

# WALKING THE TUBE

by Mark Moxon

A report of the LURS meeting at All Saints Clubhouse on 13 July 2010

Two years ago Mark Moxon walked the entire tube network and came to talk to the Society about his experiences.

## WHY WALK THE TUBE?

Mark has previously done a lot of overseas walking in the 1990s: Nepal, New Zealand, Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia and Annapurna. He had also previously walked the London Loop which is at the Zone 6 boundary between September 2002 and December 2003. He had also walked from Land's End to John O'Groats from May to July 2003 and also the Capital Ring, near Zones 2 and 3 from July 2006 to June 2007. After that, he invented the Tube Walk as something else to do – at that time there were no other details of anyone else having completed this.

## THE RULES OF TUBEWALKING

Before setting off, he invented some quite arbitrary rules:

- Follow the Tube: only walk between stations if there's a line (otherwise it might never be finished!)
- No Repeats – otherwise he would have had to walk, for example, Baker Street to Liverpool Street three times.
- Each station had to be visited – the only exception to this was Heathrow Terminals 1, 2, 3 as BAA will not allow people to walk to this station.
- Only the Tube, not the DLR or London Overground – perhaps this is something in reserve!

## THE ROUTE

The first job was with the computer to work out the walking route in comparison to where the various tube lines go. Mark felt it would be more interesting not to stick absolutely to the route that the trains take but to visit some of the more interesting bits in between. During the winter of 2007/2008 he spent about six months calculating the route and dividing the tube map into walking routes.

This worked out as 45 walking days (2 June to 29 August 2008) and a total of 440.2 miles by foot, taking in 276 stations (Wood Lane was yet to open). There were 316 individual tube walks between stations, the shortest being 0.14 miles from Charing Cross to Embankment and the longest being 7.35 miles from North Greenwich to Canning Town.

## OTHER STATISTICS

- There were 1,312 places noted as places of interest (452 in zone 1)
- While walking, 9,730 geotagged photographs were taken
- 150,000 words were written for the Tubewalker.com website
- The cost was a mere £205.80 for pay-as-you-go Oyster travel. Putting this in perspective, the Lands End to John O'Groats walk cost £3,000, so it is comparatively cheap.

## WALKING ORDER

Mark walked in the vague order of line opening, more or less. There were some exceptions to this, with the District being walked before the Hammersmith & City so as not to fragment the District Line too much. Therefore, the order walked was:

1. **Metropolitan Line, 10 Jan 1863**
2. **District Line, 24 Dec 1868**
3. **Hammersmith & City Line, 13 Jun 1864**
4. **East London Line, 7 Dec 1869**

Mark wasn't planning to do this route but as LU were running a replacement bus service it was suggested that it was still a London Underground route. It was dropped in almost at the last minute, but he found it an interesting route.

5. **Circle Line, 6 Oct 1884, Inner circle completed.**

Because of the no repeats rule, this was an easy route with only two sections being Circle Line only – Aldgate to Tower Hill and Gloucester Road to High Street Kensington.

6. **Waterloo & City Line, 8 Aug 1898**
7. **Northern Line, 18 Dec 1890**
8. **Central Line, 30 Jul 1900**
9. **Bakerloo Line, 10 Mar 1906**
10. **Piccadilly Line, 15 Dec 1906**
11. **Victoria Line, 1 Sep 1960**
12. **Jubilee Line, 1 May 1979**

Mark then recounted his particular highlights, line by line.

### **METROPOLITAN LINE**

- 62.8 miles
- 34 stations
- 159 places of interest
- 1,026 photos

#### **Aldgate station – the starting point (Aldgate to Liverpool Street)**

Opened on 11 November 1876 and it feels like an old station, with a historical feel. It is quite attractive with the way that daylight filters through the roof. Mark noted that here, at the very first station, he began to head the wrong way! An uncertain start but things got better after that.

#### **The Barbican (Moorgate to Barbican)**

The Grade II listed Barbican Estate. Here Mark got lost, again, which is very easy to do in this complex. A fantastic place for pedestrians.

#### **'The Meeting Place' (King's Cross St. Pancras to Euston Square)**

The fantastic newly-restored St. Pancras station. Mark remarked how fantastic it is to look up at the newly restored roof and brickwork. The station also has platforms on two levels and the 9m-high statue below the impressive station clock.

#### **The Holme, Regent's Park (Baker Street to Finchley Road)**

This was the first villa to be erected in Regent's Park and was designed 1816-18 by the 18-year-old Decimus Burton for his father, James Burton, and his family. Burton also designed the Palm & Temperate Houses at Kew. It was a miserable day when Mark went through here but it still managed to look very attractive.

#### **Hampstead Cemetery (Finchley Road to Wembley Park)**

Mark then turned north to walk through Hampstead Cemetery where a path runs right through, making it easy to visit. It was opened in 1876 and around 60,000 people have been buried in 26 acres. However, this means no space for new graves, only cremations.

#### **Welsh Harp Open Space (Finchley Road to Wembley Park)**

This was one of Mark's first significant diversions from the actual running route of the line. Popularly known as the Welsh Harp, Brent Reservoir is surrounded by the delightful Welsh Harp Open Space with woodland, meadows and swans.

#### **The classic suburbia of Barn Hill (Wembley Park to Preston Road)**

This was noted as prime Metro-land, the suburbia that sprang up in the Metropolitan Line's wake back in the first few decades of the 20th century. Arthur Mee, the British writer who was most famous for *The Children's Encyclopedia*, wrote in *The King's England* that Wembley was the 'epitome' of Metro-land. Judging by the views, it's hard to disagree.

#### **St Mary's Church, Harrow (Northwick Park to Harrow-on-the-Hill)**

The Parish and Borough Church of St. Mary is very obvious as it is right on top of the hill – this is particularly satisfying because you can then see where you've been walking. It was frequently visited by Lord Byron while he was at the neighbouring school from 1801 to 1805, where he sat dreaming by 'his favourite tombstone'.

#### **Pinner Memorial Park (Pinner to Northwood Hills)**

Mark remarked that the areas, as he headed north were slowly becoming more leafy. Parks are

increasingly common in this part of the world.

### **Looking northwest along the Metropolitan Line (Northwood Hills to Northwood)**

Just next door is the Northwood Hills Hotel is where a school-age Reginald Dwight cut his teeth by playing the piano every Friday evening for one pound a night before becoming better known as Elton John later on in life.

### **Christ Church from Chorleywood Common (Rickmansworth to Chorleywood)**

The surroundings become more and more rural, being very hard to believe there are really tube stations here. There is an interesting example of a Victorian flint church here.

### **Scenery in the Chess Valley (Chalfont & Latimer to Chesham)**

This feels like it really in the countryside. The river Chess starts life in an aquifer in the chalk rock of the Chilterns and emerges from the ground above Chesham and flows down to meet the River Colne near Rickmansworth. The 10-mile Chess Valley Walk follows the River Chess from Chesham to Rickmansworth, with link walks to Chalfont & Latimer and Chorleywood stations.

### **Chesham station, the most remote station on the network (Chalfont & Latimer to Chesham)**

Opened 8 July 1889 and is 25 miles (40.2km) north west of Charing Cross, making it the furthest station out from Central London anywhere on the underground. It is also the northernmost and westernmost underground station. Chesham replaced Ongar as the farthest station when the latter closed in 1994.

Given these statistics it does feel very remote and a world away from London.

### **DISTRICT LINE**

- 60.2 miles
- 60 stations
- 282 places of interest
- 1,549 photos

### **The Japanese Gateway in Kew Gardens (Richmond to Kew Gardens)**

Mark made part of his journey through Kew Gardens, with which he is already familiar, explaining what a nice part of West London it is.

