

The Royal Borough goes to the polls

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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Royal Borough

www.rbkc.gov.uk

SPRING 2014 No. 180

Tons of good news for taxpayers

A council tax freeze and a one-off £100 rebate have brought good news for Kensington and Chelsea's council taxpayers.

The Council's Cabinet has agreed not just to freeze the tax for the fifth year running but to give taxpayers a rebate made possible by an efficiency drive that has been even more successful than anticipated.

The dividend, equivalent to a nine per cent reduction at band D (six per cent at band G), will cost about £7.5 million and is a reflection of the success of the Council's extensive cost reduction programme.

From 2010 Kensington and Chelsea committed to a demanding programme of savings, more than matching a loss of grants to the Council from the Government as Ministers sought to reduce the public sector deficit.

The Royal Borough's challenge has been to plug that financial gap without damaging the high-quality services that the Annual Survey of Londoners shows local people enjoy.

The Council has met that challenge by helping to pioneer the most radical service-sharing arrangement in Britain – the Tri-borough agreement with Hammersmith & Fulham and the City of Westminster.

In addition, it has been transforming the way it manages its valuable property estate and improving efficiency in many other ways.

The cost reduction programme has been so successful that it has exceeded its savings targets for 2013-14, producing a surplus,

but with austerity likely to be prolonged well beyond 2015, the Council believes it cannot plough that surplus back into services on any sustainable basis.

The Cabinet has decided instead to hand the money back to taxpayers who pay their own bills as a one-off efficiency dividend. Residents who pay only part of the tax will receive the rebate in proportion.

"Although at times it has been painful and difficult," said Council Leader Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, "we have done a good job of bringing down costs while protecting our high-quality services."

"As a result we now find ourselves with a little left in the tank. In deciding what to do with it, we think it is wrong to discount from our calculations those whose money this was in the first place."

"Services require annual recurrent spending. As this is a one-off surplus the right place for it is with our residents."

Meanwhile, thanks to the continuing freeze – which began in 2010-11 – residents in bands E to H will be paying less council tax than they were in 2001 after allowing for inflation. Residents in bands A to D will be paying less than they were in 2000 when the dividend is taken into account and excluding the GLA precept.

The Cabinet also agreed the coming year's revenue and capital budgets, which can be read online at www.rbkc.gov.uk

Savings and efficiencies will enable the Council to avoid any significant service reductions compared with 2013-14, while strong reserves carefully built up over many years will allow the Council to continue to be ambitious for the Royal Borough.



Above: CGI of the proposed new housing set to replace the Council's Young Street car park. Inset: CGI of the proposed new-look building for Hortensia Road.

MAJOR REDEVELOPMENT

High-spec homes

An unattractive and underused municipal car park in Young Street, Kensington, is to be replaced by a twenty-first century mansion block, following agreement by the Council's Major Planning Development Committee.

Of the 53 market homes in the new block, 17 are expected to be for sale, with the remainder for private rent. The income will be shared between the Council and its development partner, Grainger.

Standing at the northern entrance to historic Kensington Square, the car park at 19-27 Young Street is unattractive. The new development is an opportunity to improve dramatically the approach to the square, which is not only one of the oldest in London, but one of the most desirable.

Built to a high specification, the mansion block will complement the square's dominant architectural styles and materials. It is also expected to provide a significant new income stream to support Council services.

"This is a dated and ugly car park that we can easily do without," said the Council's Cabinet Member for Housing, Property and Regeneration, Cllr Rock Feilding-Mellen.

"Replacing it will be a fine building, far more appropriate to this important location. And if that wasn't justification enough, there will also be rental income and some badly-needed affordable four-bedroom houses provided off-site at Hortensia Road."

The related development of land at Hortensia Road, another development with Grainger, was on the same agenda.



The committee agreed the land could be used for 31 new homes, comprising 19 one- and two-bedroom flats for market rent and five one- and two-bedroom flats for intermediate rent.

In addition, there will be seven new affordable homes, one a two-bed flat and the rest four-bedroom houses, currently in short supply. A ground-floor commercial unit is also included in the scheme.

"We are delivering the new housing that London so desperately needs," added Cllr Feilding-Mellen, "built to a high-quality specification and designed in a way that is sensitive to nearby listed buildings. We are convinced this is the best achievable future for our sites."

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RoyalBorough

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

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We welcome comments about *Royal Borough* as well as letters submitted for publication.

Write to *Royal Borough* Editor, Communications Office, Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7NX or email pressbox@rbkc.gov.uk. Mark your letter 'for publication' if you wish it to be considered for publication (the editor's decision in such cases is final).

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 Communications Office (see above).

COMPETITION TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Winners will be drawn from the correct entries. Entries will not be returned. The editor's decision is final and no individual correspondence can be entered into. Entry is restricted to residents of the borough, excluding Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea staff and their families. Entry is subject to these terms and conditions.

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Social Servicesline 020 7361 3013
Email socialservices@rbkc.gov.uk

Local Democracy Information March to May 2014

Public Realm
25 March

Adult Social Care and Health
12 March

Cabinet and Corporate Services
17 March and 28 April

Family and Children's Services
19 March

Housing and Property
13 March

Council
16 April

Planning Applications Committee
18 and 25 March (10am), 8 and 29 April and 13 May

Major Planning Development Committee
1 April and 12 May

Cabinet
20 March and 1 May

Health and Well-being Board
24 March (10am)

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/councilanddemocracy.aspx 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.

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/councillors or calling Librariesline on 020 7361 3010.

Surgeries

Colville ward

Cllrs Carol Caruana and Tim Jones: 2pm to 3pm, 29 March and 26 April – Portobello Court Clubhouse, Portobello Road, W11.

One of the Labour Councillors: 6.30pm to 7.30pm, last Monday of every month (except Bank Holidays) – North Kensington Library, Ladbroke Grove, W11.

Cremorne ward

Cllrs Matthew Neal and Gerard Hargreaves: 9.30am to 11am, 5 April and 3 May – Chelsea Theatre, World's End Place, King's Road, SW10.

Earl's Court ward

Cllr Linda Wade: 10.30am to 12.30pm, 15 and 29 March, 12 and 26 April and 10 May – Brompton Library, 210 Old Brompton Road, SW5.

Golborne ward

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

Notting Barns ward

Two out of Cllrs Robert Atkinson, Judith Blakeman and Todd Foreman: 10am to noon, second and fourth Saturdays of every month – EMB Community Hall, opposite the playground beside Grenfell Tower on Lancaster West Estate, just off Station Walk, south of Latimer Road station.

One of the Labour Councillors: 6.30pm to 7.30pm, last Monday of every month (except Bank Holidays) – North Kensington Library, Ladbroke Grove, W11.

St Charles ward

Cllr Matthew Palmer: 6.30pm to 8pm, first Monday of every month (except Bank Holidays) – Feathers Youth Club, Dalgarno Community Centre, Dalgarno Way, W10.

Cllrs Pat Healy and Bob Mingay: 11am to 1pm, 8 March, 12 April and 10 May – Club Room, Balfour Burleigh Estate (basement of Treverton Tower); 6pm to 8pm, 17 March, 22 April and 19 May – Tenants' Association Rooms, Peabody Estate, Dalgarno Gardens; 6pm to 8pm, 24 March and 28 April – Community House, Sutton Way.

Heart of the community

The Council is calling for artists to submit their ideas for this year's Portobello Road Wall Arts Project, entitled *Heart of the Community*.

The successful work will be in place for at least six months and is expected to be unveiled before the end of July.

This will be the eighth year the Council has looked for an artist to make their mark in Portobello.

Cllr Tim Coleridge, Cabinet Member for Arts, said: "This very exciting part of the borough is visited by millions.

"It is a place with a real sense of community and this is reflected in this year's theme. I look forward to seeing lots of exciting and original proposals."

Proposals should be submitted to the Council by noon on Friday 14 March. See www.rbkc.gov.uk/portobelloroadartsproject

New cash for Council homes

The money available to repair and improve Council homes is expected to soar by £25m over the next five years, thanks to a series of measures contained in the housing budget.

In 2012 councils became subject to new rules which mean they must support and maintain their homes purely from their own rental income and other resources, and that greater freedom and autonomy is having a positive effect in Kensington and Chelsea.

In 2014-15 rents will increase by an average of 6.26 per cent, which is just one per cent more than would have been previously allowed but will generate an extra £7 million over five years.

Despite the increase, the average Council rent in Kensington and Chelsea will still be just £118.29 per week, which is a fraction of the market rate.

The end of the annual uncertainty over the level of subsidy has also made financial and business planning easier, which has allowed a range of savings to be made and initiatives realised.

The changes have allowed Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation (KCTMO) to improve its performance across a range of measures while not increasing its management fees.

At the same time, empty flats are being let quickly and efficiently to maintain rental income and KCTMO is making better use of the potential offered by community centres and estate parking to support investment in homes.

"It's no secret that we are in an age of austerity," said the Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr Rock Feilding-Mellen, "so it's excellent news that we'll be able to invest £60m – £25m more than previously planned – in our estate over the next five years.

"All of that extra money will be coming back to our tenants in the form of better repairs, maintenance and other services, and we'll be doing that at the same time as putting protections in place to ensure no tenants suffer excessive rent increases."

Below: The World's End Estate.



Councillor Nick Paget-Brown and Sir Rod Aldridge at the KALC topping-out.

Reaching the top

A traditional topping-out ceremony in January marked the moment builders reached the highest point of the new Kensington Aldridge Academy.

The event was attended by the Mayor of the Royal Borough, Cllr Charles Williams, the Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown and Chairman of the Academy's lead sponsor, the Aldridge Foundation, Sir Rod Aldridge.

Cllr Paget-Brown said the day marked "the start of an exciting new chapter for North Kensington". He added: "We

can really see the Kensington Aldridge Academy begin to take shape.

"By gifting the academy the site and contributing £10.4 million towards the building, we are committed to ensuring that all of our children are able to access high-quality secondary provision locally."

The new school will welcome pupils in September and the new Kensington Leisure Centre being built alongside it will open later in the autumn. For further information, please see www.rbkc.gov.uk/kalc

Ask Nick

The Chelsea Theatre was packed for Ask Nick 3, the latest opportunity for residents to put questions to the Leader of the Council and other cabinet members.

The audience raised issues from street cleansing and basement development through to the Royal Borough's housing market and the future of the Isaac Newton site in Lancaster Road.

"These meetings are always lively," said Council Leader Cllr Nick Paget-Brown.

"We are making major decisions with big impacts on the lives of our residents so it is absolutely right that people have their say."

www.rbkc.gov.uk/asknick



EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE

Kensington Reference Library has dramatically expanded the range of material available to academics, students and the public by cutting back office costs to reduce the impact of tightening purse strings.

A review of periodicals at the library, which has long been an excellent local resource with a wide range of titles on offer, revealed that it would only take a relatively small investment to lift it into a different league altogether.

The aim is for the library to be a notable intellectual resource for the whole of west London. As well as its usual choice of broadsheets and magazines, it now stocks an expanded range of historical reviews, philosophical journals, economic analysis, art criticism, technical monthlies and quarterlies and more.

One innovation is that library membership will enable people to access a range of reports, proceedings and journals from home, and members will also be able to borrow the back issues of some journals for home study.

"Our budgets have taken a knock in recent years," said Cllr Emma Will, Cabinet Member for Education and Libraries. "But knowledge must remain the priority.

"By sharing management and back office functions with our partners in Westminster and Hammersmith & Fulham we have been able to maintain our service and invest in this expansion."

Visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/journals for the full list of publications.

Crackdown on subletting

Tenants who sublet a council house or other social housing for personal gain are committing a criminal offence following the introduction of the Prevention of Social Housing Fraud Act.

Royal Borough investigators will have the power to prosecute social housing tenants who commit one of two new criminal offences –

subletting without consent and failure to occupy the property as their only or principal home. Penalties range from a fine of £5,000 to a two-year jail sentence and/or a fine of up to £50,000.

Since April 2013 the Council's Corporate Investigation Group has taken back more than 30 social housing properties that were being fraudulently misused.

The Royal Borough's Cabinet Member for Finance, Cllr Warwick Lightfoot, said: "Social housing in

the Royal Borough is in short supply and the Council is keen to ensure that those in genuine need are able to get the accommodation they require.

"Our officers work diligently to prevent fraud and to ensure that people are not unfairly profiting from the borough's social housing stock. If anyone suspects a fraud I urge them to report it."

To provide information in confidence, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search for *report fraud*.

STOP THE TRAFFIK

PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE BOUGHT & SOLD

Kensington and Chelsea is at the forefront of the fight against human trafficking, working alongside the City of Westminster to tackle the crime.

More than 500 local professionals, police officers, business owners and community members have been trained over the past year to know the signs of trafficking and what to do when they see it.

In addition, eight multi-agency operations to identify and support trafficking victims and arrest traffickers have taken place in the two boroughs.

As a result, 12 victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation have been identified in Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster since May last year.

Human trafficking involves buying, selling and transporting people into slavery for everything from sexual exploitation and forced begging to benefit fraud and forced domestic service.

Victims can be trafficked across international borders or within countries, regions and boroughs.

The European Communities Against Trafficking (ECAT) Project was launched in December 2012 to fight human trafficking in the two London boroughs and is part-funded by the European Commission.

Kensington and Chelsea Council is the lead partner in the two-year, Europe-wide project and is working with five partners in the UK, two in Lithuania and one in Italy to develop a new victim-centred response to trafficking.

The project encourages everyone living and working in Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster to get involved by looking out for evidence of human trafficking and reporting it.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

If someone's life is in immediate danger **call 999**.

If you have information to pass on, ring the police's 24/7 Human Trafficking Helpline on **0800 783 2589**.

