**SSW5: Stratford to Finsbury Park, Wednesday 22nd June 2022**

8 walkers, 8.2 miles – leader Pete Colley

Another splendid summer's evening, another splendid group of LDWA members strolled across and out of the Olympic Park into the hipster hamlet of Hackney Wick. An ascent (and descent) of the A12 footbridge brought us to Victoria Park, the first of seven green spaces packed with Londoners basking in the evening sun; on to Well Street Common and the quiet Victorian terraced streets of 'Omerton and 'Ackney.

Past St John's Church and across Clapton Square to Hackney Downs – passing the memorial tree for the 13 young people who lost their lives in the New Cross fire in 1981. North to Stoke Newington Common, passing the traveller site at Abbey Close and a wonderful mural on the corner of Benthal and Evering Roads.

Into Abney Park Cemetery where a closed exit meant coming out the way we came in - a veritable "dead end". The long walk down Church St to Clissold Park was even longer as a result. Next up was the Castle Climbing Centre, formerly a Victorian pumping station to improve the quality of the water from the New River and the adjacent Woodberry reservoirs. To Manor House and into Finsbury Park, where we strolled through the last green space of the evening to the station and then home.

A big thank you to those who joined the walk. Looking forward to seeing you (and others) on the next instalment.

Photographs by Gavin Fuller