

LONDON ASHRIDGE CIRCLE

PROGRAMME: JANUARY-MAY 2010

Subject to availability, members' guests are most welcome at all social events on payment of a booking fee of £1.00, plus any admission charges.

WEDNESDAY 6 JANUARY 2010

VISIT to PANTOMIME – ALADDIN

Meet in the Foyer at Hackney Empire, 117 Wilton Way, Hackney, London E8, at 1.15 for the 1.30 pm performance.

Ten tickets have been booked for this traditional pantomime. This follows the phenomenal box office and critical success of last year's *Mother Goose*, and the Empire team are back with a sparkling production of *Aladdin*. On stage expect familiar faces from London's West End as well as Hackney Empire's regular panto performers together with fun and laughter. Seats are in the Stalls and tickets are £16.00 per person (£15.50 plus 50p booking fee).

WEDNESDAY 13 JANUARY

TALK: WALKING LONDON'S MEDICAL SECRETS

Meet at Victory Services Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF, at 7.00 pm.

Nick Black is Professor of Health Services Research at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Many factors have shaped the health care buildings, their location and their organisation in London. Based on the seven walks in his book *Walking London's Medical History*, we shall be taken on a whirlwind illustrated tour of familiar and less familiar vestiges of our healthcare history, to demonstrate some of the less recognised factors which have shaped our legacy.

THURSDAY 14 JANUARY

VISIT to LIBRARY AND RARE BOOKS ROOM at THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Meet at the Information Desk, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, at 1.45 for 2.00pm sharp.

In today's visit we shall view just a fraction of works from the Museum's 500,000+ art collection in a display which will be based around the book *Art of Nature*, which is the Museum is publishing. There needs to be a minimum of 6 people for this visit to take place and it can take a maximum of 12. Cost: £6.00 members, £7.00 non-members (incl. booking fee).

TUESDAY 19 JANUARY

VISIT to OUTBREAK 1939 EXHIBITION

Meet at Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1, at 10.50 for 11.00 am.

Seventy years after the radio announcement informing the nation that Britain was at war, the Imperial War Museum is mounting this special exhibition. It will explore the build-up and preparation for war, an overview of key events on 3 September 1939, and an account of the early months of the conflict.

SATURDAY 23 JANUARY

MUSIC AFTERNOON

Meet at 5 Neate House, 52/58 Lupus Street, London SW1V 3EG, at 4.00 pm.

Light classical music will be played and high tea will be served. Cost: £5.00.

WEDNESDAY 27 JANUARY

FULL AFTERNOON TEA

Meet at St Ermin's Hotel, 2 Caxton Street, London SW1, at 3.15 pm.

Why have lunch when you can have full afternoon tea in the lounge at St Ermin's Hotel? The cost is £14.50 per person – excluding gratuity – payable on the day.

THURSDAY 28 JANUARY**GUIDED WALK: WINTER IN KENSINGTON GARDENS**

Meet at Broadwalk Café, Kensington Gardens (a map will be issued to participants), at 1.30 for 2.00 pm departure.

Winter is generally regarded as a quiet time in parks but this is not always true. Parks take on a majestic beauty as they don their winter appearance. On this walk, we shall have a look at what is going on in the park at this time – see how wildlife and staff get through the winter months. The walk lasts 1½ hours and is free of charge. Four places have been booked – the maximum allowed by any one person. Subject to space availability, there is no reason why extra spaces can be reserved, as long as someone else makes the booking.

TUESDAY 2 FEBRUARY**LECTURE: SISTERS, SISTERS, THERE WERE NEVER SUCH DEVOTED SISTERS**

Meet at Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2, at 12.40 pm (lecture commences at 1.00 pm).

This free public lecture is one of a series in Family Relationships and the Law and is given by Ruth Deech, The Baroness Deech of Cumber DBE, Gresham Professor of Law.

In England, interpersonal rights and duties of support have traditionally only attached themselves to couples united by law, sex and children. Why should there not be family obligations to support siblings and parents? When a daughter has taken care of elderly parents throughout her life, does she have rights when they die? When two sisters have lived together for decades, why are they treated less generously than civil partnerships when one of them dies?

THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY**BRITISH LIBRARY EXHIBITION: POINTS OF VIEW**

Meet in the Foyer of British Library, Euston Road, London NW1, at 11.00 am.

This exhibition captures the 19th Century in photographs – a magnificent selection of the British Library's unique collection from about 1830. Admission free.

WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING followed by TALK: CONSTRUCTING CIVILISATION**

Meet at Victory Services Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF, at 7.00 pm.

