

November 2021

Page 4
Breaking down barriers
to volunteering

Page 5
Boost your immunity
this winter

Page 7
Interview with Portobello
Business Centre CEO



**Community
Fridge opens
on Lancaster West
page 2**

About your North Ken News

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

Have you got news for us?

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

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

Tell us what you think

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

Covid-19

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

Staying in touch

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

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

 www.nextdoor.co.uk

 www.instagram.com/kensingtonandchelseacouncil

For updates on Grenfell

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

 www.rbkc.gov.uk/grenfell

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

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

A helping hand for parents

Being a parent is a demanding and often thankless job which can take a toll on your health and wellbeing. That's why the NHS Grenfell Health and Wellbeing Service has teamed up with the Council's Early Help Family Hub and Wellbeing College to offer a fantastic programme of free workshops for parents.

The workshops provide an opportunity for any parents in Kensington and Chelsea to learn and grow together, sharing ideas in a friendly, confidential and informal setting. The range of free courses cover topics such as managing parental anxiety, helping your child to manage anxiety or depression, building resilience as a parent and many more.

Workshops will take place at The Curve Community Centre 10 Bard Road, W10 6TH and run from the start of November until December.

If you'd like to find out more or book a place, call the Recovery and Wellbeing College admissions office on 020 3214 5686 or email recoverycollege.cnlw@nhs.net

Community Fridge opens on Lancaster West

Kensington and Chelsea's first community fridge has opened at the North Kensington Resource Centre on Lancaster West.

Local residents can come along to share their surplus food to help reduce food waste. Run by local volunteers, it also provides a social space to share recipes, spend time with your neighbours and learn more about food and growing your own. It is supported by Lancaster West Neighbourhood Team, Lancaster West Residents' Association, charity Hubbub and Co-op.

The fridge is open on Wednesdays from 1.30pm to 4.30pm and Thursdays from 3.30pm to 6.30pm. There's no need to register, just come along.

To find out more about the Community Fridge and other initiatives supported by the Lancaster West Neighbourhood Team, follow [@LancasterWestNeighbourhoodTeam](https://www.instagram.com/LancasterWestNeighbourhoodTeam) on Instagram

Take part in Christmas at Portobello Market

Members of the local community are invited to get involved in special Sunday markets running over the Christmas period at Portobello and Golborne Road Market. Exciting local stallholders and performers are encouraged to bring the festive cheer to Portobello this year.

Whether you own a small business or are just getting started, you can apply to have the chance to trade at one of the world's most famous markets this Christmas. Products should be suitable for shoppers looking for gifts or have a festive twist.

To add to the spirit of the season, the Market is also looking to feature local performers including musicians, choirs, or dancers to showcase their talent throughout each Sunday, whether you are part of a local group or are a solo artist.

Residents and those who work or study in the borough will get priority for both trading and

performing slots. Experienced professionals and budding entrepreneurs welcome.

The Christmas markets at Portobello will run on the following Sundays: 28 November; 5 December; 12 December; and 19 December. Keep an eye out for more information on the Christmas at Portobello Sunday markets on the Council's social media or @ [VisitPortobello](#).



If you would like to enquire or submit an application, please contact Street.Markets@rbkc.gov.uk with the subject line 'Sunday Christmas markets'.

Plans submitted for exciting new homes development

Plans for 83 new homes on Barlby Road in North Kensington have been submitted to the Council's Planning department.

The proposals, which are part of Phase Two of the programme to provide 600 new homes in the borough, include 38 social rent homes, four intermediate or key worker rental properties and 41 which will be available on the open market.

The development will also provide an indoor sports facility, an upgraded and enlarged community garden and an extension to a neighbouring NHS dental practice. The community has helped to shape the scheme through two rounds of public consultation and "You Said, We Did" resident engagement sessions.

Once validated, the plans will be visible on the Council's planning application page www.rbkc.gov.uk/planning/searches where residents will be able to comment formally.



