

Institute of Physics – London & South East Branch
Retired Members Section
A visit to the Regent's Canal Saturday 25th April 2020
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Planning for the Regent's Canal started in 1800. John Nash included the proposal in his plans for Regent's Park and a Regent' Canal Company was formed enabling the project to start in 1812.

We start our exploration at The Lawn, Paddington Station and on exiting the station arrive at the Paddington spur. This leads to Little Venice and Browning's Pool at the junction of the Grand Union Canal and the Regent's Canal. Near the left bank of Regent's Canal are the Regency Style Houses of Blomfield Road and on the right bank is seen the Catholic Apostolic Church.



The Lawn Paddington Station



Little Venice



Catholic Apostolic Church in the background

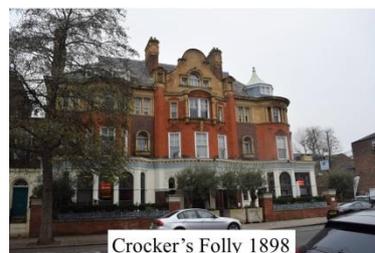
Continuing along the canal, we have to leave the tow path, where the canal is home to residential moorings. The architecture becomes more varied particularly at the junction with Maida Vale.



Corner of Blomfield and Maida Vale



Corner of Maida Vale and Aberdeen Rd



Crocker's Folly 1898

Approaching Regents Park, we first see the Central London Mosque Minaret and the splendid mansions along the right bank. We then reach the London Zoo and its Aviary



The Central London Mosque Minaret



Typical mansion at Regent's Park



London Zoo ex Aviary

The Aviary designed by Antony Armstrong Jones is being converted into a monkey House.

The housing becomes more modest with a balcony cow competing with a statue of what looks like a Roman goddess. The interest shifts towards tourism as we approach Camden with its market dominated by a variety of food stalls and the tat shops along Camden Road



More modest housing by the Zoo



Camden



Camden Lock and Camden Street

Leaving Camden we reach St Pancras and the Coal Drop Yard 27 hectares mixed development on the left bank This area was the site of railway sidings and a large gas works based on using the supply of coal brought by barge. On the right bank behind St Pancras Lock is what looks like a water tank, which would have been used to provide water for steam driven locomotive engines. After a diversion to explore the Coal Drop Yard development we take a path through a roof top garden to return to the canal and on to the end at King's Cross station and back to Paddington by bus (205) or underground



A converted gasometer



St Pancras old water tank



Part of the Coal Drop Yard development

The visit is free and is on a turn up at The Lawn Paddington Station by 10.30 basis on Saturday the 25 April. The Lawn is to be found opposite the arrival barriers at the head of the arriving trains. While there are numerous drop-out points on the route the total amble is 9.7 km (6 miles) and is easy going on a paved flat surface. Lunch will be in a café or pub along the route or close by.

Late comers can contact David Pick on 07396 518266