

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

Smithfields: The Charterhouse and The Museum of the Order of St John

Thursday 17 March 2022

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This visit has been organised by Stewart Coulter.

**Description:** Today we step back in history to visit two ancient establishments dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries: The Museum of The Order of St John and The Charterhouse. The Order of St John began caring for pilgrims travelling to The Holy Land in 1080 and in 1140 the present site was set up as their English Priory. In 1888 the modern Order was granted a Royal Charter creating the St John's Ambulance and the Museum reopened in 2009 after a £3.5m Lottery refit.



After lunch we visit The Charterhouse which was founded in 1371 as a Carthusian monastery. It became one of the great aristocratic houses of Tudor London and then became Europe's best endowed charity, created by England's wealthiest commoner at the time, Thomas Sutton (1532-1611). He also founded the school, now sited near Guilford. Today it is home to 40 Brothers (pictured), retired single men of modest means. We will be taken on a 2h tour by a Brother.

**Arriving:** Farringdon, a tube and mainline station, Barbican and St Pauls tube stations are all about 5-10 minutes walk from the St Johns Museum.

**Lunch:** The Butcher's Hook and Cleaver is an ornate Fullers Ale and Pie House and is 5 min walk from both visits. Pre-orders will be required closer to the time.

## Timetable:

- 10:00 St Johns Museum opens, ask which galleries to peruse.  
If in need of refreshments meet me at EC1 Coffee House,  
49 Clerkenwell Rd, London EC1M 4PN, 2 min away
- 11:00 The Museum of the Order of St John: 2 tours in turn
- 12:30 5 min walk to lunch, then 5 min again to ...
- 14:15 The Charterhouse: guided walk by a brother
- 16:00 Refreshments (included) and dispersal.



**Dress and accessibility:** Much of the St John's visit is outdoors, please dress according to the forecast. Both sites are accessible though there are 40 steps at St Johns. Please contact the organiser if you wish to receive their fully detailed guide to accessibility.

**To book:** contact the organiser, Stewart Coulter, contact details below. **Deadline:** February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Cost & payment:** £41 pp including refreshments at 4pm.

**Contact details:** Organiser: [stewartcoulter.rems@gmail.com](mailto:stewartcoulter.rems@gmail.com) 07747 800837

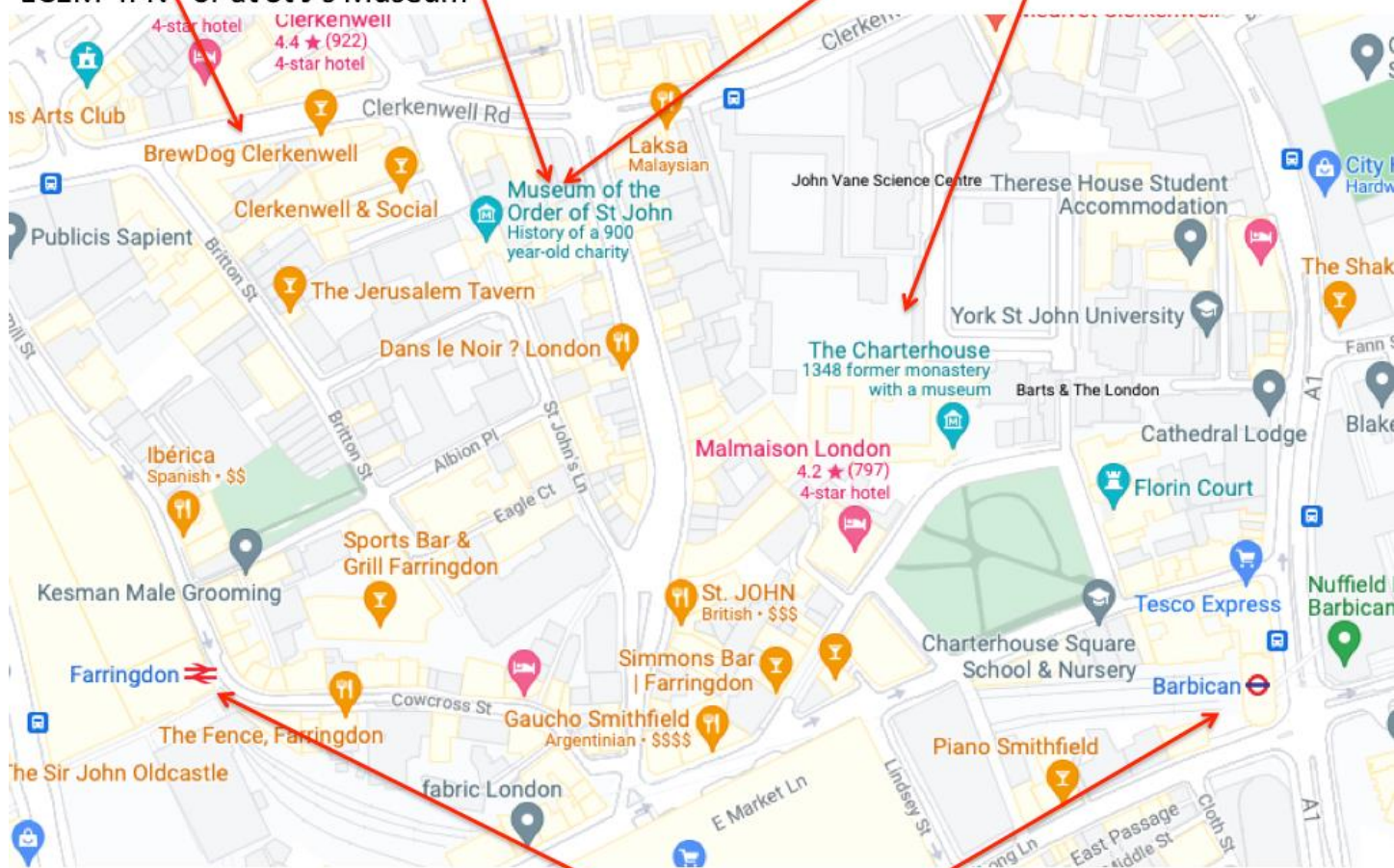
**Latecomers:** Please phone Hugh Deighton on 07712 563360. Failing that Stewart as above.

**Size: Max:** 18

**Map**

Meeting places: EC1 Café, 49 Clerkenwell Rd  
EC1M 4PN or at St J's Museum

Visit locations



Tube stations Pub lunch a few minutes S

**Parking:** There is Blue Badge parking available at The Charterhouse all day. Please contact me if you wish to avail yourself of this facility. Otherwise there are NCP parks nearby, best booked in advance: go to <https://www.ncp.co.uk>