



## **Haddon Hall introduces Little School of Sorcery for Halloween**

**The Magical Marks and Graffiti Tour also returns for adults brave enough to experience it!**

This Halloween, Haddon Hall is set to host a spooky series of events, designed to entertain and enlighten adults and children alike.

From October 26<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>, Haddon will be home to the Little School of Sorcery. Children will be able to enjoy a plethora of ghastly games and activities throughout the hall, from creating potions in the kitchen with medieval herbs collected from Haddon's gardens, to wand decorating, broom and hat making, learning spells and scroll writing. Dressing up is warmly welcomed, with all sorcery students receiving a certificate at the end of their lessons.

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October, the Kingsley Falconry Centre will bring a number of its birds of prey to Haddon for children to meet, including a Snowy Owl who has featured as Hedwig in several of the Harry Potter films.

There is also a competition element to Halloween, with families invited to bring their own carved pumpkins to the hall, which will be displayed throughout the week (both adults and children can enter), with a winner for the best carving selected on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

All the School of Sorcery activities are free of charge and open to children up to 12 years of age.

For those brave adults, Haddon will also be offering its specialist Magical Marks and Graffiti Tours, in which Haddon's incredibly knowledgeable guides will delve into the mediaeval mind set and explore the history behind the hall's extensive range of Apotropaic Marks, known colloquially as Witches Marks. These magical marks were believed to have the power to avert evil spirits and malign

influences and are scattered through the hall's rooms, hidden in plain sight to offer ritual protection to the property and its inhabitants.

These tours will be conducted in candlelight, with the guides leading visitors through the house, encouraging them to find the Witches Marks, while experiencing eerie tales from the hall's rich and varied 900 year history. This year, the tour will also include a visit to the Museum, to learn about objects discovered by the 9<sup>th</sup> Duke during the hall's restoration, as well as a rare opportunity to visit a mysterious space, which historically was given the name 'The Death Room' and is not normally open to the public.

This unique tour will take place on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 6pm and will last approximately an hour and a half. Visitors can enjoy a Halloween cocktail and cake before the tour starts, with tickets cost £29 per person. Places must be booked in advance via the Haddon Hall website, and will be available from the beginning of September.

Lady Edward Manners said: "With a wonderful history spanning over 900 years, Haddon Hall offers the perfect atmosphere and setting for Halloween activity. Last year, our Magical Marks Tour proved incredibly popular with visitors, offering a fascinating insight into rituals of old, which occurred during a rather turbulent period of English history.

"This year, as well as holding our Magical Marks Tour again, we wanted to provide a truly enchanting experience for children. The Little School of Sorcery will be a magical day out, allowing children to dive headfirst into spells and potions, with Haddon providing the perfect backdrop for some spooky entertainment."

For more information on Halloween activity, please visit the Hall's [website](#).

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