

# THE DARK WATERS PIERS - RIVER THAMES 2008

- 1. Millbank Pier
- 2. Embankment Pier
- 3. Bankside Pier
- 4. Tower Pier
- 5. Canary Wharf Pier
- 6. QE2 Pier

Chelsea Bridge	Millbank Westminster Whitehall	Hungerford Bridge	Charing-X Aldwych Temple Farringdon	Blackfriars Bridge	City West St Paul's Newgate Smithfields	London Bridge	City East Tower	Tower Bridge	Wapping Shadwell Stepney Limehouse Isle of Dogs	Island Gardens	Blackwall Leamouth Bow Stratford
	Battersea Vauxhall Lambeth		South Bank North Lambeth		Bankside Southwark		The Borough		Bermondsey Rotherhithe Surrey Docks		Ravensbourne
Thames Barrier											

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## MILLBANK PIER

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### A HOLY PLACE

'The Thames has many tributaries. The gods were meant to dance at the confluence of waters. The mingling of the tributary and the main river was deemed to be sacred. The site of entry was a holy place. Many are now buried; many are forgotten; many are today unhonoured and unsung. Some of these buried waters may have found their own courses and become 'shadow rivers' without a name, silently running within the earth. Yet these ancient rivers still exert an influence on the world above them.'

- Peter Ackroyd 2008

**M** = MAP OR TEXT - SIDE 2

## MILLBANK NORTH - Millbank, Westminster, Whitehall

### MILLBANK

#### Millbank

The street was named after Westminster Abbey's mills demolished in 1736. The river banks were breached in the flood of 1928 and this slum which lay below actual river level was redeveloped as a high-rent and government centre.

#### Millbank Penitentiary

This massive prison was designed as a Benthamite Panopticon where petty criminals were 'inspected' for three months to decide whether they should be transported to the American Colonies, or later to Australia. A single buttress remains by the river which once stood at the head of the river steps from which, until 1867, prisoners sentenced to transportation embarked. The prison boundary can still be seen in the building and road layout of the area.

### WESTMINSTER

#### **M** WÆCLINGA STRÆT (ROMAN WATLING ST, NOW EDGWARE RD)

Edgware Rd follows the old Roman Watling Street to St Alban's. Although its connection to the Westminster ford from Marble Arch is lost the street probably followed the Tyburn, approximately along what is now Park Lane.

#### Tyburn Tree, Tyburn Brook, Westbourne

Tyburn Gallows, which once stood at Marble Arch, was at the navigable limit of Tyburn Brook, a tributary of the Westbourne, which itself used to empty into the Thames opposite Battersea Park.

#### **M** THORNEY (ISLAND)

The ancient St Peter's Church was on the 'Eyot of Blackthorns', at the holy confluence of the tributary Tyburn and the Thames. The island's existence is indicated only in Thorney Street, behind the MI5 Thames House on Millbank. In the Bronze Age the tidal head stabilised here before embankments pushed it further upstream.

#### **M** MARYBURNE (TYBURN RIVER), MARYLEBONE

The old name for the Tyburn tributary was St Mary's stream. It persists in the comparatively newly-named Marylebone.

### **M** TEOBURNAN (TYBURN RIVER, TYBURNIA)

The Tyburn River was in fact back-named from Tyburn Village, through which it once flowed as St Mary's Stream.

### **M** TOTHULL (TOTHILL ST)

This street's name is the last indication that Thorney Island once had a lookout hill. This street would have once run along the Tyburn banks to the ancient Abbey on its island.

### **M** TACHBROOK

The current street name may refer to the nearby buried Tyburn. Diverted away from Westminster the remaining waters are now in a culvert that empties into the Thames at Crown Reach.

### **M** LE HORSEFERY (HORSEFERRY RD)

The current road takes its name from the ferry which once existed near Thorney Island. Owned by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the ferry was the second most important crossing over the Thames after Old London Bridge, from Westminster Palace to Lambeth Palace, and the revenue in tolls was considerable. The crossing was however, notoriously hazardous.

### **M** WESTMYNSTER (WESTMINSTER ABBEY)

Originally named the 'West Minster' to distinguish it from St Paul's Cathedral (the East Minster); this became the name for the whole town that developed here in early medieval times. Before that St Peter's Monastery had stood on Thorney Island since the 6<sup>th</sup>C.

### **Broad Sanctuary (Brode Seyntwary)**

The Abbey, like many of London's oldest churches, once gave sanctuary, especially to prisoners of conscience, and religious dissenters.

### **M** WESTMINSTER PALACE

The 7<sup>th</sup>C founding of West 'Mynster' and King Cnut's 11<sup>th</sup>C Palace initiated a polarity, still intrinsic to London today, between the economic hub of the City and a political one in Westminster. Some say Cnut demonstrated the futility of defying the tides from his throne here.

## WHITEHALL

### **Banqueting Hall**

This is the only part of the once extensive riverside Whitehall Palace not burned to the ground in 1698.

### **Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)**

The East India Company's monopoly on trade with India was eventually broken in 1833, after a history of bloody wars and wildly fluctuating share prices. The Leadenhall site of its HQ was sold and effective command of what were now British Imperial holdings, transferred to The India Office in Whitehall.

Originally home also to the Foreign Office, the Colonial Office, and the Home Office, the building was Grade 1 listed in 1970.

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**M** = MAP OR TEXT - SIDE 2

## **MILLBANK SOUTH - Battersea, Vauxhall, Lambeth**

### **BATTERSEA**

#### **Battersea Park**

In the 19<sup>th</sup>C, John Gibson, using landfill from Royal Victoria Docks built the park for the health of the 'lower orders'.

### **VAUXHALL**

#### **M VAUXHALL CAUSEWAY**

Discovered only in 1998 by The Thames Foreshore Study near the mouth of the Effra and the MI6 building, an irregular double row of 3,500-year old stumps was probably a jetty for the symbolic dumping of polished stone axes and spears at the Bronze Age tidal head. The excavation was undertaken by Gustav Milne; the 'Mr Thames' of London Marine Archaeology.

#### **M EFFRA RIVER, PARRY ST**

This tributary, which runs for some of its course above ground, has its source in Norwood Cemetery. Its outflow can still be seen near Vauxhall Bridge at low tide. Culverted in its lower reaches it can apparently be accessed through a storm drain in Brixton Rd. (OE hēah = high, efer/yfer = bank or ridge)

#### **MI 6 - Vauxhall Cross**

The Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) HQ Since 1995, was built speculatively by Terry Farrell, and acquired by Margaret Thatcher's Government for £240 million. This was the first official admission that either MI5 or MI6 exist. The names MI5 and MI6 reflect the WWII division of the secret services into army and navy operational groups, and are no longer officially current.

### **LAMBETH**

#### **M LAMB-HYTH (LAMBETH) PALACE**

The residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury residence once stretched right down to the water before Bazalgette's 19<sup>th</sup>C Albert Embankment was built. Formerly known as Lambhythemersh (Lambeth Marshes) the surrounding swampland was drained by Irish Navvies in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries. The name might refer to either a harbour for sheep, or possibly a muddy landing-stage.

#### **Church of St Mary-at-Lambeth**

Now deconsecrated with only the medieval tower remaining, this is probably a very ancient site. William Bligh, infamous captain of the Bounty was buried here.

#### **M WESTMINSTER FORD**

In 1952, Lord Noel-Buxton attempted to prove that the first Roman crossing of the Thames, by Julius Caesar in 55BC, was at Westminster. He managed to wade only half way across because the tidal range is far greater than in Roman times. It is almost certain that even older tracks had converged here before heading off South (Stane St), West (Akeman St), North (Watling St), and East (Old St).

**M MOREDON (WANDSWORTH RD, (OLD MERTON RD))**

This was a major medieval track from Westminster ford, and the road ran south over elevated land between the more southerly Beverley Brook and Wandle tributaries of the Thames.

**M STANSTRETE (STANE ST - KENNINGTON RD)**

The old Roman road to Chichester, Stane Street has many names along its course.

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## EMBANKMENT PIER

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### THEY ARE BLESSED

'The islands within the river, the eyots, or the marshes beside the river are liminal areas; they are neither water nor dry land. They partake of two realities, and in that sense they are blessed.'

- Peter Ackroyd 2008

**M** = MAP OR TEXT - SIDE 2

## EMBANKMENT NORTH - Charing Cross, Aldwych, Temple, Farringdon

### CHARING CROSS

#### **M** AKEMANNSTRÆT (AKEMAN ST (ROMAN > WEST))

This was the old Saxon war road to the West from Lud Gate in the City, following a previous Roman road, via Fleet St, The Strand, Charing Cross, then Knightsbridge and on to the important ford at Staines, before leading to Winchester.

#### **M** THÆRE WIDE HERE-STRÆT, OXFORD RD/ST (GREAT WEST RD)

Again a war road (here-stræt = Army Street) following the most obvious central London Roman road, and now roughly corresponding to the dead-straight Oxford St, Bayswater Rd, Goldhawk Rd, and eventually the Great West Road. As it crossed the Westbourne, near current day Lancaster Gate, horses stopped to drink at 'Bayard's watering', hence Bayswater Rd.

#### **M** CYRRINGE (CHARING CROSS), TRAFALGAR SQ, ADMIRALTY ARCH

Charing Cross, its name from Old English for bend, whether in the road or river is unclear, was the ancient mid-point between London and Westminster. Site of a gallows, and market place it is the best place to view the Thames River Terraces and thus understand the repeated glaciation of the Thames valley. The Taplow and Boyn gravel Terraces at 100 and 50 foot respectively are clearly visible here and excavations show that millennia ago, while Hippos wallowed in Trafalgar Square, Elephants strolled along the Strand.

#### **Admiralty Arch, The Mall, Captain Cook**

Captain Cook, whose statue stands here, was despatched to further Imperial aims, to make astronomical observations and refine the chronometers that gave the Navy mastery of the seas, and to seed all new lands he found with commercially viable plants, taking no account of local ecologies. One of his missions was to attempt the NW passage from the Pacific to the Atlantic over Arctic Canada. The Admiralty was the home of the navy from 1626 and after 1668 of the Lord High Admiral.

#### **M** ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS

In 2008 a grave was found with all the signs of being Roman, but that dated to Saxon times. This adds to evidence that the discontinuity between Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon habitation of the area was possibly less complete than most history books would have us believe. The church occupies a truly ancient site, almost certainly with a pre-Christian origin.

### ALDWYCH

## **M EALDWIC (LUNDENWIC), ALDWYCH, STRAND**

5<sup>th</sup>C Anglo-Saxon invaders, with a society based on small hamlets and marine trade, settled here rather than in the 'abandoned' Roman Londinium. The 'Auld Wic' or 'old market' was later home to Vikings, as indicated by St Clement Danes on the Strand, the ancient riverside track.

The Aldwych crescent itself is a 19<sup>th</sup>C Development referring back to Lundenwic. Nearby are several ancient holy wells, and the post-Imperial trilogy of India, Bush, and Australia Houses. Also here are the ancient churches of St-Mary- Le-Strand and St Clement Danes which stand, Alfred Watkins claimed in the early 20<sup>th</sup>C, on a leyline.

### **The Strand**

Anglo-Saxon for riverside track this was once the main road through Saxon Lundenwic. Later it was known as 'Densemanstrete', or street of the Danes, indicating that the Vikings were not mere invaders, but also settlers after Danelaw had occupied the entire Essex North Thames bank.

## **M DENSCHERMEN PAROSCH (ST CLEMENT DANES CHURCH)**

The oldest recorded name for this church is another indication that this area persisted as the 'parish of the Danes', after Alfred had rebuilt his Lundenburgh within the old City Walls to the East. St Clement is the patron saint of sailors.

## **M SOMERSET HOUSE, YORK PALACE WATERGATE**

This is the only surviving example of the many grand water palaces that developed along the Strand. The current building was introduced to accommodate the 'Navy and Victualling Offices' and was later occupied by parts of the Admiralty, the Audit Offices, the Office of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and marriages, and the Inland Revenue Office. The original river entrance still exists, cut-off from the river by the Victoria Embankment.

