

LONDON FOOTSTEPS

Walking tours in and around the City of London

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PROGRAMME OF WALKS January to March 2012

It's Olympic year at last and that means we expect to see London putting on a big show for the next seven months. But that's not all. There will be the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the bi-centenary of Charles Dickens' birth to be celebrated and we can't ignore these important events in London's history. It will be a special year so some of the old favourite walks are being revived for those newcomers to LONDON FOOTSTEPS and there will also be some intriguing new themes to give you a different perspective on the capital's history.

If you are interested in joining any of the following walks then please let me know.

Saturday, 21st January 2012: INK SPOTS

Fleet Street is synonymous with the newspaper industry even though the great newspapers have moved away. The legendary names of journalism and printing are still remembered in and around the courtyards and alley ways so our walk traces the literary history of the area and recalls some of the Fleet Street stories stretching back 600 years. We start on the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral and finish near the Royal Courts of Justice

**Meet at Leigh-on-Sea Station (9.15 a.m.) or join the group at Fenchurch Street Station (10.30 a.m.)
You can also meet me outside St. Paul's underground station at 11.00 a.m. where the walk starts.**

Friday, 3rd February 2012: REMEMBERING SIR JOHN CASS

Sir John Cass has links with education in London going back 350 years and his memory is celebrated on Founders' Day with a procession of 30 pupils from their school in Jewry Street to St. Botolph-without-Aldgate. Spending time watching this unique ceremony will be part of the walk around WHITECHAPEL – an area on the fringe of the City which has a dark and dangerous history. Emigrants have come here for centuries and their history is explored on this walk and we briefly refer to that notorious episode in the 19th century – the Jack the Ripper murders.

Meet at Leigh-on-Sea Station (9.15 am) or join the walk at Fenchurch Street Station (10.30 am)

Tuesday, 7th February 2012: HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHARLES

It was on this day 200 years ago that Charles Dickens was born and his eye for detail and memorable novels provided an extraordinary and often heart-breaking look at life in the first half of the 19th century. Today we remember the famous writer by stepping out on a walk that visits some of the places made famous in his novels and finish close to the Museum of London where the Dickens Bi-Centenary Exhibition is being held.

Meet at Leigh-on-Sea Station (9.15 am) or join us at Fenchurch Street Station (10.30 am)

Thursday, 23rd February 2012: LIMEHOUSE TO CANARY WHARF

The contrast between the narrow streets around Stepney and Limehouse and the towering office blocks of Docklands are testimony to a part of London's East End which has seen staggering wealth and abject poverty. From the late 18th century onwards, the docks grew rapidly importing amongst other things, spices, ceramics, sugar, timber and many products from a world-wide empire. Now it is equities and investment bonds which are traded in billion-pound business deals. We finish close to the Museum of Docklands which is well worth a visit.

Meet at Leigh Station at 9.15 am. For those who want to join the group in London, meet downstairs in the booking hall of West Ham Station at 10.30 am (C2C line and Jubilee Line from Stratford serve this station).

Thursday, 15th March 2012: VISIT TO APOTHECARIES' HALL

In the 21st century, the role of the Livery companies is an integral part of City life, although it has changed completely since the 13th and 14th centuries. Once these companies controlled all the trade and crafts inside the City walls – but now many of them have charitable status. The Society of Apothecaries has one of the oldest Halls in the City. It has remained intact after being rebuilt following the Great Fire. The visit lasts 2 hours and following a break for lunch there will be a short walk around the Blackfriars area. Note: Limited numbers. £8 includes the visit.

Meet at Leigh-on-Sea Station (9.15 am) or outside St. Paul's Underground Station (10.45 a.m.)

Wednesday, 28th March 2012: PUBS – BUT NO BEER

Can you imagine going to a pub and not having a drink! Well, here's a chance to enjoy that experience because this is a pub walk for those who prefer a few pints of history. Writers, artists, politicians, villains are among those who are remembered as we visit some of the old ale houses which continue to be an important part of the City life to this day. And, yes, it may be worth 'tasting' the atmosphere at the final stop!

Meet at Leigh-on-Sea Station at 9.15 am. If you want to join the group in London you should do on the steps of the Royal Exchange (Bank Station) at 11 am.

All walks (unless otherwise stated) are £5. Pay on the day.