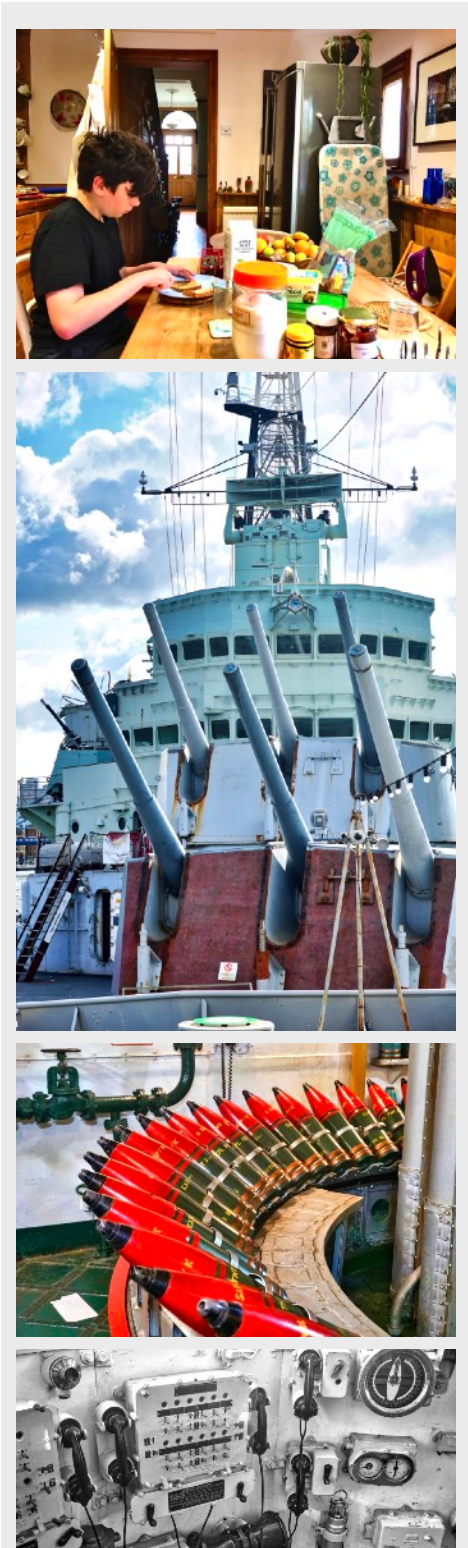


EUROPE 2023

4 months | 6 countries | 8 house swaps | 10 journey legs | 2 grand-boys



Central London

An incredibly busy day of great variety. We started off all together having our first go on the London rail system. Our hosts have left very good instructions and we managed to get into London Bridge Station with no issue. We then went our separate ways.

Siggy and Blayze went to explore the “Belfast” — the last remaining ship that was part of the Normandy landing. They spent over an hour investigating all over and within the ship whilst I wandered the walkway beside the Thames. Blayze was enthralled. We then all ascended the tower of London Bridge and crossed the upper floor. Blayze tried to get me to walk on the glass walkway without luck. Great views up the river. A tour with a beefeater followed at the Tower of London but Blayze is apparently “castled out” and was not very impressed. The older generation however, appreciated the commentary. One and a half hours followed, travelling both ways on the Thames via an “Uber” ferry that is part of our London Pass. It was very pleasant to sit down and enjoy the passing parade. We had hoped to see the sites at Greenwich but time beat us and instead we battled to find our way home via bus. This we eventually did to our great happiness because our phones ran out of juice and we had to be guided by sympathetic passengers.



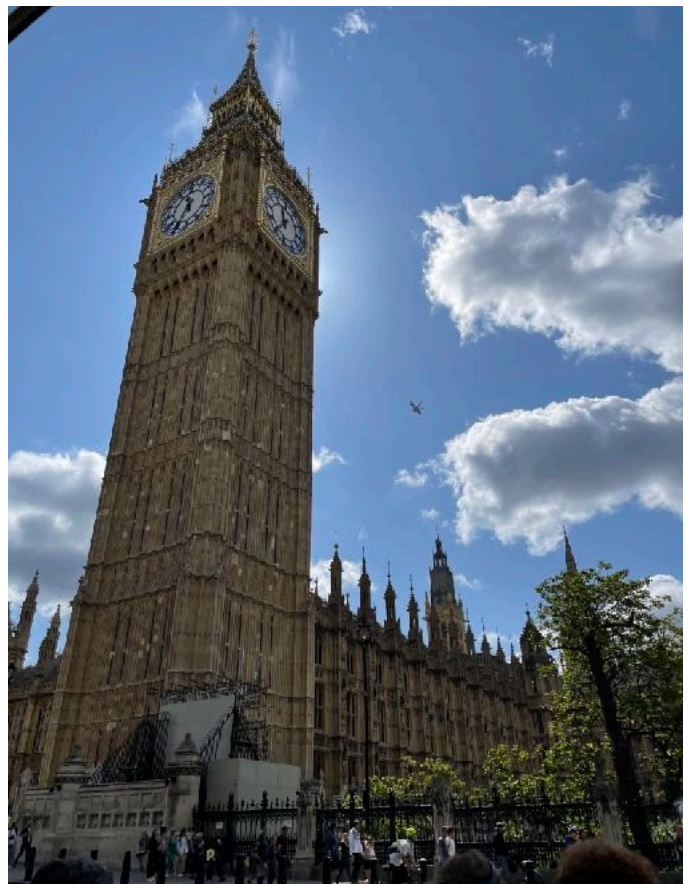
Maddi and Deakin have just returned home (about 9.30 here) and have regaled us with tales of their adventures that included Big Ben, Trafalgar Square, a shopathon at the biggest Westfield in Europe, a huge Lego store, many train journeys, a great pancake place, a lousy coffee outlet and near panic when their phones (which were their directional lifelines) threatened to give out. A good day.

In Deakin's words - *"I ask, what does one see when they walk 15km and spend almost 4 hours on public transport in London for a day? Well, maybe a few blighters, more than enough dark metro tunnels and some very inspiring new and old buildings.*

Heck, you start to get an idea of how old London is when most of the building have statues upon them. This city holds more history within its limits than I could even dare to imagine. It's been through wars, different eras and ages, revolutions and so much more.

To properly answer the question above, I guess you can say - a heck of a lot: Big Ben, London Eye, Tower Bridge, London Tower, London Bridge, The Shard, The Sky Garden, Trafalgar Square, The National Gallery, A Multi Story M&M World and Lego Store, but it's still not even close to what you see In total. We have just scratched the surface today. Tomorrow we hopefully scratch a little bit more."







Looking down on the glass floor of the Tower Bridge



The ancient living quarters within the Tower of London