



You are warmly invited to attend
our first Talk of the New Year, don't miss it,
at Millbank (and on Zoom),
Friday 30 January 2026

AGM 1730-1815hrs; Talk (open to all) 1830-1930hrs

Our guest speaker, Professor Martin Bricknell, presents
**Strategic Medical Lessons from the 20th Century to inform the 21st;
The contemporary relevance of military medical history.**



SOURCES AND RESOURCES – 20th Century



Learning from the recent past, lessons for the present. Are we prepared for the next war?

In this talk, Martin Bricknell will discuss how the lessons from the large scale wars of the 20th Century can identify common themes which might apply to the preparations needed in response to contemporary security challenges.

He aims to show how official histories and other documents concerning the Second Boer War, World War 1, World War 2 and subsequent wars provide insights from our predecessors about the strategic leadership of UK military medical services during war. Besides their intrinsic interest, these themes could be used as a checklist for the prioritisation of staff effort in response to the recommendations from the 2025 Strategic Defence Review.¹

Proceeds will support the Museum of Military Medicine

Prior registration required. Refreshments from 1700hrs; Supper at 2000hrs
Register [HERE](#) or via www.friendsofmillbank.org

¹ Ministry of Defence. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-strategic-defence-review-2025-making-britain-safer-secure-at-home-strong-abroad> (pdf download and online read)





Our guest speaker



**Lieutenant General (Rtd) Professor Martin CM Bricknell CB OStJ PhD DM
MBA MA MedSci
Professor of Conflict, Health and Military Medicine**

Professor Bricknell is Professor of Conflict, Health and Military Medicine at King's College London, commencing in 2019. Previously he served 34 years in the UK Defence Medical Services, finishing as the Surgeon General of the UK Armed Forces. He undertook operational tours in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Balkans with numerous additional overseas assignments. He was awarded the Companion of the Order of Bath, the Order of St John and the US Bronze Star. He is a specialist in General Practice, Public Health and Occupational Medicine.

His multiple academic papers cover: how organisations learn, care pathways in military healthcare, military healthcare ethics, civil-military relations in health, and the political economy of health in conflict. He convenes a MA module in Global Health, Security and War, and co-convenes a MA module in Conflict and Health.

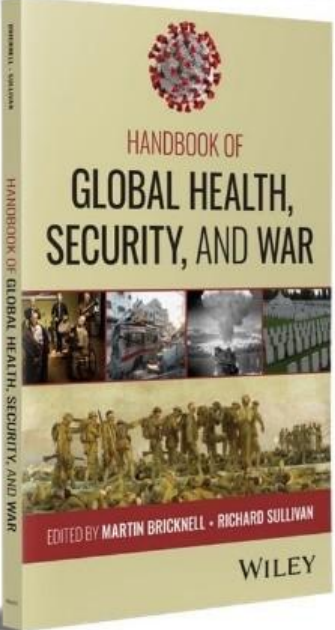
He is also Deputy Director of the KCL Centre for Military Ethics, Veterans Adviser for the King Edward VII Charity, Editor-in-Chief of the Military Medical Corps Worldwide Almanac, and on the editorial board for the Journal of Military and Veterans Health. He is a life member of Friends of Millbank and has been our President for two years. In 2025, he was a member of the UK Strategic Defence Review panel on the Defence Medical Services.

We are privileged to have Professor Bricknell commence our programme of talks for 2026.





Recommended reading



HANDBOOK OF GLOBAL HEALTH, SECURITY, AND WAR

Martin Bricknell and Richard Sullivan (Editors)

ISBN: 978-1-394-32609-9

Publication: September 2025

Price: £34.99 / \$44.99

An insightful and contemporary review of current global health threats and their implications for security and stability.

A primer for humanitarians, military health professionals, and security practitioners.

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DISCOUNT**

until 31/12/25



Professor Bricknell holds two Doctorates and three Masters degrees. He has published over 150 academic papers across military medical subjects.

His PhD thesis 'Managing Health Services support to Military Operations' is on our website, at <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/dmswar/>

See: Martin CM Bricknell and David Vassallo 'Researching Modern Military Medical History' *Topics in the History of Medicine*. 2023; Volume 3: 278-295. <https://bshm.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/thom-v3-278-295.pdf>

His full biography and publication list is at <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/people/martin-bricknell>

See further recommended reading below



info@friendsofmillbank.org



www.friendsofmillbank.org



Further recommended reading

Strategic Defence Review 2025

The world has changed.
The threats we now face are more serious and less predictable than at any time since the end of the Cold War.
This Review sets out a vision to **make Britain safer, secure at home and strong abroad.**