### **The three bridges over Fisher's Lane (Turnham Green to Chiswick Park)**

Fisher's Lane ducks under the Tube via three different bridges – the centre one is the original arched brick bridge and carried the original 1879 line. It now carries the westbound Piccadilly service and the District Line to Ealing Broadway. The northern side is a sturdy iron bridge that carries the same services heading east. The southern side is also an iron bridge which carries the District Line to and from Richmond, peeling off to the south just west of Chiswick Park station.

### **The UK's first Nando's Restaurant (Ealing Common to Ealing Broadway)**

The Nando's restaurant next to Ealing Common was the first to be opened in the UK, flinging its doors open in April 1992.

### **Charming mews off Comeragh Road (Barons Court to West Kensington)**

On the way from Barons Court to Queen's Club, looking like it could be part of another world.

### **The door into Garden Lodge, Logan Place, the last home of Freddie Mercury (Earl's Court to Kensington (Olympia))**

Tucked away down Logan Place, almost at the end of the road and past some pretty mews houses is a wooden door, painted green, marked 'Garden Lodge, Logan Place'. This was the last home of Freddie Mercury, who died in 1991, and the door is smothered with messages from fans, carved into the paint-work over every square inch of space. It is allegedly repainted from time to time only for fans to start all over again in a similar way to Abbey Road.

### **55 Broadway (St James's Park to Westminster)**

The headquarters of London Underground (now part of Transport for London, whose office this is) and was built at 55 Broadway between 1927 and 1929. It is a distinctive Art Deco building made from Portland Stone with eight reliefs positioned around the building to represent the four winds. When

photographed it was fairly dirty, suggesting a good clean could be in order!

### **The northern entrance to the Tower Subway (Monument to Tower Hill)**

This kiosk is related to the tunnel under the Thames that was built in 1869 although it isn't the original entrance building, as it dates from the 1920s. The Tower Subway is important because its construction saw the first use of the Barlow-Greathead Shield. The system would go on to be used to build all of London's deep-level Tube lines, starting with what we now know as the Northern Line and was the first hint of tube engineering first properly seen on the Northern Line.

### **The East London Mosque on Fieldgate Street (Aldgate East to Whitechapel)**

There is a large Muslim complex here which completely surrounds the Fieldgate Street Great Synagogue. It was noted that all faiths seem to get on well – could this be a metaphor for what could happen in the Middle East?

### **Mile End Place (Stepney Green to Mile End)**

Hidden away, there are some gorgeous 19th-century workmens' cottages which came as quite a surprise when compared to the variety of buildings in the surrounding area.

### **Three Mills Green (Bromley-by-Bow to West Ham)**

This overlooks London's largest dedicated film and television studio with 14 stages and more than 200 production offices. The first two UK series of Big Brother were broadcast in 2000 and 2001 from a house just to the east of Three Mills. Also present in the photograph was Canary Wharf. It was noted that it seems to be visible from most parts of East London and makes a good marker.

### **The Greenway (Bromley-by-Bow to West Ham)**

Designed by Joseph Bazalgette, who also designed the Victoria Embankment, the Northern Outfall Sewer stretches from Hackney to Beckton, where north London's sewage is treated and dumped into the sea. The Greenway itself is a cycle and walking track that sits on top of the sewage pipe, and apart from the strange smell every now and then, it's a lovely way of walking through east London, high up above the surrounding suburbia.

### **Queen's Market, Upton Park (Plaistow to Upton Park)**

Over 160 market stalls and independent shops selling fresh fruit and vegetables, fresh meat and fish, clothing and more. At the time of visiting there was a huge redevelopment scheme in the planning stages to completely revamp the area, keeping the market as a focal point while building new homes and offices for Newham Council.

### **Mayesbrook Park (Upney to Becontree)**

Parks become more common in this part of East London. This wide, open space has two large lakes, a friendly local population of Canada geese.

### **Beam River, Chase Nature Reserve (Dagenham East to Elm Park)**

At this point in its journey from Romford to the Thames, the River Rom is known as the River Beam and defines the boundary between the London Borough of Havering and the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. Although it sometimes doesn't feel like it, it is still well inside the M25.

### **A bridge over the River Ingrebourne (Hornchurch to Upminster Bridge)**

The Ingrebourne is a 27-mile tributary of the Thames and flows from Brentwood in Essex down to Rainham on the Thames. The London Loop goes along here.

### **Upminster Park (Upminster Bridge to Upminster)**

This is a pleasant park just south of the centre of Upminster and is a Green Flag winner in 2009, an award that only goes to those green spaces that can show they meet a high standard of maintenance, sustainability, community involvement and cleanliness.

### **The District Line cutting through Southfields (Southfields to East Putney)**

This section opened by the Metropolitan District Railway on 3 June 1889 on an extension from Putney Bridge to Wimbledon and was built by the London and South Western Railway (L&SWR), whose initials can be seen on Wimbledon Park and Southfields stations. It was also the last to be electrified. Mark found that the tube would often just 'appear' from cuttings.

### **Steps up to Fulham Railway Bridge (East Putney to Putney Bridge)**

It is possible to cross the bridge on foot: it was designed by William Jacomb, Brunel's former assistant and opened in 1889 to carry trains along the District Line between Putney Bridge and East Putney.

### **Novello Street (Parsons Green to Fulham Broadway)**

This road is a treat, with a whole terrace of pastel-shaded cottages leading to the nearby Walham Green. The primary school opposite nicely ticks the box marked 'catchment area'. The tube line runs along the back of the gardens, houses here typically go for more than £150,000 less than elsewhere in Parsons Green so a three-bedroom house on Novello Street will still set you back £850,000, so the entry requirements are not a great deal lower!

### **Stamford Bridge Stadium (Fulham Broadway to West Brompton)**

Home of Chelsea Football Club and first opened in 1877 by the London Athletics Club, until the lease was acquired in 1904 by the Mears brothers. They initially offered the stadium to Fulham Football Club, and then tried to sell the land to the Great Western Railway Company. No success was had so they decided to found their own club instead, and Chelsea Football Club was born in 1905.

### **Brompton Cemetery (Fulham Broadway to West Brompton)**

Built in 1840 as one of the 'Magnificent Seven' cemeteries as the authorities realised they were running out of space to bury people! Brompton Cemetery boasts over 35,000 graves. Beatrix Potter used to live nearby and it is said she took the inspiration from graves in this cemetery – the records show there are graves here for the likes of Jeremiah Fisher, Mr. McGregor, Mr. Nutkins, Mr. Brock and a certain Peter Rabbit.

### **Kensington Palace (High Street Kensington to Notting Hill Gate)**

When Charles and Diana married in 1981 to become the Prince and Princess of Wales, they combined apartments 8 and 9 in Kensington Palace to create their London residence. This is where Princes William and Harry grew up and it remained Diana's official residence until her death in 1997.

### **23 and 24 Leinster Gardens (Bayswater to Paddington)**

The Metropolitan Railway extension from Paddington to Bayswater came through Leinster Gardens in 1868. Builders had to demolish numbers 23 and 24 to make way for the lines although to maintain the look of the street and hide the trains from view they built a false facade that matches the houses on either side.

## **HAMMERSMITH & CITY LINE**

- 25.0 miles (no repeats)
- 28 stations (no Wood Lane)
- 131 places of interest
- 686 photos

### **Lena Gardens, Hammersmith to Goldhawk Road**

Mark noted that he had always found the traffic horrendous near Hammersmith. Lena Gardens however was not far from the busy shopping streets around Hammersmith station and was a fantastic surprise: it is all Victorian and Edwardian terraces round here which positively gleam.

### **Ladbroke Grove's psychedelic bridge (Latimer Road to Ladbroke Grove)**

Dating from the original line-opening in 1864, the station was called Notting Hill then Notting Hill & Ladbroke Grove, then Ladbroke Grove (North Kensington) and finally plain old Ladbroke Grove in 1938. It still has a psychedelic bridge: Hawkwind was formed round here in 1969.

