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have been restored, and explores the lives of the Bishops of London who used to live there. Guided tours of the palace and grounds (£3) take place at 2pm on the second and fourth Sunday and the third Wednesday of each month.

Family Event: Pinocchio June 15 3pm; £10. Illyria's interpretation of Carlo Collodi's macabre comic masterpiece features a 25-foot shark and a leading actor whose nose really does grow. Age 5+.

Museum of Garden History

020 7401 8865. St Mary-at-Lambeth, Lambeth Palace Road, SE1 7LB. Lambeth North/Waterloo/Westminster. museumofgardenhistory.org; Tue-Sun 10.30am-5pm; Voluntary adm charge £3, concs £2.50. The permanent display includes a collection of antique tools exploring garden history. Outside, in the recreation of a seventeenth-century garden, are the tombs of the Tradescants and Admiral Bligh of the Bounty.

Museum of London

FREE 0870 444 3851. 150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN. St Paul's/Barbican. Mon-Sat 10am-5.50pm, Sun 12noon-5.50pm (last adm 5.30pm). The history of London, from prehistoric times to the present told through reconstructed interiors and street scenes, alongside displays of original artefacts found during the museum's archaeological digs. The Stuart, Victorian and Twentieth Century galleries are currently closed for redevelopment.

Natural History Museum

FREE 020 7942 5000. Cromwell Road, SW7 5BD. South Kensington. Daily 10am-5.50pm.

Amazing Butterflies £5, concs £3.50, under-3s free, family (up to 5 kids, min 1 adult, max 2) £14. An outdoor maze features ample amusements for children –

puzzles, games, a zip slide – and leads to a tropical butterfly house swarming with hundreds of free-flying American, African and Asian specimens. ▶ Aug 17.

Darwin's Canopy A display of drawings, paintings and models submitted by ten artists – including Rachael Whiteread and Mark Wallinger – shortlisted for the task of creating a ceiling artwork inspired by Charles Darwin's ideas. A panel of art experts will select the winning work, which will be installed permanently at the museum, later this summer. ▶ Sep 14.

Wildlife Garden Daily 12noon-5pm (weather permitting). Seasonal opening of the garden, which highlights inner-city wildlife conservation. Found beside the Museum's west lawn, the garden attracts urban wildlife like dragonflies, blackbirds and wrens, not to mention marigolds, bluebells and other flowers. ▶ Oct 31.

19 Princelet Street

FREE 020 7247 5352. E1 6QH. Liverpool St. 19princeletstreet.org.uk; See below for opening dates and times. Donations welcome.

Housed in a Grade II* listed building, an unrestored 1719 Huguenot silk merchant's home which also contains a concealed synagogue dating from 1869, the Museum of Immigration and Diversity is London's 'museum of conscience'. Leave to Remain is an exhibition of work looking at asylum in Britain, by three contemporary refugee artists. The museum is family-friendly and provides an activity trail for children.

Suitcases and Sanctuary, an exhibition made by children, explores the refugee experience in Spitalfields, from French Huguenot, Irish, Jewish, Afro-Caribbean, Somali and Bangladeshi viewpoints. The museum is only open on selected dates, although it's sometimes possible to arrange group visits one month in advance.

Open Days The final openings of the museum for 2008 take place June 15-22 for Refugee Week (12noon-6pm).

Royal Air Force Museum

FREE 020 8205 2266. Grahame Park Way, NW9 5LL. Colindale/Broadway rail. rafmuseum.org.uk; Daily 10am-6pm (closed Apr 1 2008). Attractions include 80 aircraft on display, an interactive area, a simulator ride and 'Our Finest Hour', a multi-media account of the Battle of Britain. In the interactive Aeronauts Gallery visitors can take a pilot aptitude test to discover whether they are the 'right stuff'. 'Milestones of Flight', a permanent exhibition in the museum's new silver barrel-vaulted, stainless steel clad building, includes some of the most important RAF aircraft along with classics from the USA, Germany, Japan and France.

Family Event: Hendon Pageant – Edwardian Extravaganza June 14, 15. To celebrate the 90th anniversary of the RAF and the centenary of powered flight in the UK this Edwardian themed weekend includes a living history area as well as a carousel, swing boats and a helter skelter. Jun 14 ▶ Jun 15.

Science Museum

FREE 0870 870 4868. Exhibition Road, SW7 2DD. South Kensington. Daily 10am-6pm.

Dan Dare and the Birth of Hi-Tech Britain

Taking as its starting point the popular hero from the *Eagle* comics, this exhibition revisits the explosion in new technologies enjoyed in post-war Britain, from TVs and furniture to missiles and nuclear weapons. ▶ Oct 25.

