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pick up their
paddles

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house
smoke free

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But where
does it
all go?

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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Royal Borough

www.rbkc.gov.uk

FEBRUARY 2009 No. 156

£50 Council dividend

Council tax payers in Kensington and Chelsea will benefit from a one-off £50 efficiency dividend in April.

The Council's Cabinet has decided to lend residents a helping hand in these tough economic times by releasing money from the reserves that it has built up by its good housekeeping over many years.

The idea is that the dividend, which equates to a 3.5 per cent cut at Band D and a freeze for top band tax payers, will help residents and boost the local economy.

Residents living alone, particularly the elderly, will see a greater proportionate council tax cut, while people on council tax benefit, including about 5,600 elderly residents, will receive a £50 cheque.

Cllr Merrick Cockell, Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, said: "We set the fifth-lowest council tax in the country, but in these straitened economic times we wanted to do more to help our residents. We have looked after our money well and because of this we can make this payment without affecting our services.

"£50 might not seem like a great deal of money to some people, but to others it can mean a week's shopping or a real help with their heating bills. I hope that those who need this payment least might think about giving it to local charities and we are looking at ways to help them do this.

"We also want to help businesses and will be looking at introducing free parking on Saturdays in April to encourage shoppers to spend in the borough."

Because the £50 dividend is the same for all residents liable for council tax, it gives proportionately more help to those on the lowest incomes.

When the £50 payment is considered alongside the council tax set for 2009-10, residents will see a reduction in next year's net payment to the Council of as much as 10.2 per cent for some residents in the lowest band.

The Council has identified savings of £5.4 million this year but has seen its grant from central government rise by just 1.75 per cent, which means it has to increase council tax by 3.2 per cent.

The efficiency dividend of £50 per head paid from the reserves built up over recent years will more than offset the increase in council tax, in effect freezing it for top band payers and reducing it for those in Band D.

The Council plans to make the one-off payment in April to achieve maximum impact for all residents rather than spreading it over ten months as a rebate, which would also mean those on council tax benefit receiving nothing.

To see the relationship between the £50 efficiency dividend and council tax in 2009-10 and to find out what other financial help is available, go to www.rbkc.gov.uk/counciltax

NOWHERE TO HIDE

It's been a busy winter at Holland Park, where Kensington and Chelsea Council has been renewing the wildlife pond and capturing an elusive predator.

Draining the pond had the extra benefit of allowing officers to capture one of the most dangerous predators in the park, a red-eared terrapin that had been running amok for a number of years.

The red-eared terrapin is alien to this country and has had a serious impact on native fish, worms, small animals, birds and vegetation. The Holland Park invader was moved

to a pond in the country where it joined three other terrapins.

The pond, found to be bigger than expected once 100 tonnes of gravel had been removed, is expected to quickly re-establish itself as the important habitat it has always been, especially for birds, amphibians and plants. Popular school pond dipping sessions run by the Council's Ecology Centre will be re-started in due course.

As part of the Council's commitment to sustainable development, the pond is now being fed by water from the park's own borehole.

In the spring more native aquatic plants will be put into the pond and a reed bed island will be established in its centre.



Historic bridge to be strengthened

Chelsea's famous Albert Bridge is to be given a new lease of life as a result of work that will allow it to carry traffic weighing up to 7.5 tonnes – significantly more than the current 2.5 tonnes.

Cllr Daniel Moylan, Deputy Leader of the Council, explained: "The existing weight limit has proved impossible to enforce, since many family cars today approach or exceed that weight, and so the bridge has been under threat of permanent damage from over-heavy vehicles.

"Although the bridge has long been protected by width restrictions designed only to allow cars to use it, we have had to supplement these in recent months with unsightly barriers intended to keep vehicles to the part of the span best able to bear the weight."

Now, though, Transport for London (TfL) has agreed to fund work that will start next year and will increase the bridge's carrying capacity while respecting and enhancing its historical character.

"Nonetheless," added Cllr Moylan, "The width restrictions at the entry points will be kept permanently in place to ensure the bridge is not abused by heavy vehicles – and there are no plans to allow buses or lorries to use the bridge.

"The works, which will take approximately two years and cost about £6 million, are intended to protect the bridge, not to encourage more traffic in Chelsea.

"We have taken the advice of specialist bridge consultants throughout this process. At the end of this process, a wonderful historical asset which is also extremely useful to Chelsea people will have a secure life for at least another 35 years."

Contacting the Council

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Give us your views

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

RoyalBorough

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

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

Contact your Council

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

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

Here to help – your Councillors

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

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

Surgeries

Colville Ward

(On a rota basis) Councillors Marianne Alapini, Keith Cunningham and Dez O'Neil; 6pm to 8pm, second Tuesday of each month – Portobello Court Club Room, Portobello Court, Portobello Road W11.

Colville, Golborne and Notting Barns Wards

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

Cremorne Ward

Councillor Mark Daley; 9.30am to 11am, Saturday 21 February and 21 March, Chelsea Theatre, World's End Place.

Golborne Ward

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

Notting Barns Ward

(On a rota basis) Councillors Catherine Atkinson, Judith Blakeman and Mushtaq Lasharie; 10am to 12 noon, second and fourth Saturdays of each month – Tenants' Club Room, opposite the playground at the base of Grenfell Tower on Lancaster West Estate.

St Charles Ward

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



www.rbkc.gov.uk/contactus

Local Democracy Information

December 2008 and January 2009

Council meetings

Cabinet
19 February
26 March

Council
4 March (5.30pm)

Planning Applications
24 February
10 March
31 March

Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Cabinet and Corporate Services
17 February
30 March

Housing, Environmental Health and Adult Social Care
16 March

Public Realm
9 March

Health
18 March

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

Meetings sometimes change. Before attending, please call 020 7361 2265 or visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/howwegovern 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.



Getting their oars in
See page 5...



Boost for road scheme

An extra £10 million has been committed to the exciting Exhibition Road transformation that began in the new year.

Work began on 8 January, after months of preparation, when contractors set up their site office at the southern end of Exhibition Road. Just one week later, Mayor of London Boris Johnson confirmed that he had asked Transport for London (TfL) to contribute an additional £10 million to the costs of the project.

TfL has already committed £3.3m to the project, which The Mayor of London, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster City Council believe will transform one of London's key visitor attractions into a user-friendly space fit for the future.

TfL's £10m contribution will help make sure the scheme is completed by the end of 2011 – in time for the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

The Mayor said the Exhibition Road area "was home to some of Britain's most important museums and institutions that are vital to the heritage of London and the UK," adding: "This funding not only allows much-needed improvements to get underway, but also helps support the exciting new approach that will make the idea of shared space a key principle in transforming the street

into a space that all Londoners and visitors can enjoy."

Cllr Merrick Cockell, Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, said: "We are thrilled that the Mayor has made such generous support available for the Exhibition Road Project. The project will transform Exhibition Road into one of the most important public spaces in London and a major new cultural venue for the 2012 Olympics.

"Works around South Kensington Tube station have already started, and getting rid of the 1960s one-way system will radically improve the environment for everyone. The Mayor's latest contribution will turn the wider scheme, designed by architects Dixon Jones, from an aspiration into a real possibility."

The team is on schedule to complete the switchover to two-way traffic in June. Unnecessary kerbs and traffic islands are being removed and pavements widened, while bus stops are being moved to Cromwell Place, significantly reducing traffic through Thurloe Street.

The new system will free traffic flow, easing congestion and providing much better driving

conditions for motorists. Wider pavements and simplified pedestrian crossings will at the same time create a much safer and more enjoyable environment for residents, workers and visitors.

After the return to two-way traffic, work will begin on the spectacular single surface that will run the whole length of the road, from South Kensington Station to Hyde Park.

The scheme will transform what is currently an undistinguished streetscape dominated by heavy traffic and parked cars and blighted by narrow pavements not wide enough to accommodate the 10 million visitors the area welcomes each year.

All turns between Exhibition Road and Cromwell Road will be removed, with the exception of a single eastbound left turn towards Knightsbridge. The southern section of Exhibition Road and the westerly end of Thurloe Street will be largely free of through traffic, although it will still be open for access and residents.

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

HOW WELL DO WE CARE FOR YOU?

Older people who receive home care services from Kensington and Chelsea Council are to be asked their opinion on the quality of care they receive.

The Council is taking part in the Department of Health's *Older Peoples Home Care User Experience Survey* that begins this month (February). Officers will be contacting a large number of randomly-selected home care users to ask for their feedback on their overall experience of the Royal Borough's services.

The survey will also give those who are contacted the opportunity to help ensure that those services better meet the needs of users in the future.

The residents who are selected will receive a questionnaire through the post. All the information provided will be treated as confidential and the Council will give residents a free telephone number they can ring if they have any questions.

The results of the questionnaire will be used by the Commission for Social Care Inspection, the Department of Health and the Council to assess how satisfied people are with the Royal Borough's home care services. It will identify where improvements are needed.



HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT HOUSING

More than 10,000 Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea residents are being asked about their housing needs in a postal survey or through face-to-face interviews.

The aim is to help the Council understand what sorts of homes are needed now and in the future so that it can plan to meet Kensington and Chelsea's housing needs up to 2028.

Since this vital research will help shape the future of housing in the borough, it is important that as many people as possible reply to the survey so the results are as accurate as possible.

The results of the survey will help to shape the Local Development Framework, a blueprint for planning in the borough, as well as influencing the Council's forthcoming housing strategy.

Fordham Research is carrying out the exercise on behalf of the Council and will not disclose any personal information about respondents to the Council.

Residents who receive a questionnaire in the post are urged to return it by the specified date in the pre-paid envelope. For further information contact Senior Planning Officer Jo Prentice on 020 7361 3639.

News

BACKING EARL'S COURT

A new group has been set up to represent individuals, businesses and residents' associations in Earl's Court.

The Earl's Court Society (ECS) has taken over the reins held for the past 26 years by the Earl's Court Neighbourhood Associations (ECNA), which had the more limited role of serving solely as a forum for residents' association chairmen.

The ECS was launched at a reception at Kensington Town Hall, when Cllr Lady Hanham was elected President. As Cllr Joan Hanham she was responsible for the 1979 Earl's Court Study that highlighted how run-down Earl's Court had become and paved the way for its transformation into one of the most sought-after places to live in Kensington.

Ward Councillor Cllr Barry Phelps, said: "The ECS will work with the Kensington Society to the north and Chelsea Society to the south. Local people can join all three if they wish to!"

Individual membership costs £5 and is open to anyone who has an interest in Earl's Court. Contact Margaret Carey, Membership Secretary, by writing to her at 29 Kempsford Gardens, SW5 9LA or emailing Mcarey.ecs@googlemail.com



ABOVE | Cllr Lady Hanham

Buddy, can you spare some time?

An innovative 'buddy' scheme that encourages young people to work with youngsters with disabilities is proving a real success.

More than 30 young volunteers attended an induction evening at the Lancaster Youth Centre (LYC) to hear about the aims of the scheme. All 'buddies' had to sign a contract to show they understood what was required of them and were given training.

The young buddies, who have been trained to help disabled users of the LYC, were paired up with existing LYC workers to learn the ropes and be given feedback on their achievements.

As an added bonus for the buddies, who did not have the skills, knowledge or experience to work with the Youth Service in the normal way when they signed up, taking part in the scheme has enhanced their future job prospects in this area.

They have learned how to use all of the centre's equipment, attended meetings, done first aid training and escort duty on the minibus, learned the centre's policies and procedures and helped other workers with their projects.

Cllr Shireen Ritchie, Cabinet Member for Family and Children's Services, said: "The buddy project



ABOVE | Shaima and Elaine looking at the results of pond dipping.

has clearly brought out the best in the youngsters who signed up to help disabled users of the Lancaster Youth Centre.

"I know that their efforts are really appreciated by the disabled young people and that the buddies are developing new skills which will, I hope, attract them to a career in youth work."

The scheme has also been a huge success in encouraging some of the most 'hard-to-reach' and challenging members of LYC to sign up as a 'buddy'. The experience has completely changed their behaviour and attitude, with many of the young people relishing the fact that they are doing an important job and being treated as members of staff.

ADAPTING TO TENANTS' NEEDS

Would-be social housing tenants with particular needs can now see at a glance whether or not homes in Kensington and Chelsea are suitable.

Advertisements on *Home Connections* now include more information to help people who need to know if a house has level access, steps or adaptations such as a level access shower or a stairlift.

Most social housing in the Royal Borough has been assessed according to building design guidance and given a rating between fully wheelchair accessible (category A) and general needs housing (F). Vacant properties will have their rating and other access information displayed on the *Home Connections* website and in the weekly property advertisement sheet.

For further information see www.homeconnections.org.uk

It's the 'Wright' time to get fit

Former international football star Ian Wright was at Bevington Primary School in Ladbrooke Grove to launch a national initiative designed to encourage families to take simple steps towards a more active, healthier lifestyle

The *Fitter Families* initiative sets out to tackle the fact that the UK population is becoming increasingly overweight, unhealthy and inactive, with widespread obesity affecting both children and adults.

Figures show that the percentage of seven to eight year-olds who walked to school dropped from 80 per cent in 1971 to just nine per

cent in 1991. At this rate, 60 per cent of men and half of all women will be obese by 2050, with an increased risk of heart disease, diabetes and cancer.

The *Fitter Families* campaign introduced by Fit for Sport, the UK's leading healthy lifestyle activities provider, is designed to help families take control of their well-being by setting achievable challenges that will improve their health and fitness.

Families are encouraged to visit www.fitterfamilies.com to pledge their commitment to become fitter by making simple lifestyle changes



that have been shown to have a positive impact on fitness and health.

Ian Wright commented "*Fitter Families* aims to encourage families around the UK to commit to making small changes for a better, healthier lifestyle. We're not talking dieting, running marathons or unattainable fitness regimes; the initiative is based on a simple, achievable and sustainable

philosophy that enables people to make changes for the long-term future health of their families."

The initiative is supported by a *Fitter Families* book written by Ian Wright and Fit for Sport founder Dean Horridge. The book provides simple tips for a healthier lifestyle such as walking to school, exercising the dog or swapping crisps for fruit.

Contact us first

Parents in Kensington and Chelsea are being urged to contact the Council if they want to keep information about their children from officials using a new government database.

The details of every child in England up to the age of 18 will be included on the new ContactPoint database being launched by the Government.

The Council will seek to use its discretion under the Act to limit the information held on ContactPoint but reserves the right to put information on the database where it considers children to be vulnerable or at risk.

ContactPoint will contain every child's name and address and date of birth, together with the names of their parent/carers, the services they access such as their school and GP and the names of other professionals involved with that child. Again the Council will use its discretion regarding access to the system.

The Government has proposed a process called shielding. Shielding means hiding details about a child, young person or family member's

whereabouts because some family members may be put at risk if their whereabouts become known. Criteria which the Government proposes are used to determine whether a record should be shielded are where not doing so would:

- Place the child at risk of significant harm
- Place an adult at risk of serious harm
- Put a child's adoption placement at risk
- Prejudice the prevention or detection of a serious crime

However there are other criteria which the Council believes need to be taken into consideration where:

- Children or parents believe that this information puts them at risk of 'grooming'

- Children or parents believe that their security is compromised

- Children or parents have concerns about identity theft

- Children or parents are concerned about the consequences of the loss of their data

Parents or carers who want to request that the Council exercises its discretion in respect of their data should contact the Council as soon as possible, as it is proposed that the national system will go live in March 2009.

To learn more about ContactPoint, raise a query or concern or request that data on your child is shielded, contact the ContactPoint Team on **020 7598 4694**, email contactpoint@rbkc.gov.uk or visit the Government's website www.ecm.gov.uk/contactpoint

Cradle Walk reborn

The eagerly-awaited unveiling of the restored Cradle Walk and Sunken Garden at Kensington Palace by Historic Royal Palaces (HRP) is scheduled for this year.

The Sunken Garden and its surrounding Cradle Walk, known by some people as the 'bowery', was originally built and planted in 1908. The Cradle Walk itself was designed as a form of viewing gallery, with regular openings in the lime tree hedges to allow visitors glimpses of the vibrant colours within the Sunken Garden.

The great storm of 1987 seriously damaged the original trees to the extent that it made the structure of the Cradle Walk unsafe. Rather than remove the structure, it was decided to crop the surviving trees and maintain them as an elegant hedge of large-leaved lime instead.

The project to restore the original structure of the Cradle Walk arches started in 2008 and has been entirely funded by HRP, the charity that looks after Kensington Palace. The metalwork frame, created by Sheffield-based Ridgeway Forge Ltd, has already been installed by Kensington Palace's resident gardening team, which has many

years of experience in restoring historic gardens.

The original lime trees, which were grown in part to shield passers-by from the wind, have been cut back hard to extend their life and promote new growth around and over this new metalwork structure. The restored Cradle Walk and Sunken Garden will be officially opened later in 2009.

Graham Dillamore, Gardens and Estates Operations Manager at HRP, who has led the restoration

project, said: "We are excited to see the restoration of the Cradle Walk at Kensington Palace. Having been here 20 years ago when we had to cut the structure down following the storm of 1987, it is lovely to see it going back. It will recapture the 'secret garden' atmosphere that visitors used to feel when they visited Kensington Palace."

For more information about this restoration project, or to make a donation, please email development@hrp.org.uk



Pensioners get their oar in

Five intrepid pensioners took to the Thames in kayaks to paddle from the Cremone Boating Centre in Chelsea to Tower Bridge and back.



