



KNIGHTSBRIDGE ASSOCIATION

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2025

CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW



Dear Members

About three hundred years ago Queen Caroline of Ansbach, wife of George II, would have been working on plans for damming the river Westbourne to create the Long Water and Serpentine that we know today. The redevelopment, undertaken between 1727 and 1731 by the Royal Gardener Charles Bridgeman, linked existing ponds that gradually filled up during the 1730s. They could not have known what joy the lake would bring to subsequent generations or that its watery imprint would survive the expanding metropolis coalescing around it. We are truly grateful for the vision of plans that withstood urban encroachment across centuries while bringing enduring delight to residents and visitors.

We said in our 2024 Annual Report that Knightsbridge was entering an 'era of anticipation',

which I set out again here to avoid you having to cast back to a magazine you cannot find:-

"Anticipation surrounding the outcome of two significant planning applications for 1 Knightsbridge Green and the Park Tower Hotel; anticipation surrounding the outcome of Knightsbridge Partnership's plans for the public realm in Brompton Road; anticipation surrounding the outcome of discussions about the much needed re-opening of South Carriage Drive; anticipation surrounding Hans Crescent's public realm improvements; anticipation regarding long awaited power supply for TfL's Hooper's Court lift entrance; anticipation over the use of the Nammos restaurant site in Montpelier Street; anticipation regarding the outcome of changes to 14 and 414 bus routes; and finally, anticipation surrounding the timing of a consultation on Pedicab Bill regulations and their implementation."

We are now starting to see some of these ‘anticipations’ turning into realities (or not as the case may be); not that they are ever likely to meet, collectively or individually, the three-hundred-year Serpentine exemplar! The more significant amongst them could make a difference to the Knightsbridge public realm over the course of, say, two or three generations but it will take perseverance and consistency of purpose from Councils and developers to make this happen. Many may bring temporary noise and disruption, require mitigations to ease their implementation and require forbearance from residential communities. This became strikingly clear on 4 March when Westminster City Council approved the redevelopment of 1 Knightsbridge Green (1KG) in the face of strong objection from some residents – see page 3.

The Planning application for the Park Tower hotel at 101 Knightsbridge followed swiftly in the wake of 1KG and came before the RBKC Planning committee on 3 April. We became aware of this project following a visit from Sir Stuart Lipton some 18 months ago. While welcoming the remodelling of the hotel tower’s ground and first floors, we expressed concern about the proposed six additional floors and the impact of such a tall building on adjacent conservation areas - see page 4 for further details.

A Knightsbridge Partnership Community Group meeting was held on 25 March at the St Paul’s Knightsbridge church hall, courtesy of Dr Alan Gyle. Some eighteen people attended from the KA and Kensington Society. The starting point will be to reconfigure traffic flows at Scotch House Corner for which TfL has secured funding. Timescales for completion of the multi-phase Place Strategy for Brompton Road could be up to five years or longer, dependent on availability of funding. We look forward to further updates.

The restaurant site that was Nammos is likely to open soon. Fit out is nearing completion but at time of writing we still do not know the name of the operator or an opening date. The No.414 bus route was discontinued from February this year and the No.14 bus will now run at reduced intervals of 8 minutes. A Pedicab regulation consultation is underway. We responded by emphasising that new regulations need to define a fare structure to prevent unscrupulous charging for rides. Further details on page 9.

Between 2023 and 2024 Westminster introduced a number of e-scooter and e-bike parking bays

across the City on an experimental basis. Following a consultation, the network of Experimental Dockless Parking Bays is to be retained and came into effect by Traffic Order on 13 March 2025. The Transport and Environment report can be found on pages 10–12.

Norbert Kurcz represented the KA at a reception for Amenity Societies held in the House of Commons, hosted by Joe Powell (below) MP for Kensington and Bayswater. This is the first time in my nine-year tenure as KA chairman that we have been invited to an amenity societies reception in the Houses of Parliament. It proved an excellent opportunity to speak with one of the two MPs representing the Knightsbridge area at a time when Planning reform is top of the agenda. We have argued consistently that there needs to be greater scrutiny of the *provenance* of those applying for Planning and Licensing permits. These are extremely valuable commodities and should be given only to those with proven financial and managerial resources sufficient to deliver the scheme they are applying for. This is a significant issue for us in Knightsbridge.



