Issue 177 May 2026

LAMAS NEWSLETTER

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Festival of Britain, South Bank Exhibition, The '51 Bar, South Bank, Lambeth. Architect Leonard Manasseh won a 1950 competition for the design of a luxury restaurant for the Festival of Britain. The water tower, capable of holding 50,000 gallons, supplied its contents to the adjacent Power and Production Pavilion. The Bar is integrated with the Tower at its second storey. The structure was demolished shortly after the Festival closed.

Source: Historic England Archive op35895 dated 15 June 1951
(coloured/border enhancement J. Wheeler 13 May 2026).

CONTENTS	Page
Notices	2
60th LAMAS History Conference	5
62nd LAMAS Archaeologists Conference	7
Looking Back at LAMAS: 1976 Newsletter	12
Hackney Borough Disinfecting Station	15
Young Archaeologists' Club Report	18
Affiliated Society Meetings	21

NOTICES

Editor's Introduction

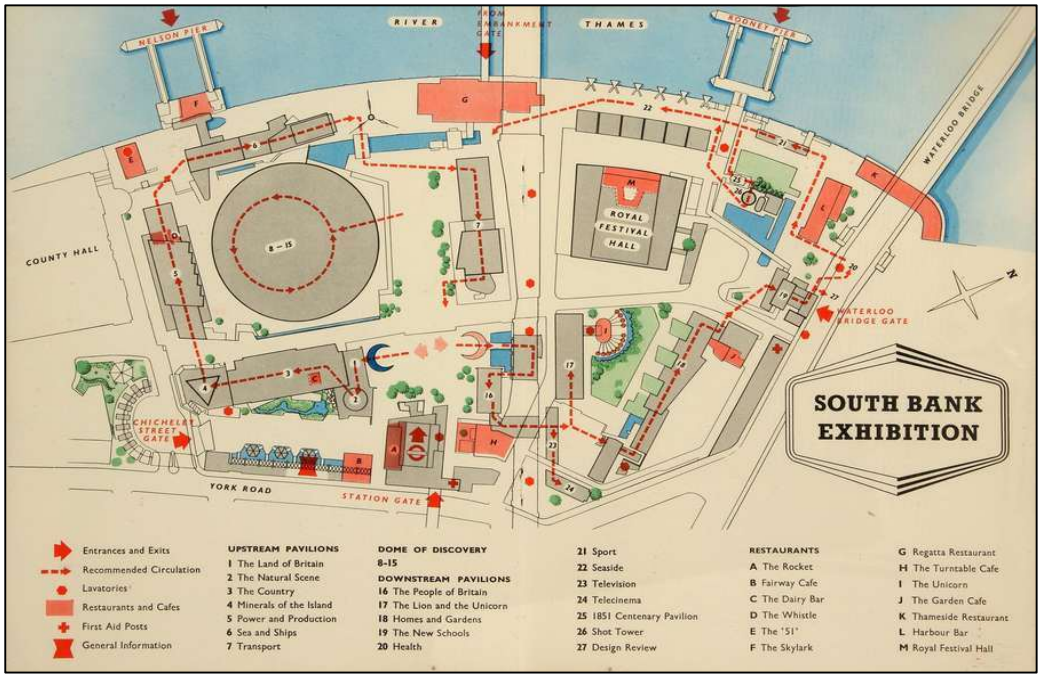
Seventy-five years ago the Festival of Britain (1951) was conceived as a national act of renewal. A showcase of modern design, science, and civic optimism after the austerity of the Second World War. Whilst it marked the centenary of the 1851 Great Exhibition, its purpose was more psychological than commemorative: to reinvigorate public morale, to demonstrate Britain's creative and technological vitality, and symbolically rebuild the nation's identity amid post-war reconstruction. The South Bank embodied this ambition – temporary pavilions, the Skylon, Dome of Discovery, and venues like the '51 Bar, all celebrated a forward-looking, democratic modernism accessible to all.



The Lion Brewery and the Shot Tower (built 1826 and formerly part of Walker, Parker & Co (producers of lead shot for firearms), was repurposed as a striking vertical landmark (fitted with radio beacon and observation platform for the Festival of Britain) linking the industrial past with the modernist future. It was eventually demolished in 1962 to make way for the Queen Elizabeth Hall and Hayward Gallery.

Source: Historic England Archive op35873 dated 11 October 1949

Within a year, the Festival's physical and political legacy was dismantled. The 1951 general election brought a change of government, and the new Conservative administration viewed the Festival as a Labour sponsored showcase for socialist planning rather than a neutral cultural event. Almost every structure, except the Royal Festival Hall (which was always intended to be a permanent venue), was demolished in 1952/53, erasing the architectural record, leaving only



Plan of the Festival of Britain site from the official guide to the exhibition.

Source: nationalarchives.gov.uk Catalogue Ref. ZLIB 17/129A.

photographs and plans, film, and scattered artefacts. The decision was ideological and practical: the South Bank was earmarked for redevelopment. The temporary buildings never intended to last. This rapid clearance meant the festival's archaeological footprint vanished almost overnight. Remains survive only in archives and images, making it a rare case where a major national event left no physical stratigraphy – only memory and documentation. The Festival's disappearance mirrors its purpose. It was a vision of a future Britain, not a monument to the past. Its near complete erasure from the landscape underscores how political mood and material impermanence can shape what endures in the archaeological record.

The Festival of Britain is now remembered as a moment of national optimism. Its construction involved the total erasure of the earlier Lambeth riverside. In turn, its demolition in 1952/3 erased the Festival itself. No PPG16-style safeguards protected below ground footprints of structures of the Festival of Britain. It was erased in ground and memory alike. A pattern still repeated across London where political and financial pressures drive redevelopment faster than preservation. In contrast the Millennium Dome, despite being designed as temporary, has been saved by cost (demolition was too expensive) and opportunity. Similarly the London Eye: originally granted 5-year temporary planning consent – constructed in 1999. After four years as Hon. Editor, it is time to hand the Newsletter on. A reminder that, like the city's shifting sites, stewardship is always temporary.

Jane Wheeler

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SEPTEMBER Newsletter*: *Next LAST SUBMISSION Date
by ***Friday 11th September 2026.***

Articles, news, and items for inclusion should be submitted prior to the cut-off date. Word document, with text font ***Times Roman 14'*** to the Interim co-editors:

Karen Thomas - secretary@lamas.org.uk

or

Richard Hebblethwaite - marketing@lamas.org.uk



Please mark emails : FOR NEWSLETTER.



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LAMAS Membership 2025/2026

At the time of writing at the start of May we are near the end of this season's LAMAS lecture series, and the membership numbers are approximately 5% down on the same time last year. What has caused this decline in membership is hard to say. I have had a few members tell me that they are reducing the number of organisations that they subscribe to. The number of new members this year is the same as last year, but the number who have not renewed at this stage of the year is up by over 50%. If you have not renewed your membership this year it is not too late to do so. Thank you.

And, if you have any suggestions about how to increase the LAMAS Membership do let me know.

The new LAMAS website finally went live on 23 June 2025. There have been a few issues which required attention. A number of members are finding it useful, and logging on to book tickets for LAMAS events is simpler. If you have not logged on and LAMAS has an email address, you can set your password by going to the login screen, clicking on "Lost your password?" and following the instructions given. See www.lamas.org.uk .

Member access to the website was designed for personal members, but if you are representing an Affiliated or Corporate/Institutional member, you can have access, just ask me. Eventually it would be good to have an interface designed specifically for these member types.

