

BBC Club Prospero Society and Retired Members

Dear Member,

Well, the spring bulbs are in evidence with carpets of purple crocuses and the odd daffodil showing in my local area. Here we are with the events for Spring and part of Summer 2025.

We have had several 'WOW' moments in the events so far this year. Every corner you turned in the Mansion House was a 'WOW' moment, so interesting and beautiful with an exceptionally good guide. The Cutlers Hall was also 'WOW' and interactive. Thank you to Melanie for volunteering to be our 'Master' for the morning. In the Banqueting Hall we were engaged in the historical passing of the Loving Cup and the special toasting with a glass of sherry. The artifacts were very beautiful and the talk at the beginning from a very passionate "mudlarker" was engrossing.

We have another great selection of events for you, there are some we have offered before which have been recently requested we repeat. As we all know changes happen so frequently, so even if you remember the previous event I am sure there will be new things to see and experience. This period of hopefully warmer weather includes some walks that are for Prospero so the pace will be set for our group, slower members should not worry, hazards such as steps are avoided where possible.

We love to have feedback on the favourites and certainly if there is somewhere you wish to go or experience, please let us know and do come to the AGM in May and have your say. Thank you to all the organisers, the co-ordinators, the volunteers and a huge thank you to Gayner and the BBC Club for their continued support and hard work. Please remember to volunteer to coordinate NO COORDINATOR, NO TRIP!

I hope to see you at the forthcoming events.

Carol Elliott Chairman,

BBC Club, Prospero Society

P.S. All applications for events are collected for a week and then the replies are sent out. This is to allow Prospero Society members to get priority booking. Do reply as soon as possible! Gayner and I will send out replies to all received applications on 18th March. Anything received after this date will be processed regularly and availability updated on the website: <https://www.bbclub.com/clubs/connect/prospero/>

PLEASE NOTE! BBC Club Hub has moved AGAIN! Please use the new office address Zone D Floor 6. Please email me your application request bbc.club@bbc.co.uk even if you prefer to post a cheque. No need to use the application form if you prefer not to. A quick reminder, Some events do not require payment until quite close to the day so if no money has been handed over then a refund is possible. However increasingly now, payment is required at the time of booking so no refund is allowable as Prospero cannot be expected to incur a loss for nonattendance. If such an event does have a waiting list then the ticket can be reallocated. Booking deadlines are often payment deadlines. If an event doesn't have a deadline then availability can be found on the website: <https://www.bbclub.com/clubs/connect/prospero/>



St Mary-le-Bow Church, Cheapside, London EC2V 6AU

Rustic handmade dishes with artisan wines, served in a historic church crypt. Menu changes weekly and the actual choices will only be available the week before but you can see the type of food they do here: <https://www.cafebelow.co.uk/today-s-lunch-menu>

We have organised a 2 course lunch at 12.30pm at this wonderful location, and suggest you combine it with an informal visit to the Church, home of Bow Bells, the architecture of Sir Christopher Wren and restored stained glass windows, the Church at time of writing is open from 7am – 6pm. PLEASE NOTE on this occasion SERVICE CHARGE IS INCLUDED so you only need to pay for drinks on the day.

A Coordinator is needed for this trip. Please indicate if you are willing to act as such.

Thursday 3rd April 2025 12.30pm

Prospero Members £26.00

Club members and Guests £29.50

BOOKING DEADLINE 26th March

Application for Café Below.

Name.....

Phone no:-..... e-mail.....

Prospero Member @ £26 Club Member/guest @ £29.50

Total Amount £.....

Please email the application details to BBC.Club@bbc.co.uk TOGETHER WITH YOUR LUNCH CHOICES (no need to use the form here if it is easier not to) and make a bank transfer to **BBC Club Sports & Leisure Ltd**, account number **01443319** Sort Code **30-00 02** using CAFÉBELOW as the reference **OR** write a cheque for the full amount to **BBC Club Sports & Leisure Ltd**. Alternatively if you don't have email, post a cheque with the application and any guest name(s) to Gayner Leach, BBC Club Hub, Floor 6, Zone D BBC Broadcasting House, Portland Place, London W1A 1AA. Please include an SAE for full details of the trip or returned cheque if fully booked



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

**Guided Tour of The Royal Opera House, Covent
Garden.**

The backstage tour includes an introduction to the colourful history of the theatre , an insight into the re-development of the Royal Opera House and a look at aspects of current productions.

A practical note on the tour: This tour takes you through different areas of the Royal Opera House, including long corridors, stairs, escalators and lifts. The flooring is also different depending on where you are in the building – some floors are smooth and tiled or wooden, some are carpeted.

