



*Seeing the Capital Differently*

## **Clocks as Architectural Features**

### **Welcome to *CityThemes***

By printing this leaflet you have decided to discover, or rediscover, the sights and delights of **London** in a different way. We hope that you enjoy your explorations of our fascinating and historical capital city.

This leaflet has been designed to allow you to explore as the mood takes you. Both well-known and lesser-known attractions are included and they are randomly listed so that you plan your own itinerary and visit as many or as few as you wish.

Please note:- some places restrict entry and ask for prior application either in writing or by telephone. This is indicated where known. Others may change opening days and hours with little warning – it may be worth checking by phone if they are off the beaten track.

A very brief description of the reason for the choice of site is given but because of space it is not possible to include much detail. Again a telephone call to the site may help you to decide on whether a visit is worthwhile. Remember there may be other items that interest you at the same site.

Themes are constantly being updated and new titles added so please keep looking at our website or get in touch with us by e-mail or letter. We welcome your comments especially if you feel that some site should be included or details are incorrect/inaccurate. Contact details are

website: [www.citytheme.co.uk](http://www.citytheme.co.uk)  
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**Enjoy Your Explorations**

## St Katharines Dock

St Katharine-by-the-Tower, E1 [www.stkaths.co.uk](http://www.stkaths.co.uk)

transport: Tower Hill u/g, Tower Gateway DLR, Fenchurch Street rail; buses 15,42,78,100; boat Tower Millennium & St Katharine's Piers

*the dock was built in the late 1820s by the engineer Thomas Telford. It has old swing bridges, the Ivory House warehouse with cast iron columns and a prominent Clock Tower built by George Aitchison 1858-60*

## Horse Guards and Parade

Whitehall, SW1  
020 7414 2360

transport: Westminster u/g, Charing Cross u/g & rail; buses 3,11,12,24,29,53,77A,88,91,109,139,159; boat Westminster Millennium & Embankment Piers  
facilities: tours by arrangement; changing of guards daily 11.00 (10.00 Suns)

opening: unrestricted access to parade ground. Building open on occasional special days. Please phone for details.  
*clock on tower has black mark by figure. '2' which serves as a reminder of the hour that King Charles I was beheaded at the Banqueting House in 1649*

## Horniman Museum and Gardens

100 London Road, SE23  
020 8699 1872 [www.horniman.demon.co.uk](http://www.horniman.demon.co.uk)

transport: Forest Hill & West Dulwich rail; buses 63,122,176,185,312,P4,P13  
facilities: disabled access & wcs; library (Tue-Sun 14.00-17.30); snacks; shop

opening: museum daily 10.30-17.30; gardens Mon-Sat 07.15-dusk, Sun 08.00-dusk  
admission free

*a museum built in 1901 to house the varied collection of the tea magnate and member of parliament, John Frederick Horniman (1835-1906). After Horniman had held several highly successful private viewings of his collection he decided to construct his own museum to display it more satisfactorily. He then presented the museum and its contents 'as a gift to the people of London'. It is a fascinating collection ranging from natural history through cultural material to environmental issues and includes an interesting Apostle clock. Outside there is a prominent clock tower*

## Old Royal Observatory

Greenwich Park, Romney Road, Greenwich, SE10  
020 8858 4422 [www.rog.nmm.ac.uk](http://www.rog.nmm.ac.uk)

transport: Maze Hill rail, Cutty Sark DLR; buses 177,180,188,286,386; boat Greenwich Pier

opening: daily 10.00-17.00  
admission free except to Planetarium

*on the exterior of the building is a ball that slides down a mast at exactly 13.00 hours. Occurring since 1833 it enables seamen on the River Thames to set their clocks accurately by Greenwich Mean Time*

*inside the Observatory the precision clocks are replicas of the 17<sup>th</sup> century ones made by the horologist John Harrison (1693-1776) for telling the time at sea.*

## Shellmex House

Strand, SE1

transport: Embankment u/g, Waterloo u/g & rail; buses 1,26,59,68,76,168,171,172,176,188,341,381

*the clock on the exterior was added in 1931*

## Fortnum and Mason

181 Piccadilly, W1  
020 7734 8040

transport: Piccadilly Circus & Green Park u/g; buses 3,6,8,9,12,13,14,15,19,22,23,38,53,88,94,139,159

opening: Mon-Sat 09.30-18.00

*the clock on the outside strikes every hour and the figures of Fortnum and Mason move round it while the Eton School song plays*

## Little Ben Clock Tower

corner of Wilton Road, Vauxhall Bridge Road and Victoria Street, SW1

transport: Victoria u/g & rail; buses 2,11,24,36,185,211  
*this model of Big Ben was built 1892*

## Liberty

214-220 Regent Street, W1  
020 7734 1234

transport: Oxford Circus u/g; buses 3,6,7,8,10,12,13,15,23,25,53,55,73,88,94,98,113,137,139,159,176,189,C2

opening: Mon-Wed 10.00-18.30, Thur 10.00-20.00, Fri-Sat 10.00-19.00, Sun noon-18.00

*the clock on this famous store depicts St George fighting the dragon. It strikes every hour*

## Selfridges

400 Oxford Street, W1  
020 7629 1234

transport: Bond Street & Marble Arch u/g; buses 2,6,7,8,10,12,13,15,23,30,73,74,82,94,98,113,137,139,159,189,274

opening: Mon-Fri 10.00-20.00, Sat 09.30-20.00, Sun noon-18.00

*this famous store has, above the main entrance, an art deco clock supported by an allegorical figure of the Queen of Time riding on a ship of commerce. It was sculptured by Gilbert Bayes*