The group of five – four women and one man, aged from 62 to 68 – completed the ten-mile round trip in three hours.

They left Cremone on the ebb tide and after reaching Tower Bridge they travelled further down the Thames to St Catherine Dock where they stretched their legs and built some rocky sandcastles before returning to Cremone.

The group asked the Council if they could use the centre after seeing young people enjoying its facilities. Although developed to provide services for young people, the centre is designed with the community in mind, and so the group has been receiving tuition on kayaking every Friday since September last year.

Kayaker Daisy Alexander, 63, from Chelsea, said: "We all had such a fantastic time although it was very tiring. I have made some great friends through the boating centre and so it was great that we could all encourage each other through this challenge.

"We are all proud of each other for completing the ten-mile trip and being able to show that kayaking doesn't have to only be for young people. I am grateful to everyone at the centre and Council who made this possible."

Cllr Fiona Buxton, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, said: "It's so fantastic to see some of our older residents taking part in this paddle. By all accounts they had a great time and managed to cover over ten miles, which is an amazing feat. They are a great inspiration to all our residents."

CARNIVAL CHAT

Have your say on Carnival 2009 by attending a meeting at 6pm on 26 March at the Lighthouse West London, 111-117 Lancaster Road, W11 1QT.

The meeting, organised by the Police Community Consultative Group (PCCG), will feature a panel of representatives from London NH Carnival Ltd, the police, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the City of Westminster.

This is a chance for members of the public to hear what the organisers are planning and to ask questions of the experts. For more information contact Jerome Treherne on **020 7361 2782** or email Jerome.treherne@rbkc.gov.uk

Leader's Leader

LEADER'S LEADER

The harrowing case of Baby 'P' has resulted in many questions being asked about what councils, the health service and other organisations concerned with the protection of children can do to ensure that young people are properly protected.

Kensington and Chelsea Council has a fine record of protecting vulnerable children and I can assure you that we will continue to do our utmost to make sure that children in our care continue to receive the care they deserve.

This year the Government is launching ContactPoint, a new database designed to give social workers and other professionals access to a range of information about every individual child and its

parents or carers. The data held on ContactPoint will be gathered from existing databases and the cooperation of councils and other organisations is compulsory.

I am not convinced that ContactPoint in itself is a good use of money, time and manpower. We have earned a good reputation for child protection in the Royal Borough, and we have done this by putting our resources to work in a way that has resulted in our social workers

having the smallest caseloads in London. This means that they have more time to spend with children and their families. They have more time to seek advice on their cases from colleagues and managers and they can liaise with other councils and organisations like the NHS when the need arises.

ContactPoint will cost some £240 million nationally and I believe that far more could be achieved by using resources to reduce social worker caseloads rather than placing too great a reliance on computer systems.

But our concerns with ContactPoint extend to the principle of a national database for all children and our belief that parents and not the state should decide what is best for their children.

Can parents be confident that the range of data to be held on ContactPoint will be adequately protected? The past few years have seen major breaches of personal data from government departments. I am sure that many parents will be completely unaware that this

database is being compiled and will go live in 2009

This edition of *Royal Borough* includes an article and a leaflet that gives more information about ContactPoint. I want parents to know more about ContactPoint and about their right to have most of the data that will be held about their child – such as their address – 'shielded', an option that is contained within the legislation.

I would encourage any parent or guardian to find out more about ContactPoint and to decide whether or not they want to use their right to shield some of the data that will be kept about their child.

Cllr Merrick Cockell
Leader of the Council
www.rbkc.gov.uk/leader



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

Practical help for job seekers

A charitable trust that operates in part of the Royal Borough helped 67 people find work in 2008.

The Campden Charities is an independent trust that gives grants, funded by endowments dating back to 1629, to people of working age who are in need of financial help and who live in the former Parish of Kensington (South of the Fulham road and North of the Harrow Road).

The trust helps those who are capable of working become financially independent. It encourages and helps people to take up education and training designed to help them find a job.

Many of the people the charity helps face financial barriers to finding work, and the trust uses a number of methods to overcome those obstacles by providing the cash they need to make progress in what they want to do.

Help is not restricted to a single payment and people can be given help until their circumstances change, sometimes after a number of years.

In 2008, the trust helped 67 people into work through grants

that paid for educational courses and other costs such as childcare, course materials and help with travel and interview clothing.

During the same period:

- 33 people completed educational courses or training and have now gone on to look for work
- 241 other individuals received help that is ongoing
- 55 people received academic scholarships.

The charity can help British or European citizens or those with indefinite leave to remain in this country who have lived in Kensington for at least two years, are on benefit or in low-paid work and in rented accommodation.

Anyone who thinks they could qualify for a working age grant should call **020 7313 3797** or visit www.campdencharities.org.uk

The Campden Charities has also launched a project that is helping seven ambitious mothers aged between 21 and 39 to achieve their goals, as well as helping the trust find out more about the challenges facing lone parents.

The project, which is expected to run for just over a year, was developed in response to a review

that highlighted the large number of lone parents who had been helped by the trust but then either did not complete their training course or lost contact with the organisation.

The current scheme helps the participants achieve a nationally-recognised qualification, finds work placements and can pay for childcare as well as providing weekly one-to-one sessions, group sessions and help applying for jobs. The mums spend two days a week working for a not-for-profit or other local organisation such as Nova New opportunities and Open Age or the Dalgarno Neighbourhood Trust.

The Campden Charities also offers pre-retirement grants to people aged between 55 and pension age to encourage community involvement and expand their personal development. The trust also funds grants of up to £1,000 to help pensioners on low incomes achieve greater financial stability.

To find out more about pre-retirement and retirement age grants, contact either Jan Gates on **020 7313 3796** or Maureen Burrell **020 7313 3794**.



£50 dividend for residents

We are paying a one-off £50 efficiency dividend to resident council taxpayers in April.

We are judged to be an excellent Council and are careful with your money, so we can now afford to make a small contribution to help during these tough times.

Council tax will rise this year by 3.2 per cent but the £50 dividend will offset the increase, effectively freezing council tax for residents in band H. Band D households will see the equivalent of a 3.5 per cent cut. For a one-adult household the cut will be 5.7 per cent.

For most residents we will adjust the council tax payment in April to take account of the dividend. If you receive council tax benefit you will be sent the dividend. You will not have to send us any personal information so please do not give your bank details or passwords to anyone in connection with this payment.

Lights, camera, participation!

While new year resolutions may be long-forgotten, it's not too late to change your routine and get involved in something new.

The Royal Borough's *It Takes All of Us* campaign is designed to encourage more local people to get involved in their area or become a volunteer with one of the many organisations that need help across the borough.

Sarah Martin, who works at the Video College, talked to *Royal Borough* about the exciting work the north Kensington organisation does with young people.

How did you become a part of The Video College?

I have lived in north Kensington for many years and was a member of a residents' association in Wornington Green. The association began the college in response to the lack of exciting and engaging opportunities for local young people. We've now grown to four staff and a pool of about 15 industry professionals who teach the young people.

What does The Video College do?

We give people the opportunity to get hands-on experience of filmmaking and offer them advice on producing their own films – all free of charge. We have weekly sessions for 12 to 20 year-olds; on Tuesdays we have a drop-in session for anyone wanting to learn to use a camera or sound equipment, write screenplays or edit, direct and produce short films. On Thursdays we have our *Incredible Films* sessions where members discuss, plan and make their own films. Each session is overseen by two industry



professionals who give expert advice and share their industry experience. We also run accredited, industry-standard training courses for those over 18.

How successful has the college been?

It's been very successful in several ways. Digital technology means that great films can be made without huge amounts of money and the young people who work with us are always producing exciting and creative work. This year one of our films, *Round and Round*, has been nominated for an Activision First Light Movies Award 2009 for Best Screenplay, and we regularly have our films accepted at festivals.

Everyone involved in making a film gains new skills as they work in their team, plan the project and see it through to the final screening. We've worked with young offenders and seen people with significant problems make profound changes to their lives as a result of working as part of a team with supportive tuition.

How would you sum up The Video College?

It's always great fun and people

come away with practical experience in filmmaking that can mean access to the competitive media industry. I believe this is particularly important in developing a fairer society because the media sometimes relies too much on wealthy and well-connected people. That's why we work with migrant and refugee groups and schools. We believe that people coming together with a common purpose helps individuals to become more confident and communities to become stronger.

The Video College's free sessions for young people are held at 16 Telford Road, W10, between 5pm and 7pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays and in half-terms and holidays. To find out more or volunteer as a tutor call **020 8964 2641** or email thevideocollege@ukonline.co.uk

For more information about volunteering or becoming a part of your local community pick up a copy of *It Takes All of Us* – the guide to getting involved. Download it www.rbkc.gov.uk/allofus or email allofus@rbkc.gov.uk

ABOVE | *Young people getting hands-on experience of filmmaking with The Video College.*



ABOVE | *The accessible transport team celebrates its success with the Mayor of the Royal Borough, Cllr the Hon. Joanna Gardner.*

Out in front for parking services

Driving up the quality of parking services for disabled people has seen Kensington and Chelsea Council named as one of only nine Blue Badge Centres of Excellence in the country.

