

Chiswick Pier Trust newsletter - September 2017

Hello

Welcome to what looks set to be our busiest month yet at Chiswick Pier! First up, it's the return of the annual Totally Thames festival which runs a month long programme of activities inspired by the Thames every September. We also have the return of TideFest, a more local celebration of 'our' stretch of the Tidal Thames and we have our annual spectators event for one of the most vibrant races on the Thames – the Great River Race. At the end of the month, as the darker evenings start to approach, we kick off our season of 'Talks by the Thames' which feature a different guest speaker each month, exploring a particular aspect of the Thames. This season's line up is as varied as ever, covering an array of subjects from breweries and bridges, to Monet and molluscs. And if that wasn't enough, we have also updated our website with a new look and feel – we hope you like it!



Upcoming Events

Saturday 9th September, from 1pm

[Great River Race](#)

Sunday 10th September, 1.30pm to 5pm

["Through the Porthole - Houseboat Living on the Thames"](#)

Tuesday 26th September, 7pm to 9.30pm

["River of Beer - the many breweries of the Thames"](#)



Upcoming events

[Watch the Great Spectacle of the Great River Race at Chiswick Pier!](#)

Come down to the Pier and join us on Saturday, 9 September for one of the most colourful and exciting spectacles on the Thames. The Great River Race is an annual 21 mile course on the Thames that attracts all levels of rowers. It is a gruelling race which runs upstream from Docklands to Ham, and each year we host an event at the Pier so as many people as possible can cheer on the courageous rowers. In return, spectators of the race are rewarded with a fantastic vantage point at Chiswick Pier, and are able to purchase refreshments and enjoy a Fullers' bar. Around 330 crews from all over the globe take part – all traditional style, with a minimum of 4 oars or paddles and carrying a cox and passenger.

The race begins at Docklands at 12:45pm on a "slowest first, fastest last" handicap basis. The first boats should start passing by Chiswick Pier at around 2:40 pm with the winner arriving at Ham at around 3:45pm. The Pier House and bar will be open from 1pm, please do come along and join us!

[Peer through the Porthole to see what it's really like Living on a Houseboat](#)

In celebration of this year's TideFest on 10 September, we are presenting a double-bill at Chiswick Pier on the practicalities of houseboat living. Over a thousand people live afloat on the Thames between Teddington Lock and the Thames Barrier. To the outsider, these floating villages often look like an idyllic and affordable alternative to the London housing market. But whilst the great views of the river, the sense of community and the closeness to nature are all real, it's not always plain sailing and it is seldom cheap! This double-bill aims to give a more realistic view of life on the Thames, including the complicated process of buying a houseboat in the first place.

The presentation starts at 1:45pm with '*Life Afloat*', a 55 minute film which delves into the stories of house boat residents, including some of those from Chiswick Pier. The film was made for last

year's Totally Thames festival and offers a fascinating insight into the realities of houseboat living. Following the film, at 3pm, long-term houseboat resident, Hilary Pereira of the River Thames Society, will present a guide to the pitfalls of buying a houseboat. Few people realise what an extremely complicated process it can be, as Hilary will explain.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear at first-hand what is really involved in the 'Life Afloat'. Tickets are £3 or free to members of Chiswick Pier Trust and the River Thames Society. Please book online via TideFest at <http://events.eventzilla.net/e/2138900961>

'River of Beer' – a talk on the history of brewing along the Thames with a beer-tasting treat!

We start our new programme of 'Talks by the Thames' with a special evening that will tickle the taste-buds of many of you out here. We are delighted that beer historian Martyn Cornell will be joining us at Pier House, on Tuesday, 26 September at 7:30pm for a look at the important role the Thames has played in the history of brewing in Britain. Martyn will give us a history of the breweries that grew up alongside the Thames and the classic beer styles invented and brewed on its banks such as porter and IPA.

Following the talk, Georgina Young, Head Brewer at Fuller's, will lead a tutored tasting of five Fuller's beers. The session will show the wide range of styles, colour and, most importantly, flavours that can be delivered from one Brewery. Georgina will be hand-picking five of her favourites to be swirled, sniffed and savoured during this session.

Due to anticipated demand we are asking all those interested in attending the talk to book tickets in advance online via our new website at <http://chiswickpier.org.uk/brewing-on-the-thames/> Alternatively, you can book via our office on Tel: 020 8742 2713. Tickets are £3 or free to Chiswick Pier Trust members. Doors open at 7:00pm for registration and the talk will start at 7:30pm with a slightly later than usual finish time of 9:30pm.



Other News & Events

Totally Thames – 1- 30 September – various venues along the Thames
Month long festival celebrating the Thames, with over 150 events taking place up and down the 42 miles of the Thames. More info: <http://totallythames.org>

Tide Fest – 10 September – Chiswick Pier, Strand on the Green, Kew Bridge and Richmond

Annual event to celebrate the recreational importance of the Thames Tideway at Strand-on-the Green, Chiswick and other locations from Richmond to Barnes. This year the programme includes kayaking, river dipping, guided foreshore walks, boat trips, an angling competition, nature reserve visits, artists displays, seine netting, live fish tanks, children's games, refreshments and much more. More info at <https://thamestidefest.net/>

The Chiswick Book Festival – 14 to 18 September - St Michael and All Angels Church, Chiswick

The Chiswick Book Festival brings together top authors and their readers for an inspiring and entertaining long weekend of fiction, history, politics, memoir, crime, gardening, music, food, wine, the environment, workshops, children's books & more. More info and booking at <http://www.chiswickbookfestival.net/>

Stop Press...Stop Press...Stop Press...Stop Press

We are delighted to announce the return of our ever-popular Lord Mayor's Fireworks Cruise! The fireworks display takes place over the Thames to mark the end of the Lord Mayor's Show. Taking place this year on Saturday, 11 November we will depart Chiswick Pier at 3pm, onboard the Golden Salamander, and sail towards Waterloo Bridge for one of the best views of the fireworks on the Thames. This Cruise is a real delight and sells out quickly. Booking on our website will be live soon – in the meantime you can book your tickets via the office on Tel: 020 8742 2713. Tickets are £20 each (children under 12 are £16). There will be a bar on board and hotdogs to purchase. Please note that we hope to arrive back at Chiswick Pier around 6:45pm.