Wednesday 16th April 2025 at 2.30pm

Prospero Members £16 per person Members and Guests £18.75 per person

Limited Availability. Check the website.

Application for Covent Garden Backstage Tour

Name.....

Phone no:-..... e-mail.....

Prospero Member @ £16 Club Member/guest @ £18.75.....Total Amount
£.....

Please email the application details to BBC.Club@bbc.co.uk (no need to use the form here if it is easier not to) and make a bank transfer to **BBC Club Sports & Leisure Ltd**, account number **01443319** Sort Code **30-00 02** using **COVENT** as the reference **OR** write a cheque for the full amount to **BBC Club Sports & Leisure Ltd**. Alternatively if you don't have email, post a cheque with the application and any guest name(s) to Gayner Leach, BBC Club Hub, Floor 6, Zone D BBC Broadcasting House, Portland Place, London W1A 1AA. Please include an SAE for full details of the trip or returned cheque if fully booked.

Prospero AGM

Have your say and contribute to the way your Club is run.
Prospero needs enthusiastic volunteers to keep going.
No experience necessary!

Tuesday 6th May 2025 at 11am

BBC Club W1 at Media Cafe

**BBC Broadcasting House, Portland Place,
London W1A 1AA**

Agenda for the Prospero 2025 AGM to be held on 6th May at BBC Club W1

1. Opening remarks and welcome.
2. Apologies received
3. Submission and acceptance of Minutes of the 2024 AGM (available on the Prospero page of the BBC Club website)
4. Submission of financial report provided by the BBC Club office
5. Election of committee for 2025/2026 including Chair
6. General forum of members present

If you can indicate if you will be attending that would help us get an idea of numbers but please do come even if you haven't!

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING PHOTO ID AND YOUR BBC CLUB CARD
TO GAIN ADMITTANCE TO BH.**



STAGES & CELLS: Crime and Theatre in Covent Garden

Meet Outside the Bow Street Police Museum down the side of 28 Bow Street.

Join our walking tour through the historic streets of Covent Garden and uncover the stories of crime and theatre that made the area what it is today. In the 17th century, Bow Street was a quiet, residential area for the well-to-do. However, the arrival of the theatres ushered in a new era of bustling crowds, pickpockets, highwaymen, murderers, sex workers, gin palaces and unbridled decadence, leading to the necessity of London's first police force – the notorious Bow Street Runners. The tour takes place outside in Covent Garden in all weathers. It has a set route avoiding steps and high curbs. It includes entry to Bow Street Police Museum, valid on the same day as your tour.

Friday 23rd May 2025 11.30 am

Prospero Members £17 Club Members and Guests £20.00 per person

Limited Availability. Check the website. A Coordinator is needed for this trip. Please indicate if you are willing to act as such.

Stages and Cells Walking Tour Application

Name.....

Phone no:-..... e-mail.....

Prospero Member @ £17 Club Member/guest @ £20.....Total Amount £.....

Please email the application details to BBC.Club@bbc.co.uk (no need to use the form here if it is easier not to) and make a bank transfer to **BBC Club Sports & Leisure Ltd**, account number **01443319** Sort Code **30-00 02** using STAGES as the reference **OR** write a cheque for the full amount to **BBC Club Sports & Leisure Ltd**. Alternatively if you don't have email, post a cheque with the application and any guest name(s) to Gayner Leach, BBC Club Hub, Floor 6, Zone D BBC Broadcasting House, Portland Place, London W1A 1AA. Please include an SAE for full details of the trip or returned cheque if fully booked.

Regent's Park – The Evolution of English Garden Design (+World famous Roses).

Join Prospero Society favourite Diana Kelsey on her walk. As Diana's walks are so popular I have arranged two time slots so more of you can enjoy this event. Please indicate which time you would like or if you can do either.

In the early 19th century the inner circle of Regents Park was home to the Royal Botanic Society. As a result the park has some of the best planted gardens in London, which has inspired this walk tracing the evolution of English garden design from an early physic garden, to an Elizabethan knot garden, the aptly named English Garden,(an example of natural landscaping), herbaceous borders and a colourful example of the Italianate formal plantings much loved by the Victorians. We will also visit the hidden garden of a villa now owned by the Sultan of Brunei and of course the Queen Mary Rose Garden, with its world-famous collection of roses, which should be at their best...but no promises!! I will not be able to tell the story chronologically, as that would result in much retracing of steps, but I hope by the end of the walk you will have an overview of the different designs that have made English gardens so admired world-wide .

STARTS Great Portland Street Tube. Ends nr. Baker St.

Tuesday 10th June 2025 at 11am and 2.15pm

Prospero Members £17

members /Guests £20

Limited Spaces, Check the website for availability

A Coordinator is needed for the afternoon trip. Please indicate if you are willing to act as such.

