

# NEWS

## NEW COVENT GARDEN SITES



*The stunning artwork along Merchants Way, the new gateway linking the Nine Elms Tube Station to the river front*

## Merchants Way a new gateway

## IN BRIEF

Vinci St. Modwen (VSM) has installed a new footpath - Merchants Way connecting the new Nine Elms Tube Station on Wandsworth Road, through the market site and under the railway line, on to Ponton Road and the River Thames beyond.

What was a functional path has been re-imagined by artist Anna Nicolò with a 150 metre artwork creating a colourful, joyous new place of intersection and animation.

It will host and promote a range of pop-up activity in the day or evening, seven days per week for a period of around 3 years as the Apex site adjacent to it is developed.

In three locations across the length of the path, beautiful 'Victorian door panels' open to reveal purpose-built, covered alcoves which are approximately 4.5m [L] x 2m [D] x 2.4m [H] with an electrical outlet.

These alcoves as spaces to test new ideas, speak directly to the public, providing much needed space to local community groups as well as a place to support business, charities and provide (and deliver) seasonal activities.

**We are inviting local businesses, groups and individuals to submit their ideas on how they could use this space by completing an Expression of Interest form - Link below:**  
[www.newcoventgardensites.com/merchantsway](http://www.newcoventgardensites.com/merchantsway)

### Inside this issue:

#### **Making Progress**

Nick Harrington from St. Modwen brings us up to date on how things are shaping up on site.

#### **Vitrine unveiled**

We ask artist Sian Fan what the unveiling of her first public artwork on Nine Elms Lane means to her.

#### **Merchants Way**

How the artwork for the new gateway was inspired by the old market.

#### **Apex One Site**

Latest news on the plans for the site.

# Making progress



The structural steelwork frame of Phase 2 is now being clad



Nick Harrington, Senior Construction Manager at St. Modwen, updates us on progress on the project.

## Where is progress at currently?

As we approach Christmas on the second phase of the new market buildings we have completed the structural frame and are rapidly closing up the envelope with roofing and wall cladding before winter fully sets in. Inside we have poured the super-flat concrete ground slabs and are starting to erect the internal walls that form the individual tenant units.

## How far along the process are we?

We started site clearance in July 2015 on Nine Elms Lane to make way for the relocated Interim Flower Market which opened for business in 2016. The first trader block - phase A1 commenced in 2018. We are now 2/3 of the way through phase A2 which is the second of the six trader block phases. The last phase (the permanent Flower Market) completes in early 2027 so we have some way to go.

## What are the next big things we'll be able to see on the market project?

We will complete building phase A2 in July 2022 and hand over to the tenants for them to fit out before trading from October 2022. This completes block A and the Market works at the western edge of site along Thessaly Road. We are also reviewing options for bringing forward development of affordable housing on Thessaly Road.

## What is exciting about this project?

Overall its the positive impact that the development is making and will continue to make to the local economy and communities, both new and existing. However personally for me its seeing the outcome of things I contribute to and the organisations and people I meet as a result of it. One day I can be negotiating with TFL about interface works around the new Nine Elms station, the next I'll be weeding flower beds on Thessaly Road with local residents, councillors and neighbouring developers. It is rewarding to be able to assist individual residents and groups with their concerns about the construction works and how it can affect their daily lives. One highlight so far was hosting the Lego Tower Challenge for Griffin & St George's primary school pupils in March 2020 just prior to lockdown. The excitement levels hit sky high when they went onto the roof of the new Food Exchange and they could see and relate that the skyscrapers on the Nine Elms

skyline were just like big Lego projects, which one day they could be involved in building.

## How rewarding is it to work on such an iconic feature of London's heritage?

Prior to arriving at NCGM in 2018 I had visited Covent Garden in Central London but knew very little about 'New' Covent Garden Market or Vauxhall and Nine Elms. The only icons for me were Battersea Power Station and the M16 building. I've always taken the time to discover the background to a project and investigate the local area, it's clear heritage is definitely at the heart of this project. Rather than flattening the site and building something else, we are maintaining the original vision of the market and ensuring its continued trading throughout. It's also great for boosting my pub quiz knowledge. We all know Pink Floyd made Battersea Power Station iconic by putting it on the Animals album cover, but who knew that The Who recorded Quadrophenia at the Rampart Studios on Thessaly Road!