It means that the Royal Borough will be showing other councils how to improve services for disabled people who apply for and use the blue badge (disabled) parking permit scheme.

The Department for Transport (DfT) named Kensington and Chelsea as one of the best – and handed over a £50,000 cash award – for “helping to drive up improvements and share good practice” in managing the blue badge scheme across London.

The DfT was impressed by the Council's approach to handling badge applications in a fair and consistent way that also helps prevent fraud. It noted that the Council gave an excellent service to residents who genuinely needed a blue badge while preventing the scheme from being abused.

Cllr Fiona Buxton, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, said: “It is a great reflection on the commitment of our staff that we have been selected as a Centre of Excellence for London.

“The Council is always working on ways of improving the service to those people who need blue badges. We have developed independent assessment criteria and a new application form which no longer needs a doctor to be involved. This I know will be welcomed by both service users and doctors and speed up the application process for those who genuinely need a badge.

“This is the type of innovation that I hope other councils will use in order to combat the misuse of the scheme and allow those in genuine need more opportunities to use their badges.”

Kensington and Chelsea was the first London Council to employ a professional mobility assessor to interview disabled people for a range of services including blue badges.

Because the Council's application process weeds out potential fraudsters, most people who are prosecuted by the Council are visitors to the borough who are using badges issued by other councils.

To report blue badge misuse contact the Fraud Hotline on **020 7361 2777**.

CAROLS RAISE CASH

More than 600 people packed the Carmelite Church in Kensington for the Mayor's Charity Christmas Carols, raising over £20,000 for the Multiple Sclerosis Trust.

The congregation heard guest celebrities Baroness (Betty) Boothroyd, Joanna David, Mariella Frostrup, Baroness (Ruth) Rendell, Sir Malcolm

Rifkind, Dame Diana Rigg, Colin Salmon, Carol Thatcher and Lawrence and Jackie Llewelyn-Bowen tell the age-old story of Christmas.

The Mayor of the Royal Borough, Cllr the Hon. Joanna Gardner, said she was “delighted that the carol service was such a fantastic success, bringing people together from across the borough and beyond.”

She added: “Every one of the readers, singers and those at the Carmelite Church gave their time for free. It was a magical evening and I'd like to thank everyone for making it such a special event and raising so much money for the MS Trust.”

For details of fund raising events during 2008/09 visit www.ms-trust.co.uk/rbkc mayor

OUTSTANDINGLY GOOD

The way the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea teaches and looks after children has been judged as outstanding by Ofsted inspectors, who have awarded the Council's Family and Children's Services Directorate the highest possible rating in all categories.

Kensington and Chelsea Council was one of only three local authorities in the country to receive the top rating.

Welcoming the report, Cllr Shireen Ritchie, Cabinet Member for Family and Children's Services, warned that there was no room for complacency where the welfare of children was concerned and said the Council would continue to work hard to protect, educate and nurture the borough's children.

The report found that the Council had maintained its high standards and even improved on them in some areas since its most recent major inspection in 2007. Inspectors praised the Council's strong, stable and innovative leadership and its highly effective partnership arrangements.

Family and Children's Services, which oversees schools, children's social care and community education, was commended for the way children and young people are involved in making decisions.

The Council's schools are highly-rated; in 2007, pupils achieved some of the best results in England at the end of all Key Stages and they continue to improve faster than in the country as a whole.

A-level results are exceptionally high and well above average.

Cllr Ritchie, said: "I am pleased that Ofsted has judged that we offer an outstanding service to children and parents. Recent events show all too clearly the vital importance of high standards in all our work with children and families.

"We always seek to provide the highest standards of service for our residents and those in our care and this Ofsted report confirms that we are continuing to succeed. While it is pleasing to read such a positive endorsement of our services there is never any room for complacency when it comes to the education and welfare of children in the Royal Borough."

Stars of the catwalk

A fun fashion show worthy of any London fashion house was staged by 40 people with learning disabilities who use services provided by Kensington and Chelsea Council.

The show at the Westbourne Studio, a hotbed of fashion and creativity in north Kensington, was watched by 100 people. The fashion show had a multi-media theme and featured seven stalls that highlighted the work done to stage the show.

The event demonstrated the strong partnerships that exist in Kensington and Chelsea between the Council, the voluntary sector and NHS Kensington and Chelsea (formerly known as the primary care trust).

The event also highlighted the wide range of work that people with learning disabilities are involved in across the borough as a result of employment and volunteering opportunities.

"People with learning disabilities face significant challenges in finding employment but this event showed that with the right help and support people can achieve great things," said Cllr Fiona Buxton, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care.

For more information on employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities contact



Kensington Recruitment on 020 7937 1611 or email kensington.recruitment@rbkc.gov.uk

Frame those bike thieves

Protect your bike by coming along to a free cycle coding session between noon and 2pm in Holland Park on Sunday 29 March.

Parks police officers will engrave your house/flat number and postcode on your cycle so that if it is stolen it can be returned. Officers will also be able to answer general questions regarding policing in the parks. Ring 020 7938 8190 for more information.

Tackling violence

With the police dealing with more than 1,000 calls related to domestic violence each year in Kensington and Chelsea, the Royal Borough's domestic violence strategy is an important weapon in tackling the problem.

The Council carries out awareness campaigns throughout the year, particularly at times like Christmas, when emotions can come to a head behind closed doors and relationships and families can be torn apart by violence, abuse and threats.

Following the success of last year's campaign, which saw thousands of beer mats featuring messages aimed at victims and perpetrators of domestic violence distributed to about 200 pubs and clubs across the borough, the Council this year mounted a poster campaign to raise awareness.

Three posters, distributed across the borough, highlighted the borough's zero tolerance stance on domestic violence and included useful contact numbers.

A fourth poster features direct quotes from survivors of domestic violence who were helped by Kensington and Chelsea's independent domestic violence advocacy service, which is provided by Woman's Trust.

Research shows that one in four women and one in six men will be a victim of domestic violence in their lifetime. Two women are murdered by a current or former male partner every week in England and Wales alone.

Domestic violence can happen between people of all cultures, religions and classes. On average, a victim of domestic violence will have been assaulted 35 times before seeking help or contacting the police. Domestic violence can include financial, emotional and verbal abuse, but the clear message from the Royal Borough is that however bad the situation gets, help is at hand.

A number of locally-based services offer free and confidential services:

Woman's Trust Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service 020 7034 0303

Eaves Women's Aid 020 7373 8660

Hestia Housing and Support 020 8960 4202

Victim Support Kensington and Chelsea 020 7259 2424

In an emergency always dial 999

ZERO TOLERANCE ZONE
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ENOUGH IS ENOUGH



HELP IS AT HAND

METROPOLITAN POLICE in an emergency always dial 999

POLICE COMMUNITY SAFETY UNIT 020 8246 0226

WOMAN'S TRUST 020 7034 0303

24 Hour Emergency Service 07747 080964

AL-AMAN services provided in Arabic 020 8748 2577

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE 0808 2000 247



Making life easier

More than half the GP practices in Kensington and Chelsea are now offering longer opening hours.

A total of 26 GP practices in the borough – 60 per cent – are currently offering their services earlier in the morning, later in the evening and at weekends, giving more than 117,000 patients a wider choice of appointment times.

This compares with a national average of just over 51 per cent, according to statistics recently published by the Department of Health.

Frankie Lynch, Director of Primary Care Commissioning at NHS Kensington and Chelsea, said: "We knew that there was going to be a national initiative to have extended hours, so we ran a pilot with 12 local practices to understand what further service people wanted.

"From this we developed our Local Enhanced Scheme (LES), which reflects patients' needs and gives practices greater flexibility in

choosing whether they open earlier in the morning or later in the evening.

"Feedback from local patients shows they are really pleased about having greater choice and a GP experience that suits their lifestyle."

Department of Health figures show that in less than six months there

has been a 40 per cent increase in the number of practices offering more flexible early morning, evening and weekend opening across the country.

This means GPs met the government target of 50 per cent of practices offering extended opening hours by the end of 2008 – three months ahead of target.



If you must – go outside

Smokers are being encouraged to light up outside their homes to help protect other family members, particularly children, from the effects of secondhand smoke.

Kensington and Chelsea Council has joined NHS Kensington and Chelsea and the London Fire Brigade to launch the Smokefree Homes campaign.

The home is a major source of secondhand smoke for babies and children. Children exposed to secondhand smoke have a higher risk of developing asthma, chest infections, glue ear and meningitis, while babies run a higher risk of cot death.

