Issue 173 January 2025

LAMAS NEWSLETTER

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Remains of a WWII access tunnel to the raid shelter exposed during excavation to the east of no. 143 Borough High Street, Southwark (looking west).

Photo. S. Duckering, © PCA Ltd.

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NOTICES

Editor's Introduction

Chris Constable's recent LAMAS Lecture on the Southwark deep shelter which commandeered the disused Underground tunnels under Borough High Street during the Second World War, and was later used as a nuclear shelter, coincided with the recent release of Steve McQueen's new film *Blitz*. Whilst the film is predominantly fictional, Joshua Levine's research *The Secret History of the Blitz* contributed significantly to the characters and events portrayed. His work challenges the conventional narrative of unwavering British resilience during the Blitz period of the war. (The paperback (2016) is available and costs £10.99.) The LAMAS Lecture highlighted the reluctance of the British government to use Tube stations as air raid shelters during the early stages of the Blitz. Above ground shelters, such as Anderson and Morrison shelters, were initially prioritised as a way of keeping civilians near to their homes and places of work, and to avoid defeatism which would undermine public morale and the image of resilience. However, there was a shift in policy by both government and London Transport due to public pressure and practicality. By the height of the Blitz the Underground had become a vital refuge for thousands of people during air raids, saving countless lives.

This reluctance of the authorities to sanction the use of Underground stations as shelters is shown in the film. The film narrative also draws inspiration from several tragic events during the Blitz. Notably, the Balham Tube Station disaster on 14 October 1940 - a result of a German bomb striking Balham High Road directly above the station. The bomb created a massive crater and caused part of the road to collapse, sending debris, water, and sewerage flooding into the Underground station below. 68 people were killed and many more injured. Rescue efforts were hampered by the ongoing air raid and the difficult conditions caused by flooding, debris, and the collapse of a section of the station's infrastructure. The event was heavily censored by the wartime authorities to prevent

damage to civilian morale. In the ticket office at Balham Underground Station there is a slate memorial plaque to commemorate those who lost their lives.

The bombing of London's Café de Paris in Piccadilly is also worked into the film. Not only showing the devastation of the two bombs which struck the building, but the darker side of human behaviour in contrast to acts of heroism and resilience. Looting being an underreported aspect of wartime life. Negating the need for a 'spoiler alert' - the film is on release at selected cinemas and it can be streamed on Apple TV+. The Café de Paris was rebuilt after the war and can be found on Coventry Street between Leicester Square and Piccadilly Circus.



Three locations, all associated with providing shelter from airborne attack, illustrate the profound impact of the Blitz on London's population and its infrastructure during the Second World War - and more recently during the Cold War.

For those wanting to find out more about Anderson and Morrison shelters - both are on display on the second-floor exhibition gallery at the Imperial War Museum. A walk along Borough High Street may prove more problematic as no. 143 has now been demolished. It was not a listed building. A stroll along Coventry Street (nos 3-4) will reveal the nightclub that is the 'new' Café de Paris.

The memorial plaque to commemorate the victims of the Balham Underground Station disaster. ***Photo: H. Khandryha.***

Jane Wheeler

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May Newsletter*: *Next <u>LAST SUBMISSION</u> Date
Final submissions by ***<u>Friday 25th</u>* <u>April.</u>**

Articles, news, and items for inclusion may be submitted and welcomed prior to the cut-off date between the Easter and May Day Bank Holidays. Send items for inclusion by email as MS Word documents with pictures either in the same Word document or as additional pages. Avoid sending text as an email of web-link. Text font is ***Times Roman 14'*** (not justified and spacing x 1) to: **newsletter@lamas.org.uk And please no PDFs or email links.**

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LAMAS Newsletter by email in PDF format

The LAMAS *Newsletter* is published electronically in colour (in PDF format) and emailed to members. Printed black and white paper copies are still printed and posted to members with no email address.

Members who do not currently receive the *Newsletter* by email and would prefer to receive the colour PDF format – please email the Hon. Secretary: **secretary@lamas.org.uk**

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LAMAS Membership – December 2024

The rush of renewals for the start of the LAMAS year has now died down. In mid-December the figure for fully paid-up members stood at 86% of last year's total paid-up membership.
If you have not paid - this year's membership subscriptions remain the same at:

Ordinary (Individual) members	£20
Joint members (must be at same address)	£25
Student members (without Transactions)	£6
Corporate/Institutional members	£30
Affiliated local societies	£25

For payment by bank card: use the PayPal payment option on https://www.lamas.org.uk/join-lamas

Details for paying by bank transfer: CAF Bank Limited, Sort Code: 40-52-40, Account No: 00017438, Beneficiary: London & Middlesex Archaeological Society.

Cheques payable to LAMAS should be sent to Membership Secretary, the address is on the back page of the Newsletter.

The new LAMAS website is progressing, and it will have a member's area where you will be able to see the status of your membership. The new website should be available for access in 2025.

Any questions, comments or changes regarding your LAMAS membership do let me know, preferably by e-mail: membership@lamas.org.uk or by post (see back page).

John Shemilt, LAMAS Membership Secretary

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LAMAS 58th Local History Conference 2024

After an enjoyable and successful event in 2023, it was a pleasure to return to the Wilberforce Room at the London Museum Docklands for the Local History Conference on Saturday 16th November. The conference theme 'Fashion, Clothing, and Textiles in London History' prompted an excellent programme of speakers who presented papers across a varied range of topics. This year, the exhibition tables were also hosted in the Wilberforce Room which helped create a lively and bustling atmosphere.

The first speaker of the day was Dr. Liz Tregenza, Lecturer in Cultural & Historical Studies at London College of Fashion, with her intriguingly titled lecture **Vinted in London**. This comprehensively covered the development of the second-hand clothes market in London since the Second World War. From the late 40s as a reaction against the austerity of the war, people who could afford it focused on purchasing new clothes, with second-hand clothes not being valued. However, within 20 years small boutiques were popping up such as 'Granny Takes a Trip' and 'The Antiques Hypermarket'. Sellers developed a model of sourcing clothes in the second-hand markets in the East End and selling them in the up-and-coming fashionable areas of West London. For younger people especially, clothes of the 1920s etc. often became valued and sought after. Liz showed us a most amusing film clip showing that this new approach to clothes buying was not embraced by all, especially by the older generation. This 'counterculture' developed during the 60s in places like the Kings Road and Kensington. Also, 'Beyond Retro' in Brick Lane helped to develop that area. Liz concluded by suggesting that for many people, vintage was now 'mainstream' because clothes in the new fashion market were so similar. This move was also accelerated by the climate crisis and the cost-of-living crisis. It was possible to 'shop without guilt'. Liz concluded by saying that shops were now less popular for this market, taken over by fairs and higher-end boutiques. But also of course, the vintage market (Vinted) has now exploded via the Internet.

Liz was followed by Dr. Artemis Alexiou whose paper examined **Dress Advertisements in a Late Nineteenth-Century Feminist Periodical**. This fascinating lecture focussed on the topic of corsets, starting with an analysis of advertisements for them in the *Women's Penny Paper* (later the *Women's Herald*). Then moving on to a more general discussion of the how, why and wherefore of the wearing of such garments in the late Victorian era. Artemis described how the publication started out with only 6% of its space devoted to advertising. However, along with other publications, it soon discovered that there was a large appetite for advertising amongst its subscribers, and soon over a third of the paper was devoted to this. The editorials covered a range of matters like how to run a home and how to dress, but the most advertised product was the corset.

Artemis suggested that there were by then three types of corsets - ‘mainstream’, ‘tight-lace’ or ‘healthy’. The origins of this garment were touched upon, originally upper-class ladies especially wore them, and in time the idea was taken up by some middle-class women and others. There seemed to be an element of patriarchy in the encouragement of the wearing of these garments, and also convention for vanity or because they were useful. But there was a growing groundswell of progressive opinion rejecting conventional versions of ‘womanhood’. Artemis ended by suggesting that there was no longer one simple model of identity and other dimensions like class and ethnicity were becoming important.

Following a short break, the audience took their seats for the conference’s keynote lecture.

The keynote speaker was Hannah Wroe, a Senior Lecturer in contextual studies at the University of Lincoln, whose lecture comprehensively examined **The Rise and Fall of The British Model House**.
Hannah began by explaining that although the British Model House (BMH) had opened in January 1926, it went into liquidation just a few months later - reportedly for failing to meet building regulations. The BMH, funded by a conglomerate of Yorkshire textile mills and coordinated by the Bradford Chamber of Commerce, aimed to establish London as a fashion centre. Following the Empire Exhibition in 1924, northern textile industrialists came together behind Jewish fashion designer Leslie Raymond to promote and produce British-made fashion from premises on the newly rebuilt Regent Street. Controversially, the BMH sold directly to the public, retailers, and wholesalers, gaining global media attention. The BMH was more than a trade initiative. It ideologically challenged how and where British fashion was produced, manufactured, and promoted. Hannah entertainingly explored the motivations and context of the 1920s to produce British-made fashion amidst a fashion landscape dominated by Paris, and the significance of London geographies. We learned how the history of the BMH offers new understandings of British-made fashion and the role of Bradford textile manufacturers in establishing London as a fashion capital, and the national and international significance of British textiles. Hannah concluded that, despite its rapid failure, the ideals of the BMH were referenced into the following decade, making this micro-business history an important case study for the legacy of manufacturing and marketing British fashion.