We have detected concern from some members about the impending switchover to digital phones. The process has already begun and is due to be completed by 31 January 2027. You may hear this process referred to as the ‘Digital Switchover’ and the new digital phone service as ‘Digital Voice’ (BT), ‘Sky Voice’, ‘Talk Talk Voice’ or ‘Voice over Internet Protocol’ (VoIP). Once the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) is switched off in 2027 you will no longer be able to make phone calls via a landline without an internet connection. It may appear an existential change for some but take heart, we have been here before! Some members may recall around 1969–70 the switchover from town gas to natural gas that required modifications to all gas burning appliances; and even before that, the replacement of round pinned electric power plugs with square pins – and yet we survived!

I hope this note gives you further insight into the ‘great chain of anticipations’ now underway in an area of importance to us all; and that the Easter break and summer holidays to follow refresh and inspire you.

Melville Haggard *Chairman*

PLANNING AND CONSERVATION REPORT

Carol Seymour-Newton

I KNIGHTSBRIDGE GREEN



Brompton Road frontage cgi

The planning application for this large 1950s office site on the corner of Brompton Road and Knightsbridge Green finally came before WCC's Major Applications planning committee on the 4 March. The proposal involves partial demolition of the existing building and rebuilding to the full extent of the footprint to provide a 50% increase in office accommodation.

The reason for keeping part of the building, as opposed to complete demolition, was to reduce the new building's carbon footprint in line with Government policy.

Our chairman Melville Haggard, for the KA, Simon Birkett, for the Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Forum, representatives from 199 Knightsbridge, 10 Lancelot Place, 60 Brompton Road and Cllr Elizabeth Hitchcock, Knightsbridge/Belgravia (K/B) ward councillor, all spoke against the application.



The overbearing effect of the new building (rt side) cgi

All said they were in favour of redevelopment of an obsolete building but had serious concerns about bulk, height and massing, daylight / sunlight and sense of enclosure. The Knightsbridge Partnership and one unidentified resident spoke in favour.

It took 2½ hours for WCC's committee to reach their decision to approve the application with several minor amendments. The essence being that the case for extra office space and general upgrading of the site was in line with National, GLA and local planning policies, and Knightsbridge's status as an International Shopping Centre, and therefore trumped the interests of residents living in a crowded capital city.

To give the Committee members their due, they did go into considerable detail and questioned the case officer at length about various aspects

before reaching their 3–2 decision in favour. K/B ward councillor Rachael Robathan voted against. As a result of their questions some additional conditions were included in the decision. A lot of work remains to be done on agreeing a myriad of planning conditions.

A sum of £2.5m from the S106 legal agreement will be paid to the Council to enhance the public

realm and could be used towards funding some of the plans Knightsbridge Partnership has developed for parts of Brompton Road contiguous to the Knightsbridge Green site. After completion of the project, Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy of £6.0m will be due from the developers to be paid partly to the GLA, partly to the Council and partly for allocation by the local community (KA KNF), making a total of £4.0m available for local public realm improvements.

KA has met with Berkeley Estate Asset Management (the developer) regarding the formation of a Community Liaison Group (CLG) for residents and other local stakeholders to discuss any problems arising as matters proceed.

The target for work to begin on site is the second half of 2026 with completion anticipated towards the end of 2029.

SOUTH KENSINGTON STATION



The bullnose building viewed from Old Brompton Road cgi

The plans to upgrade and partially redevelop South Kensington station, which were opposed by RBKC, Kensington MP, Felicity Buchan, and all the local residents' associations (on the grounds, inter alia, of overdevelopment, insensitive design and insufficient step-free access), were approved on Appeal in December 2023.

The total cost of the scheme is said to be in excess of £110million.

The Association understands that part of the funds have been awarded to TfL (Transport for London) through a government Comprehensive Spending Review, but matching funds are still needed and TfL are working with other stakeholders to achieve this.

Should these become available, in order for the development to go ahead, various improvements and upgrades to the station will first have to be made.

These include a new accessible entrance on Thurloe Street, improvements to the ticket concourse and bringing the disused northern platform back into use.

We understand TfL are working on the detailed designs which are expected to be completed shortly.

