



**You are warmly invited to attend
our first Talk of the New Year
at Millbank (and on Zoom),
Friday 31 January 2025, note timings:
AGM 1730-1815hrs; Talk (open to all) 1830-1930hrs**

**Our guest speaker, Keiron Spires, presents
'The Boer War: The birth of Army nursing?'**



Keiron, a military nursing historian, will be talking on his main research area. The question mark in the title is important as this topic remains somewhat controversial. It should be of interest to many, and so should the research method he employed - prosopography – which is quite unusual in medical/ nursing history.

Proceeds will be donated to [Blind Veterans UK](#)

**Prior registration required.
Refreshments at Millbank from 1700hrs
AGM (members only) 1730-1815hrs
Talk (open to all) at 1830hrs
Supper at Millbank Towers 2000hrs.
Register [HERE](#) or via www.friendsofmillbank.org**





Our guest speaker



Lt Col (Retd) Keiron Spires QVRM TD

[Spires, Keiron Andrew - British Army Nurses](#)

Military Nursing Historian (<https://britisharmynurses.com/wiki/>)

Curator QARANC Association Heritage Collection

Keiron Spires joined the RAMC as an Apprentice in 1974. He trained as a nurse in the Army and was seconded to Great Ormond Street to train as a children's nurse. After a 5 year short service commission he transferred from the Regulars to the Reserve, serving in 221 (Surrey) Field Ambulance and 256 (City of London) Field Hospital. He was Matron (Lieutenant Colonel) with 256 Field Hospital from 2000 to 2003, then acted as second-in-command and Clinical Squadron commander until his final posting at HQ 2 Medical Brigade, validating and training hospitals prior to deployment on operations. He was awarded the Queen's Volunteer Reserves Medal in the 2006 New Year Honours list and left the Army in 2010.

Having left the Regular Army in 1985 he returned to Great Ormond Street as a Clinical Teacher and then as a Nurse Tutor. He transferred to London South Bank University when nurse education moved into Higher Education. He specialised in teaching using technology and eventually retired as Associate Professor for eLearning. His personal interest was nursing history so he studied for a PhD, completed in 2013, on Nurses in the Boer War 1899-1902, see his research at [https://britisharmynurses.com/wiki/index.php?title=The Boer War](https://britisharmynurses.com/wiki/index.php?title=The_Boer_War) .

Previously a member of the steering committee for the UK Association for the History of Nursing (UKAHN), a member of the steering committee for the European Association for the History of Nursing (EAHN), a trustee of the QARANC Association and Chair of the Heritage Committee. He is now Curator of the QARANC Association Heritage Collection.

We are privileged to have Keiron commence our programme of talks for 2025.



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Highly recommended

British Army Nurses – THE website for the History and Heritage of British Army Nurses.

<https://britisharmynurses.com/wiki/>

Other selected reading

Spires K. and Spires A. (2007) Nurses on the Veldt. **Ancestors**. June: pp12-18.

Spires, K & Potter, J. (2018) Comparing the writing of British and German Military nurses in the first World War. **UKAHN Bulletin** Vol 7(1) 2019.



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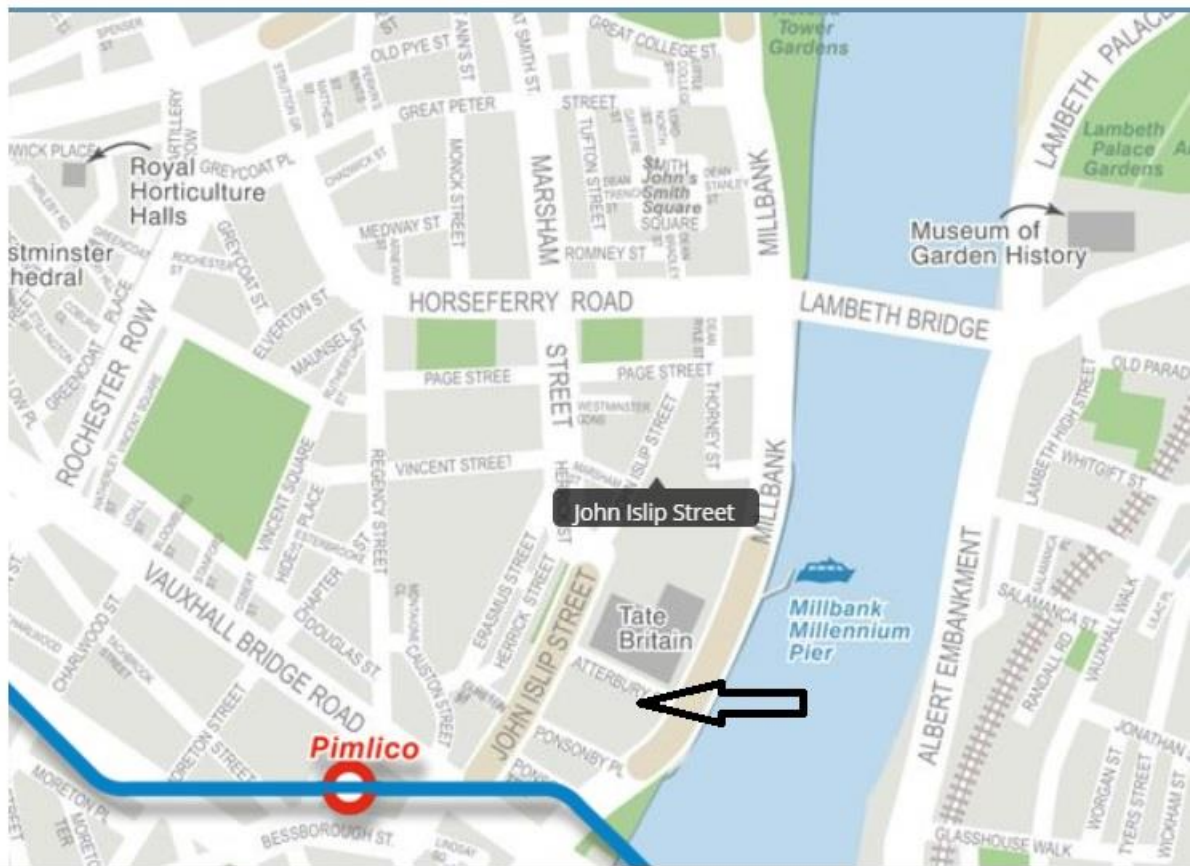
Directions for Millbank (Chelsea College of Arts, formerly the Royal Army Medical College)

The entrance to Reception is via Atterbury Street, opposite Tate Britain (arrowed on map below).

We meet for light refreshments at Reception from 1700hrs. The talk commences at 1830hrs.

Guests and non-members are very welcome. Everyone attending the talk, whether in person at Millbank or online via Zoom, is requested to register beforehand via www.friendsofmillbank.org

LondonTown.com - John Islip Street Location Map



info@friendsofmillbank.org



www.friendsofmillbank.org