

**Brian Everingham
Diary
2025**

**April-May
Volume 4**

London



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Tuesday 29th April 2025

Having settled into our Marlin Apartment in Queen Street, London, and having purchased enough supplies to start our holiday, we were able to wake, have breakfast and head to church for an early morning service!

No, we have not gone all religious on any one! But doing that gave us access to St Paul's Cathedral for free rather than pay the £18 entry fee per person! The bonus was seeing a service actually happening, albeit one on a small chapel on the side.



I had hoped for some singing too but perhaps that was the gift for those who stayed for the Eucharist!

That said, St Paul's had not changed since our first visits way back in 1989 and it was interesting to see how much of the service was devoted to contemplative silence.

On the way back, we dropped in to the local Sainsbury mini-supermarket and picked up more supplies, including a cheap Chilean wine (Valle de Casablanca Sauvignon Blanc) which tastes better than the price suggested!

I then had a nap while Faye did a load of washing – the value of an apartment – and added to supplies by visiting a larger supermarket in the opposite direction. This was a Tesco's!





We then headed to the Thames Embankment and walked along the shores. It was low tide. It's at low tide that is redolent of history here in London and the embankment is also the hidden façade behind the majestic sewage system that cleaned up a myriad health issues in this burgeoning city¹.

¹ During the early 19th century, the River Thames was an open sewer, with disastrous consequences for public health in London, including cholera epidemics. These were caused by enterotoxin-producing strains of the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*. Although the contamination of the water supply was correctly diagnosed by Dr John Snow in 1849 as the method of communication, up to the outbreak of 1866 it was believed that miasma, or bad air, was responsible. Proposals to modernise the sewerage system had been made in the early 1700s but the costs of such a project deterred progress. Further proposals followed in 1856, but were again neglected due to the costs. However, after the Great Stink of 1858, Parliament realised the urgency of the problem and resolved to create a modern sewerage system.

Edward, Prince of Wales on 15 April 1865 opening Bazalgette's Crossness Pumping Station
Joseph Bazalgette, a civil engineer and Chief Engineer of the Metropolitan Board of Works, was given responsibility for the work. The BBC states, "Bazalgette drove himself to the limits in realising his subterranean dream". He and his colleagues, including William Haywood, designed an extensive underground sewerage system that diverted waste to the Thames Estuary, downstream of the main centre of population. Six main interceptor sewers, totalling almost 100 miles in length, were constructed, some incorporating stretches of London's "lost" rivers.

The intercepting sewers, constructed between 1859 and 1865, were fed by 450 miles (720 km) of main sewers that, in turn, conveyed the contents of some 13,000 miles (21,000 km) of smaller local sewers. Construction of the interceptor system required 318 million bricks, 2.7×10⁶ cubic metres (9.5×10⁷ cu ft) of excavated earth and 670,000 cubic metres (24,000,000 cu ft) of concrete. The innovative use of Portland cement strengthened the tunnels, which were in good order 150 years later.

[London sewer system - Wikipedia](#)





We then crossed to the South Bank via the Millenium Bridge!



And headed straight to the Tate Modern. It's been up for quite some time but we have avoided London on our last few visits to England and we had never been there! It did not disappoint!