The York Watergate still standing in Embankment Gardens was a triumphal gate from the river through the gardens of the Duke of Buckingham's York Palace, and indicates exactly where the shore once was.

## **M HOLBURNSTREETE (HIGH HOLBORN)**

This is the extension of the Roman Great West Road, through St Giles, across the Fleet at Holborn Bridge, past the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and into London through Newgate.

## **M EALDESTRATE (OLD ST)**

Already recognised as an ancient track in the 12<sup>th</sup>C, Old Street branched-off from Holburnstreete at St Giles, ran along what is now Theobald's Rd, becoming the currently-named Clerkenwell Rd, and then making for the east at Old Ford, where it crossed the River Lea.

## **M ST DUNSTAN-IN-THE-WEST, FLEET STREET**

Dunstan, a scholar, became effective prime minister in the 10<sup>th</sup>C, Bishop of London, and was the most popular English saint before he was eclipsed by St Thomas Becket. This church, recorded from 1185 as St Dunstan-over-against-the-New-Temple, certainly older, escaped the 1666 fire. Like so many London churches it succumbed to road widening in 1829, and was rebuilt in an adjoining site.

Notably home to statues of Gog and Magog, the sons of King Lud, mythical founder of London, it also contains a statue of Elizabeth I, taken from Lud Gate, which is the first known public statue of an English monarch.

## **TEMPLE**



### **The New Temple, Temple Church of St Mary**

The Knights Templar acquired this spot outside the City in 1162 to found their circular church and riverside complex, moving from the Old Temple in Holborn. Having accrued a vast fortune protecting crusaders and pilgrims to the Holy Land the military order moved into banking and property development. Their wealth and power led to accusations of heresy and sodomy. Excommunicated in the 14<sup>th</sup>C, their lands were leased to lawyers.

### **Temple Bar, Silver Griffons**

Temple Bar marks the only place where a ruling monarch can enter the City of London. Like so many of the approaches to London, from the middle-ages it was topped with heads of criminals, but the gateway so blocked the street that it was later whipped off to a leafy estate. Recently the arch has been reconstructed in Paternoster Sq, St Paul's.

Flanking the Victoria Embankment sit a pair of silver Griffons, which also mark the City's western limits. They were rescued from the demolished Coal Exchange in Lower Thames St in 1963.

### **M TEMPLE STAIRS, MIDDLE TEMPLE LA**

The lane once ran right down to the river and also marks the limit of the 1666 fire. In the 18<sup>th</sup>C the area north of here was the social centre of London, and the Temple Stairs allowed a direct route up and down river by waterman's wherry.

### **M WHITE FRYERS STAIRS, ALSATIA**

After Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries and the abandonment of Bridewell Palace this area, the Liberty of the Fleet, became a vicious no-go zone in the 16<sup>th</sup>C. Criminals operated from here with immunity, and those on the run from authority, such as Defoe in 1692, found refuge here. The area developed its own argot, replaced by an equally impenetrable set of hierarchies and titles when the press colonised the area in the 19<sup>th</sup>C.

## **FARRINGDON (FLEET RAVINE)**

### **M FLETA, HOLEBURNE, RIVER OF WELLS (THE FLEET)**

Anglo-Saxon for 'tidal inlet or harbour', and once important for transporting goods, especially coal, into the city, the Fleet is celebrated in accounts as early as the 12<sup>th</sup>C as a beautiful clean brook.

As London spilled westwards, the waters became polluted, eventually little more than an open sewer. Crime and poverty took up residence on the banks and its environs soon became associated with all that is low in London. Despite numerous attempts to clean up the river and its denizens, including one by Christopher Wren, eventually it was covered in several stages during the late 18<sup>th</sup>C.

### **Farringdon**

The covered Fleet valley still retains a vestige of its once watery existence in the name Farringdon, Old English for fern covered hill. In the 1860s it was the site of a flourishing watercress market.

### **M ST BRIDE'S CHURCH, FLEET STREET**

Possibly the second most famous of Wren's rebuilt churches St Bride's it has been argued that the church was originally dedicated to St Bridget a 6<sup>th</sup>C Irish saint, or even to Brighde, the Celtic god of healing, and it is probably the oldest place of worship in London. It has been rebuilt 7 times on same spot and its octagonal Wren tower was used by Mr Rich, a baker of Ludgate Hill, as the model for his popular wedding cakes. Pepys was a parishioner. Beneath its crypt lie the stones of a Roman Fleet-side villa.

### **St Bride's Well (Brideswell La)**

Beneath St Bride's once gushed a holy well that flowed into the Fleet ravine. Surely ancient travellers would have stopped-off on their journey between settlements along the Thames bank.

### **M BRIDEWELL PALACE, BRIDEWELL, PRISON, ALSATIA**

Bridewell Palace was founded in 1520 by Henry VIII, one of his string of riverside palaces. After his death, granted to the City by his son, the palace became the most notorious prison and workhouse for petty criminals and debtors. It was demolished in 1864 but a plaque still records its presence, now grounded far from the waters of the Thames or vanished Fleet.

### **Fleet Prison**

Once standing on an island in the Fleet this was the first purpose-built prison in London, opened in 1170. Notorious as a debtor's prison, where inmates' families had to work to pay their upkeep and service their debt, it was finally demolished in 1846, soon after the laws changed and bankruptcy was no longer an imprisonable offence.

### **M PANKERIDGE (ST PANCRAS-IN-THE-FIELDS)**

Situated far to the north of the Thames this pre-conquest church stood 'all alone, old and weather beaten' and deserted by the 17<sup>th</sup>C. Containing Roman bricks it is surely very ancient and shows how strong the Fleet waters once were from the frequent records of local flooding.

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**M** = MAP OR TEXT - SIDE 2

## **EMBANKMENT SOUTH - The South Bank, North Lambeth**

### **SOUTH BANK, NORTH LAMBETH**

#### **M THE BERMONDSEY LAKE, OLD KENT ROAD**

In 11-8,000 BC after the retreat of the last great glaciers, the river was left a braided mass of streams and eyots generally south of its current course, with no tidal flow, and near a large freshwater lake. Hunter-gatherers stopped seasonally on the lake banks to fish and hunt amongst the reeds and birch woods of the tundra landscape, to feast, and to work skins and flints.

#### **M THE NORTH LAMBETH EYOT**

By 2-1,000 BC, the main stream of the river was now close to its current course and the South Bank had resolved into three significant islands, all showing signs of forest clearing, Iron Age field systems, cultured grains, and the bones of domestic animals.

#### **M LOWER MARSH (OLD MARSH ST OR MARSH LANE)**

It is believed by some that a now lost Roman road may once have run from Vauxhall Ford to Old London Bridge, possibly along the ridges of eyots that can be seen on the Dark Waters map.

#### **OXO Tower**

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup>C power stations grew up along the Thames, fuelled by coal 'coasted' from the North East of England. This former station which helped power the local packing and processing industry was closed and bought in the 1920s by the Liebig Extract of Meat Co, the makers of OXO, who famously circumvented the City's strict advertising rules in the decoration of their tower. Derelict by the 1970s it was saved to become one of the icons of the reborn South Bank.

#### **The Doggett's Coat and Badge (Pub)**

Dogget was an Irish Actor who in 1715 founded a race still run between The Swan, London Bridge and The Swan, Chelsea. Open only to apprenticed watermen only, and originally rowed against the tide this, the longest continually running sporting event in the world, gains the winner a silver badge and orange coat and trousers of an 18<sup>th</sup>C waterman's uniform. It still rankles the Watermen that for historical reasons the prizes are lodged at the Fishmongers' Hall, and not their own, at St Mary-at-Hill.

#### **M KENTISSHESTRETE (OLD KENT RD)**

Heading south from Old London Bridge, the old Roman road of Watling Street skirted the marshy wastes of Bermondsey and Rotherhithe, and then crossed the Ravensbourne at Deptford, before climbing over Blackheath and heading off to Canterbury and the Kentish port towns. The route was followed by thousands of Pilgrims who crossed the bridge and supped on 'Southwark Ale' as described by Geoffrey Chaucer in the Canterbury Tales.

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## **BANKSIDE PIER**

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### **SOURCE OF POWER**

'The Thames was the river which curled through the affairs of state noble or ignoble, bloody or benign, and was an intrinsic part of Royal London. That is why the Houses of Parliament were built by the banks of the river. That is also why the great palaces of the nobility and clergy were built on the banks of the river, so that they might be near the ultimate source of power.'

- Peter Ackroyd 2008

**M** = MAP OR TEXT - SIDE 2

## **BANKSIDE NORTH - City West, City Quays, St Paul's, Newgate, Smithfields**

### **CITY QUAYS [W > E]**

The oldest ports of London, Roman and then Medieval, grew up along this strand before the low stone arches of Old London Bridge pushed marine trade downstream to the Pool of London. The wharves carry the names of the goods unloaded there such as timber, salt, garlic, wine, and hay, and in the surrounding streets are many reminders of just how focussed London was on Thames-borne trade, nearly everyone directly or indirectly connected to its waters, and their activities closely regulated by the City Guilds.

### **Castle Baynard**

At the eastern end of the City William the Conqueror built his second, long demolished, castle controlling the important port at Fleetmouth. Together with the Tower to the east Baynard Castle, named after an Earl who fought with William at Hastings, bracketed the City; a reminder to the Guilds and mayor of London of Norman supremacy.

### **Puddle Dock**

Geoffrey Chaucer may have been born here 1343-4.

### **Paul's Wharf**

The stone for Wren's St Paul's Cathedral all came by river to be unloaded here. For centuries before that it had been London's main fish market.

### **Stew Lane**

The name indicates the function; this lane led down to the waterside embarkation point for women working in the brothels (stews) of Bankside.

### **M QUEENHITHE**

Named in honour of Queen Matilda who founded the first public toilet here in the early 12<sup>th</sup>C there has been a dock (hythe) on this site for at least 800 years. In the middle Ages this was the foremost harbour of the city and successive Queens charged a toll for its use until the 15<sup>th</sup>C.

Here, as at Billingsgate the second most important harbour of that time, all vessels were required to moor for duty assessment. Saxon shipwrights also worked here until London Bridge forced them downstream. Originally it was known as Ætheredesyd or Ethelred's Hithe indicating the intense royal interest in the cargoes unloaded here.

Behind the dock once sat the grand river-facing church of St Michael, Queenhithe. Demolished in 1876 its weather-vane was rescued and now sits atop Cole Abbey Church in Queen Victoria St. The vane depicts a corn ship, which holds exactly one bushel of grain, the

most important trade of Queenhithe for more than a thousand years, the source, some believe, of the true derivation of Queenhithe's name. A quern was a millstone.

### **St James, Garlickhithe**

First documented in 1170, and dedicated to St James of Compostela, this is a pilgrim's church, with shell decoration throughout, and still offering stamps for Santiago-bound pilgrims' travel books. Its name was taken from the garlic unloaded nearby, no doubt carried from Galicia, along with the returning pilgrims.

### **M COLD HARBOUR MANSION, OLD WATERMAN'S HALL**

The long-demolished Mansion of Cold Harbour was once the home of the Watermen's Hall before it was moved to St Mary-at-Hill, near Billingsgate.

For centuries The City of London forbade the building of any other crossing than London Bridge. Often the only other way to ply the river was by ferry and with jetties, wharves and craft of all sizes, traffic on the river was so dangerous that accidents and drownings became commonplace.

In 1555, under Henry VIII, an Act of Parliament decreed that only The Company of Watermen could carry passengers and supervise the unloading of cargo on the tidal Thames. Watermen became the taxi drivers of their day and qualification for a master's licence involved its own 'Knowledge' and the ability to name of all the reaches, banks, currents, channels, stairways, and wharves of the river, from Teddington to the Yantlet Line near Southend.

