

# LONDON ASHRIDGE CIRCLE

## PROGRAMME: SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 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.*

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

### **TUESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER**

### **THE ENCHANTED PALACE**

Meet at Kensington Palace, at 10.45 for 11.00 am.

We will visit Kensington Palace, which has been transformed. In the State Apartments, leading fashion designers Vivienne Westwood, William Tempest, Stephen Jones, Boudicca, Aminaka Wilmont and illustrator/set designer Echo Morgan, will each create spectacular installations in collaboration with Wildworks, taking inspiration from Kensington Palace and the Princesses who once lived there – Mary, Anne, Caroline, Charlotte, Victoria, Margaret and Diana. The stories will be told through interactive theatre, intimate storytelling, soundscapes, haunting film projection and clues hidden throughout the rooms. Tickets: Adults £12.50, Concessions £11.00, payable on the day.

### **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 LIGHT BOX**

Meet at The Light Box, Woking, Surrey GU21 4AA, at 11.45 for 12.00 pm. Mainline trains from Waterloo to Woking 25 minutes non-stop. Day Return with Freedom Pass and Senior Railcard: £4.14.

The Lightbox is an award-winning modern art gallery by the Basingstoke Canal, in the centre of Woking. The main exhibitions for September are: "In Camera: Snowdon" and "Children's Book Illustrations". There is no admission charge.

### **FRIDAY 17 SEPTEMBER**

### **VISIT TO CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN**

Meet at Sloane Square Underground Station at 2.00 pm; then a ten minute to the Garden at 66 Hospital Road, London SW3 4HS.

This is London's oldest Botanic Garden, with 5,000 named plants and many features, including Europe's oldest pond rockery, a tropical plant greenhouse and Victorian Cool Fernery and a café.

### **SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER**

### **MUSIC EVENING**

Meet at 22 Culvenden Road, London SW12 9LP, at 6.00 pm.

Light classical music, Mozart Overtures will be played, and a hot meal will be served. Cost £5.00.

### **WEDNESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER**

### **DANSON HOUSE AND PARK**

Meet at Welling Station at 11.30 am, then short bus ride.

The house is primarily the creation of two men: John Boyd, the owner, and his architect Robert Taylor. It reflects a preoccupation with the Golden Age of antiquity and is full of the symbolism of classical mythology. It is a revival of Italian villa design from the area around Vicenza in the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. The leading architect at the time was Andrea Palladio. In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century the house fell into an almost ruinous state. In 1995 English Heritage began ten years of restoration, and in 2005 the house was formally opened by Her Majesty The Queen after 35 years of closure. The grounds were restored as part of the Danson Park project, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, in 2006. On the lower floor, the breakfast room, looking out

over the parkland, now houses a tearoom serving tea, coffee, homemade cakes and light refreshments. Admission: Adults £6.00, Concessions £5.00.

**TUESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER**

**VISIT TO HAND AND LOCK**

Meet at Hand and Lock, 86 Margaret Street, London W1W 8TE, at 10.50 for 11.00 am tour.

Originally founded in 1767 by Huguenot refugees, the present company is a fusion of two embroidery businesses – S Lock Ltd and C M Hand. The company's clients include famous fashion houses, such as Hartnell and Hardy Amies, and the company has also embroidered the costumes for many West End shows, ranging from *Barnum* to *The Lion King*. Hand and Lock has one of the oldest workrooms still in active use today. During the tour, which costs £10.00 per person and lasts about 1 hour, we shall see specialist embroiderers working on actual projects and we shall be shown stunning pieces and samples the company has provided for the fashion industry and theatre, as well as examples of Diplomatic and Military Court dress; also, we shall see an archive of embroidered work dating back to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

**TUESDAY 12 OCTOBER**

**CIRCULAR CRUISE**

Meet at Westminster Pier, at 11.20 for the 11.40 am cruise.

This will be a leisurely boat trip from Westminster to St Catherine's Dock, where we can lunch at the Dickens Inn before returning by boat. Prices for circular trip: Concessions £9.50, with Freedom Pass £5.25.

**WEDNESDAY 13 OCTOBER**

**TALK: THE STORIES BEHIND THE STORES**

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

London Blue Badge Guide, Rachel Kolsky, tells how the great London stores evolved and what went on both in and out of them.

**WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER**

**LUNCH AND / OR CROYDON PALACE**

Meet at Bella Italia, George Street, Croydon, at 12 noon or at Croydon Palace, Old Palace Road, at 1.45 pm.

Two-course lunch at the Bella Vista from £7.00; Historical Tour and Tea at Old Palace £6.00 Senior Citizens.

**FRIDAY 22 OCTOBER**

**NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM'S  
LIBRARY & RARE BOOKS ROOM**

Meet under the Head of the Diplodocus in the Central Hall at the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, at 12.00 pm if lunching at the Museum, or 1.45 for 2.00 pm for the visit only.

We shall start in the Library where Ann Lum, whose area of expertise is Earth Sciences, will show us William Smith's Geological Map, and tell us about the trials and successes of the first man to map the geology of the British Isles, using fossils as a way of identify rock strata. Then to the Rare Books Room to view Circumnavigation, where we shall discover books, manuscripts, drawings and photographs connected with Cook's great voyages, Darwin's experience on the Beagle, the first global oceanographic expedition by Challenger (1872-75) and other less well know epic voyages. Minimum group size is 6/maximum 12. Cost: members £6.00, guests £7.00 (inc. booking fee).

