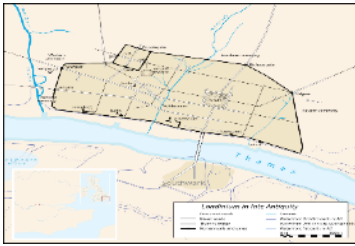


The Gates of London

Picture 01 – Opening Screen - The Gates of London



This sketch shows the line of the London Wall and the position of the gates of London around 400AD.

In this talk we will look at the individual history of each of these buildings, some also being prisons.

Londinium in 400AD

Picture 02 – Names and locations in the fourteenth century



This picture gives a more detailed location of the names of the gates and often the Priors or Abbey's around the city.

Picture 03 – The Roman London Wall



The London Wall is a defensive wall first built by the Romans around the strategically important port town of Londinium in c. AD 200, as well as the name of a modern street in the City of London, England.

Roman London was, from around 120–15AD protected by a large fort, with a large garrison, that stood to its north-western side.

Picture 04 – Cripplegate



Cripplegate, positioned to the north, derived its name from the **Anglo-Saxon Origin** "crepul," a covered passageway that led through the city wall.

Christian Legend – Another theory suggests that it comes from the word "cripple," as it was said that sick and disabled people gathered at the gate to seek healing at St. Giles' Church nearby (St. Giles being the patron saint of cripples).

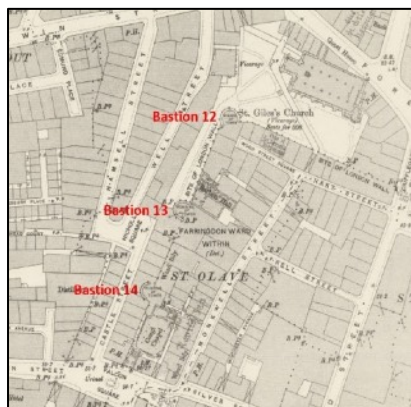
The fort, now referred to as the Cripplegate Fort, was later incorporated into a comprehensive city-wide defence, with its strengthened northern and western sides becoming part of the Wall which was built around 200.

The incorporation of the fort's walls gave the walled area its distinctive shape in the north-west part of the city.

This gate facilitated trade with northern regions. Over time, it became a vital thoroughfare connecting London to the countryside, such as Islington!.

Demolition - Like many of London's gates, Cripplegate was demolished in 1760 as part of road-widening efforts and changing city needs.

Picture 05 – The Walls Bastions around St. Giles Cripplegate.



This Ordnance Survey Map held in the National Library of Scotland shows the position of the Bastions around St. Giles Cripplegate at 1894.



Picture 06 - Aldgate: A Historic Gateway to London



It was one of the main gateways allowing access to and from the city, linking London with Colchester, the first Roman capital of Britain.

The name "Aldgate" has several possible origins: "Old Gate" Theory – Some historians believe it means "Old Gate," referring to its ancient origins.

Anglo-Saxon "Aelgate" (Open Gate) Theory – Another theory suggests it comes from the Saxon word "Aelgate," meaning "open gate," indicating that it may have been open to all traders and travellers without restriction.

Medieval & Tudor Period

Aldgate was rebuilt in 1108 and again in 1215 during medieval times. It played an important role in the defense of London, with a portcullis and fortified towers.

A small community of hermits and anchorites (HOLY MEN AND WOMEN) lived in or near the gate in the 12th century.

The gate was leased to the poet Geoffrey Chaucer in 1374, when he lived in a residence above the gateway while working as a customs officer.

Destruction & Demolition

Aldgate underwent several repairs and rebuilds over the centuries. In 1607, it was once again reconstructed, featuring decorative carvings and a statue of James I.

However, like many of London's old gates, Aldgate was demolished in 1761 to ease congestion and improve road access.

Picture 07 - Aldgate Ward & Modern Legacy

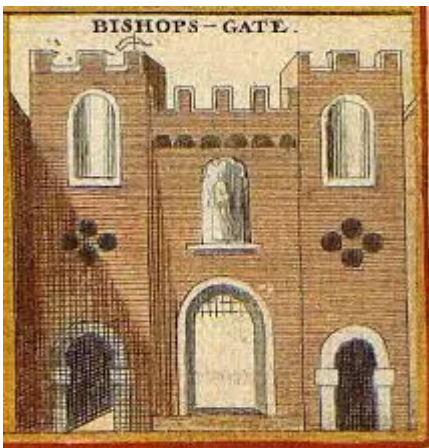


Aldgate High Street and Aldgate Square still reflect the importance of this gateway.