## Houses of Parliament

Old Palace Yard, Abingdon Street, Westminster, SW1  
020 7219 4272 (Commons), 020 7219 3107 (Lords)  
[www.explore.parliament.uk](http://www.explore.parliament.uk)

transport: Westminster u/g; buses 3,11,12,24,53,77A,88,159,211; boat Westminster Pier

*the world-famous Big Ben clock (1849). Ornate and gilded, the faces are 23ft (7m) across and the copper minute hand of 14ft (4.2m) weighs 2cwts and travels 120 miles each year. The figures are 2ft (0.6m) long and the minute spaces are 1ft square. The pendulum is 14ft 5ins (4.4m) long*

*the clock is wound and checked 3 times a week and adjusted using old pennies. When the light on top is lit it indicates that Parliament is still sitting. Big Ben is in fact the name of the 13 ton bell that strikes the hour in the clock. It has a unique sound as the bell is cracked*

## Neal's Yard

Monmouth Street & Shorts Gardens, WC2

transport: Covent Garden & Leicester Square u/g; buses 14,19,24,29,38,176

*there is a waterclock on the side of the Wholefood Warehouse. Dated 1982 the water fills a tube showing the minutes. On the hour water from a tank on the top tips a set of cups above a dial each ringing a bell. A row of figures at the bottom tip watering cans and fill a tank behind the shop sign. Inside the tank plastic flowers on floats appear to grow as the water rises. The figure of a*

*child on the left hand side swings out to water anybody standing below - great fun to watch*

### **No.1 Poultry, EC2**

transport: Bank u/g; buses 8,11,26,76,133,242

*a 1995 building with mauve and mustard stripes and a clock tower containing a Mappin and Webb clock. A centre well with blue tiling and brightly painted window frames in pink, yellow and blue completes the picture; by James Stirling*

### **Harrow School**

Church Hill, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex

transport: Harrow-on-the-Hill u/g & rail; buses 258, H17  
facilities: *tours of school by appointment (Mon-Sat 09.30-17.00 - small charge, telephone 020 8423 1524)*

opening: Old Speech Room Gallery daily during termtime except Weds 14.30-17.00  
admission free

*the 17<sup>th</sup> century Old School building has crow-stepped gables, bay windows and a clock cupola*

### **Westbourne Grove**

junction of Colville Road and Westbourne Grove  
Bayswater, W11

transport: Ladbroke Grove & Notting Hill Gate u/g; buses 23,52

*these modern toilets have green tiles, a clock and a flower stall!*

### **King's Cross Railway Station, N1**

transport: Kings Cross & St Pancras u/g & rail; buses 10, 17,30,45,46,63,73,91,214,259

*the 120ft (36.5m) high tower built in 1852 has a clock that was displayed in 1851 Great Exhibition. The clock dials have a diameter of 9ft (2.7m)*

### **Bracken House**

Cannon Street, EC4

transport: Mansion House u/g; buses 11,15,26,76,100, 172

*over the doorway of this building is a bronze, one metre diameter astronomical clock with a mask face of Sir Winston Churchill in the centre. It was designed by Frank Dobson in 1959*

### **Three Mills Island**

Three Mills Lane, Bow, E3  
020 8215 0050

transport: Bromley-by-Bow u/g, Bow Church DLR; buses 8,25,108,D8,S2

facilities: *parking in Tesco car park; Still Café (Mon-Fri 09.30-23.00 (020 8215 3305))*

*the Clock Mill dates from 1817 when it replaced an earlier mill. Its Victorian ornate clock tower with octagonal turret, bell & weathervane and the conical caps of drying kilns have established it as a Grade II listed building*

### **Six Public Clocks**

Canada Square, Isle of Dogs, E14  
www.canarywharf.com

transport: Canary Wharf u/g & DLR, West India Quay DLR; buses 277,D3,D7,D8

*'Six Public Clocks' stands as an artwork in Nash Court. It was designed by Konstantin Grcic in 1999*

### **The Archway**

Highgate Hill and Holloway Road, N19  
020 7272 2840 www.the-archway.co.uk

transport: Archway u/g, Upper Holloway Road rail; buses 4,10,17,43,134,143,210,271,C5,C11

facilities: *bar meals Mon-Fri noon-20.00; live bands nightly (21.45-midnight)*

*this 1888 pub has ornate corbels, granite columns and a very large clock on the rooftop. There are three bars on the ground floor and Cheeko's night club on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. A good place to hear live bands*

### **30 Bow Road, E3**

transport: Mile End u/g, Bow Church DLR; buses 8,25, 339,D6,D8,S2

*The Minnie Lansbury Memorial Clock is a three -faced clock on wrought iron brackets and frame above a shop at 30 Bow Road. It was erected in memory of the suffragette and daughter of a local Member of Parliament George Lansbury. Lansbury (1859-1940) became a member of parliament in 1910 but resigned two years later to support women's suffrage. Between 1931 and 1935 he was leader of the Labour Party*

A great deal of care has been taken in collecting the information in this leaflet but *CityThemes* cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of that information. It can cover only a few of the many interesting sites to be found in London and therefore must not be considered a definitive guide.

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