### **Portobello Road (Ladbroke Grove to Westbourne Park)**

Portobello Road Market is split up into a number of sections, all selling different things; from north to south:

- Antiques (Chepstow Villas to Elgin Crescent).
- Fruit and veg (Elgin Crescent to Talbot Road).
- New goods (Talbot Road to the Westway).

- Fashion (Westway area).
- Second-hand goods (Westway to Goldborne Road).

### **Trellick Tower (Ladbroke Grove to Westbourne Park)**

This is a 31-storey block of flats, completed in 1972, in the Brutalist style by architect Erno Goldfinger. The 98m (322 ft) tower is Grade II listed and contains 217 flats. It gained a bad reputation for crime and anti-social behaviour in the 1970s but the increase in property prices in the area and a reappraisal of Brutalist architecture means the tower has become quite a trendy place to live.

### **Paddington Basin (Paddington to Edgware Road)**

This is the Terminus of the Paddington arm of the Grand Union Canal. In its day, Paddington Basin would have been a very busy place indeed, these days it's a rather quieter office development.

### **EAST LONDON LINE**

- 9.7 miles
- 9 stations
- 15 places of interest
- 294 photos

### **The Dew Drop Inn (Shoreditch to Whitechapel)**

A blue plaque to Mary Hughes, the daughter of Thomas Hughes, the author of Tom Brown's Schooldays appears here. In her desire to care for the impoverished locals of the East End, she ended up living with them, staying until her death at the age of 81, by which time she had become a 'shabby and sometimes verminous woman' who was totally committed to helping those around her.

### **Shadwell Basin (Shadwell to Wapping)**

Used to be part of the London Docks but most were filled in during the 1970s as part of the regeneration of the Port of London. The 2.8-acre Shadwell Basin is now used for recreational purposes like canoeing, sailing and fishing. Three sides of the square are also surrounded by lovely waterside apartments whose exteriors are modelled on 19th-century dockside warehouses. Canary Wharf can again be seen in the distance.

### **A modern conversion in Wapping (Shadwell to Wapping)**

Regeneration of this area started in earnest in the 1980s under the auspices of the London Docklands Development Corporation, a government quango set up to redevelop the area with a combination of commercial and residential properties. In 1986, News International – publishers of *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun* and the *News of the World* – built a massive, £80 million printing works in north Wapping, and relocated the production of their newspapers here.

### **A commemorative sculpture in Cinnabar Wharf (Wapping to Rotherhithe)**

Here a dove-shaped sculpture rests as a memorial to all those who lost their lives in the docks of London during the Blitz.

### **Tower Bridge (Wapping to Rotherhithe)**

Little needs to be said about this iconic London bridge. Mark remarked that all through his travels in East London the weather was fine – not so in other parts of his journeys!

### **Canada Water nature reserve (Canada Water to Surrey Quays)**

Canada Water is the surviving third of Canada Dock, one of the Surrey Commercial Docks that closed in the 1970s. The other two-thirds were filled in and are now home to the Surrey Quays Shopping Centre. The remaining lake – the only fresh water dock in London Docklands – was named Canada Water and was joined to Surrey Water by a new, ornamental canal which has now become a wildlife refuge.

### **The old Duke of Albany pub (Surrey Quays to New Cross Gate)**

This pub found fame in the film *Shaun of the Dead* where it played the part of the Winchester, Shaun's favourite pub, the final scenes where zombies surround Sean and his friends were filmed in the road junction just in front of the pub. At the time of visiting it was being developed into a block of apartments.

## Circle Line

- 22.2 miles (Mark only walked 1.9 miles)
- 27 stations
- 167 places of interest
- 616 photos

### The Gherkin (Aldgate to Tower Hill)

A 40-floor skyscraper at 30 St. Mary Axe built in 2001-4 situated on the site of the old Baltic Exchange, which was damaged beyond repair by an IRA bomb in 1992. Designed by Norman Foster, the Gherkin is the most polite nickname.

### The Lloyd's Building (Aldgate to Tower Hill)

Designed by Richard Rogers and opened in 1986 it is similar to the Pompidou Centre in Paris (co-designed by Rogers), it wears its insides on the outside: staircases, lifts, pipes and conduits.

### Kynance Mews (Gloucester Road to High Street Kensington)

This is a picturesque mews were built in the late 19th century as stables for the houses of Cornwall Gardens to the south. The pretty, residential nature of this area seems to sum up difference between the two sections of the Circle that Mark visited well.

## WATERLOO & CITY LINE

- 2.1 miles
- 2 stations
- 20 places of interest
- 102 photos

### Under Queen Elizabeth Hall (Waterloo to Bank)

The skateboard fraternity have made the architectural dead-zone under the hall their own since the early 1970s. Despite its being a good use of space there are plans to close it down (it being the UK's busiest skate park and the spiritual home of British skateboarding). In parts it does smell a little suspect though!

### Tate Modern and the Millennium Bridge (Waterloo to Bank)

Once the Bankside Power Station, a huge oil-powered power station designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, who also designed Battersea Power Station (he was grandson of Sir George Gilbert Scott, designer of St. Pancras). The power station opened in 1952 and closed in 1981. After over a decade of uncertainty, the Tate Gallery announced bought the site in 1994 with Britain's National Museum of International Modern Art opened in 2000.

### The Millennium Bridge (Waterloo to Bank)

An unbeatable view, being hard to take a bad photograph in this area. It opened in 2000 but was closed after just three days because it wobbled, the cause of which was a phenomenon called 'synchronous lateral excitation'. It was eventually fixed by the addition of 89 dampers.

### St Paul's Cathedral (Waterloo to Bank)

St. Paul's Cathedral is perched on top of the highest point of the City of London and is the second building after the old St. Paul's Cathedral was gutted by the Great Fire in 1666.

## NORTHERN LINE – FIRST TUBE WALK

- 59.6 miles
- 50 stations
- 209 places of interest
- 1,170 photos

### Merton Abbey Mills (Morden to South Wimbledon)

Although it doesn't have the best image, in parts it really is quite leafy and green, as shown at Merton Abbey Mills.

### South Wimbledon station

This is a Grade II-listed Charles Holden station dating from 1926 when the Bank branch of the

Northern Line (known then as the City & South London Railway) was extended from Clapham Common to Morden. All of the stations from Clapham South to Morden are 1926 Holden creations, and apart from Morden, which looks like it's been sat on by an office development, they are all Grade II listed. South Wimbledon station, however, looks a little drab these days, as the white-grey Portland stone is starting to go black from the top, making the station look a little unloved although the vertical glass slats still look good. Even though this is a busy road junction and there's precious little space to fit in a building, Holden clearly knew his stuff.

### **Colliers Wood Tower (South Wimbledon to Colliers Wood)**

In a BBC poll in 2006 it was voted London's ugliest building, gaining 52 per cent of the vote versus 23 per cent for the next contender, the Tower Hotel by Tower Bridge. It was also one of the 'dirty dozen' in Channel 4's Demolition programme, where the public nominated the UK buildings they would most like to see blown to smithereens. If this wasn't bad enough, when the local council asked residents, 86 per cent described the Tower as the worst thing about living in Colliers Wood.

### **Clapham Common (Clapham South to Clapham Common)**

The area round here is a very nice place, indeed the Manor of Clapham, which included the common, was mentioned as far back as the Domesday Book. Modern-day Clapham Common came into being in 1877, when the common was bought from the landowners by the Metropolitan Board of Works having drained 70 acres, laid out formal recreation grounds and brought in regulations on sports and games.

### **Cleaver Square (Oval to Kennington)**

This is a delightful square, laid out in the late 18th century, is surrounded by lovely Georgian terraces. There is also a little pub, the Prince of Wales, tucked away in the corner. Unusually it doesn't have grass in the middle, but a hard dirt surface that's perfect for playing boules.

