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PORTOBELLO
MARKET

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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

WE
WANT
TRUTH

WEST
WAY
JUST

YOUR
LOCAL
Community Hub

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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 winding down production of North Ken News. You can read more information about this on page three. For the final edition next year, please let us know about any 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.

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 e-newsletter mailing list, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search K&C Life.

Conflict in the Middle East

Cllr Elizabeth Campbell has shared her thoughts and condolences over the conflict between Israel and Hamas, affecting Palestine.

She said: "First and foremost, our own communities here in Kensington and Chelsea are our main priority. There is a wider conflict and history – decades long – and now there is the growing complexity of what is happening across the Middle East. With strong views on all sides.

"We all want to minimise the loss of human life, that has to be the priority for all sides, and I am in contact with leaders of different faiths. We will work with organisations of all beliefs to promote community cohesion and build relationships."

She added: "It is a stark reminder of how global geopolitics impacts us locally, we see it in the lives of our own citizens and our own workforce. We have reports of people stuck in Gaza or in Israel and impacted directly by the fighting, we know people who have lost loved ones and people who are searching for the missing.

"At the last full council meeting, I spoke in detail about one of our main Council Plan themes, safer. It feels more important than ever."

**Leader of the Council
Cllr Elizabeth Campbell**



Changes to North Ken News

We are soon coming to the end of North Ken News as a printed product, with one more edition set to land in early 2024.

We want to thank the many outstanding people, organisations, and groups who have helped shape more-than 40 editions of the magazine since 2019. We have really enjoyed putting it together, and working with you on it.

From 2024, we hope to increase the amount of news and features we collaborate on with the communities of North Kensington and cover these issues across our increasing number of digital newsletters and in the pages of our borough-wide printed Our Borough magazine.

We will continue to look for feel-good stories, community spotlights and important updates about the response to Grenfell on our website and in digital newsletters, as well as bespoke printed communications wherever necessary. Although readership for printed products is reducing dramatically, we are still very conscious that nobody should be left out when important moments are coming up in the months and years ahead.

The Council will continue to work with Government, the Grenfell Memorial Commission and the NHS, to name a few, to make sure information reaches the residents of North Kensington.

Share your thoughts

As ever, we are open to feedback, and you can let us know your thoughts by emailing

NorthKenNews@rbkc.gov.uk

This inbox is monitored daily.



The Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission's recommendations for a future memorial

On 14 November, the independent Commission published its second report, Remembering Grenfell: Recommendations and next steps to a memorial. This report covers almost four years of work by the Commission, to understand the Grenfell community's wishes for a fitting and beautiful memorial to all those that were tragically lost.

This report is an important and necessary step in taking the community's vision for a future memorial and turning it into a reality. The next phase will involve the selection of a design team and the development of memorial design options, before proceeding towards the building of a memorial. When that happens, it will be based on a design that has had the community's involvement from the very beginning.

In November, the Commission wrote to the Grenfell community, expressing gratitude to

those who have given their time and views. This has enabled the Commission to develop the vision for a memorial and the recommendations within its report.

You can read the report at:

www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/report2023

To contact the Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission:

- ▶ Email: GTMCSecretariat@levellingup.gov.uk
- ▶ Phone: **0303 444 4831**
- ▶ Go to: www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/contact
- ▶ Follow the Commission on social media: [@GrenfellTowerMC](https://twitter.com/GrenfellTowerMC)

Have your say on NHS plans for acute mental health services



Give your views about proposed changes to acute mental health services, including moving the Mental Health Crisis Assessment Service from St Charles to the Gordon Hospital in Westminster and keeping the current inpatient beds at St Charles.

The Council believes the first of the three proposed options, which would keep the most services in the borough for residents to use, is the best option. Other options would result in a loss of services in the borough.



If you have any questions email nhsnw.acutemhconsultation@nhs.net or call 07535 697364.

To read about all three options in detail and to take part, go to www.rbkc.gov.uk/newsroom/nhs_acute_mental_health_consultation or scan the QR code above.



Advert provided by Westway Trust

CONSULTATION FOR AN AFRICAN CARIBBEAN CULTURAL CENTRE IN NORTH KENSINGTON

For many years, momentum has been building within North Kensington for the establishment of a Centre which celebrates the diversity of our community; particularly in relation to the heritage, culture and contribution of our Caribbean, African and African-Caribbean communities.

