

Institute of Physics – London & South East Branch – Retired Members Section

Under the Thames by foot to the Cutty Sark and the National Maritime Museum on Thursday 30 October 2014

This visit has been organised by Tony Colclough

Description We travel from Bank Underground Station by the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) to Island Gardens where there is a strangely atmospheric foot tunnel under the Thames which emerges by the Cutty Sark.



We shall visit this famous tea clipper newly renovated in 2012 following a disastrous fire. It has been raised about 3 m enabling visitors to see the hull from beneath where they can take refreshments at the Under Keel Café and view a colourful exhibition of figureheads. Among them is the witch Nannie in her cutty sark holding aloft the tail of Tam O’Shanter’s mare. There is much else of interest in Greenwich and its Park, not least The Royal Naval College, The Old Royal Observatory and Queen Anne’s House. But on this occasion we shall visit The National Maritime Museum (NMM), the largest such museum in the world. We start with lunch at the Museum Café. There is a great deal to see, but you may find the exhibition on Nelson and the newly opened one on the Longitude Problem, “Ships Clocks and Stars” of special interest. A ticket for the latter also admits you to “Longitude Punk’d” about the “fascinating world of Steampunk creations”. Afterwards you should understand what *steampunk* is.

Meeting: We gather by 10:30 on the DLR platform at Bank Station and take an eastbound train in the direction of Lewisham. Bank Station lies on the Central, Northern, and Waterloo & City lines, as well as the DLR. DLR trains are frequent and if you miss the meeting, you should be able to catch up easily by taking the next one.

Getting about. We travel through the redeveloped Docklands of east London with their new housing, financial towers, canals and basins, sometimes on raised sections of the DLR, until we come to Island Gardens where we disembark. Leave the station at the front, cross the road and walk straight ahead as signposted to the gardens

and the south bank of the Thames. The first thing you see here is the domed tower over the shaft which descends to the foot tunnel under the river. But before going down pause to look at the view of the north bank with the Royal Naval College, the Cutty Sark and a second domed tower which you hope to reach at the end of your subterranean walk. Descend the shaft by lift, walk through the tunnel and ascend the other side. You are now by the Cutty Sark. Buy a concessionary ticket if you have not bought one in advance and, as you wish, take refreshments at the Under Keel Café with its exhibition of figureheads. Tour the vessel. This done, we walk to the



National Maritime Museum for lunch. Leaving the Cutty Sark, we march straight ahead (north) to the Romford Road where we turn left to the NMM. Cross the road and enter by the main door - see picture.

Lunch. Gather at the Museum Café on the ground floor of the NMM for lunch.

Timetable (times are approximate)

- 10:30 Take DLR train from Bank Station to Island Gardens
- 10:50 Disembark at Island Gardens and view the north bank of the Thames from the south
- 11:00 Walk through the foot tunnel under the river
- 11:10 – 12:30 Cutty Sark: tickets, refreshments, tour vessel, shop
- 12:30 Depart on foot for the National Maritime Museum
- 12:45 Arrive at the NMM and gather in the Museum Café for lunch.

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 Tour Museum

16:00 Refreshments, shop

16:45 Depart

Size of party: 15 – 25.

Cost: There is no IoP/REMS charge, but please book as usual. A Cutty Sark senior concessionary ticket was £11.50 in July '14. Entrance to the NMM itself is free and there is a lot to see without paying. The concessionary Exhibition ticket for “Ships Clocks and Stars” costs £7.50. The latter also admits you to ‘Longitude Punk’d’ and, if you have the time and stamina, the Royal Observatory. Tickets can be purchased in advance on line at <https://webshoprmg.recreatex.be/Exposities/Overzicht.aspx> . You will of course need to pay for travel, e.g. with a 1-day Travelcard, and for food and drink.

Contacts: Before the day, ring Tony Colclough on 020 8398 0766 (if necessary, leave a message on the answer phone). On the day ring Tony Colclough on 07930 171307

Late arrivals: Ring Tony Colclough who will advise you to consult the timetable above and catch up.