



**You are warmly invited to attend
our September Lecture,
at Millbank (*directions below*), also on Zoom
1830hrs Friday 26 September 2025**

**Our speaker, Steve Bacon, presents
The Development and Spread of Jenner's Smallpox Vaccination**



The story of the development of vaccination is more complicated and controversial than one might expect. Steve explains how Edward Jenner (1749-1823), a country physician who was elected fellow of the Royal Society in 1788, developed the technique and how he got it accepted by society. He explores the controversy surrounding the very first vaccination programmes in history and describes the impetus provided by Napoleon's acceptance and promotion of this novel regimen. Napoleon was no fool and quickly recognised the potential military benefits of having his Army and citizens rendered immune to the dread scourge of smallpox. Steve goes on to compare and contrast the attitudes and practices of contemporaneous military and government institutions in Britain and France.

Edward Jenner's personal papers and material related to smallpox are in the Wellcome Collection, <https://wellcomecollection.org/works/xv2f7n8a>

**Proceeds will be donated to the speaker's chosen charity,
The Museum of Military Medicine**

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





Our speaker



Steve Bacon in mediaeval surgical garb, ready to start...

Steve Bacon is a retired Primary School teacher, and his initial specialism was science. However, he has for many years developed a passion for history and so, over 20 years ago, he started his own historical interpretations company, Live'n History, <https://www.livenhistory.uk/>.

He has extensive experience of delivering presentations in museums including undertaking research for the Wellcome Library and developing several of their video conferencing packages; consultancy work for a drama presentation for the Royal College of Physicians in addition to presentations at The National Army Museum (as a Civil War surgical re-enactor, when he first encountered Friends of Millbank), The Wellcome Collection, The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, The Royal Armouries (Fort Nelson), English Heritage, The National Trust, The Museum of London, Historic Royal Palaces, The Historic Medical Equipment Society, Buxton Crescent Heritage Trust and other heritage sites.

He has appeared as an expert on TV in 'Royal Deaths and Diseases' - Lion TV for Channel 4, 'Time Team' - Channel 4, 'Inside the Body of Henry VIII' - National Geographic, 'Creepy healers' - National Geographic, 'Empire of Insects' - National Geographic, and 'Regency Houseparty' - Wall to Wall for Channel 4. He has developed a series of characters and presentations for interest groups, often on the darker side of life in the past. All his presentations are well researched and resourced so you can be sure that the things he says and does are as historically accurate as he can make them.



Friends of Millbank



Directions for Millbank

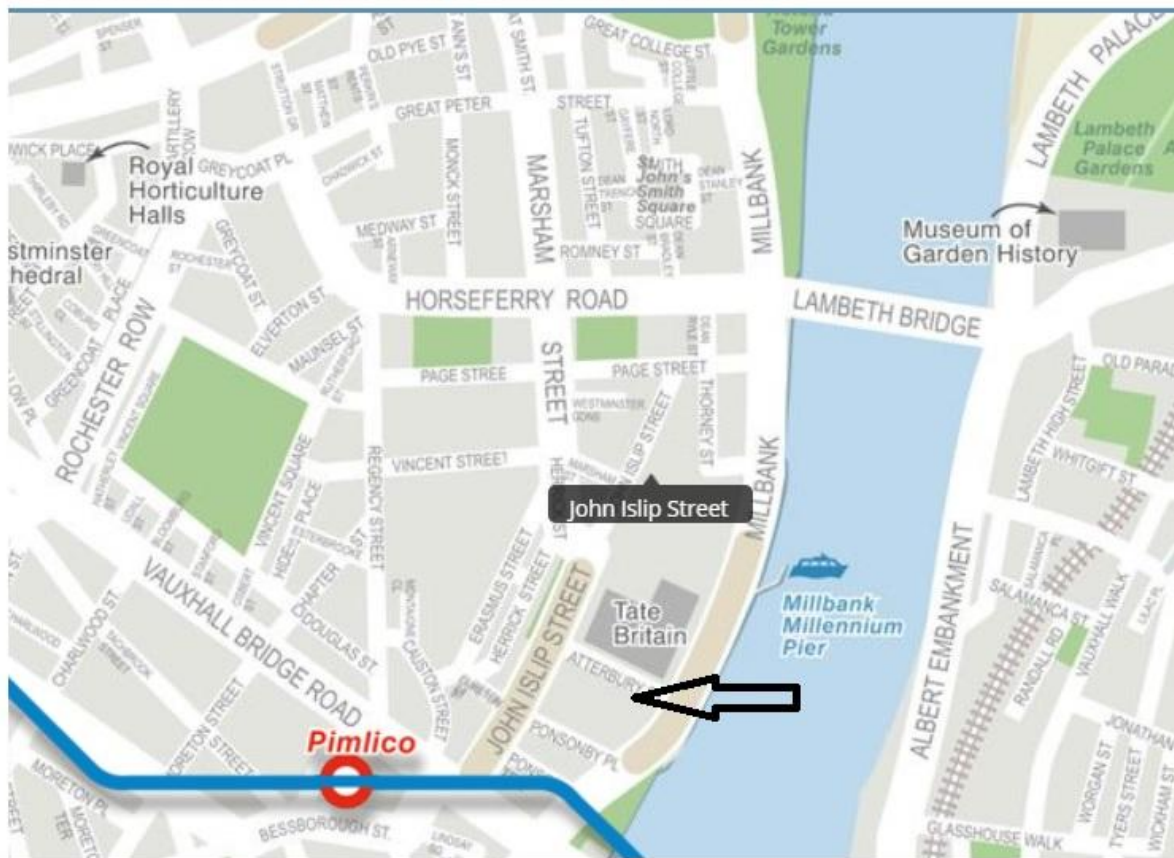
(Chelsea College of Arts, formerly the Royal Army Medical College, London)

See College history at <https://www.friendsofmillbank.org/college-history/>

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

We meet at Chelsea College Reception for refreshments from 1730hrs. The talk commences at 1830hrs. Guests and new members are always welcome, please donate £5 to attend, or enrol as a member, only £20 p.a. (see Join Us on our website). Everyone attending the talk, whether at Millbank or online via Zoom, is asked to register beforehand via www.friendsofmillbank.org

LondonTown.com - John Islip Street Location Map



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www.friendsofmillbank.org