Any questions, comments or changes regarding your LAMAS membership or your account on the website (https://www.lamas.org.uk/my-account/) 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
membership@lamas.org.uk

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LAMAS 60th History Conference
Saturday 21st November 2026 : 10.30-17.30
Wilberforce Room, London Museum Docklands
West India Quay, London, E14 4AL

An Intelligent Interest: Learning and Education in London



Please join us at the London Museum Docklands for the 2026 LAMAS History Conference on the theme of Learning and Education 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 finish around 5.30pm.

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

- 'Publicly funded education in endowed London secondary schools leading up to the First World War and its role in facilitating social mobility' (Dr Andrew Whittaker)
- 'Life Opportunities provided through secondary education in Tower Hamlets between the Wars' (Robert Kemp)
- Keynote: 'The Social Wreckage in our Streets: The Deptford Ragged School and its surrounding neighbourhood' (Dr John Price)
- 'Designing Pinnock's Catechisms, 1812-1828, a popular schoolbook and juvenile encyclopaedia' (Margaret Lock)
- 'Educating Pinner: The History of Pinner National Schools' (Pinner Local History Society)

- ‘Learning to Resist: Black Supplementary Schools in London’ (Jo Large)
- ‘The London housewife at the turn of the twentieth century; learning from everyday life, familial connections, and the Electrical Association for Women’ (Lucy Wood)

Societies and organisations requiring a free exhibition table should e-mail Oliver Harris via history@lamas.org.uk **before 1 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 via history@lamas.org.uk to arrange that.

The LAMAS Publications Awards for 2025 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/

Ticket prices:
As you will be aware, the cost of living and the price of most things has risen sharply in recent years, and this is reflected in the ever-increasing costs for staging the conference. Although LAMAS can absorb some of these increases, we have been left with no option but to raise ticket prices.

We still feel that the full-day conference, with seven presentations, exhibition stalls, and afternoon refreshments, still represents excellent value for money, especially with the ‘early-bird’ discount.

Early-bird tickets (purchased online before 1 November 2026) = £17.50
Standard tickets (purchased online after 1 November 2026) = £21.00
Last-minute tickets (purchased in person on the day, subject to availability, = £25.00. Card payments can be made on the day.

John Price
Local History Committee

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LAMAS 62nd Annual Conference of London Archaeologists
21st March 2026

This year's conference was held at the London Museum Docklands. As usual the morning session was devoted to recent fieldwork, and the afternoon to the thematic.

The morning session began with the presentation of the 2025 Ralph Merrifield Award to Pamela Greenwood. The presentation was made by Ralph's widow Jenny. For over 50 years Pamela has made an invaluable contribution the archaeology of Greater London including working with the Wandsworth Historical Society (see *LAMAS Newsletter* no 174, May 2025, p.11), directing numerous excavations for the Passmore Edwards Museum and researching the Iron Age of east London.

Morning Session - Recent fieldwork

New Discoveries at Woolwich Arsenal by Isca Howell (Museum of London Archaeology – MOLA).



A late medieval tile-built kiln with three stoke holes being recorded at Woolwich Arsenal ***© MOLA.***

The 2023-4 excavations were carried out in advance of the construction of new riverside residential development. Fieldwork revealed another length of the huge (12.5m wide x 5.3m deep) Middle Iron Age (4th to 1st centuries BC) linear ditch recently excavated by Oxford Archaeology. The latest discovery of this ditch was only partly excavated due to a depth restriction. It is assumed that this ditch encircled an Iron Age riverside settlement or emporium The excavations also revealed the remains of six kilns of late Medieval or Tudor date - which it is believed produced a variety of ceramic building materials. The best-preserved kiln was

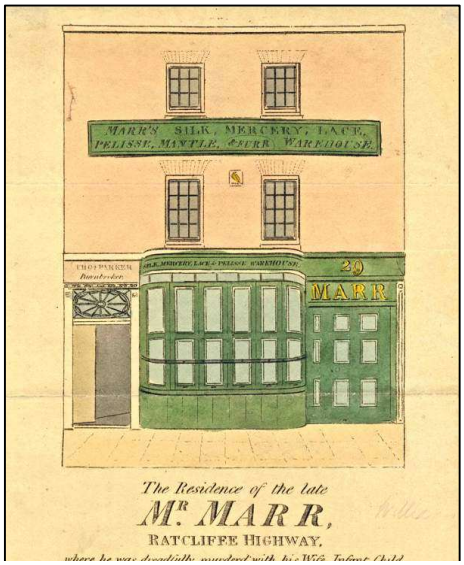
rectangular (measuring 4.85 x 3.60m) and constructed of bricks with three stoke holes. Associated finds included what appears to be a stove tile depicting a lion's head in relief. The other five kilns were apparently all of a similar design, except that they were constructed of roofing tiles. One of these kilns was associated with waste floor tiles identical to examples used at Eltham Palace and Lesnes Abbey during the 14th century (see *LAMAS Trans* 33, 1982, p.238).

Post-Medieval Finds at the Segro site, Wapping by Alex Blanks (MOLA).
Excavations during 2024-5 at Ratcliff revealed a Roman cask-lined well and a small, isolated fragment of a Roman mosaic floor which had subsided into a pit. This unexpected discovery implies the existence of a high-status Roman building. In 1536 on part of the site Nicholas Gibson established some almshouses for the elderly (latterly known as Coopers' Almshouses), a chapel and a boys' school. By the late 18th century this area of Ratcliff was known as 'Sailor Town' and had a reputation for poverty and drunkenness. Ratcliff was devastated by fire in 1794 and its subsequent redevelopment was represented on site by the brick-built cellars of terraced houses. In the backyards of these properties were numerous brick-lined cesspits, wells and soakaways. Finds recovered from these features included the base of a Château Margaux wine bottle, a bone-turned section of a telescope and an Ottoman clay tobacco pipe. A drain within the site of the school revealed numerous Victorian ceramic alleys (or marbles) and small ceramic figurines of people and animals - interpreted as lost toys. Another school related find was a fragmentary writing slate.

A view from Londinium's northern hinterland: the farmstead at Marlowe Road by Ellen Green (AOC Archaeology Group).
In this area of Walthamstow an isolated area of Pleistocene terrace gravel (which is surrounded by London Clay) creates an area of fertile farmland with abundant springs. Excavations carried out nearby by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) in 2018 at Holy Family Technology College revealed evidence of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman occupation. The earliest activity on site consisted of scattered linear ditches, interpreted as enclosure or field boundaries of either Late Iron Age (1st century BC to AD 43) or early Roman (43-200 AD) date. A second phase of activity dated to the 2nd or 3rd century AD consisted of the retained ditches, plus clusters and rows of postholes variously interpreted as fence-lines and several small buildings. Associated finds included reused ceramic box-flue and pilae tiles (presumably derived from the demolition of a nearby high-status building), iron smithing slag, plus charred grains of bread wheat. During the 3rd century the site was abandoned and then sealed by an accumulation of hill wash. The impression is that subsequently the focus of settlement shifted to the Holy Family College site.

Imperial Suburbia: new excavations on the Highway, Shadwell by Harry Platts (PCA).

