



## Chiswick Pier Trust newsletter - November 2019

### Hello!

For our November Talk by the Thames, we will be showing the multi award-winning film, *The Living Thames* followed by a panel talk by director Dorothy Leiper, estuarine scientist Amy Pryor, and archeologist Fiona Haughey. The film is introduced by David Attenborough and presented by environmentalist Chris Baines, and is a fascinating look at the Thames. Because of the different format, the talk will be longer than an hour but fear not! - wine will be available.

Looking forward, Julia Cassels is doing a watercolour workshop on December 4th on *Three Penguins*, an image that the office agree would make a wonderful Christmas card! This should be very popular, so contact the CPT office for your place.

In October, Matthew Morgan from the Royal Collection gave a sold-out talk on James Abbot McNeill Whistler which was illuminating both about Whistler's art and the man himself. Dr Morgan reviewed Whistler's etchings and paintings of the Thames (of which there were many), and their role in the aesthetic movement. He also spoke of Whistler's feud with the towering art critic of the day, John Ruskin, that ended in a court case that destroyed them both. The evening left us much to think about in terms

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Whistler's art (Dr Morgan discussed Whistler's Mother in terms of experimentation using blocks of colour from the grey palate – in a possible pre-cursor of the modernist movement) and Whistler himself. It was a fantastic evening.

Finally, Chiswick Pier Trust's Annual General Meeting takes place on Tuesday 3 December, and all members are invited to attend - papers for the meeting have been issued, so if you are a member and haven't received them, please contact Anne Gill on [trust@chiswickpier.org.uk](mailto:trust@chiswickpier.org.uk).



The Living Thames Film - Tuesday 26th November, 7.30pm

*Film showing followed by Q&A session with Dorothy Leiper (producer/director/editor), estuarine scientist Amy Pryor of the Thames Estuary Partnership (co-producer) and Thames archaeologist Fiona Haughey.*

Introduced by David Attenborough, and presented by environmentalist Chris Baines, *The Living Thames* is an odyssey along the river as it meanders through London and flows out to sea, exploring its ever-changing ecology. Winner of the Long Form Charity Film Award, the film has been recognised both nationally and internationally and is the brainchild of producer/director Dorothy Leiper who will lead the panel discussion that includes estuarine scientist Amy Pryor and Thames archaeologist Fiona Haughey.

The Thames is Britain's most famous river. Nevertheless, many people don't know very much about it. For millions who see it every day, it's a mystery.

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Sixty years ago the Thames was severely polluted. Many people still see it as dead and dirty.

The reality, however, is completely different. Thanks to the dedicated work of many, the Thames has recovered dramatically to become one of the cleanest inner-city rivers in Europe and it teems with life.

[Doors open at 7 pm. 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. Buses E3 or 190.



### "Three Penguins" Watercolour Workshop Wednesday 4th December 10am to 3pm

Having held two very popular and successful workshops this year, Julia Cassels will be holding another on 4th December at Chiswick Pier. She will be working with watercolours on the topic of penguins. This workshop is suitable for beginners right through to the more experienced artist.

The fee for the day is £35 (£32 for Chiswick Pier Trust members). Please bring your own

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materials and a packed lunch. Refreshments will be available to purchase.

**Call 020 8742 2713 to book a place.**

## And finally....

Hounslow Borough has applied to be the London Borough of Culture for 2021. For those of us who live here, Chiswick sometimes seem to be the home of all things cultural with the Bedford Park Festival, the Book Festival, Artists at Home, the Chiswick Play House and many other things – including Chiswick Pier Trust's Talks by the Thames. Good luck Hounslow!

## Diary Dates

### **Tuesday 3rd December**

**Chiswick Pier Trust AGM - 7.30pm at Chiswick Pier House. All members welcome.**

### **Tuesday 28th January**

**The River's Archaeological Tale by Thames Discovery Programme, 7.30pm**

Senior Community Archaeologist Josh Frost tells the story of the river's archaeological tale through the sites on the Thames Discovery Programme works and how the remains on the foreshore play a vital role in telling London's story. Free to members, £5 to non-members.

### **Tuesday 25th February**

**A Whole Day Dreaming - Yeats, the Thames & Poetry, 7.30pm**

Nobel- Prize winning poet WB Yeats grew up in Bedford Park, and the riverbanks between Chiswick Pier & Hammersmith were a vital resource - both a place to meet influential and inspirational people and as the inspiration for The Lake Isle of Innisfree.

Chiswick poets Cahal Dallat and Anne-Marie Fyfe conjure up through talk, excerpts from the young WB Yeats' poems & letters, and a little music, Yeats' late-19th-century Thames-side circle of poets, painters, playwrights, political thinkers and small-press publishers. Free to members, £5 to non-members.

### **Tuesday 31st March**

**Interview with Ben Aaronvitch, author of the Rivers of London Series, 7.30pm**

Ben Aaronvitch, author of the best-selling Rivers of London books - which have been described as "Harry Potter meets CSI" - will be interviewed at Chiswick Trust. Free to members, £5 to non-members.

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