

LONDON ASHRIDGE CIRCLE

PROGRAMME: MAY-SEPTEMBER 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.

URGENT! URGENT! URGENT!

Please see items under Tuesday 13 July if you wish to go to the Queen's Gallery for the Exhibition – "Victoria and Albert – Art and Love" and Saturday 14 August if you wish to visit the Richmond Theatre to see "The Country Girl", starring Martin Jarvis and Jenny Seagrove.

FRIDAY 7 MAY

GUIDED TOUR of GUILDHALL ART GALLERY

Meet at Guildhall Art Gallery, by the revolving doors, Guildhall Yard, London EC2V 5AE, at 2.00 for the 2.15 pm tour.

Guildhall Art Gallery is the home in the City of London Corporation's collection of works of art, presenting permanent displays, a lively programme of special exhibitions and the remains of London's Roman Amphitheatre. Admission is free.

MONDAY 10 MAY

CLOSING DATE for TREASURES OF LAMBETH PALACE LIBRARY EXHIBITION

See details under Wednesday 21 July.

TUESDAY 11 MAY

SHAKESPEARE'S KINGS AND WESTMINSTER ABBEY – RICHARD III AND HENRY VII

Meet at Westminster Underground Station, at 6.30 pm: Performance starts at 7.00 pm, ends 8.30 pm.

Westminster Abbey joins forces with the Royal Shakespeare Company for a unique collaboration inspired by Shakespeare's History Plays which tell the story of the Kings of England, all linked with Westminster Abbey, as they battle for crown and kingdom in the turbulent times of medieval England. Music from the period will be sung and an explanation of the Plays given. Tickets are £15.00 each and seats are unreserved. The seating will be in the historic setting of the coronation "theatre" where monarchs have been crowned.

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, when on many occasions led to giving 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.

FRIDAY 14 MAY

CARTOON MUSEUM: RONALD SEARLE – GRAPHIC MASTER

Meet at Cartoon Museum, 35 Little Russell Street, London WC1A 2HH, at 2.00 pm.

Ronald Searle celebrated his 90th birthday on 3 March 2010. Regarded as "The Master" by cartoonists, not only in Britain but around the world, this major exhibition shows 140 works from across his seventy-five-year career. It also includes some of his war drawings, historic works collected by him and drawings specially done for him by some of today's leading artists, such as Steve Bell, Gerald Scarfe and others. Admission charge: £5.50, concessions £4.00.

TUESDAY 18 MAY**GUIDED TOUR of WINSOR & NEWTON
FACTORY**

Meet at Winsor & Newton, Whitefriars Avenue, Harrow, Middx HA3 5RH, at 10.15 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. Please note the tour, which lasts about 3 hours and costs £5.00, involves a fair amount of walking and that there are numerous stairs to be accessed. Photographs are not allowed.

WEDNESDAY 19 MAY**BARCLAYS BANK FILM SOCIETY:
FILM – FROST NIXON**

Meet at 20th Century Fox Preview Theatre, 31/32 Soho Square, London W1, at 5.45 pm; Performance starts at 6.00 pm and usually finishes by 8.00 pm.

Starring Martin Sheen and Frank Langella in an illuminating account of the historic TV interview between the ambitious TV chat show presenter and the disgraced US President. Ticket price is £2.00 each, payable on the day.

TUESDAY 25 MAY**DAY OUT IN LEWES**

Meet at London Victoria Station, platform entrance, at 10.25 for 10.47 am train to Lewes (arr. 11.48).

This beautiful County Town of East Sussex has a rich history from Saxon times. After lunch, we will visit Lewes Castle & Barbican House Museum and Anne of Cleves House and Garden – both are within ten minutes' walk of the Station. There is quite a hill from the Station to the High Street and to the Castle, but thereafter all walking is on the level and downhill. Combined admission prices to the Castle, Museum and Anne of Cleves House are: Adults £8.80, Senior Citizens £7.60; half price admission for English Heritage members and free admission to National Art Fund members.

SATURDAY 5 JUNE**BUS TOUR of THE OLYMPIC SITE**

Meet at Stratford Underground Station exit, at 12.30 pm.

This popular, free bus tour of the Olympic Site by Park Tours allows only six places to be booked in advance. The meeting time allows for a coffee or snack before the tour starts at 1.15 pm, when we shall have to produce the identity requested before boarding the bus. Park Tours will confirm the booking and what is required for identity nearer the time and those coming will be told what to bring with them.

