

PRESS RELEASE: 15 JULY 2024



**TICKETS FOR THE CHELSEA HISTORY FESTIVAL 2024
GO ON SALE TODAY AND
THE NEWLY-LAUNCHED CHELSEA HERITAGE QUARTER OFFERS
VISITORS A UNIQUE LONDON HERITAGE EXPERIENCE**

The Chelsea History Festival returns to the historic Royal Hospital Road for its sixth year, from Wednesday 25 to Sunday 29 September 2024. Tickets go on sale today, 15 July, at www.chelseaheritagequarter.co.uk

London's annual celebration of history and heritage brings top authors and family fun to three spectacular venues: the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Chelsea and Chelsea Physic Garden.

Sponsored by Cadogan and supported by the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, this year's festival highlights include:

- **James Holland** tells the devastating Second World War story of the Battle of Monte Cassino in his talk '*Cassino '44*'
- **Zeinab Badawi** brings a vital new perspective in '*An African's History of Africa*'
- Look Up London's **Katie Wignall** introduces her unique walking tours to Chelsea
- **Terry Deary** (*Horrible Histories*) turns his irreverent style to Britain's enemies
- **Jonathan Dimbleby** relives the epic battles of the Eastern front in '*Endgame 1944*'
- **Estelle Paranque** celebrates Anne Boleyn and history's powerful women
- **Kate Mosse** reflects on her international bestselling historical fiction '*The Map of Bones*'
- **A Choral Celebration of Queen Mary II** in the Sir Christopher Wren Chapel at the Royal Hospital
- Special previews of the **Soane Stable Yard** at the Royal Hospital following a major refurbishment

Justin Maciejewski, Director of the National Army Museum commented: "We are thrilled to be announcing such an exciting line-up of speakers and events for 2024. The response to last year's Festival shows that people have a huge appetite for stories from the past. All the partners of the Chelsea History Festival are united in believing that history is vital to understanding our lives today, and the Festival is an entertaining and exciting way of exploring the many aspects of our heritage."

This year the National Army Museum, the Royal Hospital, Chelsea Physic Garden and Cadogan are announcing their new collaboration – the Chelsea Heritage Quarter.

The Chelsea Heritage Quarter is London's new heritage destination and brings together four remarkable institutions to tell a unique story of London and Britain from 1660 to the present day. Including magnificent architecture, military history and London's oldest botanic garden all situated in the heart of historic and picturesque Chelsea, the Quarter presents a fascinating and wide-ranging experience for those interested in exploring Britain's history.

Visitors will be able to book a special preview of the new Soane Stable Yard at Royal Hospital Chelsea, which opens to the public in October. The Soane Stable Yard is a seminal example of Sir John Soane's architecture, built in 1814-1817. Following a major refurbishment, with support from the National Lottery Heritage Lottery Fund, this is the first time in the Royal Hospital's 330-year history that the public will have free access to this part of the site seven days a week. The Soane Stable Yard houses a free, interactive museum on the history of the Chelsea Pensioners and the Royal Hospital, a Veterans Outreach Centre, a cafe, shop and Post Office. It will also be the starting point for tours of the wider Royal Hospital site, led by Chelsea Pensioners, including the beautiful Wren Chapel and the Great Hall where Pensioners still dine today.

The partners of the Chelsea Heritage Quarter look forward to co-programming activities and events for visitors throughout the year and contributing to a Chelsea that is creative, vibrant and enjoyable for all. Programmes will be centred around heritage and the Chelsea History Festival will be the flagship annual programme of the Chelsea Heritage Quarter each September.

Sue Medway, Director of the Chelsea Physic Garden, commented "We are delighted to be launching the Chelsea Heritage Quarter today. There is so much to do and see on Royal Hospital Road and by working together on programmes and events the Chelsea Heritage Quarter can ensure people make the most of their visit to the area. As custodians of a shared heritage there is much synergy in our work today and we all share a powerful mission to explore the past, nurture the present and shape the future".

