Issue 175 September 2025

LAMAS NEWSLETTER

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Despite post-war and modern development around the Square Mile, St Paul's Cathedral remains visible at street level from many a narrow alleyway. Emphasising its continued centrality as an anchor and obstacle to the City's tangle of medieval layout alleys and lanes.

Photo. J. Wheeler.

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NOTICES

Editor's Introduction

I am usually late in responding to those last-minute email announcements of LAMAS Lates. However, this summer the Late Post hit not only my inbox at the right time (to enable a rapid response) it also coincided with a week's holiday and a planned trip into the City itself. The first time I wasn't late for a Late – so to speak. This particular early evening Late was a walking tour of three hidden churchyards in the vicinity of St Paul's led by our very own Robert Stephenson who is a City of London Guide. Now this was a coincidence worth noting as the Late did indeed coincide with the planned day trip into EC2 and 3. Why the specific EC-centricity of Eastern Central? Jack Chesher's recently published 2025 *London: The Hidden Corners for Curious Wanderers* Walk V (Monument to Guildhall) provided the perfect guide to wander around the maze of alleyways and courtyards in the heart of the City. The convenient last stop being The Old Dr Butler's Head on Mason's Avenue – not far from the pick-up point for the 5.30pm Late walk adjacent to St Paul's tube.





The day started at The Ship in dog-legged Talbot Court, a 19th century building post-dating the pre-Fire coaching Inn called The Talbot. Too early for a snifter I confess. Next stop was the hidden gem of 4 Brabant Court off Philpot Lane, a rare survivor of a Georgian townhouse in the City – still residential and listed Grade II (see left). Then onto St Peter-upon-Cornhill churchyard, a raised paved churchyard off St Peter's Alley shadowed by

the Wren-designed church. The churchyard not only thought to be the inspiration for the resting place to come of Ebenezer Scrooge but is also recognisably mentioned in *Our Mutual Friend*. Then onto St Michael's Cornhill and its churchyard – another Wren rebuild with an alleged Dickens reference to Scrooge hearing the church's "gruff old bell".



As the clock ticked, a stop at London's first coffee house on the corner next to St Michael's, now The Jamaica Wine House. Would be rude not to stop! So a pint was enjoyed along with a chat to a couple of fellas who were doing a similar wander of EC3 but with the aid of the CAMRA guide. Then over to George Yard off Lombard Street and Wren's rebuild of St Edmund the King which was bombed not only in World War II but also earlier during World War I. Almost adjacent to The Jamaica Winehouse is The George and Vulture on Bengal Court – an easy to miss tight alley entrance. Originally the Bengal Arms, the Vulture association with the hostelry (which later was renamed The George) is the post-Fire result of the wine merchant who used a live vulture to drum up trade. The name stuck. The establishment is also repeatedly mentioned in *The Pickwick Papers*. Sadly Simpson's Tavern, the oldest chophouse in London, in Ball Court, closed in 2020 and remains moth-balled within a tangle of alleyways. Onto Cowper's Court between Cornhill and Lombard Street. The site was once The Jerusalem Coffee House where in 1854 John Tawell was arrested for murder. Today, the alleyway is rather gloomy being lined with now grubby white subway tiles.







The stroll continued into Change Alley (formerly Exchange Alley due to its proximity to the Royal Exchange). This is the site of the first coffee house (Garraway's which was established in 1669) to sell tea. Neighbouring Lombard Street (just up from the Royal Exchange) is the site of one of the most famous coffee houses - Lloyd's (now a small Sainsbury's supermarket). Passing the plaque, which many appeared to do with no



recognition of the former Lloyd's, towards Bank Tube is Pope's Head Alley – named after the pub of the same name which once stood here. The name changing to Bishop's Head for a time post-reformation. Whilst the alleyway is modern and bland architecturally, looking up the symbol of the papacy is present. Further wandering to the rear of the Bank of England along Bartholomew Lane onto Lothbury and into Tokenhouse Yard (once the site of the Token House when coinage was short in the 16th and 17th centuries) led into Whalebone Court. The latter once the place where whalebone (baleen) was sold (being used for boning of clothing (particularly corsets)) from the mid-18th century. The final port of call, where this editorial started, The Old Dr Butler's Head. Fortunately, Butler's Purging Ale was no-longer served but a refreshing ale was offered with the promise, on this hot day, of no purgative threat or risk. Then over to St Paul's and St Paul's Churchyard (into EC4) for a cup of tea in a coffee shop (history repeating itself) prior to the meet-up for the Late and more wanderings into the hidden churchyards surrounding the environs of St Paul's.

These meanderings covered quite a distance. In total 2.5km. Quiet and unpeopled routes in terms of human density. Yet this was a safe environment with friendly chatty Londoners and City workers who stopped and talked. Entered into conversation about place, their own love and interest in the maze of alleyways and courtyards, hidden pubs and shops (particularly tailors), their own being and presence which, like our own, perambulated the past footsteps of a medieval London now architecturally lost to the Great Fire, and the more recent living memory of the Blitz. Yet the medieval footprint of the City remains fixed and present in its combobulated form.

Jane Wheeler ***All photos: J. Wheeler***

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JANUARY Newsletter*: *Next <u>LAST SUBMISSION</u> Date
Final submissions by ***<u>Friday 9th January 2026.</u>***

Articles, news, and items for inclusion should be submitted prior to the cut-off date which is just after the New Year Bank Holiday. Send items for inclusion to me by email as MS Word documents with pictures either in the same Word document or as additional pages. Please avoid sending text as an email or 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. Thank you!** ***Jane Wheeler***

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Call for a new LAMAS Newsletter Editor

Whilst I thoroughly enjoy editing the Newsletter I would like a break and to hand on this responsibility. LAMAS are therefore seeking a well-organised and enthusiastic new Editor to take over production of the Newsletter.

The Newsletter goes out to members three times a year (past copies can be viewed on the Publications page). A keen interest in the archaeology and local history of London is essential, and you will need to be a member of the Society (see the Membership page 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,
- using MS Word to collate text and images; page layout and balance,
- liaising with the printers and the Hon. 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, and also identify subjects and events for inclusion, wandering around London, and have a good level of English grammar (along with the necessary 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. Whilst the post is unpaid, all out of pocket expenses will be met.

For more information or to express an interest in the role 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.

Jane Wheeler

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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, the target is 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.
Please submit your expression of interest, or informal enquiry, to: **secretary@lamas.org.uk**

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LAMAS Historic Buildings & Conservation Committee

We are once again on the hunt for new members for LAMAS's Historic Buildings and Conservation Committee (HBCC). Are you keen on preserving the historic environment of your local area and, more widely, your and neighbouring boroughs? Our aim is to protect Greater London's built and archaeological heritage.

