

DAVE'S LONDON SERIES OVERVIEW



Quirky and self-ironic, but with never a dull moment, *'Dave's London'* takes the viewers by the hand and leads them off the well trodden tourist tracks to other parts of one of Europe's greatest capitals.

Written and presented by Finnish-based radio and television journalist David Mawby, *'Dave's London'* introduces the viewers to some fascinating London characters who all have a passion for uniquely British pastimes, such as maintaining old-time steam engines to restoring Rolls Royce cars. David also goes walkabout in several of London's less familiar attractions such as Alexandra Palace, the birthplace of Television. He also visits an Elizabethan castle located just eight miles from the city centre and then goes for a stroll on green and pleasant Hampstead Heath, London's largest parkland.

David's journey is a personal one: he takes the viewer back in time to his childhood and teenage days as he revisits some of the sights of the swinging sixties, removing his newscaster mask to show just how the city moulded and shaped his personality and career.

'Dave's London' is a travelogue with a difference, revealing new aspects of city history and life to even the most ardent and devout fan of England's capital. Join him for a thoroughly enjoyable six half hour episodes.

Episode 1

From a smiling introduction on Tower Bridge, David Mawby takes the viewer north of the Thames to a symbol of Victorianism that dominates the North London skyline. In its time Alexandra Palace has been the birthplace of BBC Television, a prisoner of war camp and a popular music and recreation centre. Seemingly jinxed by disaster, Ally Pally (as it is commonly known) has survived all the odds. David then finds a nature reserve just a few miles from the city centre and close by stumbles on a deserted railway station. After passing over a notorious suicide bridge David takes us around the picturesque Highgate Village, home to numerous British poets before resting at the watering hole of eighteenth century highwayman Dick Turpin.

Next he revisits a childhood haunt: Hampstead Garden Suburb, Britain's first experiment in social housing (for the rich and famous!). A stroll across a dubious part of Hampstead Heath follows before David closes the episode in the safe company of Mr. North....the story continues!



Episode 2

The episode starts with David in the company of Mr. North, who believes he has ghostly neighbours. Not surprising as he lives next to Highgate Cemetery, the garden of sleep for people like Karl Marx. We are introduced to other revolutionaries as David reminds the viewer of the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 from Parliament Hill Fields. While learning of the fate to Guy Fawkes and his plotters, we are treated to some magnificent views of the London skyline. David then revisits the street where he grew up and peeks through the door of the Gothic-style Anglican Church where he sang as a boy chorister. Music of another kind follows as David bumps into musician Clem Cattini, a drummer on countless sixties and seventies hits. Clem introduces us to the life of Joe Meek, the man who created the 1960's classic hit 'Telstar' and who is viewed as Britain's answer to Phil Spector. After revisiting Dingwalls Club in Camden Town, David is clearly getting carried away: his hair grows and his voice slurs as this follower of fashion takes us on a trip to rock n' roll venues past and present. On the way he meets Ralph Hutchens, who gave a pint of milk to Jimi Hendrix. David falls out of the clouds outside the Royal Albert Hall after reassuring the viewer that live music in London is alive and kicking!



Episode 3

It's time for a little history in this episode. David starts off in Tottenham, not at the local football stadium but at Bruce Castle, a magnificent Elizabethan palace. Museum Curator Deborah Hedgecock unveils royal plots, ghost stories and other mysteries as she reveals the history of this part of North London. Rapid population growth in this part of the capital in the 1800's led to a variety of social and other problems. David investigates how the Victorians solved the problem of sewage and meets a group of people who are faithfully restoring a powerful beam engine.

Nowadays the nearby River Lea is a place for Londoners to mess about on boats. David rests for a moment on one of the many house barges found on this waterway. Never missing a moment to delve into London's rock n' roll history, David revisits Epping Forest where in the sixties mods and rockers would stage their infamous battles. Dressed as a latter-day mod, Mr. Mawby meets his match in the form of rocker Terry Heighington. Peace reigns though as David moves on to London's mecca for bikers and scooter fans, the Ace Café on the North Circular Road. Viewers are introduced to a grand selection of two wheelers old and new as former mods and rockers harmoniously share their passion for these superb vehicles.



