

Welcome to our latest Heritage Group Newsletter. There are some reports on recent meetings and details of future events including booking details for Our Royal Arsenal Tour on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Roger Mead [rogermead2021@gmail.com](mailto:rogermead2021@gmail.com)

## **Report on the last meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

### **Greenwich and Woolwich the birthplace of the global telecoms industry**

It was good to see so many of you at the meeting on Friday. I must start with an apology for the lack of heating. Sue and I arrived an hour early to put the heating on, but we could not get it to work. Once the Horn Park staff arrived, they did try and sort it out for us, but it did not come on till the end of the meeting. We will try and ensure it is working for the next meeting.

*Picture: The Great Eastern Cable Layng Deck*



As you realised, I stopped the video just before the end because of the cold. If you want to finish the video the YouTube link is

[https://youtu.be/le2QO1YOBXI?si=7PtBkeJxqa78G\\_8z](https://youtu.be/le2QO1YOBXI?si=7PtBkeJxqa78G_8z)

You will need to fast forward it to 1hr 8mins and watch it from there. Alan then brought the history of Telecom and also Enderby House up to date and had a QA session. For the handful of members who were unable to attend on Friday you can use the link to watch the complete video.

*Picture: a Slice of cable produced by Siemens which June brought along to the meeting*



## Enderby House - Grade 11 listed



I said that I would give out some details of Enderby House so that members could visit and see the house and the cable loading gear on the riverside, and of course have a drink or bite to eat. If you do go it is worth taking the lift to the top floor and then walk down the stairs to have a look at the various rooms. There is a riverside terrace on the main floor and also another one on the second but that seems rarely open.

If you wish to travel by car then the best place to park is in the Retail Park at Charlton. You can park for up to 5 hours, it is best to park at the B&Q end not outside Ikea.

From the car park take the footbridge over the A102 ( slope or steps) on the other side take the path through to Tunnel Avenue turn right and follow the road around the bend to Blackwall Lane. Cross over and turn right then left into Telecom Way. At the end of Telecom Way take the pedestrian walk to the pub.

An alternative route is a rather longer walk from Greenwich downstream along the river past the Cutty Sark pub.

Enderby House is a Youngs pub its website is [WWW.enderbyhousepub.co.uk](http://WWW.enderbyhousepub.co.uk).

## Video Meetings ?

This meeting was the first time we had shown a video instead of having a speaker. Firstly, it was great to see so many people attended. The feedback was overall positive but there are a couple of learning points. Firstly, it is better to restrict ourselves to videos that are slightly shorter. We had some slight sound problems which we are sure was the fault of the video itself, but we will keep an eye on that in future.

I think we will try and revert to the coffee break being in the middle of the meetings, which would give people a chance to get up and stretch their legs and mingle with other members. I am presenting the next talk, and I will pause in the middle so we can try this out.

## Women at The Royal Hospital Greenwich by Jacky Robinson

At our previous meeting Jacky asked me to send this information to members.

### Some reading:

- Greenwich Hospital A Royal Foundation 1692-1983 Philip Newell pub 1984
- Greenwich: an architectural history of the Royal Hospital for Seamen and the Queen's House John Bold pub 2000

### Interested on Volunteering at the Old Royal Naval College?

Take look at the website : [ornc.org](http://ornc.org)

## Friday April 26th 10:15 Crossing the River Thames a talk by Roger Mead

The Thames has played a crucial role in the development of London for more than a thousand years but for a lot of that time it was a physical barrier between the North and South banks of the river. This talk will explore some of the ways Londoners have used to cross the river. Roger will mainly concentrate on the historic river crossings from London Bridge downstream, so that will include the various bridges, tunnels and ferries.



Map©Microsoft At the last meeting I challenged members to guess how many ways there are at present to cross the river in Greater London. If you think you can work it out come to the meeting and we will give you an opportunity to guess and win a small prize.

## Friday May 31<sup>st</sup> 10:15 at Horn Park – The Thames Sailing Barge Trust



John Rayment will present an illustrated talk on the work of the Trust.

Full details were in the last Heritage Newsletter and are on our webpage see below.

*www.London South East u3a: Heritage Group (u3asites.org.uk)*



## Tour of Royal Arsenal Woolwich 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 2pm

### Booking now open

For almost four hundred years Woolwich Arsenal was used to build and test guns and ammunition. Visitors were not allowed, and it had the nickname of "the secret city". Since the military moved out in 1994 the area has been redeveloped and is now accessible without problems. We are going to explore with a special focus on the 20 or so listed buildings and through them tell the Arsenal story.

Our walk of two miles will take about 2.5 hours and is accessible being on paved surfaces with no steps and just a few cobbled areas. There will be a short refreshment stop on the way. Our meeting point will be near outside the Woolwich Elizabeth Line Station



*The grade 1 listed Brass Foundry*

The two 2023 tours were both well supported with 17 members on each tour. Both tours were full so there were some members who were unable to join us. Hence this new date on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 starting at 2pm. Advanced booking is now open to Heritage Group members before tickets become available to the rest of the U3A SEL in 14 days time, so prompt booking is recommended. To attend this tour you must be a U3A SEL member and quote your membership number on the Eventbrite booking form

The booking link is :

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/guided-walk-around-the-royal-arsenal-woolwich-tickets-870473558847?aff=oddtcreator>

If you do not have web access, please ask another member to book a ticket for you.

**Our normal meeting place for talks is the Bowling Room at Horn Park.**

Horn Park, Eltham Road, Lee, London SE12 8UE. The entrance is opposite Weigall Road, and the Bowls room is the building on the extreme right as you come up the drive. All of our meetings are open meetings and any SEL U3A member is welcome to join us in the Horn Park Bowls room 10:15 for a 10:30 start. Lots of free parking available and suitable buses are 178, 122 and 321. Alight at the Weigall Road stop which is close to the entrance. It is a 15 min walk from Lee Green and the 202 and 261 bus stops.

**Our webpage is :**

**[London South East u3a: Heritage Group \(u3asites.org.uk\)](http://u3asites.org.uk)**

keep an eye on it for the latest information.

**Roger Mead**

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