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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

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



www.facebook.com/royalborough



www.nextdoor.co.uk



www.instagram.com/kensingtonandchelseacouncil

For updates on Grenfell



@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

Information in this newsletter about Coronavirus testing, vaccinations and guidance is up to date at the time of print. If you're unsure about the latest guidance, please visit gov.uk/coronavirus and for the latest local information, visit the Council website www.rbkc.gov.uk/coronavirus

£250,000 for employment support projects

As part of the Grenfell Recovery Strategy, Community Works was set up to support residents into employment or self-employment and create better opportunities.

The process began in late 2019 with Council officers working in co-creation with the community to develop the Community Works programme. Residents shared their ideas and the key needs for support in several small group sessions and workshops.

From these sessions, we have developed a list of eight potential projects to address these key needs. We have £250,000 to deliver residents' top priority projects so want to hear from you about what would best help you.



Community Works

Employment and Skills support
as part of Grenfell Recovery



Find out more about the eight potential projects and share your feedback at www.rbkc.gov.uk and search 'Community Works'.

Please make sure to share your feedback by **Friday 9 April** for it to be considered.

Rapid Covid-19 testing centre opens at the Ismaili Centre

A new rapid community testing centre has opened at The Ismaili Centre in South Kensington, in addition to existing testing centres at Kensington Leisure Centre, Kensington Town Hall and Chelsea Old Town Hall.

The rapid testing centres are only for people who do not show symptoms of Coronavirus. If you cannot work from home or are the parents or guardians of children at nursery, school or college; plus people in their childcare or support bubble you should attend twice a week if possible. There's no need to book, just drop into a centre at:

The Ismaili Centre, 1 Cromwell Gardens, SW7 2SL
8am to 4.30pm, Monday and Wednesday
10am to 4pm Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Kensington Leisure Centre, Silchester Road, W10 6EX
8am to 4.30pm, Monday and Wednesday
10am to 4pm Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, W8 7NX
8am to 5.30pm Monday and Wednesday, 8.30am to 5.30pm Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and 10am to 4pm at weekends.

Chelsea Old Town Hall, King's Road, SW3 5EE
8am to 4.30pm, Monday and Wednesday
10am to 4pm Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Important message about the AstraZeneca vaccine

NHS
North West London
Collaboration of
Clinical Commissioning Groups

More than 17 million doses of the Covid-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca have now been given across the EU.

Fewer than 40 cases of blood clots have been reported as of last week in vaccinated people.

This is much lower than the hundreds of cases that would be expected to have occurred naturally in the general population.

People should still go and get their Covid-19 vaccine when invited to do so.

Dr Genevieve Small – GP lead for the
NW London vaccination programme
(and a GP in Harrow)

Read the latest Medicines and
Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
[guidance](#)



If you don't have symptoms and are the parents or guardians of school age children plus people in their childcare or support bubble you can also go to Kensington Town Hall or 2-4 Malton Road (between 1pm and 8pm) to collect a home testing kit. You will get two kits so you can test yourself twice in the week.

As of 18 March, we have carried out 42,848 rapid community tests, with 2.4 per cent of people testing positive.

Vaccinations

The Science Museum has now opened as a mass vaccination centre, providing 1,000 vaccinations per day, seven days a week. This is in addition to GP led centres in North Kensington, Earl's Court and Chelsea.

If you are 50+ or clinically extremely vulnerable you can now get vaccinated. You will be contacted by the NHS to arrange a vaccination but you can also go to NHS online - www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119 to arrange this.

Boost your maths skills at The ClementJames Centre

Do you need a qualification in maths? Or maybe you want to help your children with their homework or are looking to develop in your current job or change your career?

Enrol with The ClementJames Centre for a Higher-Level Maths Class - Level 1/2 Functional Skills, equivalent to GCSE level.

The ClementJames Centre is registered with awarding body Pearson Edexcel and provides English, Maths and ICT lessons for adult learners.

Maths Classes run every Wednesday from 6pm to 8pm until June.

To register, complete the form at the following link or scan the QR code.



For more information, visit

www.clementjames.org/adult-learning call 020 7221 8810 or email adultlearning@clementjames.org

Health Champions spread the word on Coronavirus

We're calling for as many residents as possible to become Covid-19 Health Champions to help to reduce the spread of Coronavirus by sharing accurate and up to date health advice and guidance with friends, family and neighbours.

We know that many people have unanswered questions and that there have been various myths circulating about Coronavirus and the vaccinations that are available. Health Champions will be among the first people to find out the latest information about what is happening, including the most up to date information on the vaccination rollout.