If you have some familiarity with planning regulations and can spare one or two hours a month to review listed building planning applications in your area, then please contact us via vickifox2020@outlook.com

Please do consider attending one of our HBCC meetings to see how we operate and to ask questions. We meet monthly at 75 Cowcross Street, the offices of Alan Baxter Ltd in Clerkenwell, and are proposing to hold an open evening on **Tuesday 18th November** from **6:30 pm.** As part of this event we will be holding a group discussion on the topic of tall buildings and heritage - which you would be most welcome to contribute to. Again, please contact **vickifox2020@outlook.com** if you would like to come along. You will be most welcome.

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New LAMAS Membership Year 2025/2026

The 1st of October is the start of a new LAMAS year. Subscriptions for 2025/26 are now due as of 1st October. Subscriptions rates have not changed so members who have set-up standing orders have nothing to do!

This year's membership subscriptions remain:

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

Payment, for those who have not set up a standing order can be made by **online bank transfer** (Description: membership reference or surname, Bank: CAF Bank Ltd, Sort Code: 40-52-40, Account No: 00017438, Beneficiary: London & Middlesex Archaeological).
Card via the LAMAS website: https://www.lamas.org.uk/membership-renewal/
(this costs LAMAS 88p for a £20 transaction) or in the last resort by cheque (my address to send it to is on the back page).

The new LAMAS website is now up and running. This gives members who have an email address associated with their LAMAS membership personal record access to their membership record. It allows you to change your address and see your last recorded membership payment. See https://www.lamas.org.uk/the-new-lamas-website-and-your-lamas-membership/ to set up access. If you do not have an email address registered with LAMAS, please send an email including your postcode to membership@lamas.org.uk asking for one to be registered.

For affiliated societies and institutional members access to their membership record will be sorted out over the new LAMAS year.

LAMAS Transactions will be published in November, so if you receive a printed copy, do let me know if your address has changed by the end of October.

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

John Shemilt, LAMAS Membership Secretary

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The 2025/26 LAMAS Research Fund is now open to applications

We welcome applications from members of LAMAS or its Affiliated Societies for grants to support research and/or publication of projects on a wide range of subjects to further our archaeological and historical understanding of London and be of interest to LAMAS members.

LAMAS has been offering a research fund since 2005. The fund has been used for a number of articles which have been published in *Transactions.* A full list may be found on our website along with the terms and conditions of the fund (see below).

Grants have been distributed relatively evenly between local history and archaeology, starting with research into clay pipe manufacture in Pentonville by Peter Hammond and Tudor metalwork from Trump Street by Bruce Watson - joint fund recipients in 2005.
Material culture has been a strong focus throughout the life of the fund, with Glynn Davis producing a series of short articles on Roman finds, but a number of quite specific buildings and structures have also featured. This includes Caroline Sandes's paper on the Barbican published in 2019, whilst Simon MacNeill Ritchie researched the Royal Victoria Patriotic School in Wandsworth and Ian Betts' paper on Queen Anne's bagnio was also recently published.
Scientific study has also had a place, with the Geoarchaeology of the Syon Park Palaeochannel researched and published by Jane Corcoran, and one of the most recent recipients concerned the analysis of skeletal remains found at The Chapel Royal and Royal Peculiar of St Peter ad Vincula.

The grant may be used in a number of ways: to fund the individual undertaking the research, assist with publication of completed work, or to pay for the production of maps or other illustrations. For example, the fund in 2006 went to assist the production of the Roman Londinium map. Nick Holder also commissioned a painting to illustrate his research into medieval friaries. We have also funded a MOLA community project researching evidence for Roman gardens in London and an Oral History project centring on the Middlesex Hospital Annexe led by Iceni Projects.

The Fund is set at £10,000 and an application can be made for all or part of this amount. The **final submission** date is **28th February 2026**.

Full terms and conditions are available on the website at **https://www.lamas.org.uk/research-fund-committee** or from Karen Thomas, Hon. Secretary – email: **secretary@lamas.org.uk**

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LAMAS 59th Local History Conference
Saturday 15th November 2025 : 10.30am - 5.30pm
Wilberforce Room, London Museum Docklands
West India Quay, London, E14 4AL
Tube & DLR: Canary Wharf or West India Quay



Food Glorious Food

Please join us at the London Museum Docklands for the 2025 Local History Conference on the theme of food in London History

Doors open at 10.30am with an opportunity to browse local history displays and stalls by societies. The conference itself will begin at 11.00am and will finish around 5.30pm.

We have assembled a fantastic programme of speakers covering a wide and varied range of topics:

- "The Alimentary Question": Food, Imagined Community, and the Experience of Civilian Internment in First World War London (Christopher Batten)
- "Home and Hominy": the American Red Cross clubs in London during the Second World War (Simon Fowler)
- *Keynote Lecture*: London soup kitchens 1795-1914: feeding the poor of the nineteenth century metropolis (Dr Phil Carstairs)
- "There is no such thing as scarcity": Food, the docks and the revolutionary politics of the East London Federation of Suffragettes (Dr Katherine Connelly)
- Orange sellers on the streets of London (Malcolm Thick)
- Food for thought: The use of Subtleties in Medieval Banquets (Dr Vanessa King)
- Lord Cranfield's 1621 Sugar Christening "Bankett" (Stephen Draper)

Local societies requiring a free exhibition table should e-mail Pat Gough **p.gough489@btinternet.com before 1st November**, with 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.

In order to support societies with exhibiting at the conference, we are able to 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, please e-mail John Price **johnprice.historian@outlook.com** to arrange.

The LAMAS Publications Awards for 2024 will be presented at the Conference.

Lunch time refreshments may be bought from the Museum's cafés and bar or from the many local establishments around Docklands.
Afternoon refreshments (included in the ticket price) will be provided in the museum.

Tickets are available to purchase via the LAMAS website. **https://www.lamas.org.uk/conferences-and-lates/**
Open the main page and click onto EVENTS.

Ticket prices:
Early-bird tickets (purchased online before 1st November 2025) = £15.00

Standard tickets (purchased online after 1st November 2024) = £17.50

Last-minute tickets (purchased in person on the day, subject to availability, cash only) = £20.00

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LAMAS Newsletter by email in PDF format

The LAMAS *Newsletter* has been published in colour as a PDF for some time now. This is so that it can be easily and economically distributed to members via email.

Printed physical black and white paper copies are still being printed and posted to members without an email address or who have not, as yet, elected to receive the PDF format.

If you would now prefer to receive the colour Newsletter electronically - please contact the Hon. Secretary **secretary@lamas.org.uk**

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China ordered to explain embassy plan



The current front façade of the old Royal Mint ***Image:*** *Google Earth 02.09.2025*

This headline in the *Daily Telegraph* on 7th August gives a sinister twist to a London development. Preserved walls of the monastery of St Mary Graces will sit in the future building's basement next to rooms whose form and purposes have been redacted in the developers' plans. We wonder what can be intended for these extensive underground chambers.

But to our normal work. There are currently three large archaeological projects in London which LAMAS should think about, all north of the Thames: from east to west, the proposed Chinese Embassy in the buildings of the Royal Mint north-east of the Tower of London, the redevelopment of Liverpool Street Station, and the third runway at Heathrow Airport. A note on the current situation of each is given at the end of this opinion piece.

