



Schools
simply
the best

Dealing
with the
snow

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Forward to 2028
– a four page
supplement

SEE CENTRE PAGES



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Royal Borough

www.rbkc.gov.uk

FEBRUARY 2010 No. 162



Relief for residents

The risk of more damaging floods like those seen in 2007 has receded after residents won their battle for protective measures.

The Office of Water Services (OFWAT) decision to award funding to protection projects in the Royal Borough means Thames Water will be able to develop a local storm relief tunnel scheme that will help reduce the risk of flooding.

This victory for campaigning residents has been welcomed by Kensington and Chelsea Council, which lobbied hard for two years for this work to be carried out.

In the short-term Thames Water will install Flooding Local Improvement Projects (FLIPs) at more than 600 properties in the Counters Creek catchment area to alleviate severe internal flooding.

The monsoon-like rain in July 2007 was too much for the Victorian sewer system around Counters Creek and the severe flooding that followed caused massive disruption and damage.

The Council pressed Thames Water to hold meetings at which residents told the company what they wanted to see done about the flooding.

The Council then continued to work with Thames Water and lobby OFWAT on behalf of the residents affected by the flooding in the Royal Borough.

Cllr Nicholas Paget-Brown, Cabinet Member for Environment, said: "We have been working with Thames Water and residents for more than two years to secure funding for Counters Creek. I am delighted that OFWAT has agreed to this work and I hope residents will soon feel more secure in their properties."

"The agreement of OFWAT was only secured as a result of the hard work the Council, Thames Water and residents put into providing strong, convincing evidence of the need for storm relief tunnels in the area."

The final submission to OFWAT was made in September 2009, when Thames Water proposed an investment of more than £25 million in long and short-term measures. Work will include developing a solution to Counters Creek flooding with a view to construction beginning in 2014.



Shop locally and save

Independent retailers and businesses are being urged to sign up to a free borough-wide retail loyalty card scheme aimed at encouraging people to shop locally in return for special offers and discounts.

Wedge is aiming to recruit the borough's 2,000 small independent retailers and businesses to the scheme, which is being backed by the Council. More than 150,000 Wedge cards, normally worth £10, are being given away free to people who work, visit or live in the borough.

Scores of independent shops and businesses have already shown interest in Wedge, which has been set up by *Big Issue* founders John Bird and his daughter Diana.

Christine Gilmore from No 35, a clothing boutique on Fulham Road, is delighted at the opportunity of working with Wedge. "We feel it's very important that small businesses should work together to promote local shops and encourage people to use them."

Cards will be sent to all residents in March, while students and workers should contact their college or employer. Independent retailers in the Royal Borough that would like more information should contact Christina Singleton by emailing christina@wedgocard.co.uk or telephoning 0791 999 6847.

Wedge is currently used in 900 shops and by 40,000 cardholders throughout London. To register for a Wedge card email info@wedgocard.co.uk or phone 020 7401 3913.

BRIDGE TO CLOSE

Albert Bridge will be closed from Monday 15 February at the start of an ambitious 18-month renovation project being carried out on behalf of the Council.

The renovation will be the most significant work on the bridge since it was opened in the nineteenth century. While the work is going on, traffic will be diverted across Chelsea and Battersea bridges and only pedestrians and dismounted cyclists will be able to use the bridge.

For further information see www.rbkc.gov.uk/albertbridge ring 020 7341 5220 or email anne.sexton@rbkc.gov.uk

Contacting the Council

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Give us your views

Write to The Editor, *Royal Borough*, Press Office, Room 230/3, Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7NX or email pressbox@rbkc.gov.uk

RoyalBorough

Royal Borough is produced for residents by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

It is delivered to 87,000 homes and businesses in the Royal Borough and is also available from community venues. The newspaper was produced by the Council's Media and Communications Team, designed by Go4 Marketing and Public Relations and printed by Harmsworth. We welcome comments about this publication – contact the Royal Borough Editor at Media and Communications Team, Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7NX.

If you, or someone you know, would like this newspaper on tape, in Braille or in another language, call 020 7361 2826 or write to the Media and Communications Team (see above).

Contact your Council

Information, advice and many services are available online at www.rbkc.gov.uk. Don't forget that if you need to visit but find it difficult during normal opening hours, you can phone to make an appointment to see a member of staff on a Thursday evening until 8pm.

Enquiryline	020 7361 3000
Email information@rbkc.gov.uk	
Streetline	020 7361 3001
Email streetline@rbkc.gov.uk	
Environmental Healthline	020 7361 3002
Email environmentalhealth@rbkc.gov.uk	
Arts and Leisureline	020 7361 3003
Email leisure@rbkc.gov.uk	
Parkingline	020 7361 3004
Email parking@rbkc.gov.uk	
Council Taxline	020 7361 3005
Email counciltax@rbkc.gov.uk	
Benefitsline	020 7361 3006
Email benefits@rbkc.gov.uk	
Paymentsline	020 7361 3007
Pay online at www.rbkc.gov.uk/onlinepayments/general	
Housingline	020 7361 3008
Email housing@rbkc.gov.uk	
Educationline	020 7361 3009
Email education@rbkc.gov.uk	
Librariesline	020 7361 3010
Email librariesandarts@rbkc.gov.uk	
Recruitmentline	020 7361 3011
Email recruitment@rbkc.gov.uk	
Planningline	020 7361 3012
Email planning@rbkc.gov.uk	
Social Servicesline	020 7361 3013
Email socialservices@rbkc.gov.uk	

Here to help – your Councillors

Kensington and Chelsea is served by 54 elected Councillors, three for each of the Royal Borough's 18 wards. They are available by telephone, email and letter. Personal appointments can be arranged and in some parts of the borough you can visit a ward surgery.

You can find out which Councillors represent you, and how to contact them, by visiting www.rbkc.gov.uk or ringing the First Stop Information Service on 020 7361 2828.

Surgeries

Colville, Golborne and Notting Barns Wards

11am to 1pm, first Saturday of each month – EPICS Westway Centre, Malton Road, W10 (behind Ladbroke Grove Station).

Cremorne Ward

Councillor Mark Daley; 9.30am to 11am, 19 December and 30 January, Chelsea Theatre, World's End Place.

Golborne Ward

(On a rota basis) Councillors Bridget Hoier, Emma Dent Coad and Pat Mason; 7pm to 8pm, Mondays (except Bank Holidays) – Venture Centre, 103 Wornington Road, W10.

Notting Barns Ward

Two out of Councillors Catherine Atkinson, Judith Blakeman and Mushtaq Lasharie; 10 am to 12 noon, second and fourth Saturdays of every month – EMB Community Hall, opposite the playground at the foot of Grenfell Tower on Lancaster West Estate (just off Lancaster Walk).

St Charles Ward

Councillors Rock Feilding-Mellen, Dominic Johnson and Matthew Palmer; 6.30pm to 8pm, first Monday of every month – Feathers Youth Club, Dalgarno Community Centre, Dalgarno Way, W10.

 www.rbkc.gov.uk/contactus

Local Democracy Information

February and March 2010

Council meetings

Council	3 March
Cabinet	18 February 25 March
Planning Applications	23 February 9 and 23 March
Major Planning Development Committee	22 February 16 March

Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Cabinet and Corporate Services	15 February, 29 March
Housing, Environmental Health and Adult Social Care	15 March
Public Realm	8 March
Audit	24 March
Family and Children's Services	10 March

Unless the time is given in brackets, all meetings take place at 6.30pm at Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, W8 7NX.

Meeting times or dates can change. Before attending, please call 020 7361 2265 or visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/howwewegovern to confirm the meeting date, place and time.

The web page above also has information about the Council's decision-making process and allows key decisions to be tracked.



Homeless but certainly not talentless

See page 9

Unveiling a new future

New homes, traditional streets, shops and new jobs are all included in a master plan for the complete redevelopment of the Wornington Green estate in North Kensington.

A planning application from Kensington Housing Trust (KHT) is likely to be considered by Kensington and Chelsea Council's Major Planning Development Committee in spring 2010. Its key features include:

- 538 high quality affordable homes to replace those demolished
- an extra 30 shared ownership homes
- more than 300 new homes for sale
- ten per cent of dwellings having wheelchair access
- a return to a traditional street pattern, with front doors and entrances facing the street
- approximately 20 new retail units in Portobello Road generating up to 200 new jobs.

In 2008 the Council accepted in principle that comprehensive redevelopment was the best way to tackle overcrowding on the estate and bring high quality improvements to local residents.

The Council has also reassured local people that the facilities provided by Athlone Gardens and the Venture Centre will be safeguarded in the longer term even though they will be affected by the redevelopment.

The full area of the park will be re-provided at the end of the development, while KHT is

proposing to relocate the Venture Centre to the northern end of Portobello Road.

To make sure that these key local assets are protected and ensure that redevelopment delivers real improvements for residents, the Council, consulted local people on a planning brief that set out the essential ingredients that KHT's application needed to get planning permission.

As well as a traditional street pattern and a mixed community the brief set out to safeguard Athlone Gardens and the Venture Centre by insisting on:

- the return of a park at least the same size as the existing Athlone Gardens once work is complete
- much improved park facilities of a kind that will reflect what users say they want
- the replacement of the Venture Centre with a new centre that is at least as large as the current facility
- new lock-ups on Munro Mews that will be designed in consultation with the market traders who use them.

If the plans go ahead, the Council will insist that an area of public space at least half the size of Athlone Gardens will be available while building work goes on and

that the new community centre and lock-ups are provided before the old ones are demolished.

Cllr Daniel Moylan, Deputy Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, said:

"I want to reassure the Wornington Green community that the Council has always been clear about what would be acceptable and therefore any application submitted must contain guarantees about the Venture Centre and the amount of public green space.

"The Council's new local development framework sets out, amongst other things, a desire to even out opportunities for the north and south of the borough, and vastly improved housing and community facilities at Wornington Green would go a long way to addressing this.

The Council's planning brief is online at www.rbkc.gov.uk/worningtongreen. Hard copies of the documents are also available for inspection at the Planning Information Desk, Town Hall and at all local libraries in the Royal Borough. For further information, contact the Planning Line on **020 7361 3012** or email planning.info@rbkc.gov.uk or planning@rbkc.gov.uk.



Black Sun shines

One of the premier sites for contemporary sculpture in London became home to a new installation when Douglas White's *Black Sun* was unveiled in the Napoleon Garden, Holland Park, just before Christmas.

Kensington and Chelsea Council has been encouraging new artists to display their work in the Napoleon Garden for more than a decade and this latest piece of art is one of a series of works by Douglas White that explore opposites.

Cllr Nicholas Paget-Brown, Cabinet Member for Leisure, said: "*Black Sun* is a haunting new work which is particularly evocative against the skyline of a wintry day in Holland Park.

"The Council is committed to encouraging creative art across the borough and I am sure that this work by Douglas White will attract many visitors to Holland Park, as well as introducing his work to regular park users."

LEADING THE WAY IN SERVICE DELIVERY

Public services in the Royal Borough are rated so highly that they are among the top six in London and the top 14 nationally, according to an independent watchdog.

The comprehensive area assessment (CAA), the Audit Commission's new system of providing an annual snapshot of an area's quality of life, has said the Council performs "excellently".

Unlike the previous assessment, the comprehensive performance assessment (CPA), the new CAA examines how well councils work with health bodies, police forces and fire

and rescue services to meet the needs of residents.

As part of the overall assessment, the Audit Commission also looked at the Council's performance in isolation and gave the Council four out of four, concluding that "overall, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea performs excellently".

Areas of concern and major achievements are highlighted using a series of red and green flags. Significantly, Kensington and Chelsea received no red flags but was awarded two green flags for improving educational results and reducing crime. The borough was one of only nine areas to receive two green flags.

The report outlined how Ofsted has judged the Council's children's services to be performing "excellently" and in the top ten in the country.

The Royal Borough's outstanding primary and secondary results were also commended; the proportion of young people achieving five or more higher grade GCSEs was well above the national average and exam results for pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds and those on free school meals were also identified as being well above the national average.

