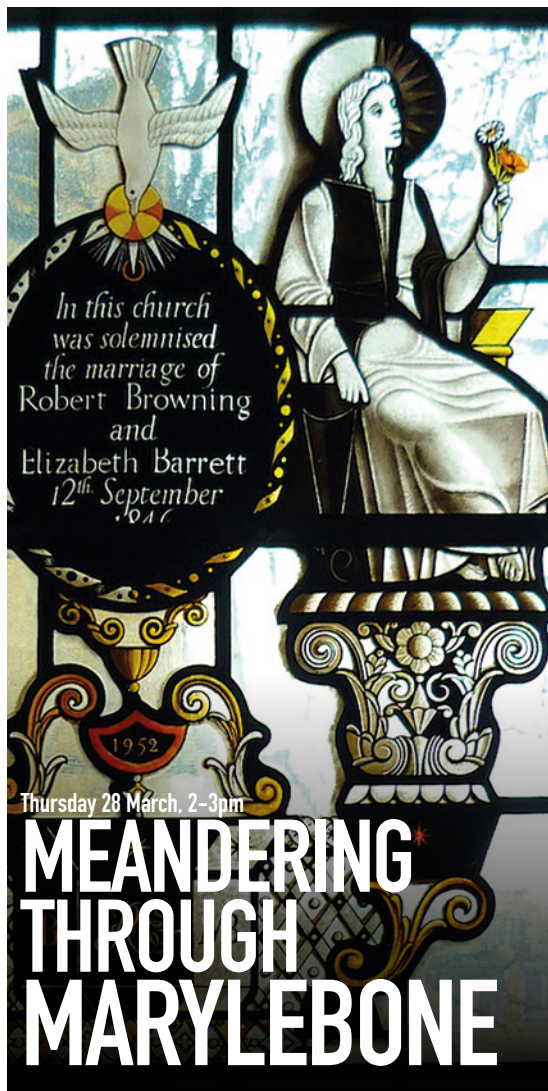


# 2024 JAN-APR GUILDHALL LIBRARY EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

The Library of London History



### Guildhall Library

Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7HH

[guildhall.library@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:guildhall.library@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

[cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/libraries/guildhall-library](http://cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/libraries/guildhall-library)

Follow     



# EVENTS

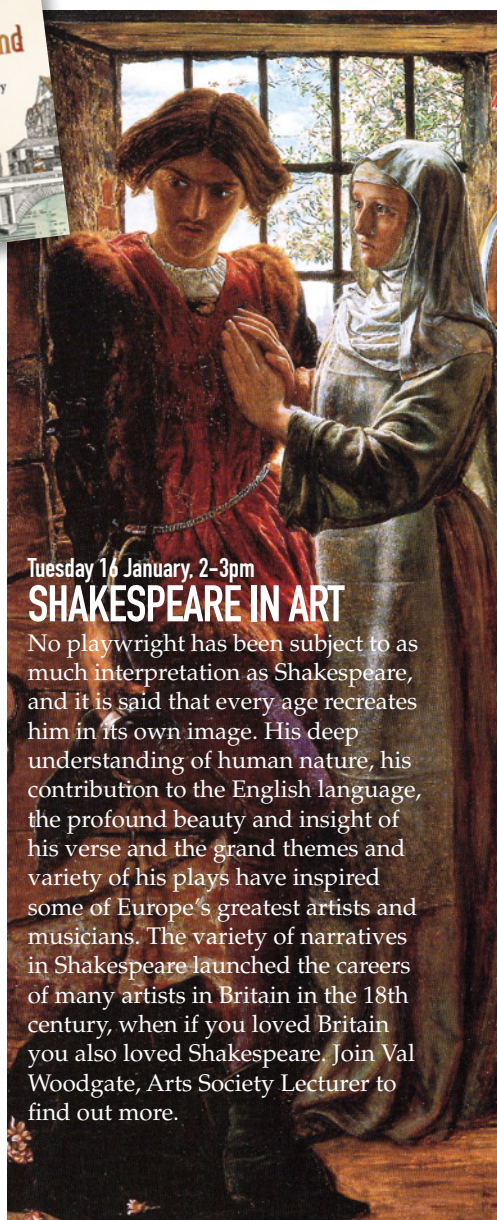
ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND WILL BE TAKING PLACE EITHER ONLINE, ONSITE OR BOTH (HYBRID). EXCEPT WALKS. BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL AND WE CANNOT ENSURE A PLACE WITHOUT A TICKET. DETAILS OF HOW TO BOOK CAN BE FOUND ON THE BACK PAGE.

