



The Franco-British Society has the pleasure to invite you to visit the Huguenot Museum, Restoration House, Vine House and French Hospital La Providence in Rochester, Kent

On Thursday 18th April 2024

£49.50 per person

Led by Dr Tessa Murdoch the visit will start at Restoration House and Vine House. Named after the visit of King Charles II on 28 May 1660, the eve of his Restoration, the house is situated in the heart of historic Rochester.

These adjacent properties have been lovingly restored by Robert Tucker and his partner Jonathan Wilmot who have lived there since 1994.



They are furnished with 17th and 18th century furniture and paintings, judiciously placed. These include Gainsborough's portrait of his Huguenot brother-in-law, either Philip Dupont, the Sudbury carpenter or his brother Robert Dupont. The first-floor dining room at the Vines retains its japanned décoration dating back to the 1690s.

Restoration House, 17-19 Crow Lane, Rochester Kent, ME1 1RF

<https://www.restorationhouse.co.uk>



The French Hospital La Providence, founded in London, 1718, moved to Rochester, 1958. Portraits of officers and directors, sacred and secular silver and memorabilia of Huguenot settlers are distributed between the Hospital and the Huguenot Museum, opened 2015, which tells the story of Britain's first refugees, Protestants, who left France due to religious persecution under Louis XIV.

The French Hospital, 41 La Providence, Rochester Kent, ME1 1NB

<https://www.frenchhospital.org.uk>



The day will conclude with a visit to The Huguenot Museum, established in 2015 which displays collections from the French Hospital and celebrates the contribution made by Britain's First Refugees.

We will preview the new display 'The Uppark 'Baby' House and Huguenot Home-making'. This exceptional 18th century dolls' house belonged to Sarah Lethieullier, a Huguenot heiress, who later married Matthew Fetherstonhaugh. Sarah was a talented artist and embroiderer.

The Huguenot museum, 95 High St, The Precinct, Rochester Kent, ME1 1LX
<https://www.huguenotmuseum.org>

Provisional agenda (timings are subject to change)

- 10.30 – Meeting point at the Restoration House
- 11.00 – Morning tour of the restoration house and Vine house
- 12.30 – Light lunch at the French Hospital in the Common Room
- 13.30 – Visit of the French Hospital and its collections
- 14.00 – Visit of the Huguenot museum with a preview the new display 'The Uppark 'Baby' House and Huguenot Home-making'
- 15.00 – Illustrated talk by Dr Tessa Murdoch, Chair of the Huguenot museum
- 16.00 – End of visit

Possibility to add a tour of the Rochester cathedral before or after the visit

The cost is £49.50 per person which includes lunch, admission fees and a copy of the guide book of the restoration house. This does not include travel arrangements to Rochester but suggested times / routes are listed below.

Please register your interest by email to info@franco-british-society.org by Thursday 28th March 2024.

Joining Instructions:

Suggested train times from London:

St Pancras station 09.25 arriving Rochester at 10.02

Victoria station 09.10 arriving Rochester at 09.53 or 09.40 arriving at 10.20

Return train times from Rochester:

16.59 arriving St Pancras 17.37

17.09 arriving Victoria 17.51

17.14 arriving Blackfriars 18.34

By road

London to Rochester is approximately 1 hour 23 minutes via the A302 and A2.

Parking

There are plenty of central car parks.

https://www.medway.gov.uk/directory/8/find_a_car_park/category/151