**Wimbledon to the City, Saturday 18th December 2021**

18 walkers, 18 miles – leader Keith Lane

I realise that members of London LDWA are a resourceful and resilient bunch but I didn’t expect as many as 17 would join me at Wimbledon station despite the Omicron Covid variant and a Tube Strike.

The route from the station followed alleyways and side-streets up to Wimbledon Common and the highest point of the walk (180 feet). As Gavin (our borough tops expert) was on the walk I was keen to point this out with my prediction that the lowest point would be when we got hopelessly lost on Barnes Common. This wasn’t the case but the lowest point was near Barnes North of the river which is only 10 feet above sea level where a group photo was taken.

At Chiswick it turned out we were not the most annoying group on the traffic-free road as there was a mass cycle ride of 500 including Jeremy Vine on his Penny-farthing who gave us a skilled and athletic demonstration on how to mount and ride the bike.

Lunch was in various venues in Hammersmith and following that we proceeded to Holland Park, Kensington Gardens, Hyde Park (the possible tea stop at the Serpentine was not taken up), past Winter Wonderland and, into Green Park and on to St James’s Park.

At Trafalgar Square there was Covid hesitancy in proceeding along my proposed walk through the West End and the majority of walkers finished the walk at Charing Cross station with remainers heading for the River Thames and subsequent stations. Due to the circumstances on the day the end of the walk officially finished at London Bridge with 2 walkers completing about 18 miles.

Despite Covid, the Tube drivers’ strike and the planned Christmas drinks abandoned, I felt we had an enjoyable, light-hearted and friendly day’s walk. Happy Christmas to one and all.

Photographs by Gavin Fuller, Keith Lane and Bola Baruwa