Levels of crime are falling and the borough remains one of the safest in London. Antisocial behaviour is

also declining, thanks to the Council's introduction of a borough-wide alcohol control zone. The Council has also paid for 76 Police Community Safety Officers to patrol the streets each day and is committed to doing so for the next five years.

The report also praised the Council's achievements in key areas including:

- its high standard of refuse collection, street cleaning and recycling services
- its commitment to helping vulnerable residents remain independent and the wide range of home care choices available

- its investment in parks and open spaces, which saw 12 new small playground sites opened in 2009, as well as a new adventure playground at Wormwood Scrubs.

Cllr Merrick Cockell, Leader of the Council, said: "This is an outstanding result and is testament to the hard work of our Councillors and staff who work tirelessly to deliver better services and quality of life for those living and working in the Royal Borough.

"However, I want to assure residents that we are not complacent and even in the face of these challenging economic times we will continue to work hard to deliver real improvements for them."

News

We're keeping costs down

Council tax for residents of Kensington and Chelsea has been frozen for the coming year and will be the fourth lowest in England for the fifth year running.

The Council's Cabinet has backed plans – revealed in the last edition of *Royal Borough* – to keep the 2010-11 council tax at the same level as last year.

The decision, made possible partly by freezing the pay of 800 senior staff and the allowances of its 54 Councillors, means that council tax in the Royal Borough will be about six per cent lower in real terms in 2010-11 than it was five years ago.

The Council wanted to keep council tax low to help residents during these challenging economic conditions and has found ways of saving £9.5 million in the coming financial year.

Cllr Merrick Cockell, Leader of the Council, said: "By freezing this year's council tax we can help residents keep their household bills down during these tough economic times."

"We are firmly on our residents' side and I want to reassure them that these savings will be achieved without damaging frontline services."



Going it alone pays off

A child protection system developed by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has scooped a prestigious national e-government award.

The Council turned its back on a £147,000 Government grant so that it could develop the IT system, known as KCics, independently.

Not only was the initiative hailed by the judges at the award ceremony last week as "breaking the mould", it has also drawn praise from hundreds of social work staff, including many who have used other systems while working in other boroughs.

The controversial decision to turn down government cash was taken

in October 2008 because Royal Borough child protection and IT experts concluded that the detailed government specification that local authorities had to meet to qualify for grant aid was just too elaborate.

The Council's own system picked up the e-government excellence award for leadership and professionalism, held at the Guildhall in London and addressed via video link by Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

"We are very proud of this IT award, our system, and our officers who worked so hard to produce it," said Cllr Shireen Ritchie, Cabinet Member for Family and Children's Services.

"Refusing a large government grant is a difficult and controversial thing to do, but we believe the specification for this critical recording system was over engineered. It was wrong for the Royal Borough and wrong for our children in need."



Fighting plans to bypass democracy

Attempts by Thames Water and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to bypass elected Councillors in an attempt to get planning permission for a 20-mile 'super sewer' will be fought, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has warned.

The warning follows an announcement by DEFRA that the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC), a body set up to handle nationally-significant infrastructure projects, will consider the Thames Tunnel planning application.

The tunnel will capture storm sewage from along the River Thames, and Kensington and

Chelsea Council is alarmed at plans to bypass the planning committees of London councils by referring it to the IPC.

The tunnel was not something the IPC would normally have dealt with because it is not covered by the normal thresholds set out in the Planning Act 2008 for wastewater infrastructure, but special powers are now being used to bring the tunnel within its scope.

Cllr Daniel Moylan, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning, said it was "outrageous that DEFRA, Thames Water and the Government are attempting to bypass and overrule the planning powers of local authorities."

He added: "We believe that this

proposal must be challenged, because if Londoners are expected to pay for the scheme then the planning decisions should be made by London authorities.

"We fear this heralds the beginning of "IPC creep" where the Government and statutory bodies will seek to dismiss inconvenient democratic bodies and instead have their proposals dealt with by the IPC."

Construction of the tunnel is provisionally scheduled to start in 2012 and finish in 2020.

Residents can protest at the IPC's role by writing to the Secretary of State, Hilary Benn, and copying the letter to their MP.



TAKING THE BATON

Councillors struck a chord with members of a string quartet when they jumped at the chance to conduct them.

Cllr Nicholas Paget-Brown and Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea Cllr Timothy Coleridge made the most of the opportunity to conduct members of Opera Holland Park's resident orchestra, the City of London Sinfonia.

They were joined at the event, part of the *Inspire* project, by other Councillors and guests who were helped along by conductor Matthew Willis.

Guests were also treated to a performance of *Parpignol* from *La Bohème* sung by children from W11 Opera and The Cardinal Vaughan School.

The event encouraged local people to experience the magic of opera and classical music and also featured a film that highlighted the free Opera

Holland Park ticket scheme for young people.

For 2010, as well as giving away 1,200 free tickets to young people, the Council has decided to give away nearly 500 tickets for elderly people that were subsidised in previous years. There are also around 1,000 tickets on offer at just £10.

Tickets are available from Monday 29 March from the box office. Call the box office on **0845 230 9769** after 29 March or visit www.inspire.opera-holland-park.com



Fraudsters end up in court

Two residents of Kensington and Chelsea were found guilty of being benefit cheats at West London Magistrates' Court at the beginning of December 2009.

Angelina Santos, of Elsham Road, W14, fraudulently obtained more than £12,000 in Housing and Council Tax Benefit by failing to declare that she was in paid employment.

After pleading guilty she was given a 12-month Community Order and a 12-month Supervision Order. She was also ordered to attend ten days of education, training and employment and was warned that

if she breaches the Orders she will have to return to court and may face a custodial sentence.

Another fraudster, Josephine Anyamah, of Nottingwood House, Clarendon Road, W11, also pleaded guilty to withholding details of her true salary, which meant she was overpaid more than £4,000 in benefits.

Mrs Anyamah, who has been repaying the debt to the Council at a rate of £100 a month, pleaded guilty and was granted a conditional discharge as long as she continues to repay the money.



New centre opens

There are superb new facilities for the borough's children and families at the St Quintin site which opens this month.

The Council has provided two new centres at the site in North Kensington, with state-of-the-art amenities and support for disabled children and young people aged from 0 to 18 years old. It also houses a children's centre for children under the age of five.

The St Quintin Centre for Disabled Children and Young People is purpose-built to cater for all children with disabilities and includes a brand new sensory room.

Open seven days a week throughout the year (apart from Bank holidays), the centre offers a wide range of activities during the day, after school and during the

school holidays. Activities include swimming, sports, a computer club, Brazilian martial arts and sessions in which parents stay while their children play.

St Quintin has three full-time and 21 session workers who have completed an extensive training programme. Parents can refer their children for most activities but some groups will be reached as part of a care package through the Council's Family and Children's Services.

An open day every Monday will allow families and professionals a closer look at the centre. Call Tracy Beard, Centre Manager, on **020 8968 2570** for more information.



Thinking about future services

The new NHS Kensington and Chelsea Psychological Health Centre provides vital services to residents following its opening by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Terence Buxton, just before Christmas.

The Psychological Health Centre in Gertrude Street SW10 is one of two new multi-disciplinary centres funded by NHS Kensington and Chelsea in partnership with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.



Check out our new way

The familiar sound of librarians stamping books as they issue them to visitors will soon be a thing of the past in Kensington and Chelsea.

New self-service machines being introduced in February will allow residents to borrow books, DVDs and CDs using new kiosks. The technology will be rolled out at Chelsea library, King's Road, before making its way to all libraries in the borough through the year.

The aim is to free up staff from some routine duties so that they can offer visitors more assistance, helping them find

the items they are looking for and dealing with general queries.

Cllr James Husband, Cabinet Member for Education and Libraries said: "I am sure library users will find the new system easy to use and it will also free up staff time."

Both the new self-service system and the eBooks service, introduced in December 2009 to allow members to download electronic books and audio books, are giving customers new choices on accessing library resources.

RESULT

New testing procedures that allow officers to highlight problem areas have made a difference to the amount of cocaine use detected in licensed premises in Kensington and Chelsea.

In early 2009, 137 of the 191 licensed premises tested by Council officers were found to have traces of cocaine. Later in the year tests showed that many of them had tackled the problem, with 89 of those that had originally been positive now cocaine free.

Testing involves wiping surfaces with moist tissues that detect traces that are not visible to the naked eye.

Better testing means licensing officers can work directly with bar, pub and club managers to suggest ways of preventing drug use. These include making regular check-up visits to the toilets, fixing warning signs to the walls and smearing petroleum jelly on flat surfaces.

More work is being done with the bars, pubs and clubs that tested positive for cocaine on the return visit, with some details being passed to the Metropolitan Police.

The Council is also promoting well-run bars, pubs and clubs by encouraging them to enter the *Best Bar None* awards.

The 2009 overall winner was the Drayton Arms.

We're top of the class

Students in the Royal Borough's secondary schools are the best in the country when it comes to getting five or more A* to C GCSEs, according to figures released by the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF).

And that's not all. DCSF figures also put the borough fourth nationally for students getting five or more A* to C GCSEs including English and maths. Looking at the period from 1998 to 2009, Kensington and Chelsea schools also had the highest rate of improvement in the country for the number of students achieving five or more A* to C GCSEs including English and maths. The borough was tenth in the country for the same measure between 2008 and 2009.

Cllr James Husband, Cabinet Member for Education, said: "These figures confirm why we are so proud of our schools in Kensington and Chelsea. I am particularly pleased to see our students doing so well when it comes to getting five or more GCSEs including English and maths."

Leader's Leader

LEADER'S LEADER

This edition of *Royal Borough* includes a special insert that gives readers an insight into our Core Strategy, a very important document that will serve to guide our planning decisions over the next 20 years. Please be assured that this is not a dry catalogue of planning bureaucracy but rather a record of our vision and ambition for the next two decades.

From large-scale projects to rejuvenate parts of North Kensington to what we can do to ensure that our successful shopping and cultural areas keep their place at the top table of London and often the world's destinations, it is well worth reading.

The insert is called Building on Success and reflects the fact that in Kensington and Chelsea we have had some great successes in the past decade to build on.

I am particularly pleased that after many years of perseverance we now have the borough's first new secondary school for 50 years in the shape of the Chelsea Academy. Our ambition to build this school was all about giving more parents an opportunity to give their children a local secondary education and help

families stay in the Royal Borough.

Our plans to redevelop Holland Park School are at a very advanced stage, and here our desire is to prevent outdated buildings holding back a school that is performing excellently. At the other end of the age spectrum we opened Ellesmere House, a high quality residential centre for the elderly.

I recently saw some pictures of Kensington High Street before its amazing transformation and it looked tatty and cluttered in comparison to what shoppers experience today. We have already taken the lessons we have learned on Kensington High Street to other parts of the borough. South Kensington has been improved recently and Exhibition Road will be transformed over the next few years.



With open space such a precious commodity in this most densely populated of boroughs, I am pleased that that Kensington Memorial Park, a park that has seen much investment in recent years, has received the prestigious Green Flag in the past two years, joining Holland Park as a recipient of this national award. All our parks are being improved, with better play and other facilities.

Our past successes have owed much to the Council's sensible stewardship of your money. Because we take the long view, we have not been caught unawares by these tough economic times, which will quite likely worsen before they get better. Because we have been careful in the past we will be able to use some of our financial reserves to cushion the blows we are bound to face and can continue to be ambitious when setting our plans for the borough.

As Leader of the Council I feel an element of pride when our achievements manifest themselves in bricks and mortar, but success

cannot always be measured by a fine new building or wonderful open space.

I remember that not long after I took the helm of the Council this borough was on a Home Office list as one of the places that suffered most from the presence of 'crack houses' and the associated criminal and antisocial behaviour that came with them.

Although some experts felt this was an intractable problem, we set out to do something about this scourge and our innovative use of the Local Government Act gave us a 'fast track' process, viewed as controversial by some, to evict tenants and close down these operations within just 42 days of a complaint. We are no longer on the Home Office list, and this is as much a life-changing event for some as attending a brand new school is for others.

We have never believed in change for its own sake. The point is that when we set our minds to it and residents back us, we can make things better, and in lots of ways – crack cocaine, more school places

and a more beautiful public realm to name just three – that is what we have done.