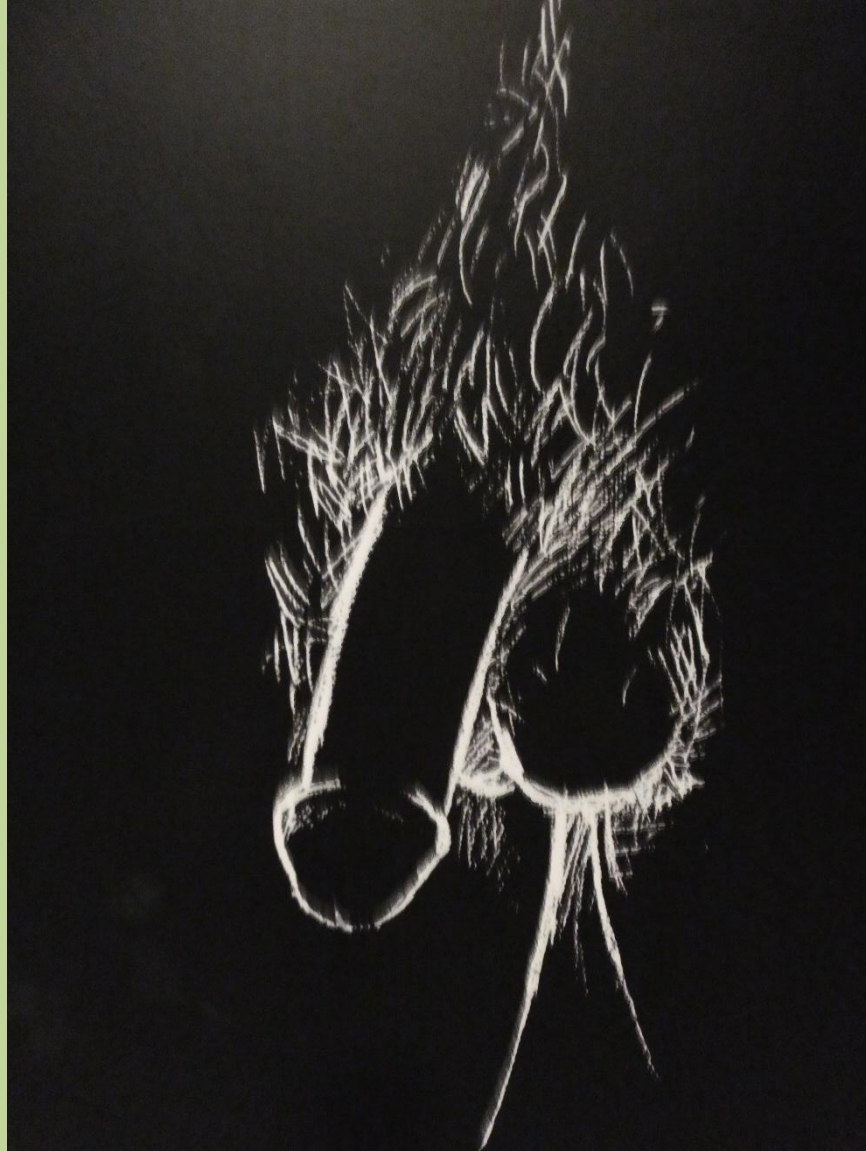


We were even met by an old friend!

There was so much to see that we ran out of energy before needing to contemplate any of the additional paid exhibitions!



David Hammons



Robert Gober



Outi Pieski (a Sami)