Following the lunch break and the presentation of the LAMAS Publication Awards for 2023, the first session of the afternoon was a presentation by Sage Foley who is Assistant Curator of the John Bright Collection at Cosprop, and Steph Haire who is a Project Documentation Officer at the V&A, on **The Uncovering Dressmakers Project**. Currently in the early

stages of development, this is a planned biographical database of London dressmakers over the long nineteenth century to c.1910, with the possibility of both geographical and chronological expansion at a later date. The speakers began by outlining some of the problems they were seeking to address: the anonymity of many (mainly female) dressmakers; the tendency of others to change their professional names; the fact that dressmaking had often been looked down on as mere 'mechanical work', resulting in poor documentation; the dispersal of surviving garments across different collections; and the difficulty of linking garments to names. More positively, they went on to highlight the value of the evidence that does survive, including the relatively well-documented careers of some elite 'court' dressmakers; details retrievable from records as varied as census returns and accounts of society balls; and the evidence of the garments themselves - including, in some cases, waist-tapes bearing makers' names and addresses. They presented a mock-up of the proposed database, which would be searchable by name, place, garment-type, and technique, showing how it might be used to consolidate the scattered evidence in order to chart the careers of individuals, to link garments to makers, to record shifts in style, and to generate new narratives and fresh insights into the development of the trade.

In the next session, Laura Wilson, a Belfast-born artist now based in London, spoke about her current project as a V&A Fellow examining **A History of textiles in the London Borough of Newham.** Her art practice is research-led and cross-disciplinary, and broadly aims to explore issues of the bodily knowledge and labour through a range of media, including performance. She began by describing and illustrating some of her earlier projects, including one working with quarry workers and archaeologists at Must Farm Quarry in Cambridgeshire, and another engaging with the processes involved in the moulding of dough and baking of bread. More recently, she has turned her attention to the sphere of textiles, in particular linen-weaving - both in her native Northern Ireland and in England. In Newham, her focus is on the social and political history of workwear, and the fabric used to make it, across a range of manufacturing industries including clothing worn by female workers in East London locales such as flour mills, timber yards, munitions factories, and the Tate & Lyle sugar refinery in Silvertown. Through the cloth, its dyes, and their interaction with bodies, she hopes to throw light on the increasing pace of mechanical production and the relationship between women's work and labour.

Sadly, the final speaker of the day was unable to attend the conference. Consequently, the last panel consisted of just one paper by Dr Caroline Ness, an independent scholar and researcher, who presented on the topic of **Selling Mid-Twentieth Century London Couture**. Caroline described the changing scene of marketing by London's fashion houses and the

development of a more affordable fashion for women of all ages - for teens and also their mothers. It was a time, post war, when Britain, encouraged by the Board of Trade was trying to increase its markets to broaden the appeal of British fabrics, and especially looking to earn dollars through exports to North America. The couturier Jo Mattli's fashion business not only reflected the shifting times but also influenced that change. Born in Switzerland and married to a Parisian wife, Claude, he was a member of the Incorporated Society of London Fashion designers and an important figure in the post-war couture industry. He marketed his designs through personal invitations to visit his smart London establishments from 1934 in Sloane Street, then Knightsbridge and Mayfair. He gained coverage in the glossy fashion magazines such as Vogue and was involved in designs for films for actresses such as Anna Neagle and was also part of the Coronation Year Collections in 1953. But Mattli also started promoting ready to wear garments which were much more affordable. To support this, he looked for a means to advertise to a much wider audience. While purchasing advertising was considered vulgar, Mattli of Mayfair chose instead, from 1954 to 1960, to provide a regular column in a newspaper - Reynold's News and Sunday Citizen. The column provided advice on style for ordinary women, something smart and yet practical, how to adapt outfits for an up-to-date look and the readers were introduced to new fabrics like nylon. There were tips for teenage girls and young working women. Dr Ness suggested that the idea for the column might have been Claude's. She was the daughter of a journalist and also the nature and tone of the advice, very feminine, may indicate that she and not her husband wrote the column or at least strongly influenced it. In 1975 Mattli ended his couture business and focused on ready to wear, but he unwisely did not follow the emerging trend of boutique design and couture accessories.

LAMAS Local History Publication Awards 2024

2023 proved to be another productive and fascinating year for publications by local history societies. As in previous years, the Local History Committee spent a portion of their summer holidays reading a varied selection of newsletters, journals, and books published in 2023 for the 2024 awards.

In the category for **Best Newsletter**, the committee looks particularly at the quantity and relevance of the information in the newsletter to the members of the society, and the focus on the work of society members.

The Committee highly commend both the Hornsey Historical Society and The Borough of Twickenham Local History Society, but the winner of the 2024 award for Best Newsletter, and a prize of £50, was the Barnes and Mortlake History Society.



The Barnes and Mortlake History Society produces a well edited, entertaining newsletter quarterly. There is a consistency throughout all the newsletters, with a uniform format, a carefully thought-out layout and a good mix of coloured and black and white photos. The newsletters provide a selection of short articles on notable local personalities, places, ships and monuments, covering a wide range of subjects such as Market Gardens, Pie Island, White Hart Lane, Shipbuilding. The News and Forthcoming Events pages give an insight into a very active and involved History Society with its teas, fairs, walks, history walks, visits, festivals and the general running of the society. There is a good programme of talks, and the subsequent reviews are well written. Details of the website are provided containing its publication details, interactive maps, picture gallery. It is obvious that a great deal of care, attention to detail and thought goes into producing these professional newsletters. However, more importantly, the newsletters evidence a really vibrant society.

In the category for **Best Journal**, the committee highly commended the Hornsey Historical Society for their 2023 journal. However, the winner of the 2024 prize for Best Journal, and the prize of £100, for an unprecedented fourth year running, was *Richmond History: Journal of the Richmond Local History Society* edited by Robert Smith.



The Richmond Local History Society Journal is a professional looking booklet which is beautifully edited by Robert Smith. The 2023 journal starts with articles on Richmond Park and the effect Richmond Park had on Bertrand Russell's childhood years at Pembroke Lodge and his return in his late 70s to live in the area. We find Elizabeth, Countess of Pembroke and Montgomery, a strong woman, following her husbands' infidelities and the breakdown of her marriage, settling in Pembroke Lodge for over 40 years with royal permission. We also discover the history of Holly Lodge and the historical water sources in Richmond Park. In Petersham, we learn that the Sudbrook Park Estate and its Mansion, which was designed by James Gibbs for the Duke of

Argyll, has become the Richmond Golf Club. George Vancouver, the eighteenth-century explorer-navigator who sailed with Captain James Cook and was given the mission to search for the fabled Northwest Passage, spent his last days in Petersham and is buried there. His was a larger than life, explosive character who died in obscurity despite his impressive achievements. The last articles discuss the Duke of Lauderdale's impressive library at Ham House, the mental illness in the Tibballs family over the last 150 years, as well as attitudes in Richmond to the new Nazi Reich in the 1930s. The King William's Temple built in 1837 in Kew Gardens commemorates military victories against France. The Journal of the Richmond Local History Society 2023 offers well researched, entertaining yet well written articles with good notes and referencing. The articles are accompanied with photos or images illustrating the contents. This publication merits the prize for best Journal.

In the category for **Best Book**, the committee highly commended the Barnes and Mortlake History Society for *The Market Gardens of Barnes and Mortlake* by Maisie Brown, which was a very close runner-up to the winner. However, the winner of the 2024 award for Best Book, and the prize of £100, was the Merton Historical Society for *Medieval Morden: Neighbourhood and Community* by Peter Hopkins.



Peter Hopkins has researched a range of surviving records to gain a fuller picture of community life across the thirteenth to sixteenth centuries. He firstly examines the demands of the Church which played a key role in medieval everyday life, the State and Westminster Abbey which exercised lordship over the manor of Morden. The Abbey administered justice through the Manorial court and kept overall control through its bailiffs and stewards. However, it was from the tenancy that reeves, beadles, constables and ale tasters were appointed to maintain law and order. Disputes over freehold land were resolved at the Royal Court, both central and itinerant. The book also looks at the roles and status of individuals: Morden's medieval community was composed of families, neighbours, tenants, serfs, landlords, employers, food, drink and services providers and employees who worked together, prayed together and celebrated together. In the family, children usually had a role but were not exploited and marriage was viewed as a partnership. Serfs were originally entirely at the disposal of their lord and bound to the manor of their birth. Following the Black Death, however, many serfs fled to

London and Surrey to gain their freedom and, together with other worker survivors, they were able negotiate good wages and buy land. Immigrants from outside England were subject to restrictions and additional taxes after war broke out. Strangers from other villages came to Morden via the purchase of property, marriage and work. Morden had its millers, smiths, farriers, carpenters, roofers, weavers, butchers, tavern keepers, full time ploughmen and carters as well as shepherds, cowmen and harrowers. Casual labour was often needed seasonally. Income was generally irregular dependent on the agricultural year and credit was essential to rich and poor alike. Barter and payment in kind was typical. Regulations were particularly harsh for brewers, bakers and other victuallers involved in the provision of food and drink. Hopkins determines that social and economic distinctions at the beginning of the period increase over the decades as some individuals built up large land holdings. There is scanty evidence concerning the poor, but poverty seems to be mostly linked to sickness and old age. *Medieval Morden: Neighbourhood and Community* is the third and final volume exploring community relations in medieval Morden. This is a scholarly, extremely well researched and referenced, and an outstanding piece of work. It highly merits winning the prize for best Book 2024.

