

Newsletter No.101

November 2025



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A tool built by volunteers

The London Topographical Society was founded in 1880 for the study and appreciation of London. Registered charity No. 271590

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TOPOGRAPHICAL
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New membership enquiries and
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Enquiries about non-receipt of
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Any other queries, including
payment of subscription renewals
or general financial matters, to
Mike Wicksteed.

Newsletter Contributions

The Editor welcomes contributions to the *Newsletter*. Have you
unearthed any interesting nuggets of information concerning London's
topographical history? Do you know of any quirky historic London
locations? Or would you like to review a book? Please email India
Wright at isw28@cam.ac.uk to discuss contributions.

The Society remains true to the vision of its founders by making
available maps, plans and views illustrating the history, growth and
topographical development of London at all periods, and by publishing
research in its annual publications.

Publications Delivery

Distribution of the annual
publication is now complete, and
any member who has not yet
received the 2025 publication,
London Topographical Record
XXXIII, is requested to contact
the Publications Secretary.

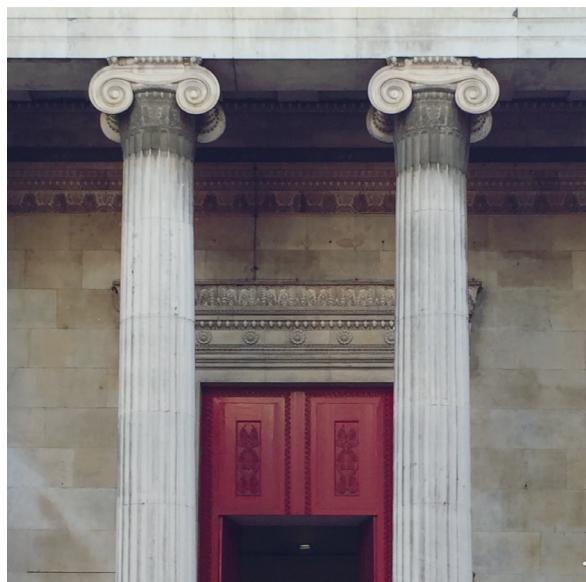
Many thanks to members who
collected the publication at the
AGM or kindly volunteered
to distribute the publication in
their neighbourhood. The cost of
postage depends on the size and
weight of the publication, and this
year we only needed to post 560
copies. By handing out some 640
copies at the AGM and through
volunteers we have saved over
£3,000, which is a worthwhile
contribution to our future
publications.

A note from *The Editor*

Welcome to your London Topographical Society *Newsletter* for November 2025. This issue contains the usual selection of articles, news and reviews, alongside a resources-oriented section offering information on a new mapping tool and repositories to assist with researching London's topographical history.

The lead article is written by Archivist and Head of Collections at Middle Temple, Barnaby Bryan. To mark eighty years since the end of the Second World War, it describes the trials and tribulations endured at Middle Temple during the conflict and how these altered its estate. Barnaby will also be hosting the forthcoming members' visit to Middle Temple, more details of which can be found on page 6.

The Ionic columns of the west portico of St Pancras New Church, the venue for July's AGM. Photo, India Wright



It was wonderful to see so many members at this year's AGM, held in July at St Pancras New Church. The meeting was opened by our new Patron, HRH The Duke of Gloucester, and the winner of the Ann Saunders Prize for 2025 was announced. Turn to the next page to discover the winning entry, which the judges described as 'demonstrating considerable original research in the archives ... and in early twentieth-century publications... also very well-illustrated ... an enjoyable and scholarly essay and a worthy winner of the Ann Saunders essay prize.'

The Society has benefitted from a significant boost to membership this year as awareness of our endeavours has spread on social media. The LTS now has accounts on Instagram and BlueSky, so please do give us a follow if you participate on either platform. We are also indebted to David Sweetland for mentioning the Society on his popular blog, alondoninheritance.com. David contributes his second article to the *Newsletter* in this issue, writing about a City church survival in deepest Hampshire.

Our Chairman, Penelope Hunting, recently published a book charting the history of the Ironmongers' Company, which was the culmination of four years' work. The book is reviewed on page 20 by former architectural editor of *Country Life* and Chairman of the Historic Houses Association, Jeremy Musson.

India Wright

News & Notes

The Society's 124th Annual General Meeting

Photographs of
the LTS AGM
taken by Andy
Barker

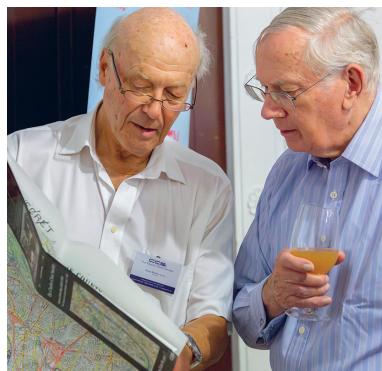
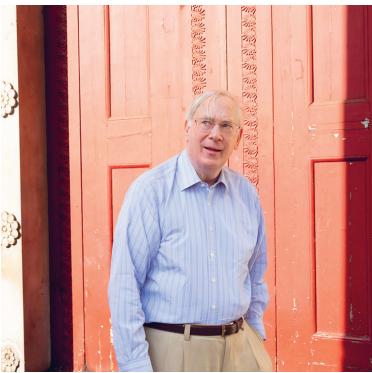
The 124th AGM of the Society was held on 1 July 2025 at St Pancras New Church, with our new Patron, HRH The Duke of Gloucester, in attendance. The Grade I-listed church, built 1819-22 in Greek Revival style, provided a most welcome cooling setting for our meeting, which took place on the hottest day of the year. Despite the stifling heat, approximately 180 members arrived to join the meeting and collect their annual publication, the *London Topographical Record XXXIII*. Additionally, on this occasion, members were also able to benefit from surplus back publications, which were available to take away for free.

HRH The Duke of Gloucester opened the meeting with a speech, and Dr Roger Bowdler concluded proceedings with a talk about the construction of the church. During the meeting, Editor of the Society's annual

publication, Sheila O'Connell, announced that she would be stepping down from her role at the 2027 AGM, and passing the baton to Dr Geoffrey Tyack. Jonathan Lex and Tim Hitchcock were elected as members of the Society's Council. Minutes of the AGM will be published with the May 2026 *Newsletter*.

The winner of the Ann Saunders Prize for 2025 was announced. Anthony Davis was presented with a copy of the LTS annual publication by Professor Caroline Barron (having received his prize money by bank transfer) for his essay, 'An Edwardian Utopia: Charles Paget Wade's 1909 Map of Hampstead Garden Suburb and his Work on the 'Great Wall''. The essay will be published in the 2030 volume of the *London Topographical Record*. The next AGM will be held in July 2026.





