

Samuel Pepys' Walk through the eastern City of London and Greenwich

Distance = 5 miles (8 km)

Estimated duration = 3 – 4 hours not including the river trip to Greenwich

Nearest underground stations: This is planned to start from the Monument underground station, but could be joined at several other places including Aldgate or Tower Hill underground stations.

You can do this Walk on any day of the week, but my recommendation would be to do the first part on a Wednesday or a Thursday because there may be free lunchtime classical recitals in one of the churches that are on the route. The quietest time would be at the weekend because the main part of this Walk takes place in the heart of the business district of London, which is almost empty at that time. However this does mean that many places will be closed including ironically the churches as well as most of the pubs and Seething Lane Garden. It's a good idea to buy a one-day bus pass or travel card if you don't already have one, so that you needn't walk the whole route but can jump on and off any bus going in your direction.

This is based around the [Pepys Diary](http://www.pepysdiary.com) website at www.pepysdiary.com and your photographs could be added to the Pepys group collection [here](http://www.flickr.com/groups/pepysdiary): www.flickr.com/groups/pepysdiary. And if you aren't in London at present, perhaps you'd like to attempt a "virtual tour" through the hyperlinks, or alternatively explore London via google streetview, the various [BBC London webcams](#) or [these ones](#), which are much more comprehensive. Best of all, zoom in and out of [this fantastic photograph](#).

London is changing all the time, so if you find anything that is out of date or can suggest any improvements to the Walk, then I'd be very grateful if you would send [me](mailto:Glyn_Thomas123@yahoo.co.uk) an email about it to Glyn_Thomas123@yahoo.co.uk. Thanks!

One of Three

This is the third of three walks through London based on the Diary of Samuel Pepys which he wrote in the 1660s.

Samuel Pepys' Walk through Westminster

Samuel Pepys' Walk through the western City of London and the South Bank and

Samuel Pepys' Walk through the eastern City of London and Greenwich

Introduction

In No Particular Order You Are About To Find: * two mice and a piece of cheese * a 2,000 year old wall * a victim of Jack the Ripper * a Viking warrior wearing a horned helmet * lunchtime classical music * Harry Potter (with John Wayne) * skulls on spikes * the headquarters of Cruella deVil, and much, much more including (we hope) Samuel Pepys.

Today when we talk about London we are referring to the 700 square miles (1,800 km²) of the modern city, but Pepys would have meant the 1 square mile of the "City of London", which was the original city that the Romans founded almost 2,000 years ago. Several hundred thousand people lived in that square mile, the vast majority in wooden buildings and still bounded by the city wall. In Pepys' time building was gradually extending towards the city of Westminster 2-3 miles (3-5 km) upriver, but there were still plenty of open green fields and pastures.

This Walk is set in the part of London that he lived and worked in throughout the Diary, and you may well recognise the names of [streets, roads and alleys](#) that he mentions in it. Most of the buildings that he writes about have long since gone, but I hope there's enough to make it worthwhile, and I'll point out other things of interest as well. Part One covers the eastern City of London: Part Two covers the Tower of London and Greenwich.

Beginning the Walk

Part One: the eastern City of London

Come out of Monument underground station and the Monument is immediately in front of you.

The Monument

(Open daily 9.30 am - 5 pm. Admission charge, under-5s are free. Also available is a joint ticket with the Tower Bridge exhibition) www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/monument

"Two people came to see the Monument. They were a gentleman and a lady; and the gentleman said, "How much a-piece?" The Man in the Monument replied, "A Tanner". [= 6 pennies]. The gentleman put a shilling [= 12 pennies] into his hand, and the Man in the Monument opened a dark little door. When the gentleman and the lady had passed out of view, he shut it again, and came slowly back to his chair. He sat down and laughed. "They don't know what a many steps there is!" he said. "It's worth twice the money to stop here"." – "Martin Chuzzlewit", Charles Dickens.

So you've been warned, but whose advice are you going to take – Dickens' or mine? Or as a compromise, why not send your children and friends to the top and wave to them from the bottom. The top is fully enclosed and it is impossible for them to fall out!

The Monument was built to commemorate the Great Fire and was completed in 1677, so Pepys would have certainly climbed it. At a height of 202 feet (62 metres) it is still the tallest isolated stone column in the world and is topped by a flaming copper urn to symbolise the Great Fire. The Monument has 311 steps and the tight spiral turns will definitely test your ankle muscles but it is undoubtedly worth it for the sake of the view: one would expect that the tall office buildings surrounding the Monument would totally hem it in but in fact there is **a good view** in most directions and everyone who climbs to the top is awarded a free certificate in recognition of their achievement.

If you have a look at this photo on flickr and move your cursor over it, then you'll get an explanation of what the carving symbolises: <http://tinyurl.com/bqvdk2f>

[**The Great Fire of London** began on 2 September 1666 after a hot, dry summer. By its end four days later it had burned down 13,200 houses, 87 churches and 52 livery halls in an area of 430 acres. Although only a handful of people died, the 100,000 who had been crammed into City's square mile were now homeless and living in temporary refugee camps to the north and south of the City. Pepys distinguished himself by his actions in promptly bringing the news to the king and by co-opting men to protect St Olave's church as well as, of course, giving us the best description that we have of it in his Diary.

Afterwards there were immediate plans to rebuild the City in a more elegant pattern with wide avenues radiating from the major buildings, and if that had occurred then today London would be as beautiful as Paris, but there was never a real possibility of this happening. The City leaders needed to get their businesses running again as soon as possible before economic activity moved permanently away to Westminster and elsewhere, and there were those thousands of people who needed to get under more permanent cover before the winter came (and the winter that year was to be a very cold one). More importantly the king and his court did not have the political power to do it – other European rulers would simply have ordered the improvements but Charles II did not have that kind of power, and consequently the streets were largely rebuilt on the original street plan. Indeed, only two new streets were created (King Street and Queen Street) and in his Diary Pepys fiercely criticises a property owner for delaying King Street's construction while he sought more money in compensation. As a result, we have architects straining their abilities to erect 21st-century buildings on sites whose size and shape were laid out hundreds of years earlier. The latest example of that is **The Shard** whose viewing gallery will open in 2013 and its restaurants in late 2012. In the early part of the Walk, keep looking to your right for some outstanding views of it.

However, although the streets remained, the old medieval city had almost completely gone. Safety laws were passed (against the fierce opposition of the business interests, who considered them a crippling restraint of trade) and new brick or stone buildings and wider streets replaced the old wood-and-plaster houses with thatched roofs nestling against each other. London became a vast building site and the houses were replaced surprisingly quickly: within six years almost 9,000 buildings had been constructed.]

If you look downhill to the right from Monument station, you will see a church just across the extremely busy highway that is now Lower Thames Street. This is our next destination but do be careful in crossing this road.

St Magnus the Martyr

(Open Tues-Fri 10 am – 4 pm, Sun 11 am – 2 pm. Free) Lower Thames Street
www.stmagnusmartyr.org.uk

"it began this morning in Pudding Lane, and that it hath burned down St Magnes Church and most part of Fish Street already" – The Diary, 2 September 1666.

