

CUTLERS' HALL and St Bartholomews**Thursday 25 February 2016**

This visit has been organised by George Freeman

The Cutlers' Company is one of the most ancient of the City of London livery companies dating back to 1416 helping its members who dealt with swords and other cutting instruments. After lunch we will go to St Bartholomews the Great for a guided tour by the verger. He will also show us the art work belonging to the hospital.



The Cutlers' Company is one of the most ancient of the City of London livery companies and received its first Royal Charter from Henry V in 1416. Its origins are to be found among the cutlers working in the medieval City of London in the vicinity of Cheapside. As was the case with the other trade guilds of the day, its function was to protect the interests of its members, to attend to their welfare, and to ensure that high standards of quality were maintained. Their business was producing and trading in knives, swords, and other implements with a cutting edge. Over time the emphasis shifted from implements of war to cutlery and other domestic wares such as razors and scissors.

With the demise of the sword making and cutlery trade in the City during the 19th. century, the Company directed its attention towards supporting the surgical instrument trade by indenturing apprentices, and expanding its charitable activities with particular emphasis on supporting education.

Today the Company combines these charitable endeavours with maintaining the traditions of the City of London; supporting the Mayoralty; providing fellowship and hospitality; and preserving the Company's Hall and other assets for the benefit of future generations. With a livery of only 100 members, many of whom have been admitted by patrimony, it is in every sense a family Company and one which is justly proud of its ancient heritage and ancestry.

After lunch we will go to the St Bartholomew the Great



The **Priory Church of Saint Bartholomew the Great** is London's oldest surviving church. Founded in 1123 as an Augustinian Priory, it has been in continuous use since 1143. It is an active Anglican/Episcopal Church located in the part of London known as *The City*.

Originally known as the Chapel of the Holy Cross, and founded nearby in 1123, the **Hospital Church of St Bartholomew the Less**, just inside the hospital gates, moved to its present site in 1184. It was called *the Less* just to distinguish it from its larger neighbour.

In Great St Bartholomews our guide will be the vergers. We will get the history and architecture and he will also show us Hogarth's paintings and the museum. The other church, St Bartholomew the Less is always open, which we will look in. www.greatstbarts.com EC1A 9DS

MEET at the Cutlers' Hall

LUNCH will be taken at the Butchers Hook and Cleaver, a Fullers ale and pie shop. We are recommended to pre-order. 61 West Smithfield EC1A 9DY.

Tea can be bought in the church cafe after the visit.

11:00 – 11:15	Assemble at Cutlers' Hall for tea & coffee and toilets
11:15 – 12:30	Talk and tour of Cutlers' Hall
12:30 – 12:45	Walk to the pub
13:00 – 14.15	Lunch
14:20 – 14:15	Walk to St Bartholomew The Great
14:30 – 16:00	Guided tour of Museum, St Barts the Great and art works. St Barts the Less.

COSTS

£ 20 per person Minimum 15 and maximum 30 people. Lunch and tea at cost.

CONTACTS

Before the meeting. Tony Colclough 020 8398 0766 or 07801 698 336 tonycolclough@tiscali.co.uk
Or georgefreeman@georgefreeman.force9.net

On day of visit. George Freeman 07941 916 944

Late joiners go to the Cutlers' Hall, Warwick Lane.

BOOK via the normal IOP quarterly requests. The **closing date** for this event is Friday 19 February. If you wish to register after this date please contact the organiser.

