

# LDWA London Summer Evening Walks 2011

## **Thu 1 Sep 2011 London Parks**

7 miles. Ldr Rob Myers

### *Summary:*

*I first led this walk last year as a hastily arranged extra walk due to public demand. This year I had time to fully recce it and to iron out a few of last year's kinks. 15 people gathered at Holland Park station. The walk started with a circuit of Holland Park including the beautiful Japanese Kyoto Gardens. Proceeding to Kensington Gardens we passed by the floral tributes on the gate of Kensington Palace to mark the anniversary of the death of Princess Diana. A circuit of Kensington Gardens followed including the Flower Gardens, Albert Memorial, Round Pound and Elfin Oak. We arrived at the Long Water to find that the Italian Gardens were boarded up for restoration. We walked down the side of the Serpentine noting in particular the new reed beds planted to attract Heron. We later passed a Heron busily eating bread on the concrete. After rounding the bottom of the Serpentine and going past the famous "Upside Down" tree and the flower garden, we left Hyde Park and entered Green Park by way of Wellington Arch. In Green Park we found that the Canadian War Memorial was also boarded up for restoration. Lastly through St James's Park in fading light to reach journey's end at Trafalgar Square. Some disagreement over which pub to use so we ended up using two. Rob*

## **Thu 25 Aug 2011 Regents Park Area**

7 miles. Ldr Rob Myers

### *Summary:*

*My attempt to do this walk last year was abandoned late in the walk due to very heavy rain. I decided to do the walk in the reverse direction and 15 of us gathered at Baker St tube. We started with the delights of Queen Mary Gardens where late August is a good time to see the magnificent rose gardens. We then did a circuit of the lakes and then walked through the fountains of Avenue Gardens. Approaching the zoo we stopped off at the Indian Fountain in Broad Walk which hadn't produced drinking water for years and we were amazed to find that if you put your hands directly under the pipe then water came gushing out. This was part of the multi million pound investment the Royal Parks Foundation are making in upgrading ornamental and drinking fountains. We next climbed up Primrose Hill to admire the view and then walked along Regents Canal to Little Venice. Turning left we went via Paddington Basin to Paddington Station where the walk ended. I decided to use the Mad Bishop and Bear pub at the station which served a wide range of Fuller's Beers and was recommended in my CAMRA guide. It worked well. Rob*

## **Wed 17th August Linear Mile End to Greenwich**

Ldr Ldonica Vanclay

### *Summary:*

*Well all 17 of us started in the rain and drizzle along the starting route of the 2012 100 - through Mile End Park, canal and Canary Wharf then Mudchute Farm and under the Thames by foot tunnel to Greenwich - at which point the rain stopped and we all oohed and aahed at the most spectacular sunset. Along the Thames and through Greenwich Park up to the high points for views and to take it up to 6.5miles. Can't beat Dave's record of most*

walkers - but I reckon we get the award for most spectacular sunset! And then a drink at where else - but Wetherspoons!

### **Wed 10 Aug National Gallery tour and Hidden London**

7mls Ldr Susanne Waldschmidt

#### *Summary:*

*A beautiful evening which bought out 23 LDWA members. The tour of the National Gallery added an extra mile to the walk! Amazingly enough there are quite a few paintings in the Gallery with a walking theme, including the superb Renaissance painting 'The Walk to Emmaus' where the three subjects look as though they have just completed a 100. We then walked via St James Park and the river to hit the backstreets and alleys north of the river before finishing at the Dickens Inn in St Katherine's dock. It was good to have Peter and Hilary Saw join us. Big apologies to the four people I missed before the gallery tour. There clearly are a lot of culture vultures in London LDWA so I will try and repeat this tour next summer specially for those who missed out.*

### **Tuesday August 2nd Epping Forest**

7mls Ldr Lonica Vanclay

#### *Summary:*

*15 of us gathered at Loughton underground station and set forth to walk through the 7 miles through Epping Forest - it is green, trees and more trees and very quiet and peaceful. The rain held off and we got back just as the sky got dark! Wetherspoons provided the post walk refreshments.*

### **Thurs. 28th. July, Westminster -Clerkenwell**

8mls Ldr Dave Williams

#### *Summary:*

*Proof that these SEWs have become a victim of their own success was borne out with no less than 34 turning up on a bright & sunny evening for a wander through our great metropolis. Many had been lured along with the promise of taking in many of the delights but they were to be sadly disillusioned as there were precious few of these to savour! We had hoped to see the inhabitants of the Vauxhall City Farm but by the time we reached there the shutters were firmly up & all there was to see was a concrete cow. Nevertheless we pressed on regardless & reached The Imperial War Museum where we paused in The Buddhist Memorial Garden. After more pavement pounding we reached The South Bank where some of our number succumbed to the temptations on offer & some more to natural wastage! However the majority pressed onto reach The Seckforde Arms where we took over the former pub of the year to enjoy a well deserved pint & some post-walk sustenance.*

### **Thurs. 21st. July, Epping Forest**

7mls Ldr Dave Williams

#### *Summary:*

*On a dark & dank evening 14 hardy souls turned up at Snaresbrook for a traipse around*

