

# Haddenham U3A Technical Group Visit to the 'Old Operating Theatre', the George Inn and Borough Market.

24<sup>th</sup> May 2019

This visit promises to be well worthwhile featuring the History of Medicine and... food!

St Thomas' Old Operating Theatre has a fascinating collection of artefacts and offer a good introductory talk on the history of Medicine. The George Inn is the oldest galleried inn in London with a good range of beer and food. Borough market is a foodie heaven.

**The Old Operating Theatre Museum** <http://oldoperatingtheatre.com/>



Housed in the attic of the early eighteenth-century church of the old St Thomas' Hospital, this atmospheric museum offers a unique insight into the history of medicine and surgery. The original timber framed garret was once used to dry and store herbs for medicines; in 1822 an operating theatre was included. Predating anaesthetics and antiseptics, it is the oldest surviving surgical theatre in Europe.

In 1862 the hospital moved to Lambeth. The operating theatre entrance was blocked up and the attic more or less forgotten until 1956 when it was found semi intact.

The entry fee will include a talk, which is well worth while. Assuming we can get 16 people in the party, then the entry cost with talk will be £6.00 per person. The cost per head will increase if we have less than 16 as the overall fee is fixed.

**The George Inn** <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/george-inn>

Imagine you're drinking with Shakespeare at one of his old haunts!



The only remaining galleried coaching inn in London, The George now belongs to the National Trust. This pub can be traced back to 1542, although an inn probably stood on the spot even earlier. The present building dates back to 1676.

For menu: <https://www.greeneking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/greater-london/georgesouthwark/menu/main-menu>

**Borough Market** <http://boroughmarket.org.uk/>

Borough Market has existed in one form or another for around 1,000 years. Its precise start date is impossible to pin down: there was no official opening, no ribbon-cutting ceremony, not even a brief mention in a chronicle. The best date available, and the one used as the basis for the Market's millennium celebration, is 1014.

Borough, then as now, was a place defined by its position at one end of London Bridge—for centuries, the only route across the river into the capital. The market for many years was a wholesale produce market with many warehouses. This style of business declined with the opening of large supermarkets and wholesale markets with better access further out of London. Borough markets current incarnation has its roots in the revival of interest in artisan foods which took shape in the 1990's.

Pioneering food businesses which had moved into the area's empty warehouses—began to host special retail events for the public at their premises around the Market presaging a new direction as a specialist retail market.

A Food Lovers' Fair in 1998, gathered together around 50 food producers as part of the annual Southwark Festival. The event was a roaring success leading to a decision to hold a monthly retail market with traders from around the world. This soon became a weekly affair; its popularity brought the endorsement of just about every chef in the country. In what seemed like the blink of an eye, it became probably the most famous food market in the country.



### Transport and Timing

Borough is adjacent to London Bridge station. All the above venues are within some 300 metres of each other.



The first cheap rate day train ticket leaves Haddenham at 09.42 getting into Marylebone around 10.30

A good fast route to London Bridge station is Bakerloo tube line to Baker Street, then Jubilee line to London Bridge. Though we should be travelling together if separated make your own way to the museum, take the station exit to Borough High Street. The old operating theatre is on the left hand side of St Thomas Street. Look for a church tower, entry to the museum is by the base. The museum is a up a narrow spiral staircase, 52 steps, but a lift is available by phone request on arrival.

The talk on the History of Medicine and the Operating Theatre will start at 11.00

**Lunch at the George Inn** will be at 12.45

Menu link: <https://www.greeneking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/greater-london/george-southwark/menu/main-menu>

After lunch for those who wish Borough Market is very close see map. Southwark cathedral is just beyond the market if any wish to visit it.

### Booking.

Please indicate If you will be coming and with or without partner and guest **by email to:**

David or Kevin **by 14<sup>th</sup> of May**

**revd@wallaces.org; kevinpnash@yahoo.co.uk**