



Seventeenth century London

Part 1

Over 350 years ago, in September 1666, the Great Fire of London caused chaos and devastation to one of the biggest capital cities in the world.

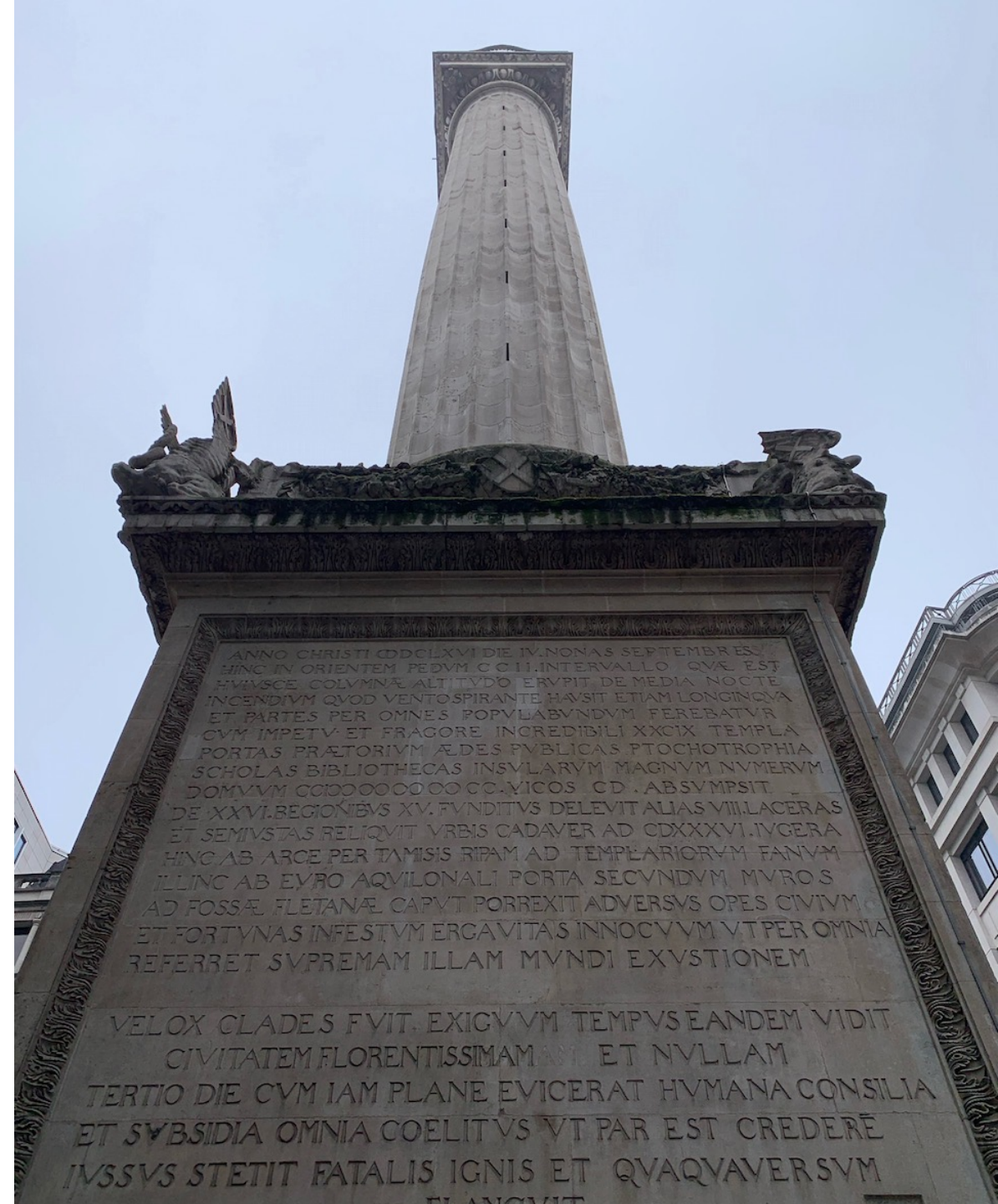
It would also serve afterwards as a spur to its rise in global prominence...



The Monument and its inscription (in Latin, translated into English on the plaque)

