

Our Borough



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Register to Vote

Have your say
in this year's local
elections



Construct a New Career

Building Lives
Academy opens
its doors



Community Champions

Be inspired by
the latest Mayor's
Award winners



Have Your Say

Influence decisions
with the Citizens'
Panel



A Right Royal Party

How you can celebrate the Queen's
Platinum Jubilee **Page 3**

Welcome to Our Borough

Share your stories

Do you have news you'd like to share with fellow residents across Kensington and Chelsea? Whether you want to promote an event, celebrate a community champion or let others know what's going on in the borough, we would love to hear from you.

If you've got a story to share, email commsteam@rbkc.gov.uk

Let us know what you think

Our Borough is your newsletter and we want it to reflect the issues that matter to you. If you've got any feedback, please let us know at commsteam@rbkc.gov.uk

We're available online

To view this or previous issues of Our Borough online, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search 'Our Borough'.

Staying in touch

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

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

 www.facebook.com/royalborough

 www.instagram.com/kensingtonandchelseacouncil

 www.nextdoor.co.uk – search Kensington and Chelsea Council

For updates on Grenfell

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

 www.rbkc.gov.uk/grenfell

Vaccine Validation Centre opens in Science Museum

A new centre at the Science Museum has opened to validate Covid vaccines administered outside of the UK.

People who have been double jabbed abroad have so far been unable to have their status updated on NHS systems, causing difficulty accessing vaccine passports and booster jabs.

Kensington and Chelsea Council has one of the lowest vaccination rates in England with only 41 per cent of residents aged 12 and over having had a booster.

With a transient population and residents who spend time abroad, it's expected that validating vaccines will show that many more people have been vaccinated than have currently been included in NHS data.

You can use this service if you're:

- aged 16 or over
- have an NHS number
- have received a Covid vaccine dose outside of England that is one of the four MHRA-approved vaccine types: Astra Zeneca (Vaxzevria), Pfizer (Comirnaty), Janssen or Moderna (Spikevax)

Want to make an appointment at the Vaccine Validation Centre? Search "Coronavirus vaccination abroad" at www.nhs.uk or scan this QR code to book an appointment online, or call **119**.



Make your voice heard – register to vote today

With local elections taking place on Thursday 5 May 2022, it's important to register to vote as soon as possible. We spoke to local resident Anne, who told us why she wouldn't dream of missing out on registering to vote...

How easy is it to register to vote?

"It's so easy! The simplest way is on gov.uk – it takes about two minutes and the only information that some people might not remember is their National Insurance number. However, it's not compulsory, so if you can't find it you can register without it and you'll just be asked for additional proof later on."

How important is it to register to vote?

"Personally, I think it's very important. I don't take for granted the fact that we live in a democracy and have the right to vote. In many countries, democratic rights are stifled or limited, and as a woman I do think about the fact that 100 years ago people threw themselves to their deaths for their right to vote. Also, a lot of people don't realise that their credit ratings are affected if they don't register to vote. This is all apart from the fact that it's a legal requirement to register and you could get a fine if you don't."

What impact do you think your vote has on our community?

"If an election is a close-run contest, your vote can be the final decider. You can never underestimate the importance of your vote, particularly at a local level – it really can make a difference. Also, we can't complain about the people making the decisions if we don't exercise our right to vote. If we want to get our voice heard, we need to participate!"

Local elections will take place on Thursday 5 May 2022. To make sure you don't miss out on making a difference in your community, register to vote.



Although it is a legal requirement to register, it's not an obligation to vote. Visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote for more information.



Celebrate Queen's Platinum Jubilee at Royal Borough's afternoon tea

Residents and businesses are being invited to get involved in a spectacular celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Kensington and Chelsea will be marking the historic occasion with a street party-themed indoor afternoon tea at Kensington Town Hall between 12pm and 3pm on Sunday 5 June.

