

A London Map of Days

This is the key to the daily details that feature on my etching *A London Map of Days*. I posted these every day on both Facebook and Twitter from the 9 February 2015 through to 8 February 2016. As the project continued, I began to enjoy myself and treat it more like a blog and so there is a marked difference between the amount of detail I have included at the beginning and the end of that year.

1 January 1660 Samuel Pepys begins writing his famous diary. He started the diary when he was only 26 years old and kept it for 10 years. He was a naval administrator and even though he had no maritime experience, he rose by a combination of hard work, patronage and talent for administration to be the Chief Secretary to the Admiralty under King Charles II and King James II. His diary, which was not published until the 19th century was written in a cryptic, personal shorthand and the first person to fully transcribe it, did so without the benefit of the key. It was not until 1970 that an unabridged version was published as previous editions had omitted passages deemed too obscene to print, usually involving Pepys sexual exploits. The diary combines personal anecdotes (often centred around drinking) with eyewitness accounts of great events such as the Great Plague of London, the Second Dutch War and the Great Fire of London. It is a glorious work and was a constant source of inspiration for my map. Daily detail from *A London Map of Days*.

2 January 1939 Picasso's masterpiece *Guernica* opens for a two-week exhibition at the Whitechapel Art Gallery. The gallery was then a relatively modest art gallery in the East End of London when they pulled off this memorable coup by securing the loan of this world-class monumental painting. In January 1937, the Spanish Republican government commissioned Picasso to create a large mural for the Spanish display at the Exposition Internationale des Arts et Techniques dans la Vie Moderne at the 1937 World's Fair in Paris. At the time, Picasso was living in Paris, where he had been named Honorary Director-in-Exile of the Prado Museum. He had last visited Spain in 1934 and never returned. When Picasso read an eyewitness account of the bombing of *Guernica* he immediately abandoned his initial project and started sketching the preliminary drawings for *Guernica*. The mural sized painting on canvas measures 349 x 776 cm and after the World's Fair in Paris was placed in the care of the Museum of Modern Art in New York as Picasso had stipulated that the painting could not be sent to Spain until liberty and democracy had been restored. On its way to the US, Picasso agreed to allow this brief exhibition at the Whitechapel Gallery. The exhibition was opened by leader of the Labour Party Clement Attlee and was hugely successful with more than 15,000 people passing through the doors in the first week alone. They raised much needed money for the Spanish Republican cause, as well as truckloads of working men's boots that were then sent to the Spanish front which Picasso had decreed should be the price of admission. Daily detail from *A London Map of Days*.

3 January 1911 the notorious gunfight known as the Siege of Sidney Street takes place in the East End. Also known as the Battle of Stepney it was preceded by the Houndsditch murders in December 1910 where three police officers were killed. A politically motivated gang of burglars led by an anarchist known as Peter the Painter were breaking into a jewellers on Houndsditch Street, coming through buildings on a cup de sac at the back. A shopkeeper alerted the police to the banging and nine unarmed officers arrived to check it out. Most of the burglars escaped killing three policemen in the process. When the police received information that the gang was holed up in Sidney Street in Stepney,

Home Secretary Winston Churchill sent 200 armed officers and a detachment of the Scots Guard from the Tower of London. After a six-hour battle that ended with field artillery guns being deployed, the building burning down some and the remains of two of the gang were found. No trace of Peter the Painter, now believed to have been Latvian far-leftist Janis Zhaklis was ever discovered. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

4 January 1725 Benjamin Franklin, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States arrives for a visit to London. A renowned polymath, Franklin was a leading author, printer, political theorist, politician, Freemason, postmaster, scientist, inventor, civic activist, statesman and diplomat. He had a number of inventions including bifocals and the lightning rod. In fact, he became famous for his experiments into electricity involving flying a kite in an electrical storm with a key at the end of the string. He visited London in 1725 but lived in the city for much of the decades between 1750 and 1770. He was sent on a political mission but used the opportunity to further his scientific research. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

5 January 1066 King of England Edward the Confessor dies. Edward was the seventh son of Ethelred the Unready (clearly he was ready for some things) and had escaped to France to avoid conflict with the Vikings. He became King after the death of Harthacnut, restoring the crown to the Saxons. Upon his death there were four claimants to the throne: Edgar the Atheling, a Saxon prince and the nephew of Edward; Harold Godwinson, a powerful English nobleman with no links to royalty; Harald Hardrada, the King of Norway and a direct descendant of King Cnut; and William, Duke of Normandy and a distant cousin of Edward who claimed to have been promised the throne. Harold Godwinson seized the throne but William did not take the matter lying down and had amassed an invading army, conquered Harold's forces and been crowned by the following Christmas. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

6 January 1540 King Henry VIII marries his fourth wife Anne of Cleves. Jane Seymour died from postnatal complications after she gave birth to Henry's only son Edward and Thomas Cromwell set up the marriage to Anne of Cleves as both a cure for his mourning and a good political union. The painter Hans Holbein the younger was sent to Germany to paint as accurate a portrait of Anne as possible for Henry's approval. Henry was ultimately disappointed with how the real Anne measured up to her portraits and was angry with Holbein but angrier still with Cromwell whose dramatic decline from favour began from this point. The marriage was never consummated and was annulled on 9 July 1540 although Anne received a very generous settlement and remained living in England for the rest of her life as the 'King's Beloved Sister'. Thomas Cromwell was arrested and beheaded on 28 July, on the same day as Henry married his 5th wife, 17-year-old Catherine Howard. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

7 January 1714 Henry Mill obtained the first patent for a typewriter. In 1575, an Italian printmaker named Francesco Rampazetto invented a machine called a 'scrittura tattile' that pressed letters into paper and an American named Christopher Scholes in 1867 was issued the first patent that coined the word 'typewriter' but Mill's invention is considered to be the first proper typewriter. The beautifully worded patent stated that he had 'invented and brought to perfection an artificial machine or method for impressing or transcribing of letters, one after another, as in writing, whereby all writing whatsoever may be engrossed in paper or parchment so neat and exact as not to be distinguished from print'. His original invention looked so little like what we recognise as a typewriter,

however, that I opted to do a drawing resembling a 1950s vintage machine. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

8 January 1735 George Frideric Handel's opera Ariodante premieres at the Covent Garden Theatre. It was supported and funded by the King, Queen and Princess Royal and competed successfully with a production by its rival the Opera of the Nobility, which was supported by the Prince of Wales. Despite its initial success when first performed it disappeared into obscurity for over two hundred years. It has now resurfaced and is generally considered to be one of Handel's finest operas. Due to the difficulty in casting the necessary castrato, the lead is now performed by a woman. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

9 January 1806 the state funeral of Vice Admiral Horatio Lord Nelson at St Paul's Cathedral. Nelson was born into a relatively prosperous family in Norfolk and entered the navy through the influence of his uncle, Maurice Suckling. His personal valour and keen knowledge of tactics saw him raise rapidly through the ranks, receiving his own command by the age of 20. It was during the Napoleonic Wars that his tactical genius was truly realised. He was an inspirational leader and his brilliant mind for unconventional tactics were responsible for winning many battles, particularly against the French and Spanish. The capture of Corsica cost him the sight in his right eye and lost his right arm in a rare defeat at the Battle of Santa Cruz de Tenerife. He quickly recuperated back in England and returned to win various decisive battles, culminating with Britain's greatest naval victory at the Battle of Trafalgar. Outnumbered by the French and Spanish fleets, Nelson's tactics saw them sink 22 enemy vessels whilst losing none themselves. Nelson was on board the lead ship, Victory and refusing to remove his coat, which identified him as an admiral, was fatally wounded by a French sharpshooter. Amongst his last words were the famous 'kiss me, Hardy' said to Thomas Hardy, captain of the Victory. Nelson's body was placed in a cask of brandy and lashed to the mainmast and placed under guard on its return to England. His funeral procession contained 32 admirals, over a 100 captains, an escort of 10,000 soldiers and the Prince of Wales and his brothers incognito as it was deemed inappropriate for royals to attend funerals for commoners. In his honour, Trafalgar Square was created in 1835 and Nelson's Column in 1843. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

10 January 1863 the world's first underground railway, the Metropolitan Railway, opens to the public. The first trains had gas-lit wooden carriages hauled by steam locomotives. The line connected up mainline train stations between Paddington and the City of London using the 'cut and cover' method between Paddington and King's Cross and then deep tunnels along Farringdon Road to Smithfield, near the City. Later in its development they would employ very deep small tunnels cut through London clay, giving rise to the affectionate nickname 'the Tube'. From its humble but ambitious beginnings London Underground has grown to be a network of 270 stations on 11 lines covering 250 miles of routes. Amongst their most innovative schemes was to extend lines and create stations in virtually uninhabited areas then sell off the surrounding lands to property developers. This dramatically affected the development of suburban London in the 1920s and 30s. In 2013, the Underground reached its 150th anniversary inspiring many celebrations and tributes (including my own etching Notes from the Underground). Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

11 January 1787 astronomer William Herschel discovers Titania and Oberon, the first two moons of Uranus. He was a German born British astronomer and composer who built his first large scale telescope in 1774 in which he studied clusters of stars and nebulae. In March 1781 he realised that the celestial body he had observed was actually a planet, the first to be discovered since antiquity. He named it Uranus and was made famous overnight. George III appointed him as Court Astronomer and he was shortly thereafter elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. In total, 27 moons of Uranus have been identified and all of them have been named after characters from the works of Shakespeare and Alexander Pope. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

12 January 1895 The National Trust is formed. Apologies, it's been a while since I last had to apologise for an error but I've managed to save one of my biggest clangers for the end. The image I've used is from a reference on a previous incarnation of my map that I ended up scrapping and is actually the logo for English Heritage rather than the National Trust! Twit! Anyway, the National Trust was formed by Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Hardwicke Rawnsley and its primary concern was protecting open spaces and threatened buildings. They started with Alfriston Clergy House and a decorative cornice there inspired their logo, the sprig of oak. They have grown to be one of the biggest charitable organisations in the country with an annual income last year of £494 million raised mostly through membership and entry to property. Their headquarters in Swindon is named Heelis after the married name of Beatrix Potter, one of their biggest supporters of the trust who gave them her home in Cumbria. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

13 January 1972 the photograph of David Bowie is taken on Heddon Street, W1 for the Ziggy Stardust album cover. The album's full title was The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars and it was David Bowie's fifth studio album, sandwiched between Hunky Dory (1971) and Aladdin Sane (1973). It was a narrative concept album that followed the story of Bowie's alter ego Ziggy Stardust, a bisexual alien rock star who was acting as a messenger for extraterrestrials. A wonderful album from which Starman and Suffragette City are the most well known singles. The cover photo was shot on a cold and rainy night outside furriers K. West. When Bowie heard that the K. West sign had been removed he said 'It's such a shame that sign went - people read so much into it. They thought that K. West must be some sort of code for *quest*'. In 2012 a commemorative brown plaque was installed by Crown Estates on the same site as the sign, one of very few honouring a fictional character. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

14 January 2000 my daughter Freya Raphaelle Barratt is born at the Whittington Hospital. A lovely coincidence is that Freya was born in the early hours of Friday, the day named after Freya the Norse goddess of love and humour. She's continued to fill our lives with love and humour ever since. Personal detail from A London Map of Days.

15 January 1759 The British Museum first opens to the public in Montagu House in Bloomsbury. The museum was established from items collected by Sir Hans Sloane, an Irish-born British physician and naturalist. Throughout his lifetime he had amassed an enviable collection of curiosities consisting of about 71,000 objects ranging from printed books and manuscripts to prints and drawings and antiquities. Not wanting the collection to be broken up after his death, he bequeathed it to King George II for the nation for a sum of £20,000. It was decided to house the cabinet of curiosities in a bespoke building and the trustees of the newly formed British Museum decided on converting a residential

building called Montagu House. They turned down Buckingham House, the predecessor to Buckingham Palace as it was too expensive and not as good a location. They purchased the house from the Montagu family for £20,000 and within six years opened the first exhibition galleries and the reading room for scholars. The building was expanded hugely between 1825 and 1850 becoming the biggest building site in Europe. The books and manuscripts were moved to the newly built British Library in 1997 and the old reading room was converted into the largest covered square in Europe. The original collection of curiosities has grown to 13 million objects at the British Museum, 70 million at the Natural History Museum and 150 million at the British Library (including this map). My detail is of one of the 82 beautiful Lewis chessmen that the museum owns. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

16 January 2013 a helicopter crashes into a construction crane attached to St George Wharf Tower in Vauxhall. The helicopter was flying between Redhill Airport and Elstree Airfield to collect a single passenger to then fly on to Yorkshire. There was low cloud and freezing temperatures that dramatically affected visibility, making it impossible to land at Elstree. The pilot, Pete Barnes, was returning to Redhill when he requested permission to land at Battersea Heliport. Although the tower had been included in a NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) it was not included on the helicopter's GPS system. The crane had been in place since 7 January and was only required to be lit at night so the pilot did not see it before colliding with the jib. The pilot and one pedestrian, Matthew Wood, were killed when it struck the ground and exploded. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

17 January 1934 Battersea Power Station is commissioned. It comprises two separate power stations, Battersea A Power Station that was built in the 1930s and Battersea B Power Station built in the 1950s to the east and joined to the first building. They were built to almost identical design and specifications so that it would look like one massive four-chimneyed structure. The exterior was designed by the architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott who also designed the glorious Southwark Power Station (now the Tate Modern) and the red London phone box. It stopped producing electricity in 1983 but has become an iconic London landmark partly through it featuring in popular culture ranging from Pink Floyd's Animals album cover and in the Beatles' film Help to episodes of Dr Who. There have been many redevelopment plans over the years, many involving the destruction of the building. The latest will preserve the shell and many of the interior Art Deco features in a massive development that will include the creation of 3,400 homes and a new tube station on the Northern Line. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

18 January 1671 the sculptor and wood carver Grinling Gibbons is discovered by diarist John Evelyn in Deptford. Gibbons was born in Rotterdam of English parents and moved to England in 1667 when he was 19 years old. Evelyn wrote of coming across him working by candle light on a wooden version of Tintoretto's Crucifixion. He described what he had seen to his friend, the architect Christopher Wren who sought the sculptor out and introduced him to King Charles II who gave him his first commission, which still resides in the dining room of Windsor Castle. Gibbons went on to become the world's most renowned carver in wood creating works for Windsor Castle, Hampton Court and St Paul's Cathedral. Some of the finest examples of his work are to be found at Petworth House in West Sussex, which is owned by the National Trust. Gibbons' work very often includes carvings of pea pods. A myth states that he would include a closed pod in his work, only carving it open once he had been paid. If the pea pod was left shut it supposedly showed that he had not been paid for the work. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

19 January 1661 Thomas Venner rebel leader of the Fifth Monarchy Men is executed after a failed coup. Venner was a cooper who had lived in New England for 22 years before returning to England to join the Fifth Monarchy Men, a quasi-political group of religious zealots who had tried unsuccessfully to overthrow Oliver Cromwell. After their previous leader had been killed, Thomas Venner was chosen to lead the uprising against the recently restored Charles II. They at one point drove back an army of 1200, which was impressive as they were reported to have been 500 men Samuel Pepys wrote that they were actually only about 50. Their last stand was against General Monck's men at the Helmut Tavern in Threadneedle Street where soldiers used the butts of their muskets to break through the clay roof tiles before shooting them. Although wounded 19 times, Venner was captured and able to stand trial at the Old Bailey before being hung, drawn and quartered. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

20 January 2006 a Northern bottlenose whale is spotted in the Thames. It is still unknown how the young whale found its way into London as its usual habitat is the coastal waters off the north of Scotland and Northern Ireland and in the Arctic Ocean. Although the whale had been spotted by the Thames Barrier control team the previous evening the first sighting in London was made early Friday morning by a commuter on a train said that he thought he might have been hallucinating. Sightings of the whale, now being called Diana, in the water continued throughout the day and she also beached a couple of times due to the tide. A rescue attempt was launched when they realised that she was not strong enough to swim out of the Thames on her own. She was caught by Albert Bridge and gently and slowly lifted by crane onto a barge. They took her towards the mouth of the river to release her off the coast of Kent near Margate. Sadly, she was too injured from her various adventures and distressed and died on the evening of 21 January before being released. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

21 January 1846 the first issue of The Daily News is published edited by its founder Charles Dickens. It was conceived by Dickens as a radical rival to the right-wing Morning Chronicle. The paper was not initially a commercial success. Dickens edited the first 17 issues before handing over the editorship to his friend John Forster who was an experienced journalist. Forster ran the paper until 1870 and under him it flourished. In its heyday, George Bernard Shaw, Harriet Martineau, H G Wells and G K Chesterton were all regular contributors. It was published in some form until 1930. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

22 January 1924 Ramsay MacDonald is elected, becoming the first Labour Prime Minister in Britain. MacDonald, a Scottish journalist, was an intellectual and a strong pacifist. The Labour Party of which he was the leader had only just overtaken the Liberals to become the second largest political party behind the Tories when he became Prime Minister. His first term, formed with Liberal support, lasted only nine months when his government was punished by the electorate for its involvement in the Campbell Case where a communist newspaper went unpunished after inciting mutiny. The Conservatives won a majority but MacDonald's short term in office had shown that Labour were a viable force in British politics and he was re-elected in 1929. In 1931, he formed a National Government and was expelled from the Labour Party. He was PM until 1935 when his deteriorating health forced him to step down from office. He died on holiday on a cruise liner two years later. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

23 January 1571 the Royal Exchange is officially opened by Queen Elizabeth I. It was founded to act as a centre of commerce for the City of London and the freehold is still held by the Corporation of London and the Worshipful Company of Mercers. The Queen granted them their Royal title and a license to sell alcohol. The building was only used to trade goods - stockbrokers were banned due to their rude manners and were forced to use the nearby and much less salubrious Jonathan's Coffee House. The original building burned down in the Great Fire in 1666 and its replacement burned down in 1838. The third building still stands, complete with a mounted statue of the Duke of Wellington cast with bronze sourced from melted down enemy cannons. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

24 January 1984 the final personal detail from the map is me arriving in London. I had been backpacking around the continent before arriving in London for what was meant to be a fortnight. The place really got under my skin and apart from regular trips back to visit my family, I've never left. On that first day, I went to the Odeon Kensington to visit my friend Graham Ashmore who was working there as a cashier. He was one of the two people I knew in the country at the time with the other the now award winning author Moira Young although then she was studying at a drama school in Ealing. I walked through the doors of the cinema and was greeted by a beautiful, young usherette who went off to find Graham. The usherette was Amanda, who was later to become my wife. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

