

# What's On

July - December 2023



Museum of  
THE ORDER OF  
**ST JOHN**

# Welcome

The Museum of the Order of St John tells the fascinating story of the Order of St John and St John Ambulance, the international first aid charity. From historic arms and armour to ancient coins, fine art and medical equipment, our collections span 900 years of history! Visit our free galleries to discover more or relax in our medicinal herb garden.

2023 is a special year marking 100 years of the Museum at St John's Gate. Experience our history anew through music in the medieval crypt, workshops, a fantastic line-up of talks and an action-packed family programme. We can't wait to see you!



All pre-booked tours and events can be found on the Museum's Eventbrite page or call us on 020 7324 4005 to book.

## Drop-in

### Save the Date:

#### Winter Party at the Gate! free

Saturday 25 November,  
14:00 – 16:30

Join us for an afternoon of festive talks, family-friendly crafts and a special performance from the Isle of Sheppey St John Ambulance Band (founded 1946). The grand finale of our Museum 100 celebrations. All welcome, just drop-in.

# Late at the Gate

Booking  
essential



HEXAD Collective © Harry Flynn

Join us at one of our special events to experience the Museum after-hours.

### MUSO: Discovering Museums through Music £

Thursday 14 September, 19:00  
(doors open 18:30)

No script. No score. No safety net. Back by popular demand, Impropera will create an entirely new opera inspired by the history of St John's Gate. Watch the Museum's collection come to life through expertly improvised arias. Tickets £17.

### Measure for Measure: Shakespearean Music in the Crypt £

Thursday 12 October, 19:00  
(doors open 18:30)

PIVA: the Renaissance Collective, will transport you to Shakespeare's London performing music that runs the gamut from the village green to the stately court, all in the unique surroundings of our medieval crypt. Tickets £15.

### Halloween Special: Pub Quiz £

Tuesday 31 October, 19:00  
(doors open 18:30)

Ready to show-off your scarily good general knowledge? Join us for a Halloween special pub quiz at St John's Gate, once home to a historic boozer Ye Olde Jerusalem Tavern. Costumes encouraged! Team tickets £36 (max 6 players).

### Carols in the Crypt £

Thursday 30 November, 19:00  
(doors open 18:30)

Vocal chamber choir, HEXAD Collective, ring in the Yuletide with a festive Christmas carol concert. Tickets £15.

The Sekforde run a bar at all Late at the Gate events.



## Guided Tours

Take a tour behind-the-scenes and discover the colourful history of this London landmark.

### The Lost Priory of the Medieval Order of St John (45 mins) £

Visit the Priory Church and Norman crypt and discover the 400-year story of the Knights Hospitaller in Clerkenwell.

### St John Ambulance: A Victorian Masterpiece (45 mins) £

Explore the spectacular Victorian interiors of St John's Gate and how it became home to the global first aid charity.

### Knights, Revellers & Saviours: The Many Lives of St John's Gate (60 mins) £

Follow in the footsteps of knight-monks, printers, literati, publicans and philanthropists in a whistle-stop tour through 900 years of history.

All tours: tickets £12 / £9 (Art Fund) / £1 (Islington Residents) / free (Carers and St John Ambulance volunteers). For group visits please email: [museum@sj.org.uk](mailto:museum@sj.org.uk)

Booking essential



Booking essential

## BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETED AND DEAF-LED TOURS

### BSL-Interpreted: Knights, Revellers & Saviours: The Many Lives of St John's Gate £ BSL

Friday 14 July, 13:00 – 14:30  
With BSL Interpreter Steve Hudson.

### Deaf-Led: Uncover the Medieval Priory of the Knights Hospitaller £ BSL

Saturday 16 September, 11:00 – 12:00  
With Guide John Wilson.

### Deaf-Led: Explore the spectacular Victorian interiors of St John's Gate, and discover the heroes and innovators who brought first aid to the public £ BSL

Thursday 12 October, 11:00 – 12:00  
With Guide John Wilson.

Did you know we offer free tours and workshops for local not-for-profit community groups? If you would like to arrange a visit please contact [museum@sj.org.uk](mailto:museum@sj.org.uk)



Interested in medieval history? Join our friends at Islington Guided Walks for Clerkenwell's Lost Monasteries walking tour. Tickets £15.

## Talk and Tea

Drop-in

Discover more about the Order of St John, St John Ambulance and the history of Clerkenwell at our free Ten-Minute Talk and Tea events. No need to book, just turn up and enjoy over a cup of tea.