### **Michael Faraday Memorial (Kennington to Elephant & Castle)**

This was built in 1961 as a memorial to the famous Victorian scientist Michael Faraday. Inside, fittingly, is a London Underground electrical substation. The original design for this Brutalist monument was made out of glass, so you could see the transformer inside, however, it wasn't felt to be vandal-proof, so in the end the box was made from metal.

### **Leadenhall Market (London Bridge to Bank)**

This is the centre of Roman London and there has been a market on this site since the 14th century. It still opens every day, selling fresh food.

### **Basinghall Avenue (Bank to Moorgate)**

Near here is the Moorhouse building which was completed in 2004 and designed by Norman Foster. It is the first building to be designed with Crossrail in mind – it has a shaft down to the station underneath the building and also has the deepest foundations in London, reaching down 57m. The building is also specifically designed to cope with further tunnelling under it.

### **Regent's Canal (Old Street to Angel)**

Regent's Canal links the Grand Union Canal at Paddington to the Thames at Limehouse. This final part of the canal was opened in 1820 as part of the Camden to Limehouse section (the Paddington to Camden section had opened in 1816). Originally a busy commercial thoroughfare, these days it's mainly used for recreation and is a delightful place to walk.

### **The Bree Louise (Euston to Warren Street)**

This pub serves a massive range of great real ales – great for lunch if you are walking in the surrounding area.

### **Lambeth Walk (Waterloo to Kennington)**

For many years this was the site of a thriving street market though it was badly damaged by bombs in the Second World War. Although it was redeveloped in the 1960s, it never regained its status as a bustling market street. Readers may be familiar with it as it was popularised in the song "Doin' the Lambeth Walk" from the 1937 musical 'Me and My Girl'.

### **The original Charing Cross, Euston & Hampstead Railway station at Euston (Euston to**

### **Mornington Crescent)**

This is located near Euston, on the corner of Melton Street and Drummond Street. It is now a disused Tube station from the original opening of the Charing Cross branch of the Northern Line, then known as the Charing Cross, Euston & Hampstead Railway. It has distinctive Leslie Green design of ox-blood red terracotta tiles which are still evident in the building, though all the markings have been removed.

### **23 Carleton Road (Kentish Town to Tufnell Park)**

Mark took a detour to visit the house from the television programme 'Spaced'. In the sitcom, it's 23 Meteor Street, in reality it's 23 Carleton Road.

### **Douglas Adams' grave, Highgate Cemetery (Tufnell Park to Archway)**

This is the third of the 'Magnificent Seven' cemeteries (1839) and arguably the most famous of all being Grade II listed. Famous residents include Karl Marx, Charles Dickens' parents and brother, Douglas Adams and Michael Faraday.

### **Parkland Walk (Archway to Highgate)**

Parkland Walk is a 4.5-mile walkway along the course of the old London and North Eastern Railway line from Finsbury Park to Edgware, which was built in 1867. In the 1930s there were plans to incorporate the line into the London Underground network as an extension to the Northern Line, but the arrival of the Second World War scuppered those plans and the area was finally closed in 1970. It reopened in 1984 as a Local Nature Reserve and walkway. It is a lovely place for a walk, going through disused stations where you can see the disused platforms, etc.

### **The archer on East Finchley station**

Here is sited a kneeling archer, who looks as if he's just released an arrow along the line towards central London. The tunnel from here goes all the way to Morden at the end of the line. The station is an Art Deco-style Charles Holden design, dating from the station's rebuilding in the 1930s. The 10ft-tall archer statue by Eric Aumonier is the icing on the cake.

### **A mausoleum in St. Pancras and Islington Cemetery (East Finchley to Finchley Central)**

This was established in 1852 and is the largest and the oldest municipal cemetery in London being approximately 190 acres, split between boroughs of Islington and Camden. Quite impressive is that there is a free bus service which runs within the cemetery at weekends and bank holidays.

### **The view from Parliament Hill (Belsize Park to Hampstead)**

It got its name from the Civil War, when it was occupied by troops loyal to Parliament. With Canary Wharf to your left, through the City of London and St. Paul's Cathedral, all the way to the BT Tower on your right, it has one of the best views in London.

### **A pretty mews in Hampstead (Hampstead to Golders Green)**

Hampstead station was built in 1907 and is a typical red terracotta Leslie Green creation. It is also the deepest Tube station on the network. Hampstead Village is on a large hill and so the platforms are some 192ft below ground level, served by the deepest lift shaft on the network at 181ft. The emergency stairs have an extremely uninviting 300 steps.

### **Brent Cross station**

This was Mark's first experience of another Tube station designer, Stanley Heaps. Heaps was Leslie Green's assistant and following Green's death in 1908, Heaps became the architect for Underground Electric Railways Company Limited (the precursor to London Underground). He designed buildings so that they could be built upon, though this hasn't happened at Brent Cross.

### **Hendon Central station**

The original Stanley Heaps building has been incorporated into an impressive office block looking just as good as Brent Cross which does not have the buildings above. The colonnade works really well, giving the curved red brick and stone block a central focus

### **Church End (Hendon Central to Colindale)**

A lovely little lane that houses the attractive Greyhound pub, and St. Mary's Church. Sir Stamford Raffles, the founder of Singapore, is buried in the church graveyard as is Herbert Chapman, the

manager of Arsenal in the 1920s and 1930s.

### **Location of the first ever Tesco store (Colindale to Burnt Oak)**

The first Tesco store opened at 9 Watling Avenue in 1929, ten years after Jack Cohen set up a stall in the East End, making £1 profit on his first day from sales of £4. The Name Tesco wasn't used until 1924, after Cohen bought a shipment of tea from a firm whose partners included T.E. Stockwell. He then took Stockwell's initials and the first two letters of his own surname to come up with the brand 'Tesco tea' ..... and the rest is history.

### **CENTRAL LINE**

- 77.0 miles
- 49 stations
- 219 places of interest
- 1,577 photos

### **Beechwood Avenue (West Ruislip to Ruislip Gardens)**

This shows typical west London suburbia. A mock Tudor look seems to be a recurring theme right across London!

### **Brentham Garden Suburb (Perivale to Hangar Lane)**

This was the first garden suburb in London to be built under co-operative principles. Its origins go back to the Garden City, Co-operative and Arts and Crafts movements of the late 19th century. Most houses were built between 1901 and 1915, predating the larger and more famous Hampstead Garden Suburb by some years (the latter was started in 1907). It is now a conservation area, and it's easy to see why – the gardens are simply amazing.

### **Diageo HQ, Park Royal (Hanger Lane to North Acton)**

In a busy area surrounded by industrial and commercial estates, this formidable building was built by RHWL Architects in 2002 at a cost of £28 million. It overlooks the site of the old Guinness Brewery which closed in 2005 and production was moved to St James's Gate Brewery in Dublin. The old London brewery was then demolished.

### **Hanger Hill Garden Estate (Ealing Broadway to West Acton)**

One of the prettiest garden suburbs visited so far, even though the whole estate consists of Mock Tudor housing.

### **East Acton station**

The buildings along Old Oak Common Lane and Fitzneal Street really appeal, perhaps because they're incredibly neat and tidy. They were developed by the council after the First World War, consisting of red-brick houses solid, dependable and with considerable period charm. Even the gardens are trimmed and well kept. East Acton station is as cute as can be, sitting at the end of a row of lovely workmen's cottages, like a diminutive Post Office in a pretty rural village. What a delightful place.

### **Wormwood Scrubs (East Acton to White City)**

More famous for the prison though various sports take place here too.

### **Westfield London (White City to Shepherd's Bush)**

This is the largest shopping centre in London (ahead of the Centrale in Croydon) although it will be beaten by the up-and-coming Westfield in the East London.

### **Kyoto Garden, Holland Park (Shepherd's Bush to Holland Park)**

Opened in 1991 to celebrate the London Japanese Festival, it was designed by a team of garden specialists flown over from Kyoto in Japan. The Detroit Free Press described it as one of 'three places in London you'll never forget' (along with the Cabinet War Rooms and Portobello Road) and is a great place to get away from the chaos of the city.

