

2024
SEP-DEC

GUILDHALL
LIBRARY

The Library of London History

EVENTS
AND EXHIBITIONS



WHITTINGTON, THE MAN, THE MYTH AND THE CAT

EXHIBITION
STARTS
MONDAY
7 OCTOBER



Guildhall Library

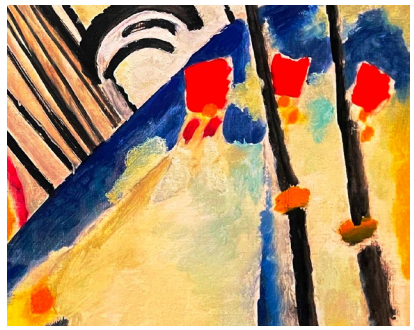
Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7HH

guildhall.library@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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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

Monday 2 September, 2-3pm

THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

350 years ago, the City of London burned. The flames consumed houses, churches, livery halls, city gates, the Royal Exchange and the jewel in the City's crown – St Paul's Cathedral. This talk by City of London Guide & Lecturer Jill Finch takes us through those momentous days in September 1666 when the Great Fire of London destroyed not just the city but a way of life.



Tuesday 17 September, 2-3pm

EXPRESSIONISTS – DER BLAUE REITER

A major exhibition at Tate Modern – *Expressionists: Kandinsky, Münter and the Blue Rider*. This lecture will take us on an exciting journey through the exhibition, covering the first two decades of the 20th century. Join Frank Woodgate, Arts Society Lecturer, to learn more.



Wednesday 18 September, 2-3pm

THE UNDERGROUND MAP

On the fiftieth anniversary of the passing of its creator, Londoner Harry Beck, we look at how the London Underground Map has evolved and inspired. As the century of the map approaches, City Guide Lester Hillman finds it is almost alive and that the City has actually moved.

Tuesday 24 September, 2-3pm

ATKINSON GRIMSHAW – MASTER OF MOONLIGHT

As one of the great painters of the Victorian era Atkinson Grimshaw created some of its most beautiful atmospheric paintings. In rain and mist, moonlight and gaslight, the River Thames, City streets, winding lanes and grimy docks all appear as if clothed in poetry and mystery. Discover the unique vision of the 'master of moonlight'. Join Alexandra Epps, Arts Society Lecturer, to learn more.



Thursday 26 September, 2-3pm

A SINGULAR BRIDGE

For centuries the only bridge in London to cross the Thames, the history of London Bridge from Roman times to the present is the subject of this talk by Pete Smith. Discover who was buried over water, when an elephant didn't need a bridge to cross the river, and much more.



Saturday 28 September, 2-4pm

WALK: NOW WE ARE FIVE

Starting from inside All Hallows by the Tower, this walk by Pete Smith takes in all the City's Bridges before ending close to St Paul's Cathedral.

£10 plus booking fee

Meet inside All Hallows by the Tower Church

Monday 30 September, 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.

EVENTS



Tuesday 1 October, 2-3pm
A NARROW ESCAPE

In the early hours, exactly a hundred and fifty years ago, the largest explosion London had ever witnessed created havoc and tragedy. Lester Hillman explores the drama, consequences and a close shave for the City.



Monday 7 October 2-3pm
NEW GUILDHALL LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

Discussions will be around historical fiction or non-fiction history books or books you are currently reading and how you are finding them. Senior Librarian Isabelle Chevallot will present some gems from Guildhall Library's shelves.

ONLINE ONLY

Tuesday 8 October, 2-3pm
IGNATIUS SANCHO - FROM SLAVE TO COMPOSER, AUTHOR AND VOTER

The son of African slaves, Sancho was born on a Spanish slave ship bound for South America. He was orphaned as a baby and taken to England. As he grew up his intelligence was recognised by a neighbour, the Duke of Montagu, who gave him books to read and encouraged him to improve himself. Sancho became a respectable member of society, voting in the 1774 and 1780 elections, and composing music. Join Dr William Sterling to learn more.





Wednesday 9 October, 2-3pm

ART TREASURES OF PARIS

The beautiful city of Paris is a treasure-house for the art-lover. It is not only the birthplace of modern art, but is also home to some of the most significant examples of Medieval and Renaissance art. This lecture will explore works of art from the ancient world to the 20th century. Join Val Woodgate, Arts Society Lecturer to learn more.



Wednesday 16 October, 2-3pm

NEW BEGINNINGS: REBUILDING AFTER THE GREAT FIRE

Work to rebuild the City of London began almost immediately after the Great Fire of 1666. New rules and regulations and new ideas meant a renewed City emerged like a phoenix from the ashes. City Guide & Lecturer Jill Finch looks at how London started to rewrite its history and got a new beginning.

ONLINE ONLY

Monday 21 October 2-3pm

NEW GUILDHALL LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

Discussions will be around historical fiction or non-fiction history books or books you are currently reading and how you are finding them. Senior Librarian Isabelle Chevallot will present some gems from Guildhall Library's shelves.

Tuesday 22 October, 2-3pm

CAN ART CHANGE THE WORLD?

This lecture concentrates on those artists who have used their art to communicate ideas, opinions and fears about their world and, in doing so, tell us a great deal about the period in which the works of art were created. These powerful, moving and sometimes disturbing works of art deal with a variety of political and social concerns. Join Val Woodgate, Arts Society Lecturer to learn more.