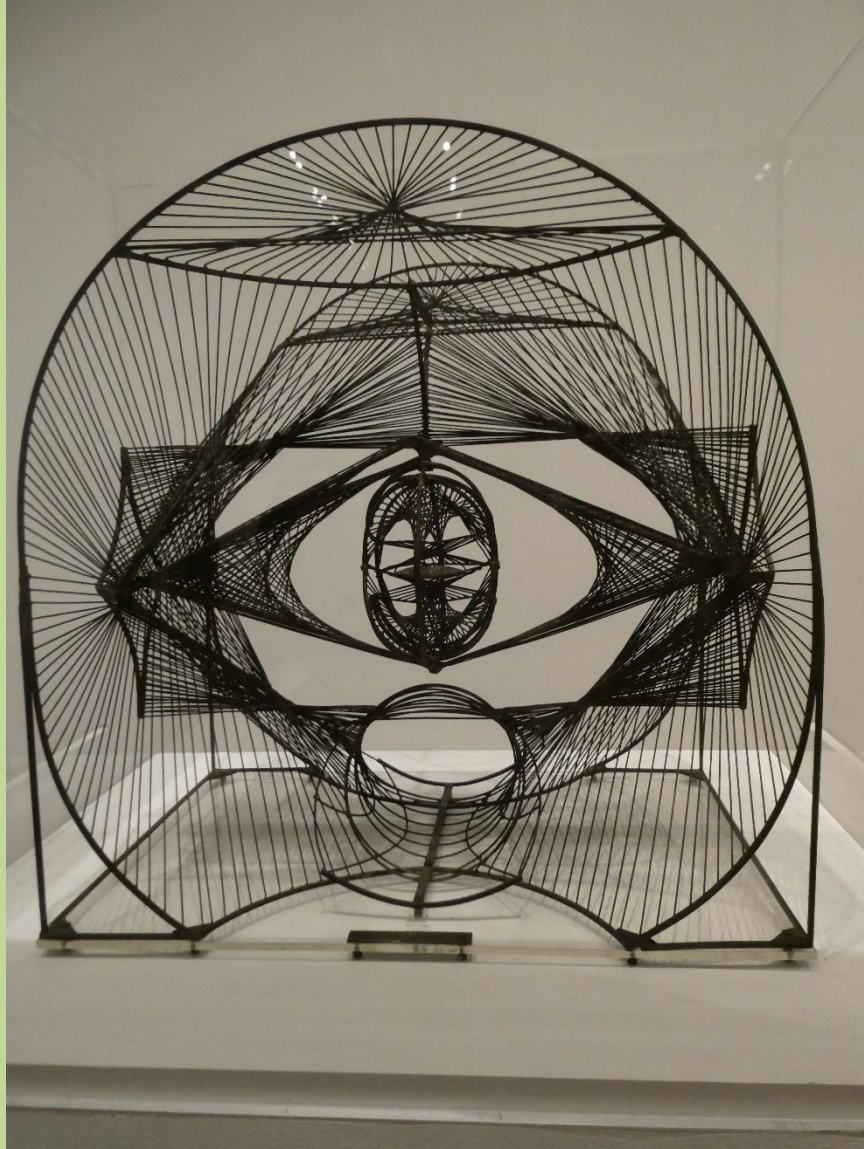


Degas – Little Dancer, Aged Fourteen



Shashi Bikram Shah – Royal Massacre Series (Nepal)





There was a brilliant set of photographs by the Czech photographer, Joseph Koudelka and some wonderful work by Farah Al Qasimi. Her bedroom display occupied an entire gallery.

But, perhaps, one work stands out for me. It was “Witnesses” by Arahmaiani.

Burning Country refers to traumatic events witnessed by Arahmaiani in her home country of Indonesia in May 1998. During a period of economic crises, food shortages and unemployment, students began demonstrating against the authoritarian regime of President Suharto.

The killing of four students at a protest triggered three days of arson attacks and acts of racially motivated violence, mostly directed against the Chinese Indonesian population. Around 1,500 people were raped or murdered.

For Arahmaiani, this work is a memorial 'for the souls of the women who were violated and killed' during the riots. Arahmaiani made black-and-white paintings to mourn the women whom this horror was inflicted upon. She painted them in the gallery in the weeks leading up to the display opening to the public.

Arahmaiani rose to prominence in the 1980s and 1990s at the forefront of activist and performance art in Southeast Asia. She opened this installation with a mournful performance of protest poetry, drumming and song. By blending artistic disciplines – such as performance, painting, music, poetry and dance – with direct action, she hopes to encourage transcultural and interreligious conversation.

For the artist, her community-based work and performance offer a form of reparation and healing. They are a way to address historical violence by coming to terms with the past.