### **The Elfin Oak, Kensington Gardens (Queensway to Lancaster Gate)**

This is in the north-west corner of Kensington Gardens, west of Broad Walk and is essentially the long-dead stump of an oak tree. It is, however, peppered with charming models of elves, fairies and animals.

**Down staircase 4, Marble Arch (Lancaster Gate to Marble Arch)**

Not the most picturesque place in London.

**Eisenhower statue, Grosvenor Square (Marble Arch to Bond Street)**

Wins Mark's award for the campest statue in London!

**Brook Street: Hendrix on the left, Handel on the right (Bond Street to Oxford Circus)**

Jimi Hendrix lived at 23 Brook Street in 1968-69, at the height of his career while composer George Frideric Handel lived next door, at number 25, from 1723 to his death in 1759.

**A statue near St Paul's Cathedral (Chancery Lane to St Paul's)**

Weird or scary?

**East End terraces on Fournier Street (Liverpool Street to Bethnal Green)**

It's very easy to imagine what it was like 130 years ago, back in Victorian London, when these very same houses stood overlooking a completely different street scene.

**Arnold Circus (Liverpool Street to Bethnal Green)**

The Boundary Estate that surrounds Arnold Circus was the world's first council estate and was one of the earliest social housing schemes. Started in 1890 with the clearance of the Friars Mount slum. The mound in the middle of Arnold Circus was made out of rubble from the clearance. The flats themselves are Grade II listed, a status that is richly deserved.

**Street art by Banksy (Liverpool Street to Bethnal Green)**

Bethnal Green Working Men's Club, has a piece of Banksy street art on its wall. It is, apparently, still there.

**Mile End Park (Bethnal Green to Mile End)**

A thin strip of greenery between the canal and the A1205, it is an ecological park with lily-covered ponds, man-made lake, a mound with a great view and the green bridge (which is yellow). By the canal, someone has kindly stencilled the following message on the first set of blocks: BEWARE GEORGE GALLOWAY IS THE NEXT HITLER.

**A sculpture outside Stratford station (Mile End to Stratford)**

A strange, twisted sculpture.

**Snaresbrook Crown Court (Leytonstone to Snaresbrook)**

Designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott and William Moffat, it is a Jacobean-style building that is now Snaresbrook Crown Court. It was originally opened in 1843 as an orphanage by King Leopold of Belgium. After that it was turned into the Royal Wanstead School in 1938. For those interested, this is where Blake Fielder-Civil, the ex-husband of Amy Winehouse, was sentenced on 21 July 2008 to 27 months in prison for assault and perverting the course of justice.

**Clement Atlee lived here in the 1920s and 1930s (Woodford to Buckhurst Hill)**

In the 1920s and 1930s, Clement Atlee lived in Monkham's Avenue where he spent his years before becoming Labour Prime Minister from 1945 to 1951.

**The River Roding (Loughton to Debden)**

Rises near Dunmow in Essex, just east of Stansted Airport and flows south through a group of villages called the Rodings (so-called because they all have 'Roding' in their names).

**The Bank of England Printing Works (Debden to Theydon Bois)**

Printed bank notes have been used since 1855 and in 1956 the printing process moved to this purpose-built printing works in Debden. British bank notes are still produced here today. When bank notes become too tatty for circulation, they are returned to Debden for eco-friendly shredding (not incineration, which was used until 1990).

**Wheat fields near Debden (Debden to Theydon Bois)**

A lovely walking area.

**The Bull, Theydon Bois (Theydon Bois to Epping)**

Theydon Bois is traditional – it has a large village green and lovely country pubs. Most traditional of

all is the complete absence of street lighting in the village as locals consistently vote against the installation of lighting and have done for decades, as they worry it would destroy the traditional ambience of the village.

### **Epping Forest (Theydon Bois to Epping)**

This stretches for nearly 12 miles from Forest Gate (just south of Wanstead Flats) up to Epping.

### **The protest tree on George Green (Leytonstone to Wanstead)**

In the early 1990s this 250-year-old tree was happily minding its own business when in 1993 the tree became a centre of the ongoing protests against the M11 link road through Leytonstone and Wanstead. Protesters set up camp at the tree and on 7 December 1993 the police evicted everyone and the tree was torn down and smashed up, and the fragment on the green is left as a memorial to the conflict. Apparently, at one point the tree even had its own postcode!

### **Gants Hill station**

The station lives under a busy roundabout on the A12. Although not much to look at above ground, beneath ground, it's a thing of beauty. The lower parts of the station were modelled by Holden on the Moscow Underground and the barrel-vaulted panelled ceiling of the concourse between the eastbound and westbound platforms is well worth checking out.

### **Fairlop Waters (Fairlop to Hainault)**

At 300 acres, the largest country park and leisure facility in the London Borough of Redbridge, with an 18-hole golf course, a 9-hole par-3 golf course and a floodlit driving range among many other activities which take place here.

### **Grange Hill station**

This is the second station here after the first the original Edwardian station from 1903 was destroyed in 1944 by a German V1 flying bomb. Nowadays it is perhaps more famous for its (non) link with the 1980s children's television show of the same name.

### **Fields near Grange Hill (Grange Hill to Chigwell)**

One enters Essex here, still, almost unbelievably, only in Zone 4.

### **Spurs Lodge (Chigwell to Roding Valley)**

The training ground of Tottenham Hotspur Football Club. When Spurs are in the news, you'll find a gaggle of long-lensed paparazzi outside the entrance, waiting to snap the club's Premier League players as they leave.

## **BAKERLOO LINE**

- 20.8 miles
- 25 stations
- 64 places of interest
- 513 photos

### **Waterloo station and the Waterloo & City line crane (Lambeth North to Waterloo)**

The blue crane is just along Spur Road and acts as the only train entrance to the Waterloo & City Line depot, trains being winched in and out of the line as it has no direct rail connection to the outside world and is the only *completely* subterranean line.

### **Browning's Pool, Little Venice (Paddington to Warwick Avenue)**

Little Venice is the name given to the residential area surrounding the junction of the Regent's Canal and the Grand Junction Canal.

### **Kilburn Park station**

Also designed by Stanley Heaps (who designed Brent Cross and Hendon Central). This was his first independent commission, Heaps then designed the Bakerloo stations at Paddington, Warwick Avenue, Maida Vale and Kilburn Park. This last station is a particularly satisfying example of his early terracotta stations, with intricately laced windows and the station name clearly inscribed under the station eaves.

### **Kensal Green Cemetery (Kensal Green to Willesden Junction)**

The first of the 'Magnificent Seven' cemeteries to be incorporated (1832) and approximately 250,000 people buried in 65,000 graves including Isambard Kingdom Brunel and his father, Marc Isambard Brunel, who built the Thames Tunnel through which the East London Line passes.

### **Suburbia (Kenton to Harrow & Wealdstone)**

Spot the theme? More mock Tudor, except pebbledashed this time!

### **PICCADILLY LINE**

- 82.1 miles
- 53 stations
- 203 places of interest
- 1,832 photos

Mark received permission to walk to Terminals 4 and 5, but had to get a bus for Terminals 1, 2, 3 as it isn't possible to walk there.

### **Terminal 5 (Heathrow Terminal 5 to Heathrow Terminals 1, 2, 3)**

Opened in 2008 as largest free-standing structure in the UK. It cost £4 billion and took 19 years to complete, following the longest planning enquiry in British history. It is designed to handle 35 million passengers a year and the Piccadilly Line was specially extended to cater for the new terminal.

### **The White Horse pub in Longford (Heathrow Terminal 5 to Heathrow Terminals 1, 2, 3)**

A charming place with a genuine village character, some lovely houses and at least one great-looking pub, the White Horse.

