

TRIP TO LONDON FROM 8. NOVEMBER TO 11. NOVEMBER

Saturday 8. November



This time the trip went to London. This is the capital in Great Britain and is lying at the river Thames. It is believed to be founded by the Romans about 50 AD. The city itself has about 7.5 million inhabitants, but if we account for the whole area we reach 12 to 14 mill. The town is the biggest town in EU regarding inhabitants.



We travelled with Norwegian in both directions to London Stansted airport.

It is situated about 48 km north of London and is the third busiest airports in the London after Heathrow and Gatwick. It was founded by the Americans as base for bombing aircrafts in 1942.

Today it handles over 20 million passengers a year, but expansions are discussed such that it could handle over 80 millions.

To get to London, we had used Internet to order tickets for Stansted Express. It is a train that goes each 15th minute and needs 45 minutes to Liverpool Street in London.



There also go other trains and buses, but they need much longer time.



To get further on we bought tickets for the Underground. We chose tickets valid for one day and they could be used on all public transportation means in zone 1 and 2.

London Underground, often just called *The Underground* or *The Tube*) is a public transport offer composed of electric trains driving in tunnels under the central London and on the surface in the suburbs. The first stretch was opened in 1863, which makes this to the oldest metro system in the world.

All the tickets have to be bought in advance to get into the platforms and we have to go ports where the tickets are automatic checked. If the tickets are valid the gate is opened.





When we arrived at the hotel, Oxford Hotel in Earls Court district, we were told that the hotel was closed for maintenance, but we were rebooked to another hotel nearby, St. Mark Hotel.



It was still early in the day. Here we eat breakfast at Dino's



Here we are sitting, looking at the rain outside



After eating, we took the Underground from Earls Court. It was still raining, but there are small glimpses of blue sky in-between



We set out for Hyde Park Corner. Here is the stairways from the station.



Here is Wellington Arch, which is placed at Hyde Park Corner. It was built in 1826-30 of Georg IV to memory of the victories for England during the Napoleon wars.



Here we are walking on Serpentine Road in Hyde Park.



Here we have arrived at the lake The Serpentine in the park. There are lots of birds here.



Here Anne Berit feed the birds



Here we have gone through the park to Marble Arch. This triumphal arch was built at the same time as Wellington Arch.



When coming so far, the rain started splashing down, so we sought refuge in this pub for a couple of beers while the shower lasted.

It was still raining, so we took the Underground from Marble Arch to Oxford Circus.



The plan was to go down Regent Street, but Kjell took a wrong turn, so we ended at All Souls Church. It is from 1824 and got the nickname The Wedding Cake.



This is a statue of Field Marshall Sir Georg Stuart White (1835-1912) who got The Victoria Cross after his effort in English wars in Afghanistan in 1879.



Here we went past the tower of British Telecom. The building started in 1961 and it was opened in 1965. It should have been 111m high, but it has sunk 53m afterwards. It had a rotating restaurant on the top, but it is now closed for the public.



In the end of the street we see Liberty, which is known as a department store from 1875.



Here we are in a typical English pub



Here we are in a shopping street



Here we have arrived at Picadilly Circus. By then we were wet and tired, so we took the Underground back to the hotel



In the evening we had dinner at a good Italian restaurant in Earls Court Road.



Here one of the waiters are pouring wine at the neighbor table

Sunday 9. November

This day we took the Underground to Green Park.



After having gone through Green Park we came to Buckingham Palace, which is from 1837. The first queen who moved in was Queen Victoria



Here is one of the gates



A state visit was going on and here they are ready for parades and music



Then we went through Saint James's Park in the direction of Houses of Parliament and Big Ben

There were lots of squirrels. They were looking for nuts.



Here we are looking back towards Buckingham Palace

Here is Big Ben, but because of the state visit we could not come closer



Big Ben is a nickname for the biggest of the bells (originally *Great Bell*) in the tower on the Westminster palace in London. It is often wrongly used about the whole tower.

The tower is 96.3m high and it lean 220mm at the face. This is because of that the ground yielded a bit during digging out of one of the Underground lines (Jubilee Line)

The bell is probably named after Sir Benjamin Hall, who was chief commissary for public works. Another theory is that it, because it was the heaviest of its kind, was named after then famous pro boxer Benjamin Caunt.



Here Kjell is talking with a police officer to ask what the parade was about



This is Horse Guards, which is the head quarter for the Royal Guard



This is Westminster Abbey (originally St. Peters Church in Westminster). It is traditionally Great Britain's coronation church and the last resting place for the country's monarchs. It was originally a cloister church, but now it has status as royal chapel.



