

RNLI and HMS Belfast
Thursday 10 November 2011

This meeting has been organised by George Freeman

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) is a voluntary association that runs the lifeboats, their stations and crews around our coasts. The crews are all local people who know the seas in their area. On the Thames there are four stations and the busiest of them all is the Tower Bridge one which has about one call-out every day. We will visit this one and the station manager, Janet Kelly, will tell us about the Institution, the various boat types and what happens in London. She said she would talk in case the crews are out on a call. There are two boats at this station. The station is on a pontoon by Waterloo Bridge and Somerset House. (www.rnli.org.uk)

HMS Belfast is one of the most powerful large light cruisers ever built. It is now the only surviving vessel of her type to have seen active service during the Second World War. Serving Britain for 32 years, she played an important role in both the Second World War and the Korean War as well as performing peacekeeping duties throughout the 1950s and 1960s. Saved from destruction in 1971, HMS Belfast is now part of the Imperial War Museum and is the first ship to be preserved for the nation since Nelson's *Victory*. Martin Olutniks, a blue badge guide, will take us over the ship and tell us of its history. (www.hmsbelfast.iwm.org.uk)

Meet in the entrance hall of Somerset House. This is reached from either Waterloo Bridge (second door on left along the river frontage) or through the courtyard from the Strand. Tom's Deli opens early for refreshments. Toilets.

Lunch can be taken in the Liberty Bounds, a Wetherspoon pub, 15 Trinity Square – North of the Tower and opposite it.

10.30 — 10.55	Meet in the entrance hall of Somerset House
10.55	Walk to the RNLI station
11.00 — 12.30	Talk & tour of the station
12.30 — 13.00	Underground to Tower Hill
13.00 — 14.00	Lunch
14.00 — 14.20	Walk to HMS Belfast
14.30 — 16.30	Guided tour of HMS Belfast

TRAVEL

The nearest stations are Waterloo, Charring Cross, Embankment and Temple.

LATE ARRIVALS. Phone George or John to find out where we are.

CONTACTS

Before the meeting John Belling john.a.belling.secretms@gmail.com 07986 379935
On the morning only - George Freeman 07941 916 944 or John's mobile.

COSTS

£25 each with a maximum of 20. This includes a donation to the RNLI
Refreshments at cost.