Circle member Frank Weare is a Chartered and Civil Engineer, who has been involved with the design and construction of various building and bridge structures, including the foundation design appraisal of the Lower Swansea Valley area. His illustrated talk will cover some of the many exciting developments and the way our civilisation has developed in inventions, in art, technology and building. It will show and discuss the various innovations that have taken place in construction to develop new structural forms to allow effective solutions, including some major engineering structures around us which we take for granted.

THURSDAY 11 FEBRUARY**TOUR of the GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS**

Meet inside Mark Masons' Hall, 86 St James's Street, London SW1A 1PL, at 10.30 am (if requiring refreshments) or 11.00 am (for tour only).

This site was once the location of the famous Thatched House Tavern, but the history of the site has since the 1700's been associated with the pursuits of gentlemen of enjoyment and, in particular, with eating and drinking. The present building, a Crown property, was built between 1862 and 1865, designed by Sir James Thomas Knowles (1831-1908). Our guided tour will be taken by Mr Mignall. The visit is special as the Hall does not normally do tours but is making an exception for us. There is no charge for the tour but for it to go ahead there must be a minimum of 8 people.

For those who require refreshments prior to the tour, tea/coffee/biscuits are available in the Bar on the 2nd floor (access by lift or stairs) at £1.00 per cup to include biscuits. Otherwise the tour will commence from the Entrance Hall. There is a Carvery Restaurant on site, which is open to the public. If you wish to eat there after the tour, you can either take 'pot luck' for a table on the day or book in advance by telephoning 020 7747 1185. A 2-course meal costs £18.75 and a 3-course £25.00. There is usually a choice of two roast joints of meat, a fish dish and a vegetarian dish on offer.

THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY**BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR of the LONDON METROPOLITAN ARCHIVES**

Meet at London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, London EC1R 0HB, at 10.50 for the 11.00 am tour.

London Metropolitan Archives is the largest local authority archive in the United Kingdom with over 80 km of research collections that document the capital's history from 1067 to the present day. We shall learn how to use the archive and we shall see some of the oldest and newest documents in the collections. Admission is free and the maximum number of persons allowed is 12.

FRIDAY 19 FEBRUARY**KEATS HOUSE**

Meet at Keats House, Keats Grove, Hampstead, London NW3 2RR, at 2.15 for 2.30 pm.

Keats lived at the house for two years, and they were arguably his most productive as a poet. He met Fanny Brawne, his next door neighbour, they became engaged to be married but the romance was cut short as Keats' health deteriorated and he died in Rome two years later. Admission charge is £5.00 Adults and £3.00 Concessions.

TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY**LUNCHTIME CONCERT**

Meet at Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London EC3M 4QH, at 12.45 pm (concert commences at 1.05 pm).

Take 'pot luck' with the organiser of this visit. Details of concerts were not available at time of going to Press. Sometimes, there is a pre-concert talk from 12.15-12.45 pm.

THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY**GUIDED WALK: MYSTERIOUS LONDON AND THE DA VINCI CODE**

Meet at Temple Underground Station, at 2.00 pm.

This is one of the London Walks in the City of London area which Dan Brown touched on in *The Da Vinci Code* (the Temple Church). Cost £7.00 Adults, or £5.00 for Super Adults (65+).

TUESDAY 2 MARCH**LUNCH at the INTERNATIONAL**

Meet at the International Restaurant, 116 St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (corner of St Martin's Lane and opposite the National Portrait Gallery), at 12.20 for 12.30 pm.

This restaurant offers a 'lunch meal deal' of a Main Course and a Drink for £5.95, a Starter or a Dessert can be added for £3.00 each. There is a choice of five Main Courses, typically: fish and chips, Thai style vegetables or chicken curry; gourmet beef burger and fries; artichoke hearts and goat's cheese. The menu may vary: an à la carte menu is also available.

MONDAY 8 MARCH**WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR**

Meet at Natural History Museum (Central Hall, under the head of the Diplodocus), Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, at 11.00 am.

Member of the Natural History Museum and Circle member, Judy Thursby, has once again very kindly donated six of her guest tickets (no charge) for this very popular exhibition. The ticket prices would be £9.00 for adults (incl. £1.00 voluntary donation to the upkeep of the Museum) or £4.50 for seniors (incl. 50p donation). Please remember that there is a strict security search at the Museum, so do allow time for this.

WEDNESDAY 10 MARCH**TALK: THE LONDON UNDERGROUND**

Meet at Victory Services Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF, at 7.00 pm.

Neil Lloyd has been interested in the London Underground for over fifty years, and has lectured on it for the last twenty. His illustrated talk deals with the history of the system.

THURSDAY 11 MARCH**SIR HARDY AMIES: A CENTURY OF COUTURE**

Meet inside Hardy Amies, 14 Savile Row, London W1S 3JN, at 2.15 for 2.30 pm.

