

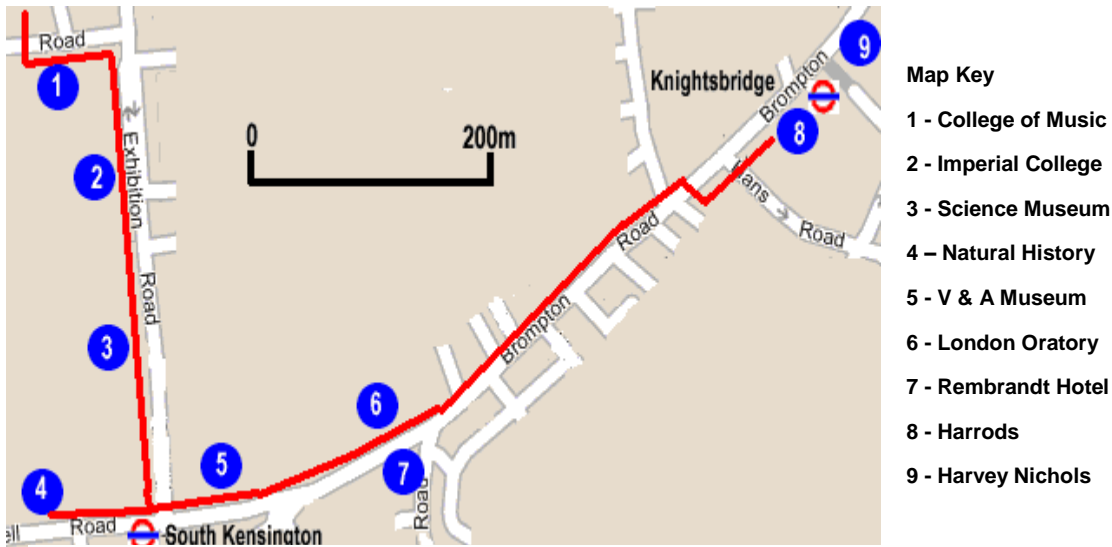
# Fetcham U3A

## Explore London Group 5

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011

### Kensington

*This walk starts at High Street Kensington underground station. Turn right from the station past M & S and Barkers and cross the road into Hyde Park with Kensington Palace on your left hand side. Walk to the Albert Memorial and then cross the road to RGS.*



#### **Royal Geographical Society**

Immediately to the left of the Royal Albert Hall is the Royal Geographical Society. A charity devoted to the promotion of all things geographical, it has over 14,000 members world-wide and holds about 2 million items.

#### **Royal Albert Hall**

Opened in 1871, perhaps the UK's most famous concert hall. Was originally going to be called the Hall of Arts & Sciences but Queen Victoria instead had it named after her husband. The hall is best known for the annual proms concerts, but has hosted a wide range of performances including the first Sumo tournament held outside Japan.

#### **Royal College of Music**

The College teaches all aspects of modern classical music. Among its famous past pupils are Andrew Lloyd Weber, Gustav Holst, Benjamin Britten and Rick Wakeman

## **Imperial College**

Imperial College of Science & Technology, found in 1907 and part of the University of London. One of the top tier for scientific, engineering and medical research and teaching institutions in the world.

## **Science Museum**

The Science Museum, a world class museum with free entry and open 7 days a week. This really is a great museum for people of all ages. The basement and workshops are especially good for youngsters.

## **Natural History Museum**

Next on your right are the Earth Galleries of the Natural History Museum, once a separate entity called the Geological Museum. Carry on down to the busy Cromwell Road and turn right. A Victorian masterpiece completed in 1881. With more than 70 million specimens, ranging from microscopic slides to mammoth skeletons, the Museum is home to the largest and most important natural history collection in the world.

## **Victoria & Albert (V&A) Museum**

The Victoria and Albert Museum is the major museum in the UK for arts and design. Like the Science Museum and Natural History Museum entrance is free and the museum is open 7 days a week.

## **The London Oratory**

On leaving the main exit of the V&A Museum turn left on the wide pavement heading eastwards towards Knightsbridge. Immediately on your left is the London Oratory, the London headquarters of the Catholic Oratorian Order. There are several masses offered each day and private masses are available by arrangement. During the 1980's the KGB had a dead letter box near the alter.

## **Rembrandt Hotel**

On the opposite side of the road is the Rembrandt Hotel, a 4 star hotel.

In the middle of Brompton Road you will see a green kiosk, probably with a few black cabs parked alongside. This is a tea room for the cab drivers. There used to be similar places all over London, those that are left are now protected.

## **Harrods Department Store**

London's most prestigious and Europe's largest department store. Knightsbridge in which Harrods stands is one of the most desirable areas of London. The area was developed about 200 years ago when it was an unappealing marshland.