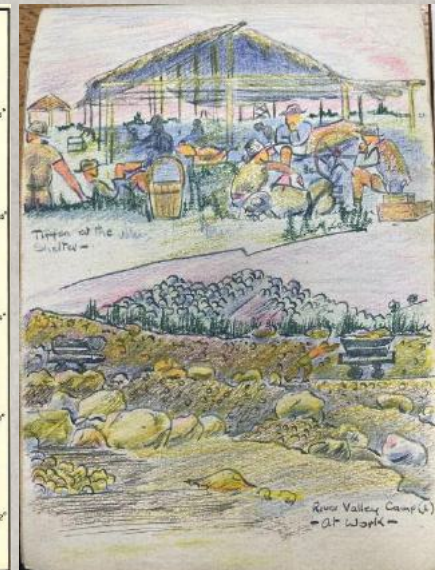
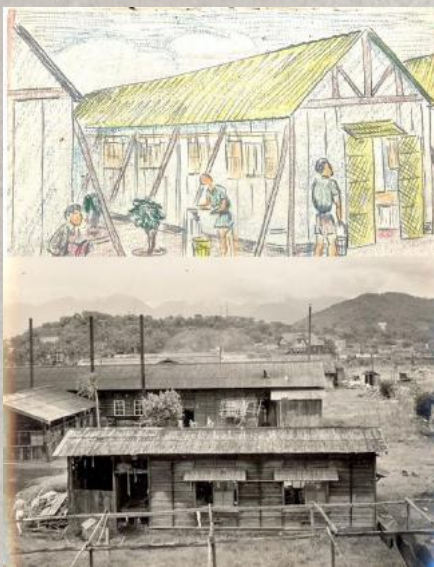




**You are warmly invited to attend
our annual George Blair Memorial Lecture,
at Millbank (*directions below*), also on Zoom
1830hrs Friday 25 October 2024**

**Our guest speaker, Professor Katherine Venables, presents
'George Blair and other PoW doctors in Taiwan in the Second World War'**



There is a large literature on the Allied prisoners-of-war of the Japanese in the Second World War in which medical history, military history and life-writing overlap, but it tends to focus on a few camps, such as those on the Thai-Burma railway. Taiwan was a Japanese colony and is a microcosm of Far East imprisonment because of its variety of camps, including those designated for prisoner labour in mining, construction and agriculture. Katherine's research identified forty-five doctors who spent at least part of their captivity on Taiwan, including Captain George Blair RAMC. They were from the American, British, Dutch and Australian forces, with a high proportion of senior officers, and her Memorial Lecture will present aspects of their diverse experience, as both doctors and captives.

(See our [FEPOW Doctors](#) and our [George Blair Memorial Lecture](#) sections, for more information)

**Proceeds will be donated to the speaker's chosen charity,
the National Memorial Arboretum.**

**Prior registration required. Refreshments 1730hrs, supper nearby at 2000hrs.
All are welcome. Register [HERE](#) or via www.friendsofmillbank.org**





Our guest speaker

Professor Katherine M Venables MD PhD FRCP



Kate Venables is an Emeritus Reader at the University of Oxford and an Emeritus Fellow of St Cross College, Oxford. She qualified from St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School and became an academic physician. Before moving to Oxford she worked at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the National Heart and Lung Institute (Imperial College) and spent a sabbatical year at Harvard School of Public Health. Most of her research has been on aetiological epidemiology, in particular on occupational asthma.

At Oxford she led a large study of mortality and cancer incidence in military veterans exposed during the Second World War and the Cold War to low levels of chemical warfare agents in trials at Porton Down.

