

**VISITS SECRETARY
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FRIENDS' VISITS PLANNED FOR 2017 and 2018

Amendment dated 13th June 2017

Please contact the Visits Secretary if you are interested in any or all of these visits.

Monday 17th July 2017

Lincoln Cathedral and Lincoln's Battles and Dynasties Exhibition

There is one place left on this visit (maximum number 20)

*(Please note that the programme for this visit has been amended to include **Domesday Book**)*

The Friends will visit Lincoln's major exhibition, *Battles and Dynasties*, commemorating the 800th anniversary of the Battle of Lincoln, fought on 20 May 1217. I have only just become aware that this exhibition includes *Domesday Book*, very kindly lent by The National Archives, so have amended the programme to include that.

The visit will now start at Lincoln Castle at 10:30am so that we can see both *Domesday Book* and the Lincoln *Magna Carta*. We will then move on to the Collection Museum as planned at 12:00 midday for a tour of the exhibition guided by one of the curators, Dr Nicholas Bennett. After lunch in the Cathedral Centre (a set meal for £15 per head) we will be given a tour of the Cathedral and this will be followed by a visit to the Cathedral's Mediaeval and Wren Libraries, where we will be guided by the Librarian, Julie Taylor. The day will finish at about 4:15pm (there will then be a chance for those who cannot reach Lincoln by 10:30am to pay a brief visit to the Castle).

Friends should note that travel to Lincoln from London Kings Cross by train takes about two hours and involves one change at Newark.

The cost of the visit will be about £30 per Friend plus lunch at £15, but return rail travel from London costs about £45.

Monday 25th September 2017

St Paul's Cathedral, a Triforium Tour

“The Triforium Tour consists of a guided visit into the stairwell of the famous geometric staircase, exploration of some of the surviving artefacts of the medieval cathedral housed in the Triforium corridors, a visit to the old library [*which will be led by the Librarian, Jo Wisdom*] and a jaw-dropping view from the west end looking down the Nave towards the Quire and High Altar. The visit culminates in the Trophy Room, where Sir Christopher Wren's Great Model, based on an earlier design for the cathedral in the shape of a Greek cross, is on display.”

Please be aware that there are 141 steps to the Triforium level and no lift. This visit will be restricted to 15 Friends only. The cost of the visit will be about £30 per head.

**Tuesday 20th February 2018 (and Tuesday 27th February 2018 if there is sufficient demand)
The French Protestant Church of London, Soho Square**

This beautiful Church was designed by the architect Aston Webb (who also designed the V&A and Buckingham Palace façade) and inaugurated in 1893. French Protestants, Huguenots especially, began to flee religious persecution in France in the mid-16th century

after the Royal Charter of Edward VI founding the Strangers' Church in 1550. The Soho Square church is the only one remaining of 28 French Protestant churches in London.

The honorary archivist, Bénédicte Fougier, will lead a tour of the church and then show us some of the treasures from the library – including a very early printed Bible in Latin (an incunable), a first edition of the first Bible printed in French, and three manuscript volumes of Jean Calvin's sermons, only identified as such 20 years ago.

This visit will be restricted to 15 Friends only, but a second visit will be possible if there is sufficient demand. The cost of the visit will be about £20 per head, to allow a donation towards the church's work in conserving their books and manuscripts.

Late April or early May 2018

Bruges

This is planned to be the first visit overseas by the Friends and the first to extend over two or three days: the concept is thus somewhat experimental. Planning for the visit will only go ahead if a reasonable number of Friends express an interest in taking part.

The visit will be centred around an exhibition at the Public Library: "Colard Mansion and the printing industry in Bruges in the 15th century". Lambeth Palace Library is contributing the first (documented) printed book sold in Bruges to an Englishman (John Russel in 1467) and our group will have a conducted tour of this exhibition, led by a curator.

Our friends in Bruges have also suggested that we might like to be introduced to the Public Library's special collections of manuscripts and incunables; to the Grootseminarie of Bruges which has another wonderful collection of illuminated mediaeval manuscripts and incunables; and to the City Archive. Also, the Rare Books Curator at the Public Library has offered to give us a guided tour of Bruges. Several other places have been suggested for informal visits.

We suggest that Friends might like to include this programme in a short holiday in Bruges. (The visits secretary will suggest hotel and travel options - rail travel from the UK is very straightforward - but will not make bookings on Friends' behalf).

Please could you contact the Visits Secretary as soon as possible if you are even tentatively interested in this visit?

Tuesday 10th July 2018

The Royal College of Physicians

This afternoon visit will start at 2pm with a guided tour of the College, a Grade I listed building in Regents Park designed by Denys Lasdun. The tour will be followed by a handling session when the Rare Books Librarian will set out a selection of books (the RCP has a large number of incunables and about 100 books from the lost library of John Dee). After a short break for refreshments, there will be a tour of the medicinal garden led by a Garden Fellow.

The visit will finish at 5pm.

The visit will be restricted to 20 Friends only and the cost will be about £20.

Tuesday 18th September 2018

Trinity College Cambridge

This visit will include lunch in Cambridge followed by a tour of Trinity College and its Wren Library, led by the Librarian, Nicolas Bell.

November 2018

The Ashmolean Museum – "Spellbound"

An exhibition on witchcraft(!) to which Lambeth Palace Library is contributing several items will form the centrepiece of a day in Oxford.