Breaking down barriers towards volunteering

Volunteer Centre Kensington and Chelsea are working together with Kensington and Chelsea Social Council to launch a new initiative, K&C Together, a programme that aims to increase the number of Kensington and Chelsea residents working, paid and unpaid, in the borough's voluntary and community organisations. Their mission is to include and enable anyone who can benefit from the programme, and they would like to hear from you if you are either living with a disability, from a low-income family, or experiencing discrimination due to your race, sexuality, gender or religion.

If you face a barrier to getting involved that isn't listed, they still want to hear from you, so email Sheona at operations@vckc.org.uk or call **07961 208 896** to get involved. You can also visit www.voluntarywork.org.uk/projects/k-and-c-together/ for more information. Know someone else who might be interested? Why not spread the word?



Intermediate and Key Worker Housing Comms

You can help to shape the future of affordable housing in Kensington and Chelsea by taking part in a six-week consultation which is live until Monday 22 November.

The Council is consulting over a new Intermediate and Key Worker Housing Policy setting out how it will provide affordable housing for those who can't afford to rent or buy on the open market but who don't qualify for a social home, including key workers.

The consultation will seek to identify how the Council's limited stock of housing should be

allocated, which roles should be considered as key workers and whether priority should be given to those currently living out of the borough.

It follows a successful Key Worker Pilot Scheme in 2020 which saw more than 325 people express their interest in 14 flats in North Kensington, which were targeted at those working locally in the NHS and education sectors.

To find out more about the consultation and take part, visit consult.rbkc.gov.uk and search **Key Worker Housing**.

New homes coming soon to North Kensington

Work is underway to build 20 new homes for local residents on another of the Council's Phase One New Homes Programme sites at Hewer Street in North Kensington.

The exciting news follows the first spade going into the ground at nearby Kensal Road in July, another of the Phase One sites, where we are building 37 new homes - 27 of which are for social rent with the remaining 10 offered at intermediate rent.

Hewer Street is located opposite St Charles Hospital and the proposals will see 10 of the 20 homes offered at intermediate rent available to key workers as well as the retention of the key facades on Hewer Street and Exmoor Street to respect the heritage and character of the original buildings on site.

Construction is being undertaken by Wilmott Dixon and it is expected that people will be able to move into the new homes on Hewer Street before the end of 2022. All the new homes within the project will remain in Council ownership.

These projects form part of the first phase of the Council's New Homes Delivery Programme to deliver 600 new homes, at least half at social rent – the first homes the Council has built since 2017.

To find out more, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search New Homes Delivery Programme.

Boost your immunity this winter

The NHS has answered frequently asked questions on the Covid-19 booster and flu jabs, helping you to look after your health this winter.

Which vaccinations should I have this winter?

Everyone over 50, or those with a health condition putting them at higher risk from Covid-19 is eligible for the Covid-19 booster vaccine and flu vaccine. Both are serious illnesses. If you are in these groups, having both the Covid-19 booster vaccine and flu jab is the best way to protect yourself.

I've had two doses of Covid-19 vaccine, why do I need a booster?

The Covid-19 booster will help improve your longer-term protection against getting seriously ill from the virus.

Will the flu jab give me flu?

No, the flu jab cannot give you the flu. It is an inactivated vaccine, meaning it does not contain any of the live flu virus.

Can I have both vaccines at the same time?

Yes, if you are offered both vaccines, it's safe to have them at the same time.

Is it still safe to get the flu jab if I've had Covid-19?

If you've had Covid-19, it's safe to have the flu vaccine. It will still be effective at helping to prevent flu.

I'm pregnant, will the flu jab or booster vaccine harm me or my baby?

No, having the flu and Covid-19 vaccine will help protect you and your baby. It's safe to have both vaccines at any stage of pregnancy.

How do I get my vaccinations?

Everyone eligible for both vaccinations will be contacted by the NHS/ GP practice to arrange an appointment. If your second dose of the Covid-19 vaccine was more than six months ago you can go to the NHS booking website [nhs.uk/covidvaccine](https://www.nhs.uk/covidvaccine) and book your booster.

Find out more at: www.nwlondonics.nhs.uk/winter

Head online for Grenfell Community Assembly recap

Discover what was discussed at most recent Grenfell Community Assembly by checking out the meeting notes online.

