

Eltham Palace – Sunday 22nd May

The original palace was given to Edward II in 1305 and was used as a royal residence from the 14th to the 16th century. Much of it went to ruins but in the 1930's Stephen Courtauld and his wife Virginia acquired the lease of the palace site and restored the Great Hall (adding a minstrels' gallery to it) while building an elaborate home, internally in the Art Deco style, said to be one of the finest examples of this style in the country.

There are several famous art works including Mary Adshead's mural dedicated to St Cecilia (the patron saint of music), Jan Wijck's "The Frost Fair on the Thames" and a beautiful carved marble portrait bust of Virginia Courtauld by Count Filippo Lovatelli.



There is a stunning domed entrance hall where prestigious guests gathered for glamorous cocktail parties. Socialites and politicians, royals and artists all enjoyed hospitality here. This eye-catching room is a mix of Art Deco and cutting-edge Swedish design. English Heritage, who currently manage the property,

have recently re-opened several new rooms

As well as the House and Hall Eltham Palace has a rare and fine example of an Arts and Crafts garden, with an intriguing mix of medieval features woven into the landscape. Highlights include spring bulbs and the Rock Garden with a series of pools and cascades.