Organised by the Kensington and Chelsea Over 50s Forum in partnership with the Council, voluntary organisations and cadet groups, the afternoon will give residents the chance to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the throne in the heart of the Royal Borough.

There are several ways to get involved in the celebrations, including:

Nominate a guest

Do you know someone of a similar age to the Queen or a Royal fan who would enjoy marking the jubilee at the afternoon tea? Put their name forward to attend the party.

Volunteer to help out

The day's festivities will be made possible through the dedication of volunteers, so why not help out? Whether you want to bake a cake, provide food or have a role on the day itself, your help will be greatly appreciated.

Become a sponsor

The organisers will be grateful to local businesses, organisations and residents who are able to support the day through a financial gift, food or gifts for guests or assistance with administration.

To nominate a guest or offer your support as a volunteer or sponsor, email info@kensingtonandchelseaforum.org.uk or call 020 3719 4954.



Sign up for the free Building Lives Academy

Are you aged between 16 and 24 and want to develop the skills you need for a career in construction? If so, the free Building Lives Academy is for you!

Based in North Kensington, the Academy is an 11-week programme designed to prepare young residents of the borough for a move into an apprenticeship, job or higher-level training in construction or logistics.

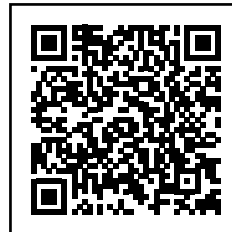
Trainees are fully funded and can gain qualifications in construction skills, health and safety and employability as well as benefiting from on-site experience, access to personal branding workshops and the chance to learn maths, English and digital skills.

The Building Lives Academy has now launched from Kensington and Chelsea Council-owned premises provided to Willmott Dixon under a social investment lease. Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis.



To register your interest, email your contact details to Maria Roye at m.roye@londonlc.org.uk or call London Learning Consortium on **07940 751767**.

You can also find more information by scanning this QR code.



What is social investment?



The Building Lives Academy is an example of the Council's new social investment approach, which aims to improve the prosperity and wellbeing of residents through the use of assets and resources by striking the right balance of financial and non-financial outcomes.

The initial focus is on five areas – housing, libraries, parks and green spaces, procurement and property. For more information, email SocialInvestment@rbkc.gov.uk

Five-year Markets Plan published

A new Markets Plan outlining 46 action points to be implemented over the next five years to improve markets and street trading across the borough has been published.

The Plan's three key aspects – Greening our Markets, Supporting our Traders and Promoting our Markets – target specific areas of action including sustainability and environmental improvements, enterprise support, activating space and safety and security.

There will be some exciting actions coming this year such as sites being made available for local people to test out a new business; a youth programme for market stall experience and training; seasonal Sundays during the summer and Christmas period at Portobello; and promotion of eco-friendly stalls such as those with plastic-free produce.

The Plan has been published following extensive consultation to pinpoint the best way to help markets recover from the pandemic but also to thrive and adapt for the future.

To find out more about our new Markets Plan, search “Markets and street trading” at www.rbkc.gov.uk



‘Life transforming’ bid for Notting Hill Police Station

A potential bid to buy Notting Hill Police Station to prevent it being turned into private housing could be “life transforming” for families with learning disabilities, according to the joint chair of a much-loved local charity.

Sue Redmond, of Full of Life, which supports families in Kensington and Chelsea, said that proposals to create residential and respite space for up to 20 people to be cared for locally were a “fantastic opportunity to do something incredible” for the community.

Notting Hill Police Station has been put up for sale by the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime. The Council is considering making an offer to buy the building, so that it remains in the hands of the public sector, with facilities for the local community as the top priority.

The proposals could provide a new GP surgery, a space for local police, community space to rent and affordable housing for key workers.



An online petition

The Kensington Society has launched an online petition to keep Notting Hill Police Station in community use.

To find out more, visit <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/ensure-that-the-notting-hill-police-station-retains-its-community-use>

You can also find more information by scanning this QR code.



