

2025
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1425-2025

GUILDHALL
LIBRARY

600
ANNIVERSARY

EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

Thursday 13 February, 6-8pm

GUILDHALL LIBRARY 600TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Guildhall Library

Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7HH

guildhall.library@cityoflondon.gov.uk

cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/libraries/guildhall-library

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EVENTS ARE FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED AND WILL BE TAKING PLACE EITHER ONLINE, ONSITE OR BOTH (HYBRID); EXCEPT WALKS. BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL AND WE CANNOT ENSURE A PLACE WITHOUT A TICKET. DETAILS OF HOW TO BOOK CAN BE FOUND ON THE BACK PAGE.

EVENTS

Tuesday 7 January, 2-3pm

SCANDALOUS SOHO

Hunting ground? Asylum for refugees? Entertainment centre? Gangland battleground? Red-light district? Bohemian quarter? London's Little China? Which is the true face of Soho? This illustrated talk by Pete Smith examines the claims of all of these.



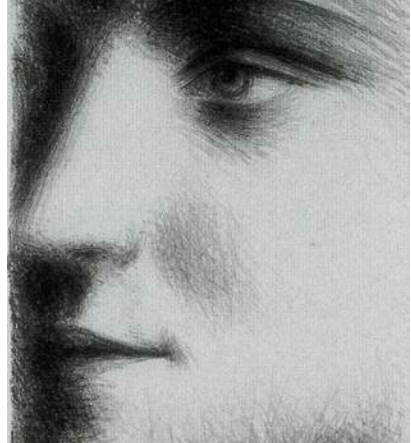
Wednesday 8 January, 2-4.30pm

WALK: THE STREETS OF SOHO

This walk with City of Westminster Guide Pete Smith aims to introduce walkers to Soho's past, its cosmopolitan culture – and some great pubs.

£10 plus booking fee

Meet at the bar, Argyll Arms (opposite Argyll Street, exit from Oxford Circus Station)



Tuesday 14 January, 2-3pm

PICASSO AND HIS WOMEN

This lecture examines the way Picasso's emotional life influenced what he painted and how he painted. The talk will concentrate on the seven most important women in his life. Join Arts Society Lecturer Val Woodgate to learn more.



Monday 20 January, 2-3pm

WHITTINGTON — THE MAN, THE MYTH (AND THE CAT)

In conjunction with the Whittington Exhibition currently in Guildhall Library, City of London Guide & Lecturer Jill Finch's talk is about one of the Square Mile's most famous citizens. Join Jill Finch to learn more.



Tuesday 21 January, 2-3pm

HISTORY AND TREASURES OF GUILDHALL LIBRARY: 600TH ANNIVERSARY

Join our librarians to learn about the history of Guildhall Library, and view some of the library's amazing treasures.

600
ANNIVERSARY

Tuesday 4 February, 2-3pm

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Edgar Degas said, "A painting requires as much fraudulence, trickery and deception as the perpetration of a crime." Artists can manipulate colour, form, composition and subject-matter to explore universal themes such as life, death, feelings, or politics, and to engage our emotional participation in the work. Join Arts Society Lecturer Frank Woodgate to learn more.



Tuesday 11 February, 2-3pm

STANLEY SPENCER: A PERSONAL HEAVEN

One of the most original British artists of his generation, Spencer's art was dominated by his personal life and his profound religious faith. Join Arts Society Lecturer Val Woodgate to learn more.



1425-2025 GUILDHALL LIBRARY

EVENTS

600 ANNIVERSARY

Thursday 13 February, 6-8pm
**GUILDHALL LIBRARY
600TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

A special evening to celebrate 600 years since the founding of the original Guildhall Library with a presentation on the history of the original Guildhall Library, our collections and the transformation into a modern library. A chance to view some of our oldest and rarest items, from 13th and 14th century manuscript books, incunabula to Victorian sensationalism.

