

Keeping you informed

## Trees and more trees

Trees are always high on residents' wish lists. Street trees not only improve the look and feel of a neighbourhood, they attract wildlife, provide shade and help to improve local air quality. We are lucky to live in one of the greenest capital cities in the world.

Both boroughs involved in the Exhibition Road project are determined to maintain the London tradition of planting trees in our streets, and in the past few weeks we have planted new trees in South Kensington and on Exhibition Road.



*London Planes outside Montrose Court*



*Councillor Nicholas Paget-Brown planting English Oaks at South Kensington*

The seven new trees outside South Kensington station are fastigiated English Oaks *Quercus rober fastigiata* 'Koster'. They were grown in England and come from a nursery in Hampshire. They are about seven metres tall at present and will eventually grow to around 15 metres. English Oaks keep their leaves until the next growing season, so they provide welcome winter colour as well as lush foliage in the summer.

The eight new trees outside Montrose Court in Westminster replace the six trees we had to remove last year. In keeping with the rest of the road, these trees are London Planes *Platanus acerifolia*. London Planes have been a popular choice since the late 18th century. They are very tolerant of atmospheric pollution so they can flourish where other species would struggle. They may look small now, but London Planes are fast growing and these trees will quickly grow to 20 – 30 metres tall.

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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
**KENSINGTON  
AND CHELSEA**



## Cycle hire docking station

Some of you may be wondering what happened to the cycle hire docking station in Thurloe Street. Transport for London removed the station to allow repair work to their buildings close by. They will be replacing it soon.

The docking station fulfils a dual purpose: it holds hire cycles and protects the cellars that stick out into the road from below the buildings. If the docking station wasn't where it is, we would have to put something else in its place to protect the cellars from delivery lorries.



## A face on the street

Rajeshri Chouhan provides support for the 20 people based in the Balfour Beatty site office, a large portakabin in Queen's Gate. Raj manages the thousands of documents and drawings a project of this size generates and makes sure they dealt with by the right person at the right time. She is also the first point of contact for visitors. Her experience from her last job with Balfour's Major Projects Division working on the Blackfriars Bridge Project comes in useful. Raj attends progress meetings and regularly visits the site to make sure she is up to date with the works. Raj lives in Redbridge where she uses her organisational skills to run the annual carnival and other community projects.

## Ready for summer

The southern end of Exhibition Road and Thurloe Street will be completed by the end of June. We will finish the granite paving and install new street lights and beautiful seasonal planters. After a thorough clean, the area will be ready for a busy summer.

## Exhibition Road museums are Britain's top tourist attraction

The three national museums on Exhibition Road are still ranked among the UK's top visitor attractions.

ALVA (the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions), released figures last month with the Natural History, Science and V&A museums as the fourth, fifth and sixth most popular visitor sites in the UK in 2010. Together they attracted well over 10 million visitors, making them collectively the biggest tourist draw in Britain.

Visitors to the Natural History Museum increased by over 13 per cent year on year, with 4.65 million visitors passing through its doors in 2010. The Science Museum's visitor figures held steady at 2.75 million with the V&A close behind at 2.69 million.

We expect 2011's visitor figures to be higher because of the Royal Wedding, and 2012's visitor numbers to be even higher, when London hosts the Olympic Games. We are confident that the new Exhibition Road will help visitors to have an enjoyable and pleasantly memorable time in the Royal Borough.

**This newsletter is delivered to all homes, businesses and organisations in the Exhibition Road area. Every month we will let you know how the project is progressing, as well as introducing you to some of the people and the work they are carrying out on this £25 million project.**

