

Chiswick Pier Trust newsletter - April 2018

Hello!

Summer is coming – promise! – and we've got our summer programme ready to go and outlined in the calendar to the right.

Julie Ashdown will be talking to us about Emery Walker's house on Tuesday 24 April and the life of this fascinating man who lived and worked with his friend William Morris on the Hammersmith riverside. It's a tale of morality, beauty and business acumen, so don't miss it.

If you are interested in Elizabeth Dodgson's Alexander Technique workshop and walk round the Leg O Mutton nature reserve to practice, bookings are now open. Last time it was a huge success, with a surprising number of people who had never been round the reserve, even though it's on our doorstep.

We don't know what Cambridge put on their rice crispies on the morning of the Boat Races but can we have some please? Each of the four teams beat Oxford handsomely, and from our vantage point at Chiswick Pier we could see the outcome of each race as clear as day... But it didn't stop enthusiastic support for the Oxford teams from our part of the pier! We're looking forward to the Great River Race in



Upcoming Events

Tuesday 24th April, 7.30pm
[Emery Walker and the Arts & Crafts Movement](#)

Saturday 5th May, 2pm
[Walk Tall Workshop](#)

Friday 22nd June, 7pm
[Midsummer Jazz Cruise](#)

Sunday 1st July, 11.30am
[Party on the Pier](#)

Wednesday 22nd August
[Watercolour Workshop with Julia Cassels](#)

September to see more power rowing, but this time with 330 crews rather than 8.



Upcoming events

Talks by the Thames

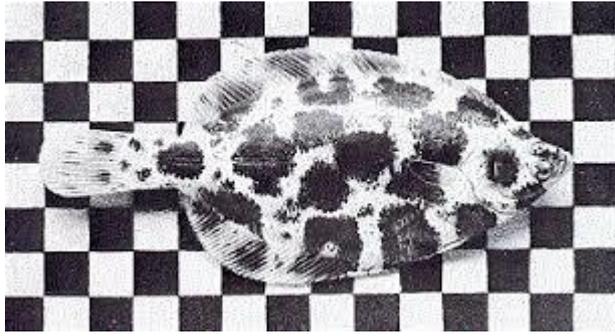
The Arts and Crafts Movement - a moment in time at Emery Walker's House

Emery Walker talk Tuesday 24th at 7.30 pm at Chiswick Pier House, Corney Reach Way, W4 2UG. Doors open at 7pm.

For our last Talk by the Thames this season, we are delighted to welcome Julie Ashdown to speak about the Emery Walker house, 7 Hammersmith Terrace, that opened last year to enormous acclaim. Walker was a printer and typographer, a committed Socialist and a friend of Rudyard Kipling, George Bernard Shaw, Philip Webb and William Morris.

The story behind Walker's contribution to print and photogravure are subject enough for a talk, but Julie will also be looking at how his beautiful house by the river evolved. It is a museum that feels like a home, a microcosm of how Emery Walker and his family and friends lived. The house is one of the few remaining to have original Morris & Co wallpaper in nearly every room, and there is an extensive collection of textiles, wall paper and furniture designed by Philip Webb.

Free to members and £3 for members. Doors open at 7 pm.



Past events

A Virtual Visit to the Foreshore by Brenna Boyle

Did you know that the best time to visit the foreshore is an hour before low tide? And that you should add one hour for British Summer Time (BST) and two hours for Chiswick to London Bridge tide tables when planning your visit (or get your timetables from us where the Chiswick tides are already worked out)? And that the mud in the Thames is 7 metres deep in places?

This talk that took us from medieval pottery, sheep's bones and fossils, to a detailed overview of the wildlife that we are likely to find in and around the Thames. Brenna Boyle from Wild Capital talked about what we can find over our heads and under our feet when we visit the foreshore in Chiswick. She introduced us to the amazing abilities of the Flounder, a very successful chromatic fish (adjusting its colouration as camouflage) as we found, puzzling over pictures of them hiding in plain sight. We heard about the voracious Chinese Mitten Crabs with their big 'fluffy' claws, probably brought to the Thames in the ballast of the trade boats from China, and currently wreaking havoc on the Chiswick Eyot as they excavate the mud. She showed us tubifex worms - blood worms at the bottom of the food chain that are very pollution tolerant, and freshwater shrimps that are indicators of fresh water and are usually found when on the foreshore at Chiswick. She spoke of projects to monitor and protect the European eel, classified as endangered in 2007, who can have a lifespan of 70 years, but tend to be three years old when they get to us, before they swim back to the Sargasso Seas.

She also spoke of the birdlife on and around the Thames. You'll see the blackheaded gull, who come inland during high tide, the pied wagtail, the grey wagtail, the great crested and the little crested grebe, look out for terns, swifts, swallows and housemartins. Very usefully, Brenna played various birdcalls so we can now recognize a swift (sounds like a scream) from a swallow (a more parrot-like cry). By and on the water you might see herons, cormorants, moorhens and coots. Not to mention mute swans, Egyptian, or Canadian geese. And mallards, teals, shovelers, and gadwells.

This year alone, the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) reports sightings of 29 harbour seals, 65 grey seals, 3 harbour porpoises, and 1 dolphin in the Thames Estuary so far.

The level of wildlife in the Thames is amazing, especially when considering that 50 years ago the river was declared biologically dead.

And finally.....

Plans are afoot for our very popular event, the 2018 Party on the Pier on Sunday 1st July.

If you want to be involved, or to find out more about taking a stand please contact

Gill Exton at gillexton@hotmail.com

If you spot a seal, porpoise or dolphin when by the Thames, do report it to the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) at <http://sites.zsl.org/inthethames/>. They have been collecting data on marine sightings since 2004 as a record of biodiversity in the Thames.