John Price

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Greater London Historic Environment Record

The new GLHER website went online in summer 2024. The whole database can now be accessed remotely. The site is easy to use once you get used to it, and you can search by map, location, Site Code or keyword (e.g., Human Remains).

To search the database, visit: https://glher.historicengland.org.uk/ and click on the "FIND" tab. Individual entries offer the choice of "details" or "map" on a split screen, or you can click on the entry heading for more detail. There is also a link to an online user guide. The site uses a new numbering system but the old references (MLO and ELO) are still searchable.

The only slight downside is that there are no links to actual site reports. Some of these are available on the excavators' websites, some are in the ADS library, some are very hard to find indeed. The HER's own archive of site reports can only be accessed from the GLAAS computers. Access is therefore limited – the HER team should be contacted if a dedicated spatial search is required.

David Gordon

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61st Annual Conference of London Archaeologists
Saturday 15th March 2025 - London Museum Docklands

Tickets for this event (priced £20) will be available via Eventbrite. Details on how to book can be found on the LAMAS website. Space will be available for bookstalls: contact Jon Cotton for further details: joncotton1956@gmail.com

Morning session: recent work

11.00-11.10: Welcome, introduction, and presentation of the 2024 Ralph Merrifield Award
Harvey Sheldon, Chair of Archaeology Committee

11.10-11.30: A late-medieval tannery at Stratford: Excavations at Jubilee House (2023-24)
Harry Platts, PCA

11.30-11.50: Mr. Treasurer's Place: Recent Excavations at the Tudor Courtier's and Royal Palace of Elsyng in Enfield
Martin Dearne, Enfield Archaeology Society

11.50-12.10: Recent discoveries at Lambeth Palace
Eben Cooper, MOLA

12.10-12.20: An update on the GLHER Online
Stuart Cakebread, GLAAS

12.20-12.40: MOLA excavations at 50 Fenchurch Street: An initial overview of the archaeology
Jess Bryan and Ben Coleman, MOLA

12.40-1.05: Painting Roman Southwark, the reassembling of the painted Roman wall plasters and graffiti from the Liberty excavation
Han Li, MOLA

1.05-2.00: LUNCH BREAK

Afternoon session: Mudlarking the Thames foreshore

2.00-2.15: Introduction to *Secrets of the Thames: Mudlarking London's Lost Treasures*
Jon Cotton, Secretary of Archaeology Committee

2.15-2.50: Wandsworth Historical Society: 60 Years on the Foreshore
Pamela Greenwood, Wandsworth Historical Society

2.50-3.25: In the Flow of Things: Encounters with the Mudlarks of the Thames Foreshore
Tom Chivers, Queen Mary, University of London

3.25-4.00: TEA BREAK

4.00-4.35: Drainspotting: Archaeology in plain site on the Thames foreshore
Claire Harris, MOLA

4.35-5.10: A Badge Too Far? – 'ritual' deposition in the medieval Thames
John Clark, Curator Emeritus

5.10: CLOSE

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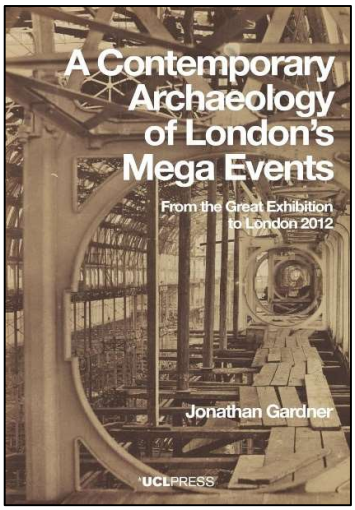
London Archaeological Prize 2024

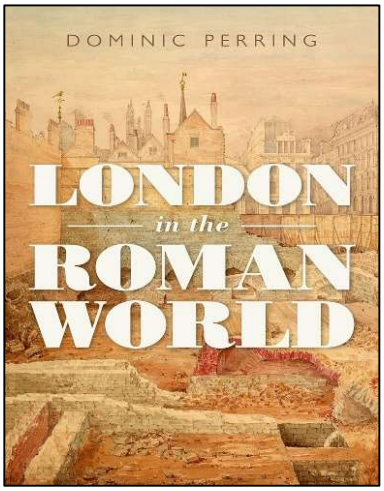
Since its inception in 2004 this biennial publication prize has aimed to promote the highest standards in writing about London's archaeology. It consists of a £250 cash prize and an award certificate. A second prize of £100, plus an award certificate, is given if enough entries of a high standard are received.



There was a very strong field in 2024 with no fewer than ten titles put forward. The judges found it difficult to decide on a winner as there was such strong competition. Eventually agreeing on:

A Contemporary Archaeology of London's Mega Events: From the Great Exhibition to London 2012 by Jonathan Gardner, published by UCL Press (2022). This book is published as an open access text, which can be downloaded direct from the UCL Press website at*:* https://www.uclpress.co.uk/products/155981

The judges awarded the second prize to ***London in the Roman World*** by Dominic Perring, published by Oxford University Press (2022).



As always, the winners were announced at the London Archaeological Forum, held at the Institute of Archaeology, on 18 November 2024.
The winner was reviewed in *London Archaeologist* Vol. 16–11, pp. 307; and the runner-up was reviewed in Vol. 16–09, pp. 249–51.

Diana C. Briscoe, Co-editor London Archaeologist

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LAMAS Lates

Notifications for LAMAS Lates events (as they are organised), along with booking, will generally be via email.
Keep an eye out on your inboxes!

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The Battle for Liverpool Street Station

Griff Rhys Jones, President of the Victorian Society, has written an update to the revised yet equally misguided proposals for Liverpool St Station. This can be found on the *spitalfieldslife* website



Visualisation courtesy of ACME from Spitalfields Life. ***The Gentle Author.***

After a positive roar of protest, with over two thousand unsolicited objections to the last scheme, Herzog & de Meuron and the original get-rich-quick developers, Sellar, and their wrap-around scheme, appear to have taken a train out. But Network Rail have come back furiously, deceptively and determinedly. They have appointed new architects, ACME. They are back with new proposals, as unrepentant as ever. Look at these very carefully. The exact plans have not yet been revealed but these visualisations are hugely misleading. The angle of vision is of a three-foot tall squirrel wearing wide-angle glasses. It would seem that the former Great Eastern Hotel will dwarf the proposed office block. Not so, these newly planned structures would tower ninety metres over the Conservation Area. You will not get this from the architect's pictures because they are apparently going to be constructed of gossamer. So light and virtually invisible that you will have to squint at these 'imagineerings' to even see them against the sky. Yet this is pulled wool for disbelieving eyes. The proposed new towers above the station, even swathed in a boa of fashionable greensward, are still there.

LISSCA (the campaign to Save Liverpool St Station) has taken time to unravel exactly what is proposed. It appears the developers are still

building directly on top of the listed station concourse and now demolishing and expanding much of the area below too, adding shops to the engine sheds. They are still radically altering the majority of protected views in the Conservation Area. The money to be made from offices and retail is – most emphatically – still the driving force behind this development.

I fear the developers' 'improvements to the concourse' PR spin is a deliberate blind. It is a snow job. It is a distraction. It ignores the White Elephant in the room.

Recently Network Rail staged a hurried 'consultation' to outline what they offer the man on the Ilford five-thirty.

If you were asked this sort of question…

'Do you think disabled access should be improved at this station?'

or…

'Do you want step-free access?'

or…

Would you like more room on the concourse?'

or…

'Would you like to ascend to heaven in a phaeton accompanied by angels tootling trumpets?'

You would probably answer *'yes'*.

Network Rail claim 250,000 people 'interacted' with their consultation but they can only muster 1,800 actual people who approve. In other words, the vast majority saw this for what it was – a one-way ticket to the moon.

Many of those consulted have complained that their own negative comments and criticisms have been ignored, not accepted or presented. There was a question – for example – that asked: *'Wouldn't you like a greater selection of cafes and shopping experiences?'* – to which the answer was a generally straightforward *'No'*. But Network Rail did not include that in their gushing self-congratulation. They are eager to push on and seem to be in a terrible hurry. To wrong-foot any further protest, one must suppose.

In truth, more retail space is towards the *real centre* of their proposal while the unnecessary office space is at the *very heart*. How can I say it is unnecessary? Surely, I must be aware that the City needs to grow because the Corporation says so. In fact, the Corporation has already given its blessing to fourteen new office skyscrapers, even though only eleven have proved possible. Developers baulked at the commercial viability of the others. The Corporation has produced a fanciful projection of millions of square feet of new demand. They foresee a decade of more massive City of London growth. Really?

Here at Liverpool St we see the end result. The assertion that London needs to sacrifice its precious heritage by building on top of it – in order to

achieve this specious intent – is wholly preposterous, yet this what is being proposed. Walk around the existing concourse. Please. It is easy to do. It is very rarely crammed, malfunctioning and unfit for purpose – even in the rush hour. (As the PR people repeatedly claim.) Many of the required 'improvements' are undoubtedly possible without any significant alterations. There is – for example – already a disabled lift but the constant complaint recorded on TripAdvisor is that that it is never working. It does not require a couple of billion quid to ensure proper maintenance.

