



The Literary London Society

LLS Newsletter – Spring 2013

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1. [General News](#)

The Literary London Society is pleased announce that the Spring 2013 issue of The Literary London Journal is now available on the Literary London website: <http://www.literarylondon.org/index.html>. The issue includes articles and reviews on such authors as Virginia Woolf, Martin Amis and John Lanchester, as well as on a wide range of topics from London poetry and contemporary fiction to mass housing in the capital. We hope you will find the content stimulating and the new design pleasing. We encourage writers interested in literary and other representations of London to submit articles for consideration for the Autumn issue.

The Literary London Society is also pleased to have recently launched a Facebook group that will provide an online forum for members to share research ideas, ask questions, post event updates and conference listings, and network with other Literary Londoners. Members are warmly encouraged to post links to their own research and publicise their own events. We also hope to initiate lively discussion about London literature from all periods and disciplines and we'll be sure to post interesting tidbits and bizarre finds. Group members will also receive invitations to Literary London events, like the annual conference and the Literary London reading group. Join us!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/literarylondonsociety/>

2. [Conference News](#)

Do look out for the Literary London 2013 conference programme, published this week. Hosted by the Institute of English Studies at Senate House in Bloomsbury, 17-19 July, this year's conference promises to be as exciting as ever. It will boast nearly one-hundred presenters, many of whom will be speaking to this year's theme, 'London in Crisis and Disorder'. There will be dedicated panels on writing and the Blitz, plague, scandal, riots, disorderly houses and unruly



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neighbourhoods – and much more besides. Our plenary speakers are the author Courttia Newland, whose last novel *The Gospel According to Cane* was published earlier this year; Vic Gattrel (Cambridge), who will speak on the 'creative disorder' of eighteenth-century Covent Garden; Matthew Rubery (Queen Mary), who will be talking about Victorian investigative journalism; plus a round table of contributors to *London Fictions*, hosted by the BBC journalist Philippa Thomas.

To view the conference programme, and to register, please visit:
<http://www.ies.sas.ac.uk/events/ies-conferences/LiteraryLondon2013>

3. [Cartoon by Kirsty Rolfe](#)





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4. [LLS Journal](#)

The Literary London Journal (LLJ) is the only journal to provide a common forum for scholars and students engaged specifically in the study of London and literature. It is fully peer-reviewed and published and indexed by the MLA International Bibliography. It appears online and is free to all. For more information, or to read the current or past editions, please follow this link: <http://www.literarylondon.org/london-journal/>

The Spring 2013 edition of *The Literary London Journal* contains two articles, nine book reviews, and one conference review. Highlights include: Susan Trangmar, 'A Divided Glance': A Dialogue Between the Photographic Project 'A Forest of Signs' and the Figure of the Tree in Virginia Woolf's Writing' and Petar Penda, 'Politicising Cityscape: London in Virginia Woolf's Mrs Dalloway'

Reviews:

Nicolas Tredell on Martin Amis
Martin Upham on John Lanchester
Phoebe Dickerson on *London: A History in Verse*
Tzu Yu Allison Lin on Ian Cunningham
Wendy Kolmar on *Gavarni in London*
Alexander Clelland on Craig Taylor
Holly Prescott on Sebastian Groes
David Charnick on Berkem Güreñci Saglam
James Heartfield on Matthew Taunton

If you are interested in submitting a paper, please contact the editor, Susan Fischer: journal@literarylondon.org.

Or, if you would like to write a review for the journal, please contact Susie Thomas: reviews@literarylondon.org. Susan also welcomes reviews on films, exhibitions or plays about London.

5. [The Reading Group](#)

The Literary London Reading Group seeks to explore the processes that contribute to the creation and destruction of an imagined city and its fictional territories. Throughout the year sessions will aim to foster an enriched understanding of London as a city comprised of a multiplicity of sites out of which narratives are woven and bound. Whether a text is situated in Pall Mall, Eel Pie Island or in an imagined dystopian future, part of the skill of writing urban experience arises from successfully 'siting' a narrative and capturing that elusive



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sense of place that grounds it in particular setting.

Details of upcoming events will be posted on this page – <http://literarylondonrg.wordpress.com> – at the IES website, and on Twitter, so make sure you keep checking for updates.

All meetings are held at the Institute of English Studies, Senate House, University of London, Malet St, London, WC1E 7HU. For more information, contact Literary London or get in touch with the group's organisers, Peter Jones and Lara Atkin, directly at literarylondonrg@gmail.com

The next Reading Group will take place on Tue 18th Jun 2013
6.00-7.30pm - Senate House, Room 234

Speaker: Jane Rendell

6. [Events/Conferences of interest to LLS people](#)

Call for Papers:

London and the Americas 1492-1812

Society of Early Americanists
July 17-19, 2014
Kingston University, London



This off-year interdisciplinary conference of the Society of Early Americanists will examine London's connections with the Americas in the colonial era. It will focus on the role that Europe's largest urban center played in the structuring of an Atlantic world inscribed, amidst both war and peace, by networks of trade, travel, religion, kinship, cultural identification, captivity, slavery, and governance. At the same time, participants will consider how the Americas in particular shaped the geography, both actual and metaphorical, of early modern London (that is, the cities of London and Westminster), influencing its practices, hierarchies, infrastructures, modes of representation, arrangements of space, and movements of peoples. The focus will thus be on London as both recipient and source of transmission and interaction, connected imaginatively and actually with American regions under the control of other European powers as well as with its own colonies.



