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About your North Ken News

North Ken News is a dedicated newsletter for North Kensington communities produced by Kensington and Chelsea Council.

Have you got news for us?

We are always on the lookout for good news stories, whether they are about an event you are running, a local hero who is working wonders in your community or a programme or course that local residents could benefit from.

If you would like to get in touch with an idea or story, please email northkennews@rbkc.gov.uk and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

Tell us what you think

We're interested in hearing your feedback about North Ken News. We want to produce a newsletter which you enjoy reading and you find useful, so please let us know what you'd like to see more of. Email us at northkennews@rbkc.gov.uk

Covid-19

Information on our Coronavirus response and guidance is correct at the time of going to press. For the latest updates, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/coronavirus

Staying in touch

There are other ways to keep up to date with borough-wide news as well as news and announcements from Kensington and Chelsea Council.

 [@RBKC](https://twitter.com/RBKC)  www.facebook.com/royalborough

 www.nextdoor.co.uk

 www.instagram.com/kensingtonandchelseacouncil

For updates on Grenfell

 [@GrenfellUpdates](https://twitter.com/GrenfellUpdates)

 www.rbkc.gov.uk/grenfell

 To stay up to date with the latest news and events sign up to our newsletter mailing list, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search K&C Life

If you would like to opt out of receiving North Ken News or would prefer to read it online, please let us know at northkennews@rbkc.gov.uk

Working together for a greener borough

In Kensington and Chelsea, we face a number of environmental challenges: reducing carbon emissions to tackle climate change, improving local air quality and supporting and improving biodiversity.

The Council's goals and targets for the borough to become carbon neutral by 2040 and for meeting the World Health Organisation air quality guideline values are ambitious. Becoming a truly sustainable borough will be a tough challenge to achieve.

As a community, we all need to work together – the Council, residents, community groups, schools and businesses. To help us do this, later this year we will be consulting on our new Air Quality Action Plan, Climate Emergency Action Plan and Biodiversity Action Plan and we want to hear your views about

how we can best take action in these areas. Keep an eye out for further details in the October issue, but if you have any thoughts in the meantime, please contact us at environment@rbkc.gov.uk.



Vaccinations now available for over 16s

Everyone aged 16 and over can now get a Coronavirus vaccination, predominately this is Pfizer, although some places are offering Moderna. You can book online, by going to www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119. Your second jab must be no sooner than eight weeks after your first.

There are a number of chemists which are providing vaccinations on certain days, plus a vaccine bus travelling to various borough locations and a permanent site at St Charles Hospital. Go to www.rbkc.gov.uk and search 'Coronavirus FAQs' to find out more.

If you have any concerns you can speak to your GP. More than 80 million doses of the vaccines have been taken so far in the country, helping protect those vaccinated, their families and communities.



Enjoy the last few weeks of Summer of Love

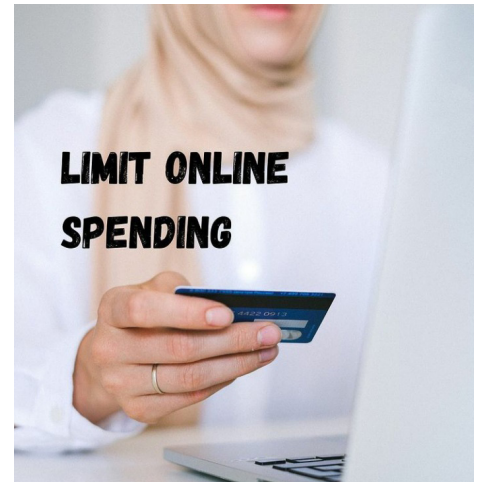
The summer holidays may be over, but the K&C Summer of Love isn't finished yet! There are still a number of activities to enjoy and places to explore, including a day of chess with a Grandmaster, Luna Cinema, our Libraries' Creative Collective, Portobello Live festival and more.

As well as these fantastic events, great prizes are still to be won in our social media competition, so you can make the most of the end of summer in the borough.

Visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/summer-of-love to find out more or check out our social media @RBKC on Twitter and @KensingtonandChelseaCouncil on Instagram #OurRBKC



LIMIT ONLINE SPENDING



Financial trouble? There's help available

A new debt advice project launched by Nucleus in partnership with the Venture Centre will help local people facing the challenges of debt, financial insecurity and housing evictions.

It's open to all residents seeking free, expert debt advice. The project is part of the Debt Free London project, funded by the Money Advice Service. Advice can be delivered from Nucleus' new office on Bramley Road in North Kensington. The office will open for debt advice on Mondays and for Housing advice on Thursdays, from 10am to 5pm.

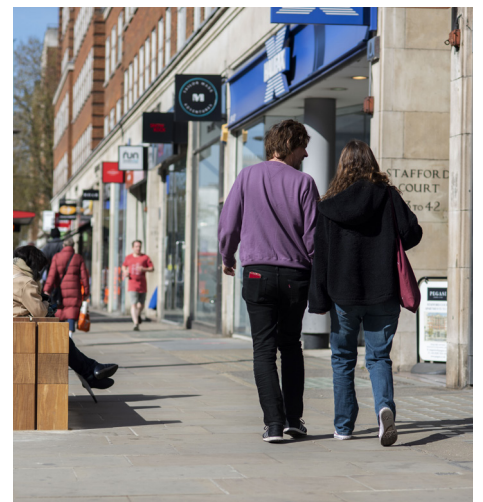
If you would like to find out more information about Nucleus' services, email debtadvice@nucleus.org.uk, call 020 3727 9300 or 020 7373 4005, or visit www.nucleus.org.uk

Help to adapt our high streets for the future

To ensure Kensington and Chelsea's vibrant streets keep meeting the needs of our communities, a short online survey has been launched to help the Council understand what people currently use our borough's high streets for and what their priorities are for future improvements.

Throughout June and July, Council officers held workshops with residents on our Citizens' Panel to discuss their thoughts on local high streets. Following these workshops, the key themes have been outlined for you to share your views on, through community engagement platform Commonplace, which is open to everyone who lives, works in or visits Kensington and Chelsea.

Questions cover 'High Streets Today', 'Movement and Accessibility', 'Business and Community', and 'Vision for the future'. Your responses will directly inform new initiatives and projects to improve town centres in the borough, so your opinion really counts. Make sure to have your say on creating high streets which suit you and your community, so they can thrive in the future.



Visit <https://kcfuturehighstreets.commonplace.is> and share your thoughts by Friday 30 September.

If you have any queries on the survey or other aspects of our high streets, please email GrowthAndDeliveryTeam@rbkc.gov.uk or call 020 7361 3012.



Make sure to have your say on new proposals for markets

Share your thoughts on over 50 proposals to make visiting and trading at markets in Kensington and Chelsea, including the iconic Portobello and Golborne, even better. These proposals were created following consultation with traders, residents of the borough, and local businesses earlier this the year.



The proposals cover a range of themes including sustainability, creating more space and ease of movement, business and trader support, youth engagement, safety, attracting new customers and more.

Following this consultation, proposals which are brought forward into the Markets Plan 2021-2026 will be introduced with input from traders and residents. Get involved and help make our markets an even better place to be.

Consultation closes Friday 17 September. Visit consult.rbkc.gov.uk/communities/markets-plan or to receive a paper copy, please email street.trading@rbkc.gov.uk or call 020 7727 7684.

Don't be bored, skateboard!

This year saw skateboarding make its debut at the Tokyo Olympics and with the country reopened following lockdown, there's never been a better time to pick up a skateboard.

Whether you have the Olympics in your sights or if you just want to feel the breeze as you enjoy the freedom and skill of skateboarding, Best Foot Forward Skate Academy has a safe and inclusive session to suit you, whatever your age or ability.

Instructors are certified by Skateboard GB (the UK's skateboarding governing body) and are fully DBS checked and insured.

To find out more about exciting skateboarding sessions and lessons, visit www.bestfootforwardskateacademy.com



Portobello Live festival returns to North Ken

Returning to the borough for its sixth year, the Portobello Live festival is back with a bang on Saturday 25 September at Maxilla Social Club, Maxilla Walk.

