Issue 174 May 2025

LAMAS NEWSLETTER

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



By early 2025 fewer than 20 pie & mash shops remain in London. Robins at 14 High Street, Wanstead, E11, is still going strong and has been serving since 1927.

Photo. J. Wheeler.

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NOTICES

Editor's Introduction

A trip to High Street in Wanstead was my first experience of traditional London pie & mash (with liquor) and also jellied eels. Two plates to cover the menu from both sides, a cup of tea, and a lovely welcome. I have to thank LAMAS's Secretary Karen Thomas for the get-together out East and her recommendation of her local Robins. The declining number of pie and mash establishments across London today reflects the gentrification of neighbourhoods and changing demographics (as many East Londoners have migrated to areas like Essex – shifting the customer base away from the city), and economic pressures on many businesses – and of course retirement. Manze's Grade II listed (as recently as December 2023) pie & mash shop on the corner at no. 204 Deptford High Street, Lewisham, (SE8) recently closed after 120 years of business (originally opening in 1914) shutting in early 2025 when the owner George Mascall retired. However, other Manze's Eel & Pie Houses continue to operate - including those on Tower Bridge Road (SE1) and in Peckham (SE15). As with Robins's shops, the Manze's shops have a traditional and recognisable layout and décor – and 'type' (both inside and out).

So why did pie & mash shops start up and remain associated with London, particularly the East End from the 19th century onwards? Simply, as a response to urbanisation and the needs of the expanding working-class population. Eels were plentiful in the Thames, cheap, and didn't require refrigeration (important in pre-electric times). Also, despite the notorious filth of the Thames by the mid-19th century European eels are bottom feeders and survive in low-oxygen



Manze's shop front - Deptford.
Google Earth Image 06.05.25.

polluted waters. Despite the food poisoning risk, eel was usually well-cooked (stewed or jellied at high temperatures) which kills most pathogens. The Dutch fishing industry also historically exported large quantities of eels to London using specially designed eel barges (eel schuyts) which would moor up in the Thames as early as the 17th century to sell live fish directly from the boats – including to major markets such as Billingsgate Fish Market.

In terms of their cultural context, pie & mash shops offered affordable and filling protein-rich food, were locally owned, often becoming multigenerational family businesses with strong ties to the local community. Pies originally contained eel – but over time and dietary preference changes – most pie & mash shops began to fill their pies with beef and now offer modernised menus which include vegetarian and vegan fillings. Dutch and Flemish immigration also influenced herb sauces, fish preparation methods, and pastry-making. The parsley liquor which usually accompanies pie & mash is traditionally made from the water used to cook eels and thickened with flour and flavoured with chopped parsley. This mild sauce being accredited with the culinary fusion of Dutch and North European sauce pairing with fish.

Like so much of old, and not so old London, traditional community associated facilities and services, which subsume your local pie & mash shop or fish 'n' chip shop, are on the wane. From their foundation in the early 1800s with eel pie and mash being sold by street vendors; to the first known shops in c. 1862 (e.g., F. Cooke in Hoxton, East London); the expansion and boom of pie & mash houses into the 1920s with their distinctive tiled interiors and marble tables with wooden benches; the golden age with over 100 pie & mash shops across London between the 1930s to 1950s and their association with Cockney culture; followed by their early decline from the 1960s and changes to working-class communities and new waves of immigration introducing diverse cuisines to challenge the old pie & mash model; and finally their rapid decline from the 1990s. There are attempts to give protected status to pie & mash as a cultural and particularly Cockney East London heritage. Several campaigns have been launched to secure Traditional Speciality Guaranteed (TSG) status for London's pie & mash. The aim is to preserve its cultural heritage and protect traditional preparation methods. Whilst eel, pie & mash houses aren't normally associated with the historic environment they are part of that environment in terms of their place within working-class urbaninity, their place within the local community and its' built space, their facility and provision, and their representation of cultural exchange and synthesis.

Jane Wheeler

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September Newsletter*: *Next LAST SUBMISSION Date
Final submissions by ***Friday 22nd* August.**

Articles, news, and items for inclusion should be submitted prior to the cut-off date just before the August Bank Holiday. 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 Please - no PDFs or email links.**

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Call for a new LAMAS Newsletter Editor

LAMAS (http://www.lamas.org.uk) are seeking a well-organised and enthusiastic new Editor to take over production of the Newsletter which goes out to members three times a year (past copies can be viewed at http://www.lamas.org.uk/archives.html). A keen interest in the archaeology and local history of London is essential and you will need to be a member of the Society (http://www.lamas.org.uk/join-lamas.html for details on how to join).

As honorary Editor you will be:

- scheduling and planning each issue in advance,
- ensuring regular contents are accurate and up-to-date,
- finding contributions and also writing your own material for inclusion,
- proof reading and editing copy/text,
- MS Word is currently used to collate text and images, page layout and balance (however, the software could be upgraded to a "publisher" format"),
- liaising with the printers and the honorary Membership Secretary to ensure timely distribution of colour PDF and black and white printed copies,
- an *ex officio* member of LAMAS Council and the Publications Committee.

If you enjoy searching the internet for interesting archaeological and historical news stories, the interest to chase a story, have a good level of English grammar, the IT skills to bring everything together in an attractive and entertaining publication, and can spare a week or so every 4 months - this role is for you. The role is unpaid but all out of pocket expenses will be met. For more information or to express an interest please contact the Hon. Secretary at **secretary@lamas.org.uk** – full support will be given to set you up and get you running by the current Editor.

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LAMAS Publicity Officer

LAMAS is seeking to appoint an honorary Publicity Officer to take charge of projecting the aims, achievements and objectives of the Society in line with its charitable status, and to drive LAMAS's social media strategy and maintenance. This will involve working with the President, Chair, Council and Committees in conjunction with the 'Speaking Out' policy paper.

As Publicity Officer you will be:

- publicising the meetings of LAMAS and would be the first point of contact in the Society for the national and local press,
- be one of the main spokespersons for the Society in public (however, others (i.e., the President and the Chair of Council) would also take on this role),
- have knowledge of the workings of the individual committees, act as liaison between them and alongside them when they work together,
- work in a complementary way with the projected new post of Affiliated Societies Co-ordinator,
- report periodically to Council and to the Future of LAMAS Working Party.

Like all honorary posts in LAMAS this post is unpaid, but expenses can be claimed. There will be an initial six-month period for the post which will then be reviewed by the Future of LAMAS Working Party.

Questions regarding the post, along with interest, can be directed to the Hon. Secretary, Karen Thomas **secretary@lamas.org.uk** or to John Schofield **john@jschd.co.uk**
Applications should be sent to the Hon. Secretary by **30 June 2025**.

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LAMAS Affiliated Societies Co-ordinator

LAMAS has more than 40 Affiliated Societies. The majority of these organisations are situated in Greater London's 32 Boroughs and the City itself, focussing on Local History or Local Archaeology within specific parts of London. Other Affiliated Societies are concerned with different aspects of London's past, including natural history, or are branches of national organisations.

From amongst our current members, LAMAS wishes to recruit a Co-ordinating Officer who will report to LAMAS Council. Duties will include liaising with our Affiliated Societies to identify their needs and to seek ways in which LAMAS can provide support and work together with them

to promote further studies and publication, and to safeguard London's past. This is particularly important at a time when fundamental changes to the national planning system are being proposed and alteration may make it more difficult to protect London's historic buildings and landscapes, as well as its undiscovered archaeological sites.

Initially, we envisage that the officer appointed will need to establish close working relationships with the Affiliated Societies; discuss with them what our common aims and objectives are and to find out how we might help them achieve the desired results of this liaison. The role will be an unpaid voluntary position. We realise that the amount of work required is likely to be extensive and that travel to meetings in various parts of London will be required for which appropriate expenses will be provided. Because of the potential extent of work, we are open to recruiting a team to work with the Coordinating Officer.

This preliminary task we believe will last up to six months, with the end product being a report setting out the requirements that have been identified, both by the Affiliated Societies and the Officer, together with recommendations for 'next steps'. Following this we envisage the role becoming established subject to mutual agreement on its scope between LAMAS and the Officer.

Please submit your expression of interest for this role to **secretary@lamas.org.uk** by **30 June 2025**.

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LAMAS Membership 2024/2025

At the time of writing at the end of April membership numbers are very similar to last year. A lot of work has been put into the new LAMAS website and like most IT projects it has taken longer than originally envisaged. Response from members who have had access to the test version of the site has been positive. The new website is expected to go live after the last lecture of the current year in the latter part of May. Once the website goes live, members (for whom LAMAS holds an email address) will be able to log in to see information about their membership, book tickets for LAMAS events, and access electronic versions of all LAMAS publications.

Any questions, comments or changes regarding your LAMAS membership or accounts on the new website - let me know - preferably by e-mail **membership@lamas.org.uk** or alternatively by post (my address is on the back page of the Newsletter).

