Issue 178 September 2026

LAMAS NEWSLETTER

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

LAMAS 60th History Conference
An Intelligent Interest: Learning and Education in London



November 21, 2026
Wilberforce Room, Docklands Museum of London, E14 4AL

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NOTICES
Editor's Introduction

As outlined in the previous LAMAS Newsletter in May, we are in the process of recruiting a new Editor for this Newsletter. We hope to have completed this process in the near future and in time for the next January Newsletter. In the meantime, please continue to send any stories or news of interest as per below. We look forward to seeing you at future LAMAS events. Please continue to stay in touch via our website and social media channels.

Karen Thomas and Richard Hebblethwaite

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JANUARY Newsletter*: *LAST SUBMISSION Date
Final submissions by ***Friday 8th January 2027.***

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 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!**

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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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LAMAS Historic Buildings & Conservation Committee

Although we have recently recruited a couple of new members, we continue to be on the hunt for a new Secretary and new committee 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 hbcc@lamas.org.uk The Secretarial role requires administrative skills.

Please do consider attending one of our HBCC meetings to see how we operate and to ask questions. We meet monthly on a Tuesday at 18.30 at 75 Cowcross Street, the offices of Alan Baxter Ltd in Clerkenwell. Please contact hbcc@lamas.org.uk if you would like to come along. You will be most welcome.

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LAMAS Membership

October is the start of a new LAMAS year, and subscriptions for the LAMAS year 2026/27 are due on 1st October. The subscriptions rates are the same as last year so those who have set-up standing orders have nothing to do! Membership subscription rates are:

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 by **online bank transfer** (Reference: membership reference or surname, Bank: CAF Bank Ltd, Sort Code: 40-52-40, Account No: 00017438, Account Name: London & Middlesex Archaeological), **card** via the LAMAS website: https://www.lamas.org.uk/ (After you log on, in the My Account Dashboard a "RENEWAL IS DUE" button will appear 15 days before your subscription expires. Click on this and select pay by card at the bottom of the screen that appears.) or in the last resort by cheque (my address to send it to is on the back page).

The My Account – "Dashboard" and "Edit Profile" tabs on the LAMAS website have been changed. Members can now have a different address for delivery of printed items and an additional delivery email address for general information. Though this is mainly for Affiliated and Corporate members there are a few personal members who will find it helpful. If no delivery email or address is found, the contact details will be used by default. Emails regarding the membership will always go to the contact email address and the contact email address is used to log on to your membership account.

Members (all types) who do not have an email address associated with their LAMAS membership can contact me via email (membership@lamas.org.uk) to arrange for an email address to be associated with their membership account.

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

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, membership@lamas.org.uk

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LAMAS Research Fund

We are currently working on improving the Research Fund application process and hope to launch this year's in the January Newsletter so please look out for more details then.

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The John Stow Memorial Service and Lecture 2027 – keep the date

The Stow Memorial Service, with the ceremony of changing the quill pen will be held on Monday 19th April 2027 at the church of St Andrew Undershaft, St Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BN. It will be followed by the Stow lecture at the Merchant Taylors' Hall, 30 Threadneedle Street, EC2R 8JB, to which all are invited. Further details will appear in the January Newsletter.

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Britain's Bayeux Tapestry– it is almost as good as the real thing and much easier to see

If you feel disappointed that you failed like me and thousands of others to get a ticket in the 2026 online allocation for the Bayeux Tapestry exhibition at the British Museum, then why not visit the Victorian version on display at Reading Museum, Blagrave Street RG1 (open Tuesday to Friday 10am to 4pm and Saturdays 10am to 5pm). For further details see: https://www.readingmuseum.org.uk/bayeux-tapestry. This full-size replica was created in the late 1880s by the ladies of Leek Embroidery Society led by Elizabeth Wardle. The ladies did make a few minor changes to original version – the penises of the men and horse were removed, and they gave the little naked man in the border underpants.

Bruce Watson

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LAMAS 60th HISTORY CONFERENCE
Saturday 21st November 2026: 10.30am -5.30pm
Wilberforce Room, London Museum Docklands
West India Quay, London, E14 4AL
Tube & DLR: Canary Wharf or West India Quay

An Intelligent Interest: Learning and Education in London



The 2026 Local History Conference will take place at the on Saturday 21 November 2026. The theme of the conference will be 'An Intelligent Interest: Learning and Education in London'.

Please join us at the Museum of London in Docklands, for the 2026 LAMAS History Conference to understand more about Learning and Education in London's 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/
Open the main page and click onto EVENTS.

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, cash & card) = £25.00

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LAMAS LECTURE PROGRAMME 2026-27

Lectures will take place from 6.30pm – 7.30pm with refreshments from 6pm. Please arrive, if attending in person, between 6 – 6.30pm. Lectures will be hybrid – held in person and on Zoom.

Members are requested to book tickets using the link on the LAMAS website either to attend in person OR on Zoom. You will be sent a link to join the meeting on Zoom. Members attending in person are requested to book, however it is also possible to attend without booking.

Non-members are very welcome and are requested to book tickets using the link on the LAMAS website – either to attend in person OR on Zoom. You will be sent a link to join the meeting on Zoom. Non-members are requested to make a donation to LAMAS to help cover the costs of providing the lectures.

Please check the LAMAS website and social media for details of the lecture location. The booking link will be live approximately two weeks before each lecture.

Members booking tickets, please log in your account before booking.

13th October 2026
Peter Mills and Michael Hutchinson, Mills Whipp Projects
London's Civil War Defences Project: The Results



During a 6-year period Mills Whipp Projects has undertaken a review of the Civil War defences of London. The project was generously funded by Historic England and, in South London, jointly with the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Excavation Committee. The research led to a radical revision of the locations of the forts, the site and morphology of the Lines of Communication between the forts and other aspects of the Civil War in London. These include the role of women, the dishonesty of the cartographers and the collective amnesia after the War. This talk will cover the latest research and will focus on Westminster and south of the Thames.

10th November 2026
Eben Cooper, Senior Archaeologist, MOLA
The Archaeology of Lambeth Palace



Lambeth Palace is the London residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury and has a history dating back over 800 years. MOLA and its precursors have been uncovering archaeological evidence at the palace since the 1980s and the most recent archaeological works have been undertaken from 2021 through to early 2026. This presentation will give a background to the archaeology of Lambeth Palace and discuss how the most recent works have aided our understanding of the development of the palace.

8th December 2026
Richard Hebblethwaite, LAMAS
The Flask, Highgate: Society, Urban Development and Commerce in Post-Medieval London



This talk explores the most significant 200-year period of The Flask in Highgate, 1700-1900. From beginnings as a small Georgian tavern, The Flask expanded on either side to cater for the needs of its changing clientele during a period of rapid economic and social transformation. The Flask displays evidence of tavern, inn and public house making this a unique building to study. Historical research is fused with a detailed recording exercise to provide insights into the key phases of construction and development.

12th January 2027
Dr John Price FRHistS, SFHEA, Public and Community Historian
Educating Deptford: the Deptford Ragged School and it's place in the community



The Deptford Ragged School, founded in 1844, was situated at the heart of working-class Victorian Deptford. Few families in the district were unconnected to the institution, yet very little is widely known about those families, or the children who attended, or the communities they lived within. In this talk, Dr John Price, the Consultant Historian for the Educating Deptford project, will outline the history of the school, discuss some of the work it undertook, and reveal what impact it had on the neighbourhoods around it.

9th February 2027
John Schofield, President of LAMAS
AGM and Presidential Address – The Great Fire did not take place…quite as you thought it did…



John Schofield's first Presidential Lecture will be a survey of houses and other secular buildings in the City of London from 1600 to 1670, incorporating the most recent topographical and archaeological studies. He argues that the Great Fire of 1666 destroyed only twenty per cent of the conurbation then standing; and that the larger area unaffected by the Fire furnishes much evidence for life in London during the century. When this is considered, we have to rethink what scholars have said about the Great Fire.

