

IOP | Institute of Physics

London and South East Branch

Retired Members Section

**National Measurement Office (previously the National Weights & Measures Laboratory)
and Kneller Hall**

on Thursday 21 January 2010

This visit has been organised by George Freeman.

The National Measurement Office is responsible for all scientific, legal and trade measurements ensuring that all measurements are accurate, legal and fair to buyers and sellers. It covers various laboratories such as the National Physical Laboratory, where Roger Voles has organized a day's tour in February, the Assay Office, where we have been, some of the work of the Laboratory of the Government Chemist, where we will be visiting later in the year, NEL and the National Weights and Measures Laboratory, the commercial arm of NMO. NMO runs the National Measurement System which determines the work of the above National Measurement Institutes ensuring world class measurements, science and technology.

There has been some form of standards in this country for many centuries where standards were issued to markets for length, weight and volume. When these were changed the old standards were withdrawn. The system as we know it was started by Elizabeth I in an act of 1574. This became more formal and led to the establishment of National Weights and Measures Laboratory. Today, local authorities via their trading offices get their standards from NWML. We will be given an introduction to the system and will see the NWML calibration work and equipment testing such as gas, electricity, petrol meters, etc. TW11 0JZ, for map see www.nmo.bis.gov.uk

Kneller Hall is the Army School of Music where the musicians are trained. There has been a house on the site from Georgian times but the present building is Victorian. Before 1854 bands were hired but George, Duke of Cambridge, set up a coordinated system for the training of military musicians. This was in 1857 in Kneller Hall. We will hear the history of the house and the school, and see the Hall, the museum and the chapel. Our guide will be Major (retired) Roger Swift. TW2 7DU, www.army.mod.uk/music

MEET at Teddington station. Trains from Waterloo via Kingston (4 per hour) and via Richmond/Twickenham (2 per hour). Coach to the laboratory where we will be given refreshments (& toilets).

Those travelling by **car** can park inside the grounds or in Blandford Road alongside (to the North). This might be more convenient if you plan to join us on the coach. Wait in reception for the coach party. *Those wishing to take cars onto the NWML site or to Kneller Hall please give me the registration numbers for security clearance.*

LUNCH The **coach** will take us to a good local pub for lunch. After lunch it will take us to **Kneller Hall** and bring us back to Twickenham and Teddington stations and NWML for the cars afterwards.

10.30 – 10.50	Assemble at Teddington Station in the booking office
10.50	Coach to laboratory
11.00	Refreshments, talk and tour of the laboratory.
13.00	Coach to pub for lunch
14.30	Coach to Kneller Hall
14.45	Introduction to the school and tour
16.45	Coach to stations

COSTS £15.00 each

CONTACTS

Before the meeting Reinalt Vaughan-Williams reinalt@physics.org 020 8946 3399 and 07758 085741

On the morning only George Freeman 07941 916 944 or Reinalt's mobile. george.freeman@physics.org