## Tuesday 9 January, 2-3pm DICKENSLAND: THE CURIOUS HISTORY OF DICKENS' LONDON

Author Lee Jackson traces the fascinating history of Dickensian tourism, exploring both real Victorian London and a fictional city shaped by fandom, tourism, and heritage entrepreneurs. Beginning with the late nineteenth century, Jackson investigates key sites of literary pilgrimage and their relationship with Dickens and his work. From vanishing coaching inns to submerged riverside stairs, hidden burial grounds to apocryphal shops, Dickensland charts the curious history of an imaginary world. Join us to find out more.

## Thursday 11 January, 2-3pm ONLINE ONLY INSIGHTS INTO CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING

Authors Florianne Humphrey and Melissa Welliver are part of the team that runs WriteMentor, a supportive community of children's writers and publishing professionals. Join Florianne and Melissa as they share behind-the-scenes insights into the world of children's publishing and life as an author, with a chance to ask your own questions.



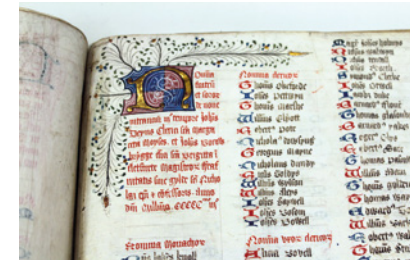
## Tuesday 16 January, 2-3pm SHAKESPEARE IN ART

No playwright has been subject to as much interpretation as Shakespeare, and it is said that every age recreates him in its own image. His deep understanding of human nature, his contribution to the English language, the profound beauty and insight of his verse and the grand themes and variety of his plays have inspired some of Europe's greatest artists and musicians. The variety of narratives in Shakespeare launched the careers of many artists in Britain in the 18th century, when if you loved Britain you also loved Shakespeare. Join Val Woodgate, Arts Society Lecturer to find out more.



## Thursday 18 January, 2-3pm JOHN SINGER SARGENT — POWER OF THE PORTRAIT

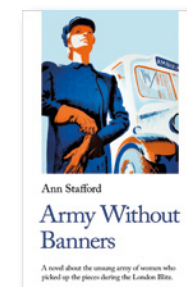
Discover the rise, the fall and rise again of the remarkable career of John Singer Sargent, the leading portrait painter of his age – the age of elegance. From the scandal of the painting of Madame X to the trials, tribulations and triumph of Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose, explore portraits of women spanning France, England and America by an artist who devoted his entire life to the creation of beauty. Join Alexandra Epps, Art Guide and Lecturer to learn more.



## Monday 22 January, 2-3pm HISTORY AND TREASURES OF GUILDHALL LIBRARY

Join our librarians to learn about the history of Guildhall Library, and view some of the library's amazing treasures.

Limited places available

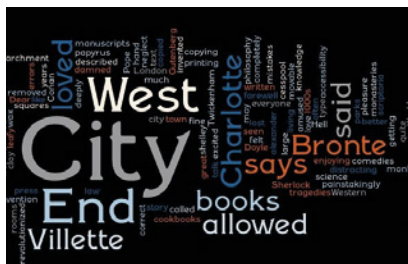


## Tuesday 23 January, 2-3pm ONLINE ONLY LONDON AMBULANCE VOLUNTEERS IN THE BLITZ, AND ARMY WITHOUT BANNERS

Kate Macdonald of Handheld Press will be talking about Ann Stafford's 1942 novel 'Army Without Banners', now republished for the first time in eighty years. This account of being a volunteer ambulance driver in the Second World War, and the wider volunteer force in London during the Blitz is illustrated with sketches by the author that come straight from the bomb site and the night shelter.



# EVENTS



## Wednesday 24 January, 2-3pm THE CITY BY THE BOOK

The City is well known as the Financial District. Sharp suits, glass towers, the rush of money and power. But, if you look beneath all of this, the written word runs through the Square Mile and the echoes of poets and authors are round every corner. Join Jill Finch, City of London Guide to learn more.

## Monday 5 February, 2-3pm COMEDY IN THE CITY

In the week when Regency London's King of Comedy Joseph Grimaldi is commemorated, Lester Hillman explores City links and all things comedy. They are to be found in stained glass, hidden in street names and screaming out in skyscrapers. Humour lurks in rhymes and riddles, saints and symbols, jesters and jongleurs. 'Laugh I thought I'd never start'. Rave reviews say it all!