John Shemilt, LAMAS Membership Secretary

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LAMAS 61st Annual Conference of London Archaeologists
15th March 2025 : A Review

This year's conference was held at the Museum of London in Docklands. As usual the morning session was devoted to recent fieldwork and the afternoon one was thematic.
The morning session began with the presentation of the 2024 Ralph Merrifield Award to Jane Sidell for her outstanding contribution to London's archaeology. Since the 1990s Jane has worked as an environmental archaeologist/geoarchaeologist and manager for MoLAS; taught at the Institute of Archaeology (UCL); written a PhD on sea level change in the Thames estuary; and is currently the Historic England Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Greater London; a LAMAS Council member and the organiser of the 'LAMAS Lates' programme.

Morning Session - Recent fieldwork

A late Medieval Tannery at Stratford: excavations at Jubilee House **by Harry Platts (Pre-Construct Archaeology - PCA).**

The proximity of the Medieval village of Stratford to London resulted in it becoming a major centre for the butchery of livestock which encouraged the local development of secondary industries - including tanning. The medieval process of tanning involved initially trimming and scraping hides and then the soaking of raw hides in alkaline solutions (often a solution containing dog faeces) to help remove hairs and fat, the cleansed hides were then soaked in oak bark (tannin) before being dried. This two stage process involved the repeated washing of the hides, requiring a lot of water, which meant tanneries were often located close to water courses. Excavations close to the intersection of Channelsea River and High Street revealed the first evidence for tanning in Stratford. The earliest evidence was a cluster of large pits of 14th or 15th century date, some of which contained dog parasite eggs (presumably derived from faeces). During the 15th or 16th century the tanning facility was enlarged and two large ponds were constructed, plus some timber-lined pits, and some large sausage shaped tanning pits which contained oak bark. One of the ponds once it was infilled was capped with a layer of cattle horn cores. During the early 16th century the tannery closed and its remains were sealed by alluvial flood deposits. During the late 16th century or 17th century the southern part of the site was quarried and the resulting voids converted into two timber-lined docks for river barges - the first constructed in *c.*1670 and the second in *c.*1730 . By *c.*1770 both docks had been infilled, probably a result of the 1767 River Lea Navigation Act, which dramatically improved the Lea as a routeway to the detriment of other local rivers. The site was not redeveloped again until the Victorian period, when after extensive dumping to raise the ground level, housing was constructed.

Mr Treasurer's Place: recent excavations at the Tudor Courtier's and Royal Palace of Elsyng in Enfield **by Martin Dearne (Enfield Archaeological Society - EAS).**



The 2024 excavation of Elsyng palace showing the turret flanked entrance to the Tudor gatehouse.

© Martin Dearne and EAS.

The grounds of Forty Hall (1629-34) are now a public park which includes the site of the former Tudor palace of Elsyng. It originated as a manor house constructed in about 1430 by John Tipoff the Earl of Worcester - or his father Lord John Tipoff. In *c.*1485 the property was acquired by Sir Thomas Lovell (died 1524) from his brother-in-law, whom Lovell declared was insane. Lovell was an ambitious and avaricious administrator who was appointed Speaker of the House of Commons, Secretary to the Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer by Henry VII. Lovell rebuilt and enlarged the manor house creating an imposing palace consisting of various brick buildings arranged around two courtyards.

Henry VIII coveted the palace and its hunting park which he acquired in 1539. He bequeathed the property to his younger daughter Princess Elizabeth. She let the property to various courtiers but it fell into disrepair and was demolished *c.*1660. In 1963-67 EAS excavated part of the inner courtyard of the palace and carried out recording work in 1967 when a gas pipeline was dug across the palace. In 2004 EAS started a new programme of seasonal fieldwork with the aim of examining the buildings of the outer courtyard and publishing their previous excavations. The 2022 EAS monograph on Elsyng palace was reviewed in *LAMAS Trans* 74 p.381.
Recent fieldwork has revealed a sunken furnace, the Tudor boiling house (for cooking joints of meat), and part of the foundations of an imposing four storey gatehouse with corner turrets which linked the inner and outer courtyards. This gatehouse had a complex structural history. It started as part of the 15th-century manor and was rebuilt in the 1480s by Lovell when a moat was added. Fieldwork continues this July.

Recent Discoveries at Lambeth Palace **by Eben Cooper (Museum of London Archaeology - MOLA).**

For centuries Lambeth Palace has served as the London residence of the archbishop of Canterbury. Apart from the gatehouse built in *c.*1495 little of the Medieval or Tudor palace survives above ground level today due to extensive demolition and rebuilding. The most recent destruction was in 1829-33 when a number of historic buildings were replaced by a new Gothic revival style wing. During 2021-24 as part of a major refurbishment programme some 800m length of new service trenches were excavated covering over 10% of the palace's footprint. This fieldwork revealed residual evidence of prehistoric and Roman activity and extensive evidence of fragments of medieval chalk rubble wall foundations. Elements of the palace identified included its great hall, cellar, a cesspit and cloisters – where the imprint of robbed out floor tiles was visible in the mortar bedding. Work around the Tudor gatehouse revealed brick culverts draining into the Thames. Whilst work inside the Gothic revival wing revealed part of the 16th-century Long Gallery. Particularly impressive was the extensive survival of archaeological structures close to the contemporary ground surface.

An update on the Greater London Historical Environment Record online (GLHERO) **by Stuart Cakebread (Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service - GLAAS).**

Last year Stuart lectured on the upgrade to the GLHERO - which went live in September 2024. There is now searchable online database of nearly 90,000 archaeological and historical sites.

MOLA Excavations at 50 Fenchurch Street: an initial overview of the archaeology **by Jess Bryan and Ben Coleman (MOLA).**

A group of properties sandwiched between Mark Lane and Mincing Lane including the 1950s Clothworkers' Hall and the remains of the medieval City of London parish church of All Hallows Staining (first documented in 1170-97) are being redeveloped - with the two-year programme of fieldwork almost completed. One of the most interesting discoveries was a pair of parallel Roman linear ditches aligned south-west to north-east. The westerly ditch was the larger of the two and its base possessed an 'ankle breaker slot'. Interestingly, the backfill of this ditch was sterile implying that it was quickly backfilled before a significant amount of urban rubbish accumulated. To the east of this ditch was a second smaller one. Apparently, the digging of these two ditches represents initial Roman activity on site and is of pre-Flavian date. Interestingly, the northern continuation of the westerly ditch was discovered on the opposite side of the street by Pre-Construct Archaeology in 2015 at 120 Fenchurch (site code: Fen14). This earlier excavation revealed that initial Roman activity consisted of top stripping followed by the digging of a V-shaped linear

ditch aligned south-west to north-east. Before *c.*AD 70 this ditch had been backfilled and a road constructed across it. How should these linear ditches be interpreted? One possibility is that they served as a mid-1st century AD civic boundary delineating the initial eastern extent of Londinium. However, the presence of the 'ankle breaker slot' (generally interpreted as evidence of a military encampment) suggests that the westerly ditch (or both ditches) could represent evidence of a temporary Claudian period fort. The existence of which was postulated by Dominic Perring (*London in the Roman World* 2022, p. 51). By the late 1st century AD at 50 Fenchurch Street a road aligned south-west to north-east (with gravel metalling) had been constructed, flanked by clay and timber buildings. Later a higher-status masonry building with traces of tessellated flooring was constructed. The south-eastern portion of the development was occupied by the burial ground of the church of All Hallows Staining. All of this church apart from its medieval west tower was demolished in 1870. Some 4,300 densely packed medieval and post-medieval burials have been excavated.



Part of the westerly linear ditch under excavation at 50 Fenchurch Street.

© MOLA.

Adjoining the southern side of the tower was the well-preserved crypt of Lambe's Chapel which was originally a hermitage attached to the Cripplegate hermitage. The chapel was reused during the post-medieval period as a burial vault and contained 60 lead coffins. A number of the post-medieval lead coffins possessed legible name plates and can be linked with the parish's burial register. Individuals identified to date included the Rev. Lancelot Sharpe (died 1803) who was the parish priest.

Painting Roman Southwark: the reassembling of the painted Roman wall plasters and graffiti from the Liberty excavation **by Han Li (MOLA).**

Previous conference lectures in 2022 and 2024 described the excavation of a large complex of early Roman masonry buildings interpreted as a possible *mansio* (an official residence for government officials). Associated finds included dumps containing a vast number of painted wall plaster fragments. Now Han and Ian Betts are attempting to reassemble these fragments to reconstruct the internal decorative scheme above dado level. This process is like trying to assemble a huge jigsaw but without a picture of the design to help. The design consisted of large yellow panels subdivided by narrower vertical panels painted in darker colours and decorated with candelabrum. This design was quite similar to the example

from Lime Street (see *LAMAS Trans* 69, p.27). Other design motifs included mistletoe, daisy-like flowers, imitation pink marble, lyres and birds (including cranes). This upmarket colour scheme can be paralleled with later 1st century AD examples from Fishbourne Roman palace and the baths complex in Bath. It appears that the paintwork was applied to damp plaster - the fresco technique. The impression given from the wide variety of colours used, the complexity of the designs and quality of the brushwork, suggests this was the work of skilled craftsmen. Two unique discoveries on some pieces of wall plaster are a scratched Greek alphabet or tally, and some Latin graffiti which might be the name of one of the craftsmen involved as this lettering was scored into damp plaster before it dried.