In 1974 and 1976 excavations in two blocks to east of this site revealed the robbed out foundations of a large Roman masonry structure, formerly interpreted as a lookout or signal tower, which is now reinterpreted as a mausoleum. Then in 2003 on the block immediately to the east of the site PCA discovered a large, portion of a late Roman (3rd to 4th century AD) bathhouse. Late Roman activity on site consisted of terracing, boundary ditches, plus scattered pits and wells. By the 19th century the site was occupied by terraced houses and shops fronting on the Ratcliff Highway, represented by fragmentary brick foundations. One of these properties No 29, a draper's shop and family home on the night of the 7 December 1811 was the scene of a mass murder; when the shop keeper Timothy Marr, his wife Celia, their baby son and an apprentice, were all bludgeoned to death by an intruder - John Williams. A contemporary newspaper account of this infamous crime depicts the façade of Marr's premises. Finds associated with these houses included two unusual clay tobacco pipe bowls: a French Gambier (No 827) depicting l'étudiant (the student); and a representation of the unofficial national coat of arms (complete with an emu and kangaroo) of the late 19th-century Australian federation. In 1901 the six self-governing Australian colonies formed a federation, transforming the country into the Commonwealth of Australia and adopted an almost identical national coat of arms to the previous unofficial version.

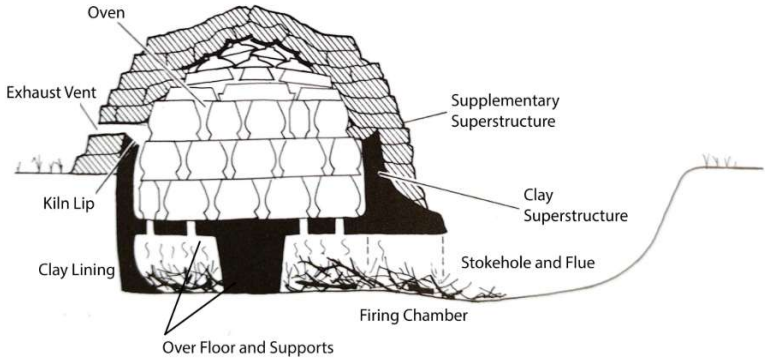


A sketch of the façade of Marr's premises in published in The London Chronicle 1811. The family presumably lived above the shop ***(image in the public domain)****.*

Afternoon Session – Highgate Wood and its Roman Pottery Industry

Introduction by Harvey Sheldon.

In 1962 Tony Brown discovered on the ground surface of Highgate Wood in the London Borough of Haringey, some sherds of Roman pottery. In 1966 Harvey and Tony obtained permission to excavate a trial trench, which revealed abundant evidence of Roman pottery production. This discovery inspired a seasonal programme of excavations directed by Harvey and Tony that ran until 1978. Fieldwork revealed 10 single chamber updraught pottery kilns, plus abundant evidence of seasonal or periodic pottery manufacture using locally dug clay.



A diagrammatic cross-section of a single chamber updraught Roman pottery kiln ***(image in the public domain based on an illustration*** *in* ***V. Swan's The Pottery Kilns of Roman Britain, 1984****).*

Pottery production began soon after AD 45 and carried on until AD 160-80, a range of utilitarian, beakers, bowls, dishes and jars were manufactured for the London market. For further details see: *The Roman Pottery Manufacturing site in Highgate Wood excavations 1966-78* by A E. Brown and H L. Sheldon, 2018 Archaeopress Roman Archaeology 43, available to download as an open access PDF e-book. In 1968 one of the excavated kilns was dismantled for display in the Horniman Museum and latterly it was exhibited at Bruce Castle Museum, before being put into storage and in 2024 it returned to Highgate Woods (see below). Highgate Wood is an area of historic oak woodland, which was once the hunting park of the bishops of London. In 1886 it was given by the Church of England to the Corporation of London to manage as public open space.

The Early Pottery from the Highgate Wood site by Isobel Thompson.
One of the earliest excavated structures on site produced a large volume of sherds of bead rim jars in a shell-tempered fabric (HWA), along with sherds of jars and beakers in a grog tempered fabric (HWB). By AD 50 identical grog tempered pottery was being manufactured in the St Alban's area, which suggests that potters from Hertfordshire might have established the industry in Highgate Woods. By AD 50-70 a new sandy ware fabric (HWC) was being produced by the Highgate kilns.

Experimental Work from 1971 to 2025 by Nick Peacey.
In 1971 there was a two week experimental programme in Highgate Woods involving volunteers using locally dug clay to manufacture replica Roman pots, which were fired in replica kilns. This exercise was a learning experience as it was discovered that the kilns were not hot enough to fully reduce or oxidise the ceramics (turning the fabric black). It was established that a skilled potter working a 50 hour week could have manufactured about 1000 vessels. In 2018 the Friends of Highgate Roman Kiln (FoHRK) was established to rescue the 1968 kiln from the basement of Bruce Castle Museum and return it to Highgate Woods. In September 2024 the kiln

returned to Highgate Woods and it is now displayed inside an exhibition centre (due to reopen in May). This event was celebrated by the construction and firing of a new replica kiln.



Building the replica kiln © ***FoHRK***

Firing the replica Roman kiln in 2024-5 by Shem Morgan.
Shem has supervised the quarrying of local clay, its processing and then the production of Roman inspired ceramics by volunteers attending community workshops. To date over 130 people have manufactured over 800 pots. With practice the stacking of the kiln's contents and firing process has considerably improved. A single firing takes about 12 hours and consumes some 350-400kg of wood to reach 1000°C. During the last firing of the 407 pots, 14% were broken or cracked, providing a possible indication of the wastage rate produced by the Roman kilns.

Outreach and Educational Activities by Charlie Andrews.
In 2023 the FoHRK received a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £243,000 for a heritage and community education programme with the slogan: *Firing London's Imagination*
(see https://firinglondonsimagination.com).
The Highgate area is affluent, but parts of Haringey Borough have high levels of economic-social deprivation. Therefore, the challenge was to design educational programmes that would promote the archaeological heritage of Highgate Woods and the experimental production of ceramics to suit different age groups within the diverse local community. The participants manufactured pottery masks or vessels for firing inside the replica kiln. There have been a number of open days involving pottery manufacture and kiln firings. The next challenge - to produce a sustainable programme of education and outreach.

Bruce Watson

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Looking back at LAMAS … 50 years on

A recent visit to old computer files unearthed a copy of the LAMAS Newsletter dated April 1976. There is mention of H.L. Sheldon, announcements of society tours – not only to Avebury but also to central Italy (led by Lawrence Snell at the time editor of *Transactions*). The Newsletter is only 4 pages long, and pre-digital, would have been typed and produced (most probably) by mimeograph. Also, pre-email and www. paper remittances to Mr Froom (Hon. Director of Meetings) by post. The event on 14th May with the Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society would have been particularly tempting. Date and time for events and meetings, and the place to meet (although it appears place was often known without the need for the RV to be detailed) seem simplistic in the second quarter of the 21st century.