A community steering group was formed to oversee the preliminary planning for a Centre, in order that plans will progress to a point where a decision-making Board can be formally agreed and constituted. The Steering Group will ensure leadership from the African Caribbean community throughout the planning.

Westway Trust has committed to supporting the steering group in order that the community of North Kensington can self-determine the most appropriate model for a Centre.

In moving forward with this project, the Steering Group wishes to express its gratitude to all those who have paved the way.

The Steering Group extends a warm invitation to all interested individuals and parties to help shape this exciting project at this early stage.

To find out more about this project,
and to have your say, visit

WWW.ACCC.UK



Key workers move in as first new homes delivered

Key workers are moving into brand-new homes in the heart of the communities they serve following completion of the first properties delivered through our new homes programme.

Workers from sectors including healthcare, teaching and the emergency services are now calling North Kensington home following the opening of 15-17 Hewer Street, which provides 10 affordable rented homes for key workers along with 10 properties at market rent.

The opening of the development, which boasts air-sourced heat pumps, improved insulation and fire safety measures including sprinklers, was marked by the presentation of artwork created by pupils from neighbouring Barlby Primary School celebrating the role of key workers to their community.

Lilly Joseph, an NHS key worker who grew up in Kensington and Chelsea and has now moved into Hewer Street, said:

"I am delighted to have been considered to live at Hewer Street. This will be life-changing for me in many ways and allows me to set up home in the borough, providing me with a secure base to continue to serve the people of Kensington and Chelsea."

The Hewer Street development retains the original building's façade to match the character of the area and includes a plaque recognising that the coffin of the Unknown Warrior was constructed on the site by John Nodes Funeral Service, a local firm which is still based in the area.

To find out more about our new homes programme, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search "New Homes Delivery Programme."



Have your say on the Council's draft budget

Have your say by visiting the Council's website [https://consult.rbkc.gov.uk/resources/budget 2024 25/](https://consult.rbkc.gov.uk/resources/budget%2024%2025/)

Have **your say** on the Council's budget



Consultation is now live



9 November to 21 December 2023

We want your views on how we shape our budget plan for the year ahead and help set a budget that delivers value for money for our residents, businesses, and communities.

Like many local councils we are facing unprecedented financial pressures and there will be some difficult choices ahead as we look to balance the books.

That's why it's important to have your say in our draft budget proposals for things that matter to you most. Your feedback will help us create a budget that is Greener, Safer and Fairer for all. **The consultation closes on Thursday 21 December 2023.**



Local boy scouted by West Ham FC from Kensington football club

Ahmed Osman, a 13-year-old boy from Ladbroke Grove, has been scouted by West Ham United FC Academy, marking a remarkable achievement in his young footballing career.

Playing for London Capital FC, a grassroots football club in North Kensington, Ahmed's skill and dedication was soon spotted by the club's coach and director, Ali Sharif.

Ahmed was taken by his coach to football trials during the October half-term, where his talent and determination caught the eye of scouts from several Premier League clubs, including West Ham United FC, who have since offered him a place at their youth academy.



Ahmed shared his excitement about the news, saying: *"I am very happy that I got scouted by a top Premier League football academy, and I'm grateful to my coaches at London Capital FC for helping me to improve my football skills and my mental strength."*

Ahmed's coach, Ali Sharif, said: *"I have no doubt that Ahmed will rise through the ranks, and he will surely make it to the first team. We will continue to support Ahmed through any challenges he faces."*

Could you be the next football superstar, or just want to enjoy the game with friends? Football training sessions are available at London Capital FC for boys and girls aged five to 18.

To find out more, visit <https://londoncapitalfc.co.uk>



Helping young people with the cost of living

Over 100 young people in Kensington and Chelsea have been awarded grants of up to £250 in vouchers to support with the cost of living. The £40k fund, made available by the Kensington and Chelsea Youth Council, gave young people the opportunity to apply for a grant to pay for school supplies, winter clothing, travel, hygiene products and more.

The funding pot was initially for £20,000 but was doubled to £40,000 by the Youth Council following high demand. A panel of Youth Fund Assessors worked through the high volume of applications in order to award the funding.