The latest Assembly, which took place on Tuesday 9 September, had an emotional health and wellbeing theme as voted for via a resident survey.

Attendees were able to visit stalls from Council and community providers, hear from speakers including members of the Council's Leadership Team and North West London CCG's Head of Health Engagement and take part in a series of roundtable discussions.

The meeting notes cover the format of the evening, a summary of discussions from each of the roundtables and answers from the Q&A held at the end.

Check them out, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search Grenfell Community Assembly.

Resident Reference Group takes shape

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time to help improve the experience of those awaiting housing in the borough by joining a resident panel called the Resident Reference Group (RRG).

The RRG is part of the Grenfell Rehousing and Allocations Project and will build upon lessons learned from the response to the Grenfell tragedy and residents' own experiences to improve the Council's housing and rehousing service.

The first meeting will take place later this year and members will share their experiences of and ideas about the Council's housing allocations and rehousing processes, review relevant research and recommend how the Council can work differently with residents.

If you would like to keep informed about the work of the group or share your experience visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/grenfell-rehousing-allocations or email RRG@rbkc.gov.uk

Residents shape next round of Grenfell Projects Fund

Residents from across North Kensington have started to meet over the last few weeks to work together and shape round two of the Grenfell Projects Fund.

The newly appointed Residents-led Panel, comprising North Kensington residents, was set up after residents expressed a desire to take charge and shape the Fund. The Panel is now working together to co-design the application stage and has recently decided to extend the pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ) deadline to Wednesday 1 December to ensure the Fund is accessed by as many applicants as possible. The Panel will also monitor and evaluate the Fund as it progresses.

We spoke to residents on the Panel about why they decided to get involved.



Parent and volunteer Caroline Akello said: *“I’m so honoured to be a part of the Panel. It’s a great opportunity to get involved in rebuilding North Kensington post-Covid and help local community projects turn the Fund into something tangible.*

“As a parent, it’s really important to me that I’m part of the dialogue that will shape not only my children’s future, but the futures of children across the borough.”

Sole Morado, who moved to the borough six years ago, said: *“Although I am one of the newer residents on the Panel, my daughter will grow up in this borough so I want to help the community and support projects that will strengthen it long-term.”*

Local resident Eunicia Harding said: *“My neighbourhood is very important to me, especially the young people of W11 and W10. I have an understanding of the borough as I have lived here for over 40 years, so I would like to see the money used wisely and efficiently. I believe that residents should have their say in what happens in their neighbourhood.”*

Talking about what she would like to gain from getting involved in the Panel, Eunicia said: *“I would like to gain a knowledge of how things work in the borough from a different perspective - helping other residents gain support from the Council, allowing them to have knowledge of the borough and giving them a chance to open excellent projects. It’s such a brilliant opportunity.”*

Applicants who successfully pass the pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ) stage will be invited to submit a main application from Monday 10 January 2022. The Resident-led Panel will then create a shortlist of applications for members of the public who will award the funds via a voting system in March.

Visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search for Grenfell Projects Fund for more information.

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission

The independent Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission will ensure that the bereaved families, survivors and North Kensington residents lead decision-making on the long-term future of the Grenfell Tower site.

For news, updates and details of upcoming community meetings, follow the Memorial Commission on Twitter: [@GrenfellTowerMC](https://twitter.com/GrenfellTowerMC) and Instagram: www.instagram.com/grenfelltowermc

To contact the Memorial Commission:

visit www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/contact where you can also sign up for their newsletter

email GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk

phone **0303 444 4831**

Ever wanted to find out more about Portobello BusinessCentre?

In previous editions of North Ken News, we have shared information about courses, opportunities and training available on your doorstep from Portobello Business Centre (PBC). PBC is an independent, not-for-profit social enterprise that helps local people channel their enthusiasm and interest in entering the world of work and business, providing one-to-one advice, training courses, workshops, seminars and advice on access to business loans.

In case this sounds like something you'd be interested in but you want to know a bit more about PBC, we spoke with PBC CEO, Alex Gajic, to find out more about this local resource.



What is Portobello Business Centre all about?

PBC is all about making a positive change, particularly helping North Kensington residents who have a business idea and would like to start their own business, alongside supporting small, existing businesses to become sustainable and thrive.

