

### **u3a Sidcup - Ramblers 2 - Walking the Thames Path / Jubilee Greenway from Rotherhithe to Greenwich – 26 March 2024 – leader Helen Salmon**

We met up at London Bridge Station and made our way to Tooley Street to catch a bus to Rotherhithe Station, the starting point of our walk. We walked past the Brunel Museum and joined the Thames Path in a small garden area and came across a sculpture of the ghost of William Radford, the famous governor of the New Plymouth Colony. Turning on to Rotherhithe Street we came to the entrance and bridge to Surrey Water and the impressive red Cross Surrey Bascule Bridge. The route took us around a series of inlets and over a bridge to Globe Wharf. We headed back to the river via Globe Stairs and further along crossed a little footbridge over an inlet. Looking left across the river we could see the tower blocks of Canary Wharf. The route took many twists and turns until we came to Surrey Docks Farm which was once the site of an 18<sup>th</sup> century shipyard. We continued on to the Greenland Dock and the marina. After a brief rest we crossed over the bridge to Greenland Pier where Liz decided to board a Clipper to Greenwich. The pedestrian path became wider as we walked past housing and gardens. We came across a stone that marks the boundary between St Mary's Parish, Rotherhithe and St Paul's Parish, Dartford. It was also the Kent-Surrey boundary until 1899. The stone was relocated from its original location nearby in 1988. The path took us away from the river and into Pepys Park. *This was once the site of the Tudor Docks of Deptford. It was here on the steps that Francis Drake was knighted by Queen Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup> after he circumnavigated the world on the Golden Hinde. The park was named after one of Deptford's most famous residents, Samuel Pepys, who did much to reform the Royal Navy, as well as keeping his diary from 1660 to 1699.* We then made our way to and into Sayes Court Park and eventually headed back to the Thames and towards Deptford Creek. As we looked left across the Thames we could see the Isle of Dogs. *At the mouth of the Creek is the statue of Peter the Great. Steve took a break on his throne!! (see photograph). Tsar Peter 1<sup>st</sup> of Russia (Peter the Great) travelled to Europe in 1697-98 to study new developments in technology, especially shipbuilding. (poor chap appeared to have a very small head!!) He lived near the Royal Dockyard in Deptford, at the home of the writer John Evelyn, for much of his four month stay in England. The stature was erected in 2001.* We then crossed the Greenwich Reach Swing Bridge and the path took us away from the river again and a few of us were beginning to feel weary. Eventually we saw our final destination, the Cutty Sark – hoorah. We split up in various groups to have a well-deserved rest, drink and lunch.