25 January 1533 Henry VIII marries his second wife Anne Boleyn following the annulment of his first marriage to Catherine of Aragon. They married secretly in November 1532 but had a proper ceremony once Anne was pregnant with the baby who would turn out to be Elizabeth. They were confidently expecting the boy that every royal physician and astrologer had forecast and were desperately disappointed. They added a hasty 's' to their birth announcement to change 'prince' to 'princes(s)' and cancelled the traditional celebratory jousting tournament which was to be held in honour of the birth of an heir. Henry began an affair with Jane Seymour and gave her a locket with a portrait of himself. Anne was present when this gift was given and ripped the locket off Jane with such ferocity that her fingers bled. Anne was believed to have had other unsuccessful pregnancies but when she miscarried a baby that was said to have been a boy in January 1536, it marked the beginning of the end for her. Henry moved Jane Seymour into royal quarters and by May had Anne arrested, tried and executed at the Tower for charges ranging from adultery and treason to incest at the age of either 28 or 35 (there is debate over whether she was born in 1501 or 1507). Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

26 January 1832 the medieval London Bridge is demolished. The bridge was a stone replacement of an older wooden bridge and was commissioned by King Henry II. He built it in part because of the murder of Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury and included a chapel honouring his martyrdom in the centre of the bridge. The Chapel of St Thomas on the Bridge became the official starting point of pilgrimages to his Canterbury shrine. Building work on it began in 1172 and finished in 1209 at great expense. It was 26 feet wide and 900 feet long and was supported on 19 irregularly spaced arches. There was a drawbridge in the centre to allow for the passage of tall ships and defensive gatehouses at both ends where they would regularly display the heads of traitors on pikes. Famous heads include William Wallace, Thomas More and Thomas

Cromwell. To cover the maintenance costs the City of London was given control of the bridge and leased out the 138 shops and houses and charged a toll for crossing. By the nineteenth century a new bridge that had no buildings on it replaced the bridge. The old bridge was used until the new one was opened and then it was torn down, 622 years after it was completed. The new bridge lasted only until the 1960s when it needed to be replaced as it was found to be sinking. That nineteenth century bridge was sold to an oil magnate in America and is now in the middle of the Arizona desert (where my parents saw it on one of their snowbird trips down south). Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

27 January 1926 John Logie Baird demonstrates the first working television system. Baird was born and educated in Scotland but never completed his degree at the University of Glasgow as it was interrupted by service in World War I. He was too unfit for active duty but worked at the Clyde Valley Electrical Company on munitions. He moved first to Hastings and then to London to work on his inventions and by 1925 was confident of success. After successful experiments in his laboratory he went to the Daily Express to try to get publicity. The news editor was terrified saying: 'For God's sake, go down to reception and get rid of a lunatic who's down there. He says he's got a machine for seeing by wireless!' The first public demonstration followed shortly thereafter at 22 Frith Street in Soho for members of the Royal Institution and a reporter from The Times. His first prototype transmitted a grey scale image of a ventriloquist's dummy named 'Stooky Bill'. He also transmitted a human face in motion. The Baird Television Development Company Ltd went on to do the first colour transmissions, the first intercontinental transmissions and to make the first television programme for the BBC. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

28 January 1807 gas lighting is demonstrated for the first time on Pall Mall. William Murdoch was the first person to experiment with using the flammability of gas for lighting in the 1790s and used it to light his house in Redruth, Cornwall. Frederick Albert Winsor patented its use on streetlights and demonstrated the first one on Pall Mall near Carlton House Terrace. They started to be installed around London from 1812 and there was a marked reduction of crime with the streets no longer being pitch black at night. London was the only city in the world to have street lighting until 1816 but the obvious benefits made it spread rapidly afterwards. They started to be installed in factories, which allowed for 24 hour running, greatly desirable during the industrial revolution. This then spread to being used in theatres, shops and homes. By the early 20th century most cities in Europe and North America had gas street lighting but this began gave way to the new technology of electrical lighting. There are still 1500 gas street lamps in London, mostly concentrated around Westminster and Covent Garden and each one is hand lit by a team of five lamp lighters. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

29 January 1728 (not 1724) The Beggar's Opera by John Gay opens at the Lincoln's Inn Fields Theatre and went on to have the longest run in theatrical history up to that point. It was a revolutionary piece in its day and was the first in a genre of satirical musical theatre that became extremely prevalent and is still regarded as the most popular play of the 18th century. Benjamin Britten and Vaclav Havel both did 20th updates and Alan Ayckbourn's Chorus of Disapproval is about the disastrous staging of the play. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

The 30 January is only one day on my London Map of Days that has two separate references. I make no apologies but quite simply could not choose between them.

30 January 1649 the execution of Charles I on Whitehall. He was the second son of King James VI of Scotland who became James I of England when he inherited the throne from his cousin Elizabeth I in 1603. He became the heir apparent when his older brother died in 1612 and became king when his father died in 1625. He quarrelled badly with parliament who sought to curb his royal prerogative whilst he believed in the divine right of kings. He subjects objected to many of his policies and to his marrying a Roman Catholic and felt that he was a tyrannical absolute monarch. He fought a civil war with the parliaments of England and Scotland and even in defeat refused to consent to a constitutional monarchy. By the end of 1648, Oliver Cromwell's New Model Army had taken control of England and Charles was imprisoned, tried and sentenced to death as a traitor. A large scaffold had been erected in front of the Banqueting House and huge crowds gathered separated by soldiers. On the day, it was so cold that Charles asked to wear two shirts so that no one would mistake his shivers for fear. He was killed by a single clean stroke from a still unknown executioner. The crowd moaned and many dipped their handkerchiefs into the king's blood as a memento. England became a democratic republic or commonwealth until 1660 when the crown was restored to Charles II. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

And here's the other daily detail.

30 January 1969 The Beatles play their last public concert on the rooftop of Apple label's headquarters. They had wanted to play a public performance for some time but only decided on the location about three days beforehand. They set up and started playing on the roof at 3 Saville Row during the lunch break of the local office workers. As news of the concert spread the crowds on the streets below began to worry the police. When they tried to enter the building Apple employees at first resisted but ultimately relented and let them access the roof. The Beatles kept playing for a while with the police present, Paul McCartney famously adding references to them in the lyrics of Get Back. When they finally stopped John Lennon said 'I'd like to thank you all on behalf of the group and hope that we've passed the audition. Footage from the concert were used in the documentary film Let It Be. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

31 January 1942 film director Derek Jarman is born in Northwood. Jarman was an artist, stage designer and author but it was his experimental, non-narrative films such as Caravaggio and Last of England for which he is most famous. He is also remembered for his seaside garden by his home built in the shadow of the Dungeness nuclear power station. The garden was created from an artful combination of flotsam washed up nearby and salt loving plants. I saw him in a framer in Soho once. The framer was dealing with me but dropped me and started fawning over Jarman the moment he entered the shop. I didn't get a close look at the painting of his that he was framing except to see that it was very dark and monochromatic. He handed it to the framer saying that it was going to be auctioned for charity while the framer commented on how exquisite it was. He asked for his 'usual frame with a nameplate at the bottom'. An awkward silence ensued before the framer gingerly asked which side was the bottom. 'Well, it's a portrait!' Jarman said somewhat indignantly. Another awkward silence as this didn't seem to help. He pointed at the picture and said 'oh for goodness sake, that's the bottom, there.' Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

1 February 1814 the last ever Frost Fair on the frozen river Thames. The fairs were impromptu festivals that were a cross between a Christmas market and a circus that occurred whenever the Thames froze solid enough to support the weight of the revellers. The river froze solid 23 times between 1309 and 1814 and on five of these times entrepreneurial Londoners set up stalls, shops, theatres and pubs on the ice. They were mostly run by the watermen and lightermen whose livelihoods on the river were temporarily suspended and I have depicted them dragging a boar along the ice. During the four-day fair in 1814 they roasted an entire ox that could feed 800 people over a 24-hour period and walked an elephant from one side of the riverbank to the other. They occurred between London Bridge and Blackfriars Bridge and were caused by a combination of extremely cold temperatures in what was a mini ice age in London and by the slow movement of the Thames due the multiple arches of London Bridge. With a new bridge and warmer climate that was the last time the river froze over. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

2 February 1852 the first public flush toilets open on Fleet Street. The inventor George Jennings installed his revolutionary 'monkey closets' at the Great Exhibition on 1851 where 827, 280 people each spent 1p to use them. By 'spending a penny', (a euphemism you still occasionally hear) each customer would receive a clean seat, a towel, a comb and a shoeshine. At the end of the exhibition the monkey closets were moved to Crystal Palace with the rest of the building but Jennings realised that there was a huge potential market for his invention. He installed the first of his toilets at 95 Fleet Street, outside the Society of Art. This one was for men only with the first women's convenience opening on the Strand a week later. Outside of the exhibition the flush toilet never totally caught on, however, and it was only when improvements were devised by Thomas Crapper that it became the ubiquitous object we now know and love. A daily detail from a London Map of Days.

3 February 1960 Prime Minister Harold Macmillan makes his Winds of Change speech to the Parliament of South Africa in Cape Town. His speech was foreshadowing Britain's intention to grant independence to various African nations including South Africa and included criticism of the Apartheid system. Reaction from the Conservative government listening to the speech back in Whitehall was decidedly cool. Labour had started a process of decolonisation after the war but this was halted by the Tories in 1951. Despite opposition from his party Macmillan started the ball rolling with most of the British possessions becoming independent nations in the 1960s. A not particularly Londony daily detail from A London Map of Days.

4 February 1973 the first Chinese New Year lion dance in Soho. The celebrations that we are now accustomed to in London's Chinatown date back to 1973, to welcome the year of the ox. The original Chinatown was in Limehouse in the East End where businesses catered for the Chinese sailors in the docklands. The area was very badly bombed during the blitz and the Chinese population scattered. They settled in the then very rundown area around Gerard and Lisle Streets in Soho in the early 70s and this area is still the focal point for the Chinese community in a Western Europe. The celebrations included the traditional lion dance, a parade and fireworks. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

5 February 1924 the Greenwich Time Signal affectionately known as 'the pips' are introduced. They consist of six short tones to mark the precise start of the hour on the

radio. The last pip was made longer in the 1970s when six equal length pips were found to be confusing to announcer Charles Lister. The pips were the idea of the Astronomer Royal, Sir Frank Watson Dyson and the head of the BBC, John Reith. They were originally controlled by two large mechanical clocks located in the Royal Greenwich Observatory, which gave them their official name. They mark every hour on BBC Radio 4 and the World Service except at 18.00 and 00.00 when they are replaced with the chimes of Big Ben from Westminster. They also don't sound at 15.00 on Saturdays and 11.00 and 12.00 Sundays. They are also occasionally heard on both Radio 2 and even Radio 1. They have become one of the most enduring and comforting features of the BBC. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

6 February 1918 a law is passed giving women the right to vote. Women in Britain were not explicitly banned from voting until the 1832 Reform Act. This made women's suffrage a political topic although it became a national movement with the formation of the National Society for Women's Suffrage in 1872. The campaign gained momentum and became more militant in 1903 when Emmeline Pankhurst formed The Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU). The situation escalated in 1913 when suffragettes burned down the house of Chancellor of the Exchequer David Lloyd George. Later that year Emily Davison was killed when she walked in front of the King's horse at the Epsom Derby. Also that year Mary Richardson slashed Velasquez's Rokeby Venus at the National Gallery in protest of the government force-feeding Emmeline Pankhurst and the other hunger-striking women who were political prisoners. The declaration of war in 1914 stopped all campaigning but directly after it was finished in 1918 the coalition government passed The Representation of the People Act. This allowed women over the age of 30 to vote if they were a member or married to a member of the Local Government Register. This gave about 8.4 million women the vote. In 1928 the vote was given to all women over the age of 21. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

7 February 1478 Sir Thomas More is born on Milk Street in the City of London. He was a bright lad and served John Morton, the Archbishop of Canterbury as a household page. Morton recommended him to the University of Oxford where he went when he was 14. He became a student at Lincoln's Inn and was called to the bar in 1502. After accompanying Thomas Wolsey on a diplomatic mission More was knighted and made under-treasurer of the exchequer. He was made secretary and personal adviser to Henry VIII and became increasingly influential. When Wolsey fell from grace and power More succeeded him as Lord Chancellor. He refused to attend the coronation of Anne Boleyn and also refused to swear an oath of supremacy of the state over the church. Henry finally became so disenchanted with him that he had him arrested and locked in the Tower. He was tried for high treason by a panel of judges that included Anne Boleyn's father, brother and uncle as well as More replacement as Lord Chancellor Sir Thomas Audley. He was found guilty and sentenced to be hung, drawn and quartered but Henry commuted his sentence to execution by decapitation. He wrote a history of King Richard III and our use of the word Utopia is from his novel of the same name. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

8 February 1587 Mary Queen of Scots is executed. Mary was the only legitimate child of King James V of Scotland and succeeded him to the throne after he died when she was only six days old. She lived most of her childhood in France with Scotland being ruled by regents. She was briefly the Queen Consort of France after marrying Francis, the dauphin of France. After his death, she returned to Scotland and married her first cousin Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley. Although they had a child, their marriage was short and unhappy

until his residence was blown up and he was found murdered in the garden. She married James Hepburn who was generally regarded to have been responsible for the murder of Darnley. There was an uprising against the couple and she was forced to abdicate in favour of her and Darnley's son who would become James VI (and later James I of England). She fled south to seek the protection of her first cousin Elizabeth I, however, was imprisoned and after 18 years executed. The final daily detail from A London Map of Days.

9 February 1986 Haley's Comet last appears in the inner solar system. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

10 February 1840 Queen Victoria marries Prince Albert. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

11 February 1938 R.U.R. (Rossum's Universal Robots) by the Czech writer Karel Capek is aired on the BBC. It is the first ever science fiction drama and the first use of the word 'robot'. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

12 February 1554 Lady Jane Grey is executed at the Tower of London. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

13 February 1907 suffragettes storm parliament and 60 women are arrested. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

14 February 1853 Great Ormond Street Hospital for children is founded. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

15 February 2007 a huge retrospective of the work of artists Gilbert and George opens at the Tate Modern Museum. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

16 February 1895 the opening of *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde at St James's Theatre. Daily detail from A London Map of Days. (Actually happened on 14 February).

17 February 1771 the temperatures dropped so low that all over London people reported seeing frozen birds drop from the sky. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

18 February 1919 the first Bentley is made on New Street Mews, Mayfair, W1. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

19 February 1925 actor John Barrymore premieres as Hamlet at the Haymarket Theatre. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

20 February 1934 Giro the Nazi Dog dies. There is a memorial to him at Carlton House Terrace. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

21 February 1848 Karl Marx publishes the Communist Manifesto in London but written in German. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

22 February 1857 Robert Lord Baden-Powell founder of the Scout Movement and first Chief Scout of the Boy Scouts Association is born in Paddington. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

23 February 1820 the Cato Street Conspiracy to murder the Prime Minister and his cabinet is discovered and foiled. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

24 February 1857 cannons captured at Sebastopol are melted down to make the first Victoria Cross medals. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

25 February 1838 a pedestrian walks backwards across London in eight hours. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

26 February 1797 the Bank of England issues the first £1 note. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

27 February 1907 the central criminal court known as the Old Bailey opens on the site of the medieval Newgate Gaol. It was built on a street named Old Bailey that followed London's fortified wall (or bailey) which runs from Ludgate Hill to the junction of Newgate Street and Holborn Viaduct. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

28 February 1749 Henry Fielding's novel Tom Jones - a foundling is published. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

29 February 2012 Cornelia Parker's sculpture Breathless is installed at the V & A Museum. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

1 March 1711 the first issue of The Spectator is published. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

2 March 1964 the scene is filmed in The Beatles' film A Hard Day's Night where they are being hounded and chased by a pack of eager fans on the streets around Marylebone. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

3 March 2010 Michael Foot, the onetime leader of the Labour Party dies. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

4 March 1969 Reggie and Ronnie Kray are convicted of murder at the Old Bailey. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

5 March 1496 King Henry VII commissions the explorer John Cabot to seek out new lands. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

6 March 1997 Picasso's painting Tete de Femme is stolen from the Levevre Gallery. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

7 March 1804 the Royal Horticultural Society is established at a meeting of 7 men lead by Josiah Wedgwood's son John at Hatchards Bookshop in Piccadilly. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

8 March 1941 during the Blitz the Café de Paris is struck by two bombs. They fall down the building's ventilation shaft to the dance floor in the cellar killing bandleader Ken 'Snakehips' Johnson and most of his band. The band was apparently playing 'Oh Johnny, Oh Johnny, how you can love!' when the bombs struck. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

9 March 2000, three months after completion, the London Eye finally opens to the public. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

10 March 1914 the suffragette Mary Richardson enters the National Gallery and slashes the painting 'The Rokeby Venus' Diego Velasquez with a meat cleaver. This was done in protest of the arrest of Emmeline Pankhurst the previous day. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

11 March 1819 sugar magnate Henry Tate, founder of the Tate Gallery, is born. This month's contribution to what I'm planning to call my 'spot the deliberate blunder' category, I've just realised that he was actually born in Lancashire but he did live much of his life in London and was buried here. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

12 March 1994 the first women priests are ordained. In total, there were 32 priests that day but I have depicted Angela Berners-Wilson who is recognised as having been the first (possibly just due to alphabetical order). Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

13 March 1935 the first driving tests were introduced in the UK. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

14 March 1885 Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera The Mikado premieres at the Savoy Theatre. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

15 March 1909 Harry Gordon Selfridge opens his flagship department store on Oxford Street. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

16 March 2009 work starts on Renzo Piano's building 'The Shard'. It took three years to build. The At 87 stories and 309 metres high it is currently the tallest building in the European Union. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

17 March 1845 the inventor Stephen Perry patents the rubber band. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

18 March 1932 the first BBC News broadcast from Broadcasting House on Langham Place, W1. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

19 March 1958 Madame Tussaud opens the London Planetarium. It now houses the Marvel Superheroes 4D Attraction. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

20 March 1966 the World Cup Trophy is stolen. It was being displayed in a case at a rare stamp exhibition in the Central Methodist Hall, Westminster just three months prior to England staging the World Cup. The thief smashed the case and made off with the trophy but he ignored £3 million worth of rare stamps. A ransom was received but the trophy evaded the police until it was found wrapped in newspaper in a garden hedge by a black and white collie named Pickles. Pickles was the guest of honour at a World Cup celebration banquet and went on to star in the film 'The spy with the cold nose'. The drawing for my daily detail from A London Map of Days is technically of the discovery on 27 March 1966 rather than the theft on 20 March but I couldn't leave Pickles out.

