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December 2008 Issue 31

edge hill fairfield holly road holt road kensington fields

kensington news

Local views, local issues

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From left to right: Jameigh Forrester (Sacred Heart Primary School), Jake Abdulla (Phoenix Primary School), Megan Richardson (Kensington Junior School), Chelsea-Louise Murphy (St Sebastian's Primary School) and Meisna Moran (Kensington Infants School).

Season's greetings!

Kensington Regeneration is once again creating some extra festive spirit in the area this Christmas.

As in previous years, many local elderly and vulnerable residents will receive an unexpected treat this month in the form of a luxury Christmas hamper.

Staff from HEAT (the Health Energy and Advice Team) and a group of volunteers are delivering the gifts to people selected from the team's database or nominated by local residents' associations.

The hamper project has been paid for by Kensington Regeneration Partnership and Kensington Regeneration Community Interest Company with the help of funding from Community Seven.

Norma Williams, Chair of Kensington Regeneration, commented: "This is one of our most popular projects which helps us to bring some extra Christmas cheer to 300 older residents at this special time of year."

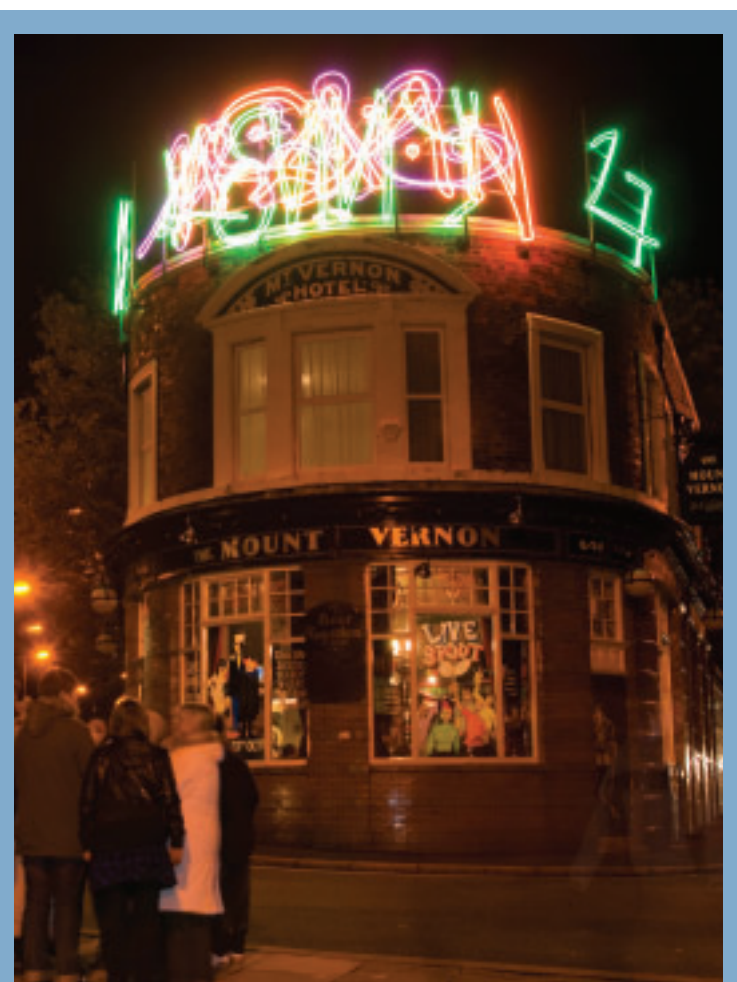
Meanwhile, more than 600 children in the area's five local primary schools have taken part in a competition to design the Kensington Regeneration Christmas card, based on the theme of the ever-popular Superlamabanana.

The overall winner was Megan Richardson of Kensington Junior School and her design, and the best entries from the four other schools, have been turned into a fantastic Christmas billboard poster which can now be seen at the corner of Beech Street.

Kensington Regeneration Chief Executive, Lynn Spencer, said: "This competition showed that our local youngsters are a really artistic bunch so the judges had a very difficult job.

"However, the winning designs are all really great and are now helping us to send seasonal greetings to everyone in the area."

A festive treat for Betty Gardner delivered by Jimmy Baptista, Chair of Kensington Regeneration Community Interest Company, Kensington Regeneration Board Member Enid Bristow and Danisha Martin of HEAT.



Kensington shines this Christmas...

A new neon installation is lighting up the night sky in Kensington.

The animated sculpture by Michael Pinsky - called Title Author Genre - can be seen on the roof of the Mount Vernon Hotel on Irvine Street.

It joins the two existing neon attractions in the area - the Blue Polar Bear on Sheil Road and Liverpool Jackpot on Tunnel Road.

