UCL Alumni LONDON GROUP

London Group events, July – December 2012

Dear Fellow Alumnus/Alumna,

Programme of Events for July – December 2012

It is always a pleasure to write these notes and anticipate the events for the next half year. We have two London walks, one with a literary theme in an area we perhaps knew as students, in the second we seek out associations with Charles Dickens in the bicentenary of his birth. The annual visit to the Globe is rather special: an all-male production with Mark Rylance, the Globe's first artistic director, playing Richard III.

There is a range of musical events – the LPO at the Royal Festival Hall, Glyndebourne Touring Opera, and the return of Nadia Myerscough with the Tamesis String Quartet in the Housman Room. The visits to museums and galleries range from the Spencer Gallery at Cookham (Stanley Spencer studied at the Slade), Lambeth Palace, and the Greenwich Museum where we will have a private view with a curator of the Ansel Adams show in the new wing, as well as an opportunity to visit the Queen's House. We will return to Strawberry Hill House, now fully restored, and then visit Marble Hill House. One visit is a little different – the exhibition by Camden Print Makers, who include London Group member Jenny Furey, at UCLH which also gives us an opportunity to see inside the new building.

The AGM will be brief and followed by Joe Cain 'Making sense of Charles Darwin'. Our other two talks are a little different; first we go the Wellcome Gibbs Building to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Francis Crick's Nobel Prize and the Institute which will bear his name, and secondly a presentation on the controversial HS2 project followed by a question and answer discussion with a distinguished panel.

We will end the year with a pre-Christmas dinner at the University Women's Club. I hope you will find something to interest you and I am grateful to all the organising team and John McKenzie, our administrator, for producing such a varied programme.

Annual subscription renewals

It will be the start of a new Group Year on 1st July, and we very much hope that you will wish to renew your subscription. If you do not pay by Standing Order, please include your subscription when you apply for tickets.

With best wishes,
Yours sincerely,

Anne Folkes (Medicine 1963)

UCL Alumni London Group Events, July - December 2012

Contact: John McKenzie (Administrator), 51 Clifford Road, Barnet, Herts EN5 5PD (020 8447 1396)

1. Saturday 14 July at 11.00 am.
Prime-mover: Jim Parkin (Chemistry 1959)

Walk in Literary Fitzrovia

Literature tutor Michael King runs several guided walks with a literary flavour. This one will explore the area west of Tottenham Court Road to include Fitzroy Square and Charlotte Street. A host of authors have lived in this area including George Bernard Shaw, Virginia Woolf and Dylan Thomas and many more have frequented the taverns along the route. The walk will start at Warren Street Station and will end at an appropriate eating place for lunch (not included).

£9. Maximum number 25.

2. Tuesday 17 July, at 7.30 pm.
Prime-mover: Jenny Dunn (Statistics 1962)

Globe Theatre: 'Richard III'

Richard, Duke of Gloucester, is determined to be King and has already dispatched one king and that king's son: now all that stand in his way are two credulous brothers and two helpless nephews - the Princes in the Tower. And woe betide those who dare raise a voice against him. Monstrous, but theatrically electric, Richard is Shakespeare's most charismatic, self-delighting villain, revelling in his homicidal, hypocritical journey to absolute power. Mark Rylance, the Globe's first artistic director, is playing Richard III in this production, so it will be a sellout and we are lucky to have tickets. This production is all male, exploring clothing, music, dance and settings possible in around 1593.
A pre-theatre meal will be arranged as usual, details of which will be sent out nearer the time.

£40. Maximum number 40.

3. Tuesday 14 August, at 10.30 am.
Prime-mover: Anne Folkes (Medicine 1963)

Tours of Strawberry Hill House and Marble Hill House, Twickenham

In the morning we start with coffee at Strawberry Hill House, returning there now the £9 million repair and restoration is complete. Built in the Georgian Gothic revival style, Horace Walpole planned a visit to be a theatrical experience: from the gloomy hall magically lit by a collection of renaissance glass you climb the staircase to enter a sumptuous state apartment and in all there are 25 show rooms. The exterior has been lime-washed to return the House to its original 'wedding-cake' appearance. There will be time to explore the grounds, which are being returned to Walpole's plan for a landscaped garden.
After lunch (not provided) we will visit Marble Hill House, just 5 minutes away by car, a beautiful Palladian villa built for Henrietta Howard, mistress of George ll when he was Prince of Wales. The house and gardens were intended as an Arcadian retreat from crowded 18th century London and give a fascinating glimpse into the life that Mrs Howard led; a complete contrast to the morning visit.

