

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

HAMPTON COURT ROOF-TOP TOUR 16 June 2016

This visit has been organised by George Freeman.

In the morning we will have a guided tour of Wren's section of the roof at the palace with the fantastic views over the gardens and park. After lunch in the local pub, we will be taken into the attics of part of Wren's building to see how he managed to get such wide unsupported structures below and see some of the artefacts stored there, including some presents given to the Monarch on their overseas tours. *Please register before 10 June.*

Cardinal Wolsey started building his palace about 1612 but Henry VIII confiscated it in 1620. He carried on building including his Great Hall with its magnificent hammer-beam roof. Most centuries have seen more building, two notable architects being William Kent (George II) and Wren (William and Mary). Kent rebuilt some of the famous west front and parts of the inside. Wren built the Fountain Court and the south and east wings. Inside there are pictures and furniture from these periods and in some rooms there are costume guides who explain the history.

HRP (Historic Royal Palaces) runs roof-top tours over of Wren's part of the palace. Access is via a long steep stone staircase with iron banisters (probably made by Tijou as he was Wren's master blacksmith). On the roof there are steel walkways over the leads. The views of the old roofs, S & E gardens and park are unrivalled.

After lunch, Lee Prosser (a curator) will take us into one of the attics to see the structure of the building and some of the treasures stored there.

In the morning, the size of a group is a maximum of 12. We will have two groups starting at 11:00 and 12:00

SAFETY Please do not come with us if you have difficulty climbing stairs or suffer with vertigo. Please wear sensible flat shoes and, if sunny, a sun hat as it gets hot up there. If the weather is bad we will have a 1½ hour guided tour of the palace. Umbrellas and canes are not allowed on the roof and everyone must sign an indemnity form. Please read the conditions on page 3.

MEET in the Tiltyard Cafeteria for refreshments and toilets. It is to the west of the maze.

LUNCH can be had in the Tiltyard cafe or the Kings Arms just outside the grounds where I have booked some tables.

10:15 – 10:45	Assemble in the Tiltyard cafeteria
10:45	Enter the Palace
11:00	First Roof Top Tour.
12:00	Second Roof Top Tour
13:00	Lunch
14:30	Attic Tour – Lee Prosser; then explore Palace

COSTS £16.00 each. This visit will be cancelled if the number is less than 15. Maximum 24.

CONTACTS

Before the meeting meeting Tony Colclough on 020 – 8398 0766 tonycolclough@tiscali.co.uk or georgefreeman@georgefreeman.force9.net

On the day George on 07941 916 944

GETTING THERE.

Trains - every half hour from Waterloo via Clapham Junction and Wimbledon to Hampton Court Station, zone 6, at .26 and .56 each hour, taking 35 minutes.

Alternatively, there are 4 trains an hour from Waterloo via Clapham Junction and Wimbledon to Kingston. Near the station buses 411, 111 and 216 run frequently and pass the palace. Alight at "Palace Gardens" and walk past the maze to the cafe.

There are two trains an hour from Richmond station to Kingston. Alternatively, the bus R68 runs from Richmond Station to the Palace, every 15 minutes, taking 3/4 hour.

Car – **P1** is in the Palace grounds and is expensive. **P2** is on the A308 west of the Palace with charges.

P3 is in Bushy Park, is free and is about 400 yards from the Palace. **P4** is by Hampton Court Station and charges apply.