

Meet the transformers

Inside►

Soldiering on
Change at Charing Cross
One life, one day



Welcome

A year like no other, challenges such as we've never seen before, and would hope to never see again.

Is there much that we can say has been good about 2020? I think there is!

You've improvised, adapted, adopted new methods of working, embraced change, and just got on with it. Everyone in Estates Operations has risen to the challenge.

I am full of admiration, respect and appreciation for you all coping the way that you have, and for your work this year.

This magazine is a celebration of you; featuring the projects that have continued despite lockdown, the teams dealing with the day-to-day, the individuals stepping up to face the unexpected, the colleagues going above and beyond, and those whose long-service has provided stability, knowledge and unparalleled experience.

On page three you'll find *News*, including an update on the Queen's Tower, in our *People* section on p6, the first in a new series of 'a life in the day of'



articles, and in our *Spaces* section starting on p12 a number of completed projects.

I hope you enjoy reading it. When you have, I want you to switch off and take the Christmas holiday closure to recharge, ready to face the challenges of the year ahead.

2021 should be interesting. The vaccine could allow us to return to some form of normality, or possibly new ways of working. We will have ongoing projects, new projects, and the routine of maintenance, cleaning, and keeping the estate in tip-top condition.

Whether or not it is your festival, please accept my warmest wishes for Christmas and the New Year, and once again, thank you for your fantastic work,

Nick Roalfe
Director Estates Operations

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Alternative format

This magazine is available as a downloadable PDF on our website at: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/estates-facilities>



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Tree-mendous

The earlier College closure this term, along with the reduced number of staff and students on campus, prompted a decision for a reduced number of Christmas trees this year.

There are eight at key locations.

Laid end to end this year's trees total

32m

South Kensington: main entrance and Sherfield, both dressed in red and gold. The medical campuses:

Hammersmith ICTEM dressed in purple, silver and turquoise, Charing Cross (St Dunstan's Road) in purple, white and silver and St Mary's Paddington in red and gold.

Silwood Park has one outside, dressed in warm white lights.

White City has one in MSRH reception in red and gold and one outside dressed in white lights.

The trees vary in height between 2.5m and 6m, and have cost around £9,000 to erect and dismantle.

Considerate Constructors award

Imperial College is registered to the Considerate Constructors Scheme.

Oluseyi Oduntun, Health & Safety Advisor (Construction) is our representative.

On November 10 he accepted a Longevity Milestone Award

from Amanda Long, Chief Executive of CCS, 'to recognise the significant commitment your organisation has made to the improving standards of considerate construction'.

The award brings with it a new logo for College use. Olu said:



"This will further motivate us to continue to push our contractors to be more considerate on their sites and towards their environments as in the CCS Code of Practice."

The scheme is based on five pillars of expectations: Care about Appearance; Respect the Community; Protect the Environment; Care about Safety; and Value their Workforce, with detailed aspirations. See p9.

Queen's Tower

Why is it cordoned off?

Late summer a section of stone fell from one of the overhanging sections a little way beneath the copper clad dome. The area around was secured immediately for safety and while we have assessed the structure.

What have you found?

Assessment has been undertaken of the whole stone structure by rope access, and minor further sections have been removed on a precautionary basis. One of the corner finials balls has also been removed using a mobile platform employed for servicing wind farms.

Is it being repaired?

Yes. Following further detailed consideration; a review of previous works, and the condition of the copper cladding to the roof structure, it is been decided that now is an appropriate time to carry out a significant programme of works. This is to arrest further deterioration of various stone features, and to replace the copper roof cladding. This will ensure the continued weathertightness of the pinnacle structures and soundness of the underlying timber structure of the dome.

Why is the Queen's tower so important?

The tower has become an iconic symbol of Imperial College. Originally part of the Victorian building it was underpinned and adapted to make it stand alone when the buildings were redeveloped in the middle of the last century.



One life, one day - Ian Day

Ian Day is the Maintenance Manager for the South Team at South Kensington campus. He's responsible for two teams, covering two shifts of maintenance and responsive repairs for all buildings across half the campus, and on other campuses when called on. His office is in the Sir Alexander Fleming Building.

The alarm goes off at 5.15am in the Day household, followed by the usual debate with wife Sally over who is going to walk the dog, writes Jan Carberry.

Whoever wins that one, by 6.25am Ian is at Ickenham Station to catch the Piccadilly Line to reach South Kensington by 7.30am.

