

# PHOENIX RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS PROGRAMME January - June 2026

Jan 2026

12<sup>th</sup> Jan ***Jane Morris*** - a talk by **John Hawks**

Jane Morris was the Pre-Raphaelites' icon, famed for many portraits by her lover Dante Gabriel Rossetti. Merton Abbey expert **John** reveals she was 'not just a pretty face', but highly talented in her own right.

9<sup>th</sup> Feb ***The South Norwood Plaques Trail*** by **John Hickman**

**John** is well-known to us for his research into and colourful descriptions of Norwood characters. Discover the stories of local residents who have been commemorated in the blue plaques of the area.

9<sup>th</sup> Mar ***To the Edge of the World: the Trans-Siberian Railway***  
- a talk by **Christian Wolmar**

Journalist, railway historian and London Mayoral candidate **Christian** returns to tell us the dramatic story and impact of the world's longest and most famous railway line as only he can.

13<sup>th</sup> Apr ***Croydonopolis*** - a talk by **Will Noble**

"*Croydonopolis* tells the amazing story of this much-maligned town, whose only fault was to be too far ahead of the curve, and always go for broke." **Will** is the Editor of the popular *Londonist* website and lives in Croydon. This is his first book.

11<sup>th</sup> May ***Lest We Forget: War & Peace in 100 British Monuments*** -  
a talk by **Tessa Dunlop**

Dynamic TV historian **Tessa** returns from an epic UK wide quest to uncover the dramatic human stories behind our memorials.

8<sup>th</sup> Jun ***US Presidents in Bits and Pieces*** - a talk by **Joe Mendell**

Hailing originally from Louisiana, **Joe** has spent most of his life in England but retains a strong interest in his native land, gaining quite a following here for his humorous and provocative American talks.

**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, offering quality illustrated talks, congenial company and tea and cake! Annual subscription £15; visitors welcome, fee £2 including refreshments.