## Thursday 8 February, 2-3pm 50 YEARS OF LOVE AND LAUGHTER

Len Taphouse describes the fun and experiences of married life. Join us to find out more.



## Tuesday 13 February, 2-3pm ONLINE ONLY IGNATIUS SANCHO – FROM SLAVE TO COMPOSER, AUTHOR AND VOTER

The son of African slaves, Sancho was born on a Spanish slave ship bound for South America. He was orphaned as a baby and taken to England where he worked for three sisters in Greenwich. As a respectable member of society, he voted in the 1774 and 1780 elections, corresponding with Laurence Sterne and others and composing music for dances. Many of his letters were published and helped to fuel the abolition of slavery. Join Dr William Sterling to find out more.



## Thursday 15 February, 2-3pm LONDON'S RIVER

The Thames has been quite simply the lifeblood of London. It established Londinium as the Romans' first trading port and later as the capital of the province of Britain, but its story begins long before AD43, and its subsequent history, as Pete Smith will argue, has been both remarkable and complex.

## Friday 16 February, 2-4pm WALK: DOWNSTREAM

This walk with Pete Smith, starting from the statue of Queen Anne in front of the west steps of St Paul's Cathedral, follows the course of the river as it flows east towards the Tower and Tower Bridge. On the way we shall encounter: a notoriously wobbly bridge, a church dedicated to a former pirate, a mansion that once hosted a banquet for five kings, and even the site of London's first public lavatory since Roman times.

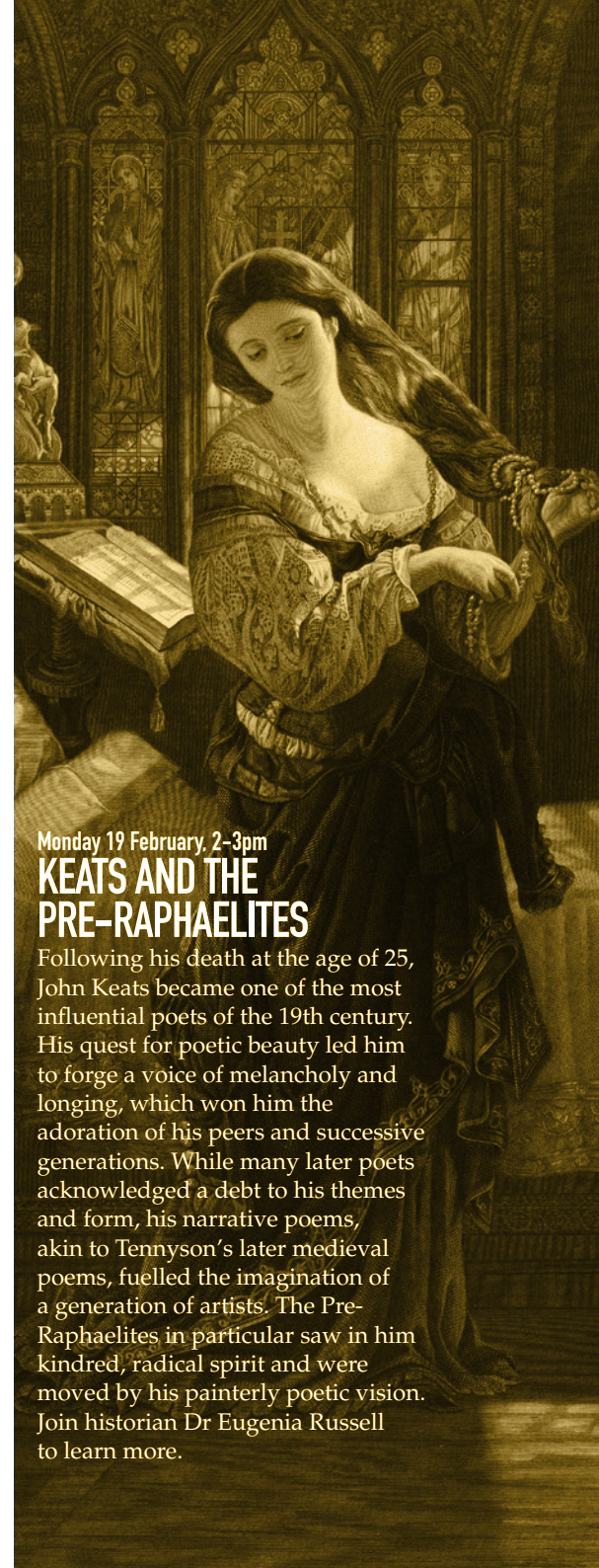
£10 plus booking fee

Meet at the statue of Queen Anne in front of the west steps of St Paul's Cathedral



