

**THAMES WALK 2
Greenwich to Waterloo
Saturday 24 November 2012**

This walk will be lead by Reinalt Vaughan-Williams

The Thames Path is a National Trail, opened in 1996, following the length of the River Thames from its source near Kemble in Gloucestershire to the Thames Barrier. It is about 184 miles long.

This second walk runs from Greenwich to Waterloo passing Tower Bridge, London Bridge, the Globe Theatre and the South Bank complex of concert halls, theatres, cinemas and practically every restaurant chain that you have heard of. But this is all towards the end of the walk.

The first 2/3 of the walk are over what used to be dockyards and wharfs. Surrey Docks (see photograph below) occupied a large part of the area, which we walk round. Most of the area has been filled in and planted with blocks of flats. More blocks of flats are sprouting up all the time. The planners of the Thames Path did the best that they could to keep the path beside the river, but there are many detours away from it. At Deptford Strand, Henry VIII established a great naval dockyard, which amongst other things contained rum storehouses. Later, we pass through Surrey Docks Farm with its painted gates, models of animals and a homely little café. There are supposed to be live animals too, but I can't remember seeing any.

We will have lunch at the Old Salt Quay pub, where in good weather you can sit outside watching the river and its traffic go by. In Rotherhithe, we pass the Brunel Museum, which used to be the engine house for pumping water out of his tunnel under the Thames. The Thames Tunnel was the first to be built under a navigable river and was opened as a foot tunnel in 1843. It is now used by underground trains. Nearby is the old pub, The Mayflower, named after the famous ship which carried the Pilgrim Fathers to America in 1620.

The last 1/3 of the walk is almost all beside the river and passes the shopping and eating areas around Tower Bridge and London Bridge. After passing under London Bridge, we walk through an old quarter which contrasts with the modern flats and offices. We pass a replica of Francis Drake's galleon Golden Hinde. After that, we walk along Clink Street where the former Clink Prison is now a museum.

The walk is about 8 miles long. There are numerous points for dropping out, particularly London Bridge, which is about 1 mile from Waterloo.

GETTING THERE The nearest station is Cutty Sark, which is on the DLR line from Bank. You can catch DLR trains from Stratford, Bank and Tower Hill, which run every 10 minutes and takes 20 - 24 minutes depending on where you start. You can transfer to the DLR at Greenwich station, which is served by trains from London Bridge running every 10 minutes, taking 8 minutes, and at Lewisham station, which is served by trains from London Bridge and also Waterloo East. **Please do check train times before you leave.**

MEET from 10:30 onwards in the Clock Gate pub next to the Cutty Sark station for refreshments and toilets. The walk will start at 11:00.

REFRESHMENTS may be had in many tempting places at Tower Bridge, London Bridge and the South Bank.

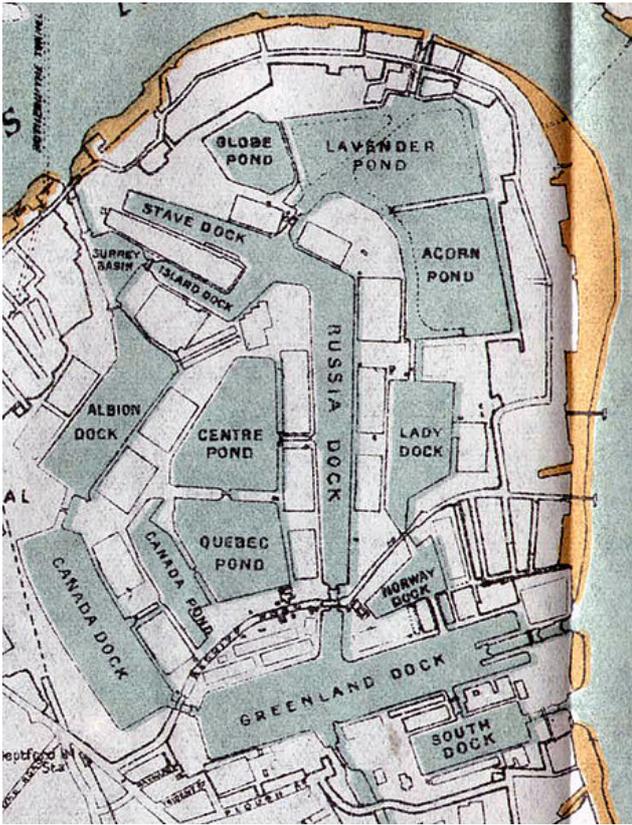
LATE ARRIVALS. Phone Reinalt to find out where we are. If you are late, it will be better to get off at Deptford and walk down to the river, looking out for the Thames Path signs, which may not be beside the river at this point.

GETTING BACK Waterloo station is on the Bakerloo, Jubilee and Northern underground lines.

CONTACTS Before the meeting, John Belling john.a.belling.secrems@gmail.com 07986 379935

On the morning only, Reinalt 07758 085741.

COSTS £3 each. All refreshments at cost.



Surrey Docks



Tower Bridge



Globe Theatre



Lunch