

LONDON ASHRIDGE CIRCLE

PROGRAMME: JANUARY-MAY 2011

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.

Contact the visit organiser for further details and information, if necessary.

TUESDAY 4 JANUARY

VENICE: CANALETTO AND HIS RIVALS

Meet at Front Hall, Sainsbury Wing, National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, at 2.15 for 2.30 pm start.

Paintings of Venice by Canaletto and his rivals – price for concessions £6.00.

WEDNESDAY 12 JANUARY

TALK: FROST, FREEZES AND FAIRS

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

Radio Weatherman, Ian Currie, takes a look at some great winters of the past 1,000 years, when even the mighty Thames froze and fairs were held on ice.

WEDNESDAY 19 JANUARY

TEA ON THE TERRACE

Meet downstairs in the foyer of the Le Meridien Piccadilly Hotel, for tea on the terrace, price £24.95.

THURSDAY 20 JANUARY

VISIT TO THE FREEMASONS' HALL

Meet at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London WC2, at 1.45 for the 2.00 pm tour.

During the day there are tours around the Freemasons' Grand Temple, which was dedicated in 1933 although the site has been associated with Freemasonry for over two centuries. The museum has collections of porcelain, glassware, jewels and Masonic regalia.

WEDNESDAY 26 JANUARY

THE ENCHANTED PALACE

Meet at Kensington Palace, at 10.45 for 11.00 am.

This is a rescheduled visit from the previous programme to the Palace, which has been transformed with spectacular installations, taking inspiration from the surroundings and the Princesses who once lived there. Tickets £12.50, concessions £11.00, payable on the day.

TUESDAY 1 FEBRUARY

VISIT TO HARDY AMIES

Meet inside Hardy Amies, 14 Savile Row, London W1S 3JN, at 10.45 for 11.00 am.

The visit will last 1½-2 hours and includes a video. We shall be guided round by the Curator, Austin Mutti-Mewse. Maximum 10 people. There is no charge.

WEDNESDAY 2 FEBRUARY

THE LIFE OF RICHARD OWEN

Meet by the Information Desk in the Central Hall of the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD.

Owen was the foremost comparative anatomist of his day, a brilliant scientist who gave us the name 'dinosaur' and described countless new species. Cost £6.00, non-members £7.00.

WEDNESDAY 9 FEBRUARY**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING followed by
TALK: KENSINGTON**

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

Diane Burstein, London Blue Badge Guide and City of London Guide, takes a visual tour of part of the Royal Borough, where many famous persons lived and worked, and its beautiful buildings and open spaces.

THURSDAY 10 FEBRUARY**TRADITIONAL ROAST LUNCH**

Meet in the Foyer of The Civil Service Club, 13/15 Great Scotland Yard, London SW1A 2HU, at 12.30 for 1.00 pm sharp.

Enjoy a 3-course roast lunch, a glass of wine and coffee/tea: price £12.50 inclusive, pay after meal.

TUESDAY 15 FEBRUARY**THE AUTHENTICITY OF GENIUS**

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

In this free public lecture, given by Professor Christopher Hogwood, CBE, of Gresham College, Felix Mendelssohn is proposed a more precocious example of genius as compared to Mozart. Mendelssohn had an even greater range of abilities including painting and languages, in addition to composing and performing. As a test case, Professor Hogwood will examine Mendelssohn's Octet for Strings, Op 20, written at the age of sixteen and performed for this lecture by players from the Royal Academy of Music.

WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY**EXHIBITION: EVOLVING ENGLISH, ONE
LANGUAGE – MANY VOICES**

Meet in the Foyer of The British Library, Euston Road, London NW1, at 11.15 am.

SATURDAY 26 FEBRUARY**RICHMOND THEATRE**

Meet at Carluccio's at 12 noon if you wish to have lunch, or at Richmond Theatre, The Green, at 2.15 pm.

We shall see Noel Coward's comedy *Blithe Spirit*, starring Alison Steadman, Robert Bathurst, Hermione Morris and Ruthie Henshall. Prices: £24.00 for senior citizens, Rows K and L.

WEDNESDAY 23 FEBRUARY**CROYDON AIRPORT VISITOR CENTRE**

Meet at East Croydon Station, at 10.30 am.