TRANSLATION OF THE LATIN INSCRIPTION ABOVE

IN THE YEAR OF CHRIST 1666, ON THE 2ND SEPTEMBER, AT A DISTANCE EASTWARD FROM THIS PLACE OF 202 FEET, WHICH IS THE HEIGHT OF THIS COLUMN, A FIRE BROKE OUT IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, WHICH, THE WIND BLOWING DEVOUR'D EVEN DISTANT BUILDINGS AND RUSH'D DEVASTATING THROUGH EVERY QUARTER WITH ASTONISHING SWIFTESS AND NOISE. IT CONSUMED 89 CHURCHES, GATES, THE GUILDHALL, PUBLIC EDIFICES, HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, A GREAT NUMBER OF BLOCKS OF BUILDINGS, 13,200 HOUSES, 400 STREETS. OF THE 26 WARDS, IT WITHERLY DESTROYED 15, AND LEFT 8 MUTILATED AND HALF-BURN'D. THE ASHES OF THE CITY, COVERING AS MANY AS 436 ACRES, EXTENDED ON ONE SIDE FROM THE TOWER ALONG THE BANK OF THE THAMES TO THE CHURCH OF THE TEMPLARS, ON THE OTHER SIDE FROM THE NORTH-EAST GATE ALONG THE WALLS TO THE HEAD OF FLEET-DITCH. MERCILESS TO THE WEALTH AND ESTATES OF THE CITIZENS, IT WAS HARMLESS TO THEIR LIVES, SO AS THROUGHOUT TO REMIND US OF THE FINAL DESTRUCTION OF THE WORLD BY FIRE. THE HAVOC WAS SWIFT. A LITTLE SPACE OF TIME SAW THE SAME CITY MOST PROSPEROUS AND NO LONGER IN BEING. ON THE THIRD DAY, WHEN IT HAD NOW ALTOGETHER VANQUISHED ALL HUMAN COUNSEL AND RESOURCE, AT THE BIDDING, AS WE MAY WELL BELIEVE OF HEAVEN, THE FATAL FIRE STAYED ITS COURSE AND EVERYWHERE DIED OUT. (BUT POPISH ERZENZY, WHICH THROUGHT SUCH HORRORS, IS NOT YET QUENCHED.) THESE LAST WORDS WERE ADDED IN 1681 AND FINALLY DELETED IN 1830.



ANNO CHRISTI MDCLXVI DIE IV. NONAS SEPTEMBRES.
HINC IN ORIENTEM PEDVM CCLII. INTERVALLO QVAE EST
HIVSCE COLUMNAE ALTI TVDO ERVIT DE MEDIA NOCTE
INCENDIVM QVOD VENTOSPIRANTE HAVSIT ETIAM LONGINQVA
ET PARTES PER OMNES POPVLAVNDVM FEREBATVR
CVM IMPETV ET FRAGORE INCREDIBILI XXCIX TEMPLA
PORTAS PRÆTORIVM AEDES PVBLICAS PTOCHOTROPHIA
SCHOLAS BIBLIOTHECAS INSVLARVM MAGNVM NVMERVM
DOMVVM CCCCCCCCCCCCC. VICOS CD. ABSVMPSIT
DE XXVI. REGIONIBVS XV. FVNDITVS DELEVIT ALIAS VIII. LACERAS
ET SEMIVSTAS RELIQVIT VRBIS CADAVER AD CDXXXVI. IVGERA
HINC AB ARCE PER TAMISIS RIPAM AD TEMPLARIORVM FANVM
ILLINC AB EVRO A QVILONALI PORTA SECVNDVM MVROS
AD FOSSÆ FLETANÆ CAPVT PORREXIT ADVERSVS OPES CIVIVM
ET FORTYNAS INFESTVM ERGAVITAS INNOCVVM VT PER OMNIA
REFERRET SVPREMAM ILLAM MVNDI EXVSTIONEM

VELOX CLADES FVIT. EXIGVVM TEMPVS EANDEM VIDIT
CIVITATEM FLORENTISSIMAM. ET NVLLAM
TERTIO DIE CVM IAM PLANE EVICERAT HVMANA CONSILIA
ET SVBSIDIA OMNIA COELITVS VT PAR EST CREDERE
IVSSVS STETIT FATALIS IGNIS ET QVAQVAERSVM
FRANGVIT



The special paving slab tells us that **Fish Street Hill** was first called Bridge Street, then New Fish Street, and has been a route since the First Century AD.

It was part of the North - South route through the City, from Bishopsgate to the river.

Fish Street Hill joined Old London Bridge to the Heart of the City before London Bridge was built upstream in 1830 and rebuilt in 1974.



How Fish Street Hill
could have looked in
the 1600s

(impression from the
BBC TV documentary,
[The Great Fire](#))



“Near this site stood the shop belonging to Thomas Faryner (Farriner), the King’s Baker, in which the Great Fire of September 1666 began.”

This plaque commemorates the Fire, from the Worshipful Company of Bakers...in 1986...(there’s an update about this later...)



The precise location of where Farriner's bakery premises was...perhaps here...?

(according to research carried out recently by a respected historian, interviewed for the BBC for the TV documentary, *The Great Fire*)

The fire started at **3am on Sunday, 2nd September** at the premises of the baker Thomas Faryner (Farriner).

Recent evidence has shown us that his bakery was located on what is **Monument Street** today, immediately round the corner from Pudding Lane.

(image from the BBC TV documentary, [The Great Fire](#))



In the 1600s, a live meat market was situated close to what is now Monument. Plus there would have been other crafts around, next to people's houses.