At the Royal Mint, the archaeological concern is largely about the preservation and future display of walls from St Mary Graces which are in the basement of the 1980s building. They will be housed in a Cultural Centre within and controlled by the Chinese Embassy, which will occupy the standing buildings of the Mint. LAMAS made a public pronouncement advocating the proper treatment on 30 August 2024 (see https://www.lamas.org.uk/advocacy-letter - Proposed Chinese Embassy). This asked for a less restricted setting for the medieval walls in the future basement, providing more space for them.

At Liverpool Street Station a planning application of 2023 would erect a large office block above the station concourse and intrusively over the

former Great Eastern Hotel (1884, Listed Grade II*) which forms the south end of the station and is comparable to the original hotel at St Pancras. The proposal has received strong objections from The Liverpool Street Station Campaign (LISSCA) (which LAMAS is part of - we have sent a letter of opposition to the Corporation of London). In November 2024 a revised scheme was submitted by new architects; the tower block moved slightly. The scheme is still thought wrong for the site and motivated by commercial ambitions. LAMAS wrote to the Corporation on 30th June 2025 restating its opposition (see https://www.lamas.org.uk/lamas-opposes-revised-version-of-liverpool-street-station-development-2025). A well-written comment by the journalist Simon Heffer appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* on 13th July. Also available on the LAMAS website page. This is understandably only about the buildings. For us, the issue is now not only the intrusion into archaeology beneath, which will not be major and which will no doubt be recorded, but the value of built heritage above ground which is to be radically affected as regards its setting. Here what we should do is clear; defeat this proposal.

Two rival proposals for the extension at Heathrow were presented to the government on 31 July 2025. One has been known and opposed for some time and is for a long runway; the alternative proposal is for a shorter runway roughly in the same position as the longer one - north of the existing runways. The government's letter inviting these bids said they should deal with 'environmental implications'; archaeology is not mentioned but presumably comes under 'impacts on the local community.' Either of the two schemes would destroy a large part of the medieval village of Harmondsworth, though the famous Barn would be saved - probably by being moved. The government will review its Airport National Policy Statement and decide before the next election in 2029. As a Nationally Important Infrastructure Project the expansion will not be subject to normal planning procedures. An Inspector might be involved. Thus there are many stages in the long planning process to come; but now is the moment to establish what we think about it.

Latest News

5th September: Regarding the Chinese Embassy

The government has received the Inspector's report and will make a decision on 21st October.

Regarding Liverpool Street Station

A planning decision on Liverpool Street from the Corporation of London is still awaited.

John Schofield

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Planning refused for Lidl supermarket - The Orchard in Ruislip



The original Orchard Bungalow. ***Photo:*** www.ruisliponline.co.uk

In June 2025 the London Borough of Hillingdon refused Lidl's application for a supermarket on the site of The Orchard in Ruislip. The building started life as The Orchard Bungalow and Tea Garden which was constructed in 1905 to provide a refreshment stop for visitors using the newly opened extension of The Metropolitan Line. Its popularity with Londoners seeking fresh air and countryside saw the later addition of a second storey and a pavilion which could accommodate up to 500 guests. Later changes transformed the building into the Orchard Hotel with a dance hall, restaurant and billiard room. From the 1930s onwards it was famous for its dinner dances and cabarets. During World War II The Orchard was a popular meeting place for RAF personnel, particularly Polish airmen stationed at nearby Northolt Aerodrome. Its Polish wartime connection is commemorated by a Spitfire memorial on the site, which is currently being restored by The Polish Air Force Memorial Committee and is a locally listed monument in its own right.

In April 2025, London Borough of Hillingdon Planning officers approved Locally Listed status for the Orchard building as an important part of The Ruislip Village Conservation Area (designated in 1969) and in recognition of its local historical importance.

This listing and the later planning application refusal owe much to strong local feeling to protect the building and the work of the Ruislip Residents Association, Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society and the local councillors.

LAMAS Historic Buildings & Conservation Committee

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LAMAS Lecture Programme 2025 - 2026

Lectures will take place from 6.30pm - 7.30pm with refreshments from 6pm.

The lectures will be hybrid - held in person and on Zoom. To attend a lecture, members are requested to book tickets on the LAMAS website. See the lecture calendar below. The booking link will be live approximately two weeks before each lecture.

Non-members are very welcome and are requested to book tickets using the link in the lecture notice below to attend on Zoom. Non-members are requested to donate to LAMAS to help cover the costs of providing the lecture for both attendance in person and via Zoom.

Please check the LAMAS website and social media for details of the lecture location.

Members booking tickets, *please log into your account before booking*.

14th October 2025
Alex Blanks, MOLA
Roman cemetery at Holborn Viaduct: post-excavation updates



This talk will present the most recent findings from a site at Holborn Viaduct, excavated in 2023–24, stemming from the ongoing post-excavation assessment work. It will focus on the early Roman burial ground located just south of the western cemetery and nested between the Roman road of Watling Street and the river Fleet. The site has produced well preserved burial remains and extraordinary finds assemblages, suggesting that the cemetery and its setting may have been of special significance. From the evidence of land reclamation, well preserved coffins, and the rare example of funerary bed to luxurious grave goods and personal adornments, this site tells a rich story of how the early Romans interacted with this marginal area of Londinium and treated the dead.

11th November 2025
Alistair Douglas, Pre-Construct Archaeology
Bermondsey Square: Prehistoric and Roman Settlement, Medieval Abbey and Post-Medieval Mansion



Image: *Pre-Construct Archaeology*

The lecture will briefly summarise the results of Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) in and around Bermondsey Square over 20 years from 1998 to 2018. The sites are not only significant in relation to the Cluniac priory and later Benedictine abbey of St Saviour, but excavations also revealed evidence spanning the Iron Age to modern periods. The site lies on land that formed the Bermondsey Eyot during the prehistoric period. A few pits and a small pottery assemblage attest to settlement during the Iron Age. Evidence for the Roman period suggested a landscape predominantly given over to agriculture. However, in the later Roman period, robber trenches, and significant amounts of ceramic building material including opus signinum, suggest that substantial masonry buildings were extant to the north of Bermondsey Square in the area of Stevens Street. Fragmentary wall foundations of an east-west aligned building or series of buildings, and associated small finds and coinage, may be the first archaeological evidence for a middle Saxon minster at Bermondsey. By the 10th century a small apsidal church had been constructed with a small number of inhumations nearby. Perhaps the most significant aspect of the excavations at Bermondsey was the evidence of extensive medieval foundations that allowed a detailed reconstruction of the Cluniac Priory and its subsequent development (until the dissolution of the abbey in the 16th century) to be made.

In 1539 the site of the former monastery was acquired by Robert Southwell and later sold to Sir Thomas Pope, who built a large mansion. The

excavations revealed Pope's mansion as a grand double court-yard building with a separate range of buildings to the east constructed in the 17th century. A Presbyterian cemetery unearthed on the west side of Bermondsey Square was a graphic demonstration of the special character of Bermondsey as a stronghold for religious dissent. In the 18th Century King John's court was developed for 'artisan' housing. The archaeological remains, topographic and documentary evidence dated to this period gave fascinating in-site into the social history of this part of Bermondsey.

