

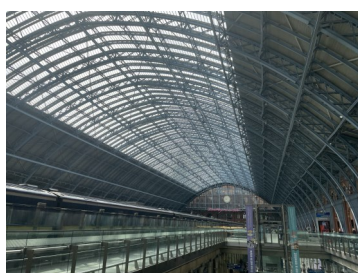
Saturday 18 June

RAILWAY 42

Derby		0804
St Pancras	0934	
Kings Cross St Pancras		0949
Aldgate	1002	
Fenchurch Street		1011
via Gas Factory Junction, Bow Junction, Stratford, Forest Gate, Woodgrange Park		
Barking	1033	1053
Grays via Rainham	1113	1122
West Ham	1148	1158
Canning Town LL/HL	1201	1211
Custom House	1214	1219
Abbey Wood	1227	1235
Paddington	1303	1313
Liverpool Street	1323	1333
Finsbury Park	1351	1412
Moorgate	1427	1430
Farringdon	1433	
St Pancras		2102
Derby	2228	

My nephew Michael is finally going to marry the lovely Jenny - it was originally going to be pre-Covid, but has been delayed and delayed and delayed. Today is the day! It took the shine off it when the church and reception venue they had booked is not accessible, but no point getting cross. Harry and Sarah were invited but were at a festival this weekend, so Hannah and Amy were my company. But, for some reason I cannot fathom, they did not want to leave early to ride the Liz Line - Hannah pointed out she had already done it!

I am getting better at judging it, was on the platform with five minutes to spare, and relaxed into my first class seat - Friends and Family courtesy of Matt and Alex. I started tweeting the journey - amazing how many twitters were with me at "Have you wafted in from Paradise? Nah, Luton Airport". It is a long walk to the Met line at St Pancras, and I went round to Aldgate.



Fenchurch Street to do the final bits that have not been operating on my previous trips. Barking via Gas Factory Junction, Bow Junction, Stratford, Forest Gate, Woodgrange Park - they go this way for the major shopping centre at Stratford. We went through Bow Road station, closed 1949 - this link used to be very rare, I have done it on a railtour.



Still some NSE signage at Barking where I changed for the Grays branch (engineering work last time). You have to do it in both directions due to Ripple Lane Yard. I will have to come again when the branch to Barking Riverside

opens later this year. That is an extension of the Gospel Oak line, and there will be a boat along the Thames.

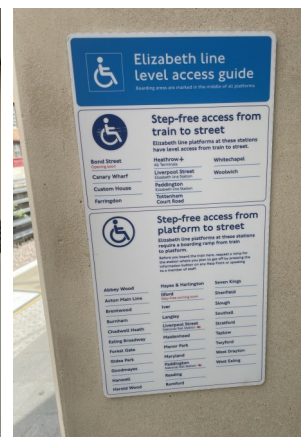




Grays is not a place I will ever visit again, but it had some public art and a Greggs. I was proud that I managed to eat a steak bake and drink a tea and didn't get any of it down my pristine white shirt! Back towards down, and a debate how to transfer onto the Elizabeth Line - into FSt and walk to Liverpool Street, or tube West Ham to Whitechapel, or DLR south to Custom House? I went for the latter, and found I needed to wait and change Low to High at Canning Town - who cares, I like the DLR.

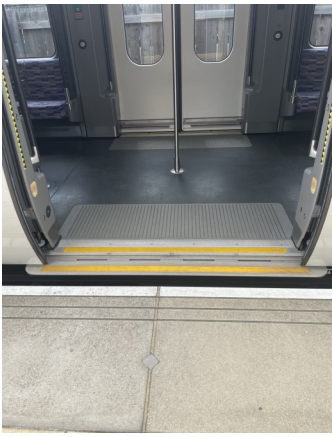


Custom House Liz Line station is on the north side of the DLR station (Baker is wrong) and is huge. It is the only LL station with no platform doors. I noted the excellent disabled signage.



The trains are also huge - with complete walk through, and decent access. Just one intermediate station between there and Abbey Wood, where the LL terminates on the north side, which doesn't make it easy to transfer onto the Southern services. I went for an explore, then went back into London.





Liz Line is not a tube line. It does not have lots of stops. It has long sections with fast running. A train every five minutes seemed a bit much, but it was well filled once we got to Canary

Wharf - I enjoyed the scenery. At the moment nothing is running from the middle section out to Heathrow/Reading (or indeed Liverpool Street to Shenfield), so you have to travel up - and it is a long way up. The station is on the south side of the terminus. I had a quick explore, then went back.







Bond Street has not yet opened. I stayed on until Liverpool Street. Like many stations it has two entrances, at the front into LSt, one at the back to Moorgate. It is only as you ride up the second escalator, that you realise how deep the line is.





Park - and I wonder if I will ever be able to do the links through to Canonbury (I did it several times in the days when Liverpool Street Cambridge trains would be diverted up the Great Northern - sadly things like that never happen today).



I crossed to the entrance of the old station - "I know it so well" - and down to the old BR platforms for the Great Northern. I miss the 313s. Up to Finsbury Park, where the next one south was cancelled, so I sat with my latte and watched the world go by - happy memories! Back to Moorgate (separate lines south of the



I took the Met back to Farringdon and must go back and explore that LL station sometime - very different styles. Then a short walk along Hatton Gardens to St Etheldreda's church for the wedding. Afterwards the bus to KX, a walk in the rain to St P, and I joined a busy train



north - Leicester Tigers had been playing in London and they only put a 5 car train on. Thank goodness I was in first class. Hannah and Amy came home on a later train, so I did a return trip to the station to collect them. A superb day.