Here we see the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben and Westminster Abbey. Because everything was fenced off because of the parades we could not get close to any of them.



Here we had to go through James's Park again to get on. Here we look in the direction of Trafalgar Square and Admiral Nelson on the coloumn



Here there are more parades in The Mall, which goes in the direction of Buckingham Palace

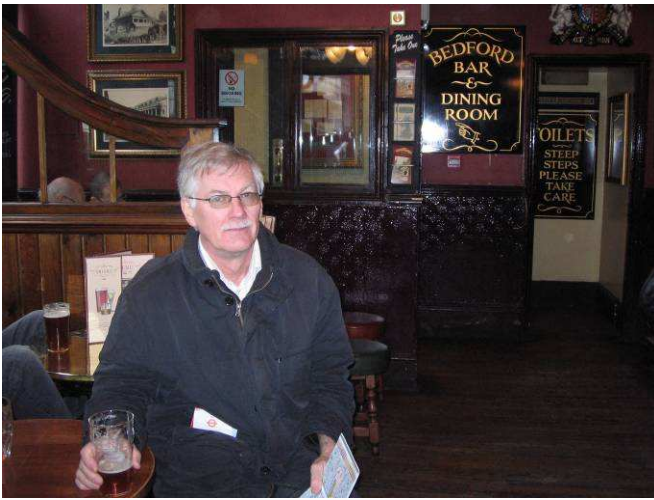


After this we took the Underground to Covent Garden. This complex started as a flower-, fruit- and vegetable market, but is now a general market hall.



Here is a guy who tries to make some money





After this we needed a beer on the nearest pub



Look how happy we are



Now it was so late that we had become hungry. We went to another pub and had fish and chips



After that we took the Underground to Waterloo on the south side of the Thames. Here we are at Gabriel's Wharf, which is a small square with shops and restaurants



Here are a couple of views over the Thames from the South Bank. We are walking along a walkway called Queen's Walk



Along the river banks there were many who worked on sand sculptures



There were also sales activities



Here we are approaching Waterloo Bridge



Under the bridge there was a little market



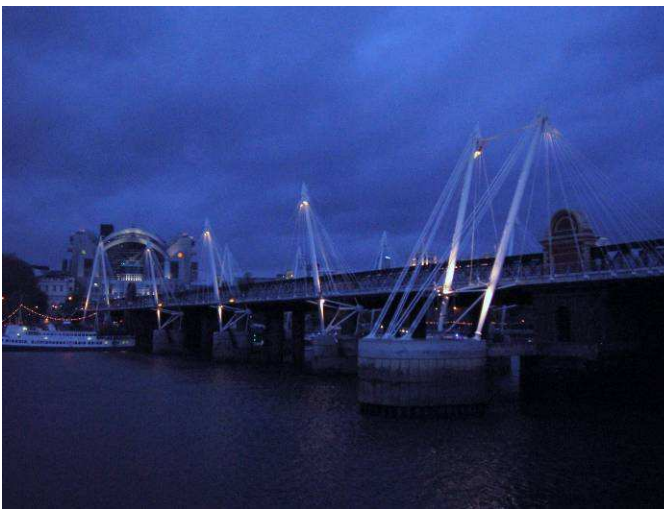
There was also some graffiti



Here we are at a place called Las Iguanas. Kjell is standing at the bar about to order beer.



Kjell is relaxing



Here we have passed under Hungerford Bridges with roads and railways



Here is a guy who is acting as a statue



From here we were looking straight at London Eye that is the worlds biggest Ferris Wheel. It is 135 meter high and needs 40 minutes on one rotation.



From here we could also look straight across the Thames to the Parliament building and Big Ben

London Eye opened in 1999 and was made for the Millennium 1999-2000, but became such a big tourist attraction that it has been standing. It has 3.5 million visitors every year.

After this it was so late that we took the Underground from Waterloo to Earls Court. In the evening we had supper at the same Italian restaurant, because we thought they had good food and good service.

Monday 10. November

This day we took the Underground over to St Paul's. This day it rained still more. When we then came from the Underground we sat a while on a pub and waited that the weather should lighten a bit.



Here we are looking at the typical two-stored buses in London and the sightseeing buses passing by



Christ Church Greyfriars. It was bombed during the war and now the ruins are now public garden.



