

# LONDON FOOTSTEPS

Walks with City of London guide-lecturer DAVID WILLIAMS.

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## NEWSLETTER AND PROGRAMME:

Autumn 2017: September, October, November

### **STOP PRESS: Guided tour of the Mansion House**

*Due to a late cancellation, I have been offered a spare 'slot' for a Mansion House tour on TUESDAY, 19TH SEPTEMBER. This is a rare opportunity to see inside the official home of the Lord Mayor and well worth the visit. Places are limited and the hour-long visit must start at 11.00 am. Let me know if you would be interested in coming along and I will provide you with more details. The cost will be £8 per person.*

## FOUR MORE WALKS FOR THE AUTUMN

Sometimes on visits to the City, it is often worth looking more closely at the contribution made by some of the greatest names in London's history. Samuel Pepys, William Shakespeare, Sir Christopher Wren, Robert Hooke, Baroness Angela Burdett-Coutts, Sir Joseph Bazelgette, Charles Dickens, Charles Booth and many others

The walks in this final programme of the year follow a theme which recognises the talents of men and women who have helped to shape the city as we know it today. Some of these people and their efforts would not be familiar to many tourists and visitors but what they did has made a lasting impression and influence on London.

In the final programme of this year, I have introduced two walks which are full of historical interest and will probably be popular with those who may prefer a shorter route. One of these is around the area close to the Tower of London and features the time when Samuel Pepys was writing his famous diary between the years of 1660 and 1669. He lived and worked in Seething Lane and that is where the walk will start and finish.

I have also been asked to organise visits to various churches in the City. This is also a short walk. Most are remarkable examples of Sir Christopher Wren's work following the Great Fire in 1666. They are a unique contrast to some of the modern structures that are beginning to dominate the City skyline and stepping inside is an experience that leaves a lasting impression. Spending a short while admiring these churches will be a feature of the walk.

SPITALFIELDS, close to Liverpool Street station on the fringe of the City, has been undergoing major changes recently and is always worth a visit.

There is also a walk through the BLOOMSBURY SQUARES which takes in the historic importance of the Bedford Estate, the origins of London University and some of the specialist hospitals in England, including Great Ormond Street.

**Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> September: [Mansion House tour. Contact me for more details.](#)**

**Monday 25th September:**

**GOOD MORNING, MR. PEPYS**

The diary which Samuel Pepys wrote between 1660 and 1669 provide us with a fascinating insight into a decade that transformed London. Pepys was Chief Secretary of the Admiralty and lived in Seething Lane during the time of the Anglo-Dutch wars, the Plague of 1665 and the Great Fire of London the following year. He is buried in St. Olave's Church alongside his wife Elisabeth. This walk will take you to places that are associated with Pepys as well as looking at the area close to the Tower of London which is rich with many centuries of history.

**Meet at Fenchurch Street Station at 10.30 am main entrance). I shall also be able to meet people at Leigh Station at 9.00 am**

**Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> October:**

**SPITALFIELDS (Silk Weavers and Soup Kitchens)**

Over the centuries, London has attracted migrants from countries all over Europe and Asia....Huguenots, Jews, Germans, Irish, Bangladeshis and many others. These groups settled to the East of the City and their religions, languages and culture have survived and flourished. This colourful ethnic mix is the essence of life in Spitalfields which is now an expanding financial and commercial area with fashionable shops, media businesses and smart restaurants.

**Meet at Leigh-on-Sea Station at 9.00 a.m. or outside the ticket barrier at Platform 11 of Liverpool Street Station at 10.45 a.m.**

**Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October****CHURCHES OF THE CITY**

Visiting a selection of churches will reveal a fascinating range of styles and stories. Among those to be visited will be St. Mary Abchurch, St. Margaret Pattens, St. Stephen Walbrook,, St. Mary-le-Bow and St. Mary Aldermary. Some have adapted to city life and include cafeterias and regular group visits; others are peaceful places of solitude and reflection. All, though, are worth visiting.

**Meet at Tower Hill Station at 10.30 am. I will also be at Leigh-on-Sea station at 9.00 am**

**Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> November:****BLOOMSBURY SQUARES**

At the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, London had recovered from the disaster of the Great Fire and the population was growing fast. Elegant homes set around gardens and squares were created well away from the smells and squalor of the crowded city. We visit some of these squares - Bloomsbury, Russell, Queens – and learn more about student life at the University of London, the medical community around Great Ormond Street, the literary and political influence of the Bloomsbury set, the work of Thomas Coram and the Foundling Hospital and finish in busy Brunswick Square.

**Meet at Leigh-on-Sea Station at 9.00 a.m. You can also join the walk in London by meeting me in the booking hall of HOLBORN UNDERGROUND STATION at 11.00 a.m.**

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Should you want to discuss or learn more details of the walks then please get in touch by email or calling 01702 710232 or 07831 857382.

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