

exhibition road newsletter

Issue 3:
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Keeping you informed

Let's remember why we're doing it

We want to make exhibition Road a beautiful setting for the institutions along it, but we also want it to be the most accessible cultural destination in the world. We have had an Accessibility Group working with us since 2004, and they have proved invaluable, but we wanted to involve children in our thinking too. Whizz Kidz, the UK's leading children's mobility charity, spent a day auditing and assessing the current layout of Exhibition Road.

Armed with cameras and video recorders, the team documented their journeys along Exhibition Road, recording the difficulties they faced. They finished at the Science Museum for discussions with Councillors Nicholas Paget-Brown and Andrew Lamont. Both Councillors agreed that they learnt a lot from Whizz Kidz and are very gratified that Whizz kidz will continue working with us for the rest of the project.



Whizz-Kidz Ambassador, Arunima Misra, said: "Whizz-Kidz young ambassadors are really pleased to be involved in auditing the current accessibility of Exhibition Road, and suggesting how the transformation project can improve access for wheelchair-users. As young people, we want to be able to enjoy the museums and restaurants in the area with the same ease as non-disabled visitors. It is vital that street furniture is minimised, and road crossings and surfaces are friendly to those using mobility equipment. We look forward to watching the development, and remaining close to advising and testing access along the way."

Watch Whizz Kidz video of their day in Exhibition Road on our website at www.rbkc.gov.uk/exhibitionroad



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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA



Up to their knees – concrete laying in Exhibition Road

Alternative route west

From Monday 17 May drivers will be able to turn right out of Queen's Gate onto the A4 Cromwell Road. This means that those heading west will not need to use Exhibition Road and can avoid the construction works.

The new route will be quicker and easier and we want drivers to get used to using it before we ban the Exhibition Road right turn into Cromwell Road later in the project.



Spring cleaning

It cannot have escaped your notice that there is a lot of scaffolding in the area at the moment! The V&A is carrying out a programme of conservation and repair on its facades. Their restored Astor Web façade was unveiled last month. The 84 metre façade was completed in 1909 and is highly decorated, including statues of ten English craftsmen – St Dunstan, William Torel, William Caxton, George Heriot, Huntington Shaw, Thomas Tompion, Thomas Chippendale, Josiah Wedgwood, Roger Payne and William Morris. The museum is now cleaning the Henry Cole wing façade and the scaffolding will stay up until the end of August.

A face on the street

Every month we will be introducing you to a member of the Balfour Beatty team working on the street and telling you about the job they do – so look out for them and say hello!

This is Pat Frashnishta. Pat is a ganger man with Balfour Beatty Regional Civil Engineering. He is in charge of a team comprising a machine driver, a steel fixer and a carpenter. They are responsible for the holes you see in the middle of Exhibition Road. The road will have 26 lighting masts, spaced 25 metres apart right down the middle. The masts have been specially designed for Exhibition Road. They will be over 20 metres high – twice the height of the existing lamp posts. Pat's team are digging the holes and constructing the bases for the new lighting masts, but their job isn't easy. Underneath Exhibition Road is a mass of service ducting and pipes which they have to negotiate their way round. Pat, who is originally from Albania, has been with Balfours for nearly five years. His brother Tim is also working on site, so don't worry – you're not seeing double – there are two of them!

South Kensington Estates has lots of maintenance and cleaning works with scaffolding up around properties in Thurloe Street and the bottom end of Exhibition Road. None of this scaffolding is linked to the Exhibition Road project but we are working with the companies to coordinate our work with theirs.

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.



MAYOR OF LONDON

City of Westminster