News & Notes

Members' Visits

Photographs of Goldsmiths' Hall (top right) and Custom House (lower right), by India Wright

Earlier this year, LTS members were treated to two historic building visits in one week during June. A group of fifteen took a tour of Goldsmiths' Hall, kindly led by Head of Library & Archives for the Company, Eleni Bide. We enjoyed learning about the history of the Goldsmiths and marvelling at the impressive spaces within the Hall, which was built *circa* 1835 to the design of architect Philip Hardwick. The Great Hall boasts a ceiling decorated in 22ct gold, while the cornice of the Courtroom was salvaged from the Company's seventeenth-century hall and features their historic unicorn emblem. The tour also incorporated a visit to the library, where we viewed Hardwick's plans and 1692 views of the post-Great Fire hall which once stood on the site.

A group of thirty were welcomed to Custom House by LTS member Joss Brushfield, Managing Director of the company which owns the building. We were privileged to be given an extensive tour of the vast 210,000 sq ft building, once the centre of global customs trade for the UK, before its imminent conversion into a hotel. We were led through a rabbit warren of spaces as we learnt the fascinating history of this unique building, taking in the iconic Long Room (a cavernous space able to accommodate 1000 people for a reception), the Tide Waiters Room, the Robing Room, storage vaults in the basement and prison cells on the top floor. We would like to extend our thanks to Eleni and Joss once again for their time and hospitality in hosting the LTS.

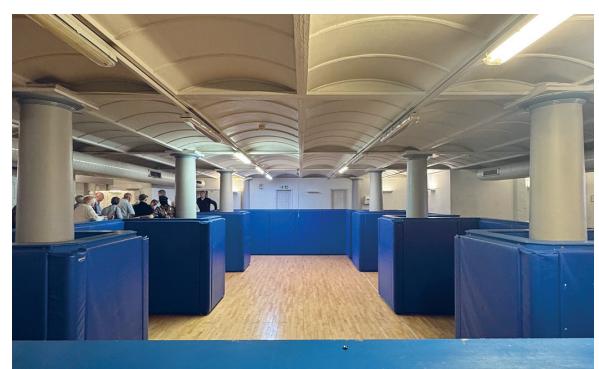
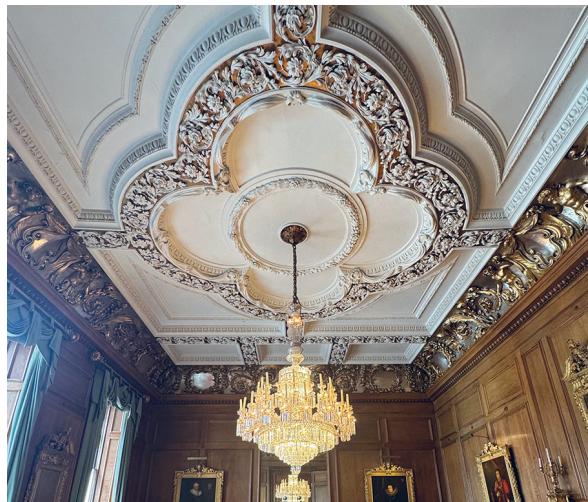
Next Members' Visit *Middle Temple*

The next LTS members' visit will be to Middle Temple on 11 December 2025 from 11am, with lunch in Middle Temple Hall from 12.15pm.

The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple is one of the four Inns of Court, exclusively entitled to Call their members to the Bar of England and Wales. The Society has occupied its site between Fleet Street and the river Thames since the fourteenth century. Barnaby Bryan, Archivist and Head of Collections at Middle Temple, will give a tour of the Inn's historic estate to fifteen people.

To reserve your place email
India Wright at isw28@cam.ac.uk

This will include Middle Temple Hall, completed *circa* 1573, probably the finest example of an Elizabethan hall in London; the Bench Apartments, completed in the nineteenth century which boast views of the Thames with fine carving, paintings and silverware on display; the Library, which houses the only known pair of Molyneux Globes and the Garden. Following the tour, members will be able to purchase a buffet lunch (main courses £14.40, desserts £6.20) in Middle Temple Hall and eat beneath the impressive double hammerbeam roof.



London views at the British Museum

Sheila O'Connell details the collections held

Members may recall that between 2009 and 2012 the London Topographical Society gave grants totalling £40,000 to the British Museum to help with online cataloguing of views of London in the collection. Although the Museum is best known for its ancient sculpture and archaeological collections, prints and drawings of London have been acquired since the early days. The following is a list of the main groups of material in order of acquisition:

1811 - more than 3,000 prints, drawings and maps related to Thomas Pennant's *Some Account of London* bequeathed by John Charles Crowle (see below).

1862 – 1481 drawings of the buildings and people of the London streets by George Scharf purchased from his widow; a further 260 drawings bequeathed by his son in 1900.

1880 - nearly 5,000 prints and drawings collected and organised topographically by Frederick Crace purchased from his son (1,000 Crace maps are now in the British Library).

1927 – a collection of material relating to north London bequeathed by George Potter including printed texts, maps, views, song-sheets, guidebook and newspaper illustrations, portraits, sketches, and posters, bound in twenty-nine volumes.

1948 - 1799 prints and drawings bequeathed by Hermann Marx.

1960 - 376 prints bequeathed by Ambrose Heal (together with nearly 9,000 eighteenth-century advertising trade cards mostly from London).

These are the main groups of London views in the British Museum's collection, but there are many maps and views that are kept as part of other categories. For instance, in the playing-card collection is William Bowes's tiny map of 1590 (Museum number, 1938,0709.57), apparently engraved by Augustine Ryther and the earliest extant map of London actually engraved and produced in London.

Other examples can be found in groups of the work of particular artists. The Museum has a large collection of prints by Wenceslaus Hollar, the great Bohemian etcher who spent much of his career in London and made more than seventy prints of the 17th-century city. An especially interesting item is a sheet from his planned 24-sheet map (Museum number: Q.6.136). This ambitious project was abandoned after the Great Fire of 1666 when Hollar had only produced this single sheet showing what was then the north-west corner of London from St Giles-in-the-Fields to Chancery Lane. The sheet was part of the Museum's founding collection, bequeathed to the nation by Hans Sloane in 1753.

Also from Sloane's collection is a bound copy of John Rocque's 1747 map of London and Westminster (Museum number: A.14.2-25): Rocque's map will be the subject of the Society's 2026 publication.

