

## Chiswick Pier Trust newsletter - February 2018

### Hello

February makes a bridge and March breaks it - George Herbert

We're making our own bridges to lead us out of winter gloom this month with our talk about the [Bridges that Built London](#). Author Chris Roberts will look at all aspects of London's bridges, from ecology and folklore to murder and mystery with a specific focus on Chiswick Pier and Hammersmith....

We look forward to two very cheering events in March. We are just under a month away from Mother's Day so why not join us for [Afternoon Tea on the Thames](#) to celebrate Mothering Sunday on the 11 March? It's a popular cruise so do book early! And don't forget our [Boat Race Party](#) on the 24<sup>th</sup> March. You can see the Boat Race from an excellent vantage point, or on a big screen, and enjoy a beer and barbeque at the same time. Now that's a great couple events for March so do please join us!



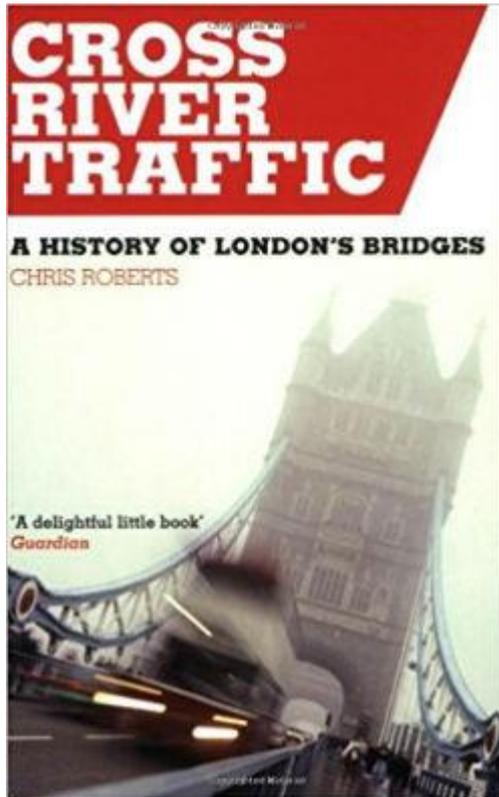
#### Upcoming Events

**Tuesday 27 February 2018 at 7.30pm**  
[Bridges that Built London](#) by Chris Roberts

**Sunday 11 March 2018**  
[Afternoon Tea on the Thames Mothering Sunday Cruise](#) departs 3pm

**Saturday 24 March 2018**  
[The Boat Race Party](#) at Pier House from 2pm

**Tuesday 27 March 2018 at 7.30pm**  
[A Virtual Visit to the Foreshore](#) by Brenna Boyle



## Upcoming events

Talks by the Thames - [Bridges that Built London](#), Tuesday 27 February at 7.30 pm by Chris Roberts

In a sense, the old city of London is defined by the first London Bridge. The stretch of the river valley we know today as the London Thames is shaped by the bridges that link communities on either side of the river. The bridges help to establish not only the physical shape of London but ask questions about the scale and concept of the city itself. Each bridge has its own contributions to make to the development of the city. They also affect the ecology, tidal flow and add to existing folklore of a river which was a place of worship long before the Romans came, and remain so to this day.

Chris Robert's talk will look at how London developed and is shaped by its bridges. He will uncover folklore, ecology, literary associations and, finally, worship, murder and magic around the Thames and, more specifically, Chiswick Pier.

Chris Roberts is a writer, librarian and London tour guide. He created the London liars' tours and has four published books including *Cross River Traffic* (Granta) which is a history of London's Bridges. He also set up and edited the 21st Century Penny Dreadful - *One Eye Grey* - that combined his interest in London, folklore, the Thames and noir fiction.

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[Afternoon Tea on the Thames](#), Sunday 11 March, leaving Chiswick Pier at 3pm.

Celebrate Mothering Sunday by joining Chiswick Pier Trust on a river cruise on the Golden Salamander. Treat the family to full afternoon tea served at tables while cruising towards Tower Bridge.