9th December 2025
Sarah Wolferstan and Steve White
Archaeology South-East
Farms, playhouse and taverns: radical experiments and liberation in Whitechapel



The Site of Stepney Way in Whitechapel was excavated in 2018-19 by Steve White who led the team at Archaeology South-East. Steve will tell the story of the excavation and its main discoveries, including over 2000 years of London Archaeology: from Iron Age farmsteads to Medieval manors, from sites of Tudor entertainment to 17th and 18th century pleasure gardens and taverns, finishing the story with intriguing details of census information and cess pits! Sarah Wolferstan, Archaeology South-East's public engagement specialist, will describe how she has partnered with storytellers, local archaeologists and historians from London's Black community to reflect on London's colonial legacies.

13th January 2026
Karen Thomas and Annie De Saulles
Central London YAC
Digging Up the Future: 23 years of the Central London Young Archaeologists Club



When Annie first met Karen back in late 2001, while they were both volunteering for the Big Dig at the Museum of London, she outlined her idea to set up a Young Archaeologists Club based at the Museum and 23 years (nearly 24 now) since that idea came to fruition they will be sharing the story of the club in this talk. They

will tell of the challenges and hard work involved in keeping the club going, but mostly the fun and enjoyment they, and hopefully the young archaeologists themselves, have had along the way.

10th February 2026 LAMAS AGM and Presidential Address

Please note that the AGM will start at 6pm and the Presidential Address will follow by Vanessa Harding, Emeritus Professor of London History, Birkbeck, University of London.



Credit: *Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection*
Image*: encyclopediavirginia.org*

Mapping Restoration London

This lecture follows on from last year's, in which I explored the process of mapping early Tudor London, c. 1520, using the Historic Towns Trust's map published in 2018. Mapping Restoration London, on the eve of the Great Fire of 1666, presents new challenges and logistical problems. Over the period from the 1520s to the 1660s, London's population increased four-or five-fold, and the built-up area spread far beyond the walled city, linking Westminster and the east end in a single metropolitan conurbation. There is no shortage of sources for mapping this transformation, and for the first time we have contemporary picture-maps and perspectives showing us what London looked like, though the first surveyed maps date from the 1670s and 1680s. The Fire itself, while destroying four-fifths of the walled city, generated plentiful documentation that allows quite detailed reconstruction of most of the burnt areas. The real challenge is to collect and collate all the data needed to present a map covering the whole of London, without drowning in detail. By the time of this lecture, the project to create such a map will be well under way, and I will report on progress, challenges encountered, decisions made, and first glimpses of the finished product.

10th March 2026

Emily Gee

Hostel, House and Chambers: Accommodating the working woman in Victorian and Edwardian London

A vast wave of Edwardian women working in cities created an urgent need for an affordable and respectable new business-minded enterprise: the single woman's hostel. This talk



Image: *Historic England Archive.*

describes the campaigns to house a new generation of intrepid working women, the specialized design of the buildings, and the women whose lives were changed by this remarkable architecture.

14th April 2026
Nathalie Cohen
National Trust Archaeology in London and Middlesex



Osterley House, London. *Image: National Trust*

This talk will present information about some of the National Trust's properties in the Greater London area located across 15 of the 32 boroughs. The presentation will discuss the wide variety of archaeological sites cared for by the conservation charity located within a range of urban and suburban contexts, from grand mansions (such as Osterley and Ham House) to landscapes and parklands, plus some of the Trust's smaller properties and curiosities like the Strand Lane Roman Bath.

12th May 2026
Diane Abrams
Archaeology Lead, Houses of Parliament Restoration and Renewal
Archaeology at the Palace of Westminster



Image: *Houses of Parliament Restoration & Renewal*

This talk will focus on the history and archaeology of the Palace of Westminster and my role as Archaeology Lead at Houses of Parliament Restoration and Renewal. Learn about the approach we are taking to understanding archaeological significance and survival across the site to inform future design and management on this major programme while also enhancing existing research on this part of the World Heritage Site.

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BBC Drama – King & Conqueror



William (left) and Harold (right). *Image**: bbc.co.uk/iPlayer***

The epic struggle between Harold Godwinson (played by James Norton) and William Duke of Normandy (played by Nikolaj Coster-Waldu) for the English crown is the plot of a new 8-part BBC drama. Nikolaj has admitted in an interview that 'lots of liberties [have been taken] in terms of the story and accuracy […]. *If* you want an accurate story … then you may be disappointed (*Times2* cover story 'The Real Game of Thrones' 16/8/25). The dramatic events that preceded and followed William's victory at Hastings in October 1066 are a script writer's dream and require no embellishment to produce great drama. No spoiler alert as we know who the victor was. However, it is sometimes forgotten that William's victory did not immediately win him the throne of England. He was not crowned until Christmas Day 1066 as the City London (already England's largest and richest urban centre) initially refused to accept him as king. William was obliged to undertake a campaign to compel London to surrender. William was presumably infuriated by this delay but rather than resort to extreme violence, he chose to negotiate with the rebellious Londoners. Immediately after the City surrendered William collectively punished its leading citizens by seizing and then selling back to them their port facility. To ensure that the City never rebelled again three fortresses were constructed by the Normans inside its walls, one of which (the Tower) still exists. London's complex relationship with William is reconsidered in an article in *LAMAS Trans* 75, due to be published in November 2025. Series 1 (Episodes 1-8) are currently available to view on BBC iPlayer.

Bruce Watson

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Excavations at the Chapel Royal in the Tower of London
St Peter ad Vincula



The parish church of St Peter ad Vincula. ***Photo:*** *The Times 16/7/25*

Tucked away in the north-west corner of the inmost ward of the Tower of London is the fortress's parish church known as St Peter ad Vincula. Its existence was first documented in 1128-35 and by 1157 its cemetery was documented. Until the early 19th century this cemetery was used by the parishioners or residents of the Tower and their families, including its garrison, prisoners, and employees of the mint and the armoury. In 2019 small-scale excavations uncovered two burials from this cemetery, but a new and larger excavation in 2025 conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) working for Historic Royal Palaces with oversight from Historic England, expanded from a small intervention to the most extensive archaeological investigation at the Tower in decades covering both the chapel interior and adjacent ground. Over 20 additional burials were uncovered, bringing the total (including earlier work) to around 50 individuals. Burials span from the late 12th century to the Tudor period, including a 14th century mass grave likely linked to the Black Death, high status burials from the later 12th – early 13th century, and a child burial from Edward I's reign cutting through earlier chapel remains. DNA testing is planned on the 14th century mass burials to confirm whether they were victims of *Yersinia pestis* bacterium. The aim is to identify the pathogen and add to the growing genomic record of medieval plague strains. Sources: *The Times* and *Daily Express* 16/7/25; Historic Royal Palaces, Medievalist.net and Secret London.com webpages (accessed 08/9/25).

