

THE LONDON FRIENDSHIP CENTRE CALENDAR

May – June 2026

This calendar can also be found on our website at <https://thelondonfriendshipcentre.co.uk> and it will be updated as plans are confirmed or there are any changes.

If you have booked for an event which you are unable to attend, please tell the event leader or ring 07908 269 809 and leave a message.

Please book by 11.15 a.m. We cannot accept bookings after that time. You may, of course, ask a friend to book (and pay if that's necessary) and take responsibility for this.

Where a visit needs tickets to be booked online, speak to the leader of the trip in advance if you need help. Tickets are sometimes still available on the day.

<p>6 MAY Host Renata ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER Founded by the Abbey of Barking in 675 AD, four hundred years before the nearby Tower of London, the historically important Church of All Hallows served as a temporary burial site for the executed bodies of Sir Thomas More, Bishop John Fisher and others. In 1666, Samuel Pepys watched London burn from the church, accompanied by Admiral Penn, whose son, William Penn, was baptised here and went on to found Pennsylvania. The Anglo-Saxon Crypt Museum holds Roman and Saxon artefacts, church plate, ancient registers dating back to the 16th century and much more. Pete, our expert guide, will give us the tour. MAXIMUM 12. Donation £5. Leader Catherine. Leave MP at 1220 and travel by tube.</p> <p>ANOTHER WHIZZ QUIZ WALK WITH OLIVE A short bus ride and we reach the area south of Piccadilly Circus called St James's. This is full of interesting shops and buildings, and we take a gentle walk, with lots of easy questions. And there are, of course, prizes at the end! Fun guaranteed. Free. Maximum 12. Leader Olive. Leave MP at 1300.</p>	<p>Book with Catherine on the day.</p> <p>Book with Olive on the day.</p>
<p>13 MAY Host Olive RHODODENDRONS AT KENWOOD HOUSE Join us on this outing to Kenwood House and its beautifully landscaped gardens with glorious rhododendrons The house is free with stunning interiors and a large art collection. The cafe has a tempting selection of sandwiches, salads, baguettes and pastries with seating inside and outside. There is also a shop. Leaders Sheila and Barbara. Leave MP (back door) after notices and travel by tube and bus.</p>	<p>Book with Sheila and Barbara on the day.</p>

<p>13 MAY (cont.) SALVATION ARMY CAFE We will visit an old favourite today where the food is very good and very reasonably priced. The only drawback is that there is no alcohol available but tea, coffee and a variety of soft drinks are on offer. There is a ten minute walk through St Paul's Churchyard to the Cafe. Lift from reception to the cafe itself. Be prepared for a bag search. Leader Sandra C. Leave MP at 1130 (front door) and travel by tube to St Paul's.</p>	<p>Book with Sandra on the day.</p>
<p>20 MAY Host Sue C CHELSEA IN BLOOM Come to see Chelsea's floral art show, which is London's largest free to attend festival of flowers. Chelsea's best retailers produce creative floral designs for the competition, from Sloane Square to King's Road. It is run annually in conjunction with the Chelsea Flower Show. Leaders Barbara & Sheila. Leave MP at 1300 and travel by bus.</p> <p>LUNCH AT ZARA RESTAURANT, HAMPSTEAD HEATH Anatolian based menu (Turkish). Decide on the day if we travel on 24 bus or on the Northern Line to Belsize Park. Leader Dawn. Leave after notices.</p>	<p>Book with Barbara and Sheila on the day.</p> <p>Book with Dawn on the day.</p>
<p>27 MAY CALENDAR ISSUE. Host Joyce QUEER BRITAIN This recently opened small museum at Granary Square, Kings Cross is aiming to be the National LGBTQ museum and is collecting artefacts from a variety of groups – currently displaying the AIDS Memorial Quilt, material from the Black Lesbian and Gay Centre, Club Kali (a South Asian LGBT club). They operate a pay what you can donation (suggested £10). Leader Jill. Leave MP at 1300 and travel by bus from Oxford Street.</p> <p>STEPHENS HOUSE Stephens House and gardens in Finchley is a Victorian House which houses a collection of artefacts relating to Stephens Ink. Inky Stephens (Henry Charles Stephens - the inventor of the ink/typewriter ribbons etc.) employed Robert Marnock to landscape the grounds. After Stephens' death in 1918 they became a public park. Also of interest is a charming Spike Milligan sculpture. (Spike was chairman of the Finchley Society for some years). We will travel and visit the gardens only (cafe available via garden). Leader Roland. Leave MP after notices. Travel by tube to Finchley Central (step free) and then short bus ride (No 13).</p>	<p>Book with Jill by 20th May.</p> <p>Book with Roland on the day.</p>

