



Rotherhithe & Bermondsey

Local History Society

Patron: Sir Tommy Steele O.B.E.

Keeping History Alive in London's Secret Riverside Villages



*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

Rescheduled *Mayflower 400 Christopher Jones Lectures* will commemorate the ship's Rotherhithe-based master

[London, 14-Feb-22] The Rotherhithe & Bermondsey Local History Society, which organises monthly illustrated talks in London's most historic borough, has announced that the eagerly awaited lecture series originally planned for 2020 will now take place this spring.

And as well as marking the quatercentenary of the historic sailing from Rotherhithe to the New World, the lectures of 2022 will also commemorate the life of the *Mayflower's* Rotherhithe-based master (captain) Christopher Jones, who was buried at St Mary's Church on 5th March 1622.

The events will take place at Canada Water Theatre, which is conveniently-located in the heart of the Rotherhithe peninsula, and the line-up will feature some of the most prominent authors to have researched and written on the subject. The monthly evenings, which are open to all, run from March to June 2022, and booking is now open at www.rbhistory.org.uk

2022 Calendar:

Introduction to the *Mayflower* and 'One Small Candle'

Wed 2nd March 7:30pm-9pm

Rebecca Fraser, author of *The Mayflower Generation: The Winslow Family and the Fight for the New World*, introduces the *Mayflower* story and identifies the people who made the voyage.

The *Mayflower*, London & Donald Trump

Wed 30th March 7:30pm-9pm

Graham Taylor, author of *The Mayflower in Britain: How an icon was made in London*, examines London's role in the *Mayflower* expedition of 1620, and adds a 2020 perspective.

The Journey to the *Mayflower*

Wed 27th April 7:30pm-9pm

Stephen Tomkins, author of *The Journey to the Mayflower: God's Outlaws and the Invention of Freedom*, reveals the illegal underground church in the time of Elizabeth I and James I, and their ground-breaking idea of religious freedom.

The Women of Jamestown and Plymouth: Radically Different Beginnings

Wed 25th May 7:30pm-9pm

Jennifer Potter, author of *The Jamestown Brides*, and Rebecca Fraser, author of *The Mayflower Generation: The Winslow Family and the Fight for the New World*, offer a new perspective on the importance of women in early colonial history.

The Making of the *Mayflower* Myth and Christopher Jones

Wed 29th June 7:30pm-9pm

Rita Cruise O'Brien, author of *The Mayflower: Myths, Truths and Legacies*, considers the myths and legacies of the *Mayflower* story, and her master, Christopher Jones.

Booking, Venue and Travel:

- Booking essential at: www.rbhistory.org.uk or 020 8692 4446.
- Only £3.75 (members attend free) including a glass of wine at the interval.
- All lectures at Canada Water Theatre, 21 Surrey Quays Rd, Rotherhithe, London SE16 7AR.
- Canada Water tube (Jubilee, London Overground) is next door.
- Buses 1, 47, 188, 199, 225, 381, C10, P12 stop outside.

About the Mayflower 400 Christopher Jones Lectures:

- Five illustrated talks commemorating the historic sailing to the New World of 1620, and the life of the Mayflower's Rotherhithe-based master.
- Originally planned for 2020 but rescheduled to spring 2022 due to the pandemic.
- The evenings can be enjoyed individually or as part of the series and take place at Canada Water Theatre in Rotherhithe, the home port and final resting place of the ship and her master.
- Christopher Jones moved to Rotherhithe in 1611 and lived there for the rest of his days. Four of his children were born in the parish, and he was buried at St Mary's Church on 5th March 1622.
- Organised by the Rotherhithe & Bermondsey Local History Society but open to everyone at only £3.75 each, including a glass of wine at the interval.
- An unmissable opportunity to discover the Mayflower's secrets, background, voyage and legacy, and to compare the themes and issues of 400 years ago with those of the world today.
- Funded by London Borough of Southwark, United St. Saviours Charity and British Land plc.

About the Rotherhithe & Bermondsey Local History Society:

- Encourages an interest in the history of Rotherhithe, Bermondsey, the surrounding area, Docklands and the River Thames by organising monthly talks and events on subjects of local historical interest.
- Began mid-1980's as the local history group of Time & Talents Association, a charity operating in Rotherhithe and Bermondsey, and became the Rotherhithe & Bermondsey Local History Society in 2011.
- Holder of a Southwark Civic Trust Award, 'in recognition of exceptional dedication and commitment to keeping local history alive', and The Society is extremely grateful to Sir Tommy Steele OBE for being its Patron.
- Visit www.rbhistory.org.uk

Quotes:

Michael Daniels, President, Rotherhithe & Bermondsey Local History Society, said:

- *"The Mayflower sailed from Rotherhithe, Christopher Jones lived in Rotherhithe, and these talks will take place in Rotherhithe. The pandemic may have blown our 2020 plans off course, but it's given us the opportunity to promote further these internationally significant local links by commemorating both of the key quatercentenaries concurrently. Join us on a voyage of discovery as we explore the remarkable story of the Mayflower, from its early beginnings to its legacy and beyond."*

Cllr Ian Wingfield, Former Deputy Leader, Southwark Council (2010-2016) and Chair, Mayflower 400 Steering Group, said:

- *"The Mayflower's significance for Southwark can never be overestimated. The links are more than the ship, Captain and crew. They connect with maritime adventure and the welcoming of all people from around the world which still resonates with the modern borough. As does the legacy of dissent and artistic endeavour. The Pilgrims sought freedom to practise their beliefs and values. That freedom whether religious, political, economic or social is a cornerstone of our society today. This lecture series brings to vivid life the struggles, trials and tribulations both physical and mental faced by people at the time, given added nuance by own experiences during the pandemic. The Council is happy to endorse the lectures."*

Matthew Allgood, Grants Manager, United St Saviour's Charity, said:

- *"We are delighted to support this enthralling community-led lecture series that commemorates the story of the Mayflower. United St Saviour's was 80 years young when the Mayflower set sail from Rotherhithe, eventually for the New World. Some 400 years later, it is great to remember Southwark's connection to the historic voyage with our partners Southwark Council and British Land."*

Miles Price, Planning Director, British Land, said:

- *"As major developers in the area, we are working with a number of stakeholders to help preserve and enhance the unique history of the peninsula - including Rotherhithe & Bermondsey Local History Society, who have helped advise us on our plans. With building works underway at Canada Water, we are excited to see the Mayflower 400 Lectures taking place to help local residents learn about the history of our exciting area, and its next chapter."*

Image:

- A high resolution image to accompany this release is available for download at <https://we.tl/t-DZ43qMhBGy>
- This link expires on Mon-21-Feb at 11am, please contact below thereafter.

Further Information:

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Funded by:



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