£25 (£19 for E.H. or Art Fund members). Maximum number 25.

4. Tuesday 4 September, at 11.00 am.
Prime-mover: Kate Wickson (Classics 1972)

Guided tour: "Spencer's Earthly Paradise" at the Stanley Spencer Gallery, Cookham

Our gallery guide for the tour of this new exhibition will be Carolyn Leder, who has written the catalogue and is an acknowledged expert on Stanley Spencer (a student of the Slade School). The exhibition will highlight the collection and include some loans from the Tate collection: his first and last oil self-portraits, *Mending Cowls, Cookham* (1915), and *St Francis and the Birds* (1935). It is worth noting that the gallery was completely refurbished in 2007, so it will repay a revisit for those who have been in the past. After our gallery tour we will take a guided tour around Cookham to visit places associated with Spencer's life, work and paintings.

We will rendezvous for coffee from about 10.30 at the pub opposite the Gallery: 'Bel and the Dragon'. Lunch can be had there or at the Ferry Inn by the river, and then for those who wish there could be the option of a river walk or a visit to Cliveden (N.T.).

£11. Maximum number 40.

5. Tuesday 18 September at 5.45 pm.
Prime-mover: Janet Kitchen (French & German 1964)

Camden Printmakers Exhibition at University College Hospital

This autumn University College Hospital's Street Gallery will host an exhibition of works by the Camden Printmakers, one of whom is London Group member Jenny Furey. Enjoy viewing and maybe buying recent works made by Jenny and her fellow printmakers at a special event hosted by Guy Noble, Curator of the UCLH Arts Programme. Guy will talk to us beforehand about the aims and achievements of the Arts Programme, which has been running successfully since the opening of the new hospital.

£15, including wine and snacks. Maximum number 60.

6. Saturday 6 October at 4.00 pm.
Prime-mover: Peter Goll (Botany 1957)

Glyndebourne Touring Company – "Rusalka"

'Rusalka' is a 3 Act opera based on a mix of Grimm's fairy tale and Slavic folk-tale, set at a lake and castle. She is the daughter of a water sprite, Vodnik, and she yearns to become human having fallen in love with a Prince who bathes in their lake. Vodnik tells Rusalka to consult a witch, Jezibaba, who in turn warns her she will be denied human speech. Furthermore if she fails to win the Prince's favour she will be forever accursed, and if he rejects her he will be eternally damned. While out hunting the Prince and Rusalka meet, but she, unable to speak throws herself into his arms and he leads her away.
At the castle the servants are apprehensive about this silent female but hope that he will marry a Foreign Princess. The Prince organises a wedding ball, and tells Rusalka to dress accordingly; but she is broken-hearted when the Prince dances with the Princess. Vodnik arrives to warn her of imminent damnation if she returns to the lake. Rusalka again throws herself at the Prince but he rejects her. As Vodnik drags her away the Prince falls down stupefied. In the last Act Rusalka is sitting by the lake when Jezibaba tells her that if she kills the Prince herself she can return to her former state - so gives her a knife. The Prince seeks Rusalka and she warns him that she can only mean death to him; he asks her for a kiss to give him peace and she agrees. He dies, and she asks for God's mercy on his soul and sinks back into the lake.

£45. Maximum number 25.

7. Thursday 11 October at 11.00 am.
Prime-mover: Jim Parkin (Chemistry 1959)

Tour: Lambeth Palace

Lambeth Palace, SE1 7JU, has been the London residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury for nearly eight hundred years. The tour, which will last about 90 minutes, will include all of the Archbishop's State Rooms, the Chapel, Atrium and Crypt and a short visit to the garden.

£14. Maximum number 30.

8. Friday 12 October at 7.30 pm.
Prime-mover: Peter Hammersley (Mathematics 1954)

London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall

In this programme Guest Conductor Vassily Sinaisky alters the focus of works chosen from the regular emphasis on the nineteenth century in Germany and Austria to the twentieth century in Northern Europe.