For victim support contact Rahab on **020 7370 3901** or email support@rahabuk.com

Join STOP THE TRAFFIK's global movement to prevent human trafficking around the world by taking local action in Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster. Call **020 7921 4258**, email info@stopthetraffik.org or visit www.stopthetraffik.org to find out more.

For more information about the ECAT project, including future events, training and volunteer opportunities, please email meghan.field@rbkc.gov.uk

FACT ONE

As well as the 12 victims identified, anti-trafficking police have spoken to a further 64 potential victims

FACT TWO

Nationally 2,255 potential victims of human trafficking were encountered by the Home Office in 2012

FACT THREE

STOP THE TRAFFIK believes that more than nine million men, women and children have been trafficked across borders and within their own countries, making it the world's fastest growing global crime

RBKCDirect

Want to take more of an interest in what the Council is doing?

If you are one of the thousands of residents who participate in civic life through residents' associations and in other ways, you can keep yourself even better informed by reading *RBKC Direct*.

The Council recognises that involved residents are a vital part of improving the local quality of life, which is why it works hard to keep them up to date and well informed.

Aimed at active and engaged residents, *RBKC Direct* gives readers an insider-style briefing on the big issues facing the Council, explains the thinking behind the policies and tells them what we know, when we know it.

To subscribe, email or visit:

rbkcdirect@rbkc.gov.uk
www.rbkc.gov.uk/rbkcdirect



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Could you adopt a child like me?

We need people to adopt children from a wide variety of cultures and ethnic backgrounds.

You do not need to be wealthy or own your home.

Adoption information evening.

3 April 2014

6pm to 8pm

The Courtyard Room, Hammersmith Town Hall
King Street, London W6 9JU

Freephone

0800 781 2332



[f/adoptionandfostering](https://www.facebook.com/adoptionandfostering)
adoption@rbkc.gov.uk
www.lbhf.gov.uk
www.rbkc.gov.uk
www.westminster.gov.uk

h&f
hammersmith & fulham

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA



City of Westminster

Business heads on

Residents who are thinking about starting their own business can get free, one-to-one advice from the Dalgarno Trust Enterprise Hub in North Kensington.

The Dalgarno Trust is a not-for-profit advice and training centre with a community focus. The Enterprise Hub was set up to support people who want to develop business skills and give them business and networking opportunities.

As well as benefiting from free advice, aspiring entrepreneurs

can join Dalgarno's Network for Business. This aims to tackle three common barriers facing those who are looking to set up a business: access to support, access to finance and isolation.

Enterprise Development Manager Olayinka Jacobs Bonnick said: "We hope to create a friendly atmosphere for our members so as to give them the confidence and support they need to run their own businesses."

To find out more about the free one-to-one sessions with a trained business advisor, please phone **020 8969 6300** or email enterprisehub@dalgarnotrust.org.uk



Steven Kobong, pictured with Leader of the Council Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, was part of a team that won the Dalgarno £5 Business Start-Up Challenge, an initiative that saw four teams set up businesses using just £5 start-up capital during *Global Entrepreneur Week* in November.

The aim was to generate the most sales during a 72-hour trading period. Steven used his skills as an artist to sell portraits, including one of Cllr Paget-Brown, while his team mate Lincoln Wallace sold photographs. The pair received support from Portobello Market, where they had a pop-up stall for one day. Together they made £148.30.

Steven can be contacted at stevenkobong@gmail.com



FLAGSHIP BUILDING AT AVONDALE

The stunning new Avondale Pavilion will be officially opened on 14 March.

The new building, designed to reflect the historic kilns and potteries of Avondale and Notting Hill, provides changing rooms, toilets, a picnic area and a kiosk.

The area of park around the new building has also been landscaped to help make it an even more attractive and interesting place to visit.

Cllr Tim Ahern, Cabinet Member for Leisure, said: "This excellent building offers the users of

Avondale Park a number of new facilities, which I am sure will be warmly welcomed.

"I think the architects have done a great job of realising a challenging, contemporary building which is also in keeping with the park and its history."

BRINGING THE LIBRARY UP TO DATE



Work has started on a major overhaul designed to ensure Kensington Central Library can continue to meet the needs of the community for the next 20 years and more.

Building work began in late January 2014 in non-public areas of the library and will last for 12 months.

It means that there is currently no access to the biography collection or music scores and some local studies material will also be unavailable until late March.

The disabled parking bay behind the library will not be available,

but there are alternative spaces nearby at:

- Town Hall car park (charges apply)
- Argyll Road W8, at the junction with Kensington High Street
- Campden Hill Road W8, outside Bradford & Bingley Building Society at the junction with Kensington High Street
- Hornton Street W8, opposite numbers 52 to 54 (limited parking times)
- Phillimore Walk W8, at the junction with Argyll Road.

The scale of the repairs means there will be some disruption to library services, and while the Council will do its best to keep it to a minimum, there may be noise and some changes to services. Any disruption will be publicised in advance.

Please ask a member of staff or email libraries@rbkc.gov.uk for further details.

To register for e-updates visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/centralworks or see information in the library.

A CENTURY ON

With 2014 marking 100 years since the start of the First World War, there are already several projects and events planned at which the Royal Borough will commemorate this important event.

From residents' associations to some of the borough's large cultural institutions, organisations are busy planning exhibitions, memorials, talks and films.

The Council's local studies team will be delving into the

archives to uncover some of the many unique and fascinating items from the war, such as posters and handbills. The most striking and significant of these items will be expertly restored and made available to view by the end of 2014.

Ephemera from the Great War will be part of a wider project with local partners to show how the Royal Borough coped in the traumatic first year of the war.

For a complete listing of events



taking place in the Royal Borough, or to add a project or event to the list, please visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/ww1centenary

For more details, contact the Community Engagement Team on **020 7598 4633** or email communityengagement@rbkc.gov.uk

Novel sets the scene

The critically acclaimed First World War novel *My Dear, I Wanted to Tell You* by Louisa Young has been chosen for this year's Cityread London to mark the centenary of the outbreak of war on 4 August 1914.

Cityread London is a month-long celebration of literature that includes events, workshops and screenings across the Capital. It is designed to promote reading for pleasure, engage new library users and encourage people to explore and celebrate their city's history.

Each year, Cityread London chooses a book and invites the

whole Capital to get reading. This year, for the first time, a children's book has also been highlighted: Michael Morpurgo's bestseller *Private Peaceful*.



Events for children, families, young people and adults will be held throughout April in the Royal Borough's libraries, where there will also be opportunities to borrow *My Dear, I Wanted to Tell You* and *Private Peaceful*.

Highlights include creative writing workshops, craft sessions and storytelling events, which are listed in the Events Diary on pages 22 and 23.

Visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/cityread or drop into your local library for more information.

The feeling's mutual



Later this year it will be the 170th anniversary of the foundation of the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers. The first Pioneers were a group of 28 struggling weavers and other workers who, in 1844, banded together to open their own shop selling food that was both affordable and unadulterated.

The Rochdale Pioneers were the beginnings of the Co-operative Movement which, for many years, was for working people a guarantee of fair prices and decent quality.

Britain was once home to a great array of mutuals that made a huge contribution to our national

progress and history. Building societies, friendly societies, co-ops and yes, at their best, the trade unions too.

The principles embedded in them all are golden ones: they are based on solidarity and mutual support but also the idea that to take out, you have to put in.

Sadly, the mutuals have withered somewhat in recent decades. Post-war, the state nationalised much of the nation's self-help machinery and the financialisation of the British economy put paid to many of our great building societies. But all is not lost. There is enough left from which to regrow and my own borough of Kensington and Chelsea is making its own contribution.

For one thing, we are backing a local credit union. If, like me, you feel distinctly uneasy about all those TV ads for payday loan companies, often followed by ads featuring RADA Cockneys urging people "to bet now" or "have a bang on that" then you will probably welcome the new energy being invested in credit unions.

Even here, in famously minted Kensington and Chelsea, we have

tens of thousands of residents who can't afford credit card interest rates or can't get a card at all, and who are paying premiums on debts and bills because of their perceived risk.

Our credit union aims to help them by providing bank accounts, affordable credit and good advice. We are not being preachy or bossy, but there does need to be an alternative to so-called 'straight-talking money' and that is what the credit union is trying to provide. You can find out more at www.yourcu.co.uk

At the same time as our credit union is taking root, an entire Council department has just become a mutual. The Kensington and Chelsea Youth Services team has long been respected as the best in the business. And youth services, by the way, is no more about ping-pong and five-a-side than physiotherapy is just about massage.

The world of the young these days is very complicated and in many ways troubled. Schools aren't always open and youth workers are one of the most important ways that local authorities have of understanding

the world of young people and intervening in it to help them towards a constructive future.

You can find out more about the work of Epic, as the new mutual is called, at www.epiccic.org.uk. The site also highlights a very effective course for youngsters not in education, employment or training – the so-called NEETs – being delivered with the Prince's Trust.

As a Council department, youth services has had the vision to look forward at the Council's likely finances over the coming years. It recognised the risk of a 'salami slicing' away of its achievements through an annual round of cuts and decided to do something about it, something amazing.

And that takes me back to those Rochdale Pioneers, because we are mostly talking here about ordinary, not especially well-paid, people taking a risk to maintain something they believe in and value. They have together formed a company and taken a stake in it, become shareholders.

There is no guarantee of success, but my goodness do they deserve it and the Council will do all it can to help. I salute them and wish them well, and hope that they will prove to be just one small part of a broader re-mutualisation of Britain.

Cllr Nick Paget-Brown
Leader of the Council

Follow Cllr Paget-Brown's blog at www.rbkc.gov.uk/leader

Do business with us

Companies interested in supplying goods or services to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster City Council or Hammersmith & Fulham Council should register their company details at the councils' procurement portal www.capitalesourcing.com

Signed-up businesses will receive email alerts of relevant contract opportunities.

YOUNGSTERS NET ANOTHER MEDAL HAUL



Young table tennis players in the borough won yet more medals at this year's English Schools London Table Tennis Championships at the University of East London.

The girls from Fox Primary took gold for the third successive year, while the boys took the silver medal after narrowly losing out in a thrilling final.

In the Under-13 section, the girls from Chelsea Academy excelled themselves by dispatching three other schools before losing narrowly to a strong Burlington Danes team in the final. All three teams will now represent their

school and borough in the South of England regional finals in February.

The success of the three Kensington and Chelsea teams owes much to the popular Centre of Excellence sessions held at the Chelsea Academy every Friday from 5pm and 8pm, at which new players are always welcome. Hewley Griffith, Charleigh Kirby and Marcia Ma provide the expert coaching.

Cllr Emma Will, Cabinet Member for Education, congratulated those who took part and did so well. "We clearly have a real pool of table tennis talent in the borough's schools which is being nurtured by willing coaches and teachers," she said.

Although Fox Primary has dominated primary school table tennis in the borough over the past five years, two schools, Bousfield and Ashburnham, have come on board to challenge the Fox supremacy. Regular table tennis sessions also take place place at Holland Park School and the St Thomas More Language College.



Come and meet us at our AGM and learn more about how we are helping residents of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea with:

- ✓ Affordable loans
- ✓ Savings plans
- ✓ Payroll saving

All are welcome to attend – refreshments served.

Our Annual General Meeting is on **11 March 2014** at **St. Columba's Church of Scotland, Pont Street, Chelsea, SW1 0BD** between **18:30 and 20:30**.

Your Credit Union – 346 High Street Kensington, W14 8NS
Join online at www.yourcu.co.uk 020 7605 6341



THREE EPIC FILMS
www.youtube.com/kensingtonandchelsea

Take a look at the Council's YouTube channel for our latest films on Epic CiC, the first youth service department in the country to be wholly owned by its staff.

MORE BOBBIES

An extra 41 police officers will be on the streets of Kensington and Chelsea next year and will focus solely on the issues that most concern residents.

Known as the Kensington and Chelsea Community Policing Team, the unit has been made possible by an annual £1.4 million investment by the Council.

Comprising 37 constables, three sergeants and an inspector, it will be 'tasked' by a joint police and Council management team led by a senior Council officer.

As well as providing high-visibility patrols and dealing with antisocial behaviour, licensing and crime prevention, it will also tackle longstanding resident bugbears like graffiti, vice cards, fly tipping, dog fouling, litter and illegal street trading.

In previous years the Royal Borough has supported the police with additional Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and 58 are currently funded by the Council.

As part of a package of measures, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has frozen PCSO recruitment. With PCSOs leaving the service through natural wastage or becoming constables, the number available across London and within Kensington and Chelsea has been declining.

At the same time the MPS has for the first time extended a scheme enabling councils to buy full power police officers for Kensington and Chelsea.

The real cost of a police constable is £65,000 but the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime is currently offering a buy-one-get-one-free offer. That means it will cost £32,500 for a constable, about the same as funding a PCSO.

The Council believes it can achieve a bigger impact on crime and fear of crime by reinvesting in police constables, who have a much greater range of powers than PCSOs.

"All the evidence says that our investment in PCSOs has been a success, particularly when it comes to providing a visible policing presence," said Cllr Joanna Gardner, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, IT and Corporate Services, "but PCSO numbers are going into decline and we now have an opportunity to reinvest in full police officers and a different way of working.

"These officers will operate as part of a Council-tasked team on problems which are important to our residents and businesses. As they have a full range of powers, including arrest, they will be able to operate across a much broader range of policing challenges.

"The new team will be able to respond to some of those local issues which aren't usually a priority for police but do concern our residents and affect their lives."

The first members of the new Kensington and Chelsea Policing Team will be on the streets of Kensington and Chelsea by late summer 2014.

CLOSING THE GAP

Pupils who receive free school meals in Kensington and Chelsea do better in their GCSE exams than those who receive free meals in any other local authority in the country, according to figures published in January by the think tank Demos.

The attainment gap, as it is known, measures the contrasting performance in GCSE exam results between children on free school meals and those whose parents are considered able to afford to pay for a school lunch. The figures are based on pupils who achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics.