The latest from the Mayor's office seems to be:

"Subject to funding being identified, the works, including step-free access to all platforms from the ticket hall, street and museums subway could be completed by 2030."

So the crucial stepfree access to the Piccadilly Line may never happen.

Joe Powell, new MP for Kensington, has been active in pushing for funding and for the scheme to go ahead.

PARK TOWER HOTEL, 101 Knightsbridge



Already the tallest building by far

The plans to refurbish the hotel, increase the height by several storeys and significantly improve the two-storey ground floor podium and streetscene were approved by RBKC's Planning Committee in April.

After some discussion, the committee members decided that the merits of the proposals were sufficient to outweigh the demerits.

There was no mention that the proposed height appeared to contravene the Council's own policy regarding tall buildings.

The KA was in favour of the general upgrade but opposed to the increase in height as apart from the Barracks Tower it is many storeys



The two-storey podium cgi

higher than is typical for Knightsbridge and juts out way over the rooftops.

A previous application for extra storeys received approval a few years ago, but this application includes several additional storeys.

The S106 legal agreement requires the developers to pay £16.5m towards providing affordable housing elsewhere in the Borough and a further payment of £6m towards funding public realm improvements under the Borough's Community Infrastructure Levy, some of which should be available locally to improve the public realm in line with the Knightsbridge Partnership's Place Management Strategy.

THE SERPENTINE PAVILION 2025



Aerial view cgi

The 25th year of the Serpentine Gallery's pioneering commission to 'push the boundaries of architecture' sees the design commission awarded to Bangladeshi architect Marina Tabassum.

Tabassum's design will resonate with Serpentine South and aims to prompt a dialogue between the permanent and the ephemeral nature of the commission.

Inspired by the tradition of park-going and arched garden canopies that filter soft daylight through green foliage, the sculptural quality of the Pavilion

is comprised of four wooden capsule forms with a translucent façade that diffuses and dapples light when infiltrating the space. Central to Tabassum's design is a kinetic element where one of the capsule forms is able to move and connect, transforming the Pavilion into a new space.

Tabassum's Pavilion will kickstart the 25th year of this historic commission and continue Dame Zaha Hadid's* ethos of pushing the boundaries of architecture. In her words: 'There should be no end to experimentation', and Tabassum's Pavilion will exemplify this credo.

This year the Serpentine will host a programme of events to reflect on the commission, its history and its future.

Opening to the public: 6 June.

*Zaha Hadid designed the inaugural pavilion in 2000

DIANA PRINCESS OF WALES MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND



Impression of the Tree House Encampment cgi

The Royal Parks charity is undertaking a multi-million pound renewal of the playground in Kensington Gardens which opened in 2000.

Since then each year more than one million children have visited the playground, but after nearly 25 years of play, many of the features have reached the end of their life.

The renewed playground will retain characteristics of the existing Peter Pan-inspired playground but will be more accessible, inclusive and challenging so that children of all abilities can enjoy creative and imaginative play together.

A new Galleon, constructed with sustainably-sourced timber over three levels, with wheelchair accessible spaces, will replace the existing pirate

ship . The Galleon will include an additional 'crow's nest' and a double storey 'stern' with a ship's wheel and a telescope. There will also be a new multiple-level Tree House Encampment and a redesigned and improved Mermaid Fountain.

A planning application for the proposed new Galleon and Treehouse Encampment was submitted in December 2024. Subject to planning approval, the playground will close for around six months from autumn 2025 to carry out the construction work. The renewed playground will open around spring 2026.

HARRODS GEORGIAN RESTAURANT



The Georgian Restaurant is back after a major refurbishment preserving much of the Art Deco architectural grandeur of the room and with added touches of glamour and opulence. There will be an entertainment programme throughout the day with piano music through the tea service evolving into an evening repertoire.

The decor is inspired by the history of the room and the Jazz Age of the 1920s.

PUBLIC REALM SCHEMES

Hans Crescent

It's taken a long time to come to fruition, but at last the scheme to improve the Hans Crescent pedestrianised area, flagged up in our 2023 and 2024 Annual Reports, has passed the final hurdle. Planning permission, with conditions, was finally granted in August for the proposals to redesign the area put forward by Harrods and The Knightsbridge Estate (the freeholders either side of this section of the Crescent) in co-operation with RBKC. A further minor application was deemed necessary and was approved in February.