Instead of running across the whole weekend, Portobello Live will be a one-day, one-venue extravaganza featuring music and spoken word performances across three stages, with something for the whole family to enjoy.

Event founder Micky Pallant said: "After the last 18 months we've all had, we're delighted to be bringing Portobello Live back for the whole community to enjoy. At its heart, this is a festival celebrating everything we love about West London: the people, music, culture and vibrancy, all melded into a life-enhancing event."

For more information, full list of performers and to purchase tickets visit www.portbellolive.com

As a community event in association with the Westway Trust, a portion of all ticket sales go to the JUSTICE4GRENPELL campaign.



Exciting new courses to boost your skills this September

Alongside its existing Maths, English and ICT courses, The ClementJames Centre has some exciting new courses starting in September 2021. Courses are free but require a £20 deposit and include:

- **Introduction to Hospitality**, learners will complete the Level 2 Food Hygiene and Safety certificate, a real asset for those wishing to gain a job as a kitchen assistant, waiter or barista.
- **Essential Digital Skills**, an Edexcel certified qualification which gives learners accreditation for their digital skills and enhances employability.
- **Improve your Wellbeing**, a five-week programme looking at wellbeing, including meditation, relaxation, understanding mental health, diet and keeping healthy.
- **Get to know your community**, this brand new 10-week course enables learners to get out and about in the community, meet people and improve their language skills, both in and out of the classroom.

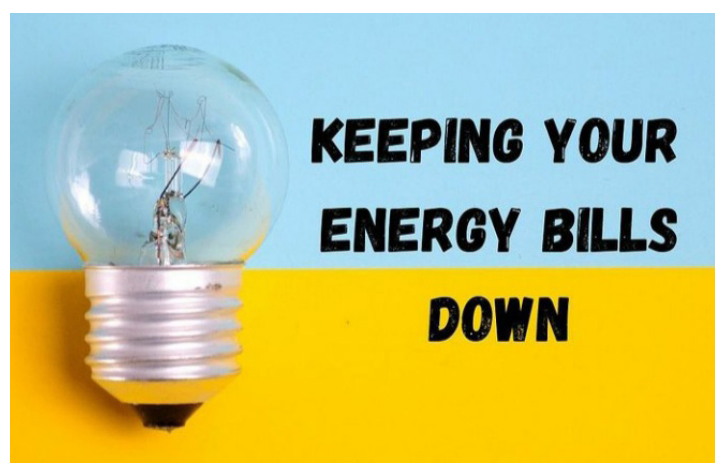
Learners interested in any of these new courses or in courses in Maths, English and ICT (Beginner Level to Level 2) should call **020 7221 8810** or email adultlearning@clementjames.org. You can also find out more about all available courses at www.clementjames.org/adult-learning

Free energy service for residents

The Council's Homes4Health programme provides free home energy advice and support for residents to improve the energy efficiency of their house, save money on their energy bills, and to keep warm during the winter and cool during the summer.

To book a free telephone consultation or home energy visit with a Green Doctor (independently trained energy advisors), call **0300 365 3005** or fill in the online form at <https://groundwork.secure.force.com/enquiry/> Appointments can also be provided with sign language interpretation, via video call, and language interpretation for non-English speakers.

Free webinars are also available for frontline staff, voluntary or community organisations to learn more about how to support people who are struggling. Visit [Eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) and search 'Kensington & Chelsea: How to help people struggling with their energy bills' to find a session.



Apply for a grant to support child and youth wellbeing

The Council has launched a new grant scheme for established voluntary and community sector groups, to support projects and initiatives aimed at improving the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people.

Emotional Health and Wellbeing Community Fund Grants are offered through the Council's Children's Commissioning team and aim to support Grenfell Recovery projects for young people in North Kensington. We know children and young people living in this area have specific needs which are often best met by providers from within the community. By applying for a grant, groups can continue providing their bespoke and well-rounded offers and can take additional steps to ensure children and young people living and learning in Kensington and Chelsea have the support they need.

