



Chiswick Pier Trust newsletter - December 2018

Hello!

First, and most importantly, Chiswick Pier Trust wishes you a very Happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

We are delighted to introduce our new Facebook page, and would be very grateful if you could visit it, like it, and friend us as a way of keeping up with Chiswick Pier Trust news. Do also link us up with other Facebook friends who might be interested in knowing what is going on round the Pier. It's a great way to keep up to date with our events, cruises, and courses. Visit Chiswick Pier at Facebook.com (<https://www.facebook.com/chiswickpier>).

We have three fascinating new Talks by the Thames for 2019 which should go into your diaries.

We report on a fabulous workshop by the watercolourist, Julia Cassels, and an inspiring talk on the role of women in the RNLI by Sue Hennessy. And our annual report is now available in the "Learn More" section at the bottom of the Chiswick Pier Trust website (www.chiswickpier.org.uk)

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 29th January, 7.30pm
[Treasure in the Thames](#)

Tuesday 26th February, 7.30pm
[London's More Important River - the River Lea](#)

Tuesday 26th March, 7.30pm
[Illuminated River](#)



Upcoming events

Talks by the Thames

Mudlarker Jason Sandy at Chiswick Pier Trust on Tuesday 29 January at 7.30 pm

Jason Sandy finds old things. But not just any old things. He finds valuable and special historic old things. The appropriately named Mr Sandy goes down to foreshore of the Thames and returns with treasures – Roman coins, uncut garnets, bone hairpins and artefacts that now are in the Museum of London.



Pomegranate seeds? No. A cache of uncut garnets from the Thames!

'It's a knack really,' he says when asked how he finds these artefacts and natural wonders, 'you sort of get your eye in.' Sandy, who has been featured by the Washington Post and has an Instagram following of 38.1k, is an avid photographer and produces beautiful images of his mudlarking.



A member of the exclusive Society of Thames Mudlarks, Jason Sandy will be bringing some of the artefacts he has found to Chiswick Pier Trust for the evening, and will also talk about the history behind what he finds. It's a window onto the history of London throughout the ages, and a rare chance to see a real treasure trove.

We do hope you can join us.

Chiswick Pier Trust, The Pier House, Corney Reach Way, W4 2UG. £3 for non-members, FREE for members.

Parking is FREE in nearby Pumping Station Road after 5 pm. See [transport connections & map](#)

Past events

Author of Hidden Depths, and former principal of the RNLI speaker Sue Hennessy by the Thornycroft bell at Chiswick Pier (now the RNLI uses phones and radio....)



