



You are warmly invited to attend  
our June Lecture, on a nautical theme,  
at Millbank (*directions below*), also on Zoom  
**1830hrs Friday 28 June 2024**

Our guest speakers, Captain Martin Reed RD\*  
and Ship's Medical Officer, Dr Susie West, present  
**'Falklands War and SS Canberra'**



*SS Canberra returning to Southampton Water, 11 July 1982*

Proceeds will be donated to the speakers' chosen charity,  
the South Atlantic Medical Association 1982 ([SAMA 82](#)).

Prior registration required. Refreshments 1730hrs, supper nearby at 2000hrs.

All are welcome. Register [HERE](#) or via [www.friendsofmillbank.org](http://www.friendsofmillbank.org)

Do come also to our 'Battle of Waterloo' guided tour by Anne-Marie Craven,  
National Army Museum, 1345hrs. Register above.





## Our guest speakers

### Captain Martin Reed RD\*



Captain Martin Reed RD\* served in the Merchant Navy from 1961 – 2000, from Apprentice to Captain. He was selected as Navigator for P & O's first purpose-built Cruise Ship in 1972. He was Chief Officer for SS *CANBERRA* during the Falklands Conflict 1982. He also served in the Royal Naval Reserve from 1961 – 1998, rising in rank from Midshipman to Captain. Following the Falklands War he became Senior Naval Officer for Ships Taken Up from Trade (STUFT).

On retirement he received a dormant Appointment as Senior Naval Advisor.

He was awarded the Reserve Decoration in 1975, receiving a second award in 1985.

Following retirement he was appointed Chairman of the South Atlantic Medical Association 1982 ([SAMA 82](#)), the Charity for Veterans of the Falklands Conflict, from 2002 – 2007, and is now Life Vice-President. He is a Fellow of the Nautical Institute, Member of the Royal Institute of Navigation, and Past Master of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners. He has also served as Parish Councillor, Chairman Village Hall, Chairman Thame Area Forum, and Trustee Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association.

Presently he is Trustee of the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel (in the grounds of Pangbourne College, near Reading, Berkshire; <https://falklands-chapel.org.uk/>); Chairman and Trustee, Friends of St Mary's Church, Cerne Abbas; and Assistant Flood Warden Cerne Abbas.

Martin Reed's Interview for the Imperial War Museum is at  
<https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/80035292>



# Friends of Millbank



and Ship's Medical Officer, Dr Susie West



*Assisting at surgery on board SS Canberra, 1982*

Susie West is a retired General Practitioner. She qualified in 1978 and became a ship's doctor, sailing with P&O Cruises in 1980. After the invasion of the Falkland Islands in April 1982 she volunteered to remain with SS *Canberra* when the ship was requisitioned to form part of the Task Force to reclaim the Islands. She then joined the Royal Naval Reserve and served until 2010.

You can listen to an interview with Susie West and read her account on Forces Net:  
<https://www.forces.net/falklands-1982/civilian-po-doctor-who-treated-wounded-troops-during-falklands-conflict>

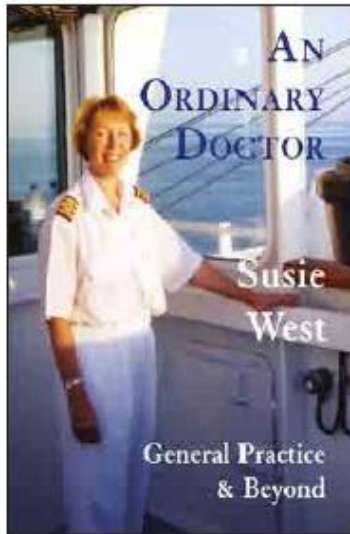
Her memoir of her time on board ship is titled '*An Ordinary Doctor*' (see below).



info@friendsofmillbank.org



www.friendsofmillbank.org



## New Book Information

### An Ordinary Doctor

*General Practice & Beyond*

Susie West

14 July 2022

Memoir / Medicine | £14.99

978-1-3999-2703-1 / 192pp / 8pp colour / BIC: BM; MB

Order from:

<https://www.cpiyourway.co.uk/uStore/44/Category/1941/Susie-West>

also direct from author, Amazon, Gardners

or email: [anordinarydoctor2022@gmail.com](mailto:anordinarydoctor2022@gmail.com)

*"A thoroughly good read, exciting, funny, thoughtful and full of soul."*

Robert Fox MBE, BBC Radio Falklands Campaign, Defence Ed. *Evening Standard*

This memoir starts with Susie's life as a twin in a family of four girls in east London. Her twin then falls ill, giving Susie contact with the medical profession. She decides to become a nurse, at first never considering a career as doctor.