Records of the British Museum collection can be found at <https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/>. Most of the records already include images, but large items and prints and drawings kept in albums are not so easy to photograph. It is good to know that a three-year project has just begun that will deal with these remaining images.



A very interesting group of London views has recently been photographed: J. C. Crowle's extra-illustrated copy of Thomas Pennant's *Some Account of London*. Extra-illustration was a fashion of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries when collectors would have their own prints and drawings bound as illustrations to publications. In the case of Crowle's Pennant this resulted in the original octavo book being extended to fourteen volumes bound in gold-tooled red leather, each measuring 57 x 42 cms. Photography was not an easy task but it has been completed. Records and their images can be seen online: bit.ly/4p1JUG2

Crowle's collection includes views of places described by Thomas Pennant, as well as maps, portrayals of historical events and portraits of those mentioned. Crowle folded some of the larger sheets so that they would fit into the volumes – not always with happy results. Two examples are Paul Sandby's panoramic watercolour views of the Thames from Somerset House (Museum numbers, G,13.30 and G,13.31) which are nearly two metres wide. They were taken out for framing by the Museum many years ago.

Once you have found interesting prints, drawings or maps on the BM database you may want to see the real things. Visitors are welcome in the Prints and Drawings study room – email pdstudyroom@britishmuseum.org to make an appointment.

*Image: This map (Museum number: G,14.4) was originally dated 1710, though the date has been altered in pen and ink to 1720. The cataloguer noted that it is not in the standard work (James Howgego, *Printed Maps of London, circa 1553-1850*, 2nd edn., 1978). Ashley Baynton-Williams suggests that it may be a cut-down version of a larger map of London – the thick borders are very suggestive of that, as is the form and placement of the title. It may be a crude version of Morden and Lea's map of about 1700 (Howgego, p.50), updated after the appearance of Overton's map in 1720 (Howgego, p.64). Laurence Worms suggests that it may have been published by Thomas Bowles I.*

Mapping London and the world's history with OpenHistoricalMap

Paul Williams describes a new mapping tool built by volunteers



Open Historical Map
<http://www.openhistoricalmap.org>

A map that allows you to look at any place on any date at varying scales may sound incredible but that is exactly what OpenHistoricalMap (OHM for short) has begun to create. In just a few years, volunteer mappers (of which I'm one) have made considerable progress in mapping many places around the world at different dates often with much detail. The map is of course limited by the sources available and the effort put into mapping that area.

In London a substantial amount of mapping has been done by me and other mappers. To see this go to www.openhistoricalmap.org and zoom in to London or search for it. The time slider can be dragged left or right to scroll backwards and forwards through time. This can be set to any range from 4000 BC to now (though mapping generally is limited the further back you go).

As you can see, the map is far from complete with much of Greater London not yet mapped at all. Other areas including the City and Westminster are mapped to a large

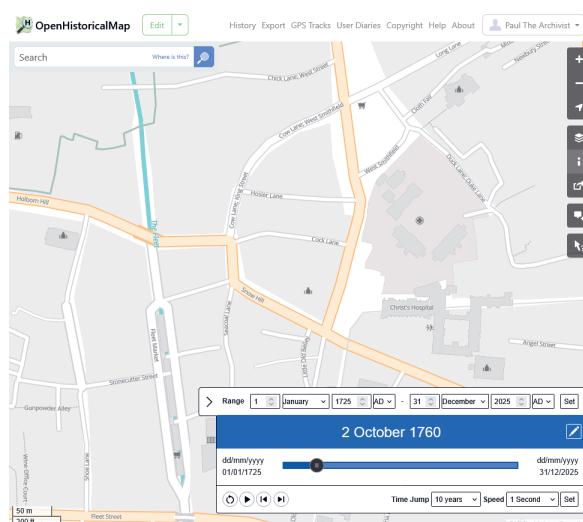
extent with much detail but some roads and other key features are still missing. There are many issues to fix. It's a good start though I reckon! Mappers can add any feature normally found on a map including buildings, pubs, churches, shops, factories and much more.

Elsewhere in the UK mappers have also made much progress. For example, one mapper has done a fantastic job on Cambridge, and one has mapped most of the UK railway network as it grew and contracted. Across the world there are many great OHM mapping projects.

Anyone can be an OHM mapper and do as much or little as they like. OHM is a kind of offshoot from the highly successful OpenStreetMap which has mapped the world in much detail mostly through the work of volunteers.

You can map through your web browser (a desktop application is also available). Click the 'Sign Up' button on the website and once you've completed that and zoomed in to where you want to map the 'Edit' button will be available. I'd recommend learning more about OHM before diving in too far, click the 'Help' button for links to the wiki containing information and advice and to the forum where you can ask questions.

The mapping involves adding a feature to the map as a point, line or area. We include a 'start date' identifying when it first existed. If it no longer exists we also add an 'end date'. From these dates the map determines whether to show that feature. We can also record approximate or uncertain dates. Tags



can be added to include all sorts of attributes like the sources used and links to images and other resources. For a building for example we could add the address or the architect's name. It's very flexible.

A base map or aerial imagery can be used to pinpoint the location or trace a feature like a road or building. These must have a suitable licence or be out-of-copyright. Suitable aerial imagery is included by default in the editor, and you can add other maps like old Ordnance Survey maps which the National Library of Scotland (NLS) has kindly made available. For London and most other places in Britain there are large scale (1:1250/1:2500) post-Second World War maps which are great for tracing features. There are also many 19th century OS maps on the NLS website which can be used. If a feature is only on a pre-OS map I'll normally use that map just for reference but compare with the OS map for mapping and pinpointing the feature. There is perhaps little point trying to trace directly from older maps since they are usually of smaller scale and less accurate.

You can map where, what and however much you like – perhaps your own street to start with. You could do mapping connected with an interest – like railways, shops, castles – pretty much anything. If you're in a local historical society you could get together and do a project to research and map your area. Those less confident with mapping could help by doing research.

OHM is currently best for around the past 300 years or so. It's easiest to map this time period as we have other maps to use as sources. There is no reason why we can't go earlier where sources are available. Archaeologists and historians studying earlier periods could map some of their findings and present them to a wider audience than a typical archaeological report or journal article would receive.

At present it's often difficult to visualize how places have physically changed over time – you might need to look at several different historic and modern maps and read

many sources to understand it. The average person without the time or inclination to spend hours researching in archives and local studies libraries may find it difficult to learn how their neighbourhood has changed. OHM has the potential to transform this and become an amazing educational tool. Researchers will also be able to extract and use data in numerous ways – as they already do with OpenStreetMap for the modern world. Those with some technical skills can make their own custom maps with OHM data. This is all public domain or under an open licence so can be freely used.