But on January the 1st 2007, in line with EU regulations, a new National Riverways Licence was introduced slashing the apprenticeship from five to two years, limiting the necessary 'local knowledge' to Central London, and allowing those who have qualified elsewhere to captain a boat on the Thames.

With the coming of the 2012 London Olympics and plans to get Londoners back onto public transport, and with regeneration of ever more stretches of the Thames, the life and use of the river is set to transform.

### **Le Vynetrie (Vintry)**

The Vintners Guild was granted the monopoly on trade with Gascony in 1634. This wharf and the nearby Vintners' Hall became known as the place to come for good wine. Along with the Dyers the Vintners still follow their old tradition of 'Swan-Upping'. Every July they mark swans beaks upstream with two nicks, to distinguish ownership from the Dyers' single nicks, and the monarch's unmarked swans.

### **M THE WALBROOK (OE WALEBROC)**

The Romans built Londinium around this river, using it as their main water supply and building a temple to Mithras on its banks. Anglo-Saxon for 'British stream' (Old English, Walebroc; wale = Briton, brōc = stream), the settlement was clearly not abandoned after the Romans had left and a cache of human skulls was found on its course, presumed to be a sacrificial offering to the river. Like so many Thames tributaries it was soon full of rubbish and by the time Stow wrote, in 1598, it was already buried.

The Roman Temple of Mithras, an empire-wide military cult based in caves, was discovered by the Walbrook in the 1950s, and was moved to its current location on Queen Victoria St.

### **M THE STEELYARD, DOWGATE (HILL)**

The name of this ancient wharf is derived from Anglo-Saxon meaning of 'Dovegate'.

Power in the post-Viking Baltic was more about the ship than the state. The maritime tradition was organised around joint ownership of only one or a few ships, and around the qualities of leadership, and knowledge of the boats and their crews. Networks of loose and

shifting alliances formed to meet the needs of local marsh-isolated Baltic city-states and to exploit the market for furs, wax and wood in the more complex states to the south.

There arose affiliations, united in search of profit. This could be through piracy such as the Vitalienbrüder, allowed to prey throughout northern seas as long as the Danish crown got its cut. More successful in the long-term was the development of a strategy of exchange. In 1161 in Visby on the Baltic island of Gotland an association arose for sharing trading knowledge and protection against piracy that came to be known throughout Europe as the Hanse or Hanseatic League.

In the 13<sup>th</sup>C, the Hanse established one of their major Kontors (trading posts), 'The Stalhof', where Cannon Street station now sits, beside the Dowgate mouth of the Walbrook stream. Granted land in perpetuity they built an enclosure with its own wharves, warehouses, workshops and chapel and they soon controlled much of England's main export of woollen broadcloth.

At its peak by the 14<sup>th</sup>C the League, which by then included more than a hundred city states, had come to control most northern maritime trade, and was strongly represented at the main commercial centres of Antwerp and London. The League was able to wield a major weapon, the 'Verhansung', an effective port blockade that allowed them to hold entire sovereign-states to ransom.

The Hanse, or 'Men of Cologne', sent trainee merchants to live and work in the Steelyard, often for years at a time. Under strict discipline, they learned the local language, the tools of trade in England, and came to dominate the wool market. Along with the nobility and royalty of England Hans Holbein painted their portraits, bedecked in the furs and sables that they imported. They had access to the Guildhall, were waived tax, and were granted 'liberties' of duty fees.

The Hanse were both empowered and limited by their non-centralised organisation. They would deal only in cash though, preferring Silver, thus the origin of the word Sterling as part of the name of the current British pound. Unable to raise credit, the Hanse could not offer the same opportunities for profit as the emerging financial mechanisms under development by the Italian merchants of Venice and Genoa.

Because of conflict with the increasingly powerful City merchants Elizabeth I eventually expelled the Men of Cologne in 1598. Though destroyed in the 1666 fire, Steelyard land stayed in Hanse hands until its sale in 1858, eventually sold to make way for the soon to be developed Cannon Street Rail Bridge and station.

### **M ALL-HALLOWS-THE-GREAT**

When congregations overflowed their own tiny church the Hanse moved to the neighbouring church of All-Hallows-the-Great, which once stood on All Hallows Lane. Otherwise known as 'All Hallows ad foenum in the Ropery' indicating its seafaring connections, and proximity to Hay Wharf. The congregation openly displayed the coat-of-arms of Charles II as much as a month before the 1688 Restoration, when the Dutch destroyed the Navy and their armies occupied London for two years.

### **M ST SWITHIN LONDON STONE, ST SWITHIN'S LANE**

Now lost, this church once housed the 'London Stone' in its walls. Believed by many to hold mystic significance, a remnant 'Long Man' or standing-stone, once guarding the south side of the ancient track that ran along what has become Cannon St, it may well be merely a remnant of the Roman Governor's Palace that once sat here with its own riverside access. The church and its stone were bombed to pieces in WWII but a remnant sits in a glass case in a shop window on Cannon St.

## **Fishmongers Hall**

One of the few Guilds that still pursue the craft of their name, the Fishmongers built their hall on the site of a 2<sup>nd</sup> C Roman Quay in the 13<sup>th</sup>C. The existing 1835 hall contains piles from Old London Bridge and the knife used by a former Master to kill Watt Tyler in Blackheath in 1381, thus saving the City from the peasants' revolt.

## **ST PAUL'S**

### **M LUD HILL, PAUL'S CROSS, FOLKMOOT**

This, the second highest hill in the City, was the site for the great Saxon 'Folkmeet' or meeting place before the Cathedral was built over it. Ancient tracks converge here and some claim, without any evidence, that a stone circle once existed here. Nearby Paternoster Row was the centre for publishing, where great works of art and sedition were penned.

### **Lutgate (Ludgate)**

A postern, or back entrance, the name of which is probably entirely unrelated to the god-king Lud, though myth has it that he founded New Troy here in 66BC. Called Caerlud, later corrupted to Caerlundein, this is suggested as the origin of Roman name Londinium. Ludgate may well have been simply named 'Flodgate' in reference to flooding from the nearby Fleet.

### **M ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL**

Paulesbyri (Lud Hill) was the location of 3 Saxon predecessors before Old St Paul's, the medieval Gothic Cathedral that dominated London skyline for 600 years, was built. By 1666 it was already so shored-up and unsafe that the great fire was considered a blessing by some. Wren's original design was deemed 'too modern' but the final stone of a scaled-back design was laid in 1708. The cross at 111m above ground is taken as the target for several protected 'lines-of-sight' that prevent the random siting of skyscrapers within the City.

### **M WESTCHEPE (CHEAPSIDE)**

The main medieval market (chepe is Anglo-Saxon for market) all the streets around were named from their wares. It was to here in the 13<sup>th</sup>C that the waters of the Tyburn were channelled through the lead and wooden pipes of The Great Conduit. Water was in short-supply though and 'Keepers of the Conduit' were appointed to prevent its overuse by traders. Unsurprisingly there are many documented cases of people illegally tapping the supply into their private houses or wells.

## **NEWGATE & SMITHFIELDS**

### **M CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE, NEWGATE**

There had been a church here since 1137; known as St Edmund's. Later it was rededicated after the Crusades as St Sepulchre-without-Newgate, in homage to the church of the same name that still sits outside what was the north-west gate of Jerusalem. The Church had a long association with nearby Newgate prison and its bells that pealed at each execution were know as the bells of the Old Bailey from the rhyme Oranges and Lemons. John Smith, first governor of Virginia, rescued by Pocahontas, is buried here.

### **Newgate Prison**

The most notorious of all London Prisons, the condemned were led out through Newgate, along Holbornstrete, through St Giles, and on to the Tyburn Gallows at the headwaters of the Tyburn Brook, to the west. Because of general unrest at what became riotous public spectacles the practice was discontinued. The Magpie & Stump Pub had public galleries from which executions, now performed within Newgate Gaol itself, could be viewed, at a price.

Nearby, Cork Lane was the only street in the medieval City licensed for prostitution; a local alternative to crossing the river to Bankside.

### **M SMETHEFELDA (WEST SMITHFIELDS)**

Smithfields Cattle Market, once upon an open space just outside City walls, and not far from the navigable limit of the river Fleet at Holborn Bridge, is named from Old English for 'Smooth Field'. This was an important execution ground where William Wallace was ripped to pieces in 1305, and it is still a meat market. Not unimportant to its butchery trade were the many wells and pools in the area, such as the long-gone 'Horse Pool' chronicled by Stow, the great recorder of vanished rivers and wells, in 1598.

### **St Bartholomew-the-Great (The Priory Church of)**

This is the oldest London hospital still on its original site. Once an enormous grand monastic Church it may once have sat at the source of a long lost stream that ran south through the city, past Lud Hill, and into the Thames at Wood Wharf. Inside is the original Norman church, the oldest surviving parish church in city since it escaped WWII unscathed, which sits a whole floor below ground, showing how much London rubble has raised the City above the natural earth.

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**M** = MAP OR TEXT - SIDE 2

## **BANKSIDE SOUTH – Bankside, Southwark**

### **BANKSIDE**

#### **M THE BANKE SYDE (BANKSIDE)**

The riverside road along the old river wall, once had 22 inns, and was the Elizabethan 'West End' or 'red-light' and theatre district, outside the control of the strait-laced City guilds. Here were theatres, bear pits, and numerous stews or brothels. Along with the 'world's oldest profession' was practiced the second oldest, and the area thronged with spies and counter-espionage agents of the Queen's Spymaster General, Walsingham.

#### **Globe Theatre, Rose Theatre, Bear Theatre**

Established in 1599 The Globe used timbers from the first playhouse that had stood in Shoreditch. It was founded by an actors' troupe, the Lord Chamberlain's Men, amongst whose members was Shakespeare who wrote Hamlet, Othello, Macbeth, King Lear for this playhouse. It was closed in 1642 by Cromwell along with all other playhouses.

Edwyn Allen, actor and 'Master of the Royal Boars, Bulls & Mastiff Dogs', saw a devil on the stage of The Rose and set up The College of God's Gift which became Dulwich College. His title shows how closely the theatre of the time was allied to bear-baiting and other popular pursuits shunned in the business-oriented City, a wherry ride away across the Thames.

#### **The Anchor**

Built on the site of older inn named 'The-Cock-a-Hoop' of 1755, this is the oldest Bankside Tavern and has had many existences: inn, brothel, coffee-house, chapel, brewery, and ship's chandlers, testament to the thriving nature of Bankside before its 20<sup>th</sup>C decay and desolation. Dr Johnson is said to have written his dictionary here.

#### **Bankside, Winchester Palace**

The Bishop of Winchester's 1626 London residence, once part of large estate with river access via Stoney St, and a diocese that stretched as far as the South Coast, once sat here. The Bishop raked in the cash from the Bankside 'stews', prostitutes were known as Winchester Geese, and had his own prison in Clink St.

#### **The Clink**

This gaol, which has become a slang word for prison itself, probably stood here since medieval times. Under the Liberty of the See of the Bishop of Winchester it was used for those normally exempt from prison, such as the clergy, as well as to maintain order in this wild place.

#### **The Founders Arms**

Now a pub, offering warm blankets on a cold night, this was the site of the casting of St Paul's bells from those rescued after the fire of 1666. Wren is said to have lived in a terrace not far upstream while rebuilding St Paul's, though this is unlikely.

#### **M ST MARY OVEREYE (ST MARY OVERY)**

Now Southwark Cathedral this is in parts one of oldest buildings in London. It was founded in 852 by St Swithin, Bishop of Winchester, and became part of the Abbey of St Mary Overie. On dissolution under Henry VIII it changed its name to St Saviour's but by the 1830s it had fallen into ruins. In 1897 it was rebuilt as a cathedral for the newly created diocese of Southwark (which stretches between Richmond, Woolwich, and Reigate, Surrey). The cathedral contains memorials to Shakespeare and the Marchioness disaster.