But of course it was rebuilt. St Magnus has been called simultaneously the lowest and the highest church in London. Lowest because it is almost on the river, and highest because it is sumptuously decorated in the high-Anglican church fashion and strongly resembles a Roman Catholic church somewhere in Italy. A blue plaque on the wall by the gate reads: *"This Churchyard formed part of the roadway approach to Old London Bridge 1176-1831"*, and in the yard there is also some masonry from the London Bridge that replaced it and was later shipped to Arizona. Also in the churchyard is some petrified timber from a Roman quay that was part of London's first harbour from almost 2,000 years ago, which is the reason that London is located where it is.

Children do like the statue of St Magnus, a Viking warrior who is resplendent in a horned helmet, who is the patron saint of the church, but for me the high point is [the model of old London Bridge](#) that is just inside the church. It is absolutely terrific – much bigger and much, much better than the one in the Museum of London. It is not just the details of the bridge itself that are so fantastic, the modelmaker has also packed it with more than a thousand tiny people carrying on their daily lives – buying and selling, throwing slops into the river, sailing under the bridge etc – and the modelmaker has put himself somewhere on the bridge as a modern English policeman to direct all of the traffic although I've never been able to find it. It must have been a true labour of love for David Aggett who created it.

On leaving the church, walk back to the Monument and turn right so that you are walking away from the Monument and the underground station. After Pudding Lane, take the next left on Botolph Lane and walk uphill to the next major street, which is Eastcheap. ("Cheap" is old Saxon for a marketplace and is found in names such as Cheapside and the town of Chipping Norton in the Cotswolds.) Directly across the road is a pretty cream building with blue twisting columns that has on it what many think is the smallest public sculpture in London. This is on **Number 13 Philpot Lane**. If you take an extremely close look you will discover a carving of two brown mice eating a piece of cheese. They are difficult to spot, and were put there by the original builders in 1862 when this was constructed for the spice merchants Hunt & Crombie, who were plagued by mice throughout the construction work. Today this is the starting/finishing point of one of the hundreds of routes that apprentice taxi drivers must memorise before they can qualify to become a licensed "black cab" taxi driver. If you can't find them, please refer to the footnote on the last page of this Walk¹.

Diagonally opposite is an HSBC bank at **Peek House, 20 Eastcheap** which has [a sculpture](#) of a Bedouin Arab and three camels, with the dried bones of a dead camel lying in the desert sand in the foreground. This was originally the London offices of tea, coffee and spice merchants Peek Brothers and was built in 1883. The relief was carved by William Theed the Younger who also sculpted the Africa group on one corner of the Albert Memorial. Look at how purposefully the driver is striding through the desert with his robes flowing out behind him – he's a man who means to get his load of tea, coffee and spices to its destination no matter what the obstacles may be.

Cross the street again and stand beneath the camel caravan to look across at the roof of **33-35 Eastcheap** where you'll see a carving of a boar peering through thick undergrowth. This was once the site of the Boar's Head which was one of the most famous taverns in the city and also one of the largest. Falstaff drinks here in Shakespeare's *Henry V* but surprisingly it is never mentioned in the Diary. Did Pepys never go there (highly improbable) or simply never write its name down?

The Boar's Head burned down in 1666 and was rebuilt in stone rather than wood in 1668 with a stone boar's head above the door. It was finally demolished in 1831. The building that you see before you, including the boar's head carving, dates from 1868 and was designed by the architect Robert Lewis Roumieu as a purpose-built vinegar warehouse. It is in the then fashionable Gothic style but the look of it has always caused disagreement. According to the architectural critic Sir Nikolaus Pevsner it is *"the City's masterpiece of polychromatic Gothic self-advertisement"*: on the other side of the debate is

Ian Nairn with his description of it as being “*truly demonic ... it is the scream you wake on at the end of a nightmare*”. Stand on the other side of the road for the best view and reach your own conclusion, then continue walking towards the Tower of London which you’ll now begin to see in the distance: also look to the right for excellent views of the Shard, which was completed in 2012 will for a short time be Europe’s tallest tower. Restaurants and a viewing gallery will open in 2013.

About 30 seconds later you will reach the junction of Mincing Lane and St Dunstan’s Hill and you should see three large stallions outside a weird office complex called Minster Court whose main tenant is the **London Underwriting Centre**. The three giant horses were sculpted in bronze by **Althea Wynne** in 1990, and I like them a lot; each horse weighs 4.5 tonnes and is over 10 ft (3.5 m) tall. The architectural style of Minster Court has been described as “post-modern gothic” – other people have been far, far less polite. Minster Court appears in *101 Dalmations* (1996) under the name of the “House of DeVil” as the headquarters of Cruella DeVil (Glenn Close) who makes a grand entrance up the steps and into it.

Retrace our steps, cross Great Tower Street and walk downhill to the ruins of a church that is now one of the most romantic gardens in London.

St Dunstan’s in the East

St Dunstan’s Hill

(Open Mon-Fri 9 am – 6 pm, Sat, Sun 10 am – 5 pm. Free)

“and, walking towards home, just at my entrance into the ruins at St. Dunstan’s, I was met by two rogues with clubs, who come towards us. So I went back, and walked home quite round by the Wall, and got well home, and to bed weary, but pleased at my day’s pleasure” – **The Diary**, 23 April 1668.

This was a ruin in Pepys’s time and **is a ruin today**, but they are two quite separate ruins, which I find a little amusing. His was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666 and ours was destroyed in the Blitz of 1940-41 so that only Wren’s beautiful tower has been preserved. The City of London authorities have taken the opportunity to transform it into one of the prettiest and most romantic gardens in the old City, and it is an idyllic spot to rest for a while and perhaps enjoy a picnic.

Leave the garden by the opposite gateway, and turn left to walk down to the very busy highway (Lower Thames Street), but turn left rather than crossing it so that you are walking uphill towards the Tower. The massive building with blue ornamentation on the other side of Lower Thames Street is the **Custom House**, and was built in 1813-17: customs duties on all goods imported into London have been collected here since at least the 1200s.

At the next road junction can be seen a pub with a brown brick exterior called the Hung Drawn and Quartered (“HD&Q”).

Hung Drawn & Quartered

26 Great Tower Street

(Open Mon-Fri 11 am – 11 pm, Sat 12 noon – 10 pm, Sun 12 noon – 5 pm.)

<http://hung-drawn-and-quartered.co.uk/>

“I went out to Charing Cross, to see Major-General Harrison hanged, drawn, and quartered; which was done there, he looking as cheerful as any man could do in that condition.” – **The Diary**, 13 October 1660.

You’ll find the above quotation displayed on an outside wall of this pub. To be hanged, drawn and quartered was the death penalty for high treason, and so General Harrison was dragged by horse to the place of his execution, where he was hanged until almost dead and then disembowelled while still alive and finally quartered (chopped into four pieces).

