walks & talks for lipreaders

 **PROGRAMME OF WALKS 2019**

**January 27th "Take Off into 2019 at the RAF Museum, Hendon"**

**With Kim Dewdney**

Today's Walk & Talk takes us to the top of the Northern line and a visit to celebrate the Royal Air Force.  We will hear about the beginnings of the site as an airfield and factory, see the "string and paper" contraptions that became the flying machines of World War One and move onto the famed Spitfires and Lancaster bombers of the Second World War.  Join us to stand under the wingspan of the Vulcan, peer into the body of a wrecked Halifax and see how you transport a plane on the road.  But best of all, hear the stories of those who flew in dangerous times and became heroes".

**Meeting point:** [www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london](http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london)

We will meet at the Museum itself.  H1 is the first block on the right as you enter the site and there is a cafe there, The Sunderland Cafe. Check out travel, car parking & all facilities on the website.

Entrance is free so as soon as you are through the bag check you can use the loos and get a drink. You can arrive in good time and be ready for the tour.

We will meet by the Sunderland Café.

**Nearest tube** station is Colindale, on the Northern Line. It is about a 10/15 minute walk from the station but it's a relatively straight road and easily signposted. Buses 303 stop outside the station entrance and by the museum entrance.

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**March 24th Walthamstow Village**

 **With Diane Burstein**

**Museums, a Market and a Hidden Village – Historic Walthamstow**Just a few minutes from busy Walthamstow Town Centre we enter a different world of one of London’s villages. An ancient church, an 18th century workhouse now housing a museum, two sets of almshouses and a 15th century half timbered Tudor house are some of the buildings we’ll explore in the old village centre. By contrast we’ll include a visit to God’s Own Junkyard, a wonderful display of neon signs created by the neon artist the late Chris Bracey.

 **The Meeting Point:** Outside Walthamstow Station (exit by the bus station.

**May 19th Hampton Court**

**With Marian Bacon**

For our spring Maytime walk we return to the theme of Royal gardens and parks with a visit to Hampton Court. We begin beside the river in East Molesey to take in one of the most famous views along the Thames. We will explore the area where Henry VIII once pursued his dreams of chivalry and take a walk through the peacefulness of the Wilderness garden.

We will also drop into Bushy Park – a glorious Royal Park of over 1,000 acres.

**Meeting point:** Hampton Court Railway Station (also has car park).

Please note we are not entering the Palace or viewing the formal and privy gardens but you can decide to do this in the afternoon (entrance fee applicable).

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**July 21st** **And we're off!  Racing to the Spa**

**With Kim Dewdney**

Epsom was "THE" place to visit for hundreds of years.  In the 17th century it was Samuel Pepys and Charles II we have stories of pleasure and pain after drinking the spa water.  In the 18th and 19th it was Derby Day that brought them here in their thousands with the hope of winning a few bob.  Today, it's largely a sleepy little town but we search out the clues to the past.  Where was the pole greasy with treacle?  Why is there a creamy named street?  And what did the country's first postwoman have to provide herself?  Answers will be provided and this walk is perfect for those feeling out of sorts without having to resort to a dose of salts.

**Meeting point:** Outside Epsom station

**September 15th Sunday Morning Markets Tour**

 **With Diane Burstein**

 London’s East End is a mecca for markets and on a Sunday morning we can pack in several. This tour leads you from beautiful blooms in Columbia Road via the designer and vintage shops around Cheshire Street to a variety of goods in bustling Spitalfields market and one of London’s oldest street markets in Petticoat Lane. As well as giving you time to shop/browse Diane will tell you the history of the markets and their atmospheric surroundings. Most of these markets stay open in the afternoon and there are many so you can return to your favorites after the tour has finished.

**NB** Please add half an hour to the usual timing for the market walk so that I can give people a little time to browse in the markets.

**Meeting point:** This walk meets at Old Street station inside the ticket hall.

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**November 17th Gilded St James’s**

**With Marian Bacon**

Wrap up warm to explore an area of London where money has never been in short supply.

We start in Trafalgar Square and pass by Carlton House Terrace, once one of the most aristocratic places of residence in London. St James’s has always been famous forGaming, Gossip and Good Dress – essential for the many Gentleman’s Clubs in the area. We explore fine architecture of Pall Mall and St James’s Square where two trail blazing women once lived – Ada Lovelace who devised one of the earliest computer programmes and Nancy Astor, first woman to take her seat in Parliament.

We finish near Piccadilly for anyone who wants to start their Christmas shopping or perhaps visit Spencer House (currently open on Sunday only).

**Meeting point:** Outside Café on the Square (at bottom of steps in front of National Gallery) Nearest tube: Charing Cross. Embankment & Leicester Square nearby.

***NB: all meet points will depend on public transport lines open***

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