## SOUTHWARK

### **M SUTHRINGA GEWEORC (SOUTHWARK)**

This is one of the oldest settlements in the UK with evidence dating back to the Mesolithic (8-6,000 BC) when the tundra-like shoreline of the multi-braided river was colonised, though probably only seasonally. It was first mentioned in the 10<sup>th</sup>C Burghal Hidage, which detailed the local Anglo-Saxon and Danish fortifications of Lundenburgh and Suthringa Geweorc (OE sūthe = south, (ge)weorc = fort(ification), or 'Surreymen's fort'. Domesday (1086) mentions 40 households and a Minster.

The 'Liberty of Southwark', which included the right of sanctuary, attached to St. Saviour's (St Mary Overy) allowed the trades banished from within the City Walls by the Guilds of London to flourish. Foreign craftsmen could set up business here where the marshes, islands, and causeways were watery and ideal for the filthy trades of tanning and dyeing.

The area remained predominantly rural until the 18<sup>th</sup>C when the docklands rapidly developed after London Bridge's arches were widened and the enclosed docks were built downstream.

### **M OLD LONDON BRIDGE**

For most of the City's history, the only bridge functioned more as a barrier to shipping than as a river crossing. In 1014, the Danes occupied 'Lundenburgh' and King Ethelred and his Norwegian ally King Olaf pulled down the bridge with their long ships, then stormed the Danish stronghold at 'Sudvirke' (Southwark).

London Bridge is broken down. –  
Gold is won, and bright renown.  
Shields resounding,  
War-horns sounding,  
Hild is shouting in the din!  
Arrows singing,  
Mail-coats ringing –  
Odin makes our Olaf win!

Saga of Olaf Haraldson, Heimskringla  
By Snorri Sturlusson (c. 1179 - 1241)

### **M ST OLAF'S, TOOLEY ST**

Dedicated to Olaf Haraldson in 1096 this vanished church stood at the South East corner of Old London Bridge. There was an Olaf cult with five churches in London, and Tooley St is derived by strange corruption from the name of this church. Demolished in 1926 the Art-Deco St Olaf's House now stands in its place by the river.

The area around Tooley St and Shad Thames came to be known as 'London's Larder' where refrigeration of lamb, butter, and cheese from New Zealand was introduced. This was the founding site of many household packaging firms that developed to process and distribute imported goods; Pearce Duff – custard; Crosse & Blackwell – pickles; Jacob's – biscuits; Hartley's – jams; Courage's – beer; and Peak Frean's - milled goods.

### **St Thomas's (Old London Bridge)**

A chapel dedicated to St Thomas Becket once stood right in the middle of the bridge and on pilgrimage route to Canterbury. The pilgrims threw their badges and shells into the river, a tradition that goes back to Neolithic times as can be seen from more ancient finds around the Vauxhall Causeway.

### **Hay's Wharf (Hay's Galleria)**

The Hay's Wharf Company was founded by Alexander Hay in 1651 on an inlet known as St Mary Overy Dock after the church at the end of Old London Bridge. It was destroyed in the Great Southwark Fire of 1676 but by the 1930s the company owned most warehouses between London and Tower Bridges. Bombed to bits in WWII it finally closed in 1969. This abandoned area was colonised by artists in the 1970s, most famously Derek Jarman, until they were evicted by developers and dock filled and roofed over by the 1980s Hay's Galleria.

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## TOWER PIER

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### SILVER THAMES

'For Defoe the 'silver Thames' was silver indeed, liquid coin running through the heart of London. But it has always been a river of trade. Its tidal reaches, from The Nore to London and its environs, have always been hard at work. The Thames has been touched by sweat, and labour, and greed, and poverty, and tears. Its docks and wharves and factories were once the great machinery of empire, but its mercantile history stretches much further back.'

- Peter Ackroyd 2008

**M** = MAP OR TEXT - SIDE 2

## TOWER NORTH - Legal Quays, City East, The Tower

### THE LEGAL QUAYS, THE PORT OF LONDON

#### **M** THE LEGAL QUAYS

Smuggling has always been a problem and Elizabeth I decreed that all cargoes should be unloaded only in the established 'Legal Quays' between the Old Bridge and the Tower, where duty could be collected at the Customs House. As trade grew, and unloading became insufferably slow, 'Sufferance Wharfs' had to be established up and downstream to handle 'low duty' cargos.

#### **M** ST MAGNUS THE MARTYR

First mentioned in 1067, the church once stood on the approach road to Old London Bridge, at the bottom of Fish St Hill, which led up to the Roman Forum on Cornhill. The first to burn in 1666 it was dedicated to the Norwegian Earl of the Orkneys 1116. When the New London Bridge was sited upstream in 1832 the church was cut adrift from its former revenue stream, and now sits on the expressway that Lower Thames St, the old quayside road, has become. Inside is a detailed model of the Old Bridge made by a parishioner, and one of the bridge's wooden piles sits by the doorway.

#### **M** PUDDING LANE, ESTCHEPE (EASTCHEAP)

The oldest name for this street tells its story. Retheresgatelane means 'Cattle Lane'. Animals were ferried from Rotherhithe (Cattle Harbour), driven to Eastcheap, once London's principal meat market, and their dripping entrails (or puddings) carried back and dumped into the river.

#### **M** ST BOTOLPH'S WHARF

The Muscovy Company leased the long-gone St Botolph's wharf on the legal Quays. It was led to by the still existing St Botolph's Lane.

#### **Billingsgate Quay, Billingsgate Stream**

At the mouth of this lost stream developed a free port, equal in importance only to Queenhithe. Once one of the busiest and most important in medieval London, goods landed include fresh produce, citrus from Spain (hence 'oranges and lemons say the bells' of nearby St Clement's), salt, coal, and after the reign of William III (1688), fish. The market developed its own argot, particularly amongst the women (fishwives-tongue), who also had a reputation for bare-knuckle fighting.

The current Old Billingsgate Market building was built by Sir Horace Jones the architect of Tower Bridge. In 1982 the market moved to the Isle of Dogs. There was a story that the

basement of the old fish market took 10 years to thaw. It was refurbished by Richard Rogers in 1989, and is now an events space.

### **M THE LONDON COAL EXCHANGE, LOWER THAMES STREET**

The City was allowed to take a coal-tax, thousands of tons of which were coasted from the North East to the Coal Exchange wharves. It was this tax, on dirty smoky fuel, that funded Wren's rebuilding of more than 50 city churches and St Paul's Cathedral after the Great Fire of 1666.

### **M THE CUSTOMS HOUSE**

Taxes on unloading at the Legal Quays were mentioned as early as 1275. Wool was then the then largest export. From the 13<sup>th</sup>C cargo was assessed for duty here at the Customs House built on Wool Quay, and it became the commercial centre of the Port of London. Geoffrey Chaucer worked here. Because of the storage of gunpowder, wines and tar it exploded in 1714. The current Old Customs House was built in 1817.

Ships took on a 'tide waiter' at Gravesend and when they arrived at Customs House captains fought their way to a desk in the 'Long Room' to register their load. Only then would a 'landing waiter' escort the unloaded goods to be weighed and assized. The main quay became so crowded that specialised Legal Quays subdivided ships by loads. Even so ships might wait for weeks in the Pool for assize.

In the 1860s fully half the Civil Service were employed in Customs and Excise, reflecting the huge earnings that the state made through the Port of London.

### **St Dunstan's-in-the-East**

Dating back to 1300 this ancient mariners' church had an inspiring pre-1666 spire. Wren rebuilt it and in the storms of 1703 it was the one structure he felt to be invulnerable. Now ruined its garden remains as a secret refuge amongst the City's tower blocks.

### **Pool of London (Lower/Upper), The Long Ferry, PLA**

After Alfred moved his court back within the city walls in the 9<sup>th</sup>C as defence against Danish marauders the deep Pool of London replaced Saxon Lundenwic as the Port of London. Traders and merchants gathered and formed Guilds such as the Mercers who specialised in wool and cloth. By the 14<sup>th</sup>C it had become the largest British Port; an importer of grain from upstream, and fish from Great Yarmouth and Ramsgate.

Known as the 'Long Ferry', the Pool was the first sight of land for most Elizabethan visitors to London from the Estuary or abroad. All had to disembark here, and foreigners were added to the register of foreign bodies, more accurate than any census of actual Londoners, and then to had to take a wherry upstream of the impassable London Bridge if they wanted to travel further upstream.

The Upper and Lower Pools are divided by Tower Bridge, whose drawbridge was engineered as a compromise between tall-masted shipping and the growing Road Lobby. Once opened many times a day it is now seldom raised.

In 1909 the Port of London Authority (PLA) was established to control the riverside and enclosed docks from The Nore in the estuary, to Teddington Lock upstream.

## **THE CITY (EAST)**

### **Old Jewry**

The medieval Christian church forbade usury, and so Jewish foreigners, the only people allowed to deal in money, became the effective financiers of the Kings of England. Protected

by the royal troops until 1290, the King eventually expelled the hated Jews, who were viciously persecuted.

### **Mercers Hall**

In 1407 King Henry IV granted a royal charter to the Company of Merchant Adventurers of London (the Hamburg Company), a trading association of Mercers (dealers in wool) and Staplers (exporters of raw wool) that already had its roots in the 1216 Fraternity of St Thomas of Canterbury. Woollens and broadcloth were England's main export, to the Antwerp merchants who sat at the centre of the great medieval European trade axis between the Baltic and the Mediterranean.

The Hanse were the Mercers only effective competitors and their privileges were eventually curtailed under the Tudors (16<sup>th</sup>C) leaving The Merchant Adventurers with a virtual monopoly which lasted until the 1688 Glorious Revolution, when England was 'invaded' by the Dutch under William of Orange. The Company still existed at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup>C.

The Mercers themselves are still the most powerful London Guild and have produced more than 60 Lord Mayors, including Dick Whittington, Thomas Gresham and Lord Baden-Powell. Their hall, in Ironmonger Lane, is unique in having its own chapel, and was the first home of the Royal (Marine) Exchange Assurance Company. Mercer comes from the French word for merchant.

### **M STOCK'S MARKET**

Sitting at the centre of it all, beside the Walbrook, the hub around which the City's financial institutions came and went, was a small riverside market, known in the 12<sup>th</sup>C as Stock's market.

### **M CHANGE ALLEY, THE ROYAL EXCHANGE**

The 17<sup>th</sup>C Garroway's and the 'Baltick & Virginia' Coffee Houses became the City's leading maritime auction houses where ships and cargoes were frenetically traded. Change Alley and the Royal Exchange House (1565), based by Gresham on the Antwerp Bourse, both standing near Stock's Market on the Walbrook, and became so frequented by prostitutes that they had to be rebuilt. Nearby Gresham St was once known as Cattestrate (Middle English catte = prostitute).

### **Jamaica Coffee House, London Stock Exchange**

London's first coffee house, Bowman's of St Michael's Alley, eventually became the Jamaica Coffee House, and now the Jamaica Wine House, in Change Alley. Traders would run between the coffee houses, speculating wildly on voyages setting off, or loads coming in to the Port of London. By the 19<sup>th</sup>C all coffee houses had been replaced by more formal City institutions like the Stock Exchange, which had originally occupied a site next to Stock's Market, the site of the current Mansion House, official home of the Lord Mayor of London.

### **Bank of England**

Founded in 1694, in the Grocer's Hall, the bank started with a massive loan to the state for war with France. The Bank soon began producing the banknotes that drove all competition aside, becoming the bankers' bank, where Goldsmiths amongst others deposited their surplus cash. Throughout its history it competed with joint-stock banks and sought a monopoly. It's 1890 bailing-out of Barings showed it to act in national interest whilst still having a peculiar quasi-independent role from the Government.

### **M CORNEHULLE (CORNHILL)**

The tallest of the three City hills, this was the site of the Roman Forum and Basilica.

## **M ST PETER'S CORNHILL (ST PETER UPON CORNHILL)**

Mentioned first in AD 179 this is the oldest church in City. Perched just metres from the highest point in the city it was once the site of the grain exchange or market. It was for a while the church of the British Sailor's Society.