9th March 2027
Dr Susan Skedd, Blue Plaques Historian, English Heritage
Making 'our houses their own biographers' 160 years of London's blue plaques



Blue plaques have been part of London's streetscape since 1867 and illuminate the historical and biographical connections of buildings across the city. Administered by English Heritage since 1986, the scheme now celebrates over a thousand notable former residents in the places where they lived and worked. This illustrated talk will outline how the scheme operates, from the initial public nomination, through the stages of selection, research and manufacture, to the triumphant unveiling. It will highlight some of the more recent plaques to be installed and reflect on how every new addition reveals another aspect of the capital's history and identity.

April 13th 2027
Jessica Bryan, Project Officer, MOLA
MOLA excavations at 50 Fenchurch Street. A post-excavation assessment update



The talk will provide an overview of the project, highlighting key discoveries following completion of post-excavation assessment work, and planned future work. The excavation revealed evidence for early 1st century infrastructure and development in the Roman east end through to the medieval All Hallows Staining church and burial ground, the Clothworkers Hall which has been on the site since the 15th century and the commercial premises which utilised the site in the 20th century.

May 11th 2027
Peter Barber OBE, President, Hornsey Historical Society
The Roy Hidson Lecture – The Hornsey Historical Society: A History



Hornsey Historical Society was founded in 1971, formed to research, preserve and promote the history of the parish of Hornsey, and, from 1983 included the area covered by the parliamentary constituency of Hornsey and Wood Green. It has over 300 members, living locally as well as overseas. It maintains an archive of 28,000 items at the Old Schoolhouse and publishes an annual journal as well as many high quality books on the history of the area. The HHS was an expression of the fresh interest in and enthusiasm for local history that led to the formation of many local history societies in the early 1970s, its development since has been influenced by particular features, notably the fluidity of the concept of 'Hornsey' over time, and by the acquisition of its own headquarter building, where most other local history societies have had a very close relationship with their borough's local history library and archives. It also remains active in protecting the local built and natural environment.

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UPDATES AND STORIES

Lost at Play: 500 years of Fun and Games

A new exhibition at Sutton House is a reason to revisit this exceptional house, built in 1535 in what was then the London countryside. It has been owned by the National Trust since 1938.



Source: londonlivinghistory.com

The NT Collections and House Manager, Abigail Winslow, has sent information about the circumstances and background to the exhibition and display of these fascinating finds:

In the late 1980s, members of the Hackney community formed the Save Sutton House Campaign and garnered enough support through a petition to save Sutton House from becoming luxury flats. When the National Trust pledged to save and restore the house, these individuals renamed themselves as the Sutton House Society. While builders were pulling up rotten floorboards, these volunteers sifted through the debris and discovered hundreds of items left behind by previous residents. These items remained in storage until just a few years ago when National Trust volunteers began cataloguing them.

Lost at Play explores 500 years of fun and games at Sutton House displaying toys and games discovered beneath the floorboards. These items tell the story of the people who have lived, worked and gone to school at Sutton House. Whether lost at play or purposefully hidden, these items tell the story of play across five centuries. Some of these toys are familiar, including a domino, playing card and chess piece, while others, like the gaming tokens carved out of animal bone, add intrigue to the history of play. This exhibition provides a family day out for all ages to enjoy!

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Studying the sounds of worship in London buildings

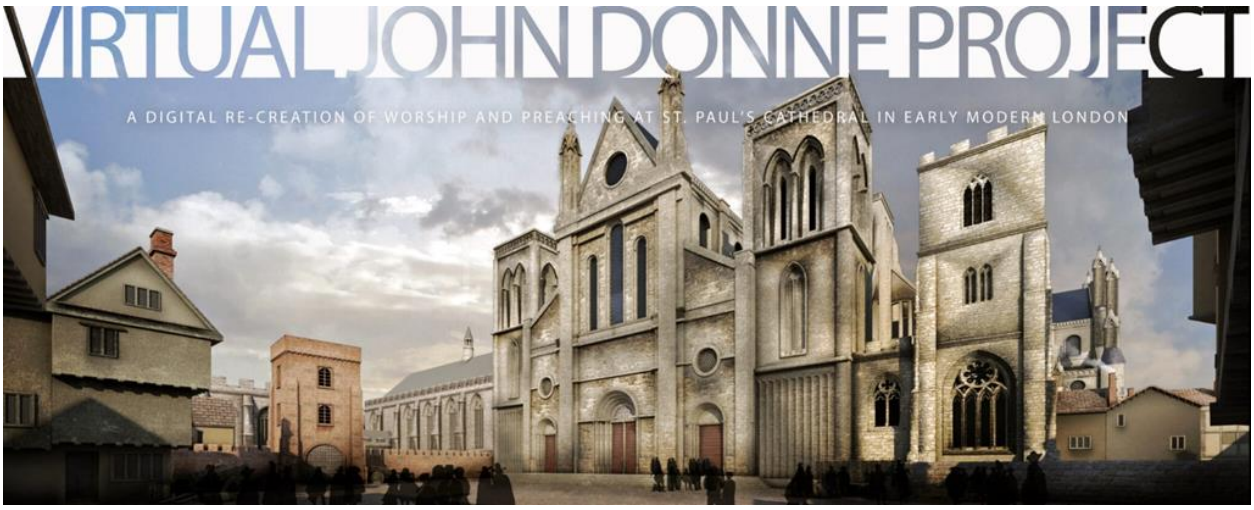

Fig 1: the west end of St Paul's Cathedral in 1623, a reconstruction of the project

What did buildings in former times sound like when they were used? Is there an archaeology of sound? A project led by John Wall of North Carolina State University has been investigating the sounds which would have been heard in two religious

London buildings in the early 17th century.

To the majority of people, the most significant consequence of the English Reformation was the transformation of worship from Latin to English through use of the Book of Common Prayer. The consequences of its implementation included changes in the architecture of church interiors as well as expectations about the behavior of clergy and their congregations. To study these changes, the websites of the Virtual John Donne Project recreate the sights and sounds of worship and preaching at places in London associated with John Donne, our major poet and sometime Dean of St Paul's, in the early 17th century.

The first part of the project, finished in 2013, is a presentation in the speech of the time of a Paul's Cross sermon by Donne (https://vpcross.chass.ncsu.edu/), delivered from the Preaching Station in Paul's Churchyard. Donne's sermon can be heard from eight different positions in Paul's Churchyard and in the presence of four different sizes of crowd, ranging from a few hundred to several thousand.

The succeeding Virtual Cathedral Project, finished in 2023, enables us to experience two full days of worship inside the Cathedral (https://vpcathedral.chass.ncsu.edu/), including Mattins, the Great Litany, Holy Communion, and Evensong, with sermons by Donne and Bishop Lancelot Andrewes. These are audible from five different listening positions inside the cathedral.

The Project staff did not try to recreate sounds emanating from the Nave, which had had the side altars removed and had become Paul's Walk, described by Thomas Dekker as a place where people of fashion showed up to show off, with "what shuffling, what shouldering, what hustling, what Ieering. I verily believe that I am in the Tower of Babel newly builded up."

Samples of the audio demonstrating how the sound of worship changes as one moves about the interior of the cathedral's Choir are, nonetheless, here (https://vpcathedral.chass.ncsu.edu/?page_id=4218n). The associated model of the whole building, created largely by students at NCSU, can be explored by archaeologists and architectural historians (Fig 2).



Fig 2: St Paul's Cathedral in 1623, the east end

A second project, The Virtual Trinity Chapel Project (https://vpcross.chass.ncsu.edu/) recreates Trinity Chapel at Lincoln's Inn, where Donne was Preacher to the Inn, on the day of its consecration in 1623, with the Order of Service on that occasion. While St Paul's was destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666, Trinity Chapel survived the fire, and can be visited today, but the interior has been rearranged and the building expanded by 25% in subsequent years. Trinity Chapel's interior in its original configuration also contains, in one of its stained glass windows, a sign of Donne's contribution to its construction. The Latin inscription translates, roughly, as "I, John Donne, Dean of St Paul's, caused this to be made."

