**Below is the London NFB UK logo -it is a line drawing of the London eye with the NFB UK name as part of its spokes to support the wheel of capsules.**

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Dear London members,

Welcome to London Life.64. This edition includes details regarding your Blackpool trip, news from members, activities provided by our partners , transport news and much more. As our region simmers in the heat sit back and enjoy! If you have any articles or would like to submit a personal story please email: london@nfbuk.org

Please use this email, if you would like to unsubscribe from this circulation.

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# [Next London Branch meeting - Monday 3rd July at 7pm on Zoom.](https://www.londontravelwatch.org.uk/)

[We will be joined by Luke from Travel Watch.](https://www.londontravelwatch.org.uk/)

[Please click here for more information: https://www.londontravelwatch.org.uk/](https://www.londontravelwatch.org.uk/)

[Details and a Zoom link will be sent nearer the time.](https://www.londontravelwatch.org.uk/)

[Next London Branch meeting - Monday 3rd July at 7pm on Zoom.](#_gjdgxs)

# [Date of next London Officers meeting.](#_30j0zll)

[This will be held on Monday 26th June at 7pm, on Zoom.](#_30j0zll)

[An Agenda and link will be sent nearer the time.](#_30j0zll)

# [Details from our June Branch meeting.](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[We were delighted to be joined by, Tom Skelton,RNIB Regional Campaigns Officer – South East and Martin Burn from avanti west coast Railways.](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[Here is a link to download the Passenger Assist app:](https://passengerassistance.com/)

<https://passengerassistance.com/>

[If you need to contact Martin about any concerns, regarding your journey to and from Blackpool, please email: martin.byrne@avantiwestcoast.co.uk](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[Tom Skelton is the Regional Campaigns Officer for RNIB in the South East. He has been in post for just under a year, though was previously doing the Regional Campaigns role as a maternity cover in the East Midlands. Tom leads, builds and develops campaigns on issues and concerns in policy areas that are important to and for blind and partially sighted people in the region. Issues range from accessible information to transport and travel to benefits and employment. Tom is severely sight impaired himself, losing most of his sight due to a genetic condition when he was in his early 20s.](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[Tom Skelton,RNIB Regional Campaigns Officer – South East:](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[Tel: 07732405626](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[E: tom.skelton@rnib.org.uk](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[Here are the East of England Regional Campaigns Officer Bernie Reddington's details:](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[Bernadette Reddington](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[Regional Campaigns Officer (East of England)](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[bernie.reddington@rnib.org.uk](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[Tom is also a comedian and improviser, who happens to be visually impaired, registered blind. He’s had six smash hit solo shows that he has variously taken to the Edinburgh Fringe, the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Perth Fringe World, Adelaide Fringe, New Zealand Festival Fringe and many more venues and festivals. In order of first performance, they are:](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[Foolball](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[The history of the greatest football club that never existed: football-mad-since-childhood Tom dribbled through the last century and a half through the prism of football.](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[2061](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[A dystopian Orwellian odyssey looking at 2061 from the discomfort of 2016 as Winston Skelton, Tom’s son, discovers the truth of the preceding forty-five years.](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[Blind Man’s Bluff](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[Tom takes you on a wild gallop through the history of blindness and the story of losing his own sight. The most famous VIPs (Visually Impaired People) tell their tales alongside Tom.](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[Blind Eye Spy](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[Tom’s adventures as a blind spy in post-Brexit Berlin. A Le-Carre On character comedy of betrayal, lust, and currywurst.](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[Tom Skelton's One-man Macbeth](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[Tom tries to put on his favourite Shakespeare play but he only has one actor (himself), who’s registered blind and who doesn’t know all his lines…](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[2020 Visions (What if I hadn’t Gone Blind?)](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[Tom looks back at a decade of being blind, and wonders what might have been. His 2020 Visions explore his regrets and the realities of life as a VIP (Visually Impaired Person). Winner of the 2020 Perth Fringe World Weekly Comedy Award.](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[Reviews and praise for these shows include:](https://passengerassistance.com/)