MONDAY 7 JUNE**FRA ANGELICO TO LEONARDO:
ITALIAN RENAISSANCE DRAWINGS**

Meet at British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG, at 11.45 am.

This exhibition is a unique collaboration between the Uffizi in Florence and the British Museum, displaying 100 exquisite drawings by Italian Renaissance artists. On Mondays, between 12.00 noon and 4.00 pm, there is a special admission price of £6.00 for senior citizens. If several members are interested, tickets will be pre-booked, otherwise we can just turn up and pay but we may not be able to gain immediate entry – in which case we can have a snack first.

TUESDAY 15 JUNE**GOVERNMENT ART COLLECTION**

Meet at Godge Street Underground Station, at 6.10 for 6.30 pm visit.

Tonight we shall have a behind-the-scenes look at how the Government's major collection of British art operates. Works of art from the Collection are displayed in British Government buildings both in the UK and around the world. Ten places have been booked. There is no charge. For security reasons, the names of those attending have to be submitted ten days before the event, when the actual location of our visit will be disclosed.

WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE**VISIT to BATTERSEA DOGS HOME**

Meet at Ticket Office, Victoria Station, for 10.30 am train to Battersea Park (frequent service), or Battersea Park Station at 10.50 am. The Battersea Dogs Home is located at 4 Battersea Park Road, SW8 4AA – a 5-minute walk from Battersea Park Station.

There will be a talk and a short tour, which will last about 1½ hours. We shall be briefed on health and safety, which includes no touching of animals or putting fingers through bars. For a group, we need a minimum of ten people; £5.00 per person will be collected on the day, which will go towards the upkeep of the Home. There is a canteen on site, which visitors are welcome to use.

WEDNESDAY 23 JUNE**VISIT to LEIGHTON HOUSE**

Meet outside Leighton House, 12 Holland Park, London W14 8LZ, at 11.00 am.

This property, the home of Lord Leighton, was regarded as “his private palace of art”. Built by George Aitchison, it was extended and embellished and has just undergone a £1.6 million refurbishment. The admission charge is £5.00, Concessions £1.00.

TUESDAY 29 JUNE**LUNCH at CROYDON COLLEGE**

Meet at Chef's Restaurant, Croydon College, Park Lane entrance, Croydon CR9 1DX (the entrance is opposite the Nestlé building and next to The Fairfield Halls), at 11.45 am, in the bar, for 12.00 noon.

The cost of a three-course meal is £10.00. Wine is available at reasonable prices.

WEDNESDAY 30 JUNE**ROYAL SOCIETY SUMMER EXHIBITION**

Meet at Cafeteria, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1, at 2.00 pm.

2010 is The Royal Society's 350th anniversary and to celebrate this occasion the Southbank Centre and the Royal Society are coming together to explore science and to understand the world in which we live. The festival will be filling every corner of the Southbank. The Royal Society Summer Exhibition is always a most interesting and fascinating event.

FRIDAY 2 JULY**VISIT to THE CINEMA MUSEUM**

Meet at Main Exit, Elephant & Castle Underground Station, at 1.30 pm.

We shall have a guided tour of this museum which has an extensive archive, the contents ranging from items relating to film production to posters, film magazines, uniforms, clocks, photographs, music, memorabilia from old cinemas, etc. Maximum size of group is 10 persons. A donation of £5.00 is payable on the day.

WEDNESDAY 7 JULY**DR JOHNSON WALK**

Meet at Public Entrance to Dr Johnson's House, 17 Gough Square (off Fleet Street), London EC4A 3DE, at 2.30 for 3.00 pm start.

This walk, led by an experienced City of London Guide, follows in the footsteps of Dr Samuel Johnson, the famous writer, critic and lexicographer. We shall explore the courts and alleys off Fleet Street and seek out some of the places where Johnson resided and some of the people he knew.

TUESDAY 13 JULY**EXHIBITION: VICTORIA AND ALBERT –
ART and LOVE**

Meet at Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1, at 1.20 for 1.30 pm (timed tickets).

This exhibition displays presents bought for each other by Victoria and Albert, ranging from paintings, books, photographs, sculptures, jewels and memorabilia. These 400 items show that their collecting over twenty years must have been non-stop. Adults £8.75, Concessions £7.75, including audio tour.

THURSDAY 15 JULY**WESTMINSTER ABBEY GARDENS
BAND CONCERT**

Meet outside Westminster Abbey Bookshop at 12 noon (concert starts 12.30 pm and finishes at 2.00 pm).