David Richmond, CEO of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, said "We have long wanted to open this part of our site and create a more joined-up heritage experience for visitors to Royal Hospital Road. The opening of the Soane Stable Yard allows us to do that for the first time. We are hugely excited to start welcoming visitors to share this newly-refurbished space with the public and provide a new heritage destination in the heart of Chelsea".

Hugh Seaborn, CEO of Cadogan, commented "The Chelsea Heritage Quarter is one of the UK's most remarkable destinations, telling a unique story of London and Britain from the 17th century to the present day. Chelsea is a vibrant, exciting and picturesque place with a fascinating history and we are delighted to spotlight and celebrate our characterful neighbourhood with the launch of the Chelsea Heritage Quarter".

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors:

Press Contact:

For further information, to arrange interviews, request press tickets and high-resolution images please contact Lisa Thiel at Sutton

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Listings

Festival Dates:

Wednesday 25 – Sunday 29 September 2024.

Locations:

- Chelsea Physic Garden, 66 Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4HS
- National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4HT
- Royal Hospital Chelsea, Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 4SR

Website:

www.chelseaheritagequarter.co.uk

#ChelseaHistoryFest

#ChelseaHeritageQuarter

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Chelsea History Festival

Founded in 2019, the Chelsea History Festival is a partnership between the National Army Museum, the Royal Hospital Chelsea and Chelsea Physic Garden. Its aim is to entertain, educate and inspire through local, national and global history. Every year, the Chelsea History Festival brings the past to life through a programme of events, featuring a brilliant blend of storytellers and performers from different walks of life. The Festival creates a stage in Chelsea, along the historic Royal Hospital Road, for world class speakers and authors to celebration history.

National Army Museum

The National Army Museum shares the history and heritage of our soldiers and their service in the Army, across the globe and down the centuries. Through our collections and research, we explore the history of the Army from its origins to the present day. We aim to engage and inspire everyone with the stories of our soldiers and how their service shapes our world; past present and future.

nam.ac.uk

Royal Hospital Chelsea

The Royal Hospital Chelsea is the home of the iconic veterans of the British Army, the Chelsea Pensioners. We offer excellent accommodation, comradeship and the highest standards of care in recognition of their loyal service to the nation. Any former soldier of the British Army over the age of 65, who is facing spending their advanced years alone, can apply for residence as a Chelsea Pensioner. Some 300 army veterans live at the Royal Hospital today, including those who have served in Korea, the Falkland Islands,

Cyprus, Northern Ireland and World War II. Others may not have served in campaigns, but all understand what it means to be a soldier and the potential sacrifice that it entails. The Royal Hospital is a Grade I and II listed site, a beautiful architectural legacy left to us by Charles II and Sir Christopher Wren. Maintenance of the site continues today with ongoing restoration work to ensure that this legacy lives on into the future.

chelsea-pensioners.co.uk

Chelsea Physic Garden

Chelsea Physic Garden is London's oldest botanic garden. Founded in 1673, it turned 350 in 2023. It has been a teaching garden for all of these 350 years and the core principles of discovery, learning and wellbeing are still realised today through its charitable activities. Within the Garden visitors can find over 4500 species of edible, useful and medicinal plants that help to tell the story of humanity's relationship with plants. The Garden is an independent charity which relies on public support to ensure it can achieve its purpose of education and public access. Chelsea Physic Garden offers a year-round programme of educational activities, walks, talks, tours and workshops.

chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk

About the Cadogan Estate

One of London's largest great estates, Cadogan owns and manages over 90 acres across Chelsea including shops, restaurants, hotels, cultural attractions, homes and gardens, as well as public spaces such as Duke of York Square. As a family business Cadogan takes a long-term perspective: its stewardship of the neighbourhood centres on curating Chelsea's historic vibrancy, as well as investing in environmental and social initiatives to ensure a better quality of life for the community now, and for generations to come.

cadogan.co.uk