['Deliciously talented' (Guardian)](https://passengerassistance.com/)

['A wonderful narrator' (Times)](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[★★★★ ‘An extremely clever one-man show that cries out for a bigger stage’ (Ed Fest Mag)](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[★★★★ ★ 'insightful, hilarious...an expertly crafted narrative'. (Tulpa)](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[★★★★ ½ ‘utterly endearing...a delight to behold' (Scenestr)](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[Aside from his solo shows, Tom has been performing for well over a decade, in a variety of genres – from madcap sketch to experimental stand-up – and he has established himself as one of the stars of the UK improvised comedy scene, being labelled by London improv impresario Steve Roe as “one of my favourite improvisers to watch ever”.](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[Tom stars in Edinburgh sell-out smashes Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes (‘Rife with moments of sparkle and intelligence... copious amounts of talent’ ★★★★ – Plays to See) , plays with hit London outfit Shoot From the Hip, starred with Melbourne improv giants The Big Hoo Haa, and is a founding member of UK improv comedy sensations Racing Minds: ‘Crafted by the gods of comedy ★★★★★’ (Three Weeks). Racing Minds appeared on BBC Radio 6 Music, were nominated for the 2015 & 2016 Perth Fringe World Comedy Award, and have over 600,000 followers on SoundCloud for their Wireless Podcast.](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[Tom Skelton Comedian Facebook Page:](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[https://www.facebook.com/TomSkeltonComedy/](https://passengerassistance.com/)

[Details from our June Branch meeting.](#_1fob9te)

London Branch is looking for a new Treasurer

David Bamber has served our branch for a number of years and now feels this should be passed to another member. This role involves keeping our financial records up to date and reporting to members, Officers and the Executive Council when required.

David intends to step down towards the end of this year, to allow time for a smooth transition. If you would like to receive a copy of this role please email: london@nfbuk.org

No experience is necessary but, you will have to demonstrate some knowledge of accounts management. Training will be provided.

Not really a merry dance.

By Terry Emery.

Reading London Life (with interest, as ever) I saw your piece on the Macmillan ballet with its reference to dance marathons. I recalled learning something about them when a kid (from cigarette cards!

In Fiona’s article on dance in London Life 63, she explained that the Kenneth Macmillan ballet she watched being rehearsed by blind dancers was based on the ‘dance marathons’ in the US depressed 1930’s. She suggested that they could last over 24 hours. If only!

They were, in fact, incredibly gruelling events that ran for weeks, sometimes months. There were short breaks of 10-15 minutes per hour, but otherwise you had to keep going – a standard rule was that if one partner’s knee touched the ground (through exhaustion) you were eliminated. And you had to keep feet moving, steps off the floor, no standing. So dancers learned to eat and sleep on the move – using the brief breaks for toilet facilities. The organisers supplied perhaps a dozen ‘nutritious’ meals a day and some entrants enlisted specifically for the meals and a roof over their heads. Some dancers managed to get catnaps in the incredibly short breaks but most slept one at a time when their partner was allowed to simply support them, while still moving, known as ‘lugging’.

The marathons were very much public performances with paying audiences and in those acutely depressed times the fairly modest prize money could be life changing. So many gimmicks were dreamt up and inflicted on the shattered dancers – like a midnight ‘Sprint’ fast tempo dance, or a period without even the brief breaks. Not surprisingly the effect on the participants’ health was often disastrous and gradually many states came to make them illegal. The film ‘They shoot horses, don’t they?’ was based on these marathons and was the cry of anguish of totally exhausted dancers.

All kind of people entered, certainly including blind people, and even some with a single leg; a number of couples actually got married while still dancing. There were other marathon events at the time such as pole-squatting, sitting on ice, or non-stop cycle races. All for the same reason, the desperate need of millions to break free from poverty and the literal bread-lines. Our own inflation struggles can be hard, but at least things haven’t got this bad.