NEWS-LETTER

LONDON and MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
incorporating MIDDLESEX LOCAL HISTORY COUNCIL

President:
RALPH MERRIFIELD, BA.,FSA.,FMA.,

Hon.Editor of the News-Letter:
LAWRENCE S. SNELL, MA.,FSA.,FRHistS.,
27 Wooley Hill, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 4AA.
(Tel: 021-472 2588)

NEWSLETTER NO. 28 APRIL, 1976

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the A.G.M. on 18th February 1976 the Officers and Council as set out in the January News-letter were duly elected. Two new Vice-Presidents were elected, Mr. N.M.Farrant and Mr. E.E.F. Smith, and two new members of Council, Mr. G. Canvin and Mr. M. Hammerson. Mr. E.H. Biffin was elected Hon. Assistant Director of Meetings and Mr. J.A. Clark Hon. Secretary in succession to Mr. E.E.F. Smith. Correspondence to the Hon.Secretary should be addressed to Mr. Clark at the Museum of London, Kensington Palace, London W8 4PX. (Tel: 01-937 9816, ext. 26).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Correction: in the list of committees given on p. ii of the latest volume of Transactions, the entry for the Archaeological Research Committee should read :

Chairman : H. L. Sheldon, B.Sc.
Secretary : Miss A. Laws,
Museum of London, Kensington Palace, London W8 4PX

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members :

R.F.Allen, London, N.W.3; P. Beauchamp, Edgware; R.J. Dormer, Enfield; A.G.Dyson, East Grinstead; Mrs A.H.Easson, Toronto, Canada; E.L. Fereday, Enfield; A.L. Foster, London S.W.7; D. Fowler, Morden; D.A. Gurney, Colchester; E.G.Hall, Harrow; Miss P.M. Harvey, London, S.W.16; G.R. Jones, Hemel Hempstead; Miss J.M.N. King, Cheam; J. Maloney, Twickenham; Miss H.J. Orton, London, N.W.3; Miss H. Parfitt, London N.W.10; J. R. Salter, Sevenoaks; Miss L. Schaaf, London, S.E.1; J.A. Schofield, London, W.12; P.G. Spillett, Darwin, Australia; D. Sturdy, London N.W.1; Miss P. Townend, Sevenoaks; Mrs. M.E.E. Wallwork, London, S.W.14; R.L. Winch, West Molesey.

We also welcome as an Affiliated Society the Spelthorne Archaeological Field Group.

STOWE COMMEMORATION SERVICE:

It is regretted that the above Service, originally arranged for Wednesday, 28th April 1976, has had to be cancelled. This is owing to a fire in the Church of St. Andrew Undershaft, resulting in its closure for some six months for the necessary renovation.

It is expected that the Service will be resumed as usual in 1977.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Saturday, 10th April	Coach visit to Enfield and District. Members who have booked for this visit are reminded to meet at the Embankment (Charing Cross Underground Station) at 1.0 p.m.
Wednesday, 28th April	6.30 p.m. Lecture. "Shepherd's London - Four Artists and their view of the Metropolis, 1800-1860", by J.F.C. Phillips, Curator of Maps and Prints, Greater London Council.
Thursday, 27th May	12 noon. The Pepys Commemoration Service at St. Olave's Church, Hart Street. This Service is arranged under the auspices of the London & Middlesex Archaeological Society and the Samuel Pepys Club and is held in the presence of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, the Master and Wardens of the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers and the Elder Brethren of Trinity House. The Address on Samuel Pepys will be given by F.E. Cleary, Esq., M.B.E., F.A.I., F.R.I.C.S.
Saturday, 26th June	Whole Day Visit to Avebury and Devizes. For final details and request for payment see elsewhere in this News-letter.

NEWS OF OTHER SOCIETIES

ENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Wed. 5th May 1976	8 p.m. Excavations at Lincolns Road. Mr. J. Ivens Meeting at Edmonton Upper School.
Sat. 15th May 1976	Coach Outing Grimes Graves and Castle Hedingham.
Wed. 9th June 1976	Meeting at Salisbury House. 7.45 p.m. Prehistoric Shetlands: Jarlshof. Miss C. Blair
Wed. 7th July 1976	Salisbury House. 7.45 p.m. Tutankhamen. I. K. Jones.

Secretary: David Pam, Esq., Southgate Town Hall, Green Lanes, N.13.

EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Wed. 14th April 1976	7.45 p.m. Salisbury House, N.9. Historic Buildings in Cheshunt. Mr. J. Edwards
Fri. 25th June 1976	7.45 p.m. Salisbury House, N.9 Dr. Uvedale's Garden. Mrs. J.G.Burnby and Mrs A. Robinson
Tue. 6th July 1976	7.45 p.m. Southgate Technical College On Foot from Southgate to Edmonton. Mr.P.Hodge and Mr.G.Dalling
7th to 9th May 1976	Pendley Residential Centre The Historian as a Detective. Week-end Conference. Applications for this Conference to Michael Parker, Esq., 241 Ladysmith Road, Enfield, EN1 3AQ.

Secretary: David Pam, Esq., Southgate Town Hall, Green Lanes, N.13.

HORNSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Wed. 14th April 1976 — Medieval Jewellery. Mr. John Cherry
Wed. 12th May 1976 — Medieval Stained Glass. Mr. Richard Marks
Wed. 9th June 1976 — Clerkenwell Detached. Mr. John Goodall, F.S.A.

Meetings in Hornsey Central Library, N.8 at 8 p.m.
Secretary: Mrs. G.V.Williams, 16 Barnard Hill, Muswell Hill, London, N.10

PINNER & HATCH END LOCAL HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Thur. 1st April 1976 — Eighteenth Century Landscaped Gardens and their Restoration. G. B. Clarke, M.A.
Thur. 13th May 1976 — A. G. M.

Meetings in Pinner Church Hall, behind St. John's Church, Pinner. 8 p.m.
Secretary: Martin Verden, Esq., 66 Waxwell Lane, Pinner.

THE ST. MARYLEBONE SOCIETY

Fri. 2nd April 1976)
Fri. 7th May 1976) — Records Section Meetings. 5.30 p.m.
)
Wed. 28th April 1976 — Symposium 8 p.m.
Wed. 26th May 1976 — More Curiosities of London. Peter Jackson, 8 p.m.

Secretary: Roger A. Batten, Flat 4, 111 Marylebone High Street, W1M 3DA

SOUTHWARK & LAMBETH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

At Westminster Workshop. 7.30 p.m.

Fri. 14th May 1976 — Animal, Vegetable, Mineral Quiz with Slides. A joint meeting with Wandsworth Historical Society, Archaeology Section.

Secretary: R. J. Buchanan, 79 Ashbridge Crescent, London SE18 3EA

WEMBLEY HISTORY SOCIETY

Fri. 7th May 1976 — Wembley Conference Centre. Mr. R.A.Miller. A.G.M. 8 p.m.
Sat. 9th May 1976 — Suburban Stroll No. 26 around Barn Hill. Meet at Wembley Park Station at 2.30 p.m.
Fri. 4th June 1976 — Members' Evening.

Meetings at Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane, Wembley.
Secretary: P. D. Esslemont Esq., 25 Thomas A'Becket Close, Sudbury, Wembley, Middx.HA0 2SH

WEST DRAYTON & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

West Drayton Library. 8.15 p.m. A.G.M. and Members' Evening.
Secretary: Miss S. Burns, B.Sc., 29 Copse Drive, Wokingham, Berks.

Secretaries of Societies are asked to note that material for the September, January and April Newsletters must be in the hands of the Editor by 1st August, 1st December and 1st March respectively.

TOUR OF CENTRAL ITALY

Mr. Lawrence S. Snell, M.A.,F.S.A.,F.R.Hist.S. will conduct a tour of Central Italy (28th July to 12th August 1976) including such historic towns as Florence, Ravenna, Lucca, Sienna, Assisi, Perugia, Pistoia, Bologna. Visiting museums, art galleries, castles, churches, archaeological sites, etc. Good hotels, luxury coach. Cost about £172. Only four vacant places. Particulars from leader at 27 Weoley Hill, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 4AA. s.a.e. please.