Ian has worked at Imperial College since 1998, first joining as a Building Services Engineer for Sir Alexander Fleming building. He's seen changes to structures since then, along with the remit of buildings to look after.

He presents me with a data fact. In the last 22 years he has processed exactly 9,876 orders. "What are they, what's involved?" I ask him. It is then it becomes clear that apart from a being a qualified electrical design

engineer he is also a time-travelling detective.

"Someone will say they need a 'yellow thing with a pipe sticking out', or 'two of those' handing over an object," he tells me, "and then I have to try and source it." He researches the equipment or machinery it is needed for, finding out when it was manufactured, whether the part is available or there is a more modern replacement that would be a better long-term solution, for example by improving performance. Then follows the paperwork to justify costs and make the order.

It's a part of the job he really enjoys, "a legacy from my past." Ian started out doing an 'old-fashioned apprenticeship', with day release and continuing his studies at night school to gain higher qualifications as an electrical maintenance technician

and design engineer.

That's just a small part of the job, which is largely responsive to maintenance needs of the buildings in South Kensington, with 'defects affecting critical areas and people', especially during the pandemic, jumping to the top of his daily to do list. Then of course there are his team management responsibilities. Ian first became a manager aged just 24 in the company where he trained.

Routine, but never routine

In an ideal world he would be able to tuck himself away when having to do routine admin, but in the real world there is a revolving door of new things to respond to, which is the pleasure of the job, making it never monotonous or boring.

"My time isn't my own, work finds me, and when urgent I have to

respond," he says. "Before I know it, it's 5pm."

He shares an office with Building Manager Rod Coppard, which, as building managers are the interface between Maintenance and the end-users helps smooth pressures for all.

The pleasure of the job is greater if there is something major or unusual to respond to, when his expertise is called on and tested.

He says, "I'm not an innovator, but I recognise ideas from others and am willing to try things. I feel I've had the courage to pilot many things that have been adopted more widely across College." He cites as one example the use of Mikrofill, a small box on the wall which effectively automates top-up of heating and cooling systems.

The future of engineering

Looking back, Ian says he was probably pushed into mechanical engineering by the comprehensive school he attended in Wembley, where he grew up. "Now", he says, "I can't imagine doing anything else, and it does suit me." Concerned, he says, "Engineering is not given the status it deserves, consequently there are not enough people now entering the profession. "I think it is a problem for our future."

The one-time rugby player who as a lad also used to sneak into Wembley stadium to watch matches by squeezing through the concertina gates, now settles for coarse fishing as his hobby. He's set himself a target to catch a 60lb catfish when the next season is open.

His younger self set out to build a steam engine. Although content with life and work, somehow it got in the way of that goal. "It will probably be in retirement that I'll join a model engineering club and achieve that."

Learning opportunities next spring



Some of the training options available for Estates staff in 2021 are listed below. All are online through Teams, unless otherwise stated.

The Estates Sponsorship Scheme will open 1 February 2021, with the deadline for applications on 31 March.

Virtual Lunch & Learn sessions are being launched starting in February, further dates to be confirmed.

If you want to know about any training or sponsorship available please contact [Angela Williams](#).

● Asbestos Awareness

17 February, 09:30-11:00
16 March, 09:30-11:00

● Records Management and Building Resources

21 January, 09:30-10:45
24 February, 09:30-10:45
18 March, 09:30-10:45

● Legionella Awareness and Installation, Testing and Commissioning for Projects

To be confirmed

● Virtual Lunch & Learn sessions

● The Sticky Campus & the New Dynamics of Smartlearning

10 February, 12:00-13:00

Further topics and dates to be confirmed

● Estates Operations Forums

10 March, 13:30-15:00
07 June, 13:30-15:00
08 September, 13:30-15:00
16 December, 10.30 -12.00

● Introduction to BG6 Design Framework

Part 1 of 2
15 February, 09:30-12:45
Part 2 of 2
16 February, 13:30-16:45

● Hazard Awareness Tool Box Talk

11 February, 11:00-11:30
03 March, 11:00-11:30

● Want training at a time to suit you? Try LinkedIn Learning

Introducing the new Estates long-servers recognition scheme

Celebrating those who have reached service milestones

There's no doubt about it – Estates Operations staff join and stay. There are many long-servers, and we want to celebrate this!

To do so, we're introducing an extension to the Employee Recognition Scheme. It's a local scheme, but it will recognise all continuous service with College, not only time spent within Estates.