News from our members

This section covers members involved in various activities.

‘Materials as Message’ exhibition at Tate Britain. Five major contemporary art works audio described by NFB member Andrew Lamont.

Article by Fiona Musgrove (with thanks to Vicky Blencoe for her photos).

On Friday 26th May, around 15 blind and partially sighted people joined Andrew as he carefully described the five displayed pieces of modern sculptures created around the turn of the 21st Century. Tate Britain is on the former site of the Mill Bank Prison, where prisoners were held on large barges, moored on the nearby River Thames before being transported to Australia. Tate staff, lead by Marcus, and volunteers were on hand to guide the group around the light and airy gallery.

The below photo shows a dusky pink Gerbera flower in the foreground of the artwork panels, which look like patterned rugs suspended behind glass panels.



The first exhibit consists of four rug sized panels, initially holding up to 2,000 gerbera flowers in bloom, suspended between two panes of glass placed against a white background. Andrew handed everyone a beautiful flower and explained how they were all individual. Anya Gallaccio’s Preserve ‘beauty’ 1991–2003, encapsulates the flowers while they wilt and decay: the cycle of life. Andrew explained that beneath each panel was a trickle of red blood like liquid increasing as the flowers slowly decompose.

For the colossal installation created by British artist, Rachel Whiteread, Untitled (Stairs) 2001, those attending were provided with white cotton gloves. Andrew then encouraged us to touch the rough and smooth textures of the plaster casts of two rotated flights of stairs. The group discussed why the artist had selected these particular staircases, which to me, felt similar to the style I had in my previous house.

Every piece had been so carefully described and the interaction of Andrew was excellent. He used a transmitter which connected to our headsets, but he also wandered among the group.

We learnt how sound can be used as art in this piece by Algerian artist Lydia Ourahmane’s The Third Choir 2014. The display consists of 20 Naftal oil drums with old Samsung phones at the bottom. Andrew demonstrated how sensors in the phones detects movement and changes the tone of the sound emanating from all the drums. For some it was a rather poignant image as we were reminded of the Stop Oil protests currently taking place, and one person noted that the colours on the drums represented the Ukrainian flag. An archive of 934 document (included in 2021) catalogues the challenge of bringing the work from Algeria to the UK, which reflects how difficult it is for people to migrate around the world.

American born artist Susan Hiller uses a traditional cassette player and headphones positioned on a park bench in front of her photographic creation, Monument 1980 to play her response to the texts. From hundreds of memorial tablets to civic heroes in Postman's Park, London, the artist selected 41 to photographically enlarge and display in a star formation. Each plaque commemorates an heroic act of courage with fatal consequences during the Victorian period and the artist responded by recording herself speaking about the afterlife.

The below photo shows Andrew Lamont, standing beside hat wearing fellow London branch member Richard, in front of the rice installation.



The last exhibit was a floor level sculpture made from millions of grains of rice. Vong Phaophanet’s Neon Rice Field 1993, creates seven peaks with six neon strips in the valleys to create a toytown like roofscape. Born in Laos, the artist uses rice, which is a food staple within many cultures, to show the fragility of the global food market. We were shown examples of the many rice bags used. The art handlers constructed this ornate and dramatic work of elongated pyramids using cardboard paddles. The group had the chance to recreate these shapes with a bucket of rice and paddles. There is a barrier around the sculpture now to deter visitors from stumbling into it, as it did look like a giant sandpit to one child.

“The tour was one of the best I have attended”, said Vicky. “It was informative and interactive. I would recommend Andrew as a great audio describer for future events.”

If you are interested in attending more events organised by the Tate please contact them.

Aquobats and London Sports Club walk in Danson Park.

By Colin Palgrave.

The below photo, taken at the Kings Arms shows London members: Colin, Jimmy, Arthur, Darren, Fiona and Richard with some fantastic volunteers enjoying their lunch together.