Other benefits of a Smokefree home include:

- Your children will be less likely to start smoking
- Your home will be cleaner and fresher
- Your pets are likely to be healthier and live longer
- You will be less likely to have a house fire

Residents are being encouraged to pledge to have a Smokefree Home. In return they are being given a goody bag full of information and items designed to help them achieve a Smokefree home.

While making the pledge, residents can also ask the London Fire Brigade to conduct a free home fire safety visit and install a free smoke alarm if the house needs one. Smokers thinking about stopping can also ask for a referral to the NHS Kensington and Chelsea Stop Smoking Service.

For further information about the Smokefree Homes campaign and how you can pledge to make your home Smokefree, contact the Smokefree Homes campaign on 020 7341 5721 or email smokefree@rbkc.gov.uk. For free help and advice on stopping smoking, ring the NHS Kensington and Chelsea Stop Smoking Service for free on 08000 859147.

Kensington and Chelsea Council has also funded a smoking prevention education programme that is being implemented in several schools in the borough.

The programme involves theatre performances by Bigfoot Arts Education and aims to educate young people about the effects, impact and risks of drugs, in particular tobacco. As part of the programme, a secondary schools poster competition is promoting tobacco awareness among students.



IMPROVING CARE

Improving the way stroke and major trauma care is provided in London will need a fundamental change in the way services are organised, which is why Healthcare for London will be consulting on the organisation of these services early in 2009.

NHS Kensington and Chelsea (formerly known as the primary care trust) will be carrying out consultation in the Royal Borough into where acute stroke and major trauma services should be based.

For major trauma services, the consultation will focus on establishing trauma networks, each based on a major trauma centre.

For stroke care, the London strategy is based on a network of specialist stroke units that will ensure no Londoner is more than 30 minutes away from a

hyper acute stroke unit. All patients will have access to a brain scan and clot-busting drugs, if they need them, within that vital half an hour.

Once stabilised, patients would be moved to a dedicated stroke unit either in the same hospital or closer to home, where they would receive ongoing care.

Patients who suffer a suspected 'mini stroke' will be offered an assessment within 24 hours if they are considered to be high risk.

There will be plenty of opportunities for staff, stakeholders, patients and local residents to take part in the consultation and these opportunities will be publicised across our networks and in the local press.

www.healthcareforlondon.nhs.uk

BE IN THE KNOW BEFORE YOU GO...

Do you have asthma, breathing or heart problems?
Air pollution can affect your health.

Get **FREE** air pollution alerts for London straight to your home phone, mobile or by email.

Text **AIRTEXT** to 84142* or register online at:

WWW.AIRTEXT.INFO

* You will be charged at your standard text rate.

POLLUTION INDEX



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Question Time

Councillor Question Time

Cllr Dez O'Neill
Colville Ward



This edition of *Royal Borough* puts Cllr Dez O'Neill, the member for Colville Ward, through his paces.

When did you first consider becoming a councillor?

Not too long before the 2002 local elections. I had been quite involved in local issues and Bob Pope, who had represented Colville for many years, was standing down and encouraged me to stand.

Did you need a lot of convincing?

Yes. I was worried that I wouldn't have enough time to do it properly.

How did you feel when you were elected?

I felt very new joining such a long-established institution as the Council. As a Labour Councillor I am a member of the minority party in Kensington and Chelsea and I felt it was going to take a bit of time to figure out how best we could work together to achieve results.

What is the most rewarding part of being a councillor?

Intervening to unblock a situation and making a real difference to the life of one of my constituents.

And the least...?

You can't please all of the people all of the time.

What are your ambitions in the political sphere?

I'm happy at a local level in such a great community as Portobello – and I doubt

Labour will win a majority in Kensington and Chelsea in the near future.

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

Almost comically falling off my bicycle when a resident waved to speak to me. I wasn't hurt, and fortunately nor was the resident.

What are the main concerns raised at your surgeries?

I deal with a variety of issues such as rubbish dumping and protecting Portobello Market, but housing overcrowding and maintenance are the main ones.

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

It varies, but around 15 to 20 hours a week; there are a lot of evening meetings and it takes time to research and read the papers to prepare for them.

What one thing would improve the lot of your constituents?

Re-opening Talbot Road public toilets.

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

When I first came on the Council there was a somewhat difficult relationship between Portobello Market and the Council. I've worked hard to change that and the Council now recognises Portobello's character in a much more positive way.

Do you have any hobbies?

Going to galleries, swimming and cycling.

A favourite book?

Dubliners – James Joyce.

A favourite film?

The Third Man with Orson Welles, directed by Carol Reed.

A favourite song or piece of music?

Anything by Marvin Gaye.

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

Portobello and Golborne Road.

A recommended place to eat?

La Plaza on Tavistock Piazza.

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

China.

If you could have one wish granted for yourself what would it be?

To read faster. As Councillors we get a large amount of paperwork.

If you could have a wish granted for everybody what might it be?

More funding for communities, education, healthcare, the arts and to improve quality of life in disadvantaged communities. Not that much really!

TIME TO CHOOSE

New legislation is set to change the way the Council is organised – and residents are being asked their views on the options.

All local authorities in England that operate through an executive are being told to choose between an elected Mayor with a four-year term or a new style Leader and Cabinet, also taking office for a four-year term.

At Kensington and Chelsea, the Leader of the Council is currently elected by all 54 Councillors. The Leader then appoints nine fellow Councillors to form a Cabinet and those Cabinet Members are given responsibility for making policy and taking decisions on the way Council services are delivered.

The other Councillors perform a 'scrutiny' or checking role, while the mayor chairs full Council meetings and has a traditional ceremonial role.

The new proposals are:

Option A: Leader and Cabinet

This would be similar to the current arrangements, with the Leader of the Council elected by full Council. Under the new rules, though, the Leader would be elected for a period of four years. He or she could appoint up to nine Councillors as Cabinet Members and would decide how big the Cabinet should be. He or she would also appoint a deputy leader who would also serve a four-year term. Other Councillors would be

able to exercise functions in the ward they represent and would also continue to scrutinise decisions made by Cabinet Members and external organisations.

Option B: Directly-elected Mayor and Cabinet

The Mayor would be directly elected by voters in the borough and would serve for four years. He or she would then choose a Cabinet of not more than ten Councillors. The remaining elected Councillors would be able to exercise functions in their ward and would continue to have a scrutiny role. The traditional, non-political role now fulfilled by the Mayor would continue, but would need to be given another name to differentiate the political Mayor from the ceremonial Mayor.

The Council prefers Option A because it adopted the Leader and Cabinet approach in 2001 and it has worked very well to date. Government research shows that this model provides stronger leadership and strategic management and quicker and more focused decision making.

The Council wants residents to have their say on their preferred option by completing the survey at www.rbkc.gov.uk/consultation

Alternatively, telephone **020 7361 2262** for a paper copy or email consult@rbkc.gov.uk The closing date for comments is 6 March 2009.

The X factor

The Royal Borough's new electoral register gives details of residents who are entitled to vote in the European election on 4 June and in the next General Election, which could be called at any time.

The register was updated in December based on the results from the annual canvass, when a form was delivered to every household in the borough. Anyone who did not fill in this form will not have his or her name included on the register – and will not be able to vote unless they put that right.

A letter confirming who is registered to vote was sent to every address in the Royal Borough at the end of January. Anyone who discovers an error in this information should correct it by completing and returning a rolling registration form that can be obtained from the Council's

electoral services team. This is also the way to add your name if you are not currently on the register.

Anyone who wants to vote in the European Election on 4 June must have registered by returning a registration form by 5pm on 19 May.

Did you know?

Of the estimated 178,000 people living in Kensington and Chelsea, 104,605 residents are included on the electoral register.

Anyone whose name is not included on the electoral register may find it more difficult to obtain credit or obtain a resident's parking permit.

You can check whether or not your name is included on the register by visiting your local library, contacting electoral services on **020 7361 3444** or emailing elect@rbkc.gov.uk

FREE ICT TRAINING

Kensington and Chelsea Council's Early Years Service is offering residents the chance to brush up on their Information Communication Technology (ICT) skills by joining a five week course.

This course, which covers basic computer skills for both personal and work use, is made up of three hour-long sessions starting on Thursday 5 March and running until 2 April. They begin at 10am.

Learners who complete the course, which is being held at Clare Gardens Children's Centre, will receive an EDCC certificate. Call **020 7361 2942** or email: earlyyearstraining@rbkc.gov.uk



Think before you waste good food

Wasting food wastes money and is a major contributor to climate change. People across the UK currently throw away 6.7 million tonnes of food every year, and while it includes things like peelings, cores and bones, the majority is, or was once, perfectly good food.

Most of this wasted food ends up in landfill sites where it rots and releases methane, a damaging greenhouse gas. The food we throw away is also a huge waste of the energy, water and packaging used to produce, transport and store it.

