



Chiswick Pier Trust newsletter - September 2019

Hello!

September is always an exciting month for us. Not only is it Totally Thames when the river is full of events, festivals and activities, but also we announce our new six month programme of *Talks by the Thames*. There are some fantastic speakers coming; writers, poets, archeologists, art historians, and film-makers so have a look at our website www.chiswickpier.org.uk for details, and keep an eye on our Twitter and Instagram feeds.

Docklands History Society's Chris Everett starts our season on Tuesday, 24 September looking at the Thames' role in the battle effort in WW1 in his talk titled *No Longer an Island: The Port of London and the Thames in the First World War*. This is a highly specialist subject, and Chris is one of the country's experts so we are very lucky to have him.

Also in September is the Great River Race on 14 September. The race is less publicised than the Oxford & Cambridge Races and we don't understand why because it is an amazing spectacle – over 330 crews - from here and the rest of the world - take to the Thames in this huge race. Join us at Chiswick Pier from noon when we'll be

Upcoming Events

1st to 30th September

[Totally Thames](#)

Sunday 8th September, 10am to 5pm

[Thames Tidefest](#) including a visit to the RNLI Chiswick Pier

Saturday 14th September, CPT open from noon

[Great River Race](#)

Tuesday 24th September. 7.30pm

[No Longer an Island](#) - a talk by Chris Everett

Wednesday 16th October. 2 hour First Aid Course

Tuesday 29th October, 7.30pm

[Whistler and the Thames](#) - a talk by Matthew Morgan

...serving drinks, food and sweet and savoury crepes to sustain us as we cheer the crews on...

Upcoming events

Great River Race at Chiswick Pier - from noon on Saturday 14th September

As part of the Totally Thames Festival, the Great River Race will be run upstream from London Docklands to Ham. The gruelling 21 mile course attracts both the true racer and the leisure rower. 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.



Here they come towards the Pier

Come down to Chiswick Pier to watch the Great River Race on Saturday 14th September. The race begins at Docklands at 11.20 on a “slowest first, fastest last” handicap basis. The first boats should be passing Chiswick Pier by 13.15 with the winner arriving at Ham by around 14.30. Chiswick Pier is a wonderful vantage point for spectators. The Pier House will be open from 12.00 where hot and cold refreshments, savoury and sweet crepes and wine and beer will be on sale. Please do come and join us

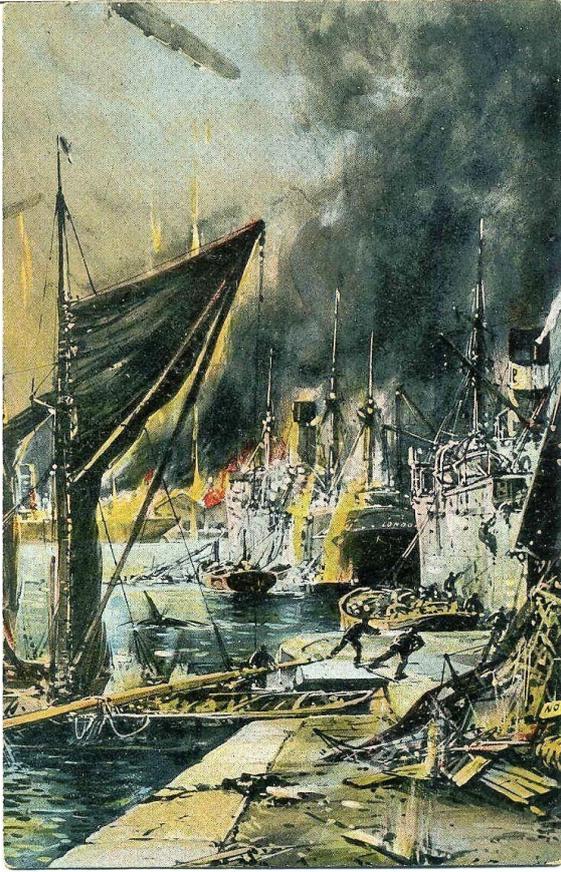
For up to date details please check our website www.chiswickpier.org.uk

No Longer an Island: The Port of London and the Thames in the First World War
7.30pm 24th September

