



## Press Release

27 July 2017

### **GHOST FEST RETURNS TO THRILL OXFORD CASTLE VISITORS THIS HALLOWEEN**

Oxford Castle Unlocked will once again transform into Oxford's only scare attraction this October, as its acclaimed Halloween festival Ghost Fest returns to the ancient castle site. From 19<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October, guests are invited to scare themselves silly with a range of family fun activities as well as spookier activities for those who dare.

A packed schedule guarantees there will be something for every age group (and fear tolerance!), including:

- **Spooky Tours**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October, 7pm & 7.30pm**

Embark on a sinister journey inside the haunted heart of the former Royal residence and prison every Thursday during Ghost Fest on a Spooky Tour, with a character tour guide accompanying guests to regale tales of recent ghostly encounters as well as some ghoulish history from centuries past. With so many ghosts, you'll never be braving it alone!

£15 for adults, £12 for concessions (suitable for ages 11+)

- **An evening with Ciaràn O’Keeffe**

**Friday 20 October & Monday 30 October, 7pm – 10pm**

*Most Haunted* parapsychologist Ciaràn O’Keeffe returns to Oxford Castle Unlocked ready to entertain courageous guests with a talk about ‘The Dark Side of the Paranormal’ before leading a ghost hunting tour around the castle site, *Most Haunted* style. Nerves firmly shaken by the end of the evening, review your spirit searching adventures with a glass of bubbly!

£30 per person (suitable for ages 18+)

- **Halloween Family Fun**

**Saturday 21 to Sunday 29 October**

Families are invited to a spook-tacular event at Oxford Castle Unlocked this Halloween half term. Enjoy a guided tour to learn the horrible histories of the 1000 year old site and complete a suitably spooky trail along the way. Successfully finish the hunt for clues throughout the castle buildings to claim a sweet treat reward at the end of your journey. Standard admission prices apply: Adult £10.75, Child £7.75, Concession £9.25, Family £35

- **Spooky Sunday**

**Sunday 29 October, 2pm – 4pm**

For an afternoon of Halloween themed fun, younger guests are invited to Oxford Castle Unlocked’s Spooky Sunday party. There will be Halloween party games galore plus the opportunity to carve your very own Pumpkin and take home in time to display on Halloween night! Make sure to dress to impress in your best Halloween outfits for a Costume Parade at 3.30pm with a prize for the best ensemble.

Spaces are £9.50 per child; parents attend for free. The price includes a themed gift, a Pumpkin and one small hot drink.

- **Halloween Midnight Tour**

**Tuesday 31 October, 11pm**

On Halloween night, brace yourself for an especially eerie tour of the castle encompassing the deepest, darkest corners of the 1000 year old site! Guests will dare to discover the ancient well chamber and underground crypt, climb the 11<sup>th</sup> century St. George's Tower and the 18<sup>th</sup> century Debtor's Tower, as well as exploring the Punishment Cells, the site of unimaginable horrors from the Georgian era. At the stroke of midnight, the tour will conclude with a glass of bubbly to toast the end of Halloween.

Tickets are £25 (18+ only)

- **Overnight Ghost Hunts**

**Select dates during October**

Aspiring ghost hunters can explore the austere confines of the 1000 year old castle prison overnight on one of the professionally-led Ghost Hunt experiences held on select nights throughout the Festival. Vigils and paranormal experiments will test the hunters' nerves as they seek one of the 15 spirits known to dwell in the castle boundaries.

Oxford Castle Unlocked is located on the former site of HMP Oxford but has stood as a Castle for 1000 years, spending 800 of those years as a place of incarceration. This dark past explains why Oxford Castle Unlocked is often recognised as one of the spookiest buildings in Britain.

Throughout the year, the attraction offers a 40-minute guided tour, inviting guests to discover the origins of Oxford and the role the castle site played through multiple in developing the incredible city of dreaming spires we know and love today. Visitors will explore the Saxon stone-built St. George's Tower, the atmospheric crypt, the preserved prison wing and the archaic man-made mound offering breath-taking views of Oxford. Ghost Fest has been hosted at the castle since it was re-opened as a visitor attraction in 2006.

For further information or to book online, visit <https://www.oxfordcastleunlocked.co.uk/events/ghost-fest/>

## ENDS

For further media information, images or to arrange a visit to *Oxford Castle Unlocked* please contact: Ellie Morgan on 07713 307 925 or email [emorgan@oxfordcastleunlocked.co.uk](mailto:emorgan@oxfordcastleunlocked.co.uk)

### NOTES TO EDITORS:

#### About Oxford Castle Unlocked:

*Oxford Castle Unlocked* is open daily from 10.00am to 5.30pm (last tour 4.20pm). We are closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Admission prices from 01 February 2016: Adults £10.75, Children £7.50, Concessions £9.00, Family ticket (2 adults, 2 children) £34.00.

*Oxford Castle Unlocked* is a 1000 year old castle which also served as a prison for over 800 years. The visitor attraction opened on 2 June 2006 and gives visitors the opportunity to learn about the real people who lived and died throughout the site's turbulent past. Visitors are able to walk through the ancient buildings and experience the stories that connect the real people to these extraordinary events.

The guardians of this important historic site, The Oxford Preservation Trust were awarded a £3.8 million grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the castle and site buildings. The post of Learning and Access Officer is funded by Oxfordshire County Council.

*Oxford Castle Unlocked* is operated by Continuum Attractions - visitor attraction operators and specialists in the tourism and leisure industry.

#### About Continuum Attractions:

For more information on Continuum Attractions, please visit [www.continuumattractions.com](http://www.continuumattractions.com)

Continuum Attractions owns, operates and manages cultural attractions across the UK:

- Continuum Heritage Attractions
  - The Real Mary King's Close, Edinburgh
  - The Canterbury Tales, Canterbury
  - Oxford Castle Unlocked, Oxford
  - York's Chocolate Story, York
- Continuum Entertainment Attractions
  - Emmerdale Studio Experience, Leeds
  - Emmerdale The Tour, Leeds
- Continuum Icon Attractions
  - Emirates Spinnaker Tower, Portsmouth
  - The Royal Mint Experience, Llantrisant