

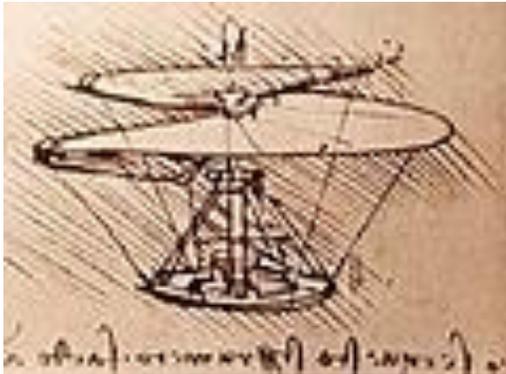
# Institute of Physics – London & South East Branch – Retired Members Section

## Leonardo da Vinci: The Mechanics of Genius, an Exhibition at the Science Museum on Thursday 1 Sept 2016

This visit has been organised by MC Black.

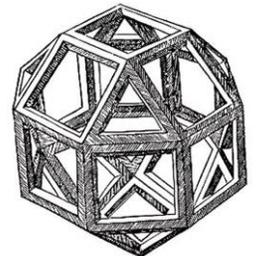
We visit the Science Museum to see the much acclaimed exhibition ‘Leonardo da Vinci: The Mechanics of Genius’ shortly before it closes in early September.

**Description:** When we hear expressions like ‘genius’, renaissance man’ and ‘polymath’, we may well think of Leonardo first. He was a painter and draftsman of the highest order, but also known for his work in geometry and the optics of perspective, anatomy and engineering. Vasari in his ‘Lives of the Artists’ wrote: *"He made designs for mills, fulling [wool processing] machines and engines that could be driven by water-power... In addition he used to make models and plans showing how to excavate and tunnel through mountains without difficulty, so as to pass from one level to another; and he demonstrated how to lift and draw great weights by means of levers, hoists and winches, and ways of cleansing harbours and using pumps to suck up water from great depths."* The exhibition shows many historical models of Leonardo’s inventions including flying machines, diving equipment and weapons. There are also large-scale reproductions of his famous drawings and sketches and modern examples of bio-inspired engineering developments.



**Where and when to meet:** we assemble from 10:30 for an 11:30 start in the Energy Café situated in the Energy Hall on the ground floor.

**Getting there:** The Science Museum is a five minute walk from South Kensington Underground Station which is on the District, Circle and Piccadilly lines. More details at [http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/visitmuseum/getting\\_here](http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/visitmuseum/getting_here)



**Lunch:** We take lunch in one of the eating places at Imperial College which is a short distance away.

### Timetable (approximate times):

- 10:30 Begin to assemble at the Energy Café
- 11:30 Visit the Leonardo Exhibition
- 13:00 Assemble again in the Energy Café to be led to Imperial College by the Organiser for lunch.
- 14:30 Return to the Science Museum to tour other exhibits of your choice.
- 16:00 Coffee and farewells at the Energy café. Depart.



**Size of party:** 12 concessionary tickets have been purchased. If demand is high, we may attempt to buy more.

**Cost:** £10 payable to the IOP on registration. Members pay for their own comestibles and travel.



**Contacts:** MC Black [rems@hardknott.org](mailto:rems@hardknott.org) or 01920 467 930 or Tony Colclough at [tonycolclough@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tonycolclough@tiscali.co.uk) , 02083980766 or 07930 171307

**Late Arrivals:** ring MC Black on 07880 980 921 or Tony on 07930 171307

P S Not part of this exhibition, but you may recall Leonardo's charming portrait, **Lady with an Ermine**. Members who attended 'Germany: Memories of a Nation' at the British Museum in Jan 2015 will recognise this painting. Those who attended Skinners Hall in April this year will know all about what can happen to ermine.

