



THE FOUNDLING HOSPITAL and a Guided Walk of EAST BLOOMSBURY

Visit - Tuesday 18th July 2023



Join us for a guided tour of the Foundling Museum, which tells the story of the Foundling Hospital, Britain's first home for children at risk of abandonment, which was established in 1739 by Thomas Coran.

The museum details the hospital's history and contains the Foundling Hospital collection which includes everyday objects used in the Foundling Hospital and archival materials, as well as clocks, furniture and interiors, which were created especially for the hospital and donated by their makers. Some of the most moving objects are the Foundling Hospital tokens, including coins, buttons, jewellery and poems left by mothers with their babies on admission, enabling the Foundling Hospital to match a mother with her child should she ever return to claim it.

The museum, which was rebuilt in 1937, includes paintings by Hogarth, Gainsborough, Alan Ramsey, Reynolds and Thomas Hudson and the courtroom has one of the best surviving rococo interiors in London with a magnificent plasterwork ceiling given as a gift to the hospital by the plasterer William Wilton. There are also artworks by present day artists who support the continuing work of the Foundation, including Tracey Emin.

We are combining this visit with a walk, taking about 2 hours, around East Bloomsbury led by the blue badge guide Rachel Kolsky and entitled "Foundlings, Feminism, Students and Squares". This will take us through the square which was once home to writers, chemists, bon viveurs and the UK's first female barrister, visiting the Lumen with its funnel chapel and contemplative garden, the burial ground for two churches named St. George and the site of a home of two Victorian "ladies" who were imprisoned for wearing dresses.

Foundling Hospital and a walk around East Bloomsbury

Arrangements and Tickets

Transport is not included:

Members will need to make their own way to The Foundling Hospital Museum at 40, Brunswick Square, WC1N 1AZ. The nearest tube is Russell Square, a 4 minute walk. Alternatively, from Kings Cross, it is a 10 minute walk.

Meeting Point:

We will gather outside the Museum at 11.15 am for a guided tour which will start at 11.30 am and last about 1 hour. There will then be a break for lunch - there are numerous cafes near the museum or you might take a picnic to adjacent Coram's Field. At 2.15 pm we will meet with Rachel Kolsky outside the museum for the guided walk of East Bloomsbury. This will take about 2 hours and end at King's Cross Station.

Numbers are initially limited to 20 but it is hoped that with sufficient numbers making up a reserve list, a second group can be arranged that will start with the walk from King's Cross in the morning and visit the Foundling Hospital in the afternoon.

Ticket costs:

The combined cost of the guided tour of the museum and the guided walk is £29. There are no concessions available.

Ticket sales:

Tickets will be on sale in person to only members from **9.30am** prior to our next monthly meeting on **Wednesday 21 June**.

Note: Numbers are limited, but if there is sufficient interest, there will be a further sale of tickets for this visit, with the walk first, starting from King's Cross at 11.00 am, and the visit to the museum in the afternoon starting at 2.15 pm.

Visit Leader: Alistair McGeachy (email: visits.tase@gmail.com)

Please complete the form below and bring it with you when you purchase tickets

The Arts Society Epsom visit to The Foundling Hospital and East Bloomsbury

Name(s) **Phone No.**

No. of Tickets: **Total Paid: £**

Your Emergency Contact:
(Name & Phone No.)

(Please do not name anyone who will also be on this visit)