## Monday 19 February, 2-3pm KEATS AND THE PRE-RAPHAELITES

Following his death at the age of 25, John Keats became one of the most influential poets of the 19th century. His quest for poetic beauty led him to forge a voice of melancholy and longing, which won him the adoration of his peers and successive generations. While many later poets acknowledged a debt to his themes and form, his narrative poems, akin to Tennyson's later medieval poems, fuelled the imagination of a generation of artists. The Pre-Raphaelites in particular saw in him kindred, radical spirit and were moved by his painterly poetic vision. Join historian Dr Eugenia Russell to learn more.





# EVENTS

Tuesday 20 February, 2-3pm **ONLINE ONLY**

## KATE'S BOOKSHELF: BOOKS ABOUT TEXTILES

Join Kate Macdonald from Handheld Press and occasional book reviewer at [www.katemacondonald.net](http://www.katemacondonald.net) for an excursion through her bookshelf. This month we are looking at textiles, fabrics and threads. The books discussed will be: Kassia St Clair, *The Golden Thread. How Fabric Changed History* (2018), Clare Hunter, *Threads of Life. A History of the World Through the Eye of a Needle* (2019), Esther Rutter, *The Golden Fleece. A Journey Through Britain's Knitted History* (2019), and Claire Wilcox, *Patchwork. A Life Through Clothes* (2020).



Thursday 22 February, 2-3pm

## THE CITY CHURCHES OF SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN

The aftermath of the Great Fire of London provided an opportunity

for a young architect to redesign the religious look of the City. Christopher Wren did not just build a new cathedral and a few churches, he created a Skyline – a City of Spires. This talk by City of London Guide & Lecturer Jill Finch looks at The Office of Wren in the seventeenth century Square Mile. Join us to find out more.

Tuesday 27 February, 2-3pm

## WHITE HARTS AND CORONETS: ART AT THE COURT OF KING RICHARD II

The patronage of King Richard II and his court encouraged the creation of some of the most beautiful and impressive works of art in late fourteenth century England. These include the portrait of Richard II in Westminster Abbey, the earliest surviving panel portrait of an English monarch, the so-called Crown of Princess Blanche, regarded as one of the greatest surviving masterpieces of gothic jewellery, and the Wilton Diptych, undoubtedly the most important and most beautiful painting to survive from medieval England. Join Dr Peter Ross, Arts Society Lecturer to find out more.



Wednesday 28 February, 2-3pm

## HISTORY AND TREASURES OF GUILDHALL LIBRARY

Join our librarians to learn about the history of Guildhall Library, and view some of the library's amazing treasures.

Limited places available

Thursday 7 March, 2-3pm

## LONDON'S BURNING

In early September 1666, a fire broke out in Thomas Farryner's bakery in Pudding Lane. In less than a week it had spread to destroy four fifths of the City of London. In this talk, Pete Smith tells the story of its disastrous course and how it was finally checked. Join us to learn more.





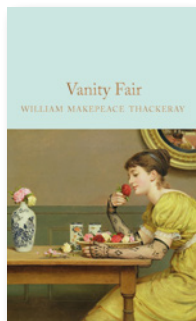
# EVENTS



Friday 8 March, 2-4pm

## WALK: TOWERING INFERNO

This walk, which charts the terrifying spread of the Great Fire of London, begins in All Hallows by the Tower, close to where Samuel Pepys saw the first signs of the blaze and from whose tower, he witnessed its dreadful consequences. Join Pete Smith to follow its destructive course westwards as far as St Paul's, and hear its story in the words of contemporary eyewitnesses. £10 plus booking fee  
Meet at All Hallows by the Tower Church



Tuesday 12 March, 11am-12noon

## BOOK CLUB: VANITY FAIR BY WILLIAM THACKERAY

Guildhall Library book club facilitated by Assistant Librarian Isabelle Chevallot. We will discuss William Thackeray's 1845 masterpiece *Vanity Fair*. On display will be a selection from its first serialisation in *Punch* and Guildhall Library's edition.