The Aldgate Pump, a historic water pump marking the boundary of the City, is a well-known landmark.

Today, Aldgate and Aldgate East are busy transport hubs, with Aldgate Underground Station serving the Metropolitan and Circle lines.

Picture 08 - Bishopsgate



Located to the north, Bishopsgate was another Roman gate that gained prominence in medieval times.

Over time, Bishopsgate became a bustling commercial area adorned with markets and merchant houses.

Unlike many of the other gates, it appears that Bishopsgate was not used as a jail, and avoided many changes that such a purpose necessitated to other gates of the city.

Picture 09 – The Great Fire of London



The lack of uses for this gate, however much they had preserved it so far, (the others being put to use as jails, commercial premises, or lodgings) meant that without a military need to maintain it the gate became neglected.

It was in the end pulled in 1731, having been used by Carvers, an officer working under the Lord Mayor, for several years previously and a neo-classical gate was built to replace it, which lasted less than three decades, and was demolished in 1760.

Picture 10 - Moorgate



Moorgate, originally a postern gate, was situated to the west. It provided a direct route to the open fields beyond the city walls, known as the Moor.

Moorgate was a secondary gate, until it was constructed into a true gate in 1415 under Thomas Falconer (lord mayor of London during that time).

Moorgate's significance grew as London expanded, becoming a vital link to the rural areas surrounding the city. The gate's name, "Moorgate," reflects its historical connection to these fields.

The Lower Moorfields was home to the Bethlem Royal Hospital (also known as **Bedlam**, Europe's oldest psychiatric hospital) from 1676 to 1815.

Picture 11 – Ludgate



Ludgate served as an entry point for visitors arriving from the western regions.

The gate also housed the Wren's Gate, designed by Sir Christopher Wren, which commemorated the Great Fire of London and displayed its reconstruction plans.

Ludgate is probably one of the earliest of London's gates, built around 90AD. No doubt the Roman structure must have been rebuilt or repaired during the later Saxon period.

It was certainly rebuilt in 1215 at a time when armed English barons, on their way to meet King John to have him sign the Magna Carta, entered the city with the consent of London's citizens, and robbed the Jews of their money.

The gate was only partially damaged in the Great Fire, although the prison had to be rebuilt.

Picture 12 – As designed by Sir Christopher Wren



It is certainly plausible that in medieval times Ludgate Hill was named after the legendary king and the gate then took its name from the hill.

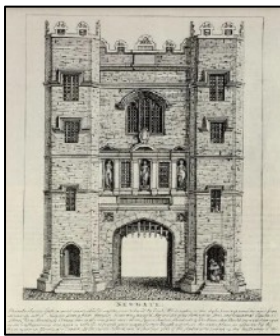
Another possible explanation is that the name is derived from Saxon, meaning 'swing gate'.

Yet another possibility is that, with its proximity to the River Fleet, it comes from 'flood gate', and it may have been known as Fludsgate in earlier times.

Sir Thomas Wyatt led a rebellion in 1554 in protest against Queen Mary's proposed marriage to the King of Spain. His army of 4,000 Protestant men approached Ludgate but it was closed to them.

They were soon defeated by royalist troops. Wyatt was taken prisoner and executed on Tower Hill, as were 150 of his men. Although she had no part in the rebellion, it prompted the execution of Mary's rival for the throne, Lady Jane Grey.

Picture 13 - Newgate



Functioning as a prison, it gained a notorious reputation as a place of execution. Criminals sentenced to death often met their fate at the gallows near Newgate.

The gate bore a portcullis, a formidable barrier, symbolizing its role in controlling access and maintaining law and order.

For over 600 years the prison was renowned for its appalling conditions. It was said that the prison was so dirty and squalid that the floors crunched as you walked due to all of the lice and bedbugs.

The women's area was equally as appalling, crowded with half naked women, drunk, sometimes deranged, in leg irons and often with their children in tow.

