

## **We Have Landed in London – January 28 & 29, 2018 – Cheswick & London, England**

By Tom Allin

We landed at 7:05 am, we went through passport control, we collected our two bags, and walked out into the terminal to find cousin Rick waving at us. I have to stop and note Rick is a cousin by marriage and yet was more than willing to get up early on a Sunday morning to meet us at Heathrow Airport – way beyond the call of family duty.

Lee and Rick have lived the last three years in Cheswick, a suburb of London. Because they were not ready to return to their house about a mile from the ocean in Los Angeles they had to return to the U.S. for new British work visas. When they offered us a house/cat sitting assignment we jumped on it.

The entrance to their home. Their home is behind the motorized fence.



Rick's bike is leaning against the wall on the left side. Lee's bike is in the backyard.





As is typical for us our flight left at 4:40 pm and I was asleep at 4:45 pm and when we landed at 7:05 am Nancy had yet to sleep. Therefore after a couple of hours of talk Nancy went upstairs to catch up on missed sleep and Lee took me on a walk of the neighborhood: bus stop, underground station, restaurants, pubs, fruit stands, grocery stores, drug stores, etc.



Rental bikes are free for the first 30 minutes of use.

We walked basically three streets from Lee and Rick's house to the Turnham Green underground station. This is one of the streets.





We walk by this church everyday we go into London.



We walk through this park to get to the underground station. Like so much of England this park has a history: The Battle of Turnham Green in 1642. This battle was the second of the campaign during the First Civil War. After two weeks in London I have to admit it appears the English when not fighting among themselves were always fighting someone else up until the end of WWII.





Main shopping district in Cheswick. Looking right.



And looking left.





Everywhere you look in the London metro you see cranes. Not as many as in China but definitely a lot.



The next day the four of us took the tube into London to visit the National Portrait Gallery that had a Cézannes portrait exhibit – yes it was great.





However, before we reached the National Portrait Gallery we had a five-minute introductory walk in London.



Lord Nelson and Trafalgar Square in the evening as we walked back to the tube.





Our homeward bound Underground Station, Embankment, and a pedestrian bridge behind the station and crossing the River Thames.



One of our to do list item was to take a ferryboat ride on the Thames. Maybe next time when we visit and it's warmer!





And back to home.



Even in winter London is a great place to visit.