

Chiswick Pier Trust newsletter - November/December 2017

Hello

Stop Press ** Stop Press ** Stop Press

Cruising into Christmas

Come and see the Christmas lights from the river on our Christmas Cruise on December 12. Including a glass of Prosecco, there will be a choice from two main courses and two puddings at £45 per head. We will be sailing from Chiswick Pier at 7.30. Booking at www.chiswickpier.org.uk.



We've had a terrific autumn – sunny and warm - with a couple of great events. Our winter programme continues with our talk by Museum of London curator Hazel Forsyth on



Upcoming Events

**Tuesday 28th November,
7.30pm**

[Frost Fairs on the Thames](#) by Hazel Forsyth, Senior Curator, Museum of London

**Tuesday 12th December,
7.30pm**

[Christmas Lights Cruise](#)

Tuesday 30th January, 7.30pm

[Unbuilt London](#) by Matt Brown of the Londonist

Tuesday 27th February, 7.30pm

[Bridges of the Thames](#) by London rivers expert Chris Roberts, author of 'Cross River Traffic'

Frost Fairs on 28th November and do book for our Christmas Lights Cruise.

The Lord Mayor's Firework Cruise went with a bang! Sold out early, the cruise attracted a great deal of interest, including a couple who flew in from Japan. The fireworks were spectacular, we hope you agree.

We'd like to thank the National Gallery's Matthew Morgan for his fascinating talk on Monet which we report on in this newsletter, which was also incredibly popular and sold out.

Calling all members: One event where we need some support is our AGM. Taking place at the Pier House on Tuesday the 21st at 7.30pm, we will be serving a glass of *wine to accompany our official papers...*

Tuesday 27th March, 7.30pm
[The Foreshore](#) by Brenna Boyle,
of Wild Capital



Talks on the Thames

FROST FAIRS on Tuesday 28 November at 19.30

Think of how Londoners love ice skating today and imagine how exciting it was when the

Thames froze solid - which it did at least seven times between 1309 and 1814. The period from the mid-14th to the 19th century in Europe is called 'Little Ice Age', and during these freezes the river was solid enough to hold a full-blown fair on the ice.

Hazel Forsyth, Senior Curator of the Medieval and Post-Medieval Collections at the Museum of London, will present the history and art of Frost Fairs, and describe the final Frost Fair of 1814 when an elephant was led across the ice by Blackfriars Bridge. If this sounds familiar to Dr Who fans – it is! The 1814 frost fair was the setting for the 'Thin Ice' episode broadcast earlier this year.

As well as being Senior Curator of the Medieval and Post-Medieval Collections at the Museum of London, Hazel Forsyth has worked on numerous exhibitions in this country and abroad and has published widely on a range of subjects. Her most recent books are: *London's Lost Jewels: The Cheapside Hoard* (2013); *Butcher, Baker, Candlestick maker: surviving the Great Fire of London* (2016) which looks at the materiality of corporate and private loss; and in the last couple of months: a Catalogue of the Museum of London's Pewter Collection.

The talk is at the Pier House, Corney Reach Way, W4 2UG. Doors open at 7pm and the cost is £3 on the door or free to CPT members. Refreshments will be available.

Past event

Monet and the Thames

The National Gallery's Matthew Morgan gave fascinating insights into Monet's life, in particular his frequent visits to London to paint the Thames.

Monet painted the river throughout his career starting in 1871 when he was a penniless artist. He stayed for months despite being destitute and ignored by the critics. Thirty years later he returned, able to afford to stay at the Savoy, then most expensive hotel in the world.

He was entranced by the light and colour effects produced by the fog on the water of the Thames. From his rooms in the Savoy, he painted a number of canvasses of Charing Cross & Waterloo Bridges, and then later, from the grounds of St Thomas's hospital across the Thames, the Houses of Parliament. He would work on several canvasses at the same time, moving from one to another as the light changed during the day.

Matthew showed us images of the canvasses as Monet wished them to be exhibited, the same buildings grouped together shown as the light and colour changed. Now, since the canvasses have been sold individually (with many private owners in the US) to achieve such an exhibition

would be a lengthy, expensive and near impossible task, so we were very lucky to see the work in this way. And as we left, we looked at the lights twinkling on the pier in a new way.

Other events

Christmas on the Pier

Come and buy your Christmas presents at Cathy Beckett's pop up sale and exhibition on 'Regatta' moored at Chiswick Pier. Open from 30th November through to December 3rd. To check opening times look on the noticeboard outside the Pier House and for more information contact Cathbeckett@hotmail.com or 07780 689078.