During Covid restrictions tables and chairs were



allowed to proliferate and the whole ethos of the space was lost. Many of these will not return. Improvements will include new paving down the centre; new raised landscaped planters with integrated seating replacing the benches; retention of four trees with three new trees at the Basil Street end; new heritage lighting; a zone for public art on a plinth and a more defined drop off zone also at the Basil Street end.

The work will be completed in phases and is expected to commence in June and span into 2026.

Beauchamp Place



Progress on whether this eagerly anticipated and much needed scheme will get the go ahead has been held up by the need for extensive basement surveys along both sides of the street.

South Kensington Estates (SKE)

SKE have announced a number of new retailers moving in to the estate which covers a substantial area from Brompton Road to Brompton Cross, Exhibition Road and South Kensington Station. The KA is represented at their quarterly community liaison meetings. They are currently working on a scheme to upgrade the pedestrianised part of Exhibition Road, south of Cromwell Road.

LICENCING COMMITTEE REPORT

Paul Meitner

A relatively quiet period for licensing applications, here is a summary of the ones that have caused the most concern.

SEKERCI CAFÉ EROL 1807
(Turkish Coffee Shop)
137-141 Brompton Road



This application involved the placing of tables and chairs on a very busy section of the Brompton Road near Harrods, which would result in a significant obstruction to pedestrians, who may be forced to step into the road. Furthermore, the proposed 'terminal hour' of 11.00 p.m. would result in significant noise and disruption to the rest and sleep of nearby residents. Accordingly, I lodged an objection in a personal capacity and on behalf of the KA. The previous licence began on 30 September 2024 and runs for 12 months, we wait to hear whether a renewal is granted and whether the restrictions imposed on the space to be occupied by the tables and chairs will be adequate.

RIFAI, 217
Brompton Road

This was a planning application, rather than a licensing one. We and others lodged an objection on the ground that no measurements had been provided, a nearby traffic light had been omitted from plans, and there was inadequate pedestrian clearance. This resulted in a 'pinch point' on the footpath, caused by the combination of the traffic light pole, the café entrance, and staff/customers moving to and from the outdoor tables. If granted

pedestrian flow between South Kensington and Knightsbridge would have been obstructed.

URBAN BARISTAS
44 Harrington Road

Although outside our area we and other Residents' Associations were asked to lodge representations to meet the threshold of a minimum of 3 objections required by RBKC to trigger a hearing. The application involved the placing of 8 tables and 16 chairs in front of a small shopfront area and next to a lamppost, which would have resulted in an obstacle to people walking by. A new licence, beginning on 4 February 2025, was granted but with restrictions on the space to be occupied by the tables and chairs.

HAFIZ MUSTAFA CAFÉ 1864
92 Brompton Road



This was another application by a Turkish café chain, this time on the north side of the Brompton Road, opposite Harrods. The applicant had not advertised his request for



either a Pavement Licence, which should have been placed in a prominent place on the premises, or for a standard Premises Licence. We notified the Environment & Communities team at Westminster City Council (WCC) and one of their Inspectors visited the premises, to ensure that the barriers previously in place on the pavement had been removed and the pavement licence was now visible. Both of these conditions had been met and we are not aware of any further grounds for complaints from residents.

DOMU, 14–18 Brompton Road

This application went to a full hearing of WCC's Licensing Committee, following representations made by us and local residents. The hearing took place on 31 October 2024 and although the application was approved this was subject to adding various conditions, including the reduction

of the closing hour to comply with WCC core hours and restrictions on the hours for waste collection and food and drink deliveries.

There seems to be no sign of imminent opening although the scaffolding around the ground and first floors of Park Mansions (above), the host building, is at last being removed.



LAW AND ORDER COMMITTEE REPORT

Anne Wright and Frances Blois

Our Safer Neighbourhoods Teams (SNT) are a group of Met police officers dedicated to serving our community. We benefit from two teams of Met police officers: Knightsbridge and Belgravia and Brompton and Hans Town.