The boat will depart from Chiswick Pier promptly at 15.00.

Please book your tickets early as this is a very popular event and sells out fast. Ticket prices: Adults £20/Children under 8: £15.

Call 020 8742 2713 or 07594 596729 or book online at [chiswickpier.org.uk](http://chiswickpier.org.uk)

[Boat Race Party](#) at Chiswick Pier on Saturday 24 March 2018 from 2pm

Come along to the Pier House where we have one of the best views of the Boat Race on the river.

You can watch the crews power upstream from Chiswick Eyot, past the Pier and through to the final bend before Barnes Railway Bridge. As well as having a great vantage point as boats pass, you can watch the start and finish of the race on our big screen.

We will be serving delicious freshly cooked food from the barbeque along with the best value beer on the river at our Fuller's bar. So why not join us for a bite to eat? There will be live music from our popular band, Shenanigans. Also available will be hot drinks, cakes and ice cream. It's a great afternoon out for the family!

For the third year all four races take place on the same day. The schedule will be:-

4.31 Cancer Research UK Women's Race

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### 5.31 Cancer Research UK Boat Race.

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

The Pier House opens at 2.00pm and will be serving food and drink all afternoon.

For further information on the Pier and how to get there, contact the Chiswick Pier Trust 020 8742 2713, follow us on Twitter @ChiswickPier or visit [www.chiswickpier.org.uk](http://www.chiswickpier.org.uk) .

### And to get you in the Boat Race mood ...

[Download](#) the Pre-boat Race Fixtures from 17 February through to 4 March 2018 from Barn Elms Reach to Mortlake Reach.



Past event

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London, but not as we know it

Matt Brown from the Londonist captured our imaginations with a funny and engaging talk about failed plans for London dating from the 1800s onwards. Profound principles have been challenged over the years by these plans for London, starting with time itself – there were tussles over where the Greenwich Timeline should be based with the French opposed to it being in Greenwich. There were adventurous approaches to space and matter, as well. Plans in 1878 showed Tower Bridge shaped like manacles to allow boats through, and later suggestions to clad the same bridge in glass to ‘protect’ it from the Luftwaffe were discussed. London, we were shown, could have been a very different place.

It was a talk about visionaries, sages, creatives, and engineers. It imagined London as an Italianate satellite of Rome, not only with the proposed relocation of the Vatican to London, but also some of the neo-classical themes in the buildings. And a 1980s version of London as a high tech hub with a National Space Museum on Bankside, proposed by Michael Young (father of Toby and founder of the Open University), to offer a peaceful alternative vision of the Space Race, and a simulated Mars colony for Londoners to visit. Plans were shown for massive Eco City towers and floating walkways along the North bank of the Thames – the latter idea was replaced with the Millennium Bridge.

The Garden Bridge was discussed (of course) but so was a mawkish memorial bridge to Princess Diana inscribed *GoodBye England's Rose*.

There were losses: plans to turn Battersea Power station into the Chelsea Football Club stadium didn't get through (more from *Up in Smoke* by Peter Watts) neither did a lovely freshwater Thames Lido proposed in 2011.

Most of all, Matt showed how London has always been bursting at the seams with designers with creativity, enthusiasm, and great love for the City, which created the fantastic home we have today.

For more visit: [The Londonist.com](http://TheLondonist.com)

## And finally.....still more on bridges...

We are delighted that the plans for the beautiful new footbridge designed by Moxon Architects for underneath Barnes Bridge has got the go-ahead, announced last week on Chiswick W4. It will enhance walking by the Thames, and is an exciting part of the Duke's Meadows regeneration scheme which is also going ahead. <http://bit.ly/2Bll6Dn>

Less delightfully, don't forget there's a full weekend bridge closure on Hammersmith Bridge from: 8am on Saturday 17 February to 6pm on Sunday 18 February.

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