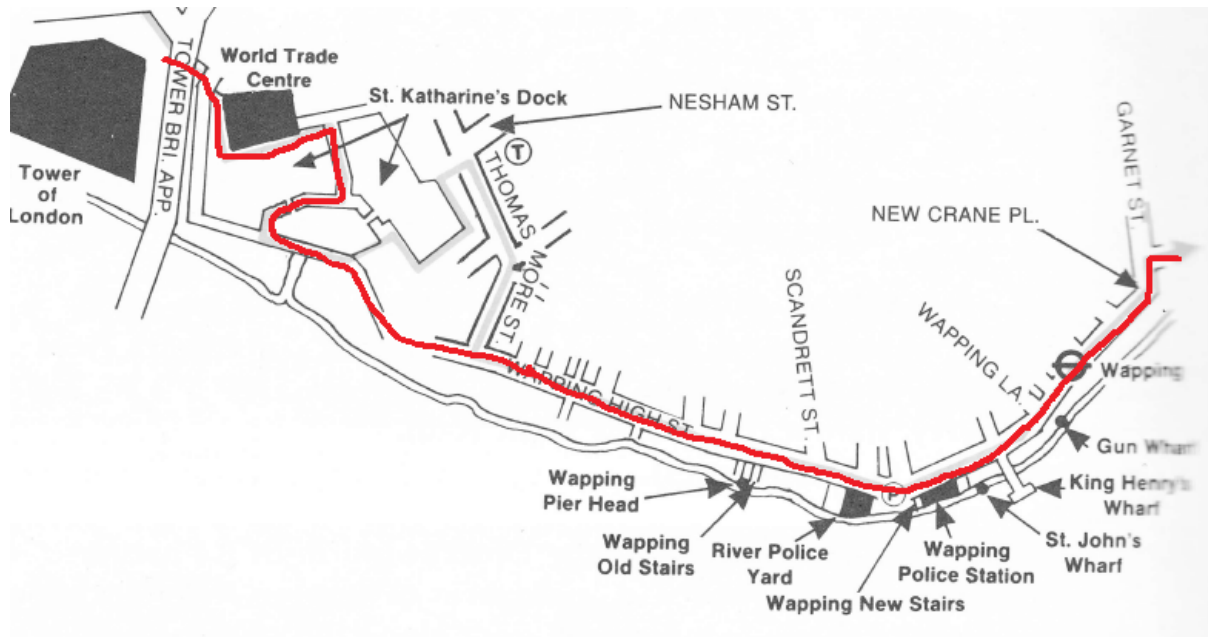


Fetcham U3A

Explore London Group 6

Docklands

This walk goes straight along the riverside through the old dockland areas of Wapping, Shadwell and Limehouse. Starting at Tower of London.



St Katharine Docks - There is evidence of there having been a dock at St Katharine's since 1125 and throughout the ages it has housed a Hospital and Monastery. The first use of the name St Katharine Docks has been traced back to Elizabethan times, when the area around the hospital was thriving with busy wharves

The St Katharine Docks Bill, was passed in 1825 which allocated the staggering sum of £1,352,752 towards the creation of the docks. The Famous civil engineer Thomas Telford was tasked with designing and building London's new port for commerce and together he worked with architect Philip Hardwick to design six storey warehouses.

Wapping High Street and into the Wapping Conservation Area. - Along on the right are the attractive Wapping Pierhead Houses These handsome Georgian houses were built in 1811-13 for senior dock officials on either side of the entrance to the original London Docks, opened in 1805 and now filled in.

Wapping High Street was first built in 1570, and once held 36 pubs catering for sailors, dockers and assorted trades linked to the thriving shipping industry.

