



MEDIA BRIEFING FACT SHEET

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S RIVIERA

Torquay's World Famous Resident

Dame Agatha Christie, the world's most famous mystery and crime writer, was born in Torquay in 1890 and lived for many years in the area. Many of the English Riviera's locations can be recognized in her novels and the English Riviera is hugely popular with Agatha Christie fans from around the world.

International Agatha Christie Festival

Now based at the historic Torre Abbey in Torquay, the International Agatha Christie Festival is fast becoming one of the UK's leading literary festivals. The dates for the Festival always fall around the 15th September, to celebrate the birthday of the Queen of Crime. The packed programme includes guest author talks from leading international crime writers, murder mystery dinners, vintage fayres, theatre performances and much, much more.

Agatha Christie Literary Trail

The English Riviera Tourism Company has launched an exciting 'Agatha Christie Literary Trail' based on the 20 special places that inspired her life and works across the English Riviera and South Devon. From *Murder on the Links*, to *The Body in the Library*, *Dead Man's Folly* and the *ABC Murders*, the literary connections are all here.

Torquay's Agatha Christie Mile

In addition to the literary trail, there's also the famous Agatha Christie Mile in Torquay, which takes people to some of the additional places that were so special to her in her younger years including: Princess Pier where she enjoyed roller-skating, Beacon Cove where she was a regular swimmer and the grand Hotel where she spent her honeymoon to Archie Christie on Christmas Eve 1914.

Agatha Christie Film

View an inspiring two-minute film, which features Agatha Christie speaking and footage of some great local scenery. Available on YouTube it can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFuuMrEIINO.

Agatha Christie's Greenway

Agatha Christie made Greenway her holiday home from 1938 until 1959. The author's family gave the property to the National Trust in 2000, and for several years visitors were able to enjoy the beautiful woodland garden on the banks of the River Dart. However, as the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Rosalind and Anthony Hicks, the house remained closed to the public until their deaths in 2004 and 2005, when the house passed to the Trust, along with the generous gift from Agatha Christie's grandson, Mathew Prichard, of the majority of the contents. Visitors can now view the many personal collections and mementoes of the Queen of Crime and her family, and will discover a house that evokes the spirit of a holiday home in its 1950s heyday.

You can arrive at the house in a plethora of ways including by boat, by vintage 1940's bus or by rail on the Paignton to Dartmouth heritage steam train.

Annual Diary Dates

International Agatha Christie Festival Mid-September

For more information visit <http://www.agathachristiefestival.com>

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English Riviera Tourism Company Welcomes Journalists

We host a number of familiarisation visits throughout the year and tailor each itinerary to suit your perfect story! We are always happy to welcome journalists to the English Riviera, if you are interested in visiting please contact;

Louise Smith/Holly Hollis e-mail: marketing@englishriviera.co.uk

Telephone: 01803 296296

Launched in October 2010 the ERTC is a new private sector led public/private tourism partnership leading on the official promotion of the English Riviera as a leading UK resort and overseeing the effective delivery of the 2010-2015 Turning the Tide for Tourism in Torbay Strategy. To download a copy of the strategy please visit: www.englishriviera.co.uk/ertc