Here are a few tips on how to reduce food waste:

- 1 Plan your meals ahead. Take five minutes to check your fridge and cupboards before you go shopping to make sure that you only buy what you need.
- 2 Try to get your portion sizes right so you don't cook too much in the first place. Use a cup or a tablespoon to help you work out how much food you need for the number of people you are feeding.
- 3 Don't be tempted by *buy one get one free* offers on fresh produce. Make sure that you will be able to eat it before it goes out of date.
- 4 Compost your vegetable peelings for an environmentally-friendly way of dealing with them.
- 5 If you cook too much, put it in a plastic tub and freeze it for another day – or eat it for lunch the next day.
- 6 Check out the *Love Food Hate Waste* website at www.lovefoodhatewaste.com for some fantastic recipe ideas.

Sprucing up our efforts

Residents recycled almost 53 tonnes of Christmas trees this year, making good use of the Council's 11 Christmas tree collection sites around the borough.

All the Christmas trees will now be sent for composting rather than taking up space in a landfill site.



MAKING SURE YOUR EFFORTS AREN'T WASTED

Ever wondered what happens to the bottles, cans, cardboard and other material that you so carefully recycle by supporting the Council's Recycling Team? Here's a guide:

Plastic bottles are melted and turned into pellets to make new plastic bottles, orange recycling bags, car parts and garden furniture.

Cans and empty aerosols can be recycled into a variety of products including new cans, bicycle frames, pipes and train tracks.

Glass is washed, crushed and turned into a fine material like sand which can be used as building sand or be further treated to turn it into a product that is used for floor and wall insulation and as a lightweight building material.

Paper can be turned into office paper, newspapers, books and magazines.

Cardboard is usually made into new boxes and packaging but can also be used as animal bedding or even coffins.

Paper-based food and drink cartons can be remade into a number of different products ranging from plasterboard liner to high-strength paper bags and envelopes.

Whatever you choose to recycle you are making a positive contribution towards the environment, so please keep up the good work.



Find out more by visiting www.rbkc.gov.uk/refuseandrecycling

WHERE IT ALL GOES

All the material collected from orange bags put out by residents and from the Royal Borough's mixed banks of recyclable material is taken to a materials recovery facility (MRF) in Kent, where it is sorted into different types of material.

These materials are then put onto different pallets and sent to different places – most of them in the UK – for reprocessing. Some materials are exported because there is a shortage of processing plants in the UK, but these exports are strictly regulated by law and are audited by the Environment Agency.

Paper and cardboard goes to various reprocessing companies in Kent, the north west of England, Europe, and China.

Glass bottles and jars are mostly sent to a London-based aggregates company.

Plastic bottles and used orange recycling sacks have to be exported to other countries for reprocessing.

Cans and aerosols are sent to a reprocessing plant in the north west of England.

Food and drink cartons are currently included with paper and cardboard and sold to various companies as outlined above. If the Council starts to increase the amount of cartons collected it may have to export them to Finland or Italy, the only countries that have mills specially designed for this material.



Green light for newsletter

Keep up to date with recycling and other green issues by subscribing to a new online-only newsletter being published by Kensington and Chelsea Council.

The Recycling Team has responded to the keen interest that Royal Borough residents have in environmental issues by planning a regular e-newsletter highlighting new developments in recycling.

The newsletter will focus on issues such as new materials that can be accepted for recycling, the location of new textile recycling banks or battery collection points, updates on the current recycling rate and events at which people can meet the Recycling Team.

To receive the recycling e-newsletter please email Streetline@rbkc.gov.uk, using the words Recycling Newsletter as the subject title. Your details will be kept strictly confidential, used only for distributing the recycling e-newsletter and never be sold to any third party.

Sports and Leisure



Get in the fitness groove

Street Dance is the world's greatest dance party – a fitness class that can unlock everyone's rhythmic and dancing instincts. With the emphasis on having fun as well as breaking sweat, it is an addictive fusion of dance and aerobic moves – and it's on offer in Kensington.

The blend of music used for *Street Dance* includes the latest sounds of hip-hop and funk, together with the coolest sounds currently topping the charts.

Providing the kind of experience that today's fitness club members are looking for in the group fitness studio, *Street Dance* adds new meaning to the concept of having fun while getting fit.

Kensington Leisure Centre launched *Street Dance* on 7 January and offers sessions for both children aged eight to 16 and adults.

Junior classes take place on Wednesdays from 5pm to 6pm

and cost £2.80, while adults can enjoy this new experience on Wednesdays from 6pm to 7pm for £4.60 (or free with the Ultimate membership).

Readers also have the chance to enjoy a free day's membership throughout February. One reader will win six months' free membership of their chosen centre – just fill in the coupon on this page for the chance to win.

Whether you choose to visit during the day or the evening, you will be able to find out how Courtney's can help you get in shape and achieve your fitness goals.

Why not take part in some great fitness classes, work out in the gym or refresh and unwind in the pool? All these activities are available on a pay-as-you-go rate that starts from as little as £1.15*

Additional activities on offer include squash, badminton, basketball, volleyball and five-a-side football to mention a few. There are also activities designed to allow people over 50 to socialise while keeping

active doing things like line dancing or Pilates.

Youngsters are also well catered for at Courtneys at Kensington and Chelsea, with activities that include gym classes and swimming courses, a jungle gym (soft play area with slides, climbing area and ball pool) a crèche, mini-football, basketball and lots more.

Get started right away by using the one-day guest pass on offer for every reader. To enjoy your free day's membership on any one day in February, take this article to Courtneys at Kensington leisure centre, Walmer road, London W11 4PQ or Courtneys at Chelsea Sports Centre, Chelsea Manor Street, London, SW3 5PL.

As an extra incentive, everyone who uses the free one-day pass will be entered into a prize draw to win an annual membership worth £288.

* Price based on adult leisure pass for swim.

ONE-DAY FREE GUEST PASS

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone no:

Mobile no:

Email:

Offer expires: 28/2/2009

Courtneys at Kensington Leisure Centre, Walmer Road, London W11 4PQ
Telephone: 020 7727 9747 Email: kensington.sales@cannons.co.uk

Courtneys at Chelsea, Chelsea Manor Street, London, SW3 5PL
Telephone: 020 7352 6985 Email: chelsea.sales@cannons.co.uk

Terms and Conditions

Offer limited to one person per voucher. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with other promotions. Offer excludes use of chargeable facilities. Participants must abide by terms and conditions of Nuffield Health Wellbeing Ltd and satisfactorily complete all necessary registration forms and mini-gym introduction. An introduction must be completed before the gym can be used. Offer is non-transferable. No cash alternative. Photocopied tokens not accepted. Offer limited to over 16s. The six-month membership excludes use of chargeable facilities and is valid for six months from the start of the membership. Offer expires 28/2/2009. Please note activities and facilities will vary at each site.

Courtneys.co.uk



New sessions for men 50+

Open Age: Opening doors to active leisure for people over 50

Gym sessions

Every Tuesday – 6pm to 7pm
Westway Centre
1 Crowthorne Road W10 6R

Free

Badminton and Bowls

Wednesdays – 11am to 12.30pm
Kensington Leisure Centre
Walmer Road W11 4PQ

Fee £2

For more information please call Open Age on

020 8964 1900

Supported by the Kensington and Chelsea Community Sports and Physical Activity Network (CSPAN) in partnership with Kensington Leisure Centre and Westway Centre



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
**KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA**



CAMPAIGNER REMEMBERED

Magistrate and long-standing member of the Kensington Society Ethne Rudd has died at the age of 79.

Intelligent and courageous, Ethne was an active member of the Kensington Society for 14 years, a member of her local church, St Mary Abbots in Kensington and a magistrate in London for 25 years.

Born in Kensington in 1929, Ethne was educated at Queen's Gate school in Kensington and then at Cheltenham Ladies' College. She continued her education at St Anne's College, Oxford, where she met her future husband Anthony.

Her bravery and dedication to her community and to Kensington was most tested in 1997 when, in her role as secretary of the Kensington Society, she single-handedly embarked on a campaign to stop proposals for the Diana Memorial Gardens.

Government proposals would have meant concreting over acres of grass in Kensington Gardens to create the formal Diana memorial. Ethne felt passionately that these changes would alter the community and persuaded the Kensington Society to oppose the proposals.

Her tireless efforts were not in vain and the Government compromised, creating the Diana Walk and a children's playground, which left the landscape of Kensington Gardens untouched.

Ethne Rudd was committed, passionate and true to her beliefs. She died of pancreatic cancer on 6 July 2008. She leaves her husband Anthony, a son and three daughters.

A prescription for health

Kensington and Chelsea Councillors whose scrutiny role helps the Council influence and improve services across the Royal Borough have been considering the wide-ranging changes taking place within the National Health Service.

Some of the proposals contained within Lord Darzi's report *Healthcare for London* are now being implemented. They include plans for an estimated eight stroke centres across London to which patients suffering from a stroke will in future be taken instead of going to the nearest hospital.