The sculpture is part of Liverpool Biennial's Winter Lights project, co-ordinated in Kensington by arts organisation Metal.

WELCOME TO KENSINGTON NEWS

This issue of Kensington News is introduced by Jimmy Baptista, a Kensington Regeneration Board Member representing the Edge Hill neighbourhood.

I am pleased to welcome you to this seasonal issue of Kensington News.

It's been another very busy couple of months for Kensington Regeneration.

There have been awards successes, including honours for the Kensington Police Team and Kensington Community Learning Centre.

There have also been major events in the area, like OneWorld Festival and our annual public meeting.

We've also been celebrating success in recent weeks, including the Partnership's work with schools which you can read about elsewhere on this page.

New projects and initiatives have been unveiled, including the new pavilion in Botanic Park and a fortnightly hate crime surgery introduced by the police.

And there have also been announcements of wider importance to the area, including news about the Hall Lane bypass.

You can read all about them in the following pages, as well as an interview with Bishop James Jones looking back at his time as Chair of the Partnership.

I very much hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter and, on behalf of Kensington Regeneration, I would like to take this opportunity to send season's greetings to everyone in the area.

With best wishes
Jimmy Baptista



If you would like to register with us to receive up-to-date information on Kensington Regeneration events, meetings etc via your mobile, please contact us via text on 07976 383790



Disco is a big hit!



Steve Reed (front centre) pictured with some of the guests at a recent Thursday afternoon disco.

A new weekly disco for Kensington residents with learning difficulties and their carers is proving a big hit.

Around 80 people a week have been attending the Thursday afternoon events at St Philip's and St David's Community Hall on Sheil Road.

The discos are organised by Steve Reed of Nugent Care who commented: "These events are a great opportunity for people to socialise, have fun and relax."

"They can have a meal, play bingo, take part in the quiz or the raffle and play our weekly TV-style gameshow such as Play Your Cards Right and Name That Tune."

Steve added that new people are always welcome at the event which is held between 11.45am and 2pm and has an entrance fee of just £1 per person.

The last disco this year will be on Thursday December 18th. It will resume in the new year after the Christmas break.

For more details contact stephen.reed@hotmail.co.uk.

Spooky goings on in Fairfield

There were spooky goings on in Kensington when Fairfield Police Club was transformed into a haunted house for a Halloween party.

The event, for children up to the age of 11, was organised by the local As One Group which is funded by Kensington Regeneration.

The aim of the group is to combat anti-social behaviour in the neighbourhood and around 200 people attended the party which was designed to keep local children off the streets on Mischief Night.

The group also took around 60 teenagers on a trip to Deeside Leisure Centre, where they enjoyed an evening of ice-skating.

Kensington Regeneration Board Member, Val McGrath, said: "It feels fantastic to be in a position to provide local children with such an exciting event. The evening was a great success and we were very pleased with the turnout."

"There have already been numerous requests for us to organise another party next year," added Val.



The event featured some fantastic costumes and spooky make-up.

Special event celebrates work with schools

The remarkable partnership between Kensington Regeneration and local schools was celebrated at a recent special event.

Heads, teachers and pupils, local residents, city councillors and regeneration professionals attended the celebration which also saw the launch of a major new brochure looking back at eight years of educational achievement in the area.

The VIP guest at the event was Colin Hilton, Chief Executive of Liverpool City Council, who said: "I have been delighted to see the very good progress that has been made in Kensington schools in recent years."

"This has been an excellent example of what can

be achieved when new opportunities created by regeneration funding are linked to the skills, hard work and commitment of teaching staff 'on the ground'.

"I would like to congratulate everyone involved in making the Kensington education programme such a success."

Kensington Regeneration's work with schools has involved the creation of important new facilities like the Academy of St Francis of Assisi and Kensington Infant and Junior School.

The security of school buildings has been improved with high-tech equipment, and pupils have been given new learning opportunities and experiences through projects like Music for Life and Christmas in the Curriculum.

Kensington Regeneration has also invested heavily in new resources for schools - including laptops and interactive smart boards - as well as in family learning projects.

Because of all these successes the Kensington education programme is now widely regarded as an example of regeneration best practice in terms of all 39 New Deal for Communities initiatives in the country.

John Caton, Kensington Regeneration's Chair of Lifelong Learning, Employment and Enterprise, commented: "Celebrating success is very important, and it's right that we should be looking back with some pride at how far we've come."

"However, it's also important to remember how far we've still got to go. In education, there are always new challenges to be met and new opportunities to be grasped, so we will continue to work closely with the schools throughout the remainder of the New Deal programme in order to ensure that the current momentum is maintained, and support them as they strive for further improvements in the future."