21 March 1998 the episodes of the sit-com *Friends* featuring Ross's wedding to Emily are filmed in London.

22 March 1774 Tom Thumb's Song Book, the first ever collection of nursery rhymes is published. This is one of my favourite drawings from A London Map of Days.

23 March 1889 the Woolwich Free Ferry service begins. This replaced a toll service that in different forms had been operating since the 14th century. A rare glimpse of the river from my London Map of Days.

24 March 1603 the union of crowns of Scotland, England and Ireland creates King James I (although he had been King James VI of Scotland since 1567). Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

25 March 1947 Reginald Kenneth Dwight aka Elton Hercules John is born in Pinner. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

26 March 1862 George Peabody creates The Peabody Trust, one of the world's largest and most successful philanthropic housing associations. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

27 March 1953 notorious serial killer John Christie is arrested at his home 10 Rillington Place in Notting Hill. An interesting little anecdote is that BBC Radio London DJ Robert Elms' parents almost rented a room from him but decided against it, as he was a bit creepy. A grim little Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

28 March 1996 my daughter Matilda is born on Highgate Hill. Although the vast majority of the references are universal, this is a rare personal Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

29 March 1981 the first ever London Marathon takes place. It has happened in the spring every year since and quite a number of them have been run by my friend. It finished in a tie by American Dick Beardsley and Norwegian Inge Simonsen, who crossed the finish line holding hands in 2 hours, 11 minutes and 48 seconds. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

30 March 1871 the Royal Albert Hall of Arts and Sciences opens. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

31 March 1990 the largest of the poll tax riots converges on Trafalgar Square. Amanda and I joined in for a bit in the afternoon before things turned ugly. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

1 April 1841 Kew Gardens is founded from Lord Capel John of Tewkesbury's exotic garden, which had been in existence since 1759. It has the world's largest collection of living plants. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

2 April 1970 David Hockney's first major exhibition opens at the Whitechapel Gallery.

3 April 1933 the first traffic lights in the UK are installed at Trafalgar Square. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

4 April 1581 Francis Drake, vice-admiral, sea captain, privateer, slaver and politician receives a knighthood at Deptford on board his ship the Golden Hind. Although authorised by Queen Elizabeth I the dubbing was actually performed by a French diplomat. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

5 April 1955 Winston Churchill resigns as Prime Minister. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

6 April 1895 Oscar Wilde, after losing a libel suit against the Marquess of Queensbury, is arrested for homosexuality. He is found guilty and sentenced to two years hard labour. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

7 April 1141 Empress Matilda becomes the first female ruler of England. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

8 April 1992 after 151 years the last issue of the satirical magazine Punch is published. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

9 April 1838 the National Gallery opens in Trafalgar Square. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

10 April 1981 one of 56 police cars burned during the Brixton Riots, which lasted until late on the 11 April. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

11 April 1633 the first bananas seen in England are sold in London at a small shop in Snow Hill, EC1. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

12 April 1989 Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical Cats based on Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats by T S Eliot opens the New London Theatre, Drury Lane. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

13 April 1576 London's first theatre, imaginatively called 'The Theatre' opens in Shoreditch just outside the city walls. The Lord Chamberlain's Men, which employed actor and playwright William Shakespeare, performed there. Following a dispute with the landlords, The Theatre was dismantled and the timbers were moved to Bankside to build The Globe. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

14 April 1987 a hot air balloon lands in Hyde Park during a CND rally. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

15 April 1984 comedian Tommy Cooper died midway through his act on the variety show 'Live from Her Majesty's' which was being broadcast live from Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

16 April 1889 Charlie Chaplin is born. The exact site of his birthplace is disputed but is generally regarded to have been near to the East Street Market, Walworth where there is a blue plaque commemorating him. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

17 April 1397 Geoffrey Chaucer gives the first public recitation of The Canterbury Tales. This was before the ladies and gentleman of the court and was done to promote the

acceptance of English as a courtly language. The widespread use of English spread dramatically from that day onwards. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

18 April 1988 the speaker's mace is damaged by Ron Brown MP during poll tax debates in the House of Commons. He was ordered to pay £1500 for the repairs. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

19 April 1951 the first Miss World pageant is held at the Lyceum Ballroom and is won by Miss Sweden Kiki Håkansson. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

20 April 1611 the first performance of Macbeth at the Globe Theatre. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

21 April 1934 the famous 'surgeon's photograph' of the Loch Ness Monster is published in the Daily Mail. It has since proved to have been an elaborate hoax masterminded by Marmaduke Wetherell. He was a big game hunter who had been publicly ridiculed by his employers at the Daily Mail when the 'Nessie' footprints he had found turned out to have been made by a hippopotamus-foot umbrella stand. He devised the hoax to get even with them and with some co conspirators fashioned the monster from a toy submarine. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

22 April 1993 Stephen Lawrence is killed in a racially motivated attack while waiting for a bus in Eltham. The trial ultimately prompted the revocation of the double jeopardy rule, as two of the assailants were convicted 20 years later. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

23 April 1585 the first of William Shakespeare's birthdays that he spent in London after moving there to work at The Theatre in Shoreditch. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

24 April 1931 Bridget Riley, artist and foremost exponent of the Op Art movement is born in Norwood. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

25 April 1719 Daniel Defoe's novel Robinson Crusoe is published. The first edition credited Crusoe as its author leading many to believe it was a true account. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

26 April 1928 Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum on the Marylebone Road opens a cinema. Granted my drawing is of a sculptor making a waxwork. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

27 April 1667 blind and impoverished poet John Milton sells the publication rights for Paradise Lost for £5 plus a further £5 to be awarded when the edition sold out. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

28 April 1923 the first match played at the old Wembley Stadium was the FA Cup final where Bolton Wanderers beat West Ham United 2-0. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

29 April 2004 30 St Mary Axe, affectionately known as the Gherkin, opens. Norman Foster and Arup Group designed it. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

30 April 1946 The Who's drummer Keith Moon is born in Wembley. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

1 May 1912 statue of Peter Pan is erected in Kensington Gardens. J M Barrie, author of Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens commissioned Sir George Frampton to sculpt the work. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

2 May 1536 Anne Boleyn is charged with high treason and is arrested and taken from Greenwich to the Tower of London. She is found guilty on 15 May and beheaded four days later. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

3 May 1951 the Royal Festival Hall, the permanent centrepiece of the Festival of Britain is officially opened. It was to become the first post-war building to achieve a Grade 1 listing. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

4 May 2006 the Sultan's Elephant appears in London. Created by the Royal de Luxe theatre company it comprised a huge mechanical elephant and a giant marionette of a girl and did a procession around London for 4 days. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

5 May 1967 The Kinks song Waterloo Sunset is released. Written by Muswell Hill's own Ray Davies it gets my vote for the greatest song ever written. For anyone who doesn't already know, the Terry and Julie mentioned in the song refers to Terence Stamp and Julie Christie who had an affair during the filming of Far From the Madding Crowd. Daily detail from A London Map of Days. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

6 May 1964 major exhibition of the abstract paintings of Victor Pasmore at the Marlborough Gallery. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

7 May 1974 Vermeer's painting The Guitar Player stolen in February while on loan to the National Gallery is recovered. It was found wrapped in paper and tied with string in the cemetery of St Bartholomew-the-Great. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

8 May 1945 VE Day celebrated at Buckingham Palace where the royal family and Winston Churchill greet an ecstatic crowd. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

9 May 1662 the first recorded performance of Punch and Judy in Covent Garden. 9 May is regarded as Mr Punch's birthday. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

10 May 1940 Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister. This image is taken from an Evening Standard cartoon by David Low. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

11 May 1887 Wild Bill Hickok's Wild West Show opens at Earl's Court Exhibition Centre. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

12 May 1812 artist and poet Edward Lear is born in Upper Holloway. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

13 May 1907 author and playwright Daphne du Maurier is born. This first class stamp was commissioned in 1996 as part of a Women of Achievement series. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

14 May 2013 chewing gum artist Ben Wilson is featured at the Baroque the Streets event in Dulwich. Ben has been a constant feature of my life in Muswell Hill, lying on the ground creating little artistic gems out of discarded chewing gum. I wanted to include him but needed to find an actual date that I could pin him to and this one in Dulwich was the only one I could find. You can see lots of his recent work at the South end of the Millennium Bridge. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

15 May 2004 Arsenal FC wins the final game of the unbeaten season that had them dubbed 'The Invincibles'. This was a 2-1 win over Leicester City at Highbury. I've depicted a post match moment between Dennis Bergkamp and Thierry Henry. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

16 May 1763 James Boswell meets Samuel Johnson in a chance encounter in Davies Bookshop in Covent Garden. Their resulting friendship resulted in Boswell writing The Life of Samuel Johnson, acknowledged to be one of the greatest biographies in the English language. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

17 May 1890 the first British comic book 'Comic Cuts' is published. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

18 May 1873 Vincent Van Gogh arrives in London. He lodged in a house in Brixton (87 Hackford Road) for a year and worked as an apprentice art dealer at Goupil's Gallery on Southampton Street in Covent Garden. It is speculated that while there he fell in love with the landlady's daughter. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

19 May 1992 strongman Dave Gander pulls a Boeing 747 along the runway at Heathrow Airport. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

20 May 1913 the first Chelsea Flower Show is held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Also the first appearance of a bonsai in the UK. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

21 May 1966 Henry Cooper loses to 24-year-old world heavyweight champion Cassius Clay (Mohammed Ali) in a bout held at Arsenal's football ground in Highbury. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

22 May 1897 the Blackwall Tunnel opens. It was built as a single tunnel handling traffic in both directions until a second tunnel was added in 1967. The original tunnel handles northbound traffic and has a couple of very sharp bends designed to stop horses bolting when they saw daylight. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

23 May 1969 the BBC commissions an initial series of six episodes from Monty Python's Flying Circus. The name was a product of a number of random inside jokes but some other names in the running were 'Whither Canada?' and 'The Toad Elevating Moment'. Fans will understand the image I've used - it was either this or a naked man playing the organ. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

24 May 1906 Swiss hotelier Cesar Ritz opens the Ritz Hotel London. The building was designed to resemble a stylish block of Parisian flats. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

25 May 1850 Obaysch, the first hippopotamus in Europe since the Romans, arrives at London Zoo. He creates such a sensation that it causes an outbreak of 'Victorian Hippomania'. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

26 May 1876 Thomas Gainsborough's painting of Georgiana Cavendish the Duchess of Devonshire is stolen from Agnew's on Bond Street. It turns up about 25 years later in the US and a ransom is paid for its return. In 1994 it was bought by the Duke of Devonshire and returned to Chatsworth House. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

27 May 1199 the coronation of King John takes place at Westminster Abbey. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

28 May 1959 the Mermaid Theatre opens in Puddle Dock. It was the life's work of actor Bernard Miles and his wife Josephine Wilson. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

29 May 1651 Founder's Day, an annual celebration at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, commemorates the escape of the future King Charles II from parliamentary

forces after the Battle of Worcester (1651) and is held as close as possible to his birthday on the 29th May. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

30 May 1593 playwright and poet Christopher Marlowe is killed in a tavern in Deptford aged 29. The details of his death remain largely mysterious with theories ranging from it being the result of professional jealousy, charges of blasphemy or even spying (he probably was a spy in the employ of Elizabeth I). What is for sure is that he was an intelligent and talented writer with great potential who hugely influenced William Shakespeare (who was born the same year and had only written 8 of his 39 plays when Marlowe died). Let's all toast the life of Mr Marlowe today. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

31 May 1915 the first Zeppelin raid on London happens in Stoke Newington killing 28 and injuring a further 60. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

1 June 1968 Stanley Green starts his campaign to educate the public on the perils of protein. He marched up and down Oxford Street circulating his pamphlets for 25 years becoming an extremely familiar character. His placards and pamphlets were given to the Museum of London after he died aged 77. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

2 June 1953 the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in Westminster Abbey. She had been Queen for over a year but the tradition is to avoid a celebratory festival during the period of mourning for the previous monarch, in this case her father George VI. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

3 June 1831 virtuoso violinist Niccolò Paganini performs at the Kings Theatre. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

4 June 2012 the Diamond Jubilee concert is held in front of Buckingham Palace. Tom Jones singing Delilah was a definite highlight. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

5 June 1963 the Profumo Affair culminates in the publication of John Profumo's letters and his resignation. Profumo was the Secretary of State for War in Harold Macmillan's government and was found to have been having a relationship with 19-year-old would-be model Christine Keeler while she was simultaneously seeing a Soviet naval attaché, creating a security risk. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

6 June 1780 the Gordon riots, which lasted for six days, reach their climax. They began as an anti-Catholic protest against the Papists Act of 1778, which intended to reduce official discrimination against Catholics. The protests evolved into widespread riots and looting where many buildings including Newgate Prison and the Clink were destroyed. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

7 June 1940 King Haakon VII of Norway escapes to London. They form a Norwegian government in exile during the war. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

8 June 1042 Edward the Confessor becomes King of England, one of the last Anglo-Saxons to rule. My drawing is taken from a depiction of him on the Bayeux Tapestry. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

9 June 1978 the world's most valuable book the Gutenberg Bible is sold in London for \$2,400,000. Of the 48 existing copies it is the last complete one to have sold. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

10 June 2000 the London Millennium Bridge opens briefly. Early users noticed an off putting wobble which prompted them to close it for two years to mend it. My studio mate and I climbed over the hoardings late one night and walked across it and back. We were with a quite large group of fellow trespassers and were greeted by the police on our return. They were kind and just told us to hop it. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

11 June 1763 Italian adventurer, author and lothario Giacomo Casanova arrives in London hoping to sell an idea to the King for a National Lottery. Ultimately unsuccessful, he returned to Venice penniless and ill. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

12 June 1599 the first Globe Theatre opens on Bankside from the timbers of The Theatre in Shoreditch by the Lord Chamberlain's Men who included Richard Burbage and William Shakespeare. They owned The Theatre but not the land it was on and when the lease expired they covertly dismantled the building while the landlord was celebrating Christmas. They moved the timbers to a warehouse on the banks of the Thames and once the weather improved ferried them across the river to Bankside. This building burned down in 1613 during a performance of Henry VIII when a cannon used during the play set fire to the thatched roof. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

13 June 1886 H J Heinz took a wheelbarrow full of tins of his baked beans to Fortnum and Mason. They were not properly launched there until 1901. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

14 June 1822 Charles Babbage proposes a 'difference engine' in a paper to the Royal Astronomical Society. Designed to aid navigational calculations, his machine was the first stage that lead to his inventing the world's first programmable computer. My drawing is of the difference engine no. 2 in the Science Museum. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

15 June 1381 Wat Tyler leader of the Peasants' Revolt against the poll tax is killed during negotiations by officers loyal to King Richard II in Smithfield. Much had been promised to Tyler but when he was killed the King revoked all promises and retributions. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

16 June 1824 the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (later to receive its Royal Charter to become the RSPCA) is founded by 22 reformers lead by Richard Martin MP, William Wilberforce MP and Reverend Arthur Broome in Old Slaughter's Coffee House near the Strand. Its first successful case was the prosecution of Bill Burns for cruelty to his donkey. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

17 June 1239 Edward I of England is born to King Henry III and Eleanor of Provence in the Palace of Westminster. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

18 June 1746 Samuel Johnson signs the contract to publish his Dictionary of the English Language. He promised the book in three years but it actually took nine. However, when you consider that it forty scholars at the Academie Francaise forty years to produce their dictionary it's still pretty impressive. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

19 June 2012 to avoid extradition to Sweden for alleged sexual assault charges Julian Assange, the head of WikiLeaks seeks political asylum in the Ecuadorian Embassy. He has been there ever since with police posted outside should he leave. The police operation is costing approximately £3,000,000 a year. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

20 June 1837 Queen Victoria succeeds to the British throne. My picture relates to the penny black, the world's first postage stamp which two different sources cited as being issued on this date but I have since found out was actually three years later. Annoying. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

21 June 1937 the Wimbledon Tennis Championships are televised for the first time. The singles champions that year were Don Budge and Dorothy Round Little. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

22 June 1948 the Empire Windrush arrives in London from Jamaica carrying the first group of post-war West Indian immigrants. The ship was originally a German troopship called the Monte Rosa but was captured as a prize of war and renamed. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

23 June 1775 the first Regatta on the Thames. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

24 June 1886 Joseph Merrick (often wrongly called John) aka the Elephant Man arrives at Liverpool Street station from Brussels after a disastrous tour in Europe. Weak and unable to talk he fortunately had Dr Treves' card on him and so was taken to the London Hospital, Whitechapel where he was allowed to stay for the rest of his life. He was 27 when he died. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

25 June 2009 artist Luke Jerram installs upright pianos all over London as part of his Play Me, I'm Yours project. He did this in cities all over the world and the ones in London were all painted in site-specific manners. Two of them remain in St Pancras Station. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

26 June 1483 Richard III begins his reign after his claim to the throne is approved by an assembly of Lords and commoners. His brother King Edward IV had two young sons who were the rightful heirs to the throne but Richard locked them up in the Tower of London and they were never seen in public again. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

27 June 1971 the first UK Scrabble Tournament is held in London. The tournament was organised by Giles Brandreth and the first winner was Stephan Haskell with an aggregate score of 1345 over three games. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

28 June 1838 the coronation of Queen Victoria is held at Westminster Abbey. It is watched by unprecedented crowds of 400,000 people as new railways made it possible for people to come from great distances. The ceremony cost £79,000, roughly £6.35 million in today's money. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

29 June 1893 Alfred Gilbert's statue of Eros is erected in Piccadilly Circus. Actually called the Shaftesbury Memorial Fountain, it was commissioned to commemorate Lord Shaftesbury, a famous Victorian politician and philanthropist. The winged sculpture at the top is actually Eros's brother Anteros the God of selfless love but was wrongly identified as Eros by the public from the beginning. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

