

Painted Hall at the Old Royal Naval College

5 Go To Greenwich... The HTW trip to the Painted Hall at the Old Royal Naval College went splendidly on 16 August.

Only a small group, and we were a bit late arriving due to problems on the line at Gravesend, but once there (having bought tickets in advance) we booked two guided talks: The grounds and buildings at 12:00, and then the hall itself at 1:30. The College is a UNESCO World Heritage centre which started as a palace (1498) was remodelled into a Royal Hospital for seamen (1694) became a training college for the Navy in 1873. From 1998 it adapted again and is now a centre for learning and culture.



On the tour of the grounds we went into the Chapel, the Skittles Alley and parts of the Hospital and found out at the Visitor Centre that several well-known movies had been filmed in the grounds and buildings... 4 Wedding and a Funeral, Pirates of the Caribbean, The Queen!

We also found out that Lord Nelson (pickled upside down in a barrel of Brandy after Trafalgar) was Lying In State in the upper part of the Painted Hall for 3 days to allow the public to pay their respects, before being taken down the Thames to St Pauls. (It was a closed coffin.)

However, the Painted Hall was definitely special. Not only is there a very nice cafeteria right next to it, but the upper walls and ceilings are absolutely beautiful. You

have to see it to appreciate how lovely. In order to see the ceiling without tipping over, there are mirrors and “beds” all down the centre. So a nice rest as well.