### **Gracechurch St**

Leading from Cornhill via Fish St Hill to the Roman Bridge, this was once the main drag through London. Its name refers to All Hallows Gracechurch, from Middle English Graschirche, church on grassy spot, or maybe church with a grass roof, an old Saxon building tradition.

### **Langbourne River**

Stow, the great chronicler of vanished waters, in 1598 described the even-then buried Langbourne that ran along what is now Lombard St, at that time known as Langburnestrete. The Anglo-Saxon words lang and burne might imply a long stream, but the older name was Langebord, probably referring to market stalls. The river is considered dubious by lost-river hounds, and is not marked on the Dark Waters Map.

## **M LOMBARD ST**

Merchants from Venice and Genoa filled the 13<sup>th</sup>C vacuum left by banished Jewish financiers. They left us the words cash, debtor, double-entry book-keeping, and the name of the street they settled beside the putative Langbourne stream, where they conducted business on benches, or 'bancos'.

### **Thomas Smythe's House, Philpot Lane**

Having lost-out to the Spanish and Portuguese in the Southern Oceans during the 16<sup>th</sup>C the English again missed a trick after The Dutch government founded a company that soon came to dominate the routes to Cathay and the Spice Islands. The Dutch United East India Company was massively capitalised and they controlled the pricing of the spices needed to flavour and preserve the often rank meat of the European diet.

In 1600 a small group of City merchants banded together to buy a few ships in order to muscle-in on the spice trade, and received a royal charter from Elizabeth I to create the 'Company of Merchants of London Trading to the East Indies', with a monopoly on all English trade east of the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa.

In 1661, loaded with wool, five ships set sail for The Moluccas. When they arrived, finding no one wanted wool in such a hot climate, they seized a Portuguese carrack of cottons and traded those instead. So began the rapacious 275-year career of the East India Company.

The operation was initially run from the house of Thomas Smythe, one of the founder merchants. The compagnia is an Italian invention, where responsibility is only to shareholders rather than governments, or peoples. The East India Company, which at its peak controlled most of the world's trade, is the mother of the modern corporation and had a history of tussles at home and abroad, becoming a byword for corporate inefficiency and trade monopoly, with tea as the universal symbol of oppression, hence The Boston Tea Party which sparked the American colonial revolution.

The company also led in the import re-export economy where cheap raw materials were shipped home, manufactured in the industrialised slum sweat-shops of Britain and London, and then sold back to the Indians and Chinese in exchange for quality commodities such as tea, saltpetre and spices. The Company raked off profit at each stage, even organising wars to ensure the maintenance of shareholders' dividends.

## **M LEADENHALL, EAST INDIA HOUSE, LLOYDS UNDERWRITERS**

Built in 1799, where Lloyds now sits, there is no memorial to the 200 foot long 'Monster of Leadenhall', the HQ of the East India Company. Classically columned it had sculptures of Britannia on a Lion, Europa on a horse, both followed by Asia on a Camel. It was torn down

in 1861; 3 years after Queen Victoria's government had absorbed the Company's territories and ordered its holdings dispersed.

Amazingly as late as 2007 a warehouse in Orissa, India still recorded as belonging to the British East India Company was erroneously sent an electricity bill in the name of the Company.

### **South Sea Company, Leadenhall**

Founded in 1711 the company was intended to exchange labour, African slaves, for produce such as sugar and rum. In 1720 the government allowed the company to take up the national debt, share prices skyrocketed, and the subsequent collapse bankrupted many of the nobility. Nearby also sat the offices of the Africa and Hudson's Bay Companies.

### **Jardine Matheson's, 3 Lombard St**

Founded in 1832 Jardine and Matheson aimed to aggressively remove the East India Company's monopoly in trade with Cathay. Based in Canton, this merchant bank utilised the technique of exchanging Chinese silks and teas for opium. The East India Company had already been flouting China's ban on opium imports from Burma and India for 50 years, but Jardine Matheson's were so effective that they amassed huge fortunes, later diversifying and legitimising their interests.

### **M ST MARY AX(E), THE BALTIC EXCHANGE**

The vanished church of St Mary Ax was so-named because it held one of the three axes supposed to have been used by Attila the Hun to slaughter the one thousand virgins that accompanied St Ursula on her mythic mission to Christianise the East.

Founded by Baltic merchants, who had met in the nearby aptly named 'Virgina and Baltick Coffee House' of Threadneedle St, the Baltic Exchange still matches many of the world's empty ships to cargoes that need to be carried. The grand building was mashed by IRA bombs in 1992, but its stained glass windows were saved, and amazingly its bricks were bought by an Estonian businessman who plans to re-erect it in Tallinn, a former 'Kontor' of the Hanseatic League of Baltic merchants.

The Gherkin, formally 30 St Mary Axe, now sits where the Baltic Exchange stood.

### **M THE WALL**

After the Roman Empire's 5<sup>th</sup>C retreat the walls fell into disrepair until Alfred, threatened by Danish war parties in 900, moved back to build fortified Lundenburgh. It was the Normans who later laid out what is more or less the current street pattern.

### **M GRENE LANE (GREEN LANES), UPPER STREET**

These two tracks led out of the Roman Moorgate and Cripplegate. They ran along the spine of higher, dryer land that culminated in Corn Hill, the Islington Spur. The deposits of Brick Earth or 'London Stock', a clay and gravel rich soil, found here on Lud Hill and under present-day Covent Garden, may have had more to do with the founding of Londinium and Lundenwic than other more commonly cited reasons. To make houses you need bricks.

### **M EARNINGA STRÆT (BISHOPSGATE, KINGSLAND HIGH RD (ERMINE ST))**

The Old Roman Road to the North led straight from the Forum on Cornhill and out through Bishopsgate. The Hanse, whose ports lined the East Anglian coast were charged with the maintenance of Bishopsgate and the road to their East-Anglian Kontors.

### **Baring Brothers Bank, 8 Bishopsgate**

London's oldest Merchant Bank, founded in 1762, became hugely powerful in 19<sup>th</sup>C international commerce until poor investments meant that the Bank of England had to underwrite its massive losses and restructure the bank as Barings Brothers & Co. Echoing



this the whole company was brought down by a single Singapore-based rogue trader, Nick Leeson in 1995.

### **M HOG LANE (MIDDLESEX ST)**

Forming the boundary between the City and Middlesex, now Essex, this street and nearby Petticoat Lane betray the former location of the East India Company's massive Cutler St Warehouse complex. The volume of loot was such that it overflowed the Company's warehouses around Fenchurch St and so in 1771, the Bengal Warehouse was opened in Bishopsgate. Much still survives, though converted into offices.

## THE TOWER

### **St Olave, Hart Street**

This is the only remaining example of the five City churches once dedicated to St Olave, the Norwegian seafaring king who fought with Ethelred against The Danes at the Battle of London Bridge in 1014. The church has long-standing seafaring traditions; Lloyds is in the parish. The churchyard entrance has an arch with skull, crossbones, and spices. Pepys, who worked in nearby Seething La is buried here.

### **East India Arms, Fenchurch St**

This pub is the last indicator of the huge East India Company warehouse complex that once stretched all the way to Aldgate. Goods unloaded from lighters at the Legal Quays were carted here for storage before distribution to processing, packaging and marketing centres. The old name, Fancherchestrade means by the church on marshy ground, another indicator of the possible course of the disputed Langbourne tributary of the Walbrook.

### **Lloyds, Great Tower St**

Lloyds Register of Ships was founded in 1760, in a coffee house in Great Tower St, to offer investors a graded set of opportunities to invest in insuring ships and their cargoes after captains started lodging their manifests before sailing. Eventually insuring against all manner of concerns, such as natural disasters, Lloyds 'Names' accepted full liability, a high-risk that often bankrupted them, when they weren't making huge personal profits. The institution also developed a massive publishing business, occupying a site in the Royal Exchange, before moving to its current Leadenhall building in 1986.

### **M TOWER HILL, TRINITY SQUARE, TRINITY HOUSE, PLA BUILDING**

Once a tothill or lookout-mound, like Thorney, this, the third hill of the City is probably one of the oldest sites in London.

In 1514 Henry VIII chartered the Trinity Guild, initially entrusting them with navigation up to Port of London, and later with installing, and maintaining buoys, lighthouses, beacons, and also in keeping the estuary and its channels silt-free. To fund their activities they were granted the exclusive right to sell dredged ballast. Trinity House still sits on the square which is dominated by the elegant 20<sup>th</sup>C Port of London (PLA) Building.

### **M MUSCOVY ST, SEETHING LANE**

This modern street name indicates the former HQ of the Muscovy Company which once sat round the corner in Seething Lane, along with The Navy Office. (Sivethenelane Old English: sifethca = siftings, bran, chaff, winnowing)

### **M THE TOWER, TRAITOR'S GATE**

Built by William I to consolidate his hard-won conquest of the City of London, and the marine approaches, the Norman Tower became the main Tudor prison. Tower Green and Tower Hill were the site of scaffolds for Royal prisoners; among them Henry VIII's wives Ann Boleyn, and Catherine Howard. The moated castle was surrounded by towers, each of which

once controlled a water gate such as the existing Traitor's Gate in St Thomas' Tower, which once had a tide-mill to pump water to the rest of the castle.

### **M CHRISTCHURCH, SPITALFIELDS**

Hawksmoor's masterpiece, this church towers over what was the City's main vegetable market where produce from the adjoining Tower Hamlets was sold. Archaeologists have shown that it sits atop a Roman burial ground. Possibly the source of the buried eastwards running Black Brook or Ditch, the church originally had only one bell, but then started to compete with St Bride's, Fleet St, and now has 12 bells.

### **M COMMERCIAL RD**

The new 18<sup>th</sup>C highway from city to docks, thronged with chandlers and merchants, drove straight from the East India Docks to their massive warehouses at Cutler St.

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**M** = MAP OR TEXT - SIDE 2

## **TOWER SOUTH - The Borough**

### **THE BOROUGH**

#### **Long Southwark (Borough High St)**

Once the only southern entrance to the City of London, this ancient road ran over three islands to the old Bridge. Recent archaeology has revealed surprisingly extensive Roman remains, by AD 75 astride a wooden logged and gravel causeway, and by the medieval age the road was a major thoroughfare thronged by pilgrims, traders, travellers, clergy, merchants, royalty and commoners.

Inns and markets hence developed along its course that became established coach departure points; The King's Head to Dover, the White Hart to Portsmouth, the Tabard to Chichester, and the George to Canterbury and the Kent coastal ports.

#### **Borough, Green Dragon Court, Borough Market**

From the 10<sup>th</sup>C a market was held on Old London Bridge, one of the oldest recorded in Britain. In 1756 it was moved to reduce obstruction of the highway, and in 1851 it relocated to its current iron buildings as Borough Market. Along with Smithfields this is the last of the great London markets in their original locations.

#### **The Tabard, Talbot Yard**

This was the starting point for London pilgrims of St Thomas Becket to Canterbury and was featured by Geoffrey Chaucer in his Canterbury Tales of 1345-1400.

#### **The George Inn**

This is London's only remaining galleried coaching-inn, now reduced to one of its original four sides.

#### **Guy's Hospital**

Given the amount of pilgrims passing, this was a profitable spot to place a hospital and in 1726 Thomas Guy, the son of a Waterman of Fair St, founded Guy's Alms Houses which in 1799 also opened the first English dental hospital.

#### **St Thomas's Hospital**

Until 1862 Guy's and St Thomas's faced each other across St Thomas St. Once part of the priory of St Mary Overee, and named after Thomas a Becket, it was destroyed by fire in 1540 and moved to the end of Borough High St. It was later moved again to make way for extensions when New London Bridge was built and it was finally relocated in Lambeth.

#### **Marshalsea Prison**

The area was not all trade and pilgrimage though, it also contained notorious gaols. Named from an ancient court held by Knight Marshal of the King's Household, Marshalsea was one of most important Elizabethan prisons, second only to Tower. It later became a notorious debtor's prison and Charles Dickens' father was imprisoned here from 1842. The twelve-year old Dickens had to go and work at a blacking factory at Hungerford Stairs, near Charing Cross to raise his family's keep. Closed on the repeal of imprisonment for bankrupts one wall of the prison remains standing.