There are online briefing sessions twice a week. You can attend either on Wednesday at 7pm or Friday at 10am to find out the latest information.

Representatives from the Council's Public Health team will be involved as well as different health organisations, depending on the topics, including local hospitals, clinical commissioning groups (CCG) and local GPs. This is a friendly supportive meeting that will allow you to listen and share experiences with other residents.

Go to www.rbkc.gov.uk and search health champions to sign up and help your community.



Share your ideas about the future Grenfell memorial

The independent Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission is working with bereaved families, survivors and the community to agree a future memorial to those who lost their lives in the tragedy.

The Memorial Commission holds monthly meetings, currently online, where you can talk to the community representatives and ask questions – see the news section at www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk for dates and joining details, or contact GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk

The Memorial Commission is keen to hear from as many people as possible, in whatever way suits you best. On the website you can also:

- Discover the different ways to share your thoughts on a memorial and find out what the Memorial Commission has heard from people so far via the 'ideas-gathering' section
- Read the latest blog by one of the representatives for the bereaved families, Hanan Wahabi
- See a timeline showing the Memorial Commission's journey to a memorial (see the 'About us' section)
- Contact the community representatives directly, sign up for automatic email updates and the new monthly e-newsletter via the 'Contact' section.

North Ken mum brings diversity to the toybox

A North Kensington mum is producing children's dolls with black and mixed-race skin tones and hair textures to bring diversity and inclusion to children's playtime.

After being unable to find a doll that suitably represented her daughter, Lola Love launched Lola Love Dolls, celebrating darker complexions and black hair textures.

Speaking with North Ken News, Lola said: "When I was growing up it was normal to see only white dolls but as a mum, I asked myself what that was doing to my child's psyche. From their earliest years, they're being pushed to the back and invalidated by the world around them."

While almost 40 per cent of people living in London are non-white, dolls and toys predominantly favour light skin-tones and straight hair.

The past year has brought uncomfortable truths on race-related issues into focus. That's why Lola feels that these dolls shouldn't be just for black children:



"Children from all backgrounds should have dolls and toys that represent the real world and the people who live in it. It helps us eliminate internalised and unconscious racism from the earliest point possible".

Before the pandemic, Lola sold her dolls on Portobello Road. They are now available on her Etsy and eBay shops.



Find out more on Instagram, follow @lolalovedolls or visit www.etsy.me/20NiUYv

Have your say in May

On Thursday 6 May residents in Kensington and Chelsea will have their say on who represents them at the Mayor of London and London Assembly elections.

In order to vote in these important elections, residents must be on the electoral register

and Kensington and Chelsea residents are encouraged to apply early if they'd like to vote by post.

These elections are an opportunity to make your voice heard and have a say on who represents you on issues that directly affect day-to-day life here in Kensington and Chelsea. If you're not registered in time, you won't be able to vote, so don't miss out.

The deadline to register for a postal vote is Tuesday 20 April.



It takes just five minutes to apply online at gov.uk/register-to-vote

New leaves on the horizon for Grenfell Mosaic

Arts organisation ACAVA has moved forward with the Grenfell Memorial Community Mosaic project during January, February and March of this year, by installing mosaic leaves created by the local school communities last year.

Thomas Jones, St Charles and St. Mary's worked with artists Emily Fuller and Tomomi Yoshida to complete the three leaves.

Due to the temporary suspension of workshops, there won't be a leaf installed on-site in April to mark 46 months since the tragedy. Workshops will resume at the end of the month with staff and pupils from Barlby, Bevington,

Colville, Golborne and Maxilla Nursery and Oxford Gardens Schools, to complete the remaining leaves in time for the four-year memorial in June.

To find out more about the project, visit www.acava.org and click on Our Programmes.



Barlby schools taking shape

The modern new homes for Barlby Primary School and Kensington Queensmill, the borough's first dedicated school for children with autism and special educational needs, are coming along nicely.

Construction at the site in North Kensington has continued throughout the pandemic and scaffolding surrounding the new building is being removed to reveal the distinctive brickwork underneath.

Workers are now focusing on the internal fit-out of the schools, installing doors, frames and internal screens. The first stage of decoration is underway too.

The two schools, which are due to be ready for pupils from September onwards, will be linked by a central kitchen and hall. Work to install a folding wall to allow the space to be used for a variety of different purposes has also begun.

Have you applied for the EU Settlement Scheme?

If you are an EU national living in the UK, you need to have applied for pre-settled or settled status by Wednesday 30 June 2021.