I think that the name of **this pub** is slightly a cheat in that Harrison was in fact executed in Trafalgar Square rather than the killing ground on Tower Hill, but he can represent the hundreds of souls who were executed on Tower Hill within sight of the HD&Q, and it’s good to see that Pepys is a sufficiently well remembered historical figure to be worth quoting.

This is one of only a few pubs open in this area at weekends, and does serve delicious pies. However, it may be difficult to get a table because it can become extremely busy, so the cafeteria in All Hallows church (*see below*) may be a better choice because it is normally less crowded. The HD&Q is owned by Fullers who are London’s largest brewery, and I can recommend a pint of Discovery (a light blonde

beer) or a pint of London Pride (their standard bitter beer). They also serve ESB, which is a stronger beer that must be treated cautiously.

Now head for the church with the beautiful green copper spire, which is the church of All Hallows by the Tower.

All Hallows by the Tower

Byward Street

(Open Mon-Fri 9 am – 5:30 pm, Sat, Sun 10 am – 5 pm. Free) Free guided tours, 2 – 4 pm. Cafe open including for breakfasts. <http://www.allhallowsbythetower.org.uk/>

"I up to the top of Barking steeple, and there saw the saddest sight of desolation that I ever saw; every where great fires, oyle-cellars, and brimstone, and other things burning. I became afear'd to stay there long, and therefore down again as fast as I could, the fire being spread as far as I could see it" – The Diary, 5 September 1666.

This church originally belonged to the abbey of Barking in east London and so for centuries was known as All Hallows Barking, which is how Pepys refers to it in the Diary. The beautiful green copper-covered steeple that you can see was erected only in the 1950s, and it was actually the brick tower beneath it which dates from 1659 from the top of which Pepys observed the Fire. Much of the interior of the church was destroyed by enemy bombing in 1940-41 but this tower and a substantial amount of the exterior walls survived, and if you examine them you can see the parts that are medieval or date from the 17th century and later. We do have Pepys and Admiral Sir William Penn to thank for saving the church from the Great Fire by blowing up nearby houses to create a fire break.

All Hallows has always been linked to the Tower of London and the bodies of executed prisoners were regularly brought here for temporary interment of whom one was Archbishop William Laud who was beheaded for treason in 1645. In the church itself you can see the remains of a Roman pavement, Saxon crosses and a memorial to William Penn the Younger, a devout Quaker who founded Pennsylvania in the USA, and another American connection is that the sixth American President, **John Quincy Adams**, was married here in 1797. Look upwards to see model ships hanging from the ceiling that were donated by sailors in thanks for safe journeys and are another link to this area's maritime past.

On leaving All Hallows, walk towards the Tower and cross at the next pedestrian crossing. Just before that you pass by a heraldic dragon that is the symbol of the City of London and acts as a marker for the border of the City (many people mistake it for a griffin). You'll see lots of them if you keep your eyes open while walking through the City. After the pedestrian crossing turn left towards the Wetherspoons pub (the Liberty Bounds) and walk through Muscovy Street and go right into Seething Lane and Seething Lane Garden.

Seething Lane Garden

(Open Mon-Fri 9 am – 6 pm, closed Sat and Sun. Free)

"Sir W. Batten not knowing how to remove his wine, did dig a pit in the garden, and laid it in there; and I took the opportunity of laying all the papers of my office that I could not otherwise dispose of. And in the evening Sir W. Pen and I did dig another, and put our wine in it; and I my Parmazan cheese, as well as my wine and some other things." – The Diary, 4 September 1666.

The bust of Pepys is where the Navy Office, the living quarters of its senior officials and their families, and the garden once was. Sculpted in 1983 by **Karin Jonzen** in bronze on a sandstone plinth, it shows him as a young man, during the time of the Diary, in contrast to the bust in Guildhall Square which shows him as a much older man. I think that Ms Jonzen has depicted him very sensitively. Pepys lived and worked here from 1660 on his appointment as Clerk of the Acts to the Navy Board through the sponsorship of his patron Admiral Lord Sandwich. The Navy Office survived the Great Fire of London in 1666 during which the above quotation was written but burned down seven years later a few months before his promotion to Secretary to the Admiralty.

The obelisk that marks the exact location of the Naval Office is in the corner nearest to the church, but is best seen from outside the railings. While you're there, you'll see that **Pepys Street** is the next one along. If you've been alert, you will have noticed a lot of streets whose names appear in the Diary but of course this one doesn't. Now walk across to the entrance to the churchyard and take a look at **the skulls over the gateway**. The Latin inscription on the gateway (*Christus vivere. Mors mihi lucrum*) is from the Bible, 1 Phillipians verse 21: "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is to gain".

The churchyard was written about by a famous writer two centuries later.

“One of my best beloved churchyards, I call the churchyard of Saint Ghastly Grim ... It is a small small churchyard, with a ferocious, strong, spiked iron gate, like a jail. This gate is ornamented with skulls and cross-bones, larger than the life, wrought in stone; but it likewise came into the mind of Saint Ghastly Grim, that to stick iron spikes a-top of the stone skulls, as though they were impaled, would be a pleasant device. Therefore the skulls grin aloft horribly, thrust through and through with iron spears. Hence, there is attraction of repulsion for me in Saint Ghastly Grim, and, having often contemplated it in the daylight and the dark, I once felt drawn towards it in a thunderstorm at midnight. ‘Why not?’ I said, in self-excuse. ‘I have been to see the Colosseum by the light of the moon; is it worse to go to see Saint Ghastly Grim by the light of the lightning?’ I repaired to the Saint in a hackney cab, and found the skulls most effective, having the air of a public execution, and seeming, as the lightning flashed, to wink and grin with the pain of the spikes. Having no other person to whom to impart my satisfaction, I communicated it to the driver. So far from being responsive, he surveyed me—he was naturally a bottled-nosed, red-faced man—with a blanched countenance. And as he drove me back, he ever and again glanced in over his shoulder through the little front window of his carriage, as mistrusting that I was a fare originally from a grave in the churchyard of Saint Ghastly Grim, who might have flitted home again without paying.” “The Uncommercial Traveller”, chapter 23, Charles Dickens.

Although they lived two centuries apart, I like to imagine Samuel Pepys and Charles Dickens walking the London streets side by side, observing the people passing by and visiting the taverns that they both enjoyed so much. We are currently in the bicentenary of Dickens’ birth in 1812 and you could commemorate it by downloading a free copy of “The Uncommercial Traveller” on to your Kindle or similar reader, or online at [Project Gutenberg](http://www.projectgutenberg.org).

The skulls on spikes were above the church’s back gate in Pepys’ time, in Dickens’ time, and are still there to this very day. They are truly macabre and many people assume that they have some connection with the Great Plague of 1665 because some of the earliest victims were buried here. In fact they are a symbol known as a *memento mori* (“remember that death will come”) to remind churchgoers passing beneath them of the need to focus on God.

This church was saved from the Fire by the efforts of Pepys among others, and much more resembles an English medieval country church rather than the ones that were designed by Sir Christopher Wren. The entry of gallery that connected the church to the Navy Office are marked by a tablet stone on the exterior south wall.