From left, Network Learning Co-ordinator Judy Boyce, Kensington Regeneration Chief Executive Lynn Spencer, Colin Hilton and Kensington Regeneration Chair Norma Williams with some of the youngsters who played a key role in the celebration event.



Kensington schools did you know?

- The Guardian ran a feature on how successful the Kensington schools are.
- Ofsted inspectors say Kensington Infants is 'an outstanding school which provides first-rate care and support for all who attend'.
- At Kensington Juniors there has been a continuous upward trend in levels of attainment by pupils throughout the lifetime of the Kensington Regeneration programme.
- Key Stage 2 SATs results and attendance levels at Sacred Heart Primary are both currently the best in the school's history.
- Phoenix Primary recorded the school's best-ever Key Stage 2 SATs results in English in 2007 and excellent results in maths and science this year.
- St Sebastian's Primary is one of only 20 schools in the country to have received three outstanding Ofsted reports in a row.
- At the Academy of St Francis of Assisi there has been an increase from 27 to 57 per cent in pupils achieving five A* to C grades at GCSE.

150 residents attend annual public meeting

Almost 150 people attended Kensington Regeneration's 2008 annual public meeting in the autumn.

The aim of the event - held in the Life Bank for the first time - was to update residents on the organisation's progress over the past year and to outline its plans for the next 12 months.

The event began with an exhibition featuring displays from a range of local organisations and agencies working in the area including Kensington Community Learning Centre, Merseyside Police, the Community Wardens and Community Seven.

This was followed by the review of the year presented by Norma Williams, Chair of Kensington Regeneration.

Norma explained that the organisation had spent more than £7 million in the area during the year on a wide range of measures to improve life in the five local neighbourhoods.



Kensington Regeneration Chair Norma Williams (standing) hears what residents have to say during the meeting.



There was a very good turnout for the meeting which was held at the Life Bank for the first time.

- Highlights had included:
- Helping over 300 Kensington residents into work.
 - Attendance in Kensington schools reaching 94 per cent - higher than the Liverpool average.
 - Five per cent more pupils achieving five or more A* to C grades at GCSE level.
 - Bellway beginning work on the first homes at Joshua Place on Tunnel Road.
 - Lovell starting work on a 175 - home scheme at Gilead Street.
 - Kensington Police Team being honoured as Merseyside's team of the year.
 - Crime figures improving, including a 31.5 per cent reduction in robberies in the area.
 - The Community Wardens reporting more than 200 incidents of anti-social behaviour.
 - 330 carbon monoxide alarms being distributed to local homes.
 - Kensington Clean Team collecting enough rubbish in the area to fill 132 large skips.
 - Thousands of residents attending the Summer Fun Day and One World Month events.
 - Local heroes being honoured at the fourth Kensington Community Awards.
 - 48 local groups receiving New Communities Fund grants totalling more than £77,000.
 - Local young people creating their own glossy magazine, Kids in Kenny.
- Norma commented: "Our results show that regeneration is working in Kensington thanks to the partnership between all the agencies, schools and residents in the area.
- "Although there is always more to be done I think we can be proud of the achievements of the past 12 months and look forward to more improvements in the coming year."



Officers pictured with the award which recognised their outstanding work with the local community in Kensington.

National honour for Kensington Police Team

Kensington's Police Team has been honoured by a prestigious national awards scheme.

The New Deal officers were runners up in a category of the National Justice Awards which recognised outstanding contributions to engaging local communities.

Overall there were more than 500 nominations for the various categories of these awards and the Kensington officers were one of just three teams to reach the finals ceremony which was held in the glittering surroundings of the Banqueting House in Whitehall in London.

The event was compered by BBC TV Crimewatch presenter Kirsty Young and VIP guests included Home Secretary Jacqui Smith and Justice Secretary Jack Straw.

The officers received their award from the Right Honourable Baroness Scotland of Asthal.

Sergeant Simon Joyce said his team were exceptionally pleased to have been nominated for the award and to finish as runners up was an outstanding achievement.

He also paid tribute to Kensington residents and partner organisations in the area for supporting and working with the police officers to make Kensington a safer place.

Kensington Regeneration Chief Executive, Lynn Spencer, commented: "This award is very well deserved. The police team are doing a tremendous job in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in our area and it's great news that their efforts are getting national recognition."

Green light for Hall Lane bypass

A £20-million project that will tackle a notorious traffic bottleneck in Kensington has taken a major step forward.

The Government has given the green light to the Hall Lane Strategic Gateway scheme, a project which will vastly improve the route into the city centre from the end of the M62.

"This means that we can make real progress on a scheme which has the support of the local community as well as road users," said Cllr Peter Millea, Liverpool City Council's Executive Member for Assets and Development.

