



FRIENDS OF ST COLUMBA'S PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

August 2023-24



Saturday 14 October 2023

Thames Clipper, tube or DLR to Greenwich

Visit of The Cutty Sark, led by Graham Cumming

Then to The Painted Hall and Chapel at The Old Royal Naval College, followed by the traditional lunch of whitebait from the Thames at The Trafalgar Pub at the water's edge. If you are feeling strong, after lunch a visit to Inigo Jones's The Queen's House, and a walk by tunnel under the Thames to where Canaletto painted Greenwich. Boat, tube or DLR back home.

First a visit to the "Cutty Sark", the last of the great clipper ships (once the fastest in the world) to sail between China and England in C19. Finally reopened in April 2012 after six years and £25 m of extensive renovations. Launched in 1869 in Scotland, she made eight voyages to China, in the 1870s, sailing out with a mixed cargo and coming back with a bounty of tea.

Then we visit The Old Royal Naval College with its Painted Hall and magnificent ceiling (tours every hour, on the hour: "600 Years of History"). Alternatively the Visitor Centre, and the Chapel of St Peter and St Paul and The Queen's House, by Inigo Jones, which are free. For a change of activity why not meander through the stalls and shops of Greenwich Market.



Rendezvous at the entry to The Cutty Sark at 10:30am

Entry is £18 (children £9, under 4s free) Entry to parts of the Old Royal Naval College and The Queen's House is free; the full tour and The Painted Hall costs £15 (children 16 and under free when accompanied by an adult). National Art Pass £7:50.



For any forced programme change (e.g. train strikes) please consult The Friends of St Columba's website: www.stcolumbas.org.uk/friends-of-st-columbas

Saturday 25 November 2023

Charles Dickens' Museum

48-49 Doughty Street, WC1N 2LX

Charles Dickens wrote fifteen novels between 1836 and 1870, including some of the most famous works in the English language, such as *Oliver Twist* and the novella *A Christmas Carol*. The latter was credited with popularising Christmas as a holiday in Britain and America, as well as promoting some of the Christmas customs still enjoyed today, such as eating turkey and giving gifts.

He was also a strong advocate for the poor and working class families of Britain, often reporting on such issues within his journalism. He was horrified by the slum conditions and the imbalance of power between the wealthy and the poor. Many of his books depicted impoverished characters triumphing against the odds, and Dickens deliberately sought to challenge the Victorian idea that poverty was caused by moral failings.

The museum was Dickens's London home from 1837–1839. He moved there with his wife Catherine and their eldest son Charlie. While living in Doughty Street, Dickens finished writing *The Pickwick Papers*, wrote *Nicholas Nickleby* and most famously of all, *Oliver Twist*. These early publications made Dickens an international celebrity, even Queen Victoria was a fan!

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Rendezvous at The Museum
at 10:30am on Saturday 25
November 2023

Entry Adult: £12.50; Concessions
(Students, 60+; Disabled Visitors
and preregistered groups):
£10.50; Child 6-16 years: £7.50;
Children under 6 years: Free.

Art Fund National Art Pass,
ICOM, Museums Association
and London Pass Holders are
all welcome on a walk-in basis.
Please note that you cannot book
in advance with these cards, but
will be welcomed when you show
your pass at the ticket desk.



Saturday 17 February 2024
Visit to the BBC
with Hugh Pym

More details to follow

Saturday 23 March 2024 **Museum of London**

**Docklands, Canary Wharf Museum of London
Docklands, No.1 Warehouse, West India Quay,
London, E14 4AL**

www.museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london-docklands. Free entry

A lofty Georgian warehouse accommodates this huge museum, which explores the history of London's Docklands and the River Thames. In the Sailortown Gallery you can wander a reconstruction of the narrow streets of Wapping as they were some 150 years ago complete with the sounds of drunken sailors and a wild animal emporium. Other exhibitions carry real emotional charge, not least the London Sugar and Slavery exhibition which explores the city's involvement in the transatlantic slave trade.