30 June 1894 Tower Bridge opens. Increased commercial development in the East End necessitated a new crossing downriver from London Bridge but had to allow for the tall-masted ships to access the pool of London. A special committee looked at over designs over a 7-year period until approving one by Sir Horace Jones that included a drawbridge in the centre. Artist Cornelia Parker used the mechanism for lifting the bridge to crush her brass instruments to create her piece 'Breathless'. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

1 July 1838 Charles Darwin first outlines a theory of evolution through natural selection in a paper presented to the Geological Society of London. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

2 July 1888 the start of the matchgirls' strike at the Bryant and May factory. Poor working conditions including fourteen-hour workdays, low pay, excessive fines and the extreme health complications due to the use of white phosphorous were making the workers very discontent. It was the unfair dismissal of one of the workers that sparked the strike. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

3 July 1764 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, then aged 8, plays a private harpsichord concert for King George III. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

4 July 1865 Alice Adventures in Wonderland written by Charles Lutwidge Dodgson under the pen name Lewis Carroll is published. It was three years to the day since the 'golden afternoon' when Dodgson, Reverend Robinson Duckworth rowed in a boat up the Isis

with Henry Liddell and his three young daughters. During a picnic Dodgson made up stories, which featured Liddell's middle daughter Alice, then aged ten which he then decided to write down and publish. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

5 July 1969 The Rolling Stones perform a free concert in Hyde Park just two days after the death of founder member Brian Jones. Other acts performing on the day included Roy Harper, Marianne Faithful and King Crimson. The audience was estimated to have been anywhere between 250,000 - 500,000 people. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

6 July 1840 William Makepeace Thackeray writes an attack on capital punishment 'Going to see a man hanged' after bumping into Dickens at a public execution by Newgate Gaol. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

7 July 2005 tragic bombings on public transport system wreak havoc on London but our spirit proves indomitable. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

8 July 1934 comedian and actor Marty Feldman is born in the East End. The son of Jewish Ukrainian immigrants he leaves school aged 15 with dreams of becoming a jazz trumpeter. He ends up pursuing a career in writing and acting most memorably for me in The Marty Feldman Comedy Machine and of course Young Frankenstein. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

9 July 1877 the first lawn tennis tournament at Wimbledon is held at the All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club. There was initially only a men's singles championship, the rain-delayed final of which was held on 19 July and watched by 200 people. The winner, Spencer Gore from Wandsworth, won 12 guineas and a silver challenge cup. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

10 July 1958 the first parking meter in Britain went up in Grosvenor Square, near the US Embassy in Westminster. Then, parking for one hour cost six shillings, compared with £4 in the same location today. Those who overstayed or neglected to pay at all received a £2 penalty compared with the £120, reduced to £60 for prompt payment that you would be charged today. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

11 July 1859 the Great Bell affectionately known as 'Big Ben' in St Stephen's Tower, Westminster chimes for the first time. The 13.5-ton bell was cast by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry and is the second one as the original, even larger bell cracked beyond repair while being tested. This one is also cracked but was turned so that the hammer strikes it away from the damaged section. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

12 July 1962 The Rolling Stones play their first gig at the Marquee Club in a basement at 165 Oxford Street. They were originally billed as 'Mick Jagger and the Rollin' Stones', a name thought up by guitarist Brian Jones. Jagger and Keith Richards were both 18 years old and still lived with their parents. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

13 July 1837 Buckingham Palace becomes the primary royal London residence when Queen Victoria and her mother move in. It was a modest mansion built in 1702 for the Duke of Buckingham. It was bought by George III for his wife Queen Charlotte in 1762 but Victoria was the first ruling monarch to live there. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

14 July 1682 Henry Purcell who was one of the greatest composers of English Baroque music and the organist for Westminster Abbey is appointed as the chief organist for the Chapel Royal. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

15 July 1662 the 'President, Council, and Fellows of the Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge' commonly known as just the Royal Society receives its Royal Charter from King Charles II. It was founded in November 1660 and is still the scientific advisor to the government making it the oldest such Society in existence. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

16 July 1439 King Henry VI issued a proclamation banning kissing in an attempt to stop the spread of germs. Not deemed to be particularly effective or easy to enforce it was very short-lived. One of my favourite daily details from A London Map of Days.

17 July 1717 Handel's Water Music premieres for King George I on a barge on the Thames. It was specifically commissioned by the King in part as a display of his ability to stage grand events as he was becoming quite jealous of the extravagant parties being thrown by his son. The King, his entourage and guests were on one barge and Handel and fifty musicians were on another on a concert trip from Westminster to Chelsea. The King liked the music so much that he requested a repeat performance for the trip back later that evening. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

18 July 1955 (another regrettable error on my map as this actually happened on the 13 July 1955 - apologies) Ruth Ellis is the last woman hanged in Britain for the murder of her lover David Blakely. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

19 July 1976 Benedict Cumberbatch is born in Hammersmith. Star of stage and screen (both large and small) he has established himself as one of Britain's finest actors. I really included him because my daughter fancies him. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

20 July 1841 Fenchurch Street Station in the City of London opens. It is one of the smallest railway termini in London and the only one without a link to the Underground. It's also one of the four stations (along with Liverpool Street, King's Cross and Marylebone) to feature on the UK Monopoly board. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

21 July 1620 The Mayflower sets off from Rotherhithe to Plymouth where it will then sail to the New World. There were 102 Pilgrims on that ship and only half survived their first winter. Curiously, there are literally millions of Americans who trace their ancestry back to those 51 pilgrims. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

22 July 1972 Chi Chi the panda dies at London Zoo. She was possibly the most beloved animal in the zoo's history since her arrival from China in 1958 and was mourned by the nation. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

23 July 1986 wedding of Prince Andrew, Duke of York to Sarah Ferguson at Westminster Abbey. The BBC estimated that 500 million people tuned in to watch this on television and 100,000 turned up to Buckingham Palace to see them kiss on the balcony. The couple divorced ten years later but rumour has it that they are possibly reuniting. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

24 July 1622 John Taylor the 'Water Poet' journey from London to Queensborough in Kent in a paper boat with two stockfish tied to canes as oars. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

25 July 1837 the Cooke and Wheatstone telegraph, the world's first commercial electrical telegraph is successfully demonstrated between Euston and Camden Town. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

26 July 1803 the Surrey Iron Railway, the first public railway company opens between Wandsworth and Croydon via Mitcham. It was a horse-drawn plateway where carriages were pulled along iron rails. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

27 July 2012 Danny Boyle's opening ceremony for the 2012 Olympics. It was called 'Isles of Wonder' and combined dramatic narrative sequences about the Industrial Revolution and the NHS with the presentation of the athletes and even featured a short cameo by the Queen. All of the apprehension that had been whipped up about Britain's inability to host such a major event disappeared during that four-hour spectacle leaving us a very proud and impassioned nation. Wonderful! My daily detail from A London Map of Days features the bit where huge smokestacks had emerged from the floor and Kenneth Branagh appeared as Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

28 July 1866 Beatrix Potter author and illustrator of children's books such as The Tale of Peter Rabbit is born in Kensington. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

29 July 1981 the marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer at St Paul's Cathedral. It was watched by 750 million people worldwide and was widely regarded as a fairytale wedding. Hindsight has given us a different impression of the marriage but it was a lovely ceremony. My daily detail from A London Map of Days is of one of the plethora of souvenir jugs, mugs, plates and cups that were produced to mark the occasion.

30 July 1966 England beat Germany 4-2 to win the World Cup at Wembley Stadium. The match is famous for being the only time that England has won; for producing the first hat-trick in a World Cup final (by Geoff Hurst); and for Kenneth Wolstenholme's famous

remark towards the closing moments 'They think it's all over - it is now'. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

31 July 1895 The maiden test flight of Hiram Maxim's flying machine at Sydenham. The machine never worked well enough to pursue but did help him to create fairground attractions. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

1 August 1820 opening of the main section of the Regents Canal between Camden and Limehouse. This includes the Regents Canal dock on the Thames and the 886 metre long tunnel at Islington. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

2 August 1875 the world's first roller skating rink opens in Belgravia. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

3 August 1955 Samuel Beckett's new play 'Waiting for Godot' opens at The Arts Theatre directed by 24-year-old Peter Hall. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

4 August 2012 Super Saturday at the Summer Olympics where Team GB won six gold medals including three in track and field events within the space of one magical hour. They were for Greg Rutherford in the long jump, Jessica Ennis in the heptathlon and Mo Farah in the 10,000 metres. We had tickets in the stadium that evening and it remains the greatest event of any kind I have ever been to. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

5 August 1901 the first cinema in Britain opens in Islington. It was converted from a Beaux-Arts style agricultural hall built in 1869 and became a full time cinema from that day. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

6 August 1991 scientist Tim Berners-Lee builds the first website and puts it online. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

7 August 1914 the famous war enlistment poster featuring Lord Kitchener, the Secretary of State for War above the words 'wants you' is produced. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

8 August 1914 Ernest Shackleton launched the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition. Even though war had broken out 5 days earlier the First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill directed him to proceed. The expedition was five months in when just off the coast of Antarctica their ship The Endurance became caught in ice and was eventually crushed. They spent the a total of 15 months camping on ice flows before launching lifeboats that took them to the uninhabited Elephant Island. They christened the largest lifeboat the James Baird and Shackleton and five others set off to find help. This precarious journey eventually reached land on South Georgia Island but Shackleton and two others had to cross 32 miles of mountainous terrain to reach a whaling station and relative safety. Ships were immediately sent to rescue the three men on the other side of the island and the 22 others on Elephant Island. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

9 August 1967 playwright and author Joe Orton is murdered by his boyfriend Kenneth Halliwell in their flat on Noel Road, Islington. Orton had a meteoric rise to success and fame writing a string of black comedies for radio and stage over a three-year period. Halliwell, also a writer, had become increasingly jealous of Orton's fame and also probably accurately did not trust the future of their relationship. After bludgeoning Orton with a hammer he killed himself with an overdose of Nembutal tablets. Referred to as 'a bloody marvellous writer' by Harold Pinter in his eulogy, Orton's work has continued to be staged. It remains curiously both quintessentially a product of the 60's and wonderfully funny and relevant. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

10 August 1866 the first durable and permanent trans-Atlantic telegraphic cable is tested by Queen Victoria. The very first use was with a cable laid in 1858 although it lasted virtually no time at all. The cable reduced the time necessary to communicate between the continents from 10 days to a few minutes. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

11 August 1897 children's author Enid Blyton is born in East Dulwich. She produced a staggering number of books that have been translated into virtually every language on the planet and have sold 600 million copies. Her books have been continuously criticised by educationalists and critics as early as the 1930s. There are undeniably some questionable elements in many of her books; however, when my kids were young we all adored The Wishing Chair and Faraway Tree series. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

12 August 1886 W G Grace scores 170 against Australia at the Oval, the highest test score of his career. England went on to win the match with an innings to spare. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

13 August 1899 Alfred Hitchcock is born in Leytonstone. With a career spanning sixty years and fifty features, he has consistently been rated first in critics' choice surveys and lists of most influential filmmakers of all time. I personally have never been able to get my list of favourite films down to fewer than six but the one constant has always been *Rear Window*. Magnificent. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

14 August 2000 sculptor John Kaufman erects The Diver in the Thames at Rainham. It is partially submerged whenever the tide comes in but is totally covered by spring and neap tides. The piece was inspired by Kaufman's family history, as his grandfather was a diver in the London Docks. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

15 August 1993 Bob Dylan goes to Crouch End. I've been looking forward to this shaggy dog detail all year. The story goes that Bob Dylan was heading to visit Dave Stewart at his Church Studios on Crouch Hill. Bob got the address muddled, however, and went to Crouch End Hill instead. A woman answered the door and was surprised to find Bob Dylan on her doorstep asking to see Dave. She was quite shocked to see such a famous person on her doorstep but even more shocked that in all their years together her partner Dave had never once mentioned that he knew Bob Dylan. As Dave was out at the time she invited Bob in for a cup of tea to wait for him. When Dave finally returned

she greeted him at the door to say (in what one imagines would have been quite a shirty voice) 'I've got one of your mates in the kitchen!' When Dave went through he stopped short and exclaimed 'Oh my God, it's Bob Dylan!' and Bob said 'You're not Dave'. Local legend has it that he ended up at Banners Restaurant that day as well, dining amongst the pushchairs and buggies in Nappy Valley's favourite haunt.

I was very keen to include this detail but hours of research didn't deliver up the specific date. Finally in a tiny eureka moment I found a local newspaper that reported that Bob Dylan had been seen in a local estate agent under the heading 'Is Bob Dylan moving to Crouch End?' Daily detail from a London Map of Days.

16 August 1897 the National Gallery of British Art, now known as the Tate Britain opens to the public. Sugar magnate Henry Tate was the founder and built the gallery on the site of the former Millbank Prison. It was intended to showcase contemporary and historical British art and artists and still boasts the world's foremost collection of works by J W M Turner. It was commonly referred to as the Tate Gallery from the beginning but officially changed its name in 1932 and then to Tate Britain once the Tate Modern opened in 2000. Daily detail from a London Map of Days.

17 August 1896 Bridget Driscoll was the first person in the UK to be killed by a car. Although the maximum speed had just been increased to 14 mph she was hit by a car in Crystal Palace that had a maximum of 8 mph although the driver stated that he was not doing more than 4. Daily detail from a London Map of Days.

18 August 1945 George Orwell's dystopian novella Animal Farm - A Fairy Story is published. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

19 August 1939 Ginger Baker drummer with rock band Cream is born in Lewisham. He is one of the most influential drummers and mercurial and unpredictable characters that rock music has ever known. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

20 August 1929 first transmission of John Logie Baird's experimental 30-line television system for the BBC. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

21 August 1996 Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on Bankside opens with a performance of Two Gentlemen of Verona. Actor and director Sam Wanamaker founded the theatre after 26 years of planning and fundraising. The plan had always been to recreate the theatre as it was originally built but detractors protested that modern fire regulations would make that impossible. The design was ultimately deemed so safe that they were allowed to proceed with the final sticking point - to give it a thatched roof. The design has been faithfully based on the foundations of the original theatre found nearby but the scale was increased by 12% to allow for the fact that modern visitors are larger than Elizabethans. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

22 August 1809 a duel took place in a field between Highgate and Hampstead Heath between two Hibernians armed with cudgels, their national weapons. The fight lasted an hour and 5 minutes before one collapsed and conceded.

23 August 1305 William Wallace (Braveheart) leader of the war for Scottish Independence after being captured near Glasgow is hung, drawn and quartered in Smithfield where a plaque on St Bartholomew's Hospital commemorates him. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

24 August 1770 poet Thomas Chatterton commits suicide in Holborn. Although extremely poor, he was becoming quite well known both through his own works but also through the poems of his adopted persona Thomas Rowley, a 15c monk. Never properly paid or rewarded for his work the 17-year-old poet retired to his attic and drank a bottle of arsenic. He became famous to poets of the Romantic era and inspired many poems and the wonderful painting 'Death of Chatterton' by Henry Wallis. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

25 August 1919 the first passenger service between London and Paris is started by Airco de Havilland D H 16. It carried one pilot and four passengers. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

26 August 1967 the Beatles meet the Transcendental Meditation guru Maharishi Mahesh Yogi at the Hilton Hotel on Park Lane. They later went to study with him first in Wales and then in India. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

27 August 1975 Veronica and Colin Scargill complete a record 18020-mile round the world tandem bicycle ride. They started on 25 February 1974. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

28 August 1843 the artist Richard Dadd experiences bouts of mental health problems so he and his father set off on a recuperative journey to France. On the way, Dadd becomes convinced that his father was the devil and killed him. He fled to France and was arrested after trying to kill someone else. He was committed to Bethlem (also known as Bedlam) Hospital where he was encouraged to keep painting. He created most of the work for which he is famous while there painting in obsessively minute detail. The Fairy-feller's Master Stroke in the Tate Britain is the most well-known and inspired Queen to create a song that makes Bohemian Rhapsody seem conventional. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

29 August 1831 Michael Faraday created the first transformer and conducted an experiment investigating the phenomenon known as electro-magnetism. The more scientifically literate amongst you will recognise that I have depicted his first dynamo rather than his first transformer. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

30 August 1901 Hubert Cecil Booth patents his invention the first powered vacuum cleaner. Before Booth all cleaning machines blew or brushed dirt away, instead of sucking it up. All modern vacuum cleaners are based on his principle. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

31 August 1888 Mary Ann Nichols becomes first victim murdered by the serial killer Jack the Ripper in Whitechapel. Nichols had been married to a printer's machinist and had five children before the couple divorced and she left home and fell on hard times. She had allegedly taken up prostitution to pay for her lodgings and drinking habits and was out drinking on the night she was killed. The name Jack the Ripper was spread by the press after the signature on a letter from someone alleging to be the killer was received. There were many possibly related murders at the time but Nichols was the first of what they refer to as 'the canonical five' that are undisputedly committed by the same person. A difficult to 'like' daily detail from A London Map of Days.

1 September 1810 amateur actor Robert 'Romeo' Coates rents the Haymarket Theatre for one night so that he can perform Shakespeare on stage. He was renowned for his terrible acting and at one performance several people had to be treated for excessive laughter. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

2 September 1666 The Great Fire of London starts in Thomas Farriner's bakery on Pudding Lane. Due to the indecisiveness of the Lord Mayor of London Sir Thomas Bloodworth fire breaks created by destroying buildings which could have halted the progress of the fire were delayed until too late. In the end it destroyed much of the medieval city, consuming 13200 houses, 87 parish churches, St Paul's Cathedral and most of the buildings of the city authorities. Death tolls have always been given as being surprisingly low but this now seems to be because they didn't record deaths of poor or middle class people. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

3 September 1189 Richard the Lionheart is crowned in Westminster. He is regarded as one of the most popular English kings although throughout his reign he spent as little as six months in the country. He used England primarily as a source of revenue for his military crusade in the holy lands. Whilst walking around the perimeter walls of a small chateau he had recently captured in Normandy he was struck in the shoulder by an arrow shot by a young boy. The arrow was removed badly and he ended up dying from the resulting infection. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

4 September 1682 Edmund Halley observes the comet that would bear his name and accurately calculates when all subsequent sightings will occur. The next sighting was in 1758 and even though he did not live to see the comet's return, it was called Halley's Comet when it did. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

5 September 1666 The Great Fire of London ends. The Golden Boy at Pye Corner is a small monument on the corner of Giltspur Street and Cock Lane marking the point where the fire was stopped. It bears the following inscription below it: 'This Boy is in Memmory Put up for the LATE FIRE OF LONDON Occasion'd by the Sin of Gluttony'. After the fire, Christopher Wren and many other architects came up with hugely ambitious master plans for the rebuilding of the City. In the end, the owners of the original plots of land refused to concede anything resulting in what you still see today: a majestic English Baroque city built on a Medieval grid. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

6 September 1802 William Wordsworth composes the poem 'Upon Westminster Bridge'. A daily detail from A London Map of Days. (Errata: the poem was actually composed on 3 September 1802 and my detail was labelled on the first maps printed as 6 July 1840).

