LONDON FOOTSTEPS

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SPRING PROGRAMME (January 2019)

This is it! These are the walks that are scheduled on the dates that were announced before Christmas. There are some new areas of London to explore and these promise to reveal some fascinating insights about people and places. Make a note of these dates and please make sure to let me know so your name can be added to the list.

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INK SPOTS Tuesday, 5th March, 2019

The last chapter has been written on the history of print journalism and its spiritual home, Fleet Street. Only a few traces of the newspaper world exist but this walk, which starts in another publishing centre, Paternoster Square, recalls some of the people and events that were so prominent in the past. From the Beano and Dandy comics to the mega-tycoons Lords Rothermere and Beaverbrook, Robert Maxwell and Rupert Murdoch we turn over the pages of a newspaper world that is a story in itself.

Meet outside St. Pauls Station (St Paul's exit) at 10.45 am.

WANDERING AROUND WAPPING Friday, 22nd March, 2019

This walk is an old favourite and deserves to be re-introduced as part of this programme. It starts with stories of Oswald Mosley and his attempt to take his Blackshirts through the East End in 1936, includes the tragedy of the bomb that killed over 60 people in a Peabody Estate building and takes us through the Wapping High Street where the tall warehouses are now converted into luxury flats and apartments. The walk end among the luxury yachts moored in St. Katherine's Dock.

Meet outside Tower Hill Station at `10.45 am

FOOTSTEPS IN FITZROVIA Monday 15th April, 2019

As the population of London increased steadily, so the attraction of living in a quieter part of the City became popular. Fitzrovia was an escape from the smells and the slums, close to the shops of Oxford Street and within walking distance of the railway stations of Euston, King's Cross and St. Pancras. Once it was the chosen home of the German community and Charlotte Street was known as Charlottenstrasse but many of the elegant homes disappeared as the need for office space became greater. The Bohemian atmosphere lingered on with Virginia Woolf, George Bernard Shaw and Dylan Thomas finding the place to their liking just as the painters John Constable and James Whistler had done before them.

The walk starts from Oxford Street Station. Meet there at 11.00 am (More details to follow nearer the date)

MORE SECRET CITY GARDENS Friday, 3rd May, 2019

We should never miss the opportunity to saunter round the City and admire the efforts and skills of the gardening teams who have been busy getting thousands of shrubs, bulbs and young plants into the ground. It happens all over the City in churchyards, the pocket parks, window boxes and those small spaces where nature thrives between all the concrete, glass and steel structures. The walk starts at Liverpool Street.

Meet at the barrier of Platform 11, Liverpool Street Station at 10.45 am.

DOING THE LAMBETH WALK Wednesday, 22nd May, 2019

The successful pre-war stage musical with its catchy hit tune set the scene for the impoverished area South of the River and opposite the Houses of Parliament. In the late 18th and 19th centuries entertainment parks like Vauxhall Gardens flourished as thousands enjoyed circus displays, dancing, family days-out, sporting activities and experiencing the thrill of ballooning. All this was taking place within sight of the Archbishop of Canterbury's London home, Lambeth Palace. There will be an opportunity to visit the Museum of Gardening at the end of the walk.

Meet at Vauxhall Station 11.00 am. (More travel details to follow for those coming)

The LONDON FOOTSTEPS web site has had a makeover. For more information and news visit <u>www.londonfootsteps.co.uk</u>