

A weekend engineered for lovers at the Brunel Museum

Fri 14 February: *Valentine pop-up, sit-down dinner at Brunel Museum £47.50 (drinks included), 7.00pm*

Sat 15 February: *Love in the Afternoon, £13 including boat (lunch not included), 10.45am -3pm*

Sat 15 February: *Midnight Apothecary Valentine Special, £5 entry and cash bar 4pm – 10pm*

Sun 16 February: *Morning After the Night Before: Brunel, the Actress and the Underground Chamber. Tickets £9/£7 available on the day, no need to book. Meet 10.45am Bermondsey tube.*

Sparks are set to fly at the Brunel Museum over the Valentine weekend, home of the world's first pop – up restaurant*. Liquid engineering will be provided by the museum's resident Cocktail Gardener Lottie Muir who will set hearts racing with three perfectly paired love potions to accompany each of the three dreamy courses from BBC MasterChef winner Julie Friend at the Valentine sit-down banquet on Friday 14 February. A Love Story and brief encounter in Brunel's underground chamber will begin the magical evening designed for guests celebrating as a couple or just a group of loved ones. They will ascend into the candle-lit Brunel Museum to dine on a gourmet feast including ruby red beets, aromatic Moroccan spices and the darkest of dark chocolate before being invited to retire to the enchanted Midnight Apothecary roof garden to enjoy complimentary petit fours, toasted marshmallows and sparklers around the cosy firepit. The ticket includes three courses, three carefully paired cocktails, petit fours, marshmallows, sparklers, a Love Story and live entertainment. Wine may be purchased in addition at cash bar. Tickets are available at £47.50 in advance from wegottickets.com/BrunelMuseum

Saturday 15 February begins with Love in the Afternoon: tickets £13 including boat (but not lunch) can be bought on the day, no need to book. People in a long term relationship are invited to meet Cupid at Embankment tube 10.45am for a languid day along the Thames. Embark on the Love Boat for a guided journey under the strong and exquisite arches of Brunel's three bridges, size up Brunel's massive haunches for his launches on the Isle of Dogs. Then slide gracefully through the priapic columns of the Tunnel of Love on the London Overground Love train. Exhausted? Take lunch at the Tunnel Club, then an early cocktail...

Midnight Apothecary, the legendary pop-up garden cocktail bar returns to the museum rooftop on the evening of Saturday 15 February for another flare-fuelled night of cocktails, firepit and sparklers guaranteed to warm the cockles of even the most cold-hearted. Cosy-up round the fire, enjoy heart-warming infusions and complementary toasted marshmallows. The toughest of hearts will melt. Singletons, couples and groups will find a happy home. An optional guided descent into Brunel's underground chamber for a Love Story is included in the ticket price. Delicious gourmet valentine morsels will also be available from BBC MasterChef winner Julie Friend. Tickets for this Midnight

Apothecary Valentine Special are £5 and available in advance from wegottickets.com/BrunelMuseum.

On Sunday morning, 16 February, anyone with any energy left can enjoy a guided walk along the river from Cherry Gardens Pier to the Sunken Shaft. A bracing and energetic story that takes in Vikings, Pirates, Paradise Street and the Royal Snogging Stone before a timorous descent in the underground chamber for a Love Story: Brunel and the Actress, a secret romance, a timid courtship. Walkers should meet at 10.45am Bermondsey tube. Tickets are £9/£7 (concessions) and available on the day. There is no need to book.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Lottie Muir is The Cocktail Gardener, the botanical mixologist and founder of pop-up garden cocktail bar Midnight Apothecary. She creates exquisite seasonal 'wild' and garden cocktails and infusions using cultivated and foraged herbs and flowers. She also runs a mobile pop-up bar for private functions.

www.thecocktailgardener.co.uk

07917 548475, Twitter: Cocktailgardner
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Julie Friend won the revered BBC MasterChef title in 1997 and has been cooking professionally ever since. Having recently sold her successful north London deli and catering company, Julie now lives the good life in Kent engaged in food journalism, exclusive private catering and the odd pop-up.

The Brunel Museum is open seven days a week from 10:00 until 17:00 and later for special events. Brunel Museum, Railway Avenue, Rotherhithe, London, SE16 4LF. One minute from Rotherhithe Overground Station, 8 minutes from Canada Water Jubilee line, 15 minutes from Bermondsey Jubilee line. Telephone: 020 7231 3840 Email: info@brunel-museum.org.uk.
www.brunel-museum.org.uk. Facebook.com/Brunel-Museum. Twitter @BrunelMuseum

*In 1827 Isambard Kingdom Brunel created the world's first underground dining experience in a tunnel beneath the Thames. Candlelight and the Coldstream Guards' regimental band accompanied the original meal as 50 guests clinked crystal glasses. At the end of the evening, the attendees climbed back up a staircase and appeared suddenly in the daylight. Thus making them the world's first pop up diners.