

Chiswick Pier Trust newsletter - March 2018

Hello!

We are looking forward to one of our favourite events, the [Boat Race Party](#) on Saturday 24 March from 2 pm. Join us to watch the Oxford and Cambridge teams thrash it out on the Thames! Chiswick Pier has been identified as [one of the best vantage points](#) to see the race from the Middlesex bank by the boat race organisers, as the teams often put on their winning push at this point. Come and have a drink at the Fullers bar, and enjoy a barbeque, cakes, ice cream and live music from Shenanigans. There will be a large screen in the hall so you can see the beginning and end of the race as well.

Then, our penultimate Talk on the Thames for this season will be from the very popular zoologist, Brenna Boyle on the 27 March. She'll take us on a [virtual visit of the foreshore](#) talking about the wildlife on the banks of the Thames, and in the Thames when the tide goes out.

We hope you'll be able to join us for one or both of these lovely events!



Upcoming Events

Saturday 24th March, from 2pm
[Chiswick Pier Boat Race Party](#)

Tuesday 27th March, 7.30pm
[A Virtual Tour to the Foreshore](#)

Tuesday 24th April, 7.30pm
[Emery Walker & the Arts & Craft Movement](#)



Upcoming events

Boat Race times

The boat race times are:-

4.31 pm for the Cancer Research UK Women's Race

5.31 for the Cancer Research UK Men's Race.

Between these two races will be the women's reserve crews followed by the men's reserve crews. Races pass Chiswick Pier approximately 11 minutes after the start times.

Chiswick Pier Party starts at 2pm outside of the Pier House, Corney Reach Way, London W4 2UG.

Talks by the Thames - A Virtual Visit to the Foreshore on 27 March at 7.30 pm



Wild Capital's Brenna Boyle at the foreshore

It's been a wild year for us down at Chiswick Pier with the arrival of a seal who seemed in no hurry to move on, and the unusual sighting of a dolphin who sadly eventually was found dead. We learned that finding dolphins in the Thames is not a good thing as they are often unwell.

But Thames wildlife isn't just about these big mammals. There's a microcosm of fantastic wildlife on our foreshore and the aim of this talk is to give us the knowledge and skills to get even more enjoyment from a visit to the Thames at low tide.

Zoologist and wildlife guide, Brenna Boyle will be showing us just what we can find when the tide goes out including the numerous species of invertebrate and fish that hide out under rocks or in shallow water. She'll be looking at how the birds use our tidal habitat as well as give us tips on how to identify them by both their appearance and their sounds. The talk will look at the composition of animals found here, and how it has changed over time and will continue to change in the future.

Brenna runs Wild Capital, delivering guided nature walks, adult learning courses and family wildlife clubs. She is also a teacher for the Thames Explorer Trust and the Creekside Education Trust. Brenna has been working on the Thames for 12 years.

Come and join us on Tuesday 27th March at 7.30 pm at Chiswick Pier Trust, Corney Reach Way

W4 2UG. Doors open from 7 pm and it's free for members and £3 for non-members.



Past events

Bridges that Built London

There are 33 bridges across the tidal Thames, from Teddington Lock to the open sea. Chris Roberts' talk was an extraordinary overview of the history of the most interesting bridges on the Thames. Taking us from the first bridge – London Bridge, initially built by the Romans in about 50 AD, rebuilt by the Saxons and then not rebuilt again until 1861 – he showed how the city developed around London Bridge, and later bridges, to shape the London we now enjoy.

'London is a parasite on the bridge,' observed historian Richard Wheeler, and Chris showed how it wasn't until other bridges were built that trade ceased being funnelled solely into the City of London and wealth started to be spread up and down the river. The City of London was forced to rethink itself when Westminster Bridge was opened in 1750, and then a number of crossings were built: Blackfriars (1769), Kew (1759), Richmond (1773) and Battersea (1777) and there was an explosion of bridge building in the 19 century including Battersea (1890), Hungerford (1864),

Albert (1873), and later Southwark (1921) and Wandsworth (1938) which built industry around the Thames and changed the nature of the areas along the banks. William Morris wrote of Hammersmith as 'an industrial area', and interestingly we are just starting to find out that Hammersmith was also a hub for radicals and revolutionaries in late Victorian times.

Chris looked at the times when the river died – during the Great Stink and cholera epidemic of 1858 when sewage went up and down on the tide – and when pesticides and pollution killed the river again in the mid 20th century. Now we are fortunate to have healthy aquatic and avian life (which Brenna Boyle will be talking about on the 24th of this month!)

Chris also looked at the role of magic and the occult around the Thames. Old London Bridge was a site of ritual cursing, and even now the banks of the Thames have sites of votive offerings and baptisms. Recently, thirteen sites of pagan/voodoo worship on the Thames have been identified on the banks of the Thames, including evidence of ritual killings. And just to put the wind up anyone walking home from Pier House, Chris talked about the Jack the Stripper murders in 1964/65 where bodies of women were found in Duke's Meadows and along Hammersmith....

Mothering Sunday Afternoon Tea Cruise



Someone enjoying tea on the Thames on our Mothering Sunday cruise which was a great success! It was sold out, and we had the chance to see the Thames at its most beautiful with a

terrific commentary from Adrian, skipper of the Golden Salamander. And the tea was DELICIOUS!

And finally....

A Royal Vis it

Pssst! Keep it under your hat but the Royal Barge "Gloriana" will be moored at Chiswick Pier the evening before the boat race, and then again after the race. We are very honoured and thrilled that she will be here!

Calling all Eel enthusiasts

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and Thames Water are looking for Citizen Scientists to monitor the migration of eels into the Thames catchment area. Citizen Scientists will be asked to check eel traps, count, measure and release eels, and post data on the ZSL website. Find out more at an open evening on April 25 or May 23 from 6-8 pm at Mogden Sewage Works, Mogden Lane in Isleworth TW7 7LR. More information from www.zsl.org/eels and book with jane.clarke@thameswater.co.uk
