

Institute of Physics

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION

Visit to The London Central Mosque, and the Royal College of Physicians Thursday 21st April 05

This visit has been organised by Rosemary Wells

Beside Regents Park, the golden dome of the London Central Mosque and Islamic Cultural Centre adds an exotic touch to the Nash scheme of 1812 for a landscaped park surrounded by classical villas, to extend the newly fashionable west end of London near the village of St Mary-le-Bourne (by the brook). The interior of the mosque, however, is surprisingly simple and restrained, to emphasize that this is a place of worship and study. The mosque website (<http://www.central-mosque.com/>) states that they are a centre for education, welfare, fatwas, and matrimonials, and a meeting forum. We will view the prayer hall and library, followed by a talk, with an opportunity to ask questions. (Parking is available).

There is no convenient pub for lunch nearby. The alternatives are as shown below. Please indicate your preference when booking.

After lunch, a pleasant half-hour's walk through the park will bring us to our second visit.

The Royal College of Physicians lies at the southeast corner of the park. This is the fifth home of the College, founded in 1518, the oldest medical school in Britain. The present building was designed in 1964 by Sir David Lasdun (the architect of the National Theatre), and is described by Pevsner as "one of the most distinguished buildings of its decade". We will view the Staircase Hall, the Dining Room and the Harveian Library, all with galleries, and the Lecture Theatre, the Censor's Room (with memorials to the past), and the sunken garden. The building is in the shape of a T, and the different functions of its parts are distinguished by different materials, ie concrete and mosaic, and brick. (Parking is available).

The visit ends near Regents Park Underground station. Please note there is a fair amount of walking on this visit of around an hour. The programme will be:

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| 12.00 | Meet at Baker Street station, at ground level of the Baker Street exit of the Underground and walk up the west side of Regents Park, admiring the Nash buildings, to the London Mosque (near the Hanover Gate) |
| 12.30 | Visit to The London Mosque and Islamic Cultural Centre. (N.B. a head-covering (eg scarf) is obligatory for women) |
| 13 30 - 14 30 | Lunch |
| 14.30 | Walk along the southern edge of the park, between the canal with its ducks and geese on one side, and Regency buildings on the other side |
| 15.00 | Visit the Royal College of Physicians |
| 16.00 + | Finish visit, - (near Regents Park Underground Station) |

LUNCH OPTIONS: Please indicate choice when booking.

- A) Eat in the Mosque restaurant, offering a meal of meat (chicken, lamb or beef) with rice, salad and soft drink £5. Coffee and various cakes and snacks also available.
- B) Boat House Cafe (in park, 5 min walk) offering soft drinks, snacks, and hot pizzas.
- C) Park Cafe (at Queen Mary's Garden, 15 min walk) offering a selection of hot dishes @ £7.50 - £8, alcoholic drinks, a variety of salads and snacks, and sweets @ £2.50 - £4.