The ultimate goal of all this work is to help us understand more fully Donne's role in these spaces. Donne was not a systematic theologian. Scholars who treat him as such abstract a coherent system of theological understanding from his sermons and other writings. But the Virtual Donne Project websites help us to recognize that Donne's sermons preached in and around St Paul's were composed for specific places and occasions that would have been scripted by the texts of services in the Book of Common Prayer. Donne would have anticipated that context as he prepared

his sermons.

There is a further step which has yet to be taken because we do not know how to do it with virtual or indeed surviving buildings. We know, or guess, that acoustics played a part in the architectural design of certain religious buildings, for instance lofty naves of Franciscan churches. If we can reproduce fairly faithfully what Donne and his contemporaries heard in their places of worship, we might study how the buildings were modified for their wishes.

John Wall and John Schofield

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Fifty years on – 1976 remembered

An item in the May LAMAS *Newsletter* that particularly caught my eye was the reprint of the four-page issue of April 1976 – not least for its report of the 1976 AGM, at which I was first elected Hon Secretary!

I see that Mike Hammerson was elected as a new member of Council. And new Vice-President was 'Mr N M Farrant', later more familiar to us all as Nick Fuentes, who had founded *The London Archaeologist* magazine in 1968. But long-serving stalwarts like Eric Smith, the previous Hon Secretary, were standing down.

There are a number of other familiar names, particularly among the 'new members': historian Tony Dyson and archaeologists John Maloney and John Schofield (all DUA, later MoLAS) and Laura Schaaf (Southwark Archaeological Excavation Committee, later, with the addition of the L for Lambeth, SLAEC – and she is now the Secretary of that long-lived body). And Miss J N M King => Jenny Hall, who after a distinguished career as curator of the Roman collections in the Museum of London is now one of the editors of *The London Archaeologist*.

But it's also a reminder of how important 1976 was in the history of the Museum of London and London archaeology. The references to 'Museum of London, Kensington Palace' demonstrate a museum in transition. The collections (and staff) of the London Museum and Guildhall Museum had (at last) officially been combined as 'the Museum of London' in 1975, but the new building on London Wall was not to fully open until December 1976. Hugh Chapman and I had moved temporarily from Guildhall Museum to share an office in the labyrinthine depths of Kensington

Palace and were getting used to our new roles as 'Senior Assistant Keepers' in (respectively) the Department of Prehistoric and Roman Antiquities and the Department of Medieval Antiquities, with Ralph Merrifield, Jean Macdonald and Brian Spencer. Hugh was already Assistant Editor of LAMAS *Transactions* – and volume 27 (1976), with its new design of front cover, was the first sign of the fresh approach his editorship was to bring. In the same year society's first Special Paper appeared: *The Archaeology of the London Area: Current Knowledge and Problems*.

To the museum mix Guildhall Museum also contributed its young Department of Urban Archaeology, responsible for archaeology within the City of London. The London Museum had its own archaeologists, Roy Canham and later Alison Laws, by this time involved in a long-running series of excavations in Brentford. Elsewhere in Greater London a number of independent local organisations like SAEC were largely responsible for what archaeological investigation was possible. In 1975 LAMAS contributed with the establishment and management of the Inner London (North) Archaeological Unit with funding from the Department of the Environment and some of the London Boroughs. In 1983 these groups were to be brought together within the Museum of London as the Department of Greater London Archaeology, headed by Harvey Sheldon, and later amalgamated with the DUA as MoLAS. In 1976 Harvey had taken over from Ralph Merrifield as Chairman of what was then called LAMAS Archaeological Research Committee – and he is still Chairman of the Archaeology Committee.

John Clark

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The Best SatNav that Romano-Britons Never Had: Digital Britannia

The Roman Road Research Association has completed publication of this first fully up-to-date, digital map of Roman roads in Britain. It is freely available (under Copyright) on the RRRA website, **romanroads.org**. Specifically, it can be found at https://roadsofromanbritain.org/digital-britannia/overview.html.

Roman roads have long fascinated the British public, and many still underlie today's highways. Hundreds of miles of superbly engineered road have, however, long since disappeared – apparently without trace – in the two millennia since the Empire abandoned these shores.

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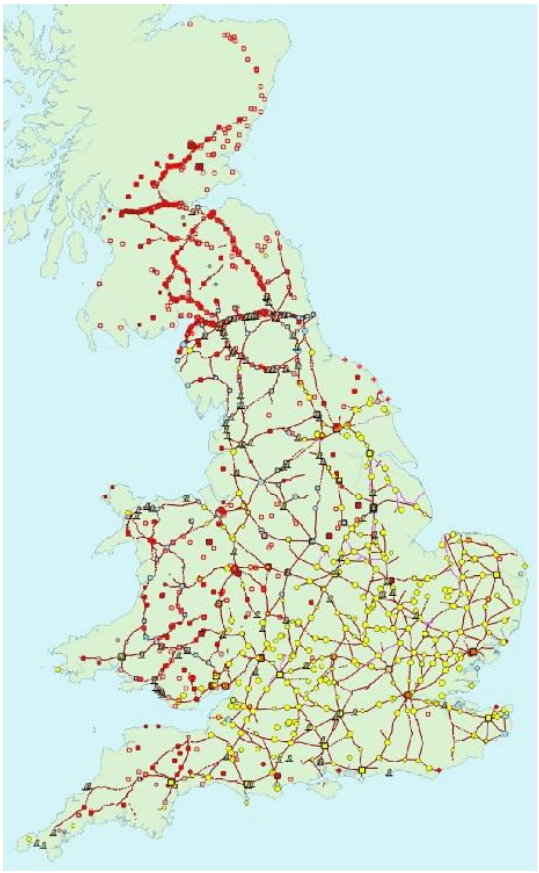

For **Digital Britannia**, the route of every supposed Roman road in Britain has been re-assessed, with layers representing milestones, camps, and a whole range of other infrastructure. It is hard to imagine a more valuable resource for everyone interested in Roman Britain, whether from casual interest in local routes, or focused academic scholarship. The RRRA intends that this digital map will continue to evolve as a go-to resource on Roman Britain.

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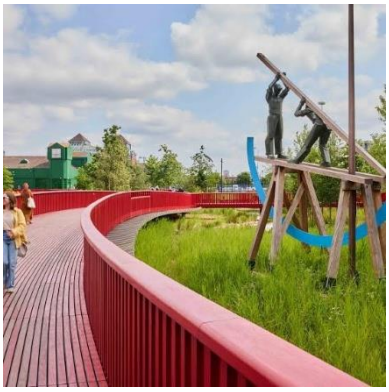
CENTRAL YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS CLUB (YAC)

May meeting: Lost Docks: A walk around Canada, Greenland and Russia. We explored the history of the area around Canada Water on the Rotherhithe Peninsula. Once boggy marshland, this became an industrial area bustling with ships and docks and now is an area of major urban regeneration.



Members had picture clues to solve, learned about specialist jobs in the docks that no longer exist, and about the complex history of Greenland Dock. They were successful in finding evidence of a lost dock (Russia Dock) which was once the destination of many ships laden with timber, now a pleasant leafy woodland.

Rafter Walk over Canada Water and the Deal Porters sculpture

Our walk culminated in watching a demonstration of flint knapping in the nearby Stave Hill Ecological Park.



Flint knapping tools

June meeting: A trip to Fulham Palace - three YACs meet!

We had a great day at Fulham Palace hosted by resident archaeologist, Alexis Haslam.

For the first time we met members of other clubs - Fulham Palace and Canterbury. The weather was very changeable but didn't stop us from visiting the Thames foreshore in the morning. Alexis then gave us a tour of the historic palace and grounds, including the lovely walled garden.



YACs on the Foreshore



Late Victorian stem of an Ally Sloper pipe found by a club member.

