From: John Critchley

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FRIENDS’ VISITS PLANNED FOR 2020 and 2021

Amendment dated 9th April 2020
Please note the many changes and uncertainties because of the Coronavirus crisis

Please contact the Visits Secretary if you are interested in any or all of these visits. Please do not make any payments until they are requested.


We regret that both Clubs are shut temporarily. We hope to find a new date for visit.

May 2020: Tours of Lambeth Palace Library new building - postponed

Sadly, work on the new Library stopped just before completion but we hope it will be possible to find a new date later in the year.

Monday, September 28th 2020: Hereford – we hope to hold to this date

We plan to visit Hereford, the Cathedral and its Library and treasures including Mappa Mundi. More details about the cost and arrangements for this visit will be circulated when possible.

Tuesday 10th November 2020: The British Library – postponed

The BL have, for obvious reasons, been forced to delay this exhibition and it is now scheduled to run from 23rd April to 5th September 2021. We will plan a new date for our visit when the programme becomes clearer: it will probably be in mid or late July.

‘Elizabeth and Mary’: Queens. Cousins. Rivals. Step back into a dangerous world of plots, espionage and treachery to explore the turbulent relationship between Elizabeth I and Mary, Queen of Scots in their own words.

Monday 22nd February 2021: Canterbury Cathedral

The Cathedral and Cathedral Lodge staff have been exceptionally helpful and we very much hope to keep to this date.

This visit will comprise a tour of the Cathedral in the morning, starting at 11:30am. This will take in their standing exhibition which commemorates the 850th anniversary of the death of Thomas Becket and to which Lambeth Palace Library is lending a document. After lunch in the Cathedral Lodge there will be a visit to the Cathedral Library and Archives hosted by the Collections Manager. A traditional cream tea will then be available in the Cathedral Lodge.

There is a fast train from London St Pancras to Canterbury West which takes 1hr 15 mins

Please let the Visits Secretary know if there are any specific items that you would like the Cathedral Guide or Archives Team to show you.

The cost of the visit will be £45 including a donation to the Friends of Lambeth Palace Library. Lunch will cost about £13.50 for a main course and £18 for a main course and dessert, and a cream tea will cost about £7.50.
Please do not send cheques or make online payments until requested by the Visits Secretary.

May 2021: Strasbourg, Sélestat and Colmar
Again, we very much hope this visit will go ahead, but it has not been possible to carry out any detailed planning so far.

We are planning a three-day visit which will include opportunities to see in Strasbourg the Cathedral, the Palais Rohan Museum and Palais de l’Œuvre Notre Dame with its mediaeval museum and state apartments, the Isenheim Altarpieces in Colmar, the library of Beatus Rhenanus in Sélestat and the Castle of Haut Koenigsbourg. As with the visit to Bruges, options for travel and accommodation will be suggested, but Friends will be expected to book individually. We will not be making block bookings for lunch, and the three-day timescale will allow a little more time for individual exploration.

Tuesday 29th June 2021: Winchester Cathedral and College
We hope this visit will go ahead as planned.

We will tour the Cathedral before lunch in the Cathedral Refectory, and then in the afternoon will visit the Fellows’ Library, Collections and Archives of Winchester College with a chance to see some of the treasures at close hand, followed by a walk around the College’s historic buildings and grounds.

Late July 2021? The British Library’s Elizabeth and Mary exhibition

Tuesday 21st September 2021: Colchester, the University of Essex
This visit will remain in the programme but it may need to be moved to a later date.

This will be an afternoon visit to the University of Essex campus and the Albert Sloman Library which houses several special collections including 800 books from the library of Samuel Harsnett.

Tuesday 16th November 2021: London, Watts Clerical Outfitters and Faith House
We hope this visit will go ahead as planned.

This will be another afternoon visit which will include a visit to Watts Clerical Outfitters with its collection of historic robes and a tour of the collocated Faith House.