"The city needs first-rate gateways into our centre - that is a key part of our regeneration. The Hall Lane scheme will do that, helping both motorists and pedestrians and providing a much better image for visitors. And it will produce a much better environment for local residents.

"It will also provide a new frontage to the Royal Liverpool Hospital development. We have worked closely with the hospital trust to ensure we could have this scheme and a first-class hospital in the city."

Currently traffic heading to the city centre from Edge Lane must turn either left or right into Towerlands Street or Hall Lane at the top of Mount Vernon Green. Both of these routes are through residential areas and traffic is subject to delay.

The Hall Lane Strategic Gateway will relieve this problem, with new road alignments taking traffic away from the residential areas via a new road that will be a dual carriageway for most of its length.

There will be a new junction at West Derby Street/Crown Street directing traffic north along a new stretch of road towards Low Hill and then on to Islington, or south along a realigned Grove Street.

The junction at Low Hill will be upgraded and this new link will improve traffic flow between Islington and Grove Street.

Pedestrian facilities will be provided at all traffic signal controlled junctions and cycling facilities are also being introduced. The scheme will include extensive landscaping and improved lighting.

Work is scheduled to start early in 2009 and to be completed in Autumn 2010.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Honour for Val

Kensington Regeneration Board Member Val McGrath was recently honoured as the area's Resident of the Year in an awards scheme organised by housing association Community Seven. The judges praised Val for her positive view of young people and her efforts to create new opportunities for them.



Joanne's award

In the same awards Joanne Connell from Kensington was recognised as Community Seven's Tenant of the Year. Joanne helped to set up the United Colours of Kensington, a multi-cultural face painting group, and is also a Board Member of the Dream High social enterprise project.

Stay independent

Older Kensington residents can benefit from a new service that will help them to remain in their homes for as long as they want. The Independent Living Service - run by Age Concern on behalf of the City Council and Liverpool PCT - offers free help with shopping and other errands and household tasks. More information from 0151-330 5613.

Good impression

A young Kensington resident who performs impersonations of Liverpool players has become a YouTube sensation. 23-year-old Darren Farley's impressions of greats like Steven Gerrard, Jamie Carragher and manager Rafa Benitez have been viewed more than one million times on the site and he has also performed them live on local radio.



Focus on respect

Liverpool City Council's pioneering Respect Week initiative visited Kensington in October. As well as enforcement activity such as clean-ups and police patrols, highlights of the week included visits by a mobile learning centre, job and training advice, home fire checks, electric blanket checks and youth activities across the area.

Grants for health

Kensington-based organisations involved in activities that promote health and well being can apply for grants of up to £5,000 from Liverpool Primary Care Trust. Further details about the community health grant scheme and application forms are available from Sarah Hennessy on 0151-296 7422 or emailsarah.hennessy@liverpoolpct.nhs.uk.



ONE WORLD FESTIVAL SUCCESS



The St Sebastian's ceilidh was a sellout.

Kensington's One World Festival has proved to be a big success again this year with a wide variety of events celebrating different cultures from across the globe.

Festival goers were able to enjoy an evening of Italian film and food at Fairfield Police Club, Hindu music and dance based on the Diwali festival at the Hindu Temple on Edge Lane and a line dancing evening and a salsa night, both based at Kensington Fields Community Centre.

Other attractions included a Polish cultural event, an Irish ceilidh, a Czech Slovak Roma event featuring music from the popular Gypsy Brothers and an Islamic event at the Al Ghazali Centre on Earle Road.

Schools were also linked into the celebrations with an international storyteller, with fables from Africa and beyond, entertaining pupils throughout November.

On a more serious note the festival included a play addressing important immigration and asylum issues and a special international day against violence to women, focusing on the current situation in Dharfur, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda.

The festival kicked off with a Love Music Hate Racism event for young people featuring Big Beats and Rhyme and members of Liverpool Young Writers in a showcase of spoken word art that included rapper 2G and DJ LSG.

It came to an end almost six weeks later with a grand finale celebration of global citizenship at the Devonshire House Hotel hosted by the local Polish community.

Mark Jackson, who co-ordinated the festival for Kensington Regeneration, commented: "The One

World Festival is all about community involvement, making new friends and celebrating other people's lives and cultures.

"This was the fourth year of the festival and once again it featured some outstanding events. I would like to thank everyone who organised them, and the local people who supported them, for making the event such a big success.



Big Beats and Rhyme performers.



Palestinian dancing at the finale event.

Fond farewell to PC George Rees

Kensington has said a fond farewell to one of its most popular and hard-working neighbourhood police officers.

PC George Rees, who has worked closely with the local community for the past eight years as part of the Kensington Police Team, has moved to a new post at St Anne Street police station.

