

Safe shopping at Ripley Castle and Sudeley Castle this summer

We are looking forward to welcoming back our customers to the two summer Fairs we run each year, albeit one of them slightly later than usual. Join us at Ripley Castle on 24-27th June or Sudeley Castle – delayed from April - on 1st to 4th July. Yes, the events will have changed a bit to help you to feel confident about getting out there again with friends and family to enjoy some fun, non-essential shopping! We hope you will find these altered Fairs even better than their previous versions. Here are some questions we have been asked about the Fairs with answers. Where the two fairs are different, we say which fact applies to which fair.

Will the fairs look the same? Sort of. Instead of large luxury marquees with an in-built restaurant, we will have rows of interconnected blocks of narrow marquees with the stands in the middle of each block and a 3m roof in front of each stand. So the exhibitors will be protected from the weather and so will you. You can shop in comfort along the 3m covered walkway in front of each stand. The mini marquees will be in the same field as usual with parking in the neighbouring field at Ripley and in the same field at Sudeley. At **Ripley**, as you walk down the path, the smaller marquees will start where the outdoor exhibitors usually are with three rows of them with large grassy spaces in between. Outdoor exhibitors will be to the left of the small marquees, on the slight incline there. Dining facilities will be at the back of the small marquees where the restaurant normally is, near the bridge across the lake to the island. At **Sudeley**, we will be in exactly the same field in the same position and the outdoor exhibitors won't have changed position either. So they won't be very different. Just safer.

Will I get a refund if the Fair is cancelled? Absolutely. But they won't be! We are on track with vaccinations. Events are allowed to go ahead from 17th May though with limits on attendance which, at the moment, don't apply post June 21st. And hopefully won't - if you go by what Matt Hancock said recently, "the reason that step 4 (ie June 21st) is not in the regulations is that it does not need any regulations." I for one am keeping him to that!

Do I have to wear a mask? It's up to you, whatever you feel most comfortable with. At time of writing, you don't have to wear a mask outdoors as transmission in the open air is regarded by all sides of the covid debate as infinitesimal.

If there is no large marquee and it rains, will I get wet? No, you won't. Exhibitors will be in very long, narrow marquees with a 3m roof overhang in front of them and then a wide grassy aisle between them and the opposite exhibitors. You can shop along the covered walkway so protected from any rain – or too much sun! There will be one-way systems along this 3m lane and wide grassy aisles to each side so you will have plenty of space to spread out. There will also be hand sanitisers so you can clean your hands after visiting stands.

What about social distancing? At the moment, the roadmap suggests there will be no social distancing after June 21st. But that may change depending on the data. Be assured, though, that as we are in the middle of a large field, we are able to spread out the blocks of stands with lots of space in between them so you can safely walk without bumping into people. And the covered shopping lanes will be one-way.

Will there be toilets? Yes, but instead of our usual smart trailers with three or four toilets in each, we have opted for individual loos, including those for disabled customers.

What about eating and drinking? Well, we don't have our usual restaurant at the back of the large marquee. Instead we will have different varieties of food and drink offerings. We are still talking to potential suppliers so more details on this later.

We will have roof only marquees with seating and tables for you to sit and enjoy a meal and a drink with a friend. And if the weather is fine – which we are assured it's going to be! – you can sit out and enjoy the breeze while catching up with friends or family.

In the past, exhibitors I have shopped with have sent me a complimentary ticket. Will I receive one this year? We usually send out 40 complimentary tickets to each exhibitor to pass onto loyal customers. We hope this will happen again this year but the government haven't yet said whether the limited customer numbers at events for phase 3 of the roadmap will be extended to phase 4. So we just don't know. If you want to make sure of a ticket, you can book one **online** by clicking Buy Tickets (above right on the home page) They are £5 each.

Can I check if my favourite exhibitor is going to be there? Yes, just click Sale Dates at the top of this page and then either Ripley or Sudeley Fair and scroll down. The week of the Fair, I will send you a digital map telling you where the toilets, eating area, parking and exhibitors are. If you want to check out an exhibitor after the Fair, you can just click on their name on the map and you will automatically go through to their website.

Do I have to pay for children? Accompanied children under 16 are free. Also, unlike in the big marquee, you can bring pushchairs and buggies though do bear in mind you will be mostly on grass. Wheelchairs are always welcome.

Do I have to choose a specific day? Yes, at the moment. This is just in case, further down the line, a limit is put on each day's numbers. We hope this won't happen, in which case you will be able to use your ticket on any day. If there is a limit, it may restrict the number of complimentary tickets we are able to give to exhibitors to pass onto you. To make sure of your attendance, you can **book online** now at just £5 a ticket by clicking BUY TICKETS (above right on the home page) and then either the Ripley or Sudeley Fair.