It is intended to complement the



Congratulations John

The first long-server of 2021 is John O'Brien, Maintenance Supervisor, who will have served 35 years on 2 January.

John is a skilled cabinet maker, who moved into carpentry and joinery before joining St Mary's medical school in 1986, aged 29.

He has remained at St Mary's, moving up to his current role a number of years ago. John said: "Overall I have enjoyed my time, although when I joined I did not know I would spend most of my working life here! "Being interested in sport, particularly football I've played lots of five-a-side football across various departments, with staff and students."

existing College long-servers scheme, by celebrating those who have served 10 and 15 year milestones, in addition to the ones of 20 and above rewarded by the President and Provost.

The new scheme was informed by a focus group of a cross-section of Estates staff, from different departments, with different lengths of service, to gauge a variety of opinions and reactions.

All those serving, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 or more, and those who are retiring will receive a certificate along with a personal letter from their Head of Department at the time of their service anniversary.

The scheme starts next year, however in recognition of a turbulent year when things have been cancelled, delayed or overlooked, it will be backdated for everyone who reached those milestones during 2020. They will be receiving certificates.

The milestones will be celebrated through Estates communications channels much like the current Employee of the Quarter, including forums, the weekly 'What's going on' newsletter and this magazine, People, Places, Spaces.

In 2020 12 colleagues reached significant milestones, with the Ros Jones, the Administration Support for Building Operations at Silwood Park, marking 30 years.

Congratulations to her, and to all the others who are featured in the roll call on this page – between them totalling service of 200 years!

2020 milestones

10 years

Tim Flint, Building Operations

Ireneusz Kopp, Soft Services

Adolfo Rodrigues Correia De Oliveira, Soft Services

15 years

Michael St Clair Laing, Building Operations

Darsi Wickham, Building Operations

Nicholas Roalfe, Director, Estates Operations

Jonathan Ryan, Fire Services

Luqman Jalloh, Projects Delivery

20 years

Wilson Rios, Projects Delivery

Denis Murphy, Health & Safety

25 years

Robin Hines, Maintenance

30 years

Rosalind Jones, Building Operations

Julie Bryant Customer Services Centre Manager: nominated by Rak Patel, Head of Maintenance.



"Julie was the key driver in the implementation of Planon and changeover from the former system.

"This nomination is to recognise the exemplary work ethic demonstrated by Julie in providing accurate financial valuation

reports, key performance indicators and her support to maintenance, building managers, and key stakeholders in providing timely information.

"Julie's abilities and contributions are key to the success of our maintenance operations, she can take pride in knowing that she is an important member of the team respected by all."

Allan Webb, Maintenance Manager: nominated by Rak Patel, Head of Maintenance.



"Allan has demonstrated his commitment by taking on additional responsibility by assuming the direct management of the air conditioning contract, previously managed by Spie.

"Allan possesses in-depth knowledge and experience of good practice quality guidelines and regulations which are subject to frequent audit by Medicines and Healthcare agency and this is recognised by Invicro within the Burlington Danes building. "I am sure that his team and colleagues will agree with me in recognising Allan's positive contribution."

Jolene Burger, Building Manager: nominated by Maggie Taylor, Assistant Building Manager.

"By leading the signage initiative to deliver COVID-safe campuses, Jolene has had both the team and the College at the forefront of her work since the beginning of lockdown, providing a valuable service above and beyond her individual role. Jolene has had

to deal with the whole team to meet deadlines. She has been respectful and accommodating, providing

guidance, feedback and encouragement, regular updates and real-time accurate information. Asking questions in order to understand and fulfil needs.

"Her results are evident. Thousands of posters have been sourced, ordered, distributed and put up across our very large estate. Jolene has gone out of her way to make sure those who are not based at South Kensington have been given priority to collect signs at a time to suit our schedules, coming to work early to do this."



Employees of the Quarter



July's

3 recipients

Congratulations also to the summer recipients: Mark Pearce, Wilson Rios and Jan Carberry.

Mark Pearce: Nominated by Rak Patel.

'For dedication towards his work, attention to detail, self-motivation and subject matter expertise, especially with his onsite presence during lockdown.'

Wilson Rios: Nominated by Adam Srodzinski.

'Even during lockdown, Wilson continued to maintain and deliver to agreed timeframes and budgets and with a smile on his face.'

Jan Carberry: Nominated by Angela Williams.

'A real asset to Estates, whose communication expertise and initiatives, including the weekly newsletter have created a real sense of inclusion and belonging previously lacking.'