Around 60 local residents, regeneration staff and former colleagues attended a surprise farewell event at a meeting of the Kensington Regeneration Community Safety Task Group.

PC Rees was presented with a cake, a police teddy bear and other gifts from local residents. He also received a 'This is Your Life' book, complete with a personalised letter from Merseyside's Chief Constable Bernard Hogan-Howe.

Pat Doyle, Chair of the Task Group, said: "It has been a pleasure to work with George. He has been a great asset to Kensington and his friendly, approachable nature has ensured that he has been a very popular character around these parts. I would like to take this opportunity to wish him well for the future."

PC Rees told Kensington News that his time in the area had been the most rewarding period of his career. He added: "The celebration was totally unexpected and I feel completely overwhelmed. I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who attended."



Little and large - George pictured with his farewell cake.

MS WRITERS GROUP PRESENTS DEBUT PLAY

A Kensington-based writers group which supports people with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) recently presented its debut play at Liverpool Community College.

The group has been supported by award-winning writer Jimmy McGovern and funded by Kensington

Regeneration Community Interest Company's Community Fund and housing association Community Seven.

The Long and Winding Road is an account of Liverpool's history, woven with typical Scouse humour and presented through the eyes of ordinary

people. The play follows the lives of one family through the centuries from 1207 to 2008.

Jimmy McGovern, Roy Bolter and Jan McVerry mentored the MS writers group and the play was directed by Rachel Littlewood from the Everyman Theatre.



Segundo meets the young actors who performed a play in Spanish.

School's high praise from Everton star

Everton star Segundo Castillo recently helped St Sebastian's Primary School in Fairfield to recognise the achievements of its pupils in foreign languages.

The Ecuadorian midfielder was the VIP guest at an awards ceremony as

part of the school's international week. Segundo also watched the youngsters dance and perform a play in Spanish.

St Sebastian's has been widely praised for its language teaching and was recently recognised as the best Spanish-speaking school in the country.

Residents line up to get online

Kensington residents turned out in force to tackle a variety of computer challenges at Kensington Community Learning Centre's annual Get Online Day.

Free activities and lots of prizes helped to encourage local people of all ages to find out more about how they can benefit from the internet.

KCLC has already been recognised as one of the best in the country by the UK Online Centres programme.

The organisation's Regional Manager, Julie Mitchell, attended the Kensington event and wrote to KCLC Manager Alan Tapp afterwards saying: "Congratulations to you and your team for a very successful day.

I am still buzzing."

The get Online Day event was sponsored by Kensington Regeneration and organisations who donated prizes including The Healing Space, hair salon Tatty Heads, Wetherspoons, Williamsons Tunnels, local author Alicia Rose, McDonalds and Liverpool FC.

Greens Health and Fitness and the Liverpool Empire Theatre also supported the event, with lunch on the day being provided by local Sri Lankan restaurant Akshaya.

To find out more about the courses available at Kensington Community Learning Centre ring 0151-260 1006.



Les Fairhurst and Debbie Derbyshire explore the benefits of the internet at Get Online Day.

New sports pavilion in Botanic Park

A new £700,000 sports pavilion in Kensington's Botanic Park has been named after a man who has devoted more than half a century to junior football in the area.

Jack Webster co-ordinates the Edge Hill Football League which has run in the park for many years with limited facilities.

Now the new pavilion will provide up-and-coming players with high-quality changing facilities as well as acting as the base for a wide range of other sporting and physical activities, organised via the Active Parks programme.

The new facility was officially opened by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Steve Rotheram, as part of an event that also featured football and rounders tournaments, yoga, boxing, music and African and Jamaican food.

Liverpool City Council Leader Warren Bradley commented: "This fantastic pavilion is part of our drive to invest in top-class sporting facilities in every part of the city.

"It's about us breathing new life into communities, making sure all our green spaces are welcoming and attractive and providing a focal point for local people.

"At the same time, it's part of our commitment to get people of all ages involved in physical activity, and nurture local sporting talent.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the pavilion benefiting large numbers of local people and helping the local football league to go from strength to strength," added Councillor Bradley.

Kensington Regeneration helped to fund the new Jack Webster Pavilion which was also supported by Liverpool City Council, Community Seven, the Football Foundation, Liverpool's Neighbourhood Regeneration Programme, Active City and Sport England.



Jack Webster pictured with VIP guests and a plaque he received as a personal memento of the pavilion being named in his honour.

Pupils entertain at Westminster

A group of children from Kensington recently travelled to London to demonstrate their musical skills to more than 100 guests at the Houses of Parliament.

The seven youngsters from Kensington and Sacred Heart

Primary Schools were joined by the Principal Conductor of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Vasily Petrenko, and Wavertree MP Jane Kennedy.