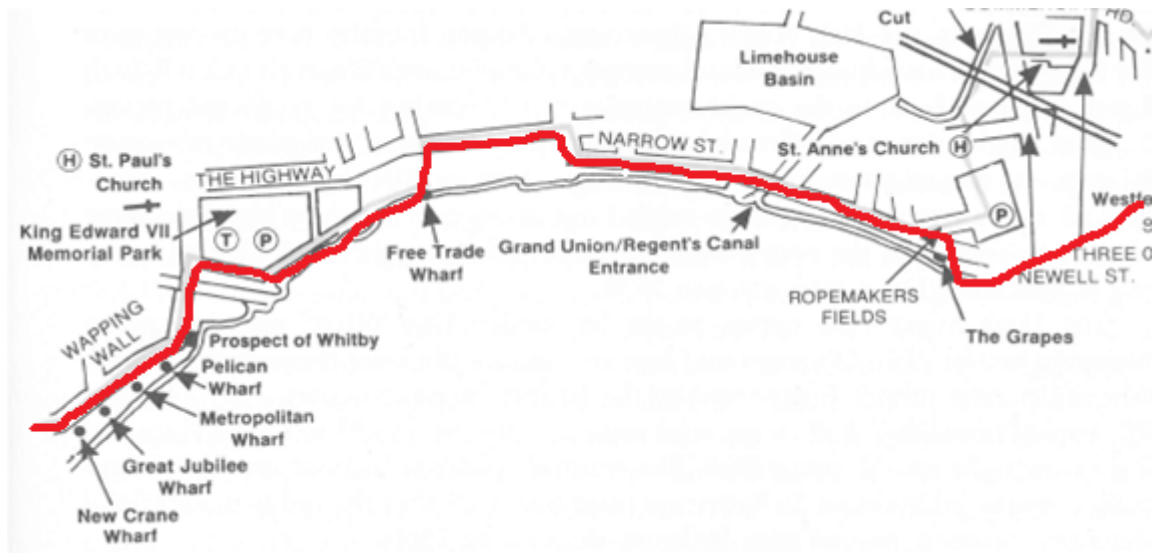
The Town of Ramsgate Pub. The notorious Judge Jeffreys of the Bloody Assizes was caught in the pub trying to escape after the Glorious Revolution of 1688. Convicted pirates' U3A Fetcham – Explore London Group 6

bodies were taken here after execution and tied to the stake at the bottom of the stairs, and left for three tides to wash over them. Captain Kidd, the naval officer turned pirate, suffered exactly that fate here in 1701.

Captain Kidd Pub. The pub is housed in the ground and first floors of a warehouse conversion, next to St John's Wharf, a very attractive conversion of a warehouse formerly used to store coffee, dried fruit and gum, as well as Australian wool bales. To the left as you walk on is King Henry's Wharf, the only working warehouses in London Docklands. Gun Wharves is next door.

The Prospect of Whitby. This famous pub was once the scene of bare knuckle and cock fighting. Turner, Whistler and other leading artists of their time sketched the Thames from here.

London Hydraulic Pumping Station. Water from the dock and coal from Shadwell Basin next door once created the energy needed to drive the engines that raise and lower Tower Bridge as well as, amongst other things, the safety curtain at the London Palladium



Shadwell Basin. When ships outgrew the original London Docks in the 19th Century, Shadwell Basin was built in 1858 to provide the space they needed. The Basin today is used as a watersports centre, and provides an attractive setting for waterside housing.

St Paul's Church . Built between 1817-20 as a Waterloo church – churches said to be built in thanksgiving for victory in the 1815 battle, but also intended to be symbols of authority to keep the demobilised soldiery in check.

Barley Mow Pub once was the Dockmaster's House at the entrance to Limehouse Basin.

Limehouse Basin. Built in 1812 to serve inland waterway barges using the Regents Canal, it was enlarged in 1820 to accommodate seagoing vessels. The Basin also connects the Grand Union Canal to the Thames.

Narrow Street is one of the most attractive and famous streets in London. At the centre of the street is a terrace of eighteenth century buildings with the rest of the street being

predominantly nineteenth century brick houses, and it provided a setting for several of Charles Dickens' books, most especially 'Dombey and Son'. These are former merchants' houses.

The Grapes is almost certainly the same riverside pub as the one Dickens calls The Six Jolly Fellowship Porters in 'Our Mutual Friend'. While in Dickens' words 'the available space in it was not much larger than a hackney-coach'; it has been extended sideways. Booty's next door opened as a wine bar in 1979; this was formerly a pub called The Waterman's Arms.

Ropemakers Fields. A new park named after one of the area's important shipbuilding activities in the days of the docks – rope fibres needed a large open space to be first laid out so that they could then be twisted together. A copper roofed bandstand incorporating 19th Century warehouse columns is a feature of the park along with gate columns and railings with cast rope motifs.

Canary Wharf is built on the site of the West India Docks on the Isle of Dogs. From 1802, the area was one of the busiest docks in the world. By the 1950s, the port industry began to decline, leading to the docks closing by 1980. Canary Wharf itself takes its name from No. 32 berth of the West Wood Quay where Mediterranean and Canary Island fruits were imported.

The Canary Wharf was developed by Olympia & York and construction began in 1988. The first buildings were completed in 1991. One Canada Square became the UK's tallest building and a powerful symbol of the regeneration of Docklands. Upon opening, the London commercial property market had collapsed and Olympia and York Canary Wharf Limited filed for bankruptcy in May 1992.

The Docklands Museum explores the story of London's River, Port and People, from Roman settlement of the port, through to the recent regeneration of London's former Docklands - a 2000 year storyline. The Museum is located over five floors of a splendid late Georgian warehouse on West India Quay