Reach for the sun – it’s easier than you think

The impacts of climate change are easy to see, from warmer temperatures and heavy rainfall here, to serious bushfires and weather events across the globe.

It’s not so easy to see how we can make a difference in our own lives. Our homes and buildings are the borough’s biggest carbon emitter. Going green at home can help save on rising energy bills and help the environment.

With more than 4,000 listed buildings in the borough, some people feel solar panels won’t be an option for

them. But we are consulting now on a new boroughwide initiative, giving residential homes the consent to install solar panels without needing to apply to the Council first.

There will still be guidance on fittings and colour, to make sure panels are subtle and fit right in with the surrounding area.

If you’re thinking of getting solar panels, you can save money by joining up with other residents to buy them. Find out more at solartogether.co.uk/london



We’re encouraging all developers to think about the carbon footprint of their buildings in our draft New Local Plan. We want all buildings to be energy efficient by design and consider renewable energy options first.

Our consultation on the draft New Local Plan is open now. Have your say on how the borough will look over the next 20 years in the consultation until Wednesday 23 March at planningconsult.rbkc.gov.uk/NLPR or phone the planning line on 020 7361 3012.

Community heroes honoured with Mayor's Awards

More than 20 local people and organisations have had their outstanding contributions to life in Kensington and Chelsea recognised with a Mayor's Award.

Nominees were put forward by members of the community and judged by a panel which selected individuals and groups that have gone above and beyond to serve the borough.

The winners were announced in three different categories – Individual Contribution, Local Community Organisation and, for the first time, Young Person.

Among this year's recipients were residents who have given up their time to volunteer at food banks, serve on community committees and help the homeless and veterans of the Armed Forces.

Popular groups including Al-Manaar Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre, The Space, Dalgarno Trust Foodbank and Al-Hasaniya Moroccan Women's Project were also rewarded for their services to Kensington and Chelsea's residents.

Moktar Alqaderi, who received a Mayor's Award in the Individual Contribution category for the support he has provided to young people for more than a decade, said:

"I am truly humbled by this recognition and feel that such an immense honour will serve to motivate me to continue in the work that I do.

"I have always lived in the borough. I set-up my own social enterprise which was designed to help ex-offenders secure training and have continued serving the community over the last decade, motivated by the struggles of so many that I come across every day."

Souad Talsi, founder of Al-Hasaniya Moroccan Women's Project which received a Mayor's Award in the Local Community Organisation category, said:

"The nomination itself is a recognition of the hard work invested by all concerned. The pandemic has been especially cruel and our work has made that difference in ensuring isolation isn't loneliness.

"I founded this small but great local charity as a mouthpiece for all Moroccan and Arabic speakers, who remain under the radar and are often marginalised. To support a woman, for example, from being broken by domestic violence when she comes to us to becoming an independent, strong survivor is a testimony to our commitment and belief that together we are stronger."

Rob McGibbon, who received an Individual Contribution award for organising a petition and media campaign calling for the installation of a Green Man crossing over Battersea Bridge at Cheyne Walk, said:

"Over the years, I have always tried to contribute to my community in some small way. I love my area and the whole borough. It is a fabulous place to live.

"I fully support the Mayor's Awards because they acknowledge that doing your bit for your community really matters. Everyone can do something positive. My mantra is always: don't walk on by!"

Mayor's Awards Winners

Individual Contribution

Hagir Ahmed; Moktar Alqaderi; Mark Barr; Fiona Flaherty; John Goddard; Robert Halbert-Pereno; Nicholas Halbritter; Cate Latto; Rob McGibbon; Dorinda Montgomery; Shirley Nicholson; Penny Pocock; Roger Roberts.

Young Person

Hedi Beltaeif; SEND News Crew.

Local Community Organisation

Al-Hasaniya Moroccan Women's Project; Dalgarno Trust Foodbank; Glass Door Homeless Charity; Octavia Care and Communities Teams; Our Power Hub; The Central Gurdwara London; Al-Manaar Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre; The Space; The Venture Centre Community Association and Adventure Playground; West London Zone.