Rendezvous just inside the entrance at 10:30am on Saturday 23 March 2024

Canary Wharf Tube or West India Quay DLR

Entry Talks and tours in the museum – Duration: 60+ minutes – £12.50 per person. Duration: 45-60 minutes – £10 per person Welcome to Docklands Duration: 75 minutes Join one of the gallery hosts for a highlights tour that will give you an overview of London's river, port and people. The tour will focus on key exhibits and displays in the museum and touch on all galleries in the Museum of London Docklands. Tours are available for groups of 10 or more people and are subject to availability.

A minimum of two weeks' notice is required before booking. BoxOffice@museumoflondon.org.uk 020 7030 3300. Please indicate on the Booking Form if you would like a tour.

Lunch in the Museum café or in a local pub.

Saturday 11 May 2024

Visit to St Alban's Cathedral

The oldest site of continuous Christian worship in Britain

Alban, an inhabitant of Roman Verulamium, was executed for protecting a Christian priest, Amphibalus. A beautiful church was built where he died. The Shrine of St Alban was the reason for the Abbey's foundation and the town that grew up around it, and it is said that King Offa of Mercia founded a monastery here in 793. After the Norman invasion of 1066, William the Conqueror appointed Paul of Caen as the first Norman abbot of St Albans and commissioned a new church. Paul started his great rebuilding of the Abbey with the Tower, which still stands today. This Norman church was built from bricks and tiles saved from the ruins of Roman Verulamium. This ambitious project was completed in 1115, under the rule of Abbot Richard d'Albini. The only English pope, Adrian IV, was born locally and granted special privileges to the Abbey, enhancing its reputation and power.

In 1213, St Alban's Abbey was the meeting place for a group of churchmen and nobles. Their discussions led to Magna Carta which was reluctantly sealed by the king at Runnymede in 1215. The medieval Abbey was a famous place of learning. The monks who lived here produced high-quality manuscripts. Under Henry V111 and the Dissolution of the Monasteries St Alban's Abbey was closed in December 1539 and most of the buildings were destroyed. The shrines of St Alban and St Amphibalus were demolished and Alban's relics disappeared.

In 1553, the people of St Albans bought the church for their own use. However, the upkeep was expensive and by 1832, the Abbey was in a sorry state. Wealthy Victorian benefactors paid for the building to be repaired. This included remodelling the West End, removing medieval features and replacing the statues in the High Altar Screen. In 1877, what had previously been a local parish church became a cathedral and the seat of the Bishop of St Albans.



Rendezvous in front of the main entrance at 11:00am

Entry free; general tour £8 which we shall all take upon arrival (1hr 15mins). If you would like subsequently to take a Specialist Tour (1 hour) – (music, textiles, flowers, pilgrimage); or a tower tour to admire the view, these cost £10, and are available before 2pm. Lunch will be at The Abbott's Kitchen at the Cathedral.

Sunday June 2024

The Celebration of St Columba's Day

Communion, AGM, and Celebration Tea. Upper Hall

AGM: PROPOSED AGENDA

- 1) Review of Membership and Subscriptions
- 2) Treasurer and Secretary's Reports
- 3) Programme of Events (The Secretary would be glad of your views here:
isobel@in-carter.com)
- 4) Potential Uses of Funds (again, suggestions welcome)
- 5) AOB

This will be followed by our traditional Celebration Tea, which gives us the opportunity to mix and mingle with other Friends and catch up with those we have not seen for some time.

Friday 21 June 2024

The Sephardic Synagogue at Bevis Marks

City Of London, EC3A 5DQ

The S&P Sephardi Community – originally known as The Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Congregation of London – was founded in 1657 as a consequence of the famous petition to Cromwell in 1656. Rabbi Menasseh ben Israel from Amsterdam and six Jews living in London (ostensibly as Catholics) sought permission from the Lord Protector to worship freely and to acquire land for a cemetery. In response, they received a verbal guarantee and Jews were able to profess their faith openly for the first time since their expulsion by Edward I in 1290.

The first Synagogue, in a rented building in Creechurch Lane in the City of London, was replaced half a century later by the fine Synagogue of Bevis Marks nearby (opened in 1701 and still in regular use). The congregation began to grow steadily with 400 souls recorded in the 1680s.

Extensive repairs prevent group visits until early 2024.



The Exterior and The Ark