Giacometti



Modigliani



Christian Schad



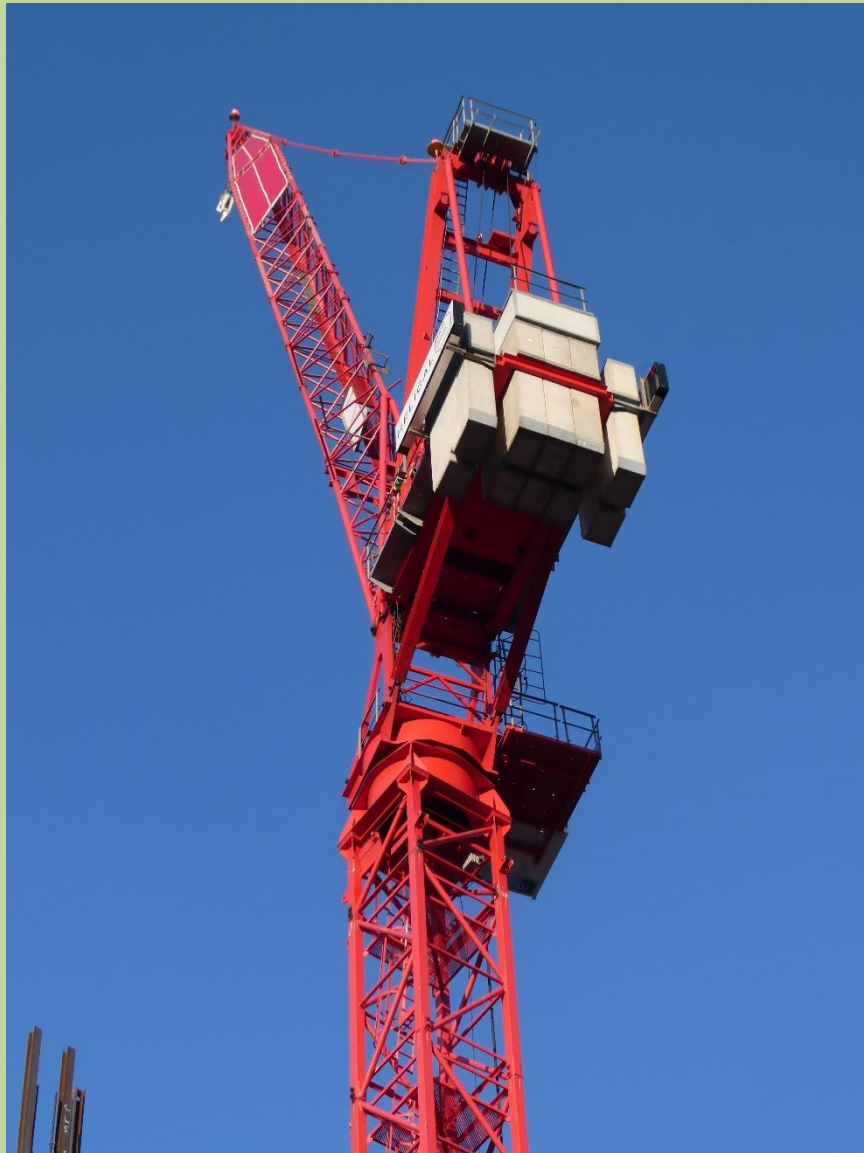
Lee Krasner – Gothic Landscape



Wednesday April 30th 2025

After breakfast, quite early, before the crowds, we explored the City of London – the proper bit where the money is managed! That means we covered the Bank of England, the old Lloyds offices and many other famous financial institutions. It drips of prestige and power but it is also an area in London where some new architecture is rising!

But let us check it out!



Yes, there is a development program on the way. I am not sure what that means for Brexit, at least in the world of finance. Nor did it seem glum in the streets. Pubs were filled with drinking males from mid afternoon on! Maybe they have no work but are still paid well!



The Bank of England where Faye exchanged old notes for new



The old Lloyds offices



The Monument – dedicated to the Great Fire of London
The 202ft column, designed by Sir Christopher Wren and Dr Robert Hooke, was built to commemorate the Great Fire of 1666 and stands on the piazza between Fish Street Hill and Monument Street.²

² The Great Fire began in a bakery owned by the King's baker, Thomas Farriner on Pudding Lane on September 2nd 1666, just 202 feet from the site of The Monument today. The bakery ovens were not properly extinguished, and the heat created sparks, which set alight Thomas's wooden home.

At that time most buildings in the City were made of wood, and that, coupled with a dry summer, meant the flames spread with pace throughout the City. The fire raged for four days and during that time one third of all buildings in London were destroyed, 86% of the City was burnt to the ground and 130,000 people were made homeless. Fortunately, there was limited loss of life during the Great Fire. However, the maid who discovered the fire is one of those that sadly perished.

