**London, June 2015 trip by Elly**

I was in Greenwich for a workshop for two days and then added three days of holidays in London where the street art was my main goal. The conference I attended was extremely interesting since it was thematic and those tend to be excellent. Greenwich is on the East of London, quiet with traditional pubs, secondhand bookstores, and of course the meridian marking east and west! The university is in the Old Naval College (and the below picture is from here).

![University of Greenwich campus](image)

The first day on my search for street art, I wandered around a great deal: Shoreditch, Hoxton, Old Street, along the Regent’s Canal, Brick Lane, and Spitalfields had all been on my list after reading Banksy books and others. I went back to this area twice because it was so rich in art and these areas will soon be destroyed. See the East End Review for stories on demolitions such as the one here. Below are some pictures and at the end there is an appendix with more!

![Great Eastern Street: amazing](image)

Most of these were surprises and really exciting: I turned a corner and there they were! The few below are taken on Old Street and Rivington.
Barbican, Clerkenwell, and Farringdon were said to have some too but I didn’t find much. I did run into the Amnesty International building that I had visited in the 1980s. The AI candle in barbed wire can be seen in a non-obvious place. This part of London and de Beauvoir town and Islington have many estates, and result in interesting mixes of rich and poor, and of old and new (and post offices with mostly working phone boxes).
There are many markets too (Hoxton, Petticoat Lane); thanks to Johanna for suggesting them. I also walked along the Regent’s Canal with manual operation of the locks and it is fun to see many narrowboats.
And I went to Peterborough, 75 miles north of London, to see the Cathedral which had its origin in a monastery where the Peterborough Chronicle originates. The Chronicle is no longer in Peterborough but I still wanted to see the place because I work on the Chronicle.
Another reason for visiting Peterbough is Flag Fen, an archeological site with a wooden causeway and platform that dates from 3500 years ago. The area was quite wet in the winters and the people needed the causeway to keep contact between the dry areas. It was discovered in 1982. The landscape around Peterborough looks very Dutch: flat meadows, canals, wind turbines, and electricity lines dominate the scene.

Poles to support the causeway

Boats on the River Neve

And back in London, I also went to hear Elgar at Royal Albert Hall: the lovely enigma variations, a cello concerto, as well as the more nationalistic ‘land of hope and glory’ which the audience was invited to participate in and which performance the conductor deemed ‘deplorable’. What better composer to hear in this setting although I felt guilty because, in May, David Cameron and his conservative party won the elections and massive cutbacks had just been announced (and a possible departure from the EU). While I was there, demonstrations were held against these cutbacks, e.g. 12 billion pounds of cuts in welfare, with an estimated 250,000 protesters.

Reading the papers, there is so much going on: controversies on fracking coming to Lancashire, reforms at the BBC, protests against wind turbines in Lincolnshire, etc. And on the fun side: The Lord Chancellor issued a set of mostly actually useful stylistic rules, such as,

Use the active voice and the present tense as much as possible: eg, “We are doing this”; “My department provides guidance”; “The evidence shows that...”. (independent weekend)

One of the comments said “what would Orwell say?” Orwell was also in favor of using active voice; other rules make no sense about not using nouns as verbs (here) because English is changing...

This was a really nice break, with lots of walking and venturing in new neighborhoods!
## Appendix on Street Art

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<th>Old Street and Rivington</th>
<th>See p. 2 for more detail!</th>
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[Image of street art]
Behind Old Blue
One building over ...

And still more detail
Huntingdon

With one side on Bethnal Green Road

and another on Chance Street
The building from yet another side

And continued!
Still along that wall
Very temporary walls

continued ...
I wish I could have seen this earlier...

CitizenM hotel Future site
Loud and clear

Some circles not far from each other
And along the canal

More miscellaneous

The end!