

LGC and STRAWBERRY HILL HOUSE
THURSDAY 21 October 2010

This meeting has been organised by George Freeman

PLEASE NOTE EARLY START

LGC (formerly the Laboratory of the Government Chemist) is an independent organization providing analytical, forensic and diagnostic services and reference standards. LGC operates in socially responsible fields underpinning the safety, health and security of the public and the regulation of industry for UK government departments and blue chip clients. It is the National Measurement Institute for Chemical and Bioanalytical Measurement, the National Reference Laboratory for several areas and hosts the Government Chemist function. LGC employs 1500 staff at 28 sites across the world.

The post of Government Chemist was created in 1842 and the first chemist was George Phillips at Somerset House. LGC moved to their dedicated laboratories in Teddington in 1989.

The morning will start with a few lectures covering food analysis, forensic work and the NMO sponsored work. The laboratory tours will allow us a glimpse of the forensic laboratory (we will not be allowed inside because of possible contamination) and visits to a few laboratories to see some of the NMO and other government funded work. Our host will be Neil Harris. TW11 0LY.

LUNCH will be at a local pub.

STRAWBERRY HILL HOUSE. Horace Walpole (1717 – 97) was the youngest son of Britain's first Prime Minister. A good income allowed him to buy the house and set about creating his Gothic castle. The reconstruction began in 1748 and occupied the next 44 years. He was assisted by his "Committee of Taste" – himself, John Chute (of the Vyne, Hampshire) and Richard Bentley. Inspiration came from illustrations of Gothic Cathedrals, Abbeys and tombs in Walpole's extensive library. He did not expect his paper decorations (papier mache) to survive more than 10 years after him.

Our guide will be Michael Peover (ex NPL). He has been associated with the house since he retired and involved with the restoration of the House. He will describe the Gothic Revival and tell us about the restoration and show us parts of the house that the public do not see. TW1 4ST.

MEET in the ticket office of Teddington Station. We will walk to LGC for refreshments, toilet, etc.

END We will walk to Strawberry Hill Station, a few minutes away. This station is the one before/after Teddington Station, depending on direction of travel.

10.15 – 10.45	Assemble at Teddington Station
10.45 – 11.00	Walk to LGC. Refreshments and toilets.
11.00 – 13.00	LGC talks and tour
13.00	Coach to pub for lunch
13.10 – 14.20	Lunch in Teddington
14.20 – 14.30	Coach to Strawberry Hill House
14.30 – 16.30	Meet our guide for the tour of the House
16.30	Walk to Strawberry Hill Station.

TRAVEL

Trains from Waterloo via Wimbledon and Kingston (4 per hour) and via Richmond/Twickenham (2 per hour). Both take about 30 minutes. The walk to LGC is about 10 minutes.

Those travelling by **car** should enter the site at the Queen's Road entrance and park in the visitor's car park. Wait in reception for those coming by train.

There will be a **coach** to take us to **lunch** in Teddington and then to Strawberry Hill. Car drivers can leave their cars at LGC or follow the coach. Strawberry Hill House is at the end of Waldegrave Road. If the car park is full, park in one of the residential roads nearby.

LATE ARRIVALS Phone me and make your own way to LGC. Leave the ticket office and bear right, cross the main road at the pedestrian crossing and turn right walking round the police station turning sharp left into Park Road. The entrance is at the end of this road.

CONTACTS

Before the meeting John Belling john.a.belling.secrems@gmail.com 07986 379935
On the morning only - George Freeman 07941 916 944 or John's mobile.

COSTS

£18 each. Maximum for morning visit is 20; for the afternoon visit it is 30 so more people can come to the house.

