

MAY-AUG  
2025

1425-2025

GUILDHALL  
LIBRARY

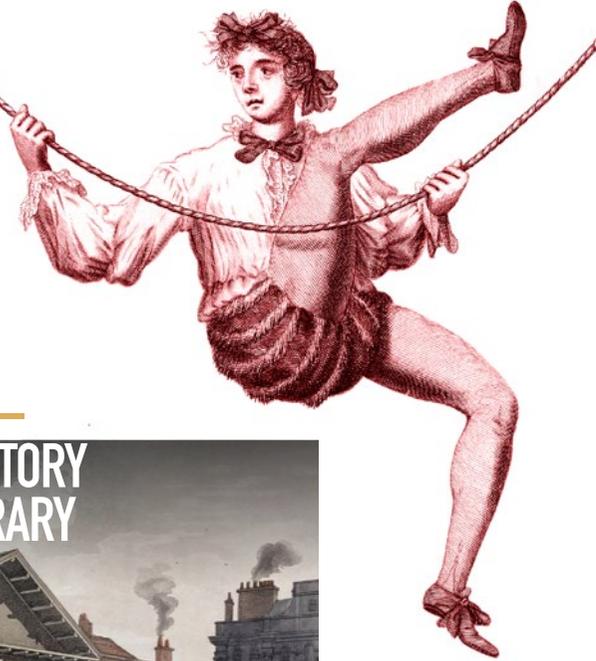
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ANNIVERSARY

# EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

Thursday 12 June, 6-8pm

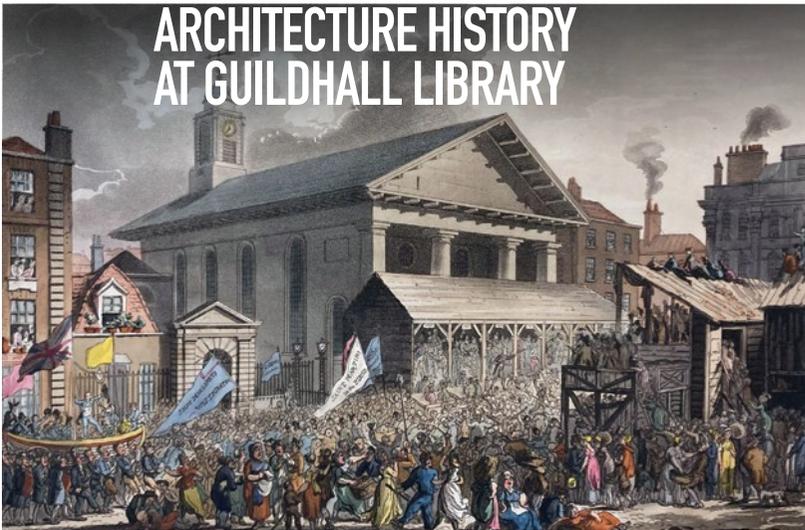
## SHAKESPEARE ON THE ROPES



Friday 6 June, 12-3pm

## LONDON FESTIVAL OF ARCHITECTURE –

## ARCHITECTURE HISTORY AT GUILDHALL LIBRARY



### Guildhall Library

Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7HH

[guildhall.library@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:guildhall.library@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

[cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/libraries/guildhall-library](http://cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/libraries/guildhall-library)

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**EVENTS ARE FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED AND WILL BE TAKING PLACE EITHER ONLINE, ONSITE OR BOTH (HYBRID); EXCEPT WALKS. BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL AND WE CANNOT ENSURE A PLACE WITHOUT A TICKET. DETAILS OF HOW TO BOOK CAN BE FOUND ON THE BACK PAGE.**

# EVENTS

## Thursday 1 May, 2-3pm **FRANCIS BACON – “FROM THE GUTTER TO THE RITZ”**

Francis Bacon was one of the greatest British artists of the twentieth century. Bacon’s work belongs to a long tradition of painting, and he drew upon the work of both Old Master and more recent painters. Though his figures are distorted and expressionistic, there is a certain realism in Bacon’s representation of what he called “the brutality of fact”, and extreme beauty in the colours and his application of paint. Join Arts Society Lecturer Frank Woodgate to learn more.