7 September 1940 the Blitz (shortened from Blitzkrieg 'lightning war') starts in London. For 57 consecutive nights the Luftwaffe dropped more than 100 tons of explosives on London. These aerial attacks continued intermittently until 21 May 1941. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

8 September 1831 coronation of King William IV who at 64 was the oldest person to assume the British throne. When he died, he had no legitimate children so the crown went to his niece Victoria. He did have 8 illegitimate children with the actress Dorothea Jordan with whom he lived for 20 years. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

9 September 1960 actor Hugh Grant is born in Hammersmith. I really like Hugh Grant, especially in Four Weddings and a Funeral, and apologise for my unflattering portrait. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

10 September 1897 Bram Stoker's Dracula is published. It is an epistolary novel written in the form of fictional but realistic diary entries, telegrams, letters and ship's logs. The book was possibly inspired by Hungarian author Armin Vambery's dark tales of the Carpathian Mountains as Stoker met him whilst doing research into European folklore. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

11 September 1897 a 25-year-old London taxi driver named George Smith becomes the first person ever arrested for drunk driving after slamming his cab into a building. Smith later pled guilty and was fined 25 shillings. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

12 September 1624 Cornelius Drebbel demonstrates his navigable submarine to King James I and several thousand Londoners. This model, his third, last and most successful, had six oars and could carry 16 passengers. It stayed submerged for three hours as it travelled between Westminster and Greenwich and back. Drebbel actually took James on a test dive giving him the honour of being the first monarch to travel underwater. The craft, called a 'drebbel' after its maker, never really caught on and was never used in combat. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

13 September 1944 illustrator and cartoonist W Heath Robinson dies in Pinner aged 72. He was famous for his drawings of unnecessarily complex and implausible inventions for performing simple tasks. The term Heath Robinson has entered the lexicon to describe any overly elaborate and complicated device. In fact, the predecessor to Colossus, the first digital programmable computer made at Bletchley Park during World War II, was named Heath Robinson in his honour. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

14 September 1983 talented, acclaimed and unique singer songwriter Amy Winehouse is born in Southgate. In her brief, meteoric career her first album Frank was nominated for the Mercury Prize and follow up Back to Black won 5 Grammys and three Ivor Novellos. I

sadly never saw her perform but did see her on the street in East Finchley once. My wife and I were parking at about 9 am one morning to go for a coffee when Amy and her driver pulled up in a huge black 4 x 4 and popped into a shop. As they left the shop (Amy carrying a tin of lager) I was walking just behind them with after collecting my ticket to park our car. As I passed them I said 'I love you Amy' and she turned and said 'I love you too'. Still a very sweet memory for me (even though my wife was slightly mortified). A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

15 September 2008 global financial services firm Lehmann Brothers file chapter 11 bankruptcy. They occupied an entire 33 story building in Canary Wharf. Apologies again as another one of now familiar little errors on my map saw me originally write 2009 instead of 2008. This has been corrected on all of the edition save a handful under 10/100. A daily detail from A London Map of Days. (Erratum: on the first ten maps printed the date is mistakenly written as 15 September 2009).

16 September 1977 Marc Bolan singer-songwriter and front man of Glam Rock band T-Rex dies in a car crash in Barnes. The car was being driven by his girlfriend Gloria Jones. Bolan had never learned to drive, as he feared premature death. Born Mark Feld he apparently created the stage name Bolan as a contraction of Bob Dylan. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

17 September 1091 tornado with up to 200 mph winds hits London. It levels St Mary Le Bow and severely damages London Bridge but miraculously only kills 2 people. Another error though folks - it was actually 17 October 1091. Good decision to have decided against a career as either a journalist or a historian...A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

18 September 1970 legendary singer-songwriter and guitarist Jimi Hendrix dies in the Samarkand Hotel in Notting Hill. He had spent two days partying with his German girlfriend Monika Dannemann and took 9 of her prescription sleeping tablets (18 times the recommended dose). She woke to find him breathing but unresponsive and called for an ambulance but he was pronounced dead at St Mary's Hospital. His legend has continued to grow with him winning many posthumous Grammys and other awards and topping countless polls. It was not until 1983 that he was honoured with a memorial in his hometown of Seattle but this was oddly and controversially at the Woodland Park Zoo. His blue plaque on Brook Street was the first ever given to a rock musician. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

19 September 1665 the Great Plague of London reaches its height. In a two-year period the bubonic plague claimed an estimated 100,000 Londoners, approximately 1/4 of the city's population. At the time, they had no idea that the plague was being spread by rats but they suspected a connection with animals and so started getting rid of cats and dogs. This of course exacerbated the problem. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

20 September 1976 100 Club Punk Special featuring Siouxsie and the Banshees, The Clash and The Sex Pistols. This was the first day of a two-day concert organised by Malcolm McLaren the manager of The Sex Pistols. It was a watershed event that shifted punk

from part of an underground music scene to being mainstream. Although I've depicted Johnny Rotten from The Sex Pistols the most notable point about that evening was that it was the first public performance by The Clash. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

21 September 1937 The Hobbit or There and Back Again by J R R Tolkein is published in Bloomsbury by Allen and Unwin. Tolkein was Rawlinson and Bosworth Professor of Anglo Saxon at Pembroke College, Oxford and drew heavily from his studies to write his books. The greatest influence on The Hobbit was the Old English epic poem Beowulf from which he borrowed many themes. Early drafts were read and critiqued by his friend C S Lewis who was also a professor at Oxford and a fellow member of the literary discussion group called The Inklings. A daily detail from A London Map of Days. (Erratum: the date is written on my map as 21 September 1837).

22 September 1735 Sir Robert Walpole, Great Britain's first Prime Minister, moves into no. 10 Downing Street. The house was converted from three houses, which were given to Walpole by George II. Walpole only accepted on the basis that once he left office the house would pass to the next First Lord of the Treasury. The street, a cul-de-sac adjacent to St James Park, was a property speculation built by Sir George Downing a notorious spy for Oliver Cromwell and then George II. Although Downing got them designed by Sir Christopher Wren he built them quickly out of poor materials on soft land. Sir Winston Churchill said that the street was 'shaky and lightly built by the profiteering contractor whose name they bear'. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

23 September 1931 Mahatma Gandhi meets Charlie Chaplin at the home of Dr Katial in Beckton Road, Canning Town. Gandhi was in London to speak at the Round Table Conference to discuss Indian independence. He was staying at Kingsley Hall Community Centre in Bow as he refused offers to be put up at either a posh West End hotel or a royal residence such as Kensington or St James Palace. Charlie Chaplin was making a rare visit back to his homeland and asked if he could meet the famous Indian leader. Gandhi was initially reluctant as he thought that Chaplin was not a serious man but was convinced otherwise. The two had a lovely tea together in a private home away from the media. A daily detail from A London Map of Days. (Erratum: although different dates are cited for this meeting I now believe that it happened the day before on 22 September 1931).

24 September 1660 Samuel Pepys writes the first ever account of a cup of tea being drunk in London. Although tea had arrived in the capital earlier Samuel Pepys who was always keen for novel experiences was the first to record drinking it in his diary. "I did send for a cup of tee (a China drink) of which I had never drunk before". A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

25 September 1906 Phyllis Pearsall, creator of the famous London A-Z is born in East Dulwich. She was working as a portrait painter and one day went off to meet with a client in central London. She used the only available map of the day to find her way and was frustrated by how inaccurate it was. She decided to create a proper map and so began the task of walking the streets of London. She would rise at 5 am and work an 18-hour day mapping the city. In the end she walked 3000 miles over 23,000 streets, 9,000 streets more than any other map and the only one ever with house numbers included. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

26 September 1969 The Beatles release their eleventh and penultimate studio album Abbey Road. The iconic photo shoot was done on 8 August 1969 when a policeman briefly stopped the traffic so that photographer Iain Macmillan could climb a stepladder to take six photos of The Beatles crossing the street walking away from their famous studio. They chose photo no. 5 where they were walking in step and McCartney was barefoot (he wasn't in all of them). This ultimately added to the wonderful conspiracy about that being a Paul imposter because the real Paul was dead. Their clothing added to the myth as the four were said to represent the guardian angel (John), the undertaker (Ringo), the deceased (Paul) and the gravedigger (George). Further clues were that McCartney is holding a cigarette in his right hand but was left handed; he is walking with his right foot leading while the others are all leading with their left; and there's a VW in the background with the license plate '28 IF' which was said to be code for the fact that Paul would have been 28 if he had lived. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

27 September 1968 Hair, the musical opens at the Shaftesbury Theatre. The opening had to be delayed until the Theatre Act 1968 came into effect abolishing theatre censorship. This was vital as the play included levels of both profanity and nudity that would have been unacceptable even a month earlier. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

28 September 1928 Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin. His recounting of the story is of a fortuitous accident that happened on the morning of Friday 28 September. In his laboratory in the basement of St Mary's Hospital in Paddington Fleming found that a Petri dish containing Staphylococcus had accidentally been left open and was contaminated by blue-green mould. His observation that there was a halo of inhibited bacterial growth around the mould led to his eureka moment. He made a culture and found that it was the Penicillium mould and coined the word penicillin. He made an announcement and published a paper on his findings but was apparently such a poor communicator and speaker that it was years before he could get the scientific community to acknowledge the scale and importance of his discovery. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

29 September 1829 Sir Robert Peel establishes the Metropolitan Police at Scotland Yard. In his honour, the new officers were nicknamed 'bobbies' and somewhat less affectionately 'peelers'. They wanted to have uniforms to distinguish them from the public but decided on the naval blue instead of the military red due to the popularity of the navy. The metal buttons were said to be responsible for yet another of their nicknames 'copper'. The force started with 1000 officers and although initially unpopular they quickly proved to be very successful in cutting down crime in London. By 1857 all cities in the country were obliged to set up their own police force. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

30 September 1994 Strand Station on the London Underground permanently closes. Almost since it was built (on the site of the Royal Strand Theatre) it was an underused station. Its proximity made it very useful during both world wars as both an air-raid shelter and for the storage of precious artefacts. In 1917 it was used to store paintings from the National Gallery and just after the Blitz it was used to house the Elgin Marbles. Since closing it has become a Grade II listed building and is primarily used for filming when someone needs an underground platform. Famous uses include Atonement, Mr Selfridge and Sherlock. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

1 October 1890 actor Stanley Holloway is born in Manor Park in the East End of London although it was technically still counted as Essex then. He was a great comic actor who appeared in many Ealing comedies. He was most famous for his role as Alfred P Doolittle in My Fair Lady that he performed on Broadway, the West End and in the 1964 film. Interestingly, he was the paternal grandfather to writer and former model Sophie Dahl whose other grandfather was writer Roald Dahl. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

2 October 1909 the first rugby match at Twickenham stadium is played between Harlequins and Richmond. This is a very appropriate daily detail considering the importance of this weekend's World Cup match between England and Australia. Twickenham stadium is the largest in the world devoted to rugby and because it was built on the site of a huge market garden where cabbages were grown it is affectionately known as 'the Cabbage Patch'. Although versions of rugby were played for hundreds of years prior to three boys from Rugby school writing up rules for it in 1845, it is rumoured that the origin of the game was when one student named William Webb Ellis showed a flagrant disregard for the football played in his day and picked up the ball and ran with it. The story is a bit of an urban myth but the cup for the Rugby World Cup is called the Webb Ellis Trophy in his honour. Daily detail from a London Map of Days.

3 October 1956 the Bolshoi Ballet debuts at Covent Garden on its first trip outside the Soviet Union. Amongst their number were two ballerinas whose names are now legendary in the ballet world - Galina Ulanova and Raisa Struchkova. The company is one of the most famous in the world but had very humble beginnings as a dance school set up for a Moscow orphanage in 1773. It was with their trip to London that their fame truly began but they have always been legendarily secretive. For the first time in their history, the company has allowed behind the scenes access and complete artistic freedom to a film crew from the west. The result is my friend Nick Read's film Bolshoi Babylon that had its world premiere at the Toronto Film Festival last month. A daily detail from a London Map of Days.

4 October 1936 The Battle of Cable Street in the East End. Despite many warnings Oswald Mosley and his band of fascists known as the Blackshirts were allowed to march through the East End of London. They provided them with an escort of 600 policemen but their way was blocked by about 100,000 anti-fascist protesters made up of Jewish, Irish, socialist, anarchist and communist groups. The police attempted to clear the way but were attacked by crowds armed with improvised weapons such as rocks, sticks and chair legs while women along the route pelted them with rotten vegetables, rubbish and the contents of chamber pots. In the end, those chanting 'they shall not pass' won out as Mosley abandoned the march and his band scattered. Many protesters were arrested and fined for their actions and the ringleaders were sentenced to 3 months hard labour. It nevertheless led to the Public Order Act 1936 making it mandatory for the police to consent to political marches and banned the wearing of political uniforms in public. This helped to bring about the demise of the British Union of Fascists before the war. There is a fantastic mural commemorating the event on the side of St George's Town Hall on Cable Street and my detail of Hitler in his underwear is lifted from there. A daily detail from a London Map of Days.

5 October 1962 the first James Bond film Dr No has its world premiere at the London Pavilion. Although the first of the Bond series of novels to be made into a film it was actually the second of Flemings' books. Casino Royale was the first, which introduces the character of James Bond, and this was later made into a spoof spy film with David Niven as Bond. David Niven was actually strongly considered for the role along with Cary Grant (ruled out as he would only commit to one film), Patrick McGeehan (offered the role but turned it down to continue to do Danger Man) and Roger Moore (thought too young and too pretty). They had a competition to cast the role but the winner, 28-year-old model Peter Anthony proved unable to cope with the role. Ultimately they chose 30-year-old former milkman Sean Connery who swaggered into the audition in crumpled clothes. The director Terence Young decided to groom Connery for the role and so took him to his barber and tailor and then out on an extended bender to introduce him to the high life in London. I have depicted Ursula Andress whose emergence from the ocean as Honey Ryder is one of the most iconic of the film. Although she looked perfect her voice was thought to be too heavily accented and was dubbed over in the final film. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

6 October 2007 Jason Lewis completes Expedition 360 the first circumnavigation of the globe by purely human power. He started the expedition with fellow adventurer Stevie Smith although only Lewis completed it travelling by a combination of mountain bike, kayak, roller blade and on foot. He roller blade thousands of miles across North America but was hit by a drunk driver in Pueblo, Colorado and spent nine months recovering from two broken legs. He set off from Greenwich on 12 July 1994 and when he had finished he had travelled 74,842 km in 4,833 days. During his expedition he twice survived malaria, septicaemia, a mild bout of mild schizophrenia and a crocodile attack near Australia in 2005. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

7 October 1959 television and music producer and Pop Idol, X Factor and Britain's Got Talent judge Simon Cowell is born in Lambeth. Consistently voted one of the most influential men in television, my personal highlight of his career was when he appeared on the Simpsons and got beaten up by Homer whilst criticising his punches. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

8 October 1965 the BT or Post Office Tower is officially opened by PM Harold Wilson. Built to support the microwave aerials necessary to carry telecommunications traffic from London to the rest of the country it was the tallest building in the United Kingdom until 1980 when it was overtaken by the NatWest Tower. There is a rotating restaurant on the 34th floor, which rotates fully every 22 minutes. It was temporarily closed after the Provisional IRA exploded a bomb in the men's toilet but then permanently closed after the Lease, held by the Butlins Group, expired in 1980. Rumours persist about it reopening but it did this for only two weeks earlier in the summer and then a further three days earlier this month to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Lotteries were held for both events and 1400 lucky people got to dine there in July and 2400 went for drinks and snacks in October. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

9 October 1991 the first Sumo Basho (tournament) to be held outside Japan starts at the Royal Albert Hall. Due to a weekly television program on Channel 4 Sumo had hit a height of popularity in the UK and it was decided that this made for the perfect opportunity to stage a tournament outside of Japan for the first time in its 1500-year history. We went along to see it and I will always remember walking past the Royal

Garden Hotel on Kensington High Street and seeing this absolute giants lounging in the lobby in their pyjamas and dressing gowns. The Basho featured all 40 of the main rikishi or sumo wrestlers including the two yokozuma (grand champions) - Asahifuji and Hokutuomi as well as Konishiki (nicknamed 'The Dump Truck') famous for being the heaviest sumo wrestler ever (37.5 stone - 238.25 kg) and the first foreigner to become one of the elite wrestlers. My personal favourite was Chiyonofuji (The Wolf) who ended up the champion of the tournament. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

10 October 1926 Britain's first mosque the Fazi Mosque is opened to worshippers in Southfields. The need for a mosque was recognised as early as 1910 and a house and garden in Southfields were purchased to build one. At a total cost of £6223 the mosque was completely paid for by contributions by the Ahmadinejad Muslim women of Qadian India. There is some debate over the claim for being the first mosque as the fund East London Mosque fund was started earlier, however, the Fazi Mosque was built and opened first. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

11 October 1949 Vivienne Leigh plays Blanche DuBois in the London premiere of Tennessee Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire at the Aldwych Theatre. She was chosen for the role by Tennessee Williams himself and her husband Laurence Olivier was chosen to direct it. The play was a huge success with Leigh's performance receiving mostly great reviews, although the people who didn't like her vehemently slated her. Leigh claimed that she loved the character and believed in the importance of the play but said that playing Blanche DuBois had 'tipped her into madness'. She had what we would now diagnose as a bipolar disorder and suffered from intermittent attacks of chronic tuberculosis. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

12 October 1979 The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams is published in London by Pan Books. The novel is a science fiction romp through space and is based on a series of radio plays the author wrote which were broadcast the previous year. The book sold 250,000 copies in its first three months and together with the four subsequent books in the "trilogy" became part of an international multimedia phenomenon. In addition to being a writer Adams was a fervent environmentalist and conservationist. He was also responsible for one of my favourite quotes 'I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by'. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