It's vital that you apply before the deadline to be able to continue to live and work in the UK. It's free to apply and you can complete the first application stage, to verify your identity documents, via your smartphone with the Home Office's 'EU Exit: ID Document Check' app.

If you don't have access to a smartphone, our European Settled Status (EuSS) service team can assist you with starting your application. Find out more about our service and other support you can access to help you with the rest of your application at www.rbkc.gov.uk/euss. This service is free for Kensington and Chelsea residents.

Find out more about the scheme at www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families

Community has its say on new homes plans

The latest round of public consultations into plans to deliver new homes on Council-owned land across the borough is underway.

Residents, organisations and local businesses based near the proposed Silchester Arches site were able to log on to two online chat sessions on 25 and 27 March to hear the latest updates, ask questions and provide feedback.

The second phase of the consultation into the Barlby Road site gets underway on 8 April, with live chat sessions scheduled for 5.30-6.30pm on Wednesday 14 April and 10.30am-11.30am on Saturday 17 April.

Two further chat sessions on the proposed Edenham site were held in February.

Details of each site along with feedback forms on the



consultations and news about the wider New Homes Delivery Programme, which aims to deliver 600 new homes including a minimum of 300 at social rent, can be found by searching 'new homes' at www.rbkc.gov.uk

Stage three of Grenfell Inquiry begins

Module three of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry began at the end of March, with a number of opening statements from families, the Council, and those representing the Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation.

The module is set to run from the end of March to July and will look at the management of Grenfell Tower, the role of the Council and KCTMO, fire safety, engagement with residents, governance, and complaints.

The inquiry has been conducting remote hearings available via its website and on YouTube during the pandemic, and the inquiry team is reviewing this on an ongoing basis to see if witnesses and the public can be allowed back in safely.

Timetables for the week ahead are released every Friday or Monday by the inquiry, including the names of witnesses to give evidence.

All the details, including video links, can be found on the inquiry website www.grenfelltowerinquiry.org.uk

Kensington Queensmill welcomes first Head of School

Kensington and Chelsea's new dedicated school for children with autism and additional needs has appointed an experienced educator as its first head.

Andy Nowak will take charge as Head of School at Kensington Queensmill before the school's opening in September this year. He joins from his current role as Deputy Head of Queensmill School in Shepherd's Bush.

Mr Nowak brings years of experience in teaching and leadership roles in special schools and autism-specific settings, has pursued a Masters in Special Education and served as a visiting lecturer on autism and inclusion at the University of Roehampton.

Mr Nowak said: "The opportunity to develop a local, outstanding special school in fantastic purpose-built facilities is unique and I cannot wait to welcome our first cohort of children in September."

Find out more by searching Kensington Queensmill at www.rbkc.gov.uk





Going green with The Gardens Project

Community initiative The Gardens Project hopes to carry out a **£100,000** upgrade to the Convent Estate's communal areas, creating an extraordinary new garden including handmade ceramic pots filled with exotic shrubs, trees and flowers reflecting the diversity of the local area.

The scheme was awarded £10,000 from the Grenfell Projects Fund in 2020 to develop designs for the garden, which references where the trees of the original convent once stood.

Now, after a year of successful fundraising and working in collaboration with leading horticulturist Matthew Pottage and award-winning architects Bureau de Change, the project is well on its way to delivering the garden for July.

More information can be found at www.thegardensproject.org and crowdfunding information is available at www.spacehive.com/thegardensproject#/idea

Join the next Grenfell Tower 'drop in' meeting

As the owner of the Grenfell Tower site, the Government wants to provide regular information on any decisions and activity about Grenfell Tower. It also wants to provide you with opportunities to ask any questions you might have.

MHCLG is holding its next 'drop in' online meeting on **Thursday 1 April, 6pm to 7pm.**

Here, you will be able to hear from, and ask questions of, a panel including MHCLG's site management and community engagement teams.

Join with the weblink: bit.ly/1AprilEvent

This link will only work on laptops and other devices that have Microsoft Teams. If you don't have Teams, you can dial in using **020 3443 8728**, **conference ID 157789330#**.

Please email GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk if you would like to send in your questions before the meeting or to find out about next month's event.

Share your thoughts and questions about Grenfell Tower

You can do this by speaking with Kaizen, an independent community engagement organisation which is working with both Government and the independent Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission:

- Email info@kaizen.org.uk
- Call 020 7082 5505 or text 07984 434 855 to arrange a phone conversation

Please see MHCLG's latest Grenfell Tower community updates, including previous online meeting write-ups and letters, at www.gov.uk/grenfell-community-updates