When did you join?

It's been a long time... when Portobello Business Centre incorporated in 1995.

Can you give us an example of a success story or an accomplishment that you're proud of?

We have recently taken on board two people under the Government's Kickstart Scheme, both local residents. In just a few short months and after being trained by the team, they are making a significant contribution to PBC.

What are the key challenges facing business in North Kensington?

The last few years have brought some significant challenges to the area. Just as businesses were slowly recovering after the Grenfell tragedy in 2017, the Covid-19 pandemic hit. The pandemic highlighted the need for digital upskilling and how businesses needed to adapt in order to build resiliency. We are proud that all 90+ members of

the North Kensington Connected Business Forum became resilient enough to have survived all these challenges.

What do you hope PBC will accomplish in the next three years?

We want to develop more women-only entrepreneur programmes. We are currently running our fourth 'MyLifeMix' programme with the support of Kensington + Chelsea Foundation and we would like this programme to continue beyond 2021. We are also focusing on growing the membership of North Kensington Connected so that businesses continue to have an opportunity to collaborate, network, and support each other.

Any upcoming programmes that our readers should know about?

We will be running our fourth 'Meet the Experts' programme as part of Global Entrepreneurship Week this November.

To find out more about PBC and how they might help you or your small business, visit www.pbc.co.uk or follow along on Twitter www.twitter.com/PortobelloBC.

Refurb for disabled children's centre

St Quintin Centre in North Kensington has been transformed for young people and families following the Council allocating £350k towards a major refurbishment.

With fresh new carpets, cabinets, outdoor space with a projector for film nights and a well-appointed new kitchen for catering and cooking lessons, the centre reopened its doors following lockdown for the hundreds of families that access services at the centre since it opened 11 years ago.

We went along to the reopening and spoke with staff who will be working at the newly refurbished centre, along with parents whose children attend the centre.

One parent, Helen, said: *"I know my children are safe here and they are well taken care of. During the last two years it was really hard because of Covid – I missed the centre badly – but the staff listen and understand our problems. This centre is a break for all of us, including parents. They seem to enjoy the space here and the staff arrange for trips and activities to keep the children happy and occupied."*

Elizabeth, a play worker who has been employed at St Quintin's for eight years, said: *"We know the children here well and they enjoy their time here, we get the kids to engage and interact with us and make memories and progress while learning new skills. We*

cater to all the kids – those who are new and those who have been with us for years. We know what they're going through, and we cater to it."

The refurb has allowed for spaces to be reimagined to create the best environment for supporting families and has allowed for new activities to be organised, such as smoothie making at the dedicated smoothie bar – for which the ingredients are grown in the on-site garden.



If you would like further information on available services for a child or young person with SEND, please contact Short Breaks on 020 7361 2048. Alternatively, for resources and support relating to families, children and young people, visit the Family Information Service www.rbkc.gov.uk/FIS

Grenfell community update from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)

The future of Grenfell Tower

The newly-appointed secretary of state, Michael Gove MP, has been meeting bereaved families and survivors, and representative groups, following requests for him to hear views in person. The government knows how important and sensitive a decision on the future of the Tower is. A decision has not yet been made, and community discussions are continuing prior to a decision being reached.

At DLUHC's regular 'drop-in' meetings, you can ask questions and get information on the Tower site. This month these are on:

Noise monitoring Noise from on-site works at the Grenfell Tower site is monitored daily to help make sure that it stays below permitted levels. Noise levels are generally well below legal limits, and contractors are asked to keep noise to a minimum early in the morning or in the evening.

DLUHC is also holding monthly online Q&A meetings for the community. The next one is on:

Tuesday 9 November. You can dial in on **020 3795 5763** using phone conference ID: **429 512 465#**

Wednesday 3, 10, 17 and 24 November, 10am to 1pm at Bay20, 71 St Marks Road, W10 6JG

Friday 5, 12, 19 and 26 November, 10am to 1pm at The Curve, 10 Bard Road, W10 6TH

For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact the Grenfell Tower site management team:

**Email GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk
Phone 0303 444 0011**