Afternoon Session - Mudlarking on the Thames Foreshore

Introduction to Secrets of the Thames: Mudlarking London's Lost Treasures **by Jon Cotton (Secretary to the LAMAS Archaeology Committee).**

Jon discussed the scope of this new exhibition which opened on the 4 April 2025 and continues until next March at the London Museum Docklands. This exhibition is reviewed on page 15.

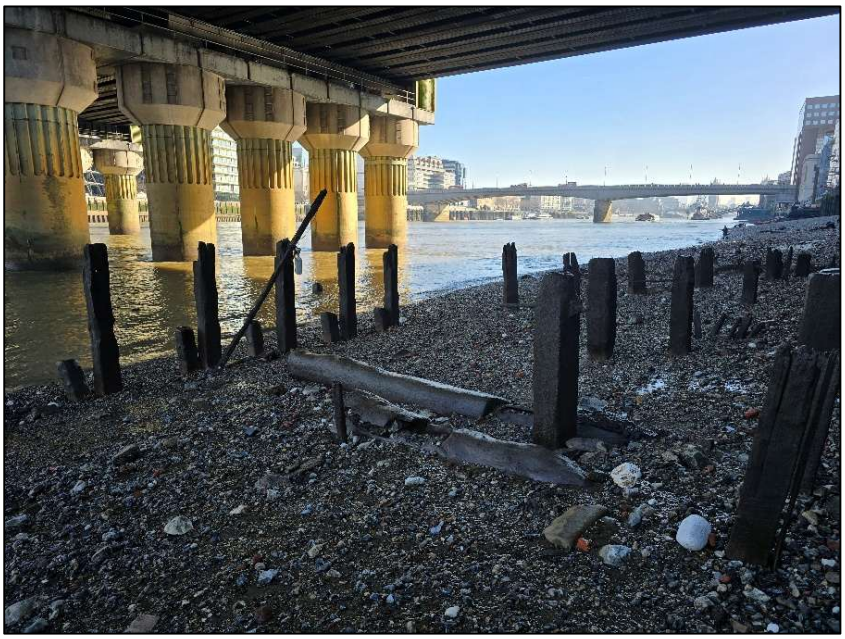
Wandsworth Historical Society: 60+ years on the foreshore **by Pamela Greenwood (Wandsworth Historical Society – WHS).**

Since 1964 foreshore survey carried out by WHS has revealed many discoveries including Mesolithic flint blades and adzes, an Early Bronze Age polished stone 'battle axe', an Early Iron bowl, sherds of decorated Samian carefully broken to depict images of animals and Roman deities, and Early Saxon fish traps at Putney. The prehistoric finds are concentrated around a low linear gravel ridge parallel to the foreshore which may be the remnants of an eyot. Long term monitoring of the foreshore has revealed how the erosion of this fragile environment is accelerating.

In the flow of the Thames: Encounters with the Mudlarks of the Thames foreshore **by Thomas Chivers (Queen Mary University of London).**

Tom is the author of *London Clay: journeys in the deep City* (2021) which is medley of geology, archaeology, history and folklore. In 2020 during Lockdown he started mudlarking as a hobby, and since 2022 he has been working on a PhD about it. His research includes investigating the search techniques used by mudlarks, interviewing mudlarks and other stakeholders, and monitoring the physical changes over time on one stretch of the Rotherhithe foreshore. The tides and storm events constantly erode foreshore deposits revealing new finds which are washed and sorted by the tides according to their size and density. What attracts people to mudlarking is the combination of the physical, mental and visual stimuli, plus the unique opportunity to connect with the river and London's heritage.

Drainspotting: Archaeology in plain site on the Thames foreshore **by Claire Harris (MOLA).**



Archaeology in plain sight on the Thames foreshore. Bored-out post-medieval log water extraction pipes or drains on the Bankside (Southwark) foreshore under Cannon Street Station Bridge. ***© MOLA.***

Claire views the foreshore as a past, present, and future entity because it is a dynamic environment dominated by erosion so small objects are constantly appearing and disappearing. More durable structures like water pipes, drains and mooring posts last much longer but attract less attention than artefacts. In the past, until the work of the Thames Archaeological Survey in 1996-99, many areas of the Greater London foreshore had never been systematically surveyed. Since 2008 this work has been continued by the Thames Discovery Programme and more recently by CITiZAN as part of an ongoing national archaeological survey of coastal and intertidal zones. Survey work has demonstrated that some of the foreshore is a relatively modern creation linked with activities including the docks, ship building and breaking. Old ship timbers from breaking were sometimes recycled in barge beds to provide hard standing along with ships' ballast, domestic rubbish and demolition material. Now these barge beds are disappearing along with the rest of the redundant infrastructure from the docks.

Presently, one of the key issues concerning the foreshore is safe public access (normally via stairs and fixed ladders) and its management. The future existence of the foreshore is also under threat from climate change and associated impacts. For example, erosion in recent years around Queenhithe Dock has removed about 2m of archaeological deposits. How much longer there will be worthwhile finds for mudlarks to search for is uncertain.

***A Badge Too Far? - 'ritual deposition in the medieval Thames'* by John Clark (Museum of London - MoL Curator Emeritus).**

Since the Bronze Age a vast number of diverse metal objects including weapons, dress accessories, coinage, plus medieval religious and secular badges, have all been deposited in the Thames within Greater London; and subsequently recovered by dredging, mudlarking, metal detecting on the foreshore, plus the redevelopment of the former foreshore. While a few of these objects might have been accidentally lost, other explanations are required to explain the sheer volume and diversity of the metalwork recovered. Traditionally, the majority of this metalwork has been interpreted as the result of 'ritual' or 'votive' practices and more recently as 'special deposits in watery places'. As some of these finds, including medieval coins and weapons, have been bent or deliberately damaged their deposition clearly involved other processes. The MoL collections includes over 100 Early Saxon spearheads recovered from the Thames with 46 examples recovered from the Brentford area (close to the confluence of the Thames and the Brent) implying that this spot had a special significance. Finds of late Medieval pilgrim badges (cheap mass-produced lead or tin alloy souvenirs purchased at shrines) show a marked concentration along the City of London foreshore close to river stairs and public wharfs like Billingsgate. Ivor Noël Hume (*Treasure in the Thames,* 1955, p.145) suggested that returning pilgrims might have thrown a spare badge into the Thames for either good luck or as gesture of thanksgiving for a safe return. His interpretation has often been repeated but never questioned. As a theory it is undermined by the fact that while about 75% of the late Medieval metallic badges in the MoL collections recovered from the Thames are religious, the other 25% are secular (sometimes heraldic).

John argued that the deposition of medieval badges should not be interpreted as 'ritual' and is unlikely to involve returning pilgrims. He pointed out that this type of metalwork is fragile and survives better in the waterlogged foreshore sediments. Seventy years after Ivor Noël Hume tried to explain the deposition of medieval religious badges a new explanation is proposed which encompasses their secular counterparts and considers bias in the numbers of finds due to the foreshore environment.

Bruce Watson

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LAMAS Newsletter by email in PDF format

The LAMAS *Newsletter* is published in colour (in PDF format) and distributed via email. Printed black and white paper copies are still being printed and mailed. If you would prefer to receive the colour Newsletter by email - contact the Hon. Secretary **secretary@lamas.org.uk**

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Updates from the Local History Committee
2025 History Conference - Save the Date!



The 2025 Local History Conference will take place at the Museum of London Docklands on Saturday 15 November 2025. The theme of the conference will be '**Food Glorious Food'** and the Committee are currently putting together a programme of speakers. More information to follow in the September newsletter.

2025 History Conference - FREE exhibition table!

If you would like an exhibition table at the conference email Pat Gough **p.gough489@btinternet.com** before 1 November 2025. Include the name of the society and a contact address, email or telephone number. For societies booking exhibition tables access to the Museum on the day will be available from 9.00am. To support societies with exhibiting at the conference we provide one free admission ticket for your society so that the organiser of your exhibition does not have to pay. If you would like to receive a free ticket along with your table booking email John Price **johnprice.historian@outlook.com** to arrange.

