

LONDON'S CANAL MUSEUM

On one of the better days of July, 24 members visited this fascinating Museum and enjoyed a trip in a narrow boat on the Regent's Canal. The London Canal Museum, tucked away but close to Kings Cross station, illustrates with well-produced displays and a video the history of waterways and their great importance to the development of our industrial heritage and infrastructure. Our guides showed us artefacts and costumes of the people who lived and worked in the boats and reminded us of the harsh conditions that both they and their horses endured. We examined the interior of a narrow boat and saw the ice-well where ice imported from Norway was stored for commercial and domestic use. The boat trip on the Regent's Canal allowed us to experience the tranquillity of this once vibrant waterway, so close to the noise and bustle of Islington.

We returned to the hospitality of Kings Place and its waterside restaurant. For me, a minor miracle: my glasses were blown off the table into the mud and nine feet of water, but a net provided by a thoughtful management retrieved them from the depths.

Thanks to Rosemary for another well-organised and interesting visit.

Catherine Dobson