

Islington U3A Leisurely Walks Group	
Walk/Distance	Surrey Quays to Rotherhithe 2.5 - 3 miles (about 2 hours walking).
Date/Time	Monday, 10 November 2025
Meeting up & travel	Meet outside Highbury and Islington station at 9.20am to catch the 9.29am Windrush Line train to Surrey Quays (arr 9.58am). The train stops at Canonbury and Dalston Junction. Return from Rotherhithe station 300yds from The Mayflower.
Route & Terrain	After a short walk along Redriff Road past the shopping centre we walk alongside Greenland Dock and the entrance into Russia Dock Woodland. We continue towards the lock into the River and join the Thames Path to the Surrey Docks Farm. We then reach Rotherhithe Street, the longest street in London, and follow it and the Thames Path upstream to Rotherhithe and The Mayflower pub.
Potential hazards	None.
Timing/breaks	Coffee break at the Surrey Docks Farm (sheep, goats etc and a shop).
Clothing/footwear	Comfortable walking shoes and waterproofs/umbrella if necessary.
Toilets	At Surrey Quays in Tesco in the shopping centre and at The Mayflower and the Farm.
Leader's Contacts	Walk Leader: Stuart Beare - stuart.beare@btinternet.com Mobile - on morning of the walk 07951 928415. Please email the leader if you expect to walk so that he can let you know of any late changes.
Lunch	Pub lunches are available at The Mayflower. A kiosk at Rotherhithe station serves coffee, tea, rolls etc.

Interesting Facts

Samuel Pepys records in his Diary "To Redcliffe by water and from thence walked over the fields to Deptford with my wife and her maid agathering of cowslips".

The Howland Dry Dock was built in 1599. In 1695 the House of Lords granted a petition for the construction of a wet dock which by 1699 was the safest anchorage on the River. About 1730 it began to be adapted to meet the increasing demands of the whaling trade and it was renamed Greenland Dock. It was enlarged in 1807 and adapted for timber and grain. More docks were built and the Surrey Commercial Dock Company was superseded by the PLA in 1906. Trade was developed in soft woods from Canada, Russia (the Canada Dock and the Russia Dock) and Scandinavia.

On 7 September 1940 the Surrey Docks were attacked by 400 Luftwaffe bombers. A P Herbert described the scene inside the Greenland Dock as "like a lake in hell." Redriff suffered heavily until the end of the war and 126 flats were gutted. After 1945 the Surrey Docks were rebuilt but closed in 1970, largely due to containerization of the softwood trade.

The Mayflower pub, the oldest on the River Thames, was renamed in 1957 in honour of its connection with the ship which carried the Pilgrim Fathers from the nearby landing steps to

Plymouth, New England. She finally set sail on 6 September 1620 and landed in Plymouth on 21 December.

Opposite the pub is the Brunel Museum (admission £9.50 – over 65s £6) and the shaft to the first Thames tunnel designed by Marc Brunel (I K Brunel's father) and opened in 1843. It was originally a pedestrian tunnel; now it is incorporated in the Overground.