



PSC Fundraising Walk : Thames Path Putney To Richmond

General notes: The walk is approximately 8.5 miles (13.5km) long, and apart from the final 3 miles there are plenty of stopping points along the route with good transport links to Central London or Richmond, these are noted in the text. The path is generally well surfaced, though may be muddy in places, so "sensible" shoes are recommended.

The walk should take a reasonably fit person 3-4 hours. You may want to bring a packed lunch.

I have put numbers into the following text, which correspond to numbers on the map

10.30 -11am Assemble at start of Putney Embankment west of Putney Bridge, (on the South Bank , opposite Thai Square Restaurant). If you have time St Mary's Church at the foot of the bridge is worth a visit, there is a good café and a small display devoted to the Putney Debates of 1647 where a new constitution for England was discussed.

1

Putney Bridge (District Line) or Putney mainline stations are both about 5 minutes' walk.

11am Set off. We follow the route of the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race past boat houses. In half a mile Fulham Football Ground can be seen on the opposite bank and in another half mile we pass the London Wetland Centre, a bird reserve run by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. On the opposite bank the building with the arched roof and green awnings is the office of Richard Rogers Architects and the River Café. In less than half a mile we reach Hammersmith Bridge where we cross the river.

2

Hammersmith Station (Piccadilly and District lines) is 5 minutes' walk from the bridge. Approx. 1.5 miles from Putney.

From Hammersmith Bridge we follow the riverside path heading west past several pubs. The last of these, The Dove, has the UK's smallest public bar. Almost opposite the Dove at No26 is Kelmscott House, where William Morris lived for the last 20 years of his life. For the next mile there are many elegant Georgian riverside houses until we reach Fullers Brewery. Chiswick Church where William Hogarth is buried and old Chiswick are just off the Thames path to the right, but we take the small path in front of some houses to the left. Chiswick Pier with its RNLI lifeboats is reached in a quarter mile. Shortly after that we reach Duke's Meadows. Follow Thames Path signs. The path passes in front of Emanuel School Boat House and we reach Barnes rail and footbridge where we cross the river to Barnes.

3

Barnes Bridge Station: Trains to Waterloo and Hounslow, buses to Hammersmith and Richmond. Approx. 3.5 miles from Putney.

Descend the steps from the bridge and cross the road. Pass under the bridge to follow the towpath past the White Hart pub. This area of riverside was once home to John Dee, astronomer and alchemist to Elizabeth I and site of the Mortlake tapestry works. In half a mile we reach Mortlake Brewery and the Ship pub, end point of the Boat Race and just over 4.25 miles from Putney. Pass under Chiswick Bridge. In half a mile we pass the National Archive, the large concrete building behind the new flats. Pass under a railway bridge. On the opposite bank is the riverside village of Strand on the Green. Pass under Kew Bridge.

4

Kew Bridge: Buses to Richmond and Hammersmith. Trains to Waterloo from Kew Bridge station across the bridge. Approx 5.5 miles from Putney.

We are now passing alongside Kew Gardens. There is a good view of Kew Palace . This stretch of river has been the site of three battles. The first in 54BC when Caesar forded the Thames and defeated the Britons, the second in 1016 when Edmund Ironsides defeated the Danes under Canute and the third in 1642 when the Royalists defeated the Parliamentary forces. After we pass Brentford gate the river takes on a very rural aspect with Kew Gardens on the left and the water meadows of Syon Park on the right. About a mile from Kew Bridge there are views of the Kew Palm House and across the river of Syon House, London home of the Duke of Northumberland. In another mile the church tower of Old Isleworth comes into view. In half a mile pass Richmond Lock footbridge with the Old Deer Park on the left. Shortly after this pass under Twickenham Bridge and Richmond rail bridge and continue past riverside pubs, large terraced area and boathouses. Pass under Richmond Bridge (old stone arched Bridge). The end point of the walk is the grassy area just inland of the landing stage where Richmond and Kingston PSC will provide much needed refreshments

5

Richmond Station is 10 minutes' walk. Trains to Waterloo, Putney, Hounslow and Reading. District Line tube. Free parking is available in Ranelagh Drive across the river from Richmond Lock.

