

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

Royal Observatory Greenwich and Painted Hall (Royal Naval College)

Friday 28 June 2019

This visit has been organised by Stewart Coulter who volunteers at the site.

Description: We will be taken on a guided visit to the Great Equatorial Telescope (GET) the largest refractor in the UK and 7th largest in the world, the Meridian Buildings which house Greenwich's historic meridian transit instruments including Airy's whose cross-hairs in 1884 defined the Prime Meridian of the World. We will also visit the Octagon Room and finally the Time Galleries, which house the Harrison Clocks along with Flamsteed House, home of the early Astronomers Royal.

After lunch at The Yacht on the riverfront we will visit the newly restored Painted Hall, "England's Sistine Chapel" for a guided tour followed by a walk around the history of the Royal Naval College. A lunch pre-order will be requested a week ahead.



Where and when to meet: 10:30 for 11:00 in the Pavilion Café on the east side of Blackheath Avenue.



By car: Parking is plentiful at the site, entry from Blackheath. £1.20/h, 4h max. Pay until 13:30 by which time we will have driven down the hill to lunch.

By DLR: alight at Cutty Sark then a 10 min walk with a short sharp climb at the end. For a gentler climb, keep to the road-side pavement. There is a taxi rank 25m to the left as you leave the station, past McDonalds. If the rank is empty it will soon fill. Eight minutes and £9 to ROG.

Lunch: a 10-minute downhill walk to the riverside. Free parking *might* be available at the RNC below, if not there is plenty in a council car park but at £3/h. The organiser will speak about options on the day.

Timetable Tony Nixon and Mike Dryland are our expert guides for the morning:

- 10:30 Gather in Pavilion Café on E side of parking
- 11:00 Introduction in Courtyard then Octagon Room
- 11:20 Split tours: Meridian Building / GET and Time Galleries, some free time at end
- 13:00 Meet outside ticket office for the 15 min walk/10 min drive to lunch - offers of lifts please
- 13:30 Lunch at The Yacht (pre-orders will be requested the week before) then a 5 min walk to...
- 15:00 The Painted Hall: public guided talk (½h)
- 16:00 500 Years of History: public guided walk of the Royal Naval College (1h)
- 17:00 Depart/refreshments at The Old Brewery

Afternoon talks/walks: If your time is limited you are not obliged to follow this timetable, you can DIY:

- Painted Hall: these last 30 min and take place on the hour and half hour, last talk at 4pm
- Royal Naval College: these last 1h and take place on the hour, last walk at 4pm.

There is a *great deal* to see around the Royal Museums, Greenwich. This visit will be the first of three or even four visits which the organiser will arrange in the near future.

To book email Tony Colclough at tonycolclough@outlook.com

Size maximum 40

Cost £28, incl £5 deposit for pre-ordered lunch (the £5 will be taken off the cost of your meal)

Contacts Stewart Coulter stewartcoulter.rems@gmail.com 07747 800837

Late arrivals Tony Colclough 07930 171307

The Old Brewery



Further information including getting there and parking: please visit www.rmg.co.uk

Notes on accessibility:

- Taxi from station covered above
- ROG parking is adjacent to entrance and on the same level, Blue Badge **P** on map, as close as 50m
- Entrance to Flamsteed House and the Time Galleries is by 4 steps
- There are some seats in various rooms, foldable stools will be requested
- The Octagon Room is up one floor via a narrow staircase
- Access to the GET is via a metal spiral staircase, two stories up
- Hopefully car lifts can be offered to The Yacht
- The Yacht: 2 plus 3 steps to dining area
- The Painted Hall is all on one level with one end up a few steps
- Skittle Alley: one level