In time I reckon we can build a detailed map showing how London, the UK and much of the world has changed. It will pull together information from many thousands of different sources. With enough help it's certainly possible – we can see that volunteer mappers can do this from the success of OpenStreetMap. We've achieved much already in OHM with a relatively small number of mappers helping in our spare time.

If you have questions, the best place to ask is the OHM forum: openhistoricalmap.org. I've also started a page on the wiki on mapping London: osm.wiki/OpenHistoricalMap/Projects/London. Alternatively, I can be contacted on mappinghistory@outlook.com.

A Time Capsule of a Vanished London

Mike Wicksteed selects a highlight from the Society's Archive

City of London
Court, Land
Tax Rooms
and Church of
St Lawrence
Jewry, drawn
by J.P. Emslie,
1887



Have you looked at the Society's website recently? Or ever? Under the heading 'Library', you come to 'A Complete List of LTS Publications'. And therein lies an easily accessible treasure trove of information about London from 1898 onwards.

Over the years, many of our earlier publications have been digitised by American Universities and made available to read by the HathiTrust Digital Library. In our publications list they are identified by a small 'eye' symbol next to the publication number.

In 1897 the Club's Organising Committee decided the Society's third publication should be the *Illustrated Topographical Record of London, Changes and Demolitions 1880-1887*, which would run to a series of three annual publications over 1898-1900. They were the precursor to the *London*

Topographical Record, of which Volume XXXIII was this year's annual publication.

Our first Hon. Secretary, T. Fairman Ordish, edited the series and J.P. Emslie (1839-1913), a well-regarded topographical artist, worked up more than 40 splendid drawings for the three publications. He and Council member Philip Norman provided the commentaries. 125 years later we have a marvellous time capsule of parts of London that had been recently demolished.

It is with this in mind that we shall be providing *Newsletter* readers with a series of short articles, each focusing on one of J.P. Emslie's drawings with its original commentary, along with a photo of the site as it is today. We start with the first illustration from the 1899 publication, *The City of London Court, Etc.* (above).

Commentary describing J.P. Emslie's drawing in *Illustrated Topographical Record of London, Changes and Demolitions 1880-1887*, Second Series published 1899:

'The roadway in front is that of Basinghall Street. The City of London Court was pulled down in 1887, and the site occupied by the present more commodious Tudor Gothic structure. On the right is a bar, which is drawn across the road on the occasion of any Civic function in Guildhall Yard, which is seen beyond this bar, and, on the farther side of the Yard, is the Church of St. Lawrence Jewry.' – J.P.E

'This block of offices, as far as the house at the further corner which serves as the headquarters of the Irish Society, was taken down in 1887, the first stone of the present City of London Court on the same site having been laid on November 23 of that year. Our view is from the corner of Basinghall Street, looking west. The Church of St. Lawrence Jewry, partly shown, was built by Sir Christopher Wren, on the site of the ancient church destroyed by the Great Fire. On Michaelmas Day the Lord Mayor and Corporation here attend divine service prior to the election of the Chief Magistrate for the ensuing year.' – P.N.

Image top right: Photograph (by Mike Wicksteed) showing how the site depicted by J.P. Emslie appears today. The building on the corner was formerly the Mayor's Court, the foundation stone of which was laid on 17 July 1893. The building further along, referred to by Norman and Emslie, was the City of London Court. By an Act of Parliament, they were amalgamated into the Mayor's and City of London Court in 1921, holding High and county court jurisdictions. In 1971 it became a county court – the only one in England without the word 'county' in its title. Since then the individual county courts have been replaced by a single County Court for England and Wales and it is now known as the Mayor's and City County Court. It's worth a visit to see the splendid woodwork alone.



2026 Subscriptions

UK members who do not pay by standing order – your annual subscription of £20 is due by 4 January 2026. Please put the matter in your diary, although you may pay earlier if you wish. We prefer that you use the website payment method as it reduces admin handling time:

<https://londontopsoc.org/membership/subscription-annual-renewal/>

However, if you wish to pay by cheque, please send it to: Mike Wicksteed, 103 Harestone Valley Road, Caterham, Surrey CR3 6HR.

Overseas members should note that their subscription is £40 paid in sterling or £52 if paid in another currency.

If you have any questions, please email me (mike.wicksteed@btinternet.com).

Mike Wicksteed
Hon. Treasurer

Ordeal & Triumph: Middle Temple at War

Marking eighty years since the end of WWII, Barnaby Bryan describes the turmoil and topographical transformation experienced at the Inn during the War

Right:
Allotments in
Middle Temple
Garden, 1942

The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple is one of the four Inns of Court in London. This year, the Inn joined in commemorations to mark eighty years since the end of the Second World War with an exhibition and event held in its Library. This article will tell the story of how Middle Temple's members, residents and staff endured an ordeal of blackouts and bombing, working ceaselessly to protect the Inn from danger, and explore the long process of restoration and rebuilding which followed the war.

As the international situation worsened in the late 1930s, the expectation of conflict grew, and by the summer of 1939 war looked inevitable and preparations were afoot across the country. The Middle Temple was no exception: an ARP committee was formed, courses were provided for volunteer firefighters, wardens, stretcher bearers and first aiders, and supplies of medicine, equipment and protective clothing were ordered. One list of equipment ordered includes service respirators, whistles and, underlined, 'tin-hats for everyone'. Medical needs in the shelters were to be met with biniodide antiseptic, aspirin and smelling salts.

The Inn acted to protect its collections. The stained glass was removed from the windows of the Hall, the archive was sent away to Wales, and the portrait of King Charles I was taken out of its frame, rolled up and stowed in a wine cellar. The minutes of the Inn's Parliament on 18 September 1939 record that the Air Raid Precautions arrangements were complete.



The outbreak of war was followed by a cold, snowy winter and the enforcement of the Blackout across London, with the ARP Committee at pains to encourage compliance. A notice published in November 1939 complains of 'cases of laundresses, during the black-out hours, turning on and leaving lights in rooms without shutters or curtains'.

Changes could be seen in the physical environment of the Inn, with ornamental features and spaces redeployed for practical use. The garden, home to tennis courts and decorative planting, was dug up for allotments, and it was reported that 'in the centre bed of the lawn, there now flourish tomatoes and cabbages, while lines of French beans are growing up their string supports'.



The fountain, dating from 1681 and one of the oldest in London, was converted into a reservoir for firefighting.