### **Harmondsworth village green (Heathrow Terminal 5 to Heathrow Terminals 1, 2, 3)**

A pretty little village, with a traditional village green surrounded by shops. There is also the Grade I listed St. Mary's Church, parts of which date from the 12th century.

### **The third runway (Heathrow Terminal 5 to Heathrow Terminals 1, 2, 3)**

As it currently is – fields.

### **Anti-expansion literature in Sipson (Heathrow Terminal 5 to Heathrow Terminals 1, 2, 3)**

There were, not surprisingly, 'No Third Runway' signs everywhere, the locals united under the slightly cumbersome NOTRAG moniker ('No Third Runway Action Group') put up a strong fight.

### **The Blenheim Centre (Hounslow Central to Hounslow East)**

Consists of a huge Asda superstore, a health and fitness centre, five retail units, a Post Office, 336 apartments and a car park for over 400 cars in the basement.

### **Osterley Park (Osterley to Boston Manor)**

Osterley Park is a magnificent neo-classical house, set in large grounds that are also known as Osterley Park.

### **Hanwell Flight (Osterley to Boston Manor)**

Designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument by English Heritage this is a set of six locks on the Grand Union Canal that were built in 1794, raising the canal by 53 ft in 600 yards. Just south of the flight is the junction of the Grand Union Canal and the River Brent, which flow south together to reach the Thames in Brentford.

### **The Large Mansion, Gunnersbury Park (South Ealing to Acton Town)**

This is a park of two halves: the western half is a wide open grassy space, big enough to accommodate 36 football pitches in the winter, the eastern half has a small boating lake (complete with a folly dating from 1760), a pitch-and-putt golf course, tennis courts, and the grand buildings of two 19th-century mansions, the Large Mansion (now the Gunnersbury Park Museum) and the adjacent Small Mansion.

### **Chiswick Square (Turnham Green to Hammersmith)**

This is a contender for London's smallest square and has the fine Boston House behind it, which dates from the 1680s. Boston House was extended in the 18th century and by the early 19th century it was a school for girls. It became a home for inebriate women at the turn of the 20th century, which conjures up some interesting images!

### **Kelmscott House (Turnham Green to Hammersmith)**

Sir Francis Ronalds created the first telegraph here in 1816, running eight miles of cable, encased in a glass tube, around a wooden lattice in his back garden. He managed to transmit a signal along the length of the wire, although the Admiralty weren't interested in such technology at the time – he was ahead of his time. Ronalds was later knighted for his contributions to the invention of the telegraph, and he did live to see the technology spread across the globe.

### **The V&A (South Kensington to Knightsbridge)**

The V&A is the world's largest museum of decorative arts and design, with a permanent collection of over 4.5 million objects.

### **24 Chapel Street (Knightsbridge to Hyde Park Corner)**

Brian Epstein, the Beatles' manager, lived (and died) in a flat at 24 Chapel Street from January 1965 onwards: it was where the launch party for Sgt. Pepper was held.

### **Blue Ball Yard (Green Park to Piccadilly Circus)**

This small cul-de-sac is home to some stunning 1741 coach houses that are now part of the Stafford Hotel. One of the cellars below the annexe is a restaurant and another contains the hotel's 20,000 bottles of wine.

### **Covent Garden market (Covent Garden to Holborn)**

At the centre of the Covent Garden district is the old flower, fruit and vegetable market.

### **The Brunswick Centre (Russell Square to King's Cross St. Pancras)**

Built between 1967 and 1972 to a defiantly modernist design by Patrick Hodgkinson, it was widely disliked and fell into disrepair. In 2002 a much-needed £22 million revamp was kicked off, including painting the blocks in the cream colour that the designers had originally intended. Now it is home to 560 flats, lots of shops and cafes, a Waitrose and the Renoir cinema – it was deservedly Grade II listed in 2000.

### **London Metropolitan University Graduate Centre (Holloway Road to Arsenal)**

This is Daniel Libeskind's 2004 structure for the Graduate Centre. It is made from three intersecting rectangular blocks clad in stainless steel. Pictures of the interior of the building look fascinating – everything is irregular and at strange angles.

### **Arsenal station**

Opened in 1906 as Gillespie Road but after the nearby Highbury Stadium was built in 1913, the manager of Arsenal, Herbert Chapman, successfully led a campaign to get the station renamed. It has displayed, perhaps, the biggest station name on the Underground, perfect when trying to divert large numbers of fans from the ground by tube.

### **Harringay Passage (Manor House to Turnpike Lane)**

Harringay Passage lies on top of an old Victorian sewer, the Hornsey Outfall Sewer. Because of this it couldn't be built over when the area was developed from the former grounds of Harringay House, the path therefore survived when the area was covered in houses between 1880 and 1900.

### **Alexandra Palace (Wood Green to Bounds Green)**

Its hilltop location made it a perfect location for the BBC, who used it as the centre for their new television service – the world's first high-definition television broadcasts were made from this site in 1936.

### **The Google Street View car (Wood Green to Bounds Green)**

Mark photographed this and the car returned the favour – Mark has now found fame by appearing on Google Street View!

### **Oakwood station**

Another impressive Holden creation, the design is very similar to that of Acton Town, though because there is more space around Oakwood, it's much easier to take.

### **Trent Park (Oakwood to Cockfosters)**

Originally the grounds of Trent Park mansion, which had a number of owners over the years. Perhaps the most inadvertent was the banker and Quaker David Bevan, who is alleged to have

bought Trent Park in 1833 because he nodded while asleep at an auction.

### **Sudbury Hill station**

Holden's stations at this end of the line are a bit more workmanlike. It opened in 1932, just before the stations at the east end of the line.

### **Horsenden Hill**

This is at a height of 84m above sea level and is the highest point in the local area, with great views north to Harrow-on-the-Hill (which is 124m above sea level) and west towards Northolt and Greenford.

### **VICTORIA LINE**

- 19.0 miles
- 16 stations
- 74 places of interest
- 602 photos

### **Electric Avenue (Brixton to Stockwell)**

This was the first shopping street in London to have electric street lighting, in 1888 and was also the inspiration for Eddy Grant's 1983 number two hit of the same name.

### **40 Stansfield Road (Brixton to Stockwell)**

David Bowie (or David Robert Hayward-Jones, to give him his real name) was born at 40 Stansfield Road on 8 January 1948 to Peggy and John Jones. He lived here until the age of six, when the family upped sticks and moved to Bromley in Kent.

### **Stockwell Garage (Stockwell to Vauxhall)**

When it opened in 1952, Stockwell Garage boasted Europe's largest unsupported area under one roof.

### **Lillington Gardens Estate (Pimlico to Victoria)**

Built between 1961 and 1971 to a design that managed to combine high-density housing with individuality and private gardens at ground and roof levels, the entire estate is now a conservation area. In the middle of the estate, completely surrounded by the modern development, stands the Grade I listed St. James the Less Church, which dates from 1861.

### **3 Savile Row (Green Park to Oxford Circus)**

The Beatles' Apple Corps had its headquarters at 3 Savile Row and was home to the Beatles' final live performance, on the roof on 30 January 1969, as captured in the film *Let It Be* (although judging by the height of the building it's questionable how much the viewers on the ground floor would have seen!).

### **The cab shelter in Hanover Square (Green Park to Oxford Circus)**

There are just 13 of these green shelters in the capital which is all that remains of the 61 shelters that were built between 1875 and 1914. They were built after the Earl of Shaftesbury set up the Cabman's Shelter Fund to provide cabbies with somewhere to park and get a hot meal while at work. The shelters themselves are no bigger than a horse and cart, as they are all on public roads and the authorities didn't want them taking up too much space. In 2004, Prince Charles stopped off at this very shelter to share a cup of tea with nine other taxi drivers as a way of saying thanks for all their hard work.

### **Highbury Clock (Highbury & Islington to Finsbury Park)**

This is a large red Victorian clock tower stands, just by Christ Church, Highbury. It was unveiled in 1897 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Queen Victoria coming to the throne.