£7 plus booking fee
Includes wine reception





Monday 17 February, 2-3pm

MAGNA CARTA & THE CITY

In 1215 the City of London was a major player in the events that led to Magna Carta's creation and brought King John to the negotiating table with his rebellious Barons. It was also the only city specifically named in Magna Carta and its Mayor one of the 'sureties', appointed to see its provisions carried out. Join City Guide Jill Finch to learn more.

Thursday 20 February, 2-3pm

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The Square Mile is famous for its narrow, winding lanes and alleys, which survived the Great Fire of London and two World Wars, retaining their oddities of layout and their often very strange names. Join City of London Guide Pete Smith to find out more.



Friday 21 February, 2-4.30pm

WALK: MINCING, SEETHING AND STAINING

This walk with City Guide Pete Smith explores the twists, turns and curious secrets of the City's hidden byways, among other oddities.

£10 plus booking fee

Meet at Trinity Square Gardens, near exit from Tower Hill Station.



Monday 10 & Tuesday 11 March 2-3pm

GUILDHALL LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

Discussions will be around historical fiction or non-fiction history books.

Senior Librarian Isabelle Chevillot will present some gems from Guildhall Library's shelves.

Limited places available

EVENTS



Thursday 13 March, 6–8pm
INFLUENZA: FROM THE SPANISH LADY TO THE WINTER SNIFFLE

In 1918, an influenza pandemic killed more people than the First World War. The disease was called the Spanish Lady among many other names, that has remained, causing the annual 'winter flu'. Join author David Miles to learn more.

£7 plus booking fee
Includes wine reception

Monday 17 March, 2–3pm
ALL CHANGE AT KING'S CROSS

King's Cross Station, designed by Lewis Cubitt, was opened in grand style in 1852 by the Great Northern Railway. The decision to relocate Eurostar from Waterloo to St Pancras meant a major redevelopment in the 21st century. Join City of London Guide & Lecturer Jill Finch to learn more.



Tuesday 18 March, 2–3pm
THE COLOURFUL WORLD OF DAVID HOCKNEY

David Hockney, 88 this year, has become a British 'national treasure'. He is a fine draughtsman, and first came to fame in the early 1960s for his graffiti-like paintings. His Royal Academy and Tate Britain shows in recent years included works using i-Phones, i-Pads and multi-camera videos. Join Arts Society Lecturer Frank Woodgate to learn more.





Wednesday 19 March, 2-3pm

HISTORY AND TREASURES OF GUILDHALL LIBRARY: 600TH ANNIVERSARY

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ANNIVERSARY

Join our librarians to learn about the history of Guildhall Library, and view some of the library's amazing treasures.

Monday 24 March, 2-3pm

THE MOST INTENSE RAINSTORM EVER?

Fifty years ago, Hampstead and the City's Heath experienced a highly localised deluge. Lester Hillman, who witnessed the storm in August 1975, navigates the fleeting drama and City links.



Tuesday 25 March, 2-3pm

GRAVEN IMAGES

London is full of statues, commemorating the good, the bad, the shocking, and the ugly. Join City of London Guide Pete Smith to learn more.



Wednesday 26 March, 2-3pm

ART TREASURES OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY

Founded in 1824, The National Gallery is home to one of the finest collections of Western European paintings in the world, dating from the 13th to early 20th centuries. This talk looks in detail at a variety of major works from across the whole collection. Join Arts Society Lecturer Val Woodgate to learn more.

EVENTS

Friday 28 March, 2-4.30pm

WALK: PLINTHS, PUBS AND POLITICS

Join Pete Smith for a walk around Whitehall and its statuary. The walk includes an opportunity to sample a few pubs.

£10 plus booking fee

Meet in the booking hall of Westminster Station.



Monday 7 & 14 April 2-3pm

CHARLES II: STAR KING!

Guildhall Library history discussion group facilitated by Senior Librarian Isabelle Chevallot. A chance to discuss your favourite kings and queens of England. A short paper will be provided by the facilitator ahead of the session in preparation for the discussion.

