



London Group Events

*January – June
2019*



Dear Fellow Alumni,

Welcome to our new-look programme for the first half of 2019, which offers an exciting range of activities for you and your guests to enjoy between January and June next year. We are moving to electronic circulation, intended for you to read on-screen before submitting your ticket application form and payment. This helps us to keep down our printing and postage costs, but printed hard copies will still be available on request for those who prefer.

Our volunteer Prime Movers have once again come up with an amazing variety of the activities they themselves enjoy and want to share with other like-minded alumni. There are the usual favourites, London walks, visits to historic sites, theatre, opera and concert performances, as well as a very welcome return by Professor John Mullan to discuss his favourite author, Jane Austen, in an intriguingly entitled lecture, "What matters in Jane Austen?"

Two major collections will open their stores, allowing us to see items not normally on public view: Angels Costumes and the Museum of London's Archaeological Archive. Three very different visits share a military theme, the Royal Hospital Chelsea, the Royal Gunpowder Mills at Waltham Abbey and the Tower of London featuring the ancient Ceremony of the Keys.

I do hope you find plenty of events within this eclectic programme to interest and entertain you and look forward to meeting you at many of them. Do bring along guests too, especially if they might be interested in joining the London Group themselves. Attracting new members is vital to our future!

With all good wishes,



Janet Kitchen
(French & German 1964)

UCL Alumni London Group Events, January - June 2019

Talk: "Jane Austen"

LPO concert at RFH

Strawberry Hill House Tours

Angels Costumes

Sweeney Todd

London Museum Archives

UC Opera: "Libuse"

Royal Hospital Chelsea

Walthamstow Wetlands

Walk: Sherlock Holmes

Walk: Kew

Gunpowder Mills

Ceremony of the Keys

Physic Garden

Walk: Bloomsbury

Contact

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'Why is it risky to go to the seaside? What are the worst ways to propose marriage? Why do some Jane Austen characters never speak? Are people to blame for their illnesses?' These questions and more will be answered, and thereby Jane Austen's ingenuity shown afresh.

John Mullan is Lord Northcliffe Professor of Modern English Literature in the Department

London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall

Friday 8 February, at 7.30 pm

PRIME-MOVER

Janet Kitchen (French 1964)

'Spirit of Delight!' sums up the programme for this concert of works by Mendelssohn, Chopin and Elgar. The orchestra hovers, pulls back, and then surges forward in glowing waves of sound. No British music is more thrilling than the opening of Elgar's Second Symphony, and nothing quite matches what follows: music torn straight from the heart. If that doesn't sound like your idea of Elgar, let conductor David Parry reveal what you've been missing. Discover the darker side of Mendelssohn too, in a gloriously gothic overture. The link is Chopin,

Talk: "What Matters in Jane Austen?" by Prof John Mullan

Thursday 24 January, at 6.30 pm

PRIME-MOVER

Jim Parkin (Chemistry 1959)

of English Language and Literature at UCL and Head of the Department.

He is a regular TV and radio broadcaster and a literary journalist; he writes on contemporary fiction for the *Guardian*. His most recent book is on this very subject.

£14

Maximum number 50



and the timeless romance of his First Piano Concerto, played by the charismatic young Italian virtuoso Vanessa Benelli Mosell..

As usual, those wishing to gather for a pre-concert meal (not included in the ticket price) may do so at nearby Italian restaurant, Azzurro, at a special discounted rate for our group.

£27

Maximum number 30



Strawberry Hill House Tours

Tuesday 12 February, at 10.30 am

PRIME-MOVER

Dennis Wilmot (Psychology 1983)

To include a once-in-a-lifetime exhibition opportunity – see below!

Born in 1717, Horace Walpole was a pivotal figure in 18th Century society, literature, art and architecture and the third son of Britain's first Prime Minister. Strawberry Hill House's story begins in 1747, when Horace Walpole purchased one of the last remaining sites available on the banks of the Thames in fashionable Twickenham.

He transformed what was then a couple of cottages into his vision of a 'little Gothic castle' with pinnacles, battlements and a round tower. Thus Strawberry Hill House was born – the House became a tourist attraction in Walpole's lifetime and beyond.

Our tour will include the 'Lost Treasures' exhibition of Walpole's collection, one of the most important of the 18th century. Sold off in the great sale of 1842, for the first time in over 170 years the collection has been returned and can be seen as Walpole designed it, all shown in their original positions. The exhibition finishes in February, very soon after our visit. Also included is a tour of the gardens in the afternoon. There is a café which has a range of lunchtime meals and afternoon teas (not included in the price).