Committee Membership

We are actively seeking people to join the Local History Committee. The committee meets in person three times a year at a central London venue. Meetings are usually 5.00-7.00 in the evening. Enthusiasm and an interest in local history is all that is required. We are a friendly, welcoming and supportive group of people - all united by our love of history! If you would like to join the committee, or have any questions, or would like to have an informal chat about joining, please do send me an email **johnprice.historian@outlook.com**

John Price, Chair of the Local History Committee

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Secrets of the Thames: Mudlarking London's lost treasures
A Review of the exhibition

Today the Thames flows through London as it has done for countless ages. Twice a day at low tide along the estuary a portion of its riverbed called the foreshore is revealed littered with the cultural debris of the last ten millennia. Everything from Mesolithic flints to plastic bottles. Searching for objects on the foreshore at low tide is known as mudlarking. For over 150 years Londoners have been combing the foreshore initially for salable objects like lumps of coal (dropped during the unloading of vessels) or scrap metal. Since the Victorian period people have increasingly searched for archaeological artefacts. As a result of tidal action and storm surges the foreshore is constantly eroding causing small and sometimes delicate objects to suddenly appear … then disappear. Daily visits to the same stretch of foreshore might reveal something new to the sharp-eyed mudlark or their metal detector. It is this element of discovery, plus the varied and unexpected nature of objects recovered, which attracts people to mudlarking. Plus, the waterlogged nature of the foreshore results in excellent preservation of all organic materials like leather, textiles and wood, and metalwork - in often pristine condition.



The first room of the exhibition, which is dominated by the replica foreshore.
Photo: Bruce Watson.

The London Museum Docklands is currently hosting a major exhibition - until 1st March 2026 - devoted to mudlarking. The exhibition is appropriately housed in part of one of the former warehouses that served the West India Quay (opened in 1802 and closed in 1980) as many of the structures and finds on the foreshore are relics of the port of London. The exhibition provides a great opportunity for visitors to explore the foreshore

and the world of mudlarking. There are a lot of things to touch, a riverine soundtrack, plus over 350 objects on display - many of which have never been previously exhibited. Some of these objects have been discovered by Lara Maiklem (see the January 2025 Newsletter for a review of her latest book on the subject). I particularly liked the recreated foreshore in the first room of the exhibition, complete with lots of slimy stock bricks and a traffic cone.



Alessio Checconi mudlarking.
Photo: Bruce Watson.

There are some pieces of contemporary art inspired by the foreshore. The most striking is 'Finders Keepers' by Billie Bond. It consists of three small sculptures of mudlarks 'in action' but their heads have been replaced by a significant object that each individual has discovered. The objects from the foreshore displayed in this room are grouped by themes such as 'migration' which includes a Viking silver pendant representing Thor's hammer. Another theme is 'making and breaking' ships on the foreshore. It is often forgotten that until the mid-19th century constructing new ships and breaking up old ones was a major industry in East London.

The foreshore also reveals a lot of information about London's former role as a world port. The presence of whale bones is a reminder that Greenland Dock once served as a base for arctic whaling. Cowrie shells and glass beads served as trade goods in West Africa – being used to buy slaves who were then transported to the West Indies to toil on the sugar plantations. Some of this sugar was then shipped to London's West India Quay. There was a clay tobacco pipe bowl which had been manufactured at Port Royal in Jamaica before the town was destroyed by an earthquake and subsequent tsunami in June 1692.

Some spectacular objects such as the Battersea Iron Age shield (discovered in 1857) and the Waterloo horned helmet (found 1868) are interpreted as votive offerings to the Thames and serve as a reminder that it is a Celtic river name often interpreted as 'dark river'. Since 1970 the Thames has been a sacred river to the capital's Hindu population and a new range of votive offerings. A lot of faunal waste from butchery, slaughterhouses and tanneries was formerly disposed of in the Thames. Some of these discarded animal bones have been collected by Amy-Leigh Bird and transformed into a distinctive sculpture.

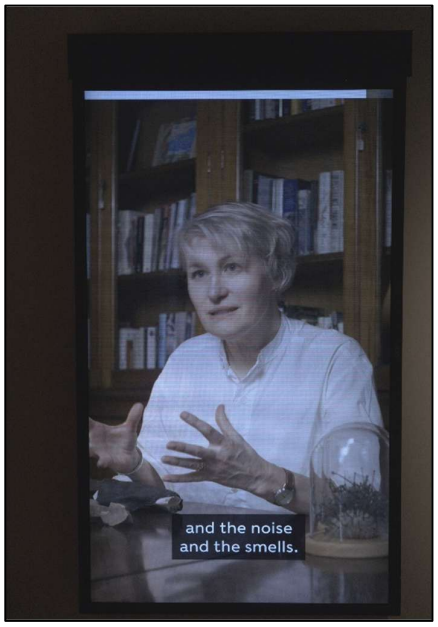


The ball-like animal bone sculpture. The bone was collected by Amy-Leigh Bird.
Photo: Bruce Watson.

Perhaps the most unusual group of material recovered from the foreshore are elements of the set of Doves typeface, which in 1916 was thrown from Hammersmith Bridge into the Thames by a printer - Thomas James Cobden-Sanderson to stop his business partner from using it!

The second part of the exhibition explores the process of mudlarking, the personalities of some of the individuals involved and how they curate their collections of objects. Anyone wanting to go mudlarking requires a permit from the Port of London Authority and all significant finds over 300 years old must be reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PSA) officer based at the London Museum (who selects certain objects for more detailed research and subsequently they are included on the PSA's online database).

There were video interviews with some mudlarks (including Lara Maiklem) about their personal motivation and discoveries. One recurring motivation was a desire to escape from everyday life into the past. I was fascinated at how the discovery of quite mundane objects like leather shoe soles was an inspiration to Lara. There was a display of a selection of the many Roman objects recovered from Queenhithe including over 30 intaglios, 15 bone dice, a fragment of a rare clay gaming board, glass beads, clay figurines, and numerous tiny multi-coloured pieces of glass perhaps intended as inlay or mosaic tesserae.



Lara talking about her finds and mudlarking inspiration.
Photo: Bruce Watson.

The third and final part of the exhibition presented a number of conversations with mudlarks explaining how, why and when they had started mudlarking. However, this room was dominated by a large model of the moon to help explain how the gravitational pull of the sun and the moon create the ceaseless tides that still rule the small portion of the Thames foreshore that has not as yet been reclaimed and concreted over. To me the foreshore represents the last vestige of the primeval river which still draws people to discover its secrets and stories.

Entrance to the exhibition costs £16. £18 with a £2 donation. Children under 12 £2 (which is the donation). Concessions including a £2 donation for children 12-18 and person with disability £15.50. Carer £2 (which is the donation). There are also other concessions. Booking in advance is recommended. There is wheelchair access. Opening times: 10am – 5pm every day. Last entrance for Secrets of the Thames is 3.45pm.

Check out: **www.londonmuseum.org/uk/whatson/secrets-thames**

Bruce Watson

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Port of London Authority
River Thames Foreshore Standard Permit Permissions

If after reading Bruce's review of the Secrets of the Thames exhibition at the London Museum Docklands you have been inspired to 'have a go' at mudlarking – you will need to apply for a permit.

There is an excellent Port of London webpage which provides all the information on applying for a permit, including for scrap pickup/beachcombing and metal detectoring. Magnet fishing is not allowed. The dashboard is easy to use. However, due to the levels of demand and a waiting list of over 10,000 applicants, registrations are currently suspended. The site is worth a visit even if just to explore the mapping tool. See: **www.pla.co.uk/thames-foreshore-permits**

Jane Wheeler

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Fond memories of Richard Gilpin

We would like to take the opportunity to remember our friend Richard Gilpin, who did so much for LAMAS.



Richard came a little late to archaeology following a long and distinguished career in publishing. He decided to undertake some courses to feed his enthusiasm and ended up at the City Lit where he met one Harvey Sheldon for the first time. This was followed by a more profound commitment to the subject with a Masters degree in Archaeology undertaken at the Institute of Archaeology, UCL, where he was taught by legends of London and LAMAS - Clive Orton, Mark Hassell and Gustav Milne. Richard started to go digging at this point and joined in the usual camping and drinking with the rather more unusual element of playing Bridge!

After securing his distinction in Archaeology, Richard joined in with archaeology in London volunteering at the Museum of London and also fitting into a perfect niche: as Editor of this newsletter. He bought a very professional approach to it with a wide range of stories, new content, and improved layout. He also oversaw the transition to electronic as well as the traditional paper format. He and his wife Tricia are very fondly remembered from the Stuffing Parties. Newsletters (and subs reminder forms) don't leap into the envelope themselves, and there were regular sessions of LAMAS volunteers at the Museum newsletter 'stuffing', chatting and joking to pass the time. And enjoying Richard's dreadful puns!