Tuesday 12 March, 2-3pm **ONLINE ONLY**

## ROSEMARY SUTCLIFF: ROYAL NAVY BABY AND LONELY GIRL

Join Kate Macdonald of Handheld Press talking about the new edition of Rosemary Sutcliff's beloved memoir of her childhood in naval dockyards. 'Blue Remembered Hills' was first published forty years ago, and seventy years after Sutcliff's most well-known novel 'The Eagle of the Ninth'. As one of the most influential historical novelists in British children's literature she formed the imaginations of generations of children with her stories of Roman and Saxon Britain. Hear where it all came from.



Thursday 14 March, 2-3pm

## LABYRINTHS & MAZES WORLDWIDE AND IN LONDON

The labyrinth pattern is thousands of years old and is found in nearly every culture around the world. This talk examines their construction, meaning and the secret of their enduring fascination and a demonstration of how to draw a labyrinth. Join City Guide Robert Stephenson to learn more.



Tuesday 19 March, 2-3pm

## DOCK LIFE RENEWED - HOW LONDON'S DOCKS ARE THRIVING AGAIN

Forty years ago, London's Docklands had become 6,000 acres of forgotten wasteland after over a century as the busiest port in the world. Now these once-derelict docks are again filled with ships and boats, forming homes and businesses for an extraordinary range of people. Whether millionaires visiting on their superyachts, young tech workers wanting a cheaper place to live, craftsmen keeping ancient marine trades alive or homeless people finding refuge, these are varied and dynamic communities. Photographer Niki Gorick will reveal the amazingly diverse modern-day life within these urban marinas.



# EVENTS

Wednesday 20 & 27 March, 11am-12noon

ONLINE ONLY

## HENRY VII — DEFENDER OF THE FAITH OR TYRANT?

Guildhall Library's history discussion group facilitated by Assistant Librarian Isabelle Chevallot. A chance to discuss your favourite kings and queens of England. A short paper will be provided by the facilitator ahead of the session for you to read in preparation for the discussion.



Thursday 28 March, 2-3pm

## MEANDERING THROUGH MARYLEBONE

From the busy Marylebone Road outside Baker Street station to the green grass of Cavendish Square, this virtual walk takes in Sherlock Holmes, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Harley Street doctors and the ambitions of architect John Nash. On the way we look at the Broadcasting House and the Langham Hilton and find out how Nash's ambitions were thwarted. Join City of London Guide Jill Finch to learn more.

Wednesday 3 April, 11am-1pm

## WALK: MORE MEANDERING THROUGH MARYLEBONE

A companion piece to her earlier talk, this walk with City Guide Jill Finch wends its way from Baker Street station to Cavendish Square. The parish of Marylebone took its name from its church, dedicated to St Mary on the banks of the Tybourne stream. £10 plus booking fee  
Meet by the Sherlock Holmes statue outside Baker Street Station



Thursday 4 April, 2-3pm

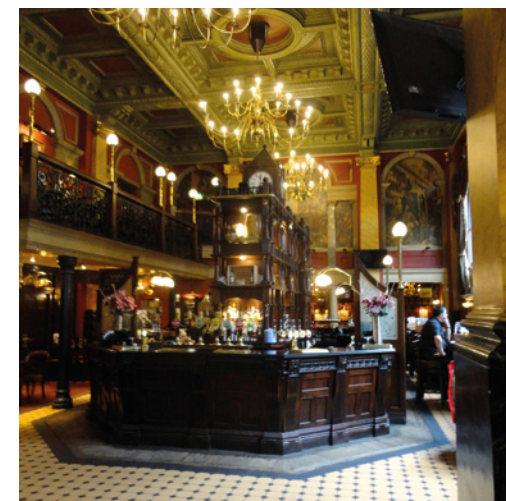
## LONDON'S BEST BOOZERS

Whether your taste is for opulent interiors or spit and sawdust, history or hauntings, local colour or just plain oddity, City Guide Pete Smith will try to persuade you in this talk that London has just the pub for you.