Amy Chuang, mother of 17-year-old Rosslyn, said: *"I heard about the grants through the Council e-newsletter and realised Rosslyn was eligible. The money will really help with the cost of travel, giving her independence, and with the cost of school supplies for her studies this year."*

"Parents are really struggling at the moment, and these grants give young people some independence to start spending and budgeting for their own supplies and needs, while also taking some of the financial pressure off parents."

Erfan Zarenia, aged 16, who moved to the UK in 2018 and is studying maths, economics, and geography, said: *"I've just started year 12 and there's a lot I need to buy like school supplies, textbooks and equipment. This grant will help me afford the things I need to do well."*

The Youth Council Cost of Living Grants have now closed. Make sure you don't miss out on future opportunities by following the Council and the Youth Council on Instagram:

@kensingtonandchelseacouncil
@rbkcyouthcouncil



Successful pilot reduces school exclusions

The North Kensington Inclusion Pilot team has been recognised for its work at the Council's Staff Awards for championing equality, diversity, and inclusion.

The pilot aimed to promote inclusion in local secondary schools and combat exclusion in the interest of finding solutions to children's problems and keeping them in education.

It did this by embedding family workers in schools, providing training to those working with families, and by offering specialised advice to parents and carers.

For more information about the North Kensington School Inclusion Pilot, scan the QR code:



The programme also offers access to independent advice and advocacy from ClementJames and Coram.

Since the pilot launched in April 2022, 76 per cent of secondary school pupils have engaged with the embedded worker, resulting in a significant reduction in their risk of exclusion, with 93 per cent of primary school pupils seeing the same.

New-look promotion for Portobello Market

In partnership with the Westway Trust and Portobello and Golborne Management Committee, a launch event was held on Friday 3 November to celebrate the refresh of the market's digital promotion.

Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate the brand-new logo and brand designed by local resident Kieron Kymara.

The refreshed look-and-feel brings together for the first time promotion for all markets in the area including Golborne and Portobello Green as well as retail shops, restaurants and events.

Keep an eye out for the fresh new website coming soon and be sure to enjoy Portobello Christmas Markets every Sunday from 3 December.



We welcome local businesses, traders, visitors, and residents to get involved, follow and tag the Instagram account **@portobellomarketofficial** which has almost 16,000 followers! Scan the QR code to visit the official Instagram account.



Portobello Market – a poem from Fatima Farooq, aged nine



*Portobello market, a wonderful place to be,
On this road, there is everything you'd want to see,
This poem lists the things,
That Portobello market brings.*

*Creamy croissants, cakes and all,
Fancy stalls and bouncy balls,
Lines of people for the antique shop,
How ancient it is will make your jaw drop.*

*Straw woven hats, coloured clay cats,
Multi-coloured mats, cricket bats.*

*Lots of colours, red and blue,
The choices to buy comes down to you.*

*Fresh foreign food of all kinds,
Where all flavours combine.*

*Portobello market is like a heavenly place,
These words cannot express this market's grace.*

Could you be part of the Great Exhibition Road Festival?

The Great Exhibition Road Festival is a two-day celebration of arts and sciences with events for adults and children. Last year, over 50,000 people visited the festival which explores cutting-edge technology, science and creativity.

The festival returns from Saturday 15 to Sunday 16 June 2024 and its organisers, including the Natural History Museum, the V&A, Imperial College London and the Royal College of Music and Art, are planning on another event to provide a platform for local talent. There are opportunities for paid commissions and funded collaborations, and Imperial College London are advertising for North Ken artists and creative content providers to take part.

To find out more contact festival@imperial.ac.uk before the deadline on Thursday 14 December.

They are interested in:

- ▶ Artists with an interest in science or technology, and experience producing works in public spaces
- ▶ Art educators and workshop facilitators with experience designing and delivering public participation workshops or group-build artistic installations
- ▶ Performers – dance troupes, DJs or musical acts that could perform



Christmas tree recycling and waste collection

If you have a real Christmas tree this year, the most environmentally friendly way to dispose of it is to compost it. However, if you can't do that yourself, we can help.

Our Christmas tree drop-off points will run from **Tuesday 2 January** until **Sunday 21 January 2024**, or home collections will take place from **Tuesday 2 January** until **Friday 19 January 2024**.