#### **M ST GEORGE THE MARTYR**

Standing at the meeting point of three Roman roads there has been a church here since 1122. The current, built in 1736 contains Roman stones in the crypt, and is the church of

Dickens' 'Little Dorrit'. It also has a pipe, still visible, of an old water conduit from the Thames.

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## CANARY WHARF PIER

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### THIEVES AND WRECKERS

'There has always been crime along the Thames. While hundreds of ships lay at anchor waiting for the tide or for a suitable wharf they were pestered by thieves and wreckers who were intent on stealing their cargo. There were night plunderers, watermen who worked under cover of darkness, and scuffle hunters or long apronmen who specialised in stealing the goods left on the quayside.'

- Peter Ackroyd 2008

**M** = MAP OR TEXT - SIDE 2

## CANARY WHARF NORTH - Wapping, Shadwell, Stepney, Limehouse, Isle of Dogs

### WAPPING

#### St Katherine's Docks

In the 1820s Thomas Telford, replaced a maze of alleys thus displacing 11,000 inhabitants. The dock was intended for Thames lighters that ferried goods from the large downstream docks to the Legal Quays, but the entrance was soon too small for the latest steamers, and like the other docks, the war and containerisation had made it redundant before gentrification began in the 1970s.

There was a massive ivory house here for storage of huge numbers of imported tusks. The dock was home also to another doomed trade in the 1980's, until the last manned trading floor in London closed its doors.

#### The Turk's Head Inn

This was the only pub in the area licensed to sell pirates their last quart of ale on the way to the Execution Dock by Wapping Stairs.

#### **M** WAPPYNG WALL (WAPPING WALL), WAPPING HIGH ST

Built as tidal defence this riverside strand was became lined with the buildings off a busy sailor-town, including an incredible 36 taverns, as the area became an important maritime centre in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>C. The area inland was a wasteland known as Wapping Marsh (Wappinge atta Wose; Old English: wāse = muddy marsh) before being excavated to build the London Docks.

#### London Docks

Funded by a 21 yr monopoly on tobacco, rice and wine, to cover construction costs, these docks closed in 1967 when they were running at a massive loss. The dryer upland roads around the Ratcliffe Highway were once lined with elegant merchants' houses before WWII bombing destroyed the area.

#### **M** TOWN OF RAMSGATE, WAPPING OLD STAIRS

Still standing at 62 Wapping High St, this was where fishermen from Ramsgate once left catch to be taken on to Billingsgate Fish market. In 1688 the notorious 'Hanging Judge Jeffreys' was seized here after fleeing the angry mob that arose on the arrival of the Dutch in the Glorious Revolution. The pub's cellars used to hold convicts bound for Australia from

Wapping Old Stairs, and it was supposedly frequented by Captain Bligh and Fletcher Christian, before their last voyage together.

### **St John's Church (demolished), Scandrett St**

The tower of this former church was layered alternately in brick and stone, and was built to be visible through the Thames mists.

### **The Captain Kidd**

An 18C Pub converted from warehouse, and named after the Navy officer turned Pirate who was hanged at nearby Execution Dock in 1701.

### **M EXECUTION DOCKWAPPING PIER**

This is the probable site of the gibbet of Execution Dock where pirates receiving 'The Grace of Wapping' were hung until three tides had washed their feet. The last execution was in 1830.

### **Wapping Police Station**

Founded in 1798, much to the annoyance of the many thousands of dockside thieves, river pirates, and even libertarians suspicious of 'European ideas', the river police predate The Met by 10 years. They were in fact the first British police force and were funded by the West India Company, and not the state.

## **SHADWELL, STEPNEY, RATCLIFF**

### **M SHADWELL, PROSPECT OF WHITBY**

A 3rdC roman watchtower stood by the 'shallow well' as defence against Saxon pirates. The oldest riverside pub in London, dating originally from 1520, was later named after a collier (The Prospect, 1777), and was used as a vantage point by the Thames painters Turner and Whistler in the 19<sup>th</sup>C.

### **M ST PAUL'S, SHADWELL**

Comparatively recently founded in 1820 to commemorate the Waterloo victory of Wellington, a former commander of the East India Company's private army, but also intended to help keep demobbed troops in order, this was known as the Captain's Church. The founder was linked to the East India Company, and Captain Cook, who lived in Shadwell, had his son baptised here. Shadwell Basin is the last remnant of the London Docks which once ran all the way from here to the Tower.

### **London Hydraulic Company Pumping Station, Shadwell**

Part of a London-wide string of stations this building once provided hydraulic (water) power to open Tower Bridge and raise West End theatre curtains.

### **Stybbanhythe (Stepney)**

Built on the only un-marshy land near the river the ancient parish of Stepney, like Battersea to the west was a fertile market-garden for the city, its produce sold at Spitalfields Market.

### **M ST DUNSTAN'S, STEPNEY**

Stepney's oldest church was founded in 923AD but the present building dates from the 1400s. Known as the Mariner's Church, St Dunstan's has a long association with the sea, having been the place for registration of the births, deaths and marriages of thousands of sailors until the 19<sup>th</sup>C.

### **M RADECLYVE (RATCLIFF)**

Virtually the only point in the area where solid (Radeclive/Ratcliff(e) = Red Cliff) land met the river this was an ancient shipbuilding and marine embarkation point.

### **Ratcliff Cross Stairs, The Muscovy Company**

In 1553 the world's first joint-stock organisation, The Muscovy Company, despatched three tiny ships from Ratcliffe to seek an alternative North East Passage to Cathay. The Joint-stock structure allowed many of the nobility, and City grandees to invest without direct mercantile involvement, and could thus raise far larger funds than the chartered companies of that time.

Only one ship returned, and whilst it had failed to get beyond the White Sea, its captain had been taken to Moscow where Tsar Ivan IV had granted exclusive trade rights between Muscovy and the Company as the sole representative of England. The Company later moved its HQ to Seething Lane near Muscovy St and leased St Botolph's wharf to import its furs, wax, and timber.

### **Ratcliff, King Edward Memorial Park**

Previously Shadwell fish market, this park was at one time the only public space between the Tower and the Isle of Dogs. The circular brick tower here is the northern ventilation shaft of Marc Brunel's tunnel, the first in the world under a navigable river. It took 17 years too build, and since it had no approach ramps was very unpopular and was soon bought by the East London Railway Company in 1869. It became one of first sections of underground railway in the world, and now forms part of the East London Underground Line.

### **M FREE TRADE WHARF, RATCLIFFE**

Built originally in the 1790s for the East India Company, the wharf handled huge saltpetre imports, used in gunpowder manufacture and meat preservation. Later a major unloading site for colliers from the North East, this area was nicknamed 'The Madhouse' for its winding lanes. Dutch Coasters were still calling here in 1970s.

## **LIMEHOUSE**

### **Limehouse**

Named from lime kilns (OE *līm* = lime, *āst* = oast house) that fired chalk from a natural outcrop downstream at Gravesend, the area became London's original Chinatown, infamous for its opium dens, as visited by Oscar Wilde's depraved fictional character Dorian Grey.

### **Narrow St**

Rows of former merchants' houses and warehouses, with overhead walkways to foil thieves, formed an impenetrable barrier between the riverside and the cobbled street. This was the setting for Dickens' 'Dombey and Son'.

### **Limehouse Basin**

Built in 1812 to service inland vessels the basin is the entrance to the Regent's Canal. It was enlarged in 1820 to also admit seagoing vessels and hence to move goods directly from the sea to the land by horse-drawn barges in a time before lorries and an extensive metalled road network existed.

### **The Grapes, Narrow St**

This pub at 76 Narrow St was named in 'Our Mutual Friend' by Dickens as 'The Six Jolly Fellowship Porters'. Supposedly unscrupulous customers posing as watermen would ferry drunks to mid-river, throw them in, and then reclaim their bodies the next day.

### **M ST ANNE'S, LIMEHOUSE**

Hawkmoor's tower, clearly visible from the river, flies the Royal Navy flag, which was adopted from this church. The graveyard contains many masons' graves including interesting obelisks, and has one of the highest clock faces in the country, built in same workshop as the St Paul's Cathedral clock.

## **M BLACK DITCH, DUNBAR'S WHARF**

The mouth of the long-buried Black Ditch (Blake broke), which once ran as far inland as Spitalfields, this was once an embarkation point for Australia-bound steamer passengers.

## **ISLE OF DOGS**

### **M STEPHENETH MERSHE (STEBENHITHE/POPELER MERSHE) (ISLE OF DOGS)**

Until comparatively recently this was an impenetrable marshland, later almost completely enclosed by dock walls. There are many myths to explain its current name but most likely seems to be 'Isle of Dykes' since the area was probably drained and shored-up by Dutch engineering experts.

### **M Marshwall, Westferry Road**

An ancient riverside track once went round whole Isle of Dogs, but the old name for the dockside road alludes to the inland marshes. Later lined with the massive dock walls, often the only way into this notoriously inaccessible peninsula was by water, on the West Ferry, from Greenwich, or at the Blackwall Stairs.

### **The Poplar Gut**

In the 15<sup>th</sup>C floods broke through Millwall to form a huge inland Lake that was later converted into the West India Docks.

## **M WEST INDIA DOCKS**

Gated docks allowing ships to be cut off from the tides were built by private companies from the Tower to Gallions Reach between 1802 and 1921. The first, made possible by a 21-year monopoly on imported Caribbean goods, was built by the West India Company, and proved such a huge success that others rapidly followed.

There is a long and complex history of dockers' relations with the company and its Thames-side neighbours. Eventually work was contracted on a 'daily call' only when a ship was in, or setting off. As the docks were declining competition for the decreasing jobs became more intense. There were also many examples of solidarity too, with strong unionisation, strikes and conflicts with the police and dock security men.

However by the 1960s the docks were running at substantial financial loss because massive modern ships, with their container loads, had outgrown the crowded old docks. The last working dock is at Tilbury further downstream.

### **Canary Wharf**

In the 1980s the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) was able to offer generous tax relief, simplified planning permission, and infrastructural support in helping to convert the deserted docks into the iconic East London development. At its centre One Canada Square is the highest building in country, topped with its pyramid and perennial smoke plume. The name is taken from the wharf of the 1937 Fruit Lines Ltd. where imported fruit from the Canary Islands was unloaded. Ironically the Atlantic Islands' original name, *Canaria Insula*, also means 'The Isles of Dogs'.

### **Machonochies' Wharf**

Isambard Kingdom Brunel built 'The Leviathan' here in 1853-7. A painful birth it took 3 goes to launch this massive ironclad which was four times bigger than contemporary vessels. Later renamed 'The Great Eastern', she laid the first Atlantic telegraph cable. Some remains of the timber launch-slipways are still in place here.



### **Millwall Docks**

Once the largest docks in London, for 100 years the Millwall Docks were dominated by the McDougall's Flour importing and milling company.

### **Pilgrim's Way, Ferry St**

Once, the only feature of the bleak Isle of Dogs was an ancient track that ran past a small chapel dedicated to St Mary. Pilgrims from Walthamstow Abbey would take the ancient ferry on their pilgrimage route to Canterbury via St Alfege's at Greenwich.

### **Island Gardens**

The bodies of executed pirates were hanged in chains here, visible to all passing ships as a reminder of the penalty for piracy or mutiny. From all accounts it seems that most of the approaches to London, by road or river, were thickly lined with gibbets in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>C.

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**M** = MAP OR TEXT - SIDE 2

## **CANARY WHARF SOUTH - Bermondsey, Rotherhithe, Surrey Docks**

### **BERMONDSEY**

#### **M BEORNMUND'S EG OR EYE(OT) (BERMONDSEY)**

Named after the Saxon Earl Beornmund mentioned in Domesday, this marshy wasteland was a religious centre as early as the 8<sup>th</sup>C. The River Neckinger, although shallow, was filled at every high tide and navigable to 'Bermundesye' Abbey. In 1117 a Saxon cross, believed to have fallen from heaven, was found on the river shore and the abbey became a centre of pilgrimage.