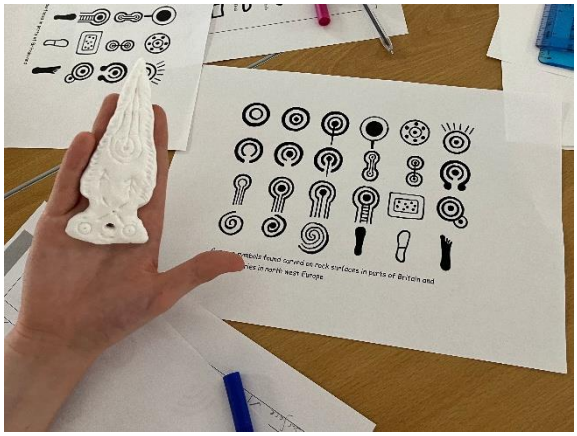
July meeting: If walls could talk: decoding symbols in prehistoric art.



We learned about the different types of prehistoric art - rock art, petroglyphs and portable art and about how old it is, who made it and how. We then took a closer look at the symbols found alongside cave art, for many years overlooked, but now thought to be man's first building blocks that thousands of years later developed into written languages.

Rock art with symbols, Lascaux Cave, France

We also looked at the mysterious petroglyph symbols (cup and ring marks) found in outdoor locations throughout Europe and tried to guess their meaning. For a craft activity members made clay pendants and fridge magnets imbued with prehistoric symbols.



Pendant with symbols

Annie de Saulles

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EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

London Museum in Smithfield will open its doors on 28 November 2026

London Museum will open its new permanent galleries in Smithfield's General Market on 28 November 2026, marking a new chapter for the world's largest city museum. At its heart, London Museum has been envisioned as a social space for the city, drawing on the distinctive architecture of the market to unite the museum's collection and London's communities, to honour the past and present of this major global capital.

Designed by Stanton Williams and Asif Khan, alongside conservation architects Julian Harrap, the museum is located in one of the oldest parts of the capital, the City of London. The opening completes a decade-long restoration of the Victorian General Market, returning the disused historic building to public use for the first time in over three decades. The £437m project has been developed through a unique partnership between the City of London Corporation and Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, alongside support from a range of philanthropic supporters including Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Goldsmiths' Foundation, The Linbury Trust and The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

In the General Market, the museum unfolds across three interconnected spaces. Visitors will enter via Real Time (on Heritage Fund Street) – a covered former street that acts as the museum's main entrance – enriched by data capturing London in the moment. From there, they move into Our Time (in the Linbury Hall), a vibrant central hub for events and activities, anchored by 13 large installations – eclectic objects from London in living memory. Below ground, in the museum's cavernous subterranean galleries, the permanent displays of Past Time offer a compelling overview of London's history through chronological and thematic displays.

Highlights confirmed for display across the museum include the Whitechapel Fatberg, The Lord Mayor's Coach, Banksy's *Piranha* artwork, Charles I's execution vest, Emmeline Pankhurst's hunger strike medal and Anna Pavlova's 'Dying Swan' dress. There will be objects from the museum's eminent archaeological archive, including Roman writing tablets from The Bloomberg Collection capturing the city's earliest surviving voices. The tablets form part of The Bloomberg Collection, a world-renowned trove of more than 14,000 Roman artefacts, the largest archaeological deposition ever gifted to the museum. In The Goldsmiths' Gallery, the glittering Cheapside Hoard, one of the most significant collections of Elizabethan and Jacobean jewellery, will be shown in the fullest display of the hoard ever assembled.

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The Bayeux tapestry at the British museum

Introduction

From September until next July the Bayeux tapestry is being exhibited at the British Museum, while its museum in France is being refurbished. The first block of tickets for 2026 sold out online within 24 hours (https://britishmuseum.queue-it.net/). On the morning that the tickets went on sale I joined a queue of over 78,000 applicants,

many of whom including myself were unsuccessful. Later this year the dates for the sale of 2027 tickets will be announced. Tickets are for a 40 minute slot to see this almost 70m long and 50 cm high tapestry (it is really an embroidery), which contains 58 scenes with Latin captions so you will only have 41 seconds to view each one.

The production of the tapestry

It is believed that the production of the tapestry was ordered by William the Conqueror's half-brother Bishop Odo of Bayeux to commemorate the Norman Conquest. It was probably produced in south-east England by a team of embroiders (perhaps including the nuns at Barking and Canterbury) after 1067 and it was likely to have been completed before 1077, so it could have been displayed during the ceremonies organized by Odo that accompanied the consecration of Bayeux Cathedral on the 14 July 1077. In 1476 the tapestry was recorded in an inventory of the contents of Bayeux Cathedral, which recorded that it was displayed for one week each year inside the nave. Only after a detailed publication in 1729-30 did the tapestry's existence become well-known.

When Odo was aged about 20 in 1049-50 solely on account of his family connections he was appointed Bishop of Bayeux. This promotion was highly unusual as according to church law priests were expected to be aged at least 30 before they were appointed to a bishopric. He played a prominent role in the Conquest, helping organize and finance the expedition and he was present at the Battle of Hastings. In return for this support, William I appointed Odo Earl of Kent and granted him many estates making him the richest man in England after the king. Odo also acted at various times as one of William's deputies before they fell out. Doubts about Odo's loyalty resulted in him being imprisoned at Rouen by William in 1082 or 1083 and he was only released from captivity in September 1087 by the dying king. Odo after his release managed to regain his earldom, but in 1088 he participated in an unsuccessful rebellion against William II and as a punishment he was banished from England for the rest of his life.

The story depicted in the tapestry

The tapestry vividly depicts not just the Norman Conquest but the events that preceded it as a sort of comic book history. The story starts with King Edward the Confessor at his court talking with Harold Godwinson. Edward was elderly and had no children, so the key question was who would be his successor. William Duke of Normandy believed that the English throne had been promised to him by King Edward, but Harold Godwinson a leading English aristocratic hoped that the Witan or king's council would appoint him as king. In 1064 when Harold's ship was forced to land in France due to storms, he ended up as Duke William's prisoner. Harold

was only released from captivity after he had sworn allegiance to William and promised to support William's claim to the throne. Harold returned to England where he was received by King Edward in his new palace at Westminster. Next door is depicted an image of the 11th-century abbey (Fig 1). After Edward's death on the 6 January 1066, Harold was quickly appointed the next king by the Witan. Duke William was furious and immediately started to prepare a fleet and assemble an army to invade England, these preparations are depicted in considerable detail. In September William's fleet crossed the English Channel and landed unopposed near Hastings in East Sussex. Harold quickly arrived with an army and on the 14 October fought and lost the Battle of Hastings, which is depicted in considerable detail (Fig 2).

The chainmail armour, helmets, shields and weapons of both sides are depicted identically but to differentiate the two armies all the Normans soldiers are shown on horseback and all the English are on foot. According to the tapestry Harold was killed by an arrow which struck his face, but one contemporary account states that he died from multiple wounds. The last scene depicts the victorious Norman cavalry pursing the fleeing English foot soldiers. Sadly, the final part of the tapestry is missing (the end is torn) possibly it depicted the surrender of London and ended with William's coronation at Westminster Abbey on the 25 December 1066 (see *LAMAS Trans* 2024 p. 272-5).

What makes the tapestry so fascinating is the amount of incidental detail it depicts such as: William's men felling trees to build ships; the construction of a motto and bailey castle at Hasting; the two men accompanying King Edward's funeral procession ringing hand bells; all the English men have mustaches while all the Normans are clean shaven and King Edward has a full beard; etc. My favourite detail is the two men who are fighting each other with their wooden spades instead of helping construct Hastings Castle. Is this scene a record of a genuine incident?

If you are lucky enough to get a ticket to see the tapestry in the next online allocation then I hope that you have a memorable visit, after all this is the closest that it has been to its place of manufacture for over 900 years.

