

# What's On

February – June 2024



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.

Join us throughout 2024 as we uncover some of the stories hidden within our Archive. Learn how to revive a broken heart before Valentine's Day, discover simple animation techniques and recreate pantomimes from a wartime scrapbook, or simply unwind and relax with a yoga class amidst our spectacular historic interiors.



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

Booking  
essential

## New for 2024: Twilight Tours £

Join us for the evening and experience the Knights, Revellers and Saviours tour by atmospheric candlelight, followed by a glass of wine and the opportunity to enjoy the Museum's galleries out of hours. Details will be announced on the Museum's Eventbrite page.

# Special Events

Booking  
essential

Central  
District  
Alliance

## Calm in Clerkenwell

We've partnered with Central District Alliance to bring you Calm in Clerkenwell – a three-month programme of free wellbeing activities held at the Museum. These events take place in the early morning to provide a moment of calm in the beautiful surroundings of the Chapter Hall. Please bring your own yoga mat. Suitable for all levels. All classes are on Wednesdays at 08:00 (with 07:45 arrival).

### March: Yoga free

6 March, 13 March, 20 March

Start the day with yoga by Darvina Plante, a Rocket yoga instructor. Darvina's fun and flexible teaching style allows you to let go of daily stress and find inner peace and stillness.

### April: Sound Bath free

3 April, 10 April, 17 April

About Gong will be holding early morning gong baths throughout

April. Lie back and experience the meditative and soothing sounds of the gong in our historic surroundings. Bringing a blanket recommended.

### May: Qi Gong free

1 May, 8 May, 15 May

Qi Gong is a Chinese practice of meditation through slow-flowing movements and breath work. Jennie Chan will guide you through this ancient form of exercise.





## 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 Norman crypt and Priory Church 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@sja.org.uk](mailto:museum@sja.org.uk)

Booking  
essential



## British Sign Language Interpreted And Deaf-led Tours

Booking  
essential

**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

Wednesday 28 February, 14:00 – 15:00  
With Guide John Wilson

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

Saturday 13 April, 11:00 – 12:30  
With BSL Interpreter Theresa McWhirter

**Deaf-led: Uncover the Medieval Priory of the Knights Hospitaller** £ BSL

Friday 17 May, 14:00 – 15:00  
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@sja.org.uk](mailto:museum@sja.org.uk)

### Audio Described Tour

**From Medieval Priory to Ambulance HQ** £

Thursday 6 June, 11:00 – 12:00  
A multisensory tour for blind and partially sighted visitors exploring the spectacular historic interiors of the Order of St John's London headquarters.

## Talk and Tea

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.

**Reviving Broken Hearts: A Short History of Resuscitation** free  
Thursday 8 February, 12:30

**International Women's Day: The Women of St John (1870-1939)** free  
Thursday 7 March, 12:30

**The Creation of the St John Ambulance Association** free  
Thursday 11 April, 12:30

**Nursing Through Conflict: St John Ambulance Nurses during the First World War** free  
Thursday 9 May, 12:30

**Sympathy: The Story of a St John Ambulance** free  
Thursday 13 June, 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.

**The Ashford Litter, late 19th century** free **The Service Medal of the Order of St John, 1898 – present** free  
Wednesday 20 March  
14:00 – 14:45  
Wednesday 15 May  
14:00 – 14:45

**Model of 'Sympathy', a 1920s Ambulance** free  
Wednesday 17 April  
14:00 – 14:45

Drop-in

Booking essential

## Evening Talks

In partnership with the St John Historical Society.

**ONLINE A Colonial Project? Medieval Views of the Crusader Settlements in the East** free subtitled  
Wednesday 21 February, 19:00  
Dr Andrew Buck considers how writers in the Crusader States constructed cultural identities and whether we might view this as an early form of colonialism. Live subtitles will be provided by Stagertext.

**ONLINE St John in South Africa** free  
Wednesday 17 April, 19:00  
The Order of St John has been supporting healthcare in South Africa for over 130 years. Dr George Woods, former CEO of St John South Africa, explores this fascinating global story.

**IN PERSON "The Girls are taking an Ambulance Class!": Gender and First Aid in Victorian Britain** free  
Wednesday 8 May, 19:00  
Historian Dr Sally Frampton traces the role of women in the early days of the first aid movement and some of the challenges and opportunities they faced.

**IN PERSON Round Churches: Re-presenting Jerusalem** free BSL  
Wednesday 5 June, 19:00  
A survey of the symbolism and supposed roles of the Round Churches built by the Hospitallers, Templars and other orders active in the crusades with Rev Dr Robin Griffith-Jones. With BSL Interpreter Theresa McWhirter.

Booking essential





Booking  
essential

## Medieval Spices free

Wednesday 27 March, 12:00 – 14:00

Celebrate the arrival of spring in our medicinal garden. Learn how to grow your own medieval spices and explore our 16th century apothecary jars. Suitable for all ages.