Here is another bus at the bus stop



Here are a couple of pictures of St Paul's Cathedral from an unusual angle



St. Paul's Cathedral is the Cathedral of the Anglican bishop of London. The Cathedral of today is believed to be the fifth at this place, and it was built after that an older Cathedral was destroyed in the city fire in 1666. The dome is inspired by the Peter's church, and is 108 meter high included the cross on top.



Now the rain was splashing down on the asphalt, so we had to seek shelter in another.



Another picture from the pub



Here we are at the Guildhall. The municipal government in The City has offices here.



Here is another part of the Guildhall



Monument. This coloumn is 62 meter high and it was built (1671-77) as a memorial of the big fire in 1666.



The top of Monument



Now we needed lunch and we went down into an Italian restaurant at the Leadenhall Market



Leadenhall Market is a roofed market street



Then we went down towards Tower of London, here seen from the backside



Here we are looking in the direction of Tower Bridge



Here we are looking upstream the river Thames

Wilhelm the Conqueror had this castle built to secure the control over the Thames. It was also used as royal residence and as a prison. The crown jewels and a large arms collection is on display here.



Here is a view of Tower of London and Tower Bridge



Here we are at the end of Tower Bridge. Anne Berit is using her new umbrella.



Here is Tower Bridge in moonlight

The bridge was built as a consequence of economical growth in the East End after 1800. The reason why it became a balance bridge was that the ship traffic should not be hindered. The two leaves was originally driven by 6 steam engines and could be lifted in 1 minute.

Tuesday 11. November

It was cold this day but there was no rain. We went over to Saint James's Park because we thought it was so nice there.



Here we are in Saint James's Park. Some of the trees need support.



There were a lot of birds here



The squirrels were almost as tame as cats. Here there is one that wants to see what Kjell has in his hand.



Here he has go a nut chocolate. Nam.



Here we se across the lake towards London Eye



Here we have moved down to the Thames again. This is College of Arms. It is a department, which has authority to approve new weapon shields for England, Wales and North Ireland. It was founded in 1484 of King Richard III.



Here we are on London Millennium Bridge looking eastwards



Here there are decent framework just like on the Kverneland ploughs



Anne Berit has been video recording



London Millennium Bridge was opened in 2000 as the first new bridge over the Thames since the Tower Bridge in 1894.

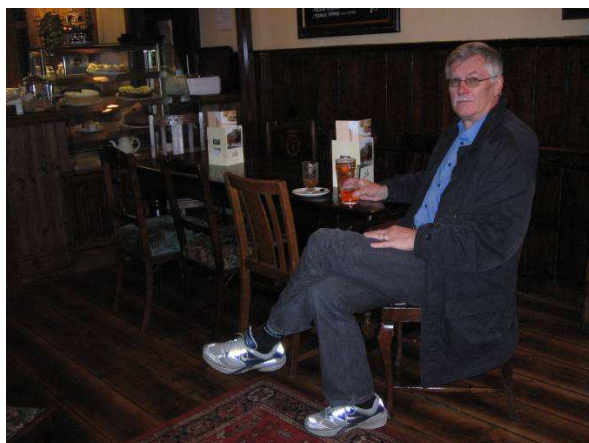
The construction works began in 1998 and the bridge was opened the 10th of June 2000. However, because of unforeseen lateral vibrations the bridge was closed two days after for improvements. The vibrations arose because of the great number of pedestrians on the bridge (90 000 visitors the first day with 2000 people on the bridge simultaneously). The first vibrations got the people to move in step with the saying, and this increased the effect. The swaying gave the bridge the nickname the *Wobbly Bridge*.



After coming over the river we were cold and we had to enter the Anchor.



Anne Berit is cold and is warming up at the open fireplace.



Kjell is not quite as cold



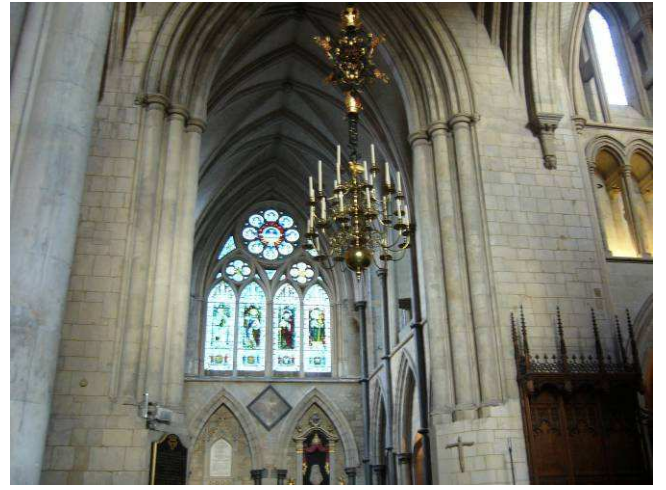
Just outside was a pirate ship, which could be hired for big parties.