On Saturday morning, 10 June, we gathered at Bexleyheath station and set off for a walk, in Danson Park. There were five visually impaired people and three sighted helpers. it was lovely to get off the main road and into the park, with folks strolling around the occasional jogger and lots of grass and flowers.

Although there had been talk of thunder and rain later that day, It didnt materialize and we enjoyed the sunshine. With Darrens dog Mylow scampering around us, we skirted around the large lake and exited the park at Welling. We caught the bus back to Bexleyheath, where we had a lovely pub lunch in the Kings Arms.

I do enjoy these outdoor walking activities. Although I can walk around independently, as a totally blind person, this always requires concentration. Therefore, it’s a real delight to be able to walk and relax, at the same time, alongside a guide walker.

Thanks to everyone who made this possible.

Our Saturday morning walk.

By Arthur Payne.

I arranged a walk in the Bexleyheath area to Danson Park on Saturday 10 June for London Sports and Aquobatts members. Eight people came and we had excellent weather.

The walk started just after 11.00am. We went to Danson Park which is a very famous attraction in the area. There is a boathouse from which wedding receptions take place. The lake has a rowing club and sometimes sailing also. We walked following the lake along to Welling and then caught a bus to the pub the King’s Arms for a social. I would like to thank those who attended. Some pictures of the walk will appear in the article.

Click here for more information about the park: https://www.goparks.london/park/danson-park/

I am looking to do a follow-up walk on Saturday 2 September in the same area one station further down the line at Barnehurst. This walk will include a park and some woods and is great fun with a couple of hills but will still end up at the same pub as we visited on the walk on 10 June. Both walks are an hours duration.

If you are interested in taking part in this walk please contact Arthur: arthur.payne@trade.gov.uk

Lets all jump for Eye Matters first sports day.

By Fiona Musgrove.

Eye Matter members and volunteers, in acongor around the park. They have one hand on the persons in fronts shoulder and moving their feet in time.



Around 60 people turned up to take part in Eye Matters, first ever sports day in Islington, on Saturday 3rd June at 9.30am. Upon exiting the tube station I was immediately paired with a volunteer who guided me to the venue and stayed with me throughout the day. There were so many volunteers on hand to support and guide people. Louise from Illuminate Freedom gave everybody an enthusiastic warm up which culminated in a conga around the park!

The below picture shows Fiona, wearing a blue t-shirt and white shorts. She is holding a cricket bat in readiness to, hopefully, hit the ball!!!



My first engagement was in a cricket session. This was fun, although I didnt hitt many balls. Then we crossed the field and onto the tennis courts. Odette gave a quick history of blind tennis from its beginning in Japan to its now international status. Then I once again held a tennis racket in my hand and proceeded to play.

Lunch was from a van and consisted of a choice of meat or veggie options in a wrap with salads. We all sat on a huge mat on the grass munching our lunch and chatting. We even had ice creams.

After lunch, I played blind football with Arsenal Football club, back on the field. This was great fun for both the coaches and players. We all encouraged each other and there were lots of smiles. Then it was back to the park for a warm down and thank yous.

Thanks to Eye Matter, all their fab volunteers, partners and sponsors.

The Photographers, Gallery, audio described tour Eighth of June.

By Vicky Blencowe.

I spotted this audio described tour on the VocalEyes website and book my place. I attended some “slow looking “sessions on zoom during lockdown, which were very enjoyable, and hosted by the photographers, Gallery, curator, Janice McLaren, with a variety of audio describers.

As it turned out, I was the only person to attend. The wonderful audio describer, Eleanor, who spent time describing five photographs and providing some historical content for the exhibition “a brief revolution “all about issues over town planning during September 1969 and September 1970. She then described the five photographs, plus some extras just for me!

Janice then took me to the fourth and fifth floor galleries, show casing For photographers who were in a competition, really interesting.