The Core Strategy points to even larger, more fundamental challenges. How will we deliver new transport and housing infrastructure to give the people of North Kensington better life opportunities? How will we preserve our distinctive shopping streets against the homogenising tendencies of the twenty-first century? And how will we uphold the quality of residential life in the borough?

This Council means to press on and rise to these challenges so that Kensington and Chelsea remains one of the best places to live in Britain.

Cllr Merrick Cockell

Leader of the Council
www.rbkc.gov.uk/leader

Cllr Cockell has a blog on which he comments regularly on a range of topical issues. Read his views and add your own comments at www.rbkc.gov.uk/comment

Christmas in FOCUS



ABOVE | Andrew Neil, Sue Lawley, Patricia Routledge, Shaun Bailey, Sarah Martin, Mayor Cllr Timothy Coleridge, Ed Stourton, Rev'd Rob Gillion (current Mayor's Chaplain and Rector of Holy Trinity) and Mayoress Daria Coleridge.

More than 400 people packed Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square for the Mayor's Charity Christmas Carols, raising over £11,000 for the FOCUS K&C charity in the process.

Guest celebrities included Patricia Routledge, Andrew Neil, Sue Lawley and Edward Stourton, while those attending also enjoyed performances from the West End Gospel Choir, the Choir of Thomas's Preparatory School and actors from the Intermission Theatre at St Saviours Church.

Royal Borough Mayor Cllr Tim Coleridge said: "I am delighted the service was such a fantastic success.

"Every one of the readers and singers gave their time for free, and afterwards we enjoyed mince pies at St. Thomas More School. It was a great evening and I'd like to thank everyone for making it such a special event and raising so much money for FOCUS K&C."

 www.focuskc.com



every little shop helps
www.wedgecard.co.uk

GET REWARDED FOR SHOPPING LOCALLY WITH WEDGE CARD

COMING SOON - WEDGE CARD - MARCH 2010

Wedge Card is coming to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Watch out for little yellow Wedges in your streets and get ready for the big launch on March 23rd 2010!

For more information contact: info@wedgecard.co.uk
/ 020 7401 3913 / www.wedgecard.co.uk

REWARD CARD FOR LOCAL SHOPS



Expires August 31st 2011
every little shop helps

TRUE GRIT PAYS OFF

The Royal Borough remained open for business despite the heavy falls of snow and sub-zero temperatures that rapidly depleted the Council's well-stocked salt supplies.

Council and SITA staff worked tirelessly around the clock to grit the borough's roads, paths, parks and other key centres. When salt shortages began to bite the Council followed the national instruction and prioritised the main roads to keep London's buses, ambulances and home meals delivery service moving.

SITA's crews collected rubbish whenever possible and residents generally had at least one, if not two, collections. The Council has reminded residents, though, that they are responsible for ensuring their steps and paths are free of snow and ice. If they are not clear it may not be possible for Council staff and contractors to carry out their duties.

If residents do clear paths or steps, the Council advises them to salt them, as cleared areas may be more dangerous if the thin layer left behind freezes over.

Dozens of dedicated Council staff volunteered to help clear snow and ice from priority areas, and while the situation is now back to normal, the Council has said it would greatly appreciate it if residents could clear pavements if snow and ice occurs again this winter.

Cllr Merrick Cockell, Leader of the Council, said: "During the bad weather I am pleased to report that our front line services operated with minimal disruption.

"The determination of the Council's meals on wheels staff to deliver hundreds of meals to our vulnerable residents despite the atrocious weather is to be applauded. As the cold spell continues I'd like to urge our residents to think about any elderly relatives, neighbours or friends and contact the Council if they have any concerns regarding their well-being."



BIG FINE IS "WARNING"

Greek restaurant owner A Ebeid, of Kleftiko Restaurant, Holland Park Avenue, was fined £1,750 and ordered to pay costs of £4,172.82 after West London Magistrates found him guilty of seven charges of breaching food safety regulations.

Ebeid had entered a plea of not guilty to the charges, which included failing to clean equipment, failing to control a mouse infestation, not having a food safety management system, failing to keep the premises clean and failing to remove unsafe food from the market. After hearing evidence from the Council, though, the court found the case to be proved.

Cllr Julie Mills, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Environmental Health, said the restaurant was in "a disgraceful condition", adding: "The Council does not tolerate dirty and unhygienic restaurants or food premises. The court has fined

Mr Ebeid and this should serve as a warning to others who do not maintain proper hygiene levels in their food premises."



Parking fraudsters face heavy fines

Four drivers pleaded guilty to using disabled parking badges fraudulently in Kensington and Chelsea when they appeared at West London Magistrates' Court in December 2009.

Fraud investigators from Kensington and Chelsea Council found a number of suspicious badges during a clampdown in November.

Michelle Gallagher, of Wornington Road, W10, pleaded guilty to fraudulently using a blue disabled

parking badge to park outside her place of work, a doctor's surgery in Sirdar Road. She received a £50 fine for each of the four offences and was ordered to pay costs of £100 plus £15 victim's surcharge.

The other three offenders also pleaded guilty. Jadeine Pollock, of Grane Road, SE25 was fined £350, Valbona Kuqi, of Falford House, E14 was fined £100 and Ali Sahid Kadhum, of Elsham Road, W14 was fined £300. All three were also ordered to pay £150 in costs plus £15 victim's surcharge.

Cllr Thomas Fairhead, Cabinet Member for Finance, said: "We are determined to catch people attempting to abuse the disabled parking scheme. Disabled parking badges provide an essential aid to people who genuinely deserve them. For able-bodied drivers to take away these spaces is a shocking abuse, and fraudsters who do this should be aware that we will take action against them."



NEW ACADEMY IS TAKING SHAPE

With work proceeding swiftly on the new Chelsea Academy, there were smiles all round at the 'topping out' ceremony for the building.

Pictured are (adults left to right): Inigo Woolf, Director of Finance and Resources, London Diocesan Board for Schools, Cllr Merrick Cockell, Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, James Wates, Deputy Chairman of Wates Group, Rev'd Rob Gillion, Rector of Holy Trinity, Sloane Square and Area Dean of Chelsea; **(children left to right):** Genesis Ferreira Diaz, Farhan Rahman, Ali Aswad (Deputy Head Boy), Adrianna Franklin (Assistant Head Girl), Shaheen Ladjouze, Ruby Hilson, Eve Shandilya (Head Girl), Molly Wells (Deputy Head Girl) and Hezhan Kader.

Tackling crime

Helping everyone sleep easier

Rough sleepers in and around Notting Hill Gate and close to the Tube station, were helped by members of the Council's Social Inclusion Team, who worked with the police as part of *Not in my Neighbourhood Week*.

Council officers and police offered help with finding accommodation and reconnection to native countries through West London Reconnect, as well as targeting antisocial behaviour.



Young people on the Community Payback scheme were on hand to help clean up areas that had been affected by people sleeping rough.

Outreach officers encouraged a number of rough sleepers to attend day centres and use winter night shelters, with their efforts reducing the number of rough sleepers in the area by two thirds.

The outreach and clean up work will continue as Notting Hill is a

well-known visitors' spot that tends to attract people who end up living on the streets.

Cabinet Member for Community Safety Cllr Warwick Lightfoot commended the work.

"Working with people sleeping rough achieves many good results. It helps people who may have slept rough for many years, with all the consequences that has for their health, and residents report that Notting Hill Gate is a much more pleasant place to live and work since the clean up operation.

"The success of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, the police and voluntary sector organisations working together to reduce street-based antisocial behaviour has been also been adopted in other parts of the borough."

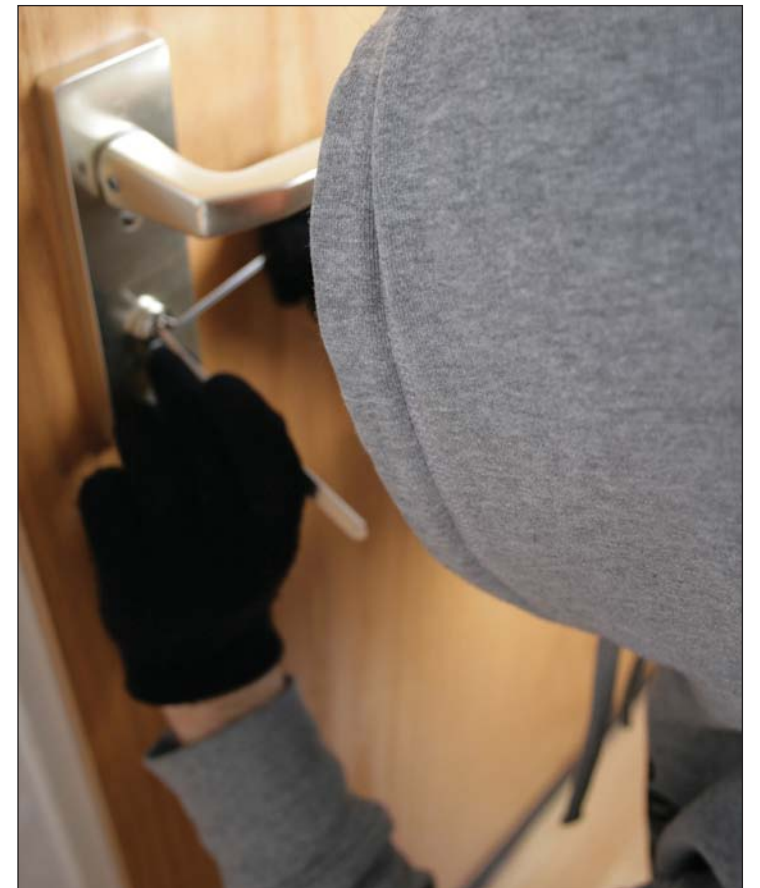
The Council has a zero tolerance approach to antisocial behaviour, including begging, street drinking and rough sleeping.

Services available to rough sleepers include help with accommodation and drug, alcohol and mental health support, as well as help for those who have limited or no access to public funds.

Begging is an offence in the Royal Borough and there is strong evidence that money given to beggars is often spent on drug and alcohol addictions.

The Council, in partnership with the police and voluntary sector organisations, operates an 'alternative giving' initiative that encourages members of the public to think before they give to beggars and instead donate money to charities that help homeless and vulnerable people away from street-based lifestyles.

For further information
please contact the Social
Inclusion Team on:
020 7361 3021



Cutting burglaries

Fewer homes in Kensington and Chelsea were burgled during the Christmas period 2009, with police figures showing a 40 per cent fall in December compared with the same period in 2008.

The force was responsible for a number of crime reduction initiatives, focusing on areas in the borough where burglary has been most prolific in the past.

In South Kensington, schemes such as Operation Taraffails saw police and Safer Neighbourhood Teams out and about on the streets, targeting areas where burglary has been an issue in the past. The operation proved a great success, with a 70 per cent reduction in burglaries compared with figures from last December and 11 people arrested for other crimes.

The Council's Community Safety Team and the police also launched a Christmas anti-burglary campaign at the beginning of December to remind residents and the public about the risk of residential burglaries over the Christmas and New Year period.

"Don't make your home a Christmas gift for burglars" was the message that was widely circulated, along with leaflets featuring crime prevention advice that were distributed by the Safer Neighbourhood teams to areas where homes have suffered badly in the past.

The Metropolitan Police is targeting burglars and those who are intent on breaking into people's homes.

Notting Barnes drug den is closed

Residents living on the Notting Barnes estate in North Kensington are breathing a collective sigh of relief after police and the Council put a stop to drug dealing at 10 Matthews Close and ended antisocial behaviour that had blighted the area.

Tracie Scott, who lived at 10 Matthews Close, was visited throughout the day and night by drug dealers, burglars and prostitutes who were using the premises to buy, sell and use drugs, prompting complaints from neighbours.

The criminal activity, antisocial behaviour and crime at the property was having a detrimental affect on people living on the Notting Barnes estate, with many residents living in fear of Scott and her associates.

In November, District Judge Phillips granted an interim three-month closure order after considering evidence gathered by the police and the Council's Community Antisocial Behaviour Action Team. The order allowed only Tracie Scott to be on the premises. Since then

a permanent closure order has been made and Tracie Scott is no longer living there.

