

# Institute of Physics

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION

## Visit to Globe and Rose Theatres and City of London Highlights Tour Thursday 25 August 2005

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This visit has been organised by Robert Thorne

Globe and Rose Theatres <http://www.shakespeares-globe.org/>

The original Globe Theatre was built for William Shakespeare's company of players in 1599 and was located on Bankside on the south side of the Thames. Many of Shakespeare's plays were performed at the Globe and for 14 years it was one of the most successful playhouses in London. During a performance of Henry VIII in 1613 a stage cannon set fire to the thatch roof resulting in the theatre being completely burnt to the ground. A second theatre was built on the same site and remained a home for Shakespeare's company until the Puritans decreed its closure in 1642 to make way for tenements.

As a result of an initiative by Sam Wanamaker, the American actor, director and producer, the Globe was reconstructed some 200 yards from the original site and was opened to the public in 1997. Although the original drawings did not exist the current building is believed to be a faithful reconstruction of the original playhouse and incorporates authentic Elizabethan materials and craft techniques. Its roof is the first thatched one to be built in London since the great fire.

As part of the complex the current Globe Exhibition gives an introduction to the theatre of Shakespeare's time and the London in which he lived and worked. A visit to the exhibition includes a guided tour of today's working theatre.

Built in 1587 the Rose was the first theatre on Bankside and its remains were discovered in 1989. Some 10 years later the site was opened to the public as a venue for an exhibition presenting the history of the Rose.

### City of London Highlights Tour

This tour will be conducted by Anna Fenn, who was our guide for the Guildhall Art Gallery visit and excludes venues covered in previous City walks.

The items included in the inventory are as follows:

- 1 An introduction to the City of London;
- 2 A sculpture in homage to men and women who saved much of the city from destruction during the Blitz;
- 3 One of St Christopher Wren's finest parish churches
- 4 A stop at the headquarters of a City Livery Company for a presentation about "trial of the pyx" (The purpose of the annual trial is to check that UK coins produced at the Royal Mint are within the statutory limits for metallic composition, weight and size);
- 5 A location to consider some of the City's finest ancient and contemporary buildings

- 6 An area where William Shakespeare is commemorated with two of his closest friends and colleagues
- 7 A Georgian architectural treasure where Benjamin Disraeli worked;
- 8 An appreciation of the City's busiest junction
- 9 The area where coffee first became fashionable coupled with information on the origins of 17<sup>th</sup> Century Coffee Shops and a visit to the site of the father of them all.

The walk ends at a Victorian market where refreshments may be taken. The nearest tube station is the Bank.

The programme is

10.40 – 11.00	Assemble at exit 2 of the Mansion House Tube Station
11.10 – 13.00	Globe/Rose Exhibition and Tour
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch at the Globe Café
14.00 – 16.00	City of London Highlights Tour

The total cost of the two phases (excluding lunch) is £13.50. Numbers are limited to 20.