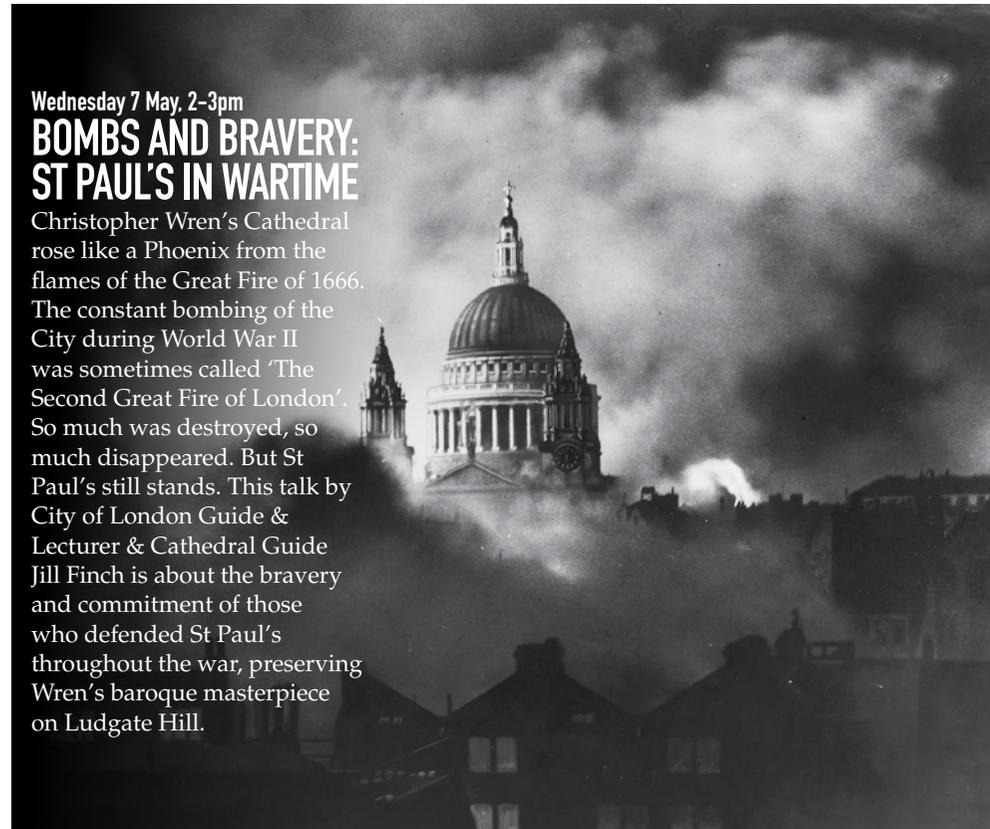


## Tuesday 6 May, 2-3pm **HISTORY AND TREASURES OF GUILDHALL LIBRARY**

Join our librarians to learn about the history of Guildhall Library, and view some of the library’s amazing treasures.

## Wednesday 7 May, 2-3pm **BOMBS AND BRAVERY: ST PAUL’S IN WARTIME**

Christopher Wren’s Cathedral rose like a Phoenix from the flames of the Great Fire of 1666. The constant bombing of the City during World War II was sometimes called ‘The Second Great Fire of London’. So much was destroyed, so much disappeared. But St Paul’s still stands. This talk by City of London Guide & Lecturer & Cathedral Guide Jill Finch is about the bravery and commitment of those who defended St Paul’s throughout the war, preserving Wren’s baroque masterpiece on Ludgate Hill.



## Thursday 8 May, 2-3pm **DRESS CODE**

Ten iconic dresses within ten famous portraits from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. From the scandal of Sargent’s little black dress to Whistler’s ghostly women in white, Klimt’s golden visions fit for a queen to the swirling dreamlike drapery of Leighton’s Flaming June. Join Alexandra Epps, Arts Society Lecturer to learn more.



## Monday 12 & 19 May, 2-3pm **GUILDHALL LIBRARY BOOK CLUB**

Discussions will be around historical fiction or non-fiction history books. Senior Librarian Isabelle Chevallot will present some gems from Guildhall Library’s shelves. Limited places available



## Tuesday 13 May, 2-3pm **MAKING SENSE OF MODERN ART**

Society changed more rapidly in the twentieth century than at any time in the previous four thousand years. So did art. This lecture will explain many modern movements and the artistic response to political and social upheavals, including both World Wars, which inspired some masterpieces of modern art. Recent decades have seen a questioning of the nature and language of art, with post-modernism and the Turner Prize. Join Arts Society Lecturer Val Woodgate to learn more.