After the long months of preparation, the Blitz began on 7 September 1940, and the first bombs fell on the Inn a few weeks later, hitting 1 Elm Court. The Under Treasurer was fire-watching on a nearby roof at the time: 'Well, we thought that was enough of that', he wrote later. Over the following weeks and months, hundreds more bombs would fall, leaving a trail of destruction across the Inn.



On the night of 15 October 1940, a landmine attached to a parachute shattered several buildings, sending masonry and debris through the east gable of the Hall, blowing an enormous hole and reducing the Elizabethan screen and minstrels' gallery to smithereens. The Inn was lucky that the damage was not worse: had it not been for works undertaken in the 1920s and 1930s by Sir Aston Webb and his son Maurice to stabilise the double hammerbeam roof and west wall, the whole edifice might have collapsed.

The night of May 10-11, 1941, was the worst of the Blitz, seeing the heaviest raids across London. The Temple Church, consecrated in 1185, was utterly devastated by fire so intense that 'at 2 o'clock in the morning it was as light as day'. One volunteer recalled that 'as we splashed mechanically around, dodging the little jets spurting from the tangle of hose-pipes, seven centuries of history in the form of a fine, grey ash kept drifting down from the still burning Temple Church'.

Above: Interior of Middle Temple Hall, October 1940

Left: The Fountain transformed into a reservoir, 1941



Later, on the night of March 24-25, 1944, 140 incendiary bombs fell in the Middle Temple, and a serious blaze broke out on the roof of the Hall. With the aid of the National Fire Service, volunteers fought the fire for hours, from inside and out, until eventually, at about four in the morning, it was extinguished.

1944 also witnessed the arrival of the flying bombs, or 'doodle bugs'. On 12 December 1944, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, recently appointed a Royal Bencher of the Inn, was expected for dinner, but her arrival was delayed by an alert, and a flying bomb was heard in the distance. She concluded her speech that evening by saying that, 'Whilst our walls may crumble, this is of small account so long as the virtues and graces for which this Inn has ever stood continue unshaken and unshakable. It is upon their foundation that you will rebuild; your Courts and Chambers will rise with greater strength and a new beauty'.

Victory in Europe was declared on 8 May 1945, and the war came to an end later that summer. It was thanks to the preparation, endurance and bravery of the many volunteers that the damage was not greater

still, and that no lives were lost in the Inn. The ordeal, however, was far from over. Vast swathes of the estate lay in ruins, with over a third of the Inn's chambers destroyed or in need of demolition.

Plans for rebuilding had begun in 1943, and in 1946 a Reconstruction Committee was formally established. The initial focus was the Hall, and the architect Edward Maufe, known for Guildford Cathedral, was engaged to draw up a scheme for restoration. The worst of the devastation had been to the east gable and screen in 1940, but the entrance tower and roof had also been damaged, with the nineteenth-century cupola entirely lost.

Thanks to the efforts of those who had gathered up the innumerable fragments of the shattered Elizabethan screen, it was possible to reconstruct this masterpiece from almost entirely the original timber, in what must be one of the biggest jigsaw puzzles in history. The restoration of the Hall was completed in 1949, and it was formally reopened by the Queen.

Work now began on the rest of the estate under Maufe's oversight and in line with three objectives: to preserve the Inn's

character; to improve its amenities; and to provide accommodation ‘of the same type and to the same extent as existed prior to the damage but of modern planning’.

This provided an opportunity to re-adapt the Inn’s topography better to suit its twentieth-century needs, and saw certain courtyards enlarge or vanish while other buildings migrated entirely. Middle Temple and Inner Temple also renegotiated their borders and various land exchanges were agreed which rationalised their intersection.

One change might have pleased the purists – the Cloister building, completed in 1953, was

reconstructed with one fewer bay than the pre-war structure – a reversion to the original 1680s design by Sir Christopher Wren.

The final building to be completed was a new Library, formally opened in 1958 by Queen Elizabeth, by then the Queen Mother. It may have taken many years, but her words that night in 1944 had proven true – after enduring the ordeal of war, the Middle Temple had indeed rebuilt; the courts and chambers had indeed risen with a greater strength and a new beauty.

Barnaby Bryan is the Archivist and Head of Collections at Middle Temple.

Ann Saunders Prize 2026

*The
LTS
1880*

The London Topographical Society funds a prize in honour of the late Dr Ann Saunders (1930–2019). Ann was an enthusiastic and distinguished historian of London and for thirty-five years the Society’s Honorary Editor. In that capacity she helped many scholars to achieve publication of their work.

A prize of £1,000 is offered annually for an original and unpublished research essay on the topography, development or buildings of London in any period.

The prize was awarded in 2023 to David Cotton for his essay ‘The Lost Highway of Holloway’ and in 2024 to Martin Rose for ‘The Close on Tower Wharf’, both of which were published in the 2025 volume of the *London Topographical Record*. The 2025 prize was awarded to Anthony Davis for his essay, ‘An Edwardian Utopia: Charles Paget Wade’s 1909 Map of Hampstead Garden Suburb and his Work on the ‘Great Wall’ which

will be published in the 2030 volume of the *London Topographical Record*.

Submissions for the prize should be made by 1 April 2026. They must be no more than 8,000 words (including endnotes) and should include an additional abstract or summary of about 200 words. Illustrations are welcome.

They will be considered for publication by the Society in the *London Topographical Record*, at the discretion of the Society’s Honorary Editor.

See the Society’s website for further details of how and where to submit - <https://londontopsoc.org/about-us/ann-saunders-essay-prize/>.

The prize winner will be notified in time to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held in London in the summer of 2026.

A City Relic in Deepest Hampshire

David Sweetland shares the story of a City Church survival

Figure 1: Image of Holy Trinity, Minories from the 1922 book, *A History of the Minories*

There are many churches within and in the immediate surroundings of the City of London, but the number we see today is but a fraction of the peak of City churches before the 1666 Great Fire of London.

The fire was one of the times when church numbers reduced as some were not rebuilt. In the late nineteenth century, many churches came within the scope of the Union of Benefices Act of 1860 where churches were closed, and their parish amalgamated with another. Bomb damage during the Second World War was the third period when church numbers were reduced as several were again not rebuilt.

A church that closed in the late nineteenth century was in the Minories, and as well as having an interesting history, it is an example of how London survivals can be found across the country.

The Minories is currently the name of a street leading from Tower Hill to Aldgate High Street. The name derives from the sisterhood of the 'Sorores Minores' of the Order of St. Clare. The sisters of the order were known as Minoresses and their religious house as the Minories, and it was one of these houses or abbey that occupied the area to the east of the street currently known as Minories.

