

Institute of Physics – London & South East Branch – Retired Members Section

SKINNERS' HALL & NATIONAL GALLERY

MONDAY 11 April 2016

This meeting has been organised by George Freeman

We start at Skinners' Hall with the Beadle telling us about the Skinners' trade and the Hall. The present building was rebuilt in the 1680s after the Great Fire. After lunch we will go to the National Gallery for a guided tour by Martin Olutniks.

Please book by 1 April

SKINNERS' HALL

The Worshipful Company of Skinners can be traced back to 1190. They dealt with the fur trade, mostly Ermine and sable, which were luxury items for the wealthy. Traders lived in the same area of London and worshipped in the same church. They had their first charter from Edward III in 1327 and have had a hall on their present site for 600 years. The Hall was destroyed in the great fire of 1666 and was rebuilt in the 1680s. It has survived wear and tear over the centuries and was bombed in the war.

With the decline of the fur trade it became a company for general trade. Today it is not connected with the fur trade at all and concentrates on its schools, almshouses and charities based on the legacies of its past wealthy patrons.

The beadle, Mervyn Bassett will be our guide, tell us of the history and take us over the main rooms.

The tour takes about 90 minutes.

www.skinnershall.co.uk



AFTER LUNCH we will walk back down Walbrook to Cannon Street underground station for the short ride to Embankment, and walk to the National Gallery. Allow 30 minutes. For those preferring the bus, No 15 stops near Cannon Street Station and Charing Cross. Allow 45 minutes.

NATIONAL GALLERY

Martin Olutniks will take us through the National Gallery. The tour will look at some of the highlight paintings in the Gallery's large collection, both from an artistic view - the iconography and social context - but also in terms of materials and techniques. Pigments and supports change, chemically and physically, with the passage of time, and fashions change too: we will look at how the materials available to the artist influenced the object created at the time and the work available to us today.

TRAVEL

To get to the meeting point the nearest station is the Bank underground station. If coming from Cannon Street mainline or underground, cross the road and walk up Walbrook.

MEET on the main, basement, floor of The Green Man, the Wetherspoon pub in the SW corner of the modern stripy building called No 1 Poultry. To reach it, take exit 9 of the Bank station as this leads you to the Green Man. From Walbrook, cross the road and enter the pub on the corner, the Green Man, at ground level and walk down stairs to the main restaurant area.

Refreshments and toilets.

Lunch can be taken in the Green Man or any of the various pubs and cafes in Bow Lane. I have reserved tables for us at the Green Man.

Reassemble on the steps of the National Gallery.

10:15 — 10:50	Meet in the Green Man, No 1 Poultry
10:50	Walk to Skinners' Hall
11:00 — 12:30	Tour of Skinners' Hall with the Beadle
12:30 — 14:00	Lunch
14:00 — 14:30	Underground to Embankment.
14:30 — 16:00	Tour of National Gallery

LATE ARRIVALS. Phone George or Tony to find out where we are.

From the Bank, take exit 8 for Walbrook, walk down Walbrook and cross Cannon Street into Dowgate Hill. The hall is at No.8½ and is on the right.

From Cannon Street Station (mainline or underground), leave the entrance in Cannon Street, turn left and immediately left into Dowgate Hill.

CONTACTS

Before the meeting. Tony Colclough 020 8398 0766 or 07930 171 307 or tonycolclough@tiscali.co.uk

Or georgefreeman@georgefreeman.force9.net 020 8979 1271

On day of visit George Freeman 07941 916 944

If you wish to join the group after the close of registration contact George Freeman to see if it is possible.

COSTS

£18 each with a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 30.

Refreshments at cost.