## Fantastic Ferns free

Wednesday 29 May, 11:00 – 12:30 and 13:00 – 14:30

Families are invited to create their own botanical artwork and explore our garden to discover the many mysterious uses of our fantastic ferns. With the Quentin Blake Centre for Illustration.



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).

Drop-in

## The Many Worts of St John free

Monday 24 – Friday 28 June

Celebrate the Feast of St John by taking a self-guided tour of our garden. The best time of year to see our growing collection of St John's Worts in full bloom. Collect your St John Trail from the entrance to the garden during open hours.

Booking  
essential

## Under 5s

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

### Accident on the Super Scooter with Artburst free

Wednesday 10 January  
10:00 for under 3s  
11:15 for under 5s

### Storytelling and Music with Paul Rubinstein free

Wednesday 13 March  
10:00 for under 3s  
11:15 for under 5s

### Ambulance Rescue with Artburst free

Wednesday 8 May  
10:00 for under 3s  
11:15 for under 5s

### Storytelling and Music with Paul Rubinstein free

Wednesday 12 June  
10:00 for under 3s  
11:15 for under 5s



## Free Holiday Activities

Join us for fun, hands on activities as we uncover some of the stories hidden within in our archive. Look out for our first aid symbol as that's when we will also be demonstrating lifesaving skills!

### February Half-Term

#### Got a pulse? free +

Wednesday 14 February, 11:00 – 15:30  
Make your own stethoscope and create a beating origami heart, as well as learning how St John Ambulance volunteers take a pulse today.



### Easter Holidays

#### We're going on a Dragon Egg Hunt! free

Friday 29 March - Saturday 13 April during opening hours  
Meet Gozon the Dragon Slayer, Knight of St John, and join him on his quest to seek the hidden Dragon Eggs within the Museum's galleries.

#### Saving Lives, Saving Memories free +

Wednesday 3 April, 11:00 – 15:30  
Start collecting your own memories inspired by Voluntary Nurse Veronica Nisbet's scrapbook from the First World War and join us to learn how first aid has changed since then! Includes storytelling with Margaret Bateson-Hill 13:30 – 14:30.

#### Who's Behind You! Stop Motion

**Animation** free  
Wednesday 10 April, 11:00 – 15:30  
Taking inspiration from Veronica Nisbet's First World War scrapbook, recreate her pantomimes through watercolour and stop motion animation.

### May Half-Term

#### Fantastic Ferns free

Wednesday 29 May, 11:00 – 15:30  
Please see p.8. In collaboration with the Quentin Blake Centre for Illustration.

Booking essential

## Seacole Sessions

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

### February Half-Term

#### Healing Hearts free

Tuesday 13 February, 11:00 – 12:30 or 13:00 – 14:30  
Discover which plants have traditionally helped heal broken hearts and use them to create your own heart collage. Includes storytelling with Olivia Armstrong.

## d/Deaf Families

#### Paint Naturally and Storytelling free

Saturday 2 March, 14:00 – 15:30  
Using plants from the garden, create a medieval colour palette inspired by some of our historic books. Includes BSL-interpreted storytelling with Olivia Armstrong.



### Easter Holidays

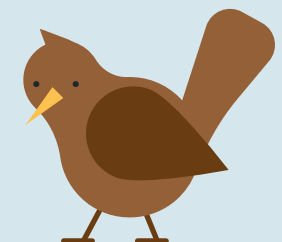
#### Ambulance Trains free

Tuesday 2 April, 11:00 – 12:30 or 13:00 – 14:30  
Choo choo! Follow in the steps of St John innovator Sir John Furley and design your own ambulance train. In collaboration with the Museum of London.

### May Half-Term

#### Museum Creepy Crawlies free

Tuesday 28 May, 11:00 – 12:30 or 13:00 – 14:30  
Grab a magnifying glass and discover some of the insects trying to hide in the Museum and make your own bug using natural materials. Includes storytelling with Olivia Armstrong.





# Free Admission



## Opening Times

Wednesday – Saturday

9:30 – 17:00

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## 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.

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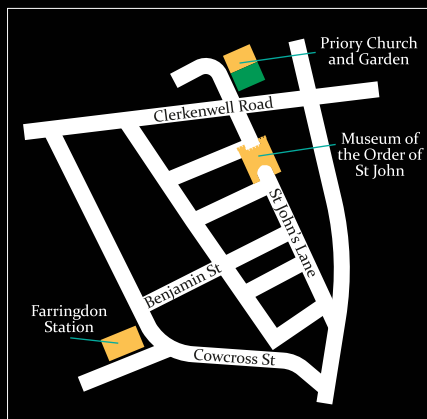
## Contact

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T: 020 7324 4005

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



## 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.

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## Venue Hire

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



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