Programme - Prokofiev: Symphony No 1 (Classical); Elgar: Cello Concerto; Sibelius: Symphony No 2
Conductor: Vassily Sinaisky *Cello*: Sol Gabetta

The music of Sibelius symbolises Finland and its struggle for independence from Russia. His Symphony No 2 was started in the winter of 1900 in Italy, but finished in Finland in 1902 and first performed on 8 March 1902. Prokofiev's work was plagued by the Russian revolution of 1917 but, despite that, he was able to complete his first symphony "written in the style that Joseph Haydn would have used if he had been alive at the time" during the summer of 1917 and see its first performance in April 1918. Also in 1918, Sir Edward Elgar was experiencing health problems but, in spite of these, he formulated his idea of a cello concerto. This was premiered at the opening concert of the LSO 1919-20 season in October 1919. As usual, for those who wish, there will be an opportunity to meet up before the performance.

£20. Maximum number 50.

9. Thursday 18 October at 6.00 pm.
Prime-mover: Frances Lefford (Medicine 1957)

A brief AGM will be followed at 6.30 pm by Dr Joe Cain:
What's the meaning of this? Making sense of all those facts about Charles Darwin

Everyone knows something about Charles Darwin. Perhaps it's a little; perhaps, it's a lot. We'll explore some of the many pieces of Darwin's life and work, then we'll consider how these pieces fit together. What's really important? How do the parts create an integrated whole? We'll pay particular attention to London, and explore how it fits into Darwin's biography. We'll also highlight some of the questions Darwin struggled with but couldn't answer. Come ready to think and to discuss your own impressions.

Joe Cain is Head of the UCL Department of Science and Technology Studies. His research interests include the history of evolutionary studies, Darwin and Darwinism, history of science in London, history of natural history and natural history films. He recently produced a fresh edition of Darwin's *Expression of Emotions in Man and Animals* for Penguin Classics.

£12, including wine and snacks. Maximum number 60.

10. Friday 19 October at 2.00 pm.
Prime-mover: Lester Hillman (Royal Historical Society)

The Francis Crick Institute and UCL

Francis Crick (UCL Physics 1937) graduated 75 years ago this year, and this will also be the 50th anniversary of his award of the Nobel Prize. The new UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation, which bears his name, is rapidly taking shape next to St Pancras International. UCL and Wellcome are key partners in this £600m development that will be home to 1250 scientists.

We shall meet at the Wellcome Gibbs Building in Euston Road to hear a presentation by Dr Ava Yeo, London Research Institute Director of Operations, Cancer Research UK. There will be light refreshments and an opportunity for discussion.

£5. Maximum number 70.

11. Wednesday 7 November at 7.30 pm.
Prime-mover: John MacBryde (Town Planning 1965)

Colloquium: The Second High Speed Railway Project (HS2)

We intend to invite three expert speakers to talk to us about the controversial HS2 project linking London to Birmingham (and beyond). The Speakers will include Sir Peter Hall CBE, Bartlett Professor of Architecture, Colin Stewart BSc CEng, Global Rail Leader and Director of Arup (Consulting Engineers for HS2) and Michael Edwards FRTPI (Leverhulme Emeritus Fellow at the Bartlett School of Planning). The colloquium will be jointly chaired by John MacBryde and Lester Hillman who were both trained as town and transport planners and whose past careers have brought them into contact with transport planning problems in both the current project's terminal cities. There will be ample opportunity to question the speakers and enough time will be given for this to be done in the lecture theatre booked for the event.

£20, including wine and snacks. Maximum number 60.

12. Wednesday 14 November at 10.30 am.
Prime-mover: Jenny Dunn (Statistics 1962)

Walk: Dickens' London

In Dickens' 200th Anniversary year, enjoy a walk with Eric Franklin through the City of London passing places that were either familiar to Dickens or used in his novels. Lunch will be taken at a very grand Victorian pub in the area, after which we will continue down Fleet Street calling in at Dickens' favourite pub, the Old Cheshire Cheese, for a quick drink and a look around before continuing to St Paul's Cathedral and tea nearby. Note: the cost of refreshments is not included

£10. Maximum number 25.

13. Sunday 25 November, at 3.00 pm.
Prime-mover: Marliese Myerscough (German 1993)

Chamber Music Concert with the Tamesis String Quartet

We welcome back to the UCL Housman Room Nadia Myerscough, who on this occasion will be performing with her string quartet. They will be presenting an exciting programme of chamber music, including Mozart's *Dissonance*, so called due to the extraordinary harmonies in its opening Adagio, Puccini's *Crisantemi*, a beautiful elegy written in memory of the Duke of Savoy (he re-used the main melodies in the final act of his opera *Manon Lescaut*) and Shostakovich's dramatic 8th Quartet, in which many of the themes can be recognized, as he freely quotes from previous works.