Robert Black, Chief Executive of the Tenant Management Organisation, commended the joint partnership working that led to the closure of 10 Matthews Close, saying: "This is an excellent example of a successful multi-agency approach to solving a serious antisocial behaviour problem.

"I am grateful for the support that local residents gave to our officers to achieve this positive outcome."

READ ALL ABOUT IT

There's practical advice, news and information on crime prevention in the soon-to-be relaunched *Safe* newsletter.

Kensington and Chelsea's Community Safety Team will use the new and improved crime prevention newsletter to keep people up to date with how the Council and police are tackling crime and antisocial behaviour in the Royal Borough.

Safe will be published every three months to provide an insight into the work that is being done by partners.

To receive a paper or electronic copy of *Safe* contact **commsafe@rbkc.gov.uk**



BUS STOPS FOR A CHAT

A 'fun bus' made a scheduled stop in the Holland ward during January to encourage young people to talk to local residents and recruit members for a focus group designed to help reduce antisocial behaviour in the area.

The bus was in the area for two days as part of an innovative consultation project aimed at young people aged from 11 to 21 living in Russell Road and surrounding areas.

The Russell Road Consultation involved youngsters gathering information for a community profile of the area by talking to residents about what they felt the area needed and what could be done to help reduce antisocial behaviour.

The young people developed a number of skills through training sessions, designing and delivering questionnaires, communicating with local residents, compiling a community profile of the area and

organising focus groups. They will present their findings and recommendations to the safer neighbourhood team and partners in February 2010.





THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Core Strategy

BUILDING ON SUCCESS



INTRODUCTION

"Kensington and Chelsea is often said, quite rightly in my view, to be one of the most desirable places to live in the world. While this distinction is welcome, it brings its own challenges."

"People want to live in successful areas and this creates a pressure for residential redevelopment. We must be sensitive to the need to preserve those things that have made the borough attractive in the first place while recognising that our borough will continue to be sought after for residential development."

"This is why the Core Strategy, through which we will shape the evolution of the borough in the next 20 years, is such an important document. It will act as our blueprint to guide planning decisions until 2028, and has real implications for the future of the borough."

"There are great contrasts in Kensington and Chelsea, particularly between the north and the rest of the borough. Some of these can be traced back to the nineteenth century."

"While our Core Strategy is very consciously a plan for the whole of Kensington and Chelsea, it does place a

certain emphasis on what can be done in the years ahead to reduce the disparity of prospects between those who live in the north and south of the borough. It will therefore come as no surprise that many, but by no means all, of the larger scale projects lie in the north."

"But there are challenges of a different type in the more affluent parts of the borough. How do we ensure in changing times that places like Knightsbridge, Portobello, King's Road and very many more keep their position as places that people want to visit, shop in or live in?"

"If we are to build on our historic successes in Kensington and Chelsea there are three things we must do well in the coming years."

"Firstly we have to uphold the quality of the borough's residential life. Secondly we have to enhance the reputation of the borough's many national and international destinations and thirdly we must work to stimulate the regeneration of North Kensington."

"To do this we have to make sure that our planning policies over the next 20 years allow us to keep the right balance. The price of land for residential

development in the borough, coupled with the highly desirable living environment, could, without check, lead to the slow homogenisation of the borough."

"We must keep in mind that our small shops, restaurants, galleries and community facilities give vitality to our residential areas; if they are lost to the demands of residential development then we will lose the local ingredients that make the borough such a wonderful place to live."

Cllr Daniel Moylan
Deputy Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Our challenges in the next 20 years:

- To ensure that the great demand for residential development in the borough does not lead to a reduction in shops, offices, community and social facilities
- To make it easier to travel about the borough without the need for a private car and to make it easier to get to central London from the north of the borough
- To protect the borough's priceless historic buildings and precious streetscapes and parks, and make sure new buildings will be valued by future generations
- To provide housing at a range of prices, to buy and to rent, while accepting that we can never meet all of the demand for housing in the borough
- To reduce the environmental footprint of the borough
- To reduce the disparity between the north and south of the borough by increasing opportunities in North Kensington.

THE VISION FOR NORTH KENSINGTON

A **Crossrail Station** would transform access from North Kensington to central London, opening up a host of opportunities at present denied to residents. This would have a regeneration energy that would have effects far beyond the immediate area where the station would be, at Kensal Gasworks.

There will be a **new school**, an academy, on the North Kensington Sports Centre site. The sports centre will also be retained, with full community access at all hours. This will be the second new secondary school in the borough, adding to the successes of Chelsea Academy and

the soon-to-be redeveloped Holland Park School.

Significant new housing, shops and more jobs could be attracted to North Kensington. A planning application has been received to redevelop **Wornington Green**, while plans for Latimer are at a much earlier stage.

The iconic **Trellick Tower** will also be restored.

By improving pedestrian links between Portobello Road, Westbourne Grove, All Saints Road and Golborne Road, the area as a whole will be strengthened while the very different qualities of these individual areas will be maintained.

FOCUS: Wornington Green

The Council has received a planning application from Kensington Housing Trust (KHT) for the complete redevelopment of the Wornington Green estate in North Kensington (for full details see page three of this edition of Royal Borough).

The Council accepts that the Wornington Green estate needs to be redeveloped if its 538 homes are to be brought up to the Government's 'decent homes' standard. It wants to see a dramatic improvement for residents of the estate and it wants to see the community kept together.

To ensure this happens, the Council developed a planning brief in consultation with local people which sets out the essential ingredients that KHT's application must contain in order to win planning permission.

Further information on the planning brief for Wornington Green can be found at www.rbkc.gov.uk/worningtongreen

→ *Aerial shot of the Kensal Gasworks site.*

© Copyright Blom Pictometry, 2007



FOCUS: New secondary school

The Council has decided to build a new secondary school, an academy, on the site of the North Kensington Sports Centre. The school will take 180 pupils in each year group.

When full the school will educate 900 pupils and will also have a sixth form entry of 250. The school will be at the heart of its community and help meet demand for good school places. Although on the site of the North Kensington Sports Centre, which will be retained, the school will have its own sports facilities and landscaping.

FOCUS: Trellick Tower

Trellick Tower is a Grade II* listed building and is one of the borough's iconic landmarks but is in need of costly restoration.



It is hoped that by 2028 Golborne and Trellick will have maintained a strong mixed community and Trellick Tower will remain the iconic sign of the area.



NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DESTINATIONS – KEEPING ON TOP

Kensington and Chelsea is home to internationally-famous areas. From Notting Hill to Knightsbridge the borough is studded with places that people want to live in or visit in order to shop, eat or take in the cultural experience found in a major world city.

How can we best ensure that these places keep their place at the top table of London and the world's residential, retail and cultural destinations?

FOCUS: South Kensington

South Kensington will remain the main cultural attraction of the borough. Our plans to redesign Exhibition Road, which attracts more than 11 million visitors a year, are well advanced.

The one-way system around South Kensington Station has been unravelled, marking the first step in an ambitious project to transform the Exhibition Road area – the capital's most important cultural destination.

Kerbs and traffic islands that were no longer required have been removed and the new system frees traffic flow to ease congestion and provide much better driving conditions for motorists.

Wider pavements and simplified pedestrian crossings will create a much safer and more enjoyable environment for residents, workers and visitors alike.

The Council would like to see South Kensington Tube station modernised to cope with the high numbers of visitors who use it daily. A sympathetically-designed development of the station could be introduced at and over the

station including step-free access and improvements to the pedestrian tunnel.

FOCUS: Exhibition Road

The redesign of Exhibition Road will unite the area's world-leading museums, educational institutions and arts venues and will provide a safer and pedestrian-friendly environment for everyone to enjoy.

Working with the museums, local residents and commercial landowners, the Council is building on Exhibition Road's cultural heritage. We are actively seeking to retain the area's unique character, which mixes museums and other cultural institutions with independent retailers at the southern end of the road and wonderful residential premises throughout.

To find out more about the Exhibition Road project visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/exhibitionroad



FOCUS: Commonwealth Institute and Kensington High Street

Although small, the site of the former Commonwealth Institute can play a very large part in ensuring the vitality of Kensington High Street, which is facing pressure from the new Westfield shopping centre.

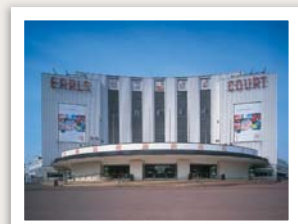
Planning permission has been granted (subject to a Section 106 agreement) for the site to be redeveloped to include a new home for the Design Museum, which will attract extra visitors to Kensington High Street.



→ Artist's impression of Exhibition Road, north of Cromwell Road

New school for Warwick Road

The Core Strategy highlights significant change in and around the **Earl's Court area**. Warwick Road will undergo a major transformation which has the potential to result in 1,600 new homes in the area, together with associated community facilities including a new primary school, cafes and restaurants, a health and fitness centre, affordable housing and new public open space.



The redevelopment of the Earl's Court Exhibition Centre itself – due to close after the Olympics in 2012 – presents an

opportunity to permanently bridge the divide with Hammersmith and Fulham caused by the West London Line and provide new high quality homes and jobs.

A cultural facility that maintains the reputation of Earl's Court as a destination of national, if not international, reputation will also be required.

Walking your neighbourhood

The Council wants people to be able to meet their daily needs within their neighbourhood. The best way of achieving this is by providing day-to-day facilities like shops, GP surgeries and primary schools within walking distance of homes.

Small businesses in the heart of our community

Small businesses and the creative industries must be allowed to flourish in the

borough and the Council's aim is that they will be stimulated by the Core Strategy policy of allowing 'micro' offices anywhere in the borough.



The borough has a higher than usual number of jobs in very small businesses. Once the need for office space gets too big – about 300 square feet – we must consider the potential impact on residential areas and try to locate them in our more commercial areas.

The affordability of office space is also an issue; the borough's employment

zones (areas that have historically been the location for light industry and office space and where the Council restricts residential development to allow relatively-cheap land to be used for employment purposes) will be retained to ensure relatively inexpensive floor space is available to encourage enterprise.

Affordable housing

The Council wants to encourage more affordable housing in the borough and is proposing a relatively low threshold of 800m² at which developers will be required to provide affordable housing based on square footage rather than the number of units. This is designed to lead to more affordable housing than in the past.

Respecting our environment

Air quality – the Council will require an air quality

assessment for all major development in the borough. This will set out the potential impact of the development on local air quality.

Flooding – the Council will require developments to adapt to flooding from the river and mitigate the effects of surface water and sewer flooding.

Carbon – the Council will bring in much stricter requirements on energy efficiency for developments in the borough.





FOCUS: King's Road

The King's Road has its own unique place in London's retail history. The Council wants to ensure that the 2028 King's Road is not merely another 'successful' high street but retains its place as one of London's most iconic and vibrant shopping streets containing a lively mix of shops, restaurants and cultural attractions.

One way the Council can make sure this happens is to require both small and 'affordable' shop units to be provided through the use of Section 106 planning agreements.



FOCUS: Knightsbridge

Knightsbridge enjoys an international reputation as an exclusive shopping area and the Council is determined to play its part in maintaining its exclusive status. By 2028 we want Knightsbridge to continue to be the borough's national and international shopping destination and home to some of the most exclusive shopping in London. We also want it to remain an important residential area.

To read the full Core Strategy please go to <http://ldf-consult.rbkc.gov.uk/portal> Copies are also available for inspection at the planning information desk in the Customer Service Centre in Kensington Town Hall.

Breathing new life into Kensal

The Council is putting its full weight behind proposals for a new Crossrail station in the north of the borough that could create thousands of new homes and jobs in a deprived area.

Crossrail will connect central London, Canary Wharf, the West End and Heathrow Airport to areas east and west of the capital.

Crossrail requires a 'turnback' site in west London to accommodate trains that will make shorter journeys across central London, just as far west as Paddington. The 'turnback' facility will allow trains to change tracks and make the return journey.

