



## Ian Bevan MA, City of London Guide Lecturer Walks, Talks and Lectures



### ***London Walks Spring / Early Summer 2012***

Happy New Year to you! And thank you to all those who have come on the walks in the last year. The next set of walks will start in March and there will be 4 main themes – the continuing trail westward that started at Hyde Park Corner, more about Islington, Dickens and Literature, aspects of Georgian London - plus a visit to Chislehurst.

The cost is still £6 per walk payable on the day, and **please do contact me before to book your place on a walk as, in the past, walks have filled up quickly and then I had to turn people away (25 people max. per walk). It also means that I know who to contact if, in the unlikely event, a walk has to be cancelled.** So please send me an email ([ian.bevan55@ntlworld.com](mailto:ian.bevan55@ntlworld.com)), or by phone on 020-8402-8017, to let me know which walks you are interested in and to get full joining instructions. **Please note that I will be contacting those on the walks a week or two before they are due to happen, unless a particular walk is full and then I'll let you know if you are on the waiting list.**

As most people seem to like Wednesdays, I have arranged most of the walks on that day but I have other commitments in April so I've switched to Thursdays, which I hope is convenient.

#### **The Walks:**

**Wednesday 7th March – Kensington 1.** Kensington was a small country village west of London until King William III bought a house in the area and Christopher Wren turned it into Kensington Palace. This enticed members of the Court to live close by especially in Kensington Square. Since then, Kensington has continued to be a fashionable place to live. This walk looks at the squares, streets and mews to the south of Kensington High Street and those that have lived there. Meet just outside the ticket barriers at Kensington High Street station at 11am.

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Kensington 2.** In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Kensington acquired some grand houses and, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the area was a favourite of artists, writers and the intelligentsia, as it still is. This second walk meanders through the streets north of Kensington High Street and through the Holland House estate. Meet just outside the ticket barriers at Kensington High Street station at 11am.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April – Chislehurst.** Chislehurst covers a large area between Bromley and Sidcup, and includes the Scadbury estate, the famous caves and the modern high street and residential area. However, this walk goes through the area at the top of the hill around the common with its substantial 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century houses and a royal estate. Meet at 11am at the village sign on the corner of Bromley Road (A222) and St Paul's Cray Road (A208). If you are coming by public transport, please note that Chislehurst railway station is in the valley some distance from the meeting point. However, buses are available on the main road outside the station. Take bus 162 heading for Eltham / Sidcup and get off at the War Memorial. If you are coming by car, there is free parking in the side streets off St Paul's Cray road and Watts Road.

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April – The Literary City & Charles Dickens.** This is a repeat of the Saturday walk from last Autumn and looks at the many literary connections with the City from writers who were born in the City to the many locations used as a backdrop to novels, especially those by Charles Dickens whose first experience of London was his arrival by coach in the City at the age of 12. Meet at the exit to St Paul's tube station (South side) at 11am.

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May – Georgian Westminster.** Westminster became a fashionable place to live in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Grand houses were built along Whitehall and the Adam brothers built a collection of neo-classical terraces just south of the Strand. John Nash also built the first shopping centre in this area. This walk takes you through the streets around Charing Cross station and Whitehall to discover the Georgian past. Meet at Charing Cross station under the clock at 11am.

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May – Georgian Bloomsbury.** In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, London expanded westward when grand squares were built for the gentry enticed to the metropolis. But in contrast, this was also a time of extreme poverty, when babies were being abandoned in the streets. This walk takes you through some of Bloomsbury's Georgian squares but also to the site of the Foundling hospital where some of the lucky infants were taken in. Meet opposite Russell Square tube station (outside the Tesco Local) at 11am.

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June – Islington.** In the Autumn, we looked at the area around Islington Green. This walk goes deeper into Islington, the home of 16<sup>th</sup> century churchmen, the route of the New River which brought fresh water to London in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, and includes many grand 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century terraces. Meet at the exit to Highbury and Islington tube station (Victoria Line).

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June – Dickens' Southwark.** To celebrate Charles Dickens' birth 200 years ago, this walk follows Dickens' footsteps in Southwark from London Bridge, past many of Southwark's taverns, the church of St George the Martyr and visits the site of the Marshalsea prison. Meet at the concrete spike sculpture on the south side of London Bridge at 11am.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July – Blackheath.** By popular demand, this is an additional walk in the remarkable Georgian suburb of Blackheath. The village itself developed when the railway arrived in 1849 but Blackheath was already a prosperous suburb after John Cator, the 18<sup>th</sup> century timber merchant, had sold his estate, Wrinklemarsh, for a housing development. Meet at 11am opposite Blackheath railway station (outside the Fish and Chip shop).

**More details of these walks are given on my website:  
[www.ianswalksntalks.com/walks](http://www.ianswalksntalks.com/walks)**