St Olave Hart Street

(Open Mon-Fri 9 am – 5 pm, Sat/Sun closed. Holy Communion Tues 12:30 pm. Sunday Eucharist 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month 11:00 am. Frequent lunchtime classical music performances, Wed/Thurs 1:05 pm. Free.) A Pepys commemoration service is held annually at the end of May. St Olave’s Day, last Sun in July 4:00 pm. <http://www.sanctuaryinthecity.net/index.htm>

*“This morning Sir W. Batten, Pen, and myself, went to **church** to the churchwardens, to demand a pew, which at present could not be given us, but we are resolved to have one built. So we staid and heard Mr. Mills, a very, good minister. Home to dinner, where my wife had on her new petticoat that she bought yesterday, which indeed is a very fine cloth and a fine lace.”* – **The Diary**, 19 August 1660.

The Navy Office succeeded in its demand and was given its own special pew - this is the first appearance of St Olave’s church in the Diary.

You are nearer to Samuel and Elizabeth in **this church** than anywhere else in London.

Most of St Olave’s dates from c.1450 with rebuilding in the 1950s following extensive destruction in World War 2. It is the church that Sam and Elizabeth regularly attended as did the other members of the Navy Office just across Seething Lane, and they had their own exclusive pew in the south gallery. There is a 19th-century memorial to Pepys high up on the south wall. Elizabeth died in 1669 and her husband commissioned a white marble bust of her which is on the north wall. Sam is buried in a vault below the communion table and Elizabeth is in a vault beneath the chancel, neither vault is open to the public (but there are sometimes informal visits, see the panel below). Other points of interest are some early 17th-century monuments that Pepys would have known.

One of Pepys's greatest passions was music, so it is highly appropriate that classical music performances by students are regularly held during the week. Office workers and other visitors are very welcome to bring their packed lunches to eat while listening to the recitals.

[I've never been to a church service at St Olave's, but from this anonymous recent account the church is in safe hands. "*Transfiguration Sunday, 19 February 2012*. There must have been 40 to 50 in the congregation ... people chatted quietly or sat peacefully. The large church windows with stained glass allowed the sunlight to stream in, creating a bright, friendly and positive atmosphere ... Much to my surprise we had a robed choir of four. The service was traditional: hymns sung heartily and some pieces performed beautifully by the nicely turned out choir ... At the end of the service, several people wandered in to check out this historic building. I was really delighted that this was so much more than a fossilized relic of a church. The verger took the curious visitors down into the crypt and I tagged along ... It was a bit eerie down there ... St Olave's is a shining beacon in a busy commercial part of the city, proclaiming Jesus as highly relevant to 21st century London. The service made me glad to be a Christian. It was a real shot in the spiritual arm. As I emerged back into the hurly burly of London I had regained some perspective."]

On leaving the church through either of its two doors, walk along Seething Lane to its junction with Hart Street and Crutched Friars, and you'll see the Crutched Friar pub just in front of you.

The Crutched Friar

39 Crutched Friars

(Open Mon-Fri 11 am – 11 pm, Sat 11 am – 8 pm, Sun closed.)

"and so back home through Crutched Friars, and there saw Mary Mercer, and put off my hat to her, on the other side of the way, but it being a little darkish she did not, I think, know me well, and so to my office to put my papers in order" – **The Diary**, 13 April 1669.

The **Crutched Friar** pub has no connection with the Diary, but it has a good range of beers and standard pub cuisine. Near the entrance you'll pass by a copy of the famous Pepys painting and facing it is an information panel about the area.

Leave the pub and continue to the railway bridge but turn right rather than going through it so that you are on Pepys Street next to the Novotel hotel. Walk to the junction with Cooper's Row and diagonally opposite is the car entrance for the Grange City Hotel. This is next to a green sign for the Wine Library – a wine merchants and restaurant who are friendly and whom I can recommend. The Grange City Hotel car entrance is a public right of way and you should walk through it to what is a magnificent surviving example of **the ancient City Wall** which dates from almost 2,000 years ago: there is information about the Wall on a metal plaque in front of it.

Afterwards, walk through the archway on the left and then go through the railway tunnel. Cross over the street called Crosswall and go straight along Vine Street to India Street, turn left along India Street and then go immediately right along Jewry Street. Now walk towards the big, blue striped building. There's not much to see on this section of the route because this part of town was completely destroyed by enemy bombing in the Second World War. Stop at the blue cycle hire point which usefully has some maps on display and take a look around.

The tall building that looks like a bullet is the Gherkin (more properly known as 20 St Mary Axe, its address) and we will be making our way towards it. The church on your right is St Botolph without Aldgate: in this context, "within" and "without" is a medieval usage that means "inside of" and "outside of", e.g. St Botolph without Aldgate, St Botolph without Aldersgate, St Botolph without Bishopsgate, St Sepulchre without Newgate. Why so many St Botolphs next to the city gates? He was a Saxon saint associated with travel, rather like St Christopher, and travellers used to pray to him before a journey or give thanks on a safe arrival. If you see a St Botolph's church in an English town or city you are likely to be in the medieval part of it, and near where the city wall used to be.

The cream building in front of you is the Sir John Cass Foundation Primary School.

The Sir John Cass School

"I took boat at Whitehall for Redriffe, but in my way overtook Captain Cuttance and Teddiman in a boat and so ashore with them at Queenhithe, and so to a tavern with them to a barrel of oysters" – **The Diary**, 28 February 1661.

While Samuel was enjoying himself on this day the baby **John Cass** was being baptised somewhere nearby. John Cass was in his forties when Pepys died, and Pepys would possibly have known him. He would certainly have known John's father, Thomas Cass, who was a carpenter at the navy dockyards and then a supplier to the government military establishments when Pepys was in charge of the Navy.

John Cass was a merchant and builder who became an Alderman in the City of London as well as a Tory Member of Parliament from 1711 to 1713 and died in 1718. He was also a noted philanthropist and endowed a school for 50 poor boys and 40 poor girls which was opened in 1713, and that was also the year that Sir John was knighted. The Sir John Cass Foundation is still in existence and maintains the school. Take a look at the coat of arms above the school and you'll see that it has a hand holding on to a fish, which is a little unusual and apparently symbolises the fleeting nature of life.

Walk along the street going away from St Botolph's to cross over at the next pedestrian crossing and walk down Mitre Street on the left side of the school. Incidentally, this route takes us past Mitre Square where **Catherine Eddowes** was murdered by Jack the Ripper, and if you are doing this Walk in the evening you are likely to see one or more Jack the Ripper tour groups. One of the best of them is said to be that of **London Walks** (www.walks.com) and in fact all of their walks are worth trying. However, do not expect to see much dating from 19th-century London because World War II and post-war redevelopment has meant that very little from that era has survived.

Go past Mitre Square to the next road junction where you will see a plaque on the junction of Creechurch Lane and Bury Street recording the existence of the First Synagogue which was here from 1657 to 1701.