If you represent a community group that provides support, activities or events for children and young people in North Kensington, you might be able to benefit from a grant. Email marjana.tharin@rbkc.gov.uk and esma.dukali@rbkc.gov.uk to find out more about the scheme and to be sent an application form.

The deadline to submit your application is 5pm on Thursday 16 September 2021.



Help shape the future of housing allocations

Do you have experience of housing allocations in Kensington and Chelsea or ideas on how it could be improved?

Join our new Resident Reference Group (RRG) to have a direct impact on the allocations and rehousing process and how the Council can empower residents to make the right housing choices.

We're looking for a range of people, including those:

- Currently on the housing register
- With experience of the allocations or rehousing process within the past seven years
- With experience of supporting residents with the Council's housing allocations process, including those affected by the Grenfell tragedy

The RRG will share its experience of and ideas about the Council's housing allocations and rehousing processes, review relevant research and recommend how the Council can work differently with residents. It will be supported by a dedicated Grenfell Rehousing and Allocations Project manager.

Find out more – search Resident Reference Group at www.rbkc.gov.uk, call **020 7361 2600** or email RRG@rbkc.gov.uk

New courses available through the Community Leadership Programme

Part of the Council's five-year Grenfell Recovery Strategy, the Community Leadership Programme was launched in September 2019 and continues to provide courses aimed at supporting local individuals to develop their skills and support local communities. Some new courses are being launched this month with the Venture Centre, The Pensions Advisory Service (TPAS) and Sukha Consulting:

The Venture Centre 'Wellbeing Coaching' (Five Week Accredited Course)

**Tuesday 7 September and following four Tuesdays
11am to 2pm**

This a five-week programme introducing the fundamentals of wellbeing coaching based on a holistic model. By the end of the course participants will also gain a Level 1 qualification accredited by the International Institute of Complimentary Therapies (IITC).

For further information and to register please contact info@venturecentre.org.uk or visit www.venturecentre.org.uk/post/summer-community-programme

Sukha Consulting 'Being a Leader'

September date and time to be confirmed at The Curve

All of us have the potential and opportunities to lead. This interactive one-day workshop will explore what makes for great leadership and help individual participants to understand and begin to realise their leadership potential and to find the opportunities to make an impact.

For more information on this course and updates on the date please contact valeria.spada@rbkc.gov.uk.

TPAS 'Chairing & Meeting Skills'

**Saturday 11 September 2021 at The Curve
(10 Bard Road, W10 6TP)
10am to 4pm**

This course will enable participants to better understand the role of the Chair and to build their knowledge, skills and confidence in chairing groups, together with an understanding of the role of other committee members. Breakfast and light lunch included.

TPAS 'Communication & Influencing'

**Saturday 18 September at The Curve
(10 Bard Road, W10 6TP)
10am to 4pm**

This course will help participants to communicate effectively with each other, staff, and residents, ask and use questions effectively, feel more confident to be involved in negotiations, and be able to influence and take part in decisions.

Breakfast and light lunch included.

To register for either of these courses or if you are unsure whether these courses are for you, please email training@tpas.org.uk

Update on North Kensington environmental checks

In the August edition of North Ken News, we reported that the Grenfell Stage 2 Environmental Checks programme identified that additional soil testing is to be carried out at two sites, Treadgold House and Avondale Park Gardens.

This is to resolve the uncertainty about the variations in lead concentrations that were detected, which is thought to be associated with historic contamination and activity that took place before the Grenfell tragedy.

Environmental expert AECOM has been appointed to carry out this further testing and is in the process of writing a sampling strategy. The strategy is set to be finalised by the end of August, with sampling taking place in September or October.

To provide independent oversight of the sampling works, Paul Nathaniel – the Suitably Qualified Person for the Stage 2 Environmental Checks – will continue to scrutinise and sign-off the work.

We will write to residents with a further update as soon as dates for the sampling exercise are known.