Friday 5 April, 2-4.30pm

## WALK: CITY PUBS — DRINK AND INK

This walk starts from the booking hall of Blackfriars Station, opposite the extraordinary Black Friar, whose ornate bar interior is perhaps the most breath-taking in London. It then moves on to the splendid pubs of Fleet Street. The journalists and printers who used to work here loved a pint, and the street is lined with fine drinking establishments, from the world-famous Olde Cheshire Cheese to the palatial Old Bank of England. Join Pete Smith to sample one or two. £10 plus booking fee  
Meet at the booking hall of Blackfriars Station





# EVENTS

## Tuesday, 9 April, 2-3pm **ONLINE ONLY** **THE TROJAN WAR AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM**

"Going on an Odyssey" and "What is Your Achilles's Heel?" are still phrases we all know. Achilles, Odysseus, Hector and Helen are all well-known characters from the mythical Bronze Age. The stories around the Trojan War cover age old themes of love, betrayal, deceit, vengeance with even some compassion at times. This talk uses objects from the British Museum to outline the background to the war, the events during the war and the aftermath of the war. Join Dr William

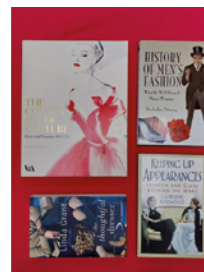
Sterling to find out more.



## Thursday 11 April, 6-8PM **GEORG FRIEDRICH HANDEL (1685-1759): A BAROQUE MASTER, A ROYAL COMPOSER**

In June 1710 Handel had undertaken the post of Kapellmeister (master of the choir of the chapel) in the Electorate of Hanover ruled by the young Prince George. Handel soon abandoned the post but within seven years he would be writing one of his most celebrated works, his Water Music, for the pleasure of the same, now as George I of England. It is said to have been performed several times for the King and his guests. This talk by historian and classical musician Dr Eugenia Russell places the royal service of Handel in the context of his wider compositional output, and of London landmarks. It will be illustrated with musical examples.

£7 plus booking fee  
Includes wine reception



## Tuesday 16 April, 2-3pm **ONLINE ONLY** **KATE'S BOOKSHELF: FASHION HISTORIES**

Join Kate Macdonald from Handheld Press and occasional book reviewer at [www.katemacdonald.net](http://www.katemacdonald.net) for an excursion through her bookshelf. This month we are looking at her fashion history reference shelf. The books to be discussed will be: Catherine Horwood, *Keeping Up Appearances. Fashion and Class Between the Wars*, Claire Wilcox (ed.), *The Golden Age of Couture. Paris and London, 1947-57* (2007), Nicholas Storey, *History of Men's Fashion. What The Well-Dressed Man Is Wearing* (2008), and Linda Grant, *The Thoughtful Dresser* (2009).

## 17 April, 2-3pm **JOHN MARSHALL: THE MAN WHO REFORMED LLOYD'S REGISTER**

This talk looks at the life of a somewhat enigmatic mover and shaker in London's world of shipping in the nineteenth century. John Marshall owned a fleet of thirty ships, instigated the reform of Lloyd's Register and became the main emigration agent for Australia. He made and lost three fortunes. Join Dr Liz Rushen, Director at the Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network, to find out more.

## Thursday 18 April, 2-3pm **SHARDLAKE'S LONDON**

Based on the bestselling novels by C J Sansom, this talk by Jill Finch aims to conjure up the tensions and troubles of sixteenth century London – turned on its religious head by Henry VIII's split from Rome, where the wrong word in the wrong ear could land you in prison – or worse. From Staple Inn on Holborn to Walbrook we will be following in the footsteps of that somewhat reluctant hero/lawyer/detective Matthew Shardlake and his assistant Jack Barak – solving crimes and saving lives in the City.

