

# LONDON ASHRIDGE CIRCLE

## PROGRAMME: SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2009

*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.*

### **TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER**

### **CLOSING DATE for RICHMOND THEATRE**

Please see entry under Saturday, 17 October.

### **TUESDAY 1 SEPTEMBER**

### **VISIT to J W WATERHOUSE EXHIBITION**

Meet at Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1, at 2.00 pm.

Come and see J W Waterhouse's mysterious, 19<sup>th</sup> Century paintings, which were hi-jacked by the hippy movement in the 1970s and plastered on student bedroom walls the world over. Now, fine art welcomes Waterhouse back to the fold. Full admission £9.00, concessions £6.00.

### **THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER**

### **VISIT to CLARENCE HOUSE**

Meet at Clarence House, The Mall (North side of the Mall near Stable Yard), at 11.45 for 12.00 noon.

This Nash house was the home of the Queen Mother, and on her death became the official residence of Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall, where official engagements take place and visitors from abroad are received. The tour, around five ground floor rooms, will feature many works of art and furniture, including Fabergé porcelain and silver from the Bowes-Lyon collection.

### **WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER**

### **TALK: SWING UNDER THE SWASTIKA**

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

Terry Charman has worked for the Imperial War Museum for many years. He has studied all facets of the Hitler regime, especially propaganda, music, the arts and domestic policies. He has written books and lectures on Nazi films and jazz and swing in the Third Reich, and appears regularly on radio and TV as a subject expert. His talk will show how the citizens performed jazz and swing (forbidden by Hitler) and how the Nazis used parodies of "pops" as propaganda to send to their enemies.

### **FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER**

### **GUIDED WALK: HYDE PARK – WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE**

Meet at Serpentine Bar & Kitchen (formerly The Dell Café), Serpentine Road side (near to Hyde Park), at 12.45 for 1.00 pm prompt departure.

Discover the source of secret rivers, long since hidden from public view. On the walk, we shall explore how water has played a vital role in the shaping of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens over the centuries. From a secret Victorian reservoir to modern day boreholes – all will be explored. The walk is free and will finish at 2.30 pm near Lancaster Gate Tube Station. Five places have been booked, which is the maximum number allowed by one person. Subject to space, more places may be reserved in another person's name.

### **TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER**

### **VISIT to NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY and LUNCHTIME CONCERT at ST MARTIN-IN-THE- FIELDS**

Meet at National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2, at 11.00 am.

Atmospheric images of the Victorian Poet Laureate, Alfred, Lord Tennyson, including photographs by Julia Margaret Cameron, marking his bicentenary. Admission free. Afterwards, we can have lunch at St Martin-in-the-Fields and then go to the concert, which commences at 1.00 pm. The concert is one in the Concordia Foundation Series with Julia Groves (flute) and Yuki Negishi (piano). Although the concert is free, a donation of £3.00 is requested.

**SATURDAY 19 – SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER****OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND**

During this weekend, access is granted to many buildings – old and new, big and small – many of them normally off limits to the public. It is hoped to have some brochures available at the September meeting so you can visit some of the buildings, perhaps in the company of other Circle members.

**FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER****CLOSING DATE for GUIDED TOUR of  
THE ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE**

See item under Tuesday, 8 December.

**SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER****MUSIC EVENING**

Meet at 22 Culverden Road, Balham, London SW12 9LP, at 5.00 pm.

Join Elwyn Carter for An Evening with Handel. Refreshments with wine will be served. Cost £5.00.

**TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER****HARROW MUSEUM: TALK –  
NIGHTS ON THE ROAD**

Meet at Harrow Museum, Headstone Manor, Pinner View, Harrow HA2 6PX, at 1.45 for 2.00 pm.

Entertaining stories by Laurie Watson, based on a trucker's experience in the 1960s, ranging from driving vehicles that would now be banned, to landladies with attitude! There is an entrance fee of £3.00, payable on the day. There is a snack bar at the Museum serving teas/coffees, cold drinks, biscuits and cakes. If you want to eat prior to the talk, then there is an extensive choice of eating places in Harrow-on-the-Hill.

**THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER****THE CARTOON MUSEUM:  
ENGINES OF ENCHANTMENT**

Meet at The Cartoon Museum, 35 Little Russell Street, London WC1A 2HH, at 11.00 am.

An exhibition showing the cartoons and machines of the celebrated cartoonist Rowland Emmet, creator of the *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* machines. Full admission is £5.00, Concessions £4.00.

**TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER****VISIT to THE STEPHENS COLLECTION**

Meet at Finchley Central Underground Station at 12.00 midday (if you fancy a fish and chip lunch), or The Stephens Collection, Avenue House, East End Road, London N3 3QE, at 2.00 pm.

Dr Henry Stephens was the inventor in 1832 of the famous "Blue-Black Writing Fluid", later developed into ink. His son, Henry Charles Stephens, developed the business, became an MP and fought numerous battles on behalf of local interests. He was affectionately known as "Inky" Stephens. He bought Avenue House in 1874, altered and extended it, adding, among other things, a laboratory, where he carried out his experiments in writing fluid. The grounds were landscaped and many rare trees planted, still here today. The Stephens Collection aims to show aspects of the life of Henry Stephens, the history of the Stephens Ink Company, the history of Avenue House and the development of writing materials. Admission is free.

**SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER****VISIT to BLETCHLEY PARK, BLETCHLEY**

Meet at Euston Station, with rail ticket, by platform entrance, at 10.40 am.

Bletchley Park was once Britain's best-kept secret. Today the Park is open to the public as a heritage site and museum. There is a wide range of exhibitions. The Main Block B museum tells the complete story and exhibits include the famous Enigma machine; the Lorenz: Bombe Rebuild – now complete after 13 years' work; Home Front exhibition and World War II aviation display, in addition to many other exhibitions and collections. There are public guided tours every hour, commencing at 11.00 am and also an audio tour, the cost of both being included in the admission price of £10.00 or £8.00 for concessions. In Hut 4, there is the Galley Restaurant serving hot and cold food.

**TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER****VISIT to THE ACCESSIBLE ARTIC,  
PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION**

Meet at Canada House, Trafalgar Square, London WC2, at 11.15 am.

This is a Royal Canadian Geographical Exhibition celebrating 80 years of Arctic photography – amazing scenery. Admission free. This is just a leisurely outing followed by lunch.

**WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER**

**TALK: ANYTHING TO DECLARE, SIR?**

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

Fred Carpenter worked for the previously-named Customs & Excise for many years. He is thus well placed to tell the history of this department. His talk will include some light-hearted personal reminiscences.

**SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER**

**RICHMOND THEATRE: THE GRASS IS GREENER by Hugh and Margaret Williams**

Meet at Carluccio's (opposite Richmond Station) at 12.00 noon if you want lunch, or Richmond Theatre at 2.15 pm for 2.30 pm performance.

The play is a comedy about an English Earl who opens his stately home to the public but the arrival of an American millionaire poses complications!! The cast includes Liza Goddard and Christopher Cazenove. Tickets are priced at £19.00 for senior citizens and £22.00 full price. We have seats in Rows I and M.

**WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER**

**LUNCH at THE MAIDS OF HONOUR**

Meet at Restaurant, 288 Kew Road (opposite Kew Gardens), Surrey, at 12.00 for 12.30 pm.

We shall have a very nice lunch – there is a good menu choice. Afterwards we can go to Kew Gardens – admission charge: £12.00 Concessions. We can have a walk, look at the exhibits and have tea at the Victoria Gate café.

**SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER**

**MUSIC EVENING**

Meet at 93 Great Arthur House, Golden Lane Estate, Goswell Road, London EC1Y 0RH, at 5.00 for 6.00 pm.

