



Exploring London – Archive File of Group Visits

Here is a record of our Exploring London visits from November 2020 through until September 2021. For most recent visits and future plans, go to our [web page](#)

2020

October



A 'Bronze Age Mystery' in the London Borough of Havering was too good to miss and drew a group of Explorers back to the Museum of London Docklands! We had a fine, sunny, day to visit an almost deserted Canary Wharf: photos in the full report [here](#) caught some of the group by an ice-cream stand and the eerily quiet office buildings, as well as the Museum display itself. The Museum has an annual programme of temporary exhibitions and this year's reveals the extraordinary hoard of more than 450 Bronze Age artefacts discovered during

an excavation in Rainham in 2018. The atmospheric displays covered the excavation, how bronze objects were made, the theories put forward to explain the deposition of the objects — and the continuing schedule of research essential to an archaeological excavation like this. The exhibition continues until April 2021 so there's plenty of time to visit www.museumoflondon.org.uk where you will find information about booking a timed entry slot.

November

No visits (Covid)

December

No visits (Covid)

2021

January

No visits (Covid)

February

No visits (Covid)

March

No visits (Covid)

April

No visits (Covid)

May

No visits (Covid)

June

No visits (Covid)

July

Museum of London: A group of Explorers set out again into London for the first 'group visit' for many months. It was good to see old friends again — and here we are outside the Museum of London in the Barbican. Before heading into the museum itself, where the temporary exhibition 'Dub London; Bassline of a City' was the focus for several Explorers, the group took advantage of the sun and a quiet City to have a look at the new public spaces along London Wall. These have been developed and opened up relatively recently. The tower of St Alphage church can now be seen as part of a pleasant garden, and Roman and later era remains are visible and well-described on signage provided by the City of London. The PDF [here](#) has more photos and responses to the 'Dub London' display, with its cheerful soundtrack of reggae music. Thanks to Sue L for the PDF.



August



Explorers were lucky again with the weather for their visit to Greenwich! We sat outside the National Maritime Museum's cafe to chat and plan what we were going to do — there's so much to see in Greenwich that there is bound to be something to appeal to every Explorer. This summer's visit was prompted by the temporary exhibition of royal portraits from the National Portrait Gallery's collection of paintings and photographs which were being shown in Greenwich while the NPG is closed for a major redevelopment. Luckily the three

Armada Portraits from the NMM, the NPG and Woburn Abbey were still displayed together in the Queen's House as well. [The full report on this visit, with lots of photographs](#) also includes a report on one group member's visit to The Ranger's House on the edge of Greenwich Park — none of us had been there before!

September

Exploring London's record for sunny days out held firm for the visit to the Museum of the Home in September. Many Explorers were familiar with the old Museum, formerly known as the Geffrye Museum, but we hadn't visited since its redevelopment and re-opening. It was a popular visit as can be seen in one of the photos in the full report [here](#) we took over virtually every seat outside the new (and highly recommended) Molly's Café, plus a table inside! Explorers made their own way around the expanded exhibition areas. The familiar period room settings were still there but had been refreshed, and new displays explored the 'idea of the home' as the report highlights. For several of the group, the gardens were well-worth exploring in the sun – with helpful Museum staff on hand to give out lavender cuttings. The group coordinator (who is a devotee of museum shops) would like to add that this new museum shop is worth exploring as the Christmas season approaches!



See next file for October 2021 onwards.