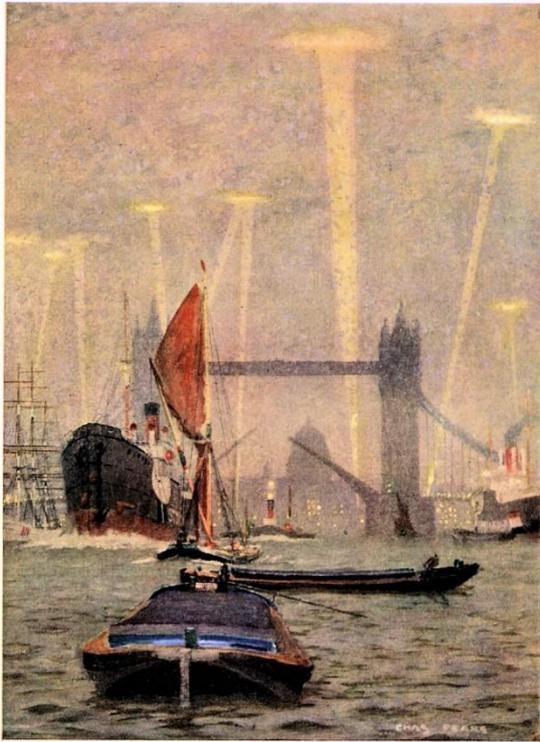
Historian Chris Everett from the Docklands History Group reflects on the role of the Thames during WW1, and the impact war had on the river in terms of trade and munitions; and the impact the river had on the war in terms of keeping the army supplied at the Front in September's Talks by the Thames on Tuesday 24 September at 7.30pm at Chiswick Pier Trust.



Until 1914 Britain's defence was dependent on the Royal Navy but with the invention of 'lighter than air' technologies Britain was no longer an island. The consequences for the Port of London at the very epicentre of the British Empire was significant. London, a world port, was essential for a myriad of goods and supplies for over 8 million mouths in the south and east of England. High unemployment among the casual workers in the docks soon saw severe labour shortages and backlogs of cargoes as the war machine evolved and men of fighting age enlisted or were conscripted. London's defenders now had to consider the threat of invasion, the war from above and from beneath the waves, it was total war. With the public's attention naturally drawn to the attrition on the battlefields of the Western Front and Gallipoli the story of the Port of London throughout the First World War has been largely untold, but the harsh lessons learned in 1914-1918 would lead directly to a readiness for the Second World War.



WW1 Zeppelin bombing the docks (German postcard)



Painted by Charles Pears, for *The Sphere*.

The Pool at Twilight.

A 6th generation Londoner and a guide of some 20 years' experience, Chris is a lecturer, tutor, researcher and historian specialising in London related topics. With an MA from Birkbeck, University of London, Chris has a particular interest in the docks, the River Thames and the impact of both World Wars on London. Chris has been an active member of the Docklands History Group for over 10 years and a Committee member for the last seven.

Doors open at 7 pm. Chiswick Pier Trust, The Pier House, Corney Reach Way, W4 2UG. £3 for non-members, FREE for members. Details at www.chiswickpier.org.uk.

Parking is free in nearby Pumping Station Road after 5 pm. Buses E3 or 190.

And finally....

As part of our charitable remit each year CPT organises a cruise along the Thames for a local charity. This year we treated Mencap members to a trip down the river.



Sam definitely enjoyed the afternoon!

Luckily the forecast held off and the cruise for members of Hammersmith & Fulham and Richmond Mencap sailed off towards Chelsea in bright warm conditions. All on board had a great time and there was a very relaxed atmosphere.

For those who came to see **Sarah Gaventa** from the **Illuminated River** speak at the Pier, why not go and see the installation? Thames Clipper is running a series of official boat tours of the illuminated bridges until 21 September. Tickets (with a discount) available [here](#)

River Closure due to the Annual Closing of the Thames Barrier

On 29th September 2019 between 06:30 and 12:45 hours, the river will be [closed to navigation](#) between Chiswick Bridge and the Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich, when a mass participation rowing and paddling event supported by the Tideway Tunnel project is planned to take place from Chiswick Bridge to the Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich. The closure of the barrier means that there won't be the high tides noted in the tide tables on that day.
