

## Liverpool St to Mile End via the Thames LDWAL 29<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Liverpool St (station opened 1874) to Middlesex St (Petticoat Lane: name changed 1830s to mark City/Middlesex boundary):

- Kindertransport
- Bedlam (13<sup>th</sup> Century)

**Widegate Street** = the former 'white gate' entrance into the Old Artillery Ground which was originally annexed by Henry VIII in 1538 and used for people to train in the use of longbows, crossbows and other weapons.

Two listed houses at No.24 and 25 date back to 1720

12 -13 Widegate Street upper storey: four glazed sculpted panels by Philip Lindsey Clark (1889 – 1977) showing the various stages in the bread baking process. In 1926 Clark was commissioned to create the sculptures to adorn the new Nordheim Model Bakery (now Honest Burgers).

56-58 **Artillery Lane**. Dating from 1756 this is a building that takes us straight back to the days of the Huguenot silk weavers who settled into the areas as this was originally a shop selling silk.

66-68 **Bell Lane** (corner of White's Row) was owned by Tracy Emin 2013-2016 but planning permission was refused.

**Wentworth St** (also part of Petticoat Lane market – already in 1600 the site of a second-hand clothes and bric a brac market, and the Spanish ambassador's home).

**Old Castle St**, site of a Ripper murder (Alice McKenzie).

**Old Pump House**, 19-20 Hooper Street, 1885-6, former engine house of the London Tilbury & Southend Railway goods depot, converted to offices 2004-5: powered hydraulic accumulators, which in turn would power small goods cranes on the platforms of the Tilbury Warehouse, and they powered capstans which hauling goods trucks across Hooper Street

The Battle of **Cable Street** took place on Sunday 4 October 1936

**Wilton's** began life as five houses, originally built in the 1690s as individual houses. The largest house (1 Graces Alley) was an ale house dating from the first half of the 18th century, serving the Scandinavian sea captains and wealthy merchants who lived in neighbouring Wellclose Square. From c.1826, the ale house was also known as The Mahogany Bar, reputedly because the landlord was the first to install a mahogany bar and fittings in his pub. In 1839 a concert room was built behind the pub and the building's life as a venue began. In 1843 the ale house was licensed for a short time as The Albion Saloon - a saloon theatre, legally permitted to stage full-length plays. John Wilton bought the business in c.1850, building his first music hall in place of the previous concert room in 1853. He then replaced it with his 'Magnificent New Music Hall' in 1859.

In 1881 Wilton's Music Hall closed its doors, possibly because the 1878 rebuild did not conform to fire regulations

In 1888 Wilton's was bought by the East London Methodist Mission and renamed 'The Mahogany Bar Mission'. During the Great Dock Strike of 1889, a soup kitchen was set up at The Mahogany Bar, feeding a thousand meals a day to the starving

dockers' families. The Mission remained open for nearly 70 years, through some of the most testing periods in East End history including the 1936 Mosley March and the London Blitz.

**Swedenborg Gardens** marks the home (from 1720s) of Emanuel Swedenborg one of the most extraordinary men of the 18th century – a brilliant scientist whose visions were to change the way many saw God and religion. In 1728, the community raised money for their own place of worship – and London's first Swedish church was built in Prince's Square (In 1938, renamed Swedenborg Square.).

**Tobacco Dock**, warehouse built 1811. Nearby, Charles Jamrach owned an exotic pet store on the Ratcliffe Highway from the 1840s the largest such shop in the world.

**The Hermitage** entrance opened in 1821 as the western most entrance to the London docks giving lighters and smaller vessels an alternative to using the larger Wapping Entrance. It was too small to admit large modern ships and was closed in 1909.

The red-brick building carries the distinctive PLA crest and is dated 1914. Hermitage Community Moorings (HCM) is a co-operative which built, owns, and operates a mooring to ensure traditional river craft (e.g. sailing barges, tugs and motor craft) remain part of the Wapping landscape

**Wapping Pier Head** is situated on Wapping High Street and was once the main maritime entrance of the London Docks, spanning over 90 acres of land. By 1805, when these docks were built, the area was covered in warehouses and elegant cottage dwellings belonging to the Dock Company senior officials, customs officers and wealthy merchants who would keep a watchful eye on the ships entering and leaving the docks. The two terraces either side of the former entrance to the London Dock at Wapping Pierhead were designed by Daniel Alexander in 1811.

The **converted warehouses** at Oliver's Wharf, Pierhead Wharf, Orient Wharf, St Thomas's Wharf, St John's Wharf, Old Aberdeen Wharf and Gun Wharves serve as distinctive reminders of the commercial activity which characterised this part of the Victorian riverside.

Constructed in 1756, the distinctive tower of **St John's Church** was designed by Joel Johnson, intended to be seen from the river. The tower stands as a significant historic landmark in the Conservation Area, as it is the only element of the 18th century church building to have survived the Blitz.

**Scandrett Street**, formerly known as Church Street, separates St. John of Wapping Church from its burial grounds and contains some of the oldest surviving buildings in the area. The tower of St John's Church, the adjacent 1760 school buildings and St Patrick's Church to the rear, built in 1879 from the 'penny a week contributions' of its largely Irish congregation, are now listed buildings.

**Wapping Gardens**, formerly known as Wapping Recreation Ground, was formed on the site of slum clearances in 1886

Wapping Pierhead gardens were developed in the 1960s following the filling-in of the Pierhead.

The Town of Ramsgate and the Captain Kidd public houses provide a reminder of the former activity which characterised Wapping High Street. This was once the location of 36 pubs, catering for the sailors and dockers of the shipping industry.