As well as editing the newsletter, Richard also served on LAMAS council, helping to steer the society particularly during the difficult Covid years. He was also a volunteer leader for the Central London Young Archaeologists Club for many years and was very passionate about making access into archaeology easier for children. His passion for photography meant he became the



Richard as a YAC event at MOL in 2007. ***Photo: Karen Thomas.***

club's 'unofficial' photographer capturing the enthusiasm of the children at each session. He also enjoyed passing on his considerable archaeological knowledge to the members on subjects from female pirates to Pompeiian pizzas! Richard's great sense of fun fitted perfectly with the club and those dreadful puns are sorely missed by us all.



Richard and Trish on holiday somewhere ruinous and wet and windy.
Photo: Tricia Gilpin.



Richard on a dig in Greenwich.
Photo: Jane Sidell.

Richard is much missed but remembered with great fondness by all of us who worked and laughed with him. He may have come late to archaeology but he made up for it with the sheer amount he contributed through all his work and volunteering. He died at the end of November 2024 and is survived by his wonderful wife Tricia who joined Richard at many lectures, walks and stuffing parties, their children Bex and Sam, and grandson Topo.



Richard at Baynards Castle once a prominent riverside fortress in London – the subject of his dissertation. ***Photo: Trisha Gilpin.***

Jane Sidell and Karen Thomas

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Colin Bowlt, PhD FLS, 1935-2025

Members of LAMAS will also be saddened to hear of the passing of Colin Bowlt who died aged 89 at the end of January. He formed one half of a formidable partnership in NW Middlesex with his wife Eileen. She focused on local history, he on natural history and archaeology (above and below ground). Both were former distinguished Chairs of Council, while Colin was a long standing and much respected member of the Archaeology Committee and of the Historic Buildings Committee, where he could invariably be relied upon to champion the cause of local societies and the adequate recording of historic standing buildings. Colin and Eileen were also regular Stewards at the annual LAMAS Archaeology Conferences, and Colin could often be prevailed upon to offer votes of thanks to the Chair from the floor of the theatre at the close of proceedings.

Colin had a professional science background and was based in the Medical College of St Bart's Hospital in Charterhouse Square, just around the corner from the Museum of London. He was involved in such diverse research fields as water quality and thyroid cancer - with contributions to the *British Medical Journal* and *The Lancet* to his name. But it is for his interest in natural history and archaeology that he will probably be best remembered by LAMAS members. A Fellow of the Linnean Society and an Honorary Vice President of the London Natural History Society, he was an energetic member of the Ruislip Woods Management Advisory Group set up by the London Borough of Hillingdon. Given his enthusiasm and commitment, it is no surprise that Ruislip Woods were described by the Nature Conservancy Council in 1992 as 'becoming one of the best managed woodlands in England'; as a result they were subsequently designated a National Nature Reserve by Natural England (now English Nature) in 1997. Colin retained a keen interest in the health of the woods and their associated fauna, and he was an influential blogger on the birds that frequented them via Murphy's Community Noticeboard.

His campaigning skills were deployed in other areas too. He had long advocated the recording of standing buildings and found a key ally in Jon Finney formerly the Conservation Officer attached to the London Borough of Hillingdon. Together, for example, they made representations to the developers regarding the medieval three-bay timber-framed Burge and Gall building in High Street, Uxbridge which ultimately led to its careful dismantling by Peter McCurdy and Partners and eventual re-erection at the eastern end of the High Street (where it is now a wine bar). As Colin noted wryly at the time: the fabric of the standing building was recorded in three days flat, while three months were afforded the Museum of London's DGLA for the excavation of its drains and foundations!

That said, he and Eileen could always be relied on to pitch in and help when the archaeological going got tough on sites in Uxbridge or out on the

gravels in west London, regularly turning up on Sundays to lend a hand. Colin also undertook his own excavations in and around Ruislip, particularly along the earthwork known as Grim's Dyke. In his publication of the work conducted at Manor Farm, Ruislip, he cautiously shared Wheeler's view that the earthwork was probably of post-Roman date. Many other articles flowed from his pen: notable contributions were made to the *London Archaeologist* ('The Great Conduit at the London Charterhouse' and 'An unidentified brick structure in Cranford Park') and to LAMAS *Transactions* ('A Thames Pick from Uxbridge' and 'The Ruislip Church House') - for example. But the *Journal* of the Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society was where he was perhaps most at home. Its pages positively brim with articles from him on matters as diverse as shoe burials, wooden grave boards and war relics. Indeed, barely an issue of the *Journal* published between the early 1970s and lockdown is without a contribution from either Colin or Eileen, occasionally jointly. The online catalogue lists over 40 contributions from him and around 80 by her!

Sadly, ill-health troubled him towards the end of his life and Colin wasn't well enough to attend Eileen's funeral in 2023. In miserably short order LAMAS and the wider community have lost two remarkable individuals whose lifelong partnership and commitment, both to each other and to the broadest spectrum of heritage management and dissemination, is unlikely to be seen again in our time.



Thanks are due to his daughter Ursula for proving the accompanying picture. Our sincere condolences to her and the rest of Bowlt family on their loss.

Jon Cotton

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The Roman Gardens of Londinium:
A Community Research & Design Project

During the summer and autumn of 2023 researchers worked with a team of community members from the area around MOLA's offices in Hackney, London, to undertake research into the plants that would have been commonly seen in gardens in the Roman town of Londinium. The aims of this project were to design and produce posters illustrating the plants, explore the potential of research into Roman archaeology to provide engaging and entertaining activities, and provide a collaborative grounding for further development of a larger garden-based project.

Gardening has become widely recognised as a source of positive wellbeing particularly since the Covid 19 pandemic (British Psychological Society 2020, What Works Wellbeing 2021). The significant impacts that inequality in access to outside space can have on people is now being tackled through the growing use of social prescribing as an alternative to medicalised responses to, for example, loneliness or mental health issues (NHS England 2020). As part of MOLA's developing focus on community-led projects we wanted to involve participants from our own community workshops in a project based around this idea. They had previously revealed significant interest in engaging with outside spaces, the archaeology of London and collaborative research, plus we discovered the widespread gardening expertise amongst our local communities (MOLA 2022). We thought that we could use these linked skills and interests in a project using archaeology as a focus for wellbeing-led activities. The gap in our knowledge of Roman gardens in London providing a perfect example of how co-creation could enhance wellbeing and contribute to the archaeological research landscape. The project was generously funded by LAMAS.

Research Background

Archaeology

The study of gardens in Roman London has not been a particular priority for the archaeological sector and, as Cowan and Hinton (2008) state, does not appear in the Research Framework for London (Nixon et al. 2002). Nor does it appear in the later Research Strategy (Baker and Rowsome 2015) despite much focus on the urban landscape in terms of building plots, the natural environment and use of domestic space in the town. Gardens do appear as research aims for later periods (e.g., post-1500 AD (Nixon et al. 2002) when the concept of planned gardens becomes more widely accepted. However, there is evidence for formally planned gardens near the 2nd century AD Forum on modern Gracechurch Street (Perring 2022) and perhaps elsewhere in domestic buildings on One Poultry (Cowan and Hinton 2008). There is also evidence from the archaeobotanical record to

inform planting regimes and design, although again, nothing has been synthesised since 2008 (Ibid).

The synthesis of ongoing development-led work is a priority in the Research Strategy (Baker and Rowsome 2015) but remains an aspiration given the pressures of commercial practice. Community-based projects can help plug this gap, provided they have focused outputs and clearly defined research aims. We intended to synthesise and summarise archaeobotanical evidence from specifically identified sites within Roman London with gardens identified or conjectured - broadly categorising the evidence by habitat type: a) food plants to include those imported during the Roman period (further defined as herbs, vegetables, fruit); b) wild plants (and varying habitats thereof such as ditches, scrubland, riverbanks); c) garden or ornamental plants, and d) other economic plants such as flax.

Wellbeing and Community

The second primary aim of the project was to engage with local community participants within the London Boroughs of Hackney and Islington. This is an important aspect of the community work the authors have been undertaking in commitment to participant care which focused on the need to maintain the completely 'voluntary' aspect with no burden placed on people. We also committed to reimbursing participants for their time as they were 'volunteers' but the time spent engaged with the project was still a significant draw on their own personal resources. In order to keep the project as inclusive as possible we removed any barriers to participation. We provided food, travel expenses, and vouchers for time spent. This was set to respond to the level of the London Living Wage for 2022 (£11.95ph) up to a maximum of 2 hours per person per session. Although there was no specific research aim associated with the community aspect of this project, we framed the wellbeing aspects of it around the 5 Ways to Wellbeing: Give, Connect, Keep Learning, Be Active and Take Notice (Mind 2023) and intended to enable as many of these '5 Ways' as we could.

Methodology and Process

Accessibility

We held a total of four sessions at MOLA's London office on the ground floor to facilitate access for all. Bus fares were reimbursed, although some participants arrived courtesy of Dial A Ride arranged through their GP. This connection had been facilitated by VCH (Volunteer Centre Hackney) who run their Together Better scheme in the City and Hackney to 'provide a grassroots antidote to the increasing strains on local healthcare services by increasing staffing capacity and morale' (VCH 2023). The sessions were held during the day and in the early evening.