The thinking behind this scheme is that quick access to specialist care provided at a dedicated stroke centre will reduce the number of deaths and produce better recovery rates than could be achieved by using general hospitals.

Evidence from other countries supports this idea and there will be three months of public consultation after the suggested centres are named in early 2009.

Although a similar exercise has just taken place regarding proposed new trauma centres for London, Royal Borough Councillors are disappointed that only three have so far been designated, two in south London and one in east London.

Scrutiny Committee members believe there is a gap in provision in the west and north of London, which needs to be addressed. Scrutiny members plan to work on this shortfall together with Scrutiny Committees from neighbouring London boroughs during the public consultation period that runs until the end of April 2009.

"We can expect more suggested changes in the way healthcare is



Cllr Christopher Buckmaster

provided in London over the coming months," commented scrutiny chairman Cllr Christopher Buckmaster.

"The Health OSC will be looking closely at all of them and will welcome comments from the public. The new health forum for patients and residents, the Local Involvement Network (LINK), is now up and running and is another avenue for comments. Contact LINK at Unit 25, 85 Barlby Road, W10 6AZ or by telephoning **020 8968 6771**."

In the spring every year the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee comments on the *Healthcheck* self-assessment documents written by the NHS trusts.

"If you have any experiences, either from the treatment you have received, or from that given to families and friends, please contact us at the Town Hall," said Cllr Buckmaster.

He added: "This year the Scrutiny Committee on Health will be establishing special working groups on obesity in children and on dentistry, two areas of concern within the Royal Borough. We welcome your comments, either in writing or by attending as a witness at one of our evidence gathering sessions."

Contact the scrutiny team at the Town Hall on **020 7361 2987** or **3494**, or by emailing clive.mentzel@rbkc.gov.uk or ahmed.farooqui@rbkc.gov.uk

Making plans for Wornington

Plans to redevelop the Wornington Green Estate in north Kensington have been considered by Kensington and Chelsea's influential Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) on the Public Realm.

Councillors considered a report from their own sub-group that recommended they support Kensington Housing Trust's (KHT) application to redevelop the estate.

That sub-group, chaired by Cllr Mrs Frances Taylor, held a public meeting in November when they listened to residents' views on the proposals as well as evidence from the trust and an independent financial consultant appointed by the Council.

That meeting and a previous consultation with residents led to the sub-group producing a number of recommendations that were considered by the OSC at the end of January.

Those recommendations include suggesting that the Council makes some of its own land available to cut the time it would otherwise take to redevelop the area.

If the Cabinet and Council accept the recommendations, they will be included in a supplementary planning document (SPD) that will outline the agreed blueprint for the estate.

Cllr Mrs Frances Taylor, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Public Realm

said it had been a long process.

"We have listened to many residents and other people. I am sure that if planning permission is given for the redevelopment of Wornington Green Estate, the development will have benefited greatly from the involvement of local residents and they will find the new estate a great place to live."



Anyone who could not attend the meeting on 19 November can catch up by viewing a webcast of the meeting by visiting www.rbkc.public-i.tv/site/

Events diary

LOVE OPERA



Just three days before Valentine's Day, Kensington and Chelsea Council is offering people the chance to fall in love with the music of opera.

On Tuesday, 10 February the Council-run Korn/Ferry Opera Holland Park is holding a day of free recitals at venues in and around the borough.

Singers from the critically-acclaimed company will be performing at locations across Kensington and Chelsea, including the Miranda Barry Centre, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital and even High Street Kensington Tube Station.

The recitals will take place every hour between 10am and 5pm and are part of the company's outreach programme designed to take opera to the widest possible audience.

Throughout the year Opera Holland Park makes monthly visits to care centres to hold free performances for those who may no longer be able to travel to the theatre. The company also works hard to introduce opera to as many people as possible, especially young people who may not otherwise have the opportunity to hear it.

As well as the popular free ticket scheme for young people, Opera Holland Park holds regular workshops on the operas featured in that summer's season of performances at schools around the borough.

Anyone who is involved with a school or youth organisation and would be interested in participating in Opera Holland Park's education programmes should email friends@operahollandpark.com

The 2009 Season will once again see Opera Holland Park give 1,200 young people the chance to attend a performance free of charge, offer more than 400 subsidised tickets to over sixties on lower incomes and make 5,000 tickets available at just £10. For further information on the company and the 2009 Season visit www.operahollandpark.com



KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

Events Diary

FROM FEBRUARY 2009

CHELSEA PHYSIC GARDEN

66 Royal Hospital Road
SW3 4HS
Telephone: 020 7352 5646
Nearest Tube: Sloane Square
www.chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk



SPECIAL WINTER OPENING

14 and 15 February 2009,
10am to 4pm

Take advantage of the first weekend in London's 'secret garden' winter programme and enjoy a chance to appreciate its fragrant shrubs and bulbs before it closes until April.

Admission £8; concessions (children five to 15, students and the unemployed) £5. Please note only two children per adult.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

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

DISCOVER THE 12 CHINESE NEW YEAR ANIMALS

17, 19 and 21 February 2009,
12pm, 2pm and 4pm

Discover more about the animals of the Chinese New Year and find out which animal year you were born in from a Chinese storyteller and her dragon friend.

Free admission.

CRAFTY NATURE

21 February 2009, 11am to 1pm
and 2pm to 4pm

Join the museum's artists for an exciting craft workshop using interesting materials to make fun creations based on natural history

themes. The workshop is in *Fossil Marine Reptiles* and is suitable for children under seven.

Free admission.

AFTER HOURS

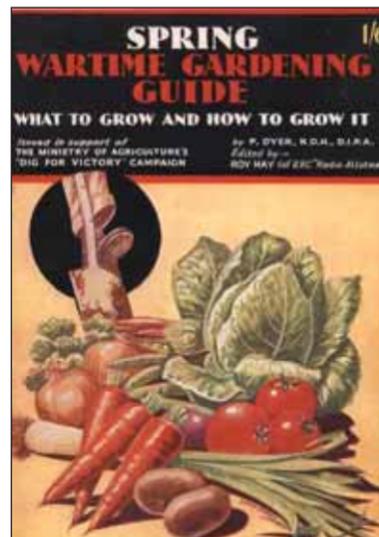
27 February and 27 March 2009,
6pm to 10.30pm

Experience London's most unique Friday night out on the last Friday of every month. Relax with a drink and light refreshments to the sounds of live jazz and world music in the spectacular surroundings of the museum's Central Hall. The bars are open from 6.30pm.

Free admission.

MUSEUM OF BRANDS, PACKAGING AND ADVERTISING

2 Colville Mews, Lonsdale Road,
Notting Hill, W11 2AR
Telephone: 020 7908 0880/0881
www.museumofbrands.com



WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

Until 31 November 2009,
Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 6pm,
Sun 11am to 5pm (closed Mondays).

While few people now remember those years of rationing and blackouts, the 'make do and mend' attitude has stood us in good stead to make better use of the limited resources we have today. This new exhibition highlights wartime advice on how to save fuel and money and grow your own vegetables; it's all startlingly similar to the situation today, where councils are now championing initiatives such as encouraging people to use fewer carrier bags.

Admission: £5.80 adults, £3.50 concessions, £2 children.

NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

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

BIG SPRING CLEAN

14 to 22 February 2009, daily
10am to 5.30pm

Enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at how a museum goes about its spring clean. Join Captain Clean as he returns in his battle against the Agents of Decay and help our expert team preserve the museum's treasures. Get hands-on experience in finding evidence and solving puzzles and pick up useful tips for looking after your family's heirlooms.

CADOGAN HALL

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

THE MAN FROM PLANET JAZZ: PETER CATER BIG BAND

16 March 2009, 8pm

Arguably the greatest jazz drummer of all time, the celebrated Buddy Rich enjoyed global success with his famous big band, recording some of the most memorable tunes ever heard. Inspired by his dedication to the art of drumming, multi-award winning British drummer Pete Cater returns with his all-star big band for an evening showcasing the legendary man's contribution to jazz. The programme will include such favourites as Love for Sale, Big Swing Face and Norwegian Wood.

Admission: £20, £15, £10.

KENSINGTON CENTRAL LIBRARY

Phillimore Walk
W8 7RX
Telephone: 020 7361 3010
Nearest Tube: High St Kensington
www.rbkc.gov.uk/libraries

KORN/FERRY OPERA HOLLAND PARK

TOSCA

24 February to 1 March 2009, 7.45pm

Opera Holland Park takes its acclaimed production of *Tosca* to Richmond Theatre. Widely regarded as one of the most exciting, innovative and accomplished opera companies in the UK, this transfer to the spectacular setting of Richmond Theatre is a unique opportunity that complements the prestigious summer festival.

