

## FREE Guided walk(s) - London Total Solar Eclipse Tricentenary

Friday 20th March 2015 saw a partial solar eclipse over London reach 84% coverage. The greatest eclipse over London, with the Sun significantly above the horizon, since 11th August 1999. As has been all too usual over the years with British eclipses it was cloudy in London.

If you wanted to see a **total** solar eclipse from central London your last chance was on the morning of 3rd May 1715 when strangely enough the British weather slipped up on its normal duty on such occasions and most people got a clear view of the city's greatest eclipse show in a thousand years.

To honour the tricentenary of this remarkable event I am hosting a couple of free astronomy-related guided walks in the City on Sunday 3rd May. The first starts at 10 am for those who would like to be around at the exact anniversary (London totality started around 9:09 am (10:09 am BST) and stars were seen above the City and the newly completed dome of St Paul's cathedral). A second walk at 1 pm will cover the same ground.

Both walks will start at the corner of Fleet St and Fetter Lane and first visit nearby Cradle Court where Halley was located on the day and gives a detailed account of his observations of 3 minutes 23 seconds of totality. Modern viewers may be shocked by his cavalier attitude to direct observation of the Sun through a telescope (he didn't go blind) as well as interested in the uncertainty at that time about whether the corona was part of the atmosphere of the Sun or of the Moon.

Cradle Court was also then the location of the Royal Society and we will hear more of their astronomical links, including Newton's role, as we move east towards St Paul's.

At St Paul's we will remember that Sir Christopher Wren was a mathematician and astronomer before he became an architect, and consider ways this affected his work. We will progress towards a finish near the Millennium Bridge, also taking in some unusual sundials and hearing about some other past and future eclipses and astronomical events in London.

The walks are free but to control numbers **please register via Eventbrite**

10 am walk

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/london-1715-total-solar-eclipse-tricentenary-walk-tickets-16366766439>

1 pm walk

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/london-1715-total-solar-eclipse-tricentenary-walk-2-tickets-16366829628>

I hope to see many of you on the day.

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