# EVENTS



## Thursday 15 May, 2-3pm A SINGULAR STREET: CHEAPSIDE

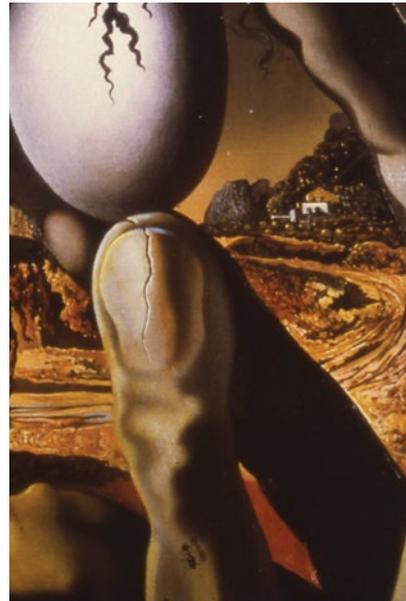
Cheapside was once not only London's principal shopping street but arguably the most important thoroughfare in Britain. City Guide Pete Smith will introduce you to tales of tournaments, processions, and buried treasure.

## Friday 16 May, 11am-1pm WALK: BOTH SIDES OF CHEAPSIDE

Join Pete Smith to explore the neighbourhood of Cheapside. You can expect to learn about: Saxon princes; a Native American princess; a Roman half-ghost; a Stealth Bomber; a church that crossed the Atlantic.  
£10 plus booking fee.  
Meet in Panyer Alley next to the exit from St Paul's Underground Station.

## Tuesday 20 May, 2-3pm THE MYSTERIOUS WORLD OF SALVADOR DALI

Even among a group of extremists like the Surrealists, Dalí's paintings of the invisible world of the unconscious mind were considered shocking. After he joined them he quickly became their most exotic and well-known member. His soft-watches and huge animals with stick-insect legs are among the most memorable invented images of our time. Join Arts Society Lecturer Val Woodgate to learn more.



## Tuesday 27 May & Monday 2 June, 2-3pm QUEEN ANNE — WEAK AND IRRESOLUTE?

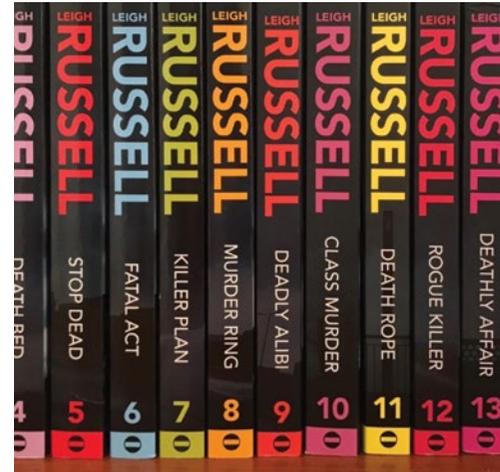
Guildhall Library history discussion group facilitated by Senior Librarian Isabelle Chevillot. A chance to discuss your favourite kings and queens of England. A short paper will be provided by the facilitator ahead of the session in preparation for the discussion.

Limited places available



## Thursday 29 May, 6-8pm PARTYING THROUGH THE PLAGUE WITH THE LONDON LIVERY COMPANIES

In 1603, plague struck London. Theatres were closed, public gatherings were banned, and the people of London took to their homes. Or...most of them did. Dr Lucy Holehouse from Royal Holloway, University of London, shows how the London livery companies' 1603 private entertainments provide insight into the ways 'tradition' has historically been used to circumvent restrictive laws in epidemics.



## Wednesday 4 June, 2-3pm NATIONAL CRIME READING MONTH: WRITING CRIME

Leigh Russell has sold 2 million books in her Geraldine Steel crime series. She also writes a popular cosy crime series, "Poppy's Mystery Tales". Shortlisted for two CWA Dagger Awards, Leigh now chairs a CWA Judging panel. She is an Advisory Royal Literary Fellow and a freelance editor.