We do not collect rubbish or recycling on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day. If your usual collection day falls on one of these days, please hold on to your rubbish and put it out on your next scheduled collection day.



Find out more by visiting www.rbkc.gov.uk/xmas-tree-recycling

Residents thanked for helping to drive up Council customer service

Residents who have given their time over the past year to co-design a new set of Council Service Standards were celebrated at an event in North Kensington.

The seven residents have been working closely with the Council to create the standards which will improve the service residents receive when they contact us. They were invited to a thank you event where they were recognised for their input, time and dedication.

Kensington and Chelsea Council is the first Council to co-design organisation-wide Service Standards with its residents, supporting our ongoing commitment to becoming a caring and competent Council.

The group has been meeting since summer 2022 and collectively drafted the standards before they were consulted on earlier this year with staff and residents.

The standards are being rolled out across the Council through several face-to-face sessions with different teams. Leaders from across the organisation have also made commitments about how the service standards will be embedded, and how progress will be monitored.

The Service Standards are segmented into three parts – how residents want to feel when they contact the Council, what the Council needs to do to achieve that and what staff and services need to do.

Demir Timuray, 21, a co-design panel member, said: *“I think we should all feel proud. This is our product. We have come together in the space of a year to criticise the Council on what needs to be addressed, what we feel the gaps are in the system and what can be developed to tailor the system to what residents need.*

The fact that these are our words shows that the Council has listened to us. In terms of accountability, the most tangible thing we can do as residents, is follow up what the Council is doing, highlight when we still experience a problem and see if any changes are being made.”

They look at ensuring staff listen and deal empathetically with residents' enquiries, proactively update residents with progress on their enquiry every step of the way and take responsibility.



Read our Service Standards: [www.rbkc.gov.uk/contact us/co designed service standards](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/contact-us/co-designed-service-standards)

Healthy school holidays in Kensington and Chelsea

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme will be running again during the winter school holiday from Friday 22 December to Friday 5 January, with over 3,000 healthy meals expected to be served.

This summer, local young people had weeks of fun participating in sports and games, creative activities such as music production and dance, adventure play, and youth clubs though the HAF programme.

Funded by the Department for Education, the HAF programme allows vulnerable children and young people to access enriching activities and healthy food each day they attend. Thirty-three local organisations will offer a variety of activities across the six-week holiday period.



Visit the HAF page - [https://ourcity.org.uk/haf programme](https://ourcity.org.uk/haf-programme) to see what's on offer and book a place!



Getting the right care at the right time

For information about the services that can help you, visit:
www.nwlondonicb.nhs.uk/winter



scan me

Pharmacy



Local pharmacists are qualified healthcare professionals. They can help with minor health concerns including coughs, colds, upset stomachs and skin or eye infections. They can also help with medications.

Visiting a nearby pharmacy is a quick and easy way to get confidential advice on minor health concerns. No appointment needed.

GP/doctor services

local GP practice



Trained health professionals at your local GP practice can help with a wide range of general health problems. They may see you in-person, online or over the phone.

You need to be registered to book an appointment. You do not need proof of address, immigration status, ID or an NHS number to register at a GP. Find a practice near you: nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-gp

GP help

evenings / weekends

Call your GP practice as normal. The practice answer phone will provide details of where you can get local out of hours appointments. You can also visit your GP practice website for details.

Mental health services



If you are feeling anxious, worried or depressed, the NHS offers talking therapies to help. You can refer yourself, you don't need to go to your GP first.

Visit: nhstalk2us.org

In a crisis, call the free 24/7 NHS helpline:

Ealing, Hounslow, Hammersmith & Fulham - **0800 328 4444**

Brent, Harrow, Hillingdon, Kensington & Chelsea, Westminster - **0800 0234 650**

There are also local organisations that can connect you with other people for support and help. Visit: hubofhope.co.uk or wellbeingwestlondon.org.uk

NHS 111



NHS 111 is a website and phonenumber available all day, everyday, to help if you have an urgent medical problem. Doctors, nurses, paramedics and fully trained advisors are available to ensure you receive the right care in the right place. Contact NHS 111 at 111.nhs.uk or call 111.

In a life-threatening medical emergency, call 999 or attend A&E.

CUT
ME OUT