

**Street Names Walking Tour of Barnet**  
**April's Saturday Workshop report by Annie Clouston**  
**Photographs by Ian Royston**

On a day that was just about to become very blustery Tim Meacham and I set off with nine members to walk about town and rediscover some of its history. The more you look...the more you find! When we did our recce we romped round the course, without rehearsing our narrative, in less than one hour. However, the distractions and the talking and the contributions of participants, rich though they were, led to a much longer tour of the town. Thank the heavens the rain held off.

We started at the Witham, having made the executive decision that we could only realistically cover the centre and the north west sector. We circled the Witham and then after a short diversion up Newgate to see a hidden gem, (see i ) that we had not clocked before our recce, walked via King Street, where we found another gem (ii). Basically the same message engraved in stone in two languages: i) Remember man is mortal, and ii) Remember life is short (this message usually ends *carpe diem* – seize the day).



Progressing uphill in Galgate – where public executions by hanging were the entertainment of the day back in the 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, and discussing the origins of Baliol Street, and the connection of the Baliol family with the “Bernard’s Castle” along the way, we saw in a front garden, the amazing altar plinth (iii) recognised by one of our u3a members, John Watkinson, as dating back to Roman times, with an inscription to prove it.



We followed Galgate to Montalbo Road and discussed railway history in Barney which neatly took us to the old station and then on to the Stationmaster's house and beyond it to Bouch Way, named for the bridge engineer, Thomas Bouch, forever blighted by the Tay Bridge Disaster of 1879. By now, our time was very nearly up so we returned to the town centre via Vere Road.

There is so much more... and we will be repeating a street names walking tour in September, perhaps with a different route. Thank you to Tim for all his conscientious research and to our fellow walkers for their contributions.