# EVENTS



Friday 6 June, 12-3pm  
**LONDON FESTIVAL OF ARCHITECTURE – ARCHITECTURE HISTORY AT GUILDHALL LIBRARY**

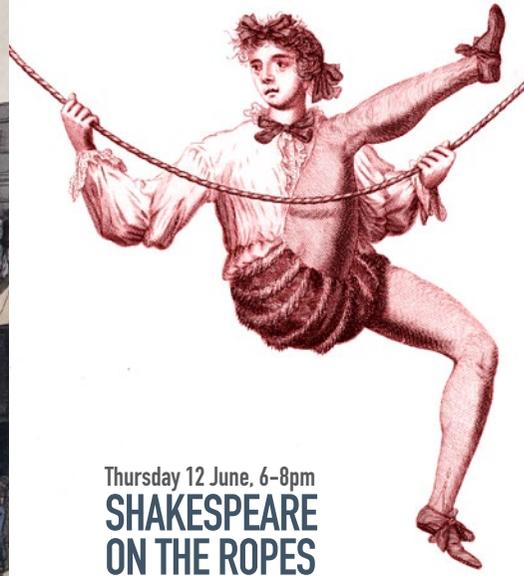
Drop-In Event: As part of the London Festival of Architecture, Guildhall Library is hosting a drop in event with the opportunity to view some of its architecture related treasures including: Pugin’s “Architectural Illustrations in the Microcosm of London”, Tallis’ “London Street Views” and Thomas Malton’s “A Picturesque Tour” through the Cities of London and Westminster.

Tuesday 10 June, 2-3pm  
**CITY LIMITS: CLERKENWELL**

This talk follows the changing fortunes of Clerkenwell. A sacred site; a plague burial ground; a powerful religious complex; a notorious red-light district; a spa; a sedate residential suburb; a fearsome jail; a political hotspot; a focus for radicalism and protest. Join City Guide Pete Smith to learn more.

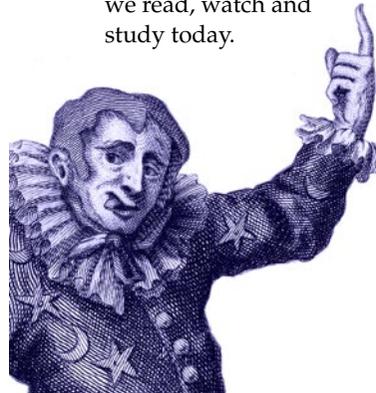
Wednesday 11 June, 11am-1pm  
**WALK: FROM CHARTERHOUSE TO CHARTISTS – AND BEYOND**

Join Pete Smith on this circular walk around Clerkenwell to locate: Poirot’s apartment; an office where Lenin once worked; a gatehouse with links to Shakespeare, Hogarth and Dr Johnson, and much more. £10 plus booking fee. Meet inside the Underground and Elizabeth Line entrance to Farringdon Station.



Thursday 12 June, 6-8pm  
**SHAKESPEARE ON THE ROPES**

The streets, inns and playhouses of Shakespearean London were home to remarkable displays of aerial and bodily skill. Performers whom we would today call tightrope walkers, danced on ropes high above the ground: they were athletes, acrobats and performers. Contrary to expectation, many of these rope-dancers were women and their performances helped shape the plays of Shakespeare and his contemporaries. Professor Clare McManus of Northumbria University traces the histories of the female leader of a famous rope-dancing troupe and of a celebrated playhouse performer of colour to share how rope-dancers shaped the Shakespeare we read, watch and study today.



**600**  
ANNIVERSARY

Tuesday 17 June, 2-3pm  
**HISTORY AND TREASURES OF GUILDHALL LIBRARY: 600TH ANNIVERSARY**

Join our librarians to learn about the history of Guildhall Library, and view some of the library’s amazing treasures.

Tuesday 24 June, 2-3pm  
**NATIONAL CRIME READING MONTH: ONE-ARMED JACK: UNCOVERING THE REAL JACK THE RIPPER**

Sarah Bax Horton is an award-winning true crime writer whose great-great grandfather was a police officer on the Jack the Ripper investigation. Her books are “One-Armed Jack:



Uncovering the Real Jack the Ripper” (Michael O’Mara Books, 2023) and “Arm of Eve: Investigating the Thames Torso Murders” (The History Press, 2024).

