Thursday 17 February, 2–3pm

ATKINSON GRIMSHAW: MASTER OF MOONLIGHT

Monday 28 February, 2–3pm

VIRTUAL WALK: SHARDLAKES LONDON

Tuesday 26 April, 2–3pm

LONDON VILLAGES: WAPPING

Guildhall Library
Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7HH
guildhall.library@cityoflondon.gov.uk
cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/libraries/guildhall-library
EVENTS

Tuesday 11 January, 2–3pm
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM
During lockdown every museum closed its doors but some tried to stay open virtually through online tours. The Highlights tour of the British Museum has been going since 2013 and covers 15 objects in 90 minutes highlighting objects from all parts of the Museum’s collection from the Ancient World to the Modern and from all parts of the World; from Ancient Egypt to Easter Island, from Mexico to China. It includes some of the Museum’s best-known objects such as the Sutton Hoo Ship Burial, the Lewis Chessmen, the Portland Vase, the Rosetta Stone and the Parthenon Sculptures. Join Dr Bill Sterling to learn more.

Friday 14 January, 11am–12pm & 2–3pm
GUILDHALL LIBRARY TREASURES
The first library at Guildhall was around 1425, when a “new house or library” was formed under the terms of the will of “the rich and pious merchant” Richard Whittington. Join Librarian Ann Martin to learn about the history of Guildhall Library and to view some of the library’s treasures.
Onsite only - Limited places available

Monday 17 January, 2–3pm
A SINGULAR PALACE: THE TOWER OF LONDON
Palace, fortress, prison, mint, and even zoo! Over nearly a thousand years, the Tower of London has been all these things. In this illustrated talk, Pete Smith will single out some of the highlights of the Tower’s chequered history.

Friday 19 January, 11am–1pm
WALK: MINCING, SEETHING AND STAINING
Beginning in the church of All Hallows by the Tower, this walk, led by City Guide Pete Smith, explores the lanes and alleyways from the Tower of London to St Paul’s, and investigates many of the curious stories they have to tell.
Meet in All Hallows by the Tower Church (nearest Underground, Tower Hill)
£10 plus booking fees

Monday 24 January, 2–3pm
NATIONAL TREASURES: SAVING THE NATION’S ART IN WW2
As Hitler prepared to invade Poland during the sweltering summer of 1939, men and women from across London’s museums, galleries and archives forged extraordinary and ingenious plans to send their collections to safety. Author Caroline Shenton shares a moment from our history when an unlikely coalition of mild-mannered civil servants, social oddballs, and metropolitan aesthetes became nothing less than the heritage front in our fight against the Nazis.

Wednesday 26 January, 2–3pm
ROSE MACAULAY WRITES ABOUT LONDON
When the novelist and feminist wit Rose Macaulay (1881-1958) won a literary prize in 1912, she moved to London to set up as a writer. Her pacifist novel Non-Combatants and Others (1916) is set in the London suburbs and Upper Clapton; What Not (1918), her speculative satire that influenced Huxley’s Brave New World, is set in London government offices; Potterism (1920) is set in Fleet Street; and many of her essays in Personal Pleasures (1935) describes the pleasures of London’s shops, cars, parties and churches. All four titles are published by Handheld Press in glorious new editions. Join Kate Macdonald to learn more.
**EVENTS**

**Monday 31 January, 2–3pm**

**VIRTUAL WALK: MEANDERING AROUND 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 Guide Jill Finch to learn more.

**Friday 4 February, 2–3pm**

**MEDIEVAL MONASTIC AIRBNB**

Tucked away at Smithfield was the Prior of Sempringham’s lodgings, the London base for the Gilbertines. The New Museum of London is set to arrive in the vicinity soon. The Gilbertine's hostel was one of the many ‘brand protecting’, administrative and liaison bases for religious orders, all keen to maintain a London presence with occasional opportunities for prestige showcasing. On St Gilbert’s Day this talk, by City Guide Lester hillman, will explore the colourful and unusual order including local scandals in the twelfth century and awkward weekends in the Wars of the Roses.