Contributions to the Review
8000 responses
1700 contributions from individuals, political parties, and other organisations
200 industry contributions
150 experts in their fields

A landmark shift in our deterrence and defence:

- Move to warfighting readiness**
With a more lethal 'integrated force' equipped for the future and strengthened homeland defence.
- Engine for growth**
Driving jobs and prosperity through a new partnership with industry, radical procurement reforms, and backing UK businesses.
- 'NATO first'**
Stepping up on European security by leading in NATO, with strengthened nuclear, new tech, and updated conventional capabilities.
- UK innovation driven by lessons from Ukraine**
Harnessing drones, data, and digital warfare to make our Armed Forces stronger and safer.
- Whole-of-society approach**
Wider participation in national resilience and renewing the Nation's contract with those who serve.

The UK's Strategic Defence Review 2025

Read online here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-strategic-defence-review-2025-making-britain-safer-secure-at-home-strong-abroad/the-strategic-defence-review-2025-making-britain-safer-secure-at-home-strong-abroad> (Published 5 June 2025)



Friends of Millbank



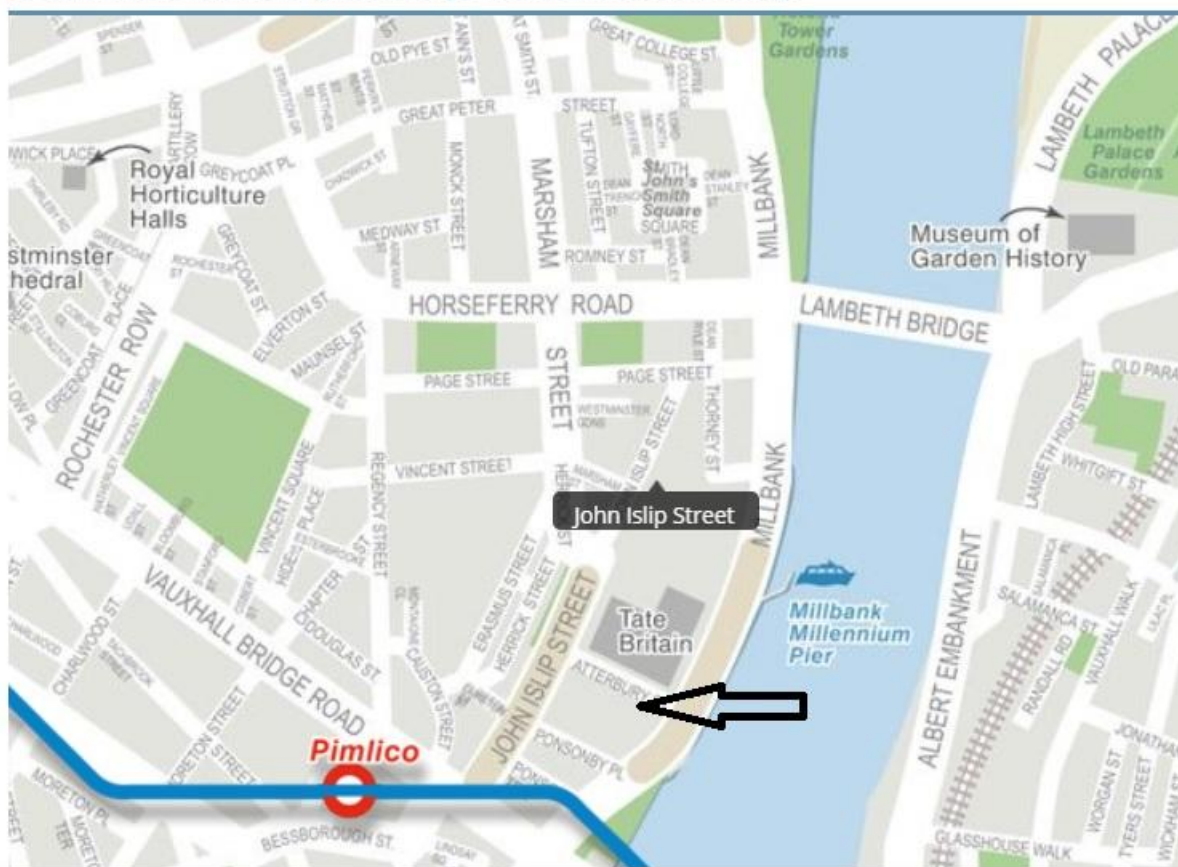
Directions for Millbank (Chelsea College of Arts, formerly the Royal Army Medical College)

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

We meet for light refreshments at Reception from 1700hrs. 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 requested to register beforehand via www.friendsofmillbank.org

LondonTown.com - John Islip Street Location Map



info@friendsofmillbank.org



www.friendsofmillbank.org