



Hello!

For our next webinar on Tuesday 27 April, the hugely talented Julia Fullerton-Batten will be speaking about her photographic project *Old Father Thames*. Julia's work attracts international acclaim, and has won many awards. Her talk about creating and photographing various tableaux vivants inspired by historical events on the banks of the Thames will be as much a masterclass as an interview. We urge you not to miss it.

The recording for last month's excellent webinar by Jason Debney on Rewilding Arcadia is now on our [website](#).

We've got full details of our first live event back on the river - the Midsummer Jazz Cruise on the 25th June. Bookings are now open from our website and we greatly look forward to welcoming you back to the river. And don't forget to put Party on the Pier in your diary for Sunday 25 July.

The main Thames story dominating all the headlines this month has been about Freddie Mercury, the young seal that spent a great deal of time next to Hammersmith Bridge. He attracted a huge following, had his own social media accounts and his sad fate made front page news in the national – and international – press. Our little film about Freddie that we put up on Twitter had 13.3 k views.

Mary Tester, a medic with the British Divers Marine Life Rescue team, spent hours observing Freddie. Trained in veterinary nursing, Mary has worked with over 200 types of domestic, exotic and marine mammals including rehabilitating seals at The Marine Mammal Care Center near Los Angeles, California. She has also helped track and identify gray whales with the American Cetacean Society. She has written a piece about Freddie, and seals in the Thames, for CPT which contains really useful information about how to interact with the

spectacular wild life that sometimes comes to visit us here, and who to notify if you see an unusual animal. Enjoy their presence, of course, but do be aware that these wild animals need a lot of space – from us.

LIVE WEBINAR: Old Father Thames by fine art photographer Julia Fullerton- Batten on Tuesday April 27 2021 at 19.30
Talks by the Thames has moved on-line with a programme of free webinars. Donations welcome.



Tower Bridge, from the Old Father Thames series by Julia Fullerton-Batten

Fine-art photographer Julia Fullerton-Batten will talk about the inspiration behind her evocative images recreating many historical, cultural and traditional events along the River Thames. Along its entire length, the river provides the source and visual 'voice' for her haunting images. Julia will discuss how she creates her images - from inspiration to technical execution, and what they say about her own experiences of shooting on the banks of the River Thames.

The webinar is for lovers of photography and, of course, of the River Thames.

Julia is internationally renowned for both her commercial and fine-art work. She has won innumerable awards and is a Hasselblad Ambassador. Her work is retained in permanent collection in the National Portrait Gallery, London and the Musee de l'Elysee, Lausanne, Switzerland. Her short film '1814 Frost Fair' from her Old Father Thames project was recently a Gold Winner in the Queen Palm International Film Festival, and she is the IPA winner of Photographer of the Year 2020 for her work about lockdown called 'Looking Out from Within, 2020'.

This webinar is free, although any donations will be gratefully received to support Chiswick Pier Trust in its work of bringing people to the River. Like most charities, we have been affected by lockdown and would be grateful for any support you can give.

Tuesday April 27 2021 at 19.30 *Old Father Thames* webinar by fine art photographer Julia Fullerton- Batten Tickets

from chiswickpier.org.uk. We suggest that you book your tickets in good time prior to the start of the talk. An email from Eventbrite containing the zoom link will be sent to you before the webinar.



Mudlarkers, from the Old Father Thames series by Julia Fullerton-Batten



Midsummer Jazz Cruise

Friday 25 June at 7pm

£50 per head

To celebrate the summer solstice and coming out of lockdown Chiswick Pier Trust would like to welcome you back to the river by hosting a Jazz Cruise on Friday 25 June. We will be leaving Chiswick Pier at 7pm sailing upstream.

On board to serenade you whilst sailing the Thames will be the popular jazz band Anacousis. During the cruise a two course supper will be served and drinks can be ordered from the bar.

Leaving in daylight on a summers evening, experience the magic of the river and its banks. This is the perfect way to enjoy the River Thames on a midsummer evening.

Numbers will be restricted so early booking via the website chiswickpier.org.uk is essential.



Seals in The Thames by Mary Tester

In 1957 the River Thames was declared biologically dead. Over sixty years later it is buzzing with life. According to ZSL, there are over 125 species of fish, a species of seahorse, oysters, 5 species of shark, an endangered eel and of course...seals.

There are approximately 1,000 common/harbour seals and over 2,400 grey seals that live in the Thames estuary. Sightings from Hammersmith to Brentford have greatly increased since 2004, especially over the past 3 years. The lack of boat traffic during lockdown and an increase in fish population, including large fish like Bream, could be enticing our pinniped friends. It is anticipated that these sightings will only increase upon the completion of the Thames Tideway, which would allow life to flourish even more within the river.

With this new normal upon us, it is crucial that public awareness of what to do when we see a marine mammal is caught up to speed.

What do you do when you spot a new healthy seal in the Thames?

Report your sighting on the ZSL website where they are keeping track of sightings in the Thames. Look for the Thames Marine Map on their website and upload any photos you have of the mammal with your sighting information. It is helpful to know what type of seal you saw. A common/harbour seal is what Freddie the Barnes seal was (your typical idea of a seal). A grey seal has more of a prominent nose and is much larger and darker in colour.

Who do you call for a marine mammal emergency?

The British Divers Marine Life Rescue team at **01825 765546**

When to call the rescue line?

Any time you see a dolphin or whale, an injured or possibly sick seal or a seal pup on its own. Some of these sightings may not always require a rescue, but the mammal will be monitored closely and intervention will proceed if needed.

NEVER:

- Feed
- Attempt to touch
- Make loud noises (especially when trying to get a seal's attention)
- Keep a dog off lead when the presence of a seal is known
- Chase, scare or harrass
- Try to get close to

Although Freddie the seal continued coming back to a heavily populated and, unfortunately, easily accessible area, this was a rare case. Ideally, you want to give at least 100 feet of distance between your person or your dog and a seal.

Seals can bite-HARD! They can also carry bacteria in their saliva and potentially zoonotic parasites. A bite from a seal is serious and would always require immediate medical treatment.

And finally



Don't forget that from 6 April, Luis from coffee bike will be outside Chiswick Pier Trust from 9 until 4 selling barista made organic coffees and a variety of teas. We look forward to seeing you there!

Diary Dates

Tuesday 27 April **Old Father Thames** live webinar with fine art Julia Fullerton-Batten speaks about her work photographing the Thames at 7.30 pm.

Tuesday 25 May **Engineering, Humanity and Rivers** live webinar with Professor Chris Wise, academic, and engineer on the 'wobbly' Millennium Bridge.

Friday 25 June **Midsummer Jazz Cruise** departing from Chiswick Pier Trust at 7 pm. Booking from chiswickpier.org.uk

Sunday 25 July **Party on the Pier**

Do you use social media? If so, don't forget to follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook....

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