There are two possible locations, but only the 67-acre site in Kensal, North Kensington, offers regeneration benefits to the surrounding area. The alternative site in Paddington would not even provide a new station, just a turnback facility; the only people to get on and off the train would be the train crew.

A Crossrail station at Kensal would provide the greatest regeneration opportunity the area has seen for decades, and its impact would also be felt in south Brent and north Westminster as well as helping to secure the future of Portobello Road.

The Kensal regeneration area consists of the Kensal Gasworks, a vacant site previously connected to the gasworks, owned by developers the Ballymore Group, the Sainsbury's store and the former Eurostar depot.

Cllr Merrick Cockell, Leader of Kensington and Chelsea Council, said: "Nothing can drive forward the regeneration of this part of north Kensington better than the inclusion of a Crossrail station.

"Not only would our proposals bring new homes and generate new jobs but the station itself would bring the whole of the capital within easy reach of our residents, who are currently poorly served by bus and train.

"We firmly believe that the Kensal site is the right choice for the people of Golborne, for Crossrail, and for London."

At 67 acres, the Kensal Green site at is the largest regeneration area that could site a Crossrail station. In contrast, the Paddington Basin regeneration area is 40 acres and the King's Cross regeneration area is 45 acres.

→ Cllr Merrick Cockell, Leader of Kensington and Chelsea Council, shows Mayor of London Boris Johnson how Crossrail would help to regenerate a deprived part of the Royal Borough.



Passengers using the new station in Kensal would arrive in the West End in 10 minutes and Canary Wharf in fewer than 20, unlocking massive benefits for the area's residents who are currently poorly served by public transport.

Trains will run approximately every five minutes.

The Kensal site, one of the last major regeneration sites in central London, is capable of accommodating more than 2,500 new homes, plus new shops and community facilities, but its wide-scale regeneration depends on the new transport links offered by Crossrail.

Under the Council's regeneration proposals, the existing Sainsbury's would be replaced by a new state-of-the-art store that customers could access more easily and that would also be supported by a range of other retail, social and community facilities.

The potential Crossrail site lies in Golborne ward, recognised by the Government as amongst the most deprived wards in the country. Kensington and Chelsea Council has already asked Mayor of London Boris Johnson to give the site official opportunity area status.



A new direction

Royal Borough's regular look at the voluntary sector in Kensington and Chelsea focuses on the Blenheim CDP, Portobello Road Project by asking Lorraine about the work she does and what becoming a volunteer has meant to her.

What is Blenheim CDP?

Blenheim Community Drugs Project (CDP) provides a range of drug treatment services around London. I work at their Portobello Road Project, a drop-in centre for people with drug problems that has been running for about 40 years.

The centre offers advice and support to people struggling with substance misuse. There's a lot going on here, including harm reduction, legal advice, a needle exchange, alternative therapies, onward referrals to detox treatment, day and residential programmes, counselling, our Volunteer Programme and the Education, Training and Employment Programme for clients who have been through treatment. It's basically a non-judgmental place for people who are struggling with substance misuse.

And what do you do there?

I've been here for about six months and work in the Volunteer Programme, answering the phones, taking messages and generally helping to make sure that everything runs smoothly. I'm about to start working on a new project called *Start Well*. It's for people recovering from addiction who have become isolated and vulnerable. The scheme helps them gain confidence and the new skills needed to look for a job. Being an addict can affect you in many ways, so people can have different struggles. I'll be helping clients to choose what sessions are best for them.

So how did you become a volunteer?

I applied for the position after hearing about it while being involved in another drug-related project. I've lived in Portobello all my life, so I know the people and I know the area. I am also a recovering addict, so I can relate to what the people we see are going through. I have been clean for six years now but have struggled with confidence. Becoming a volunteer has changed how I see myself.

So volunteering has given you a lot?

Absolutely. There were times when I wondered where my life was going but becoming part of Blenheim CDP means so much to me. I'm now part of a busy team where I know I'm also making a difference in other people's lives. I'm studying for academic qualifications that I didn't get when I was at school and I'm really looking forward to being a part of the new project.

How would you sum that all up?

Working here has given me ambition and confidence – I now need to get more experience and maybe I can run the courses that I'm recommending with *Start Well*.



To find more about Community Services at the Portobello Road Project contact Brendan McGrath on b.mcgrath@blenheimcdp.org.uk

For more information on the Volunteer Programme or the Education, Training and Employment Programme contact Laraine Start, Learning and Development Manager, on **020 8960 5599** or email l.start@blenheimcdp.org.uk

Step up

Residents of St Charles ward are being asked to join an event at London Lighthouse, 111-117 Lancaster Road, W11 1QT, on Thursday 25 February at 6.30pm, where they will be encouraged to 'Step up' and make a real difference to their neighbourhood.

It will be a chance to meet organisations working to make life better for everyone in St Charles ward and find out how easy it is to volunteer. More details from Cllr Dominic Johnson on 020 7499 1815.

Councillor Question Time

Cllr James Husband
Abingdon Ward



This edition of *Royal Borough* puts the Cabinet Member for Education and Libraries in the hot seat.

When did you first consider becoming a Councillor?

Around 2000/2001.

Did you need a lot of convincing?

Not really; I'd always been interested in standing and put myself forward as soon as work allowed.

How did you feel when you were elected?

Excited and then baffled.

What is the most rewarding part of being a Councillor?

I'm a traditionalist in these matters; it's about serving and representing your neighbours and fellow residents.

And the least...?

Some meetings can be a bit long.

What are your ambitions in the political sphere?

I'm happy being a Kensington and Chelsea Councillor. I've never tried to become a parliamentary candidate.

What is the funniest thing that has happened to you as a Councillor?

Sometimes licensing and planning applicants don't appreciate that Royal Borough residents and councillors actually read their applications. A few years ago a local pub's

head office submitted a licensing application referring to 'adult entertainment'. It was a mistake on their part, but needless to say the pub's neighbours noticed and weren't impressed!

What are the main concerns raised at your surgeries?

Planning applications raise the most concerns, particularly large-scale extensions that include massive subterranean excavations. Not unreasonably, many long-standing residents ask why the applicants don't just buy a larger property.

How many hours a week, on average, do you spend on Council work?

It varies enormously, ranging from seeming like a full time job to taking an hour or so a day.

What one thing are you most proud of doing as a Councillor?

I've been involved in the Council's role as an education authority for nearly seven years. It's a huge team effort but I'm proud of playing a part in our success. I was at the 'topping out' ceremony for the new Chelsea Academy a few weeks ago which was a great occasion and the culmination of many, many years' work.

Do you have any hobbies?

I enjoy cooking and can manage to make sauces, soufflés and dishes

like baked alaska without them going disastrously wrong but I'm no patisserie chef. I know a bit about English furniture and if I go to an antiques fair I can instantly spot pieces that I can't afford.

A favourite book?

Scoop by Evelyn Waugh. Still funny 70 years on.

A favourite film?

Kind Hearts and Coronets. It's a wonderful script, including the splendid line "I shot an arrow in the air. She fell to earth in Berkeley Square" amongst many others.

A favourite song or piece of music?

Teenage Kicks by the Undertones. A reminder of the late 1970s – a great time to be a teenager.

A recommended place to eat?

Chez Patrick in Stratford Road, off Marloes Road, always has excellent fish on the menu.

If you could take a holiday anywhere in the world, where would you go?

Anse Intendance Mahe.

 www.rbkc.gov.uk

STREET TALENT ON SHOW

An exhibition of work by local artists who are, or were, homeless graced the walls of the Chelsea Gallery at Chelsea Old Town Hall in January.

The exhibition by three local artists, who call themselves *A Brush from the Streets*, included more than 40 paintings of subjects that ranged from landscapes to musical instruments.

Cllr James Husband, Cabinet Member for Libraries, said: "I am pleased that these artists, who have experienced homelessness in the borough, have been able to find a home for their work at the Chelsea Gallery."

Chelsea Gallery is run by the Chelsea Library and regularly features work by professional and amateur artists.



Find out more about becoming part of your local community by picking up a copy of *It Takes All of Us* – the guide to getting involved. Download the booklet from www.rbkc.gov.uk/allofus or request a copy by emailing allofus@rbkc.gov.uk



Our environment

Keep labels out of landfill

Donating unwanted clothes to a charity shop gives someone else a chance to get some use out of them – and in the current economic climate it could be a great help to someone who is struggling to pay the bills.

Making space in your wardrobe in this way also keeps your unwanted clothes out of landfill and makes better use of the resources and energy used to make them in the first place.

Residents who don't have a charity shop near to them can still recycle their old clothes and unwanted

textiles by using one of the 31 textile banks in Kensington and Chelsea, many of them at mini-recycling centres.

Some of the textile banks will also accept shoes for recycling, but residents should check the information on the front of the bank first.

Old clothes and textiles should never be placed into orange recycling bags or mixed recycling banks as the reprocessing plant cannot accept these materials for recycling.

In 2008-09, residents donated 126

tonnes of clothes and textiles through the borough's on-street clothes banks and a further eight tonnes of shoes via the shoe banks.

The Recycling Team would like to thank everyone who recycles their unwanted clothes and textiles for the positive contribution they are making to the environment and the help they give those who use charity shops to ease their financial burden.

To find out more about textile recycling or recycling in general see www.rbkc.gov.uk or telephone Streetline on **020 7361 3001**.

For the record...

CDs and DVDs are not accepted for recycling in orange recycling bags or mixed recycling banks but can be recycled in one of two other ways. Residents can either:

Take them to the Reuse and Recycling Centre at Smuggler's Way, Wandsworth, SW18 1EG, where there is a special bank for collecting compact discs.

Post CDs and DVDs (and jewel cases) in an envelope to Polymer Recycling Ltd, Peninsula Business Park, Reeds Lane, Moreton, Wirral CH46 1DW. You will need to pay for the postage.

To find out more about how CDs and DVDs are recycled visit www.polymerrecycling.co.uk

Fir exchange

Sixteen drop off locations for post-Christmas trees helped take the Royal Borough's tree composting total to 58.2 tonnes. The usual collection service also ran as normal, and the combined total was praised as a tribute to the environmental credentials of the people of Kensington and Chelsea.

In 2009 the Council collected 53 tonnes of Christmas trees and in 2008 the figure was 52 tonnes.



Christmas tree recycling at St Luke's:
Recycling sites like this one quickly filled up as residents responded to the call to recycle their trees rather than dumping them in landfill. It made Christmas 2009 a record for tree recycling.



AUTUMN LEAF FALL

The Sita street cleansing teams were out sweeping leaves from the Royal Borough's streets and parks this autumn for composting. In only a matter of weeks the team collected 539 tonnes, an increase of 108 tonnes on the 431 tonnes collected in 2008. Leaves are sent to Rainham in Essex, where they are composted and turned into a high-grade organic soil conditioner.



Health and safety and food hygiene training for community organisations, residents and businesses

The Council offers vocational qualification courses in health and safety and in food safety. It also runs many other short courses including pest management awareness and food safety at work and in the home.

For independent or small food businesses in the borough there is now a food safety coaching service specifically for owners and managers. This training can help to raise your business's hygiene rating, commonly known as "Scores on the Doors".

Training takes place in the Council's premises near Earl's Court or can be arranged at customers' premises.

For further details and information on all our courses:

www.rbkc.gov.uk/publichealthtraining
020 7361 3002
publichealth.training@rbkc.gov.uk



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

ANOTHER BRIGHT IDEA

Here a bright idea – recycle your old light bulbs rather than sending them to landfill.

The glass and metal in used light bulbs can be extracted and reused, so please either:

- Take them to the Reuse and Recycling Centre in Smuggler's Way and put them in the special bank
- Take lightbulbs to any Ryness store, where they will be accepted for recycling. Find your nearest Ryness store at www.ryness.co.uk

Do not put light bulbs into orange recycling bags or mixed recycling banks as the reprocessing plant in Kent currently cannot recycle them.

Light bulbs for recycling should always be intact, not smashed. Broken light bulbs should be carefully wrapped in newspaper and disposed of in the normal rubbish bin.



Manage your diabetes like an Xpert

A new service launched by NHS Kensington and Chelsea is helping people with diabetes by making them better informed about their condition and new treatments and encouraging them to share ideas and experiences with others.