The three of us had a long chat about Accessibility for the gallery, which is close to Oxford Circus underground station. Five photographs, which were part of the tour have been provided with a QR code, which takes you to the website where each of the pictures are fully described by audio and transcript by Eleanor. Janice is very interested in helping the visually impaired community Access the gallery, and would love more visitors to attend. I did also suggest that they could make use of the café on the ground floor for some lubrication!

As a chartered building surveyor in my previous life before sight loss, this exhibition was right up my street, with a fascinating insight into these photographers in the late 1960s. The Photos were not taken by architects, but by regular Street photographers, so provided a really realistic interpretation of the issues raised by the urban design of that era.

I cannot be more enthusiastic about my visit, and intend to return at every opportunity, and would love some of you to come along as well.

I will share information about future events, to engage with a wider audience in this community. here is the link to the page about this exhibition, where you can explore the audio transcripts for yourselves.

https://thephotographersgallery.org.uk/audio-descriptions-brief-revolution

https://thephotographersgallery.org.uk/audio-descriptions-brief-revolution

@vickyBlencowe on Twitter. @VI\_VickyPhoto Instagram. Content with alt text.

Photo shows a Victorian school next to a high-rise block with a large space in front with a small fire burning. Description in QR code and on the link above.



News from our partners

Aquabats

29 June walk at King’s Cross. Please meet at the bottom of the steps that lead to Judd Street at 6.45pm leaving at 7.00pm. The walk is being led by Paul O’Loughlin and will follow the canal.

6 July swimming at Parliament Hill as above.

13 July walk at Hyde Park. Please meet at Hyde Park Corner Underground Station at 6.45pm leaving at 7.00pm.

The boat trip from London Regatta Centre has been rescheduled to Thursday 27 July. If any of the people who said they were coming on the last trip now are unable to, just let me know.

All the above events are subject to any possible rail strikes that may be called. We will let you know if any event is affected.

The Braillists Foundation

The Braillists Foundation was established in 2020 to promote the value of braille as a proven literacy tool that enriches the lives of blind people. We do this by supporting efforts to make affordable braille and tactile reading technologies available to all blind people irrespective of education and employment status and provide an open forum for the exchange of ideas about the development of future braille technology. We actively encourage braille learning through our Braille for Beginners course, improve peer support and access to expertese through our Braille Bar, Masterclasses, Book Club and podcast. Crucially most of our volunteers and trustees our braille readers.

Find out more and join the community at http://www.braillists.org/

Eye Matter

16 June Friday Quiz

20 June Tuesday Quiz

23 June Friday Drama Improv

27 June Tuesday Concert by Jorgen Hansson

30 June Friday Audio Described Workout with Louise

4th July Tuesday Eye Matter Sailing day out

11th July Tuesday Eye Matter Outing to the Tate Modern

For more information, please email:

Eye Matter outings

· 7 July Groundhog Day at The Old Vic – 4 MORE TICKETS

· 11 July Tate Modern FREE

· 07 August The Crucible at Gielgud Theatre, price TBC

· 09 August Midsummer Mechanicals at Shakespeare’s Globe, £14.13

· 23 August Wizard of Oz at the London Palladium, £19.75

· 2 September La cage Aux Folle at the Open Air Theatre £25

· 29 September Postal Museum £8

Please email [eyemattervi@gmail.com](mailto:eyemattervi@gmail.com) with subject as name of the event

EYES 4 POSITIVITY

EYES 4 POSITIVITY is committed to providing tailored services to support people living with sight loss. To ensure that we are meeting your needs, we would appreciate your feedback through this personal independence training survey.

The survey is designed to assess your current level of independence and identify areas where you may require further support. Your responses will help us to develop a training program that is tailored to your specific needs.

Your input is valuable, and we thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this survey. If you require any assistance with the survey or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

https://us14.list-manage.com/survey?u=de843847b64ab6ac785351d49&id=d3e157e8a1&mc\_cid=761b44364f&mc\_eid=22abd4ce07&e=22abd4ce07

Together, we can work towards improving the quality of life for people living with sight loss. Thank you for your participation.

New dates for Royal Collection Trust.