# EVENTS

Tuesday 8 July, 2-3pm  
**IT'S ABOUT TIME!**

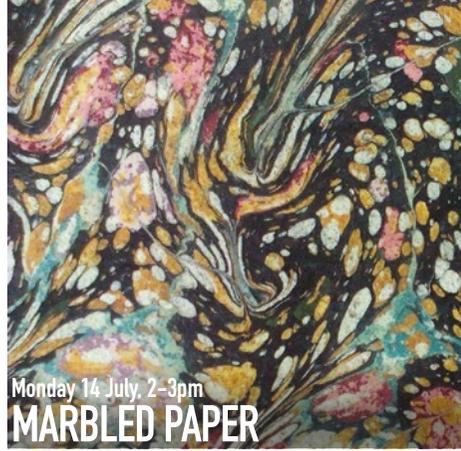
Time is everywhere in the City - sundials, clocks, bells, tidal rhythms, monuments and institutions. This year is a 1500th anniversary of the calendar, courtesy in 525AD of Dionysius Exiguus. City Guide Lester Hillman offers a timely take, clocking ancient, subtle and time zone spanning City links.



Thursday 10 July, 2-3pm  
**HISTORY AND TREASURES OF GUILDHALL LIBRARY**

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**600**  
ANNIVERSARY

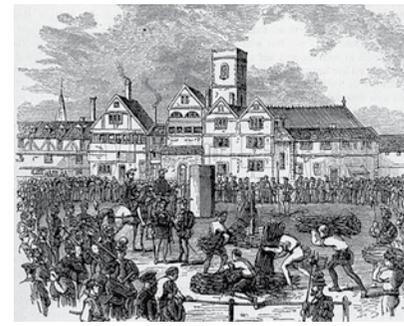


Monday 14 July, 2-3pm  
**MARBLED PAPER**

Marbled paper, with its mesmerising swirls and intermingling colours, was first introduced to western Europe around 400 years ago and was met with great admiration and curiosity. This talk will explore the eastern origins of the art and its reception in places like England. Using examples from Guildhall Library's own collection, we will look at some of the classic marbling styles and consider the use of paper marbling in bookbinding and beyond. Join writer Mary Penman to learn more.

Tuesday 15 July, 2-3pm  
**SMITHFIELD – MARKETS, MONASTERIES & MARTYRDOM**

Just outside the medieval City walls, over the centuries Smithfield has been a place of religion, trade, healing, entertainment and sport - but it also had its dark side, as a place of public execution. Join City of London Guide & Lecturer Jill Finch to discover the many sides of Smithfield.



Wednesday 16 July, 11am-1pm  
**WALK: SMITHFIELD – MARKETS, MONASTERIES & MARTYRDOM**

Tying in with her talk, this walk round Smithfield takes in its past, present and future. Join City of London Guide & Lecturer Jill Finch on a stroll around Smithfield's highways and byways.

£10 per person  
Meet at 11am outside Barbican Station

Monday 21 July, 2-3pm  
**ITINERANT SAILORS AND DISPLACED AYAHS – THE WEST INDIA DOCKS DURING WARTIME**

In 1938 war was looming, but the West India Docks was home to a mixed community. There were also ayahs who had travelled to England with British families, abandoned in a strange country with no means of going back. Did they, eventually,



find their community in this alien land? "New Arrivals on West India Dock Road" is the first book in Renita D'Silva's historical saga series. She talks about her inspiration and reads us an extract from the book.



Tuesday 22 July, 2-3pm  
**LONDON'S VILLAGES: WAPPING**

In this illustrated talk, Pete Smith explores Wapping: an area once notorious and now famed for its luxury apartments and fine pubs. Be prepared for tales of grisly executions, serial murders and burial at a crossroads, and find out what happened when a little boy met a tiger in the street.

Thursday 24 July, 2-3pm  
**LEONARDO DAVINCI'S 'CODE' – LESS IS MORE!**

Leonardo DaVinci claimed, 'Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication'. Join Linda Casey, an independent art historian, on a journey into Leonardo's life. We will explore the layers of meaning woven into his enigmatic masterpieces and discover that his paintings are not only far from simple, they are ultimately very sophisticated!



