

Frost Fair



As the Thames was still wide there were many frost fairs in London. Back then the winter was more severe than now and the river was slower which are also reasons for the Frost Fairs. When the ice was thick, Londoners took to the river for trade and entertainment. The time from the 17th to 19th century is called the “little ice age” because of many frost fairs. 1609 was the first Frost Fair and on first February 1814 the last one for four days. After this the climate became milder and in such a way the water flowed faster. That’s why freezing up is improbable now. For two months in the year 1683 to 1684 there was a great frost when the Thames was completely frozen. The ice was a total of eleven inches thick which are 28 cm. After 1804 the Thames did not freeze completely probably because of the construction of the (new) London Bridge which was built in 1824. The new bridge has fewer pillars and allows the river of a higher flow rate, so that the river is not slow enough to freeze over.

Future

There are some problems for London in future. One problem is a problem which is based on the fact that Great Britain (where London is a city) is an Island. Because of the aspect that we have got the world wide problem of climate change Great Britain could be flooded faster than a country which is encircled by other countries. On top of that comes the fact that 15% lies in a flood risk area and that the sea is rising day by day. Another problem could be a conflict between the government in London as a whole and the individual districts due to different views.

The fourth best known bridges over the Thames Barrier

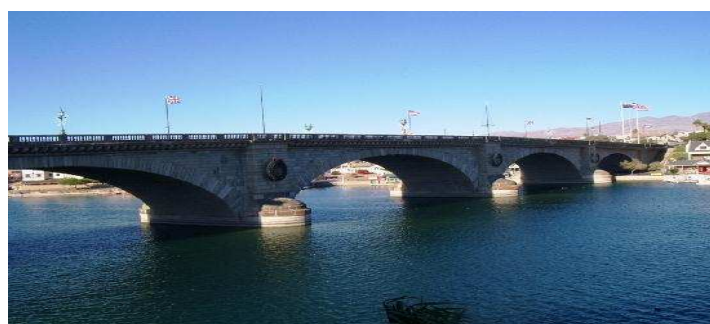
The River Thames is very long and wide, this is one reason why many bridges are needed to cross the river. The first one is the Tower Bridge, which is a bridge for cars, 244m long. Afterwards follows London Bridge, the third longest bridge meaning 283m. Cannon Street Railway Bridge is the third bridge and for railways. The fourth is Southwark Bridge meaning 197,5m.

Tower Bridge:

In the 19th century the movement grew up in the port area in the East End that means that East End had to be bridged, which is not fixed because otherwise there would not be access at the time to existing harbour equipment between London Bridge and the Tower of London. In 1870 the Tower Subway was built which was thought of as a channel for pedestrians but quickly converted in to a tube station. Six years later when the traffic problems still existed, a committee was established which made a competition for finding a solution to the traffic problem. The suggestion from Horace Jones, who was a person of the jury, approved the building of Tower Bridge. The building work began with the foundation stone laid on 21.June 1886 and took eight years.

**London Bridge:**

Until the opening of Westminster Bridge in 1750 the London Bridge was the only bridge over the Thames in London centre. Where now the modern London Bridge is standing were before three other bridges which had the same name. The first was built in 50 BC by the Romans and consisted of wood. When the Romans left London the bridge fell. Then they built the bridge again but it fell again and again during storms and the direction of the king. Peter de Colechurch created a construction for a new drawbridge which is called old London Bridge. 1176 the bridge was built from stone to make it more stable. Probably this bridge the command to drive left was developed because traffic was rife and the Lord Mayor had the meaning that the cars had to drive on the west side if they wanted to drive to the city of Southwark and on the east side to leave the city. 1831 the old Bridge was closed and was a obstacle for the ships which had a long mast. After the demolition a bridge was to be built with only a iron arc of 180m but this did not work. The bridge was eventually replaced by a new stone bridge with five arches. On 18. April 1968 a American businessman bought the new London Bridge which was then set off and was partially shipped to Arizona. The present London Bridge was built by a construction company between 1967 and 1972. It consists of three concrete beams and is 283m long and 32m wide. However, the bridge had to be repaired once because a warship collided with the bridge in 1984.



Cannon Street Railway Bridge:

This railway bridge replaced the main street connection to the train station Cannon which consists of five railway lines. In 1866 it was opened simultaneously with the station. This bridge had already to cope with an accident in 1989 when a boat drove into the bridge and 51 passengers drowned.

**Southwark Bridge:**

The old-fashioned Southwark Bridge connects the north London side with the region of Southwark. Until the year 1864 it was a toll bridge which had to be renovated owing to the reason of the traffic.



To conclude bridges create a improved trade which is a reason why London has so much bridges. The Thames is also a good traffic route because the destination is reached quickly on water. This traffic on the river includes a faster flow of the river whereby the Thames can not freeze.