

## Leisurely Walks (October 2019 to September 2020)

Here is a record of our longer walks in iU3A's tenth year. There's a link to the detail of each walk at the end of each section. For more recent walks, go to our web page [here](#)

The Covid19 Pandemic interrupted our schedule of Leisurely walks. Hence some of the gaps below.

### October 2019



**Highgate to Alexandra Palace:** We had a dry and mostly sunny morning thankfully, for our walk, after the rainy week. The beech trees in Highgate Wood were just turning colour. The illusion of being almost in the countryside continued as we proceeded along the northern branch of the Parkland Walk accompanied by birdsong, mercifully without a chorus of parakeets' screeches, until we reached the St James viaduct and enjoyed far-reaching views

across the city, spotting the Shard, Canary Wharf and the Olympic Park. We were rewarded by further extensive vistas from Alexandra Palace, where we paused to take a peek into the elegant Palm Court, before continuing through the gardens to the train station. Details [here](#).

### November

**Regent's Canal:** this was a gentle walk along the canal on a cold but clear day. Not many turned out for it — was it too cold? We started outside Angel Tube Station and walked eastward down City Road then along Duncan Terrace Gardens to the Canal Towpath, walking eastwards. We stopped for coffee at Kingsland Basin. See full details [here](#).



### December



**St Paul's to Tower Bridge:** again not many came on the walk. While it was a cold day it was bright and clear. The walk set off from St Paul's Cathedral then crossed over the Millennium Bridge and proceeded down the river and along to Tower Bridge. See full details [here](#).

## January 2020

**Canada Water:** an intrepid band of leisurely walkers ventured south of the river for a stroll through Grade II listed Southwark Park, with a short detour to the Thames Path to admire the view back home. Despite the challenges of extensive roadworks, we managed to visit three parks — Southwark Park, King's Stairs Gardens and George V Park — passing a motley selection of Southwark blue plaques commemorating the first Blitz raid on Surrey Docks and the homes of social reformer Richard Carr-Gomm and the first President of Uganda. The recently opened Southwark Park café, overlooking the lake and rose gardens, provided a scenic and well deserved coffee stop on our way home. Group photo beside Dr Salter's Daydream on Thames Path. Details [here](#).



## February



**Hyde Park:** Half a dozen intrepid walkers braved the aftermath of Storm Dennis and were rewarded with sparkling spring sunshine for a peaceful stroll around Hyde Park. We delayed our start to watch the Household Cavalry heading for duties at the Palace, then strolled around the Serpentine enjoying the spring blossom and the just-out daffodils swaying in the breeze. We enjoyed the 'art' we passed including the Queen Elizabeth Gates, Achilles, the Hudson Memorial, Serenity and the Princess Diana Fountain. We were amused by the antics of long tailed tits and amazed at how fearless of people parakeets can be when food is offered. We paused for a welcome cup of tea in the Lido café before heading back through the rose garden to Hyde Park Corner. Details [here](#).

## March

**Dollis Valley Greenwalk (March):** a small group of walkers grasped the opportunity of a walk in the winter sunshine along the Dollis Brook in North London. The two-mile stretch was part of the 10-mile-long greenwalk from North Barnet to Hampstead Garden Suburb. Starting at Totteridge and Whetstone station we followed the well-marked trail through a linear park, accompanied by birdsong most of the way, spotting welcome signs of spring. Despite being on tarmac paths we encountered some decidedly muddy sections after the February rain. The surprisingly busy Italian café produced good coffee and a warm break before the last uphill walk to West Finchley station. Details [here](#).



### **April**

No walk

### **May**

No walk

### **June**

No walk

### **July**

No walk

### **August**

No walk

### **September 2020**

**Finsbury Park and the Capital Ring (September):** this was our first walk since lockdown and 9 members were keen to get out and get some exercise. It was a pretty hot day but luckily the walk had quite a lot of shade along the route. Details [here](#).