**TUESDAY 26 OCTOBER**

**NATIONAL GALLERY TASTER TOUR**

Meet in the Front Hall of the Sainsbury Wing, Trafalgar Square, at 2.15 for 2.30 pm.

The tour lasts for one hour and our guide will walk us through the Gallery selecting paintings to talk about. No charge.

**SATURDAY 30 OCTOBER**

**MUSIC EVENING**

Meet at 93 Great Arthur House, Golden Lane Estate, Goswell Road, London EC1 0RH, at 5.00 for 5.30 pm.

An evening with Gershwin, from popular songs to orchestral pieces. A hot meal will be provided, with wine or soft drinks. Cost £5.00.

**THURSDAY 4 NOVEMBER****GAUGUIN EXHIBITION AT TATE MODERN**

Meet at Tate Modern, Bankside, at 11.00 am.

This first exhibition for 50 years of Gauguin, the French Post-Impressionist, features paintings and drawings from around the world including his colourful images of women in Tahiti, its culture, and landscape images of Brittany amongst others. Admission: Adults £13.50, Concessions £12.00.

**THURSDAY 9 NOVEMBER****THE ROYAL HOSPITAL, CHELSEA**

Meet at Chelsea Gate, located next to the National Army Museum on Hospital Road, at 9.45 for 10.00 am.

A two-hour tour is booked which will include the Chapel and the Great Hall, and our guide will be one of the Chelsea Pensioners. There is a Museum and a Souvenir shop located within the Hospital. There are ten steps up to the Chapel and Great Hall with no lift and two steps to the Museum and Shop, if anyone has difficulty climbing stairs. It is £60 for the tour and the amount per person depends on the number of people attending. It is suggested that a 50p per person tip be given to the Pensioner giving the tour.

**WEDNESDAY 10 NOVEMBER****TALK: THE FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE**

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

Ex-Royal Flight Pilot, Graham Laurie, traces its history and shows how emergency and routine medical cover is handled in the Australian Outback.

**WEDNESDAY 17 NOVEMBER****UCL ART COLLECTIONS**

Meet at The Strang Print Room, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, at 2.30 pm.

Life Action and Sentiment: John Flaxman on the Art of Modern Sculpture. The exhibition celebrates the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Flaxman's appointment as the first Professor of Sculpture at the Royal Academy.

**TUESDAY 23 NOVEMBER****VISIT TO THE LONDON SILVER VAULTS**

Meet by Ticket Office at Chancery Lane Underground Station, at 11.00 am.

Opened to the public since 1953, more than 30 shops are gathered together selling a huge variety of silver from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century to some of today's best contemporary work. No cost involved.

**SATURDAY 27 NOVEMBER****MUSIC EVENING**

Meet at 22 Falkland Avenue, New Southgate, London N11 1JS, at 5.00 for 5.30 pm.

A mixture of light and classical music. A light buffet supper with wine will be served. Cost £5.00.

**WEDNESDAY 1 DECEMBER****TOUR OF SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE THEATRE**

Meet at the Theatre, Bankside, London SE1 9DT, at 10.40 for 11.00 am.

Guided tour regarding the life of Shakespeare, the reconstruction of the theatre, and the working life of the Globe. Tickets: Adults £10.50, Seniors £8.50, for a 40-minute tour and all day admission to the exhibition.

**FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER****MUSEUM OF LONDON**

Meet at the Museum, London Wall, London EC2, at 12.00 pm.

Let's visit the new £20 million galleries designed to tell the story of modern London. More than 7,000 objects will be on view. Admission is free, and there is a new restaurant.

**WEDNESDAY 8 DECEMBER****PARKINSON'S DISEASE SOCIETY  
CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Meet at Central Hall Westminster, at 7.00 pm (time to be confirmed).

This popular festive favourite will be held at the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. Jane Asher usually hosts the event, joined by an array of talented performers, including the Wessex Male Choir, and celebrity readers. The concert is followed by a mulled wine and mince pie reception. Prices are £19.00 for Parkinson's Society members and £25.00 for adults. There are no concessions.

### **WEDNESDAY 8 DECEMBER**

### **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

Meet at The Chesterfield Mayfair Hotel, 35 Charles Street, London W1J 5EB, at \*12.15 for 1.00 pm.

The cost of a three-course menu, a large glass of wine or soft drink, mince pies and coffee, inclusive of gratuities and VAT will be the same as last year, at £45.00 per head. Choose from the following menu: Starter: (A) Leek and potato soup, with chive crème fraîche (v), (B) Smoked salmon and crab parcel, with pickled cucumber and herb salad: Main Course: (C) Traditional roast turkey with chestnut stuffing, chipolatas and bacon, cranberry compote, roast potatoes, carrots and Brussels sprouts, (D) Fillet of plaice, with herb potatoes and hollandaise, (E) Potato and goat's cheese roulade, with red pepper reduction (v): Desserts: (F) Christmas pudding, with brandy sauce, (G) Dark chocolate tart, with raspberry coulis.

Your menu choice has to be notified to the hotel ahead of time, therefore 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 are to be charged to individual guests on a cash basis.

\*On entering the dining area, 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 12.30 pm to give the restaurant staff time to set the table with the correct cutlery, otherwise your card will be placed on the table for you.

### **TUESDAY 14 DECEMBER**

### **VISIT TO THE SAATCHI GALLERY**

Meet at entrance to Sloane Square Underground Station, at 2.30 pm.

A free exhibition of Contemporary British Art.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **WEDNESDAY 19 JANUARY 2011**

### **AFTERNOON TEA AT A LONDON HOTEL**

Venue to be arranged – full details to 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.**