After a degree in biology, she starts medical school and discovers the excitement of travel. She becomes a ship's doctor, and is working on board P&O's cruise ship *SS Canberra* when the Falklands Conflict breaks out in April 1982. Volunteering to stay with the ship, now requisitioned as a troop transport and hospital, she sails for the South Atlantic. *An Ordinary Doctor* contains extensive and revealing excerpts from the remarkable diaries she kept, recording the action from the heart of the war.

Peace declared, Susie reverts to being an ordinary GP, but she mixes this with work as a doctor in the Royal Naval Reserve and with the Metropolitan Police.

SUSIE WEST was born into an east London family in 1950 and was drawn to medicine from an early age. She has two adult children and lives in north London.

*An Ordinary Doctor* is her first book.



# Friends of Millbank



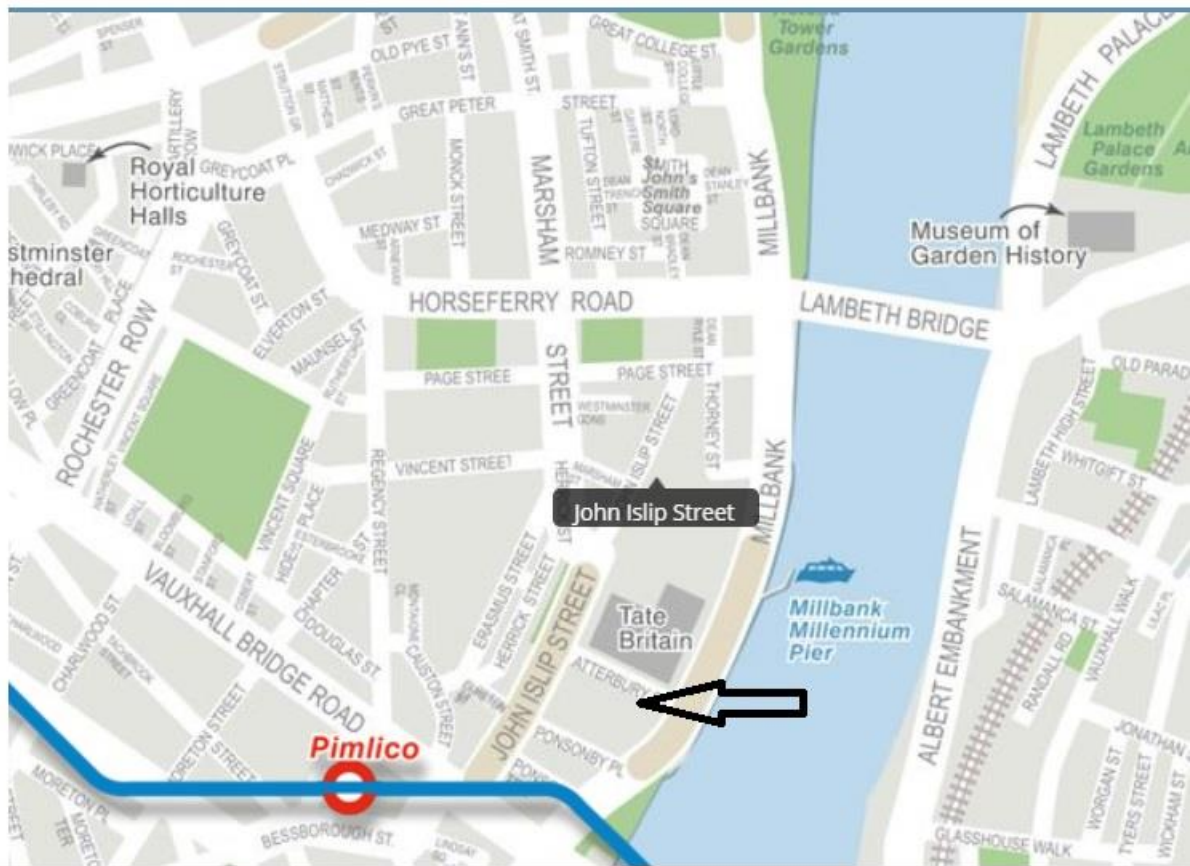
## Directions for Millbank (Chelsea College of Arts, formerly the Royal Army Medical College)

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](http://www.friendsofmillbank.org)

### LondonTown.com - John Islip Street Location Map



info@friendsofmillbank.org



www.friendsofmillbank.org