Although type 2 diabetes can be preventable in many cases, it is estimated that 85 per cent of the 2.6 million people in the UK with diabetes have this form of the disease.

Although there is no cure for type 2 diabetes, a healthy diet and regular physical activity can improve the wellbeing of those who have it, and X-PERT, provided through Central London Community Healthcare, is a fun and interactive way of learning how to manage diabetes better.

Mataya Chewalaza, who has taken part in the X-PERT programme, said: "When I first heard that I had diabetes I was scared, because I didn't know anything about it.

"I had no idea how it would affect my career as a musician, my family, basically my life as whole. I saw a poster for X-PERT in my GP surgery and signed up for the programme – it was the best thing I could have done because it helped simplify the disease and taught me to eat better and exercise more often."

X-PERT is led by a diabetes specialist dietitian or nurse who coordinates learning sessions that provide advice and a relaxed environment for open communication. The course runs for between two and three hours a week for six weeks.

Mataya went on: "During the weekly meetings I learnt practical ways to improve my health. Diet advice was a major component of the course; we even went to a supermarket one week to learn how to read content and calories on food labels.

"I think the most important thing I have learned is that my health is a matter of making the right choices. Today I chose to walk from Ladbroke Grove to St Charles Hospital. In the past I would have caught the bus, but now I know how important exercise is to my health."

The X-PERT programme helps people with type 2 diabetes by increasing their knowledge and helping them to make informed decisions regarding lifestyle and



diabetes self-management. This can ultimately help protect them against long-term complications such as damage to the eyes, kidneys, nerves, heart and other major arteries.

"When I finished X-PERT I felt empowered," said Mataya. "I began enjoying life again and creating fantastic music. I know I feel this way because now I am managing my diabetes – it's no longer managing me."

To become an X-PERT or for more information, flyers or posters contact Sandra Da Silva on **020 7792 7762** (Mon to Fri, 10 to 12 noon) or email diabetes.service@kc-pct.nhs.uk

Check out Mataya's music at: www.myspace.com/matayaclifford

Break Free of the habit

If you want to **Break Free**, then **No Smoking Day**, which happens this year on **10 March**, could be the day to start.

Every year more than a million smokers take advantage of this annual opportunity to try to quit the habit, and this year's **Break Free** campaign will again be offering encouragement all the way.

In the Royal Borough, the Choosing Good Health Together programme brings together activities organised by the Council and NHS Kensington and Chelsea to help residents and staff stop smoking and improve their general health and well-being.

The NHS Kensington and Chelsea Stop Smoking Service provides the kind of free and effective support that has been shown to make smokers four times more likely to give up.

As well as the stop smoking clinics that are held across the borough throughout the year, promotional events based around the mobile Stop Smoking Service trailer are being held at the following locations:

- 6 March (10am to 4pm)
Portobello Road
- 10 March (10am to 4pm)
World's End Estate
- 10 March (9am to 5pm)
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital reception (indoors)
- 11 March (9.30am to 4pm)
Royal Avenue, King's Road

The Smoke Free Homes Project, which aims to raise awareness of the dangers of second hand smoke in the home, will also be on hand with advice.

Because people who quit smoking sometimes put on weight, the NHS

Kensington and Chelsea weight management team is running drop-in sessions across the borough advising people on how they can manage their food and drink intake in everyday situations.

Here are the numbers to call:

Stop Smoking Service
0800 0859 147

Smoke Free Homes Project
020 7341 5721

Weight Management Team
020 7313 3060

To make 2010 the year when you take more exercise as well as stopping smoking then the Council's Active for Life Programme and the Reach Programme run by the Community Sport and Physical Activity Network can also help:

Active for Life
020 7938 8180
REACH Programme
020 7938 8181/020 8962 4540



ABOVE | Angela O'Connor from Portobello Gym encourages carers to get involved in some free gym classes.

Caring for carers

Making sure carers can manage financially while looking after their loved ones was one of the main aims of December's Carers' Rights Day.

NHS Kensington and Chelsea and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea organised activities across the borough to highlight issues around financial rights and financial provision for local carers.

The theme was chosen because of figures that show an estimated £740 million of carers' benefits go unclaimed every year and reflected NHS Kensington and Chelsea's determination to provide accessible and straightforward information for carers.

Many carers struggle financially because they have to cut down their working hours or simply give up work all together to look after a loved one who can no longer care for themselves. Many carers also have to pay for medication, multiple services, specialist equipment, mobility aids and adaptations to their home to provide disability access.

Alexandra Burke, who attended the Carers' Rights Day event at Portobello Gym, cares for her 27 year-old daughter, who suffers from depression, as well as for her eight year-old grandson.

"I have to support her financially, emotionally and physically, which can be very tough sometimes so it is nice

to see events like this around that offer help and information to people like me."

The event at the Portobello Gym gave carers an array of information about financial benefits such as carers' allowance and pension credit. The gym also promoted special exercise classes that are offered to carers free of charge.

Event organiser Angela O'Connor explained: "Our gym got involved with Carers' Rights Day because we value our local carers. We understand that caring for people can be a full-on job, so we think it is important that carers also care for themselves. That is why our gym runs a free master combo and yoga class every week."

It is estimated that more than two million people become carers for the first time every year, and many of those new to caring don't know where to go to for advice and help.

Visiting the NHS Kensington and Chelsea stand, Alexandra Burke added: "I have only been caring for just over four weeks and this stall is the first place that has offered me relevant and helpful information about my rights as a carer. It is so nice to talk to people about this new and challenging season of my life."

For more information contact Peter Beard on: **020 8962 4861** or email: peter.beard@kc-pct.nhs.uk

Dealing with a weighty problem

Children whose parents are both obese are more likely to be overweight themselves, the Council's Health Scrutiny Committee has discovered.

A review of childhood obesity found that the rate amongst children with two obese parents was 20 per cent, much higher than for children where only one parent was overweight (eight per cent) or where neither had a weight problem (seven per cent).

The review also found that while NHS Kensington and Chelsea had started work on developing an obesity strategy for the borough, progress had been slow.

The committee discovered that rates of obesity amongst children in some state primary schools were up to eight times higher than in others, and it was concerned that while efforts were being made to help primary school children and their parents tackle the issue, there was little being done to help children in state secondary schools.

A survey of independent schools in the borough revealed that none of the 17 that responded said childhood obesity was an issue for their school.

The review found that local agencies were helping parents and

children combat childhood obesity and that the range and quality of support on offer was impressive and commendable.

Although successful projects such as healthy lunch box and the innovative cook and taste courses were commended in the Council's One Place assessment by Total Place, the review felt there was a need for clearer strategic leadership to tackle childhood obesity at the local level, more joint work by all agencies and better targeting of resources.

Amongst the things, the scrutiny committee recommended that:

- a senior officer should be identified by NHS Kensington and Chelsea and the Council to raise the profile of this issue and co-ordinate action across the borough.
- NHS Kensington and Chelsea should involve GPs in targeting families with children at the greatest risk of obesity, such as where school nurses know of families where both parents are obese.

- schools should inform parents about their healthy eating principles and share the results of pupil weight measurements with their governing bodies.

- the success of the NHS Kensington and Chelsea programme which involves the whole family in tackling obesity in children should lead to similar programmes being set up for younger and older age groups.

- the Council and NHS Kensington and Chelsea should develop a joint business case to provide nutrition and physical activity advice to youth services and secondary schools and develop options for helping overweight and obese children over 12 to lose weight.

- the borough's sports facilities should be more actively promoted.



www.rbkc.gov.uk/leisureandlibraries/sportsandleisure.aspx

We all need to care

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea is supporting a national campaign designed to encourage people to look out for children who are living with someone who is not a direct relation.

The campaign, Somebody Else's Child, is being run by the British Association for Adoption & Fostering, and aims to raise awareness of private fostering, which happens when a child lives with someone other than a step-parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt, whether full blood, half blood or by marriage.

When someone who does not fall into one of these categories cares for another person's child for 28 days or more, both the parent and the carer must by law tell the Council where the child is going to live so that the Council can ensure he or she is properly looked after.

Nobody knows exactly how many children are privately fostered, but in 2001 the Department of Health estimated that there could be as many as 10,000 in England and Wales, and there are concerns that some of these 'invisible' children could be at risk.

In the year to March 2009 very few people notified the Council of private fostering arrangements and experts believe there could be many more children being looked after in this way.

The Council is asking people who work with children to be particularly aware of private fostering and to get in touch immediately if they think such an arrangement exists.

For more information visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/safeguardingchildren or www.somebodyelseschild.org.uk or contact Jonathan Williams, on 020 7361 2861 or by emailing jonathan.williams@rbkc.gov.uk



Supporting rape victims

Prosecution Service (CPS) and the Women's Trust and considered a Home Office research document on the way rape cases were dealt with.

The evidence showed that the number of sanctioned detections (generally those where someone has been charged) had improved in Kensington and Chelsea and was in line with the London average. The working group also learned that the conviction rate for cases reaching court had stayed at around 50 per cent in recent years, making Kensington and Chelsea one of the best borough-based CPS teams.

Although the numbers of cases reaching court had improved, the working group wanted to make sure that this improvement was sustained. Councillors were also concerned that if discrepancies between police and CPS statistics were not tackled it would be difficult to monitor any future improvements.

The group's recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Cllr Warwick Lightfoot, included:

- Setting up an annual meeting involving all the agencies involved in prosecuting rape offences and supporting victims to review progress, agree the figures and consider what can be done to continue to improve prosecution rates.

- Exploring the best way of publicising information on how to minimise the risk of becoming a victim of sexual assault and how victims can access support.

- Reviewing the funding provided to voluntary agencies to ensure that it is enough to enable them to provide the ongoing support to victims that is key to achieving a successful prosecution.

- Monitoring the new centralised arrangements for investigating rape cases, in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police Authority Link Member, Cllr Borwick, to ensure that the expected improvements are realised and that victims are not made to travel significant distances to liaise with officers investigating their cases.

A working group set up by the Cabinet and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee has made a number of recommendations regarding the way rape cases are dealt with in the Royal Borough.

The working group, chaired by Cllr Keith Cunningham, was set up in response to concerns that the number of rape cases that went to trial in Kensington and Chelsea was far below the London average.

Members of the group, which included Cllrs Judith Blakeman, Victoria Borwick, Dr Ian Hanham and Andrew Lamont, looked at differences in the way reported rape offences were prosecuted in Kensington and Chelsea compared with other London boroughs.

The working group heard evidence from the local police, the Crown



Hornton Street Car Park concessionary rates for resident permit holders

If you are going away for more than a couple of days and leave your vehicle in a bay it is possible that the bay may be suspended. If this happens your vehicle will be liable to a parking ticket and removal to the car pound.

To avoid this you can use the award-winning Hornton Street Car Park where a concessionary Kensington and Chelsea resident permit rate, for longer-term stays, is available.

The minimum stay is one week and costs £42, plus £6 per day after this.

For further information contact the car park directly on 020 7937 7040



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Put your heart into it

Think about your heart in 2010 by making positive changes to the way you live your life and putting exercise at the top of your health agenda.

By making simple changes you can help yourself to a more healthy lifestyle and reduce your chance of suffering from heart disease.

Heart disease is Britain's biggest killer but is largely preventable simply by making changes to your diet and lifestyle that will significantly reduce the risks.

To help get the year off to a healthy start, Nuffield Health Community Fitness, working with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, is offering readers the chance to win a three-month Ultimate membership – worth £147 – that provides unlimited use of the gym, pool and fitness classes. Two runners-up will each receive one-month Ultimate memberships worth £49 each.

Physical activity

♥ Regular exercise improves your blood cholesterol levels by raising HDL cholesterol (the so-called “good” protective cholesterol).

♥ Physical activity can significantly reduce your risk of developing coronary heart disease. Half an hour a day makes all the difference and can be included in your daily routine. Start off gently and build-up gradually.

♥ Regular, moderate rhythmic exercise helps reduce blood pressure in people with high blood pressure and may also prevent high blood pressure developing.

