

# PHOENIX RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS PROGRAMME Jan - Jun 2025

13<sup>th</sup> Jan ***Origins and Residents of the CPDC*** - a talk by **John Hickman**  
What do W G Grace, Thomas Crapper, and Williams Stanley and Walker have in common? They all lie in nearby Crystal Palace District, now Beckenham, Cemetery. We know **John** as a popular speaker, but his cemetery tours are so fascinating that he has been called "the man who brings the dead to life". This new talk builds upon the research he undertook for his tours.

10<sup>th</sup> Feb ***Humour is Good for Your Health*** – a talk\* by **Geraldine Ann Ford**  
Author and poet **Geraldine** has quite a following in person in southeast London and Kent as well as on radio and the web for her performances of her humorous poems and monologues. Just the thing to chase away those mid-winter blues!

10<sup>th</sup> Mar ***From a Hard Place to a Rock*** - a talk by **Timandra Slade**  
When **Timandra** sifted through documents she found in an old suitcase she was surprised to find that they told the remarkable story of two soldiers, her father and his cousin, who were captured during the war but then escaped and made their perilous way through occupied territory to Gibraltar.

14<sup>th</sup> Apr ***The Life of John Betjeman*** - a talk by **Nigel Platts**  
Betjeman is, many would say, England's best-loved poet. Less well-known is the fact that he led an unusual and interesting life with Croydon connexions. **Nigel** spoke to us on *Fitzroy* in 2022, and is eager to share his latest discoveries.

12<sup>th</sup> May ***From Norwood to Hollywood: the Oscar-winner who Dressed the Stars*** - a talk by **David Morgan**  
What could have been more glamorous than Hollywood in its Golden Age? But who created that glamour? Only an Oscar winning girl from an Upper Norwood family! Discover her remarkable story from local historian **David**.

9<sup>th</sup> Jun ***Shakespeare in Lambeth*** - a talk by **Jon Newman**  
Have you ever felt that Shakespeare is fine, but that his plays could do with, well, a little livening-up? If so, you and the early 1800s south bank theatre impresarios are of one mind. Lambeth Borough Archivist **Jon** is compiling a new talk specially for PRA based on his recent exhibition. *Othello* on horseback? *Macbeth* with a chorus of 50 singing witches? Tragic death scenes alternating with raucous comedy routines? You couldn't make it up!

**The Phoenix Retirement Association** meets at **2 for 2.30pm** on the second Monday of each month at the Phoenix Community Centre in front of Sainsburys, Westow Street, Upper Norwood, London, SE19 3AF, and offers high quality illustrated talks, congenial company and tea, cakes and biscuits!  
Admission fee: **£2**; annual membership **£15**. Nov 2024 \* Not illustrated