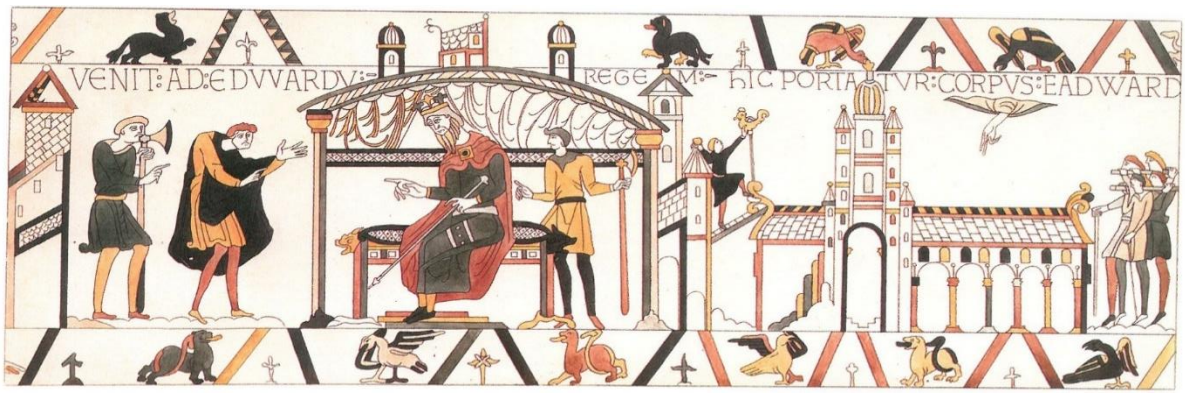

Fig 1, Harold's return from Normandy and Westminster Abbey

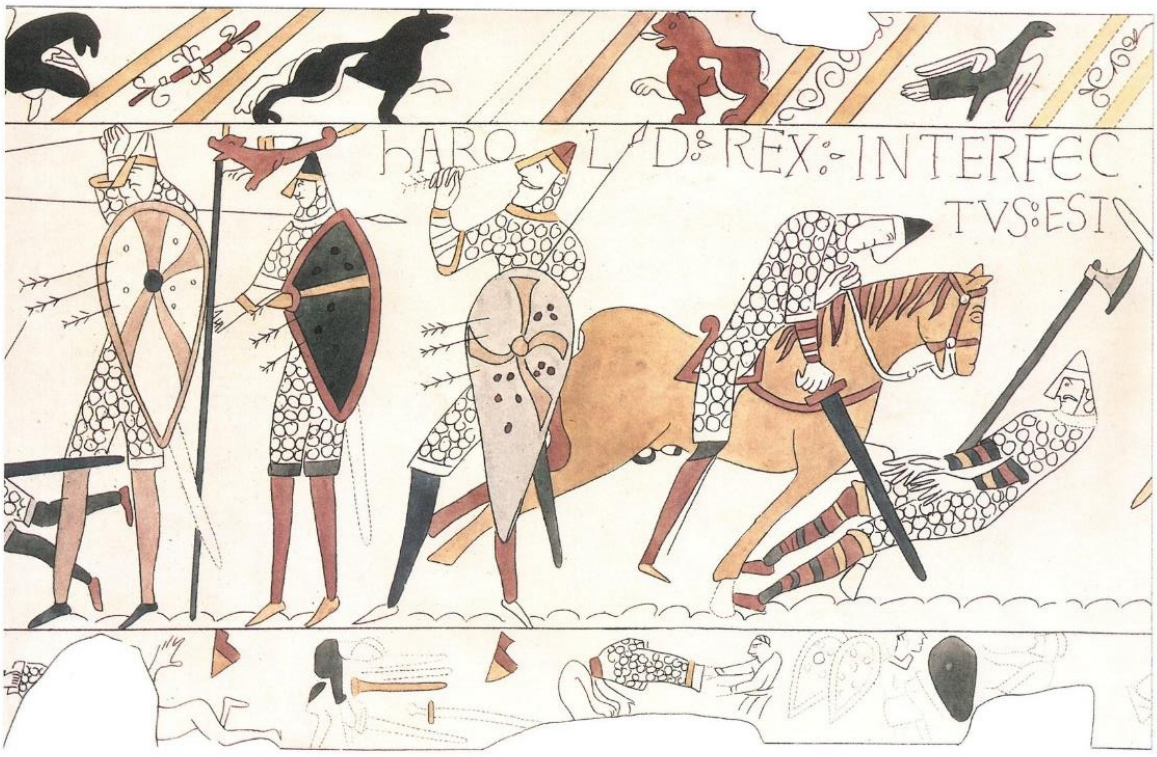

Fig 2 King Harold's death

Bruce Watson

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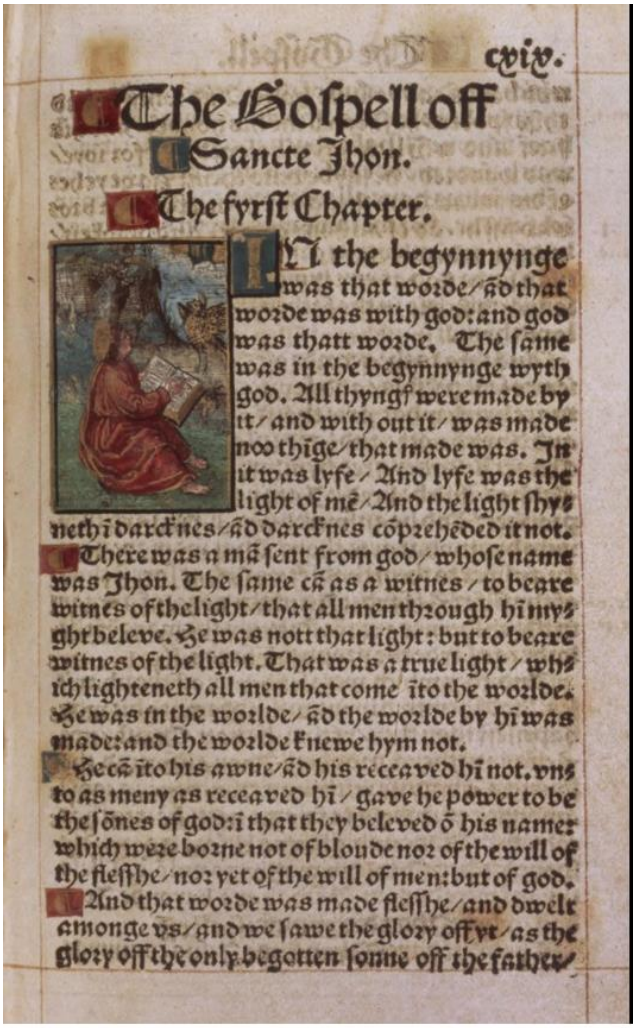
Tyndale's 1526 bible goes on display at st Paul's Cathedral

Today we take religious freedom for granted and you can purchase a Bible in almost any language, but 500 years ago things were quite different.

In London during the 1520s the Bishop of London Cuthbert Tunstall (1522-30) opposed William Tyndale's plan to publish an English translation of the New Testament, so Tyndale moved to Germany and in 1526, with funds initially provided by a London Alderman and Draper - Humphrey Monmouth, started to publish his English Bible. Copies of Tyndale's Bible were secretly smuggled into London and distributed by evangelistic merchants who wanted to promote the 'true religion'. These smuggled copies of the New Testament allowed ordinary people to read and study the scriptures in their own language for the first time. This was considered to be a very radical step as all previous biblical texts were in Latin or Greek (which only a tiny minority of the population could read). As the Catholic Church had not authorized Tyndale's translation it was officially considered to be 'heretical' and therefore banned. Copies of Tyndale's Bible were confiscated by the authorities and publicly burnt from 1526 onward to try and stop people from reading it, but prohibition only increased demand. In 1536 Tyndale, while working on a translation of the Old Testament, was captured in Antwerp and executed as a heretic.

During the Reformation the official attitude towards the production of an English Bible quickly changed and in 1538 each parish was ordered by Henry VIII (who in the 1520s had condemned Tyndale as a heretic) to purchase of a copy of his authorized English 'Great Bible'. Only three copies of original Tyndale's translation survive, one of which is owned by St Paul's Cathedral and it is on display until the end of next February at the cathedral in an exhibition entitled: *A Dangerous Calling.*



cxiv.

The Gospell off
Sancte Jhon.
The fyrst Chapter.