**A Short History of Diabetic Healthcare: Before and After the Discovery of Insulin** free

Thursday 13 July, 12:30

**1923 vs. 2023: A Century of Changing Museum Collecting** free

Thursday 10 August, 12:30

**Mental Health in the Medieval Period: Exploring the Use of St John's Wort** free

Thursday 14 September, 12:30

**Defence against Disease: St John Ambulance's Response to the Spanish Flu and COVID-19** free

Thursday 12 October, 12:30

**What's in Store? Discover Collections Hidden Behind-the-Scenes** free

Thursday 9 November, 12:30

**John the Baptist: Patron Saint of the Order of St John** free

Thursday 14 December, 12:30

### AUDIO DESCRIPTIVE TALK AND TEA

Join us for a series of descriptive talks and object handling exploring key objects from the Museum's collection. For blind and partially-sighted visitors and companions.

**Painting of St John Ambulance Brigade Officer and Nurse, 1955** free

Wednesday 20 September,  
14:00 – 14:45

**Bronze Cannon, c.1528/9** free

Wednesday 18 October,  
14:00 – 14:45

**Model of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, 17th century** free

Wednesday 15 November,  
14:00 – 14:45

Booking essential

## Evening Talks

In partnership with the St John Historical Society.

**The First Sixty Years of St John Ambulance in Barnet** free

Wednesday 20 September, 19:00  
Stephen Krause, Chair of the Historical Society, explores the origins and development of the Brigade in Barnet to celebrate the unit's 120th anniversary.

**2023 Jonathan Riley-Smith Memorial Lecture**

**Preserving Malta's Heritage** free BSL

Wednesday 11 October, 19:00  
Dr Daniel K Gullo, Director of the

Malta Study Center in Minnesota, leads an international project to preserve and digitally reconstruct the widely dispersed archives of the Order of St John. Dr Gullo will explore the significance of the Museum's Maltese material and its links to private and public collections around the globe.

**A Clerkenwell Comedy: Elizabeth Brackley and Jane Cavendish's *The Concealed Fancies* (c.1643-4)** free

Wednesday 29 November, 19:00  
Professor Marion Wynne-Davies introduces the first female-authored city play, set in the former site of St Mary's Nunnery, Clerkenwell.





Drop-in

## The Herbal Harvest free

Wednesday 27 September, 12:00 – 14:00

Make your own herbal bath scrub with herbs from the garden. Learn about bee-friendly planting, the medicinal properties of plants, and try our famous herbal honey. Free, drop in.

## Families: Seasonal Seacole Trail Spooky Edition free

Wednesday 25 October – Saturday 28 October, 10:00 – 16:00

Seacole and her nightingale friends are back. Explore our medicinal garden and spot them all to win a spooky prize! Pick up your trail from Museum reception. Free, drop in.



Have you visited our Cloister Garden? This peaceful green space in the heart of Clerkenwell is an oasis for people and nature, a spot to meet friends, eat lunch or enjoy some quiet time. The Garden is open Monday – Saturday, 10:00 – dusk (\* occasionally closed for private events).

Booking  
essential

## Natural Decorations £

Thursday 7 December, 14:00 – 15:30 and 17:30 – 19:00

Make your own wreath or table decoration using festive foliage in our spectacular Victorian Chapter Hall. Learn about the symbolism of traditional 'festive' plants, and folklore and superstitions around decorating the home.

Tickets £15.

Booking  
essential

## UNDER 5s

Come and join us on the second Wednesday of the month for crafting, storytelling, singing and dancing in partnership with Artburst. Sessions run for 45 minutes followed by refreshments, Paediatric First Aid advice and play. Free, booking essential.

## Fantastic Flags free

Wednesday 12 July,  
10:00 for under 3s or  
11:15 for under 5s

## Mr Gumpy's Day Out free

Wednesday 13 September,  
10:00 for under 3s or  
11:15 for under 5s

## Knights and Castles free

Wednesday 11 October,  
10:00 for under 3s or  
11:15 for under 5s

## Into the Night free

Wednesday 8 November,  
10:00 for under 3s or  
11:15 for under 5s

## My Pet Star free

Wednesday 13 December,  
10:00 for under 3s or  
11:15 for under 5s



Drop-in

## FREE HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Come and make history with us as we celebrate 100 years of the Museum with fun hands-on activities. Aimed at 3-10 year-olds but babies and younger siblings very welcome.

### SUMMER HOLIDAYS

#### Marbling Medieval Manuscripts free

Wednesday 26 July, 11:00 – 15:30  
Use watercolour paints to create your own marbled masterpiece. Plus handle some mystery medieval objects. *In collaboration with the Museum of London.*

#### Design a Dressing free

Wednesday 2 August, 11:00 – 15:30 (storytelling 13:30 – 14:30)  
Did you know that you can tie a triangular bandage 32 different ways? Discover more fun facts and illustrate your own bandage. Includes storytelling with Margaret Bateson-Hill.