The Tamesis Quartet brings together four accomplished chamber musicians who individually have recorded for Sony, Naxos and EMI, broadcast for Radio 3, Classic FM and Radio France, and performed at the Southbank Centre, Wigmore Hall, Berlin Philharmonie, City of London Festival and Conway Hall.

£20, including wine and snacks. Maximum number 50.

14. Monday 3 December at 3.30 pm.
Prime-mover: Janet Kitchen (French & German 1964)

Greenwich National Maritime Museum

Make the journey to Royal Greenwich special by taking the river-bus from Embankment or the DLR through Docklands (there are also good train and bus links) and spend a winter afternoon enjoying the visual arts at the National Maritime Museum. Two guided tours have been arranged, the first of the remarkable collection of pictures in the Queen's House, from portraits of the Tudor monarchs born in Greenwich to scenes of the distant lands discovered by Captain Cook. The second tour is a private out-of-hours view, led by its curator, of the Ansel Adams show in the new Sammy Ofer Wing. His iconic black and white photographs of the American wilderness have not only shaped America's awareness of its natural heritage but helped to conserve the timeless scenes he recorded. Stay on if you wish for a traditional whitebait supper at the Trafalgar Tavern (not included but can be booked).

£12. Maximum number 50.

15. Friday 7 December, at 7.00 for 7.30 pm.
Prime-mover: Janet Kitchen (French & German 1964)

A festive Dinner at the University Women's Club hosted by Joan Newey

London Group members and their guests are warmly invited to gather for a pre-Christmas dinner at the University Women's Club in South Audley Street, W1K 1DB. The ticket will include a Sherry reception on arrival at 7 pm, followed by a three-course dinner and coffee served in the Club's handsome, wood-panelled Library. Some may welcome the opportunity to make a week-end of it in the heart of the West End, should they wish to extend their visit with an overnight stay in the Club's guest rooms.

£35, excluding optional wine with the meal. Maximum number 60.

UCL Alumni London Group
Payments by credit card

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Card number __ __ __ __ / __ __ __ __ / __ __ __ __ / __ __ __ __

Expiry date __ __ / __ __ Security code __ __ __
(last 3 digits on reverse of card)

Signature ..... Date .....

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 one of the boxes if applicable –

I am usually willing to offer 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 must be able to attend the monthly evening meetings, which take place at UCL and last about 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 look on being prime movers as enjoyable as well as making a worthwhile contribution to UCL. Please give a brief description of a proposed event, or other comments you may wish to make about the London Group:

TICKET APPLICATION FORM

			2012	ticket price	number wanted	tickets cost
1	Walk: Fitzrovia	Sat	14 July	£9		
2	Globe Theatre: *'Richard III'*	Tue	17 July	£40		
3.1	Strawberry Hill, etc	Tue	14 Aug	£25		
3.2	*Ditto* (E.H. or Art Fund)	Tue	14 Aug	£19		
4	Spencer Gallery	Tue	4 Sep	£11		
5	Camden Printmakers at UCLH	Tue	18 Sep	£15		
6	Glyndebourne *'Rusalka'*	Sat	6 Oct	£45		
7	Lambeth Palace	Thu	11 Oct	£14		
8	LPO at RFH	Fri	12 Oct	£20		
9	AGM(†) + Dr Joe Cain	Thu	18 Oct	£12		
10	Francis Crick anniversary	Fri	19 Oct	£5		
11	HS2 Railway	Wed	7 Nov	£20		
12	Walk: Dickens' London	Wed	14 Nov	£10		
13	Chamber music concert	Sun	25 Nov	£20		
14	Greenwich NM Museum	Mon	3 Dec	£12		
15	Dinner at UWC *	Fri	7 Dec	£35		
	Annual subscription? (£15 / £10)					
				Total	cost	£

We normally have to pay for tickets well ahead of time, and cannot 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).

† Please inform us if you wish to attend the AGM (gratis), but not the talk.
** Cancellation of booked dinner tickets will be permitted until 1st November, with refunds subject to an administrative charge of £5 per ticket.*

If you prefer to pay by **credit card** (Visa or MasterCard), please give the details overleaf.
If paying by **cheque**, please send cheque(s) payable to ***'UCL Alumni London Group'*** –
either one cheque for each event requested (which will only be presented if you are allocated tickets)
or one signed blank cheque (with upper limit indicated) for us to fill in according to your allocation.

FROM: ..... **Postcode** .....

Email: .....

Return to: John McKenzie, 51 Clifford Road, Barnet, Herts EN5 5PD (020 8447 1396)