### **The New River (Finsbury Park to Seven Sisters)**

This is a man-made waterway that dates from 1613, its 20-mile length was built between Hertfordshire and Stoke Newington to provide London with fresh drinking water from the River Lee and Anwell Springs (which no longer flow). Built by Sir Hugh Myddelton to a clever design that uses gravity and the contours of the land to move the water along the length of the river.

### **The Ancient House in Walthamstow Village Hall (Blackhorse Road to Walthamstow Central)**

Walthamstow Village is centred round St. Mary's Church, which was founded in the 12th century. This is one of the few places in London that Mark witnessed proper Tudor rather than mock ones!

### **JUBILEE LINE**

- 50.9 miles
- 27 stations
- 164 places of interest
- 1,270 photos

### **Clouds over Clifton Road (Queensbury to Kingsbury)**

Typical suburbia in Queensbury.

### **Bobby Moore, Wembley Stadium (Wembley Park to Neasden)**

The views towards Harrow and Neasden are impressive – you're up pretty high here. There is also a statue of Bobby Moore, the captain of the England team that won the World Cup here in 1966.

### **The old Post Office Research Station from Gladstone Park (Neasden to Dollis Hill)**

From Dollis Hill House you can see a deeply impressive and historic building to the north of the park. Topped by a green tower, this is the Post Office Research Station. In 1943 Tommy Flowers and his team built the first Colossus computer over an 11-month period. This was the world's first programmable electronic computer as well as where ERNIE (Electronic Random Number Indicator Equipment) was built in 1957 for picking Premium Bond winners. These days it's home to exclusive apartments.

### **195 Melrose Avenue (Dollis Hill to Willesden Green)**

Home of serial killer Dennis Nilsen between 1978 and 1981 and was the scene of 12 of the 15 murders he was known to have committed.

### **The old Decca Records office (West Hampstead to Finchley Road)**

The Beatles came here on 1 January 1962 to audition for the label and performed 15 songs in just under an hour, including some Lennon-McCartney originals. Eventually Dick Rowe, A&R man at Decca, rejected the group, saying, "We don't like their sound, and 'guitar music' is on 'the way out'". By the end of the year the Beatles would be at the top of the charts, but on EMI's label Parlophone.

### **4 Maresfield Gardens (Finchley Road to Swiss Cottage)**

Here is a plaque to Cecil Sharp, the collector of English folk songs and dances. It was by leafing through the archives at Cecil Sharp House that Ashley Hutchings discovered the ancient folk songs that would make up all but two songs on Fairport Convention's seminal *Liege and Lief* album, including the stunning 'Matty Groves', which is a personal favourite. Cecil Sharp, there would be no *Liege and Lief*, and that's enough to deserve a blue plaque all by itself.

### **Abbey Road (St John's Wood to Baker Street)**

On 8 August 1969, John, Paul, George and Ringo lined up on the crossing for Iain Macmillan to take their picture. The crossing has moved slightly to the east since then. Still extremely popular with fans who try to recreate the scene, it even has its own webcam.

### **57 Wimpole Street (Baker Street to Bond Street)**

Here Paul McCartney lived with Jane Asher and her parents from 1963 to 1966, before he moved to Cavendish Avenue near Abbey Road and is where Lennon and McCartney wrote their first US number one, "I Want to Hold Your Hand". Paul bashed out 'Yesterday' in the music room in the basement.

### **Horseguards Parade from St James's Park (Green Park to Westminster)**

The oldest Royal Park in London.

### **The original Blackfriars station (Southwark to London Bridge)**

Just north of Southwark station are the remains of the original Blackfriars station on the Charing Cross Railway. The station was here from January 1864 to January 1869 on the line from London Bridge to Charing Cross, but the station was closed when the nearby Waterloo East station was

opened instead. It is probably London's first railway terminus but is now a café.

### **A famous film location (Southwark to London Bridge)**

The flat above the Globe pub on Bedale Street was the outdoor filming location for Bridget Jones's flat although in the book she actually lives in the somewhat smarter Holland Park.

### **The site of Spa Road station (London Bridge to Bermondsey)**

This bridge used to carry the London and Greenwich Railway, the first railway line into London. It opened between Spa Road and Deptford on 8 February 1836. An extension from Spa Road to London Bridge opened on 14 December later that year. The final extension from Deptford to Greenwich started carrying passengers on 12 April 1840.

### **On top of Stave Hill (Canada Water to Canary Wharf)**

A 30ft-high man-made grassy mound created in 1985 from waste material and rubble, it gives impressive views with the Isle of Dogs to the east and central London to the northwest.

### **Greenwich Foot Tunnel (Canada Water to Canary Wharf)**

This joins Greenwich to the Isle of Dogs and was opened in 1902, replacing the expensive ferry service that served the area before. Each entrance is capped by a dome that houses the lift mechanism and provides a staircase down to the tunnel, some 15.2m (50ft) below. Walking along the damp 2.7m (9ft) diameter tunnel while the Thames flows overhead is an eerie experience!

### **The beach at London Yard (Canada Water to Canary Wharf)**

London Yard sports something quite unexpected for the city of London – a sandy beach, which is owned by the Port of London Authority but enjoyed by the public. The beach has views of the Millennium Dome and is overlooked by 312 apartments that were opened in 1988.

### **The square outside Canary Wharf station (Canada Water to Canary Wharf)**

Home to the busiest Tube station outside of central London, and the busiest single-line station on the whole network. Above ground, the Norman Foster-designed entrance is little more than a lovely steel-and-glass arch at the western edge of a wide open square.

### **The DLR approaching South Quay station (Canada Water to Canary Wharf)**

Heads south to Lewisham, and north to Stratford.

### **The view from Greenwich Park (Canada Water to Canary Wharf)**

Great to look back on knowing you've walked through it all. Indeed, the park was opened to the public in the 18th century so they could enjoy the picturesque landscaping and breathtaking views.

### **Greenwich Millennium Village (North Greenwich to Canning Town)**

Quite psychedelic compared to the nearby surroundings, development of this modern housing estate started at the end of the last millennium.

### **Woolwich Dockyard (North Greenwich to Canning Town)**

A naval dockyard founded in 1512 by Henry VIII to build his flagship *Henri Grace a Dieu*, at the time the largest ship in the world, it is now mainly used for fishing.

### **Mouth of the Jubilee line tunnel, north bank (North Greenwich to Canning Town)**

As part of the 1999 extension of the Jubilee Line from Green Park to Stratford, the line had to tunnel under the Thames four times. This is the final tunnel entrance when heading towards Stratford, the entrance was designed to look like a part of the Thames Barrier which is appropriate as the tunnel entrance incorporates flood gates that can be closed to prevent the tunnel from flooding.

### **The end, Stratford station (West Ham to Stratford)**

Phew!

## **MY 20 FAVOURITE STATIONS**

### **20. Rayners Lane (Metropolitan, Piccadilly, Uxbridge branch)**

Classic Charles Holden from the 1930s.

### **19. Hillingdon (Metropolitan, Piccadilly, Uxbridge branch)**

The original Hillingdon station, which was opened a little bit further 'north' along the line in 1923, was the last new station to be built on the Uxbridge branch of the Metropolitan Railway – the new station building was opened in 1992. That same year it won the Underground Station of the Year award.

You've got to go inside to appreciate it.

### **18. Farringdon (Circle, H&C, Metropolitan)**

This is where the real history of the Underground begins, for the oldest underground railway in the world was opened here on 10 January 1863.

### **17. Stratford (Central, Jubilee)**

Stratford started out life on the Central Line, but it was the arrival of the Jubilee Line in 1999 that totally transformed things round here. The roof curves elegantly away from the entrance, and it's well worth poking your head inside to look at the gleaming ceiling.

### **16. Willesden Green (Jubilee)**

Willesden Green station is a cracking building and is somewhat on its own without buildings immediately next to it. It is deservedly a Grade II listed building.