The visit was part of the award-winning Music for Life project which has provided new musical

opportunities in schools throughout the Kensington Regeneration area.

The children spoke about their involvement with the project to VIP guests including Culture Secretary Andy Burnham and Minister for Young People, Beverley Hughes.

NATIONAL AWARD FOR COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE

One of Kensington Regeneration's flagship projects has landed another prestigious national award.

Kensington Community Learning Centre (KCLC) was named Social Regeneration Project of the Year at the annual Regeneration & Renewal Awards in London.

Earlier this year KCLC was also recognised as one of the best centres of its type in the country in the UK Online Centres Awards.

The centre has developed flexible ways of delivering computer training, along with courses in literacy, numeracy and social skills.

Kensington Regeneration's Chair of Lifelong Learning, Employment and Enterprise, John Caton, said: "I would like to congratulate everyone at the centre for winning this high-profile award.

"The centre is an invaluable resource for the local community which has significantly improved the prospects of people of all ages, especially those from diverse and hard-to-reach backgrounds."

The Regeneration & Renewal Awards judges said that KCLC's results were 'exceptional'.

During the year to March 2008, almost 400 local people were involved in training at the centre, around half of them

from black and ethnic minority or disadvantaged backgrounds.

They gained a total of 383 qualifications and many went on to further education, training or jobs.

KCLC Manager Alan Tapp said: "Winning this award is a fantastic accolade and a tribute to the hard work of all our staff and students."

"The main reason we succeed with our clients is that we are flexible and work with students on an individual basis to help them overcome any barriers to learning.

"In 99 per cent of cases we can offer students a start date within seven days and we also provide open sessions to help people catch up if they miss a lesson for any reason."

There was further success for Kensington Regeneration in the Regeneration & Renewal Awards.

Board Member Norma Lee was a finalist in the Volunteering in Regeneration category for her hard work in the local community on plans for new housing in Edge Hill.

From left, KCLC Receptionist Chrissy Edmonds, Alan Tapp, John Caton and Administrator Suzanne McGlynn.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Girls fun footy

Calling all young women aged 16 to 24 who would like to play football! Nacro's Youth Community Sports Co-ordinator Rhiannon Brown is planning to run casual football sessions once a week. The initial focus will be on fun and fitness, but the long-term aim could be to enter five-a-side competitions. Ring Rhiannon on 0151-233 6142 if you're interested.



Feed the birds

Youngsters at the Life Bank Nursery have been offering a helping hand to our feathered friends during the cold weather. They have been making bird feeders and learning how to feed local wildlife during the winter as part of a project supported by Community Seven.



New health card

Every Liverpool resident over 60 is now being offered free swimming, gym membership, badminton, squash and tennis. The initiative is part of an ambitious drive by Liverpool City Council and Liverpool PCT to improve the health of the city's 70,000 senior citizens. Find out more about the Senior Lifestyles Card at Lifestyles Centres or online at www.liverpool.gov.uk.



KVfm to return

Kensington's own radio station will be back on air in the spring. Thanks to funding from the Learning and Skills Council KVfm will be broadcasting for 19 days in April, seven days longer on the airwaves than in 2007. As previously, the station wants to train local people in radio skills so they can get involved in this exciting local project.



BME meetings

Kensington Regeneration and Liverpool Community Network have been giving the area's black and minority ethnic communities the chance to discuss issues of concern and to find how they can get involved in local planning and decision making. 15 meetings for different groups of residents were held across the area in October.

THE BIG INTERVIEW

Bishop James Jones

James Jones recently celebrated 10 years as the Bishop of Liverpool, four of them also spent as Chair of Kensington Regeneration. In this month's big interview, Bishop James looks back at his involvement with the New Deal for Communities programme in this area.



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

As Bishop James Jones is the first to admit, he was initially in two minds when he was asked by Liverpool City Council to Chair the New Deal programme.

On the one hand, having never been vicar of an urban parish, he was keen to gain some hands-on experience of regeneration issues in an inner city area, especially as such issues affect many parts of the Diocese of Liverpool.

On the other hand, however, some advisors were warning him against taking the post - it was risky, it could prove very difficult, it could all go wrong he was told.

HONOURED

In the end, he decided to go and ask Kensington residents what they thought about it, as he explains: "I went to Kensington with my colleague, David Lewis, who was the Vicar of St Cyprian's Church and a New Deal Board Member.

"We met some local people and I asked them if they would like me to do it. I warned them, they seemed to warm to me and in the end I said I would be honoured to take on the job."

And so began the Bishop's close relationship with Kensington that continues today. It's a relationship he values highly, as he's quick to point out:

"I always tell people that I've learnt more about urban regeneration from the people of Kensington than I've ever learnt from any book," he says.