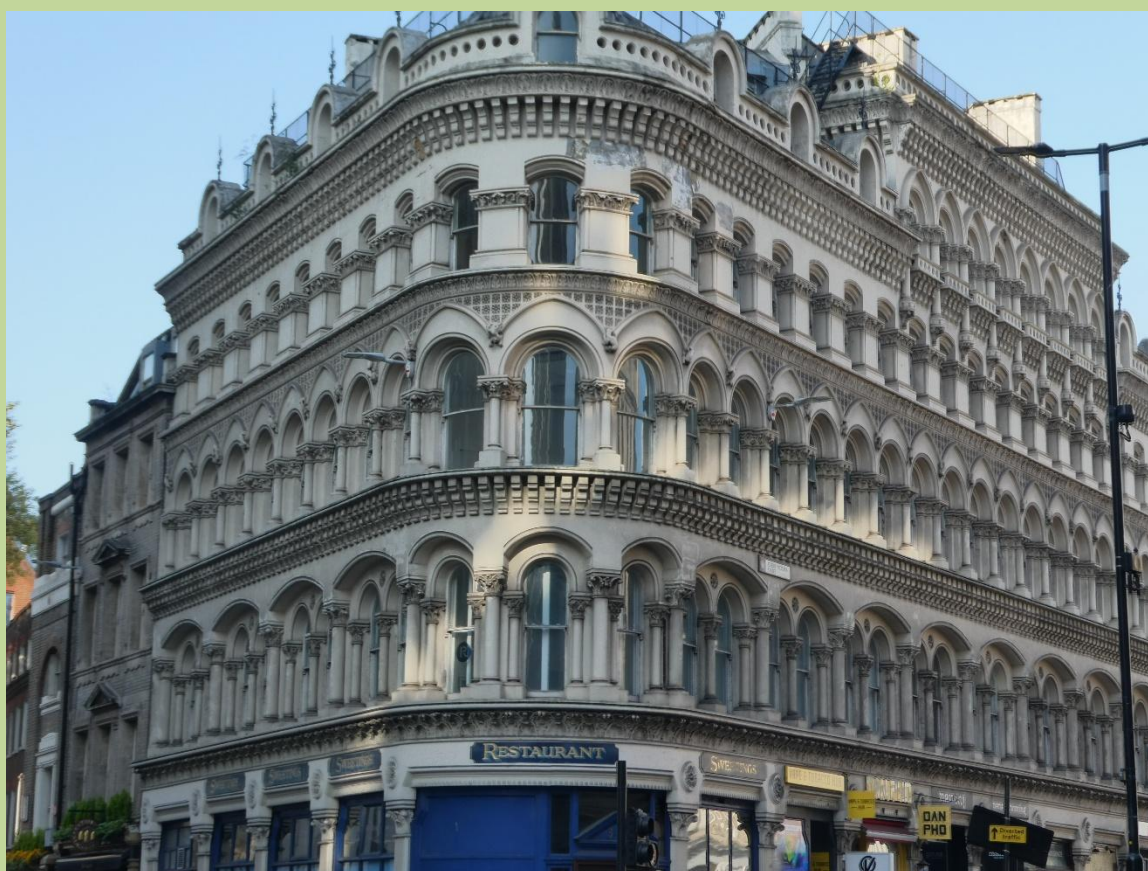
<https://www.themonument.org.uk/history>



Ironically, while we were looking at it there had been an emergency and fire trucks came rushing. Apparently, it was a false alarm.



The “Walkie talkie” (Skylight)







Golden statue of Shakespeare's Ariel on a dome of the Bank of England

Their gold vaults hold around 400,000 bars of gold, worth over £200 billion. That makes the Bank of England the second largest keeper of gold in the world (the New York Federal Reserve tops it though)

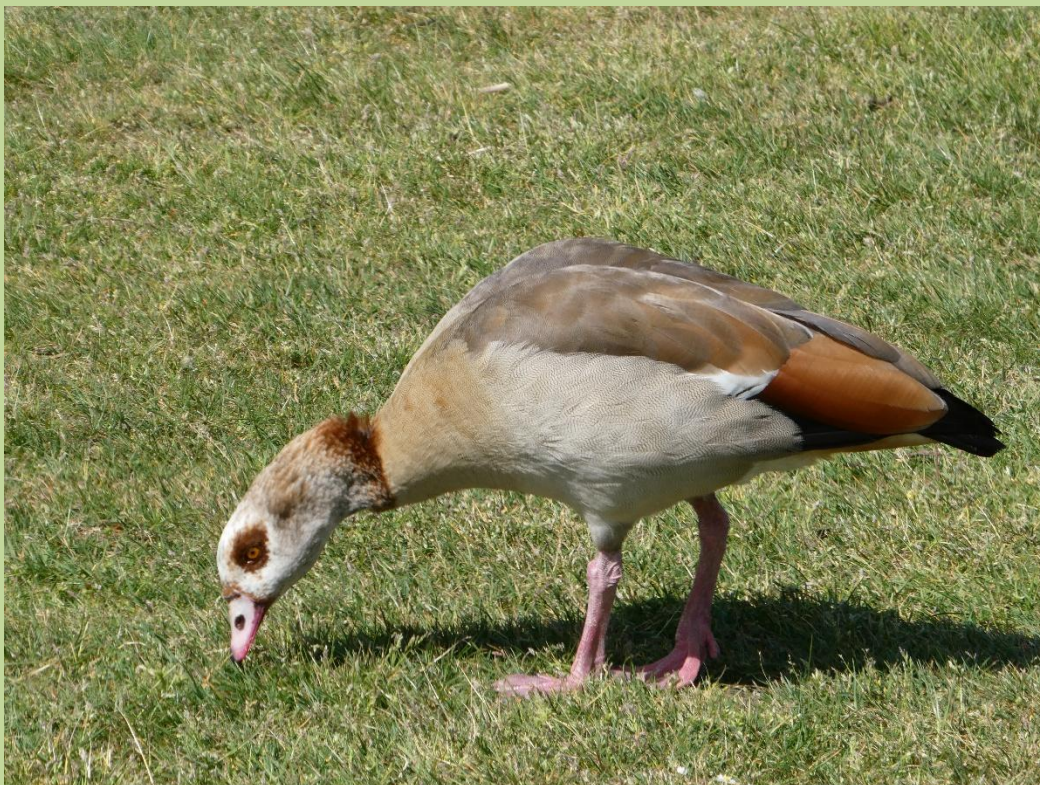
We then had morning tea at home, complete with a custard tart in honour of As Time Goes By. Lionel loves his custard tarts!



