

VISIT TO 10 DOWNING STREET and BANQUETING HOUSE
on Friday 8th April 2011

This visit has been organised by Thomas Rutherford and John Belling.

10 Downing Street



10 Downing Street in London, colloquially known as “**Number 10**”, is the official residence and office of the First Lord of the Treasury of the United Kingdom. Situated on Downing Street in the City of Westminster, it is the headquarters of Her Majesty's Government and the residence of the First Lord of the Treasury who is now always the Prime Minister.



Number 10 Downing Street is one of the most famous addresses in the United Kingdom and the world. Almost three hundred years old, the building contains about one hundred rooms. There is a private residence on the third floor and a kitchen in the basement. The other floors contain offices and numerous conference, reception, sitting and dining rooms where the Prime Minister works and meets with and entertains government ministers, national leaders and foreign dignitaries. There is an interior courtyard and, in the back, a terrace overlooking a garden of 0.5 acres (2,000 m²). Adjacent to St James's Park, Number 10 is near the Palace of Westminster, the Houses of Parliament, and Buckingham Palace.

Banqueting House



The Banqueting House, Whitehall, London, is the grandest and best known survivor of the architectural genre of banqueting house, and the only remaining component of the Palace of Whitehall. The building is important in the history of English architecture as the first building to be completed in the neo-classical style which was to transform English architecture.

Begun in 1619, and designed by Inigo Jones in a style influenced by Palladio, the Banqueting House was completed in 1622 at a cost of £15,618, just 27 years before King Charles I was executed on a scaffold in front of it in January 1649.

The building was controversially re-faced in Portland stone in the 19th century, though the details of the original façade were faithfully preserved. Today, the Banqueting House is a national monument, open to the public and preserved as a Grade I listed building. It is cared for by an independent charity, Historic Royal Palaces, which receives no funding from the Government or the Crown.

The design of the Banqueting House is classical in concept. It introduced a refined Italianate Renaissance style that was unparalleled in the free and picturesque Jacobean architecture of England, where Renaissance motifs were still filtered through the engravings of Flemish Mannerist designers. The roof is all but flat and the roofline is a balustrade.

On the street façade, all the elements of two orders of engaged columns, Corinthian over Ionic, above a high rusticated basement, are interlocked in a harmonious whole.

The building is on three floors. The ground floor, a warren of cellars and store rooms, is low; its small windows indicating by their size the lowly status and usage of the floor, above which is the double-height banqueting hall, which falsely appears from the outside as a first-floor piano nobile with a secondary floor above. The seven bays of windows divided by Ionic pilasters of the "first floor" are surmounted by alternating triangular and segmental pediments, while the windows of the "second floor" are unadorned casements. Immediately beneath the entablature, which projects to emphasize the central three bays, the capitals of the Corinthian pilasters are linked by swags in relief above which the entablature, crowned by a balustrade, is supported by dental corbel table. Under the upper frieze, festoons and masks suggest the feasting and revelry associated with the concept of a royal banqueting hall.

Where and when to meet

Meet outside the iron gates of Downing Street at 10.15am

IMPORTANT : Bring identification – e.g. driving licence.

You are permitted to take pictures outside no 10, but not inside the house.

Getting there

Best by tube to Westminster, then a few minutes' walk.

Lunch arrangements



Tables have been booked at The Red Lion, 48 Parliament St, Whitehall, SW1A 2NH. Turn right out of Downing Street, cross over the road (Parliament Street), past the Cenotaph, and the Red Lion is on the corner with Derby Gate.

The menu includes Piri Piri Chicken, Hake Fillet and Chips, Beef Ragu Lasagne, Chicken & Mushroom Pie, Roast Monkfish, Mediterranean Vegetable Pasta, average cost around £10.

Maximum and minimum, size of party: 25

Cost: £10.00 per person

Timetable

Time	Details
10.15 sharp	Assemble outside gates of Downing Street, off Whitehall, SW1A 2AA IMPORTANT : Bring photo identification – e.g. passport or driving licence. We may be ushered in for security checks in advance of the start time of 10.30, and latecomers may not be admitted.
10.30 – 11.30	Tour of 10 Downing Street
11.30 – 13.15	Lunch at The Red Lion, 48 Parliament St
13.15 – 13.30	Assemble in the foyer of Banqueting House at Whitehall House, 41 Whitehall, London SW1A 2ER
13.30 – 15.00	Talk, film and private tour of Banqueting House given by Blue Guide Siobhan.
15.00	End of visit

Contacts

Tom Rutherford on mobile 01732 452097 or

John Belling on mobile 07986 379935 or email john.a.belling.secrems@gmail.com

Late arrivals – who to contact

Tom Rutherford on mobile 01732 452097 or

John Belling on mobile 07986 379935

Map

