery*, which has been closed for refurbishment, is re-opening just in time for Chelsea History Festival! The refreshed permanent gallery will re-open on Tuesday 24 September, featuring 65 new objects and improved storytelling of individual soldiers' stories.

During the weekend, the South London Jazz Orchestra (Saturday 28 September) and The Pensioner Singers (Sunday 29 September) will be entertaining everyone with their musical delights in the National Army Museum's Atrium.

First chance to enjoy family workshops in the newly-renovated Soane Stable Yard at the Royal Hospital Chelsea:

Family workshops at the Royal Hospital Chelsea including Tricorne Hat-making (Tricorne hats are the iconic headwear of the Chelsea Pensioners) and clay modelling will take place in the new activity centre which is part of a major renovation of the Soane Stable Yard at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. This will be the first chance to see this exciting new space before it officially opens to the public in October.

The Chelsea History Festival

The Chelsea History Festival is sponsored by Cadogan. History Street and the Family Programme is supported by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's 'City Living, Local Life' fund. History Street is also supported by Garden House School.

The Festival is the flagship annual event for the newly-launched Chelsea Heritage Quarter, a heritage destination which brings together four remarkable institutions to tell a unique story of London and Britain from 1660 to the present day. Including magnificent architecture, military history and London's oldest botanic garden all situated in the heart of historic and picturesque Chelsea, the Quarter presents a fascinating and wide-ranging experience for those interested in exploring Britain's history. Together the partners will co-programme activities and events, promote heritage in Chelsea and contribute to a Chelsea that is creative, vibrant and enjoyable for all.

Sue Medway, Director of the Chelsea Physic Garden said:

"We are delighted to be able to create a programme for the Chelsea History Festival that appeals to all ages and enables our future audiences to engage in fun activities that encourage curiosity and an understanding of the world around us. The Chelsea Heritage Quarter is very grateful for the generous support of Cadogan, The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and Garden House School, who have made it possible to put on such an extensive and exciting free programme".

-ENDS-

Event/listings information:

History Street

Burton Court, Royal Hospital Chelsea

Saturday 29 September 2024

10am - 4pm (last entry 3:15pm)

Free, no booking required

Take a journey through time with the History Street Time Walk. Starting with the Romans and charting key periods in London's history from the Romans to the Swinging Sixties, it is brought together by professional re-enactors and includes interactive and engaging displays that all help to bring history to life!

Suitable for all ages.

Chelsea Physic Garden Open Weekend

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 September

Free, booking required

Book your ticket to enjoy free entrance and free family activities at the Chelsea Physic Garden, exclusively during the Chelsea History Festival.

Family Workshop: Tricorne Hat Making

Royal Hospital Chelsea, Soane Stable Yard

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 September from 10am - 12pm and 2- 4pm

Free, booking not required

Create your own Tricorne hat from card and wear it proudly just like a Chelsea Pensioner. Please note, this is a drop-in family activity so you can join at any point during each two-hour session.

Suitable for children aged 5+.

The Royal Hospital Chelsea: Family Story Walk

Royal Hospital Chelsea

Saturday 28 September (10.30am, 11.45am, 2.30pm), Sunday 29 September (1.15pm, 2.30pm, 3.45pm)

Free, booking required.

Join us for a family friendly walk around the site as we discover stories from 300 years of history at the home of the Chelsea Pensioners. This tour is a 45-minute interactive family walk for children aged 5-10. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

This tour is ticketed for 25 individuals per tour. The tour will include a chance to meet a Chelsea Pensioner and ask them questions. Pushchairs are welcome on site.

Suitable for children aged 5+.

Family Workshop: Clay Creations

Royal Hospital Chelsea, Soane Stable Yard

Sunday 29 September: 10am, 11.15am, 1pm, 2.15pm and 3.30pm

Free, booking required

Make a clay Chelsea Pensioner or a design of your own, inspired by the creative Chelsea Pensioners' pottery group. Your creation will be yours to take home after the workshop. Please note, this is a ticketed 45-minute session with a maximum capacity of 15 children per session.

Suitable for children aged 5+.

Chelsea Pensioners Singers

National Army Museum

Saturday 28 September, 1pm and 3pm

Free

Hear the Chelsea Pensioner Singers perform live, with a repertoire that includes some very well-known and catchy tunes, there's sure to be something you will recognise.

Suitable for all ages.

South London Jazz Orchestra

National Army Museum

Sunday 29 September, 3pm

Free

Come and listen to the South London Jazz Orchestra as they perform live at the Chelsea History Festival. The South London Jazz Orchestra brings the irresistible sound of Big Band Jazz to the National Army Museum. The Brixton-based ensemble will play a mix of classic jazz numbers and modern hits guaranteed to get toes tapping and bring a smile to everyone's face.

Suitable for all ages.

Chelsea Physic Garden: Open Weekend and Family Activities

Saturday 28 September & Sunday 29 September 2024, 10 - 4pm

Free, booking required

An opportunity to enjoy free entrance and free family activities, exclusively during the Chelsea History Festival. Throughout the Open Weekend, there will be special drop-in sessions including family storytelling, tours of the garden and pond dipping when young visitors can meet pond creatures including water snails, newts, frogs, pond-skaters and more!

Suitable for all ages.