13 October 1397 Richard (Dick) Whittington is elected Lord Mayor of London for the first of three times. In addition to buying back the liberties of London from the King at a cost of £10,000 (about £4 m in today's money) he was also responsible for the rebuilding of the Guildhall; building a ward for unmarried mothers at St Thomas' Hospital; creating drainage systems for areas around Billingsgate and Cripplegate; the rebuilding of his parish church, St Michael Paternoster Royal; a public toilet seating 128 called Whittington's Longhouse in the parish of St Martin Vintry that was cleansed by the River Thames at high tide; and the creation of Greyfriars library. When he died he left his considerable fortune to various charitable causes creating a legendary status that saw him become a beloved fictional hero of pantomimes and stories. There is no record of his ever having owned a cat, however, a mummified cat was found in the tower of the church where he was buried. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

14 October 1926 the children's book Winnie-the-Pooh by A A Milne is published by Methuen Books. Milne had based the characters in his stories on his son Christopher Robin's collection of stuffed toys, which included Winnie, Piglet, Eeyore, Kanga, Roo and Tigger. He made up the characters of Owl and Rabbit. Winnie-the-Pooh was named after a beloved Canadian brown bear they would often see at London Zoo called Winnie and a swan they met on holiday called Pooh. The bear had been given to London Zoo by Canadian Lieutenant Harry Colebourn who had surreptitiously brought the bear with him to England during World War One. He asked London Zoo to look after him while he was fighting in France and after the war he donated him to the zoo. He was named after Colebourn's adopted hometown of Winnipeg and learning this as a child made for my proudest moment in my old hometown. I have based my detail on the art of E H Shepherd, who created all of the illustrations for all of Milne's books. He is one of my favourite illustrators and it is with respect to both Shepherd and indeed Milne that I have placed Pooh so prominently on my map, taking a bow. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

15 October 2014 the exhibition of The Late Works by Rembrandt van Rijn opens at the National Gallery. It was the most major exhibition of the artist's work ever staged outside of Holland. The works were revelatory even for such a huge fan of Rembrandt's work as I am. They were also deeply moving as they coursed the end of a profoundly tragic life. Rembrandt and his wife Saskia had four children but only one, Titus, survived beyond childhood. After Saskia died from tuberculosis Rembrandt began a relationship with his maid Hendrickje Stoffels. The two never married but did have a daughter named Cornelia. Rembrandt's early success as a portrait painter had faded and although he painted constantly and as the exhibition testified his work continued to improve he found it increasingly difficult to sell his work. Rembrandt survived both Hendrickje and his son Titus and when he died was buried in an unmarked, pauper's grave. Rembrandt was my first artistic love and I have a daily reminder of him whenever I look at myself in the mirror. My parents gave me an enormous catalogue raisonne of his work when I was very young and I carried it around with me everywhere. One day I was carrying it upstairs when I tripped on the final step landing on the book and breaking my nose. My nose has been decidedly crooked ever since. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

16 October 1987 the Great Storm of 1987 hits London, the Southeast of England and Northern France and the Channel Islands. It was a violent extratropical cyclone with hurricane force winds of up to 122 mph. 22 people were killed in the storm and there was huge damage to buildings. The most obvious casualties were the trees as in excess of 15 million were uprooted, including 6 of the eponymous oaks in Sevenoaks. Although London and the Southeast were devastated by the storm it was incredible how quickly everything returned to relative normal. I remember clearly walking down to Archway Underground on the morning of the 16th and having to constantly step or climb over the fallen trees that had lined the Archway Road (although I'm ashamed to admit I hadn't really noticed them previously). We got onto a tube waiting on the platform and got into work only a touch later than usual. My favourite anecdotal story was from my friend Moira's great aunt who lived in Shoreham-on-Sea. She had slept through the storm but could clearly see something dramatic had happened when she looked out her windowing the morning. She tried finding out more information but her phone lines and electricity were off. In true Blitz spirit she wrapped herself up and set off to the local village shop but when she got there it was gone. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

17 October 1998 General Augusto Pinochet the former Dictator of Chile is arrested in London for human rights violations. The charges included torture, assassination and genocide during his 17-year regime. He took control of Chile in a coup that deposed President Salvador Allende and was said to have been responsible for over 3000 deaths and for approximately 30,000 people being tortured. His arrest was a landmark as he was the first former leader who was not able to claim diplomatic immunity. He had made himself a lifelong senator in Chile, a role created by him that made him immune to prosecution in his home country. When he travelled to London to have a minor operation on his back he opened himself up to European courts and Spain set the works in motion to extradite him. He was held in London for a year and a half before finally being returned to Chile. He was held there pending trial but died being actually convicted of any crime. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

18 October 1660 the Charlton Horn Fair is held on St Luke's Day. The fair was a riotous procession between Rotherhithe and Charlton and was said to have been established when King John seduced a miller's wife after a hunting trip and as a concession gave him the fair and a parcel of land in Southeast London. The starting point in Rotherhithe was known as Cuckold's Point after a post with horns on it, which were the symbol for cuckoldry. The fair reached its heyday when Charles II came to the throne in 1660 and officially established its date as the 18 October to coincide with St Luke's Day. Thousands of people would gather dressed as kings, queens and millers with horns on their heads. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

19 October 1987 virtuoso cellist Jacqueline du Pré dies of multiple sclerosis. Du Pré first heard a cello on the radio when she was four and asked her mother for 'one of those'. Her mother started giving her lessons but then enrolled her at the London Violoncello School to study with Alison Dalrymple at age five. She was a precociously talented child and won the Guillermina Suggia Award when she was 11. This award allowed her to study at the Guildhall School of Music. From an early age she began to enter and win competitions with her sister flautist Hilary du Pré. Her formal debut was at the Wigmore Hall when she was 16. She had a very busy and successful career performing in many prestigious concerts and recordings alongside many of the renowned musicians of her time. She started to lose sensitivity in her fingers when she was 26 and her playing noticeably suffered. She was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis two years later and this coincided with her last public performances. She died at the age of 42 and even though her career was short she is widely regarded as one of the most gifted cellists of the 20th century. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

20 October 1708 the 'topping out' (laying the final stone) of St Paul's Cathedral takes place on architect Christopher Wren's 76th birthday. Building work on the previous cathedral (the fourth St Paul's generally referred to as 'Old Saint Paul's') commenced on 1087 and was completed in 1240. It had its spire destroyed by lightning in 1561 and was irreparably damaged by the Great Fire of London on 1666. Christopher Wren was commissioned to design St Paul's as well as 50 other churches in the City of London. Various designs were submitted before one was agreed with the proviso that Wren was permitted to make further changes that he deemed necessary. The building was covered throughout construction and legend has it that when Wren's glorious English Baroque masterpiece was revealed that it caused a great deal of commotion as it bore very little resemblance to the approved designs. There is much debate about the date of the completion of the building work but I've always loved the notion of it falling on Wren's birthday. Daily detail from a London Map of Days.

21 October 1854 Florence Nightingale and the staff of 38 women volunteer nurses that she trained were sent to the Ottoman Empire during the Crimean War. She was shocked by the poor conditions in the hospital and started to tackle the lack of hygiene that was leading to unnecessary infections and deaths. She sent a plea to The Times outlining her concerns and in response Isambard Kingdom Brunel was commissioned to design a prefabricated hospital that could be built in England and then transported to the front line. The result was the Renkioi Hospital, a civilian facility that dramatically improved the mortality rates. It was in an article in The Times that she gained fame and her nickname 'the lady with the lamp' as they wrote about how this ministering angel could be 'observed alone, with a little lamp in her hand, making her solitary rounds.' This epithet was further popularised in Santa Filomena, a poem by Longfellow - 'Lo! in that house of misery, A lady with a lamp I see, Pass through the glimmering gloom, And flit from room to room.' Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

22 October 1983 the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament stage a march in Hyde Park that attracts over a million protesters. The CND was formed in 1957 amidst fears of nuclear war after the United Kingdom had become the world's third atomic power. They were very popular from their outset but their support started to wane in the 70's when relations between the superpowers began to thaw. UK's decision to adopt cruise missiles in the 80's saw their support surge again and the 1983 March was one of their most successful ever even though intelligence from within the police had predicted a crowd of 'somewhere between 50,000 to 70,000'. I used this 'Vegetarians against the bomb' image because I loved the way their mushroom cloud actually looked like cauliflower. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

23 October 1707 Parliament meets and recognises the Acts of Union between England and Scotland, which created the United Kingdom. Since 1603 when James VI of Scotland inherited the English crown from his double cousin twice removed Elizabeth I and became King of the two countries. Although they had shared a monarch it was not until the treaty of 1707 that the union became official. When the Scottish MPs entered the House of Commons on the morning of the 23rd they were warmly welcomed by their English counterparts who stood and applauded. Typically the honeymoon was short as the Scottish MPs had to acclimatise to the cut and thrust of life in the House and the ferocity of the debates. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

24 October 2003 Concorde lands in Heathrow completing its last commercial flight. Developed jointly between the UK and French governments its maiden flight was 34 years before on 2 March 1969 and it went into commercial service in April 1974. In its lifetime, the supersonic plane had become an icon and the three and half hour flying time between London and New York was still attractive enough to warrant the £9000 fares even though fares generally were falling. The planes were getting quite elderly, however, and needed increasing amounts of expensive servicing. The accident in France in 2000 that killed 113 passengers marked the beginning of the end of the era. The final flight carried 100 celebrities and dignitaries and was greeted by a huge weeping crowd of Concorde fans. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

25 October 1976 the National Theatre on the South Bank opens. Between 1963 and 1976 the home of the National Theatre was the Old Vic in Waterloo but a decision was made

to build a bespoke building. Architects Denys Lasdun and Peter Soffley designed the building in a Brutalist style using exposed concrete. The public is dramatically divided to this day about the success of both the function and the aesthetics of the theatre. It contains three separate venues: The Olivier, the largest named after the first creative director Laurence Olivier which seats 1100; the Lyttelton, named after Oliver Lyttelton the National Theatre's first board chairman seats 890; and the Dorfman, named after Lloyd Dorfman director of the Travelex Group which seats 400. The most innovative feature of the Olivier is an ingenious 'drum revolve' (a five-storey revolving stage section) that extends eight metres beneath the stage and is operated by a single staff member. The drum has two rim revolves and two platforms, each of which can carry ten tonnes, facilitating dramatic and fluid scenery changes. Its design ensures that the audience's view is not blocked from any seat, and that the audience is fully visible to actors from the stage's centre. It truly is a wonderful space to see a play especially if you embrace the exposed concrete with the wood grain from the moulds into which it was poured. Daily detail from a London Map of Days.

26 October 1703 the Great Storm hits southern England. In London, 2000 chimneys collapsed and the roof was blown off Westminster Abbey. Queen Anne stayed in the cellar of St James Palace for the duration of the storm. It coincided with the dramatic increase in English journalism and was the first natural disaster to be reported. Printed accounts were widely sold and author Daniel Defoe wrote 'The Storm' about it. Well into the nineteenth century it was a frequent theme of sermons as it was generally accepted that the storm was retribution by God for 'the crying sins of the nation'. Daily detail from a London Map of Days. (Erratum: actual date was 26 November 1703).

27 October 1986 sudden deregulation of the financial markets creates the Big Bang in the City of London. These changes saw the abolition of fixed commission charges and also charges to the London Stock Exchange including the cessation of distinction between stockjobbers and stockbrokers and the change from open-outcry to electronic, screen-based trading. This is generally regarded to have cemented London's position as one of the world's most important financial centres but has also been blamed for contributing to the global financial crisis of 2007. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

28 October 1215 the first Lord Mayor's Show where the mayor travelled in procession to the royal enclave at Westminster. The office of Lord Mayor was established in 1189 and the charter establishing it required that he must present himself annually to the monarch's representatives. The modern show is a symbolic recreation of that journey and has occurred without fail for the last 477 years regardless of plague, fire or war. The Lord Mayor has travelled by coach since Gilbert Heathcote was unseated from his horse by a drunken flower girl in 1710 breaking his leg. The State Coach still in use today was made in 1757 and has an estimated value of £2 million. Daily detail from A London Map of Days. (Erratum: date written as 28 October 1815 on my map).

29 October 1618 Sir Walter Raleigh is executed in the Tower of London. Raleigh was an explorer and adventurer who was a favourite of Queen Elizabeth I who knighted him and appointed him captain of the Queen's Guard. He was responsible for establishing two of the first colonies in North America and although they failed he was credited with bringing back both potatoes and tobacco to England. When Elizabeth heard that he had secretly married her lady in waiting Elizabeth Throckmorton she was furious and locked them both in the Tower. Upon his release he tried to return to her favour by seeking El

Dorado, the lost city of gold in South America. James I disliked Raleigh and when he was implicated in a plot against the King he was imprisoned in the Tower for twelve years. When he was released he tried again in vain to find El Dorado but defied the King's express wishes by attacking the Spanish. Upon his return he was again taken to the Tower but to appease the Spanish this time was executed. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

30 October 1936 the 200 men of the Jarrow Crusade March arrive in London. The march was organised as a protest against unemployment and poverty suffered in the northeast Tyneside town of Jarrow in the 1930s in the wake of the closure of its main employer Palmers Shipyards. 200 men marched from Jarrow to London over 26 days to deliver a petition to the House of Commons. The petition was received but never debated and the men went home believing that they had failed. In subsequent years, however, the march has been seen as a defining point of the 1930s and did much to change attitudes leading to social reform after the Second World War. In an aside, Jarrow's earliest claim to fame was as the home of the Venerable Bede, 8th century saint and author of the Ecclesiastical History of the English People. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

31 October 1795 John Keats is born in Moorgate. His parents both died by the time he was 14 (his father from falling from a horse and his mother from tuberculosis) and Keats was sent to live with his grandmother in Edmonton. Keats was left £800 (the equivalent of about £34,000 today) by his grandfather and a share of a legacy from his mother of £8000 (about £340,000 today) but was apparently never told of either, as he never applied for any of the money. This was particularly unfortunate as money was always a pressing concern for him and living in a series of cold, damp rooms contributed to his poor health. He registered as a medical student at Guy's Hospital and showed such promise that within a month he was accepted as a dresser, assisting surgeons during operations. He spent increasing amounts of time writing and once he had qualified, however, announced his intentions to be a poet rather than a doctor. He began to show symptoms of tuberculosis, the disease that had taken both his mother and one of his brothers, and moved from Hampstead to the warmer climate of Rome. His condition worsened and he died there aged 25. Although the three volumes of his poems published in his lifetime sold only a total of 200 copies, his reputation continued to grow and by the end of the 19th century he was regarded as one of the great English Romantic Poets. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

1 November 1848 W H Smith opens their first railway newsstand in Euston Station. The company began life as a newsvendor on Little Grosvenor Street in Mayfair but to take advantage of the railway boom decided to open a series of newsstands in stations. They started with Euston and then other London stations before opening ones in Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester. These stands flourished and developed into shops, which made W H Smith the world's first chain store. In 1966 they developed a 9-digit code for uniquely identifying books called the Standard Book Numbering system. This began to be widely used and was adopted worldwide as the ISBN in 1974. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

2 November 1936 the BBC begins transmitting the world's first regular public high-definition television service from Alexandra Palace. The building was built in north London, near Muswell Hill in 1873 and was intended to be a public recreation centre to rival Crystal Palace in the south. It needed to be rebuilt after a destructive fire two years

later. Originally the building was called the People's Palace but is now known by its affectionate nickname Ally Pally, which was coined by the English actress and comedienne Gracie Fields. It was superseded by other facilities after the war but its radio and television mast is still in use. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

3 November 1783 John Austin, highwayman and footpad becomes the last man to be hanged at Tyburn. He was found guilty and sentenced to death for murdering labourer John Spicer from Kent. He was brought from Newgate Prison by cart, a journey of 2.5 miles that took three hours. The journey would include stops at St-Sepulchre-without-Newgate and then two public houses. The convicted man was returned to the cart after having finished his last drink at the second public house and his feet would not touch the ground again as they were hanged from the cart. This is why we still say someone is 'on the wagon' when they have stopped drinking. Executions were then moved to just outside Newgate Prison, ending a 600-year tradition. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

4 November 1964 the unveiling of the four-ton clock installed over the door at Fortnum and Mason, Piccadilly. The clock was commissioned by the Canadian owner W Garfield Weston to commemorate the founders and every hour, two four-foot models of William Fortnum and Hugh Mason emerge to bow to each other. William Fortnum was originally a footman in the royal household of Queen Anne. It was her insistence that only new candles be used daily that allowed Fortnum to sell the surplus wax and amass enough money to open his store in 1707 with his landlord Hugh Mason. They invented the Scotch Egg in 1738 and were the first people in Britain to sell Heinz Baked Beans, having bought the entire shipment of tins brought over by their creator in 1886. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

5 November 1605 the Gunpowder Plot to assassinate King James and destroy the House of Lords is thwarted. The plot was initiated by a group of 12 provincial English Catholics led by Robert Catesby in response to a growing sense of dissatisfaction with how they were being treated by the new monarch. The plan was to plant barrels of gunpowder in the cellar of the House of Lords and ignite them during the State Opening of England's Parliament on 5 November at which the King would be present. The responsibility for guarding and then igniting the gunpowder was given to Guy Fawkes who had experience of explosives from his 10 years fighting in the Spanish Netherlands during the Dutch Revolt. The plot was revealed to the authorities in an anonymous letter sent to William Parker, 4th Baron Monteagle, on 26 October 1605 and when they searched the cellar of the House of Lords the night before they found Guy Fawkes guarding 36 barrels of gunpowder. The other conspirators fled from London and got as far as Worcester and in the ensuing battle Catesby was killed. Fawkes and seven others were convicted and sentenced to be hung, drawn and quartered. The uncovering of the plot has been celebrated ever since with fireworks and bonfires on which an effigy of Fawkes is burnt. Daily detail of a London Map of Days.

6 November 1429 coronation of King Henry VI at Westminster Abbey a month before his eighth birthday. He succeeded to the English throne after the death of his father Henry V when he was only nine months old, the youngest person ever to become the monarch. He also inherited the French crown and a long running conflict with France known as the Hundred Years' War. Charles VII of France contested the crown of France and Henry married his niece Margaret of Anjou in a failed attempt to make peace. Losing all of

France except Calais made him have a mental breakdown with Richard of York taking over as his regent. Civil war known as the War of the Roses broke out the following year and he ultimately lost the crown to Edward IV and died in the Tower of London. He is now remembered mostly as the protagonist of a trilogy of plays about his life by Shakespeare and by the fact that he founded Eton College, Kings College, Cambridge and All Souls College, Cambridge. Daily detail from a London Map of Days.

