

# Institute of **Physics**

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION

## Visit to Alexander Fleming Museum and Paddington walkabout Thursday 29 January 2004

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This visit has been organised by Dennis Hill

Take a journey back in time to the days when there were no antibiotics to fight often lethal bacteria and then follow in the footsteps of Alexander Fleming on his road to the discovery that was to revolutionise medicine and affect the lives of every one of us. See for yourself the small laboratory in which Fleming discovered penicillin, now restored to its cramped condition in September 1928 when a petri dish of bacteria became contaminated with a mysterious mould. Experience the thrill of the story of the discovery of penicillin in the place where it actually took place. Then retrace through displays and a video the thrilling story of a great scientist and his life-saving discovery. Come to the Museum and find out why the discovery of penicillin was perhaps one of the most significant events of the twentieth-century and why it continues to play a vital part in the ever-continuing fight against bacteria and disease. The Alexander Fleming Laboratory Museum is designated an International Historic Chemical Landmark by the American Chemical Society and Royal Society of Chemistry. It has received an award for penicillin as the most important health advance in the last century from the Republic of San Marino and an award as a National Millennium Treasure.

Paddington is currently undergoing a transformation that will fulfil its potential as one of London's most flourishing commercial and residential quarters. The regeneration blueprint takes full advantage of Paddington's unique waterside environment, its excellent location within London's West End, and its unrivalled transport infrastructure. The focal point of Paddington's renaissance is Paddington Basin, a landmark development that incorporates offices, homes, shops, restaurants and leisure facilities of outstanding quality. Through a combination of careful planning and the finest contemporary architecture, Paddington basin will create a world-class, fully integrated living and working environment.

### Programme:

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| 10.30-11.00 | Meet in the Praed Street Macdonalds for coffee/loos. It is just before St. Mary's Hospital by the Post Office.   |
| 11.00       | Visit the Alexander Fleming Museum. Latecomers should go straight to the museum, which is part of St Mary's Hospital. The entrance is in Praed Street close to the junction with Norfolk Road.   |
| 12.30       | Look at the major new Paddington Basin development at the rear of St. Mary's Hospital  |
| 13.00       | Lunch in the Archery Tavern, 4 Bathurst Street, (frequented almost entirely by tourists, millionaires and Arabs. The name of the pub refers to the archers from the Royal Toxophilite (that's archery, not poisons) Society who used to practise nearby.)near Lancaster Gate |
| 14.00       | Walk across Hyde Park to the cafe at the East end of the Serpentine for tea/coffee. Walk on to Hyde Park Corner Tube station (Piccadilly Line).  |
| 15.00       | Disperse   |

The cost is approximately £1pp, payable on the day.