Soldier Stories: Tommy Roper

National Army Museum

28th September 2024, 11-11:20, 12-12:20, 1:30-1:50, 2:30-2:50

29th September 2024, 11-11:20, 12-12:20, 1:30-1:50, 2:30-2:50

Free, Drop-in sessions

A chance to meet the characters, both real and imagined from the Army's past and hear their amazing stories including Tommy Roper, a soldier from 2 Commando as he trains new recruits for a top-secret Second World War mission.

Suitable for audiences 6+.

Family Workshop: Warts and Wounds

National Army Museum

28 September 2024, 11-12:30 and 1:45-3:45

Free, Drop-in sessions

Venture back to the gory world of Crimean War medicine in this fun, interactive workshop for all the family. See and touch a fake wound and then learn how to mend it. Discover how Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole kickstarted a hygiene revolution in medical medicine. Find out more about how battle wounds have been treated over time using life-like fake wounds and blood.

Suitable for audiences 6+.

Family Tour: Marvellous Army Medicine

National Army Museum

29 September 2024, 10:30-11:00, 11:30-12:00, 14:00-14:30, 15:00-15:30

Free, Drop-In Sessions

Grab your scrubs, wash your hands, and join us as we delve into the world of Army medicine in this interactive family tour. How did doctors use to cure headaches? Why did plastic surgery start? What did two women do to challenge the conventions of the world of medicine? Find out on our fun-filled family tour all about Army medicine.

Suitable for children aged 5+.

***Please note: Children must be accompanied by an adult.**

Notes to Editors:

Press Contact:

For further information, to arrange interviews, request press tickets and high-resolution images please contact Lisa Thiel, Sutton

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press@chelseaheritagequarter.co.uk

Listings

Festival Dates:

Wednesday 25 – Sunday 29 September 2024.

Locations:

- Chelsea Physic Garden, 66 Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4HS
- National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4HT
- Royal Hospital Chelsea, Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4SR

Website:

www.chelseaheritagequarter.co.uk

#ChelseaHistoryFest

#ChelseaHeritageQuarter

Twitter: @ChelseaHeritage

Facebook: @Chelsea Heritage Quarter

Instagram: @chelseaheritagequarter

Chelsea History Festival

Founded in 2019, the Chelsea History Festival is a partnership between the National Army Museum, the Royal Hospital Chelsea and Chelsea Physic Garden. Its aim is to entertain, educate and inspire through local, national and global history. Every year, the Chelsea History Festival brings the past to life through a programme of events, featuring a brilliant blend of storytellers and performers from different walks of life. The Festival creates a stage in Chelsea, along the historic Royal Hospital Road, for world class speakers and authors to celebrate history.

Chelsea Heritage Quarter

The Chelsea Heritage Quarter is London's new heritage destination and brings together four remarkable institutions to tell a unique story of London and Britain from 1660 to the present day. Including magnificent architecture, military history and London's oldest botanic garden all situated in the heart of historic and picturesque Chelsea, the Quarter presents a fascinating and wide-ranging experience for those interested in exploring Britain's history.

The partners of the Chelsea Heritage Quarter look forward to co-programming activities and events for visitors throughout the year and contributing to a Chelsea that is creative, vibrant and enjoyable for all. Programming will be centred around heritage and the Chelsea History Festival will be the flagship annual programme of the Chelsea Heritage Quarter each September.

chelseaheritagequarter.co.uk

National Army Museum

The National Army Museum shares the history and heritage of our soldiers and their service in the Army, across the globe and down the centuries. Through our collections and research, we explore the history of the Army from its origins to the present day. We aim to engage and inspire everyone with the stories of our soldiers and how their service shapes our world; past present and future.

nam.ac.uk

Royal Hospital Chelsea

The Royal Hospital Chelsea is the home of the iconic veterans of the British Army, the Chelsea Pensioners. We offer excellent accommodation, comradeship and the highest standards of care in recognition of their loyal service to the nation. Any former soldier of the British Army over the age of 66, who is facing spending their advanced years alone, can apply for residence as a Chelsea Pensioner. Some 300 army veterans live at the Royal Hospital today, including those who have served in World War II, Korea, the Falkland Islands, Cyprus, Northern Ireland, and the more recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Others may not have served in campaigns, but all understand what it means to be a soldier and the sacrifice that it entails. The Royal Hospital is a Grade I and II* listed site, a beautiful architectural legacy left to us by Charles II and Sir Christopher Wren. Maintenance of the site continues today with ongoing restoration work to ensure that this legacy lives on into the future.

chelsea-pensioners.co.uk

Chelsea Physic Garden

Chelsea Physic Garden is London's oldest botanic garden. Founded in 1673, it turned 350 in 2023. It has been a teaching garden for all of these 350 years and the core principles of discovery, learning and wellbeing are still realised today through its charitable activities. Within the Garden visitors can find over 4500 species of edible, useful and medicinal plants that help to tell the story of humanity's relationship with plants. The Garden is an independent charity which relies on public support to ensure it can achieve its purpose of education and public access. Chelsea Physic Garden offers a year-round programme of educational activities, walks, talks, tours and workshops.

chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk

About Cadogan

Cadogan is a family business, property manager, investor, and developer with a 300-year history that informs its dynamic estate management approach today. As custodians of over 90 acres of Chelsea and Knightsbridge, their long-term stewardship aims to enrich the area's unique character and community, while safeguarding its future vitality.

cadogan.co.uk