In Kensington and Chelsea the attainment gap is four per cent, while nationally the gap is 27 per cent, suggesting that the Royal

Borough is doing more to help those from less well-off backgrounds catch up with their peers.

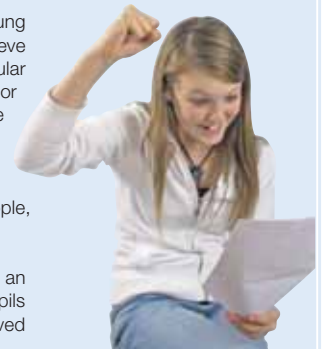
Cllr Emma Will, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Cabinet Member for Education, said: "We have known for some time that children in Kensington and Chelsea who receive free school meals perform very well in their GCSEs.

"I am very pleased that young people in our borough achieve such good results, in particular those who face disadvantage or additional challenges. I believe that high-quality teaching in extremely well-led schools will always deliver the best results for children and young people, whatever their background."

In Kensington and Chelsea an impressive 77 per cent of pupils on free school meals achieved

five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics, while 81 per cent of pupils in the borough who did not receive free school meals hit this target.

Nationally only 38 per cent of pupils receiving free school meals passed five or more GCSEs including English and mathematics, while the national pass rate for those not receiving free school meals was 65 per cent.



Volunteers receive Mayoral thanks

As a pat on the back for the amount of voluntary time they invest in the borough's schools, a group of school governors gathered for a special Mayoral thank you at Kensington Town Hall.

Governors are key players in the life of a school and are part of one of the largest volunteer groups in the country.

From fundraising and giving strategic advice to balancing resources and appointing the

head teacher, a governor is an essential source of school support.

Greeted by the Mayor, Cllr Charles Williams, and the Council's Cabinet Member for Education, Cllr Emma Will, the governors were able to network with their peers and enjoyed refreshments and a well-deserved vote of thanks.

The Mayor said: "Governors who give freely of their time and expertise to schools have played an important part in helping

the Royal Borough's schools achieve outstanding results. I am delighted I was able to express my appreciation by holding this thank-you party."

The event was the first in a series which looks to recognise the work of people who add to the life of the borough.

To find out more about becoming a school governor in a Royal Borough school, call School Governance Support on **020 7598 4781**.

OUTSTANDING OFSTED INSPECTION

School celebrates result

Staff and students at St Thomas More Language College in Chelsea celebrated the results of their Ofsted inspection in December after being judged Outstanding.

Government inspectors awarded the rating, the highest possible, in all four categories: the achievement of pupils, the quality of teaching, the behaviour and safety of the pupils and leadership and management.

Head teacher Dr Trevor Papworth said: "We are clearly delighted with the outcome

and feel the judgement echoes our motto 'Serving God, Striving for Excellence'."

Mary Alves, Head Girl of the school, said: "Being in an outstanding school makes me feel amazing. It rewards all the hard work students and staff have made. We all excel as a community and we always knew we were outstanding, but it's great to be told!"

Senior Student Leadership Team (left to right): Peter Yeseab, Angela Braga, Anthony Niguas, Mary Alves Goncalves, Daniel Rabette and Claudia Ndontoni.



CATCHING CRIME ON CAMERA

Dogs messing and fighting, litter bugs, drunks and other antisocial behaviours are expected to be reduced in parks across Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith & Fulham after parks police officers were issued with lapel cameras.

The councils say the move, which will enable officers to capture court-ready evidence at the touch of a button, will help cut crime and antisocial behaviour in 23 parks and open spaces.

The cameras are able to capture high-quality footage at night and all videos will show the date and

time. It is hoped this will speed up the time it takes to prepare court cases as well as making it more likely offenders will plead guilty.

Cllr Tim Ahern, Kensington and Chelsea's Cabinet Member for Environment, said: "We are rightly proud of our parks and have always strived to make them welcoming.

"Our parks police combat antisocial behaviour whenever they see it. This initiative is a great way to help them deal effectively with the problem and make it easier to take action against offenders."

Youth summer event

Young people keen to find out more about the range of uniformed services they could join, such as the volunteer police cadets, Guides or St John Ambulance, can attend a free information event in Holland Park on Saturday 5 July from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

Along with various displays and fun challenges to complete, there will be chances to talk to serving members about their experiences. Those who are really keen can sign up on the spot.

To find out more from April, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search 'YOU London'.

MAYOR OF LONDON
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

YOUR POLICE YOUR SAY

Come and talk to us about policing in
Kensington and Chelsea.

Thursday 13 March ♦ 6:30pm ♦ Free

Kensington Town Hall
Hornton Street
London W8 7NX

To find out more and register your
interest visit london.gov.uk/police

BEST BAR NONE AWARDS

Be the best in town

The seventh annual *Best Bar None* awards for the Royal Borough will be launched on Monday 7 April.

The scheme, one of the largest in the country, recognises the best pubs, bars and clubs in Kensington and Chelsea by inviting them to demonstrate excellent management standards and

show how they minimise any disturbance to neighbours.

Landlords and managers of the borough's pubs, bars and clubs will be able to submit applications until Friday 6 June, with the awards presentation taking place in November.

Cllr Tim Ahern, Cabinet Member for Environmental Health, said:

"The *Best Bar None* scheme has been a great success for the borough, its residents and those establishments that have taken part."

In 2013 Janet's Bar, on Old Brompton Road, was named overall winner for the second time.

For further information, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/bestbarnone or email bestbarnone@rbkc.gov.uk

The scheme is supported by Diageo Great Britain and the Royal Garden Hotel.

GUILTY PLEA

One of a team of men who targeted foreign tourists, pretending to be police officers before stealing their cash and cards, will be sentenced in March after pleading guilty at Isleworth Crown Court to conspiracy to steal, robbery and impersonating a police officer.

Marian Racman, a 40-year-old Romanian living in Ilford, Essex approached visitors in central London in the summer of 2013.

They presented fake police badges and intimidated their victims before searching them for cash and cash cards, often leaving them feeling vulnerable and confused. One victim, an elderly Greek visitor stopped in Wrights Lane, W8, had cash taken from an envelope he was carrying.

Kensington and Chelsea Police used forensic evidence, CCTV footage and victim testimonies to track down and arrest a team of men, including Racman, who was linked to a number of offences across central London.



(Left to right): Chief Inspector Sian Edwards with Head of Neighbourhood Watch Karen Clark and Cllr Dez O'Neil at the special thank-you reception.

Saying thank you

Police volunteers who work in the Royal Borough were recognised at a special reception at Kensington Town Hall in late January.

From working with police cadets or serving as Special Constables to offering advice on Notting Hill Carnival, police volunteers are a valuable force.

The volunteers met the Mayor, Cllr Charles Williams, along with the Council's Cabinet Member for Community Safety, IT and Corporate Services, Cllr Hon. Joanna Gardner and Chief Inspector Gareth Davies.

The Mayor said later: "I was delighted to be able to thank those who help the police in a voluntary capacity in many different ways. I hope that more people will come forward to support the Metropolitan Police as volunteers."

The event was the second in a series designed to recognise the work of people who add to the life of the borough.

To find out about volunteering with the borough's police, contact Andy Williams on 020 8246 0624 or email Andy.M.Williams@met.police.uk

YOUTH SERVICES

An Epic event

Pictured at the launch of Epic CiC are (left to right): Nick Hurd MP, Minister for Civil Society, Brendan O'Keefe, managing director, Cllr Elizabeth Campbell, Cabinet Member for Family and Children's Services and David Stewart-Maia, managing director of The Life Project UK. See page 16 for the full story.





(Left to right): Syed Kamall MEP and membership officer Tahira Messiah.

TAKING THE CREDIT

Support is growing for the Royal Borough's own ethical lending and savings organisation.

Your Credit Union Kensington and Chelsea has signed up nearly 250 members since it was launched last year, with about 30 new people joining each month.

Recent joiners include MEPs Dr Charles Tannock and Syed Kamall, MP Greg Hands and a number of faith groups, including: St Peter's Hall Fund, W11, Latymer

Road Christian Centre, W10, and St John the Evangelist Kensal Green, NW10.

St John the Evangelist started its 170th anniversary celebrations with a £10,000 deposit to the credit union.

The vicar of St John's, the Rev. David Ackerman, said: "It is vital churches work with credit unions to enable more people to access local, ethical and reasonably priced financial services.

"Having a credit union in our community gives people in need of affordable loans somewhere to

turn rather than use payday lenders. We're proud to put our money where our mouth is."

Backed by the Council, social housing landlords and voluntary organisations, Your Credit Union aims to improve the financial services available to people who live and work in the area, particularly those who struggle to sign up for affordable banking services and are living on a low income.

For more information phone **020 7605 6341**, visit YCU at 346 Kensington High Street, W8 or join online at www.yourcu.co.uk



ETHICAL MONEY LENDING

Shark practice

Residents coping with the aftermath of Christmas were warned to steer clear of unlicensed money lenders and loan sharks when they attended an event held at the Dalgarno Community Centre in St Charles ward in January.

Your Credit Union (YCU), which offers fair loans and ethical investment for people living, working, studying or volunteering within Kensington and Chelsea, teamed up with the government-funded Illegal Money Lending Unit to organise the session.

Every year the Illegal Money Lending Unit prosecutes unlicensed lenders, some of whom use intimidation or threats of violence as well as charging crippling rates of interest.

The Council's Cabinet Member with responsibility for trading standards, Cllr Tim Ahern, said: "Under no circumstances should you ever go to an unlicensed lender; they can

destroy your life and leave you living in misery. Loan sharks often start out being friendly, but can quickly change.

"If anyone knows of an illegal money lender they should contact the Illegal Money Lending Team on **0300 555 2222** or get in touch with the Council's Trading Standards team to report it in confidence."

Your Credit Union, based at 346 Kensington High Street, offers savings and loans to its members, who must have links with one of the following: the Royal Borough, Westminster, Hammersmith & Fulham, Queen's Park and Kensal Green in Brent and St Mary's Park and Queenstown in Wandsworth.

To find out more information, call in, phone **020 7605 6341** or visit www.yourcu.co.uk

Contact the Council's Trading Standards Team by emailing trading.standards@rbkc.gov.uk or by calling **020 7361 3002**.

TACKLING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Two new initiatives are being launched in the Royal Borough to support victims of domestic violence and encourage them to get help.

The Metropolitan Police Service has launched *Operation Dauntless* following research that shows domestic violence to be a particularly under-reported crime, with victims suffering, on average, eight attacks before calling the police.

The campaign aims to give victims, families and friends clear guidance on how to respond to domestic violence and how to get the help they need.

Posters and leaflets encouraging victims to report attacks to police were distributed in St Charles ward in January.

Meanwhile, a 'community cocooning' initiative encouraging residents to take action on domestic violence by helping each other is also being



introduced and will be backed up by local leafleting giving details of specialist services.

The joint Council and police Community Safety Team is working with partners to raise awareness of the crime and support its victims. Domestic abuse is one of Kensington and Chelsea Community Safety Partnership's crime priorities.

The Council, which took part in the White Ribbon Campaign at the end of last year, will also be celebrating International Women's Day in March.

The Police Community Safety Unit provides support with all domestic violence, including same-sex incidents. Trained officers can be contacted on **020 8246 0226**.

Other organisations that offer practical and emotional support include Standing Together and Al-Hasaniya as well as those listed below:

ADVANCE

Call **020 8960 7016** or email admin@advanceadvocacyproject.org.uk

VICTIM SUPPORT

Call **020 7259 2424** or email supportline@victimsupport.org.uk

GALOP

Call **020 8960 7016** or email info@galop.org.uk

➤ www.rbkc.gov.uk/housingintheroyalborough/housingadvice/domesticviolence.aspx

➤ www.rbkc.gov.uk/whiteribboncampaign

Useful links

www.facebook.com/stoploansharksproject
www.twitter.com/loansharknews
reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk

Growing a brighter borough

Whether it's a beautiful window box, a glorious garden square or a tasty community veg patch, now's the time to don those wellies, search out the secateurs and sign up for this year's Brighter Kensington and Chelsea competition.

Set up in 1953, the Council-run competition encourages pride in the borough through the planting of trees, shrubs and plants.

Cllr Tony Holt, Chairman of Brighter Kensington and Chelsea, said: "If you're a green-fingered resident, community, school or business, I encourage you to get involved. With more than 50 cups and trophies up for grabs at a special prizegiving, the competition to be top of the crops will be strong."

The Brighter Kensington Scheme was started as part of the Coronation celebrations, with the first competition in 1953. While most communities focused on street parties and decorations, some people felt

that something more lasting would be better, hence the annual summer competition.

The scheme was based on an idea started in Sheffield in 1929 by the father of one of the Councillors involved and many of the trophies date back to the original competition.

In 1953, London was still in a dreadful state following the war, with most bomb sites not yet re-built and self-seeded buddleia everywhere.

The idea of the scheme was to encourage people to add some colour and freshness to the street scene, trying to restore some greenness to the borough. The scheme tries to continue this tradition.

There are numerous classes covering all sorts of gardens. The Private Group is divided into North, Centre and South, with each group offering classes

for front garden, back garden, balcony/terrace and window boxes.

In the Voluntary Group, there are churches, nursing homes, schools, garden squares and in the Commercial Group there are categories for prizes for pubs, restaurants, and mansion blocks.

The judges are all professionals in the horticultural world who know the borough well.

To sign up, please email organiser Anne Chorley at brighterkandc@googlemail.com or write to Brighter Kensington and Chelsea Scheme, 27 Palace Gate, London W8 5LS. www.rbkc.gov.uk/parksandgardens



Councillor Question Time

Cllr Daniel Moylan
Queen's Gate ward



Royal Borough talks to a Councillor who keeps certain cards close to his chest

When did you first consider becoming a Councillor?