WHOLE DAY VISIT TO AVEBURY AND DEVIZES, SATURDAY, 26th JUNE, 1976

Arrangements have now been completed and the time-table is as follows :

8.50 — Meet on the Embankment (Charing Cross Underground Station) for departure at 9.00 prompt. A stop will be made for coffee.
12.00 — Arrive Devizes. Visit Devizes Museum and, time permitting, St. John's Church.
1.30 — Lunch
2.30 — Leave for Avebury, where Mrs. F.J. de M. Vatcher, F.S.A., Curator of the Alexander Keiller Museum at Avebury, will talk on the monuments of the Avebury complex. After viewing the Museum, where there are explanatory displays and plans of the monuments, the stone circle will be explored.
5.00 — Leave for Marlborough for tea at the Ivy House Hotel.
6.30 — Leave for London, to arrive back at the Embankment at approx. 9 p.m.

The cost will be £2.60 (to include tea, admission fees to Devizes Museum and Avebury and all gratuities).

For members requiring lunch, this has been arranged at the Bear Hotel, Devizes, at a cost of £1.80 inclusive of coffee, service and VAT, but subject to a proviso that a 10% increase may be necessary by the time of the visit.
Further applications for lunch may be accepted.

Remittances, using the attached slip, should now be sent to the Hon. Director of Meetings. As he will be on holiday from May 21st to June 4th, it will be appreciated if these are sent to reach him not later than May 14th.

N.B. Fresh applications will depend for acceptance on the possibility of cancellations by original applicants.

To: Mr. F. J. Froom, 7, Henry's Avenue, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 9RB

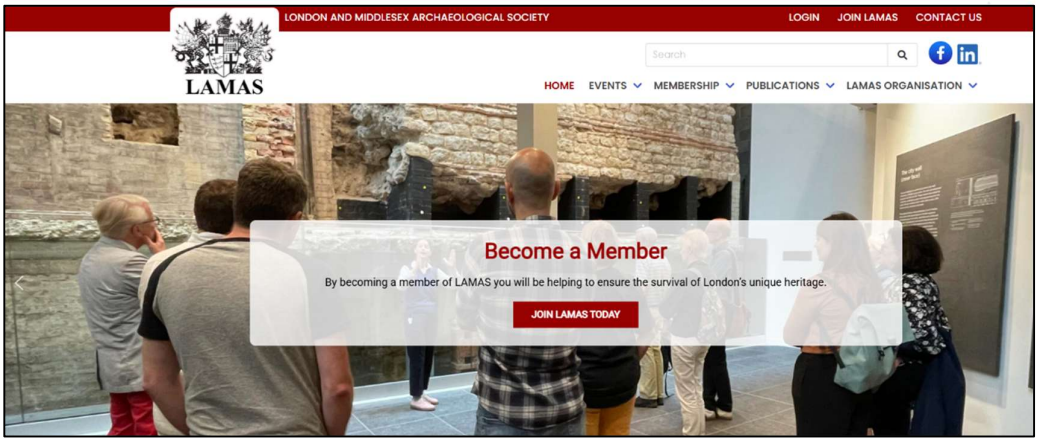
Avebury and Devizes, 26th June 1976

I enclose remittance as under :

Fare _____ @ £2.60
Lunch _____ @ £1.80 _____
Total _____

Name (Mr. Mrs. Miss) _____
Address _____

PLEASE SEND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE



As communication and engagement have shifted dramatically over the last 50 years, the LAMAS website is evolving as the primary point of access for event information, updates, and online bookings. www.lamas.org.uk

John Schofield

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LAMAS Lecture Programme : 2026-2027

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

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If you enjoy Local History …. Why not join the LAMAS Local History Committee? New Committee Members needed!



The Local History Committee represents the interests of LAMAS's Affiliated Local Societies. Part of its work involves organising the Local History Conference and the Publication Awards – for which affiliated societies submit their books, journal and newsletters.

The Committee needs more members! So if you have an interest in London's local history and would like to get involved drop John Price a quick email : **johnprice.historian@outlook.com**

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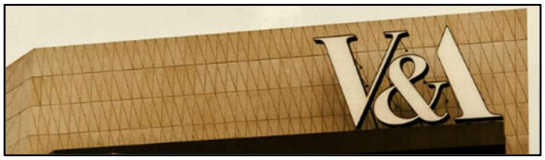
V&A East – a new museum



The new V&A East museum opened at the end of April 2026. Located in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, 107 Carpenters Road, London E20 2AR – a short walk from the V&A East Storehouse. There are two free permanent galleries with over 500 objects from the V&A's art, architecture, design, performance and fashion collections.

Open 10am to 1800 daily, and 10am to 10pm Thursday and Saturday. Free admission. Nearest station - Stratford - a 10 minute walk away.

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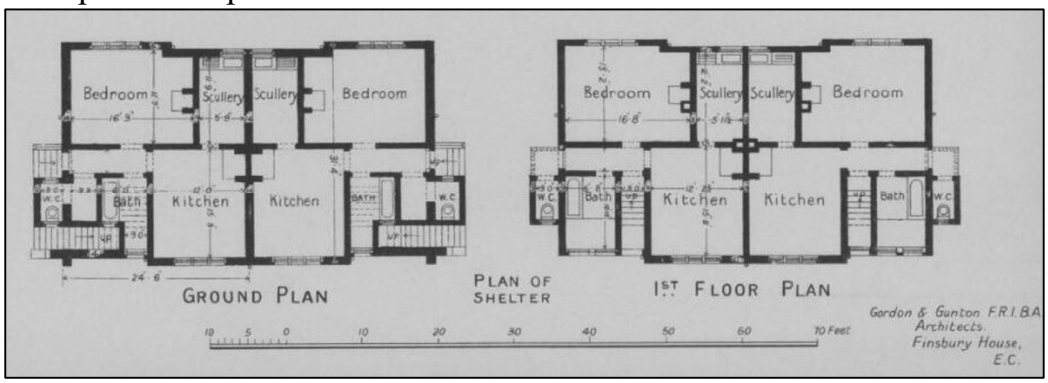
Victorian Society published list of most endangered buildings in England and Wales

Including Hackney Borough Disinfecting Station, Millfields Road

The Guardian recently published (28th April 2026) an article listing The Victorian Society annual list of top endangered buildings in England and Wales. The Hackney Borough Disinfecting Station in Clapton, London, which has been unused since 1984, is described as a "rare and powerful reminder of the Victorian response to infectious disease". The Disinfecting Station, built in 1901, is the last surviving purpose-built municipal disinfecting station in England. This Grade II-listed site used steam to clean contaminated bedding and clothing. Attempting to fight diseases like smallpox and diphtheria.



Hackney Borough Council Plans of Disinfection Station, Shelter & Lodge, Detail of Shelter. Source: J. King Warry, Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Hackney District for the Year 1900 (1901) ***reproduced in G. Mooney (2022) The Reception House: A New Space for Managing Infectious Disease 'Contacts', Journal of Victorian Culture. Soi.org/10.1093/jvcult/vcac016 (OUP).***

The buildings formed a crucial part of Hackney's early 20th-century public-health infrastructure: a humane, practical solution for managing 'contacts' and safeguarding over-crowded households. Despite its architectural, social and disease significance, the site is derelict and structurally at risk. Its decline is regarded as a shameful loss of public-health heritage. Once a symbol of municipal care and sanitary modernity, its survival is threatened by decades of under-investment and indifference. For The Victorian Society link see: https://www.victoriansociety.org.uk/endangered-buildings/hackney-borough-disinfecting-station .



Perspective view of all buildings
Source: as above.

