u3a Sidcup - Ramblers 2 – London pavement walk to St James's Park, Tuesday 27 October 2026 – Leader Helen Salmon

When we met up at Sidcup Station it was raining but when we arrived in London it was sunny. We made our way to Admiralty Arch, into Horse Guards Road and entered St James's Park by the Guards Memorial. Although at the end of October the gardens were in full bloom and looked stunning in the autumn sunshine. We walked along the path with the lake on our left before crossing over the Blue Bridge where we watched a family of pelicans floating under. We spent some time watching the wildfowl and squirrels, which the foreign tourists found fascinating. Continuing on to the end we noticed another pod of Pelicans. They obviously had a very successful breeding season and are looked after by the wildlife officers and keepers based out of Duck Island Cottage in the park. We made our way back and entered Horse Guards Parade and on to Whitehall where hordes of people were looking and the Life Guards and their horses. I always feel sorry for the soldiers and horses. After taking a vote we decided to go the Café in the Crypt under St Martin-in-the-Fields Church. Unfortunately it was very busy and noisy but the food was good. We had a nice natter before we made our way back to Charing Cross Station and home.