£29

Maximum number 30

Angels Costumes, Hendon

Wednesday 26 February at 2.00 pm

PRIME-MOVER

John Bonham

A one-of-a-kind experience. The 'Behind the Seams Tour' showcases an extensive costume collection which spans 8 miles worth of rails and over a million items. On the tour you'll be guided around all of Angels Costume Departments including Tailoring, Alterations, Uniforms, Badge Room and Warehouse.



You'll hear first hand accounts of working with some of the largest productions such as 'Shakespeare in Love', 'Downton Abbey' and 'The Lady in the Van'; and see clothes made for Judi Dench and Benedict Cumberbatch. Parking is available if booked in advance.

£26

Maximum number 17



UC Musical Theatre: 'Sweeney Todd'

Friday 1 March at 7.30 pm

PRIME-MOVER

Ian Senior (Economics 1974)

Museum of London's Archaeological Archive

Tuesday 12 March at 11.00 am

PRIME-MOVER

Belinda Tincknell (Psychology 1973)

Every time a new skyscraper is built or a new train line tunnelled, we discover more about Londoners' lives through the ages. This is a chance to go behind the scenes to see where finds go after excavations finish and explore the thousands of artefacts that haven't yet made it into the galleries. Mortimer Wheeler House in Islington has an incredible 10km of shelves to hold the Museum of London's archive. According to Guinness World Records, it is the largest in the world! The Collections Manager will lead the tour which will last between 60-90 minutes. The building has a lift so it is wheelchair accessible and chairs can be supplied throughout the route if required.

Sweeney Todd is Stephen Sondheim's darkly humorous musical. His version of the demon barber of Fleet Street is a classic blend of brilliance and the macabre.

Those of us who went to UCLU's 2018 production of Sondheim's equally challenging *Into the Woods* were amazed by the outstanding quality of singing, choreography, sets and orchestra.

The overall standard of the Musical Theatre's productions is remarkable. This will be a fine show to celebrate their return to the re-opened Bloomsbury Theatre.

£15

Maximum number 30



Following the visit, there is the option of a fish and chips lunch at The Commissary, a nearby restaurant/bar alongside Regent's Canal. Originally home to Regent's Canal Ironworks, some of the foundry's output included railings for many of London's landmarks. Now, the rest of the building houses photographic studios and many famous people have been snapped there. Depending on the day, there is the offer of a short tour.

The meal cost will be £13.00, (drinks to be ordered and paid for separately at the bar). Please indicate whether you would like to be included in the restaurant booking.

Tour including lunch £32. Tour only £19.

Maximum number 25



UC Opera: 'Libuse' by Smetana

Monday 18 March at 7.30 pm

PRIME-MOVER

Ian Senior (Economics 1974)

Libuse was first performed in 1881. The plot revolves around the ownership of inherited property and love affairs that may affect who the beneficiaries will be. As in many operas the story-line is less important than the music which, if *The Bartered Bride* is anything to go by, should be enjoyable. The opera marks UC Opera's return to the Bloomsbury Theatre following refurbishment.

The standard of UC operas is always remarkable and the added challenge this time is that of performing the opera in the original Czech. No doubt surtitles will be provided.

£25

Maximum number 30



Tour of the Royal Hospital Chelsea

Monday 25 March, at 1.30 pm

PRIME-MOVER

Kate Wickson (Classics 1972)

For our Scarlet Tour of the famous Hospital our guide will be one of the pensioners. We will learn about Christopher Wren's building and the history of this unique institution. We shall hear stories of pensioners, now and in the past, and learn about their daily lives.

Our tour will last 2 hours. The walking tour will last 90 minutes and we will then have time to look at their in-house museum, and browse in the shop.

£20

Maximum number 25



Walthamstow Wetlands

Tuesday 2 April at 11.00 am

PRIME-MOVER

Quetta Kaye (Archaeology 1994)

Walthamstow Wetlands is a 520 acre nature reserve, located at Walthamstow Reservoirs, 2 Forest Road, N17 9NH. The entrance is a seven minute walk from Tottenham Hale station (Victoria line). Opened in 2017, the site is particularly important for wildlife due to its position within the Lee Valley; a byway for migrating, wintering and breeding birds in the Greater London area. The site is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is one of the largest urban wetland nature reserves in Europe. Visitors can access the site's natural, industrial and social heritage in one of

the capital's most diverse and densely populated urban areas.

The reservoirs, under the ownership of Thames Water, also form part of a larger Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation, noted for the mixture of aquatic and terrestrial habitats on site, and for their London-wide importance (especially for birds). We shall have a guided tour for about 2 hours. There is a café in the Engine House visitor centre.