# EVENTS



Friday 25 July, 11am-1pm  
**WALK:  
POLICE, PUBS  
AND PIRATES**

This walk, led by Pete Smith, crosses the glitzy marina of St Katharine Docks before striking out eastward towards Execution Dock and Wapping's old Sailortown, to find traces of piracy and London's first real police force – plus a few great pubs you may want to return to. £10 plus booking fee.

Meet by the exit from Tower Hill Station (District and Circle Lines).

Thursday 7 August, 2-3pm  
**CITY LIMITS:  
SHOREDITCH AND HOXTON**

There's more to Shoreditch than Silicon Roundabout, as Pete Smith will explain. Follow the thread of this diverse district's colourful history from holy well to London's first theatre-land. Join us to find out more.



Friday 8 August, 11am-1pm  
**WALK:  
NO HOGS; NO DITCHES**

There may now be no hogs in onetime Hoggesdon and no ditches in Shoreditch, but there's still plenty to see on this packed walking tour. Along the way, Pete Smith will introduce you to: a theatre that ran away; a playwright who killed a man; a plot to blow up a king; and a street where jellied eels compete with jerk chicken.

£10 plus booking fee.  
Meet at 11am at the entrance to Shoreditch High Street Overground Station (Windrush Line).



Tuesday 12 August, 2-3pm  
**HISTORY AND  
TREASURES OF  
GUILDHALL LIBRARY**

Join our librarians to learn about the history of Guildhall Library, and view some of the library's amazing treasures.



Tuesday 19 August, 2-3pm  
**PAUL'S CROSS**

Paul's Cross was a preaching cross and open-air pulpit in 'the Cross yard', of St Paul's Cathedral, hard by the centre of London's publishing and book-selling trade. Sermons were preached here, announcements made and penance enacted; books were burned and men were hanged. City of London Guide & Lecturer & Cathedral Guide

Jill Finch will be looking at the story of Paul's Cross and the many stories it told.



Wednesday 27 August, 11am-1pm  
**WALK:  
THE MEDIEVAL  
PRECINCT OF  
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL**

Following the talk on Paul's Cross, this walk takes you around the current St Paul's Cathedral and through its churchyard. Join City of London Guide Jill Finch as she aims to recreate the medieval precinct of the pre Fire building – including the site of Paul's Cross.

£10 per person  
Meet at 11am at the the Firefighters Memorial, St Paul's Cathedral – near the City Information Centre

# EXHIBITION

EXTENDED UNTIL THURSDAY 21 AUGUST 2025

**WHITTINGTON, THE MAN,  
THE MYTH AND THE CAT**

Over six centuries, the story of an astute late medieval merchant, politician and philanthropist evolved into a rags-to-riches tale of a penniless orphan who came by wealth and fame with the help of his cat. This exhibition examines that transformation. It features chapbooks, children's books, works relating to pantomimes and of course, cats. Most of these items were donated to the library by Ellery Yale Wood in 2016 and form the core of our Whittington collection.

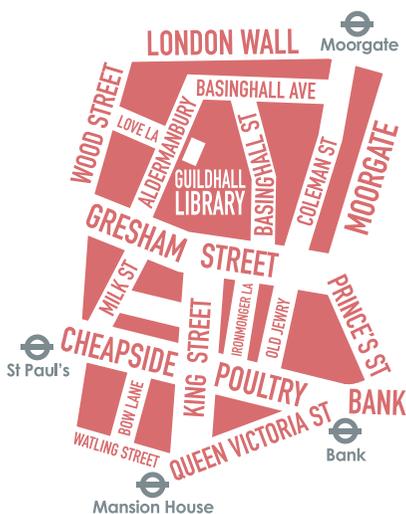


# GUILDHALL LIBRARY EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

The Library of London History

**GUILDHALL LIBRARY  
IS OPEN 10AM-4PM,  
MONDAY TO THURSDAY**

Guildhall Library has reduced numbers of staff at the moment and so if you would like to undertake research at the Library we would encourage you to book a place and let us know ahead of your visit what you would like to consult. If you do visit without an appointment, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to produce the material you require – however, as usual, we will do our best!



For further information and details of how to make a booking, please visit [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/libraries/guildhall-library](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/libraries/guildhall-library)

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## **Guildhall Library**

Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7HH

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