

RAMBLERS 2 – Section 6 of the Lea Valley Walk – Tuesday 22 August 2023 – leader Helen Salmon

We started the walk at the Three Mills which is where we ended Section 4 in May this year. We walked along the Lee Navigation and under the railway bridge and then up the bridge on our left to Twelvetrees Crescent. The area then becomes very industrial. On our left were the empty gas holders at the Bromley-by-Bow gas works which closed in the 1970's. As we turned into ProLogis Business Park we came across a small wooded area and through the trees we could see the Memorial Gardens laid out to commemorate those who worked in the gas works and who had died in the two world wars. Just beyond, on our left, was the former London Gas Museum. From the peace of the garden we crossed the roundabout into the busy Cody Road. At the end of this road was the Star Lane DLR. We turned right and continued along Stephenson Road following the railway line. This section was a little more industrial and sometimes smelly! The weather was now getting warmer with no shelter. Before the dual carriageway at the end we turned right into Bidder Street and left into Wharfside Road and then into the underpass (not very pleasant with various smells and graffiti). Continuing on we crossed the blue bridge on our right and followed the path alongside the water. We stopped following the river before it bent to the left and carefully crossed the very busy roundabout at the traffic lights. We turned left onto the slip road where the walk became pleasant again. Continuing down we came to Orchard Road and turned right and immediately on our right we came to the Salome Gates that were designed by Antony Caro. Passing through we entered East India Dock. The dock has a long and eventful history. It was the first to close in 1967 and is now managed as a nature reserve. This is where we had a very nice picnic lunch, watching the birds and having a break in the sunshine.

After a well-deserved rest we walked past one of the British Gas torches placed to commemorate the coming of the new Millennium. We crossed the bridge over the lock gates and followed the path, keeping the Thames on our left. At Virginia Quay we saw the memorial to the first settlers who left for America in 1606. At the end of the riverside path we turned right and followed the tree lined path until we reached the East India DLR station and were homeward bound.