And then we caught the metro to Marble Arch, walked the Hyde Park and exited via Lancaster Gate, via the Serpentine lakes. Large areas have been set aside as wildflower meadows!







Egyptian Goose



Grey Heron





The Arch 1979–1980 (Henry Moore)

After lunch, back in our apartment, we then walked downstream along the Thames, taking it all the way through to the Blitz Memorial in the Hermitage Riverside Memorial Park.

That walk took us along past old familiar sites from our visit in 1989 when we and the Burrells visited the Tower of London together and managed to cut the queues!



The Shard, also referred to as the Shard London Bridge and formerly London Bridge Tower, is a 72-storey mixed-use development supertall pyramid-shaped skyscraper, designed by the Italian architect Renzo Piano.





Customs House







And, yes, we did see the ravens!



St Katharine's Docks



Gloriana is a British royal barge. She was privately commissioned as a tribute to Queen Elizabeth II for her 2012 Diamond Jubilee, and was the lead vessel in the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant.³



³ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gloriana_\(barge\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gloriana_(barge))



Dunnock



The Blitz Memorial



Thursday 1st May 2025

We walked today and my body coped well. Maybe the travel hiccups are easing and I will settle down for the remainder of the time in England. Unfortunately, Faye is aching now. Mind you, she walks quickly!

We headed upstream along the Thames and, at first, explored the Temple area!









Temple Gardens





The courts out of which an Everingham was sent to Botany Bay, arriving in 1788!!!!



Australia House



The election is on!





And we have arrived at the National Gallery⁴

It's an old favourite but I must confess that it is stuck way, way in the past. Don't expect the latest English artists to be on display! But here there are paintings from Rubens, Turner, Gainsborough, Stubbs, Rembrandt, etc, etc. It's like one is visiting a major house with a private collection but accessible to the public! And, yes, there are truly special pieces from history here before us!



Cezanne - Bathers (Les Grandes Baigneuses)

⁴ <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/>



Cezanne – An Old Woman with a Rosary



Turner - The Fighting Temeraire



Gainsborough and an admirer



George Stubbs - Whistlejack⁵

⁵ One of the most important British paintings of the eighteenth century, Whistlejacket is probably the most well-known portrait of a horse. It is also widely acknowledged to be George Stubb's masterpiece. The Arabian chestnut stallion had won a famous victory at York in 1759, but by 1762 had been retired from racing. He belonged to the 2nd Marquess of Rockingham, who commissioned Stubbs to paint a commemorative life-size portrait of his prize horse on a scale that was more appropriate for a group portrait or historical painting.

Stubbs excludes any reference to a rider, riding equipment or location, painting the magnificent rearing horse against a neutral background of pale gold. Despite suggestions that a rider was originally planned, Whistlejacket was always meant to be unmounted. Free from human control, the riderless horse is the embodiment of unrestrained natural energy, a free spirit that prefigures Romanticism's celebration of nature

George Stubbs was classified in his lifetime as a sporting painter, and as such was excluded from full membership of the Royal Academy. He is best remembered for his paintings of horses and his conversation pieces. Having studied anatomy, Stubbs's pictures of horses are among the most accurate ever painted, but his work is lyrical and transcends naturalism.

Stubbs was born in Liverpool, the son of a leather worker, and he spent his early career in the north, painting portraits and developing his interest in anatomy. In the later 1740s he lived in York and supplied the illustrations for a treatise on midwifery. Following a brief visit to Rome in 1754 he settled in Lincolnshire, where he researched his major publication, 'The Anatomy of the Horse'. In about 1758 he moved to London, which remained his base.



