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## Civil War Breaks Out at Arundel Castle

### Arundel Castle To Recreate 1643 Siege

Arundel Castle continues its thrilling 2013 open season with an English Civil War commemoration on 14 April, marking the 370<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Siege of the Castle by Parliamentarian soldiers.

Positioned alongside the River Arun, the second fastest flowing tidal river in the UK, Arundel Castle was a key location for protagonists in the English Civil War and the setting of a major 18 day siege.

Hosted in the Castle's impressive Keep, Raven Tor Living History Group will be recreating 17<sup>th</sup> Century life at the Castle from the perspectives of Royalists and town's folk who used the Castle as a refuge.

Civil War Day at Arundel Castle provides an ideal opportunity to revel in one of the Civil War's longest sieges and learn about its wider impact on life in the 1600s.

Visitors on the day will be able to:

- **Witness** breath taking weapons and combat displays
- **Handle** 17<sup>th</sup> Century replica weapons
- **Participate** in craft demonstrations
- **See** period style clothing from the 17th century
- **Interact** the Royalist garrison of the Siege of 1643, and town's folk trapped inside the castle
- **Meet** key characters from one of Sussex's longest sieges

The Civil War Day event also provides visitors with an opportunity to see demonstrations of practical craftwork such as lucet weaving, finger braiding and clothing repairs, as well as a chance to discover how many town's folk got swept up in the battles of the English Civil War. A rare opportunity to witness ordinary 17<sup>th</sup> Century dress, rather than uniforms or armours, this event promises an impressive display of costumes from the period.

Bryan McDonald, Castle Manager, commented: "Marking the 370<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Siege of Arundel Castle with the Civil War Day event is a very apt commemoration. This event is a wonderful way for visitors to experience history in action and learn more about the Castle's colourful history.

"The aftermath of the Siege of the Castle saw orders given for the Castle to be demolished. It spent the next 200 years as a slighted ruin, being slowly restored into the impressive landmark with glorious gardens that we see today."

One of the largest inhabited and complete castles in England, Arundel Castle is situated in magnificent grounds overlooking the River Arun in West Sussex. It was founded at the end of the 11th century by Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Arundel and today is the home of the 18<sup>th</sup> Duke of Norfolk and his family.

Steeped in 1,000 years of history, Arundel Castle offers a full day out with guided and free-flow tours of the finely preserved castle rooms including the Baron's Hall, 14<sup>th</sup> Century Catholic Fitzalan Chapel, Library and bedrooms alongside the opportunity to ascend the Norman Motte and Keep and enjoy The Collector Earl's Garden that was opened by HRH The Prince of Wales in 2008.