

The British Library on Thursday, 16th March 2017

This visit has been organised by MC Black

Description. The British Library is the national library of the United Kingdom and the largest library in the world by number of items catalogued. A Grade I listed building, the library is a major research library, holding around 170 million items from many countries, in many languages and in many formats, both print and digital: books, manuscripts, journals, newspapers, magazines, sound and music recordings, videos, play-scripts, patents, databases, maps, stamps, prints, drawings. The Library's collections include around 14 million books, along with substantial holdings of manuscripts and historical items dating back as far as 2000 BC.



As a legal deposit library, the British Library receives copies of all books produced in the United Kingdom and Ireland, including a significant proportion of overseas titles distributed in the UK. It also has a programme for content acquisitions. The British Library adds some three million items every year occupying 9.6 kilometres (6.0 mi) of new shelf space.

We have arranged two private tours “behind the scenes” of the British Library.

The **General Guided Tour** in the morning covers the history of the British Library and its collections, and explains how we store our millions of items and how these items are requested and delivered to researchers in the reading rooms. We will find out about the 'jewel in the crown' of the library's collections: the King's Library, which once belonged to King George III. The tour will take us behind the scenes into a book handling room and also, where possible, to the viewing platform, where you see researchers inside the Humanities Reading Room.

In the afternoon, we will have a **Conservation Tour** which covers the work of conservation and gives an insight into the techniques used to care for the collections on a 'behind the scenes' tour of the Conservation studios. Please note that coats and bags (including handbags and clear plastic BL bags) cannot be taken into the studios.

Where and when to meet: Assemble at the Information Desk in the Entrance Hall at 10:50 where we will meet our guide. For the afternoon tour, re-assemble at the same place at 13:50. Members and their guests are recommended to leave coats and bags in the free cloakroom or locker room (lower ground floor). The lockers take a £1 coin, which is returnable.

Getting there: The British Library is situated immediately west of St. Pancras station at 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB. Don't even think of driving! Buses stop outside and King's Cross/St Pancras Tube station is a short walk away.

Lunch: There is a choice of places to eat and drink at St Pancras. The **King's Library Café** looks most suitable and is located on Floor 1, with spectacular terrace views and serving a full menu from breakfast to afternoon tea. The daily-changing lunch menu follows the

seasons using local ingredients to create a wide variety of dishes, including old favourites as well as new and exciting recipes. The menu includes homemade soups, a selection of main meals, a wide range of fresh salads, jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings, and puddings. See more at: <http://www.bl.uk/food-and-drink/cafes-and-restaurants>.

Timetable 11:00 General Guided Tour
12:30 Lunch
14:00 Conservation Tour

Size of party Maximum size of party = 15

Cost £15.00

Contacts Please contact MC Black (01920 467 930 or REMS@hardknott.org) with any queries. The best time to ring is between 07:30 and 09:30 in the mornings; members who have met MC's 97 year old Mother will understand.

Late arrivals Ring MC Black on his cell 'phone (07880 980 921); please do not try to contact him on this number at other times since he has severe Hearing Loss and won't hear it ringing.

