

Postal Museum and Mail Rail Thursday 26th July 2018.

Eleven members of the How Things Work group braved the 32°C heatwave to ride the Mail Rail and visit the Postal Museum in London.

We met in the café for re-hydration before entering the museum to learn about all things postal, starting with in **1516** when Henry VIII established a “Master of the Posts”, a position which evolved into the office of the Postmaster General.

In 1840 with the introduction of the Penny Post, people now bought a stamp instead of the postman collecting the fee from the recipient of the letter. This prompted an unprecedented expansion in the popularity of mail, as it became more affordable.



Postal Museum



Museum Exhibitions



Royal Mail Van

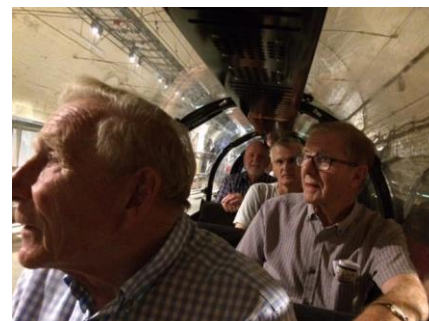
There were plenty of exhibits, films and interactive displays to keep us occupied in the museum.

The Post Office Museum in London also includes a ride on the Mail Rail beneath Mount Pleasant Sorting Office. Here we descended into the former engineering depot of Mail Rail – the one hundred year old Post Office railway – boarded a miniature train into the stalactite-filled tunnels. We took in a theatrical experience that travels back in time to the railway’s lively 1930s heyday and glimpse hidden parts of the railway that once kept the mail coursing through London for 22 hours every day.

After the ride we explored the Mail Rail museum to discover the history of the 6 mile long network of tunnels that linked London’s Mail Sorting Offices with Main Line stations and the driverless trains that ran through them.



Waiting to board



All aboard the Mail Rail



Mail Rail Tunnel