Bruce Watson & Jane Wheeler.

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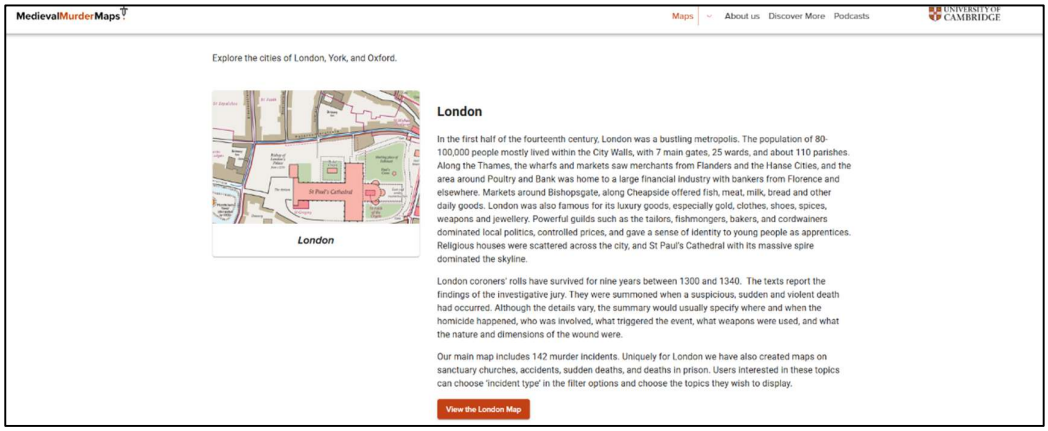
Medieval Murder Map of London

We have a fascination with crime, particularly murder and its investigation, which is a popular theme of novels and TV dramas. There are online *Medieval Murder Maps* for the cities of London, Oxford and York - see https;//medievalmurdermap.co.uk



Screenshot of the Medieval Murder Maps webpage (just the London section).
© VRC Maps 2025** via **medievalmurdermap.co.uk/maps

The interactive map for London (based on the Historic Towns Trust mapping) shows the location and documentary background for 149 homicides, including the murder of Roger Ingleby in 1339 on London Bridge. His stabbing was investigated by the City's sheriffs and coroner who identified his three attackers. One of whom had been arrested on the spot by members of the public and taken to Newgate Goal. The other two were not immediately apprehended, so the City's sheriffs were instructed to locate them and bring them to justice.

Podcasts are also available on the site. Delving into the world of violent crimes in the streets, taverns and privy chambers of these three 14th century cities. Episodes cover Sanctuary, A Medieval Midsummer's Nightmare, From Prayer to Murder, Students Riots and much more.

Bruce Watson & Jane Wheeler

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Central London Young Archaeologists' Club

Due to the holiday period there have been no YAC activities over the summer. We look forward to receiving news of autumn and winter events which will be published in the January 2026 Newsletter.

And remember the forthcoming LAMAS Lecture on 13th January.

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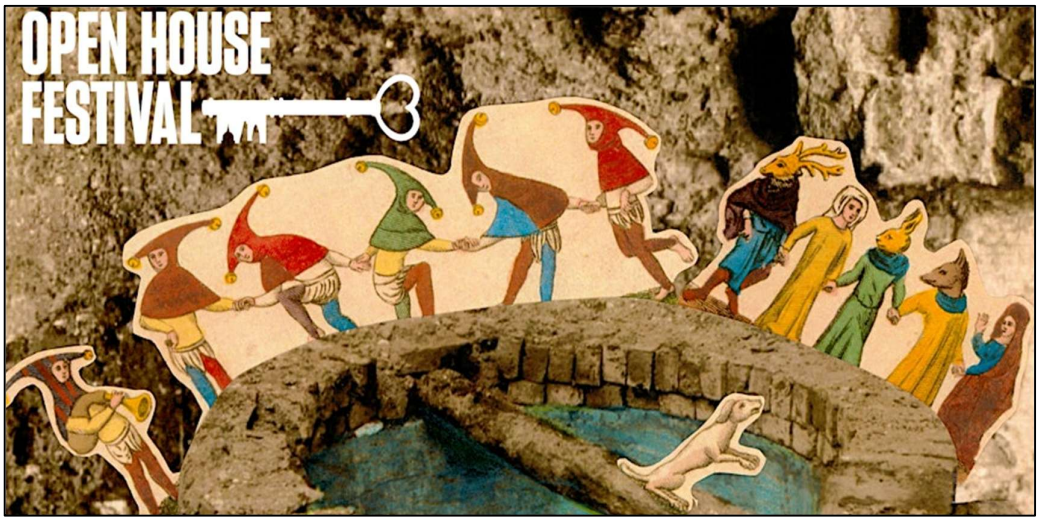
EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

Events at Islington Archives
Clerks' Well Open Evening – No Booking required
Drop-in Open Event
Tuesday 16th September 2025 – 4pm - 7pm
16 Farringdon Lane, London, EC1R 3AU



Part of this year's Open House festival presents the opportunity to view the Clerks' Well which dates to the 12th century. Owing its name to the parish clerks of London who would perform biblical plays around it and becoming so notable that Clerkenwell was named after it. By the 19th century the water supply had diminished and become heavily polluted and, as a result, the local vestry closed the well. It filled with rubble and disappeared from maps, being rediscovered in 1924 with the redevelopment of Farringdon Lane. Today, the Grade I listed well is usually accessible only by appointment, so this open evening is a unique opportunity to see one of the area's hidden gems. *Note: there is limited space to view the well, so only a small number of people may be inside at any one time.*

Archives Drop-in: All Politics is Local
Thursday 25th September 2025 – 4pm - 7pm
Free Event but please book a timed slot/ticket
More info:
Archives Drop-In: All Politics is Local Tickets, Thu, Sep 25, 2025 at 4:00 PM | Eventbrite
Finsbury Library, 245 John Street, London, EC1V 4NB

Islington Archives opens its doors for its monthly drop in where you can view a display from its fascinating collections. Islington has been home to a number of pioneering political figures, such as Britain's first Asian MP, the first Black women Mayor of the Borough, and the first openly gay Mayor in England. The drop-in event will feature a display of unique items relating to some of these political figures.