#### **M BERMONDSEY ABBEY**

Founded as early as 700AD the monastery was renamed after Henry's dissolution of the Monasteries (1538) to become St. Saviour's. St Mary Magdalene church now stands on site of the former Abbey and is amongst the oldest buildings in Bermondsey.

#### **Bermondsey Wall**

Embanked by the monks in the 11<sup>th</sup>C the street was impenetrably lined with wharves by the 19<sup>th</sup>C.

#### **Butler's Wharf**

Once the largest collection of Victorian warehouses on the Thames, this was a major tea unloading site and later, after relaxation of the Corn Laws, there was a massive import boom, and the wharf and its surroundings became the site of a massive packaging and processing industry.

#### **Bramah Tea & Coffee Museum**

Tea was imported from China from 1661 but by 1900 mostly came from India and Ceylon. Traded at Butler's Wharf for 350 years, the cargo was unloaded at the East India Docks and then rowed upstream in flat-bottomed Thames barges.

#### **Cottons Wharf (Centre)**

In 1861 a bale of jute started the Great Tooley St Fire that burned for 2 weeks and destroyed much of the area.

#### **Concordia Wharf**

For the author Charles Dickens this was 'the filthiest, strangest and most extraordinary of the many localities that are hidden in London'.

#### **M NECKINGER**

The name of the river is believed to derive from the term 'Devil's Neckercher', referring to a hangman's noose. The Neckinger is today a totally buried stream.

#### **M ST SAVIOUR'S DOCK**

At the mouth of the erstwhile Neckinger are Tea Trade Wharf, Cinnamon Wharf, Saffron Wharf, Java Wharf, China Wharf; names indicating the provenance of goods once unloaded here, and probably partly the reason for another of the inlet's names; Savory Dock.

In the 17<sup>th</sup>C pirates were hanged at the mouth of the river and their corpses placed on display as a deterrent further downstream at Blackwall Point. Charles Dickens set Bill Sykes' death here in 'Oliver Twist'.

### **Jacob's Island**

The area just downstream from where the Neckinger meets the Thames at St Saviour's Dock was historically known as 'Jacob's Island', a name still used in East End pubs. Once notoriously squalid 'the island' with its many filthy ditches and channels was described as "The very capital of cholera" and "The Venice of drains" by the Morning Chronicle of 1849.

### **Shad Thames**

Warehouses here are now converted into luxury apartments but the tight grid of streets shows the land reclamation pattern in this former marsh. Causewayed streets backed onto marshy squares that were gradually filled with rubble, rubbish, and old packaging materials.

## **ROTHERHITHE, SURREY DOCKS**

### **M HRYTHER-HYTHER (ROTHERHITHE)**

From Old English hryther = cattle, and hyth(e) = harbour, this was before becoming an important medieval harbour, the site of a fishing village. Low-lying and waterlogged until the 18<sup>th</sup>C excavation of the Surrey Commercial Docks, the area is now a massive housing estate. Rotherhithe St was first built as an embankment against the Thames, and although it is no longer a bustling riverside port-road, it is still the longest street in London.

### **The Angel**

At 24 Rotherhithe St, this Pub stands opposite Execution Dock in Wapping. Originally known as 'The Salutation' the Bermondsey Abbey Monks brewed and sold beer to pilgrims. The inn was for a while 'The Anchor' before receiving its current name. In the 1660s Judge Jeffreys sat on the balcony to watch pirate hangings across the water. In the 19<sup>th</sup>C Turner painted 'The Fighting Temeraire' after viewing it from here, on its way to the breaker's yard, after serving alongside Nelson's flagship 'The Victory' at Trafalgar.

### **M ST MARY'S, ROTHERHITHE**

Founded in the 10<sup>th</sup>C, the present church of 1737 appears from its wooden beams to have been built by shipwrights. Unusually it stands on a plinth to guard against flooding. Christopher Jones, captain of the 'Mayflower', is buried here, and the communion chairs are made from the timbers of the 'Temeraire'.

### **The Mayflower Inn**

Dating from 1620 this pub in Rotherhithe Street commemorates the site where the 'Pilgrim Fathers', many from this area, left for America. It is the only pub licensed to sell both British and American postage stamps.

### **Hope Wharf**

Once this was a 'Sufferance Wharf'; permitted by The City to unload low-value imported goods not requiring the attention of the Legal Quays at the Pool of London.

### **Surrey Commercial Docks**

Originating with the 'Howland Great Wet Dock', built in 1696 to serve the Royal Dockyards downstream at Deptford, this was one of the earliest enclosed dockyards after the West India Docks. Amalgamated as the Surrey Docks in 1864, the last of this complex to be completed was Quebec Dock of 1926. Most have now been filled except for Greenland Dock and Canada Water.

### **Baltic Dock**

Tar, oil, and tallow from Gdansk were unloaded here, by a closed and secretive guild of porters. The whole Surrey Dock was a massively inflammable mass, and burned in a single day during WWII bombing.

### **Greenland Dock**

Built in the 17<sup>th</sup>C this is the largest survivor of the Surrey Docks and was once used to berth sailing ships and Arctic Whalers. Never allowed to handle dutiable goods it specialised in timber and grain and by 1930s, huge amounts of American tinned foods.

### **M CUCKOLD'S POINT**

The story goes that King John seduced the local miller's wife. In an uncharacteristic fit of remorse the King is supposed to have given him land stretching from Rotherhithe all the way to Charlton as compensation, a hugely unlikely slice of riverside territory.

### **M EARL'S SLUICE**

This old channel was once joined by the now-buried River Peck, which ran all the way from Denmark Hill.

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## QE2 PIER

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### THE RIVER BELONGS TO NO ONE

'The monarch does not own the river, despite many tendentious claims to the contrary, any more than the Corporation of London owns that part of the river that flows through the city. In truth the river belongs to no one.'

- Peter Ackroyd 2008

**M** = MAP OR TEXT - SIDE 2

## QE2 NORTH - Blackwall, Leamouth, Bow, Stratford

### BLACKWALL

#### **M** BLACKWALL

Blakewale, an ancient river embankment, was in 1606 the embarkation point for the founder of the first Virginia colony, John Smith. It was also the place chosen by the East India Company to set its shipyards in 1614, and later enlarged to become the East India Docks.

#### **M** BLACKWALL REACH

In 1560, Martin Frobisher resolved to find the North West Passage to Cathay and set off from Blackwall. He returned with a kidnapped Inuit guide and a small black rock. In 1577 leaving Blackwall again, his ships loaded with miners, he met an unfavourable Inuit reception, but claimed Hudson's Bay for Elizabeth I, and loaded up with 200 tons of 'gold' ore, later found to be completely worthless.

Although London based Cook and Franklin amongst many others failed, the NW Passage was finally traversed in a single voyage only in 1906, by Amundsen.

#### **The Gun**

At 27 Coldharbour, this pub is unreliably reputed to have hosted trysts between Nelson and Lady Hamilton.

#### **M** EAST INDIA DOCKS, CUTTY SARK

Back from their two-year missions, 18<sup>th</sup>C and 19<sup>th</sup>C East Indiamen, amongst them the 'Cutty Sark', unloaded their cargoes of spices, teas and raw materials to lighters at Blackwall Reach. Goods were then rowed or carried on an ebb tide by watermen to the Legal Quays for assize. The Company shipyards had all that was necessary to refit and revictual the clippers before their outbound voyage carrying British manufactured goods.

Originating from the 1790 'Brunswick Dock', newer deep water docks were completed to handle the sheer volume of imported goods, to prevent theft by river borne pirates, and in an attempt to escape the high unloading fees the watermen charged. Goods from Bali, Java, India and China could be safely unloaded, then transported to the Company's Cutler Street Warehouses, near Aldgate.

The Company even built a church for its captains and workers, St Mathias in Poplar High Street.

Because of its Bengal holdings, many of the Company's sailors were recruited in India. These 'Lascars' were often dumped in London, to find food, work and lodgings where they may. The area's Bengali population has been here much longer than many think.

The PLA closed the docks in 1967; they were filled with rubble and later converted into 80's housing, selling at astronomical prices.

## LEAMOUTH

### **M** LEA (LEE)

The Thames' main London tributary was used by 11<sup>th</sup>C Viking raiders to sack Waltham Abbey.

### **M** BOW CREEK (LEAMOUTH)

At its confluence the River Lea was known as Luymudhe, or Leamouth, a site of distilling, milling and later chemical works. In WWII the river burned for days after bombing released alcohol into the water. It is currently being developed to provide water-borne access to the 2012 Olympics.

### **M** TRINITY BUOY WHARF, BOW CREEK

Trinity Lighthouse at Orchard Place is London's only remaining lighthouse.

## BOW, STRATFORD

### **M** MYLESENDE (MILE END RD)

Leading from Aldgate and through the hamlet of 'Stratford-at-Bow' a mile away, the Roman Colchester road headed for a ford across comparatively dry land in the Lea valley. Originally crossing at Eldeforde (Old Ford) the crossing later moved south to Stratford, meaning ford on the (Roman) Street.

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**M** = MAP OR TEXT - SIDE 2

## **QE2 SOUTH - Deptford, Greenwich, North Greenwich (O2), Charlton**

### **DEPTFORD**

#### **M RAVENSBOURNE**

The Randesbourne, or Boundary Stream by Old English name, once powered many mills, but now functions only as a storm-relief sewer. There have however been several plans in recent years to rejuvenate the stream in a way that has happened with its south-western cousin, the Wandle. There is a fanciful story that it was named by Julius Caesar after a raven led his thirsty troops to the source.

#### **M DEPEFORD (DEPTFORD)**

Deptford was where the Roman Watling St (from the Old Kent Rd) crossed the Ravensbourne on its way to Canterbury. Deptford Creek, the mouth of the Ravensbourne, came to be known as a major Navy town.

#### **Royal Naval Shipyard, Deptford**

Founded by Henry VIII to service the Royal Navy, this was the departure point for Drake's 1585 circumnavigation in the 'Golden Hinde'. Drake was knighted on board by Elizabeth I, and his ship was berthed here as a national monument until it rotted in the water.

The ships that fought the Spanish Armada in 1588 were built in the Deptford yards, and in the 1770s Cook's Resolution, which effectively brought huge swathes of the southern and Pacific oceans under British sway, was also fitted-out here.

#### **Prison Hulks**

Decommissioned Navymen were moored here when prisons such as Millbank Penitentiary and Newgate became unable to cope with the huge numbers of 19<sup>th</sup>C transportees. Terribly crowded these prison hulks were often quarantined after outbreaks of disease such as cholera, or yellow-fever.

#### **The Hudson's Bay Company**

In 1668, two ships financed by an English consortium left Deptford. One turned back at Ireland but 'The Nonsuch' made it to Canada. After its return, with the consortium incorporated as 'The Hudson's Bay Company' by royal charter of King Charles I, they won a monopoly for trade in the bay that controlled virtually all of the northern Canadian fur trade.

Accruing a massive profit from the exchange of cheap blankets for expensive furs, the Company became the de facto English rule of the northern region. It was also deeply involved in West-Coast American exploration, issued its own money, and set up a massive network of trading posts, still effectively extant as Canada's largest department stores.

### **GREENWICH**

#### **M GRENEWIC (GREENWICH)**

This is the oldest royal park in London containing traces of Iron Age workings, and the site of a Tudor Fort; unsurprising given its commanding view over the Thames estuary. The Greenwich Foot Tunnel replaced the ancient horse Ferry service that had run from the Isle of Dogs to here since 1676.

## **M PLACENTIA, ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE**

Henry VIII married Catherine of Aragon at this former Royal Palace and both of his daughters, Mary and Elizabeth were born here. The palace was to be rebuilt by Wren in 1664 but it was eventually converted into the Royal Naval Hospital when the cash ran out.