The Visitor Centre is in the 1928 airport terminal building. A guide will tell the story of Croydon Airport. Cost £3.00. Lunch afterwards in the town.

THURSDAY 3 MARCH**VISIT TO WILLIAM MORRIS GALLERY**

Meet at Blackhorse Road Station (Victoria line) at 2.00 pm, for a ten minute bus journey (123) to the house in Forest Road, Walthamstow, London E17.

The Gallery is housed in the 18th Century Water House, the Georgian home of the Morris family from 1848 to 1856. Its grounds are now attractively laid out as Lloyd Park. The house contains a display of Morris's work and personal memorabilia, together with examples of the products of his associates. Entry is free.

SUNDAY 6 MARCH**THE PLAYERS, MUSIC HALL COMPANY
PRESENT "UNDER THE ARCHES"**

Meet in Foyer, The New Players' Theatre, The Arches, Villiers Street, at 3.30 for 4.00 pm.

Victorian Music Hall at its very best, come along the join the fun. Restaurant and bar available. Tickets £20.00-£25.00.

TUESDAY 8 MARCH**VISIT TO CABINET WAR ROOMS**

Meet at the Main Entrance, Churchill Museum, Horseguard Road, London SW1, at 11.00 am.

This site became operational in August 1939 and in 1984 was designated as an historic site and opened to the public. Price: £14.95 adults, £12.00 seniors.

WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH**TALK: EXPLORING THE MOON**

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

Ian Ridpath portrays its main features, the history of lunar exploration culminating in the Apollo Landings, and why astronomers think it was born when another body hit the earth.

TUESDAY 15 MARCH**GUIDED TOUR OF HARROW SCHOOL**

Meet outside the School Speech Room (by Zebra crossing at top of Grove Hill, opposite Coach Park), Harrow on the Hill, at 10.45 for 11.00 am prompt.

The tour will last approximately 1½ hours – the full cost is £7.25 per person, concessions £6.25 provided there is a minimum of 10 people. Members' guests welcome. There are a few cafes on the Hill where we can have lunch afterwards, or go to Harrow Town Centre.

WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH**LUNCH AT OSCAR'S RESTAURANT**

Meet in Bar at 12 noon, or Oscar's Restaurant, Croydon Park Hotel, 7 Altyre Road (opp. East Croydon Station).

Buffet Table and Carvery, 3-course lunch inc. coffee £14.95.

WEDNESDAY 6 APRIL**WINDSOR**

Meet Victoria Colonnades Coach Station – Stop 1 – to catch the Greenline Coach No. 702, which departs at 11.10 am. When you board, should you show your Freedom Pass to the Driver and you go FREE.

We can have a walk in the Town and then find somewhere nice for lunch.

WEDNESDAY 13 APRIL**TALK: PEOPLE – LAUGHTER**

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

Steve Nallon, Actor, Impressionist, Comedian, discusses the various components and aspects of comedy.

SATURDAY 16 APRIL**TOUR OF ALMEIDA THEATRE**

Meet at Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, Islington, London N1 1TA, at 10.45 for 11.00 am.

Five tickets have been booked for an hour's tour of this interesting and historical building which has seen many uses before becoming a theatre and attracting high-profile actors. Afterwards there may be an opportunity to attend a matinee performance of *The Knot of the Heart*.

WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL**CHISWICK HOUSE**

Meet at the main gates, at 12 noon.

This English Heritage House re-opened last year, after extensive renovation – also much work done on the grounds – Admission, £5.00 for concessions.

FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY 11 MAY

TALK: MAX, THE INCOMPARABLE

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

Frances Huges describes the life and art of Sir Max Beerbohm – Caricaturist, Drama Critic and Writer.

WEDNESDAY 18 MAY

LONDON EYE

Meet at the London Eye (on the South Bank near Waterloo Bridge) at 6.00 pm.

Come and join us to see the sights of London on the “Eye” (£8.55) followed by a meal at the Archduke if you so wish – 7.15 pm (Archduke Restaurant, Concert Hall Approach, South Bank, London SE1 8XU) – a 2-course meal £16.00 or a 3-course meal at £20.00, and there is a discretionary service charge. At going to press there is coffee included.

SATURDAY 28 MAY

REHEARSAL FOR TROOPING OF THE COLOUR

Details will appear in the next programme.

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.