IN the begynnynge was that worde/ & that worde was with god: and god was thatt worde. The same was in the begynnynge wyth god. All thyngs were made by it/ and with out it/ was made noo thige/ that made was. In it was lyfe/ And lyfe was the light of me̅/ And the light shyneth i̅ darckenes/ & darckenes co̅prehended it not.

There was a ma̅ sent from god/ whose name was Jhon. The same ca̅ as a witnes/ to beare witnes of the light/ that all men through hi̅ myght beleve. He was nott that light: but to beare witnes of the light. That was a true light/ which lighteneth all men that come i̅to the worlde. He was in the worlde/ & the worlde by hi̅ was made: and the worlde knewe hym not.

He ca̅ into his awne/ & his receaved hi̅ not. vnto as meny as receaved hi̅/ gave he power to be the so̅nes of god: i̅ that they beleved o̅ his name: which were borne not of blonde nor of the will of the flesshe/ nor yet of the will of men: but of god.

And that worde was made flesshe/ and dwelt amonge vs/ and we sawe the glory offyt/ as the glory off the only begotten sonne off the father/

The opening page of Tyndale's 1526 version of St John's Gospel (source British Library image in public domain)

Bruce Watson

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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 Sir John Soane's bank and its rebuilding and expansion under Sir Herbert Baker that began 100 years ago. This 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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Celebrating 100 Years of the Northern Line in Merton.





FREE events at MORDEN LIBRARY, SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER:

10am – 4pm: **Photographic displays**, archives & film.

10.30am -12pm: **(Guided Walk)** A gentle stroll highlighting the history of Morden Station and the town centre. Starts from the civic centre forecourt. (BOOKABLE)

1 – 2pm: **(Talk) From City to Surrey**. (BOOKABLE) The history of the Northern Line in Merton

1 – 3pm: **(Children's activities) Make a Tube train of the future**, Badge-making and colouring competition.

2 – 3pm: **Underground Anthology: A Centenary Celebration**. (BOOKABLE) Readings of specially commissioned poems and prose from the members of Write Afresh & Sutton Writers.

3 – 4pm: **(Reminiscence session) Tales from the Tube.** (BOOKABLE) Join us to share your memories of the Underground and Merton's Northern Line stations.

4pm **Underground Quiz.** Test your knowledge of the Northern Line

For bookings/info:
Call **Morden Library 020 8545 4040/3239**
or scan the QR code and scroll down to find listings for our bookable events.

LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON

AFFILIATED SOCIETY MEETINGS

Readers are advised to check with the affiliated society before planning visits to lectures

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Acton History Group

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday in the month at 7:30pm in St Mary's Parish Church Hall, Acton W3 9NW (opposite Morrisons, entrance to the right of the tower), free for members, £2 for non-members. Visit our website at actonhistory.co.uk/acton/page2.html or send an email to actonhistorygroup@hotmail.com.

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

14 October 2026
The Rise and Fall of All Saints Church, South Acton, Linda Davies

11 November 2026
The Community at Bedford Park 1875-2025. "Ahead of the World in Everything", Nick Bueono de Mesquita

9 December 2026
Acton History Quiz

13 January 2027
Postcards of West London, Paul Lang

Barnes and Mortlake History Society

Meetings are held from September to April on Thursdays at St Mary's Parish Church, Barnes SW13 9HL at 8pm unless otherwise stated below. The meetings are free for members (£5 for visitors). For further details please contact the Hon. Secretary (020 8878 3756) or visit our website at barnes-history.org.uk.

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

8 October 2026
Mudlarking – a Journey through Time, Jason Sandy

19 November 2026
What happened to all the men that survived The Great War, Martin Stilwell

10 December 2026
Why Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins created the Crystal Palace Dinosaurs, Professor Joe Cain

21 January 2027
Magical Unreality on the Thames: The Story of the Venetian Fêtes at Richmond, Andrew George

30 January 2027 at 3:30pm at All Saints Church, East Sheen SW14 8AT
Perhaps the Finest Street in Europe: The Strand and its heroes through time, Geoffrey Browell

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Barnet Museum and Local History Society

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

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

12 October 2026
110 Years of Aviation Heritage in Hertfordshire, Guy Thomas

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. Lectures are free for members (£5 for visitors). For further information or to purchase a ticket, please contact Clare Lodge (pr@bag.org.uk) or visit our website at bag.org.uk.

17 September 2026
MOLA Excavations at 50 Fenchurch Street: An Overview of the Archaeological Work to Date, Jessica Bryan

19 November 2026
Witchcraft in Kent: The Archaeological Evidence, Wayne Perkins

Brentford and Chiswick Local History Society

The Society holds meetings at the Chiswick Memorial Club, Bourne Place, W4 2EL and via Zoom. All talks are on the third Monday of the month and begin at 7:30pm. Non-members are welcome. For information visit our website at brentfordandchiswicklhs.org.uk.

Bromley Borough Local History Society

Monthly meetings are held 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 contribution please. For more information visit our website at bblhs.org.uk.

1 September 2026
Members Evening – Show and Tell

6 October 2026
The History of the London Cab Trade, Eric Edwards

3 November 2026
Tommy VC - Green Street Green's WW2 hero, Patrick Hellicar

1 December 2026 at 7:30pm AGM followed by
Picture Quiz, Councillor Nicholas Bennett

Camden History Society

The Society holds monthly meetings except August at 7:30pm at Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library WC1X 8NW or on Zoom. Non-members welcome at in-person events (£2); Zoom talks are for members only, some of which are recorded and can be watched by anyone via links on the website at camdenhistorysociety.org. Non-members are invited to join the Society. Please contact the Chair, Malcolm Holmes (01923 461343, malcolmholmes@yahoo.co.uk) for further information.

24 September 2026
AGM followed by
How Napoleon made London the World Capital of Trade and Finance, Jerry White

12 October 2026 via Zoom
On the Beat in Tottenham Court Road, Chris Foster

11 November 2026 via Zoom
Camden in Old Postcards, Martin Sheppard

3 December 2026
Walking the Westbourne: a Geological Trail Along the River Westbourne from Branch Hill Pond to the Thames, Diana Clements

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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 third Wednesday of each month at the London Irish Centre, 50-52 Camden Square NW1 9XB from 7pm. For details please see our website at camnt.info or email maillist@camdennewtown.info.

Chadwell Heath Historical Society

Meetings are held at 7:30pm from September to June. 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 (£2). For details please call 020 8590 4659/020 8597 7210, email chadwellheathhistsoc@hotmail.com, or visit our Facebook page at facebook.com/chhistorical/.

15 September 2026
The Peculiar People, Mark Ripper

City of London Archaeological Society

Lectures are normally on the third Friday in every month and currently are via Zoom only, prior booking is required. Contact via our website at colas.org.uk or email colas_outreach@yahoo.co.uk for booking information. There is no charge for registering for a Zoom lecture.

18 September 2026 via Zoom
Roman Bath-house and Cripplegate Fort, TBA

16 October 2026 via Zoom
Baynard's Castle Revisited, TBA

20 November 2026 via Zoom
Archaeology on the foreshore, TBA

11 December 2026 via Zoom
Custom House – 1973, TBA

Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society

The Society holds a number of events on a variety of topics. Details can be found on their website at cnhss.co.uk. Live talks take place at East Croydon United Reformed Church, 86 Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, CR0 5LP (ECURC). Non-members are welcome. We invite a small donation of £3. Zoom talks require booking. Non-members should email cnhss.info@gmail.com at least 24 hours before the talk quoting the reference shown against the event.

7 September 2026 at 7:45pm at The Small Hall, ECURC
Riverfly monitoring on the Wandle, Derek Coleman

30 September 2026 at 7:45pm at The Small Hall, ECURC
Mosses and Liverworts of Croydon, Becky Vicars

17 October 2026 at 2pm at The Small Hall, ECURC
Going Underground in Surrey's Mines and Caves, Peter Burgess

9 November 2026 at 7:45pm at The Small Hall, ECURC
TBA

28 November 2026 at 2pm at The David Sweet Hall, ECURC
Annual Focus Meeting: Croydon's Water Supply

Edmonton Hundred Historical Society

Meetings are held at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield EN2 0AJ usually at 7:30pm on the third Wednesday of every month except August. Occasional joint meetings with other societies may be on different days. Free to members, visitors £2. For further information visit our website at edmontonhundred.org.uk or email edmontonhundredevents@gmail.com.