For more information, search soil sampling at www.rbkc.gov.uk

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission

Grenfell Tower
Memorial Commission

'Inspiring' visit to Aberfan

"It was inspiring and humbling to meet the trustees from the Aberfan Memorial Trust and learn about everything they are doing to honour the lives that were lost 55 years ago. We will take the lessons that we learned back to the rest of the Memorial Commission and to our communities, and will carry them with us on our journey to build our own lasting memorial."

These are the reflections of the Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission's community representatives who recently visited the Aberfan memorial in south Wales. The independent Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission, which is working with the community to decide on a memorial to those who lost their lives in the Grenfell tragedy, is keen to learn from the experiences of other memorials.

9/11 Memorial

As part of their learning from other memorials, the Memorial Commission has also heard from guest speakers from the 9/11 Memorial & Museum.

You can find out more about the visit to the Aberfan Memorial and the guest speakers from the 9/11 Memorial and Museum in the News section of the Memorial Commission's website www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/news.

Share your memorial ideas

The Memorial Commission is keen to hear from you. Share your thoughts and ideas on a future memorial with them by:

- Using their contact page www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/contact
- Attending community meetings. For details go to the meetings page on the website www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/news/meeting-minutes-and-upcoming-meetings-schedule
- Coming to the Memorial Commission's informal monthly drop-ins. The next one is on **Saturday 4 September** between **12 noon and 4pm** at the **Clement James Centre, 95 Sirdar Road, W11 4EQ**.
- Follow the Memorial Commission on: Twitter [@GrenfellTowerMC](https://twitter.com/GrenfellTowerMC) Instagram www.instagram.com/grenfelltowermc/



Members of the Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission meet with the chair of the Aberfan Memorial Charity and the Chief Adviser to the Aberfan Disaster Fund.

An update from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Grenfell community drop-ins

As owner of the Grenfell Tower site, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) wants to provide regular information on decisions and activity relating to Grenfell Tower and has been holding monthly online drop-ins for the community. These paused over the summer and are now restarting on **Thursday 16 September**, between 6pm and 7pm. You can join the conversation on Microsoft Teams by typing this link into your web browser: bit.ly/16Sept2021

If you don't have Microsoft Teams, you can dial in to the drop-in by calling **020 3443 8728** and using conference ID **205 904 286#**.

- The drop-ins are an opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have about the Tower and site, including of our site management team.
- Please email GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk if you would like to send in your questions before the drop-in.
- If you would prefer to talk in person, MHCLG is continuing to offer 1:1 conversations with bereaved and survivor families. Please contact Davina Manu on 07458 090 772.

MHCLG wrote to bereaved families, survivors and local residents in July to share what they have heard from the community so far on the future of the Tower, and to outline the next steps. You can read the letter sent to residents and the advice that will inform a decision on the Tower on the Grenfell Community Updates page of the gov.uk website: www.gov.uk/grenfell-community-updates



Grenfell
community
updates

If you have questions about the site or the future of the Tower, please email: GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk or phone: **0303 444 0011**.

Social value

MHCLG is also looking for views on how the new contractor at the Grenfell Tower site can invest in, and contribute to, the community. Tell us what you think, find out more, or meet the new contractors on **Wednesday 8 September** at:

- A drop-in between 10am and 1pm, at Bay 20, 71 St Marks Road, W10 6JG
- An online meeting between 6pm and 7pm. Visit this link to join: bit.ly/grenfellsv. If you don't have Microsoft Teams, you can dial in by calling 020 3443 8728 and using conference ID **482 640 02#**.

To take part in discussions on social value opportunities you would like to see provided by the site contractor, please email GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk



Grenfell Community Assembly to focus on emotional health and wellbeing



Emotional health and wellbeing has been selected by participants as the topic for the next Grenfell Community Assembly, which takes place at the Harrow Club (187 Freston Road, W10 6TH) from 6pm to 7:45pm on Thursday 9 September.

The Assembly will feature stalls from the Council and community providers and guest speakers from North West London CCG, the Council's Leadership Team and local commissioners and providers of emotional health and wellbeing services.