To mark the 100th anniversary of Sir Hardy Amies; birth (17 July 1909), Hardy Amies has opened its extensive and largely unseen archive to the public. The opening exhibit pays homage to the man and the brand, capturing all elements of his life and career; his association with Royalty, his foray into menswear and his years on Savile Row, as well as displaying photographs and material associated with his country house in Oxfordshire and his personal diaries and letters. Dozens of previously unseen sketches of Princess, and later Queen Elizabeth II, will be on display alongside sketches for the costumes for the film *2001: A Space Odyssey* and designs for film star clients from Ava Gardner to Patrick Magee. We shall also see Hardy Amies' KVCO along with war medals, pips and other material associated with his military service with the SOE during WWII. The visit will last 2 hours, commencing with a 40-minute video, after which we shall be guided around the exhibition by the Curator, Austin Mutti-Mewse. Maximum 6 people, therefore the visit is restricted to Circle members only. There is no charge.

TUESDAY 16 MARCH**AN ART LOVERS' AFTERNOON**

Meet at 14 Forsyth House, Tachbrook Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 2LE, at 2.30 pm.

Bring along a picture or two. It could be a postcard, book illustration, magazine, etc. We shall see what we come up with. The theme is 'Street Scene'. If you can't find a picture, just come anyway. Afternoon tea, with homemade cakes, will be served. Cost: £5.00.

THURSDAY 18 MARCH**CLOSING DATE for TOUR of WINSOR & NEWTON FACTORY**

Please see item under Tuesday 18 May.

THURSDAY 18 MARCH**LUNCH at WEST LONDON CATERING COLLEGE**

Meet in the Restaurant at West London Catering College, Talgarth Road, London W14, at 12.15 pm.

You may want to order a glass of wine. The cost of the meal is £7.95. Coffee is extra.

WEDNESDAY 24 MARCH**VISIT to RIVERSIDE POLICE MUSEUM**

Meet at Thames River Police, 98 Wapping High Street, London E1, at 2.15 for 2.30 pm.

This Museum is in a unique ex-Carpenter's Workshop containing within a working Police Station and displays the history of the Thames River Police. The visit will last 1-1½ hours. There is no charge but donations to one of the River Police Charities would be welcome. If you wish to have lunch before the visit, please indicate when booking, and a time and venue will be arranged.

SUNDAY 28 MARCH**MUSIC AFTERNOON**

Meet at 45 Coberg Close, London SW1P 1DP, at 3.00 pm.

Enjoy relaxing to old-fashioned teatime music, to rival The Savoy! Afternoon tea will be served. A contribution of £5.00 will be collected on the day.

SATURDAY 10 APRIL**A WALK IN THE PARK**

Meet at Black Lion Gate, Bayswater Road, London W2, at 11.15 am.

Our first stop will be the Princess Diana Childrens' Playground and the famous tree trunk, passing the Round Pond, then Prince Albert's Memorial, on to the Serpentine Gallery to look at the current exhibition, crossing the road to Diana's Water Memorial, a stroll by the Serpentine, then a coffee stop at the Waterside Café.

TUESDAY 13 APRIL**VISIT to DULWICH PICTURE GALLERY:
PAUL NASH – ‘THE ELEMENTS’ EXHIBITION**

Meet at Entrance to Dulwich Picture Gallery, Dulwich Village, London SE21, at 11.00 am.

This exhibition shows the works of Paul Nash (1889-1946), an English Landscape, Surrealist and War Artist. Serving on the front-line in both World Wars, he painted graphic scenes of the conflicts, his most well known paintings being *Battle of Britain* and *Totes Meer* (Dead Sea). He also painted beautiful landscapes of the British Downs and images with a sense of history, such as Iron Age forts and Stonehenge. We can also see the permanent collection there and afterwards have lunch. Cost is £9.00, Senior Citizens £6.00.

WEDNESDAY 14 APRIL**TALK: THE CENTRAL LONDON PARKS**

Meet at Victory Services Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF, at 7.00 pm.

James Buttress portrays Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, St James's Park, Buckingham Palace and Clarence House and their histories.

MONDAY 19 APRIL**PRIVATE TOUR of THE NAVAL CLUB**

Meet in Reception, The Naval Club, 38 Hill Street, London W1 5NS, at 2.45 for 3.00 pm.

38 Hill Street, Mayfair, is a Grade II listed Georgian building constructed in the 1750s as a private residence. It remained so until 1945, when it was purchased by the RNVR Officers Association to house the RNVR Club, now the Naval Club. In 1954 the Admiral of the Fleet formally dedicated the building as an RNVR War Memorial to those members of the Royal Navy Reserve Forces who gave their lives on active service during WW2. Our guided tour lasting 45 minutes will take in the ground, 1st, and 2nd floors and public rooms, culminating in the Bar, where tea, coffee and biscuits will be available. The maximum number for the tour is 12. There is no charge but a donation will be appreciated towards WAVE Heritage Trust, which is a charity dedicated to preserving and maintaining the fabric of the building for the benefit of the public.

WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL**VISIT to OSBORNE HOUSE – NATIONAL
HEADQUARTERS of THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF FLOWER ARRANGEMENT
SOCIETIES**

Meet at Osborne House, 12 Devonshire Square, London EC2, at 2.50 for 3.00 pm.

Osborne House is a Grade II listed mid-Georgian house, well preserved internally with beautiful, ornate cornices and plasterwork. It is now the HQ of NAFAS. Today, we shall have a tour of the building by one of their National Officers. The visit will last approximately 1 hour and tea/coffee/biscuits will be offered. There is no charge for this visit. For health and safety reasons, the maximum allowed is 20 persons. Please note that there are a number of stairs involved and there is no lift.

SATURDAY 24 APRIL**DINING OUT**

Meet at Salieri Restaurant, 376 Strand, London WC1, at 12.30 pm.

This restaurant is a 'first' for the London Ashridge Circle and is an interesting venue. The prices and menu should suit all.

TUESDAY 27 APRIL**ELTHAM PALACE AND GARDENS**

Meet at Eltham Station, at 10.50 am. It is a short walk from the station to Eltham Palace, Court Yard, Off Court Road, Eltham, London SE9.

Built in 1936 by textile magnates Stephen and Virginia Courtauld, it reflects the glamour and allure of 1930s fashionable society. It is a : £8.70 Adults, £7.40 Concessions, Free to English Heritage Members.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 12 MAY

TALK: A CAREER IN FINGERPRINTS

Meet at Victory Services Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF, at 7.00 pm.

Peter Jones tells how he came to be working as a civilian Fingerprint Expert with the Metropolitan Police for more than 38 years, in the Bureau at Scotland Yard and at crime scenes gathering evidence, which on many occasions led to giving expert evidence in Courts of Law, both in London and in many other parts of the country for forces which did not have fully qualified experts of their own. He gives a brief history of how fingerprints came to be used as the premier method of proof of identity, and explains how this is done. He then looks at one particularly high profile case, the murder of Leslie Whittle, with which he was involved.

TUESDAY 28 MAY

**GUIDED TOUR of WINSOR & NEWTON
FACTORY**

Meet at Winsor & Newton, Whitefriars Avenue, Harrow, HA3 5RH, at 10.20 am (for 10.30 am tour).

Winsor & Newton are famous for the manufacture of artists' materials. They have been at the forefront of colour manufacture since 1832 when William Winsor and Henry Newton founded the Company. The visit, which lasts about 3-3½ hours, begins with a tour of the colour mixing works and the museum. This is followed by coffee and questions, and the visit ends with hands-on experience with some of the materials seen. The cost is £5.00 per person and we shall be given some complimentary products.

Please note: Photographs are not allowed and bear in mind that this is a Chemical Manufacturing Plant and as such appropriate footwear must be worn whilst on tour, i.e. closed toe shoes, with flat soles (no sandals or high heels). Also be aware that the tour involves a fair amount of walking and that there are numerous stairs to be accessed.

TUESDAY 15 JUNE

VISIT to THE GOVERNMENT ART COLLECTION

Details of this visit will appear in the next programme.

ADVANCE NOTICE

BedZED, WALLINGTON, SURREY

BedZED is an urban eco-village with 100 homes and 10 workspaces. It is the most comprehensive example of sustainable development in the UK. They organise tours, lasting between 1½-2 hours on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons at a cost of £22.00 per person, including light refreshments. The maximum number per tour is 17. The eco-village is a 20-minute journey from London Victoria Station, with a five-minute walk from the station. This visit could be of particular interest to any members involved with the administration of Residents' Associations.

To gauge whether there is sufficient interest among Circle members for us to book a tour in the Summer of 2010, please let Marion McGregor know if you are interested, by Sunday 31 January 2010.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

The London Ashridge Circle has computerised its membership details. The information will NOT be used for any purpose other than the mailing of London Ashridge Circle information of interest to members, nor will names / addresses / telephone numbers be divulged to any other organisation or person. Any member not wishing to have his / her details held on computer should put this IN WRITING to the Chairman, Alan Amos, Flat 9, Danebury, 9 St Quintin Gardens, London W10 6AS.

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF A MEMBER'S NAME IS NOT ON THE COMPUTER, HE / SHE WILL NOT RECEIVE THE PROGRAMME OF EVENTS BY POST AND CAN ONLY OBTAIN THIS AT A MONTHLY MEETING.