

CHANGES AT THE MUSEUM OF LONDON

Students on the Cab Guide Course run by The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers recently enjoyed a visit to the Museum of London. One of the first exhibits looked at will not be on show for much longer, the waistcoat worn by Charles 1 at his execution, is to be taken out of the Museum for DNA testing to prove it was worn by Charles 1. This fascinating Museum is undergoing an exciting transformation; the lower Galleries are currently shut, but expected to re-open on 28th May 2010. Spectacular new galleries will open in spring 2010 with over 4000 objects on display, more Gallery space and online access to the Museum's



Lord Mayor's Show November 2008

collections. The new Galleries of Modern London will trace the history of this great City from 1666 to the present day. The magnificent Lord Mayor's Coach, seen each year during The Lord Mayor's Parade which the WCHCD and other taxi charities and organisations take part in, will be on view in an illuminated showcase, which will also be visible at street level, following the installation of brand new windows along London Wall, attracting visitors to the Museum. The three tonne carriage was transported by police escort from the Guildhall to the Museum. As traffic stopped to marvel at the dramatic sight, the coach was lifted onto specially designed skates to manoeuvre it into its resting place inside the new Galleries.

This Museum is not an old fashioned one – it has many interactive features, making it a suitable for visitors of all ages. It has a website which can be found at www.museumoflondon.org.uk where there is a comprehensive guide to what's on and when. The Great Fire of London is graphically depicted in the War, Plague and Fire Gallery, covering the period between 1558 and 1666. Other Galleries include Medieval London, AD 410-1558, Roman London AD 50-410 and London before London 450,000 BC – AD50. Visitors can take a free "highlight" tour of the Galleries each day at 12pm and 4pm. As entrance to the Museum is free, it makes a great day out for tourists and Londoners alike. There are also Object Handling sessions, one of which the Guide Course students enjoyed. At weekends and during the school holidays there are free family events which aim to make learning history more fun; more details can be found on the website at www.museumoflondon.org.uk/families - activity sheets and bags are also available to help make a hands on visit even more special. These are subject to availability but can be collected from the Welcome Desk. For those students on the current Guide Course the Museum has a wealth of information to assist their studies.

The Museum of London Docklands at West India Quay is also a part of the Museum of London. The focus of this museum is from Roman settlement to Docklands regeneration. Housed in a former sugar warehouse, the

Museum reveals the long history of London as a port through stories of trade, migration and commerce. There are free highlight tours here too - they are every Wed & Sat at 3pm. The London Wall site can be found at www.museumindocklands.org.uk/English/EventsExhibitions/

There is a lot to see and for many visitors selecting particular Galleries to visit on a particular day makes it easier to take in all that the Museum has to offer. The Galleries at both Museums include exhibits which are changed regularly which makes the visitor experience appealing, engaging and welcoming. At Docklands there is a £5 charge for entry, with this giving unlimited entry for a year, with free entry daily after 4.30pm, for children and NUS card holders and over the Easter weekend 2-5 April and May bank holiday 29-31 May.

One of the facts which will stick in the minds of the students is that there are 17,000 skeletons stored at the Museum of London from a variety of excavations around London. Although visitors may not get to count this number, there are plenty of exhibits to satisfy the most curious at the two Museums.

You can sign up for a free newsletter on the website by logging on to www.museumoflondon.org.uk/eneews where entries are entered into our quarterly prize draw to win an iPod nano.



CAB GUIDE COURSE

If you would like to know more about the Cab Guide Course run by The Worshipful Company of Hackney Drivers, please contact The Clerk, Mary Whitworth, on 01494 765922.

ROAD CLOSURE

On Sunday 21 March 2010 Victoria Embankment will be closed between Bridge Street and Southwark Bridge for the Sport Relief 2010 London Mile. The road will be closed between 07:00 and 16:00 and taxi drivers are advised to avoid the area between these times if possible.