

LONDON FOOTSTEPS



Walks around London with **DAVID WILLIAMS**
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NEWSLETTER AND PROGRAMME OF WALKS: Spring 2017

The Winter months test the resolve and enthusiasm for those who like walking the streets of London and I include myself in that category. When it gets warmer as the temperature goes up and the Spring flowers appear, there is a surge of interest. I am hoping this will happen again as you look through the programme of walks starting in March 2017.

The decision to introduce some shorter walks (Roundabouts) proved popular last year so more of these are planned in the weeks ahead. I also know that London on a warm, Spring day when the flowers bring colour to what would otherwise be a concrete, steel and glass city can be a rewarding experience.

As always, I like to know beforehand whether you intend to come on a walk. This helps me with numbers and the sooner I know whether you are interested or not the better. There are also occasions when I have arranged a group walk for a club or organisation and they are struggling to reach the minimum number of 15 people. It is then possible to add some more and I can let you know about this possibility a week or 10 days in advance. If you are free and would like to come along then just let me know.

I rely on keeping in touch with you via e-mail but occasionally people change their e-mail address without letting me know. Please drop me a line if there are changes so that the data-base can be amended. If for any reason you no longer want to receive details of future walks then let me know and your name will be deleted from my lists.

Finally, to contact me during February please send an email to either of the addresses, or preferably both, listed above to make sure I receive them when trying to find some warmth beyond these shores. I should be able to receive and respond to emails.

The walks will continue to be £6 per person – pay on the day.

FORTHCOMING WALKS

Tuesday, 14th March: ALONG THE EMBANKMENT

Starting at the Embankment Station near Charing Cross, this walk will take you through the the Embankment Gardens and along the River Thames to Blackfriars Station. The Embankment was first suggested by Christopher Wren but in the 19th century Sir Joseph Bazalgette came up with a scheme that would go a long way to tackling London's health and sanitation problems. From Blackfriars we head for St. Paul's Cathedral where the walk ends.

Meet at Embankment Station at 11.15 am or at Leigh-on-Sea Station at 9.00 am.

Wednesday 29th March: SHADOW OF THE SHARD

Southwark has a recorded history stretching back to Roman times. The busy Borough Market, the Hop Exchange, Guy's Hospital and the Marshalsea Prison are featured in a walk that reveals some astonishing and rather unsavoury stories. There are some grim stories of crime and prostitution. Reformers and writers, Charles Dickens, Octavia Hill and George Peabody among them, walked these streets and all is revealed about an area that is in the shadow of one of Europe's tallest buildings.

Meet on the forecourt of London Bridge Station near M & S sandwich shop at 11.00 am. I shall be at Leigh-on-Sea Station at 9.00 am.

Thursday 18th May: BRIDGE TO BRIDGE

There are plans - and growing controversy - to build a Garden Bridge across the Thames so this is a good time to walk across the City bridges and consider the way the river has shaped London's development.. The walk starts from Tower Hill Station. We go over Tower Bridge, along the Thames Path and back across London Bridge; cross over Southwark Bridge, along the Thames Path (South) and back over the Millennium Bridge to finish at St. Paul's. History in abundance.

Meet at Tower Hill Underground station at 10.30 am or be at Leigh Station at 9.00 am.

Friday, 26th May: DISCOVERING BLUE PLAQUES (Roundabout walk)

After the Easter break, you may fancy a short walk around the streets close to the Bank Station to learn about the history of the City from the Blue Plaques that are on walls and buildings to commemorate a person, event or incident. These small reminders of the past are often ignored or unseen by the City thousands. What they are missing are stories that provide clues to the background of a wide variety of fascinating people and places.

Meet at 11.00 am on the steps of the Royal Exchange at the Bank. Leigh Station at 9.00 am