An Allegory with Venus and Time - Giovanni Battista Tiepolo





But there is way too much and after several hours, I was time to head out into Trafalgar Square!





Nelson's Column is a monument in Trafalgar Square in the City of Westminster, Central London, built to commemorate Vice-Admiral Horatio Nelson's decisive victory at the Battle of Trafalgar over the combined French and Spanish navies, during which he was killed by a French sniper.⁶

We then braved the crowds (well, it is May 1st and the hordes are arriving; many with accents and languages over on the continent), walked down past Downing Street, turned the corner opposite the Palace of Westminster (Parliament), ducked into the narrowest of Tesco shops ever but a place to buy a drink and cut sandwiches, and then snacked on the Embankment! I should mention here that as we walked down past the Cenotaph, two officers saluted it.

⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nelson%27s_Column



Big Ben refurbished



Whitehall

We then crossed over the Golden Jubilee Bridge to the South Bank and walked the foreshore back to Millenium Bridge. South Bank has become a theatrical centre, complete with restaurants and theatres!





Oh, having spent the entire day carrying just the Panasonic Lumix, I could no longer see what I was taking after we stopped off at Big Ben! Thankfully, Faye was carrying her camera, one she is not keen on, so I filled in the gaps with her camera as we walked along South Bank and back to home.

Friday 2nd Maay 2025

I retrieved the Panasonic Lumix from the fridge this morning and I still had no image on the back of the screen. Curiously, I tried to look through the view finder. I could see and take a picture. It's not the preferred way of taking pictures. It's almost retro! But they were there and usable!

Before I did emerge for the day, however, I replayed an old podcast from Poetry off the Shelf. The poet, Keetje Kuipers, was the subject of the interview and even her talk was poetic; a veritable blaze of literary fireworks. I can't find her book on Amazon but I will try to track her down.

I buy my white daughter a black doll

By Keetje Kuipers

and she cries and she sleeps and she rides
through our kitchen in a pink stroller. She takes
a tiny bottle in her pursed lips, and every night

she takes a bubble bath. As my daughter drapes
a washcloth across her brown shoulders
and down the delicately curved back, I think

about the man I loved years ago—his elbows,
his knees, those ashy places I caressed without
understanding—and how his mother told me

make sure he moisturize, as if she agreed I had
any business caretaking his body in a country
that would rather see him dead. What do I

think I can teach my daughter, especially when
I've still learned so little? Only that we might all
be transformed by our own unknowing love.

I then buried myself into the last days of the Australian election before Faye emerged and then, after breakfast, we checked out where we were catching the train tomorrow. We followed the entire route so we could know where to go with our luggage right through to the appropriate spots in Kings Cross Station from where our train will depart!

And then we headed to the Grand Canal!



And then we were at the canals! Faye may be aching badly but any canal gives her extra energy! We began with the Coal Drops Yards!



It is a modern redevelopment of historical industrial buildings that were originally used for storing and transferring coal during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The site was redesigned by the British architectural firm Heatherwick Studio, led by Thomas Heatherwick, and opened to the public in October 2018.⁷



⁷ Coal Drops Yard was constructed in the mid-19th century as part of the goods yard of King's Cross railway station. The area was designed to receive, store, and transfer coal from incoming trains from the collieries of towns in South Yorkshire such as Sheffield to horse-drawn carts and, later, motor vehicles for further distribution throughout the city. The coal was a vital energy source for heating and industry during this period.

As the use of coal for heating and industry declined and rail transportation shifted away from coal, the importance of Coal Drops Yard waned. By the mid-20th century, the site had fallen into disuse and disrepair.



And of course we had to walk the two-paths!













Then back to the station and over to the “new” British Library.



And a short visit to the displays, including the Magna Carta!