The crippled and scruffy old sailors were unfortunately deemed too unsightly for such a grand building and it soon became The Royal Naval College. This was the intellectual heart of the Senior Service whilst for centuries England ruled the Oceans, and hence controlled world trade. Samuel Pepys worked here regularly.

The Navy was not without its problems though and manning ships was often hard. Press gangs roamed the Thames' sailor-towns in search of seasoned crew in times of trouble.

## **Greenwich, Old Royal Observatory**

Founded by Charles II and designed by Christopher Wren the observatory was funded because a command of astronomy was deemed by the Navy to be central to understanding navigation. At 1pm every day in Flamsteed House a golden ball drops. This was once used by outbound sailors to co-ordinate their chronometers, essential for calculating Longitude. The Prime Meridian was set here, after long argument, as an indication of Britain's contemporary naval clout.

## **M ST ALFEGE'S CHURCH**

In 1012, the Danes, encamped on nearby Blackheath, clubbed The Archbishop of Canterbury to death with Ox bones left over from a feast, after he had repeatedly refused to authorise a ransom for his release in 'Danegeld'. Hawksmoor rebuilt the church using funds raised from the Coal Tax after the Great Fire of 1666. At his wife's wish General Wolfe, who assured Canada for the British in the Battle of Quebec, was buried here, when the state had wanted to bury him in St Paul's Cathedral.

## **The Cutty Sark**

The burned out hulk of this tea clipper stands on site of the vanished 'Ship's Tavern'. Built in Dumbarton to service the imperial trading network, she was moved here in 1922. The Clipper (these ships clipped time off ocean journeys) carried the new season's tea for the East India Company, amongst others, and in 1885 made the record trip from Australia to London in only 72 days. The Clippers were made redundant by the Suez Canal and steamers.

## **The Trafalgar Tavern**

This pub in Park Row was famed for its Whitebait suppers in the 19<sup>th</sup>C. It became a Seaman's hostel in 1915, and then a pub again in 1965.

## **High Bridge Wharf**

In the 16<sup>th</sup>C The Pope forbade Venetian Galleys to sail upstream beyond this bridge.

## **Greenwich, Trinity Hospital (Alms Houses)**

Built by the Earl of Northampton and still in use as alms houses run by the Guild of Mercers of the City, a wall mounted plaque in front of these 17<sup>th</sup>C buildings shows the high-water reach of several exceptional tides.

## **Blackheath**

In the 11<sup>th</sup>C the Danes camped on Blackheath controlling both the Thames Estuary and the Dover Road, effectively cutting London off from the continent.

## **NORTH GREENWICH**



### **Enderby's Wharf**

Originally whalers, Melville's 'Royal family of whaling', the Enderbys became Merchant Adventurers and diversified into ropemaking and eventually cables. This is where Brunel's SS Great Eastern was loaded with the first transatlantic cable in 1865. Charles Enderby was a founder member of Royal Geographical Society.

### **Ballast Quay**

River dredgings and extracted dock rubble were profitably sold as ballast. Trinity House had won a royal monopoly in turning this muck into brass. Unfortunately, along with the ballast, nearly all the archaeology of the Thames bed has been scraped away below Westminster Bridge.

### **M BUGSBY'S MARSHES**

This tidal mudflat, where bodies of executed pirates were hung in cages, may have been named after a New World Buccaneer. Like much of the Thames' riverbank, it was a mosquito-ridden hellhole before being drained by Dutch engineers in 1625. Later the site chosen for the Millennium Dome, it is now home to the O2 Arena.

## **CHARLTON**

### **The Thames Barrier**

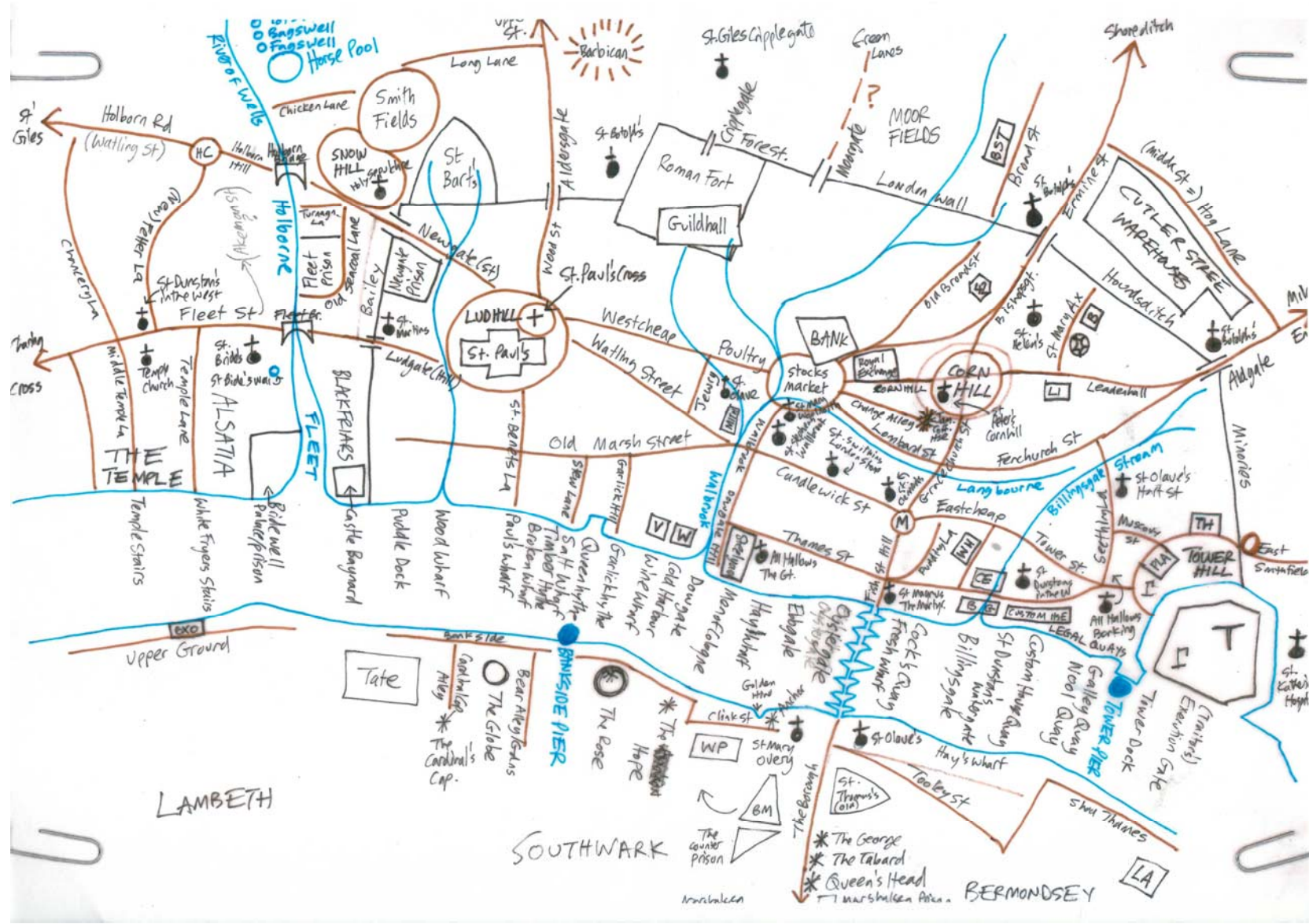
Before erection of this long-planned barrier the threat of flooding was continual in central London. In 1242 waters reached 6 miles inland beyond Elephant and Castle. In 1579 fish and wherries were recorded in Westminster Hall, and in 1928 Millbank was washed away. It was the 1953 floods in which 300 inhabitants were drowned downstream on Canvey Island that finally prompted a concerted flood relief programme.

Unfortunately many of the embankments built then, whilst highly-effective at flood protection, are now deemed ecological disasters. The Environment Agency, with offices here at the Barrier, is championing the reintroduction of salt marshes, living river banks, and the encouragement of greater biodiversity in the modern Thames.

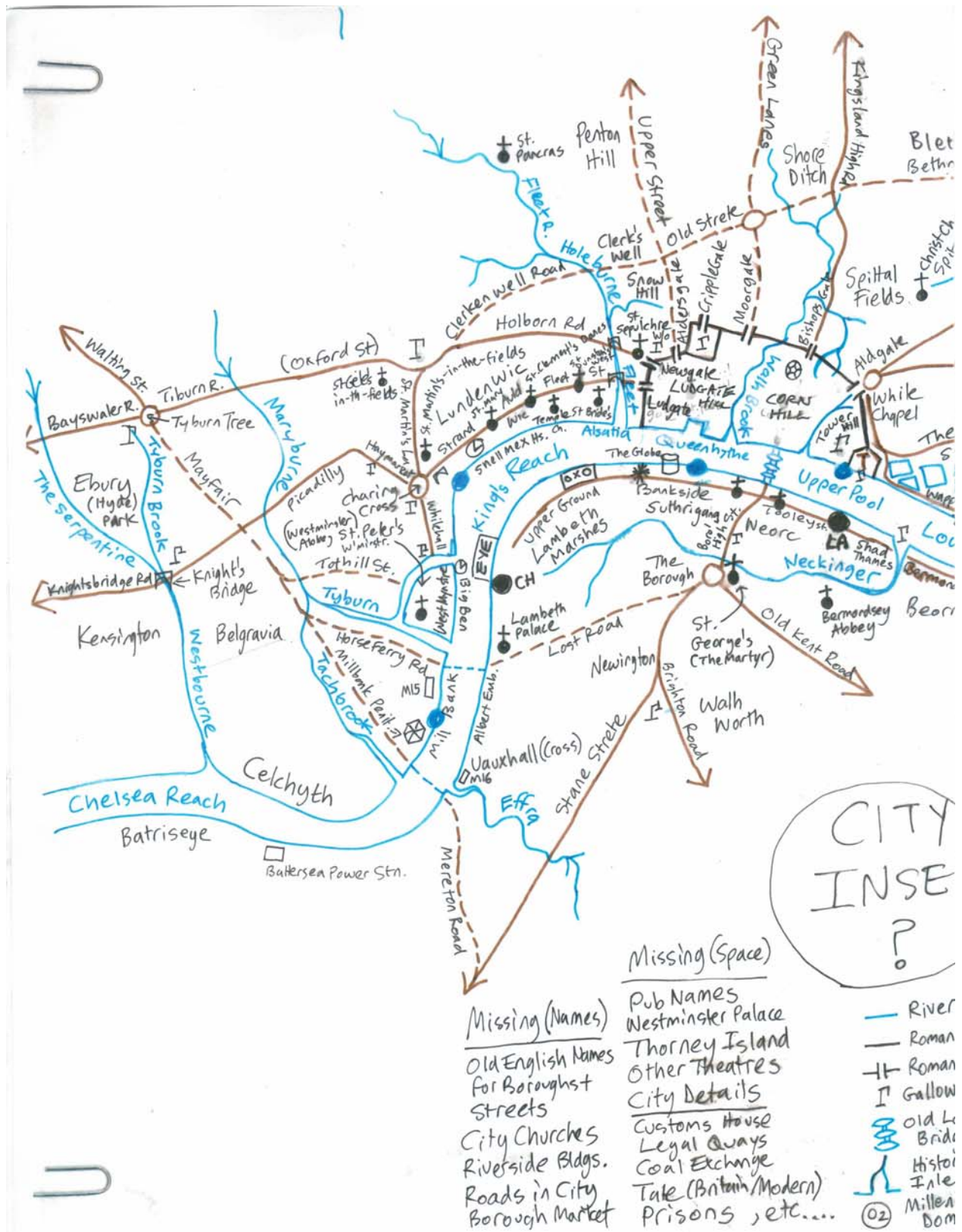
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# DARK MAPS

## CENTRE



WEST



**EAST**



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All errors are the fault of Dark Waters, or of general London mythologizing, and are not in any way attributable to the authors of the references or sources quoted.

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