



**You are warmly invited to attend  
our November Lecture,  
at Millbank (*directions below*), also on Zoom  
1830hrs Friday 28 November 2025**

**Our speaker, Sarah Paterson, presents**

**A Record of Toil and Sacrifice: The Women's Work Collection at the  
Imperial War Museum and First World War Female Commemoration**



This is a fascinating talk, with lots of great illustrations. The Imperial War Museum was established in 1917 to provide both a memorial and a place of record for all types of activity that were occurring in Great Britain's first Total War. Women were playing such an important role in the War that a committee dedicated to collecting information and material about their activities was set up. It worked with great energy and enthusiasm between 1917 and 1920, and thanks to its efforts an excellent collection was acquired that is still an essential research tool for anyone interested in women's history in the First World War. This talk will provide an overview of the collection and concentrate on its efforts to ensure that women who had died in service between 1914 and 1919 were commemorated. It includes some stories of both famous and little-known women who worked in medical, nursing and welfare capacities and lost their lives during this period.

**Proceeds will be donated to the speaker's chosen charity,  
The Imperial War Museum, <https://www.iwm.org.uk/>**

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





## Our speaker



**Sarah Paterson**

Sarah Paterson is currently a curator in the First World War and Early Twentieth Century Team at the Imperial War Museum in London. She began working at the museum in 1988 as a Librarian, and has been a member of Friends of Millbank since meeting the much-missed Frank Davis, our inimitable previous chairman, when he visited IWM in 2016.

Sarah has written widely on military genealogy, and is the author of *Tracing your Prisoner of War Ancestors: The First World War: A Guide for Family Historians*. Most recently she has written the introduction to *Most Secret: MI9 Escape and Evasion Devices*.

Sarah is the IWM specialist on the Women's Work Collection and has a great interest in the role of women in the military, particularly in nursing and medical capacities. Other interests include military families, prisoners of war, social military history and the British Occupation of Germany after both world wars.

### Recommended reading:

1. [The collection that tells the story of women's work in the First World War – Museum Crush](#)
2. [A Closer Look At The Women's Work Collection | Imperial War Museums](#)
3. [Women In The First World War - 5 Inspirational Stories | IWM](#)
4. [Find an object | Imperial War Museums](#)



# Friends of Millbank



Some select images



[IWM ART 2624](#). William Hatherell (1855-1928)

*The Funeral Service of Edith Cavell at Westminster Abbey, 15 May 1919.*



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IWM

[IWM \(MOD 34\)](#). Dr Elsie Inglis operating in a hospital tent in Serbia.

(Elsie Inglis died on her return from Russia on 26 November 1917)

Model diorama originally made by Miss Nell Foy but then remade by Mrs Meredith Williams.

Dimensions: Depth 565 mm., Height 505 mm., Weight 47 kg, Width 625 mm.

For additional information on Dr Elsie Maud Inglis and the Scottish Women's Hospitals, see:

1. [Women In The First World War - 5 Inspirational Stories | IWM](#)
2. Wendy Moore. *Jack and Eve: Two Suffragettes in Love and at War*. (Atlantic Books, 2025)
3. M.E. Cornelis (Medical Student at Erasmus University, Rotterdam, The Netherlands):  
[The Scottish Women's Hospitals: the first World War and the careers of early medical women](#)  
Medicine, Conflict and Survival 2020, 36 (2): 174–194. (Open Access)



# Friends of Millbank



## Directions for our talks at Millbank

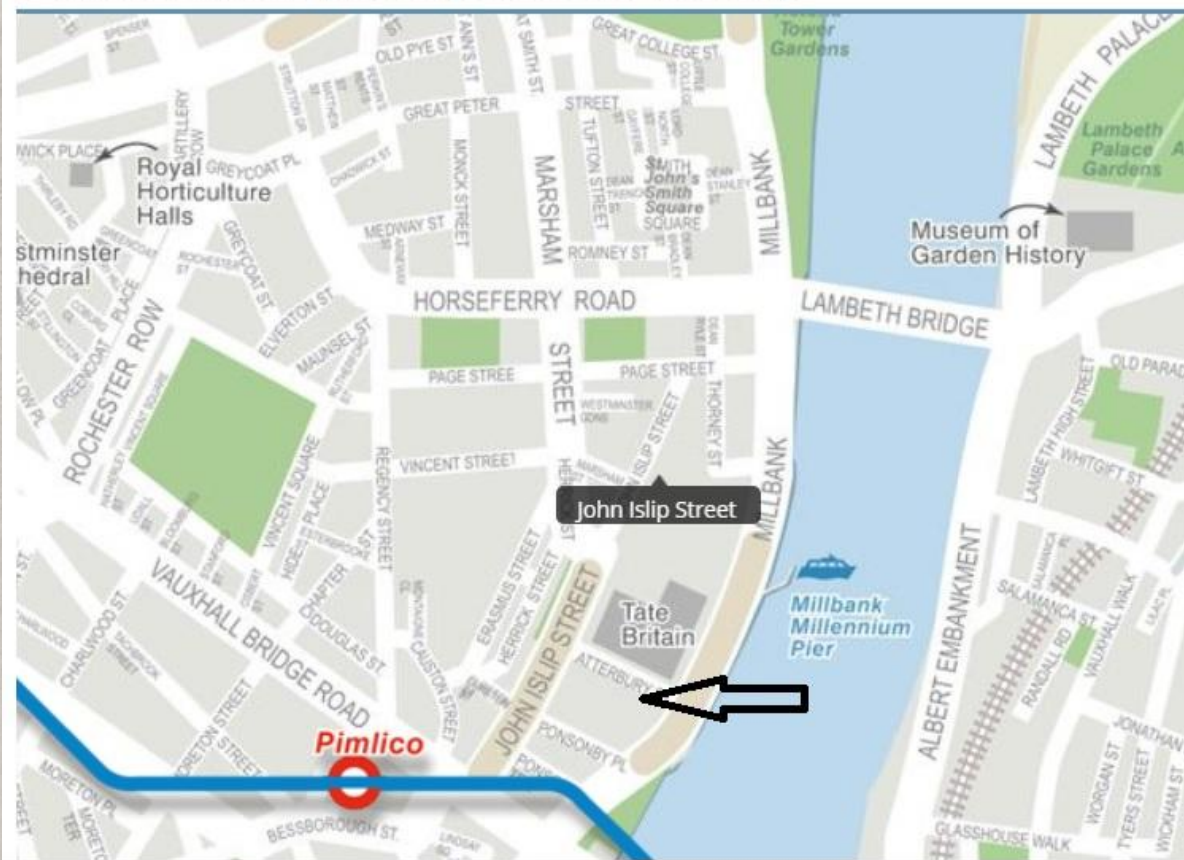
(Chelsea College of Arts, formerly Royal Army Medical College: for interest, see <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/college-history/>)

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 new 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