The abbey had an associated church, and following the dissolution, the church became a parish church and was known as the Church of Saint Trinity, or Holy Trinity in the Minories. It is the later name that was most associated with the church. Holy Trinity was located at the end of a street leading from the Minories [Figure 1]. The current name of the street is St. Clare Street (taking its name from the religious order).



The closure of churches and amalgamation with other parishes was highly controversial. There is an interesting letter in the London Evening Standard on the 30th May 1893 from the Vicar of Holy Trinity. It is a long letter clarifying the history of the church, and ends with the following two paragraphs:

'May I add that I was at first greatly opposed to the amalgamation of Holy Trinity, Minories, with St. Botolph Aldgate, and wrote a little history of the church in order to raise funds for its restoration, when the Charity Commissioners came down upon us and confiscated the church property devoted by the churchwardens to the maintenance of public worship, leaving them only thirteen pounds a year to pay the salaries of organist, pew-opener, bell-ringer, fire insurance, repairs, gas, coals, water, &c. Also, they seized

funds for giving every Christmas to all the widows living in the parish of five shillings, accompanied with coal and bread tickets.

This unrighteous impoverishment of the church led me to consent to the amalgamation scheme now about to take place, but I shall leave my parish and people with much regret.'

Holy Trinity, Minories closed as a church at the end of the nineteenth century, but the church survived as a parish hall until the Second World War when the building suffered severe bomb damage. A wall did remain until final clearance of the area in the late 1950s.

Although the church has been lost for many years, there is a survival from the church, and to see this requires a trip to All Saints' Church, in the village of East Meon in Hampshire.

The East Meon church was built between the years 1080 and 1150. Although with later renovations, repairs and changes, the layout of the church is the same cross-shaped design as when originally built. A central tower dominates over a nave, chancel and transepts which lead off either side from the base of the tower [Figure 2].

Major restoration was carried out during the early twentieth century, and as part of this restoration, the Holy Trinity pulpit arrived in East Meon [Figure 3]. At first sight, perhaps not very impressive, but it dates from 1706



and spent almost 200 years serving the parishioners of the Minories in the City.

Figure 2: East Meon Church

Today's location of the pulpit is down to the Reverend Edmund Murray Tomlinson who presented the pulpit to East Meon church when he became the vicar there, having also been vicar of Holy Trinity, Minories for twelve years. A plaque on the pulpit confirms its origins [Figure 4].

Whilst there are many survivors from the historic buildings that have been lost across the city, it is unusual to find such a complete example as the pulpit, continuing to be used in a church in a small village in Hampshire.

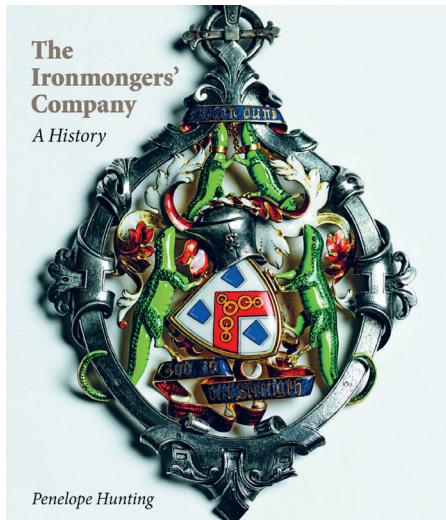


Figure 3 (left): The pulpit of Holy Trinity in place at East Meon Church

Figure 4 (right): Plaque on the pulpit recording its origin

Book Reviews

A selection of the latest London-related releases



The Ironmongers' Company: A History by Penelope Hunting
Published by and available from the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers, 432pp, priced at £50 for members and £100 for non-members, October 2025

Reviewed by Jeremy Musson

The City of London has been shaped by trade and people. Among the institutions that have played an important part in this history are the City Livery Companies. *The Ironmongers' Company: A History*, by Dr Penelope Hunting is essential reading for anyone wishing to explore and understand better the complex history of the Ironmonger's Company, which traces its origins to 1190 – drawing on evidence of the Corporation of London's records, which show Ironmongers serving on the City's Common Council

in 1328. In 1360, an Ironmonger was appointed Sheriff of the City and in 1409, the first Ironmonger became Lord Mayor of the City; in 1455 the Ironmongers received a coat of arms and in 1463 a royal charter was granted.

This deeply researched and richly illustrated volume is arranged thematically and introduces varied and interesting *dramatis personae* from the world of the Ironmongers' Company, from the Middle Ages to the present – originally merchants, traders and makers, pioneers and politicians, although over time fewer were directly involved in the iron industry and trades. There is a chapter devoted to feasts, ceremonials and pageantry of the Livery Company world and another on the Company's properties and estates – including an extensive historic estate in Ulster. The Company historically regulated the quality of iron goods sold in the City. The medieval story centres on the area of Ironmongers' Lane and Old Jewry, where ironmongers congregated, with dwelling houses with adjoining warehouses and yards for storing bar iron and iron rods, and associated shops to display the many manufactured iron goods available.

One revealing chapter explores the history of the successive Ironmongers' Halls, which are a vivid part of the changing

character of the City. The first Hall for the Company was established in Fenchurch Street in the 1450s; this was rebuilt in the 1580s (after intense debate about whether a new site should be sought), the work directed by master carpenters Edward and Elias Jerman. Its extent is illustrated by a detailed survey plan of 1612 by Ralph Treswell. Remarkably, this hall survived the Great Fire and can just be made out on the eastern edge of Hollar's map of the immediate post-fire City. The Hall was entirely rebuilt in 1748–1750 in high Palladian manner, its interior updated in the Victorian age.

However, in 1917 that elegant edifice fell victim to a bomb and was replaced in 1923–25 on a new site on Shaftesbury Place, Aldersgate, to a design by its then surveyor Sydney Tatchell, with builders Holland & Hannen & Cubitts – constructed around a steel frame. Tatchell's version of the Hall is still the Ironmonger's Hall today, having survived the Blitz, and numerous attempts to replace or develop it – London has changed dramatically around it. Tatchell wrote that it was designed in a Tudor-Jacobean style, 'not only for its seemliness in for the housing of an ancient Guild but because it recalls the Golden Age of craftsmanship when men not only loved their work but brought to their task great traditions and ideals'. It speaks today of the shifting history of the City of London and the ancient institutions within it.

Jeremy Musson is Chairman of the Historic Houses Association and historic buildings consultant based in Cambridge.