#### Hear All About It? free

Wednesday 9 August, 11:00 – 15:30  
Have a go at natural printmaking and discover Clerkenwell's printmaking heritage.

#### Painting Plants led by Toya Walker free

Wednesday 16 August, 11:00 – 15:30  
Draw and paint plants from our Cloister Garden with illustrator Toya Walker. *In collaboration with the Quentin Blake Centre for Illustration.*

#### Paint Naturally free

Wednesday 23 August, 11:00 – 15:30 (storytelling 13:30 – 14:30)  
Discover and create a medieval colour palette. Includes storytelling with Margaret Bateson-Hill.

#### Animal Keyrings free

Wednesday 30 August, 11:00 – 15:30  
Make your own animal keyring using sustainable materials inspired by the animals in the Museum's collection. Includes storytelling with Margaret Bateson-Hill.

### OCTOBER HALF-TERM

#### Seasonal Seacole Trail Spooky Edition free

Wednesday 25 October – Saturday 28 October, 10:00 – 16:00 (see p.8)

#### Secrets of the Crypt free

Wednesday 25 October, 11:00 – 15:30  
Use 3D painting techniques to bring images of our 900-year-old crypt to life, and venture down into the depths to see how it looks today! Includes tours of the crypt and handling collection.

### CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

#### Tree Decorating free

Wednesdays – Saturdays in December (until Friday 22)  
Get creative with sparkly stars and festive ribbons. Throughout December we're inviting families to drop-in and help us to decorate our very tall Christmas tree.

Booking essential

## SEACOLE SESSIONS

Seacole Sessions are sensory-friendly events, designed to support autistic and neuro-diverse families. Free, booking essential.

### SUMMER HOLIDAYS

#### Create Your Own Lemon Boats free

Tuesday 8 August, 11:00 – 12:30 or 13:00 – 14:30  
Sail around the Mediterranean and discover the island homes of the Knights of St John. Includes storytelling with Olivia Armstrong.

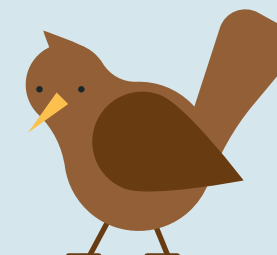
#### Coffee Art free

Tuesday 22 August, 11:00 – 12:30 or 13:00 – 14:30  
Get arty with coffee as you discover St John's Gate's caffeinated connections with the artist William Hogarth.

### OCTOBER HALF-TERM

#### Slimy Dragons free

Tuesday 24 October, 11:00 – 12:30 or 13:00 – 14:30  
Join us to create sticky Dragon's slime, as we uncover the story of Gozon the Dragon Slayer. Includes storytelling with Olivia Armstrong.



# Free Admission



## Opening Times

Wednesday – Saturday

10:00 – 17:00

## Getting Here

### Train

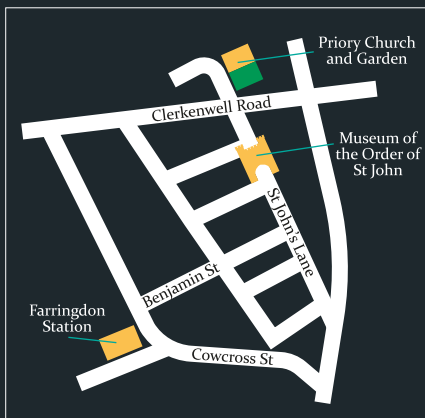
Farringdon (Tube, Thameslink and Elizabeth Line) is the nearest station, 5 minutes' walk from the Museum.

### Bus

Farringdon Road (40, 63, 341), Clerkenwell Road (55, 243) and St John's Street (153)

### Car

Pay and display bays are available in St John's Square.



## Accessibility

There is step-free access to the Museum galleries. Some of the Grade I listed historic spaces are only accessible by stairs. For full access information please visit the access page on our website or contact us for assistance planning your visit.

## Contact

Museum of the Order of St John  
St John's Gate  
Clerkenwell  
London  
EC1M 4DA

E: [museum@sja.org.uk](mailto:museum@sja.org.uk)

T: 020 7324 4005

[www.museumstjohn.org.uk](http://www.museumstjohn.org.uk)

## Venue Hire

St John's Gate and the Priory Church are ideal venues for weddings, receptions, dining, conferences or filming. For more information on hiring these unique historic spaces please contact our events team: [venues@sja.org.uk](mailto:venues@sja.org.uk)



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