There should also – surely – be step-free access from the new building in Broadgate? That should have been part of any deal for the overbearing re-development to the west. Why has it not been achieved?
Take a look at the elaborate and rather lovely bargeboards at the back of the train shed. Get some paint out Network Rail. They are rotting away. Network Rail have a statutory duty to make the station work and address these failures. They do not have a statutory duty to trash heritage. They do not have a statutory duty to be avaricious property developers and build office blocks on top of stations. Yet they have already done so at London Bridge with the Shard and now they think they can do the same at Liverpool St. Horrifically, they have announced plans and greedy ambitions to do the same at Victoria and Waterloo.

I use Liverpool St Station regularly. It is my station. I do not recognise the claims that it is – as 'the busiest station' in London – in urgent need of radical reformation. I do not find it at all crowded and impractical, and I often use it at rush hour. I simply do not recognise Network Rail's claims of inherent pandemonium. The proposed massive office development at Liverpool St is not at all necessary to the community, to heritage, to the railway system or to London. We must assemble the troops and continue stating our case. This is not about the past this is about the future. Our great-grandchildren will not applaud us for permitting a totally out-of-character cankerous growth to sprout on top of a noble Victorian station.
St Pancras and Kings Cross stations demonstrate how wonderful and historically important it is to strip away later 'improvements' to reveal the splendours of the railway age. This is good practice. The Liverpool St proposal is bad practice, obviously.

Take a really good look at this proposal. We need to register our discontent even more forcefully. We have not had a proper response to the legitimate objections already aired. Our case still stands.

Griff Rhys Jones reproduced on the Spitalfields Life website. With thanks to the Gentle Author.

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SMITHFIELD MEAT MARKET GETS THE CHOP!



The façade of the Victorian meat market at Smithfield. ***© : Creative Commons.***

In November 2024 it was announced in the press that the Corporation of London is going to close Smithfield meat market. Previously it was planned to relocate this market (along with Billingsgate Fish Market - which in January 1982 relocated from its historic site to Canary Wharf) to new premises in Dagenham. This plan has now been abandoned, and the meat market will close in 2028.

William Fitz Stephen in his celebrated description of London (written in *c*. 1170-83) recorded that there was a weekly horse market held at Smithfield. In 1305 it was recorded that the trading of livestock was taking place at Smithfield and in 1400 the tolls from the market here were granted to the City of London. In 1855 the sale of live cattle and horses at Smithfield moved to the Metropolitan Cattle Market in Islington. Subsequently, Smithfield focused on the wholesaling of meat and poultry and its distinctive market premises were built in 1866-7.

In recent years Smithfield market has experienced serious problems with vehicular access (it was designed for horses and carts not articulated lorries) and it has declined in importance over the last 40 years due to the closure of many of the independent butchers' shops it traditionally supplied. Leaving aside these problems, it still seems a shame that after over 800 years of trading that one the of two City of London remaining historic markets (the last one being Leadenhall) will permanently close. I wonder what will happen to Smithfield's eye-catching buildings? It is to

be hoped that an appropriate new use will be found for these distinctive premises. Perhaps, like Borough Market in Southwark, the redundant meat market could be transformed into a gourmet food market. In 2026 the Museum of London will reopen nearby in the former Smithfield general market premises. It is hoped that this area of the City will become a new visitor destination, which would help make such a new food market viable.

Bruce Watson

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Update on the M&S story - Oxford Street - Demolition

The long-running saga concerning the future of Marks & Spencer's 1929 flagship Art Deco store on the corner of Oxford Street and Baker Street has now seemingly reached its conclusion. On 5 December the Secretary of State approved the demolition of the building. LAMAS's Historic Buildings and Conservation Committee had supported the campaign by SAVE Britain's Heritage and others against the demolition of the building, arguing that it should instead be repurposed and reused.

As reported in the May 2024 LAMAS newsletter, a judge overturned Michael Gove's 2023 decision to refuse the scheme, arguing that he had misapplied the appropriate planning policies. Following the Labour Party's election in July, the final decision on the scheme rested with Angela Rayner as the new Secretary of State. SAVE Britain's Heritage and others sent an *Open Letter* to her in August 2024, urging her to refuse the scheme.

Following the Secretary of State's decision, *SAVE issued a press release* on 6 December calling for an urgent reform of the UK's national planning policy to prioritise the reusing of existing buildings, and a national policy on embodied carbon emissions from buildings.

John Ricketts

Note: the embedded hyperlinks will work in a PDF copy if you are online. You need to right click onto the link and select Open Hyperlink.

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Essex Historic Buildings Group – Day School 28th June 2025
Market & Shops om the Medieval and Early Medieval Period

A day school will be held at Maldon Town Hall, Market Haill, Maldon, Essex, CM9 4PZ. Cost £40 (£35 members). Tickets from www.ehbg.co.uk

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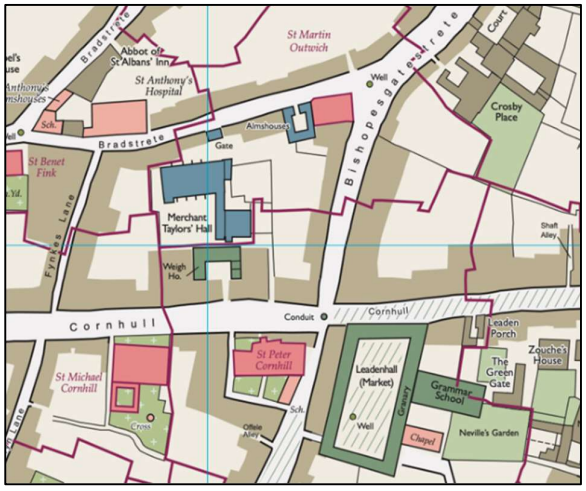
LAMAS Lecture Programme 2025

Lectures will take place from 6.30pm - 7.30pm: see below for lecture details and dates. Refreshments will be available from 6pm.
The lectures will be hybrid, held in person and on Zoom. Members do not need to book if attending in person. To attend on Zoom members are requested to book on Eventbrite via the LAMAS website - https:/www.lamas.org.uk/lectures/html. The Eventbrite booking will be 'live' approximately two weeks before each lecture.
Non-members are very welcome. There is a charge of £2.50 for non-members attending either in person (please note we are only able to accept cash) or attending on Zoom.
Please check the LAMAS website and social media for details on the lecture location.

February 11th 2025 AGM and Presidential Address
Please note that the AGM will start at 6pm and the Presidential Address will follow.

Vanessa Harding, Emeritus Professor of London History, Birkbeck, University of London
'Mapping early Tudor London'
This lecture follows on from last year's in which I explored mapping medieval London, with special reference to the Historic Towns Trust's map of London c. 1300, published in 2019. This year I will discuss early Tudor London, using HTT's map published in 2018. This shows London c. 1520, when it was still a 'medieval' city: the monasteries and friaries had reached their final form, before the destruction and repurposing of the Dissolution; the Guilds or Livery Companies had flourished and put down roots, building impressive halls for entertainment and business; the growing legal profession had colonised the city's western suburb. Visitors marvelled at London's wealth, and especially its famous bridge.



Mapping early Tudor London is a question of navigating the profusion of written and archaeological sources and establishing what was there before the dramatic changes brought by the Reformation and enormous economic and population growth in the later 16th century.

Image: *HTT's London Map published in 2018.*

March 11th 2025

Andrew Mayfield Community Archaeologist, The Royal Parks

'Community Archaeology in a Royal Park' (Greenwich)

The talk will focus on my role as community archaeologist for the Greenwich Park Revealed project. This is a multi-million-pound National Lottery Heritage Fund scheme, to restore and conserve Greenwich Park. I have been working on sites across the park, from Saxon Barrows to a Magnetic Observatory and from an air raid shelter to a Charles II landscape!



Photo: *Andrew Mayfield.*

The talk will cover the history and archaeology of this much-loved park.

April 8th 2025

Jacqui Pearce, Senior Specialist - Medieval and Later Ceramics and Finds, MOLA

'Bartmann Goes Global! How German stoneware travelled round the known world in the 16th/17th century'

The phenomenon of the Rhenish stoneware Bartmann jug is the subject of a major collaborative Anglo-German research project.



This talk highlights the wealth of information that can be derived from their study, throwing light on their development, typology, trade networks, marketing, influence, usage and global reach.

Photo: *MOLA.*

May 13th 2025

Prehistoric Society and LAMAS Lecture Shane Maher, Pre-Construct Archaeology

'Hunter Gatherers in Tottenham'

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) undertook an excavation on land at the Welbourne Site (Plot C), Tottenham Hale Centre, London Borough of Haringey between November 2019 and



Photo: *Pre-Construct Archaeology.*

March 2020. Three Early Mesolithic lithic scatters of high density were found stratified in the upper horizon of the Enfield Silt brickearth.

Each scatter sub-assemblage appears to be of Deepcar-type, a chrono-cultural tradition with a floruit in the 9th millennium BC. There is a notable association of typical Deepcar-type microliths with rarer forms of isosceles triangle and this may point towards a distinct facies of the Deepcar chrono-cultural grouping. Each scatter comprised discrete areas of flint knapping i.e. the working of nodules into cores and production of blade/bladelet/flake tool blanks and their waste, as well as production of core tools (axes/picks). Much of this activity seems to have occurred around surface hearths evident from dense areas of burnt worked flint in each scatter. Tools were manufactured and or/maintained at the site with identifiable activity zones for hunting toolkit maintenance, probable butchery and other resource processing and wood working. More recent excavations at the Ferry Island site, some 400m to the southeast, have revealed similar scatters suggesting that this part of the Lea valley may have been a possible focal area for Mesolithic activity.