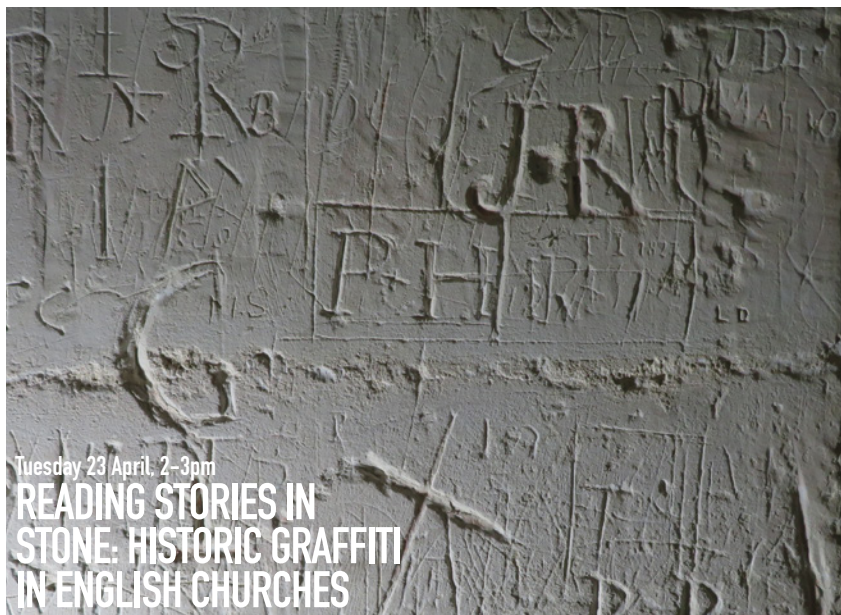
## Monday 22 April, 2-3 **HISTORY AND TREASURES OF GUILDHALL LIBRARY**

Join our librarians to learn about the history of Guildhall Library, and view some of the library's amazing treasures.  
Limited places available





# EVENTS



## Tuesday 23 April, 2-3pm READING STORIES IN STONE: HISTORIC GRAFFITI IN ENGLISH CHURCHES

Have you ever seen scratches on an old wall and wondered what they mean? Historic graffiti, often found on the walls of medieval churches, serve as a fascinating time capsule for historians and archaeologists. Drawings and writing in these

spaces give us glimpses into the stories of past communities and people. Join Crystal Hollis (PhD) as we learn about what graffiti is, how it has changed over time, and what it tells us about the people of the past.



## Thursday 25 April, 11am-1pm WALK: SHARDLAKE'S LONDON

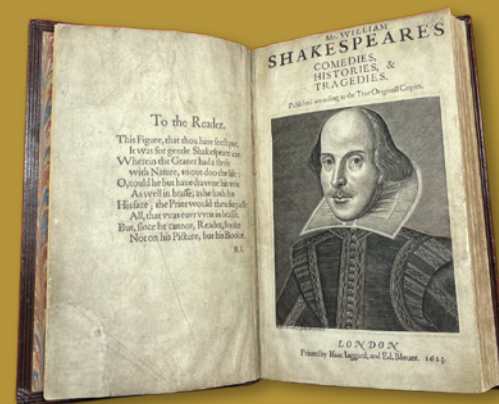
C J Sansom's best-selling Shardlake novels roam the country but several of them are firmly based in London. City Guide Jill Finch's walk from Staple Inn to Walbrook discusses the plots, the characters and the historical events that inform the novels, as she takes you through the streets that Shardlake knew so well.

£10 plus booking fee  
Meet outside Café Vergnano at Staple Inn.  
Exit 3 from Chancery Lane tube station.

# EXHIBITIONS

## FOLIO 400: SHAKESPEARE IN PRINT

Drawing on Guildhall Library's remarkable Shakespeare collections, this exhibition examines the history of the printing of William Shakespeare's plays, from the small 'Quartos' of the late 16th century and the Folios of the 17th century, to the reworking of the text in the 18th century and the rediscovery of the original texts in the 19th century.



**Extended until 30 April**  
Throughout January-April there will be opportunities to see the First Folio in the exhibition. Please follow our social media for updates of when these special events will be taking place.

Twitter - @guildhalllib  
Facebook - Guildhall Library City of London Libraries  
Instagram - @guildhalllibrary





# GUILDHALL LIBRARY EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

The Library of London History

**GUILDHALL LIBRARY  
IS OPEN 10AM-4PM,  
MONDAY TO THURSDAY**

Guildhall Library has reduced numbers of staff at the moment and so if you would like to undertake research at the Library we would encourage you to book a place and let us know ahead of your visit what you would like to consult. If you do visit without an appointment, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to produce the material you require – however, as usual, we will do our best!



For further information and details of how to make a booking, please visit [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/libraries/guildhall-library](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/libraries/guildhall-library)

**ALL EVENTS REQUIRE BOOKING.  
PLEASE BOOK THROUGH EVENTBRITE:  
GHLEVENTS.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES REGARDING BOOKING PLEASE CONTACT:  
GHLEVENTS@CITYOFLONDON.GOV.UK**



## **Guildhall Library**

Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7HH

[guildhall.library@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:guildhall.library@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

[cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/libraries/guildhall-library](http://cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/libraries/guildhall-library)

Follow     