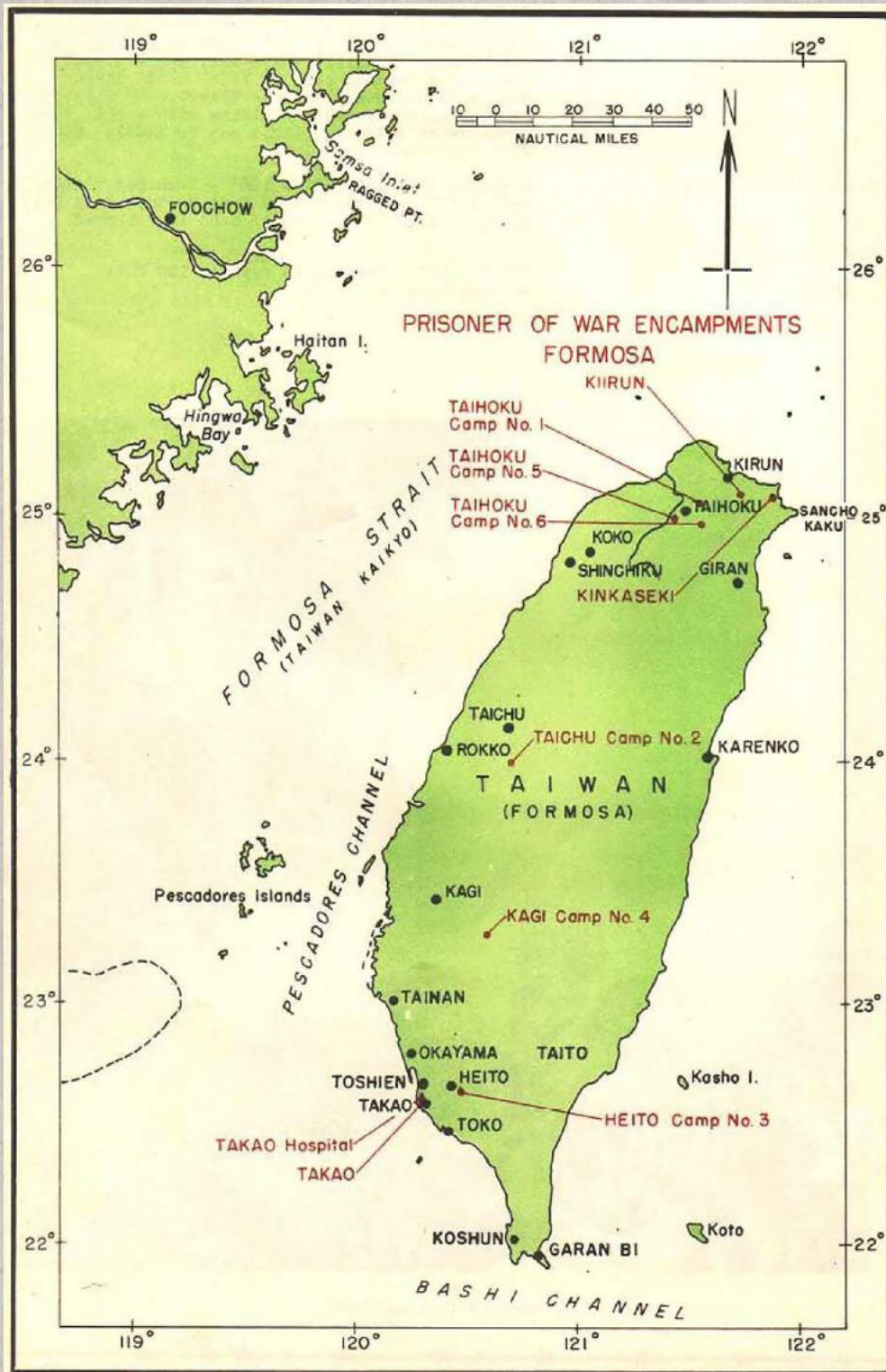
She is also a writer and her published poems and short stories often have a medical theme. In 2022 she was awarded a PhD from the life-writing programme at Goldsmiths, University of London which incorporated history, biography and memoir. Papers related to the thesis have appeared in medical history journals, and short essays in literary journals, and this work continues.