Super-flat concrete ground slabs being poured

# Making an Impression

## Vitrine Art Installation

The artwork named **Remedy**, now unveiled on Nine Elms Lane, is a celebration of the variety and vibrancy of the fresh produce that is sold at New Covent Garden Market by a community of more than 150 expert traders.

Now in its final year the Vitrine Art Commission has been a great opportunity for the Nine Elms community and all those who visit the area to get a taste of what makes the market so special, while showcasing up-and-coming artists. We asked this year's winner what it meant to her.

**What did you know about NCGM before you saw the open call?**  
My practise features a lot plants and botanics so my most vivid knowledge about New Covent Garden Market was that it was an amazing source of beautiful flowers!

## What did you learn about it?

Researching for the commission I learnt so much about the hugely diverse and really unusual produce that is on offer. I discovered fruits and vegetables in varieties I had never seen before, as well as some super beautiful edible flowers.

**What does having your artwork displayed at the Market mean to you?**



The Artist - Sian Fan with the backdrop of her artwork - 'Remedy'

© Mickey Lee 2021

Having my artwork on display at the Market is just incredible. It's such an honour to have the opportunity to represent such an iconic and integral part of London. It's also my first piece of public art, so seeing the work installed at such a scale was a really sublime experience.

## How did New Covent Garden Market inspire your final creation?

The Market not only inspired the final creation, but the produce and flowers on offer there are the actual subjects featured in the work. I used photogrammetric scanning to capture the textures of items from the market, before morphing them together to form a digital tapestry. The flowers and the produce are effectively digitally woven together to create the artwork.

## Merchants Way - The 'Buyers Walk' Artwork



Anna Nicolò walks along the new pathway.  
© Mickey Lee 2021

**We spoke to Anna Nicolò about her inspiration for the 150 metres of art that adorns the new access route from the Tube Station through the Market site to the Riverfront.**

"I am very proud to have my work displayed at the Market, especially at a time in which so much is changing in the area and it is opening up more to the public.

"The artwork is inspired by the rich heritage and architecture of the original market in Covent Garden whilst simultaneously looking to the future of the market and the area.

"I am hoping my work provides a bright and colourful journey through the site and it makes the path welcoming to visitors and market workers alike. I hope it brings joy and happiness to all that use the pathway.

"I drew on my background in graphic design, combining hand drawn details, geometric shapes with thoughtful compositions to create images that celebrate the everyday.

"I am really pleased with how the art interacts with the vibrant rainbow crossings either side of Buyers Walk, which carries an important message of inclusivity and it's also a nice way in and out of the path."

# In other news



## The 2021 Advent Calendar Window: No. 7 of 24

In collaboration with the Nine Elms Arts Ministry's campaign and funded by developer VINCI St.Modwen and CGMA, this year's window is set in an alcove on the new Merchants Way.

Lit by Christmas lights, with one of Luke Walker's urban panorama paintings blown up as a backdrop, the trees are decorated with ornaments such as wooden/cork doves, each bearing a message or wish for peace from the students and staff of the school.

Wandsworth based artist Luke Walker has worked with Griffin Primary School and local gardener Lindsay Schuman to create a festive installation in a specially designed 'alcove' of the 'Buyers Walk' art installation at Merchant's Way.

The aim is to create a moment of peace and contemplation in this festive season. It's on show until twelfth night so go and have a look.

## APEX 1 Site Update

A reserved matters planning application for Apex 1, located in the north eastern corner of the Market site, has now been submitted to the London Borough of Wandsworth.

The stand-alone, landmark building forms part of the wider masterplan for the original market site which already has outline planning consent.

The plans for Apex 1 will provide new residential dwellings, retail floorspace and high-quality public realm and spaces. The proposals will also improve local connections and accessibility through the market. A high-quality pedestrian route will be provided through the site to connect with the railway viaduct (known as Arch 42) and the wider Nine Elms area.



If you have any queries or concerns about construction on site, please contact:

Olivia Burton // [Olivia.Burton@stmodwen.co.uk](mailto:Olivia.Burton@stmodwen.co.uk) // 07583 045567

If you want to receive this development update by email contact: [info@newcoventgardensites.com](mailto:info@newcoventgardensites.com)



@STM\_NineElms



For an overview of the project visit: [www.newcoventgardensites.com](http://www.newcoventgardensites.com)

