

## MEMBER EVENTS Continued

MACBETH AND THE NORTH **BERWICK WITCH TRIALS** Jon Kaneko-James Tuesday, 12 April 2016 6pm - 7.30pm

Members' Room

Shakespeare's Macbeth

follows its protagonist's fall from trusted retainer to insane and degraded usurper, and celebrates the role of James VI's adopted ancestor Banquo and the inevitable victory of rightful kingship. However, there is another story within the well-known plot. During the scene when the witches first appear there is a reference to a fraught and bloody phase of James's kingship, the North Berwick Witch Trials of 1591. Jon Kaneko-James examines the allusion to the trials, the influence on Shakespeare of the sensational pamphlet News from Scotland and the resonance between the character of Macbeth and

# **CHARLES DICKENS MUSEUM TOUR**

James's real-life attempted

Farl of Bothwell.

usurper, Francis Stewart, 5th

Tuesday, 19 April 2016 5.30pm - 7.30pm Charles Dickens Museum, 48 Doughty Street, London WC1N 2LX

#### Free for members

Visit the only surviving London family home of literary great and former London Library member Charles Dickens, the house where Dickens wrote some of his best-loved novels, including Oliver Twist. As part of The London Library's 175th anniversary celebrations, we invite you to step back in time to 1837 and experience



Charles Dickens Museum, 48 Doughty Street. Photo: Siobhan Doran. Photography © Charles Dickens

Dickens's home preserved in all its Victorian finery. The evening will begin with drinks followed by a tour of the elegant townhouse, taking in a collection that includes rare editions and original manuscripts.

Please note the tour includes walking up stairs, with very limited lift access. If you have any mobility problems, please inform us when you book and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

### SOME LIKE IT VERY HOT: THE VICTORIAN TURKISH BATH

Malcolm Shifrin Tuesday, 7 June 2016 6pm - 7.30pm Members' Room

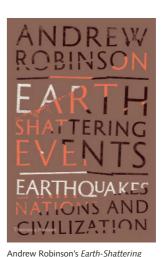
Malcolm Shifrin brings to life the hidden history of the Victorian Turkish bath, the dry hot air bath that sprang up in hundreds of establishments across Britain. Ireland and beyond in the second half of the nineteenth century. The talk, based on Shifrin's book Victorian Turkish Baths (2015), will trace the rise and decline of this popular

Victorian institution (more accurately called the Irish-Roman bath) and include an account of the worldrenowned Jermyn Street Hamman, famously used as a short-story setting by Trollope and, until it was destroyed in the London Blitz, a mere stone's throw away from The London Library.

Historian and former librarian Malcolm Shifrin has written extensively on the history and sociology of the bath and its impact on popular culture through the decades.

### LONDON, 1750: THE YEAR OF EARTHOUAKES Andrew Robinson Tuesday, 21 June 2016 6pm - 7.30pm Members' Room

In 1750 England was shaken and stirred by earthquakes which damaged buildings in central London, including the towers of Westminster Abbey. They also created panic among Londoners. A rumour that the city was about to



Events: Earthquakes, Nations and Civilization (2016)

be destroyed caused an evacuation of the capital by the wealthy, and a spate of religious sermons and tracts urging repentance. But the natural philosophers of the Royal Society were fascinated and began the scientific study of earthquakes, and so seismology began in stable England, not in seismic Italy, Japan or California. Writer Andrew Robinson tells the history of British earthquakes and describes what happened in London in 1750 in the words of witnesses.

Andrew Robinson is the author of more than 25 books on the arts and sciences. His most recent book. Earth-Shattering Events: Earthquakes, Nations and Civilization, will be published in April 2016.

ROSES AND RAIN: THE LIFE AND WORK OF JAMES **ELROY FLECKER** Heather Walker Tuesday, 5 July 2016 6pm - 7.30pm Members' Room

Writer and journalist Heather Walker discusses her 2006 book Roses and Rain, the biography of poet, novelist and playwright James Elroy Flecker. She will discuss Flecker's life and work, from his career in the Levant Consular Service and marriage to Greek poetess Hellé, to his attempts to overcome ill-health, homesickness and lack of money and establish himself as a writer. Walker's research provides an insight not only into Flecker's short life but also the lives of his contemporaries including Rupert Brooke, Ronald Firbank and Lawrence of Arabia.

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