Of course, there were challenges in the early days: "Regeneration programmes are a balancing act - it's a question of trying to get the confidence of both the local community and the Government," says Bishop James.

"If you've got the confidence of the people but not the Government then there can be issues about obtaining funding. On the other hand, if the Government supports you but you don't have the confidence of local residents then it can be very difficult to get the support you need to get things done on the ground."

Happily, Bishop James managed to get the balance right and with

the involvement of residents Kensington Regeneration went from strength to strength under his leadership.

"The thing that really struck me about Kensington was how many people of all ages there were who were determined to get involved in the regeneration process, to do their bit in turning the area round and making it a better place," he says.

"I'm proud to say that I now regard a number of them as lifelong friends. Even though it's several years since I was Chair we still meet up regularly and, of course, I often get invited back to events in Kensington. I like that ongoing contact with the area and with local people."

It had always been the Bishop's intention to step down as Chair and to 'pass the baton' to a local resident as soon as the New Deal programme got into its stride: "It's very important to have a local person as Chair in the long-term because he or she knows the area, the real local issues and what needs to be done to address them," says Bishop James.

DELIGHTED

"That's why I was delighted when Richie Keenan and then Norma Williams took on the job. They've both done really well in the role and I take my hat off to them for the time and effort they've committed to the regeneration of Kensington."

The Bishop himself remains closely involved with the area as the Chair of Governors at the Academy of St Francis of Assisi which has the environment as its specialism, a subject very close to his heart.

"I think the creation of the Academy has been one of the highlights of the Kensington Regeneration programme," he says. "It's a fantastic place for local young people to learn and they're responding really well to the new opportunities it is giving them."

As the Bishop points out, the Academy has also won over some of the people who weren't originally keen on it being built on the fringe of Newsham Park. "A few weeks ago I was at a church in the area

and an elderly woman came up to me to apologise for objecting to the Academy. She said she had been completely wrong - rather than damaging the park it had actually brought new life to the area. I just had to hug her," he says.

Looking back at the work of Kensington Regeneration, Bishop James says that major physical projects like Kensington Community Sports Centre, the Job Bank, the Life Bank and the housing developments will continue to benefit the area long after the Partnership closes its doors in 2010.

OPPORTUNITIES

Equally importantly, large numbers of local residents have been given the support they needed to improve their lives by taking advantage of new education, training and job opportunities.

"This aspect of the New Deal programme isn't as visible as the new buildings," he says. "However, the skills people have acquired will continue to serve them well in the future."

But overall Bishop James believes that Kensington Regeneration's efforts to empower the local community will be its most important legacy: "New Deal has put local people in the driving seat in terms of taking control over their own lives," he says.

"I believe it has given residents

the skills and confidence they need to continue improving the area by taking full advantage of future regeneration funding opportunities, as and when they arise."

In terms of disappointments with the programme, Bishop James has just one major regret: "If we had the chance to do it all again, I'd want to provide a lot more help to local businesses from very early in the programme. Supporting businesses is the key to creating the new jobs that are critical to the long-term regeneration of the area."

Despite this regret, it's clear that Bishop James is very proud of what has been achieved in Kensington over the past eight years and, in conclusion, he has just two simple messages for local residents: "Firstly, I'd urge people to get involved in their local community. Don't leave the decision making to other people - get involved yourself and make a difference.

"Secondly, even though regeneration is often about tackling local problems, let's not forget about the importance of celebrating local successes.

"There's a lot of really good things happening in Kensington - like the work of local schools - and we shouldn't be modest about them. We should be shouting from the rooftops about the many positive aspects of life in the area."



Bishop James helps to get work under way on Kensington Community Sports Centre.

KENSINGTON PLAYS HOST TO NACRO FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



Second Chance from Sunderland were the winners of the successful Nacro football event.

Kensington recently played host to a national football tournament for young people involved in groups dedicated to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

A team from Kensington Youth Inclusion Project were the local representatives in the competition which was organised by Paul Hurford of crime reduction charity Nacro.

Paul commented: "All young men deserve to reach their full potential. Some face tough circumstances and this type of tournament is one way of showing them the benefits of self-discipline and good communication, as well as a few football tricks!"

Eight teams battled in the rain

motivated by VIP guest Andy Sinton, the former England, Tottenham and Sheffield Wednesday star, who encouraged the players to get involved in sport rather than in gangs on the streets. He awarded the winner's trophy to Second Chance from Sunderland and the runners-up plate to Street League from London.

"This was a very successful event and our lads were a credit to Liverpool," said Paul Hurford.

New website will help teenage victims of domestic violence



Paula Nolan (front) promotes the new website with HEAT colleagues (from left) Gill Moglione, Assia Bibi, Jeanette Traynor, Natalie Wilkie and Jing Shu Liu.