This image is an impression of a nearby meat market (Leaden Hall Market) in the 1600s:

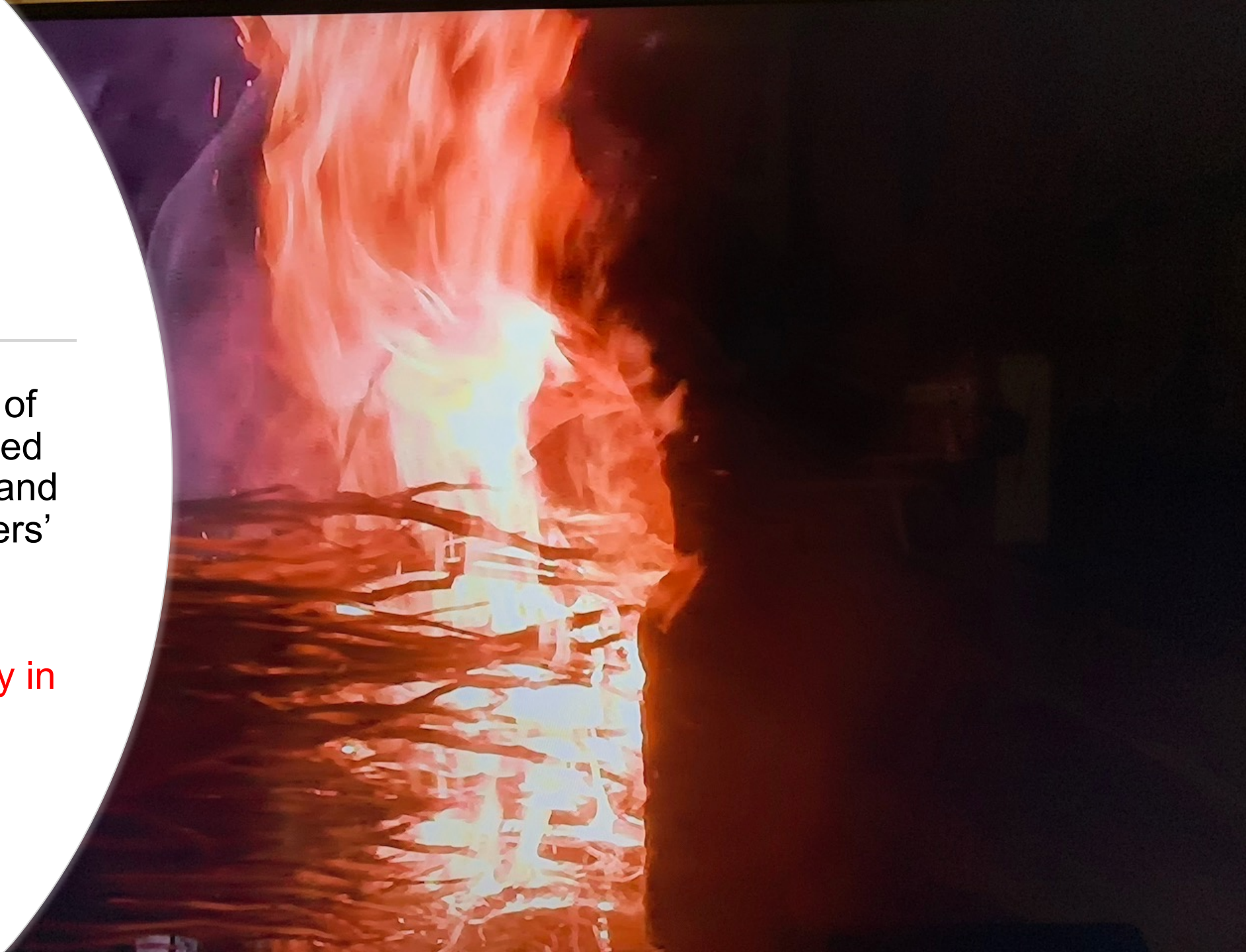


LEADEN HALL MARKET.

London, Pub. 1734, by J. K. & W. at R. Mansel's, opposite to St. Dunstons.

Bavins are collections of branches that were used for fuel for the ovens, and were made in the bakers' yard.

What part did they play in the fire...?



The “jettying technique” of housing construction in the 1600s meant that houses and buildings were literally abutting each other, so very close together.

What role did this play in the fire...?



In the 17th century, many of the buildings in London were constructed using **the wattle and daub technique**, which was to take wooden strips, woven into a frame and sealed with mud.



When it was of good quality construction, it resisted fire well – the mud used as packing protected the structural frame. However, shoddy construction, which was prevalent in poorer areas of London, led to air gaps in the walls, which would let in air and allow the fire to breathe...



A short fly-by video of London in the 1600s
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPY-hr-8-M0>



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The Early Modern
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project

Pudding Lane: Recreating Seventeenth-Century London

JOE DEMPSEY, DANIEL HARGREAVES, DANIEL PEACOCK, CHELSEA
LINDSEY, DOMINIC BELL, LUC FONTENOY AND HEATHER WILLIAMS



Find out how this video was
made (detailed research that
went into it)...

<http://journalofdigitalhumanities.org/3-1/pudding-lane-recreating-seventeenth-century-london/>