7 November 1841 the Field Lane School, Saffron Hill opens for 45 'ragged' boys and girls. It was started by Andrew Provan the newly appointed London City Missionary in response to what he saw as a deplorable situation in one of the most impoverished areas of London. The area was a notorious slum and rookery comprised of narrow and muddy streets with crumbling buildings where in some cases there would be three or four families sharing a single attic room. The neighbourhood had such an impact on Charles Dickens that he depicted it as the location of Fagin's den of thieves in *Oliver Twist*. In a letter to the *Daily Times* he wrote that 'children who were too ragged, wretched, filthy and forlorn to enter any other place: who could gain admission into no charity school; and would be driven from any church door are invited to come in here'. The Ragged School Movement had a huge impact on society in the Victorian era. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

8 November 1974 British peer suspected of murder Lord Lucan disappears. Richard John Bingham, 7th Earl of Lucan was born into an Anglo-Irish aristocratic family in Marylebone. He served in the army and was a merchant banker before deciding to take up gambling full time. Although not an actor, the suave man about town was once considered for the role of James Bond. The end of his marriage and the loss of a bitter custody battle for his children had a dramatic effect on his life and personal finances. On the 7th November his children's nanny was found murdered in the basement of their Belgravia home and his wife, who had also been attacked, identified Lucan as her assailant. Lucan made a final phone call to his mother and then drove a borrowed Ford Corsair to a friend's house in Uckfield, East Sussex where he was last seen when he left a few hours later. Although the car was later found in Newhaven complete with incriminating traces of blood and a lead pipe similar to the murder weapon, no trace of Lord Lucan has ever been found. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

9 November 1922 Brigadier-General Sir William Horwood, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police receives a package of poisoned walnut whips. Believing them to have been a present from his daughter Beryl he tucked into them after lunch. The poison kicked in very rapidly and in agony, he got his magnifying glass and investigated the packaging and found that it had been tampered with. The walnut whips were found to be laced with weed killer and other members of the Met had been targeted with poisoned chocolate éclairs. When the culprit Walter Tatum of Balham was tracked down and convicted of attempted murder he blamed the attack on instructions he had received from 'voices from the hedge'. The walnut whip brand has never suffered with one eaten in the UK every 2 seconds. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

10 November 1697 artist William Hogarth is born in Bartholomew Close in the City of London. He is the son of a poor Latin schoolmaster and at a young age becomes an apprentice to an engraver. He is a remarkably quick learner and before long is an engraver in his own right designing coats of arms, plates for booksellers and creating and publishing his own works. A big commission went sour when the client Joshua Morris

decided that he was 'an engraver not a painter'. Morris would not accept the works and Hogarth successfully sued him. He developed a style that combined narrative art with biting social commentary creating some of the most important satirical and moralising pieces of the time including *The Rake's Progress*, *The Harlot's Progress*, *Marriage a la Mode* and of course *Beer Street* and *Gin Lane*. He had no children of his own but fostered and adopted many and was the founding governor of the Foundling Hospital. Sergeant painter to the King, a hugely important artist and a personal favourite he was my nomination for the visual artist to grace the next £20 note. A decision is expected in Spring 2016. Daily detail from *A London Map of Days*.

11 November 1920 the unveiling of the Edwin Lutyens designed Cenotaph on Whitehall. Made of Portland stone it replaced a temporary wood and plaster version also designed by Lutyens at the same place. It is the location for the annual National Service of Remembrance each Remembrance Sunday, the closest Sunday to Armistice Day on 11 November. On the day King of George V laid a wreath to the Unknown Warrior at the base of the Cenotaph, which was draped with Union flags. Daily detail from *A London Map of Days*.

12 November 1555 in response to the desires of Queen Mary I, Parliament re-establishes Catholicism as the religion of the Church of England. Protestantism had been the country's religion since Mary's mother Catherine of Aragon had been divorced by her father Henry VIII. Edward VI had carried on his father's religion but when he died, aged 16 Mary saw her popularity as an opportunity to return to Catholicism. Daily detail from *A London Map of Days*.

13 November 1887 Bloody Sunday when a march against unemployment and coercion in Ireland culminates in a riot in Trafalgar Square. A long depression was creating rural migration as thousands were seeking work in the cities. This added to already growing unemployment and poverty. 30,000 spectators encircled Trafalgar Square looking on as 10,000 protestors organised by the Social Democratic Federation marched from the East End of London were met by 10,000 members of the army and the Metropolitan Police, many on horseback. Amongst those marching were social activists Annie Besant, William Morris and George Bernard Shaw. Most of the worst injuries were to the police as although they were armed with rifles with bayonets and the cavalry with swords they were fortunately not ordered to open fire or draw their swords on the crowd. Daily detail from *A London Map of Days*.

14 November 1896 the first London to Brighton Veteran car run takes place. The event was called The Emancipation Run and was a celebration of the Locomotives on Highways Act which allowed cars to travel at speeds up to 14 mph rather than the previous speed limits of 4 mph in the country and 2 mph in towns and cities. The event was run on a wet Saturday with 17 of the 33 entrants reaching Brighton. It wasn't held again until 1927 but since then except for a break for World War II it has run most years. Cars must have been built before 1905 to qualify and the average speed still must not exceed 20 mph. Many celebrities have taken part over the years and in 1968 one of the cars was driven by Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco. Daily detail from *A London Map of Days*.

15 November 1515 Thomas Cromwell marries Elizabeth Wyckes, the widow of Thomas Williams, a Yeoman of the Guard and the daughter of Henry Wykes, who had served as a Gentleman Usher to King Henry VII. Elizabeth and two of their three children tragically died during the epidemic of sweating sickness that swept through the country in 1528. Although remarkably lowly born, Cromwell became a lawyer and statesman and rose to great heights as the chief minister to King Henry VIII between 1532 and 1540. He was one of the most powerful advocates of English Reformation and was responsible for engineering Henry's annulment from Catherine of Aragon. Permission for this was not forthcoming from the Pope so Cromwell had Parliament form the Church of England of which the King was the head. Henry annulled his own marriage to allow him to marry Anne Boleyn. Cromwell's fall from power happened after he arranged the marriage to a German princess, Anne of Cleves. Henry found Anne of Cleves deeply unattractive and had the marriage annulled six months later. Cromwell was blamed for this and was executed on Tower Hill for heresy and treason on 28 July 1540. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

16 November 1477 William Caxton, the first person to introduce printing to England, publishes *Dictes or Sayengis of the Philosophres* (*Sayings of the Philosophers*). He lived for a time in Bruges and set up a press there where he printed *Recuyell of the Historyes of Troye*, the first book in the English language. He returned to London and established a press in Westminster in 1476. The first book he produced was Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* but the date of this is uncertain. Other notable works were Sir Thomas Mallory's *Le Morte d'Arthur* and the first English translation of Aesop's *Fables*. The English language was changing rapidly in his lifetime and Caxton is credited with standardising the English language through printing. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

17 November 1558 upon the death of Mary I, Elizabeth I becomes Queen of England. She was the daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn who was executed when she was two and a half at which point she was ruled illegitimate. When her father died her half-brother became King Edward VI but his reign was short, as he died aged only 16. In defiance of the statute law to the contrary he ignored the claims of his sisters Mary and Elizabeth and bequeathed the crown to his cousin Lady Jane Grey. His will was set aside, however, and Mary became Queen deposing (and then beheading) Lady Jane Grey. Under Mary, who had returned the country to Catholicism, Elizabeth was imprisoned in the tower for a year for possibly supporting Protestant rebels. When she became queen one of her first actions was to restore Protestantism and to establish the Church of England. She never married and ruled until her death in 1603 at which time she had become a legend. She had black teeth from the excessive amounts of sugar she consumed and was known to have commissioned life-sized gingerbread sculptures of royal guests of honour. In addition to a burgeoning empire and the defeat of all enemies including the Spanish Armada, the Elizabethan era gave us the theatre, Spenser, Marlowe, Shakespeare and the potato. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

18 November 1987 the King's Cross fire starts on an escalator killing 31 people and injuring 100 more. The fire started from a match being dropped on the then largely wooden Piccadilly Line escalators. The fire was initially deemed to be of a manageable size but a previously unknown phenomenon called the 'trench effect' saw the flames race up the escalator and then burst into the ticket hall where most of the victims were located. Tube trains had designated smoking carriages until 1984 and a further ban in 1985 stopped people smoking on the platforms. The platform ban was the less rigorously enforced of the bans and people would often light up there or on the escalators and in the ticket hall

on their way out of the station. This fire completely changed everyone's attitude to smoking on public transport with smoking bans being rigorously enforced in every part of the underground network from that point. Smoking bans on buses followed where people had previously been allowed to smoke at the back of buses. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

19 November 1887 (1886 on my drawing!) A Study in Scarlet by Arthur Conan Doyle is published which first introduced Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson. It was written in three weeks by 27-year-old Arthur Conan Doyle while he was a General Practitioner in Portsmouth. In the original canon it was one of only four full-length novels as the rest were short stories. The book received little attention upon publication and of the short print run there are only 11 copies still in existence. These are extremely valuable now, however. Sherlock Holmes gained a huge audience with the 56 short stories and became so popular that Doyle grew to resent him. He was possibly based on Joseph Bell a surgeon at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh for whom Doyle had worked as a clerk. Francis 'Tanky' Smith, a policeman and master of disguise who went on to become Leicester's first private detective is another possible inspiration. Bell himself is known to have discounted the possibility of having been the inspiration for Holmes claiming that 'he is based on you Doyle and you know it'. In my map I've placed him beside Benedict Cumberbatch who famously played Holmes and given him a magnifying glass the use of which by detectives Doyle is said to have invented. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

20 November 1907 the start of the Brown Dog anti-vivisection riots centred around a bronze statue of a dog in Battersea. The controversy was triggered by allegations that in February 1903, William Bayliss of the Department of Physiology at University College London performed an illegal dissection before an audience of 60 medical students on a brown terrier dog which Bayliss and his team said was adequately anaesthetised, but Swedish activists protested was conscious and struggling. The procedure was condemned as cruel and unlawful by the National Anti-Vivisection Society who commissioned a bronze statue of the dog as a memorial, unveiled in Battersea in 1906. Medical students angered by the provocative plaque – "Men and women of England, how long shall these Things be?" frequently vandalised the statue until it received a 24-hour police guard. When medical students marched through London carrying effigies of the brown dog on sticks they clashed with anti-vivisectionists, suffragettes, trade unionists and the police. The riots continued intermittently until they reached a crescendo on 10 December with proper pitched battles being waged. The statue was then considered too controversial and was removed and destroyed late one night in 1910. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

21 November 1846 Sweeney Todd the demon barber of Fleet Street is introduced as the protagonist in a Victorian penny dreadful entitled The String of Pearls. Todd dispatches his victims by pulling a lever as they sit in his barber chair causing them to fall into the basement. The victims are then polished off by Todd with a straight razor and robbed of valuables before being passed to Mrs Lovett his partner in crime. She owns the pie shop in nearby Bell Yard and grinds up their flesh to bake into her pies. Sweeney Todd was successfully turned into a Tony Award winning Broadway musical by Stephen Sondheim and Hugh Wheeler. Although the character is a product of pure fiction and urban legend, belief that he was based on a real person persists to this day. Dickens was the first to write of dubious pie fillings in The Pickwick Papers as the servant Sam Weller talks of a pieman who used cats to make his pies. The advice he gives is that you should only ever eat a pie 'when you know the lady as made it, and is quite sure it ain't kitten'. Daily

detail from A London Map of Days. (Also 21 November 1871 first man – Emilio Onra – shot from a cannon.)

22 November 1990 Margaret Thatcher resigns as Prime Minister when her cabinet refuses to back her in a second round of leadership elections. The former Secretary of State for the environment Michael Heseltine threw down the gauntlet after a string of disputes over Britain's involvement in the European Union. She won the subsequent leadership contest but without the necessary majority. The prime minister said pressure from colleagues had forced her to conclude that party unity and the prospect of victory in the next general election would be better served if she stepped down. In the next round of votes John Major the Chancellor of the Exchequer succeeded her five days later. My drawing is of the moment when Thatcher and her husband Dennis were driven away from Downing Street for the last time. I remember noting that Thatcher looked devastated while Dennis actually looked quite happy and relieved. Daily detail from A London Map of Days

23 November 1415 Henry V triumphantly returns to London after victory over the French at Agincourt. The famous battle took place on St Crispin's Day where estimates say the English were outnumbered 6 - 1. Huge crowds of rejoicing Londoners lined his route from London Bridge to Westminster and lavish celebrations were created by the Corporation of London along the way. Giant figures bearing the Royal coat of arms flanked the bridge with trumpets and horns blaring in multiple harmony from the ramparts. The entire bridge was decorated with the wooden pillars painted to resemble marble and huge murals on fabric hung on the fronts of the houses. At the centre where there was a small drawbridge there were large figures of an antelope and a lion made from wood covered in painted to resemble stone. A statue of St George wearing a suit of armour was just beyond and the first of two choirs of boys sang from above. There was a second choir by Cornhill and after that on Cheapside 12 old men dressed as the apostles sang in perfect harmony and in an amazing feat of craftsmanship buildings covered fabric perfectly resembled a wall of marble and ivory. At that point a flock of small birds was released that swarmed around the King, some landing on his shoulders. There was capped off by an extraordinary feast at Westminster. All pretty amazing preparations and pageantry when you consider that victory was less than a month before on 25 October. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

24 November 1434 and 1715 the Thames is recorded to have frozen over. This occurred much less often than is commonly thought and was due to a combination of properly cold temperatures and the poor flow of the river created by the multiple supports of the medieval London Bridge. Between the year the bridge was built in 1400 and torn down in 1835 the river froze over 24 times. These occasions would inspire impromptu frost fairs where market stalls would be erected and all manner of games and activities would take place. They were said to be like proper bacchanalian festivals. The last fair was in 1814 and lasted four days. An elephant was walked onto the river at Blackfriars and the printer George Davis set up a printing press where he published and printed a 124-page book called Frostiana: a History of the Thames in a frozen state. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

25 November 1952 Agatha Christie's mystery The Mousetrap starts the world's longest theatrical run at the Ambassadors Theatre in Covent Garden. It ran until Saturday 23 March 1974 when it immediately transferred to the larger St Martins Theatre next door

reopening on Monday 25 March 1974, thus continuing its 'initial run' status. Countless actors have appeared in The Mousetrap including my friend David Semark in a run that has now exceeded 60 years and 25,000 performances. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

26 November 1983 the Brink's-Mat robbery where £26 million in gold, diamonds and cash were stolen from a warehouse at London's Heathrow Airport. Six robbers broke into the warehouse thinking that they would find £3 million in cash but were surprised by the huge volume of gold bullion and diamonds they found. Although various arrests have been made over the years, the loot has never been found. A huge amount of the gold bullion was thought to have been melted down in the garden of a private residence in Bath. The police were called there to investigate a few days after the heist but curiously never entered the property or properly followed up the lead. Rumours persist about a curse linked to the burglary, which has seen the early demise of many of the protagonists. The most recent of these was the man who allegedly melted down the gold John 'Goldfinger' Palmer who was shot dead in June this year. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

27 November 1918 my grandparents Fred Barratt and Annie Goddard meet in London. My grandfather emigrated to Canada when he was very young but then was sent back as a Canadian soldier in World War I. He was part of a battalion called The Bantams where there was a height limit of 5'6". I saw a photo of him with his fellow soldiers beside their normal height commanding officer looked like a primary school class photo. My father overheard me once saying that my grandparents who were both 4'11" and he corrected me saying 'your grandfather wasn't 4'11" ' I was disappointed as I've always loved that fact about them. 'No' he continued 'your grandfather was actually only 4'10"! Upon hearing this my wife Amanda pointed out 'imagine being a 4'11" woman and still not finding a man taller than you'. One of four personal details from A London Map of Days.

28 November 1757 poet, artist and printmaker William Blake is born in Soho. As a young man Blake was apprenticed to the engraver James Basire and became a professional engraver at the end of this term aged 21. Tastes had generally started to move towards the technique of mezzotint rather than the line engraving he had learned and this made it difficult for him to attain commissions. He created a new technique called 'relief etching' where images were painted onto the surface of a copper plate with varnish and then etched to achieve a raised image area that could be rolled up with ink like a wood engraving. He used this technique to publish illuminated texts and to illustrate his own poems and writings. He was a deeply religious man and his work often had philosophical or mystical undercurrents. He was considered mad by many of his contemporaries but has since been regarded as a 'glorious luminary' and one of the pivotal writers and artists of the Romantic era. A daily detail from A London Map of Days.

