

# LONDON FOOTSTEPS

Walking tours in and around the City of London

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## PROGRAMME OF WALKS APRIL-JULY 2010

After a cold, damp winter you now have a chance of stepping out again on the streets of London. Here is a mix of walks which reveal different aspects of city life. We shall be going to areas of London which may not sound very inviting but, believe me, they are places which provide plenty of surprises and fascination.

If you are interested in coming along then please let me know beforehand. You can get an off-peak rail ticket and the £5 cost of the walk is payable on the day. If you have a Senior Railcard or a Bus Pass then bring that along as well.

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### Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010: SECRET CITY GARDENS

The City of London is constantly changing with office blocks going, new shops opening and streets becoming more pedestrian-friendly. Yet, remarkably, there are over 150 well-tended gardens, churchyards and green spaces which have their own secret stories and links with history. This is a walk of discovery so why not come along and see how nature's Spring colours can transform and enhance a modern city.

**Meet at Leigh-on-Sea Station 9.15 am. or at the main entrance of Fenchurch Street Station at approx. 10.30 a.m. or at the barrier of Platform 11 at Liverpool Street Station at 11 a.m.**

### Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010: KING'S CROSS: RAILWAYS AND REGENERATION

One of Europe's biggest re-development programmes is taking shape around what was once an area better known for prostitutes and cheap hotels. Shops, apartments, a university and concert hall are the modern face of King's Cross. The slums of Agar Town have gone but the memories linger. The Regent Canal is being revitalised and some Victorian writers and philanthropists are remembered in and around St. Pancras Church; all this nearly 200 years before Eurostar arrived.

**Meet at Leigh-on-Sea Station at 9.15 am. or at the ticket barrier of Platform 11 Liverpool Street Station at 10.45 am.**

### **Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010: ROTHERHITHE VILLAGE**

This area south of the River Thames has been transformed since the 1980s but the maritime traditions still survive among the housing estates and shopping malls. The Jubilee Line has opened up the area but we still find links with the Pilgrim Fathers, the engineer Marc Brunel and his son and the old character of Dockland. There's a chance to visit a Norwegian church and enjoy waffles and coffee.

**Meet at 9.15 a.m. at Leigh-on-Sea Station. Those who want to meet at Rotherhithe should be at Canada Water station (Jubilee Line) at 11 am.**

### **Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2010: THE THAMES EMBANKMENT**

This is a new walk along the river and recognises the engineering brilliance of the remarkable Sir Joseph Bazalgette in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. At that time, London was suffering from outbreaks of cholera and the Thames was little more than an open sewer. The walk links two of the greatest buildings in British history, starting at St. Paul's and finishing at Westminster.

**Meet at 9.15 am. at Leigh-on-Sea Station. You can also join the walk by meeting me at St. Paul's Central Line Station at 11 am.**

### **Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2010: CITY TRADITIONS**

This walk coincides with one of the City's oldest traditions. The Knolly's Rose Ceremony involves the Watermen and Lightermen and takes place in Seething Lane, close to All Hallows by the Tower. Our walk then moves on to explore some of the old customs linked to the 2,000 years of City history.

**Meet at Leigh-on-Sea Station at 9.15 am. Those who want to join the walk in London should be at the main entrance of Fenchurch Street Station by 10.30 am.**

### **Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2010: SOLICITING IN HOLBORN!**

Some strange and inspiring stories are revealed in an area squeezed between the City and the West End. It is hard to imagine that Holborn was once an over-crowded, squalid area with a reputation for hard-drinking, prostitution and crime. Charles Dickens lived here for a time and was shocked by what he saw happening on his doorstep. Today, the area is closely linked to publishing and the legal profession and behind the modern office blocks are some intriguing stories.

**Meet at Leigh-on-Sea Station at 9.15 am. or near the ticket barrier of Holborn Underground Station (Central Line) at 11.00 am.**

**ALL THESE 'STROLLS THROUGH HISTORY' LAST ABOUT TWO HOURS SO YOU WILL FINISH AROUND 1.30 PM AND ARE THEN FREE TO MAKE OTHER PLANS – OR GO HOME. WE ALWAYS FIND TIME TO STOP AND HAVE A COFFEE AS WELL. SO LET ME KNOW IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN COMING ALONG – AND BRING A FRIEND!**

**LONDON FOOTSTEPS CAN ALSO ARRANGE GROUP TOURS FOR CLUBS AND SOCIETIES. JUST LET ME KNOW WHAT YOUR INTERESTS ARE AND WE CAN DISCUSS POSSIBLE DATES.**

**David Williams: City of London Guide and Lecturer:**