£12

Maximum number 25

Walk: Sherlock Holmes Walking Tour

Thursday 9 May, at 10.30 am

PRIME-MOVER

Dennis Wilmot (Psychology 1983)

Grab your deerstalker, as you embark on a Sherlock Holmes Tour of London, exploring places featured in the books, real sites that inspired Arthur Conan Doyle, as well as many locations featured in film and TV adaptations of the detective's great adventures. The tour starts at the very place where Holmes and Watson first meet and then takes in literary sites from gentlemen's clubs to grand hotels featured in



some of the novels and short stories, as well as the London that inspired the author of the books. The tour takes about two hours, starting from Piccadilly Circus.

£15

Maximum number 25



A Walk Round Kew

Tuesday 14 May at 11.00 am

PRIME-MOVER

Jenny Dunn (Statistics 1962)

Nestling in a sweeping bend of the river Thames, Kew has evolved over the centuries from an Anglo Saxon fishing hamlet to a substantial London suburb and is famed for being home to the country's most important botanical garden. Caroline MacMillan's morning walk will take us through quiet streets, where market gardeners once grew fruit and vegetables to feed the growing populace of London, to reach the tranquil Green where members of the Royal Family enjoyed living in rural surroundings. After lunch at a nearby hostelry, the main entrance is close by for those wishing to visit the Gardens with entrance fee. Please note the cost of refreshments is not included.

£11

Maximum number 25

The Royal Gunpowder Mills, Waltham Abbey

Monday 10 June at 11.00 am

PRIME-MOVER

Dennis Wilmot (Psychology 1983)



China is credited with the first use of saltpetre, one of the key ingredients of gunpowder. English soldiers first employed gunpowder in a military role in 1346. Early supplies of gunpowder were hand produced in the Tower of London but then at Waltham Abbey in the 17th century in response to shortages in the second war against the Dutch. The mills were then run in private hands for over 100 years and by the 18th century had a most highly industrialised factory system leading to high volumes and the highest quality. As such the Mills were purchased by the Crown in 1787 and became a key ingredient in Britain's international success, such as in the Napoleonic wars from 1789, and helping to meet the huge demand of WW1.

Our visit will include a 'land train' tour, exploring the 300 year history of this site. There are also extensive attractions to see, including an exhibition about the development of rocket motors, an armoury, an interactive museum, a woodlands walk and 175 acres of parklands to explore. There is a café on site.

The Mills are a 25 min walk from Waltham Cross Station, or by bus then a 10 min walk.

£18

Maximum number 22



The Tower of London including the 'Ceremony of the Keys'

Thursday 13 June at 7.30 pm

PRIME-MOVER

Dennis Wilmot (Psychology 1983)

We will be the personal guests of Yeoman Warder Gary Thynne at a visit which is not available to the general public. There will be a private tour of parts of the Tower followed by a visit to the Yeoman Warder's Club which contains a cash bar. Later in the evening we will be allowed to watch the 'Ceremony of the Keys'. This is the traditional locking-up of the Tower and has taken place each and every night without fail for over 700 years.

Apart from our standard £5 admin charge the event is free. The Tower of London does not charge for this event, nor for the service of the Yeoman Warder, but generous participation

towards the Yeoman Warders' Club raffle on the night will be requested. A dress code of jacket and tie for men will be in place and a minimum age of 18 is required. Guests will be welcome. If any guests, currently or retired, have military rank please let us know, so staff at the Tower can be advised in advance as a matter of courtesy.

The Ceremony of the keys will finish shortly after 10pm. No one will be allowed to leave the Tower between 9.20 pm and the completion of the ceremony.

£5

Maximum number 50



Chelsea Physic Garden

Friday 14 June at 12.30 pm

PRIME-MOVER

Ian Senior (Economics 1974)

Since 1673 Chelsea Physic Garden has occupied four acres of land on the edge of the Thames in the heart of Chelsea. First established by apothecaries to grow medicinal plants, this extraordinary garden has had wide reaching impact around the world.

London's oldest botanic garden, it contains a unique living collection of around 5,000 different edible, useful and medicinal plants that have changed the world.

Literary Walk: Bloomsbury

Saturday 22 June at 11.00 am.

PRIME-MOVER

Jim Parkin (Chemistry 1959)

The walk will be about more than just Virginia Woolf and her friends, although they will of course be part of it! We will also see the church where Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath married, the site of the home and business of William Morris, and the building where T.S.Eliot worked for the publishers Faber and Faber.