The First Synagogue and Bevis Marks Synagogue

*"Thence home and after dinner my wife and I, by Mr. Rawlinson's conduct, to the Jewish Synagogue: where the men and boys in their vayles, and the women behind a lattice out of sight; and some things stand up, which I believe is their Law, in a press to which all coming in do bow; and at the putting on their vayles do say something, to which others that hear him do cry Amen, and the party do kiss his vayle. Their service all in a singing way, and in Hebrew. And anon their Laws that they take out of the press are carried by several men, four or five several burthens in all, and they do relieve one another; and whether it is that every one desires to have the carrying of it, I cannot tell, thus they carried it round about the room while such a service is singing. And in the end they had a prayer for the King, which they pronounced his name in Portugall; but the prayer, like the rest, in Hebrew. But, Lord! to see the disorder, laughing, sporting, and no attention, but confusion in all their service, more like brutes than people knowing the true God, would make a man forswear ever seeing them more and indeed I never did see so much, or could have imagined there had been any religion in the whole world so absurdly performed as this. Away thence with my mind strongly disturbed with them" – **The Diary**, 14 October 1663.*

Pepys completely misunderstands what is going on: he has arrived on the festival of Simchat Torah ("Rejoicing with the Torah") which celebrates the conclusion of the annual cycle of public Torah readings and the beginning of the new cycle – and in it the congregation are expected to sing and dance. The annotations to this entry on the Pepys Diary website give a lot more information about this.

Proceed along Bury Street which makes a right-angled turn in front of the Gherkin and walk towards the Subway sandwich shop, **Bevis Marks synagogue** is immediately on your right with a London Wall plaque fixed outside it. It was built during Pepys' lifetime and has a beautiful interior.

Bevis Marks

2 Heneage Lane

(Open: Mon, Wed, Thurs 10:30 – 14:00; Tues and Fri 10:30 – 13:00; Sun 10:30 – 12:30; closed Saturday. Regular services at other times. Admission charge.) www.bevismarks.org.uk

Bevis Marks was established by Portuguese and Spanish Sephardic Jews in 1701, and is the oldest synagogue in England and the oldest in Europe to have been in continuous use. Oliver Cromwell had revoked the ban on Jews living in England in 1656, and a prosperous community of merchants had grown up in this area of the city. The architecture is very reminiscent of a Wren church, while much of the pews and the furniture are from the 17th and early 18th centuries of which the most striking are the 17th century brass chandeliers which were a gift from a synagogue in Amsterdam.

After leaving Bevis Marks cross the road and look back at it to see the ornate plaque over the metal gate, and then walk along the main street past Bury Street and Goring Street and turn left at Caffè Nero to walk along St Mary Axe (whose name is explained in the other city walk). After crossing the

road we are now walking along Lime Street. It was here on **21 January 1664** that Pepys paid to see the execution of a man named James Turner for murder.

“and seeing people flock in the City, I enquired, and found that Turner was not yet hanged. And so I went among them to Leadenhall Street, at the end of Lime Street, near where the robbery was done; and to St. Mary Axe, where he lived. And there I got for a shilling to stand upon the wheel of a cart, in great pain, above an hour before the execution was done; he delaying the time by long discourses and prayers one after another, in hopes of a reprieve; but none came, and at last was flung off the ladder in his cloake. A comely- looked man he was, and kept his countenance to the end: I was sorry to see him. It was believed there were at least 12 or 14,000 people in the street.”

London’s major execution site was at Tyburn (now Marble Arch) but many executions were also held near the scene of the crime as a deterrent for local people, as in this case (“*near where the robbery was done*”). Being thrown from a ladder or a cart was as likely to lead to a death by strangulation as by a broken neck. Colonel James Turner had been condemned to death for felony and burglary in breaking into the house of and robbing a Mr Francis Tryon, merchant, who lived in Lime Street. I’m not sure what “Colonel” means in this context – does anyone have any ideas?

Incidentally, there is currently (in 2012) an archaeological excavation into Roman remains at 21 Lime Street, so go and see if they’ve found anything interesting.

We’re heading for what looks like part of an oil refinery but in fact this is the headquarters of Lloyds of London insurance.

The Lloyds Building

One Lime Street
www.lloyds.com

In appearance this is more like a piece of machinery or part of an oil refinery than an office building and so it's slightly disconcerting to realise that it's home to such a conservative profession as insurance. Some traditions continue though, and it is still guarded by porters in archaic waiters' livery in recognition of the fact that Lloyds of London originally began as Edward Lloyd's coffee house in the 1680s. Mr Lloyd encouraged customers connected with shipping to meet there and exchange the latest news, so it would have been visited by Pepys and his employees.

The building is by Richard Rogers who also designed the Pompidou Centre in Paris. All of its maintenance functions, including the air ducts, heating elements, water pipes, and elevators, are on the outside of the building to create as much internal floor space as possible for the offices. Unfortunately the building is not open to the public; however there is a souvenir shop at the front entrance.

Immediately after walking past the Lloyds Building you will see Leadenhall Market on your right which is a great place for browsing through the shops and the market stalls.

Leadenhall Market

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/leadenhall

Leadenhall Market is a lovely place to go window shopping. It was built in the 19th century and is very picturesque: I especially like the dragons on the tops of the large columns. Leadenhall Market has been used as a location in several films including *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* (2001): Daniel Radcliffe and Robbie Coltrane walk through the blue door diagonally opposite 43 Leadenhall Market to go into Diagon Alley (the place where wizards go to shop). The glass etching above the door does look like slightly mysterious.

In the middle of the market is the Lamb Tavern.

The Lamb

10 Leadenhall Market
(Open Mon-Fri 11 am – 9 pm. Closed weekends)

City gents rub shoulders with market workers here at **the Lamb**, and you will recognise it at once if you've previously obtained a DVD or video of *Brannigan* (1975) starring John Wayne, because it is the place where he starts a huge fistfight.

Built in 1780 and rebuilt in 1881, this four-storey pub has been owned by the same family for over half a century – you can get lunchtime food in the top level if you have the energy to climb all the stairs; apparently it sells more roast beef than any other establishment in the City. Check out the impressive 19th-century tiled painting by the side door. It's also another pub that is mentioned in *The Pickwick Papers* by Charles Dickens.

If you don't want to eat here, or perhaps want to find a lavatory/rest room/toilet then I definitely recommend the **Crosse Keys**, 9 Gracechurch Street which is open Mon-Sat (not Sun) and is child friendly. You'll find it by walking out of the market entrance flanked by the New Moon pub and Nicholas & Griffin hairdressers and it is across the road on the left.

This huge pub, which is part of the Wetherspoons chain, was once a major bank and the interior is spectacular. There's also some information about William Penn the Younger beside the staircase that descends to the lavatories.

This concludes the first part of this particular walk, and the second part resumes outside Tower Hill underground station. However, if you'd instead like to carry on exploring the area where you are now, then you could join the *Samuel Pepys' Walk through the western City of London and the South Bank* by proceeding to the George and Vulture on page 11 of that Walk, and carrying on back to the Monument and across London Bridge to the South Bank.