**The Town of Ramsgate:** The first pub on the site during the Wars of the Roses in the 1460s was called The Hostel. The present building dates back to 1758. During more peaceful times in 1533 it became known as The Red Cow (a reference to the bar maid). Judge Jeffreys was caught outside as he tried to escape disguised as a sailor on a collier bound for Hamburg after the Glorious Revolution of 1688. In 1766 the pub became known as Ramsgate Old Town and by 1811 it had again taken on a new identity known as The Town of Ramsgate. The reference to Ramsgate became about after the fishermen of Ramsgate who landed their catches at Wapping Old Stairs next door where you can still see the post to which condemned pirates were chained to drown as the tide rose..

**Orient Wharf** was a bonded warehouse for tea

**Oliver's Wharf** was built 1869-70 for George Oliver in the Tudor gothic style. It specialised in tea.

**79 The Sanctuary** incorporates the remains of a granary of 1880 with white brick window heads and a new crane in welded steel.

**St. Johns Upper Wharf** was built in 1873 and called Jack's Hole. Owned by St. Thomas's hospital. Handled general goods.

**Metropolitan Police Marine Policing Unit** was formed in 1839.

**80 St. Johns Wharves** were originally built in 1830. In 1934 they were occupied by R G Hall & Co and were used for the storage of general dry goods such as coffee, cocoa, sugar, dried and canned fruit, gums and cheese.

**86 Eagle and Baltic wharves;** general cargo; could only be accessed by lighters.

**94-6 Old Aberdeen Wharf,** built in 1843-4 as Sun Wharf for the Aberdeen Steam Navigation Co.

**98-100 Wapping Police Station.** The Marine Police were formed here in 1798 as the world's first regular police force. They were founded by Patrick R Colquhoun and John Harriot here as the Marine Police Establishment, and funded by the Committee of West India merchants to reduce theft from their ships and wharves. They patrolled the river in rowing boats to guard merchant ships against theft.

The **Captain Kidd** was built in the 1980s in a former coffee warehouse

**110** pair of early 18th houses each of three storeys and three bays. These, were probably chandlers' shops, are representative of riverside buildings before the spread of warehouses. Re-creation of shop fronts by Russell & Wright c. 1988

**112 Phoenix Wharf.** A small warehouse which was once a flour mill. Built 1840 by Sydney Smirke. Converted to flats 1996.

**King Henry's Stairs.** These used to lead to the old Tunnel Pier which was demolished about 1961. They were also called Execution Dock Stairs in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. NB Lamp standard.

**Tunnel Pier.** Named after the Thames Tunnel which is down river.

**Execution Dock** between Wapping New Stairs and King Edward's Stairs is where pirates were hanged, presumably as a warning to others. The infamous Captain Kidd was hanged here in 1701 (a gamekeeper turned poacher, he had been sent out to Madagascar by the Government to capture pirates, but instead became a pirate himself).

118-120 **King Henry's Wharf**. This group of warehouses was owned by the Alexander Tug Company but operated by Hall Wharfage. The wharf was used for handling and storage of sugar and bonded facilities. The name of this wharf recall the alleged Tudor cannon foundry which Henry VIII set up here to make guns for his ships.

124-130 **Gun Wharf**. These were tea and spice warehouses converted to flats by Barratt East London before 1987. They date from around 1920 but the style is still of the 19th but with artificial-stone dressings and reinforced-concrete floors. E, F, G and H Warehouses, which line Wapping High Street and turn the corner into Wapping Lane, were built in the 1930s.

**Wapping Station** is at the north end of Brunel's Rotherhithe – Wapping Thames Tunnel which replaced the options of a four mile circuit between Rotherhithe and Wapping via London Bridge and ferries which carried 4,000 people across the Thames every day at Rotherhithe.

Marc Brunel (father of Isambard) was convinced that a tunnel could be built and the shaft was started in March 1825. All appeared to be going well until in January 1826 the river burst through; by the beginning of 1827 the tunnel had reached 300 feet but the river continued to burst through. On Saturday 12th January 1828 six workmen were trapped and drowned and despite the hole being filled with 4,000 bags of clay the project was abandoned until March 1835.

It was completed eight years later and within 24 hours of the tunnel's opening fifty thousand people had passed through and one million within the first fifteen weeks. The Thames Tunnel was purchased by the East London railway in 1866 and three years later was part of London's underground railway system. It now carries this section of the Overground below the Thames.

After Wapping Station turn left into Garnet St – note 60, Victualler with decoration above from when it was The Three Suns pub (1880-1986)

Then right into **Wapping Wall** which takes its name from the original defensive wall built to prevent the river from spilling over onto the marshland that once covered most of this area of Wapping. Drainage of the marshland and construction of defensive walls had begun around 1327. Breaches of the wall continued to be a problem until the late 16th Century when the construction of wharves started between the river and the wall which had the impact of strengthening the defenses.

The **Prospect of Whitby** originally known as The Pelican claims to be the site of the oldest riverside tavern, dating from around 1520.

**Shadwell Basin** was originally the home of the Shadwell Waterworks Company which commenced operation in 1669 to provide a water supply to the area east of the Tower of London. Soon after the opening of the Western Docks in 1805, the London Dock Company purchased the land, water supply was transferred to the East London Waterworks and the Basin was built.

The **King Edward VII Memorial Park** was original the Shadwell Fish Market.

The first wharf in **Limehouse** was built in 1348. The Limehouse Cut dates from 1766 and the Limehouse Basin from 1820 when the **Regents Canal**, begun in 1812 in Paddington was extended from Camden.