Research



Ros Davies and Christine Lungu at a research session. ***Photo: The authors.***

We held two research sessions. The first started with a short introduction to archaeobotany by our specialist colleague Marvin Demicoli, who talked the participants through typical procedures and outlined the rationale behind research aims using some examples from his own work from London and internationally. After this the participants used a combination of archaeological publications (Cowan 2003, Harward et al. 2016, Hill and Rowsome 2011) and standards to collate plants under categories: herb, fruit, grain, vegetable, flowers, ornamental, hedges, shrubs, plants for fabric, plants for dyeing and medicinal plants, into an Excel spreadsheet sheet using laptops. These categories resulted in several examples of plants being counted twice, but this wasn't a significant problem as we reduced the number of categories for the final version of the spreadsheet.

Design



Roman Gardens of Londinium poster design 1 (left) and design 2 (right).
Images: The authors (MOLA and LAMAS).

The third session was the design session where we provided a variety of art materials and our participants produced illustrations of the plants. Some of these were in the style of traditional botanical drawings whilst others

were more innovative. We used images sourced on the internet and illustrated books on the topic (Farrar 1998, Jennings 2006, Ryley 1998) to provide guidance for the illustration work. We also took the project team for a walk around the MOLA office to visit Marvin Demicoli's workstation where he showed us various seeds and other botanical remains under a microscope, as well as the extensive reference collection held by the archaeobotanical team. Of great interest was a visit to MOLA's processing area which is not generally open to the public and a glimpse 'behind the scenes' which was an experience greatly valued with participants reporting that they would like to hear from more specialists about their work and see more of how these jobs and projects operated.

Following the production of the illustrations the hard copies were then scanned by Faith Vardy of MOLA's Drawing Office. A more traditional design with Roman style lettering was favoured along with a more vibrant version. A final session was held at which the participants chose their preferred designs, agreeing to have their names on the posters, and also responding to a series of consultation questions about the process.

Reflections

Results

We had a long discussion regarding other uses for the designs of the two poster designs and the potential for merchandise for both the project and for LAMAS. Much of this focused on gardening-related ideas such as small seed bags, biodegradable seed pots and plug plants, as this was intended to be an initial stage within a bigger project where we might create a garden based on Roman planting. The participants felt that projects such as this offered opportunities for widening engagement in archaeology through the combination of traditional research using standard outputs and creative responses - an aspect of public and community archaeology often overlooked.

Participant feedback

Although we did not use a formal method of wellbeing evaluation for this project, we were keen to gather the participants' reactions and to assess whether we had managed to use the 5 Ways to Wellbeing (*after* Mind 2023) in ways that could be useful for further work. The questions we posed during the final session included practical issues of accessibility, and which aspects of the project had been enjoyed the most or least. We asked how participants thought their own experiences and knowledge helped the project, and whether learning something was important or whether it was a pleasant surprise? In terms of accessing the sessions – were the timings suitable, avoiding rush hour and enabling the use of buses? Trains being less local and more expensive. The combination of timings meant all our participants could attend sessions. Providing tea and snacks made the sessions welcoming and encouraged conversation. The aspects the group

enjoyed the most were spending time together and sharing their experiences in an informal setting, the tour of the MOLA offices and the input from our specialist archaeobotanist. There was a common and general interest in history, archaeology, and London.

Wellbeing

The wellbeing aspects of the project were largely successful in terms of providing opportunities for the participants to experience most of the 5 Ways:

Connect. The group spent several hours in each other's company, sharing stories and contributing to the project. Some knew each other beforehand, others were new and forged new relationships. This was one of the aspects of the project they reported enjoying the most.

Keep Learning. The learning opportunities from the project were clear. Learning new skills or developing existing knowledge can improve self-esteem and give purpose to even short periods of time spent involved with the project.

Give. The principle that volunteering is good for your wellbeing is not new. Nevertheless, the idea that the process of undertaking research and producing the posters was contributing to something new and valuable did form part of the positive feedback from the group, and the knowledge that their experiences were valued played a massive part in this.

Be Active. This is one aspect of the wellbeing framework that perhaps we didn't entirely successfully respond to. It was not a primary intention of the project given that the group had differing accessibility and mobility needs. However, making the effort to join activities and travel to MOLA's office did result in gentle exercise for all.

Take Notice. This aim centres around the rather esoteric concept of mindfulness which requires us to pay attention to the moment, how we feel, and what is happening. It is easy to get caught up in the stresses of modern life, so allowing ourselves to take notice can be a complex and difficult thing to achieve. Archaeology offers the chance to reflect, to look at things and consider their meaning deeply, to think about how artefacts and people interacted in the past and how their uses in the present are similar, or different. From this perspective, the project did provide opportunities for taking notice, and this became a key outcome of the project.

Wider reflections

We asked the group whether they had heard of LAMAS, and if not, whether they would be interested in attending LAMAS events - online or in person. The response was positive and there was interest in local history and archaeology with suggestions of where to publicise events including local surgeries and via other health networks, libraries, and other social

hubs such as gyms and other community noticeboards. The group were not extensive users of social media which may have been weighted by the middle/older age groups which may have skewed this response. Although this was in some ways a self-selected group, this feedback is potentially useful for LAMAS as it offers suggestions of how to widen participation and potentially gain membership from communities. Gratifyingly, some of the group did come along to the CBA London event in December. A result that we should perhaps have expected. What came as a pleasant surprise was the level to which we as 'experts' learned from our project participants. This was on a variety of levels and topics, primarily associated with gardening and the use of plants for medicinal and culinary purposes. The community (which came from Hackney and Islington) had their origins in cultural groups from across the world and brought their knowledge and traditions to the sessions to share their expertise and personal histories with us. There were many instances of foodstuffs and medicinal uses of plants that our Western cultural traditions did not acknowledge - the use of strawberry plant leaves to boost the immune system or pumpkin leaves for kidney and digestive system health for example.

The archaeological framing of these conversations provided an informal platform for discussion with the sharing of this knowledge blurring the formal student-teacher relationship of standard engagement. This two-way informal learning through talking and listening was valuable to all participants and was noted as an important addition to the introductory talk to archaeobotany given by Marvin Demicoli. Both aspects of the project were seen as valuable to the overall sense of enjoyment. In fact, the group had further questions for Marvin who having gone away had reflected on his presentation of his work. Nevertheless, the group were aware of the possibly exclusionary nature of archaeology having seen media coverage of recent stories such as the repatriation debate - mentioning the British Museum in particular. They were at pains to say, that despite this, archaeology did retain great potential to attract wide audiences and that exclusion depended on how projects and outputs were presented rather than the archaeology itself. This was positive in terms of placing responsibility for inclusion onto us as a sector – confirming we do need to do more to tackle the lack of inclusion.

Conclusions

This project has highlighted the opportunities offered by consideration of an expanded interpretation of 'outputs' by which we mean to provide value and interest for a new audience. We need as a sector to be open to use our archives and publications in new ways. This relatively small amount of funding has introduced Londoners to evening lectures on a variety of archaeological sites, archaeobotany and the depths of MOLA's processing area, as well as enabling the production of artistic products in response to

Roman London. Of great relevance to the sector as a whole was the interest shown in the process of archaeology such as the unit where environmental archaeological samples are processed, and where artefacts from sites are washed and bagged before any specialist analysis occurs, but also in the analysis process itself - how various specialists might tackle their specific areas of expertise, why they chose to study it, and where their motivation comes from. There was much interest in the idea of fieldwork experience should the opportunity arise. There is much here for community-facing work to consider. The archaeological results need not always be the central aspect of how we present ourselves or our work, but rather the act of our work, why and how we do it, which holds immense interest and value.

Acknowledgements
We would like to send our grateful thanks to the LAMAS Research Committee for funding this work, which like all the best archaeological projects has taken us on a slightly different path than the one we originally planned. The many valuable deviations resulted in an improved experience for the participants. The amazing team from Volunteer Centre Hackney (Oleander Agbetu, Krista Brown, Claire Ferrigi and William Reedman) shared details of our events and welcomed us into their workplaces. We would also like to thank Faith Vardy and Tracy Wellman from the MOLA Drawing Office for their design work on creating the posters and for insights into the design process, Emma Dwyer for help with the application and project management, and Marvin Demicoli for providing expert and entertaining botanical guidance.

The participants who undertook the research, designed the posters, and undertook the project with good humour and extensive knowledge were Bryan Pinto, Tracy Edgson, Veronika Petkova, Janesha Chauhan, Christine Lungu, Ros Davies, Samina, Aftab Uddin, Helen Lewis and Sheila Mykoo. Thank you!