The Woolwich Rotunda

From waltzes to wargames



The Woolwich Rotunda: From waltzes to wargames written by Emily Cole & Sarah Newsome, with Verena McCaig
Published by Liverpool University Press on behalf of Historic England, 208 pp, £14.99, June 2025, ISBN 978-1-83624-459-2
Reviewed by Mike Wicksteed

Who would believe that a structure commissioned by the Prince Regent in 1814 for a party to celebrate the end of the Napoleonic Wars would still be standing, albeit rather unloved, at the former Royal Military Repository artillery training site in Woolwich?

This extensive and very well-written history of the Rotunda, by Historic England staff members Emily Cole and Sarah Newsome, and with an addendum by Verena McCaig, is on a par with the normal high standard of Historic England publications.

The Rotunda was designed by John Nash and erected in the grounds of Carlton House for the Prince Regent's extravagant party, held in July 1815 in honour of the Duke of Wellington, and attended by 2500 people. Tent-roofed and wooden-walled, it was only meant to have had a limited lifespan. However, it was used for other royal parties, and in 1818

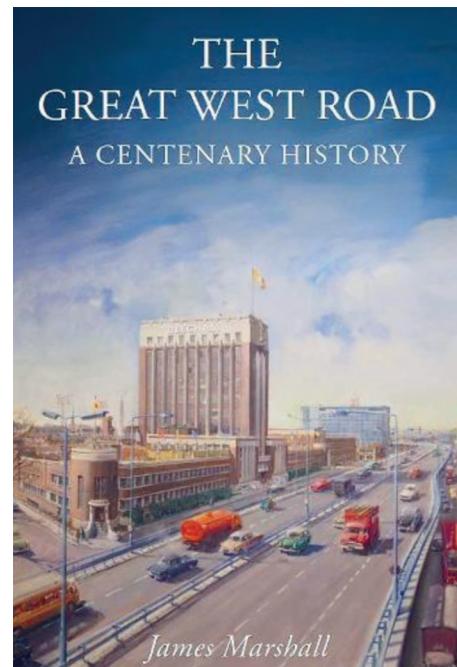
the Prince Regent was persuaded that it would be better utilised as an educational facility for artillery training out at Woolwich. Disassembled and re-erected, this time with a lead roof resembling the original bell tent canvas roof and brick walls, it was opened as a museum in May 1820, not only for the training of young artillery officers but also as a tourist attraction for the public.

Eventually covering more than 1200 acres, the grounds of the Repository in which it was now located were being developed into a 'world first' specialist training area for the gunners of all ranks. Here they could train at building bridges, river crossings, diving for sunken ordnance and transporting ammunition over difficult terrain. In parallel, the Rotunda served as a reference museum, housing a diverse collection of weapons and militaria from many countries.

Cole and Newsome provide the reader with a detailed and fascinating account of the Rotunda and the Repository's development over the following decades, until the Rotunda's closure to the public in 2010. Sadly, since then, it has physically deteriorated to such a degree that after being allowed to visit post-Covid in 2021, Historic England staff reported that the building's structure was failing disastrously. Having overseen temporary repairs, the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and Historic England are currently working on a permanent solution for the future of the Rotunda.

This publication aims to raise public awareness of an unusual building of social and military historical significance. It deserves to be widely read.

Mike Wicksteed is the Hon. Secretary of the London Topographical Society and has been a member since 1990.



The Great West Road: A Centenary History by James Marshall
Published by Phillimore Book Publishing available from brentfordandchiswicklhs.org.uk/book-shop, 192pp, £25, October 2025, ISBN 978-1-9162041-1-9
Reviewed by Mike Paterson

Late in the afternoon of 30 May 1925, King George V cut the ribbon to open the new Great West Road, for many years also referred to as the Brentford By-pass. For the locals, it was a massive occasion. There was bunting, flags, and banners; thousands lined the route; local worthies and politicians gathered in their finery; Guides and Scouts, local regiments, firemen, orphanage children - every civic group imaginable - were all present. They had turned up with very good reason: this modern trunk road, though built rapidly, had actually been centuries in the making.

To defend their livelihoods, the shopkeepers, manufacturers, traders and innkeepers of Brentford had for many years obstructed progress for a bypass by any means fair and foul. But with the advent of cars, trams and buses in the early twentieth century, the situation on Brentford's high street had become untenable. But just as the Middlesex County Council (Great West Road and Finance) Act passed into law, the First World War broke out, delaying the project by ten years.

A decade on, the road got built and the consequences were pretty much immediate. The rural acres north of Brentford were transformed from market and nursery gardens to cosy suburban dwellings. These were punctuated along the stretch by factories and industrial units of Art Deco splendour – mainly occupied by American businesses who set up in London to avoid inter-war tarriffs. Virtually all of these buildings survive to this day along what became known as the Brentford Golden Mile.

Chapter 4 pays particular attention to these great companies,

now either closed or moved: Champion Spark Plugs, Firestone, Pyrene fire extinguishers, Trico windscreens, Tecalemit lubricants, Coty cosmetics, Currys, Macleans, and many more. The Gillette Factory (1936) by the architect Sir Bannister Fletcher with its distinctive clock tower, was occupied by the company until 1995 (it has only very recently been repurposed as a nine-stage film studio). All the other Art Deco structures were by leading contemporary architects, notably – of course – Wallace, Gilbert and Partners.

Post World War Two is a story of decline and renewal. The arrival of Mercedes, Audi and tech vendors such as EMC and PC-World. Glaxo SmithKline (GSK) became massive but sadly has recently left the area forever.

The author, James Marshall, is without question the leading authority of – in particular – the topography and industrial history of the greater Hounslow area. Having served as the Local Studies Librarian and Archivist of the Borough for thirty-two years, his writing style is matter-of-fact and engaging, making for a most

enjoyable read. Possibly the most amazing thing about this excellent book is the cover image. It's an oil painting of the busy M4 elevated section adjacent to the old Beecham HQ. It's by none other than the great Terence Cuneo!

Mike Paterson is the Director of London Historians.

Mystery Picture

Can you name the artist who painted this view of the Thames? And do you recognise which part of the river it depicts?

Turn to page 24 to find out.



Anne Ramon 1957-2025



It is with sadness we report that Anne Ramon died unexpectedly on 21 October. A Society member since 1994, she served on the Council for five years, for three of which she was the Assistant Treasurer. Anne was our Hon. Treasurer for two years before resigning at the 2023 AGM.



Event Listings

Forthcoming events relating to the history and topography of London

EXHIBITION, ONLINE

17 October 2025 – 14 December 2027

A Golden Age of Architecture: Rare Elizabethan and Early Jacobean Drawings by Thorpe and the Smythsons

Soane.org / Online only

Free

This online exhibition presents findings from two major cataloguing projects: one on the 'Book of Architecture of John Thorpe' in Sir John Soane's Museum, a project undertaken by Manolo Guerci, Reader at the School of Arts and Architecture at the University of Kent, and the second on the Smythson drawings at the Royal Institute of British Architects, currently being researched by Olivia Horsfall Turner, Chief Curator, RIBA Collections.