Soldiering on

In April's People, Places, Spaces, we focused on Sonata Petrauskaite, Soft Services Coordinator / Administrator.

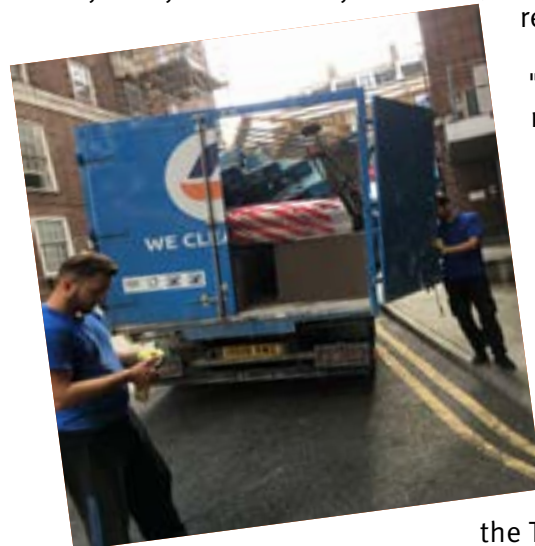
She described herself and fellow team members as 'small soldiers' in the ongoing war on waste and cleaning up the environment across Imperial College.

In this edition building managers describe the help they've received from Sonata and the Soft Services team.

Maggie Taylor, Assistant Building Manager for Royal Brompton, St Mary's, Charing Cross and Chelsea & Westminster, said: "About two years ago I decided to tackle an unused area of the basement of St Mary's Medical School which had become a dumping ground for everything and everybody.

"I asked for a junk run which Sonata promptly organised. The area I wanted to clear included a welfare space for contractors which was neither inviting nor clean.

"Sonata helped me to get it empty and suggested that I start asking for regular junk runs. I think we had one from St Mary's virtually every month for a year.



"The area is much clearer now, with still a few bits to sort, but Sonata will be there as soon as she is asked. It's back-up like this which makes life so much easier for the building managers and the occupiers, creating a campus which is safe and junk free.

"As well as seeing junk cleared I love recycling stuff, I have given loads to the Trust at Charing Cross which

"Slowly, the areas became clearer and we could see the wood from the trees. The welfare area was cleared, the cleaners scrubbed the floor and maintenance came in and sorted out a new sink and a new door. We recycled lockers from elsewhere and made a really pleasant, safe and secure place.

Recycling

"This year we continued our little battle with the help of 'Sonata's soldiers'. This time it was the old lab bays, where used and broken fluorescent tubes had been dumped and bits of old lab benching lurked in dark corners alongside empty pots of paint, plasterboard, light fittings and sundry other rubbish. Where possible items such as full paint pots, rubber skirting, etc were recycled.

would have otherwise ended up in landfill."

Sam Tolhurst, Assistant Buildings Manager for Burlington Danes and Hammersmith Hospital, said: "Sonata and the Soft Services Team have implemented a monthly collection, in lieu of an on-site portering service, to assist in disposing of old damaged furniture and general waste, that otherwise collects in corners of labs, offices, and invariably circulation spaces.

It's been gratefully received by all of the Departments on site and has really helped improve the campus and the key stakeholders' appreciation of the level of support that they are offered."

Helping the war are the Regular Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment recycling (WEEE) collections organised by Sonata's colleague Juan Correa Valle, Soft Services Acting Supervisor.

Other soldiers are the cleaners from our contractor Noonans.

Building Manager for Burlington Danes and Hammersmith Hospital, Darsi Wickham said: "We use Noonans as our eyes and ears, they are out and about all the time and usually pick up anything that is out of the ordinary. They also promptly clear any rubbish across site."



ABOVE: THE APRIL 2020 EDITION. BELOW: OFF GOES THE RUBBISH

How many floors in Roderic Hill?

It's a question that has baffled for decades!

For more than half a century and until recently, Roderic Hill building on the South Kensington campus was shared by just two departments in the Faculty of Engineering.

Each used a separate series of room numbers, on each floor of the building. The logic might have been that, for one group with adjacent buildings, navigation through their corridors followed the same floor numbering through their three linked buildings. For the other, floor levels started at road access at the main entrance (and mainly used by only one Department).