*the southern edge of Epping Forest. However , within a very short time many of them were regretting their decision due to the very wet conditions underfoot which had turned many of the tracks, normally dry at this time of year, into a soggy quagmire! I'm pleased to say that in spite of these conditions everyone survived this ordeal with no reported incidents. Towards the end the weather even brightened up for us & we reached 'The Walnut Tree', the Wetherspoons pub in Leytonstone in fine spirits, where the majority of us took advantage of the offer of a curry & a pint for £5.99 to round off a mostly enjoyable evening.*

### **Wed 06 Jul 2011 Bushy and Hampton Court Parks**

7mls Ldr Rob Myers

#### *Summary:*

*When I travelled to Kingston at lunchtime there were bad problems at Waterloo due to a train failure and a person under a train, so it was with great relief that the trains were back to normal by the time people started arriving for the walk. 17 walkers gathered for the start. We walked through Kingston town centre admiring the bright and cheerful banners advertising the Kingston summer festival. Entering Hampton Court park we immediately came across the first of many herds of deer before heading for the top of the Long Water where we could see all the marquees of the Hampton Court Flower Show in the distance. We left Hampton Court park via a 750 year old oak and a golf course to reach a short stretch of the Thames Path before entering Hampton Court Palace. After passing through the grounds of the palace we crossed over to Bushy Park and lingered to admire the recently restored Statue of Diana which was designed by Sir Christopher Wren. Next we did a circuit of Waterhouse Woodland Gardens before going via Bushy House and Heron Pond to exit Bushy Park. We finished the walk at the Bishop Out of Residence pub overlooking the Thames. Definitely one of my favourite walks. Rob*

### **Wed 29 Jun 2011 Osterley to Kew**

9mls Ldr Rob Myers

#### *Summary:*

*22 people turned up at Osterley station for this walk which equalled the summer evening walk attendance record. The walk swiftly proceeded to Osterley Park where we looked at the famous NT house first built by Thomas Gresham in 1576 and completely remodelled by Robert Adam in 1761. We then wandered through the grounds admiring the trees and lakes and left the park by crossing the M4 and joining the Grand Union Canal at Hanwell Locks. Now a Scheduled Ancient Monument this is a flight of 6 locks which drops down 53 feet. We stopped to admire Brunel's Three Bridges Lock where a road bridge is on top of another bridge carrying the canal which is in turn on top of a railway line. We followed the Grand Union Canal to Brentford Lock where we saw the remnants of the local boat repair industry. A short walk along a very attractive section of the Thames Path took us to Kew Bridge where we headed via Kew Green to the Railway Tavern at Kew Gardens station. Most people stayed for a pint or two reflecting on a very satisfying walk. Rob*

### **Wed 15 Jun River Wandle Trail**

9mls Ldr Andy Davies

#### *Summary:*

*Eight of us met at Carshalton station and after relaxing for a few minutes on the*

*comfortable sofas set off along the Wandle on a cloudy and initially slightly damp evening. Steve and I had already walked from Waddon pond the other source of the river two and a half miles away. I blame the relatively low turnout on the fact that the walk did not get listed in Strider, for reasons unknown. One extra walker arrived on a later train and caught us up. We all enjoyed the walk which follows the river closely for most of its length running through lots of pleasant parkland. When we reached the Thames at about 9.30 we looked out for the lunar eclipse but there was too much cloud. We ended with beers at The Ship by Wandsworth bridge.*

### **Wed 8 Jun Richmond Riverside and Park Circular**

7mls Ldr Douglas Robinson

#### *Summary:*

*Fourteen of us met at Richmond Station for the walk by the Thames and through Richmond Park. The weather was perfect with very clear views of Central London from the Park, including the protected view of St Paul's from Henry's Mound. One little problem was being caught out by the early closure of the toilets at Pembroke Lodge - good job that the bracken was nice and high. We also thwarted by the oak procession moth - is this the first time that an LDWA walk has had to detour because of an insect? Because of the presence of its caterpillars, we could not walk through the poets corner and hence missed the Ian Drury bench. Ah well, you can't win them all and it was slightly earlier to the Roebuck than planned.*

### **Wed 1 Jun Trent Park circular**

7mls Ldr Peter Russell

#### *Summary:*

*21, including several recovering from the 100, had a brisk walk around the perimeter of the park with a loop inwards to the house and lake. We saw the massive 1702 obelisk placed there in 1934 by the super-rich Philip Sassoon (to be seen from the honeymoon bedroom of the Duke of Kent), then the Anglo-Saxon Camlet moat, then a ditch of 10-foot-high poisonous giant hogweed, and so to the mansion with its classical sculptures and history including the imprisonment of Hess before it became an emergency teacher training college whose estate was preserved as green belt (more on Trent Park here: [http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trent\\_Park](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trent_Park)). We missed out the final fields of buttercups but were pleased to have extra time at the Cock and Dragon pub with its good Thai curries where Jerry joined us after failing to find us or the house or obelisk.*