Participants will have the chance to join roundtable discussions to share their thoughts and concerns, engage in real conversations and have a constructive exchange of views with community members and representatives from the Council, the voluntary sector and the NHS.

A record of the discussions will be made available after the event along with a document outlining what actions the Council and other partners are taking in response to any issues raised.



Visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/grenfell-community-assembly for more information or scan this QR code to register to attend.

Pupils prepare to start at new North Kensington schools

Pupils are all set to start the 2021/22 academic year in smart new surroundings as Barlby Primary School and Kensington Queensmill open their doors.

The schools will welcome pupils this month (September) following their construction as part of a £39 million investment from Kensington and Chelsea Council.

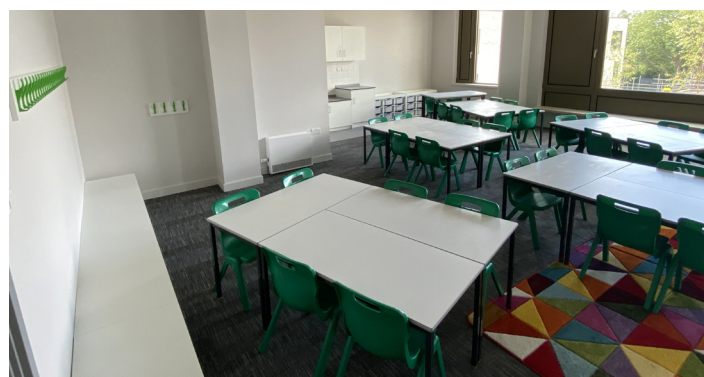
Kensington Queensmill, the borough's first dedicated school for children with autism and additional needs, will cater for 80 pupils and save children and families having to travel out of the borough for their education.

It is linked via a central hall to neighbouring Barlby Primary School which provides facilities including 18 classrooms alongside an art room, library and an orchard teaching facility for children with autistic spectrum conditions.

Barlby Primary School Headteacher Anthony Mannix (pictured right) said:

"We're delighted with our new facilities here at Barlby Primary School.

"It's an amazing opportunity for our community and we look forward to welcoming back the children and our families to our wonderful new school in early September."



For more information, search Barlby New Schools at www.rbkc.gov.uk

Let's talk about The Curve

We've launched a community conversation to ask the North Kensington community to help decide the future of The Curve.

The lease for The Curve Community Centre's current premises, on Bard Road, is due to come to an end in June 2022. This means that services will no longer be delivered from this site from when the lease ends.

The Curve's Board of Governors' aspiration is to ensure that the remaining Curve budget of £1.3 million is used to support those most affected by the Grenfell tragedy, with a much stronger connection to new and innovative initiatives that help the community to thrive.

We therefore want to have a conversation with residents affected by Grenfell to hear your aspirations for the future of The Curve, while always remembering how The Curve came about and what it stands for.

We'll be holding virtual and face-to-face workshops and focus groups and attending local community events to ensure we hear from a broad range of residents.

We have also launched an online survey and will have printed surveys available for those who are unable to access it online. A suggestion box will be available at The Curve for the community to provide their views. Translated copies of the survey will also be available.

This is a great opportunity for the North Kensington community to shape, lead and deliver future Curve community services and to cement The Curve's legacy.

What do to now

1. Take the survey online – it takes less than 10 minutes.
2. Come to one of our 'Let's talk about The Curve' face-to-face or virtual workshops. Visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search 'About The Curve' for more information.
3. Sign up to The Curve Board of Governors. Visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search 'Curve Governors' for more information.

Take the survey, sign up for Curve updates and find out more here: <https://consult.rbkc.gov.uk/communities/curve>

What is The Curve

The Curve is a community centre that originally provided emergency support for those affected by the Grenfell tragedy. Over time, and with hard work from the community, the services have changed to provide one-to-one information advice and guidance; basic skills classes; language classes; and social events and activities for the residents of North Kensington, in line with your needs.

If you would like to find out more about The Curve Community Conversation or request a copy of the survey in another language please call **07940 059596** or email anthony@braegen.co.uk or charlotte@braegen.co.uk



Let's talk about The Curve