South Churchyard Gardens, St Paul's Cathedral
St Paul's Churchyard, London, EC4M 8AD
Saving St Paul's: The Watch and The Second World War
Free Outdoor Exhibition and un-ticketed
Runs through until October 2025

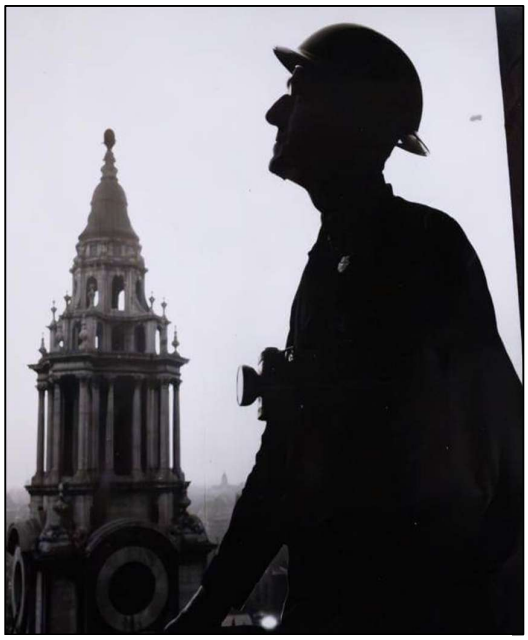


Photo Image: *St. Paul's Cathedral.*

Walk around to the south side of St Paul's Cathedral where there is an on-going exhibition marking the 80th year since the end of WWII. The secret to the survival of St Paul's was down to more than just luck, but rather to the bravery and dedication of a group called the St Paul's Watch whose commitment saved the Cathedral from the fate of its neighbouring buildings and the destruction of the then urban landscape. The pictures and accompanying text tell this story and show the devastation of the wartime bombing raids.

The Bank of England Museum
Entrance to the museum is on Bartholomew Lane, London, EC2R 8AH
Building the Bank – 100 years on
From 16th September 2025 onwards to spring 2027
Opening Times: 10am -5pm – Monday to Friday (last entry 4.30pm)
Free Entrance – No booking required

This new exhibition explores the demolition of the majority of the Sir John Soane's bank and its rebuilding and expansion under Sir Herbert Baker that began 100 years ago. This new exhibition offers a window into the bank's lost architectural splendours and its subsequent rebirth. The exhibition also displays Roman artefacts discovered as a result of the 20th century rebuild.



Photo: Bank of England Museum.

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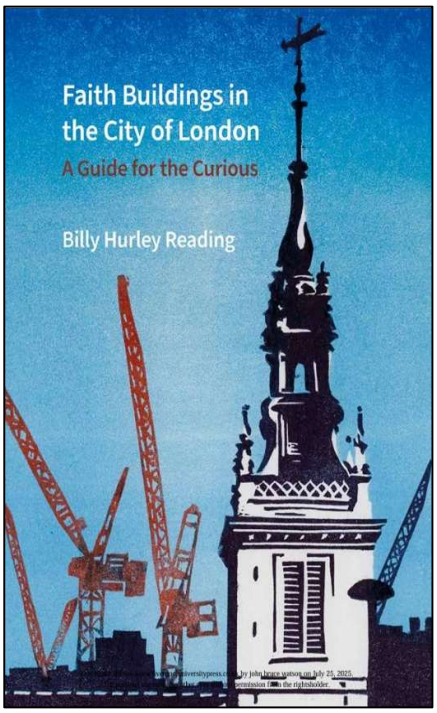
Book Review

Faith Buildings in the City of London: a Guide for the Curious by Billy Hurley Reading, Historic England, published by Liverpool University Press, 2025, Pages 168, 95 figures and one site location plan, ISBN:9781836244523. Hardback £32, Ebook £20.



The City of London, despite the terrible destruction caused by the Great Fire of 1666 (when 86 of the City's 107 parish churches and its cathedral were destroyed), Victorian demolition (between 1860 and 1897 when 15 churches were demolished) and the Blitz (1940-41 when at least 14 churches were either badly damaged or destroyed) still possesses an amazing ecclesiastical heritage, which for centuries has attracted visitors and inspired architectural authors. It is this pattern of cycles of destruction and rebuilding that sets the City apart from other historic English centres such as Canterbury, Norwich and York, which still possess their historic cathedrals and many of their medieval parish churches.

This guide consists of illustrated descriptions of 46 places of worship (45 are run by various Christian denominations and one is Jewish). The only one of these places of worship I never visited is Capel Jewin (rebuilt in 1956-61) the Welsh Presbyterian Church in Fann Street.

The author's main criteria for selecting sites seems to have been their 'atmosphere' - hence the inclusion of the some rather dark and moody photographs of the exteriors of certain churches. Personally, I would have included St Paul's Cathedral and at least one of the City's ruined parish churches. Sir Christopher Wren the architect of St Paul's Cathedral and co-designer of many of the City's parish churches rebuilt after the Great Fire is buried in the crypt of his baroque cathedral under a plain black marble slab. On the adjoining wall a tablet bears the inscription *Si monumentum requiris, circumspice* (if you seek his monument look around). I think that anyone who wants to appreciate Wren's contribution to the City's architecture should start by visiting his grave and St Paul's. I have always been struck by the modesty of Wren's grave which is in complete contrast to the much larger and more ornate tombs of practically everyone else who is buried there. I believe that the ruins of Christ Church, Newgate Street (which I investigated in 1998) and St Dunstan-in-the- East

(this garden is a wonderful place to picnic) both possess tremendous presence. So, their exclusion was disappointing. One problem that the author did not mention is getting access to some of these buildings as many are now frequently closed. However, almost all of these places of worship should be open during the **annual London Open House Festival (13th – 21st September 2025**).

The selected places of worship are grouped chronologically with some informative introductory text in the format of a seasonal calendar. The first chapter (winter) covers the handful of medieval survivors; I found this choice of metaphor surprising as the medieval period marked the establishment and growth of many churches - spring seems a more appropriate description of this period. The second (spring) covers the post-Great Fire rebuilding. The third (summer) describes the rebuilding of a few churches during the 18th and 19th centuries, while the fourth (autumn) covers both the impact of the Victorian destruction and the Blitz and its aftermath. The fifth and final chapter, entitled 'Beating the Bounds', reminds us that: *Faith buildings sit at the heart of the City of London, their histories intertwined. Today, however, churches seem diminished; physically dwarfed by vast commercial skyscrapers, but also in their psychological and societal importance. Yet they remain highly symbolic fixtures in the urban landscape and retain a persistent societal appeal; there is a collective religious subconsciousness that underpins society, even if we enter a post-Christian era.*

Each of the descriptive texts on the various places of worship are concise and address the different characteristics of each of these buildings, highlighting some features of interest that a visitor may easily miss. For instance, the modernist stained glass window depicting Dick Whittington (who lived next door to this church and was Lord Mayor of London three times) in St Michael's Paternoster is described and illustrated (fig 4.17). The architectural mishmash of St Mary Woolnoth is aptly described as 'confusing', whilst St Mary Moorfields is described as 'a hidden secret' as its unintrusive entrance is flanked by shops.

The book is well-illustrated by many colour photographs and a lot of archival black and white images. However, I did not like any of the author's 'atmospheric' views of churches. I am strongly in favour of encouraging people to explore the City's architectural heritage, which is exactly what this book does so it should be commended, but I feel that the selection of the places of worship and the subject matter of some of the author's photographs have been strongly influenced by the author's personal view which results in a slightly flawed and biased publication.

Bruce Watson

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AFFILIATED SOCIETY MEETINGS

Readers are advised to check with local societies if planning to attend lectures. Please check society websites.