Our sincere apologies, unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances, we have to postpone today’s Descriptive Zoom about coronations until next month. We will be able to incorporate today’s coronation session and July’s session on the Gold State Coach to make sure everything is covered!

Join us next month:

Tuesday 4 July- Coronations: An ancient ceremony 2pm-3pm

Our programme of Descriptive Zoom talks are for blind and partially-sighted people. Talks take place on the first Tuesday of the month, from 2pm. Join us to hear about different works in the Royal Collection, the Royal Residences and the history of the Monarchy. Talks are free and informal, and you can participate camera on or off, however you prefer.

Join the Royal Collection Trust Zoom (camera can be on or off)

Joining details:

Meeting ID: 440 773 2986

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4407732986

Join by phone:

0208 080 6591

0131 460 1196

Dates and topics to be covered are:

Tuesday 4 July Coronation-an ancient ceremony

Tuesday 1 August The Coronation portrait of Queen Victoria

Tuesday 5 September Fashion trends in Victorian England

Tuesday 3 October James VI & witchcraft

Tuesday 7 November Object focus – clocks in the Royal Collection

Tuesday 5 December Hans Holbein

Vocaleyes and The National Portrait Gallery.

On the 22 June 2023 the National Portrait Gallery will be re-opening to visitors, following a transformational building project.

The National Portrait Gallery is committed to making its buildings, exhibitions, services and programme as accessible and inclusive as possible, removing and reducing barriers to visiting the collections.

Ahead of re-opening, National Portrait Gallery are working with VocalEyes, to better understand the needs of visitors with visual impairments. As part of this, we are surveying potential future visitors who are blind or have a visual impairment, to help gather feedback on the in-gallery offer, and access tools NPG can provide. We would love you help with spreading the word! If you could share the survey with colleagues, friends, groups or individuals who might be interested that would be fantastic.

You can find the survey here:

Https://online1.snapsurveys.com/jnr3yw?t=2

Technology News

Using Google Bard to write a Best Mans speech.

By Colin Palgrave.

You can’t of missed all the hype about chat bots, artificial intelligence (AI), Seems to be in the news at the moment every day! Bard is the offering by Google, although perhaps, chat GPT is the most famous at the moment. I have got the Bard website on my phone, so rather than talk about artificial intelligence and chat bots, which you can get videos galore on YouTube, I shall just give you an example of what it can do.

I typed into the barred edit box, the following

“Could you write a best man speech for my friend Jack using the details below?

When we were young, we discovered we’re both dating the same girl

He wants fell out of the window at a party, but landed safely with his drink still in his hand!”

This is what I got back in 2 to 3 seconds! ﻿

Sure, here is a best man speech for your friend Jack:

Good evening, everyone. For those of you who don't know me, I'm [your name], and I've had the pleasure of being Jack's best friend since we were kids.

I remember when we were in high school, we both had a crush on the same girl. We didn't know it at the time, but we were both dating her. It was a bit awkward at first, but we eventually worked it out and became friends.

Jack is one of the most loyal and supportive friends I've ever had. He's always there for me, no matter what. He's the first person I call when I have good news, and he's the first person I call when I need a shoulder to cry on.

I remember one time, Jack fell out of a window at a party. He was drunk, of course, but he landed safely on the ground with his drink still in his hand. It was one of the most impressive things I've ever seen.

Jack is also a lot of fun to be around. He's always up for a good time, and he always knows how to make me laugh. I'm so glad that he's my best friend.

Now, I'd like to raise a glass to Jack and his new wife, [bride's name]. May they have a long and happy life together.

To Jack and [bride's name]!

Transport News

Superloop - X34 consultation from Louise Cheeseman - Director of Buses.

Thanks to Andrew Hodgson.

Following the Mayor’s announcement on 28 March of plans to introduce the Superloop, a new network of limited stop express bus services connecting outer London, we are now writing to confirm the start of our consultation on a proposed new section of the Superloop, covering the boroughs of Barnet, Enfield and Waltham Forest.