I stood for Parliament in 1983 and, after I moved to Queen's Gate ward in 1985, I became involved in the local Conservative Association and was asked to consider standing for the Council.

Did you need a lot of convincing?

No; having the chance to be of service to the local community was an exciting and challenging prospect.

How did you feel when you were elected?

Thrilled.

What is the most rewarding part of being a Councillor?

The fact that the Council has a wide range of functions and a degree of rotation between the different departments gives Councillors a fantastic opportunity to learn about all sorts of aspects of how the world works that normally remain unnoticed by most residents. As an example, the waste industry is a very large business sector in the UK; spending time to understand how it worked was rewarding and stimulating.

And the least...?

People (happily very few) who think that the appropriate and most effective means of engaging with their Councillor is a rant of violent personal abuse.

What are your ambitions in the political sphere?

To continue to serve my friends and neighbours in Queen's Gate ward as their local councillor.

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

When I was Deputy Leader of the Council, it was practically full time, but now that I am on the back benches I spend a couple of hours a day on it, on average.

Is there anything your constituents feel strongly about?

They bitterly regret the Council's short-sighted decision to stop repaving the streets in traditional York stone.

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

My involvement in improving the Royal Borough's public spaces, for example in the award-winning Exhibition Road.

Do you have any hobbies?

Why would one want a hobby?

A favourite song or piece of music?

Beethoven's op. 111 piano sonata.

A favourite part of, or place in, the borough?

I think Thackeray Street, near where I live, is a wonderful example of a successful local shopping street. Understanding why it works so well offers many lessons in good design.

A recommended place to eat?

I like quiet restaurants so I never recommend my favourites in case they catch on.

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

I think one should see the pyramids before one dies. Sadly, I have never been to Egypt.

RIGHTS ISSUE

As part of an ongoing series looking at Council grants, *Royal Borough* investigates the work of Kalayaan, a charity established in 1987 to provide advice, advocacy and support services to migrant domestic workers in the UK.

While fighting for rights is important, real practical help can provide even more support for those who have been abused, and that's where Kalayaan leads the way.

The registered charity, supported by a Council grant of £9,600 in 2013-14 and the same amount

for 2014-15, helps migrant domestic workers find new jobs by advertising positions for domestic workers, nannies and housekeepers on its office notice boards.

Individuals who are looking for new staff are invited to post their vacancies with the charity and can find out more by visiting the website at www.kalayaan.org.uk or emailing info@kalayaan.org.uk

More generally, the charity works with people who have entered the UK legally with an employer on a domestic worker visa to work in a private household but have then been exploited or abused.

In the most extreme cases, Kalayaan's clients have suffered human trafficking and been forced to work as domestic servants. The charity also acts as a workers' rights organisation and campaigns to improve conditions for domestic workers.

Kalayaan provides immigration and employment rights advice, as well as operating volunteer-run English classes for domestic workers to give them better job prospects.

The charity registers approximately 350 new workers each year and provides front line services that support clients who can be faced with destitution and poverty if they leave an abusive employer.



Above: A Campden get together.

CITY LIVING, LOCAL LIFE

MAKING LIFE BETTER

From life coaching and lunch clubs to local events and new community websites, the Council's *City Living, Local Life* project has achieved a great deal in the past 12 months.

The project, which distributes grants of up to £20,000 a year, brings Councillors and residents together to plan and organise activities that are designed to improve local life.

Over the past year the scheme has funded 141 projects, including life coaching courses that gave 32 residents in St Charles ward the chance to improve their skills and confidence. In Campden ward,

meanwhile, 16 older isolated residents were able to get together and enjoy talks on art, history and opera as well as lunches and trips.

Campden ward's Cllr Robert Freeman said: "Isolation and loneliness is a serious problem in Campden, as it is in much of London. I am delighted that we have been able to provide older residents with a programme of planned activities and meetings that has helped to address this and foster new friendships."

In its second annual report, *City Living, Local Life* includes a snapshot of ward activities and a look to the future.

Cllr Gerard Hargreaves, Cabinet Member for Voluntary Organisations and Resident Engagement, said:

"The strength of the initiative is that it is designed to encourage us, as Councillors, to work with residents and community groups at ward level to develop projects which suit local circumstances."

"The range of projects, ideas and initiatives contained within the annual report is testimony to this and I am delighted that *City Living, Local Life* continues to flourish, and, most importantly, is having an impact on residents across the Royal Borough."

To read the report visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/citylivinglocallife for more information, please email locallife@rbkc.gov.uk

TASTY

Visitors and shoppers at Portobello Market on Friday 21 March will be able to pick up tips on Malaysian cooking and sample dishes produced by the local Makan Café.

The café, based at 270 Portobello Road, specialises in Malaysian street food and will be taking centre stage at the *Road Food* demonstration stall.

Road Food demonstrations take place on the third Friday of each month at a stall on Pitch 89, beside the Office shoe shop at 217 Portobello Road.

To suggest a future *Road Food* theme, please email street.markets@rbkc.gov.uk

Share your skills

Portobello and Golborne markets are hungry for volunteer support to help a number of upcoming events go well.

First up are *Road Food* demonstrations, which are based around a chef cooking with ingredients bought in the market and take place on the third Friday of each month.

The team needs help to prepare the food, hand out samples and talk to passers-by about what's going on, set up and clear away and post photos and short videos on social media.

Volunteers who can cook are welcome, but there is plenty for other volunteers to do, too. The main ingredients needed are enthusiasm and an eagerness to promote the food – in return, volunteers will enjoy meeting

people and learning a few tricks of the trade from the chefs.

For those more into fashion than food, help is also needed at April's Flash Fashion event, which will be highlighting the style and variety of what's on offer in the markets.

Flash Fashion is looking for organised team leaders, efficient model managers, resourceful platform managers and creative marketing and PR wizards, with help needed in the planning stage and on the day itself.

Colville Ward's Cllr Tim Jones added: "Portobello Road is a great place to get experience of how to start a business. Some nationally-known stores started life with a market stall on Portobello Road."

Organisers point out that being involved is a way for people to

WE'D LOVE TO BREAK ANOTHER RECORD

Would-be stallholders are being invited to help Portobello and Golborne Road markets keep the Royal Borough firmly at the top of the table.

The Council's Street Trading Office wants first-time traders, schools, colleges, charities and community groups to make sure that the Royal Borough can equal or beat last year's total of 300 stalls during the 2014 *Love Your Local Market* event.

In 2014, the third year of the campaign, the fortnight-long national celebration will run from 14 to 28 May.

Last year, as the holder of the National Association of British Market Authorities' *Best Outdoor Market* award, Portobello and Golborne hosted the *Love Your Local Market* national launch event.

The Council teamed up with the privately-run Portobello Green Fashion Market to offer a total of 300 sites – an impressive ten per cent of last year's nationwide goal.

That same collaboration will make at least 300 sites available this year, while the Arts and Crafts square will be available to organisers who are able to bring in a block of ten to 12 stalls on Friday 16 and Friday 23 May.

This year will also feature a competition for the best-dressed *Love Your Local Market* stall each week, with a free Saturday pitch on offer as the prize (to be used by 21 June).

For stalls email marketevents@rbkc.gov.uk by 31 March, with LYLM14 as the subject.

The cost is just £10, and participants who go on to trade regularly will have the usual registration fee waived if they decide within one month.

"Portobello and Golborne Market is number one in the UK, so this initiative is going to be a splendid success. Where else could you start your own business for £10?" asked Golborne Ward's Cllr Pat Mason.



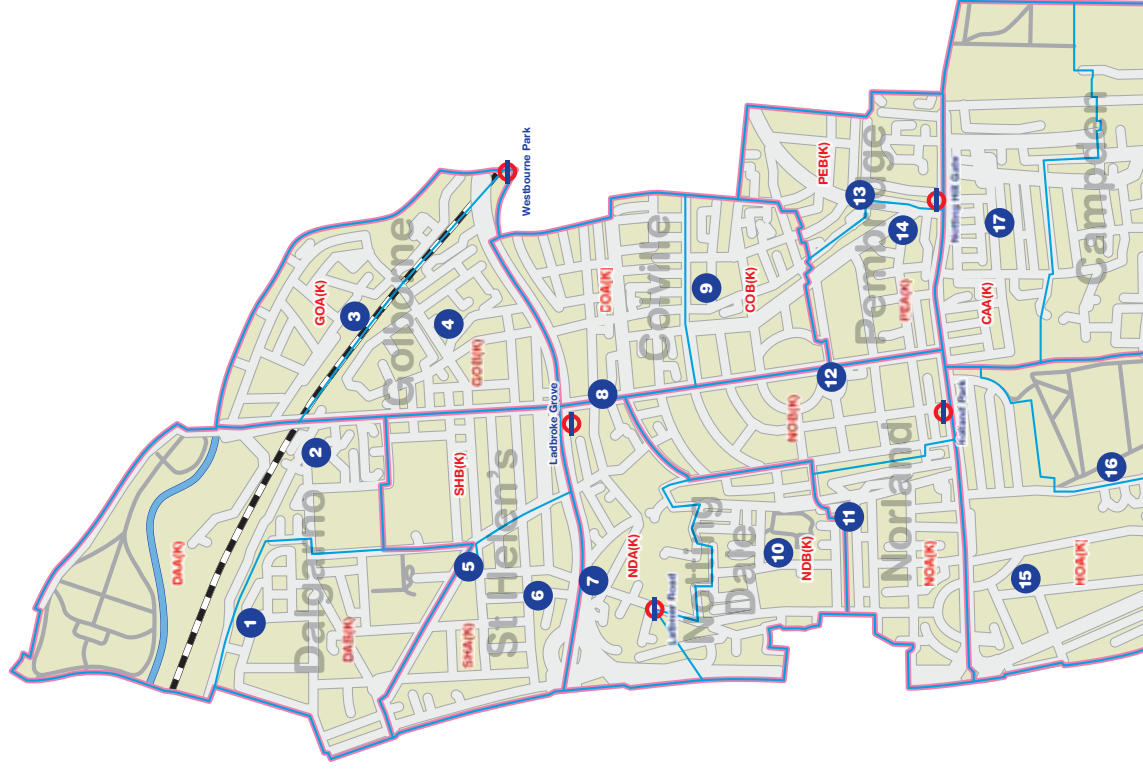
(Left to right): Marlene Stewart, chef Ibrahim Siteri and Heather Farwell at a *Road Food* demonstration.

boost their CV, be part of a fun team and connect with the local community. To find out more contact street.markets@rbkc.gov.uk

Portobello and Golborne markets open from Monday to Wednesday and on Friday and Saturday from 9am to 7pm and on Thursday from 9am to 1pm.

Local and European elections 2014

Where to find your polling station in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea



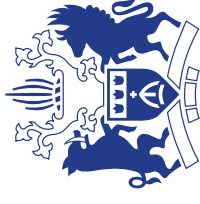
Polling stations

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 St Francis Community Church, W10 5EL | 18 Kensington Town Hall, W8 |
| 2 Barby Primary School, W10 6BH | 19 Heythrop College, W8 5HH |
| 3 St Thomas Primary School, W10 5EF | 20 St Barnabas & St Philips Primary School, W8 6EJ |
| 4 Bevington Primary School, W10 5TW | 21 St Marks Coptic Orthodox Church, W8 6PU |
| 5 St Helen's Church, W10 6NT | 22 Mary Smith Court, SW5 9NF |
| 6 Oxford Gardens Primary School, W10 6NF | 23 St Cuthbert with St Mattias Primary School, SW5 9UE |
| 7 The Latymer Christian Centre, W10 6SU | 24 Bousfield Primary School, SW5 0DJ |
| 8 North Kensington Library, W11 1PY | 25 Our Lady Of Victories RC Primary School, SW7 5AQ |
| 9 Colville Primary School, W11 | 26 Baden Powell House, SW7 5JS |
| 10 Avondale Park Primary School, W11 4EE | 27 Brompton Oratory Hall, SW7 2RP |
| 11 St Clements & St James Primary School, W11 4PG | 28 Temporary Buildings, SW1 |
| 12 St John's Church, W11 2NN | 29 St Josephs Primary School, SW3 2QT |
| 13 Notting Hill Library, W2 4EW | 30 Marlborough Primary School, SW3 3AP |
| 14 Kensington Temple, W11 3BY | 31 Oratory Primary School, SW7 6PT |
| 15 Cardinal Vaughan School, W14 8BZ | 32 Anglesea Arms, SW7 3QG |
| 16 Ecology Centre, Holland Park, W8 6LU | 33 Earls Court Youth Club, SW10 9AF |
| 17 Fox Primary School, W8 7PP | |





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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

- 34** Servite RC Primary School, SW10 9NA
- 35** Kensington and Chelsea College, SW10 0QS
- 36** Cheyne Childrens Centre, SW10 ST
- 37** Ashburnham Primary School, SW10 0DT
- 38** Park Walk Primary School, SW10 0AY
- 39** Petyt Hall, SW3 5DQ
- 40** Chelsea Old Town Hall, SW3 5EE
- 41** The Pavillion, SW3 4QJ

Make sure you use your vote in the local and European elections this spring

Residents who are on the electoral register will be able to have their say on who runs the Council and who represents them in the European Parliament by voting on Thursday 22 May.

Polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm, with postal or proxy votes available for those who know they will not be able to get to a polling station on the day.

These will be the first elections fought on new ward boundaries and will see the number of Councillors elected drop from 54 to 50.

To find your nearest polling station, please see the map above or (from 14 April onwards) visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/findyourpollingstation and type in your postcode.

Alternatively, telephone the Electoral Services team on **020 7361 3444** or email elect@rbkc.gov.uk

When you receive your polling card it will also tell you where to find your polling station. **The results of the Council elections will be known on the evening of Friday 23 May and will be available at www.rbkc.gov.uk**

The results of the Euro elections will be announced on Sunday 25 May.



