

Institute of **Physics**

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION

THE ROYAL SOCIETY and THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

Thursday 5 June 2008

This visit has been organised by John Lunn

The Royal Society is the independent scientific academy of the UK and the Commonwealth dedicated to promoting excellence in science.

The Society plays an influential role in national and international science policy and supports developments in science, engineering and technology in a wide range of ways.

The Royal Society's Medals and Awards are an important part of its work in recognising excellence in science across the disciplines.

This visit will last about 1 hour and consists of a tour of the library and The Royal Society building. As the rest of the building, other than the Library, is used for events and meetings, access to particular rooms cannot be guaranteed. However, the Society has an Archive display area, which is always accessible.

The address of the Society is 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG. We will meet in the reception area just inside the main entrance. Charing Cross Bakerloo Line exit and Piccadilly are the nearest Underground Stations.

Lunch will be taken in the Society's staff canteen where costs are modest – around £3.

The Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, is one of the foremost opera houses in the world. The large building is home of the Royal Opera, the Royal Ballet and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House.

The current building is the third theatre on the site. The façade, foyer and auditorium date from 1858, but almost every other element of the present complex dates from an extensive reconstruction in the 1990s.

This visit will include a tour of the Backstage and Front of House areas of the theatre as it prepares to open its doors for the evening performance. As the Royal Opera House is a fully working theatre, each tour is a unique experience. Tours vary according to what is available on the day and a visit to the auditorium is not guaranteed. Nonetheless, this should be a very interesting experience. The Royal Opera House is a large building so distances have to be travelled using stairs or lifts.

The guide will meet our group in the cloakroom area adjacent to the Box Office in the Bow Street/Covent Garden Piazza Link. Covent Garden is the nearest Underground Station.

Timetable for the day is as follows:-

11:00 to 12:00Hrs – Tour of Royal Society Building and its Library.

12:15 to 13:30Hrs – Lunch in The Royal Society staff canteen.

Members to pay for their lunch on the day of the visit.

14:30 to 16:00Hrs – Backstage Tour of The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

COST FOR 20 PEOPLE MAXIMUM

£16.00 per person, payable in advance.