29 November 1897 the first ever motorcycle race is held around a track at Sheen House in Richmond. The course was a mile long and the winner was Charles Jarrot on a Fournier with a time of two minutes and eight seconds. Motorcycles were a relatively new invention with the first prototypes not to be powered by steam in 1884 and the first mass-produced ones made by Hildebrand & Wolfmüller in 1894. In England, Triumph was established in 1898 and Royal Enfield in 1899. Harley Davidsons were made from 1903. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

30 November 1936 Crystal Palace in Sydenham burns down. Originally built in Hyde Park, it was the centrepiece of The Great Exhibition or more fully The Great Exhibition Works of Industry of All Nations of 1851. This was the first of the World's Fair exhibitions of culture and industry that became popular in the 19th century. A committee that included William Cubitt and Isambard Kingdom Brunel had been formed in 1850 to plan the exhibition and architects were invited to submit proposals for this vital yet temporary building at its heart. No one came up with a feasible plan that could be built on time and on budget and time was rapidly running out. Renowned garden designer Joseph Paxton became interested at this point. He was the head gardener for the 6th Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth House and his pioneering public gardens at Birkenhead Park had greatly influenced the design of New York's Central Park. He came up with the simple idea that combined a cast iron structure with ready-made glass panels very much like an enormous greenhouse. This gave a huge exhibition space that had no internal walls to inhibit the displays and needed no artificial lighting during the day. The Great Exhibition was such a success that it was decided to move the building to Sydenham Hill where it could become a permanent exhibition space. It cost £150,000 to build but £1,300,000 to move and the company never repaid that debt as the venue steadily declined over the years. In the 1920s it was taken over by the state and brought back to something like its original glory. On the fateful night, a small explosion in the women's cloakroom started a small fire that within hours had burned the building to the ground. Standing amongst the onlookers watching the fire Winston Churchill said it was 'the end of an era'. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

1 December 1967 Pipaluk the polar bear is born at London Zoo in Regent's Park. He was the first male polar bear born in captivity in Britain and became a major celebrity at London Zoo. His name came from an Inuit term meaning 'sweet little thing' and is actually one of the most popular girl's names in Greenland. Pipaluk was moved from London to Poland when the Mappin Terraces were closed and died in 1990. The Mappin Terraces, now called The Outback, is home to emus, wallabies and red kangaroos. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

2 December 2014 Prof Stephen Hawking warns of the dangers artificial intelligence could pose to mankind. This is the most recent detail in my map of days and came about as I was searching for something to reference on 2 December last year. I was listening to the news and Stephen Hawking was in London responding to a question about a revamp of the technology he uses to communicate, which involves a basic form of AI. He said that he felt that the development of full artificial intelligence could spell the end of the human race as they could supersede humans who evolve in a slow biological manner. There's something very surreal about hearing these warnings in his vaguely robotic voice. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

3 December 1976 an inflatable pig used for a cover shoot for Pink Floyd's album 'Animals' breaks free from its moorings on Battersea Power Station. Artist Lucy Sparrow, co-founder of the amazing 1970s art group Hipgnosis, came up with the concept (along with Floyd's Roger Waters) of a 40-foot inflatable pig floating over Britain's iconic Battersea Power Station. Before they completed the photo, however, the cable snapped and the pig floated away directly into the path of planes landing at Heathrow. All flights were grounded and Sparrow was arrested, even as police helicopters and the Royal Air Force arrived to chase the pig. It eventually fell to the ground miles away in a farm in Kent where

it was said to be terrifying the farmer's cows. The final cover used a photo taken on the morning before the giant balloon was in situ and the pig was pasted on afterwards. It remains both one of the most iconic album covers of all time as well as one of the most successful accidental publicity stunts. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

4 December 1947 the first enormous Christmas tree is given by the city of Oslo as a token of Norwegian gratitude to the people of London for their assistance during the years 1940-45. The tree, a 50-60 year-old Norwegian spruce approximately 20 metres high, has been an annual feature of Trafalgar Square ever since attracting huge crowds and seemingly constant Carol singers. It is lit with 500 low wattage white lights and stays up until the Twelfth Night of Christmas when it is taken down and recycled into mulch. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

5 December 1766 James Christie conducts his first auction of art and antiques. The image I have used is of a George III silver cow-creamer from their first catalogue. There have been newspaper advertisements of sales dating back to 1759 but the one in 1766 is the first one that Christie's history acknowledges. Christie's soon established a reputation as a leading auction house, and took advantage of London's newfound status as the major centre of the international art trade after the French Revolution. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

6 December 1964 Martin Luther King preaches to a congregation in St Paul's Cathedral. He was en route to Oslo to collect the Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership of the civil rights movement when he broke up his trip to preach to a 3000 strong congregation. The Evensong Address that he gave entitled The Three Dimensions of a Complete Life was repeated every year until his assigination in 1968 and underpinned his theological career. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

7 December 2003 Grayson Perry wins the Turner Prize. He beat the heavily favoured Chapman Brothers to the coveted award and its prize money of £20,000 with a collection of decorated vases that were both thought provoking and extremely beautiful. He accepted the prize in the guise of his alter ego Claire wearing high heeled shoes and a stunning printed dress. In his acceptance speech he said that he thought it was about time that a transvestite potter from Essex won the Turner Prize. Perry had been a a women's clothes since his early teens and the discovery of this put further strain on his already troubled relationship with his mother and stepfather. Encouraged by one of his teachers he went to art school at Portsmouth to study ceramics. When he left he was living a hand to mouth existence in a series of flats that he shared with milliner Stephen Jones and singer Boy George. They would go out to Blitz a New Romantic club in Covent Garden and have competitions to see who could wear the most outrageous costumes. An articulate and highly intelligent artist, Grayson Perry has gone from strength to strength since the Turner Prize win with work extending into printmaking, textiles, tapestries and even architecture with his creation of Julie's House, a fantastical narrative building that he designed in Essex. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

8 December 1660 Margaret Hughes becomes the first woman to perform on an English stage when she plays Desdemona at the Vere Street Theatre in Lincoln's Inn Fields. After the incredible vibrancy of the theatre during the Elizabethan period it was banned completely by the Puritans in 1642. When Charles Stuart was restored to the throne he

brought back the theatre and the Restoration period became famous for its bawdy comedies. All of the female roles had been played by boys or sometimes men in Shakespeare's day and even in 1660 it was seen as remarkably audacious to see a woman in stage. Margaret Hughes became a very famous on stage presence and was mentioned many times in Samuel Pepys diary. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

9 December 2011 a ring-tailed lemur is found in the middle of Tooting Common. He was freezing and suffering from hypothermia when he was rushed to the Blue Cross Animal Hospital in Victoria. Staff named him King Julien after the character in the animated film Madagascar. He was initially too weak to eat but staff nursed him back to health by using syringes to drip honey into his mouth until he made a full recovery. It's still a mystery how this native primate from an island off the east coast of Africa was found in Tooting. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

10 December 1971 musician Frank Zappa is pushed from the stage by a disgruntled fan at the Rainbow Theatre. The band was playing a slightly ironic cover of 'I want to hold your hand' as an encore when disgruntled Beatles fan Trevor Howell jumped onto the stage and pushed the singer into the concrete orchestra pit. The band thought that Zappa had been killed as he had such severe fractures to his head, back and legs that he ended up in a wheelchair for six months. He also suffered a crushed larynx that resulted in his voice dropping half an octave when he returned to singing. Zappa was not a stranger to disaster as five days before this occurred he had been performing at a casino in Montreux when a fan let off a flare, which burned the venue to the ground. This incident was immortalised by Deep Purple in their song 'Smoke on the water'. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

11 December 1936 King Edward VIII abdicates the throne to marry Wallis Simpson. Edward had been a notorious lothario before meeting and falling in love with American socialite Simpson. She was divorced once and was in the process of divorcing her second husband when Edward announced his intention to marry her. Parliament and the Commonwealth were dramatically opposed to their marriage, as the King is the nominal head of the Church of England, which did not allow divorce and remarriage. He decided that the love of Wallis Simpson meant more to him than the crown so he addressed the nation to abdicate after having been King for only 11 months. He married Simpson and stayed married to her until his death 35 years later. Edward remains the only person to renounce the throne since Anglo-Saxon times. The crown passed to his brother Albert who took the regnal name George VI. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

12 December 1896 inventor Guglielmo Marconi demonstrates his first radio transmitter. The 22-year-old Italian had come to England to seek funding for his invention and joined William Preece, chief engineer to the General Post Office at a public lecture on telegraphy at Toynbee Hall. Preece operated the transmitter and whenever he created an electric spark, a bell rang on a box Marconi took to any part of the lecture room. There was no visible connection between the two and the demonstration caused a sensation and made Marconi a celebrity. On the same day in 1901 he became the first person to send a signal across the Atlantic Ocean. His claim has since been challenged to have been impossible under the circumstances. Further controversy followed the Titanic disaster as the outdated Marconi radio system was said to have been partly responsible for the delays in rescue boats reaching the survivors. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

13 December 1987 at their London auction house, Christies sell Charlie Chaplin's iconic hat and cane for \$154,200. Chaplin wore the hat and cane as trademark features of his Little Tramp persona in films such as Gold Rush, City Lights and Modern Times. They were bought by Jorten Strecker, a Danish entrepreneur who planned to display them in his cinema and restaurant complex in Copenhagen. Chaplin's oversized, shabby boots were sold to an anonymous telephone bidder for \$72,000. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

14 December 1901 the first table tennis tournament is held at the London Royal Aquarium. The game had originated as 'Whiff Waff' in Victorian times. It was an after dinner parlour game where books were stood up along the middle of a table and further books were used as paddles to hit a golf ball back and forth. Although the game was originally patented in 1901 by J Jacques of London as 'Ping Pong', table tennis has now replaced that name internationally except for in North America. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

15 December 1906 the Piccadilly Line on the London Underground opens between Finsbury Park and Hammersmith. The line was extended in the 1930s to the northeast at Cockfosters and west to Hatton Cross in a time when a forward-looking government decided to spend their way out of a dramatic recession. The line is one of the deepest in London although of its 53 stations only 25 are below ground. The extension to Heathrow was not added until 1979. When the line was introduced the area was just farmland and the airport was created in 1929 as a small airfield called The Great West Aerodrome in the tiny hamlet of Heathrow. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

16 December 1653 Oliver Cromwell becomes 1st Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland and Ireland. A descendant of the sister of King Henry VIII's minister Thomas Cromwell, he was one of the signatories of King Charles I's death warrant in 1649. He was member of the Rump Parliament and a dominant force in the short-lived Commonwealth of England. In 1653 he was invited to be Lord Protector by his fellow members and he ruled until his death of natural causes in 1658. Once the Royalists returned to power in 1660 he was convicted posthumously of treason and his body was exhumed, hung and beheaded. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

17 December 1849 the first bowler hat was originally created for Edward Coke, the younger brother of the 2nd Earl of Leicester. It was designed by London hatmakers Thomas and William Bowlers for hatters Lock & Co of St James's. The brief was to create a piece of headgear that could be worn by gamekeepers when they were out riding to protect their heads from low-hanging branches. It is thought that before accepting the hat Coke arrived at the shop in London and stamped on the crown twice to check its robustness. It cost him 12 shillings. It was Winston Churchill's trademark and became a ubiquitous accoutrement of the 1950s city gent. It died out from the 70s but has undergone a recent hipster resurgence. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

18 December 1863 following the establishment of the Football Association the first ever match of football is played at Mortlake. Versions of football had been played for centuries but no official rules had ever been established. The Football Association was

formed in a meeting on 26 October 1863 at the Freemasons Tavern in Great Queen Street and rules were drawn up over six subsequent meetings. They planned to play the inaugural match on 2 January 1864 in Battersea Park but some enthusiastic members couldn't resist the temptation to try out an early practice match in Mortlake. The match was between teams from Barnes and Richmond and ended in the first ever goalless draw. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

19 December 1843 A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens is published in London by Chapman and Hall. After the disappointing reception of Martin Chuzzlewit, Dickens felt that his popularity as a writer was waning and wanted to write something that would turn things around for him. He got the idea for this novella whilst visiting work-worn Manchester, as he had wanted to write a pamphlet to address the problems of poverty, especially in children. Dickens started writing the book in September, only six weeks before its publication date. Dickens based the character of the incorrigible miser who achieves redemption on Christmas in part on his complicated relationship with his father who was imprisoned in Marshalsea debtors prison when Dickens was a boy. Although not reaping quite the level of royalties that Dickens had hoped for, the book was very popular critically and has never been out of print. There have been countless versions of the story produced for radio, stage and screen but I have never been swayed by any beyond the 1951 film starring Alistair Sim which we watch every year without fail. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

20 December 1688 co-regents Dutch Prince of Orange-Nassau King William III and his spouse Queen Mary II (known as William and Mary) arrive in London. They were offered the throne by the Convention Parliament following the Dutch victory in the Glorious Revolution. I'll write more about this on the 23 December. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

21 December 1842 HM Prison Pentonville opens on the Caledonian Road. It was a modern prison that was necessitated by the rapid increase in prisoner numbers brought about by the ending of capital punishment for many crimes and a steady reduction in transportation to Australia. It was deemed to have been such a success that it was used as the model for a further 54 prisons built throughout the British Empire over the next 6 years. It became the major execution site after Newgate Prison was closed in 1916 and until capital punishment was abolished in 1964. Famous inmates include Oscar Wilde, Dr Crippen, Boy George and George Michael. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

22 December 1135 the coronation of King Stephen in Westminster Abbey. Also known as Stephen of Blois he was the grandson of William the Conqueror and his reign was marked by unrest and civil strife. When King Henry I's only legitimate son and successor William Adelin died aboard the White Ship in 1120 it sparked a dispute over the line of succession. Henry wanted the next ruler to be his daughter the Empress Matilda but after his death Stephen seized the throne. This caused a twenty year long civil war known as The Anarchy that was only resolved when Stephen agreed to allow Matilda's son Henry to be King after he died. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

23 December 1688 James II flees to France after being deposed by the Glorious Revolution of William and Mary. He was the second son of Charles II and ascended to the throne upon the death of his brother Charles II. He was suspected by members of Britain's

political elite of being both pro-French and pro-Catholic and of having designs on becoming an absolute monarch. When he produced a Catholic heir to the throne tensions exploded and his daughter Mary and Protestant son-in-law William of Orange were invited by English Parliamentarians to bring an army from Holland to overthrow him. William III and Mary II ruled jointly from this point onwards and drew up the country's first bill of rights. The Bill of Rights 1689 outlined for the first time the limitations of the monarch, the role of parliament and the basic human rights of the individual citizen. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

24 December 1922 the London Coliseum came into being as a variety theatre. It was unusual for the time in that Oswald Stoll, the man who commissioned it, wanted it to be a posh and respectable venue and so had it designed without a pit. This was not an orchestral pit, but the type common to all London theatres of the day, which housed the rowdy working classes. The building was designed by renowned theatre architect Frank Matcham and had 2359 seats, making it the largest theatre in London. It went on to become the home of the Sadler's Wells Opera Company who changed their name to the English National Opera in 1974. The theatre is also now the home of the English National Ballet. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

25 December 1066 William the Conqueror is crowned on Christmas Day at Westminster Abbey. After receiving kind words in the past about the variety of my details, I must start with a quick apology about the royal-centric slant of the recent details (20, 22, 23 and now 25 December). Right, let's return to William. William I, Duke of Normandy was born to the unmarried Robert I and his mistress Herleva, leading to his other less flattering nickname William the Bastard. He was the first cousin once removed of the childless monarch Edward the Confessor and claimed that Edward had promised him the English throne. When he died, however, Edward passed the crown on his deathbed to the powerful English earl Harold Godwinson. William had consolidated his rule of Normandy and so decided to invade England. He built a large fleet and landed in England in September 1066. He won the decisive Battle of Hastings on 14 October where he defeated and killed Harold with an arrow through his eye. Harold's mother offered her son's weight in gold for the return of his body but William refused and ordered that it be taken and dumped into the sea. It is not known what actually happened to Harold although it is claimed that his remains were secretly buried in Waltham Abbey. The English did not meekly accept William but he conquered them at Dover, Canterbury and then Winchester where the royal treasury was located before marching to London. He captured London and was crowned at Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day. Amongst his lasting impact is the White Tower of London, which he built as his London residence, the Domesday Book that detailed all of the inhabitants and lands of his empire and the prevalence of French words in our language. Daily detail from A London Map of Days. Happy Christmas!

26 December 1871 writing duo Gilbert and Sullivan's first comic opera collaboration Thespis opens at the Gaiety Theatre for 63 performances. The piece was an extravaganza in which the classical Greek gods, grown elderly, are temporarily replaced by a troupe of 19th-century actors and actresses, one of whom is the eponymous Thespis, the Greek father of the drama. Its humour was very broad and risqué and the music has now been lost, although one song made it into The Pirates of Penzance. Richard D'Oyly Carte brought together W S Gilbert, who wrote the libretto and Arthur Sullivan, who wrote the scores. The two created a total of 14 comic operas the most famous of which are The Mikado, H M S Pinafore and The Pirates of Penzance. D'Oyly Carte built the Savoy Theatre on The Strand to stage their plays and founded the D'Oyly

Carte Opera Company who performed their joint works for over a century. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

27 December 1871 Harrison Weir organises the first major cat show at Crystal Palace. Due to his obsession with cats, Weir came to be known as 'The Father of the Cat Fancy'. I have since discovered that he had organised a previous much smaller cat show in July but the one in December was on a much grander scale. Weir was an artist and beyond the drawings and paintings that he produced his greatest achievement was the work he did on Warleigh, his Victorian gothic home in Matlock, Kent. This house was bought by the Sassoon family and was the birthplace of poet Siegfried Sassoon. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

28 December 1065 Westminster Abbey, then known as St Peter's Abbey is consecrated. The site of the original church was chosen by the legend that a young fisherman named Aldrich had a vision of St Peter there and the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers still give the Abbey a gift of a salmon annually in his honour. Edward the Confessor began rebuilding the church between 1042 and 1052 to provide himself with a royal burial church. It was consecrated a week before his death on 5 January 1066. He was buried there as per his wishes and his Queen Edith was buried alongside him 9 years later. Harold II was believed to have been the first king crowned there but William the Conqueror was the first properly documented coronation (see 25 December 1066). Parts of Edward's building still remain but the only existing depiction of what it looked like, and the one I've used for my drawing is from the Bayeux Tapestry. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

29 December 1914 James Joyce's first novel A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man is published as a serial. It began life as a projected 63-chapter autobiographical novel called Stephen Hero. After 25 chapters, Joyce abandoned his project and set fire to the manuscript. His sister saved the burning papers and he was later grateful for this as much of it found its way into 'A Portrait' although heavily condensed into five chapters. American modernist poet Ezra Pound serialised the novel in the London literary magazine The Egoist. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

30 December 1919 the first women are called to the bar by The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn. Lincoln's Inn is one of four Inns of Court along with Middle Temple, Inner Temple and Gray's Inn in London to which lawyers belong once they are called to the bar. It is not known when any of the Inns of Court were established, however, the first existing minutes of Lincoln's Inn, named after Henry de Lacy, 3rd Earl of Lincoln, date back to 1422 when it was already a well organised institution. Women had never been allowed to sit the examinations to become solicitors and even the landmark case of Miss Gwyneth Bebb against the Law Society in 1914 failed to overturn this. It would be another 5 years before the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act 1919 finally admitted women to the legal profession. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.

31 December 1999 the London Eye is completed and tested for the first time, although without passengers. It would not properly open to the public until March 2000 but was finished in time for the millennium as promised. It is currently Europe's tallest Ferris wheel and offered the highest viewing point in London until the Shard's 72nd floor observation deck opened in 2013. It was initially built as a temporary structure (like the Eiffel Tower)

but has now had its status changed to permanent. It is both loved and iconic and is London's most popular tourist attraction with over 3.75 million visitors annually. Daily detail from A London Map of Days.