The teams work closely with the Knightsbridge Association, our respective local authorities, retail and other businesses, community leaders and residents

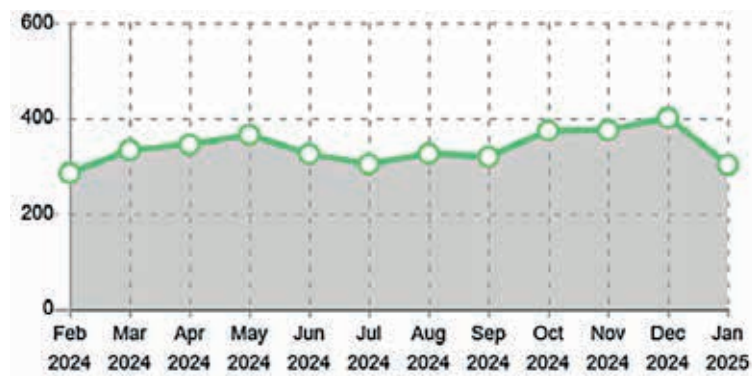
to decide on policing priorities for the area which help to find useful, long-term solutions to local problems, while maintaining our wider focus on reducing crime across London.



In Knightsbridge theft from the person and other thefts are the most common crimes, with a high overall crime rate, particularly on Brompton Road and Sloane Street, as shown in the graph opposite.

Other issues include:

- **CAR MEETS**
These are in areas across London and are not easy to predict. If you witness a car meet taking place please report its location on 999 or 101. Acoustic cameras have assisted in prosecutions.
- **BICYCLES**
There have been sessions with the Transport Police – the last on Chelsea Bridge recently.
- **COUNTER TERRORISM**
The Knightsbridge Partnership held a briefing session in the Royal Court Theatre and highlighted issues which we should all be aware of. Always being vigilant – does something look out of place? If caught up in an incident – RUN, HIDE and TELL if possible.



*Reported crime figures in Knightsbridge
for the last 12 months*

SCAM ALERT! BEWARE OF DOORSTEP SALESMEN.

One of our members has recently alerted us to this scam. A doorstep salesman presses your front door bell and tells you that he is working on a neighbour's wall. He has some leftover 'magic paint' that he could use on your wall at a discounted price (but doesn't say how much). He washes your wall, spray paints it and demands £1,500. This man has been reported as 'working' the Knightsbridge neighbourhood and no doubt has persuaded some people to pay him.

If you experience this person, do not engage him to do this work or pay him. Make a record of your experience, record his description and then report him to trading standards and the police.

opportunity to respond to Transport for London's consultation on Pedicab Regulations which it did by submitting its response requesting that Transport for London should exercise its powers in a manner which would give certainty so that in particular:

- A Pedicab Licence if granted – should have a duration of no more than three years. On expiry a new application should be completed.
- A Pedicab Licence Holder should be obliged to display a Licence Badge.
- Pedicab Licence applicants should be of good character whose application is accompanied by evidence of the applicants' convictions and medical fitness.
- Suspension and revocation of Licences should be for 'any reasonable cause' including that the pedicab is 'not fit for use'; and
- The Regulations need to define a fare structure in order to prevent unscrupulous charging for rides.

THE MAYOR OF LONDON'S CONSULTATION on REGULATING PEDICABS

The Mayor of London, Sir Sadiq Khan, is currently overseeing responses to a consultation on regulating pedicabs in London, with the aim of improving safety and addressing issues like 'rip-off' fares and anti-social behaviour. The consultation, which closed on March 7th, 2025, aimed to gather public opinion following the passing of The Pedicabs (London) Act 2024 on proposals to regulate pedicabs in London for the first time so as to ensure they are operated safely and professionally.

As a full supporter of this legislation, the Knightsbridge Association welcomed the



It is thought TfL may not want to act as regulator of Pedicabs and may choose to delegate its licencing function to officers of its London Taxi and Private Hire directorate as it does with Private

Hire Vehicles which again the Knightsbridge Association would support. Importantly the cost of regulation should be covered by the amount of the Licence Fee.

We very much hope that the Knightsbridge Association's responses submitted as above will be fully taken into account by TfL when formulating the Pedicab regulations.