There is always an excellent band playing, with a very varied programme of music. Let us hope for a nice warm day. Bring a picnic or buy from the kiosk. If wet, the concert is held in nearby St Margaret's Church. Concert is free but a donation would be appreciated.

WEDNESDAY 21 JULY**TREASURES of LAMBETH PALACE LIBRARY**

Meet at Lambeth Palace, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1, at 10.45 for 11.00 am (timed tickets).

The exhibition draws upon the Library's incomparably rich and diverse collection of manuscripts, archives and books, some of which will be on display for the first time. Highlights include a Gutenberg Bible printed in 1455 and books owned and used by King Richard III, King Henry VIII, Queen Elizabeth I, King Charles I, and lots, lots, more. 10 tickets have been booked at the group rate of £7.00 per head. If we are less than 10 in number, then the normal rate is £8.00, Concessions £7.00. The admission charge includes a free audio and a concessionary rate of £2.50 (instead of £6.50) if you wish to visit the nearby Garden Museum. There is a café at the Garden Museum.

TUESDAY 27 JULY**MAIDS OF HONOUR and KEW GARDENS**

Meet at Maids of Honour, 288 Kew Road, Kew Gardens, TW9 3DU, at 12.00 noon for 12.30 pm.

A good choice for lunch here at the Maids of Honour or, maybe, just soup or a sweet. Afterwards, we shall walk across the road to Kew Gardens, admission £13.00, finishing with tea at The Orangery.

TUESDAY 3 AUGUST**VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM EXHIBITION:
GRACE KELLY STYLE – FASHION FOR A
HOLLYWOOD PRINCESS**

Meet at Victoria & Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7, at 10.45 for 11.00 am.

Over 50 outfits worn by Grace Kelly, both as a Hollywood star and as Princess Grace of Monaco, will be on display. Six timed tickets will be available, priced £6.00 Adults and £4.00 Concessions.

THURSDAY 5 AUGUST**VISIT to the THAMES BARRIER**

Meet at Westminster Pier, at 10.15 for the 10.30 am boat to Greenwich, arriving approx. 50 minutes later.

With all the recent talk of climate change, we plan to visit the Thames Flood Barrier today. On arrival at Greenwich we can either have lunch there or travel on by bus to the Barrier and have a snack in the café in the Information Centre. Entry to Thames Barrier: £3.50 (adults), £3.00 (concessions).

MONDAY 9 AUGUST**LUNCH at RUISLIP LIDO**

Meet at The Water's Edge, Reservoir Road, Ruislip, Middlesex, at 12.15 pm.

A good Carvery selection for £4.00 approximately. Desserts cost £2.00/£3.00.

THURSDAY 12 AUGUST**REGENT'S PARK THEATRE:
INTO THE WOODS**

Meet at Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park, London NW1 4NP, at 2.00 for 2.30 pm.

This year the musical *Into the Woods* by Stephen Sondheim is being performed and, if the standard is up to previous years, we should have a very pleasant afternoon. Tickets will be bought on the day.

SATURDAY 14 AUGUST**VISIT to RICHMOND THEATRE**

Meet at Carluccio's Restaurant (opposite Richmond Station) at 12 noon, if you would like lunch, or Richmond Theatre at 2.15 for the 2.30 pm performance.

The production is *The Country Girl*, a mystery play, starring Martin Jarvis and Jenny Seagrove. Tickets are priced at £23.00, but there is a concessionary rate of £20.00 for Senior Citizens, in Row P (stalls).

TUESDAY 17 AUGUST

WHITECHAPEL ART GALLERY

Meet in the Foyer, Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, London E1, at 1.45 pm.

Let us have a good look around this recently refurbished Gallery. It has some very different art and lots of sculptures. Admission free. There is a coffee shop and restaurant in the Gallery.

THURSDAY 26 AUGUST

**GUIDED WALK: KENSINGTON GARDENS
- QUEEN CAROLINE'S GARDENS**

Meet at Broad Walk Café (near the Elfin Oak and Children's Playground entrance), at 1.45 for 2.00 pm prompt departure.

Kensington Gardens as we know them today were largely created and laid out by Queen Caroline and her Royal Gardener in the 1730s. On this walk we shall look at some of the interesting features she introduced, and why. Five places have been booked for this free walk, lasting 1½ hours. More places may be reserved in another person's name if space available.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

**KENSINGTON PALACE EXHIBITION:
THE ENCHANTED PALACE**

Full details to be given in the next programme.

WEDNESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

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.

TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

VISIT to THE LIGHTBOX, WOKING

Full details to be given 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.