The reasoning hints at the resulting disorientation a visitor would experience at arriving in the lobby to look for a room, say Room

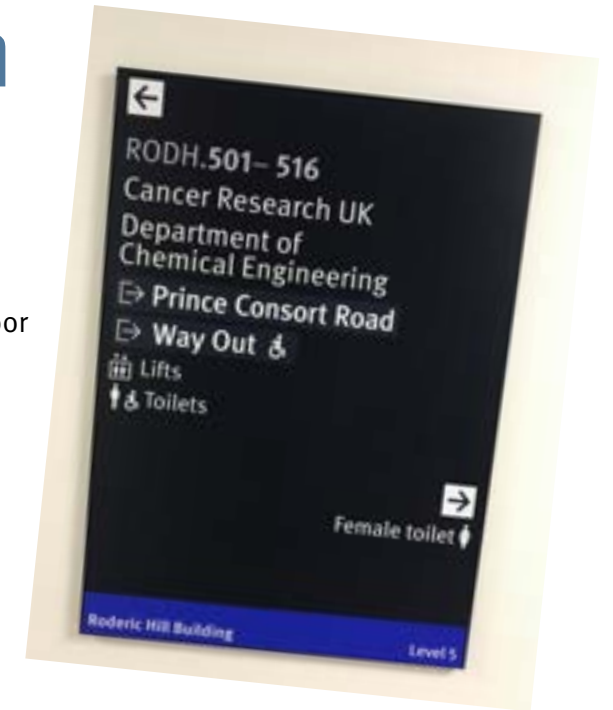
255, see that it was on Level 4, yet right next door to Room 449!

To add to the confusion, entering the lift, there were two sets of lift buttons, presenting the concern that you might not arrive on the level you needed if following the usual logic in College buildings.

With the move of Aeronautics to City & Guilds building, the Space and Building Information team set about renumbering the building plans, to provide a consistent flow of room numbers through each floor. Changes were made over five of the six floor levels working with the Projects Delivery team, as part of a series of building

projects undertaken over three years.

Finally, over the summer of 2020, the remainder of the room numbers were updated, so that logic now prevails, and working with the Building Manager, signage updated to be clear like the one above.

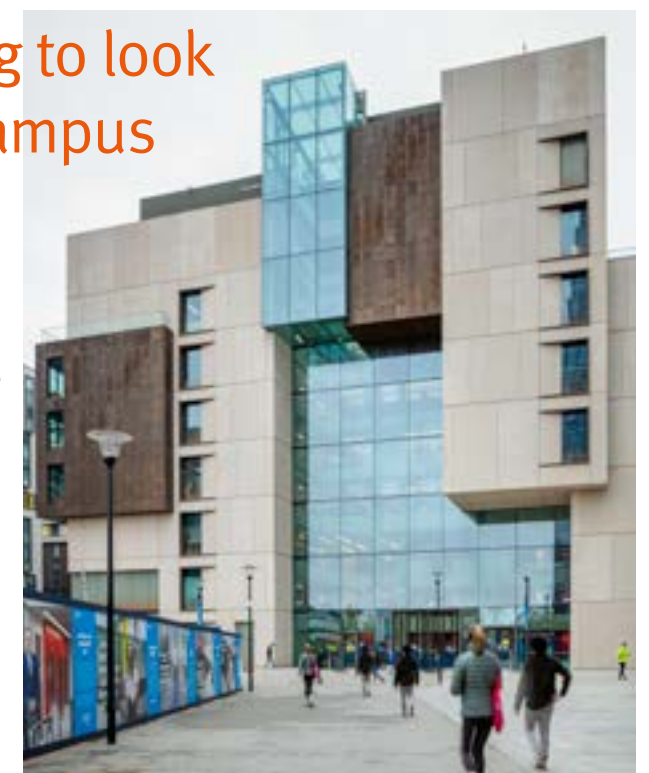


White City campus is looking less and less like a building site and more and more like a fully functioning university campus.

The addition of new safety hoardings that have been designed by the Central Communications Design team have helped improve the streetscape, shield pedestrians from

It's beginning to look a lot like a campus

works, and tell the story of the development of White City at the same time. They also illustrate how we are committed to the Considerate Constructors Scheme - see the article on p3.



Meet the transformers

Head of Strategic Infrastructure Roy Dickerson has lived and breathed a seven year project to bring power to White City campus.

'Power on' is now but months away.

At sunrise on two consecutive Sunday mornings almost exactly a year ago two transformers for the new electrical substation which will provide power to White City campus were delivered.

Their arrival on those bright December mornings marked a milestone in the development of White City, and a project which had dominated the work of Head of Strategic Infrastructure, Roy Dickerson for six years.

