



● The opening day of Specsavers in Chiswick Place, Festival Place

Pic by Ben Stevens

New look for Specsavers

GLASSES were not needed to notice the official opening of a new Festival Place branch of a well-known opticians.

A town crier from Oxfordshire, a stilt-walker dressed in a green suit, and a walking ear all marked the opening of the new Specsavers branch, in Chiswick Place.

Borough mayor Councillor George Hood and his wife Davina were also on hand to help open the new home for Specsavers in Basingstoke, while face painting and a colouring competition kept the children entertained.

By Chris Gregory

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The opticians has moved from its previous store in Festival Place, near the Iceland supermarket.

Jason North, retail consultant for Specsavers, said: "This is all part of a long-term plan that has been going for a couple of years.

"The new store is about three times the size of the old one. I think it has gone very well and we are very busy."

He added that the shop has taken on

ten new staff over the past six months in preparation for the move. It now employs 45 people in full or part-time jobs.

The new store contains six eye-testing rooms with access for the disabled – three more than the previous store – and a new hearing centre.

Store director Kiran Liladhar said: "We are confident that we will bring an improved service to the local community.

"Co-store director Robert Mackereth and I will carry on leading the team with a very hands-on approach to the business. We firmly believe this ensures our customers receive the best care when they visit us."

