

U3a SIDCUP – RAMBLERS 2 – London Pavement Walk 28 November 2023 – Leader Helen Salmon

We met up at Charing Cross Station on a chilly but dry morning and made our way through Victoria Embankment Gardens. Strolling through the park we noticed the various specimen trees and statues before exiting at the end on to Savoy Street. We then climbed the steps on to the busy Waterloo Bridge and spent some time watching the river traffic before going down more steps the other side to the Southbank and Jubilee Greenway. As we reached Gabriel's Pier and looked down we noticed a sandy beach. More than 1500 barge loads of sand were brought in to create a beach between Tower Wharf and the Thames. The Thames Beach was opened to the public by the Lieutenant Governor of the Tower on 23 July 1934. George V decreed that the beach was to be used by the children of London and they should have free access forever. We only saw dog walkers using it. Carrying along past the Oxo Tower and the various shops and under Blackfriars Bridge the area became busier as we reached the Tate Modern. I wanted to do this walk as I had never walked over the Millennium Bridge. It was so special with the lovely blue sky and the view of St Paul's Cathedral at the end. We spent some time looking at the views. Once off the bridge we walked up Peter's Hill to the end and into Café 101. This is on the lower ground floor of the International Headquarters of the Salvation Army. It is a relaxed environment, not noisy, where you can have a good 'catch up'. The food was enjoyable. Some people stayed, some made their way home and some, including me, went for a walk around the St Paul's Cathedral area before heading home from Cannon Street Station.