



Cripplegate Ward Club

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British Postal Museum and a ride on the Underground Railway

WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL 2018



Take a 15-minute journey under the streets of London. This event offers a popular view of the Underground Railway opened to the public late last year.

The Post Office (London) Railway played a pivotal role in the transportation of mail in London. Its continued, rarely interrupted, service is testament to the skilled engineering and maintenance teams that kept the system running. The network even had its own underground workshop beneath Mount Pleasant. Through declining use and closure of the above ground offices the system eventually became un-economical to run and was closed.

The Postal Museum opened in 2017 with a 1 kilometre (0.62 mi) stretch of track on London's Mail Rail, the world's first driverless electric railway, with rides available to the public.

The Mail Rail was originally opened on 5 December 1927. The trains run in a single tunnel, 9ft in diameter, with a double 2ft gauge track. At the station approaches, the main tunnel divides into two 7ft tunnels, each with a single track. Although the trains are much smaller than on London's passenger underground, the stations look much the same, with grand circular walls and the familiar sound of approaching trains.

The tunnels were used during the First World War to store and protect art treasures belonging to the National Portrait Gallery and the Tate Gallery. When it was in operation, more than six million bags of mail were carried below ground each year – that is four million letters every day.

In the museum section, anticipated attractions include a commemorative stamp that would have been used had Scotland won the 1978 FIFA World Cup, telegrams from the night that the Titanic sank, and the original copy of *Ulysses*.

In the event of an emergency, trains may have to be evacuated in the tunnels. All visitors must ensure that they are comfortable walking without assistance on uneven terrain, in a confined space and with low lighting levels for approximately 100 metres (328 feet).

The Postal Museum, 15-20 Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DA

nearest convenient station – Farringdon and a short walk/bus ride to Mount Pleasant

Meet in the coffee shop at 3 30 pm map to museum attached

After a busy and interesting afternoon, we take a very short walk to Luce e Limone, 91-93 Gray's Inn Road to enjoy a Sicilian dinner in the restaurant, reserved just for us. We will have a pre-ordered meal, selected from 3 starters 3 main courses and 3 desserts with tea or coffee and of course red & white wine served throughout.

Please complete and return the Booking Form by Monday 9 April 2018.

Refunds for cancellations after this date cannot be provided.

Acknowledgements will be sent out when bookings have been received.

Our next Event: Wednesday 16 May 2018

Tour of Thomas Goode & Company Ltd purveyors of the finest china, silverware and glassware available and lunch afterwards at the University Women's Club – men admitted.

For further information on this and all other events see the website: www.cripplegatewardclub.org