OUR SPECIAL NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS

For Knightsbridge and Belgravia

PC Paul Wyllie – paul.wyllie@met.police.uk

PC Claire Napper - Claire.napper@met.police.uk

PC Zack Slaney – Zack.slaney@met.police.uk

For Hans Town and Brompton

PC Ben Tivey (M 0782596693) – email: Bromptonandhanstown@met.police.uk

www.met.police.uk

www.crimestoppers-uk.org



TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Chris Barrass and Simon Birkett

It was exciting to attend the celebration to mark the formal re-opening of Sloane Street on 13 February 2025. This massive project has taken more than 10 years and been a significant challenge for the residents who live there (and businesses), to put it mildly. It is also the first time the road has been upgraded for nearly 250 years. The outcome is inspiring and sets a high benchmark for the Knightsbridge Place and Public Realm Strategy, expected imminently. Imagine the opportunity! We wish to record our thanks to Cadogan, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and all the local residents who have worked together to achieve such a successful outcome.

PICCADILLY UNDERPASS CLOSURES

Many of you will remember the Piccadilly Underpass closures that took place in 2023. Those works, over a number of months, reduced the two traffic lanes to one in each tunnel. The works also involved running new cables and installing new fire safety equipment e.g. heat detection, incident detection and a public address system. The new road layout has worked well.



Sloane Street revitalised

We understand that the works in 2023 were advanced works ahead of the main works being undertaken now to install 'jet fan' ventilation in both tunnels and further safety measures. We are hoping that they will be the final major works... The latest advice is that the closure of the eastbound tunnel will continue until mid-May 2025. On Friday 16 May, both tunnels will close until mid-July 2025. Work will then continue overnight and at weekends until Christmas 2025.

In January 2026, we expect both tunnels to close again for four to six weeks to finalise the testing of the new fans in the tunnels and other safety systems.

The KA has worked with Westminster City Council, FM Conway (their contractors), TfL and others to seek to minimise the potential disruption from these works. For example, we have requested additional 'yellow' warning signs on the A4 eastbound west of Earls Court and in other directions to encourage traffic to avoid this area. Local businesses, community groups and event managers were also made aware of works with further information provided in this update.

DOCKLESS E-SCOOTER and RENTAL BIKE BAYS



Westminster City Council consulted on new dockless bays in January and February 2025. These would address concerns and proposals highlighted in the KA Annual Report to start addressing the chaos on Exhibition Road and move the dockless bay on the west side of Ennismore Gardens away from the junction to a larger bay on the east side, closer to Kensington Road. We supported the proposals and separately encouraged Westminster to make permanent the new arrangements in Montpelier Street and Rutland Gate (above), which seem to be working well (apart from the need to lengthen the former southwards to increase capacity).

EXHIBITION ROAD JUNCTION with PRINCE CONSORT ROAD

The junction between Exhibition Road and Prince Consort Road has been a challenge for pedestrians and vehicles since the former was re-designed many years ago. It may also have encouraged car clubs and others to do 'car spinning' with all the noise, danger and



disruption that involves. Our local Councillors are working with WCC and others to seek improvements. One option may be to build up the centre island. We await news on the options.

TRIAL CYCLE LANE IMPROVEMENTS in SOUTH CARRIAGE DRIVE

The KA, Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Forum and Knightsbridge Partnership (BID) urged the Royal Parks to re-open South Carriage Drive at least five days a week during a public consultation last year. The most viable solution to resolve many problems at the Queen Elizabeth Gate junction was proposed by the BID, with our support. It would involve new cycle lanes through the northern gateway and eastbound only traffic exiting Hyde Park through the southern gateway. Ideally, there would be east and westbound traffic through the southern gate but that seems challenging.

The Royal Parks is about to trial new cycle lanes at the Queen Elizabeth Gate. This is a complicated exercise because it needs to take account of cyclists and pedestrians coming from five directions i.e. South Carriage Drive, Serpentine Road, the Broad Walk, Hyde Park Corner and Park Lane. TfL is also undertaking road works to make permanent the existing cycle lane in Park Lane. As a result, we expect the Royal Park's trial to involve moveable barriers and iterations if improvements are identified.

In essence, workable new cycling arrangements at this location are an essential pre-cursor to the Royal Parks considering whether it might be possible to re-open South Carriage Drive to traffic in any direction e.g. through the southern gateway. If technically possible, the Royal Parks will still need to decide whether doing so would be consistent with its wider aims which include

reducing through-traffic in all the Royal Parks. Please keep an eye out for these changes and get in touch if you have suggestions for improvements.