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Ann Saunders Essay Prize for 2025

The London Topographical Society funds a prize in honour of the late Dr Ann Saunders (1930–2019). Ann was an enthusiastic and distinguished historian of London and for thirty-five years the Society's Honorary Editor. In that capacity she helped many scholars to achieve publication of their work.

The prize was awarded in 2023 to David Cotton for his essay *The Lost Highway of Holloway* and in 2024 to Martin Rose for *The Close on Tower Wharf*, both of which will be published in the 2025 volume of the *London Topographical Record.*

A prize of £1,000 is offered annually for an original and unpublished research essay on the topography, development or buildings of London in any period. Submissions for the prize should be made by ***1st April 2025***. They must be no more than 8,000 words (including endnotes) and should include an additional abstract or summary of about 200 words. They will be considered for publication by the Society in the *London Topographical Record*, at the discretion of the Society's Honorary Editor.

See the Society's website for further details of how and where to submit: https://londontopsoc.org/about-us/ann-saunders-essay-prize

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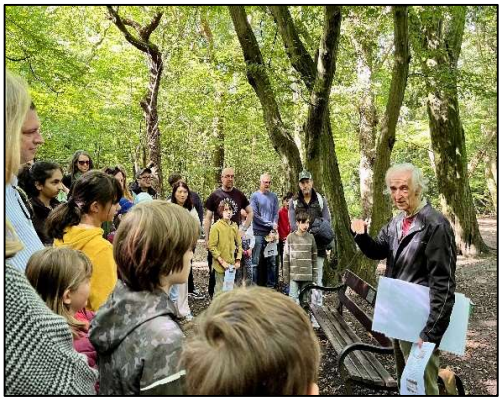
News from the Central London Young Archaeologists' Club

As a club we've certainly packed in a lot since the summer and our meetings continue to be very well attended.

In **September** we visited the site of the Roman pottery kilns in Highgate Wood.



Our visit was hosted by Nick Peacey, replica kiln builder and co-founder of *Firing London's Imagination,* a three-year project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project aims to conserve the 2nd century CE Romano-British kiln first discovered in 1968 and display it in a newly refurbished visitor centre in Highgate Wood - as a focus for community engagement and learning about the rich Roman heritage of the city.

After visiting the current visitor centre to see the reconstruction of the original kiln, Nick took us to the woodland setting in which it was originally found, outlining a brief a history of its working life (see image above). He then showed us the replica kiln that was fired the following weekend, packed full of Roman style pots. It was a very interesting and enjoyable visit, most of us had no prior knowledge of the site or the project and we learned a lot.

In **October** our session had a distinct Halloween vibe. We learned about witch protection marks that were believed to have the power to turn away evil. We explored the many different kinds of witch marks: daisy wheels,



concentric circles, overlapping V's, consecration marks, butterfly shapes, zigzag lines, pentagram stars, mazes and meshes of intersecting lines - demon traps. They are found everywhere, in barns, cottages, grand country houses, churches, on gravestones, in caves, and even on furniture. They were etched into stone, plaster and woodwork, usually near windows, doorways, fireplaces and chimneys - anywhere evil spirits could enter. Members then drew their own witch marks on sticky-notes and were asked to place them in suitable locations around the room, a test to see if they had been listening (see image above) - and they had! We also talked about witch

bottles, without dwelling too long on their contents, and for good measure threw in two ghost stories with archaeological connections. For an activity, members decorated witch light jars to take home.

WANTED: An Apothecary's Apprentice
Dr. John Scarborough, the well respected Apothecary of Wood Street in the City of London, has a vacancy for a bright, hardworking apprentice to learn the apothecary's craft.
Duties: Help prepare remedies, run errands and keep the shop clean and tidy.
If interested please apply within.





A spookily good time was had by all.

In **November** our members were invited to answer this job advert, there were many eager applicants. We learned about the role of the apothecary from medieval to early Victorian times, first covering who people turned to if they were ill or had an injury and some of the common beliefs held about illness. We then focused on the role of the apothecary, the tools of the trade, methods and ingredients used, remedies prescribed and if they worked. We learned about the popular use of urine samples and urine charts to identify illnesses and a few brave apprentices had a go at being "piss prophets", making observations, smelling and even tasting samples (please note: no children were harmed during this exercise). Members were then able to make their own herbal tea remedies from dried herbs and spices to take home and make a scented bag for a clothes drawer.



For our Christmas party in **December** we used Taylor Swift's epic 'Eras Tour for inspiration. We looked at examples of huge crowd-pleasing events of today and some spectacular forms of entertainment in the past. We compared today's stadiums and staging with the original Roman amphitheatres and lavish entertainments sponsored by Roman emperors. We also learned a bit about medieval jousting events and the royal progresses of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I.



Themed games included the re-enactment of a maritime battle between Tyrrhenians and Syracusans in the flooded arena of the Colosseum (in reality, a relay race using bath-mats as ships), and a more sedate stratigraphy game which tested members' knowledge of different eras and object identification.
The final team game, a Right Royal Rumpus, was a complicated mash-up of a story about a royal progress that almost ended in disaster, and a jousting event. The game involved several component parts and everyone having a role to play - this certainly ensured a rumpus! Squires had to dress their team's knight with a motley selection of armour and the game culminated in a duel which was fought with impressive realism.
Hopefully a little learning took place amongst the festive fun.

Annie De Saulles

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EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS
Please check the respective website for availability and bookings.
Medieval Women: In Their Own Words
British Library
96 Euston Road, London, NW1
Until 2nd March 2025 9.30am – 16.30 last booking
Entry: Free for Members (and 1 guest) but there are tickets fees
£17 – adult and £14 senior (60+ and Young Person (18-26)
(booking slots only see: medievalwomen.seetickets.com/event)

The exhibition looks at over 140 books, documents, letters, and related objects, from Britain between 1100 – 1500. Exploring various aspects of the private, public, and spiritual lives of women.

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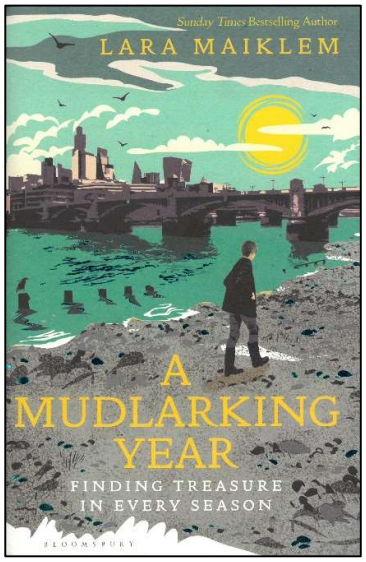
Book Review

A Mudlarking Year: Finding treasure in every season **by Lara Maiklen. (Bloomsbury, 2024) paperback RRP £10.99.** Also available in E-book and hardback.



The tidal foreshore of the Thames is like a huge linear archaeological car boot sale, you never know what you might find next. Every high tide tirelessly churns, sorts and washes the cultural debris of many millennia. The daily movement of this debris is periodically interrupted by violent storm surges which erode areas of the foreshore revealing a multitude of new finds. The combined result of these processes is a dynamic intertidal environment strewn with an ever-changing medley of objects ranging from prehistoric flint tools to post-medieval buttons. Some of this material was dumped to make barge beds, discarded as rubbish or dropped during activities like ship building, but some finds can be interpreted as accidental losses and votive offerings.

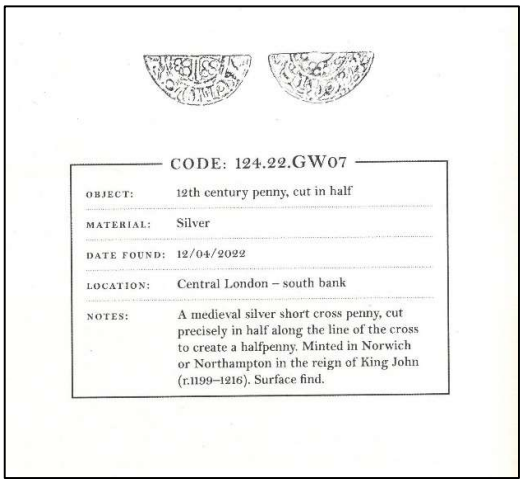
There is an opportunity this year to see some of the objects that licenced mudlarks like Lara have collected from the Thames foreshore in a new exhibition entitled: *Secrets of the Thames: Mudlarking London's lost treasures. H*osted by the London Museum Docklands from 4th April 2025 until March 2026. The exhibition will be reviewed in the next issue of the LAMAS *Newsletter* (May 2025).

At weekends I used to work with 'Thames 21' an organization that helps improve the environment and allows people through voluntary activities to reconnect with the river. We used to collect modern rubbish (mostly plastic bottles) from the central London foreshore. My role was to make sure that nothing of archaeological interest was picked up and dumped by mistake. We used to collect all the rubbish from a designated area of the foreshore at low tide and put it into huge wire mesh bins left out for this purpose by the Port of London Authority (PLA). Someone once found a plastic carrier bag containing a partly stripped-down handgun, which I later handed in at a Police Station.