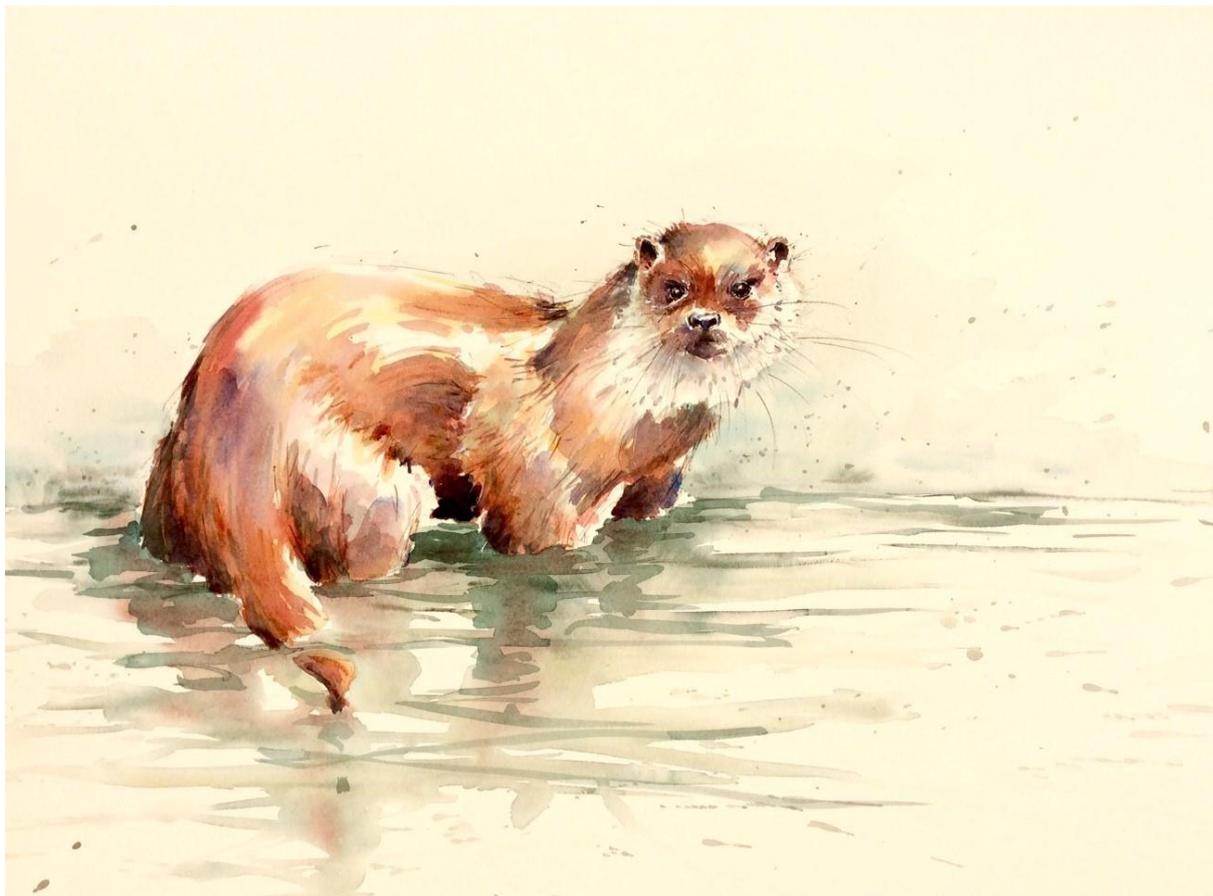
'Every man to the boat, every woman to the rope!' was the familiar cry heard when lifeboats launched in Newbiggin. In 1941 the Illustrated London News declared that 'Newbiggin breeds Britain's toughest women', and Sue told us how the women would wade out in freezing water up to their necks to launch lifeboats, and then wait, in soaking clothes on the beach for two or three hours to bring the boat back in when it returned.

The Founder Principal of the Lifeboat College, Sue Hennessy gave a fascinating talk about the history of women in the RNLI. It took us from the adventures of Grace Darling, heroic Lighthouse man's daughter who helped her father rescue survivors from SS Forfarshire in 1836,

and became so famous William Wordsworth wrote a poem about her, to the present day. Sue spoke about the women who were 'strong to save' whether it was 'watching, waiting and worrying,' launching the boats, waiting for loved ones to return, or helping with first aid for the survivors. She told us how the first charity street collection in Manchester's Cottonopolis was done for the RNLI in 1891. She spoke of the special relationship the charity has with our Royal Family, from the society ladies who set up the Ladies' Lifeboat Guilds with the blessing of the Prince Regent in 1921, to the Queen Mother, who supported the RNLI for seventy-six years, to Queen Elizabeth II who gave lots of her wedding presents to the RNLI in 1949, and the Duchess of Cambridge's first outing as a royal was to the RNLI in Anglesea.

Most extraordinary were the images of women who supported the RNLI throughout its history, whether dragging the boats, fundraising or, today going out on shouts, women are and have always been an integral part of the RNLI.

Julia Cassels' Watercolour Workshop



Otter by Julia Cassels

Beautiful paintings come out of Julia Cassel's workshops, and the class focused on producing

versions of this little otter at Julia's December session. Julia will be back at the pier for more watercolour sessions in the New Year so watch this space....!

And finally....

Chiswick Pier Trust pledges to support the Chiswick Eyot

We have been tweeting about Thames Strategy's excellent fundraising initiative to save Chiswick Eyot from soil erosion. We are delighted to report that the Trustees of Chiswick Pier Trust have pledged funds to support the Eyot which should be match funded by the Mayor of London. Plans include marginal planting, scrub removal, rubbish removal, pollarding the large willows on site and using material generated to prevent erosion (not helped by Mitten Crab burrowing into the Eyot!) on the island by shoring up the banks.



Chiswick Eyot on a wintery morning

Hot off the Press - Chiswick Pier TideTables

The Chiswick Pier Trust 2019 Tide Tables are now available free of charge for members and £1 for non-members. They are available from the Chiswick Pier Trust office, and at our events.

HAVE A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR!