Full details of the winners can be found by searching Mayor's Awards at www.rbkc.gov.uk or by scanning this QR code.



Moktar Alqaderi



Rob McGibbon



Souad Talsi

Do you know about our Citizens' Panel?

Have you heard about our Citizens' Panel and how they influence important decisions like our Green Plan?

The Citizens' Panel is a diverse group of nearly 2,000 residents who share their opinions on local issues and key decisions that affect everyone's lives in the borough. They take part in online surveys, in-person exercises, and much more.

Think you'd like to have a more active role in the borough to influence local decisions? Contact our team to be considered as a panel member by emailing Panel@rbkc.gov.uk



To learn more about the Panel and the work done to date, search "Citizens' Panel" at www.rbkc.gov.uk

Leighton House set for grand reopening

Leighton House will reopen to the public later this year following an £8m transformation, accompanied by a new website, re-envisioned branding and a closer integration with its sister museum, Sambourne House.

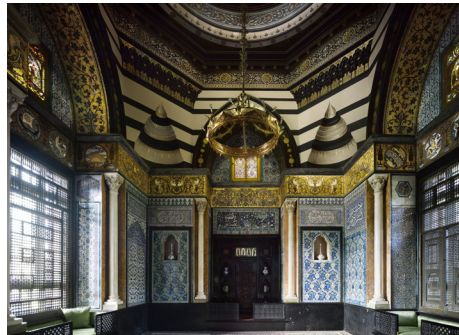
Situated in Holland Park, Leighton House is already famed for its opulent interiors, including the extraordinary Arab Hall, and will reopen with a fully redeveloped wing, new exhibition spaces and displays, a café opening into the redesigned garden, a dedicated Learning Centre and a collections store.

For the first time, full disabled access is provided across the building, thanks to a new lift and a helical staircase displaying a large-scale hand-painted mural by the Iranian artist Shahrzad Ghaffari across three floors.

Leighton House will reopen its doors to visitors in tandem with Sambourne House, the preserved Victorian home of celebrated illustrator Linley Sambourne, providing a unique window into the art and society of the era.

The capital development of Leighton House has been supported by Kensington and Chelsea Council, the National Lottery Heritage Fund and The Friends of Leighton House.

For updates on both venues, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/museums



Celebrate the Windrush generation

Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster will be celebrating the unique contributions made by the Windrush generation at exhibitions launching later this year

Starting on Windrush Day, Wednesday 22 June 2022, and running until the end of Black History Month on Friday 28 October 2022, artefact exhibitions at North Kensington Library and Queen's Park Library will mark the music, food and culture this special generation brought to London.

The Windrush generation included soldiers, doctors, nurses, teachers, university students, transit workers,

artists, politicians, and athletes, who came to the UK between 1948 and 1970 upon invitation from the British Government to rebuild a nation ravaged by war.

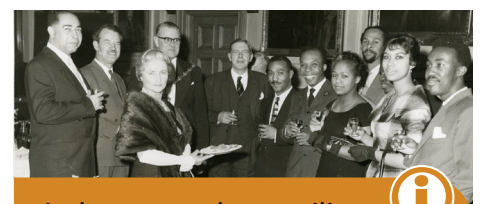
These exhibitions will give an insight into the lives and experiences of these everyday heroes and provide individual accounts of their contributions before they are lost.

Ways to Get Involved

Artefacts: We welcome items from the Windrush era such as Dutch pots, pardner books, travel documents, clothing and household items. Each contributor will be acknowledged.

Documents: Anything pertaining to the Windrush generation including departure, arrival, and settlement, military service and NHS contribution.

Personal stories: Nothing brings history to life like the sharing of stories, so why not share your family's?



