

Creative Walks: Docks

A walking tour exploring the area of the Docks. Starting on The Waterfront, moving on to The Pumphouse and concluding at Goodsheds. On this walk you will immerse yourself in the industrial history of Barry. Take this walk as an opportunity to creatively interact with your surroundings using the expression of free-writing/free-drawing. Please note you will need headphones, a notebook, pen or pencil to complete this walk. You can alternatively type on your electronic device.

This walk is brought to you by Megan Mattravers, special thanks to Tom Clemett and Paul Ogden. Please send all responses to mvelios@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Welcome to our creative walking tour.

You find yourself surrounded by industrialisation. What does this mean? Over 140 years ago Barry and surrounding villages were small agricultural settlements surrounded by open countryside. This all changed when the Docks were commissioned and industrialisation took place. Industries developed, such as the coal industry.

The Waterfront: In 1881 Barry changed forever because Lord Windsor, the eldest son of the Earl of Plymouth and David Davies, the founder of Ocean Collieries decided to construct a Dock here. South Wales is famous for coal, back in the day, coal was mined here and was used all around the world. They needed to be able to transport the coal and that's why the Docks were built.

Who is David Davies?

Born in the 19th Century, David Davies was a very passionate Welsh man. You may have seen his statue standing proudly outside the Docks Office, holding the Docks Commission. He had the idea to build the docks and connect Barry with new railway tracks. It took time for the plans to be approved, but in 1889 the project was completed. David Davies died in 1890, a year after his biggest achievement. Ocean Coal Company Ltd. at this time was the largest coal company delivering all over the world.

Look across and down the Waterfront. What can you see? Imagine industrial buildings lining the waters edge. Old hydraulic houses feeding power to the lock gates and cranes. The railway track, which has now been taken up, housing signal boxes, the swing-bridge and footbridges. Barry Docks is a reminder of our industrial heritage and we can still see that today.

Free-writing/Free-drawing Exercise: Find somewhere to sit down. You might want to lean on the barrier or find a nearby bench. We are going to do a free-writing exercise together.

Free-writing in this circumstance refers to an exercise of writing with a specified time and stimulus. It can produce anything from a short story, poem, rant, rap, monologue or a list. I'm going to give you a couple of minutes, try not to stop writing before the time ends.

I would like you to imagine what it would have been like to work on and at the Docks. You might want to write a monologue for a Docks worker or create some dialogue for two characters walking along the Waterfront to work one day. I'm going to play a piece of music by Barry born composer Grace Williams. Use this to guide your free-writing. There is no right or wrong, it should be a stream of consciousness.

(Set a timer for three minutes)

Finish the sentence you are on, you may want to pause the recording here to read what you have written or you can cross over the road and make your way to The Pumphouse.

The Pumphouse: The Barry Pumping Station was built in the 1880's to provide hydraulic power to the docks. The building is Grade II listed, which means it is very old. Can you see the chimney? This is 42-metres high and is now adorned with its name in lights, both Pumphouse and Ty Pwmp. The outside still reminds us of the Docks' history, the red bricks towering above us. Now carefully restored to accommodate a coffee shop, restaurant, 24-hour gym and 15 live and work spaces.

Free-writing/Free-drawing Exercise: I want you to find a place to sit down, you may want to sit on the ground or find a bench, make sure you can see The Pumphouse. Look at the building, what can you see? Free-write a description of the building. There is no right or wrong, just be free.

(Set a timer for two minutes)

Finish the sentence you are on, again you may want to pause the recording here to read what you have written or you can cross over the road to Goodsheds.

Goodsheds: Situated in the centre of Barry, Goodsheds is a sustainable development, where people can work, eat, live and play. Goodsheds provides a home to Barry born and raised independent businesses.

Go inside and explore. They have three different areas The Shipyard, The Sidings and The Tracks. As you move around the space, become aware of the people around you. Look into the shop fronts and the little kitchens surrounding the Shipyard. Navigate your way through and move onto the Tracks where you will see repurposed Gatwick Express carriages.

Free-writing/Free-drawing Exercise: Find somewhere to sit inside or lean somewhere. We are going to do another free-writing exercise together, if you prefer to draw then that's also great. I want you to write what you can **see, smell, taste, touch and hear**. Cover the five senses. Use these experiences to create a piece of free-writing. There is no right or wrong, immerse yourself in your surroundings. I will give you a couple of minutes to do this.

(Set a timer for three minutes)

Finish the sentence you are on. How are you feeling? Did you enjoy free-writing and free-drawing? It would be great to read some of your responses. You can get in touch via email, the email address is included in the walk description. Your responses may get shared on our Vale of Glamorgan social media.

I hope you have enjoyed your creative walk. Take care and have a great day.