Does Flying Cost the Earth? Display of some of the technologies the aviation industry is using to make travel greener, as well as ways passengers can help, in an exhibition sponsored by aviation company EADS, which posits that the industry is being unfairly singled out. ▶ Oct 26.

Films of Fact A chance to see more than 30 science and nature documentaries, from 1903's 'Cheese Mites', believed to be the first of the genre, to the start of 'Tomorrow's World' in 1965. ▶ Nov 30.

Plasticity: 100 years of Making Plastics The exhibition tells the story of the world's first entirely man-made material, Bakelite, invented in 1907 by Dr Leo Baekeland. More than 500 of the new plastics it paved the way for are on display, from nylon stockings and Tupperware to objects hot off the production line. The displays also look at the ecological impact of plastics and the importance of improving on their recycling rate, which currently stands at less than 10 per cent. ▶ Jan 1 2009.

The Science of Survival £6, joint family tickets with IMAX cinema avail. Aimed at families with children aged eight and over, this hands-on exhibition explores the ways in which climate change and dwindling resources could affect how we eat, drink, move, build and live in 2050. Interactive games allow visitors to build different aspects of their future city, and objects from around the world explore how technology is anticipating the inevitable changes. ▶ Nov 2.

V&A

FREE 020 7942 2000. Cromwell Road, SW7 2RL. South Kensington. Daily 10am-5.45pm, till 10pm Fri.

*** Blood on Paper: The Art of the Book** An exhibition of artists' books from the 1940s to the present, looking at the inventive ways in which the likes of Matisse, Picasso and Miró and contemporary artists including Damien Hirst, Georg Baselitz and Richard Long have treated the genre. ▶ Jun 29.

China Design Now £8, seniors £6, students, children (12-17), ES-40 holders £4, family £12 (1 adult + 2 children)/£20 (2 + 2). New Chinese architecture, fashion, graphic design, photography and digital media. ▶ Jul 13. See Art.

Collaborators: UK Design for Performance 2003-2007 Costumes, puppets, drawings, stage set models and digital presentations showcasing theatre designs for productions including 'Billy Elliot', 'Evita', 'La Traviata' and other productions. ▶ Nov 18.

Critics' choice



Last Stop London Transport Museum, until July 27. Still holding a candle for the Routemaster? Find solace at an exhibition of photographs by Ralf Obergfell, taken during the final 18 months before buses went bendy.

Blood on Paper: The Art of the Book V&A, till Jun 29. A fascinating exploration of artists' books dating from the 1940s to the present. Of course, you can't turn the pages, though you'll long to.

Utsavam: Music from India Horniman Museum, till Nov 2. Investigating the way in which music in different regions of India reflects local customs and resources. On Sunday there's a free performance and workshop exploring sitar music.

The American Scene: Prints from Hopper to Pollock British Museum, until Sep 7. This free show is a rare opportunity to see the BM's extensive collection of work by American artists in a chronological display that reflects a period of great social and political change.

Fashion in the Palm of Your Hand Fan Museum, until Oct 26. Fans were hot in the seventeenth century and they're still cool today.

The Story of the Supremes £5, under-18s free. Costumes, music, album covers and photos relating to the 1960s group, from the collection of Mary Wilson who, along with Diana Ross and Florence Ballard, was one of the original Supremes. ▶ Oct 19.

Thomas Hope: Regency Designer £5, under-12s free. Recreation of rooms from Hope's Regency townhouse and country residence, along with his watercolours of classical sites and some of the sculptures, paintings and furniture he commissioned. ▶ Jun 22.

The William and Judith Bollinger Gallery Designed by architect Eva Juricna, with a new mezzanine floor reached by glass spiral staircase, the new gallery focuses on the history of European jewellery over the past 800 years. Among the 3,500 items on display are diamonds worn by Catherine the Great of Russia, pendants presented by Elizabeth I to her courtiers and the Beuharnais Emeralds, which were a gift from Napoleon to his adopted daughter. Nineteenth-century jewellery is a particular strength of the V&A's collection – one of the most comprehensive in the world – and contemporary jewellery is also well represented.

V&A Museum of Childhood

FREE 020 8983 5200/020 8980 2415 (24-hr info). Cambridge Heath Road, E2 9PA. Bethnal Green. Daily 10am-5.45pm. **Are You Being Served?** Photographic portraits of shopkeepers from the main

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In the 1930s London Underground advised on the design of Stalin's Moscow Metro, which is why the magnificent barrel-vaulted halls of Gants Hill station echo its Russian counterparts. Discover more comrades at the new Museum.

www.ltmuseum.co.uk

MAYOR OF LONDON london transport museum