Lara has been a dedicated Thames mudlark for many years and she now views the Thames as both a living thing and her friend. Her motivation to turn out in all weathers at any time of the day or night when there is a suitable low tide. In 2019 she published her first book entitled *Mudlarking: lost and found on the River Thames* (reviewed in *Newsletter* 162, May

2021. p.22). Now as a sequel she has produced *A Mudlarking Year: finding treasure in every season*. Her first book focused on the stories behind some of the diverse artefacts she had collected from different geographical locations. This time she has adopted a diary approach using 2022 as a sample year, but she still follows the same artefact-based approach. I like the way she visualizes the people who might have been connected to the artefacts. She also includes some autobiographical material and discuses topical subjects such as the impact of Covid and death of Queen Elizabeth II. The chapters are interspersed with all sorts of information, such as the work of the Finds Liaison Officers of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) in London and Kent - who have helped Lara identify some of her finds.

Her previous book was illustrated by a glorious central section of colour plates which is what you need if you want to describe artifacts. This time each monthly chapter starts with a single line drawing of a particular object and its record card. The object for April is a cut medieval silver penny found at Bankside (see right).



The inside front and back covers feature rows of little colour photos of some of the material that Lara collected on her various trips to the foreshore in 2022, but despite these figures the book is under-illustrated. For instance, one of the many finds that she discussed was a tiny gold Tudor 'spangle' or sequin. It was a button that would have originally adorned a splendid garment belonging to some wealthy individual, but without an illustration it is hard to visualize.

What is the future for mudlarking? During the pandemic Lockdown the popularity of mudlarking dramatically increased when the number of licences granted by the PLA increased from 2,000 to 5,000 - at which point the authority stopped granting any more. With thousands of people officially now combing the Thames foreshore and the impact of climate change accelerating erosion will there be any 'treasure' left for future generations of mudlarks to discover? Lara thinks that the 'golden age' of mudlarking was probably in the late 19th - early 20th centuries, but I hope that there will still be some finds left for future generations to discover as mudlarking is a wonderful way to connect with our past and the river.

Bruce Watson

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AFFILIATED SOCIETY MEETINGS 2023

Readers are advised to check with local societies planning to attend lectures.

Acton History Group

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday in the month at 7.30pm in St Mary's Parish Church Hall, Acton free for members, £2 for non-members. Contact email: actonhistorygroup@hotmail.com; website: www.actonhistory.co.uk

12 February 2025
Brentford Gas Works, David Shailes

12 March 2025
Street Name Plates of Ealing and Acton, Simon Morris (London Topographical Society)

Barking and District Historical Society

Meetings held on Mondays at 7.30pm at Harp House, 16 Helmore Road (off Goodey Road), Barking, IG11 9PH. Free to members. £3.00 to non-members. Telephone 020 8597 7210.
Email: barkinghistorical@hotmail.com : website: www.barkinghistoricalsociety.co.uk

3 February 2025
Newgate Prison and the Old Bailey, Eleanor Bloom

3 March 2025
The Buxtons: an old Essex family, Georgina Green

7 April 2025
Hunt for the Titanic, Peter Owen

12 May 2025 AGM followed by
Henrietta Barnett and the Victorian East London Children's Workhouse, John Walker

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Barnes and Mortlake History Society

Meetings are held on Thursdays at St Mary's Parish Church, Barnes, at 8pm unless otherwise stated below. Meetings are free for members (£5 for visitors). For further details please contact the Hon. Secretary on 020 8878 3756 or visit us at www.barnes-history.org.uk

25 January 2025 at 2.30pm at All Saints Church, East Sheen
Whitelands College to Roehampton Institute, Gilly King

20 February 2025
Mills on the River Wandle, Mick Taylor

20 March 2025 at All Saints Church, East Sheen
Bishop Juxon and the English Civil War, Alexis Haslam

10 April 2025
Pet Revolution: Animals the Making of Modern British Life, Jane Hamlett

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Bexley Archaeological Group

Talks are currently a mix of face-to-face at the Bexley and Sidcup Conservative Club, 19 Station Road, Sidcup, DA15 7EB and Zoom between 8pm to 9.00pm. Excavations

are carried out at weekends (March-November) and membership is required to participate on site. For further information, please contact Clare Lodge –:*Principal Field Officer and Public Relations Coordinator* – pr@bag.org.uk or visit our website – www.bag.org.uk **Register for all talks via the website**. Non-members also welcome £5.

Brentford and Chiswick Local History Society

The Society holds hybrid talks at the Chiswick Memorial Club, Bourne Place, W4 2EL and via Zoom. All talks are on the 3rd Monday of the month and begin at 7.30pm. Non-members are welcome and details of the talks will be available on the Society's website at https://brentfordandchiswicklhs.org.uk

17 February 2025
Brentford High Street, Janet McNamara and David Shailes

17 March 2025
Photographing the Heritage of Brentford and Chiswick, Peter Hughes

14 April 2025
High Status Servants at Chiswick House, Val Bott

Bromley Borough Local History Society

The Society meets once a month from September to July, usually on the first Tuesday of the month. Meetings are held at 7.45pm in the Church Hall, St George's Church in Bickley Park Road, BR1 2BE. Non-members £2.00 contribution please. The Society's website is: www.bblhs.org.uk

4 February 2025
Bromley's Napoleonic Warriors, David Moloney

4 March 2025
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Julie Chandler

1 April 2025
Old John – Bromley's "most celebrated beggar", Patrick Hellicar

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Camden History Society

The society normally meets at 7.30pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month, except August. Venues vary; non-members welcome (£2).
For further information please contact the Chair, Malcolm Holmes (01923 461343), malcolmholmes@yahoo.co.uk, or visit: www.camdenhistorysociety.org. Talks via Zoom are available free to members only. Non-members are invited to join the Society.

11 February 2025 Zoom talk only
Building houses in Camden: achievements and struggles from St Pancras Parish to Camden Council, Linda Clarke

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Camden New Town History Group

Camden New Town is north of Camden Town in the London Borough of Camden. Meetings of this group of local residents are generally held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Irish Centre in Camden Square from 7pm.
email: maillist@camdennewtown.info; website: www.camdennewtown.info

19 February 2025
How the West (End) Was Won, Charlie Forman

19 March 2025
The Bedford Theatre, Danny Nissim

Chadwell Heath Historical Society

Meetings are held at 7.30pm from September to June. All meetings are held at the Baptist Church Hall, High Road, Chadwell Heath, RM6 6PP, a short walk from the Chadwell Heath Elizabeth Line station. Visitors welcome £3 pp. Enquiries: 020 8597 7210; email: chadwellheathhistsoc@hotmail.com
Facebook page at : https://www.facebook.com/chhistorical

18 February 2025
The Ilford Murder, Doreen Tayler

18 March 2025
Valentines Mansion and its Owners, Georgina Green

15 April 2025
London: a City in Turmoil, Nick Dobson

City of London Archaeological Society

Lectures are normally on the third Friday in every month and take place at St Olave's Church, Hart Street, London EC3R 7NB. Doors open 6.30pm for 7pm start, followed by light refreshments and an opportunity to socialise. Non-members are welcome to attend lectures but are asked to make a £3 contribution to expenses.
Also on Zoom, prior booking required. Contact via the website www.colas.org.uk; email: colas_outreach@yahoo.co.uk

21 February 2025 AGM followed by
Excavations near Holborn Viaduct (title tbc), Alex Blanks, MOLA

21 March 2025
Excavations at Barn Elms for Tideway (title tbc), Michael Curnow, MOLA

25 April 2025 Zoom only
The archaeology of London's modern mega events: from the Great Exhibition to London 2012, Dr Jonathan Gardner, University of Edinburgh

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Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society

The Society holds a number of live events on a variety of topics at various locations and Zoom talks from October to April each year. Details can be found on their website at https://cnhss.co.uk/ The following live talks take place in the Small Hall at East Croydon United Reformed Church, 86 Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, CR0 5LP from 7.45pm unless otherwise stated.
Zoom talks for non-members require booking by emailing cnhss.info@gmail.com at least 24 hours before the lecture quoting the reference/s shown below.

29 January 2025 – via Zoom Booking Ref: ZOOM TULIPS VISITOR
Tulips: a terrible, triumphant story, Nick Dobson

17 February 2025 – via Zoom Booking Ref: ZOOM MORRIS VISITOR
William Morris and the Arts & Crafts Movement, Mark Lewis

8 March 2025 at 2.30pm
London's lesser known lost rivers, Dr Tom Bolton

24 March 2025
A bit of metallurgy, Jim Lugsden

Edmonton Hundred Historical Society

Meetings are held at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield EN2 0AJ, usually on the 3rd Wednesday of every month except August – occasional joint meetings with other societies may be on different days. For more details of events contact : edmontonhundredevents@gmail.com

19 February 2025 at 3.00pm
TBA

19 March 2025 at 3.00pm
Drama at the Palace 2, Nigel Willmott and Pat Brearey

21 March 2025 Friday at 2.00pm Joint event with Tottenham Clouds
Luke Howard anniversary visit to Winchmore Hill Quakers

The Eltham Society

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings take place at 7.00pm (for a 7.30pm start) at the Woodcroft Club, Eltham High Street. Non-members £2.00.
Email: contact@theelthamsociety.org.uk website: www.theelthamsociety.org.uk

6 February 2025
Eltham Lodge – Where Perfection Meets Convenience, John Bunney

6 March 2025 AGM followed by
One armed Jack = Jack the Ripper, Sarah Bex Horton

26 March 2025 – Daytime meeting at 11.00am
TBC

3 April 2025
Labyrinths world-wide and in London, Robert Stephenson

1 May 2025
Flowers in Art, Ruth Cornett

Enfield Archaeological Society

Meetings are either held at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield EN2 0AJ (doors open at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start) or online via Zoom (indicated below) - the link will be available on the society website www.enfarchsoc.org the day before. Check the website for upcoming event details.