EVENTS

Tuesday 29 October, 11am-1pm

WALK: REBUILDING THE CITY AFTER THE GREAT FIRE

RTA
GREER
2007

Thursday 24 October, 2-3pm
**CHARLES DICKENS
OF LONDON**

London was vitally important to Charles Dickens. Throughout his career, the city was a central character and even a collaborator in his novels. Join City of London Guide Pete Smith to learn more.

The Great Fire was in September 1666, rebuilding started in the spring of 1667. This walk with City of London Guide Jill Finch looks at how this was achieved, and the people involved in re-imagining the Square Mile.

£10 plus booking fee

Meet at 11am at The Monument -
nearest station, Monument.



Wednesday 30 October, 11am-12pm

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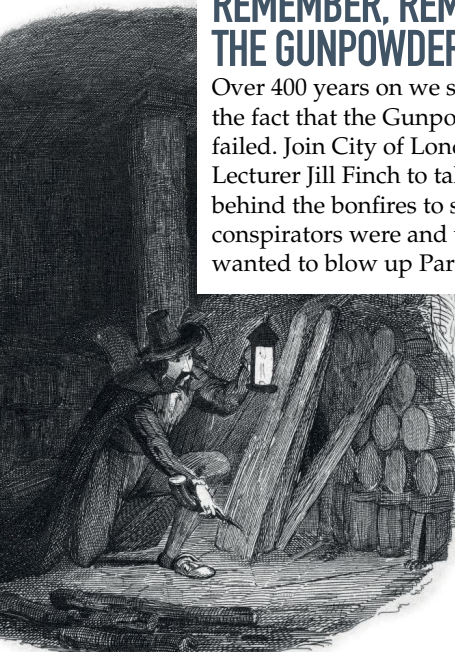


Thursday 31 October, 2-3pm
THE WORLD'S WEIRDEST DEATHS

This illustrated talk describes how over the centuries the mighty and the humble have suffered the most bizarre and amusing deaths at the hands of fate. Join City Guide Robert Stephenson to learn more.

Monday 4 November, 2-3pm
REMEMBER, REMEMBER – THE GUNPOWDER PLOT

Over 400 years on we still celebrate the fact that the Gunpowder Plot failed. Join City of London Guide & Lecturer Jill Finch to take a look behind the bonfires to see who the conspirators were and why they wanted to blow up Parliament.



Thursday 7 November, 2-3pm
WORLD TOWN PLANNING DAY AT 75

World Town Planning Day was founded in Argentina in 1949 and is celebrated worldwide. It predates a number of other urban heritage commemorations. The City's urban design credentials stretch back five centuries to Sir Thomas More and his plans for 'Utopia'. Join City Guide Lester Hillman to learn more.



EVENTS



ONLINE ONLY

Monday 11 & Tuesday 26 November, 2-3pm

CHARLES I – OFF WITH HIS HEAD!

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



ONLINE ONLY

Tuesday 12 November, 2-3pm

HEROES IN ANCIENT GREECE AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM – HERACLES, THESEUS AND ACHILLES

We shall examine the myths surrounding Heracles, Theseus and Jason as recorded by ancient writers and illustrated by ancient and later artists from objects in the British Museum. Join Dr William Sterling to learn more.

Thursday 14 November, 2-3pm

CHARLES DICKENS AND HIS ILLUSTRATORS

Writing for an audience that ranged from high society to the semi-literate, Charles Dickens understood the importance of illustrations.

Join City of London Guide Pete Smith to learn more.





Wednesday 20 November, 2-3pm

MACES AND OTHER CIVIC INSIGNIA IN HERALDRY

This illustrated presentation will examine the origins of civic insignia and explore the use of these symbols on coats of arms dating back over 200 years. It will also showcase arms granted to local authorities and other corporate bodies. Join historian Duncan Sutherland to learn more.

Thursday 21 November, 2-3pm

WEIRD THINGS FOUND ON THE RIVERBANK

Jenny Ridgwell is a licenced mudlark and will tell stories of the strange things found on her riverbank searches, based on her book Guide to Mudlarking which explores the history and skills of finding stuff on the riverbank.



Monday 25 November, 2-3pm

SIX DEGREES OF CHRISTOPHER WREN

This talk by City Guide and Lecturer Jill Finch is on the life and extraordinary time of Christopher Wren. From Wiltshire to Oxford and Cambridge and eventually to London where he became a Professor at Gresham College, a founder of the Royal Society and, of course, architect of St Paul's Cathedral.



EVENTS

Wednesday 27 November, 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 4 December, 2-3pm
CHRISTMAS IN THE CITY

Ever since the Romans introduced the winter festival of Saturnalia the people who live & work in the Square Mile have celebrated in many ways over the centuries. Join City Guide & Lecturer Jill Finch to start the Festive Season with a virtual wander through the City streets.



Thursday 5 December, 2-3pm
ODDER AND ODDERER

In this Illustrated talk, City Guide Pete Smith offers an introduction to some of the oddest sights and stories of a very eccentric and surprising city.

Saturday 7 December, 11am-1pm
**WALK:
THINGS ARE LOOKING UP**

If you keep your eyes on the pavement, you may pick up a few pennies, if you look up as you pass through the streets, you could make some discoveries. Meet Pete Smith in the booking hall of Embankment Station.

£10 plus booking fee

Meet at Embankment booking hall.

Monday 16 December, 11am-12pm
**HISTORY AND TREASURES
OF GUILDHALL LIBRARY**

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EXHIBITION

Starts Monday 7 October
**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

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