In addition we will see the hospital where 'Clockwork Orange' author Anthony Burgess was successfully treated by Roger Bannister, and the only surviving Georgian street of shops in London, above which W.B. Yeats lived in the early 20th century.

We shall meet in the Garden's café and then have a guided tour lasting about 90 minutes.

£20

Maximum number 20



Also we will see the building which was once a horse hospital, as well as much more! The walk will last approximately 2 ½ hours and is mainly on the flat.

£13

Maximum number 25

Ticket Application Form

| | | | Ticket price | Number required | Tickets cost |
|-----|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 | Talk: "Jane Austen" | Thur 24 Jan | £14 | | |
| 2 | LPO concert at RFH | Fri 8 Feb | £27 | | |
| 3 | Strawberry Hill House Tours | Tue 12 Feb | £29 | | |
| 4 | Angels Costumes | Tue 26 Feb | £26 | | |
| 5 | Sweeney Todd | Fri 1 Mar | £15 | | |
| 6.1 | London Museum Archives | Tue 12 Mar | £19 | | |
| 6.2 | Ditto, including lunch | | £32 | | |
| 7 | UC Opera: "Libuse" | Mon 18 Mar | £25 | | |
| 8 | Royal Hospital Chelsea | Mon 25 Mar | £20 | | |
| 9 | Walthamstow Wetlands | Tue 2 Apr | £12 | | |
| 10 | Walk: Sherlock Holmes | Thur 9 May | £15 | | |
| 11 | Walk: Kew | Tue 14 May | £11 | | |
| 12 | Gunpowder Mills | Mon 10 Jun | £18 | | |
| 13 | Ceremony of the Keys | Thur 13 Jun | £5 | | |
| 14 | Physic Garden | Fri 14 Jun | £20 | | |
| 15 | Walk: Bloomsbury | Sat 22 Jun | £13 | | |
| | | | Subscription £15 (waged) or £10? | | |

Total cost £

We cannot normally make a refund for unwanted tickets unless we can fill your place from a waiting list. The number of places for most events is limited: we allow two weeks for requests to arrive by post, and then if an event is oversubscribed its tickets are allocated by ballot (then 2 tickets maximum).

Payments by **BACS** are welcome: use sort code **56-00-31** and account **69861137**, but please wait for confirmation of the amount owed before making your payment.

If paying by **cheque**, please make cheques payable to 'UCL Alumni London Group' – either one signed blank cheque (with upper limit) for us to fill in according to your allocation, or one cheque for each requested event (only to be presented if you are allocated tickets).

Payment method: BACS Cheque

From _____

Postcode _____

Email _____

Return to: John McKenzie
51 Clifford Road
Barnet
Herts EN5 5PD
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UCL Alumni London Group – payments by BACS

After our brochure of events is issued, we wait two weeks for ticket requests to arrive, then if necessary run a ballot. Please wait to be informed of your allocation: this will show the total amount owed, to be paid by BACS.

BACS payments should be made to Sort Code **56-00-31** and account **69861137**.

Annual £15 or £10 subscriptions can be paid on their own in a similar way, or may be included with ticket payments in a single total payment.

Travel assistance

Are you put off attending some events because of the difficulty of getting there? Alternatively, do you often drive to an event with a couple of spare seats in the car?

Please tick if applicable –

- I am usually willing to offer 1 or 2 seats when driving to an event
- I would be grateful for travel assistance when going to an event

Prime-movers

The Organising Team consists of the Officers, the Administrator and a variable number of 'prime-movers'. These are people who take responsibility for organising (but not administering) events of their choice, guided and supported by the Team. Prime-movers attend monthly evening meetings at UCL which last about 60 - 90 minutes. They plan the events, prepare simple budgets, and ensure that the events happen. The Administrator and the Alumni Office provide support. If you would like to become a prime-mover, either for a particular event that you have in mind, or for one suggested by the Team, please let us know. The Team is an enthusiastic group, which is why its members find it enjoyable as well as making a worthwhile contribution to UCL. Please give a brief description of a proposed event, or any other comments you may wish to make about the London Group -

Data Protection

You may be aware of the new General Data Protection Regulation which came into force on 25th May 2018. The personal details that we hold about you are securely stored within our administrative database and are not shared with any other organisation. They are used solely for the purposes of collecting annual subscriptions, letting you know about our programme of events and processing your applications for tickets and your attendance at London Group events. We take the annual renewal of your subscription and your application to attend events as evidence of your consent to the use of your data for these purposes so you do not need to take any further action to confirm this.