Or perhaps take a short taxi ride to the **Samuel Pepys bar and restaurant** for a meal with a riverside view (Mon - Fri 12-11, Sat 12-5, Sun closed): <http://www.thesamuelpepys.co.uk/>

Part Two: Tower Hill and Greenwich

In this part of the Walk we explore Tower Hill and then travel downriver to Greenwich – a journey that Samuel Pepys regularly made either on foot or by boat. Our own route is by boat but pedestrians will find a walk by his biographer Claire Tomalin in the *Time Out Book of London Walks* (volume 2) which calls in on John Evelyn en route. Greenwich is only about 5 miles (8 km) from the Tower of London and is also easily accessible by the Docklands Light Railway, by train from London Bridge station, or by bus. Obviously this part could be done on its own, and a good day to do it would be on a Saturday when the markets in Greenwich are at their most bustling.

His final official mission, 1694

Pepys was forced into retirement in 1688 following the defeat and exile of King James II by Prince William of Orange but in November 1694 his good friend John Evelyn arranged for him to do one final official service for the royal navy when it was agreed that he would go to Greenwich with Christopher Wren to advise about the building of a hospital for sick and wounded sailors. Pepys made some valuable suggestions, and the buildings are still in existence as the Old Royal Naval College. It therefore seems an appropriate way to conclude this series of walks, and we can perhaps imagine ourselves making this final journey with him as he sails down to Greenwich.

Starting the Walk

This can be treated as a self-contained Walk, especially as there is plenty to see and do in Greenwich.

Leave **Tower Hill underground station** and on your left you will see the largest surviving section of the old City Wall next to which is a statue of the Roman emperor Trajan (AD 53 – 117). The tunnel that you see here is the pedestrian route to the Tower of London that we will later be walking through but for now instead step up to the large sundial immediately in front of you for a superb view of the Tower.

The Tower of London

(Open daily, times vary, admission charge.) www.hrp.org.uk/TowerOfLondon

If you can schedule your visit several months in advance then you can also arrange to attend “**the Ceremony of the Keys**” (free) (<http://tinyurl.com/7y9go23>) when the Tower is locked up for the night. Although there is no charge for this, British people will need to send a stamped, addressed envelope and overseas visitors will need to supply an International Reply Coupon with their application, and Americans in particular seem to have a great deal of difficulty in obtaining them: **this is how to do it** (<http://tinyurl.com/34832zb> and see message number 14).

*“To dinner to my Lady Sandwich, and Sir Thomas Crew’s children coming thither, I took them and all my Ladys to **the Tower** and showed them the lions and all that was to be shown, and so took them to my house, and there made much of them, and so saw them back to my Lady’s. Sir Thomas Crew’s children being as pretty and the best behaved that ever I saw of their age.”* – **The Diary**, 3 May 1662.

The Tower of London is one of the greatest medieval fortifications in Europe, and one of the few buildings in London in the 21st century that Pepys would instantly recognise. Since its creation more than 900 years ago it has had multiple functions including as that of a royal palace, fortress, prison and place of execution, jewel house (including for the crown jewels), mint, armoury and even a royal zoo as on the above day when Pepys and company visited it. Samuel Pepys knew it intimately, often attending banquets in the Tower, and was later to be three times imprisoned there for several months but in each case released without charge. It is a place that absolutely must be visited.

While still standing next to the sundial, turn to your right and you’ll see an ornate white building with numerous columns, which was built in 1915 as the headquarters of the Port of London authority and is now owned by the Willis Corroon insurance firm. This has no links to Pepys but on the right of it you will see a smaller building with small cannons outside it and a weathervane in the form of a sailing ship. This is Trinity House.

Trinity House

Trinity Square, Tower Hill

Closed to the public except during London Open House weekend each September. <http://www.trinityhouse.co.uk/>

“and thence to the Trinity House, and there dined, where, among other discourse worth hearing among the old seamen, they tell us that they have caught often in Greenland in fishing whales with the iron grapnels that had formerly been struck into their bodies covered over with fat; that they have had eleven hogsheads of oyle out of the tongue of a whale. Thence after dinner home to my office, and there busy till the evening.” – *The Diary*, 6 May 1662.

At the time of the Diary, Trinity House was not here but nearby in Water Lane which now no longer exists but was between St Dunstan's and All Hallows churches (covered in the first part of this Walk). After it burned down in the Great Fire, Trinity House moved a couple of miles east of here until replaced by the building that you see before you dating from the 18th century. Trinity House is now a maritime charity but during the years of the Diary was an association of ship owners and sea captains whom it would have been essential for Pepys to get to know. Consequently he became a junior member of Trinity House in 1662 and due to his efficiency rose to become Master of Trinity House upon which he thoroughly reorganised it and created its charter of office that is still largely in use today. In recognition, **one of its rooms** is still named after him and contains a portrait of him.

If you are still standing next to the sundial, then you should walk past the grey telephone box into the garden and past the semi-circular and rectangular buildings that commemorate the sailors of the merchant navy and fishing fleets who died at sea in the two world wars. On the other side, surrounded by a small hedge of flowers, is an unassuming round metal plate that marks the site on Tower Hill where hundreds of people were once put to death. It's so small that it is easy to overlook and rather a let-down for people expecting something more dramatic. In Pepys' time the scaffold was a semi-permanent wooden structure, and temporary stands for the crowd would be erected around it whenever it was used. Although the quotation below says that the scaffold was purposely built on that day, I think that that may simply refer to the planking for the floor rather than the main posts that they would have been attached to.

The Tower Hill Execution Memorial

*“Up by four o'clock in the morning and upon business at my office. Then we sat down to business, and about 11 o'clock, having a room got ready for us, we all went out to the Tower-hill; and there, over against the scaffold, made on purpose this day, saw **Sir Henry Vane** brought. A very great press of people. He made a long speech, many times interrupted by the Sheriff and others there; and they would have taken his paper out of his hand, but he would not let it go ... and the trumpets were brought under the scaffold that he might not be heard. Then he prayed, and so fitted himself, and received the blow; but the scaffold was so crowded that we could not see it done ... he changed not his colour or speech to the last, but died justifying himself and the cause he had stood for; and spoke very confidently of his being presently at the right hand of Christ; and in all, things appeared the most resolved man that ever died in that manner, and showed more of heat than cowardice, but yet with all humility and gravity.”* – *The Diary*, 14 June 1662.

You will see **Sir Harry Vane's** name inscribed on this plaque as a representative of the hundreds of people who were killed on this quiet spot. Pepys's account is admirably fair. Although aristocrats such as Ann Boleyn and Lady Jane Grey were put to death inside the Tower itself, this location was the main execution site and some of the more prominent people who were executed here are named on the plaque. It's on slightly rising ground above the Tower, and would have been surrounded by temporary seating for people whenever there was an execution. For Londoners it was an enjoyable day out, listening to the condemned man's speech, watching the execution, and afterwards dipping their handkerchiefs in the blood on the scaffold as a souvenir of the occasion.

The last person ever to be beheaded was the 79 or 80 year old Scottish clan-leader and politician Lord Lovat in 1747. On the morning of his execution the crowds were very large and one of the stands collapsed, killing 20 of the spectators. Lovat couldn't have cared less and is reputed to have said, “The more the mischief, the better the sport”. Although beheadings stopped, the hangings continued for many more years. On 11 July 1780 the final people to be hanged here were two prostitutes and a soldier who had taken part in the anti-Catholic Gordon Riots.

Now either cross the road and walk past the Tower shop down to the Tower Millennium Pier, or return to the underground station and take the pedestrian subway for a closer view of the Tower's walls and empty moat.

From the Tower of London to Greenwich by boat

Pepys made this journey by boat on countless occasions, and we can imitate him by taking a boat to Greenwich from the Tower Millennium Pier, which is just beyond the Tower giftshop and slightly downriver from the Custom House (*see page 4*).

There are two boat companies that go from here to Greenwich. *City Cruises* take about an hour and usually have a live commentary pointing out places of interest on the route, and this would be a good choice for first-time visitors. Otherwise the *Thames Clippers* services take about 30 minutes but don't have any commentary. In both cases, there is a discount if you have a travelcard or an oyster card but you should tell them that you have one before buying the tickets.

Leaving the Millennium Pier, the boat will immediately sail underneath Tower Bridge, which did not exist in Pepys's lifetime nor for almost a couple of centuries thereafter. However, there were plenty of ferrymen to take him to the south bank of the Thames which is the route to Greenwich that he normally took when walking. In the 1660s both sides of the river would have been lined with a few rows of houses and other buildings but there were fields and market gardens beyond them. The south bank was more marshy with reed beds, so there was less cultivated land but there were still cherry and apple orchards. The countryside and fresh air would have made a very pleasant contrast to the dirty, coal-blackened and crowded streets of London, and Pepys often took his family and servants for excursions. You'll see a lot of modern developments on your trip but listed below are some locations that date from Pepys's time, and I've indicated which of these are on the north bank or are on the south bank. The areas that we are sailing past are Rotherhithe (usually referred to as Redriffe in the Diary), Deptford, and Greenwich on the south bank with Woolwich just beyond Greenwich; and Wapping is on the north bank.

Execution Dock (*north bank, just before the Town of Ramsgate pub*)

The City Cruises tour guide will probably point to a building with red balconies and a giant "E" on it and say that this was Execution Dock. Although that's a possibility it's more likely that it was very slightly further on at Wapping Old Steps, which are the flight of steps that lead down to the Thames next to the Town of Ramsgate pub which you will see on the river. Pirates, smugglers and mutineers were hanged here and their corpses left untouched until three tides had washed over them. The notorious pirate **Captain Kidd** was executed here on 23 May 1701 at the second attempt, the first rope having broken. As with the executions on Tower Hill, these were considered to be a great entertainment and as well as the temporary seating erected around the scaffold, people would pay to watch from boats that were moored in the middle of the river.

The Town of Ramsgate was built in the early 1660s when it was originally called the Red Cow. It is claimed that **Colonel Blood** was captured here while hiding from the law after attempting to steal the Crown Jewels from the Tower of London. Personally, I consider it to be the nicest and friendliest of the three pubs on Wapping High Street.

Almost directly opposite is Cherry Garden Pier.

Cherry Tree Gardens (*south bank, immediately before the Mayflower pub*)

"and so back to the fields and into the cherry garden, where we had them fresh gathered, and here met with a young, plain, silly shopkeeper, and his wife, a pretty young woman, the man's name Hawkins, and I did kiss her, and we talked (and the woman of the house is a very talking bawdy jade), and eat cherries together, and then to walk in the fields till it was late, and did kiss her." – **The Diary**, 30 June 1667.

There are no longer any groves of cherry trees and the pier's name is the only memorial to them. Next to it you'll see **the Angel pub** whose owners claim that Pepys drank here and that the Angel is mentioned in the Diary – can anyone confirm or disprove this? In any event, sitting on a sofa in the upstairs room and watching the river flow by is a pleasant way to spend some time.

The Mayflower (*south bank*)

This is the white building with a sailing ship as a weathervane. Although it isn't mentioned in the Diary it originally dates from the 1620s, so Pepys could have used it, and its historical significance means that it can't be ignored. In the 17th century it was called the Spread Eagle and it is from this actual spot that the Pilgrim Fathers set out on their journey to America in 1620. Christopher Jones, the captain of the Mayflower, is buried in the churchyard of **St Mary's** just behind the pub. The nearest station to here is Rotherhithe on the overground East London line, and Canada Water station on the Jubilee underground line isn't too far away.

The Prospect of Whitby (*north bank*)

This historic pub was known in Pepys's lifetime as the Devil's Tavern and it is claimed that he was a frequent visitor when in Wapping on naval business. A coastal chart, which was presented to Pepys in 1686, is displayed on a wall upstairs in the Pepys Room, where his portrait also is. The Pepys Society regularly used to dine here.

Shortly after passing the Prospect of Whitby the river makes a right-angled turn and heads southward. On one bank is Canary Wharf pier and on the other bank is the Hilton Docklands pier (*south bank*), which was the site of Halfway House.

Halfway House

*"Thence to the office till the evening, we sat, and then by water (taking Pembleton with us), over the water to the **Halfway House**, where we played at ninepins, and there my damned jealousy took fire, he and my wife being of a side and I seeing of him take her by the hand in play, though I now believe he did it only in passing and sport. Thence home and being 10 o'clock was forced to land beyond the Custom House, and so walked home and to my office, and having dispatched my great letters by the post to my father ... I went home to supper and bed"* – **The Diary**, 19 May 1663.

Sadly, nothing remains of Halfway House.

In a few minutes, you will be passing on the south bank Greenland Pier and the Greenland Dock, which as the "Great Wet Dock" was built for whalers in 1699 (i.e. during Pepys's lifetime) and this is roughly the boundary between Rotherhithe and Deptford. The Navy Victualling Yards would now be lining the bank on your right side as you proceed down to Greenwich. Now there is mostly high-rise housing called the Pepys Estate and Pepys Park.

Keep alert for a long timber wharf running parallel with the south bank named Palmer's Wharf because behind it and only a short distance from the Thames was the house of Pepys's good friend **John Evelyn**. One of the most important guests to stay there was Peter the Great of Russia in 1694, whose entourage trashed the garden, and if you are observant and have good eyesight you'll see **a statue of Peter the Great** looking as if butter wouldn't melt in his mouth on the bend of the river that is known as Deptford Creek where a small tributary stream enters the Thames.

By now, you should be seeing Greenwich ahead of you, and the Old Naval College should be clearly visible. Its elegant domes are of course a characteristic of its architect Sir Christopher Wren.

On Arrival at Greenwich

Try and imagine the river at this point being so full of sailing ships that you could sometimes cross from one side to the other just by walking across them. Your first stop should be the elegant building just ahead of you that is very near to the Cutty Sark sailing ship.