A year on and despite the interruption of a pandemic, progress on this project to provide the power for the scale of development on the campus which could not be supported by available power in the district network, has been rapid.

'Power on' is now anticipated for early May – although UK Power Networks are hoping to 'better that date'.

One of the major pieces of work that would enable the substation, the cable pull through from the north end of Wood Lane into the substation is now complete, although that was affected by minor delays formalising permits between Hammersmith & Fulham Council and UK Power Networks during a pandemic!

The cables are rated at 132kV – that's 132 thousand volts – and the operation to pull them the distance required was immense.

Roy Dickerson said: "Undertaking this major piece of work required

careful planning and precise coordination on the part of the contractor."

After the initial lockdown, in May the government allowed construction to continue. Works to the substation buildings themselves were also suspended early in October following a positive COVID-19 test result for one of the contractor's operatives. Thankfully works resumed within a week and following his period of isolation, the operative returned to join the rest of the team.

Despite the delays UK Power Networks' power on date is still very close to the originally scheduled April.

A brief history

The story of the substation extends back to the origins of Imperial's development of White City as a campus, when it became clear that the necessary capacity was not available from the existing local electricity network.

In September 2013, College accepted an initial offer from UK Power Networks which included providing the necessary land - beneath the elevated section of the Westway as it

passes over the campus - to support the development of a 33 MVA district substation, securing capacity for the College and for the benefit of the whole of the White City area.

There then followed several years of technical and legal negotiations with UK Power Networks regarding the development of the substation, and in addition, with Transport for London (TfL) to ensure that their interests in an asset as important as the Westway were fully protected.

Work began on site in February 2019, with the high spot, especially for Roy, last December when the circa 100 tonne delivery vehicle and transformers crossed a specially reinforced route across campus to their final location in the substation. Since then, the transformers have been fitted



COVER STORY

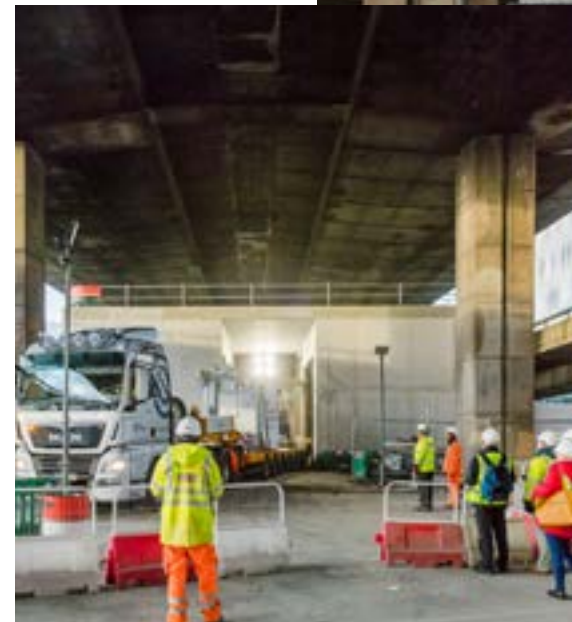


TOP LEFT: CLOSE UP OF A TRANSFORMER

TOP RIGHT: ARRIVING ON THE LORRY

BOTTOM LEFT & BELOW: THE LORRY BACKS INTO THE SUBSTATION UNDER THE WESTWAY

RIGHT: THE SUBSTATION CURRENTLY OUT OF SIGHT BEHIND HOARDINGS



with their cooling systems to keep the units operating at the optimum temperature and the installation of the main high voltage, multi-panel switch board has also been completed. This has allowed the substation internal wiring to progress and a lengthy commissioning period to commence.

With just six months to go and seven years behind him, Roy said: "To have been involved in such an interesting and uniquely challenging project has more than compensated for difficulties that have had to be overcome to arrive at this point. Completion is now finally in sight and I'm looking forward to it being in action after all these years."

Taking care of Business

The Business School are joining the growing number of departments now occupying space at White City campus.

Estates Operations Project Manager Monika Kojak recently oversaw the fit-out of the Business School's new 1,104m² ground floor in the Scale Space building, a new scale up community. The area is set to be brought into use early next year.

The Business School's suite of MBA and Masters' degree programmes will have elements taught within two teaching areas at Scale Space, providing students with the opportunity to experience Imperial's White City campus and forge connections with the scale up companies based there.