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Hosted by Brycchan Carey at the School of Humanities in Kingston University London, the conference will take place on the University's campus in South West London, a 25-minute train ride from central London and a short bus ride from Heathrow Airport. Housing options will include university dormitories as well as a diverse array of local hotels.

Proposals are welcome for individual papers or complete panels. Innovative panel formats are welcome along with traditional trios of 20-minute papers.

Please send proposals by September 1, 2013, to: Laura-stevens@utulsa.edu, bross@purdue.edu

- The London Literature Festival



The London Literature Festival is coming up at Southbank Centre on 20 May – 5 June and includes a star-studded line-up. Claire Tomalin, Rupert Everett, Barbara Kingsolver, Gavin Turk & Jarvis Cocker and Melvyn Bragg are just some of the big names you can hope to see. Plus there's a unique reading of Sylvia Plath's *Ariel* introduced by her daughter Frieda Hughes. For a full events listing visit: <http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whatson/festivals-series/london-literature-festival>.

- Clarissa Dalloway's Day: A women's history group event being held on 16 June 2013 starting at 11am.

Celebrating the 90th anniversary of when Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway* stepped out onto London streets, come and join us on our walk from Dean's Yard, Westminster to Regent's Park with readings from *Mrs Dalloway* on location.

We will end with a picnic and discussion led by Clara Jones, PhD student at Queen Mary, University of London.



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For more info please follow: www.womenshistorymonthuk.wordpress.com/about

7. [Notices of any new publications of interest to LLS people](#)

<p>Andrew Whitehead George Gissing, <i>The Nether World</i> Andrew Lane Arthur Conan Doyle, <i>The Sign of Four</i> Nadia Valman Israel Zangwill, <i>Children of the Ghetto</i> Angela V. John Henry W. Nevinson, <i>Neighbours of Ours</i> Sarah Wise Arthur Morrison, <i>A Child of the Jago</i> Anne Witchard Thomas Burke, <i>Limehouse Nights</i> Heather Reyes Virginia Woolf, <i>Mrs Dalloway</i> Zoë Fairbairns Pamela Hamsford Johnson, <i>This Bel Thy Centre</i> Rachel Lichtenstein Simon Blumenfeld, <i>Jew Boy</i> John King John Sommerfeld, <i>May Day</i> John Lucas Patrick Hamilton, <i>Hangover Square</i> Susan Alice Fischer Betty Miller, <i>Farewell Leicester Square</i> Jane Miller Elizabeth Bowen, <i>The Heat of the Day</i> Andy Croft Jack Lindsay, <i>Rising Tide</i> Bill Schwarz Sam Selvon, <i>The Lonely Londoners</i> Jerry White Colin MacInnes, <i>Absolute Beginners</i> Cathi Unsworth Lynne Reid Banks, <i>The L-Shaped Room</i> Ken Worpole Alexander Baron, <i>The Lowlife</i> Susie Thomas Hanif Kureishi, <i>The Buddha of Suburbia</i> Gregory Woods Neil Bartlett, <i>Ready to Catch Him Should He Fall</i> Lisa Gee Zadie Smith, <i>White Teeth</i> Valentine Cunningham Chris Petit, <i>The Hard Shoulder</i> Courtia Newland Iain Banks, <i>Dead Air</i> Sanchita Islam Monica Ali, <i>Brick Lane</i> Jon Day John Lanchester, <i>Capital</i> Philippa Thomas Zadie Smith, <i>NW</i></p> <p>Photographs by Bogdan Frymorgen</p> <p>Five Leaves Publications and New London Editions www.fiveleaves.co.uk</p>	<p>Edited by Andrew Whitehead and Jerry White</p>	<p><i>London Fictions</i> is a book about London, real and imagined. Two dozen contemporary writers, including novelists Cathi Unsworth and Courtia Newland and historians Sarah Wise and Rachel Lichtenstein, reflect on some of the novels and novelists that have helped define the modern city, from <i>Hangover Square</i> to <i>Brick Lane</i> and from George Gissing to Zadie Smith.</p> <p><i>London Fictions</i> is a book about East End boys and West End girls, bed-sit land and dockland, the homeless and the homesick, immigrants and emigrants. All human life is here — high-minded Hampstead and boozy Fitzrovia, the Jewish East End of old and the Banglatown of today. There's room for intellectual Bloomsbury and the Chinese Limehouse of old, Black London, Asian London, Irish London, Gay London, the working class novel of the 1930s and the multicultural, rich and, at the same time, economically depressed London of today.</p> <p>Andrew Whitehead is the editor of BBC World Service News and an editor of <i>History Workshop Journal</i>. He is the author of <i>A Mission in Kashmir</i> and runs the website www.londonfictions.com.</p> <p>Jerry White teaches London History at Birkbeck, University of London. His books include <i>London in the Twentieth Century: A City and Its People</i>, which won the Wolfson History Prize in 2002.</p> <p>Cover illustration: Belinda Davies, 'Guardian Angels' (1976), courtesy of Tower Hamlets Local History, Library and Archives</p> <p>284 pages large format flapped paperback 978-1-907869-66-2 £14.99</p> <p><i>London Fictions</i> is available from most independent bookshops in London including Housmans, Newham Bookshop, Eastside, Broadway and London Review Bookshop or direct from the publisher at www.fiveleaves.co.uk. Overseas orders are post free via www.bookdepository.co.uk.</p>
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