

# NEWS

## NEW COVENT GARDEN SITES



## The new Fruit and Veg Market starts to bloom

### IN BRIEF

This month the erection of the steel framework in the south section of the market was completed, with work to cladding of the buildings ongoing, marking the first milestone of the construction of the new Fruit and Veg Market.

The steel framework structure for the first section of West Block (in the south side of the market) stands at almost 15 metres high, giving a first glimpse of how the new Fruit and Veg Market will look.

These are taller units than the previous building, with 10.8 metres

of usable height space inside most of the new units compared to the 7.3 metres in the existing units.

Over the coming months, these blocks will continue to take shape as the frame for the building goes up. The construction is on schedule to complete Phase One in March 2020.



#### Fruit and Veg Market

Works are quickly progressing on the new Fruit & Veg blocks

#### Progress on site

See the most recent photos of works on site

#### A fresh canvas

The entrance to the Flower Market will act as an exhibition stand for art on Nine Elms lane

#### Thessaly Road refresh

Edible Avenue will be rejuvenated this Spring

#### Faces of the market

Meet the people who work within the walls of the Fruit and Veg and Flower Markets.

# Progress gallery

The new Security Lodge, with steelworks and cladding on buildings in the new Fruit and Veg Market



The new Security Lodge



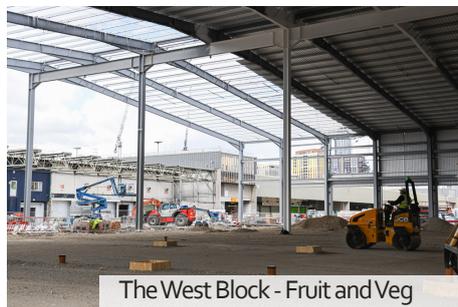
The new Security Lodge



The Central Block - Fruit and Veg



The West Block - Fruit and Veg



The West Block - Fruit and Veg



Joiners at a workbench on site

## A fresh canvas



You may have admired Anna Skladmann's artwork *The Ghost* in the Machine (Understanding the Language of Flowers) on the front of the Flower Market entrance on Nine Elms Lane, which was commissioned as part of a trail of artworks across Nine Elms for Art Night 2018.

Feedback on this installation and

its impact on Nine Elms Lane has been outstanding, so from later this year until 2021, the Flower Market facade will become a revolving canvas of bespoke works.

Each work installed will provide a unique insight and commentary on the market, its traders and its contents.

An expert group of panellists will select artworks which most creatively respond to our themes based on an artist open call.

Check our website for more updates on this exciting project and for information on how you can get involved.

# Edible Avenue refresh

Edible Avenue SW8 is a community group which is passionate about improving the environment for the benefit of the SW8 community.

Initially sponsored by VINCI St. Modwen and now a community organisation in its own right, the group has worked tirelessly for the last three years to enhance the surrounding environment by championing and looking after local green spaces.

Originally led by Community Gardener Sue Sheehan, the group has nurtured the raised beds at the Rose Community

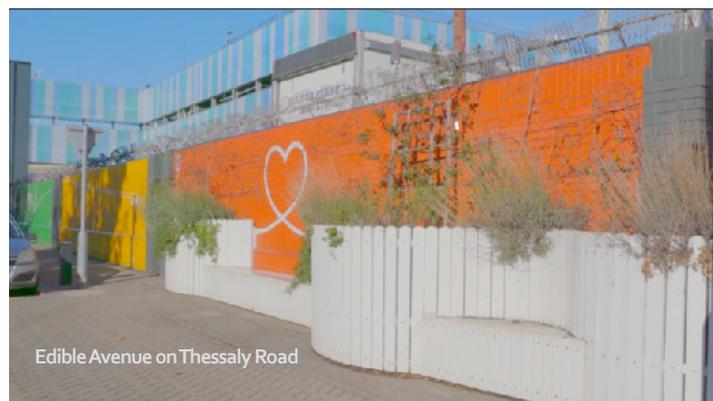
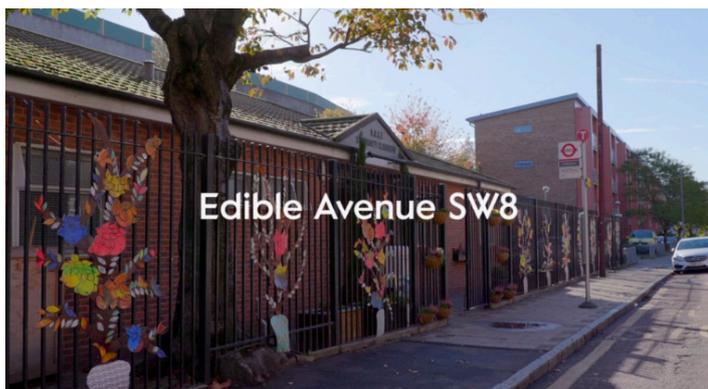
Centre, planted window boxes along the estates, refreshed internal gardens across the area as well as learned new skills and made new friends along the way.

On **Friday 10 May from 10am-12noon** this team of local gardeners will be rolling up their sleeves to help us refresh the planting along Thessaly Road in time for the summer. After tea and cake at the Rose Community Centre, the group will converge on the beds immediately opposite St George's Primary to plant new edibles including fruit trees, fennel and artichoke.

To document their journey, Edible Avenue SW8 has created a new website sharing their experiences and encouraging others to sign up to their activities. The site will also feature a newly commissioned short film on the group and its ambitions.

Local community members are encouraged and welcomed to come along on Friday morning and join in the fun!

For further information just contact: [info@newcoventgardensites.com](mailto:info@newcoventgardensites.com)



# Faces of the market

New Covent Garden Market is home to 170 remarkable food and flower businesses and a fantastic community of 2,500 people. Here is a glimpse of some of the faces behind the market and their thoughts on what it means to work here.



Colin Porter

**Colin Porter, a trader at Deano's, a wholesaler on the Flower Market:**

"My favourite thing about the market is the camaraderie and the friendships here. The people you've known a long time. You're like family, really. When you need a hand, most people in here, they'll help you rather than hurt you."



Josh Watkins

**Josh Watkins, Salesman at 2-Serve, a distribution company on the Fruit and Veg Market:**

"The atmosphere in the market is always good. You know, people are tired, you have long days...As soon as you get in, your spirit's lifted. You can talk to people and have a chat, a laugh. You don't get judged. It's nice to come in and feel that from work."



Paige Garrett

**Paige Garrett, Sales Assistant at European Salads, a wholesaler on the Fruit and Veg Market:**

"I did work experience here when I was younger - I was 15 at the time and didn't really get involved. As soon as I got to know people it became the best place in the world. It's the kind of job where you walk away at the end of a day with a smile on your face."



Sophie Hanna

**Sophie Hanna, florist at Sophie Hanna Flowers in the Rail Arches:**

"It's a very friendly atmosphere here - I've never had a bad experience. You come in on a cold morning and it's all 'hi, hello, how are you?' It really is a good feeling. Working in the market cheers you up. I'm a great advocate for it in every way."

## CONTACT DETAILS

For specific information or to provide feedback concerning construction activity on the New Covent Market site please contact:

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



Covent Garden Market Authority



ST.MODWEN