TW5 London Explorers – September 2017

**Walk around King’s Cross St. Pancras**

Make sure you have your Bus Pass and bring along 2-for-1 coupons from the station.

Leave Tunbridge Wells Station at 10.09 to London Bridge, then the 17 bus to Wharfedale Road. (Or the Northern line to Kings Cross)

Visit the London Canal Museum (£4 or 2 for1 should cost £5).  There is an ice well and a narrow boat.  Also details the history of the ice-cream trade, started by Carlo Gatti.  They have a small cafe selling coffee and cakes.

Short walk to Kings Cross Station to observe the new vaulted ceiling and Harry Potter’s 'platform 9 3/4'.  There is also an interesting Fullers pub, called the Parcel Yard, situated over 2 floors and built on the site of the original parcel receiving and sorting site. A 9 metre Birdcage Statue, by Jacques Rival, stands outside.

Next stop, St Pancras to see the 9m bronze Paul Day 's  statue 'The Lovers' at  'The Meeting ' on the Grand Terrace, where Eurostar docks.     Both stations have facilities.

We then proceed along Pancras Road towards Granary Place.

This was originally the site where grain was unloaded.  There is a large front square with over a 1000 fountains  (there is an App that can be downloaded onto your phone to control the fountains) and lots of benches and seats for a picnic lunch.

KERB serve street food between 12 and 2pm, a wide variety of flavours, from many different countries. I suggest we buy sandwiches, fruit etc for lunch from the Waitrose in Granary Square and eat them at tables on the terrace.

There is also a stepped seating area overlooking Regent's Canal.  The Lighterman pub, named after the men who unloaded the barges, has views across the square and Canal.

Lewis Cubitt Square can be found to the left of the Square. Inside the building there is Central Saint Martin School of Art, as well as shops and restaurants.

To the right if the House of Illustration, an art gallery devoted to drawings by Quentin Blake. £8.75 entry.

The towpath along the Canal leads towards St Pancras Lock and Gasholders Park, a garden established in one of the old gas storage structures.  There are three, known as the Siamese Triplets, which supplied the gas for Pancras Gasworks.

Camden Lock is further (about 1km) along the towpath and has the Camden Market, restaurants and pubs (including Wetherspoon’s Ice Wharf). This takes you past the Lock Keepers Cottage and under several bridges.

Cross over the footbridge to Camley Wildlife Garden.

Saint Pancras Old Church, mainly late Tudor with several Norman edifices, can be accessed by walking down Camley Street, turning left into Pancras Road and then left again into Pancras Road. It is an ancient Christian site with a 6th century altar and set next to a garden designed by the author Thomas Hardy.

Or head straight down Pancras Road to Kings Cross Station, the tube to London Bridge takes about 10 minutes on the Northern Line.