DENTAL HYGIENE

Helping young teeth

NHS dentists in Kensington and Chelsea can help keep children's teeth healthy using a new technique involving fluoride varnish.

Fluoride varnish cannot be bought and used at home but is a concentrated fluoride gel painted onto children's teeth by a dental professional.

Because there is strong evidence that it reduces tooth decay in children, the Department of Health recommends that every child aged three and over receives fluoride varnish at least twice a year.

Fluoride varnish does not replace brushing teeth with fluoride toothpaste but is an additional preventative measure. Children should still brush their teeth twice a day and keep a close eye on the amount and frequency of sugary food and drink they consume.

A dentist, dental therapist or trained dental nurse can apply the fluoride

varnish, which is available free of charge from NHS dentists; just ask the dentist on your next visit.

Other tips for keeping children's teeth healthy

- Start brushing children's teeth as soon as they come through.
- Help children brush their teeth until they are at least seven.
- Brush last thing at night and on one other occasion – and spit the toothpaste out after brushing but do not rinse with water.
- Reduce the frequency and amount of sugary foods and drinks consumed and limit them to meal times.
- Take your child to the dentist for a check-up at least once a year, or more regularly if your dentist recommends it, and ask them for prevention advice.

Remember – dental care is free from NHS dental practices for everyone under 18.

VOLUNTEERING IS A HEALTHY OPTION

Volunteers who help in hospitals across the borough had the chance to meet the Mayor, Cllr Charles Williams, and enjoy a glass of bubbly at a special event in February.

Hosted at Kensington Town Hall, the reception recognised people across the health sector, from the fundraisers and flower arrangers through

to the trusty team that runs the trolley service.

Cllr Williams, who was joined by his wife, Mayoress Mrs June Williams, said: "I was delighted to be able to thank those who give up their time to help hospitals, hospices and community health services. What they do makes a real difference to patients."

To volunteer for a local organisation contact the Volunteer Centre Kensington and Chelsea. Email grace.nuttall@voluntarywork.org.uk or tyrone.morille@voluntarywork.org.uk or call 020 8960 3722. Alternatively, please visit www.voluntarywork.org

Champions out to spread the word

A team of diabetes champions is spreading the word about this serious disease, which affects more than 6,300 residents across the Royal Borough.

The Tri-borough Public Health Team that works across Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster and Hammersmith & Fulham is aiming to raise awareness of diabetes, a disease that some people may have without knowing it.

Those who attended a meeting at Chelsea Theatre learned that the symptoms of diabetes included blurred vision, increased thirst, more frequent urination – especially at

night – tiredness, weight loss and cuts taking longer to heal.

While other signs include itchy genitals and regular occurrences of thrush, the audience was also reminded that in some cases there were no symptoms at all. "We told people that if they were worried they should ask their GP for a free blood glucose test," explained Diabetes Champion Coordinator Howard Tingle.

The audience also heard about complications such as strokes, heart disease and kidney damage all of which made it important for people to have regular checkups.

Those who have a family history of Type 2 diabetes or come from certain cultural groups are more vulnerable to the disease.

Anyone who already has diabetes and would like to talk about the difficulties they face can talk to one of a team of diabetes mentors who do not offer medical advice but can offer support with self-management.

The team can also offer support in Somali, Arabic, French and Portuguese. To find out more phone 020 7736 0044 or email jralphs@westminster.gov.uk

health trainers

No need to struggle alone

Residents who find most health advice too general can sign up for a personalised plan provided by their own healthy lifestyle coach.

Health trainers are local people who support others with goals such as eating more healthily, taking more exercise, stopping smoking or improving their mental or emotional well-being.

Those who need personal support to reduce their stress levels, be more active, reach a healthier body weight or cut back on the amount of alcohol they drink can benefit from up to six free, one-to-one sessions with a personal trainer.

For those aged between 40 and 74, trainers can also arrange free NHS health checks aimed at preventing heart disease, stroke, diabetes, high blood pressure and kidney disease.

The trainers work flexibly and can meet residents anywhere in the borough to deliver a personalised service. The service is provided by the Westway Trust, which is based at 3-5 Thorpe Close, London W10 5XL. Residents interested in kick-starting a healthier lifestyle should call 020 8962 5730 or email healthtrainers@westway.org

www.healthtrainerskandc.co.uk

See what's on offer

Learn more about staying fit and healthy by attending the St Charles Centre for Health and Wellbeing Open Day on Saturday 8 March from 11am to 4pm.

The day will offer activities, stalls and entertainment for all the family, including free health checks, exercise and dance classes and food taster sessions, all showcasing what St Charles has to offer.

The centre, at Exmoor Street, London W10, delivers a range of services and activities to promote general health and well-being, including community gardens and allotments and an activity centre for older people as well as a gym and a restaurant.

Clinical services include community rehabilitation, specialist weight

management, speech and language therapy and podiatry.

Contact Barbara Shelton at Kensington and Chelsea Social Council by emailing barbara@kcsc.org.uk or calling 020 7243 9800.



HELP IS AT HAND

Help is at hand for Royal Borough residents who are on short-term sick leave or struggling to cope with health problems at work.

The *Fit for Work Service* run by the Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust provides people who live or work in Kensington and Chelsea with free advice and support designed to help them return to and remain at work.

To find out more, contact Stella Sawyer, Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Case Manager, on 020 8962 4227 or by emailing stella.sawyer@nhs.net

SEVEN-DAY CARE

Patients in Kensington and Chelsea, Queen's Park and Paddington are now able to access GP services seven days a week, thanks to a new weekend service launched by NHS West London Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Patients can either walk in or book a same-day appointment at six GP practices in the area. There is no need to be a member of the practice to use the service, and it will not affect the patient's existing registration with his or her own GP.

Dr Fiona Butler, Chair of West London CCG, said: "We have introduced this service as part of our commitment to improve access to primary care for our patients."

"This service offers patients who need access to care at the weekend an alternative to A&E, and we hope that this will help free up A&E departments for those with life threatening illnesses or injuries."

The practices listed here are open on Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 5pm except where shown.

The enhanced service has been introduced as part of NHS West London CCG's Out of Hospital Strategy, which aims to bring care closer to home and into a more familiar environment for the benefit of the patients.

A number of other practices in the area are operating a Saturday service for their registered patients only, with appointments and a walk-in service available. Some practices also offer an extended service on weekday evenings for their patients.

Knightsbridge Medical Centre
71-75 Pavilion Road,
London SW1X 0ET
020 8237 2600

Barlby Surgery
St Charles' Centre for Health
and Wellbeing, Exmoor Street,
London W10 6DZ
020 8962 5100

Earls Court Medical Centre
248 Earl's Court Road,
London SW5 9AD
020 7835 1455

Colville Health Centre
51 Kensington Park Road,
London W11 1PA
020 7727 4592

Half Penny Steps
427-429 Harrow Road,
London W10 4RE
020 8962 8700

(open 10am to 4pm Saturday
and Sunday for walk-in patients).

**Earl's Court Health and
Wellbeing Centre**
2 Hogarth Rd, Earl's Court,
London SW5 0PT
020 7341 0300

(open Saturdays only, 9am to noon).

Use technology to stay well

Making the most of new technology to help dementia sufferers was top of the agenda at a meeting of care home representatives.

The representatives, from homes in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham and the City of Westminster, heard how mobile phone apps could offer improved care for dementia patients.

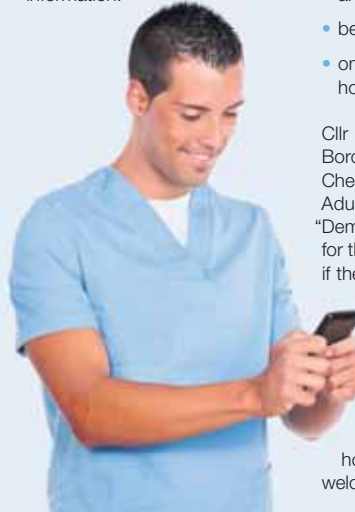
They heard from speakers from the Registered Nursing Home Association and City University London, as well as from the University of Bochum and the FZI Research Institute, both from Germany.

There was also discussion regarding a pilot project being carried out at Thamesbrook Rehabilitation Unit in Chelsea.

The work is part of a four-year European Union-funded project called MIRROR, which aims to help with dementia care in residential homes.

While many care homes use technology within the manager's or administrator's offices, access to systems by carers tends to be restricted, which limits their benefits.

The meeting heard that the new apps used mobile devices to encourage widespread use and capture better quality information.



The apps that are now being developed and trialled allow:

- easier sharing of residents' life histories
- care notes to be made at the time
- automatic data recording
- opportunities for staff to review and improve care practices
- better care
- online training in 'virtual' care homes.

Cllr Mary Weale, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, said: "Dementia is very challenging for the sufferer, their family and, if they are in a care home, the staff helping them."

"Anything we can do to help make their lives better and offer staff opportunities to improve what they can do and how they do it should be welcomed."

KEEP ACTIVE WITH US

For those who want to get fit and healthy, *Active for Life* offers a range of activities including chair-based exercises, line dancing, swimming lessons, walks and keep-fit classes.

This Council-run programme works in partnership with voluntary organisations to help people aged 55-plus, adults with disabilities, women and residents from ethnic minority backgrounds get involved in sport and exercise.

Activities run from Monday to Friday, and while some classes cost from £1 to £5 per class, some are free.

For a brochure, please call 020 7938 8182 or see www.rbkc.gov.uk/ActivitiesforAdults

**active
for life**



MALTON ROAD HUB

Getting it together

Work has begun on a project that will bring together a number of different children's services and adult social care teams in order to give clients a better service.

The Council has begun refurbishing the former Elderly Persons Integrated Care Services building at 2-4 Malton Road so that it can become the new base for several teams currently spread across North Kensington.

Malton Road Hub will have a small social care customer services centre which is expected to be completed by the summer and will bring together staff currently working at the Westway Information Centre, the Isaac Newton Centre and 36 Oxford Gardens.

The surrounding area will also be revamped in time for the office opening, with better pedestrian access between Malton Road and Ladbroke Grove and new paving, better lighting and signage.

This is the first project in the Westway programme, which is designed to unlock the potential for the Council to regenerate North Kensington.



➤ www.rbkc.gov.uk/westway

NHS

West London

Clinical Commissioning Group

Be health wise Know your options

Self-care

Take stock and stock up.

Self-care is often the best choice to treat minor illnesses and injuries. Make sure you can treat coughs and colds and your medicine cabinet is well stocked and out of reach of children.

Pharmacist

Confidential advice on your high street.

Your pharmacist can provide you with confidential advice for a range of common conditions, illnesses and emergency contraception.

To find your local pharmacy visit www.nhs.uk

NHS 111

The number for all your health needs.

Dial NHS 111 for fast and reliable medical help and advice for non-life-threatening emergencies. NHS 111 is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Calls are free from landlines and mobiles.

Visit www.westlondonccg.nhs.uk for more information

Competing with the best

A new disability community club has been launched in the borough thanks to joint working by the Kensington and Chelsea Leisure Services Team, the Disability Sports Coach organisation and Epic CiC.

Kensington and Chelsea Community Club provides structured sports, physical activity and events for people with disabilities aged from 11 to 25.

This club allows young people to gain a wide range of sporting experiences and develop various skills such as team building and communication.

The club, an exciting, fun and safe way to access sports, get to know new people and develop new skills, meets on term-time Saturdays from 11am to 1pm at Sion Manning RC Girls School. It costs £2 per session and siblings and friends are welcome.

During each of three 'terms' qualified sports coaches will teach three different Paralympic sports. The winter block now underway features Boccia, tennis and football, while spring and summer will see members tackling trampolining, goalball, cricket, fencing, athletics and judo.

There will be inter-club competitions and each block will end with an achievement day at which participants can take part in team games and skill-based tasks and will be presented with certificates and medals.

Kensington and Chelsea has joined five other Community Clubs across London, all aiming to standardise disability sport.

Community Club Development Officer Alan Whetherly commented: "I am looking forward to the club being at the heart of the local community, working with schools, local disabled people's organisations and, most importantly, local families to provide more enjoyable sporting opportunities for anybody with a disability."

Joining information can be found at www.disabilitysportscoach.co.uk/clubs. Alternatively, head to Sion Manning School on a Saturday morning and ask one of the coaches for a form. Alan Whetherly can be contacted by calling 020 7021 0973 or emailing alan@disabilitysportscoach.co.uk



BRING A BUDDY

Bring a friend and try something new for free – that's the offer from the Council's Sports Development Team ahead of a special week of activities.

There are free activities taking across the borough between 7 and 14 April, but everyone who signs up has to bring a buddy.

The team is hoping that friends will get together to share the experience, try something new and boost their fitness levels.

There is something for everyone, of all ages and abilities. Contact the team on 020 7938 8182 or email sportandleisure@rbkc.gov.uk or go to www.rbkc.gov.uk/bringabuddy to see what is on offer.



TRY TENNIS

If you already love tennis or just want to give it a try, there are plenty of opportunities in Kensington and Chelsea. Here is the current programme:

Junior/mini tennis

Weekly after-school classes:
Tuesday 4 March to Tuesday 22 July:

Tuesdays: 4pm to 5pm
Wednesdays: 4pm to 6pm
Thursdays: 4 to 6pm.

Half-term camps:
Monday 14 to Friday 25 April:
10am to 3pm
Monday 26 to Friday 30 May:
10am to 3pm.

Squad tennis:
Tuesdays: 5pm to 7pm
Fridays: 5pm to 7pm.

Summer tennis camp:
Monday 7 July to Friday 5 September, Monday to Friday,
10am to 3pm.

Adult tennis

Every Wednesday from 26 February to Wednesday 17 December, 6pm to 8pm.

Weekend classes will start in the spring.

