

Notes on Walk 28th January 2023

The Astronomical walk started from Paternoster Square at 10.15am. outside the London Stock Exchange building, where we met our guide, Lester Hillman. We saw the 5m long Noon Marker, which casts a shadow the tip of which touches a date marking on the wall at noon when the sun shines. After going towards St Paul's Cathedral, we learned about named craters in space such as the 107km diameter one on Mercury named after the poet John Keats, deep bores in the Antarctic for detecting neutrinos and the association with the Eagle by reference to Neil Armstrong's "the eagle has landed" when setting foot on the moon. We walked to Queen Victoria Street and stopped by the College of Arms where Coats of Arms are registered; and passed the site of Bridewell Palace, the location of Holbein's painting "The Skull." The morning tour finished at St Bride's church in the Strand with Shoe Lane on the opposite side of the road, where the Eagle comic had been published.

We had lunch at Ye Olde London inn on Ludgate Hill.

After lunch we went to Holborn Viaduct (recent 150th anniversary 6th November 2019) and passed Holy Sepulchre church before going by St Bartholomew's with its links to Dick Whittington who died in 1423 and the 900th anniversary event at the church of St Bartholomew the Great is being celebrated this year. We then visited the disused Smithfield Market building which is to be the new site for the London Museum before seeing the gateway at the entrance to the Museum the Order of St John. We then went to Farringdon Station the birthplace of the 160 years old Metropolitan Line (9/10th January 2023) and the new spectacular station on the Elizabeth Line.

The total length of the walk was approximately 3 miles and 22 walkers took part.

Thanks to Lester Hillman for leading the walk, and providing a brilliant and most informative commentary. Thanks also to everybody who joined us.

Tony Barber



