



Course details

Course title

History: Art and About: Outrage – Walking the Greenwich Park Bomb 1894

Course code

Q00022030

Course date

Start: 13/06/25

End: 13/06/25

Number of classes

1 sessions

Timetable

Fri 13th Jun, 10:30 to 13:30

Tutor

Laurie Johnston

Fee range

Free to £12.60

How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes at the venue indicated. Some materials may be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

In venue

Venue

Meeting Point: Greenwich Foot Tunnel
South Entrance
London

London
SE10 9HT

Level of study
Beginners

Course overview

This short walk from the Greenwich Foot Tunnel entrance to the Royal Observatory traces some of the sites connected to what some have called the first act of international terrorism – the Greenwich Park Bomb Outrage of 1894 in which a young French Anarchist blew himself to pieces. Why did he do it? What was he trying to achieve and why do it in a deserted Greenwich Park in the depths of winter? What evidence of the incident now remains for us to consider and attempt to draw conclusions from? What was the explosion’s lasting impact, and does it have any modern relevance? Meet at Greenwich Foot Tunnel South Entrance, London SE10 9HT

Course description

“Ah! Here it is. Bomb in Greenwich Park. There isn’t much so far. Half-past eleven. Foggy morning. Effects of explosion felt as far as Romney Road & Park Place. Enormous hole in the ground under a tree filled with smashed roots & broken branches. All round fragments of a man’s body blown to pieces. That’s all. The rest’s mere newspaper gup. No doubt a wicked attempt to blow up the Observatory, they say. H’m. That’s hardly credible.” - ‘The Secret Agent’, Joseph Conrad, 1907 Conrad was inspired by a real event: the Greenwich Bomb Outrage of February 15, 1894. Martial Bourdin, a French anarchist, detonated a bomb while approaching the Royal Observatory & died of his injuries. The motive for his attack remains unclear. But that will not stop us speculating as we take in the magnificent surroundings of Greenwich. We will begin at the Greenwich Foot Tunnel, setting the scene and continue to what was the Dreadnought Seamen’s Hospital where Bourdin’s body was taken. From there we will climb through the park to the gates of the Royal Observatory where Bourdin met his end. On the way we will stop to consider evidence, context and popular culture surrounding this most unusual event.

What financial support is available?

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

What other support is available?

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

Source URL: <https://www.wea.org.uk/courses/languages-culture/art-history/13-june-history-art-and-about->

outrage-walking-greenwich-park