For information and bookings contact Holland Park Sports Bookings Office on 020 7602 2226.



HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

OPEN TO ALL

A new-look gym has been unveiled at the St Charles Centre for Health and Wellbeing in Exmoor Street, W10.

Reopened and refurbished by West London Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), NHS Property Services and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, the new gym is run by Hybrid Wellbeing @ St Charles and will be open to everyone.

It will offer services including acupuncture, nutrition, podiatry and homeopathy, osteopathy, physiotherapy, and a complementary therapist and naturopath will be available.

Classes will include Pilates and yoga and it will offer personal and group training. The gym will open on weekdays from 6.30am to 9pm, on Saturdays from 8am to 2pm and on Sundays from 10am to 2pm.

The gym will offer discounts for NHS staff and those who are referred by a GP. Those who used the gym before its refurbishment will receive one month's free use of all the services on offer.

Dr Fiona Butler, chair of West London CCG, said she was pleased that the gym had reopened and described it as

"extremely popular, an integral part of the community and a facility that offers local people the chance to manage their own health closer to their home."

She added: "We spent time looking for the right provider; we wanted an organisation that could not only look after the gym and provide excellent services, but could also fully support the health needs of the community. We believe Hybrid Wellbeing has the right staff to help people take positive steps to a fitter and healthier lifestyle."

"The gym is also open for GP referrals and we would very much like to encourage local practices to use the gym as a tool for helping to manage the health and well-being of their patients."

Liston Wingate Denys, owner of Hybrid Wellbeing, said the company aimed to "service the gap missed by many gym providers by servicing our diverse community."

He said Hybrid Wellbeing combined training and exercise with an emphasis on personal, physical and social needs and aimed to help members "reach their goals, whatever they may be".

➤ www.hybridwellbeing.com

Enjoying independence

Youth workers in Kensington and Chelsea are now able to market their nationally respected skills and services to other organisations after becoming an independent company.

Although under contract to provide the Royal Borough with youth services for the next five years, the department is now operating as an independent Public Service Mutual (PSM) and can sell services elsewhere.

The new organisation, Epic CiC, is the first youth service department in the country to have been freed from local authority control. All 152 staff now have shares in the company and have a say in its management.

Epic operates four youth centres and is working out of several sites run by the voluntary sector as well as directly with the community.

Among other roles, it provides guidance and support for 13- to

19-year-olds, particularly those in difficulty, delivering intensive one-to-one work, arts, sport, health advice, education and outdoor experiences.

Cllr Elizabeth Campbell, the Royal Borough's Cabinet Member for Family and Children's Services, said: "Councils have had to make very difficult decisions, resulting from a growing need for high-quality support for young people combined with reduced public expenditure."

"To ensure that our nationally recognised youth service does not suffer, we decided to pursue a different approach so that Epic CiC

can grow and share its skills and experience with other organisations."

Francis Maude MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office, said: "We are supporting new mutuals and I hope that Epic CiC can inspire staff in other youth services by demonstrating that increased autonomy and freedom can achieve great results."

Brendan O'Keefe, who heads up Epic CiC, said: "It's been a long journey to get to this point and we have taken the time to ensure that everything is in place so that we can successfully stand on our own two feet from day one."

"Epic's staff are very excited about what 2014 will bring and we look forward to going from strength to strength with the support of the Royal Borough."

The PSM has already secured contracts with a London health commissioning body and a number of schools.





Supporting learning

By Diana Spiegelberg, Director, The Kensington & Chelsea Foundation

One of the many hidden gems in the Royal Borough is the network of more than 20 supplementary schools coordinated by Westway Development Trust.

Over 1,000 young people a week attend these independently managed supplementary schools, which are run largely by parents and volunteers.

The schools provide after-school and weekend lessons for young people, often those for whom English is a second language.

The work the schools do was reflected in the electrifying atmosphere at last year's Supplementary Schools Awards Ceremony at Imperial College, where 120 young people and 39 volunteers were rewarded for their effort and commitment.

The sense of aspiration and promise was personified by Ahmed Nur, who is in his first year studying medicine at Imperial.

Standing alongside Professor Lord Winston, he credited his success to the extra support he had received in his studies by attending a supplementary school. He now goes back weekly to mentor at the Somali Women's Association's supplementary school, which takes over the Venture Centre in Wornington Road every Saturday.

During a recent visit to the Moroccan Supplementary School, it was striking to see how many of the charismatic teaching volunteers now enjoying successful careers in the City had been pupils at the Saturday school themselves and were returning to share their skills with the next generation.

The Kensington and Chelsea Foundation is working closely with the Westway Development Trust to make more people aware of the valuable work done by the supplementary schools.

This includes creating opportunities for local private schools to form twinning relationships, such as the one created recently between Knightsbridge School and the Somali Women's Association.

As well as financial support for the Somali supplementary school, the partnership has inspired meals and football matches that have brought together young people, parents and teachers from the two schools.

Local residents can support supplementary schools in a number of different ways, from volunteering or donating books to giving money, either for work in a specific supplementary school or to support projects coordinated by Westway Development Trust that bring young people from different schools together.

This term the foundation is working with Westway on a debating project for young people from several of the supplementary schools, designed to build confidence and develop public speaking and presentation skills.

For more information, please visit www.thekandcfoundation.com



STAY SAFE, SIMPLES

Road safety-aware youngsters from across the borough attended a special Mayoral event to recognise the winners of this year's Road Safety and School Travel calendar competition.

The front cover was scooped by Daisy Field, 8, of Barlby School, (pictured) whose meerkats waiting at a zebra crossing cleverly illustrated the need to 'look, look and look again' before crossing.

Accompanied by Cllr Mrs Frances Taylor, Chairman of the Public Transport and Road Safety Advisory Group, the Mayor and Mayoress of the Royal Borough, Cllr and Mrs Charles Williams, welcomed the children and their families and presented them with certificates and book tokens,

courtesy of sponsors Project Centre and NSL.

The Mayor said: "The importance that the Royal Borough places on road safety education and raising awareness about greener forms of travel is reflected in this calendar. Road safety, especially for children, is our priority."

Cllr Mrs Frances Taylor said: "I'd like to congratulate everyone who worked so hard to make this project possible – particularly the good work of our Road Safety Team."

More than 1,000 children entered from 24 of the borough's schools.

Calendars are available free by emailing road.safety@rbkc.gov.uk



Learning for all

From art to zumba. For those aged 19 to 90.

Would you like to learn something new or improve your existing skills in 2014?

There are over 400 courses available offering adult learners more than 4,000 places at a variety of locations throughout the borough.

The Royal Borough works with Kensington and Chelsea College and voluntary organisations to deliver a range of learning activities that are both enjoyable and useful.

For information on the courses available email af1@rbkc.gov.uk or go to www.rbkc.gov.uk/af1



More for cycling

There will be more money available for cycle training and bike parking in Kensington and Chelsea following the Mayor of London's decision to allocate £629,000 over the next three years from his Vision for Cycling fund.

The funding means 1,500 new on-street cycle parking places will be created in the borough, along with a further 1,500 off-street parking spaces to make it easier for residents in flats to keep their bikes secure.

A cycle parking occupancy survey will be carried out across the whole borough to identify new locations where there is demand for more cycle parking. To suggest a location, email cycling@rbkc.gov.uk

To book a two-hour training session, or find out more, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/cycletraining

There will also be more opportunities for anyone who lives, works or studies in the borough to access cycle training, which the Council aims to provide for 800 adults and more than 1,500 children over the next three years.

Special training will also be provided for drivers of large lorries in an attempt to highlight the dangers cyclists face when they are close to their vehicles.

Cllr Tim Coleridge, Cabinet Member for Transport, said: "I am very pleased that the Mayor of London has provided this funding for the next three years. It enables us to make even more cycle parking available and also to run important cycle safety training."

FUNDING PROTECTED

There was good news all round for the Royal Borough's voluntary sector organisations when the Council announced its funding decisions for the year ahead.

Despite pressure on the Council's own finances, all organisations that were funded in 2013-14 will be funded again in 2014-15, with no funding cuts planned. Some

organisations will receive an increase, while eight new voluntary projects will be supported over the next two years at a cost of £557,000.

The funding decisions were announced in January by Cllr Gerard Hargreaves, Cabinet Member for Voluntary Organisations and Resident Engagement.

The Council supports organisations that provide advice and information, community centres that provide a

range of activities, and organisations that support charities with finance and good management.

Organisations receiving grant help include Kensington and Chelsea Citizens Advice Bureau, the Volunteer Centre Kensington and Chelsea, the Dalgarno Neighbourhood Trust and Chelsea Theatre.

Six out of the eight new projects being supported are being led by local organisations that are well established in the borough,

including the ClementJames Centre, Age UK and Octavia Foundation.

Projects will tackle isolation in older men, encourage businesses to provide work experience for unemployed people, establish a mobile crèche that will provide work and training opportunities and set up a social enterprise that will help older women make and sell goods.

Cllr Hargreaves said the voluntary sector played "an enormous role in life in the borough", adding: "It provides important services for residents which help the Council

deliver its priorities. I am delighted that we have been able to maintain our level of funding and make more money available for innovative projects."



Cllr Gerard Hargreaves

Launch pad to success

Do you have a great business idea but need a little help getting it off the ground? Perhaps you are a budding entrepreneur who just needs a bit of mentoring to become the next Mark Zuckerberg – or maybe you dream of being your own boss but struggle with the numbers.

Eighteen- to 24-year-olds who fit that description are being encouraged to sign up for this year's Market Enterprise Launch Pad (MELP) and take advantage of free access to business expertise.

As well as practical and interactive advice on how to write a successful business plan, the Council-run project will offer a lucky few the chance to be mentored by top industry professionals.

It's a competitive process – think Dragons' Den – which culminates in the most promising young

entrepreneurs pitching their plans to a panel of business experts.

Prizes in the past have included free stall space on the famous Portobello and Golborne Road Markets, £1,000 start-up funding, free business insurance and ongoing business mentoring for up to six months.

This year, by working with its Tri-borough neighbours in Hammersmith & Fulham and Westminster, the Council hopes to offer even more.

Emily Ellen Dell, who won the 2012 event, said: "Over a year has passed and every business move I've made since has been thanks to this wonderful organisation.

"The MELP team gave me the confidence and knowledge to believe I could make my ideas into reality. Since leaving the market last

year I've illustrated Mickey Tyzack's poetry book *The Man Who Wrote Ploms*, designed an image for a coffee bag on sale in north London, created wedding invitations and won an art competition run by the charity Mind.

"I am so happy that MELP continues to encourage and support the passion in people and teach them that anything is possible as long as you want it enough."

Budding entrepreneurs who are as driven as Emily and believe they have got what it takes to be successful should call the MELP coordinator on 020 7938 8038 or email ebp@rbkc.gov.uk

The website at www.rbkc.gov.uk/melp will have more information shortly.



Emily Ellen Dell

pressbox@rbkc.gov.uk or by post to Royal Borough, Communications Office, Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7NX.

Make sure you include your answer, name, address and a contact telephone number.

The competition closing date is Monday 31 March 2014 and the winner will be contacted after the draw and announced in the next edition.

For full terms and conditions see page 2.

Alternatively, just answer the following question to be in with a chance of winning one of her coveted pictures:

Which organisation named Portobello Market the Best street/outdoor market 2013?

Send your entry for the attention of the Editor by email to

MUMS TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mothers of young children can find out about Council support and advice at a special event celebrating International Women's Day on Friday 7 March at Harrow Club, Freston Road, W10.

Mums can enjoy pampering sessions and view the Motherhood Exhibition coordinated by the local website *Kensington Mums* working with the Council's libraries and children's centres.

A free lunch and crèche is available but spaces are limited and booking is essential. Email Silvia.Zeroual@rbkc.gov.uk or call 020 7598 4849.

The Pepper Pot Centre

Empowering Older People To Age Gracefully

The Pepper Pot day centre aims to provide a comprehensive service to those aged 50 and over, living within the borough of Kensington and Chelsea, and enable them to live more independently.

Come and partake in social games, including bingo and dominoes as well as health related activities such as Yoga and Tai Chi for only £1. Health promotion and illness advice are given within the centre. Low cost breakfasts, tea and biscuits as well as freshly cooked meals are available everyday.

Membership is free, so what are you waiting for?

We are 2 minutes walk from Ladbroke Grove station, located under the Westway

1A Thorpe Close
Ladbroke Grove
London W10 5XL

020 8968 6940
info@pepperpotdaycentre.co.uk
<http://www.pepperpotcentre.org>



Since taking part in MELP, Emily's art business *Find the girl on a swing* has gone from strength to strength. To see her canvases – each of which features a hidden fingernail-sized image of a little girl on a swing – pop down to Portobello's arts and crafts section, where Emily will be every Saturday from April onwards.

RELATIONSHIP BEARS FRUIT

Youngsters at Ashburnham Community School have been introduced to a new world of home-grown fruit and veg by making the most of close links with Fox Primary School in Notting Hill.

Fox Primary used a relationship it had developed with Wholefoods on Kensington High Street and the Wholekids Foundation to help the community school, based on the World's End Estate, set up its own allotment and start to grow fresh produce.

The success of the allotment initiative led to Jenny Hewlett and Alison Aylen bringing the *Food Explorers* programme – an initiative first developed at Fox Primary – to Ashburnham Community School in February.

Food Explorers is an intensive, week-long session that educates primary school children about healthy eating and where food comes from, inspires them to try new foods and celebrates the

ethnic diversity of food through demonstrations, cooking lessons and other hands-on adventures.

Jenny Hewlett, from the *Food Explorers* programme, said, "It's not just about healthy eating but also about understanding the different food cultures present in every school's community and looking at food sourcing, supply chains and seasonality."

The Kensington and Chelsea Foundation is working with *Food Explorers* to take the initiative to more local schools over the next year. Schools wanting to find out more or food enthusiasts or businesses wanting to get involved as a Food Champion should email team@thekandcfoundation.com or ring 020 7229 5499.

