

BERMONDSEY AND ROTHERHITHE ON FRIDAY 20th NOVEMBER

£21 COACH ONLY

OPTIONAL INDEPENDENT EXTRAS.

We did this very same Outing in 2017. Either one or two years later, however, many of you will remember the Worst Ever Outing. After the morning in Southwark the driver chose to disregard my informed instructions and instead of turning right where we would have reached Rotherhithe in 20 minutes, he turned left and we shot over London Bridge. Then followed a bizarre few hours where we were in the tightest gridlock ever at Canada Water and we never made the Christmas Markets. At least, it can't be worse.

This time, we will be returning to quirky Bermondsey Street.

Bermondsey was originally working Dockland, an area of food processing as food arrived. I remember the odours of Tooley Street in the 60s when it was still the 'Street of Cheese'. Bermondsey Street itself was known for its treatment of leather. The Grade II listed, totally restored Leather Market is minutes away. Apparently excellent street food if you wished to have lunch before leaving for Rotherhithe. Bermondsey Street is now totally gentrified with many little shops and galleries and lots of cafes. Specifically, The White Cube Gallery where last time, some of us were somewhat startled by one exhibit.

Of interest to many will be The Museum of Textiles and Fashion. The current Exhibition showcases Ossie Clark and Celia Birtwell and how their iconic designs and prints helped shape fashion of the late 1960s

Cost £12.65/ £11.50 : ART FUND MEMBERS £6.33/ £5.75

On the corner of Abbey St is a 17th century, Grade II listed church St Mary Magdalen on the site of the abbey first built in 1290. It was

rebuilt at the end of the 17thC but some internal features remain like the boxed pews. It is a 'church at risk'.

We will start and finish at Bermondsey Square which is at the bottom end of Bermondsey St. (away from the river). Hopefully we should arrive around 11 and will leave at 1 p.m.

On then to Rotherhithe at 1 p.m. Sadly, due to a combination of Covid and Brexit, the wonderful street market was discontinued. So, sorry no reindeer meat on a spit. For decades, the Norwegian and near adjacent Finnish Churches have had their Fairs together, not 2026. Dare-wise I had to opt for the Norwegian Fair piled high with traditional Nordic crafts. as well as plenty of food. This is a homely Fair, run by Church members for Church Funds. However, all is not lost. The Finnish Church have a café and a shop which will be open. There is also a sauna, available (I believe) to all. The modern Church is worth a visit. Do not leave without tasting a hot cinnamon bun and a glass of glogg.

On the way back to the bus, have a look at the statue of Tommy Steele and perhaps pop into the Upmarket Charity Shop and support this neighbourhood amenity.

That is not all. Luckily, the Brunel Museum on nearby Railway Avenue is open on a Friday (closes 3:30), Entrance for £6.00 include access to both the Tunnel Shaft – the former pedestrian entrance to the Thames Tunnel – and to the Engine House which holds the collection and displays. Displays include maps and plans, trinkets and everyday objects (presumably discovered whilst digging?)

Marc Isambard Brunel and his son, Isambard Kingdom Brunel were responsible for building the Thames Tunnel, the first tunnel to be built under a river anywhere in the world.

NAME(S).....

ADDRESS.....

TEL NOemail.....

MEMBERSHIP NO.....

PICK UP

Artington 9.15..... High School 9.25.....Elgin Gdns 9.25.....

Burpham 9.30.....

Cheque.....@ £21....total.....

Payable to Guildford Area U3 A and send to Sheila Darzi 20 Hullmead,
Shamley Green, GU50UG

**No SAE needed. I will inform you if you are not accepted, with
further instructions a week before.**