



Cripplegate Ward Club

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London Wall - City Walk

11:30 am on Wednesday, 18 May 2022

Our next event in my year is a walk along the London Wall.

From the Barbican

along

to Tower Hill



The Roman city of London was surrounded by some kind of fortification. As well as providing defence, the construction of a stone wall represented the status of the city. Using the evidence of excavated coins, archaeologists have dated the construction of the first stone city wall to between AD 190 and 225.

The wall was about 2.5 miles long. Enclosing an area of about 330 acres it originally included four city gates with an additional entrance into the legionary fortress at Cripplegate. In front of the eastern face of the wall was a ditch, which was up to 6 feet deep and 16 feet across.

The Roman wall remained standing after the departure of the Roman army in AD 410, through a long period during which the city seems to have been largely abandoned. It was repaired in the late Anglo-Saxon period and survived to be an important feature of the city plan at the time of the Norman Conquest of 1066. Large parts of the wall were incorporated into the medieval defences of the city. In about 1300 a new postern gateway through the wall was built immediately to the south of the standing portion, close to the edge of the Tower of London moat; it later slipped down the moat bank and can be seen at the end of the underpass under the main road.

The Roman wall continued to influence the development of the city street plan through the Middle Ages and beyond. By the mid-17th century buildings had been erected against sections of the wall on either side. In time it was obscured and, later, partly destroyed during the construction of new buildings and railway lines.

In 1938 the wall and part of the land on its western side were placed in the guardianship of the Ministry of Works. Since the 1930s several buildings which had formerly hidden this section of the wall have been cleared away, revealing it to view.

Our guide will be **Peter Tompkins**, Past Master Wax Chandler, Liveryman Actuary and City of London Guide, who will take us along the surprisingly numerous remnants of the line of London Wall – some exposed and others built in to more modern buildings. We shall start our walk on the corner of Gresham Street and Noble Street, next to the church of St Anne and St Agnes, and will be finishing at the Wine Library at Trinity Square near Tower Hill station. The walk starts at **11:30 am** and finishes at 1:00 pm.

We shall have exclusive use of the Wine Library. Lunch will consist of cheese and charcuterie platters together with red, white and rose wines. Peter will take a donation of £15 per head for the Lord Mayor's Appeal. Lunch is £30 and so the total price of this event is £45 per person.