Below: Ashburnham's allotment.



Green light for firms

The *Greening Business* programme, jointly funded by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the European Regional Development Fund, helps small and medium-sized businesses in the borough reduce their bills and improve environmental performance.

One of the latest organisations to benefit is the Women's Association for African Networking (WAND) UK, which is based in the St Charles Centre for Health and Wellbeing near Ladbroke Grove and supports disadvantaged African women.

WAND asked for support so that it could improve its environmental behaviour and demonstrate and share what it learned with the African women who benefit from its services.

An adviser worked with the team to deliver simple energy-saving improvements in the office, while a workshop on

'green cooking' showed the women how to avoid wasting energy, water and food when cooking at home.

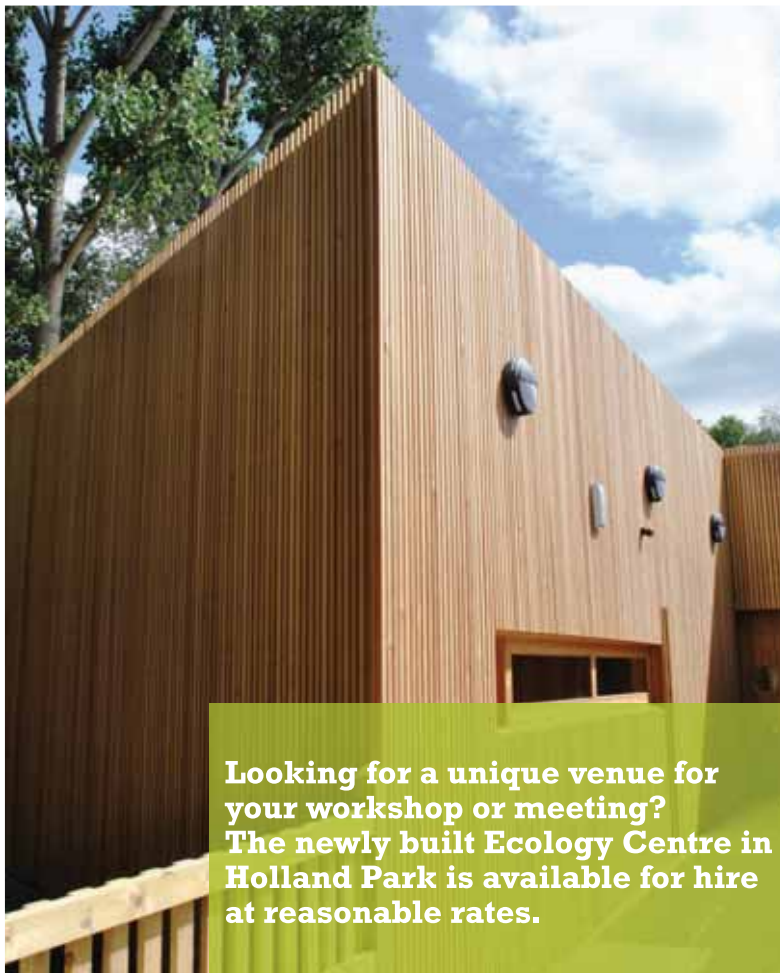
Participants had their eyes opened by simple tips such as using lids on saucepans – which can reduce energy costs by an impressive 75 per cent.

WAND manager Gladys Sheriff said: "The Greening Business programme has been wonderful."

Another organisation to benefit was 51 Kensington Court, an elegant Victorian townhouse close to Kensington Palace. Installing free water-saving devices from Thames Water and fitting standby avoiders to televisions is expected to save the business nearly £300 a year, produce 674kg less CO₂ and save 122 cubic metres of water.

To benefit in a similar way, email environment@rbkc.gov.uk

> www.rbkc.gov.uk/greeningbusiness



Looking for a unique venue for your workshop or meeting? The newly built Ecology Centre in Holland Park is available for hire at reasonable rates.

The Ecology Centre is also available for 'green' birthday parties during the week.

We offer outdoor environmental and craft activities led by Ecology Centre staff, suitable for all children from four- to 12-years-old. Activities can last from one to two hours and are available on weekday afternoons outside of the school holidays.

Contact: ecologycentre@rbkc.gov.uk or 020 7938 8186

This year the Ecology Service is promoting even more walks, talks and workshops giving people a chance to explore and learn about the wildlife and biodiversity right here in London. Find out more here:

www.rbkc.gov.uk/ecologyevents



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Don't get caught out

With scams becoming increasingly sophisticated, Royal Borough has some advice to help residents avoid being caught out.

Telephone scams

One of the most common scams at the moment involves callers claiming to be from their target's bank or credit card company.

They will often claim that they have noticed that someone is using their credit card details fraudulently to purchase goods or services and that they are attempting to stop this as quickly as they can.

The caller will then ask the person on the end of the line to confirm that they are the card holder, adding something like: "For security purposes can I just ask you to confirm your card number." They may ask for other details such as sort code and date of birth.

They will sometimes say that because of the fraudulent activity they need to send a courier round to pick up the card and that they will issue a replacement.

The golden rule to avoid being scammed is to be suspicious of any caller you do not know personally. You should never give out your personal details as this can allow the caller to withdraw funds from your account.

There are many variations of the telephone scam; sometimes a scammer will make their call seem more authentic by advising the target to call their bank or credit card company on a telephone number they know to be correct.

What they do, though, is keep the line open, so that the call the target makes goes straight back to the scammers. If in doubt, call your bank using a different phone.

Other scammers claim to be from Microsoft advising you that they have discovered that your computer is infected by a virus that they can remove for a fee.

It is worth remembering that your bank will never ask you for your account details. They already know what they are.

Rogue builder scam

This is an old scam but it still happens on a regular basis.

It usually involves the rogue builder knocking on the intended victim's door and saying something like: "We've been working next door and we noticed that you have a couple of tiles missing on your roof. I could repair that for around £50."

Usually, of course, there are no tiles missing and it ends up costing a lot more.

A recent version of this scam involves one of the rogue builders throwing water against an outside wall just before they ring the doorbell.

When the householder opens the door, the scammer will say they have spotted a leak and then offer to repair it.

The golden rule here is to be very careful about opening your door to people you are not expecting or do not know.

If you do open your door, use a door chain. If you do not have a door chain, speak to your local Age UK who can usually arrange

to fit one. Alternatively, speak to the person through the door to establish who they are.

For further advice please contact Trading Standards. In the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea ring **020 7361 3002** or email trading.standards@rbkc.gov.uk

Busy year ahead

A busy 2014 is in store for the over-50s who belong to the Second Half Centre, the community hub based in the St Charles Centre for Health and Wellbeing in Exmoor Street, W10 6DZ.

The centre offers more than 68 hours of classes and activities, ranging from computing to painting and Zumba to Spanish, each week, with membership free and classes costing from £3.

As well as new classes such as Bokwa (group exercise to music), body well-being and Pilates, the Second Half Centre

will also have a new management structure from April, when Open Age takes over the operation.

The Second Half Foundation charity will be donating its equipment, resources and an agreed amount of funding to Open Age and both charities will work together to roll out centres across London and beyond based on the Second Half Centre model that aims to promote active ageing and tackle isolation.

See www.thesecondhalfcentre.com ring **020 8962 5500** or email info@thesecondhalfcentre.com

VIRGIN ACTIVE FINED £100,000

Virgin Active was fined £100,000 in December 2013 at Southwark Crown Court and ordered to pay costs of £31,741.36, having previously pleaded guilty to two Health and Safety at Work offences at Hammersmith Magistrates' Court in October 2013.

The offences were discovered following an investigation by the Council's Environmental Health Officers into the death of Elsa Carneau (25) while swimming at the Virgin Active club at 17a Old Court Place, Kensington, London W8.

Elsa Carneau was not a club member but had previously used the facilities as a guest of a member. On the day of the incident, Elsa Carneau was allowed to enter the club unaccompanied, despite this being against the club's rules. The swimming pool she used was not required to have lifeguards but was monitored by CCTV and poolside checks. However, the single CCTV

camera, which was located at one end of the pool, failed to provide a clear view of the whole pool and did not cover the end of the pool where Elsa Carneau got into difficulty.

When swimmers became concerned that she was underwater and not moving Elsa Carneau was lifted out of the pool but, sadly, attempts to resuscitate at the poolside were unsuccessful.

A Council investigation found serious shortcomings in the management of health and safety risks relating to swimming activities at the club, including a failure to undertake a suitable and sufficient risk assessment of the swimming pool. It also found that the required checks of the CCTV and physical checks of the poolside were not carried out on the day of the incident.

Summing up, His Honour Judge McCreath, Hon. Recorder of Westminster, said there was foreseeable risk and a serious breach of Virgin Active's duty and

that there was evidence of inadequate supervision on the day.

He pointed out that the CCTV was defective in two significant ways in that it did not cover the whole pool and that the pictures to front of house lacked clarity.

He however acknowledged that it was impossible to demonstrate corporate faults of Virgin Active causing this death as strong arrangements and corporate structures were in place and the company generally had a good safety record.

Cllr Tim Ahern, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Cabinet Member for Environmental Health, said: "This was a very sad case for officers to investigate. What they found was a failure to have proper procedures and risk assessments in place to ensure safe monitoring of the pool."

ssafa

**Lifelong support
for our Forces
and their families**

Supporting those who serve, or have served, in the armed forces, together with their families

SSAFA helps more than 50,000 people each year using professionally trained volunteers and staff.

The charity offers practical and financial assistance, emotional support and welfare services to make a real difference to the life of anyone who asks for help, as long as they have spent at least one day in any of the armed forces.

Dependents and close relatives as well as widows and widowers are also eligible for support and help is also available to those who have served in the Reserves or who did National Service.

Caseworkers can help organise and fund home adaptations and specialised equipment. The charity also operates Forcesline, a confidential service available by telephone and online that offers support in areas including deployment and bullying, relationships, money and substance abuse.

Call **0800 731 4880** or see www.forcesline.co.uk
For more about SSAFA visit:

www.ssafa.org.uk

Kensington & Chelsea Division

Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, SW1E 6HQ

Tel: 020 7414 3234 Email: ssafa.kensington.chelsea.div@gmail.com



Passion for fashion

In the latest of a series of articles focusing on the 'real gems' who volunteer in the charity sector locally, Royal Borough spoke to Mohammed Tahriz, who works at the FARA charity shop at 26 Gloucester Road, SW7 4RB.

The shop is open every day, from 10am to 6pm.

What made you choose to work for FARA?

I have a passion for fashion and I have a passion for people. I loved the vibe of the shop when I first went there; the staff were friendly and I liked its interesting spaces.

All FARA shops are different but this was definitely my favourite. I am very happy to give my time to a charity that helps children.

What do you most enjoy about working in the shop?

I love being a part of the team; it's like being part of a family. I also like meeting the different people who visit the shop – we get tourists and famous people alike.

We have many regular customers who pop in and are very supportive of the charity. They make me smile and I want to make them happy. Excellent customer service is very important to us.

Why should people visit your shop – does it offer anything special?

We get lots of designer items and lots of interesting bits and bobs. The shop has loads of personality from the staff and the creative way the stock is merchandised.

There is something new every day – as long as we get donations, which we need all the time.

What was your favourite donated item and why?

We received 30 beautiful paintings a while back, one of which was a lovely portrait of an old lady that was originally valued at £2,800 by the Royal Academy of Arts. It was a wonderful gift for FARA. Apart from that, a pair of Mont Blanc cufflinks, which were very classy.

Are you looking for volunteers?

Yes, we are always looking for volunteers, along with donations, time or any other way people can help the charity continue to help the kids who really need it.

To volunteer at the Gloucester Road shop, ask the shop manager for a volunteering form. To volunteer for another FARA shop, see the jobs and volunteering section on the charity's website at www.faracharityshops.org. For anything else, including donations, email mail@faracharityshops.org.



InTRANSIT ARTS FESTIVAL

GETTING ARTY

Design and production duo Helen Scarlett O'Neill and Harry Ross (pictured above) are curating this year's *InTRANSIT* – the Council's borough-wide arts festival which runs from 18 to 25 July. To get involved as an artist, producer or potential sponsor, email arts@rbkc.gov.uk

You can also follow @RBKCCulture or find *InTRANSIT* on Facebook.

Second Chelsea fire engine retained

Kingsbridge Fire Station, on Basil Street, was one of ten stations closed at the beginning of January as part of the Mayor of London's Safety Plan.



Cllr Joanna Gardner, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, IT and Corporate Services, said the Council had made sure a second engine was

retained at Chelsea Fire Station to offset the closure.

She commented: "Kingsbridge Fire Station has served the community since it opened in 1907. Whilst we opposed its closure, we sought the retention of a second fire engine at Chelsea Fire Station to help address its loss.

"We are grateful that the Mayor has agreed to keep the second engine and we welcome the Fire Service's assurances that the safety of our residents will not be compromised by the loss of Kingsbridge, as the remaining resources are adequate for all

the reasonably foreseeable emergencies we may face."

The closure of fire stations is just one element of the £29 million savings package contained within the London Safety Plan. It also includes cutting the number of fire engines, fire fighters and specialist rescue teams.

The initial proposals included not just closing Kingsbridge but removing one fire engine from Chelsea Fire Station, a threat that was lifted following determined lobbying by the Council and others.

THE KENSINGTON & CHELSEA FOUNDATION

The Kensington & Chelsea Foundation links you to local charities.

The Foundation works with residents and businesses to raise awareness of the stark contrasts that exist on our doorstep, to generate support for local charities and improve the lives of the borough's most vulnerable residents.

Everyone can get involved and make life better for us all.