PICCADILLY LINE UPGRADE and HOOPER'S COURT

TfL is modernising the Piccadilly line in a £2.9bn investment programme to help the line run more reliably, safely and sustainably. This includes introducing a new fleet of trains from 2025. The first of 94 new trains arrived in London in October 2024 and will now go through a year-long programme of intensive testing, before starting to enter passenger service by the end of 2025. The number of passengers that can be carried on the entire Piccadilly line will increase by up to 23% during peak times. We



are hopeful that the creation of a step-free entrance to Knightsbridge station, via a new entrance at Hooper's Court (above), will emerge finally. The project is working to resolve power capacity issues before confirming a revised opening date.

SUMMER EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

GREAT EXHIBITION ROAD FESTIVAL Saturday/Sunday 7–8 June 2025

A great free annual family celebration of science and the arts across Exhibition Road, Imperial College Road and Princes Gardens with engagement from all the great institutions in the area, led by Imperial College.



Fun in the laboratory

Here is a content overview:

- Activities on Exhibition Road, Imperial College Road and in Princes Gardens, and all partner venues
- Workshops, talks, performances, exhibits and installations



Family picnic with music and dancing

- Food/drink (including a Festival bar) on Dangoor Plaza and Princes Gardens

Early Sunday relaxed opening of family fun zone
Neurodiverse families 11am, ticketed

Ten zones celebrating sustainability, technology and the International Year of Quantum, European research, health, design, the natural world alongside audience focused zones like family, adult and young people.

greatexhibitionroadfestival.co.uk

LONDON OPEN GARDENS 2025



Camellias in Ennismore Gardens

London Open Gardens is the annual event where over a hundred normally closed or hidden green spaces open their gates to the public. Discover rooftop gems, community spaces and historic walled enclosures. Walks are also offered and special access opportunities to meet some of the people managing green space for nature, climate and people.

Spaces matter. Each garden has its own special qualities and values reflecting the events and people who have shaped London and society through time and into the future.

Locally Ennismore Gardens, The Ismaili Centre Roof Garden, Thurloe Square and Rutland Gate South Garden are participating.

A full list plus tickets available on londongardenstrust.org

BST HYDE PARK CONCERTS

Friday 27 June–Sunday 13 July 2025

The concerts take place over two weekends in midsummer with Open House events midweek.

Headline acts include Sabrina Carpenter, Zach Bryan, Neil Young and the Chrome Hearts and Stevie Wonder, who having previously played the London festival when it was just one day long in 2016, will return for the penultimate night of the events.

www.Bst-hydepark.com

The stellar line up for 2025:

Olivia Rodrigo – Friday June 27

Zach Bryan – Saturday June 28 and Sunday June 29

Noah Kahan – Friday July 4

Sabrina Carpenter – Saturday July 5 and Sunday July 6

Neil Young and the Young Hearts – Friday July 11

Stevie Wonder – Sunday July 12

Jeff Lynne's ELO – Sunday July 13

LACREI



Music legend Stevie Wonder will be topping the bill in Hyde Park as part of the LOVE, LIGHT & SONG UK 2025 performances

KNIGHTSBRIDGE ASSOCIATION TICKETED EVENTS

HYDE PARK SUPER NURSERY VISIT Wednesday 7 May 2025

We are delighted to offer members of the Knightsbridge Association a chance to see The Royal Parks charity's super nursery. Tucked away and hidden in the centre of Hyde Park the nursery covers several acres and is not open to the public.

The nursery was purpose-built to handle the growth of the 450,000 bedding plants and shrubs needed for the world class flower displays across the charity's eight London parks, and other locations such as Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and 10 Downing Street. Some 900 different plant varieties are raised for the summer displays and another 300 varieties for the winter displays.

The glasshouse covers the size of a football pitch and is split into 13 computer controlled zones, each operated by the Climate Controls MS100 PowerStation which adapts the climate according to the needs of the plants. The roof can open and close dependent on the capricious British weather.



During our visit we will learn how the plants are grown and managed using this highly advanced technical equipment.

As we expect this event to be very popular and numbers are restricted, it is open to KA members only (maximum 2 per household). Places will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

Sadly, there is no access for the disabled.

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY Monday 30 June 2025



We are delighted to invite Members of the Knightsbridge Association and their guests to a Summer Garden Party in the beautiful secluded Gardens of a Private Members Club in Central London.

