

**Some locations of interest in London for Oslerians:
53rd Annual Meeting of the American Osler Society
London, England
May 21-24, 2023**

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The following are some suggestions of places in London that may be of interest to Oslerians. These are personal recommendations, and very many more places can be visited and enjoyed, such as the British Museum, the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery.

These recommendations are in a central location, apart from the Freud Museum.

So here goes:

Benjamin Franklin House, 36 Craven St, London WC2N 5NF

<https://benjaminfranklinhouse.org>

I am interested in Benjamin Franklin because of his research into electricity. Benjamin Franklin lived for nearly 16 years in London. This is the only house that Franklin lived in that is still standing, and is a beautiful and interesting building. There is a free digital guide available for the museum on the Apple and Google Play store. There is an excellent tour of this wonderful building with a guide in costume. It's an example of how to run a museum when there are no objects to display (another example is the Sigmund Freud Museum in Vienna). On Sunday they offer a Historical Experience from 12:00 to 17:00. You can book on the website.

The Chelsea Physic Garden, 66 Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London SW3 4HS

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

Since 1673 the Chelsea Physic Garden has occupied four acres of land on the edge of the River Thames. It was first established by the Society of Apothecaries in order to grow medicinal plants, and this extraordinary garden in London has had a wide reaching impact around the world. It's open from 11:00 to 16:00 from Sunday to Friday.

The Florence Nightingale Museum, St Thomas' Hospital, 2 Lambeth Palace Road, SE1 7EW

<https://www.florence-nightingale.co.uk>

The Florence Nightingale Museum celebrates the life and work of the best known figure in the history of nursing. At the museum we can see the lamp that Florence carried, and which earned her the name of 'The Lady With The Lamp', we can see her pet owl and also her medicine chest. There are many London connections to Florence Nightingale.

The Freud Museum London, 20 Maresfield Gardens, London NW3 5SX

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

The museum is on the site of the final home of Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalysis, and of his daughter Anna Freud, the child psychoanalyst. This museum has been on my list of places to visit for a long time and has been recommended, however I have yet to visit! However I certainly recommend the Freud Museum in Vienna which I have visited!

The Gordon Museum of Pathology, Hodgkin Building, Guy's Campus, London SE1 1UL <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/lsm/centre-for-education/museums/gordon-museum/visiting-the-gordon-museum>

Well worth a visit. The Museum is not however open to the general public. Access is allowed by prior arrangement (see website for details).

The Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London, SE1 6HZ
<https://www.iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-london>

The Imperial War Museum is one of the world's leading museum of war and conflict. It was founded while the First World War was still being fought, and it gives a voice to the extraordinary experiences of those (including Sir William Osler) who were (and are) forced to live their lives in a world that is torn apart by conflict.

The Royal College of Physicians of London, 11 St Andrews Place London NW1 4LE <https://history.rcplondon.ac.uk/exhibitions>

This is a beautiful building, and full of interesting items and spaces to explore – including a wonderful marble bust of Thomas Sydenham by Joseph Wilton. I always say hello to Thomas Sydenham when I visit the College, which is where we hold our Osler Club meetings. There are permanent and temporary exhibits. At the time of our AOS meeting the exhibition is “Unfamiliar A new look at the Royal College of Physicians’ collections” (running from 23 January - 28 July 2023).

The Royal College of Surgeons of England Museum (The Hunterian Museum), 38-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PE <https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/museums-and-archives/hunterian-museum/>

The Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons of England is based on the anatomy and pathology collections of the eighteenth-century surgeon and anatomist John Hunter. Following the redevelopment of the College building from 2017 to 2021, the Hunterian Museum will open again to the public in early 2023. Obviously I have not seen this yet, although I helped a little.

The Royal Institution of Great Britain, 21 Albemarle Street, London, W1S 4BS
<https://www.rigb.org/visit>

The Royal Institution is a special place. It houses the Faraday Museum.

<https://www.rigb.org/visit/faraday-museum>

Michael Faraday was of a humble birth and made many electrical discoveries. His story is inspirational. The first electrical transformer can be seen, as can Faraday's electrical laboratory from the 1850s. Many items are iconic.

The Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 0AE www.rsm.ac.uk

The RSM has many associations with Sir William. The library exhibitions are open throughout library opening hours (Monday - Thursday 09:30 to 18:00, Friday until 17:30, closed weekends.

An exhibition is taking place to coincide with the visit of the American Osler Society.

The content of the exhibition in May 2023 will be very much drawn from the last exhibition held on Osler at the RSM, ‘*So joyous and gentle a life*’. The online equivalent is *Sir William Osler 1849-1919* which you can find at <https://www.rsm.ac.uk/the-library/exhibitions/>.

