

LONDON'S VILLAGES IN QUESTION

THREE THURSDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

CLERKENWELL THURSDAY II SEPTEMBER

'Clerkenwell' refers to Clerks' Well in Farringdon Lane: *clerk* meaning literate person or clergyman. Clerkenwell Priory (1185) priory of the Monastic Order of the Knights Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem, was headquarters of the Hospitallers' Grand Prior: royal guests included Henry II, King John, Edward, Prince of Wales (later Edward I) and Eleanor of Castile, Henry IV and Henry V. Narrow streets and passages survive. Clerkenwell Green is surrounded by notable Georgian buildings: the former Sessions House, Welsh Charity School and Cowcross Street's small decorative Victorian commercial buildings.

MEET II am Farringdon Station ENDS 4 pm Farringdon Station

STOKE NEWINGTON THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

Edgar Allen Poe's 'misty-looking village of England', once a Neolithic axe-making centre, then Saxon entrepot, was 'Neutone' in the Domesday Book with 41 households on a manor owned by St Paul's. Site of the only Elizabethan church left in London, fine Georgian houses, a Friends' Meeting House of 1708, major George Gilbert Scott and Butterfield High Victorian churches, and an amazing castle built as a Pumping Station. Now one of the country's greatest concentrations of babies governed by their parents' online bible, stokeyparents.com!

MEET II am Stoke Newington Station ENDS 4 pm Stoke Newington Station

CAMDEN TOWN THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

A handful of buildings along a broad Roman army road became the 1st Earl of Camden's development, begun by Charles Pratt, a radical 18th century lawyer and politician, and exponentially expanded when Regent's Canal opened in 1816. Walter Sickert founded the Camden Town Group; Dickens, Dylan Thomas, Beryl Bainbridge, and Alan Bennett lived here; distinguished buildings include Georgian terraces, the Camden Palace Theatre, 1900 by Sprague, and 20c work by Goldfinger, Cullinan, Stirling and Terry Farrell.

MEET II am Camden Town Station ENDS 4 pm Camden Town Station

EACH DAY IS £65 MEMBERS, £75 NON-MEMBERS, OR £175 FOR ALL THREE.