Spend the evening with Mahler as seen by Ken Russell. There will be a hot meal with wine or soft drinks, followed by dessert and cheese. £5.00 payable on the night.

**THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER**

**VISIT to 2 WILLOW ROAD**

Meet at 2 Willow Road, Hampstead, London NW3 1TH, at 10.45 for 11.00 am tour.

We shall have a tour of approximately one hour, and discover what it was like for the Goldfinger family to grow up in one of Britain's most important examples of modernist architecture. Designed and built by Erno Goldfinger in 1939, this stunning house contains cutting-edge modernist furniture and art by such luminaries as Max Ernst and Henry Moore. The cost of the tour (free to National Trust members) is £5.30 per person, payable on the day. After the tour, we can have lunch in nearby Burgh House.

**MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER**

**CLOSING DATE for ARCHITECTURE TOUR OF THE BARBICAN**

See item under Saturday, 28 November.

**WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER**

**VISIT to THE WORSHIPFUL SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON**

Meet at Apothecaries' Hall, Black Friars Lane, London EC4, at 10.50 for 11.00 am tour.

The Society was incorporated as a City Livery Company in 1617 and its Hall, archives and artefacts record and reflect its activities as a major centre for manufacturing and retailing drugs. Also, it is the founder of the Chelsea Physic Garden. As we have difficulty in getting Members' support for events requiring a minimum number, we are, on this occasion, joining with another Group – the Regent's Park NADFAS. Our tour guide will be the Beadle, Mr John Williams, and will last about 2 hours. The charge will be £5.00 per head, payable on the day.

**WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER****TALK: CLOWNS, JESTERS & FOOLS**

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

Mary Greenslade trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, then taught in a variety of British and American schools and colleges. She has examined in many countries, adjudicated at festivals, compiled drama anthologies, and now teaches privately in London and gives talks on various aspects of theatre. This one tells the history of clowns, jesters and fools, concentrating mostly in Europe from medieval to modern times – from the Mystery plays to the Clown Service, the Commedia dell' Arte and its influence; from theatre, circus and cinema: Grimaldi to Grock and Deburau to Dario Fo.

**SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER****MUSIC EVENING**

Meet at 22 Falkland Avenue, New Southgate, London N11 1JS, at 5.00 pm.

A mixture of light and classical music. A light buffet will be served. £5.00.

**MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER****MOCTEZUMA – AZTEC RULER**

Meet at British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1, at 10.55 for 11.10 (timed ticket).

This exhibition explores the Aztec civilisation through the reign of the Ruler, Moctezuma 1502-1520 AD. A Commander of great armies, with an empire from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Coast, he gathered artists and craftsmen who created some of the greatest masterpieces in the world; imposing stone sculptures and rare gold and turquoise items are some of the items on display. Admission cost is £6.00 for Seniors on Monday mornings only – at other times it is £12.00 for adults and Seniors. Five tickets have been purchased on a 'first come first served' basis.

**MONDAY 23 NOVEMBER****VISIT to the MUSEUM of  
THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC**

Meet at The Royal Academy of Music, Marylebone Road, London NW1 5HT, at 11.30 am.

Instruments, artefacts, manuscripts, images – the museum of Britain's senior conservatoire has them all. In addition to the permanent display, there is a temporary exhibition *Orchestral Magicians* which showcases the technical wizardry of four of the greatest orchestral composers – Weber, Mendelssohn, Wagner and Richard Strauss. Entrance is free. Afterwards, we can have a bite to eat if you wish.

**SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER****ARCHITECTURE TOUR of THE BARBICAN**

Meet at Advance Ticket Sales Desk, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2, at 10.45 for 11.00 am tour.

The Barbican has long been a source of amusement and inspiration as well as controversy. Through this walking tour of the external high walls and inside the Barbican Centre itself, we shall hear the history of the site and the plans behind its original design. The tour will last 1½ hours. Tickets cost £8.00 (concessions £6.00). The tour will end at the Lakeside, where we can enjoy a free coffee with any meal or cake purchased with our tour ticket.

**TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER****TOUR of THE ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE**

Meet outside Strand Entrance, The Strand, London WC2, at 10.45 for Guided Tour at 11.00 am.

The Royal Courts of Justice building was opened by Queen Victoria in 1882. This is now the permanent home of the Supreme Court. As well as the facts, the architecture will be explained to us. George Edward Street, RA, designed the whole building from the foundations to various carvings and spires. The tour will last about two hours. There are various eateries nearby. Cost of the tour is £8.00 per person. We need 15 people to respond.

**WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER****PARKINSON'S DISEASE SOCIETY  
CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT**

This hugely popular festive favourite will be held at Central Hall Westminster. Jane Asher will host the event, joined by an array of talented performers and celebrity readers. The concert will be followed by a mulled wine and mince pie reception. Tickets are priced at £25.00 (£12.00 for PDS members).

**FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER**

**CLOSING DATE for ALADDIN at  
HACKNEY EMPIRE**

See item under Wednesday, 6 January, 2010.

**TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER**

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

Meet at The Chesterfield Mayfair Hotel, 35 Charles Street, London W1J 5EB, at \*12.00 for 12.30 pm.

The venue for our Christmas lunch will be the Conservatory of The Chesterfield Mayfair Hotel. The cost of the three-course menu, a glass of house wine or soft drink, mince pies and coffee, inclusive of gratuities and VAT will be £45.00 per head. Choose from the following menu:

Starter: (A) Leek and potato soup with chive crème fraîche (Vegetarian), (B) Melon and Parma Ham salad;

Main Course: (C) Traditional roast turkey with chestnut stuffing, chipolatas and bacon, cranberry compote, roast potatoes, carrots and Brussels sprouts, (D) Fillet of salmon with sauté potatoes, Savoy cabbage and watercress sauce, (E) Potato and goat's cheese roulade with red pepper reduction (Vegetarian);

Desserts: (F) Christmas pudding with brandy sauce, (G) Dark chocolate tart with clotted cream.

Mince pies, Coffee.

Your menu choice has to be notified to the hotel ahead of time, so choose one dish from each of the three courses.

*Please note that Pre-lunch drinks from the Bar and any additional drinks with the meal, i.e. other than those specified above, will be for you to pay.*

\*On entering the Conservatory, please pick up your name card, which will show your menu choice, and place it where you wish to sit. This must be done by 12.00 pm in order to give the restaurant staff time to set the tables with the correct cutlery, otherwise your card will be placed on a table for you.

**\*\*\* HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL \*\*\***

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**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 the tickets are £16.50 per person (£15.50 plus 50p booking fee).

**WEDNESDAY 13 JANUARY**

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**THURSDAY 14 JANUARY**

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

Confirmation of whether or not this will take place will be in the next programme. Cost will be £6.00 per person.

**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 the key events of 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939 and an account of the early months of the conflict. There is no charge for this exhibition. *A volunteer is required to lead this event.*

## **LONDON ASHRIDGE CIRCLE HOLIDAY 2010**

Please advise Bridget if you have any suggestions for the holiday next year. In the past, we have used Saga and Warner Holidays but any other ideas would be welcomed.

We usually go at the end of July, but other dates would be considered.

### **DAY TOUR or HALF-DAY TOUR OF ST ALBANS**

Are you interested in the above, which would be led by Diane Burstein, our favourite Blue Badge Guide?

The full day tour would include a visit to the Cathedral, but we would have to have a minimum of 15 people for this to go ahead and the cost would be in the region of £20.00 per person, including a cream tea in the cathedral café. There would be time for lunch but this is not included in the cost. Travel would be by rail and the rail ticket would be your responsibility.

The half-day tour would cost less, as the Cathedral visit would not be included. A minimum of 10 people would be required for this visit.

**All fares, train times and admission fees were correct at the time of going to press but it is up to you to check these.**

## **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.**