[Online Only](#)

Limited places available

Tuesday 8 April, 2-3pm

GREEK MYTHS AND LEGENDS IN ART

Some of the greatest and most beautiful works of art in our culture illustrate Greek Myths. This lecture will explain the stories and unravel the meaning of the many beautiful works of art. Join Arts Society Lecturer Val Woodgate to learn more.



Tuesday 15 April, 2-3pm

STOW IN STOW

The father of London's historian, John Stow, was born five hundred years ago. His Survey of the City, published in 1598, came at the close of a dramatic century. In remembrance of the anniversary of his passing, Lester Hillman explores his remarkable work, and implications in the 21st century.



Thursday 10 April, 6-8pm

MEMOIRS OF A COCKNEY SIKH

Suresh Singh AKA The Cockney Sikh was born in 1962 in Princelet Street, Spitalfields. He studied architecture at UCL Bartlett School of Architecture and worked on the restoration of a number of Georgian houses in Spitalfields. He is the author of 'A Modest living: Memoirs of a Cockney Sikh'. Suresh tells the candid and sometimes surprising story of his father Joginder Singh who came to Spitalfields in 1949. Join Suresh Singh to find out more.





EVENTS

Wednesday 16 April, 2-3pm
**HISTORY AND TREASURES
OF GUILDHALL LIBRARY:
600TH ANNIVERSARY**

Join our librarians to learn about the history of Guildhall Library, and view some of the library's amazing treasures.

Thursday 17 April, 2-3pm
**WILL THE REAL DICK
WHITTINGTON PLEASE
STAND UP?**

To complement Guildhall Library's current exhibition, this talk by City of London Guide & Lecturer Pete Smith attempts to disentangle the man from the myth.



Tuesday 22 April, 11am-1pm

**WALK:
ALL CHANGE AT
KING'S CROSS**

A circular walk round King's Cross Station with City of London Guide Jill Finch to accompany her March talk.

£10 plus booking fee

Meet at King's Cross station next to Black Sheep Coffee, Euston Road.



Thursday 24 April, 2-3pm

**STEEL AND SOVEREIGNTY:
THE STORY OF ERASMUS
KRYKENAR, MASTER
ARMOURER OF HENRY VIII**

Join Historian Lynsey Ford for an intriguing talk exploring the life and legacy of Erasmus Krykenar, the master armourer of Henry VIII. Discover how Erasmus Krykenar contributed to the Royal Armouries Greenwich, producing some of the most iconic and elaborate armours of the Tudor period.



Monday 28 April, 2-3pm

TWO COCKNEY POETS

Although born within four years and a mile of one another, John Keats and Thomas Hood, two Cockney poets, had very different lives and careers. Join City Guide Pete Smith's illustrated talk to learn more.

Tuesday 29 April, 11am-1pm

WALK: POETS, PLAYWRIGHTS AND PUBLISHERS

This walk with City of London Guide Pete Smith, starts from outside Guildhall Art Gallery in Guildhall Yard.

£10 Plus booking fee
Meet in Guildhall Yard.

EXHIBITION

WHITTINGTON, THE MAN, THE MYTH AND THE CAT

Over six centuries, the story of an astute late medieval merchant, politician and philanthropist evolved into a rags-to-riches tale of a penniless orphan who came by wealth and fame with the help of his cat. This exhibition examines that transformation. It features chapbooks, children's books, works relating to pantomimes and of course, cats. Most of these items were donated to the library by Ellery Yale Wood in 2016 and form the core of our Whittington collection.



GUILDHALL LIBRARY EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

The Library of London History

**GUILDHALL LIBRARY
IS OPEN 10AM-4PM,
MONDAY TO THURSDAY**

Guildhall Library has reduced numbers of staff at the moment and so if you would like to undertake research at the Library we would encourage you to book a place and let us know ahead of your visit what you would like to consult. If you do visit without an appointment, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to produce the material you require – however, as usual, we will do our best!



For further information and details of how to make a booking, please visit www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/libraries/guildhall-library

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Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7HH

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