14 March 2025
Geoarchaeology of the Amazon Basin, Manuel Arrio-Kalin

11 April 2025 AGM including
A Round up of last year's digs, Ian Jones and Martin Dearne

Friends of Bruce Castle Museum and Park

Friends of Bruce Castle Evening talks usually take place on the last Wednesday of the month, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Munch and Listen talks are usually on the last Monday of the month, 12.00pm for 12.15pm start. Talks are free and open to all (tea/coffee is available for a small charge).
Please see website for details: https://www.brucecastle.org/whats-on/talks

Talks are generally a hybrid combination of actual and virtual, via Zoom link. Both actual and virtual attendance should be booked in advance unless otherwise stated. Details of the programme are available from the website: https://www.brucecastle.org/whats-on/talks or phone Bruce Castle Museum (020 8489 4250). Bruce Castle Museum, Lordship Lane, Tottenham, N17 8NU. Car park on site. (SATNAV for car park N17 7AA entrance on Church Lane).

The Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery

For information about the activities of Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery, email: fokgc@hotmail.com website: www.kensalgreen.co.uk

The Friends of Kensal Green offer a two-hour introductory tour of the cemetery **every Sunday from the beginning of March to the end of October, and the first and third Sunday only in November, December, January and February.** Tours begin at 14:00 from the Anglican Chapel in the centre of the grounds, and finish around two hours later with tea and biscuits at the Dissenters' Chapel, adjacent to Ladbroke Grove. It is advisable to book via the website.

Tickets are £12 per person (concessions £10) which helps the Friends to restore monuments, study the cemetery and attract visitors to Kensal Green.

5 April 2025 – 10.30am Talk, Book Signing and Guided Walk (buffet lunch included)
Brunel and the Great Western Railway

Friern Barnet & District Local History Society

Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month (no meetings in July and August) at The North Middlesex Golf Club, The Manor House, Friern Barnet Lane, Whetstone N20 0NL, starting at 7.45pm for 8.00pm. Non-members are welcome (£2). Refreshments are available.

Email: friern-barnethistory@hotmail.co.uk : website: www.friern-barnethistory.org.uk
For further details contact David Berguer on 020 8368 8314.

22 January 2025
The 50's, Terence Atkinson

26 February 2025
Aircraft Through the Ages, Speaker from De Havillands

26 March 2025
TBC

23 April 2025
History of London Mapping (including Barnet), Simon Morris

Hayes & Harlington Local History Society

Most meetings are held at Botwell Green Library, Leisure Centre, East Avenue, Hayes UB3 3HW on the third Tuesday of the month, 2pm for a 2.15pm start. Non-members are welcome. Further information from Mr Robin Brown, 107 Wentworth Crescent, Hayes, Middlesex UB3 1NP (020 8848 7959).
Email: hayescanal@hotmail.co.uk
There will not be a January meeting. Presentations for the meetings on 18th February, 18th March, 15th April and 20th May 2025 have yet to be confirmed.

Hendon & District Archaeological Society

Lectures are held on Tuesdays in the Drawing Room, Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley, N3 3QE, and start promptly at 8.00 pm, with coffee / tea afterwards (cash only). Non-members admission: £2. Buses 13, 125, 143, 326 & 460 pass nearby, and Finchley Central station (Northern Line) is a 5-10 minute walk away. For further information see the website: www.hadas.org.uk

11 February 2025
The Highgate Wood Roman kiln reconstruction, Nick Peacey

11 March 2025
London's most curious stones and bones, Robert Stephenson

8 April 2025
Mapping the Kingdom, Hugh Petrie

Hounslow and District History Society

Meetings held in person are at the McCrea Hall, Hounslow United Reform Church (114 Hanworth Road, Hounslow, on the corner of Chapel Road, TW3 1UF) on the last Tuesday of the month or on Zoom (see below) and commence at 7.30.pm. Non-members visiting are invited to pay £2.00 at the door. Non-members who wish to be added to the society's Zoom log-in list for a particular talk should contact James Marshall at ajmarshall54@gmail.com

28 January 2025 – via Zoom
From Priory to Pleasure Grounds: the Archaeology of Ankerwycke, Runnymede, Harry Farmer

25 February 2025 – via Zoom
The Home Guard in Hounslow and Feltham during World War II, Max Carrington

25 March 2025
Kilmorey Mausoleum, St Margarets, Andrew George

29 April 2025 – AGM followed by
The Centenary of the A4 Great West Road in Hounslow, James Marshall

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Leyton and Leytonstone Historical Society

Meetings are generally on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.45pm in St John's Church Hall, off High Road Leytonstone (between the new Aldi and the church), E11 1HH. Free to members, non-members pay £2.00. Doors open 7.15pm (refreshments available for a small donation). For more information see the website at

http://www.leytonhistorysociety.org.uk/events.html or contact Maureen Measure - email measure@btinternet.com

19 February 2025
Famous plaques of the East End, Gary Lewis

London Natural History Society

The LNHS Virtual Natural History Talk series will take place fortnightly at 7.00pm. All of the talks are free to everyone and they are recorded and uploaded to the LNHS YouTube channel afterwards. **Booking is essential** at:
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/london-natural-history-society-30790245484
For a full range of Natural History talks see the website above

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Merton Historical Society

Meetings are held monthly from October until April at 2.30pm on Saturday afternoons at St James' Church Hall, Martin Way, Merton. Buses 164 and 413 stop in Martin Way (in both directions) immediately outside. Parking in adjacent streets is free. For further information please contact the Honorary Secretary, Mrs Rosemary Turner, 27 Burley Close, London SW16 4QQ, mhs@mertonhistoricalsociety.org.uk
Website: www.mertonhistoricalsociety.org.uk

8 February 2025
Transport History in Merton Park, Bruce Robertson, local historian

8 March 2025
Morden Cricket Club and its History, Derek Ballard, Club captain

12 April 2025
Lost English Country Houses, Matthew Beckett, amateur country house historian

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The Norwood Society

Local history talks are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm at the Upper Norwood Library, Westow Hill SE19 1TJ. Entry is free, but a donation of £3 towards the cost of tea and homemade cakes would be much appreciated. Booking can be made in advance via Eventbrite. For all enquiries, please contact Ruth Hibberd at: membership@norwoodsociety.co.uk; website: www.norwoodsociety.co.uk

20 February 2025
The History of Central Hill, Ruth Hibberd

20 March 2025
The Aldridge Family – the Price of Fame, Angela Morgan

Orpington and District Archaeological Society

Meetings are held in Christ Church (United Reformed), Tudor Way, Petts Wood, BR5 1LH on the first Wednesday of each month (except August and January) from 8.00pm unless stated differently below. Non-members are welcome to attend (£3 donation) but please check the website at : www.odas.org.uk before attending in case of last-minute changes.
For further information please contact Michael Meekums or Janet Clayton (020 8302 1572).

5 February 2025
St John's of Jerusalem – a preceptory of the Knights Hospitaller, Dr Anne Sassin, Community Archaeologist, Darent Valley Landscape Partnership Scheme & Nathalie Cohen, Archaeologist National Trust London and South East

5 March 2025
Whitechapel Central: the discovery of a prehistoric settlement and landscape, Stephen White, Project Officer, Archaeology South-East, UCL Institute of Archaeology

2 April 2025
Orpington Priory, Dr Janet Clayton, ODAS Chair

6 May 2025
The Changing Interpretation of Roman Bath Houses in Kent, Ann Isenberg, ODAS Member

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Pinner Local History Society

All meetings start at 8.00pm. Main meetings take place in the Village Hall, Pinner. Visitors are welcome for a donation of £3. For further information please contact: Janet Brooks, 33 Holwell Place, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1DX (020 8429 1337 and 07980 366845), website: www.pinnerlhs.org.uk

6 February 2025
The Metropolitan Railway during the First World War, Richard Dennis

6 March 2025
Local Road Transport Through the Ages, Research Group Presentation

10 April 2025
Horatia in Pinner, Lily Style (4 x great-granddaughter of Lord Nelson and Emma Hamilton)

1 May 2025 – AGM followed by
The Oily History of Margarine, Michael Clarke

Richmond Archaeological Society

Talks are now in person at the Richmond Library Annexe, Quadrant Rd, Richmond TW9 1DH, usually on the second Friday in the month. Doors open 7.30 for 8.00pm start. Some lectures will be via Zoom (indicated below) and internet connections and the Zoom setup can be checked from 7.45pm before the start.
Members will be emailed by the treasurer and membership secretary, Stephen Alexander (alexander.stephen@gmail.com) in advance with the talk and link, if Zoom.
Non-members are welcome and should email him before each lecture.
For information on how to join the online lectures please visit the website: www.richmondarchaeology.org.uk or email: richmond.archaeology@gmail.com

14 February 2025
St Pauls: the archaeology of the medieval and Wren cathedrals, John Schofield

14 March 2025
Recent investigations at St Johns Jerusalem, Sutton-at-Hone, Anne Sassin and Nathalie Cohen, (National Trust)

11 April 2025

Health and disease: some examples of pathological conditions from London's past, Don Walker, MOLA

9 May 2025 (followed by AGM)
Why Roman Britain? Harvey Sheldon

Richmond Local History Society

Meetings are held on Mondays, if possible, at Duke Street Church, Richmond, TW9 1DH at 8.00pm. The venue is 5 minutes from Richmond Station and there is parking on Richmond Green Visitors £5.00. All talks are live streamed via Zoom – see website for joining details. For further information email: membership@richmondhistory.org.uk website: http://www.richmondhistory.org.uk

10 February 2025
Henry VII, Nathan Amin

10 March 2025
The Building History of Ham into the 21st Century, Richard Woolf

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Rotherhithe & Bermondsey Local History Society

The series of lectures below will take place at the Norwegian Church, 12 Albion Street, SE16 7LN and begin at 7.30pm.
Booking is not required unless stated below. For more information please visit the website: www.rbhistory.org.uk

29 January 2025
A Trip Along the River Thames in 1749, Dr Peter Ross

26 February 2025
TBC

26 March 2025
TBC

30 April 2025
TBC

Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society

Meetings will be held on usually the third Tuesday of each month at 8.00pm at St Martins Church Hall, High Street, Ruislip. Visitors are welcome (**£3** admission). We also organise walks and outings for members (during the summer months).