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

10 September 2025
Acton Farms and Farming, Anthony Smith

8 October 2025
Postcards of West London, Paul Lang

12 November 2025
Agatha Christie and Ealing, Jonathan Oates

10 December 2025
Seasonal Quiz

14 January 2026 at AEC Southall, Park Royal Vehicles and London Transport's Chiswick Works
AEC Routemaster and the London Bus and its West London Connections, David Shailes

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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

Note from the Editor: At the time of going to press for the LAMAS September Newsletter the above website and email could not be reached/failed.

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.

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

13 October 2025
The East End at War: Blitzed, Battered but Never Beaten, John Lynch

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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.

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

20 November 2025 – Special Talk at St Lawrence's Catholic Church Hall, Hamilton Road, Sidcup (£5 Members, £8 Non-Members or £10 after 1 October)
Stonehenge, the Sun and Moon, Professor Clive Ruggles, Astronomer, Archaeologist, Academic and Author

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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

Note from the Editor: No autumn programme/lectures currently posted on the society's website.

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

7 October 2025
The History of our Local Hospitals, Dr Adrian Thomas

4 November 2025
TBA, Peter Robson

2 December 2025
The Development of Bus Services in Bromley, Cllr Nicholas Bennett

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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 visit: www.camdenhistorysociety.org. Non-members are invited to join the Society.

15 September 2025 – Hampstead Parish Church, Church Row, NW3 6UU
The Journals of Henry Sharpe, Helen Lawrence (includes book launch)

23 October 2025 - Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library
Mary Somerville: a Mathematician in Regency London, Brigitte Stenhouse

6 November 2025 - Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library
'To make nobler and more humanly enjoyable the life of the great city': the work of The Survey of London, Colin Thom

4 December 2025 - Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library
London's Italian Soldiers in the First World War, Selena Daly

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Camden New Town History Group

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

17 September 2025
George Bernard Shaw and Camden, Tudor Allen

15 October 2025
Agincourt Peace Negotiations, Lester Hillman

19 November 2025
History of Primrose Hill, Martin Sheppard

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

16 September 2025
Son of Prophecy: the Origin of the Tudors, Nathen Amin

21 October 2025
Reflections of a Rifleman: the First World War Memoir of Walter Edward James, Linda Rhodes

18 November 2025
The Bermondsey Murder, Dr Angela Buckley

16 December 2025
Christmas Programme – NB all places must be pre-booked and a charge is made for refreshments

20 January 2026
500 Years of Irish Women in Tower Hamlets, Breda Corish

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

17 September 2025 – 2pm
Private visit to Canonbury Tower, Islington – contact: iheritage1@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to join

19 September 2025
Lecture by National Trust Archaeologist Natalie Cohen on recent discoveries around Bodiam Castle. * *Note – St Olave's may not be usable due to ongoing wi-fi issues – this lecture may be remote and online only.*

A note from the Editor: Rose Baille is somewhat indisposed at the moment – and we all wish her a full recovery. Please keep an eye on the society's webpage for updates for the autumn/winter lecture programme. In the meantime – Get Well Soon Rose.

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.

20 October June 2025
Revd. John Flamsteed first Astronomer Royal and the early history of the Royal Greenwich Observatory, Tony Roberts

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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

17 September 2025 at 8pm
The Rude Multitude: Disputes over Enfield Chase in the 17th and 18th centuries, Martin Paine

15 October 2025 at 3pm
The Gunpowder Plot, Richard Thomas

19 November 2025 at 3pm
150 Years of Christ Church, Enfield Chase Side, Stephen Gilburt

17 December 2025 at 3pm
Festive Meeting

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

24 September 2025 11.00 am
The Life and Times of Samuel Pepys, John Halligan

2 October 2025
The Disgraceful Sons of George III, Janie Ramsey

22 October 2025 (charge of £7)
Life and Work of Philip Larkin, Prof. Blake Morrison

6 November 2025
Mr Gregory's Boys and how they are Commemorated, Margaret Taylor

4 December 2025
Old Eltham, John Kenneth

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.

10 October 2025 – via Zoom
Tudor Coin Hoards in England and Wales, Murray Andrews

14 November 2025
The Battle of Barnet 1471, Peter Masters

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).

5 September 2025 – Curator's Pick 2.30pm. Free *but* booking required
Tower Gardens, N17: Cottage Garden Suburb and 'Jewel in the Heart of Tottenham' – a Resident's Perspective, Ruth Crowley

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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 *Editor's Note: Autumn/winter programme not currently detailed/updated on the society website.*

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.

Editor's Note: No events are currently scheduled on the society's webpage.

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 Patricia Berguer on 020 8368 8314.

24 September 2025
John Betjeman, Terence Atkins

22 October 2025
The Miners' Strike, Nick Jones

26 November 2025
How the Trains came to Barnet, Dennis Bird

3 December 2025
Christmas Meal

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.

7 October 2025 – 6pm – AGM at Shoreditch Arts Club

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

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

21 October 2025 2pm for a 2.15pm start
TBA

18 November 2025 2pm for a 2.15pm start
(Re)discovering another place in West London, Joanna Dudzinska, Ealing Walking Talking and Exploring

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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

14 October 2025
Our Cross to Bear: Chalk carvings in the Central Chilterns, Dr Wendy Morrison

11 November 2025
Pre Fire Churches of the City of London: churches lost to the Great Fire of London in 1666, Dr Signe Hoffos

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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

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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

30 September 2025
Brentford Gas Works, David Shailes

28 October 2025
The Home Guard in Hounslow and Feltham during WW2, Max Carrington

25 November 2025 via Zoom
Hanworth and its Palace, James Marshall

27 January 2026 via Zoom
Thames Islands, Nick Pollard

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

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

15 October 2025
Windrush Arrival, John Price

19 November 2025
Encounters in the New World: local links to Virginia in the early 17th century, Pat and Barbara Elliott (nibbles included!)

21 January 2026
My Year in Archaeology, Les Capon

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

11 October 2025
Blueprinting History: Cyanotype Printing on Textiles, Cathy Corbishley Michel

8 November 2025 AGM followed by
Merton Court Rolls Transcription Project, Peter Hopkins
Researching Local Businesses, Norma Cox

13 December 2025
William Kilburn, botanical illustrator and eminent calico printer, Alison Cousins, Wandle Industrial Museum

9 January 2026
Herbal Heritage, Local Folklore, Roy Vickery

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 or visit the 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).