She has just published a biography of Captain George Blair RAMC in the Journal of Medical Biography, see [Captain George Blair RAMC: A doctor prisoner of the Japanese in Singapore and Taiwan in the Second World War - Katherine M Venables, 2024 \(sagepub.com\)](https://www.sagepub.com/journals/medical-biography)





Selected images



Prisoner of War Encampments in Formosa (Taiwan)



Friends of Millbank



The Blair Brothers in better times (John on left, George on right)



Liberation of POW Camp, Taiwan



In memory of those who did not come home (POW Cemetery at Shirakawa Camp),



info@friendsofmillbank.org



www.friendsofmillbank.org

Friends of Millbank



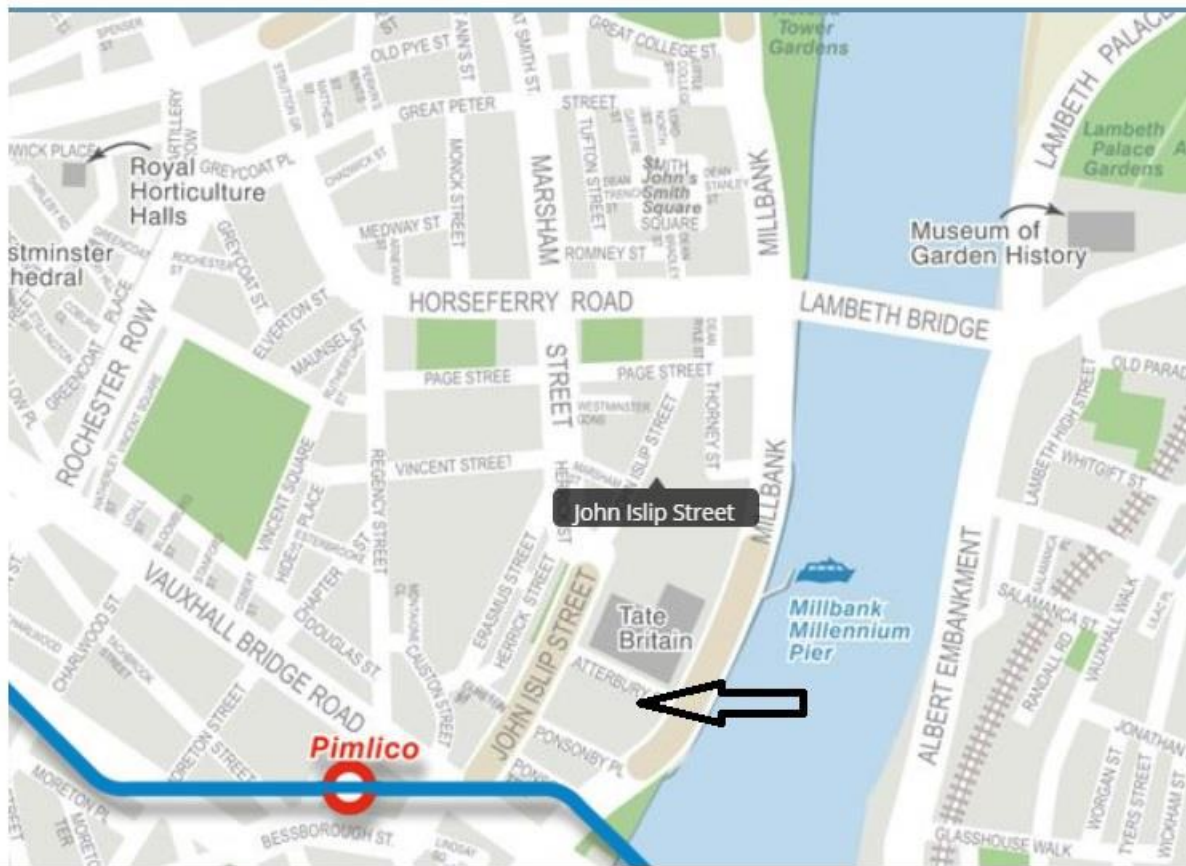
Directions for Millbank (Chelsea College of Arts, formerly the Royal Army Medical College)

The entrance to Reception is via Atterbury Street, opposite Tate Britain (arrowed on map below).

We meet for light refreshments at Reception from 1730hrs. The talk commences at 1830hrs.

Guests and non-members are very welcome. Everyone attending the talk, whether in person at Millbank or online via Zoom, is asked to register beforehand via www.friendsofmillbank.org

LondonTown.com - John Islip Street Location Map



info@friendsofmillbank.org



www.friendsofmillbank.org