<p>3 JUN Host Renee SIR JOHN SOANE MUSEUM – LINCOLN’S INN FIELDS Join us for a visit to the museum and see the current exhibition on Sir John Vanbrugh marking 300 years since his death. He designed some of the most loved country houses as well as Castle Howard and Blenheim Palace. Free. MAXIMUM 7. Leaders Barbara & Sheila. Leave MP at 1300. Travel by bus/walk.</p> <p>LUNCH AT THE ROSY HUE, ELEPHANT PARK Take 176 bus to Elephant and Castle. Short walk to the pub/restaurant. There might be a special £10 lunchtime menu!! After lunch we will explore the special water feature nearby. Leader Dawn. Leave after notices.</p>	<p>Book with Barbara & Sheila on the day.</p> <p>Book with Dawn on the day.</p>
<p>10 JUN Host Michael THE COMING OF AGE – WELLCOME COLLECTION This exhibition explores experiences and perceptions of ageing, from adolescence to later life. It asks a) how societies can adapt for us all to age better and b) how experiences of age are shaped by our environment, culture and society. You will see more than 120 artworks and objects, including historical artefacts. Free. Refreshments available. Leaders Sheila and Barbara. Leave MP at 1300. Travel by bus plus a short walk.</p> <p>ST OLAVE’S CHURCH, HART STREET, LUNCHTIME RECITAL A new venue for us, where performances are given by musicians from 1300- 1350. The church is one of the few medieval churches to survive the Fire of London, and is where Samuel Pepys and his family are buried, and has a fascinating history. Further details about the performer will be available nearer the time. Free but please be prepared to make a donation. Leader Jill. Leave MP at 1215 and travel by tube and a short walk.</p>	<p>Book with Sheila and Barbara on the day.</p> <p>Book with Jill on the day.</p>
<p>17 JUN Host Wendy P CHELSEA ART SOCIETY It is their 77th annual summer exhibition and is held at Chelsea Old Town Hall in King’s Road. Free. Leaders Barbara & Sheila. Leave MP at 1245 and travel by bus.</p> <p>THE PETRIE MUSEUM OF EGYPTOLOGY Well-known and respected museum where we can open drawers and look at a range of materials from Ancient Egypt. Free. Leader Dawn. Leave MP at 1230 and travel by bus.</p>	<p>Book with Barbara & Sheila on the day.</p> <p>Book with Dawn on the day.</p>

<p>24 JUN Host Sue P BLOOMSBURY WALK Join Wendy (our qualified tourist guide) for a free guided tour, when we'll meet the man whose collection founded the British Museum, the doctor who created Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital and another who saved the lives of foundlings. On the less charitable side, we'll meet the artistic and literary figures, whose unconventional behaviour helped to make the area infamous. The walk lasts about 1.5 hours, but we could take a short break for a cuppa if we're feeling tired. Leader Wendy H. Leave MP at 1300 and take a bus three stops.</p> <p>MARBLE HILL HOUSE, TWICKENHAM Marble Hill House is a stunning Palladian villa set in acres of parkland. Its rooms are full of lavish decoration with Panini paintings, early Georgian art and furniture etc. There is a lift to the 1st floor. An audio tour, exhibition and film are available to explore the history and its glamorous former residents. Free. Bring a picnic lunch. The Coach House cafe nearby has a very limited range of sandwiches, baps and toasties etc plus drinks. Leaders Sheila and Barbara. Leave MP after notices and travel by tube, train and bus.</p>	<p>Book with Wendy on the day.</p> <p>Book with Sheila and Barbara on the day.</p>
<p>Social working group Barbara Askew, Jill Gregson, Sheila MacLeod, Dawn Zeffertt. Other outing leaders Sandra Church, Wendy Hammerston, Olive Mercer, Catherine Porras-Anzola, Roland Wilding.</p>	