The fit-out provides the dedicated space for teaching, research, outreach and events, with the lecture theatres, meeting rooms for teamwork located around a central break-out hub, research centres, administration facilities and a social space in the main atrium area.

Design features

The fit-out provides the dedicated space for teaching, research (photo top right), outreach and events, with the lecture theatres, meeting rooms for



teamwork located around a central break-out hub, research centres, administration facilities a social space in the main atrium area.

Key Design features include:

- Fixed lecture theatre seating (photo centre right)
- Curved lecture theatre that can be utilised flexibly and enables 'teaching in the round' (photo bottom right)
- Zoom Room incorporating the latest media technology
- Break-out space located in the central atrium and benefitting from natural light (photo above)
- Glass doors and partitions that enable visual links between spaces and users and allows natural light deep into office spaces (below)



PROJECT FILE

PROJECT MANAGER: MONIKA KOJAK
QUANTITY SURVEYOR: ARCADIS
ARCHITECT: PENWARDEN HALE
M&E ENGINEER: HOARE LEA
PRINCIPAL DESIGNER: PENWARDEN HALE
APPROVED INSPECTORS: PENWARDEN HALE, HOARE LEA
PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR: ARC GROUP LONDON
M&E SUB CONTRACTOR: ARC GROUP LONDON



- Increased acoustic separation between adjacent Lecture Theatres (photo centre).

The project began in January 2019, with the fit out beginning in March this year. The working relationship between the project team including client-side consultants, main contractor, landlord and various other departments within College has been exemplary, especially given the interruptions caused by the pandemic.

This allowed for many issues to be resolved in a timely manner and without any cost and programme implications, including when, for example, options for finishes were also restricted as a result of manufacturing plant closures during the project.

Monika said: "Exemplary collaboration between everyone involved, focus on a common goal and great attention to detail enabled an amazing result given all the challenges of COVID-19, all within cost and programme and to a very high quality."

Successful

Afrey Edes, Head of Faculty Services for the Business School said: "This project was new territory in terms of designing and developing a rented space from a blank canvas. Completing this project so successfully would not have been possible without the support and guidance of Nick Roalfe, the Director of Estates Operations and his team, particularly Monika."

"The Estates team and the Business School users worked closely together to ensure everyone's requirements were reflected in the final design, this included academic faculty, professional staff and students. The result is a fantastic teaching and research space, offering innovative and fresh ways of working."



Change at Charing Cross

Two teaching space projects completed on time despite lockdown



There is no mistaking the toll of COVID-19 on construction this year. Yet, although lockdown paused work, our contractor Cuffe PLC still delivered one key project on time and within the £2.6m budget!

The Project Manager from Estates Operations was Peter Thompson.

The space on level 7 and 11 of the lab block at Charing Cross was refurbished and handed over to the Faculty of Medicine on time for the new academic year this October.

This, despite works on site being paused for seven weeks during the first national lockdown. Remarkably the construction works progressed in the middle of Charing Cross without causing any disruption to the occupants of the other parts of the hospital.

It is an important project for Imperial. The new teaching facilities are instrumental in enabling the Faculty of Medicine to deliver the clinical skills training required and accommodate the greater numbers of year-one medical students that have been enrolled this year – although the works were planned before this, back in May last year. There was a decant

to White City while works were carried out.

COVID safe

Having the rooms ready on time was critical. Explains end-user Professor Mary Morell: “Our new COVID-safe timetables are so complex, each session has to be taught in rotation 12 times, we were at the limits of what we could accomplish.”

New larger rooms have enabled teaching to progress with the students being appropriately socially distanced. Main spaces were redesigned, and additional wash handbasins and medical curtain bays were added to respond to evolving demands of medical teaching.



Teaching Space

A feature of the new teaching rooms is the additional connectivity that has been added on the audio-visual installations - lecturers can give a lecture in one room and broadcast this to other designated lecture theatres in other parts of the building. Student medics can be socially distanced while a larger group is taught across different teaching rooms, as opposed to giving the lecture online remotely.

The quality of the space and the facilities provided has been very well received by all concerned. Professor Morell said: “We are so delighted with the space,” adding, “The year one students are pleased to be on campus.”

Other features of the refit include:

- Flexible furniture and local furniture stores to support a wide range of configurations
- Student lockers and storage for staff
- Staff room with coffee/ tea making facilities
- New floor finishes in all public spaces
- New WC facilities on level 7.



In September the new Glenister Lecture Theatre at Charing Cross was completed, ready for the start of the academic year.