St. Pancras Renaissance Hotel London

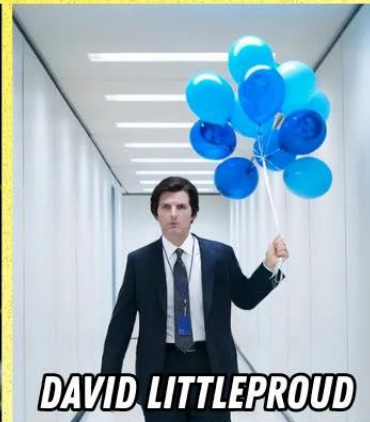
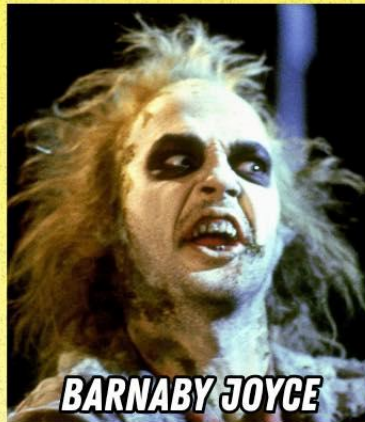
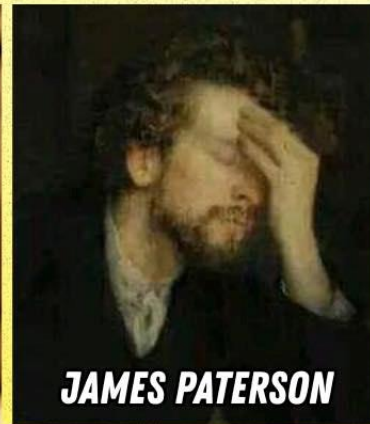
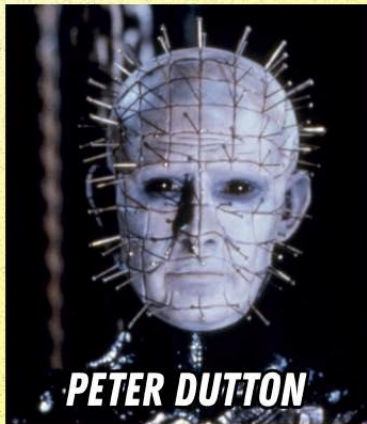


I really thought we had gone back to the Raj!!!!



Apartments close to our home!

HOW HAVE YOU ENJOYED THE CAMPAIGN SO FAR?



AUTHORISED BY D.I.L.I.C. IT'S NOT A RACE, SURRY HILLS.

And our election to date!

We went to church this afternoon. At 5.00pm, St Paul's Cathedral held a Eucharist service and while there was much pomp, parades, singing and organ backing, the service was oh-so-familiar!

Mellitus, Bishop of London, first Bishop at St Paul's, 624

5.00 pm

Sung Eucharist

sung by the Vicars Choral

Setting

The Frenches Mass Sheppard

Hymns 457; 226 (185) (om. 3)

Anthem

Ecce sacerdos magnus Victoria

Preacher

The Reverend Prebendary Brian Leathard,

Rector, St Luke's and Christ Church, Chelsea

Voluntary

Toccata from Mass for a Saint's Day Nicholas

Jackson



And we finished the evening with a pizza! I also had Czech lager at 0.5% alcohol!

Saturday 3rd May 2025

We left the Marlin Apartment a little after 10.00pm. It was an inspired location and a wonderful apartment and the people who managed the front desk were all lovely and supportive!

We then walked up to Bank Station, wheeling our heavy bags behind us, followed the route we had trialled yesterday and soon we were on the Northern Line to Kings Cross and seated in the station where we could keep an eye on the trains. The actual platform that we were meant to depart from goes up about 20 minutes prior to departure. I am assuming that means that the platforms are not unduly packed with people and that it reduces the chances of getting on the wrong train!





We left off platform 2, in J carriage, seats 31 and 32, on the left hand side of the train and we managed to get our bags secured in luggage racks at the end of our carriage so we were comfortable!



And in no time really, we had travelled from London, via Peterborough, Doncaster and Durham to arrive at Newcastle!

Now the scenery need not be dwelt upon. We had left an urban landscape, rapidly skipped through the many small towns along the route in the south and by the time we had arrived in country beyond Doncaster, we were in “a green and pleasant land”⁸

But in the end, it was not what was out the window that attracted me. It was what was happening in the Australian media! Labor not only held power; they truly trounced the so-called Liberal Coalition and Dutton even lost his seat! Locally, I am thrilled that David Moncrieff has also become the new Member for Hughes!!!!!!

⁸ Walk upon England's mountains green? On England's pleasant pastures seen? Shine forth upon our clouded hills? Among these dark Satanic mills? Bring me my spear: O clouds unfold! Bring me my chariot of fire. In England's green and pleasant land.

William Blake (Jerusalem)