Picture 14 – The Gate and Portcullis



During the period of public executions, these were carried out outside of Newgate Prison on the Old Bailey Road.

The church of St Sepulchre-without-Newgate also has a rather ghoulish part to play in the executions.

At midnight on the eve of an execution, a bellman would walk along the prison tunnels ringing 'twelve solemn towels with double strokes' on his handbell whilst chanting ...

“All you that in the condemned hold do lie, Prepare you, for tomorrow you shall die; Watch all and pray, the hour is drawing near That you before the Almighty must appear; Examine well yourselves, in time repent, That you may not to eternal flames be sent:

And when St. Sepulchre’s bell tomorrow tolls, The Lord above have mercy on your souls.” Although Newgate Prison has long gone, the Newgate Execution Bell still exists and is housed in the Church of St Sepulchre.

Picture 15 - Aldersgate



When James VI of Scotland came to England to take the crowns of both England and Scotland in 1603, he entered the City at Aldersgate.

Statues of the king were placed both outside (on horseback) and inside (seated on the throne) the gate to commemorate the occasion.

The old gate was taken down in 1617, and rebuilt in the same year from a design by Gerard Christmas.

The gate was damaged in the Great Fire of London in 1666 but was repaired and remained until 1761.

Aldersgate Street contained the Bishop of London's chapel and his chambers at London House, which was used from the 18th century because it was closer to St Paul's Cathedral than his official residence in Fulham.

Picture 16 – The Original Temple Bar



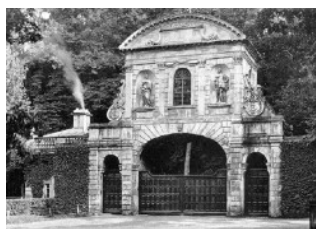
Since its conception in 1351, Temple Bar is mentioned throughout history, whether it be stories of victorious kings returning through its arches, its opening to receive the marriage of Mary Tudor to Phillip of Spain, or the passing by of the funeral cortege of Henry VII’s Queen, Elizabeth of York.

Perhaps one of the most significant of state events, was the great triumphal procession of Elizabeth I in celebration of the defeat of the Spanish Armada.

The Lord Mayor waited at Temple Bar to present to the Sovereign the keys of the City, which Elizabeth I enhanced by presenting the Lord Mayor with a pearl encrusted sword, one of five City swords.

This tradition has been preserved for more than 400 years, and the ceremony now is carried out on major state occasions where the Queen halts at Temple Bar to request permission to enter the City of London and is offered the Lord Mayor's Sword of State as a sign of loyalty.

Picture 17 – Temple Bar Gate



Temple Bar is not only older than the current Cathedral, but it was designed by the same architect! Its history is a strange (and sometimes gruesome) tale...

Firstly, and most importantly, the roadway needed widening to relieve the heavy traffic and the building of the Royal Courts of Justice resulted in the decision to remove the somewhat costly and outdated Temple Bar.

The Corporation of London however, had a strong attachment to the Bar and rather than see it cleared away, it was taken down brick by brick, beam by beam, numbered stone by stone, and stored in a yard off Farringdon Road until a decision for its re-erection could be reached.

When rebuilt at Theobalds just eight months later, a magnificent garden party was held in celebration and special trains brought in large numbers of visitors whose heads would turn as they stood in awe of the majesty of this historic relic.

While under the ownership of Lady Meux guests were regularly entertained in the upper chamber of Temple Bar which was beautifully decorated with “spy” cartoons from Vanity Fair and it is believed that it was here that Lady Meux dined with Edward VII, the Prince of Wales and Winston Churchill.

Picture 18 – A view down Fleet Street,



This very early and unusual stereo photograph, the gate can be seen down Fleet Street.

For 206 years Temple Bar would stand proud at the point where Strand becomes Fleet Street.

Picture 19 – The New temple Bar

Temple Bar rebuilt at Paternoster Square and was officially opened by the Lord Mayor of London, on the 10th November 2004.



Due to its vicinity to the Temple, an area where the guilds of lawyers organised into what would become the Inns of Court in an area that is now considered “Legal London”, it was commonly referred to as Temple Bar.

Picture 20 – Any questions?



Sir Henry and Lady Meaux – of the Meaux Brewery