Jane Wheeler

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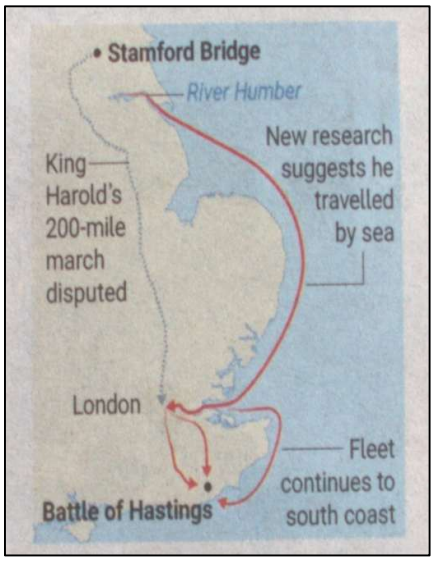
King Harold's forced march in 1066 from Stamford Bridge to London – did it actually take place?

On 25th September 1066 King Harold Godwinson's army defeated the Norwegian invaders at the Battle of Stamford Bridge in East Yorkshire. However, Harold's problems were not over as on 28th September Duke William of Normandy's army landed at Pevensey in Sussex. Harold, on 29th September (or possibly a day later) heard of this new invasion of his kingdom. He immediately faced the unenviable task of moving his exhausted army south to face another battle and he also needed to call out and assemble the militia (*fyrde*) from London and the southern counties.



Harold's possible routes in 1066
Image: in the public domain.

Harold was back in London on 6th October. Moving quickly. He stayed in London until 11th October, gathering reinforcements before marching south to Hastings, where three days later he was killed and his army defeated (see *LAMAS Trans* 75, 2024, p. 270).

It has always been assumed that Harold travelled south from Stamford Bridge back to London along Ermine Street, latterly known as the Great North Road (now the A1). Harold and his household troops (housecarls) would have all ridden horses, so travelling 20 miles (or possibly more) per day would have been feasible.

However, if Harold and his household troops each had a spare mount, or were able to change horses, then they could have travelled about 30 miles per days without exhausting or injuring their horses. Thus, covering the 200 miles from Stamford Bridge to London in about six days. It has always been assumed that the rest of Harold's army would have marched south so they would have been much slower. This delay might explain why Harold stayed in London for four days as he was waiting for the rest of his army to catch up and the militia to assemble. However, new research by Prof. Tom Licence (*English history's biggest march is a myth – King Harold sailed to the Battle of Hastings* www.uea.ac.uk/about/news/article posted 21.03.2026) suggests that Harold and a significant portion of his army might have avoided this forced march by travelling south after the battle by ship via the Humber estuary and the North Sea route to London instead. This mode of transport would have been quicker and allowed his soldiers to rest. These ships could have sailed further south to try and blockade Pevensey in East Sussex.

The *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* (*ASC,* version C) states during the summer Harold, in anticipation of William's invasion, had deployed his army along the south coast and was based on the Isle of Wight with a fleet ready to oppose any landing until the 8 September when he decided to stand down his forces and send his fleet to London. Shortly after ordering this stand down Harold discovered that the Norwegians had landed in East Yorkshire, so he immediately gathered an army and marched 'northward, by night and day…' according to the *ASC* (version C). It is quite possible that some of Harold's soldiers were transported by ship from London to the Humber and then further inland along the River Ouse. There is a mention in the *ASC* (version C) that before the Battle of Stamford Bridge Harold's 'army' and 'fleet' assembled at Tadcaster. This implies a proportion of his army had been shipborne. Therefore, it seems quite plausible after the battle that Harold and some of his soldiers were ferried back to London by ship.



William's fleet crossing the English Channel on the Bayeux Tapestry ***Image: in the public domain.***

The 70m long Bayeux Tapestry, an embroidery depicting the story of the Norman Conquest will be exhibited at the British Museum from September 2026 until July 2027. There will be an article in the September issue of the LAMAS Newsletter about the Bayeux Tapestry, which also features the earliest representation of Westminster Abbey.

Bruce Watson

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Tickets for the Bayeux Tapestry Exhibition at the British Museum go on sale on 1st July 2026. The event will be held in The Sainsbury Exhibition Gallery. This is the first time the tapestry has been displayed in the UK since it was made. See - www.britishmuseum.org

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Central London Young Archaeologists' Club

So far this year we have held three busy, well attended meetings and have been fortunate in attracting four new student volunteers. Their assistance at meetings is appreciated, and it is great for our members to have contact with current students of archaeology and history.

In our February meeting *Henry VIII 'Bling King'?* we explored what happened at the Field of the Cloth of Gold by looking at the famous painting of that name which hangs at Hampton Court. We found out more about the Henry and Katherine gold pendant, discovered by a metal detectorist in 2019. And, that the British Museum was recently successful in raising sufficient money to purchase it. As the meeting was held on Valentine's Day we decorated heart-shaped boxes in the style of the Tudor pendant.



Our March meeting was all about teeth. A bioarchaeologist from the Francis Crick Institute came along to tell us how the examination of teeth can help identify where a person came from, their diet, their health, and even in some cases what job they did. She also talked about her work. We looked at examples of teeth found in archaeological excavations and the history of the toothbrush. Members made simple medieval style tooth brushes out of hazel twigs and then tried them out with a medieval style toothpaste using rock salt, cloves and herbs and a mouthwash from grape juice, black pepper and mint. The results were surprisingly quite effective and not unpleasant!

In our April meeting 'It's About Time', we took a deep dive into geological time with the aid of a toilet roll and props to understand how long it took for life to evolve on earth, and our human ancestors to appear. We clarified the different roles of geologist, palaeontologist and archaeologist. We explored some of the techniques archaeologists use to date sites and artefacts and played a stratigraphy team game. For our activity members became amateur dendrochronologists, counting tree rings, looking for wet and dry years, and marking birth years and other important events.

Annie De Saulles

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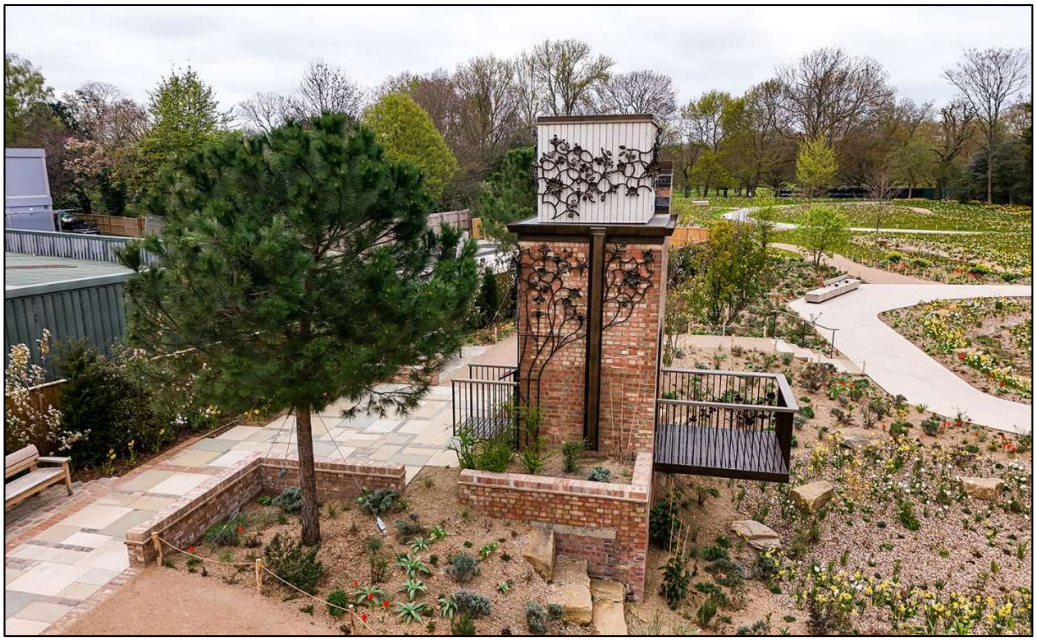
EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

The Queen Elizabeth II Garden
The Regent's Park
main entrance behind the Expresso Bar on Broad Walk near to the Avenue Gardens) NW1 4NU / NW1 4NR
Now open to the public - Daily 9am to 8pm
Best stations for access: Regent's Park and Great Portland Street



Ornate metalwork on the water tower represents the UK's four nations
Image: royalparks.org.uk.