**Tuesday 8 February, 2–3pm**

**LONDON’S VILLAGES: MARYLEBONE**

From secret marriages, a lurking crocodile and London’s first bus route, to an underground river, a one-legged crossing-sweeper and the world’s first consulting detective, Marylebone has some strange tales to tell. Join Pete Smith to find out more.

**Friday 11 February, 11 am–12.45pm**

**WALK: MARYLEBONE TO MAYFAIR**

Meet Pete Smith by the exit from Regent’s Park Underground Station for a walk that encompasses both Sherlock Holmes and James Bond and leads through the bright lights of the West End to a once-notorious red-light district. On the way, you will discover: how Marylebone got its name, where a sandwich proved fatal, why the US Embassy is moving south of the Thames and what a pickadil was.

Meet at the exit of Regent’s Park Station (Bakerloo Line). £10 plus booking fee

**Tuesday 15 February, 2–3pm**

**LONDON VILLAGES: CHELSEA**

Over the years, Chelsea has housed sinners and at least one saint. It has been a royal route, the haunt of artists, poets and philosophers, the scandalous home of ground-breaking drama and the Sixties heart of Swinging London. Pete Smith explores this fascinating and complex district in an illustrated talk.
Thursday 28 February, 2-3pm
VIRTUAL WALK: SHARDLAKES LONDON
Based on the bestselling Shardlake novels by C J Sansom, this Virtual tour by Jill Finch aims to conjure up the tensions and troubles of 16th 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 streets.

Thursday 17 February, 2-3pm
ATKINSON GRIMSHAW: MASTER OF MOONLIGHT
As one of the great painters of the Victorian era Atkinson Grimshaw created some of its most beautiful atmospheric paintings. In rain and mist, moonlight and gaslight, the River Thames, City streets, winding lanes and grimy docks all appear as if clothed in poetry and mystery. Discover the unique vision of the ‘master of moonlight’ - an artist who transformed the humdrum of everyday Victorian life, time and time again into a magical ‘Grimshaw’. Join Alexandra Epps, Arts Society Lecturer, to learn more.

Tuesday 22 February, 2-3pm
JOHANNES VERMEER’S PERFECT PAINTING
What can we learn from a single painting by Vermeer about 17th century domestic life, food, costume, colour, paint, pottery, servants, and heating? Should we take it at face value or are there hidden messages to be uncovered? Join our Principal Librarian Dr Peter Ross to find out.

Wednesday 23 February, 11am-1pm
WALK: CHELSEA
Starting from the booking hall of Sloane Square Underground Station, this walk by Pete Smith begins on the borderland between what Dickens called ‘the aristocratic pavements of Belgrave Square and the barbarism of Chelsea’ before heading west towards the Royal Hospital, Chelsea’s bohemian heartland, and the old village whose notable residents ranged from Thomas More to Thomas Carlyle. What other area can bring together Oscar Wilde and Winnie the Pooh? Meet at the booking hall of Sloane Square Underground Station (District & Circle Lines)
£10 plus booking fee

Monday 28 February, 2-3pm
VIRTUAL WALK: SHARDLAKES LONDON
Based on the bestselling Shardlake novels by C J Sansom, this Virtual tour by Jill Finch aims to conjure up the tensions and troubles of 16th 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 streets.
Tuesday 1 March, 2-3pm  
**THE NATIONAL GALLERY, LONDON: 500 YEARS OF WESTERN ART FROM DUCCIO TO CEZANNE**

We look initially at how and why the National Gallery came into being before moving on to the paintings in its collection. We then follow the development of Western art from the religious art of the 13th century to the Impressionists of the 19th century. We consider the stories behind the paintings, the dilemma facing conservationists, the curators’ choice of frames and the pictures’ original purpose. Join Linda Collins, Art Society Lecturer, to learn more.

