

Institute of Physics

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION

MANSION HOUSE and GUILDHALL THURSDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2008

This visit has been organised by George Freeman

Mansion House is one of the grandest surviving Georgian town palaces in London, with magnificent interiors. It is the purpose-built home of the Lord Mayor of the City of London, providing not only living and working space for the Lord Mayor and his household but also room for large ceremonial entertainments and banquets.

Building began in 1739 and the architect was the City's Clerk of Works, George Dance the Elder. Sir Crispin Gascoigne was the first Lord Mayor to take up residence, in 1752. Built around a central courtyard it contained a cellar, a ground floor for the servants and the kitchen, a grand first floor of offices, dining and reception rooms, including the Egyptian Hall where banquets were held, a second floor with a gallery for dancing and chambers for the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, and a third floor of bedchambers.

The Egyptian Hall is so named because its form was thought to replicate the dining halls used in Egypt in Roman times, with giant columns supporting a narrower attic area. Reconstructions of such halls were studied in Roman times and became very fashionable in the 18th century. However the decoration is classical. Although Mansion House retains much of its original character, there have been changes - one of the most important of which was the covering of the internal courtyard to form what is now known as the Saloon to provide a large reception area.

Structural repairs, careful conservation and complete redecoration were carried out in 1991-3. Mansion House was originally intended to enable the Lord Mayor to represent the City in appropriate style, and it continues to fulfil this function more than two centuries later.

The current Lord Mayor is David Lewis and he is a member of the Solicitors' Company, Fletchers' Company and the Welsh Livery Guild.

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

Our Guide will be the Hall Keeper.

WARNING: Because of the importance of the Mansion House this tour could be cancelled at the last moment should it be required by the Government or the Lord Mayor.

MEET in the Bank underground station at the top of the travelator from the Waterloo and City line, exit 8/9. Toilets near exit 6, coffee near exit 8 (no seats). We will walk to the Mansion House and pass through security. **NO PHOTOGRAPHY.** Cameras, camera phones, videos, etc. are to be left with security. There must be no changes to the attendance list after 14 August because of security. Please bring some form of identification.

LUNCH can be taken in any of the eating-places in the city.

AFTER LUNCH we will reassemble in front of the Guild Hall for a guided tour.

After the tour you are free to visit the Guild Hall Art Gallery. Pay on entrance.

10.15 – 10.40	Meet at the Bank underground station.
10.40	Walk to the entrance to meet the guide
11.00 – 12.30	Tour of Mansion House.
12.30 – 13.50	Lunch
13.50	Assemble in front of the Guild Hall
14.00 – 15.00	Tour of the Guildhall.

COSTS No charge

Minimum 15, maximum 40 people

Lunch and tea at cost.

The Guildhall Art Gallery is open to the public at £2.50

LATE COMERS go to the entrance in Walbrook (exit 8). No entry after 11.10. You can try phoning me but there might be no signal in the station.

CONTACTS

Prior to visit – Reinalt Vaughan-Williams - reinalt@physics.org, 020 8946 3399 and 07758 085741

On morning of visit only – George Freeman 07941 916 944