The Discover Greenwich tourist information office

As you enter through the main doorway, look up and you'll see a row of naval VIPs and the one directly above you is an undistinguished depiction of Pepys's patron Lord Sandwich. In the building itself you'll find a free exhibition about Greenwich, a shop, and a tourist information desk where you can pick up a free map of Greenwich. Particularly to be recommended are the covered market and the [Clocktower market](http://www.clocktowermarket.co.uk) (www.clocktowermarket.co.uk). The Old Brewery restaurant bar that is attached to the Discover Greenwich centre is good and its courtyard is very attractive. However, you have plenty of other options if you wish to eat elsewhere in Greenwich. As well as the cafes that you passed as you disembarked from the boat, you could sample some whitebait at the Trafalgar Tavern riverside pub which has a great view over the river (*see below*), or why not pick up some food from the market or the M&S Simply Food store and have a picnic in the park?

Leave the building by the main entrance, go down to the river and turn right to go to **the Old Royal Naval College** which consists of four buildings in a square, the two nearer the river having domes. As has been said, this was originally the Royal Hospital for Seamen before becoming the Royal Naval College, which has now relocated to Dartmouth in Devon. Three of the buildings are now owned by [the University of Greenwich](#), and the domed building nearest to you is the home of [Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance](#). Two areas that are open to the public are the Painted Hall and the Chapel, and the Painted Hall especially is definitely worth visiting.

[**A small diversion if you have some time to spare:** if you carry on for a couple of minutes, then you'll see the Trafalgar Tavern ahead of you, just in front of the four-chimneyed power station. The Trafalgar Tavern is a handsome Georgian building with an excellent view over the Thames and was frequented by Charles Dickens. It is especially well-known for its whitebait dinners. On the other side of the power station is Trinity Hospital alms house which was built in 1613, making it the oldest building in central Greenwich. It isn't open to the public but its exterior is attractive.]

Resuming the Walk at the Old Naval College, look away from the river and you'll see the Queen's House. This isn't accidental. When it was being built the then Royal Hospital for Seamen was deliberately divided into four buildings so that the river view from the Queen's House would not be affected. The National Maritime Museum is on the right of the Queen's House.

The Queen's House

Romney Road, Greenwich

(Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. Free) www.greenwich-guide.org.uk/queens.htm

“So up and down the house, which is now repaying in the Queen's lodgings.” – [The Diary](#), 11 April 1662.

Pepys walked through the house admiring the paintings and we can do the same. In fact, one of the paintings that I have seen on display here was [a portrait of him by Sir Godfrey Kneller](#) when he was aged 56, but only a small proportion of their maritime paintings and portraits are on display at any particular time so there is no guarantee of what you will see when you visit the house. However, there will certainly be portraits of people who appear in the Diary.

The house was designed by Inigo Jones in 1616 for Anne of Denmark, the queen of James I, and completed in 1636 for Henrietta Maria, the queen of Charles I. Following the restoration of the monarchy she returned to the house in 1662 where she lived until her death in 1669. It is fitted out in the style of the 1660s as much as possible, and contains a mixture of original and replica furnishings.

Its architecture was revolutionary, being the first Palladian building to be constructed in England and the contrast with the Tudor and Jacobean houses of the time would have been very striking. Its great hall is a cube which Jones designed in accordance with Andrea Palladio's rules of proportion, and the

“tulip” staircase was the first cantilevered spiral staircase in the country. The Queen’s House is attached to the National Maritime Museum.

National Maritime Museum

Park Row, Greenwich

(Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. Free) www.rmg.co.uk/national-maritime-museum/

This is claimed to be the largest naval museum in the world and has a constantly changing set of exhibits. Of especial interest to us is probably the gallery of ships’ models dating from the 17th and 18th centuries that were prepared by shipbuilders to present to the Navy Board for their approval. Indeed, on one of its walls you’ll see a black-and-white reproduction of a 19th century painting of such an event that includes an atrociously poor depiction of Pepys in the background, sitting near a pensive Lord Sandwich (*A New Whip for the Dutch* by John Seymour Lucas, 1883).

On leaving the museum, walk into Greenwich Park to climb up the hill to the Royal Observatory. The energetic can walk straight upwards over the grass, but the rest of us and those with walking disabilities will remain on the path. If it is completely impossible to walk up the hill, it can be reached by entering the park at Blackheath Gate and travelling along the perfectly level Blackheath Avenue.

Royal Observatory

Blackheath Avenue, Greenwich

(Open daily 10 am – 5 pm. Admission charge) www.rmg.co.uk/royal-observatory/

“I find Reeves there, it being a mighty fine bright night, and so upon my leads, though very sleepy, till one in the morning, looking on the moon and Jupiter, with this twelve-foote glasse and another of six foote, that he hath brought with him to-night, and the sights mighty pleasant, and one of the glasses I will buy, it being very usefull. So to bed mighty sleepy, but with much pleasure. Reeves lying at my house again; and mighty proud I am (and ought to be thankfull to God Almighty) that I am able to have a spare bed for my friends.” – *The Diary*, 8 August 1666.

And he was also thankful to be alive, because 1666 was the year of the Great Plague in London. Pepys didn’t write the above passage about the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, because that wouldn’t be designed by Sir Christopher Wren until 1675, but it is certainly true that Pepys was interested in astronomy just as he was interested in so many things, and I imagine that he did come up to Greenwich on occasion to visit the observatory. The first Astronomer Royal was to be John Flamsteed who was in his 20s during the years of the Diary, and it is probable that they would have known each other from the regular meetings of the Royal Society of which Pepys would later become the president.

Today, the Royal Observatory consists of the observatory, the astronomy centre (free), the planetarium, and Flamsteed House.

As many people know, Greenwich is on zero degrees longitude (0°, the Greenwich meridian) and there is a brass strip of metal in the ground just outside the observatory that you can stand on so that you can be photographed in both the western hemisphere and the eastern hemisphere simultaneously. It’s very juvenile, but everyone who visits the observatory has done it (including me) so don’t be shy.

As the final destination in this Walk, make your way to the statue of General James Wolfe just to the east of the observatory. **General Wolfe** has no link at all to the Diary, but the view of London from this statue is considered to be one of the most beautiful in the whole of London. You’ll recognise many of the buildings from the Houses of Parliament and St Paul’s Cathedral in the west over to the O2 arena in the east where you may even see a cable car crossing over the Thames. Do try and imagine what Sam and Elizabeth saw when they stood on the same spot – sailing ships in the river, churches and open fields, and the din from the dockyard but perhaps they also heard the song of a nightingale which he once listened to while walking in Greenwich. And here I’ll leave you.

Before I go, I do want to thank you for accompanying me around the city that Samuel Pepys so loved: it’s been an unalloyed pleasure for me to put these three Walks together and follow in Sam and Elizabeth’s footsteps.

Glyn Thomas, London

18th July 2012

Acknowledgements

This and the other two Pepys Walks would never have been compiled without the help of other contributors to the [Pepys Diary](#) website, whom I thank, and of course especial thanks are due to [Phil Gyford](#) for creating the Pepys Diary website and maintaining it through all the years of the Diary. It really was an immense achievement.

¹ Look downwards from the last blue column on Philpot Lane and the mice are on the border of Jamies restaurant and Caffè Nero.