St Bartholomew the Great (Church), West Smithfield, Barbican, London EC1A 9DS
<https://www.greatstbarts.com>

In 2023, this wonderful church is celebrating the 900th anniversary of 'St Bart's'. The building was founded as an Augustinian priory in 1123. A statue *Exquisite Pain* – which is Damien Hirst's statue of St Bartholomew – is located in the South Transept, just inside the main door of the church. It is on loan from Damien Hirst. St Bartholomew, one of the original twelve disciples, was sent as an Apostle to Armenia, where he was killed by being skinned alive. The classic iconography of the saint presents him as naked, with his muscles exposed, his skin hanging over his arm – and in his hands, are the instruments of his torture. This statue has Damien Hirst conforming to this imagery, but giving it a unique twist: the instrument of martyrdom in his hand is not a standard knife, but is a scalpel, used in the hospital across the road which also bears the saint's name. In 1724 the young Benjamin Franklin, then newly arrived in London, was looking for a job. He found one as a typesetter in a printer's shop. At one time this printer's shop had been the Lady Chapel at St Bartholomew's, and subsequently returned to the church.

St Bartholomew's Hospital Museum, Giltspur St, London EC1A 7BE
<https://www.bartshealth.nhs.uk/bartsmuseum>

In 2023 St Bartholomew's Hospital celebrates the 900th anniversary of its foundation in 1123. The hospital museum tells the story of nine centuries of healthcare in London. There are permanent and temporary exhibitions and an interesting on-line gallery.

The Science Museum, Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London, SW7 2DD
<https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk>

There is a huge collection of material on display. There is the first CT scanner, the MRI scanner from Aberdeen, and so much else. The medical galleries enable us to discover the people, events, innovations and inventions that have shaped medicine. My main criticism of the medical galleries is that for many objects there is not enough explanation. There is a wonderful display of Georgian electrical apparatus which should not be missed.

Sir John Soane's Museum,
13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3BP <https://www.soane.org>

This is an extraordinary house and museum based on the work of Sir John Soane, one of the greatest of English architects, who built the house and lived in it two centuries ago. The museum is essentially one person's collection. The museum has been kept as it was at the time of his death in 1837, and displays his vast collection of antiquities, furniture, sculptures, architectural models and paintings. It's open Wednesday to Sunday, from 10:00 to 17:00.

The Wallace Collection, Hertford House, Manchester Square, London W1U 3BN
<https://www.wallacecollection.org>

The Wallace Collection is an internationally outstanding collection which contains unsurpassed masterpieces of paintings, sculpture, furniture, arms and armour and porcelain. It's great to see paintings (of all sizes including miniatures), sculpture, ceramics and furniture displayed together. It's open daily from 10:00 to 17:00, and there is an excellent restaurant and shop.

The Wellcome Collection, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE

<https://wellcomecollection.org>

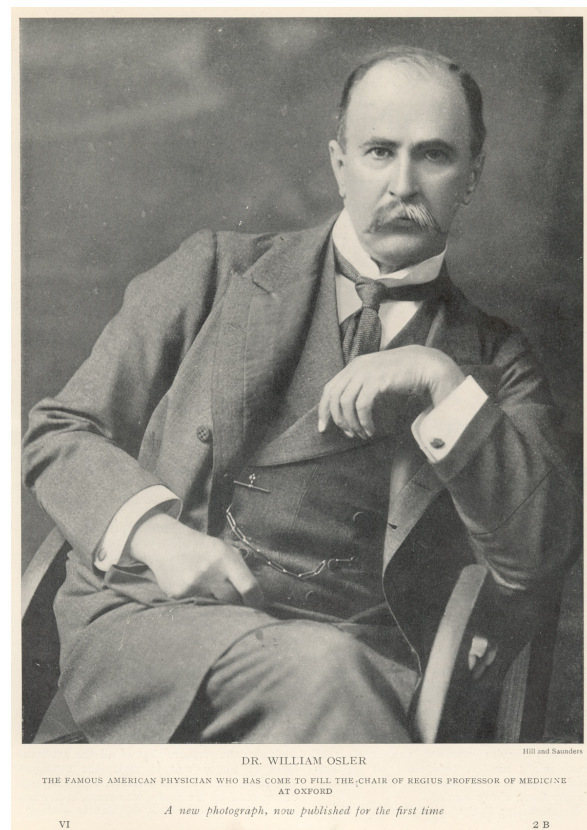
The Wellcome has a free museum and library exploring 'health and human experience'. I first visited as a medical student in the 1970s. There is a permanent exhibition and excellent temporary exhibitions. There is also a good bookshop and café. Unfortunately the Medicine Man gallery which told the story of the 19th-century pharmaceutical entrepreneur Henry Wellcome is now closed.

The Galleries and Reading Room are closed on Monday, but otherwise open to 18:00 (20:00 on Thursday). This would make a good Sunday afternoon visit.

John Wesley's House, Wesley's Chapel & Museum of Methodism. 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU

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

John Wesley's house is an interesting place to visit. John Wesley had many medical interests and pioneered the use of medical electricity. His electrical machine is on display, as is his indoor exercise machine (which simulated horse-riding). The old house is most interesting as an example of Georgian architecture. There is also an excellent shop. The opening hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 10:30 to 16:00. John Wesley's House can be accessed upon request, by speaking to one of their Heritage Stewards. The last entry to the House is at 15:15 (15:00 on Saturday).



Monday, January 9, 2023