One of the remarkable things about Thorpe and the Smythsons is that they drew a number of the same sites. Comparing their drawings of the same building is instructive, as it highlights the different priorities and approaches they each had. Within London, they both produced drawings of great town houses that had recently been refurbished or constructed: Somerset House, Northumberland House and Wimbledon House.

Visit <https://www.soane.org/exhibitions/golden-age-architecture>

BUILDING TOUR

6 & 27 November, 11 December, 22 January, 12 March / Doors 18:00

Charterhouse by Candlelight

The Charterhouse

£30 / £27 Concessions

This guided tour will take you on a journey through the fascinating history of the Charterhouse, all revealed by flickering candlelight. Step through the gates and discover the historic interiors behind the ancient walls, experience the atmosphere of the medieval Norfolk Cloister and hear about the Restoration Governors whose seventeenth-century portraits line the silk-covered walls of the Tudor Great Chamber.

To book visit <https://thecharterhouse.org/visit-us/whats-on/candlelit-tour/>

LIVE PODCAST

12 November / 18:15

'Your Places or Mine' – A live recording of Clive Aslet and John Goodall's popular architectural podcast

The Georgian Group, 6 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 5DX

£15 members / £18 non-members

The Georgian Group is delighted to host a live recording of 'Your Places or Mine', a podcast about places and buildings, with tales about history and people, from author and publisher Clive Aslet and the architectural editor of Country Life, John Goodall. They will take as their theme the early days of The Georgian Group itself – exploring how figures such as Robert Byron, John Summerson and James Lees-Milne fought to save Georgian London from destruction – The Destruction of Georgian London and the Founding of the Georgian Group.

To book visit <https://georgiangroup.org.uk/event-directory/>

TALK, HYBRID

28 November / 17:30 – 19:30

Low Countries Merchants in and around London c.1350-

1550: Specialising in the Trade of Everyday Goods

Institute of Historical Research / Wolfson Room NB01, Basement, Senate House

Free

Join this talk in the IHR's Low Countries History Series with Eliot Benbow (IHR).

To book visit <https://www.history.ac.uk/news-events/events/low-countries-merchants-around-london-c-1350-1550-specialising-trade-everyday-goods>

TALK, IN PERSON

8 December / 17:30 – 19:30

Rediscovering the Archival and Library Collections of the Museum of the Order of St John

Institute of Historical Research / Museum of The Order of St John, St John's Gate, 26 St John's Lane, London EC1M 4DA

Free

In this paper Dr Daniel K Gullo will explore the significance of the Museum of the Order of St John's Hospitaller archival, manuscript, and Melitensia collection as discovered through digitization. The lecture will explore the partnership with the museum to digitize manuscripts and printed works from the collection and the plans to make the collection accessible to the public.

To book visit <https://www.history.ac.uk/news-events/events/rediscovering-archival-library-collections-museum-order-st-john>

PERFORMANCE

9 December / 18:00

Carols by Candlelight 2025

The Charterhouse

Tickets from £18

Lift your winter spirits and join us for an evening of festive music in our stunning, candlelit historic chapel. Expect a magical atmosphere, with the chapel lit by flickering candlelight, a beautiful selection of carols from the wonderful Pegasus Choir and festive readings by special guest speakers. The evening is completed with a complimentary glass of mulled wine and a mince pie in the Old Library, a truly special start to your Christmas season! *To book visit <https://thecharterhouse.org/visit-us/whats-on/carols-by-candlelight-2025/>*

COURSE

28-30 January 2026 / 10:00-17:00

Historic Maps: Interpreting Stories of Place

Institute of Historical Research / Wolfson Room NB01, Basement, Senate House

Course fee £240

Do you have an interest in the history of a specific place, landscape and/or historical theme? Would you like to learn more about the evolution of cartography, including how to use old maps in your research? With a focus on mapping practices in Britain and Western Europe between the sixteenth and twentieth centuries, this new 3-day History Maps Discovery Training will introduce you to our vast range of physical map collections, historical maps and topographical rare books.

Although maps have long been a part of historical research, they are subjective and should always be analysed in the same way as any other primary source. This

dynamic course will include lectures, one-to-one consultations, library tours, visits to our special collections and opportunities to explore our digital resource Layers of London. Together, we will learn about the different types of historic map, from the evolution of cartography to the simple digital tools you can use for comparison and analysis in your own projects. This course will be of particular interest to anyone looking at space, place or maps in the past. No prior experience is needed and all are welcome to attend.

To book visit <https://www.history.ac.uk/news-events/events/historic-maps-interpreting-stories-place>

COURSE

4-6 March / 10:00-17:00

Townscape and Architecture in History

Institute of Historical Research / Wolfson Room NB01, Basement, Senate House

Course fee £240

Would you like to learn more about using buildings and townscapes in your research? Are you curious about researching the history of a particular place, building or type of building, or the way in which urban communities of all sizes have changed and developed in response to broader historical themes? Our new Townscape and Architecture in History Discovery Training will equip you with the knowledge you need to analyse historic townscapes and ensure you have the confidence to apply these skills to your own research.

This new 3-day short course will guide you through the ways in which buildings fit within and respond to changes in the urban environment. Drawing on the

expertise of our IHR staff and guest speakers, we will learn how changes to the built fabric of a specific urban environment can respond to wider historic trends. We will also look at the different ways in which historic and modern buildings are valued and categorised. This course includes a range of in print and digital resources, including published series, research reports and national and local resources. This course will be of particular interest to students, researchers and heritage professionals who want to learn more about the history of the built environment, particularly in and around Bloomsbury. No prior experience is needed and all are welcome to attend.

To book visit <https://www.history.ac.uk/news-events/events/townscape-architecture-history>

Mystery Picture

The painting of the Thames on p.7 is by the well known Australian artist Sir Sydney Nolan (1917-1992) (© Sidney Nolan Trust). From 1960-79 Nolan lived in Deodar Road, Putney, from where he could enjoy fine views of the river. The painting is now at the Rodd, a Jacobean house near Presteigne on the Welsh border, which he bought in 1962. The Rodd became the centre for the Sydney Nolan Trust, founded 1985. It has the world's largest collection of Nolan's artwork, is open to the public, and organises exhibitions and learning activities for all ages to encourage creativity. For details see sidneynolantrust.org.uk. *Bridget Cherry*