♥ The greatest benefit to health is noticed in inactive people who start to take regular moderate exercise such as brisk walking, cycling, dancing or swimming. There is no lower limit to the amount of activity that produces a positive benefit; a little activity is better than none.

Nutrition

♥ Eating at least five portions of fruit and vegetables a day reduces your risk of coronary heart disease by helping to prevent fatty deposits building up in your coronary arteries.

♥ Eating oily fish twice a week can help reduce the risk of coronary heart disease and improve your chances of survival after a heart attack.

♥ Reducing the amount of salt you eat will help keep your blood pressure down. The recommended maximum is six grams a day, but

the body only really needs one gram – equivalent to about one-fifth of a teaspoon.

♥ Replacing some saturated fats with polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats will help to improve the ratio of ‘protective’ cholesterol to ‘harmful’ cholesterol in your blood.

Managing weight

♥ Keeping close to a healthier weight for your height will keep your blood pressure down and reduce the workload on your heart.

♥ Losing weight slowly and steadily (about one or two pounds a week) is healthier and will make it more likely that you will be able to keep the weight off for good. Remember that if you are very overweight, every pound you lose will benefit your health.

♥ Eating a balanced diet, drinking alcohol in moderation and increasing your level of physical activity will help you maintain a healthy body and heart.

♥ Keeping your waist measurement below 94cm/37 inches for men and 80cm/32 inches for women reduces your coronary risk.

Enjoy life, too

At Nuffield Health Community Fitness we want to help you achieve a healthier lifestyle while still having fun and spending time with your friends and family. Establish good habits now and you'll continue to reap the benefits.

Our MOT health assessments are a great way to see what shape you're in and help you plan your future goals. Whether you want to lower your cholesterol, lose weight or get fitter, we will be better able to help you achieve your goal if we know enough about you to help you start.

The new Health MOT assessments available at Kensington Leisure Centre are designed to give you a clear view of your health. Whatever your fitness levels, whether you can run miles or you have just started out, we can help you become healthier.

We have a range of facilities to help you keep fit while having fun. They vary from site to site but include the gym, fitness classes, swimming (with free swimming for the over 60s and 16s and under), squash, badminton, basketball, five-a-side football (indoor and outdoor), health and beauty treatments and one-to-one Pilates tuition.

There are also activities for the over 50s, such as salsa and line dancing, and great activities for children such as swimming, kids' jam, junior gym and the jungle gym.

Please call your nearest Nuffield Health Community Fitness site to check which activities and facilities are available: Kensington Leisure Centre, Walmer road, London W11 4PQ (020 7727 9747), **Kensington.membership@nuffieldhealth.com** or Chelsea Sport Centre, Chelsea Manor Street, London, SW3 5PL (020 7352 6985), **Chelsea.memberships@nuffieldhealth.com**

Free prize draw to win an unlimited membership to the gym, pool and fitness classes for three months plus one-month memberships for two runners up.

Name:
Address:
..... Postcode:
Telephone: Mobile:
Email:

Offer expires: 28/02/10

Nuffield Health Community Fitness at Kensington Leisure Centre
Walmer Road, London W11 4PQ
Telephone: 020 7727 9747 Email: kensington.membership@cannons.co.uk
Nuffield Health Community Fitness at Chelsea Sports Centre
Chelsea Manor Street, London, SW3 5PL
Telephone: 020 7352 6985 Email: chelsea.memberships@cannons.co.uk

Terms and Conditions

Offer cannot be used in conjunction with other promotions. Participants must abide by terms and conditions of Nuffield Health Community Fitness. Participants must abide by terms and conditions of Nuffield Health Wellbeing Ltd and satisfactorily complete all necessary registration forms. An introduction must be done before using the gym. Offer is non-transferable. No cash alternative. Photocopied tokens not accepted. Offer limited to over 16s. Offer expires 28/02/10. Please note activities and facilities will vary at each site. Offer excludes use of other chargeable facilities.



To enter the prize draw just complete the entry form below and take it to one of the centres for your chance to win a free three-month Ultimate membership or a one month membership if you are one of our two runners up.

Nuffield Health
community fitness



Help make a difference for cyclists and let us know how we can improve cycling in the Royal Borough.

Wednesday 10 March from 6pm
Mosaic Rooms, 226 Cromwell Road, London SW5 0SW

Speakers: Phillip Darnton, Chairman Cycling England, Tom Bogdanowicz, London Cycling Campaign.

Transport: closest Tube is Earl's Court, buses 74, 328, C1, C3. Cycle parking available.

Please RSVP at road.safety@rbkc.gov.uk or call 020 7361 3766.

www.rbkc.gov.uk



Events diary

KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

Events Diary

FROM FEBRUARY 2010

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

Aubrey Walk, Campden Hill
Kensington W8 7JG
Telephone: **020 7221 6546**
Nearest Tube: Notting Hill
www.stgeorgescampdenhill.com
www.kcmusic.org.uk



NAVARRA STRING QUARTET

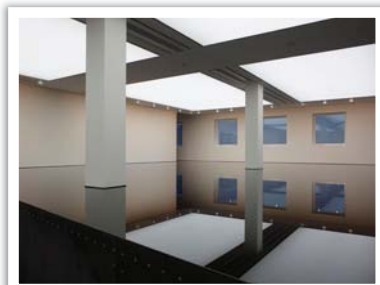
18 February, 7.30pm.

A rare chance to see this acclaimed string quartet alongside paintings by Jamie Baird, inspired by Joseph Haydn's *The Seven Last Words of Our Saviour on the Cross* (Die sieben letzten Worte unseres Erlösers am Kreuze).

Tickets: £15 (friends and concessions £10) are available at the door or in advance from the Kensington and Chelsea Music Society. Contact secretary Paula Chandler at paula.chandler@talk21.com or on **07855 348738**.

SAATCHI GALLERY

Duke of York's HQ
King's Road, SW3 4SQ
Telephone: **020 7823 2363**
Nearest Tube: Sloane Square
www.saatchigallery.com



Richard Wilson 20:50
Site Specific Oil Installation: 1987
Courtesy of the Saatchi Gallery, London
Richard Wilson, 2010

RICHARD WILSON: 20:50

New installation, daily 10am to 6pm.

A visually stunning art installation featuring used sump oil and steel.

Free admission.

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK:
INDIAN ART TODAY

Until 7 May, daily 10am to 6pm.

Works by 26 established and emerging artists, many of whom have never been shown in the UK before.

Free admission.

VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM

Cromwell Road, SW7 2RL
Telephone: **020 7942 2000**
Nearest Tube: South Kensington
www.vam.ac.uk

GARGOYLES AND SHADOWS:
GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE AND
19TH CENTURY PHOTOGRAPHY

Until 16 May, 10am to 5.45pm daily, 10am to 10pm Fridays.
Architecture, Room 128a.

Drawing on the museum's collection of nineteenth century photographs, this display examines the relationship that developed between photography and architectural practice in the 19th century and explores how photography facilitated the rediscovery of an idealised past. The display also considers the role played by photography in the recording of buildings before demolition and its use in preserving the national architectural heritage.

Free admission.

DROP IN DESIGN:
BEASTS & FEASTS

15 to 19 February, 10am to 5.45pm daily, 10am to 10pm Fridays.
Family event.

Join a magical medieval adventure and hunt among the dragons and treasures in the new Medieval and Renaissance galleries. Design your own goblet or magnificent jewelled sword and bring it along to the royal banquet.

Free admission.

FRANK STEPHENSON:
TALKING DESIGN

19 March, 7pm to 8pm.
Lecture Theatre.

Designer of the world-famous new Mini and design chief for Ferrari and Maserati, Stephenson also designed vehicles for Fiat and Lancia and now works for McLaren. He talks about designing lifestyle and automobile icons.

Tickets: £8, concessions £6.



At the End of the Day, 2007.
Natasha Kerr. © V&A Images

QUILTS 1700 TO 2010

20 March to 4 July, 10am to 5.45pm daily, 10am to 10pm Fridays.

The V&A's first ever exhibition of British quilts, with examples dating from 1700 to the present day and providing a unique opportunity to view the museum's unseen quilt collection as well as key national loans. Earliest examples include a sumptuous silk and velvet bedcover linked to King Charles II's visit to an Exeter manor house in the late 17th century. Recent examples will include works by leading artists such as Grayson Perry and Tracey Emin and commissions for the exhibition by a number of contemporary artists including Sue Stockwell and Caren Garfen.

Tickets: Adults £10, concessions available, members free.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC

Prince Consort Road, SW7 2BS
Telephone: **020 7591 4314**
Nearest Tube: South Kensington
www.boxoffice.rcm.ac.uk

FRENCH FRIDAYS

19 February, 7.30pm.
Inner Parry Room.

Music by César Franck and Camille Saint-Saëns alongside new works by Royal College of Music composers.

19 February programme:
Saint-Saëns, *Bassoon sonata in G major op 168*
Saint-Saëns, *Oboe sonata in D major op 166*
Saint-Saëns, *Septet in E flat major op 65*
Solfa Carlile, *Whispers*
Franck, *Piano Quintet in F minor M 7*

Tickets: £8

CHAMBER MUSIC
CENTRE STAGE

24 February, 7.30pm.

Britten Theatre.

The Britten Theatre hosts some of the college's best performers showcasing a selection of chamber music.

Chopin, *Ballade no 4 in F minor op 52*
Schumann, *Fantasiestucke op 73*
Puccini, 'O soave fanciulla' from *La bohème*
Rossini, 'Bel raggio lusinghier' from *Semiramide*
Verdi, 'Ah la paterna mano' from *Macbeth*
Gounod, *Chamber scene* from *Roméo et Juliette*

Tickets £5, £8.

CHELSEA LIBRARY

King's Road, SW3 5EZ
Telephone: **020 7361 3010**
Nearest Tube: Sloane Square

MEET BOLA AGBAJE

10 March, 6pm to 7pm.

The playwright who won an Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement for her debut play *Gone Too Far!* will speak about her writing, including her second play for the Royal Court, *Off the Endz*, which opens in February.

Tickets free from any Kensington and Chelsea Library.

NORTH KENSINGTON LIBRARY

108 Ladbroke Grove, W11 1PZ
Telephone: **020 7361 3010**
Nearest Tube: Ladbroke Grove
www.rbkc.gov.uk/libraries

SHORT STORY WRITING
WORKSHOP WITH CHRIS
TUTTON

3 March, 6pm to 8pm.

Explore the art of storytelling with workshop leader Chris Tutton. Participants will be given the synopsis of a story, a choice of opening lines and key words and one-to-one help and advice to tell that perfect tale.

Free admission. Booking required.

LOCAL POP HISTORY WITH
TOM VAGUE

24 March, 7pm to 8.30pm.

Cultural historian and author Tom Vague talks about North

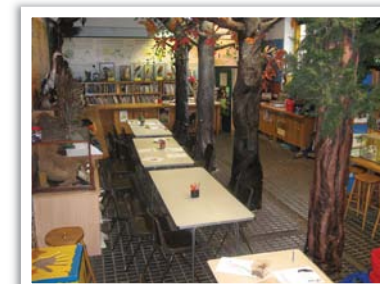
Kensington's varied pop history, featuring amongst others Pink Floyd at All Saints Church Hall, Mick Jagger in Performance in Powis Square, the death of Jimi Hendrix in Ladbroke Grove, Hawkwind and the Pink Fairies under the Westway, Quintessence, The Clash, The Sex Pistols, Aswad, Band Aid and ZTT on Basing Street, Virgin, Rough Trade, Big Audio Dynamite, Transvision Vamp, All Saints and Blur.

Tickets free from any Kensington and Chelsea Library.

HOLLAND PARK ECOLOGY
CENTRE

Ilchester Place, W8 6LU
Telephone: **020 7938 8186**
Nearest Tube: High St Kensington or Holland Park
ecology.centre@rbkc.gov.uk

A selection of fun events from the Council's February half term holiday activity programme. Events cost £3.50 each and are for five to ten year-old children. Under-eights must be accompanied by an adult. Spaces are limited; pre-booking and pre-payment required.



MINIBEAST SAFARI

15 February, 10am to 12 noon.

Search for the creepy crawlies in the Wildlife Area of Holland Park.

