South East London U3A

Heritage News

October 2026

Hello Everyone,

Just a quick note which includes the Heritage Programme for the next couple of months

Programme for October and November 2026

All meetings start at 10:15 with refreshments and talks then start at 10:30.The venue is the Bowls Room at Horn Park Horn Park - South East London There is ample parking and a range of buses that stop outside, use the Weigall Road stops. Heritage meetings are open to all U3A SEL members, there is no need to book.

30th October: Greenwich and Charlton and the global communications system



Cable loading gear

Our speaker today is Alan Burkitt-Gray, who was for some 50 years involved as an editor and journalist reporting on the communications industry. Alan lives locally and is acknowledged to be the expert on the role that Greenwich communication industries played in the development of the modern world of communications. So come along and hear the story as to how Greenwich was the world leader in the development of long distance cable communication

Alan was responsible for recently getting the cable loading gear at Enderby Wharf listed by Historic England as a Scheduled Monument (List Entry 1490823)

27th November: Trinity House by David Whitehead

The safety of shipping and the well-being of seafarers have been the prime concerns of Trinity House since being incorporated by Royal Charter on 20th May 1514. Its original name was *The Master Wardens and Assistants of the Guild Fraternity or Brotherhood of the Most Glorious and Undivided Trinity and of Saint Clement in the Parish of Deptford Strond in the County of Kent,* so it is perhaps just as well that it is now referred to simply as "Trinity House".

Hear about how this well-known institution became an important part of Greenwich's maritime heritage

Our speaker David Whitehead OBE is a former Director of the British Ports Association (1993 to 2016) David was heavily involved in the development of the Port Marine Safety Code, which was the navigational safety policy for the entire maritime sector. He is an Ambassador for Trinity House.

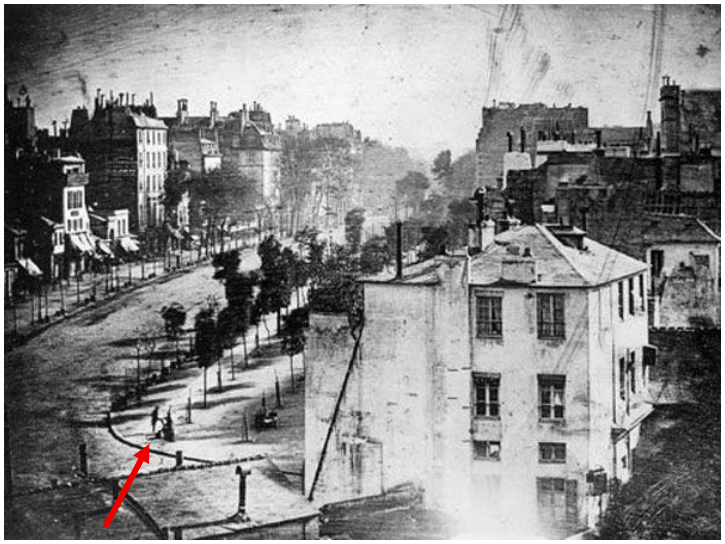
December no meeting

More information overleaf

Postponed meeting Educating Deptford - the Ragged School and its place in the community by Dr John Price

As you know we had to postpone the September meeting due to John not being available, however I am pleased to say that we have put it back into the programme on the 30th April 2027. I can assure you it will be worth the wait!

Pioneers of Photography. I stepped in to present this talk in John's absence, and I was very pleased with the positive response from attendees. One of the pictures that I showed was this one, an early picture taken by Daguerre of the Rue du Temple in Paris. For those of you not at the meeting this is acknowledged to be the first photograph depicting humans. The exposure was probably about a minute which meant that pedestrians and horse drawn vehicles were blurred out because of their movements during the exposure, however the shoeshine and his client in the bottom left of the image remained stationary and their image was captured for posterity.



History of Deptford . Having used my "spare" presentation in September I have now started on a replacement which will be on the History of Deptford. This will include some of the information from my previous Heritage News articles and lots of new information about this often-neglected part of our local maritime history, so no more Deptford articles for the Newsletter. I will keep the presentation in reserve to bring out next time we have a short notice cancellation. Meanwhile, if you have any suggestions subjects about historic Deptford that you think I should include by all means get in touch.



To whet your appetite about industry in Deptford here is a picture of a ginger beer bottle from George Banks Ltd of Deptford. They made a range of mineral waters and sold them in returnable stoneware bottles. There are also examples on line of their glass lemonade bottles with marble stoppers. Banks were located at no 12 -16 Deptford Church Street.

Roger Mead rogermead2021@gmail.com