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

1 October 2025
Excavations in Kent, Rebecca Haslam, Project Manager, AOC Archaeology Group

5 November 2025
The Cheapside Hoard, Hazel Forsyth, Curator of Post Medieval Collections at the London Museum

3 December 2025 AGM followed by
Social and ODAS Review

7 January 2026 – Online via Zoom
TBC

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

9 October 2025
Hendon: London's First Aerodrome, Mark Amies

6 November 2025
The Story of the Guinness Park Royal Brewery, 1936-2005, David Hughes

4 December 2025 – TBC
The History of the Rickmansworth Aquadrome, Chris Hillier

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

10 October 2025
Conquest and Change in the Hinterland of Roman Alchester: impact, development and legacy, Becky Haslam, Project Manager (Post Excavation) AOC

14 November 2025
Death on the Thames, Dr Jane Sidell (Historic England)

12 December 2025
The Fishful Thames: Fish and Fishing on the River through Time, Nathalie Cohen (National Trust)

9 January 2026
LIDAR and its use in Surrey, Dr Anne Sassin (National Trust)

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

13 October 2025
Old Q, David Fleming

10 November 2025
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Richmond, Will Reid

8 December 2025
Emma Hamilton, Richmond and the cult of celebrity, Alan Hertz

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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

24 September 2025 AGM followed by
Movie Night

29 October 2025
The Bermondsey Murder, Angela Buckley

26 November 2025
TBA

17 December 2025
Christmas Special

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

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)

21 October 2025 AGM followed by
Hillforts of the Chilterns Landscape, Dr Wendy Morrison, Archaeology Manager for the Chilterns National Landscape

18 November 2025
WW2 Codebreaking – The Wartime link with America and Eastcote during and after the war, Ronald Koorm, Author and Military Historian

16 December 2025
Members' Christmas Social Meeting with talks on **A Thousand Years of the Grange, Northwood,** RNELHS Research Group

20 January 2026
Sir Joseph Bazelgette and the Great Stink, Stephen Fielding, Heritage Programme Manager, Habitats & Heritage Trust

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Southgate District Civic Voice

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

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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.

Editor's Note: No information regarding events/talks etc. is listed on the society's webpage.

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.

2 October 2025 – Staines Methodist Church
Lord Lucan, Laleham and Land, Pat Talbot

The Thorney Island Society

The Society organises talks and visits to places of interest in the Westminster area throughout the year. Non-members welcome although some visits are for members only. **Booking essential**.
See website at https://thethorneyislandsociety.org.uk/ttis/index.php for details of how to book or email info@thethorneyislandsociety.org.uk

16 September 2025 6.30pm at The Onion Garden, Seaforth Place SW1H 0QH
The Unique Legacy of the Iconic Crystal Palace, Victor Keegan
Eventbrite Link: Talk - The unique legacy of the iconic Crystal Palace

23 September 2025 Visit at 4.30pm
Visit to the Muniments Room and Library at Westminster Abbey
Eventbrite Link: Visit - The Muniments Room and Library at Westminster Abbey

1 October 2025 – 6.30pm at The Onion Garden, Seaforth Place SW1H 0QH
Historic Street Name Plates – Thorney Island and Beyond, Simon Morris
Eventbrite Link: Historic Street Name Plates – Thorney Island and Beyond

4 October 2025 10.30 am – 3.30 pm Workshop at Westminster City Archives, 10 St Ann's Street, SW1P 2DE
"Threads of Elegance" Conservation Workshop
Eventbrite Link: Threads of Elegance Conservation Workshop

4 October 2025 – 11.00am at Hide Tower, Regency Street, SW1P 4AA
The Lone Skyscraper by Vincent Square, Victor Keegan
Eventbrite Link: The Lone Skyscraper by Vincent Square

20 November 2025 10.30 am – 4.00 **pm** Workshop at Westminster City Archives, 10 St Ann's Street, SW1P 2DE
"Threads of Elegance" Conservation Workshop
Eventbrite Link: Threads of Elegance Conservation Workshop

21 November 2025. 6.30 pm at The Grey Coat Hospital, Greycoat Place, SW1P 2DY
Grey Coats at War: Schoolgirls and Alumnae in the 1940s, Penny Swann
Eventbrite Link: Grey Coats at War: Schoolgirls and Alumnae in the 1940s

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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.

6 October 2025
Hampton Court in Camera, Ian Franklin (Retired HRP Warder)

3 November 2025
"A Road Through Time" – Writing the History of Winchendon Road, Teddington, Dr Christopher French (BOTLHS)

1 December 2025
The Alan Urwin Memorial Lecture – The Stolen Crown: Treachery, Deceit and the Death of the Tudor Dynasty, Tracy Borman (Chief Historian HRP)

5 January 2026 - Social Evening: A Seasonal Surprise, Paul Barnfield (BOTLHS)

2 February 2026
Gardens and People of Twickenham Park, Andrew George (BOTLHS)

Uxbridge Local History and Archive Society

All meetings take place at Christ Church, Redford Way (off Belmont Road), Uxbridge, UB8 1SZ. For further information please contact Nicholas Schofield, The Presbytery, Osborn Road, Uxbridge, UB8 1UE; Email njschofield@hotmail.com

16 September 2025 - 7.30pm
Rambles around Uxbridge: In the Footsteps of an Edwardian, Fiona Brewer and Paul Graham

21 October 2025 - 7.30pm
The Number 7: Trams, Trolleybuses and Omnibuses in Uxbridge, Chris Hogan

18 November 2025 - 7.30pm
Faith after the First World War: Woodbine Willie – A Seeker After Truth, Rev. Andrew Studdert-Kennedy (his grandson)

20 January 2026 - 2.30pm
Unseen Local Photographs, Ken Pearce

17 February 2026 - 7.30pm
The Uxbridge Yeomanry Cavalry, Lt-Col (ret'd) Mike Lansdown

17 March 2026 - 7.30pm
British Slavery and Abolition in Hillingdon & Uxbridge, Dr Inge Dornan

21 April 2026 - 7.30pm - AGM followed by
Blooming Uxbridge: The Story of the Biggest Cut-Flower Nursery in the UK, Tony Mitchell

19 May 2026 - 7.30pm
Mercenary River: Private Greed, Public Good: A History of London's Water, Nick Higham (former BBC correspondent)

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

25 September 2025
Medical Officer of Health Reports for Walthamstow, Ross MacFarlane

23 October 2025
London's 'Magnificent' Seven, Surender Sharma

27 November 2025
Slate-trade Abolition & Leytonstone House: the Sansoms, the Bustons and Black History, Claire Weiss with Peter Ashan and Geoff Nichols

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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

26 September 2025 - Members Evening

31 October 2025
Fascinating Finds from the Tideway Excavations at Iron Age Barn Elms, Mike Curnow

28 November 2025 via Zoom
Shakespearian Playhouses, Heather Knight, MOLA

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".

4 October 2025
The Street Nameplates of Whitechapel, Simon Morris

6 December 2025
TBC

Willesden Local History Society

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



Willesden Local History Society

Covering Brondesbury, Cricklewood, Dollis Hill, Harlesden, Kensal Green, Kensal Rise, Kilburn, Mapesbury, Neasden, Stonebridge, Oxgate, Park Royal, Queen's Park and Willesden Green

17 September 2025
Cricklewood Library: Saved for the Community!, Sally Long

15 October 2025
Street Signs in Willesden, Simon Morris

12 November 2025
Volunteer for the International Brigade, Dave Chapple

10 December 2025
Christmas Party at 'The Grange' Neasden Lane

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