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Application for Regents Park Walk

Name.....

Phone no:-.....e-mail.....

Prospero Member @ £17 Club Member/guest @£20.....

Total Amount £.....

Please email the application details to BBC.Club@bbc.co.uk (no need to use the form here if it is easier not to) and make a bank transfer to **BBC Club Sports & Leisure Ltd**, account number **01443319** Sort Code **30-00 02** using REGENT as the reference **OR** write a cheque for the full amount to **BBC Club Sports & Leisure Ltd**. Alternatively if you don't have email, post a cheque with the application and any guest name(s) to Gayner Leach, BBC Club Hub, Floor 6, Zone D, BBC Broadcasting House, Portland Place, London W1A 1AA. Please include an SAE for full details of the trip or returned cheque if fully booked.

The venue for the planned second trip in June is unfortunately now not able to accommodate us so We are looking at a theatre trip to see



An application has been submitted for a Thursday Matinee with a preference for either 19th or 26th June.

As at time of writing we haven't had a reply regarding availability or price. If you would like to be notified when the details are available please let us know.

You can email your enquiry or if you prefer, complete the form below.

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Enquiry Regarding Mrs Warren's Profession

Name.....

Phone no:-.....e-mail.....

Prospero Member (Price to be advised) Club Member/guest (price to be advised).....

SAMUEL PEPYS – PLAGUE, FIRE AND REVOLUTION.

Join Prospero Society favourite Diana Kelsey on her walk. As Diana's walks are so popular I have arranged two dates so more of you can enjoy this event. Please indicate which time you would like or if you can do either.

Pepys's diary, which chronicles nine of the most turbulent years of London's history, gives a unique insight into both public and everyday life of mid-17th century London. This walk will trace Pepys's colourful life and his observations on high and low life in London, during the Plague, Great Fire and the regeneration of the City after those cataclysmic events. Now having experienced a modern plague ourselves, there are many eerie similarities (...do we ever learn from history?). The walk will weave through the narrow alleyways, along routes that Pepys would have known. (some roads cobbled – wear comfortable shoes!).

STARTS - Blackfriars Tube (NB N. side of river). Ends nr Tower Hill tube

Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th July 2025 at 11am

Prospero Members **£17**

members /Guests **£20**

Limited Spaces, Check the website for availability

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Application for Samuel Pepys Walk

Name.....

Phone no:-.....e-mail.....

Prospero Member @ £17 Club Member/guest @£20.....

Total Amount £.....

Please email the application details to BBC.Club@bbc.co.uk (no need to use the form here if it is easier not to) and make a bank transfer to **BBC Club Sports & Leisure Ltd**, account number **01443319** Sort Code **30-00 02** using PEPYS as the reference **OR** write a cheque for the full amount to **BBC Club Sports & Leisure Ltd**. Alternatively if you don't have email, post a cheque with the application and any guest name(s) to Gayner Leach, BBC Club Hub, Floor 6, Zone D, BBC Broadcasting House, Portland Place, London W1A 1AA. Please include an SAE for full details of the trip or returned cheque if fully booked.



Chelsea Physic Garden, Private tour

66 Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London, SW3 4HS

Sitting on the Thames Embankment, and sheltered by high walls, Chelsea Physic Garden is one of the oldest and most respected botanic gardens in Europe. It is the oldest in London, and only surpassed in age, in England, by Oxford Botanic Garden.

Founded in 1673 by The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London for its apprentices to study medicinal plants and their uses, it became one of the most important centres of botany and plant exchange in the world. Chelsea Physic Garden's plant collection is unique in being the only botanic garden collection focused on medicinal, herbal and useful plants.

Wednesday 16th July 2025 at 1pm

Prospero Members £12

members /Guests £14

Limited Availability. Check the website. A Coordinator is needed for this trip. Please indicate if you are willing to act as such.

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Application for Chelsea Physic Garden Tour

Name.....

Phone no:-.....e-mail.....

Prospero Member @ £12 Club Member/guest @£14.....

Total Amount £.....

Please email the application details to BBC.Club@bbc.co.uk (no need to use the form here if it is easier not to) and make a bank transfer to **BBC Club Sports & Leisure Ltd**, account number **01443319** Sort Code **30-00 02** using CHELSEA as the reference **OR** write a cheque for the full amount to **BBC Club Sports & Leisure Ltd**. Alternatively if you don't have email, post a cheque with the application and any guest name(s) to Gayner Leach, BBC Club Hub, Floor 6, Zone D, BBC Broadcasting House, Portland Place, London W1A 1AA. Please include an SAE for full details of the trip or returned cheque if fully booked.