



**LONDON: THE CITY AND ITS PEOPLE  
THE FOUNDLING MUSEUM  
PLEASE NOTE: Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

The Foundling Hospital which continues today as the children’s charity Coram, was established in 1739 by the philanthropist Thomas Coram to care for babies at risk of abandonment. Thomas Coram returned from America in 1704 to a city that was a power house of industry, global trade and wealth but it was also noisy, disease ridden and the site of desperate poverty. Parents unable to care for their children due to poverty or illegitimacy had few options. It is estimated that approx. 1000 babies a year were abandoned in the streets of London.

After 17 years of tireless campaigning Thomas Coram received a Royal Charter from King George II enabling him to establish his hospital. Instrumental in helping Coram to realise his vision were the artist William Hogarth who encouraged leading artists to donate their work, and the composer George Frideric Handel who donated an organ and conducted annual benefit concerts of Messiah in the Hospital’s chapel. From 1741 when the first babies were admitted to 1954 when the last pupil was placed in foster care, the Foundling hospital cared for and educated around 25,000 children.

The current building was constructed in the 1930s on the site of the hospital and includes many architectural features from the original building. The Foundling museum opened in 2004.

We will be taking a guided tour of the Permanent Collection but there is also masses to see – artworks, objects and archive documents, the winter exhibition Ladies of Quality & Distinction and the Lily Cole film ‘Balls’ – it lasts approx. 12 minutes and is very moving. If possible do visit the websites: [foundlingmuseum.org.uk](http://foundlingmuseum.org.uk) and the children’s charity [coram.org.uk](http://coram.org.uk) , they are full of interesting information.

The museum has no cafe but plenty of loos! The Lumen Cafe 5 mins away is a prison related charity (The Clink) and can accommodate all of us. Other alternatives will be mentioned on the coach.

- 9.00am: Asda carpark**
- 9.10 am: Anne Knight bus stop opposite Chelmsford railway station, Duke St.**
- 9.20 am: The Duck Pond, Writtle Green**
- 4.30pm: Leaving London. Please try to be at the coach approx. 10 mins. beforehand**

**Cost £24.50 pp** (includes entrance fee, 2 guides plus coach and drivers tip.)

Please note: We cannot offer a refund once you have paid. Any last-minute problems contact Joy 07913 994897/01245 269258 OR Berry 07811 091771/ 01277 355823

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Ch. U3A Mem. No/s \_\_\_\_\_ No. places required \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s).....Email address.....

Cheque + slip enclosed for £.... (made payable to Chelmsford U3A) and sent to:

Joy Channing, 2 Boswells Drive, Chelmsford CM2 6LD **For confirmation please make sure you enclose tel no. or email address**