

Institute of Physics – London & South East Branch – Retired Members Section

REMS Goes to Chinatown on Tuesday 22 September 2015

This visit has been organised by Tony Colclough. Our professionally qualified guide will be Tina Hodgkinson (www.guidedwalksinlondon.co.uk or info@guidedwalksinlondon.co.uk). Always consult the latest flyer.

Description: London's Chinatown is the largest in Europe. This colourful and vibrant area is popular with visitors and locals alike who are attracted to its numerous specialist restaurants. The tour starts with visits to two of London's best known squares. Firstly we visit Trafalgar Square where we will discover its connections with the Chinese community. The square itself hosts the Chinese New Year celebrations and we will also see St Martin in the Fields which provides regular services in the main Chinese languages. We then explore Leicester Square, home of film premieres, and hear about some of its former theatres. We go inside the Hippodrome, one of Britain's largest casinos. This former theatre, which has a surprising Chinese connection, has been beautifully restored and many of its original features have been re-instated. Leaving the casino we go on to explore the streets of Chinatown and the history of the Chinese community in London. Today there are about 200 Chinese and East Asian businesses in the area.



We will see the distinctive Chinese gateways and the other street furniture which makes this area unique. We also explore the area's earlier history which has literary, musical and medical connections. We shall hear about some of the famous people associated with the area including Johann Strauss, Sarah Bernhardt, Henry Irving and Dr Samuel Johnson. The tour will finish in the Wong Kei Chinese restaurant in Wardour St where we shall enjoy a set-menu shared banquet included in the price.

Where and when to meet: Café in the Crypt, St Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 4JJ. Assemble at 15:00 to start guided tour at 15:45.

Getting there: the nearest tube stations are Leicester Square and Charing Cross.

Dinner: Wong Kei at 41-43 Wardour Street, London W1D 6PY. Seating will be reserved for us upstairs.

Timetable (approximate times):

15:00 Meet in the café in the Crypt of St Martins in the Fields for refreshments.

15:45 - 18:00 Guided walk

18:00 Dinner at Wong Kei

Size of party: 10 to 30.

Cost: £27 to include both the guided tour and the set-menu Chinese banquet. Buy your own drinks.

Contacts: Before the day contact Tony Colclough at tonycolclough@tiscali.co.uk or on 020 8398 0766. On the day call 07930 171 307. **Late arrivals:** Call Tony on 07930 171 307.