The transformation was the latest completed in a series of schemes to create world class learning and teaching spaces across the College, and introduce newer ways of teaching.

The projects all follow ‘accessibility by design’ principles, making the teaching experience as universal as possible, including for those with hidden disabilities. Toilet facilities were refurbished and made accessible at the same time.

The project follows hot on the heels of the refurbishment of Blackett room 113 and Royal School of Mines room 147, featured in December 2019 *People, Places, Spaces*, beginning immediately after those had been completed.

The refurbishment has primarily transformed an inflexible,

deteriorated space into a modern multi-purpose teaching room designed for effective small group learning at scale.

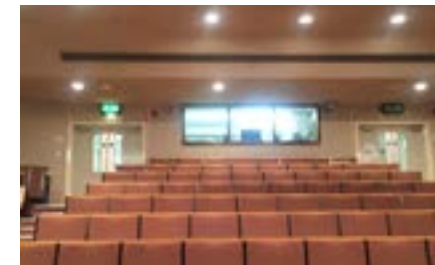
Project Manager for Estates was Tim Hilton, from Henry Riley LLP. He said: “The project has undoubtedly benefitted from the team experience gained on the previous lecture theatres. While

a team of end users able to commit and make timely ‘user design’ decisions was extremely valuable.”

Key Design Features

- New seating configuration delivered in the constraints of the existing footprint
- Flexible teaching space
- Exposed ceiling grid with contemporary lighting
- New floor and wall finishes improving acoustics
- Numerous power and data outlets for recharge
- New AV system
- Fully refurbished toilets including a new accessible facility
- New air handling unit.

Watch the last few weeks of the fit out in just 60 seconds of timelapse video on [YouTube](#).



THIS PHOTO: THE DESIGN ALLOWS FOR IMPROVED TEACHING METHODS. INSET ABOVE LEFT: HOW IT WAS



Holidays, celebrations, diversity days and events

● Epiphany (Christian)	6 January	● International Women's Day	8 March
● Orthodox Christmas Day (Orthodox Christian)	7 January	● Holi (Hindu)	9 March
● International Holocaust Remembrance Day	27 January	● Purim (Jewish)	9-10 March
● LGBTQ+ History Month	1-28 February	● International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UN)	21 March
● World Cancer Day	4 February	● International Transgender Day of Visibility	31 March

Being a student during COVID

Last edition we featured the Estates Operations colleagues studying for qualifications this academic year. For some the studies have yet to start, for many their courses have switched to entirely online because of the pandemic.

John Field, Fire Safety Manager, shares his experience of studying for his MSC Risk and Safety Management professional degree apprenticeship with the University of Portsmouth during COVID.

"Once a month I attend a virtual classroom of 45 students. We attend for three days in a row per month and this then generates an assignment of 3,000 words. Three modules down, three to go.

"I have not yet visited Portsmouth campus and I cannot see this happening before the teaching year is out. This makes it hard for us to get to know each other, but I think we are every lesson. We have started to build up a camaraderie using the chat function within Zoom and a WhatsApp group.

"There is a core of students who are asking questions and answering the tutor led questions.

This can make it hard to get a word in. It takes a very well-planned lesson with a tutor who is in control to ask specific students a question to get us all to talk.



"Ordinarily I am a very confident person when it comes to public speaking, but for some reason am only slowly finding my voice when it comes to virtual classes. I have almost become camera shy! It would appear this is also the case for many students. I have not seen several students' faces yet! I now make it standard that my camera remains on. I also try and either speak or use the chat function to get my point across. I am getting better with this form of communication with each lesson.

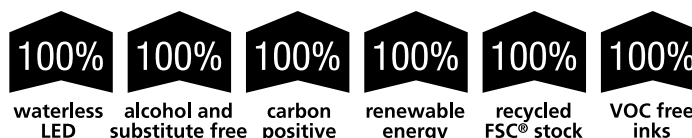
"I could never have imagined, when I first applied to take part in the apprenticeship scheme back in 2019, that this is how I would be studying. Having been a mature student completing my PG Cert. and PG Dip. I always seem to have missed out on university student life!"

Sustainability Statement

This magazine has been produced using methods which support our values on sustainability. It is printed on 100% FSC certified recycled paper, using 100% waterless offset printing which is 100% alcohol / VOC free. It has been produced in a carbon positive factory, using 100% renewable energy, with zero waste to landfill.

Imperial College London Estates Operations is committed to the environment.

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