

## 22 Bishopsgate

It was on a rather wet Saturday morning, the day after the Balls Brothers lunch, when a small group of intrepid adventurers<sup>(1)</sup> met up outside the venue from whence they had left the day before and walked the short distance to 22 Bishopsgate, taking in the many sights along the way.



Still dodging the rain, we made our way past some of the many landmark buildings, pausing very briefly to take photos whilst getting neck ache looking upwards, trying to see the top of the buildings.



Finally, with the rain getting worse, we arrived at one of the entrances to 22 Bishopsgate and waited for our hosts (the onsite Otis Engineers) to meet us.

Having already organised our security passes, we breezed past Security and entered the Lobby, to be greeted by a group of 8 Lifts, fitted with Compass (Otis destination dispatch system).

Upon entering one of the Lifts, whilst still taking in our new surroundings, we had not realised we were actually moving, I only realised when my ears popped and the doors opened on floor forty something!!



An extremely smooth ride, accelerating to 8 m/s and then decelerating and stopping with passengers not even realising they have travelled away from the floor that they entered on. From here, we walked through various doorways and corridors, only to come across another Lift. We all entered this one without hesitation and continued our journey, this time to the top floor, the 62<sup>nd</sup> floor.

We entered what is presumably the viewing gallery, and what a view. Even with the poor weather outside, the views were still spectacular. Canary Wharf visible to our left and many iconic buildings below us, the Walkie-Talkie and Gherkin, with the Shard visible on the other side of the river.





We reluctantly left these amazing views, but briefly stopped a few floors below the top, for more spectacular views and to see the area that I believe will eventually be a new Restaurant.



As if the visit was not already a highlight, we were able to stop at the 42<sup>nd</sup> floor and look into the Lift Motor Room of the group of 8 Lifts, that we initially travelled up in.

For anyone interested, they are Otis 25T Machines with E2 Controllers, and as already mentioned, the speed is 8 m/s.



Finally, after nearly two hours our visit ended by returning to the Lobby, travelling at 8 m/s and exiting from the same entrance that we entered.

Fortunately, the sun was just emerging from behind the clouds, so we decided it would be a good time for a late morning breakfast at the local Weatherspoon's.

Re-tracing our steps from a couple of hours earlier, we got a ground floor view of another iconic building.



Over breakfast, we shared stories and photographs and all agreed that it was a very enjoyable visit and well worth getting up early on a Saturday morning for.

We all then said our goodbyes and look forward to the next Otis Association get together very soon.

One of the members of the group who visited 22 Bisopsgate was Dennis Kelly, who after his trip contacted The Otis Association.

I will finish with his comments -

“Since leaving Otis I have not travelled much in lifts, but I will say that travelling in the lifts at 22, Bishopsgate they are the first Otis lifts that I have not detected the movement of leaving the floor and going up or down and never felt the acceleration or deceleration or even heard the lift travelling through the shaft. As you are aware I have commissioned many lifts in the past but not to that degree of comfort. In defence the present-day technology would have helped. “

<sup>(1)</sup> The adventurers were: Dennis Kelly, Eddie Stone, Barney McKenna, Peter Cope, Anthony Perkins, Dean Bohan & Martin Cann