16 September 2026
Joyce Butler, the National Women's MP, Chlo Williams

21 November 2026
Elsyng: A Royal Palace in Enfield - its history and archaeology, Dr Martin Dearne

18 November 2026
TBA

15 December 2026
TBA

The Eltham Society

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings take place at 7:30pm at the Woodcroft Club, 254 Eltham High Street SE9 1AA. Non-members £5 including refreshments. For details please visit our website at theelthamsociety.org.uk or email contact@theelthamsociety.org.uk.

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

1 October 2026
The Morse Code – Deciphering Britain's Favourite Detective, Pete Allen

14 October 2026 at 7pm Public Literary Evening (cost £8)
Stevie Smith; Life, Work and Poetry, Dr. Jocelyn Page

5 November 2026
The Love Letters of Frank and Mary, Lynne Dixon

3 December 2026 – Annual talk by Founder Member John Kennett
TBA

Enfield Archaeological Society

Meetings are either held at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield EN2 0AJ (doors open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start) or online via Zoom (indicated below with link available on our website at enfarchsoc.org the day before). Visitors welcome - £1.50.

9 October 2026
The Ancient Near East, Mark Altaweel

13 November 2026 via Zoom
Recent Finds from Roman Vindolanda and Magna, Barbara Birley

11 December 2026 via Zoom
Maritime Archaeology in Palestine, Georgia Andreou

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. See our website for more information at finchleysociety.org.uk.

24 September 2026
Current Developments in Finchley, Finchley Society Planning Committee

29 October 2026
The Great North Road, Hugh Petrie

26 November 2026
Quiz Supper

Friends of Bruce Castle Museum and Park

Evening talks usually take place on the last Wednesday of the month, 7pm for 7:30pm start. Lunchtime talks are usually on the last Monday of the month, 12pm for 12:15pm start. Talks are free and open to all (tea/coffee is available for a small charge). Talks are generally a 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 our website at brucecastle.org/whats-on or phone Bruce Castle Museum (020 8489 4250) at Lordship Lane, Tottenham, N17 8NU. Car park on site. (Satnav for car park N17 7AA entrance on Church Lane).

The Friends of Hackney Archives

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

The Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery

For information about Friends' activities see our website at kensalgreen.co.uk or email fokgc@hotmail.com. **All events require booking via the website.** Ticket prices vary according to the event. This income helps the Friends to restore monuments, study the cemetery and attract visitors to Kensal Green.

The following special events are bookable online:

20 September 2026 at 2pm Guided Walk
The Days of Giants: Joseph Locke and his Generation of Railway Pioneers, John Haines

14 November 2026 at 10:30am Talk and Guided Walk (buffet lunch included)
Prince George, Master Frederick and the Royal Secrets of Kensal Green, Ros Freeborn & Irina Porter

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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 7:15pm for 7:30pm. Non-members are welcome (£2). Refreshments are available. For further details please visit our website at friern-barnethistory.org.uk, email friernbarnethistory@hotmail.co.uk, or contact Patricia Berguer (020 8368 8314).

23 September 2026
Buried Voices of St. Mary's, Hendon, Revd Julie Gittoes

28 October 2026
The Gunpowder Plot, Gerry Fisher

25 November 2026
Lighting the Fuse: a talk about bomb disposal, Lucy Lewis

The Hackney Society

The Society organises a wide range of walks, talks and guided tours during the year. Details and a link to our Eventbrite page can be found on our website at hackneysociety.org/events.

10 September 2026 at 7pm, Chat's Place, E9 6DF
Squatting in Hackney, Tom Hunter, Mark Wilson and Leah Gordon

10 October 2026 at 10am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, Hoxton Station, E2 8FF
People and Power on the City's Doorstep, guided walk

Hayes & Harlington Local History Society

Most meetings are held at Botwell Green Library, Leisure Centre, East Avenue, Hayes UB3 3HW usually on the third Tuesday of the month, doors at 2pm for a 2:15pm start. Non-members are welcome. Further information from Mr Robin Brown, 107 Wentworth Crescent, Hayes, Middlesex UB3 1NP (020 8848 7959) or email hayescanal@hotmail.co.uk.

15 September 2026
The Park Royal Agricultural Show, Anthony Smith

20 October 2026
Rediscovering a Part of West London, Joanna Dudzinska

17 November 2026
More Postcards of West London, Paul Lang

Hendon & District Archaeological Society

Lectures are held on Tuesdays at 8pm at Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley, N3 3QE, 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 our website at hadas.org.uk.

13 October 2026
Linear Route One, Dr Wendy Morrison

10 November 2026
Early Mesolithic and Neolithic movement through Pembrokeshire, William Powell

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Hornsey Historical Society

Meetings start at 7pm and are held at Union Church Hall on the corner of Ferme Park Road/Weston Park N8 9PX. Details can be found on our website at hornseyhistorical.org.uk.

3 September 2026
Charity and Hunger: London's Forgotten Soup Kitchens, Philip Carstairs

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Hounslow and District History Society

Meetings are held at 7:30pm on the last Tuesday in every month from September to April, excepting December. Meetings in September, October, March and April are held at the Hounslow United Reform Church (114 Hanworth Road, Hounslow, on the corner of Chapel Road TW3 1UF), other meetings are held on Zoom. For details see our website at hounslowhistory.org.uk. Non-members visiting are invited to pay £2 at the door. Non-members who wish to join one of the society's Zoom talks should contact James Marshall at ajmarshall54@gmail.com.

29 September 2026
Gardens and People of Twickenham Park, Andrew George

27 October 2026
Aspects of Brentford, Michael Peacock

24 November 2026 via Zoom
Isleworth Through the Ages, Christine Diwell

26 January 2027 via Zoom
Ham House and Garden, Serrie Meakins

Leyton and Leytonstone Historical Society

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month (except August and December) at 7:45pm in St John's Church Hall, off High Road Leytonstone E11 1HH (between Aldi and the church). Free to members, non-members pay £3. Doors open 7:15pm (refreshments available for a small donation). For more information see our website at leytonhistorysociety.org or contact Maureen Measure at measure@btinternet.com.

16 September 2026
Waltham Forest Town Hall, Joanna Moncrieff

21 October 2026
Babylon's Burning: Race, Racism & Resistance 1958-1986, John Price

18 November 2026
Mavericks: Empire, Oil, Revolution and the Forgotten Battle of World War One, Nick Higham

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London Natural History Society

The LNHS Virtual Natural History Talk series will take place monthly at 7pm. All of the talks are free to everyone and they are recorded and uploaded to the LNHS YouTube channel afterwards. **Booking is essential at** eventbrite.co.uk/o/london-natural-history-society-30790245484. For a full range of Natural History walks and talks see the Activities tab on the LNHS website at lnhs.org.uk.

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 SM4 4AR. Buses 164 and 413 stop in Martin Way (in both directions) immediately outside. Parking in adjacent streets is free. See our website for further information at mertonhistoricalsociety.org.uk, contact the Honorary Secretary, Mrs Rosemary Turner, 27 Burley Close, London SW16 4QQ or email mhs@mertonhistoricalsociety.org.uk.

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 the Wandle Industrial Museum, Mitcham CR4 3UD from 2:30pm-4:30pm on the following dates:

25 September 2026
Local History Workshop

6 November 2026
Local History Workshop

The Norwood Society

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30pm at Phoenix Community Centre, 66 Westow Street, SE19 3AF. Bookings can be made via Eventbrite (£3). The Society arranges a series of summer walks which are detailed in our website at norwoodsociety.co.uk. For all enquiries, please contact Ruth Hibberd at membership@norwoodsociety.co.uk.