PLANT MAGIC

16 February, 10am to 12 noon.

Discover the flora of the park, plant flower seeds to take home and make a daffodil windmill.

SURVIVOR

17 February, 10am to 12 noon.

Could you survive in the wild? Test your shelter building skills and make dens out of branches in Holland Park.

SNAKES AND LIZARDS

18 February, 10am to 12 noon.

Have your event featured here by sending the details, marked for the Royal Borough Editor, to pressbox@rbkc.gov.uk

Meet Holland Park's resident reptiles and learn all about them through games and craft.

WONDERFUL WEAVING

19 February, 2pm to 4pm.

Try your hand at weaving using natural objects and recycled materials.

ROYAL BRITISH SOCIETY OF SCULPTORS

108 Old Brompton Road, SW7 3RA
Telephone: **020 7373 5554**
Nearest Tube: South Kensington
www.rbs.org.uk

MODELS, MAQUETTES AND MADNESS

Until 5 March, Wednesday to Friday 11am to 4.30pm.
Salon Gallery.

An exhibition of smaller and experimental pieces by Greyworld – a group of artists who create work for public and urban spaces. A colourful new sculpture called *Bloom* will be on the society's forecourt until 9 April.

Free admission.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Cromwell Road, SW7 5BD
Telephone: **020 7942 5000**
Nearest Tube: South Kensington
www.nhm.ac.uk

YESTERDAY'S DNA SAVING SPECIES TODAY?

25 February, 7pm.
Attenborough Studio.

In Victorian times, a common response to the wonder of nature was to collect specimens of every new animal and plant. Unaware of the existence of DNA, these early collectors could never have foreseen how crucial the Natural History Museum's specimens would be in the twenty-first century as a record of the planet's genetic diversity. Using new methods to extract DNA from the skin and hair of long-dead museum specimens, past populations of animals can be compared with their living counterparts.

Museum scientists use genetic technology to explore evolution, disease and inbreeding as well as the implications for human health. Meet the experts working on the

edge of scientific knowledge and find out how much hope they hold for endangered species this year, the International Year of Biodiversity 2010.

Tickets: £6. Booking required, online at www.nhmshop.co.uk/tickets or by calling **020 7942 5555**.

LOTS OF LIFE IN LONDON

28 February and 28 March, 12.30pm and 2.30pm.
Attenborough Studio.

Celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 by getting to know some of the plants and animals in your own backyard. See if you can identify some common species and put the museum's scientist to the test with your own sightings and specimens.

Free admission.

ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

2 March, 2.30pm.
Attenborough Studio.

Did you know that some of your holiday souvenirs could be endangering wildlife? The trade in animals and plants should not threaten their survival; combating the illegal wildlife trade is a job for everyone. Hear how endangered species materials confiscated by UK Customs are brought to the museum for identification.

Free admission.

SPIRIT COLLECTION TOURS

Ongoing, daily – at varying times; see website for exact times.

Get a fascinating glimpse behind the scenes of the 27 kilometres of shelves, 22 million specimens and cutting-edge scientific research in the Darwin Centre's zoology spirit building.

See hidden treasures such as the giant squid or specimens collected by Charles Darwin in the Darwin Centre Spirit Collection tour, formerly known as the Explore tour.

Free admission. Booking required.

LOUISE BLOUIN FOUNDATION

3 Olaf Street, W11 4BE
Telephone: **020 7985 9600**
Nearest Tube: Latimer Road
www.ltbfoundation.org

TRIO FIBONACCI

4 March, 6.30pm

Canada's foremost piano trio dedicated to new music visits the foundation.

Tickets: £12 (concessions available).

CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN

Swan Walk, SW3 4JJ
Telephone: **020 7352 5646**
Nearest Tube: Sloane Square
www.chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk/education@chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk



SPECIAL WINTER OPENINGS

13 and 14 February, 10am until 4pm.

Founded by the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries in 1673, this garden is closed until April, which means this one special open weekend will give budding botanists a rare chance to enjoy the many fragrant shrubs and bulbs in London's 'secret garden'.

Admission: Adults £8, children (five to 15), students and unemployed £5, under-fives free. Friends of the garden and one guest free; maximum of two children admitted per adult.

COMPOST CLINIC

10 March, 11am to 1pm.

Lift the lid on the fascinating world of compost and let expert gardeners teach you how to make the ultimate 'black gold'.

Admission: £25 (£20 for Friends of the Garden). Includes tea/coffee and admission to the garden via the west gate on Royal Hospital Road, SW3.

Numbers are limited to 15 people per session and booking is essential.

KENSINGTON PALACE

Kensington Gardens, W8 4PX

Telephone: **0844 482 7777**
Nearest Tube: High St Kensington
www.hrp.org.uk

THE ENCHANTED PALACE

26 March to June 2012.

Kensington Palace will become The Enchanted Palace in a unique multisensory exhibition combining fashion, performance, and dazzling spectacle to reveal the magnificent State Apartments in a magical new light.

Admission: Adults £12.50, Children under 16 £6.25 (under-fives free), concessions £11, family £34.

CADOGAN HALL

Sloane Terrace, SW1X 9DQ
Telephone: **020 7730 4500**
Nearest Tube: Sloane Square
www.cadoganhall.com

SATURDAY SPECTACULAR: WHEELS, WINGS AND WAVES

20 February, 11am.

A concert with a twist, Wheels, Wings and Waves will be a fun and informal opportunity for children and families to enjoy classical music.

The fun begins at 10.15am with exciting, themed craft activities followed by the chance to meet the players of the Southbank Sinfonia.

Richard Sisson presents and Simon Over conducts a programme that will include:

Klaus Badelt, *Pirates of the Caribbean*
Prokofiev, *Troika*
Ron Goodwin, *Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines*
Ron Goodwin, *633 Squadron*
Eric Coates, *Dam Busters March*
Arr. Richard Sisson, *Hitched medley*

Tickets: Adults £8, children £6, family (four) £22. One Royal Borough pupil free with every adult.

MASQUERADE YOUTH AND JUNIOR CHOIRS

28 March, 3pm.

Showcasing a variety of styles and periods, this concert by the Masquerade Choirs will also feature a selection of outstanding

soloists. The Masquerade Choirs are currently BBC Children's Choir of the Year.

Robert Clark, piano
Barry Clark, conductor
Pamela Wright, conductor
Judith Tomlinson, conductor
Ken Burton, presenter

Tickets: £10, £12.50 and £15.

NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

Royal Hospital Road, SW3 4HT
Telephone: **020 7730 0717**
Nearest Tube: Sloane Square
www.national-army-museum.ac.uk

BIG SPRING CLEAN

13 to 21 February, daily 10am to 5.30pm. Half term event.

Captain Clean is back! Join the connoisseur of conservation on his mission to quell the Agents of Decay. Hunt for clues, solve puzzles and pick up tips for looking after your family's heirlooms.

Go behind the scenes with the museum's experts to find out how a museum goes about its spring clean and find out what we can do to preserve its treasures.

Free admission.



CHOOSE YOUR WEAPONS: DOUGLAS HURD

9 March, 7pm.
Celebrity lecture.

When writing a history of Britain's Foreign Secretaries, attempting to uncover the personalities and circumstances of the great office holders, Douglas Hurd has one great advantage; he's done the job himself.

Tickets: Adults £10, concessions (SOFNAM/students/seniors/service personnel) £7.50. Purchasing in advance advisable.

Paying tribute



OUR TRIBUTE TO DORIS

The former chairman and honorary president of Kensington and Chelsea's Tenant Management Organisation (TMO) Board, Mrs Doris Besant MBE, was honoured in a ceremony outside Kensington Town Hall.

Mrs Besant, who died in March 2009, chaired the TMO from its creation in 1996 through until 2001 and was president until her death. At the ceremony in November a bench dedicated to her memory was unveiled on the forecourt of the town hall.

The Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, Cllr Timothy Coleridge,

led the ceremony, describing Mrs Besant as "an outstanding community leader and someone who can inspire all of us".

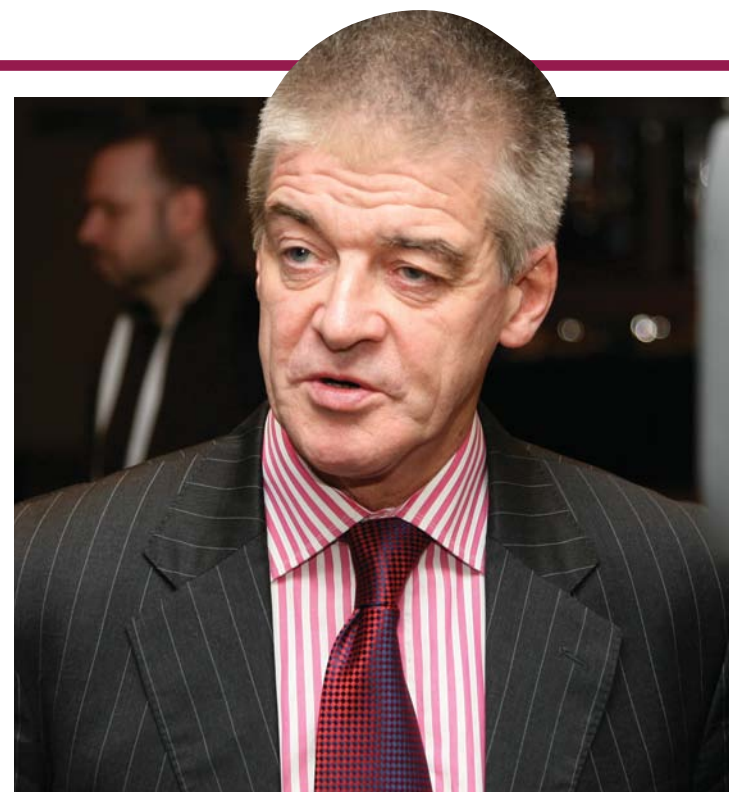
He added: "The work she and her husband, Fred, did over the years is fantastic and shows that everyone can make a real difference in their community. I am proud to unveil this bench today and hope the memory of Doris will go on inspiring people for many years to come."

Both Mrs Besant and her husband Fred, who survives her, worked hard for many years in the community. She petitioned Scotland Yard and then the Home Secretary to secure

more police on the streets and get 'crack dens' closed in North Kensington.

The couple were involved in the launch of the Royal Borough's Tenants' Consultative Committee in 1980 and for many years ran the tenants' garden competitions. They also helped to run the residents' association in Lowerwood Court, where they lived, hosting weekly bingo sessions for many years.

Leader of the Council Cllr Merrick Cockell and many other senior Councillors joined the Mayor at the event.



Sadly missed

Neil Joseph Kearney, international trade union leader, died of a heart attack aged 59 on 19 November 2009. Mr Kearney was elected as a Councillor for the South Stanley Ward in Kensington and Chelsea in May 1978 and became Leader of the Council's Labour Group in 1981, a post he held until he moved to Brussels in 1988.

In 1988 he was elected General Secretary of the International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers' Federation. He was re-elected in 1992 and again in 1996 and served as vice-chairman of the Global Union Federations' General Conference from 1995 to 1997 and as Chairman from 1997 to 1999. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

DON'T MISS THE CHANCE TO VOTE

With elections due soon in Kensington and Chelsea, residents are being reminded of the importance of registering to vote.

Local elections will be held on 6 May and parliamentary elections must take place on or before 3 June 2010 – but only people whose names are on the official electoral roll will be eligible to place their cross on the ballot papers.

Every household was sent a registration form as part of the annual canvas last year. If you did not complete and return this form your name may not be included on the register – and you must have returned a completed registration form to the Town Hall by Tuesday 20 April to vote in local elections.

You can register to vote by downloading a form from www.rbkc.gov.uk/localdemocracy or calling Electoral Services on 020 7361 3444.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Local elections – 6 May

Central London
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• Right price

BADEN-POWELL HOUSE
CONFERENCE CENTRE
scouts.org.uk/conferences
t: 0207 590 6909 e: bph.conferences@scout.org.uk
The Scout Association Registered Charity Numbers 306101 (England and Wales) and SC038437 (Scotland).