

# **LONDON FOOTSTEPS**

Guided walks and lectures by City of London guide, David Williams

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## **NEWSLETTER**

Autumn-Winter 2016-17

### **INTRODUCTION**

Although I have continued my activities in the City on an occasional basis for a number of different organisations, it has not been possible, for personal reasons, to offer a regular programme of walks to my loyal band of supporters and walkers who, in some cases, have been following me around the streets and alley-ways since LONDON FOOTSTEPS was started over 10 years.

All that is about to change. I have come to the end of a busy year overshadowed by losing Pat, my wife, last September, and the intensive efforts to complete a Master's Degree course at the University of East London. It has not been easy to make adjustments but with the completion of my studies there is now time to consider the future – and have a chance to re-launch LONDON FOOTSTEPS.

The new series of walks will start in October and continue through to early January. If they can be linked to a visit indoors to a place of interest then this will make a trip to London well worthwhile in what is often a dreary and often damp time of the year.

### **ROUNDAABOUT WALKS**

A new series of walks are being introduced under the title of ROUNDAABOUT. These are designed for people who enjoy a shorter, localised walk that only takes about 60-75 minutes and concentrates on a particular area of City. If you are someone who enjoys a stroll round the City streets which is not too long or tiring then this could be ideal.

For example, ROUNDAABOUT MANSION HOUSE would start and finish at Bank Station and cover a shorter, circular route in more detail. These walks would start at approximately 11.30 am and that gives people plenty of time to travel into London on an off-peak rail fare and even take advantage of cheaper parking at your local station.

There would be the usual coffee break at the start of the walk and it would end around 1.30 pm. You could then enjoy a leisurely lunch and maybe a chance to go elsewhere in the afternoon. If you have any thoughts about this and other aspects of LONDON FOOTSTEPS then please get in touch.

***Please remember to let me know as soon as possible whether you are interested in a particular walk so as not to be disappointed by leaving it to the last minute.***

## **DATES OF FUTURE WALKS**

### **Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> 2016: (Roundabout)**

#### **BE CAREFUL! IT'S ALDGATE Gateway to the East.**

Originally one of the gates in the City wall, Aldgate was the beginning of the main route out to Essex and East Anglia. Geoffrey Chaucer lived in the area when he was a Customs official and it became home for the Jewish immigrants who returned to the City during Oliver Cromwell's time. Now Aldgate is undergoing another transformation as the main area is pedestrianised. . This is a short walk with a long history round one of London's 25 wards.

**Meet by the ticket barrier at Liverpool Street Station (Platform 11) at 11am.**

### **Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016**

#### **THE TIMBER TRAIL (Rotherhithe)**

The Surrey Quays Dockyards have disappeared and in their place are shopping centres, new housing and parks. Yet it also has memories of famous seafarers who left this stretch of the Thames to discover new trading routes and risk their lives in undiscovered parts of the globe. The Mayflower stopped here before sailing onto Plymouth – and the New World.

**Meet at Canada Water Station (DLR) at 11.00 am**

### **Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016: (Roundabout)**

#### **BOUDICA TO BREXIT (Heart of the City)**

Another *Roundabout* walk for those who want a package of history and a short stroll around the area close to the Bank Station. Often regarded as the heart of the City, it has been a significant historical landmark for centuries. The Romans turned up first of all; Boudica, Queen of the British Iceni tribe, wanted them to go and from that moment London has witnessed many violent and bloody events. Yet we have to admire great literature, architecture and the achievements of some astonishing individuals.

**Meet on the steps of Royal Exchange (Bank Station) at 11.30 am**

**Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2016**

**BRIDGE TO BRIDGE (Criss-crossing the Thames)**

There are plans to build a new Garden Bridge across the Thames so this is a good time to walk from bridge to bridge and consider the history of river crossings in London. This is a chance to see and appreciate how much the Thames has shaped London's character by walking across London Bridge, back across Southwark Bridge, over the Millennium Bridge, along the South Bank and finally crossing Blackfriars Bridge.

**Meet outside the Monument Station (Fish Street Hill) at 11.00 am.**

**Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2017**

**WELCOME TO BETHNAL GREEN**

The vibrant, multi-cultural character of this area hits you right from the start and it's the long and varied history which also makes this walk a worthwhile experience. Disasters, crime, poverty and tragedy cannot be ignored but a lot of those stories do not apply to Bethnal Green today. If you have any family links with the East End you will understand why this is an exciting place to visit.

**Meet me in the booking hall at Bethnal Green Station (Central Line) at 11.00 am**

**Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017: (Roundabout)**

**THE ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE**

This is a provisional walk. I hope to confirm this date with the RCJ tour department and there will be a special arrangement for a small group to see and hear what happens at this famous legal landmark. Group tours are available at £10 per person and I will let you have more information when it is available. Please indicate if you are interested in this visit.

**BOOKING A WALK**

**My walks are competitively priced at £6 for the short Roundabouts and £6.50 for the others. Pay on the day. It is very helpful if you can indicate your interest as early as possible, especially if the walk is popular, because it is not always possible to have more than 25 people in the group. Sending me a txt or an e-mail does help me .**

**I am still able to meet people at Leigh-on-Sea Station before travelling into London but the main meeting places are indicated. I shall be sending out further details nearer the date.**