Kate Faccia and Sadie Watson

Please note: The extensive list of references has not been included in the text – however, it can be supplied by Sadie - contact **swatson@mola.org.uk**

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LAMAS Lecture Programme 2025-2026

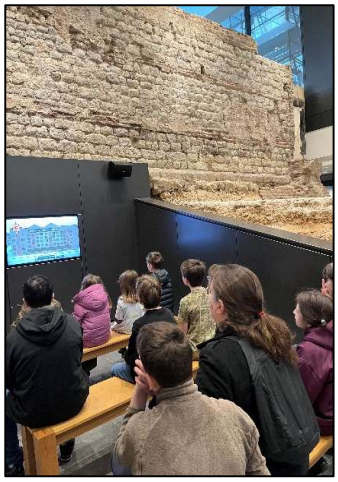
The new LAMAS Lecture Programme will be announced in the September Newsletter.
In the meantime, keep in touch with LAMAS via the website (www.lamas.org.uk) and social media.

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Visit to the section of Roman wall at Vine Street and weaving with the Anglo Saxons

In February the club visited the sizeable chunk of Roman wall at Vine Street and viewed the accompanying displays of artefacts which interpret the history of the site. This site is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument comprising the remains of a bastion tower and part of the 4th century wall that once encircled the Roman city of Londinium. The wall lay concealed for centuries behind plaster in a Victorian warehouse and hidden away in office basements, but it is now open to the public to view close-up under a new student accommodation block.

As at the Mithraeum, the stairs you descend on entering become a kind of time machine taking you from the 21st century to Roman level. The wall is a really good example of Roman building technique, several courses of squared Kentish ragstone sandwiched by narrow layers of red ceramic tiles used to level the wall and make it stronger, rather like a ham or jam sandwich.



There is a useful short animated video on a loop which explains the history of the site. The labelling is excellent and the displays of finds are visually very attractive. In order to engage our members with the displays we gave them each a photograph of an individual object and asked them to locate it in the display cases and report a few facts back to the group about what they discovered.

For anyone who hasn't been, the site is well worth a visit, it's free and for most of our time there we were the only visitors.

For our March meeting we took a look at the Anglo-Saxons and, in particular, what they wore and how they made their clothes. We talked about textiles, dyes and methods of weaving and saw what conditions are needed for organic textiles to survive on archaeological sites. The members then got to have a go at weaving themselves. This session was led by one of our Assistant Leaders, Connie, who recruited her family members to help make 18 mini lolly stick looms for our members to make their own Anglo-Saxon belt – Thank You Connie!



Annie De Saulles

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EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS
Please check the respective website for availability and bookings.

Guards Chapel Recital Series – Summer 2025
The Royal Military Chapel (The Guards' Chapel)
Birdcage Walk, London, SW1E 6HQ
All lunchtime concerts 1.10pm-29m – <u>Free Admission</u>
27th May 2025 – Scots Guards Clarinet Ensemble
24th June 2025 – Guards Big Band
29th July – Wind Soloists from the Band of the Irish Guards



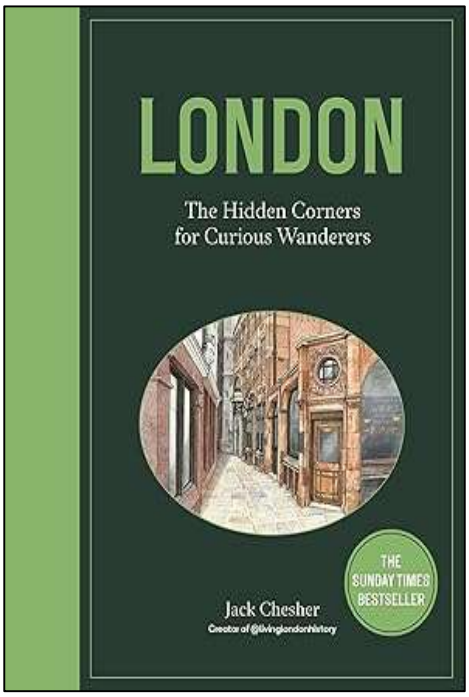
Three upcoming lunchtime military band recitals are listed. Evening recitals and concerts are also regular events through the summer months.
See: **householddivision.org.uk/guards-chapel-recitals**
The Guard's chapel itself is worth a visit – originally built in 1838 it was almost entirely destroyed by a V1 bomb in 1944. The apse survived and was incorporated into the new chapel with rebuilding starting in 1962.

Next door to the Chapel is ***The Guards Museum – open 7 days a week from 10am – 4pm. Last admission 3.30pm. Adults £10, children under 16 FREE, Concessions £7, serving military personnel £3, and serving Household Division FREE. Nearest Tube: St Jame's Park.***
Check the Guards Museum website **www.theguardsmuseum.com** *as local events can affect opening times and access.*

The Cockney Museum
Rear of 31, Stoneleigh Broadway, Epsom, KT17 2JE
Free Parking. Train: Stoneleigh Station from Waterloo
Opening Times: 10.30am -3.30pm – CLOSED MONDAY
Entrance: Adults £7 Children £4 (plus concessions)
Tel. 020 8643 2264 Email: george@pearlykingofpeckham.co.uk



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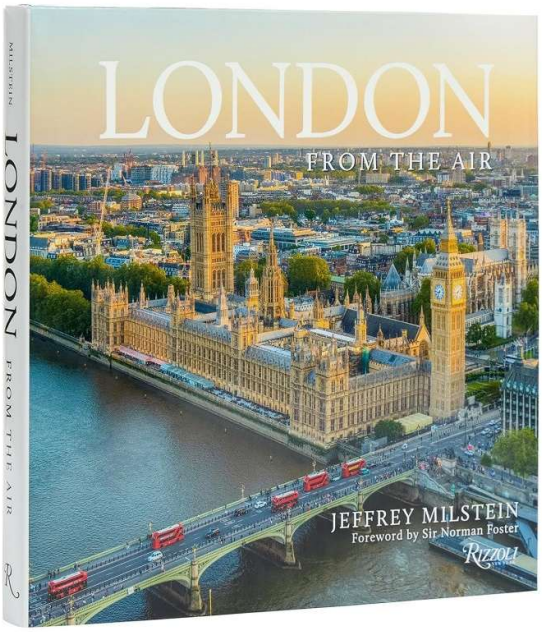


***London: The Hidden Corners for Curious Wanderers* by Jack Chesher. (Frances Lincoln, 2025) pocket hardback RRP £12.59.**

Recently published *Hidden Corners* is a second guide (the first *Guide for Curious Wanderers* published in 2023) for those of us who saunter around the streets of London. This book aims to take you on a journey through the city and its history via more secluded spots. Venture down the quieter and more shadowy back streets to find amazing and unexpected architectural survivors, hidden pubs, and easily missed historic remnants – including "a humble blitz survivor" and an Anarchist Bookshop.

***London from the Air* by Jeffrey Milstein.**
(Rizzoli International Publications, 2024) hardback £16.95.

Published in 2024 this 'coffee table' book offers a new take on familiar architecture and landscapes – bringing a fresh and unexpected view of the city. Granted unusual permission to bypass the strict laws around aerial photography over the Capital, Milstein treats the reader to views usually unseen'



The distinctive straight down style brings London to life in a way that is impossible to imagine from street level. Encapsulating the Thames; landmarks such as Buckingham Palace, the British Museum, the City, Canary Wharf, Piccadilly Circus, Trafalgar Square, and the symmetry of roads and green parks and commons. Foreword by Sir Norman Foster.

Jane Wheeler

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AFFILIATED SOCIETY MEETINGS

Readers are advised to check with local societies planning to attend lectures. Note many societies wind down events over the summer months – please check the respective society website

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

11 June 2025 AGM followed by
A Walk in Acton in 1987, David Knights

10 September 2025
Acton Farms and Farming, Anthony Smith

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

26 July 2025 11.00am-4.00pm
Celebrating the History of Barking's Abbey, Abbey Green, Barking

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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

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Barnet Museum and Local History Society

All meetings are held in St John the Baptist Church, Wood Street, Barnet at 3pm (unless otherwise stated) on Mondays (opposite the Museum). Lectures are free for members (£2 for visitors). Contact Barnet Museum, 31 Wood Street, Barnet EN5 4BE (020 8440 8066) or visit: www.barnetmuseum.co.uk for more information.

12 May 2025
A Whistlestop History of Barnet, Mike Noronha

9 June 2025
Behind the Battle of Barnet Banners, Scott Harrison

14 July 2025
London Colney Airfield and the Royal Flying Corps, Guy Thomas

8 September 2025
Make Do and Mend: Fashion during WW2, Kat Alston Cole

Bexley Archaeological Group

Talks are held at Bexley-Sidcup Conservative Club, 19 Station Road, Sidcup, DA15 7EB. Please arrive by 8pm for an 8.15pm start. 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.