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Tuesday 8 March, 2-3pm  
**THE LANGUAGE OF PAINTINGS: MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE**

This lecture will explain how artists manipulate colour, form, composition and subject matter (even facts!) to engage our emotional, intellectual and psychological participation in their work. Join Val Woodgate, Arts Society Lecturer, to learn more.

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Thursday 10 March, 2-3pm  
**LONDON VILLAGES: PADDINGTON**

Is Paddington primarily a station, or possibly a marmalade-addicted small bear from darkest Peru? Was it carved out by an Anglo-Saxon chieftain called Padda? What connects it to medical breakthroughs, or the stage, or even Roman London? Pete Smith addresses these and many other questions.

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Friday 11 March, 11am-12:30pm  
**WALK: PADDINGTON TO LITTLE VENICE**

Starting from under the clock on Platform 1 at Paddington Station, this walk by Pete Smith takes us along the Regent’s Canal, ending close to Warwick Avenue Station. Discover along the way the role the railways and canals played in the life of the capital, learn about the life of London’s “water gypsies”, and encounter a few quirky surprises. Meet under the clock on Platform 1 at Paddington Station. £10 plus booking fee.
Tuesday 15 March, 2-3pm

**BOOK LAUNCH: LATCHKEY LADIES BY MARJORIE GRANT**

Kate Macdonald will be discussing the new Handheld Press edition of *Latchkey Ladies* with Sarah LeFanu. This wonderful but long-forgotten novel from 1921 by the equally forgotten Canadian writer Marjorie Grant is about an educated unmarried middle-class teacher living and working in London at the end of the First World War. Sarah LeFanu’s 2003 biography of Rose Macaulay revealed the existence of Marjorie Grant as one of Macaulay’s best friends. Her journal of writing that biography, *Dreaming of Rose* (2021), digs deep into the background to *Latchkey Ladies*.

Thursday 17 March, 2-4pm

**FRIENDS AT GUILDHALL LIBRARY**

Exclusive to members of the Friends of Guildhall Library we would like to welcome you all back to the library with an on-site London history related talk followed by a celebratory drink. Further details nearer the time.

Exclusive Friends of Guildhall Library Event

Thursday 24 March, 2-3pm

**LONDON’S TRADITIONAL CUSTOMS AND CEREMONIES**

An overview of the capital’s many fascinating customs and observances. It celebrates the persistence of ostensibly nonsensical rituals over hundreds of years. Join City of London Guide Robert Stephenson to learn more.

Monday & Tuesday 21 & 22 March, 2-3pm

**GEORGE III: WELL-INTENTIONED BUT FACED WITH INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEMS...**

Guildhall Library 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.

Limited places available

Tuesday 29 March, 2-3pm

**TIME AND TIMEPIECES AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM**

The British Museum houses the National Horological Collection comprising some of the best clocks and timepieces ever made. We have had much time over the last two years to reflect on our lives and what is important to us. By looking at the Museum’s collection of Timepieces and Clocks we can see how time was viewed in the past and how the importance of measuring time changed over the millennia. Join Dr Bill Sterling to learn more.
Thursday 31 March, 11am-1pm
WALK: TEA & COFFEE IN THE CITY
Tea and coffee were very important staples in the economy of the City of London. They also provided the fuel to run the City, write the newspapers, earn the money and relax with friends. From Aldgate Station to Bank we will look at the impact these two beverages had on the social and business aspects of the Square Mile – join City Guide Jill Finch.
Meet at Aldgate Tube station.
£9 plus booking fee

Wednesday 6 April, 11am-12.30pm
WALK: PUTTING ON THE RITZ
Meet Pete Smith at the junction of Regent Street and Piccadilly by Exit 2 of Piccadilly Circus Station. Exploring both sides of Piccadilly, we shall discover: some of London’s finest and most selective gentlemen’s clubs; a street synonymous with fine tailoring; the store that inspired Are You Being Served?; and the addresses of three royal mistresses!
Meet at the junction of Regent Street and Piccadilly by Exit 2 of Piccadilly Circus Station (Bakerloo and Piccadilly Lines)
£10 plus booking fee