For further information about the activities of the Society and updates about our plans for meetings please contact the Membership Secretary (membership@rnelhs.uk) or visit our website www.RNELHS.org.uk

18 February 2025
The Remarkable History of Temple Bar, Robert Stephenson, City of London Guide

18 March 2025
Herald Painter and Scrivener, Timothy Noad, Herald Painter and Scrivener, College of Arms

22 April 2025
History of Newgate Prison & Old Bailey, Eleanor Bloom, City of London Guide

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Southgate District Civic Voice

We are a civic society in the western half of the London Borough of Enfield, which covers Southgate, Southgate Green, Cockfosters, New Southgate, Oakwood, Palmers Green and Winchmore Hill. Open Meetings are normally held twice a year in the Walker Lower Hall, 7 The Green, Southgate, N14 7EG. Non-members are welcome (£5 admission including booking fee). **Please visit the website for information on how to register for events.**
For further information visit our website: www.southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org or email us on info@southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org

8 March 2025 at 2.30pm
Meridian Water, TBA

Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society

Lectures are held monthly on the second Tuesday at 7.30pm at the Housing Cooperative, 106 The Cut SE1, (direct entrance from the raised walkway), almost opposite the Old Vic. Visitors are welcome but are asked to contribute £1 towards expenses.
For further details please contact Richard Buchanan, 79 Ashridge Crescent, Shooter's Hill, London SE18 3EA : email: RichardJBuchanan@aol.com
For enquiries please call 020 8764 8314.

11 March 2025
Guy's Hospital's First Cemetery, Iceni Unit

Spelthorne Archaeology and Local History Group

Talks start at 8.00pm. Members free, non-members welcome (£2 admission). For further details please contact Nick Pollard (01932 564585):
Email curator@spelthornemuseum.org.uk : website www.spelthornemuseum.org.uk
For further details and venue please check our website.

6 February 2025 Venue: Fordbridge Centre, Ashford
The Mercenary River (London's Water Supply), Nick Higham

6 March 2025 Venue: Staines Methodist Church
Excavations at Watersplash Farm, Shepperton, Tom Stevens

3 April 2025 Venue: Fordbridge Centre, Ashford
Sir John Gibson of Stanwell, Mike Taylor and John Godden

The Thorney Island Society

The Society organises talks at the Orangery @ the Onion Garden, 5 Seaforth Place, SW1E 6AB and other locations (see below) and visits to places of interest in the Westminster area throughout the year. Booking via Eventbrite is essential – Members £15, Non-members £20 unless stated below.
See the website at https://thethorneyislandsociety.org.uk/ttis/index.php for details of how to book or email info@thethorneyislandsociety.org.uk

23 January 2025 – 6.30pm
Thorney Problems for Sherlock Holmes, Catherine Cooke, The Sherlock Holmes Society of London

13 February 2025 - 6.30pm
Gems of Thorney Island – Three Hidden Gardens around Westminster Abbey, Victor Keegan, Author

27 February 2025 - 6.30pm
Gems of Thorney Island – Parliament Square, a journey back to Medieval Times, Victor Keegan

6 March 2025 - 6.30pm
Gems of Thorney Island – Five Iconic Buildings that shaped the 'Mother of Parliaments', Victor Keegan

13 March 2025 – 6.30pm at The Grey Coat Hospital, Greycoat Place, SW1P 2DY
Elsie Day and the Women of the Grey Coat Hospital, Penelope Swan, Librarian

1 April 2025 – 6.00pm at Westminster Library Archives, 10 St Ann's Street, SW1P 2DF (NB this talk is free but still requires booking via Eventbrite)
How the Strand was taken over, first by Saxons and then by Aristocrats, Victor Keegan

15 April 2025 Walk meeting at 6.00pm at Benugo Café, St James's Park, SW1A 2BJ
Springtime in St James's Park, Mark Wasilewski, Park Manager

13 May 2025 Walk meeting at 10.00am outside the Jewel Tower, Abingdon Street, SW1P 3JX
Towers and Gardens Tour, Jan Pancheri, former Head Gardener at Westminster Abbey

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Borough of Twickenham Local History Society

Lectures are held at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Street, Twickenham, at 8.00pm on the first Monday of each month from October to May.
Guests are welcome (£4.00). For further information please visit our website: www.botlhs.co.uk

3 February 2025
Sir Joseph Bazalgette and the Great Stink of London, Stephen Fielding, Habitats and Heritage

3 March 2025
Francis Jack Needham, 2nd Earl of Kilmorey and the Kilmorey Mausoleum, Prof Andrew George MBE, Habitats and Heritage

7 April 2025
Working with the ghosts of Hampton Court, Sarah Slater, Hampton Court

April 2025 – West London Local History Conference

12 May 2025 AGM followed by lecture - TBC

Uxbridge Local History and Archive Society

All meetings take place at Christ Church, Redford Way (off Belmont Road), Uxbridge, starting at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated below.
For further information please contact Mr K.R. Pearce, 29 Norton Road, Uxbridge UB8 2PT; website: www.eddiethecomputer.co.uk/history

18 February 2025
History of Pinewood, Mike Payne

18 March 2025
Unusual Local Happenings, Ken and Pam Pearce

15 April 2025 AGM followed by
The Vanished Pubs of Uxbridge, Tony Mitchell

20 May 2025
Uxbridge and the English Civil War, Nicholas Schofield

Walthamstow Historical Society

Talks take place on Thursdays in St Saviour's Church, Markhouse Road, Walthamstow E17 8EP (15 mins walk from St James Street Station). Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.45pm start. Visitors welcome (£2). Zoom links will be sent out before the meeting – non-members wishing to attend please email**:**
whsmembershipsec@gmail.com

Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/walthamstowhs/events/?ref=page_internal

23 January 2025 via Zoom
Exploring the Licence Family through photo postcards: An illustrated journey, Linda Hammond

27 February 2025
The History of Orford House Social Club, Joanna Moncrieff

27 March 2025
The Ilford Hospital Chapel, Peter Haseldine

24 April 2025
Cathedrals of Steam, Neil Houghton

Wandsworth Historical Society

Meetings held either via Zoom or at the Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street (opposite Town Hall) on the last Friday of the month at 8.00pm until 9.15pm – as indicated below.
Bookings for Zoom talks can be made by emailing:
whsevents@wandsworthhistory.org.uk.
Booking not required for live talks and all are free of charge.

For more information visit the website: www.wandsworthhistory.org.uk

31 January 2025 The 15th Nick Fuentes Memorial Lecture via Zoom
Hopes and Fears – Archaeology in the City of London after the War, Dr Peter Marsden

28 February 2025 via Zoom
TBA

28 March 2025
Syon Abbey revisited: shedding light on late medieval England's wealthiest nunnery, Robert Cowie

25 April 2025
Researching the Lost Houses and Gardens of Wandsworth Common, Heritage Group of the Friends of Wandsworth Common

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The Whitechapel Society

The Society was originally set up to study the murders of Jack the Ripper, but its remit has widened to cover all aspects of late Victorian and Early Edwardian East End social history. The Society holds meetings every 2 months at the Crutched Friar pub, 39-41 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AE. Doors open 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start. Non-members £5.00.

Full details can be found on our website www.whitechapelsociety.com and our Facebook page "The Whitechapel Society 1888".

1 February 2025
The Bermondsey Murder, Angela Buckley

5 April 2025
TBC

Willesden Local History Society

The Society meets on Wednesdays from September to June at 7.30pm in St Mary's Parish Centre, which is in Neasden Lane adjacent to the churchyard. Non-members welcome. For further information please contact the Secretary, Margaret Pratt, 51 West Ella Road, London NW10 9PT (020 8965 7230).

Website: www.willesden-local-history.co.uk

19 February 2025
Never Had it So Good!, Nick Dobson, Historian

19 March 2025 Visit 10.00am
Visit to Neasden Temple, BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Brentfield Road, NW10 8HW

16 April 2025
History of the Willesden Jewish Community, Irina Porter, WLHS Chair

21 May 2025
Grand Junction Waterworks, Rob Casey, Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservers

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