Champagne, Pimms and soft drinks will be served. This is an opportunity to meet fellow Members of our Association in exceptional and serene surroundings to share thoughts and views together. We hope also to enjoy the beauty of a London summer but there is a Garden Room available where we may retreat should the weather be inclement. There will be no speeches nor will there be a raffle. We simply look forward to your company!

Formal day dress is required. Club rules dictate that gentlemen wear business suit and tie. Religious, traditional or national dress, or service dress uniforms are also permitted. Ladies are encouraged to don fascinators or hats if they wish. Please note: no denim wear or sports shoes are allowed.

Full details to be circulated nearer the day.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE PARTNERSHIP

Dan Johnson, Founder and CEO www.placemaking.london

The Knightsbridge Partnership, which is the Business Improvement District for the area, has been working with the community, residents, businesses, councils and TfL to develop a programme of public realm improvements.

These proposals will be unveiled in late Spring 2025 in the Knightsbridge Place and Public Realm Strategy, which sets out how to restore Knightsbridge as the world's leading luxury destination and place to live, work, and visit.

The strategy which was developed in 2024 with ideas from residents, community groups, local businesses, and public sector partners through surveys, workshops, and meetings, includes:

- Safety improvements to Scotch Corner, which currently has a poor road safety record
- New trees and greening
- Widened and decluttered footways
- Priority pedestrian crossings, including two new crossings



View looking west down Brompton Road cgi

- Wayfinding for pedestrians
- Better lighting, street maintenance and management

The design team working on this project is currently carrying out underground utility surveys, traffic counts and kerbside surveys, which will be used to ensure the proposals are workable and traffic continues flow through Knightsbridge.

Projects on this scale can take up to ten years to fully deliver. It is likely that improvements

will be delivered in stages as funding and opportunities are realised. Following the current stage further engagement will take place with residents and stakeholders on updated proposals.

Residents are encouraged to register with The Knightsbridge Partnership to receive regular updates: place@knightsbridgepartnership.com

More details can be seen here: knightsbridgepartnership.com/article/knightsbridge-place-and-public-realm-strategy-update/



View looking east up Brompton Road cgi

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

AGM 2025

Our 63rd AGM and New Year reception took place on Monday 20 January and once again our thanks go to the Mandarin Oriental for making their magnificent ballroom available.

Joe Powell the new Labour MP for Kensington and Bayswater was amongst the many members and guests who attended. Trinity Hospice was the charity chosen to benefit from the raffle proceeds.



Our Chairman Melville Haggard addresses members at the 2025 AGM

AGM 2026

Monday 12 January – A date for your diary

We are delighted to announce that we have again been able to book the Ballroom at the Mandarin Oriental for the AGM and New Year Champagne reception. This will be the 10th year in succession that we have been privileged to hold the event at this iconic location.



USEFUL NUMBERS

Noise: WCC 020 7641 2000

RBKC 020 7361 3002

The Parks: 0300 061 2222

USEFUL CONTACTS

WCC Knightsbridge/Belgravia

Ward Councillors

Cllr. Tony Devenish tdevenish@westminster.gov.uk

Cllr. Rachael Robathan rrobathan@westminster.gov.uk

Cllr. Elizabeth Hitchcock ehitchcock@westminster.gov.uk

GLA Member for West London

Members of Parliament

Cities of Westminster & London

Kensington and Bayswater

Chelsea and Fulham

Cllr. James Small-Edwards James.small-edwards@london.gov.uk

Rachel Blake Rachel.blake.mp@parliament.uk

Joe Powell Joe.powell.mp@parliament.uk

Ben Coleman Ben.coleman.mp@parliament.uk

REPORT A FAULT

To report faults re lighting, pavements, potholes, blocked gulleys etc. go to:

www.westminster.gov.uk/report-it

www.rbkc.gov.uk/report-it

RBKC Brompton and Hans Town

Ward Councillors

Cllr. Mary Weale Cllr.mary.weale@rbkc.gov.uk

Cllr. Walaa Idris Cllr.walaa.idris@rbkc.gov.uk

Cllr. Sof McVeigh Cllr.sof.mcveigh@rbkc.gov.uk

All information correct at the time of going to press.