This consultation specifically covers the proposed section of the Superloop between North Finchley and Walthamstow. The consultation will run from 9 June until 21 July, and we hope you will take time to review our consultation material and respond to our questionnaire. You can do this by either: Visiting our online consultation page at <https://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/x34-superloop> Emailing us at haveyoursay@tfl.gov.uk

Writing to us at FREEPOST TFL HAVE YOUR SAY (X34).

Please also feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding our proposals, the consultation or to arrange a briefing on the proposed route.

What are we proposing?

We are proposing to introduce a new limited stop express bus service, the X34, between North Finchley and Walthamstow. This new express route would run alongside part of the 221-bus route between North Finchley and New Southgate, and the 34-bus route between Arnos Grove and Walthamstow.

The X34 would run with buses every 12 minutes Monday to Saturday and buses every 15 minutes on evenings and Sundays.

The new X34 route would provide extra bus capacity in busy locations, encourage more sustainable journeys, allow for quicker journeys and more transport options to move between key transport and town centre locations in Barnet, Enfield and Waltham Forest. However, as part of our consultation we want your feedback on whether these are the right places for a new limited stop route to operate.

To ensure we continue to match local bus service demand with bus capacity, across the whole route, as part of this consultation we are proposing that the frequency of the bus route 34 would need to be amended. We are proposing that the frequency would need to change to buses every ten minutes Monday to Saturday (currently every seven and a half minutes) and buses every 15 minutes on evenings and Sundays (currently every eight minutes). The frequency of bus route 221 would not change.

Find out more about the Superloop

In addition to our X34 consultation page, we have also created a Superloop engagement page. This provides up to date information on our plans for the proposed Superloop network and provides answers to frequently asked questions.

To visit our Superloop engagement page go to http

s://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/superloop

The Superloop is a key part of the Mayor's commitment to improving the bus network in outer London, connecting town centres, hospitals, schools and transport hubs and could add over 4 million additional kilometres on to London’s bus network. This is on top of the more than one million extra kilometres of bus services the Mayor has already committed to.

Buses continue to sit at the heart of the capital's transport network and these improvements will help us to continue building a better, greener, and fairer city for all Londoners.

Battersea Bridge area safety improvements consultation report from Fraser MacDonald.

Thanks to Andrew Hodgson.

Between 29 November 2022 and 24 January 2023, we consulted on proposals for safety improvements in the area around Battersea Bridge. This followed urgent changes made to the junction of Battersea Bridge with Cheyne Walk in early 2021 to build a new pedestrian crossing on one arm of the junction and other safety improvements, which we called phase one of the scheme. Following local engagement, we held a public consultation on further proposals to make additional safety improvements to the rest of the junction and surrounding roads.

We received 983 responses to the consultation and thank you to everyone who took part. A wide range of views were expressed during the consultation, both positive and negative, with many comments, concerns and suggestions raised. Our responses to the issues raised during the consultation is included in Appendix A of the report.

After careful consideration of all the consultation responses, we have decided to proceed with the scheme as presented in the consultation materials, with some changes to bus lane hours in response to feedback from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

After reviewing our plans for the wider local area, we will also revisit the banned left turn onto Chelsea Bridge from Grosvenor Road to explore whether there is a solution for this junction that provides safety benefits for cyclists but enables the banned turn to be removed. We’ll carry out our review this year, and will hold a further consultation with local people and other stakeholders on the designs.

We have also offered support to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to review the feasibility of modernising the width restriction on Albert Bridge to 7ft to assist traffic flow, which would help to relieve traffic congestion on other surrounding roads.

For further details and to view our consultation report, please visit: https://haveyoursay.tfl.gov.uk/batterseabridge

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this edition. Hope to see many of you in Blackpool next week. With special thanks to Andrew Hodgson for this edition.

So ‘keep walking on sunshine’

Fiona and Jane

London Branch

NFB UK