To find out how, please contact us:

020 7229 5499 / team@thekandcfoundation.com
www.thekandcfoundation.com

Registered Charity Number: 1125940

HELPING WOMEN BACK TO WORK

Look smart for that interview

Women who land an interview for a job that could make a huge difference to their lives now have one less thing to worry about.

A new charity called *Smart Works* can provide suitable clothes, styling advice and interview training, all designed to boost confidence and help women with low incomes back into work.



Smart Works, based at the St Charles Centre for Health and Wellbeing near Ladbroke Grove, aims to help women clear one of

the hurdles facing those looking for work – not having suitable clothes to wear.

Centre manager Kathryn Morgan-Smith said she was delighted by the feedback she had received, adding: "Everyone has said how much better they feel after coming to *Smart Works* for help. Having something nice to wear and getting some good advice on how to approach your interview can make a huge difference to your self-confidence."

To contact *Smart Works*, please phone 020 7288 1770 or visit www.smartworks.org.uk



KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

Events Diary

SPRING 2014

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

Please make sure you include all the details shown in the listings below, such as times and admission charges.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Cromwell Road, SW7
Telephone: 020 7942 5000
South Kensington
www.nhm.ac.uk



© The Trustees of the Natural History Museum, London.

SENSATIONAL BUTTERFLIES

3 April to 14 September, 10am to 5.50pm (last admission 5.15pm).

Experience the wonder of walking among hundreds of free-flying butterflies. This family-friendly exhibition allows visitors to wander through a tropical enclosure, discovering the science behind these delicate creatures and their amazing life cycles as they evolve from crawling caterpillars into beautiful butterflies.

Admission: Adults, children and concessions £5.50, family £19. Members, patrons and children under four are free.



Illustration by Velizar Simeonovski
© The Field Museum.

MAMMOTHS: ICE AGE GIANTS

23 May to 7 September, 10am to 5.50pm (last admission 5.15pm).

Enter the amazing world of some of the largest creatures to ever walk the Earth. See huge fossils and life-size models of mammoths and square up to the powerful trunks and tusks of these great beasts.

Visitors can even try out life as a mammoth by tusk jousting, trunk moving and feeling the weight of the hundreds of kilograms of

food a mammoth ate each day – equivalent to about 230 bags of sugar.

This will be an inspiring journey from the time when these titans roamed the land through to today's research into what caused mammoth extinction and how to protect their precious modern relatives, the elephants.

Admission: Adults £10, children and concessions £5, family £27. Members, patrons and children under four are free.

BRITAIN: ONE MILLION YEARS OF THE HUMAN STORY

Until 28 September, 10am to 5.50pm (last admission 5.15pm).

Travel back in time and experience the dramatic story of prehistoric Britain, its changing landscapes and the people that lived here. Find out how Britain looked long before the Romans, Saxons and Vikings arrived and discover rarely seen specimens from behind the scenes brought to life using the latest scientific techniques. Meet life-size models and uncover incredible finds that reveal what life was really like one million years ago.

Admission: Adults £9, children and concessions £4.50, family £24. Members, patrons and children under four are free.

HOLLAND PARK ECOLOGY CENTRE

Holland Park, W8
Telephone: 020 7371 4682
High Street Kensington and Holland Park
www.rbkc.gov.uk/ecology

TASK FORCE 4 NATURE VOLUNTEER DAY

15 March and 12 April, 10.30am to 3.30pm.

Join a practical conservation volunteer workday in Holland Park and enjoy an opportunity to get out and about, meet new people, get active, help local wildlife and have fun.

Meet outside Holland Park Café; tea, gloves, tools and instructions provided.

Contact: 020 8743 3040 or netty.ribeaux@groundwork.org.uk
www.groundwork.org.uk/london

Admission free.



HEDGEHOG TALK

26 March, 6.30pm.

The hedgehog was voted Britain's 'national species' in a BBC Wildlife poll in 2013. Learn more about these rarely seen mammals and how to encourage them into domestic gardens by attending this talk by Henry Johnson, the People's Trust for Endangered Species' Hedgehog Officer. Suitable for all ages.

AMPHIBIAN WALK AND TALK IN HOLLAND PARK

10 April, 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

Frogs, toads and newts will be the focus when Sivi Sivanesan of Froglife introduces the subject with a talk followed by a walk around the park to search for these creatures in the ponds and wood. Please bring a torch and note that this event is aimed at an adult audience.

Both the Ecology Centre events are free but booking is essential. They are both sponsored by the Friends of Holland Park.

SCIENCE MUSEUM

Exhibition Road, SW7
Telephone: 0870 870 4868
South Kensington
www.sciencemuseum.org.uk

SOUND & FURY'S GOING DARK

5 to 9 March, 2.30pm Friday to Sunday and 7.30pm Wednesday to Sunday.

Suitable for 12-year-olds and above. Written by Hattie Naylor in collaboration with Sound & Fury.

Following two sold-out runs at the Young Vic in 2011 and 2012, Sound & Fury's mesmerising *Going Dark* visits the Science Museum this spring as part of a national tour, reawakening our wonder at the cosmos and revealing how one man's vision becomes illuminated by darkness.

Post-show talks will take place after the 5 March evening performance and 7 March matinee.

Tickets: Adults £20, concessions £15, under 16s and students £8 (booking essential).

SCIENCE MUSEUM LIVE: THE ENERGY SHOW

3 to 11 April. Suitable for seven-year-olds and above.

Join futuristic science students Annabella and Phil as they race against time to prove their knowledge of energy through a series of live experiments.

Featuring a virtual assistant named i-nstein and a steampunk workshop full of gadgets and chemicals, Annabella and Phil use liquid nitrogen, hydrogen rockets and electricity to create a dangerously exciting show.

Produced exclusively by Science Museum Live, *The Energy Show* tour will travel to more than 30 venues nationally, with the Science Museum being the first and last stops on the tour, with performances from 3 to 11 April and 22 July to 3 August 2014.

For other London and UK venues, times and prices see www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/energyshow

EXHIBITION: JAMES LOVELOCK ARCHIVES

From 9 April, 10am to 6pm (last entry 5.15pm).

This new exhibition, celebrating the life and 70-year career of British scientist and inventor James Lovelock, features highlights from a remarkable archive of material acquired by the Science Museum in 2012. The exhibition includes images of the scientist's laboratory alongside notebooks, photographs, manuscripts and audio-visual material, and provides a unique insight into Lovelock's creative mind and remarkable achievements.

Admission free.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE

Sloane Square, SW1W
Telephone: 020 7565 5000
Sloane Square
www.royalcourttheatre.com

PESTS

27 March to 3 May, doors 7.45pm.

Pests is part of the Royal Court's *Jerwood New Playwrights* programme, which aims to discover and support the next generation of world-class playwrights and is supported by the Jerwood Charitable Foundation.

Tickets: £20 (Mondays £10).

CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN

66 Royal Hospital Road, SW3
Telephone: 020 7349 6472
Sloane Square
www.chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk



Catharanthus Roseus – a synthetic compound based on this plant is extensively used in childhood leukaemia treatment.

NEW GARDEN OF MEDICINAL PLANTS

From 1 April until 31 Oct, from 11am to 6pm, Tuesdays to Fridays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.

From ancient Greek herbal remedies to medicinal plants of the future, this new section of a beautiful garden has much to enjoy.

Admission (giving access to the whole garden): Adults and senior citizens £9.90, students, registered unemployed and children (5 to 15) £6.60. Tickets can be bought at the Swan Walk Gate or online. Friends and carers of disabled visitors go free.

THE FRIENDS OF HOLLAND PARK THE ORANGERY

Holland Park, W8 6LU
Telephone: 020 7602 0304
High Street Kensington or Holland Park
thefriendsofhollandpark.org

ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION

5 to 13 April, 10.30am to 6pm. Admission free.

CONCERT BY THE RUSSIAN VIRTUOSI OF EUROPE

12 April, 7.30pm. Tickets £15.

WINNERS

Congratulations to Gary Codd, who correctly answered that *Road Food* cooking demos happen on the third Friday of each month. Gary won a copy of food entrepreneur Clippy McKenna's new book *500 jams & preserves*.

Also congratulations to Isabella Seekings, Julie Rutherford, Josina Eiselin and Fabienne Dischamps, who correctly answered that the Natural History Museum's *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* competition was first held in 1965. They each won a pair of tickets to the exhibition.

VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM

Cromwell Road, SW7
Telephone: 020 7942 2000
🚶 South Kensington
www.vam.ac.uk

THE JAMEEL PRIZE 3

Until 21 April, 10am to 5.45pm
(until 10pm Fridays).

The Jameel Prize is an international art prize for contemporary artists and designers inspired by Islamic traditions of art, craft and design.

Visitors can see works by ten shortlisted artists and designers, ranging from Arabic typography and calligraphy to fashion inspired by the Hagia Sofia in Istanbul and from social design and video installation to delicate miniature drawings.

Admission free.

▶ www.rbkc.gov.uk/events

CADOGAN HALL

5 Sloane Terrace, SW1X
Telephone: 020 7730 4500
🚶 Sloane Square
www.cadoganhall.com

AN EVENING WITH DAVID SEDARIS

27 to 31 March, 7.30pm
(except 30 March, 7pm).

After three sell-out runs at Cadogan Hall and two sell-out Edinburgh Fringe Festival stints, David Sedaris is embarking on his first ever UK tour and returning to Cadogan Hall for what is sure to be a very popular night and one of the literary events of the year.

Tickets: £35.

INFORMATION CORRECT AT
TIME OF GOING TO PRINT.



Gearing up for big race

Residents and businesses are being advised to plan ahead to minimise any disruption caused by the Prudential RideLondon cycling events in August 2014.

Prudential RideLondon is a world-class festival of cycling that will take place over the weekend of Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 August.

While events are scheduled for the whole weekend, the biggest impact on the borough's roads will come on the Sunday, when riders taking part in the Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100 and the Prudential RideLondon-Surrey Classic come through the borough.

The first event will attract thousands of amateur riders, many of whom will be

raising money for good causes, while the Classic is a race for professional riders.

Both events will follow a 100-mile route from east London to Surrey and finishing on the Mall. The exact route is still to be confirmed but it will involve riders heading out through the borough and returning many hours later en route to central London.

Closing 100 miles of roads and bridges inevitably has a major impact on traffic and public transport, with local roads, as well as the route itself, needing to be closed to make sure the event can pass safely.

The Mayor of London, TfL and Prudential RideLondon will be publicising more details of the route, road closures, impact on public transport and where to get further information the spring.

Cllr Tim Coleridge, the Royal Borough of Kensington and

Chelsea's Cabinet Member for Transport, said: "Whatever route is chosen our experience from last year's event suggests that major disruption is inevitable. There will be local parking restrictions and road closures.

"I urge residents and businesses to get this date into their diary to make sure they are not caught out when the cyclists arrive on Sunday 10 August.

"Both the amateur event, which will raise an enormous amount of money for good causes, and the professional race will be exciting spectacles. But you simply cannot have an event of this scale without it having an enormous impact on our roads."

▶ www.prudentialride.london.co.uk

**PRUDENTIAL
RIDE LONDON**

YOUR CHANCE TO SEE OPERA FOR FREE

Nine- to 18-year-olds and the over 60s are being given the chance to see opera for free as part of the Investec Opera Holland Park 2014 season which begins on Tuesday 3 June.

Five productions, including *Il barbiere di Siviglia* by Rossini and *La fanciulla del West* by Puccini, will be staged beneath the stunning canopy in Holland Park, with music from the City of London Sinfonia, the resident orchestra for the eleventh year running.

The 2014 season also marks OHP's first move into the repertoire of Benjamin Britten, with the company presenting his haunting *The Turn of the Screw*.

The free ticket scheme will allow 1,200 people to enjoy a spectacular evening for free from the June start through to the final performance on Saturday 9 August.

To apply for tickets, call the Opera Holland Park Box Office on 0300 999 1000 after Monday 28 April 2014.

Young people may apply for up to four tickets under the scheme (one adult and up to three young people). Young people under 16 must be accompanied by an adult (over 18) and applicants will be required to show proof of age when they collect their tickets.

Applicants for the Older Audiences scheme may apply for up to two tickets and will be sent an application form.

The Opera Holland Park 2014 season consists of *La fanciulla del West* (Puccini), *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (Rossini), *The Turn of the Screw* (Britten), *Norma* (Bellini) and *Adriana Lecouvreur* (Cilea).

▶ www.operahollandpark.com

WIN TWO TICKETS

To celebrate the start of another great season, *Royal Borough* is giving away a pair of tickets to Investec Opera Holland Park's opening night performance of *La fanciulla del West* by Puccini, on Tuesday 3 June.

Investec Opera Holland Park opens the season with one of Puccini's most luxuriously scored creations, with moments of sheer majesty and emotional impact.

This story of a group of gold miners, watched over and cared for by Minnie, is often perceived as having a happy ending, but the tale is so much more sophisticated than that and the climax of the opera is bittersweet.

The Royal Borough's 2014 season offers 34 stunning public performances. See programme at www.operahollandpark.com

For your chance to win a pair of tickets, just answer the following: *In which year did La fanciulla del West premiere at The Metropolitan Opera in New York?*

Send your entry to: Competition, *Royal Borough*, Communications Office, Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7NX or email pressbox@rbkc.gov.uk

Include your answer, name, address and contact number. The closing date is 5pm on Monday 12 May 2014.

For full terms and conditions see page 2.

Winners will be contacted after the draw and announced in the next edition.



Food waste



Clothing & textiles



Nappies



Shredded paper



Wood



Metal



Foil



Polystyrene



Electricals & cables



DIY material

KEEP THE NON-RECYCLABLES OUT OF YOUR RECYCLING

If you don't separate your rubbish properly, it can't be recycled. If in doubt, leave it out.



**RECYCLE
RIGHT**

For more information visit [NONRECYCLABLES.com](https://www.nonrecyclables.com)



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
**KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA**