

THE FRIENDS OF LAMBETH PALACE LIBRARY

VISITS PROGRAMME FOR 2022 – 2023 (updated to 22nd October 2022)

Please contact the Visits Secretary John Critchley if you would like to take part in any of these visits (hjcritchley@icloud.com, 07786 933638, or 14 Wilkes Street, London E1 6QF).

2022

Watts and Company, Makers of Fine Vestments and Furnishings, and Faith House Tuesday 15th November 2022

We will assemble outside Watts & Co., 7 Tufton Street, Westminster at 2:00pm. The Managing Director, Robert Hoare will start the afternoon by introducing us to the business, their history and the beautiful vestments that they make for Westminster Abbey, the Royal Chapels and churches around the world. Margery Roberts (a Friend of Lambeth Palace Library) will then speak about the building and about the history of the Society of the Faith, and also to show us a small selection from the Society of the Faith's own archive. She has also very kindly offered to provide tea and biscuits in the board room.

The cost for this visit will be £12 per head which will cover a donation to the Friends of Lambeth Palace Library and incidental expenses.

16 Friends can be accommodated and two places are still available.

2023

The College of Arms Monday 3 April

The tour will be led by Mark Scott, Bluemantle Pursuivant, and, unusually, will begin at 6.00pm. Mr Scott will speak about the history of heraldry and the role of the heralds before he takes us into the record room and shows us a selection of records dating back to 1484. A glass of wine will be provided while he talks, and the group will then be offered another glass of wine (or two) with a buffet supper of cold meats and fish, pasta and salad, followed by cheese, fruit and a mini-sweet. The basic cost for a group of twenty people (the maximum number) will be about £50 a head including a donation to the Friends of Lambeth Palace Library. Mr Scott recommends taking supper there to avoid having to search for it afterwards! The visit will end at 9:45pm.

20 places are available for this visit. Please contact the Visits Secretary if you would like to be included.

Strasbourg, Sélestat and Colmar Monday May 22 to Friday May 26

This five-day visit will be based in the beautiful old city of Strasbourg, “where cultures cross”. Strasbourg will also be preparing to be UNESCO’s World Book Capital for 2024.

We will travel out independently on the Monday and back on the Friday afternoon or Saturday. Our programme will include formal visits in Strasbourg to the Bibliothèque Nationale et Universitaire, and the Bibliothèque Municipale, both of which have rich collections of mediaeval manuscripts and incunabula, and to the Cathédrale Notre Dame with its glorious stained glass and astronomical clock. There should also be a free afternoon to allow private visits to the Palais Rohan Museum and Palais d’Œuvre Notre Dame. We will spend a day in Colmar at the Musée Unterlinden, which houses Grünewald’s Issenheim Altarpieces, and the Bibliothèque des Dominicains with its wonderful heritage collection. We will also visit the Bibliothèque Humaniste in Sélestat which houses the Library of Beatus Rhenanus.

The visits to libraries will be led by the Directors of their Heritage Collections, and those to museums by English-speaking guides.

As with the visit to Bruges, options for travel by train to Strasbourg and accommodation will be suggested but Friends will be expected to book individually. We will not, however, be making block bookings for lunch.

The Visits Secretary would like to make it clear that this visit will be strenuous with much longer walks between stations, libraries and museums than in Bruges. Taxi company telephone numbers will be provided but, as in the UK, they are not always immediately available.

20 places are available for this visit. Please contact the Visits Secretary if you would like to be included.

London Book Walk led by Anthony Davis

Tuesday 18 June, starting at 11:00

Riverside Palaces: An Architectural Treasure Hunt

“A lively guided walk beside the Thames to trace the remnants of palaces and mansions of the rich and famous dating back hundreds of years. Our ‘Treasure Map’ is a printed scene of riverside Westminster from 1720, and we explore the changing architecture and developing use of London’s riverside over five centuries. We admire Queen Mary’s steps and the Archbishop of York’s gateway and (if we are lucky) peer into a ‘Roman’ bathroom and William Waldorf Astor’s windows. We hear about the ‘Great Stink’ and the transformational embankment project of Sir Joseph Bazalgette and the Victorians. This walk starts near Westminster station and finishes at Temple station.

16 places are available for this visit. Please contact the Visits Secretary if you would like to be included.

Windsor, Royal Library
Mid to late September

Details of this visit are awaited.

St Albans, City and Cathedral
October

The day will start with a tour of Roman and mediaeval St Albans led by Friend David Roberts and, following lunch at a local restaurant (probably Côte), a guided tour of the Cathedral with its ancient wall paintings and shrines.

16 places are available for this visit. Please contact the Visits Secretary if you would like to be included.