



Hello!

We're back! Well, almost.

As a start we are moving our *Talks by the Thames* programme online with a series of new webinars launching on Tuesday February 23rd at 7.30pm.

The first talk will be by Chris Everett from the Docklands History Group, and is a look at how the Thames environs - especially the docks – was a key target during the Blitz. Details are below, it's called *They are Bombing the Docks* and we are very much looking forward to seeing you there! Many of you will remember that Chris did an excellent talk on the role of the Thames during WWI when London and the south had to fend off attack from both sea and air as the Thames provided both access and an unmistakable visual marker.

While this move online is in response to Covid and lockdown, it is an exciting opportunity for us to reach out to people who might not normally come to our talks because of where they live. We can continue to provide interesting and informative talks about the Thames to more people who will hopefully visit it - and visit us - when they are able. Please do share information about this talk with anyone who might be interested as geography is no boundary!

The webinar is free but you will need to register using the Eventbrite link below. We, like many other charities, have suffered financial losses during this time, so we would be very grateful if you were able to make any donation and there is space on the booking form to do so.



A dockyard fire by Paul Nash, 1940

**TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY AT 7.30 'They're Bombing the Docks!' webinar
by Chris Everett from the Docklands History Group**

The London Docks were the target of the first day of the blitz on September 7 1940. On Black Saturday, the massed aerial attack by over 300 bombers with 600 fighter escorts inflicted havoc along a 40 mile stretch of the Thames industrial shoreline and its riverside communities. Over 400 Londoners died that first night.

Britain had been planning for war in Europe since 1933 and in 1936 Port Executive Committees were established in the major ports to organise defences. By far the largest and nearest Port to Europe -and therefore the most vulnerable - was London.

London had been bombed by airship and aeroplane in World War I, and the assessment afterwards was that the 'bomber will always get through'. So how should London and its essential docks prepare? This talk examines how successful those plans were, looks at the experiences of the civilian workforce involved on the river and in the docks within the context of London, still capital

of The British Empire, during those six years of a second World War.



Port of London's Mobile Canteen No 32 dispenses tea to queuing dockers in 1942. © PLA Collection Museum of London

About Chris Everett

Chris is a lecturer, tutor, researcher and historian specialising in London related topics. Chris has an MA in London Studies from Birkbeck, University of London. He has a particular interest in the Docks, River Thames and the impact of both World Wars on London.

This talk is free, although any donations would be most gratefully received to support Chiswick Pier Trust in its work of bringing people to the River.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/x/theyre-bombing-the-docks-a-history-of-the->

[thames-in-wwii-tickets-137775511263](https://www.thames-in-wwii-tickets-137775511263)

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Chiswick Pier Trust's Annual General Meeting

The papers for our AGM on Thursday 25th Feb at 7.30pm have been sent out. It would be lovely to see as many CPT members as possible, although sadly won't be able to offer you a glass of wine this year! Let us know if you would like to attend by emailing us at trust@chiswickpier.org.uk and a zoom link will follow...

Chiswick Pier Trusts Tide Tables 2021

The CPT tide tables are available, with high and low tides corrected to apply to Chiswick Pier. They can be downloaded free from our website www.chiswickpier.org.uk or if you want a hard copy email your details to trust@chiswickpier.org.uk and they will be sent to you for a nominal fee.

What We Do

We've added a section to our website that outlines what we do in the community, and how all of us – Chiswick Pier Trust, Thames Explorer Trust, the Chiswick Pier Canoe Club, The Sea Cadets and, of course, the RNLI work to bring around 10,000 people to the river each year. We are a self-financing community asset for LB Hounslow with a remit to engage, educate and help people enjoy all the river has to offer.

<https://chiswickpier.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/General-Public-Key-Points-for-Impact-Report-03.1.21-V3.pdf>

And finally

We watch with interest the discussion about a Thames Freeport. The Government's Thames Estuary Envoy, Kate Willard OBE, believes it will deliver

clean and high value development across Britain's best growth area, a tweet from the PLA (London Port Authority) reported the other week.



Diary Dates

Tuesday 23 February They're Bombing the Docks webinar with Chris Everett, at 7.30pm

Thursday 25 February Chiswick Pier Trust's Annual General Meeting at 7.30 pm

Tuesday 30 March An Overview of the Thames Landscape Strategy for the Arcadian Section of the Thames a webinar by Jason Debney, Co-ordinator of the Arcadian section of the TLS at 7.30 pm. Information to follow.

