

youngsters flock to Knole House to learn days gone by times explored

LIFE at Knole House took a trip back to Tudor times this summer with family fun days featuring activities of old.

Crowds flocked to the historic home to take part in brass rubbing, lace making, beeswax candle rolling and calligraphy before kicking back for sun-soaked picnics.

Kate Ward, who is in charge of educational projects at Knole, was delighted with the turnout at the last of three weekly family fun days last Tuesday (August 15).

"It's all about family discovery and children engaging with parents and grandparents," she said.

"We've tried to put on activities true to

by Emma Lazenby

Knole and in keeping with Tudor tradition."

The full day events also included lavender bag making, which was taught by Claire Johnson of The Hop Shop on Castle Farm in Shoreham. She said: "It's the first time we've done this and the children have absolutely loved it! They've been making lavender bags for their mums and grandmothers and learning about the historical context of lavender."

As lunchtime approached, children and their parents gathered in Knole Park for an impressive falconry display by Eagle Heights in Eynsford, which saw young birds of prey fans interact with the feathered friends.

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John Edwards, who is a member of the Kent Beekeepers Association, wowed children with his beeswax candle making lessons. He said: "Sixty candles have been rolled by the children so far and it's only lunchtime!"

Tudor fashions were also a hit and an array of replica attire was on hand in the Great Hall for the children to stage their own medieval catwalks.

Brass rubbing was also a popular pursuit and Carol Cheeseman of Sevenoaks-based History in Brass was available to teach children the skills behind the art. She said: "We regularly visit schools in the area with small brass replicas taken from church floors across the country. There's so much history to be learnt from them such as changes in fashion and armour."

Helen Bunting took her five-year-old daughter Lucy along to the Knole fun day and said: "It's been really good fun so far and for £3 for the whole day it's great!"

And Lucy added: "My favourite bit has been dressing up in the costumes!"

Pictures by Rob Logan

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SUN AND TWIRLS: Rebecca Smith, Charlotte Page and Alice Page dress up during a fun day in Knole House on Tuesday.



HIGH AS A KITE: A bird of prey display was one of the many activities at the Knole House event. Pictured right: Deer seek shade from the summer sun in the grounds of Knole Park.