

Institute of Physics

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION

Vist to Apsley House and Wellington Arch Thursday 12 August 2004

This visit has been organised by Robert Thorne

Apsley House

Apsley House, the London home of the first Duke of Wellington and his descendants since 1817, takes its name from Baron Apsley, who between 1771 and 1778 employed Robert Adam to design and build the house on the site of a lodge to Hyde Park. Wellington enlarged the house, adding the spectacular 90 foot long Waterloo Gallery and enriched it with his magnificent art collections. Although it suffered damage during World War II, the buildings and interiors were, during the period 1992 – 1995, restored to their magnificent appearance of the Iron Duke's day. The seventh Duke gave the house and contents to the Nation in 1947 with some private rooms retained for the family. With its collection of outstanding paintings, porcelain, silver, sculpture, medals and memorabilia intact and the family still in residence, Apsley House is the last great aristocratic house in London. It is also known as No1 London, because it was the first house encountered past the toll-gate into London from the countryside. <http://www.aboutbritain.com/apsleyhouse.htm> is a convenient web site.

Wellington Arch

Wellington Arch was commissioned by George IV as a grand outer entrance to Buckingham Palace. It was moved to its present site at Hyde Park Common in 1882. To commemorate Wellington's victory over Napoleon, a statue of the Duke on horseback was the first work of art to crown it. However its massive size caused such controversy that it was replaced by the present sculpture, which depicts the angel of peace descending on the chariot of war. Three floors of exhibitions tell its story, including a spell as London's smallest police station, and describe London's statues and memorials. Viewing platforms offer great panoramic views of the surrounding Royal Parks and the London skyline

The total cost of the two phases is £10 per person and includes guide and admission fees and coffee and biscuits at the Wellington Arch.. Numbers are limited to 25.

The programme is:

- 10.30 – 11.00 Meet at exit 2 of Hyde Park Corner Tube Station
- 11.00 – 12.30 Guided Tour and Presentation at Apsley House
- 12.30 – 14.00 Lunch at the Wilton Arms
- 14.00 – 15.30 Guided Tour and Refreshments at the Wellington Arch