

**Visit to Handel House and Wallace Collection  
on Thursday 4th November 2010**

This visit has been organised by John Belling.

## Handel House

The **Handel House Museum** at 25 Brook Street was home to the great baroque composer George Frideric Handel from 1723 until his death in 1759.

The only composer museum in London, this landmark address is where Handel composed some of the greatest music in history, including *Messiah*, *Zadok the Priest* and *Music for the Royal Fireworks*.



The Museum celebrates Handel's life and works, displaying portraits of Handel and his contemporaries in finely restored Georgian interiors and bringing live music back to his house. There are frequent music rehearsals, weekly concerts and special musical events in addition to regular displays and exhibitions that bring Handel's world to life.

Handel was the first occupant of the house, part of a four-building development by speculative builder George Barnes. Brook Street was planned and built between 1717 and 1726 to connect Hanover Square and Grosvenor Square and was in a good upper-middle class area.

Although away from the artistic centres of Soho and Covent Garden, it was within easy walking distance of St James's Palace, where Handel conducted his official duties, and the King's Theatre, Haymarket, the focus of his Italian opera career at the time.

After refreshments, we will be given a private tour of the house and museum, after which Claire Williams will give us a private recital on the harpsichord, to include music by Handel and Scarlatti.

Photo by courtesy of Handel House and Matthew Hollow



There will be a little time to view the Jimi Hendrix exhibition.

To commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the untimely death of Jimi Hendrix, Handel House Museum will be presenting a new exhibition *Hendrix in Britain*, celebrating the great rock musician's life and work. Hendrix lived in the top floor flat at 23 Brook Street, next door to Handel's house.

# The Wallace Collection



The Wallace Collection is a museum in London, with a world-famous range of fine and decorative arts from the 15th to the 19th centuries with large holdings of French 18th-century paintings, furniture, arms & armour, porcelain and Master paintings arranged into 25 galleries.

It was established in 1897 from the private collection mainly created by Richard Seymour-Conway, 4th Marquess of Hertford (1800–1870), who left it and the house to his illegitimate son Sir Richard Wallace (1818–1890), whose widow bequeathed the entire collection to the nation. The museum opened to the public in 1900 in Hertford House, Manchester Square, and remains there, housed in its entirety, to this day. A condition of the bequest was that no object should ever leave the collection, even for loan exhibitions.



On arrival, we shall be given a tour of the collection with particular reference to the clock collection. Special reference will be made to the astronomical clock. We shall be split into two groups of up to 15 members.

## Where and when to meet

Meet in the upstairs Activity Room in Handel House, 25 Brook Street London W1K 4HB, between 10.30 and 11.00, for tea and biscuits.

## Getting there:

Morning at Handel House: The easiest is to get to Bond Street tube station, either Central or Jubilee line. It is probably worth consulting the London transport web site to check for severe delay or line closure reports, at [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk).

The entrance to Handel House is in a small alleyway, not identified clearly in most London atlases. Google maps indicates the location incorrectly, so pay attention!

Leave Bond Street tube station via “Exit 1/Oxford Street/Bond Street”, turning left and immediately sharp left again into South Molton Street, where you will see the *Hog in the Pound* pub, where we can lunch. Walk down South Molton Street (pub to your right), about 200 yds or so to reach a T-junction with Brook Street. Immediately opposite, you will see a square arch signed *Lancashire Court W1*. If you have time, turn left into Brook Street and walk down a small distance – you can see the Georgian exterior of Handel House, number 25, opposite – note the blue plaque, but you cannot gain entrance to the House here. Cross over Brook Street and walk through the *Lancashire Court* square arch - this leads to a cobbled alleyway. Continue a short distance down the alleyway, bearing sharp left, after which you will see a shop called *Sonia Rykiel*. The visitor entrance to Handel House is immediately after this shop, easy to miss.

Afternoon at the Wallace Collection. I shall be outside the *Hog in the Pound* pub in South Molton Street a few yds from Bond Street tube station at 1.55pm sharp, and will lead the way to the Wallace Collection for those that want. For those who want to make their own way, then from Bond Street tube station, walk west down Bond Street (from the tube exit where you were this morning, west is left) and take the 3<sup>rd</sup> on the right, Duke Street. (Make sure you go right (north) here and not left, as Duke Street crosses Bond Street north-south) Walk up Duke Street (north). Continue over Wigmore Street, and you will come immediately to Manchester Square, where you will see the Wallace Collection building (Hertford House) on the opposite side of the square.

**Lunch arrangements:** *Hog in the Pound* pub, South Molton Street, a few yds from Bond Street tube station. Seating will be reserved. Please indicate on the booking form if you want to lunch there. There are a number of alternatives. There is a very nice (but pricey) Italian restaurant directly outside the entrance to Handel House. Or there is a cheap but small restaurant called *Café Ottolina* in South Molton Street (about a third of the way up, on the left, retracing steps to Bond Street station). You can dine in style at the Wallace Collection, but it's pricey.

## Timetable

Time	Details
10.30 – 11.00	Assemble in the Activity Room upstairs in Handel House, for refreshments, 25 Brook Street – make sure you read directions above! London W1K 4HB
11.00 – 12.00	Tour of Handel House (one or two groups, depending on numbers).
12.00 – 12.30	Private harpsichord recital given by Claire Williams.
12.30 – 12.45 or longer...	A little free time, maybe look at <i>Hendrix in Britain</i> exhibition.
12.45 - 1.55	Lunch I will be outside the <i>Hog in the Pound</i> pub at 1.55pm sharp, to lead the way to the Wallace Collection for those that want, about 10 minutes' walk.
2.10	Assemble in the foyer of the Wallace Collection, Hertford House Manchester Square, London W1U 3BN
2.15 – 3.30	Conducted tour of the Wallace collection with particular reference to the clock collection.
3.30 – 5.00	Free time browse through the collection, or have tea in the restaurant.

**Maximum and minimum size of party:** max 30, min 12.

**Cost:** £20.00, including refreshments in Handel House

**Contacts:** John on mobile 07986 379935 or email: [john.a.belling.secrems@gmail.com](mailto:john.a.belling.secrems@gmail.com)

**Late arrivals:** John on mobile 07986 379935