15 October 2026
The History of Fox Hill, Upper Norwood, Stephen Oxford

19 November 2026
75 Years in Norwood: The Crystal Palace Parade, John Prideaux

Orpington and District Archaeological Society

Meetings are held in Christ Church (United Reformed), Tudor Way, Petts Wood, BR5 1LH on the first Wednesday of each month (except August and January) from 8pm unless stated below. Non-members are welcome to attend for a donation of £3 but please check the website at odas.org.uk before attending in case of last minute changes. For further information please contact Michael Meekums or Janet Clayton (020 8302 1572).

2 September 2026
The Witch Bottle Phenomenon, Dr Nigel Jeffries

12-13 September 2026 2pm – 5pm
Scadbury Moated Manor Open Weekend, see odas.org.uk for details

7 October 2026
The de Scathebury Family: 13th and Early 14th Century Life at Scadbury Manor, Dr Janet Clayton

4 November 2026
Lost in the Woods: Portable Antiquities in the Weald, Dr Andrew Richardson

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Pinner Local History Society

All meetings start at 8pm. Main meetings take place in the Village Hall, Pinner HA5 1AA unless otherwise noted below. 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, 07980 366845) or see our website at pinnerlhs.org.uk.

3 September 2026 (ticketed event)
The Early Years - Angus Fraser in conversation

1 October 2026
Smoke Soot and Steam, David Burnell

5 November 2026
The Pinner Chalk Mines, Mark Bradley

3 December 2026
Battle of Britain House, Ruislip, Chris Hillier

Richmond Archaeological Society

Meetings are held at the Richmond Library Annexe, Quadrant Rd, Richmond TW9 1DH, usually on the second Friday in the month. Doors open 7:30pm for 8pm start. Non-members are invited to give a small donation. Some lectures are via Zoom (indicated below) and internet connections can be checked from 7:45pm. 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. Please visit our website at richmondarchaeology.org.uk for more information or email richmond.archaeology@gmail.com.

11 September 2026
The Roman Gardens of Londinium, Dr Sadie Watson

9 October 2026
AI and the Historian, Mark Lucas

13 November 2026
Mapping Verulamium: Highlights from the Recent Geophysical Surveys of the Roman City, Kris Lockyear

11 December 2026
Petrological and Spatial Analysis of the Flamsteed Staircase in the White Tower, Alfred R. J. Hawkins

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Richmond Local History Society

Meetings are held on Mondays at Duke Street Church, Richmond, TW9 1DH at 8pm. The venue is five minutes from Richmond Station and there is parking on Richmond Green. Visitors £5. All talks are live streamed via Zoom. See our website for joining details at richmondhistory.org.uk or email membership@richmondhistory.org.uk.

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

Rotherhithe and Bermondsey Local History Society

Meetings 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 our website at rbhistory.org.uk.

30 September 2026 AGM followed by
A Selection of Old London Films

Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month from September to April at 8pm at St Martins Church Hall, High Street, Ruislip HA4 8DG. Visitors are welcome (£3 admission). We also organise walks and outings for members during the summer months. For further information and updates about our plans for meetings please contact the Membership Secretary (membership@rnelhs.uk) or visit our website at RNELHS.org.uk.

15 September 2026
The Founders of Northwood, Brian Greenan

20 October 2026 AGM followed by
Picture Shows before Cinema, Ian Christie

17 November 2026
The History of Ruislip Lido and its Railway, David Ray

15 December 2026
Members' Christmas Social Meeting, with Talks on Items of Local Interest, RNELHS Research Group

19 January 2027
Uxbridge and the English Civil War, Nicholas Schofield

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 held twice a year in the Walker Lower Hall, 7 The Green, Southgate, N14 7EG. Non-members are welcome (£5 admission including booking fee). **Booking is essential**. Please visit our website at southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org to register for events or email us on info@southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org.

24 October 2026 at 2:30pm
Trent Park House of Secrets, Dr Giuseppe Albano MBE

Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society

Lectures are held monthly from October to July on the second Tuesday at 7:30pm at The New Cut Housing Cooperative, 106 The Cut SE1 8LN, (direct entrance from the raised walkway), almost opposite the Old Vic. Visitors are welcome but are asked to contribute £1. For details please contact Richard Buchanan, 79 Ashridge Crescent, Shooter's Hill, London SE18 3EA, email RichardJBuchanan@aol.com, or call 020 8764 8314.

Spelthorne Archaeology and Local History Group

SALHG are the trustees of Spelthorne Museum. Please come and visit us at our new venue: Staines Library Hub, Elmsleigh Centre, South Street, Staines TW18 4QB. New displays on the first floor (access via stairs or lift), major exhibits on the ground floor, including our 1738 fire engine and London Stone. Admission free.

SALHG talks start at 7:30pm (please note new time from September 2026). Members free, non-members welcome (£3 admission). For further details please contact Nick Pollard (01932 564585), email curator@spelthornemuseum.org.uk or visit our website at spelthornemuseum.org.

3 September 2026 at Staines Methodist Church, Thames Street, Staines TW18 4SD
Death on the Thames, Jane Sidell

1 October 2026 at Fordbridge Centre, Clarendon Road, Ashford TW15 2QA
Saxon Spelthorne, Nick Pollard and Christine Mitchell

5 November 2026 at Staines Methodist Church, Thames Street, Staines TW18 4SD
Staines Ironworks, Pat Talbot

3 December 2026 at Staines Methodist Church, Thames Street, Staines TW18 4SD
Christmas Meeting

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 our website at thethorneyislandsociety.org.uk for details of how to book or email info@thethorneyislandsociety.org.uk.

Borough of Twickenham Local History Society

Meetings are held at St Mary's Church Hall, 1 Church Street, Twickenham TW1 3NJ, at 8pm on the first Monday of each month from October to May. Guests are welcome (£4). For further information please visit our website at botlhs.co.uk.

Uxbridge Local History and Archive Society

Meetings take place at Christ Church, Redford Way (off Belmont Road), Uxbridge UB8 1SZ, starting at 7:30pm. For further information please contact Mr K.R. Pearce, 29 Norton Road, Uxbridge UB8 2PT or visit our website at eddiethecomputer.co.uk/history.

Walthamstow Historical Society

Meetings 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. For further information email whsmembershipsec@gmail.com or visit our website at walthamstowhistoricalsociety.co.uk.

28 September 2026
A Stranger in Walthamstow: Empire, Encounter and Experiment, Adam Taylor

22 October 2026
The Siege of Sidney Street: Terror on London's Streets, Jef Page

26 November 2026
The Archaeology of Medieval Life in Walthamstow – the Tales of Low Hall & Salisbury Hall, Neil Houghton

Wandsworth Historical Society

Meetings are held either via Zoom or at the Friends' Meeting House, 59 Wandsworth High Street SW18 2PT (opposite the Town Hall) on the last Friday of the month at 8pm. 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 our website at wandsworthhistory.org.uk.

25 September 2026
Members' Evening

30 October 2026
Bermondsey Square: Prehistoric and Roman Settlement, Medieval Abbey and Post-Medieval Mansion Excavations 1998-2018, Alistair Douglas

27 November 2026 via Zoom
Sir Joseph Bazalgette and the Great Stink of London, Stephen Fielding

29 January 2027 via Zoom
17th Nick Fuentes Memorial Lecture

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. Meetings are held every two months on a Saturday at the Crutched Friar pub, 39-41 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AE. Doors at 6:30pm for start at 7pm. Details can be found on our website at whitechapelsociety.com.

3 October 2026
History of the Metropolitan Police Museum, Dr Clare Smith

5 December 2026
Xmas Meeting

Willesden Local History Society

The Society meets on Wednesdays from September to June at 7:30pm in St. Marys Parish Centre, Neasden Lane NW10 2TS adjacent to the churchyard. For further information please visit our website at willesden-local-history.co.uk or contact the Secretary, Margaret Pratt, 51 West Ella Road, London NW10 9PT (020 8965 7230).

21 October 2026
Thirty Years of Police Service in Harlesden and Willesden Green, Sean Cunningham

18 November 2026
Screening of the film "Willesden Trades Hall"

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