15 May 2025 AGM followed by
King Arthur: Man or Myth, Tony Sullivan, local author and retired London fire fighter

17 July 2025
Whitechapel Excavation, Stephen White, Project Archaeologist, Archaeology South East

18 September 2025
Greenpark Restoration Project, Andrew Mayfield, Community Archaeologist, Kent County Council and Greenwich Park

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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

19 May 2025 AGM followed by
TBA

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

3 June 2025
Sign Here, Jerry Dowler

1 July 2025
The Way Forward for Bromley's Historic Collections, Janet Owen

5 August 2025 via Zoom only (7.30pm start – contact the Society for details of how to join the online meeting)
Kent and the Second World War, Dr Martin Watts

2 September 2025
Members' Evening

Camden History Society

The Society normally holds meetings at 7.30pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month, except August. Non-members welcome at "in-person" events (£2); Zoom talks are for CHS members only - some of which are recorded and can be watched by anyone via links on the website.
For further information please contact the Chair, Malcolm Holmes (01923 461343), malcolmholmes@yahoo.co.uk, or visit: www.camdenhistorysociety.org.
Non-members are invited to join the Society.

29 May 2025 – Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library
Curious Kentish Town, Martin Plaut and Andrew Whitehead

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

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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

20 May 2025
For Valour: the Story of the Victoria Cross and the Essex Men who Won it¸ Martyn Lockwood

17 June 2025 AGM followed by
When our Buses Went to War, Janet Seward

City of London Archaeological Society (COLAS)

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

16 May 2025
A Late-Medieval Tannery at Stratford: Excavations at Jubilee House, Harry Platts, PCA

28 May 2025 at 11.30am
Westminster Abbey Gardens Tour

20 June 2025
West London Quarry site – Bronze Age field and settlements, Steve Board, TVAS

18 July 2025 Members Night at St Olave's

15 August 2025
Guided Walk of West Norwood Cemetery – details to be confirmed

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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.

Non-members are welcome – we invite a small donation of £3. 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.

14 May 2025
Lavender: Mitcham and Beyond, Alison Cousins, Wandle Industrial Museum

18 June 2025 – via Zoom Booking Ref: ZOOM RAILWAYS VISITOR
Croydon's Railway History – more than meets the eye, Dr Richard Marks

30 June 2025
Woodside: exploring its unique history and topography, Dr Trevor James

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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

21 May 2025 at 8pm
Bush Hill Park in WW2, Ian Jones

18 June 2025 at 8pm
TBA

16 July 2025 at 8pm
Summer Social

17 September 2025 at 8pm
TBA

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

22 May 2025 at 1pm – Visit to the Florence Nightingale Museum (meet at Eltham Station)

5 June 2025
"Up High Gate Hill – A Visual Walk", Chris Davis

11 June 2025 at 3pm – 60th Celebration with afternoon tea

25 June 2025 at 10.45am – Visit to the Police Museum, Marlow House (meet at Marlow House)

3 July 2025
Great Mysteries and Conspiracy, Nicholas Henderson

Enfield Archaeological Society

Meetings are either held at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield EN2 0AJ (doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm 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. Visitors welcome - £1.50.

13 June 2025
Roman Egypt, Stefania Alfarano

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 Hackney Archives

The Friends are based at Hackney Archives, Dalston Square, London E8 3BQ and put on at least three events per year for people with an interest in Hackney's and London's history. These include talks, visits and walks, and provide an opportunity to meet members of the Friends and others who share an interest in the history of Hackney. Please see our website for further information, including Events and How to Join, and access to publications of Hackney's history: **www.hackneyhistory.org** Email us: hackneyhistory@gmail.com

30 June 2025
Visit to St Andrews, Bethune Road, N16 – see website for booking details

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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

All events require booking via the website. Ticket prices vary according to the event but all income helps the Friends to restore monuments, study the cemetery and attract visitors to Kensal Green. The following Special Events are bookable online:

21 June 2025 – 10.30am Talk and Guided Walk (buffet lunch included)
Brown's Hotel and Luxury Living Stories, Andy Williamson

9 August 2025 – 14.00 Guided Tour of Kensal Green Cemetery
Jospeh Locke and Others

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.

28 May 2025
Camden Town, Paul Baker

25 June 2025
The London Underground, David Le Boff from TfL

24 September 2025
John Betjeman, Terence Atkins

The Hackney Society

The Society organises a wide range of walks, talks and guided tours during the year – details and tickets can be found on their Eventbrite page.

Hackney History Festival – a wide range of walks and events throughout May including:

10 May – events at the Round Chapel with Tony Travers

11 May – events at Sutton House

17 and 18 May – events at Hackney Archives – day of short talks, films and tours

A full programme of events can be downloaded at: https://hackneyhistoryfestival.org

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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. Times vary according to the season. 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

27 May 2025 2pm for a 2.15pm start
The changes to Hayes in the decades since April 1965 marking 60th anniversary of Hillingdon Council, Robin Brown

16 September 2025 2pm for a 2.15pm start
A Night at the Cinema, The Reminiscence Roadshow, Ealing's Questors Theatre

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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

13 May 2025
A Community/HLF excavation at Cranford, Hillingdon, Les Capon

10 June 2025 AGM at 7.30 followed by:
A web of influences – imported ceramics in London 1000-1700, Jacqui Pearce

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Hornsey Historical Society

Lecture meetings are held at the Union Church Hall, corner of Ferme Park Road and Weston Park, starting at 7.00pm. A donation of £2.00 is requested from non-members. For further information please ring The Old Schoolhouse (020 8348 8429); write to the Society at 136 Tottenham Lane N8 7EL; website: www.hornseyhistorical.org.uk

13 May 2025
Making an Entrance: Crouch End Doorways and Porches as examples of Victorian and Edwardian Decorative Art, Ray Rogers

3 July 2025
AGM

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
Please check the society's website www.hounslowhistory.org.uk for details of Great West Road Centenary Events – running through the summer months.

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

21 May 2025
Changing the Face of the Forest, Mark Gorman and Peter Williams (authors)

18 June 2025
Highgate Cemetery, Nick Dobson

16 July 2025
Cyril Mann, Artist, Renske Mann (Cyril's widow)

17 September 2025
Good Evening: The *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* Story, Dominic Stinton

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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.
For further information please contact the Honorary Secretary, Mrs Rosemary Turner, 27 Burley Close, London SW16 4QQ, mhs@mertonhistoricalsociety.org.uk or www.mertonhistoricalsociety.org.uk

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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

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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 when the talks are online via Zoom) 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).

4 June 2025
Community Archaeology Update from Greenwich Park, Andrew Mayfield, Community Archaeologist, Greenwich Royal Park

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

20 July 2025 Sunday 11.00am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-4.00pm
Romano-British Bath House Open Day at St Mary Cray (details on the ODAS website)

6 August 2025 – online only, details will appear on the ODAS website on 16 July
Bartmann goes global! How German Stoneware travelled round the known world in the 16th and 17th centuries, Jacqui Pearce, Senior Specialist, Medieval and Later Ceramics and Finds (MOLA)

3 September 2025
MOLA Excavations at 50 Fenchurch Street: An overview of the archaeological work to date, Jess Bryan, Project Officer, MOLA

13 and 14 September 2025 2.00pm-5.00pm
Scadbury Moated Manor Open Weekend

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

5 June 2025
A Grand Pinner Household in the 1760s, Thamar MacIver

Richmond Archaeological Society

Talks are held 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

12 September 2025
Roman Roads in Southwark, an alternative model, Becky Haslam, Project Manager (Post Excavation) AOC

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

19 May 2025 AGM at 7.45 followed by 3 short talks:
Restoring the haha in Kew Road, Paul Browne; **Richmond Palace,** Mark Lucas; and **Henrietta Vansittart,** Jan Johnson

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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

28 May 2025
Messing About on the River, Pete Smith, City of London and City of Westminster Guide

25 June 2025 – MEMBERS ONLY EVENT 7pm guided walk
Walking the Layers of Time on the Bermondsey Waterfront, Diana Clements & Gail Dickerson

30 July 2025 – MEMBERS ONLY EVENT 7pm guided walk
Passport to Pimlico, Moya O'Hara

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

7 June 2025 – 11am-4pm
Summer fete and picnic at Eastcote House gardens - don't miss the ferret racing!

14 September 2025 – 11am-4pm
Heritage and Class Car Event at Eastcote Gardens

16 September 2025
London's Waterfront 1666 to 1800 and London's Involvement in Slavery, John Schofield (senior archaeologist at the Museum of London 1974-2008)

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

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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.

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.

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

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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 for autumn 2025 events.

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

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

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

30 May 2025
TBA

27 June 2025 (followed by the AGM)
Mapping Rich and Poor: Charles Booth's Enquiry, Indy Bhullar, Curator for Economics and Social Policy, LSE Library

25 July 2025
TBA

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".

7 June 2025
Jack the Ripper Dissecting the Truth, Roger Barber

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

21 May 2025
Grand Junction Waterworks, Rob Casey, London Museum of Water and Steam

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