Find out more by emailing windrush1@rbkc.gov.uk or windrush@westminster.gov.uk

Useful Council numbers and contact information

We know that when you have a question or a concern, you need to speak to the right person or find the right information quickly. Here's a list of our key contacts and information points:

Benefits

- 📞 020 7361 3006
- @ benefits@rbkc.gov.uk

Council tax

Note - all transaction related requests including claiming Housing Benefits or paying council tax can now be done quickly and easily through the relaunched MyRBKC.

- 📞 020 7361 3005
- 🌐 www.rbkc.gov.uk/myrbkc

Environmental Health

This team is able to assist with animal and pest control services, public health, general health and safety and food safety matters.

- 📞 020 7361 3002
- @ environmentalhealth@rbkc.gov.uk

Any emergency calls outside of working hours are transferred to an out-of-hours service.

Housing

Information and advice to help you find suitable accommodation, advice on keeping your home, and homelessness.

- 📞 020 7361 3008
- @ housing@rbkc.gov.uk

Emergency calls to the Homelessness Placement Unit outside of 9am-5pm Monday to Friday are transferred to an out-of-hours services.

Housing Management

On 1 March 2018, the Council took over the management of its homes from Kensington & Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation (KCTMO). This includes day-to-day services such as repairs, cleaning and looking after your estate.

- 📞 0800 137 111 or the mobile friendly number 020 3617 7080
- @ HM-CustomerServices@rbkc.gov.uk

There is a faster, easier and mobile-friendly MyRBKC now at your disposal. Check it out for yourself on www.rbkc.gov.uk/myrbkc and once registered, you can:

- better manage transactions like paying Council Tax or claiming Housing Benefit.
- sign-up for email notifications about those Council decisions you are most interested in. From planning to governance, choose what you want to hear about and

how frequently.

- report issues online and get them resolved quicker.
- The 15 new online Report-It forms can be used anytime, anywhere to tell us about everything from noise issues, fly-tipping or broken streetlights to health and safety concerns at a restaurant or business. www.rbkc.gov.uk/global/report-it/report-problem

Arts and leisure

Information on cultural activities in the borough.

- 📞 020 7361 3003
- @ artsandleisure@rbkc.gov.uk
- 🐦 @RBKCulture
- 📘 @RBKCulture

The team can assist with information on our schools, access to education, support services for special educational needs and disabilities, Adult Learning and Employment opportunities and safeguarding, looked after children and leaving care.

- 📞 020 7361 3009
- @ educationline@rbkc.gov.uk

Family Information Service

A free, impartial information service for parents and carers of children and young people aged up to 19 (up to 25 for those with additional needs), including Tax-Free Childcare.

- 📞 020 7361 3302
- @ fis@rbkc.gov.uk

Libraries

Call or email to find or join a library or learn about borrowing and charges, home library services, special events for adults and children, job seekers and careers advice and much more.

- 📞 020 7361 3010
- @ information@rbkc.gov.uk
- 🐦 @RBKCLibraries
- 📘 @rbkclibraries

Parking

General parking enquiries

- 📞 020 7361 3004
- @ enquiries@rbkcparking.com

Rough sleeping

If you see someone sleeping rough in the borough, you can call the Street Population Outreach Team on:

- 📞 020 7341 5210 or 020 7361 3008

9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

You can also report a rough sleeper via the national website Streetlink or by calling:

- 📞 0300 500 0914
- 🐦 @Tell_Streetlink (for national website and helpline)

Streetline

Streetline cover everything relating to street-and city-spaces within the borough.

- @ streetline@rbkc.gov.uk

Social Services

- 📞 020 7361 3013
 - @ socialservices@rbkc.gov.uk
- Any emergency calls outside of working hours are transferred to an out-of-hours service.

Help for those affected by the Grenfell tragedy:

- 📞 0800 0234 650 (NHS helpline for those seeking mental health or emotional support)

Grenfell Health and Wellbeing Service:

- 🌐 www.grenfellwellbeing.com