

***** PRESS RELEASE *****

“The People’s Ticket” proves successful for The Bishop’s Palace

The Bishop’s Palace is celebrating one year since the introduction of its new “People’s Ticket” which allows locals to visit all year round for just £15.

Created in response to the pandemic and the desire to encourage local people to enjoy this tremendous asset on their doorstep, the Palace had aimed to give a significant benefit to all those living in the area, whilst still keeping the site open for day trippers and tourists during the holiday season.

The ticket proved to be an immediate hit with thousands buying the pass in the first few months as the gardens reopened after the national lockdown.

Visitor Experience Manager Laura Richards said, “We were delighted to begin to welcome so many people who had lived in Wells all of their life but had felt that the Palace & Gardens were just for tourists! They have now realised that there is an oasis of beauty and peace right in the city centre that they can use as their own garden all year round for just £15.”

Comments have flooded in throughout the year thanking the Palace for their efforts in keeping the Gardens open for all to enjoy.

Visitor Julie Heath said “Thank you for everything you have done this year to bring a place of escape and tranquillity to our lives. It has made a real difference and we are grateful”.

Veronika Elks said “You have given so much joy to the community through this year. Bless you all.”

To date, the Palace has sold over 25,000 People’s Tickets and has this success has helped the organisation decide to keep the offering on a permanent basis. Staff at the Palace are keen to let all those who bought the tickets last year know that the offer is now ongoing, so locals can just pop in to renew their ticket when it expires, for the same price of just £15.

ENDS

The Bishop's Palace is the 800-year-old home of the Bishops of Bath & Wells. The medieval palace is also home to the wells and ancient springs that give the City of Wells its name, the world famous mute swans that ring a bell alongside the Gatehouse when they want their food, and 14 acres of stunning gardens. Within the gardens are an Arboretum, formal planted gardens, the ruined and romantic Great Hall, waterfalls and well pools, a Community Garden and the new Garden of Reflection.

The Palace buildings open to the public include a medieval undercroft, a striking Long Gallery, hung with portraits of former bishops, exhibition space and the beautiful medieval Chapel.

There is a modern, family and dog friendly café, serving produce from the gardens, drinks, cakes and light meals and a gift shop. The site is accessible for wheelchair users, with new, even pathways in the gardens and a lift in the Palace building.

The Bishop's Palace is managed by The Palace Trust, registered charity number 1160830.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location:

The Bishop's Palace & Gardens
Wells
Somerset
BA5 2PD

T: 01749 988111

E: info@bishoppalace.org.uk

W: www.bishoppalace.org.uk

OPENING TIMES

Summer (31 March – 26 Oct): 10am - 5pm

Winter (27 Oct – 30 March): 10am – 4pm

Last admission is 30 minutes before closing.

The Bishop's Palace is closed over Christmas every year.

- All activities and events are included in the price of admission unless stated otherwise and children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Guided Tours Daily (not currently available until further notice)

ADMISSION CHARGES

Admission tickets give access to the medieval Palace, Undercroft, ruined Great Hall, 14 acres of gardens, the Bishop's Chapel and events (unless specifically ticketed).

Who	Gift Aid*
Adult Annual Return Ticket	£15.00
Children (Under 5 years)	FREE
Children (5-18 years) Annual Return Ticket	£7.50
Essential helpers assisting disabled visitors	FREE
Group Admission	Prebooked
Child Group Admission	Prebooked

HOW TO FIND US

The Bishop's Palace & Gardens is situated in the heart of Wells, Somerset and can be easily reached from Bath – 21 miles / Bristol - 21 miles / Glastonbury - 8 miles.

Bus: 29, 126, 161/162, 173, 375, 376, 377 all stop or pass through Wells. Alight at Wells Market Place.

Bike: The Bishop's Palace is situated on Sustrans cycle route 3. Visit www.sustrans.org.uk for further information and maps. Cycle racks available over the drawbridge and in Market Place.

Train: The nearest railway stations are Castle Cary (9 miles from Wells) and also Bristol Temple Meads and Bath Spa (both 21 miles), where you will find bus links to Wells.

Coach: Follow signs to coach dropping off point, continue down one way system to bus station coach park.

Car: The main routes to Wells are the A371 and the A39. The Bishop's Palace is a short walk from all central car parks, use Whiting Way car park (long stay) which is located just off the A39 or Market Place (short stay, 1 hour maximum) is just outside the palace Not available Wednesday or Saturday (market days).

Map: http://www.bishopspalace.org.uk/location_map.php