Episode 4

By now, viewers of 'Dave's London' will be aware of David Mawby's love for the harmlessly eccentric things in life. So it's time to go in search for some particularly British oddities in the country's capital. David starts off by admiring the chimneys of Battersea Power Station (well known to Pink Floyd fans). Next he calls in at the Battersea Dogs and Cats Home and sees how this 150 year-old institution has given new homes to countless pups and felines. In the adjacent Battersea Park, David talks with American born Jennifer Ullman about her work in keeping this Victorian park, complete with Japanese pagoda, prim and proper. Then it's David's turn to reveal his love of an unusual hobby: short wave listening. After nostalgically walking past Bush House, headquarters of the BBC World Service, David shows us an all American wireless and then meets up with fellow enthusiast Edwin Parsons who introduces his collection of radios. It's all hungry work so David shows us to his favourite restaurant in London before we again meet Ralph Hutchings, who this time explains the ins and outs of restoring Rolls Royce cars. Totally bewildered by all this mechanical engineering, Dave goes for a pint in Hoxton on the fringe of London's east end and ends up in a sing-a-long with pub pianist Lee Newton, who also explains why he loves real ale.



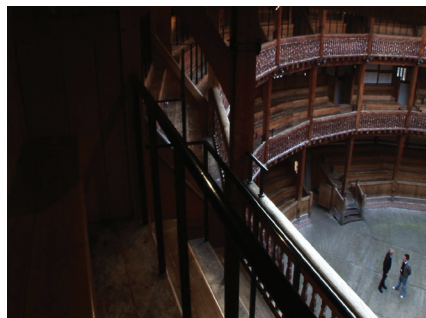
Episode 5

Of all of London's sights, perhaps the double-decker bus is the one most remembered by any traveller to the city. In this episode David Mawby seeks to discover the history of this grand four-wheeler. He manages to track down a member of the team who designed the Routemaster bus. At one time, over 2,800 of these double-deckers transported people to all parts of London. Retired Engineer Colin Curtis tells David how the Routemaster came about and why it served Londoners for four decades. David also finds a group of ardent enthusiasts who have teamed up together to restore London buses past and present. We also get a glimpse of a horse-drawn vehicle from Victorian times followed by nostalgic reminiscing over the city's long gone trams and trolleybuses. David then takes a ride on the underground in the north of London and meets a fellow train spotter. While strolling through the suburb of Enfield, he can't believe his eyes: standing before him is an old Finnish steam engine. Finding out how it got there takes David into a timber yard from where businessman Nigel Sill leads us on to find even more of these beauties in other parts of the city. The trek finally leads to an ambitious society of people dedicated to restoring a forgotten part of the London underground railway.



Episode 6

Memories of concerts past in the Royal Festival Hall motivate David to revisit the south bank of the Thames. To his horror, he sees the London Eye staring across the skyline. But even David must accept the new with the old. He pays a visit to the reconstructed Globe Theatre located not too far away from the site of the original venue supported centuries ago by William Shakespeare. As he walks along the Thames, he waxes poetic across the water from St. Paul's Cathedral but ends up on the Golden Hind. In pirate uniform he welcomes us aboard where we are given a guided tour of the life and voyages of Sir Francis Drake. After learning what 'knots' mean, David marches upstream, joins the navy and steps aboard H.M.S. Belfast where he marvels at its second world war weaponry. Over the river rests the Tower of London complete with the notorious Traitors' Gate, but, true to form, David says: no tourists please and moves along instead to stand in awe in front of Tower Bridge. Once inside, he ventures to the top of the structure to take in the view and learn just how this London landmark works. Finally from where he started his eccentric trip around the city he wishes the viewers "Bon Voyage."



Presenter Profile

David Mawby has been actively involved in broadcasting for several decades. Born in London, David's boyhood interest in Shortwave broadcasting soon led him at the tender age of 16 to have his own piece on the BBC. He then over time developed a journalistic background as a backroom boy in BBC Radio News in the seventies and then found way his way to Finland where he soon settled. After a period in the forestry industry, David got involved in setting up commercial radio stations in Finland during the late eighties. His background in BBC Radio News eventually led him to pursue a career in broadcast news in Finland. David is currently a member of the team producing English language radio, TV and internet news for Finland's national public broadcaster YLE. In addition, David hosts two weekly radio programmes. He has been involved in a number of commercial and in-house audiovisual productions for several leading Finnish companies. Making history and heritage comprehensible to a wider and younger audience is a passion of his. 'Dave's London' is an example of this: to introduce lesser known aspects of Britain's great capital with a unique personal style that hopefully both informs as well as entertains.