Wednesday 20 April, 2-3pm
ORANGES & LEMONS: A CITY NURSERY RHYME
“Gay go up and gay go down to Ring the Bells of London Town.” Oranges and Lemons is an English nursery rhyme which refers to the bells of several churches, all within or close to the City of London; its roots go back to the 18th century. Using the rhyme as a road map, City of London Guide Jill Finch will take a stroll through the streets of the City and the East End to visit the various churches and look at their history.

Monday 4 April, 2-3pm
LONDON VILLAGES: PICCADILLY AND ST JAMES’S
What famous store was founded on the sale of second-hand candles? What club voted Margaret Thatcher an honorary man? Where aren’t you allowed to run, whistle, sing, open an umbrella, wheel a pushchair or carry a parcel? This talk by Pete Smith finds answers to these questions and poses a few more.

Tuesday 26 April, 2-3pm
LONDON VILLAGES: WAPPING
In this illustrated talk, Pete Smith heads east from the Tower to explore an area once notorious for multiple murder, piracy, and poverty and now justly famous for its luxury apartments and fine pubs.

Thursday 21 April, 11am-1pm
WALK: ORANGES AND LEMONS
Following on from her talk this walk by Jill Finch takes in the first church in the rhyme, St Clement Danes. We will visit the church and take in the area around it as we ponder the meaning of the rhyme.
Meet at the Knights Templar pub in Chancery Lane.
£9 plus booking fee
Wednesday 27 April, 2-3pm
THE INSURER’S COVENANT: FIRE INSURANCE IN THE CITY OF LONDON

Fire insurance erupted in London and throughout the nation in response to the Great Fire of 1666. By the 19th century, it had become a great British export, with fire offices like the Sun and the Phoenix delivering coverage to people and businesses in the nation’s High Streets and across the Empire. Today, 350 years after its introduction, fire insurance remains an essential part of the City’s economy and the nation’s wellbeing. In this talk, Insurance Museum Curator Dr Adrian Leonard, author of *Marine Insurance: Origins & Institutions 1300-1850*, will trace the fascinating history of fire insurance from the Great Fire to Grenfell.

Thursday 28 April, 11am-1pm
WALK: POLICE, PUBS AND PIRATES

Starting from Tower Hill Station exit, join Peter Smith to cross glitzy St Katharine’s Dock and strike out eastward to find traces of piracy, murder and London’s first real police force – plus a few great pubs you may want to return to.
Meet at Tower Hill Station exit (District and Circle Lines). £10 plus booking fee

From Monday 31 January
ONLINE EXHIBITION:
AN EXPLORATION OF EARLY ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS AT GUILDHALL LIBRARY

This exhibition will track the early history of English Newspapers through Guildhall Library’s collections. With a focus on the evolving format of newspapers, the exhibition will explore the Crown’s attempts to control printing by Star Chamber decree, the introduction of parliamentary acts, orders, and taxation to restrict the freedom of the press and the use of seditious libel laws to censor content. Lastly, it will delve into the corresponding efforts of newspaper proprietors to defy these measures and overcome the prohibition of parliamentary reporting.

Exhibition will take place online
Please follow us on:
Twitter – @GuildhallLib
Facebook – @GuildhallLibrary
GUILDHALL LIBRARY IS OPEN BY APPOINTMENT, 10AM - 4PM, MONDAY TO THURSDAY

Our current Covid precautions will remain in place for the safety of visitors and staff. We will continue to require masks, unless you are medically exempt; social distancing will be in place and we have redesigned our systems and reading room to operate safely and smoothly. Researchers must follow our guidance on social distancing and government guidance on travel to and within the UK.

We regret we will not be able to offer access to Guildhall Library without a booked appointment.

For further information and how to make bookings, please visit: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/libraries/guildhall-library

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