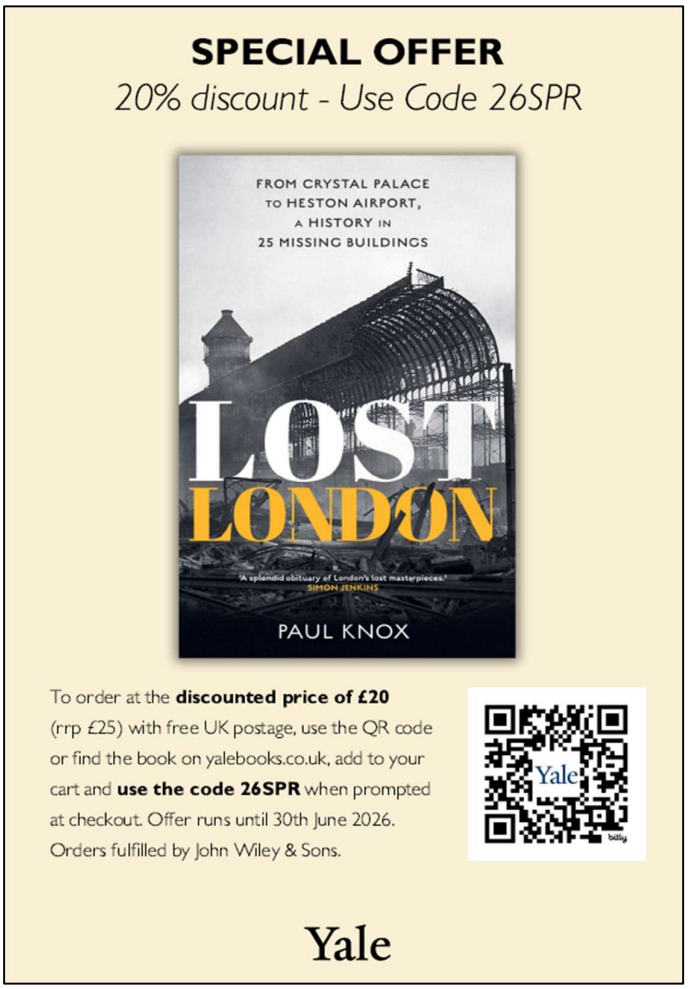
The newly opened garden has transformed the disused plant nursery into a beautiful tranquil 2-acre garden of public green space. Where disused glasshouses once stood, a beautiful new garden now takes its place within one of London's finest landscapes. It is a garden of colour, contemplation, of biodiversity and beauty. See - www.royalparks.org.uk

Kensington Palace, Kensington Gardens, London W8 4PX
The Last Princesses of Punjab
Runs until 8th November 2026 – 10am to 6pm daily



Discover the story of Punjabi princess and suffragette icon, Sophia Duleep Singh and the five women who shaped her life. The exhibition brings together rarely seen objects, audio-visual, and modern voices to illustrate the stories of the women and their relationships with Queen Victoria. www.hrp.org/kensington-palace for ticket prices and bookings.

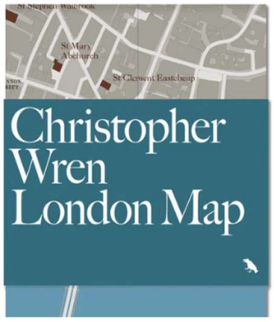
BOOKS AND MAPS

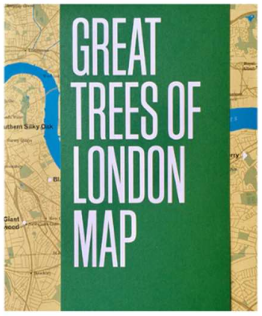


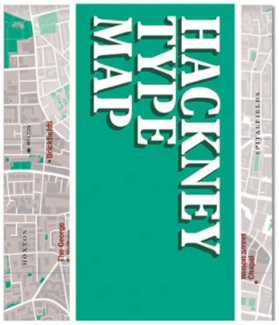
Blue Crow Media – London Maps Collection

Blue Crow Media produce a series of London Maps. Individual maps cost £9.95 and can be ordered from www.bluecrowmedia.com.

From Christopher Wren to Art Deco architecture, and Black History to great trees. This series of London maps take you to hidden corners of the city. Each fold-out map features original photography, curated texts and a map with selected buildings, landmarks, and much more. They are really good!







AFFILIATED SOCIETY MEETINGS

Readers are advised to check with local societies if planning to attend lectures. Please check society websites to ensure events are running and for any changes to programme listings.

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 June 2026 AGM followed by
40th Anniversary Meeting

9 September 2026
Portraits of Acton Notables (Part One), Anthony Smith

Barnes and Mortlake History Society

Meetings are held from September to April on Thursdays at St Mary's Parish Church, Barnes, at 8pm unless otherwise stated below. The 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

17 September 2026
Prince George and Master Frederick – royal friends and secret brothers,
Rosalind Freeborn

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 June 2026
The Holiday Camps: Summer Holiday Memories, John Lynch

13 July 2026
History of Allotments, Kate Harwood

14 September 2026
1953 The Year of the Floods, Terence Atkins.

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. Non-members also welcome £5.

21 May 2026
Decorated Clay Pipe Finds of the Thames Foreshore, Germander Speedwell

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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

30 May 2026 2.30pm at Hogarth's House (NB this is a Saturday)
AGM

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

5 May 2026
Sir Godfrey Hounsfield and the CT Scanner, Dr Adrian Thomas

2 June 2026
The History of Elmstead Woods Station and its Garden, Ros Goodall

7 July 2026
The Crystal Palace - 1851 to 1936, Philip Emery

4 August 2026 – via Zoom only
Looking at Maps, Mal Mitchell

1 September 2026
Members Evening – Show and Tell

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.

28 May 2026 – Zoom talk for members only
The history and development of telephone area boundaries in Camden, Billy Thomas

11 June 2026 – Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library
Student London: 200 years of student life in the capital, Georgina Brewis and Sam Blaxland

23 July 2026 – Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library
The Artist Richard Dadd, Miranda Miller

24 September 2026 – Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library
AGM followed by
How Napoleon made London the world capital of trade and finance, Jerry White

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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

No programme available for the May LAMAS Newsletter. Please check the website.

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 & www.facebook.com/chhistorical

19 May 2026
Wartime Havering, Ellen Owen

16 June 2026 AGM followed by
Plague Houses and Pandemics, Alison Wall

15 September 2026
The Peculiar People, Mark Ripper

City of London Archaeological Society (COLAS)

Lectures are normally on the third Friday in every month and currently are via Zoom only, prior booking is required. Contact via the website www.colas.org.uk; email: colas_outreach@yahoo.co.uk for booking information about 5 days before lecture. There is no charge for registering for a Zoom lecture.