Nice ship



Here we have come to Southwark Cathedral. At the entrance we were met by a priest who we were chatting with for a while.



The Southwark Cathedral (St Saviour and St Mary Overie) is seat for Southwark bishopric. The church is a cross church.

The church was built as a parish church (chapel of a convent) about 1215, with various rebuilding up to 1420. It became a cathedral first in 1905, when the Anglican bishopric Southwark was established. This is one of two places where Anglican and Catholic bishoprics have the same name; the other is Liverpool.



There is a quite nice interior



On the rear of the church there was a stylish figure



Here we passed St Olaf House.
It is a warehouse built in 1928-32. The building is named after King Olav Haraldson (Saint Olaf), who attacked London via the Thames in 1009 and tore down London Bridge.

Here we are at Hay's Warf.
It is two big warehouses, which in the 1800 century were used for storing of butter and spices. Now there are cafes, restaurants and shops here. In the middle is this funny fountain



Hay's Warf
The glass roof between the halls is 30 m high

Just outside Hay's Warf lies HMS Belfast as a museum boat. It was in duty from 1938 to 1953.

From here we took the Underground from London Bridge to Greenwich. Here we had lunch at a local pub. The food is always good at the English pubs and here out in the district it was cheap also.



Anne Berit at the bard



Kjell is checking the camera

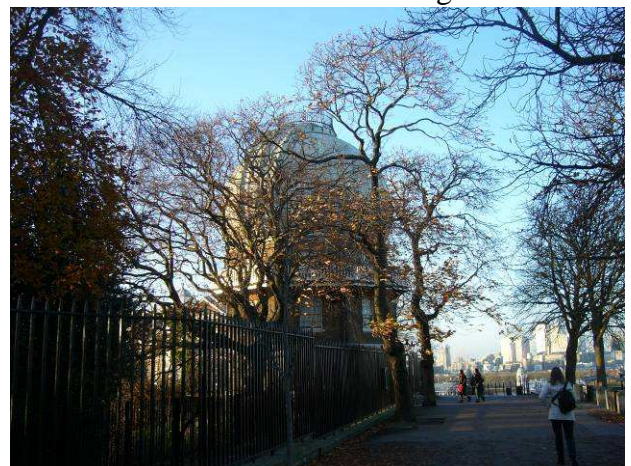
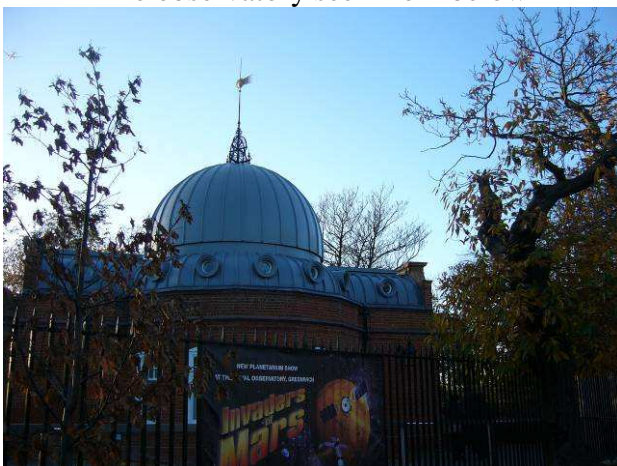
Greenwich is an area in the south eastern London. It was originally a independent city, but is now incorporated in London. The Greenwich meridian passes through the Royal Observatory Greenwich. Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) was for a long period of time the starting point for for the division in time zones, until it was replaced by universal time UTC. There is no longer a functioning astronomical observatory there, but every day a ball falls precisely 13:00 o'clock, and it is a museum for astronomy and navigation, where one among other things can see John Harrisons chronometers. The observatory lies in Greenwich Park.



The observatory seen from below



Some of the buildings





The entrance



A marking of the Greenwich meridian



The Greenwich meridian



The Greenwich meridian



Time marking



View from the top

From here we went to our hotel to get our suitcases. It was just in the middle of the rush hour, so the first train was full. It was like sardines in a box, but we reached the flight just in time.