### **15. West Acton (Central, Ealing Broadway branch)**

In Zone 3, perched high above the western half of the Central Line, West Acton station is an imposing sight. Dating from 1923, a rectangular glass-fronted tower rises out of the station, looking for all the world like the front of a huge factory, with solid, red brick sides and the Underground roundel on a pole to the left.

### **14. Osterley (Piccadilly, Heathrow branch)**

A Charles Holden building from 1934, there's nothing like it being dominated by a huge brick tower topped with an obelisk made from concrete. The station building is fairly low key and without the tower it would be pretty hard to identify as a Tube station. The tower and obelisk, complete with the Underground roundel, are really distinctive and instantly cry out 'Tube station' ..... which, I guess, is the point.

### **13. Canary Wharf (Jubilee)**

Canary Wharf is absolutely massive, though most of that bulk is below ground, you have to go inside to appreciate the splendour of this staggering building.

### **12. Southwark (Jubilee)**

Heading east along the Jubilee Line Extension, Southwark station is the first glimpse of above-ground modern station architecture. The entrance is all curved glass and open spaces, and even though it's fairly small, it's perfectly formed. Like Leslie Green's ox-blood red stations, Southwark station has been designed to be built on, even though this is yet to take place. The station's beauty is again underground, this time in the intermediate concourse on the way down to the platforms, which is lined with a blue glass wall that's 40m long and made up of 660 individually cut pieces of glass.

### **11. Chalk Farm (Northern, Edgware branch)**

A wedge-shaped building that's clad in the familiar Leslie Green ox-blood red terracotta tiles of the Charing Cross, Euston & Hampstead Railway, the narrow width of the wedge means that this station has the longest frontage of any Leslie Green station, with eight arched windows in a row. More impressive to me is the fact that Madness were photographed in front of the station for the cover of their album *Absolutely*. They originally wanted to be photographed in front of Camden Town, but the traffic was just too busy. The station was refurbished in 2005 and the terracotta has polished up nicely. It's now quite a sight, particularly when set against a deep blue sky without a cloud to be seen.

### **10. Chiswick Park (District, Ealing Broadway branch)**

Sitting on top of a hill overlooking Turnham Green, Chiswick Park station is a corker. Inside, the ticket hall is light and airy, a surprise for such a solid structure. The icing on the cake is a huge brick tower, emblazoned with the London Underground roundel and the station name, built to make the station visible from Chiswick High Road.

### **9. South Ruislip (Central, West Ruislip branch)**

South Ruislip station is very different, particularly when compared with the other 'Ruislip' stations on the Metropolitan and Central lines. Topped by a large and very impressive brushed metal rotunda, the inside of the station features a concrete frieze by Henry Haig. The whole building is pleasantly

reminiscent of Holden's high-ceiling design at Chiswick Park, updated in buffed metal.

## **8. Loughton (Central, Epping branch)**

An architectural tour de force, which I wasn't expecting after the pleasant but hardly outstanding station buildings along this part of the Central Line. A Grade II listed building, the current building dates from 1940: the new station was built in anticipation of the track joining the Central Line.

## **7. Wembley Park (Metropolitan, Jubilee)**

The station building at Wembley Park is impressive enough but the really amazing part spills out of the southern entrance, down towards Wembley Stadium. Obviously designed to enable huge crowds of screaming fans to get in and out as quickly as possible, a cascade of steps falls down from the entrance to a subway under the main road, taking the coloured scarves and party atmosphere off to the stadium below – I bet it's quite a sight on match day.

## **6. Newbury Park (Central, Hainault loop)**

Not quite the tube station, but towering over the doorway is the stunning Newbury Park bus station, and it's this that makes Newbury Park such a great station to behold.

## **5. Canada Water (Jubilee, East London/Overground)**

Opened in 1999 and built on a derelict site that was formerly occupied by Albion Dock (part of the old Surrey Commercial Docks), it is based round a massive glass drum, 25m across, into which you descend to reach the platforms. Natural light floods the ticket hall, the twenty-first century equivalent to Charles Holden's high-ceiling designs on the District and Piccadilly lines – it's a beacon of modernity in this previously quiet backwater of south-east London.

## **4. Barons Court (District, Piccadilly)**

Beautiful Barons Court station is a Grade II listed building. Designed by Harry Ford (who also designed the Earl's Court Road entrance to Earl's Court station, a couple of stops down the line) it opened on 10 October 1905, although the station opening lagged somewhat behind the opening of the line, which dates from 1874. Back then this whole area was rural and was mainly made up of open fields and market gardens, so there was no need for a station in this area. However, when the housing boom kicked in during the late Victorian period, a new station was opened to serve the District Line. The timing was chosen well, as it was also built to serve the new Piccadilly Line that opened slightly later on 15 December 1906.

## **3. Hounslow East (Piccadilly)**

Hounslow East station is a complete surprise, being tucked away along the Piccadilly Line and is an architectural masterpiece. The original station opened in 1909, replacing nearby Hounslow Town station but the current station is ultra-modern and an absolute delight to behold: it has a sloping green roof curving off a round ticket hall with cream glass walls. Inside the roof is made of wood – very rare indeed – and the feeling of space is impressive.

## **2. Arnos Grove (Piccadilly)**

Similar in design to Chiswick Park, though it doesn't have a tower like Chiswick Park and is less hemmed in by the roads. It sports a huge brick and glass drum that's capped by a concrete roof. Of course, it was designed in 1932 by Charles Holden, who created most of the stations on this part of the line – it's possible that Arnos Grove represents the cleanest and most attractive implementation of his modernist ethos. Lots of his stations have tall structures towering above the station, with large windows to let the light into the ticket hall, but sometimes the results are more attractive than at other times, and at Arnos Grove, the balance of clean lines, airy ticket halls and geometric precision is pretty hard to beat. The Guardian called it the 'king, queen and all princes of a metro station', and it was named as one of our great modern buildings. It's easy to see why.

## **1. Southgate (Piccadilly)**

Architects tend to regard Arnos Grove as the epitome of Charles Holden's modernist designs, but for my own, personal taste, Southgate is the best. It's not so much modernist as futurist Art Deco. However, it looks more like a flying saucer from *The Jetsons* than a Tube station being completely circular, with a white concrete roof jutting out above the shops like the brim of a hat. On top of this hat is a small circular raised section that's lined with windows and topped off with a model of a Tesla

coil (one of the things that produces lightning in the science lab). The whole thing hangs together in perfect balance, the roof seemingly hovering over the station itself (it is actually supported by a column in the middle of the ticket hall, like a huge concrete umbrella). Not only is the station itself quite amazing, but it has a couple of truly futuristic bus shelters, one on each side of the station. As with all the Holden stations on this part of the line, Southgate is Grade II listed, and quite right too.

### **RECOMMENDED BOOKS**

Mark read these books to help him understand the history of the Underground and the areas that he was walking through:

- *The Subterranean Railway*, Christian Wolmar.
- *London Walks Map*, Andrew Duncan.
- *London's Underground*, John Glover.
- *City Secrets: London*, Tim Adams.
- *Secret London*, Andrew Duncan.
- *What's in a Name?*, Cyril M. Harris.

### **WHAT TO TAKE**

- Daypack.
- Water.
- Maps, GPS, compass.
- Umbrella, sun cream.
- Oyster card (auto top-up).
- Camera, batteries.
- Palm computer, keyboard.

### **TUBEWALKER iPhone App AND WEBSITE**

For those that have an iPhone, this application is a free download and includes all Zone 1 points of interest. After that, there is an in-App purchase for Zones 2-9, at a reasonable price. This can be found by search the App Store for 'Tubewalker'.

Those interested can also visit [www.tubewalker.com](http://www.tubewalker.com) for all 150,000 words and accompanying photographs. A really interesting and educational read.

**Michael Woodside**