12 June 2026 (NB this is the 2nd Friday of the month)
The Massive Melsonby Iron Age Hoard: from Bits of Bits to Wheel and Wagons.
Dr Sophia Adams, British Museum

17 July 2026
Imperial Suburbia: New Excavations on The Highway, Shadwell. Harry Platts, Pre-Construct Archaeology

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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.

30 May 2026 – 2.30pm
The history of and campaign for South Norwood Country Park, Janet Ambrose

22 June 2026 Zoom Ref: **ZOOM INNS VISITOR**
Inn names: signposts to a local past, Dr Trevor James

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.

No programme available for the May LAMAS Newsletter. Please check the website.

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 £5.00 including refreshments.
Email: contact@theelthamsociety.org.uk website: www.theelthamsociety.org.uk

4 June 2026
Historic Greenwich, Ian Bevan

2 July 2026
Sir Ernest Shackleton and his Polar Explorations, Simon Brindley

23 September 2026
Andy Goldsworthy – A man and his art, Frank Woodgate

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.

12 June 2026
The Ancient Near East (to be confirmed), Mark Altaweel

The Finchley Society

We hold eight meetings a year, on the last Thursday of January, February, March, April, June, September, October and November. Meetings are held at 7.30pm at Avenue House (Stephens House and Gardens) 27 East End Road, Finchley N3 3QE. Non-members welcome for a donation of £2.00. For more information see our website at https://www.finchleysociety.org.uk

24 September 2026
The Finchley Society Planning Committee will give a presentation on local planning matters

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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).

Keep up to date by linking to the Friends Facebook page. All sorts of events and activities on-going.

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

No programme available for the May LAMAS Newsletter. Please check the 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. The following Special Events are bookable online:

20 June 2026 – 10.30am Talk and Guided Walk (buffet lunch included)
St. Helena to Kensal Green Exploring Napoleon's Final Chapter, John Haines, David Symington, Irina Porter

15 August 2026 – 10.30am Talk and Guided Walk (buffet lunch included)
The Angels of Kensal Green, Emma Liggins, Irina Porter

20 September 2026 – 2.00pm Guided Walk
The Days of Giants: Joseph Locke and his generation of railway pioneers, John Haines

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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.

27 May 2026
Heroes of Postman's Park, Dr John Price

24 June 2026
20th Century Trent Park, Sue Elliott

23 September 2026
A History of St Mary's Church, Hendon, Revd Julie Gittoes

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.

23 May – walk from Springfield House, E5
Discover the Springs of Springfield Park and other Geology, Diana Clements

A full programme of events can be found on the website here:
https://hackneyhistoryfestival.org/

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

26 May 2026 2pm for a 2.15pm start
TBA, Frankie Pugh, History Teacher

Future dates (all 2pm for a 2.15pm start)**:**
15 September 2026, 20 October, 17 November
Presentations to be confirmed:
The Park Royal Agricultural Show by Anthony Smith poet, urban rambler;
Rediscovering a part of west London by Joanna Dudzinska urban explorer, Ealing Walking and Exploring;
More postcards of west London by Paul Lang

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

9 June 2026 AGM (at 7.30pm) followed by
The Parish Scavenger's Tale, Jacqui Pearce, HADAS President

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

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Leyton and Leytonstone Historical Society

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

For more information see the website at :-
http://www.leytonhistorysociety.org.uk/events.html or contact Maureen Measure - email measure@btinternet.com

29 May 2026 – 6.30pm starting at St Mary's Church in Overton Drive (approx. 2.5 hours)
Wanstead Historical Walking Tour Tony Warren

17 June 2026
The New Layout of the Vestry House Museum, Sorrell Hersberg and Claire Mead

15 July 2026
The Leyton that Used to Be, Gary Lewis

16 September 2026
Walthamstow Town Hall, Joanna Moncrieff

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

During the summer the Society arranges a series of workshops for members and visitors to share current interests and research, to exchange ideas and to seek help and advice. These are held at Wandle Industrial Museum, Mitcham on the following Fridays, 2.30-4.30pm:

22 May 2026, 3 July 2026, 14 August 2026, 25 September 2026

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

5 August 2026 – Walk 7.00pm – 8.30pm and 8 August 2026 11.00am – 12.30pm
Fox Hill, Upper Norwood, Stephen Oxford

16 August 2026 – Walk 2.00pm – 4.00pm
Beulah Hill, Stephen Oxford

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).

3 June 2026
Excavations in Kent, Rebecca Haslam, Project Manager, AOC Archaeology Group

1 July 2026
Vikings in Kent, Andy Ward, Curator, Kent Archaeological Society

19 July 2026 (Sunday11.00am – 12.30pm and 1.30pm – 4.00pm)
Odas is opening the site of the Romano-British Bathhouse in Bellefield Road, St Mary Cray. For details see www.odas.org.uk.

5 August 2026 – via Zoom. Links can be obtained from Odaszoom@btinternet.com from July. A donation of £3 is requested
Bartmann goes Global – Project update, Jacqui Pearce, Senior Pottery Specialist, MOLA

2 September 2026
The Witch Bottle Phenomenon, Dr Nigel Jeffries, Principal Specialist and Manager leading MOLA's ceramics team

12-13 September 2026 (Saturday and Sunday 2.00pm – 5.00pm)
Scadbury Moated Manor Open Weekend. See www.odas.org.uk for details.

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

4 June 2026
Pinner's Roads to London and the Pinner Turnpike, Thamar MacIver

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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

No programme available for the May LAMAS Newsletter. Please check the website.

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

14 September 2026
The 250th Anniversary of Richmond Bridge, Mark Lucas

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

27 May 2026
Canada Water 150: Surrey Docks and the LDDC, Fraser Borwick, former LDDC Landscape Architect

30 September 2026 AGM followed by **A Selection of old London films**

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). 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

15 September 2026
The Founders of Northwood, Brian Greenan, Local Historian, toastmaster/speaker

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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.

No programme currently available (May 2026). Please check the website.

Spelthorne Archaeology and Local History Group

Talks start at 8.00pm. Members free, non-members welcome (£3 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.

3 September 2026 Venue: Staines Methodist Church (NB 7.30pm start)
Death on the Thames, Jane Sidell

The Thorney Island Society

The Thorney Island Society
Friends of St. James's Park and The Green Park

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

No programme available for the May LAMAS Newsletter. Please check the website.

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

No programme available for the May LAMAS Newsletter. Please check the website.

Uxbridge Local History and Archive Society

All meetings take place at Christ Church, Redford Way (off Belmont Road), Uxbridge, UB8 1SZ, 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

No programme available for the May LAMAS Newsletter. Please check the website.

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

No programme available for the May LAMAS Newsletter. Please check the website.

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

29 May 2026
The Changing Face of Wandsworth: from industry to homes, Mick Taylor, Wandle Industrial Museum

26 June 2026 AGM plus
Wandsworth Prison: a history of 175 years of public service, Stewart McLaughlin, Curator of Wandsworth Prison Museum

31 July 2026
TBA

25 September 2026
Members' Evening

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".

6 June 2026
The Assassination of Queen Victoria (almost), Trevor Spinage

8 August 2026
The Dark and Dingy Underworld of the Victorian Slums, Bethan Watts

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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

17 June 2026
AGM

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