Richmond Theatre, The Green, Richmond, Surrey,
TW9 1QJ. Nearest Tube: Richmond
Box Office: 0870 060 6651
www.richmondtheatre.net

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

MILITARY HISTORY: FACT AND FICTION

3 March 2009, 7pm to 8.30pm

Saul David is the author of several critically-acclaimed history books, including *The Indian Mutiny: 1857* (shortlisted for the Westminster Medal for Military Literature), *Zulu: the Heroism and Tragedy of the Zulu War of 1879* and, most recently, *Victoria's Wars: The Rise of Empire*. David Dickinson is the well-known and popular author of the Lord Powerscourt Mysteries and a former producer of Panorama. Drop in to hear them talk about their latest books and the art of turning fact into fiction.

Admission is free but by ticket only, available from any Royal Borough library.

KENSINGTON PALACE

Kensington Palace, Kensington Gardens, W8 4PX
Telephone: **0844 482 7777**
Nearest Tube: High St Kensington
www.hrp.org.uk

GORGEOUS GEORGIANS

21 and 22 February 2009

Explore the weird and wonderful court of George I and George II through music, food, entertainment and partying princesses.

Free admission for children when accompanied by a full paying adult (terms and conditions apply).



VICTORIA RULES

21 and 22 March 2009

Find out about Queen Victoria's strict childhood at Kensington Palace at an interactive learning day featuring arts, crafts, storytelling, activities and games for all the family.

Free admission for children when accompanied by a full paying adult (terms and conditions apply).

SAATCHI GALLERY

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



Kader Attia, *Ghost*, 2007
Aluminium foil, Dimensions variable
Courtesy of the Saatchi Gallery, London
© Kader Attia, 2009

UNVEILED: NEW ART FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

Until 6 May 2009, daily 10am to 6pm

The second show from the new Chelsea gallery presents the work of more than 20 gifted Middle Eastern artists. Dedicated to the flourishing contemporary Arabic art scene, the exhibition will offer a cutting edge survey of recent painting, sculpture and installation.

The artists featured are Diana Al-Hadid, Halim Al-Karim, Ahmed Alsoudani, Kader Attia, Nadia Ayari, Ali Banisadr, Shirin Fakhim, Shadi Ghadirian, Barbad Golshiri, Ramin Haerizadeh, Rokni Haerizadeh, Khaled Hafez, Wafa Hourani, Hayv Kahraman, Jeffar Khaldi, Laleh Khorramian, Farsad Labbauf, Tala Madani, Ahmad Morshedloo, Sara Rahbar and Marwan Rechmaoui.

Free admission.

BROMPTON LIBRARY

210 Old Brompton Road SW5 0BS
Telephone: **020 7361 3010**
Nearest Tube: Earl's Court
www.rbkc.gov.uk/libraries

TRAVEL PANEL

25 March 2009, 7pm to 8.30pm

Tim Butcher (*Blood River*), Alice Albinia (*Empires of the Indus*) and Nigel Jones (*The War Walk*) will talk about their work, their travels and the art of travel writing.

Admission is free but by ticket only, available from any Royal Borough library.

VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM

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

TOM DIXON – TALKING DESIGN: FRIDAY EVENING LECTURE

13 February 2009, 7pm to 8pm

Leading furniture designer Tom Dixon has combined the creative with the commercial throughout his career. He taught himself design in the 1980s, sold limited edition furniture and opened a shop. He has gone on to become head of design at Habitat and now Artek, the Finnish furniture maker. Dixon will discuss his work with design critic Alice Rawsthorn.

Tickets: £8, concessions available. To book call **020 7942 2211** or visit www.vam.ac.uk/tickets



HATS: AN ANTHOLOGY BY STEPHEN JONES

24 February 2009 to 31 May 2009, daily 10am to 5.45pm (and till 10pm Fridays)

For those with a passion for hats, this is a 'must see' new exhibition. Featuring more than 300 hats chosen with the expert eye of a milliner, this exhibition in the Porter Gallery is a collaboration with one of the world's foremost hat designers, Stephen Jones.

On display will be hats ranging from an Egyptian Anubis mask dating from 600BC to a 1950s Balenciaga hat and couture creations by Jones and his contemporaries. To show the universal appeal of wearing hats, the selection will include a wide variety of styles including top hats, berets and a child's plastic tiara.

Free admission.

DIETER RAMS: LESS, BUT BETTER: FRIDAY EVENING LECTURE

20 February 2009, 7pm to 8pm

Dieter Rams is one of the most influential industrial designers of the twentieth century. His work in designing products for the German electronics giant Braun is widely acclaimed for its unerring elegance, simplicity, versatility and technical virtuosity. Rams will discuss his design philosophy and his ideas on the future of design. In association with Vitsoe.

Tickets: £8, concessions available. To book call **020 7942 2211** or visit www.vam.ac.uk/tickets

KENSINGTON TOWN HALL

Hornton Street W8 7NX
Telephone: **020 7361 3000**
Nearest Tube: High St Kensington
www.rbkc.gov.uk

ANIMATION DECATHLON

21 March 2009, 6pm to 9.30pm

For one night only, see Kensington Town Hall transformed into an Olympic Stadium and compete in the world's first digital animation decathlon.

A series of 2012-inspired drawings and animations, created by children and artists in the borough, will be projected onto the Council buildings and will sprint, pole vault, and swim across the brickwork, transforming the Town Hall into an Olympic arena.

The audience will be able to take part in the animation decathlon using banks of game controllers positioned along the walls of the Town Hall courtyard. Spoof commentators, an animated leader's board, warm up activities and cheerleaders will add to the fun.

Free admission. No booking required. Contact arts@rbkc.gov.uk or telephone **020 7361 3204**.

LINLEY SAMBOURNE HOUSE

18 Stafford Terrace W8 7BH
Telephone: **020 7602 3316**
Nearest Tube: Kensington High St
www.rbkc.gov.uk/linleysambournehouse



PREMIER HOUSE TOUR

From 14 March 2009
Tour times: Saturdays and Sundays, 11.15am, 1pm, 2.15pm and 3.30pm, and Wednesdays 11.15am and 2.15pm

Linley Sambourne House is a unique example of a late-Victorian townhouse. Home to the cartoonist Edward Linley Sambourne and his family from 1874, it survives with almost all of its furniture and fittings intact. Enjoy the first room-by-room tour of the house and study examples of the decoration and furnishings selected by the family.

Admission: £6 adult, £4 concession, £1 under 18s. Booking recommended. Guided visits only.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC

Prince Consort Road SW7 2BS
Telephone: **020 7591 4793**
Nearest Tube: South Kensington
www.rcm.ac.uk

RCM WIND ENSEMBLE

27 February 2009, 6pm
Inner Parry Room

The RCM wind ensemble has built up a large and varied repertoire and commissioned new works from composers such as Huw Watkins, Luke Bedford, Helen Grime and Alun Hoddinott. They play several times a year in college as well as giving a number of performances in other London concert venues.

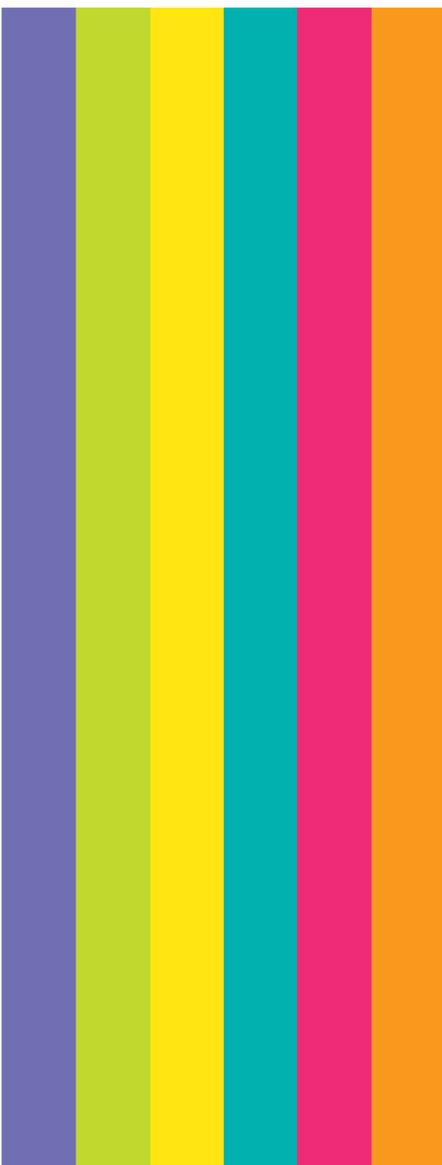
Janet Hilton *Director*
Janáček Mladi
Oliver Knussen Wind quintet
Tom Davey Three pieces for wind dectet and percussion
Seiber Sextet
Pedro Faria Gomes Three Pieces for Wind Quintet
Janacek Lachrian Dances

Free admission.



www.rbkc.gov.uk/events

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