A new website will help Kensington teenagers who are living with domestic violence.

Kensington's Health Energy Advice Team (HEAT) has created the interactive site for young people trying to deal with abusive relationships.

The confidential site, named Reduce D Abuse, provides an open discussion forum, accurate information on legal issues and links to local agencies with their roles explained.

Around 60 people, including local residents and Merseyside Police representatives, attended the official launch of the site at

the Life Bank.

Natalie Wilkie, Youth Advocate for HEAT and co-ordinator of the website, said: "I did a lot of research on the web and couldn't find a suitable open website forum.

"I thought this was a real gap in services for teenagers as the age group we're talking about would probably not phone a service like Childline because they would consider themselves to be too old."

"The site includes a message board forum which gives young people answers to any questions they



may have without having to give out any personal details.

"They can also find out what is likely to happen if they call the police, a domestic violence agency or social services," added Natalie.

Initially focusing on Kensington, HEAT plans to start promoting the site across Liverpool within the next 12 months, with the ultimate aim of operating it on a national basis.

For further information please contact Gill, Jeanette or Natalie at HEAT on 0151-263 7474 or visit www.reducedabuse.org.uk.

CHRISTMAS TV AND FILM QUIZ

Answers on page 8

Film

- Harrison Ford returned as which famous archaeologist in 2008?
- Which late actor played the Joker in The Dark Knight?

Sarah Jessica Parker



- In this year's Bond movie Quantum of Solace, who played Bond girl Camille?
- Who played Bruce Banner in the summer blockbuster The Incredible Hulk?
- Which film won the Best Picture Oscar at the Academy Awards ceremony in February?
- Which popular musical, starring Meryl Streep and Pierce Brosnan, was released in the summer?
- Robert Downey Jr played which comic book hero in a blockbuster this year?

Robert Downey Jr.



- Pixar's WALL-E was a hit movie this year, but what does WALL-E stand for?
- Who starred in the title role of Juno?
- Which popular US show starring Sarah Jessica Parker was turned into a hit movie this year?

TV

- Teenager George Sampson won which TV talent show in May?
- What was the title of the series in which Charley Boorman and Ewan McGregor rode motorbikes from Scotland to South Africa?



Ewan McGregor

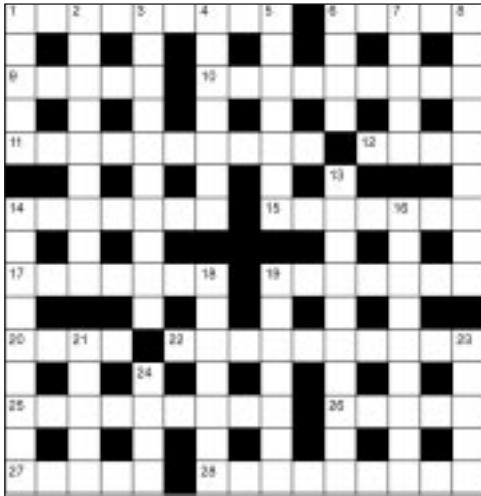
- Who played Ann Boleyn in the historical drama series The Tudors?
- Which celebrity won the orchestra-conducting competition in the series Maestro?
- What was the name of Doctor Who's daughter as portrayed by Georgia Moffett this year?

George Sampson



- In which series did Philip Glenister return as politically incorrect DCI Gene Hunt?
- Which American actress played author Rudyard Kipling's wife Caroline in the drama My Boy Jack?
- What was the title of the spin-off series from Spooks?
- Who played the novelist of the title in the one-off drama Miss Austen Regrets?
- Which soap character was briefly kidnapped by a former boyfriend this year and then tried unsuccessfully to seduce her boss?

BUMPER FESTIVE CROSSWORD



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- Mixed drinks (9)
- 'Snow White and the Seven —s' (5)
- Frostier (5)
- Festive season (9)
- 21 Down and 16 Down. Christmas carol (3,4,3,5,9)
- Border (4)
- Liquor (7)
- Small pebbles found on beach (7)
- Came out (7)
- News (7)
- Song of praise (4)
- Canvas shoe (10)
- Newly issued old record (2-7)
- Young sheep (5)
- Timidly (5)
- Supported (9)

DOWN

- Adhere (5)
- Youthfully innocent (9)
- 'We --- of Orient are' (5,5)
- Instigates (7)
- Religious addresses (7)
- Rush (4)
- Directed (5)
- Clasps (9)
- Pantomime character with two ugly sisters (10)
- 'While --- watched their flocks by night' (9)
- See '11 Across'
- Fills with consternation (7)
- Journeys (7)
- See '11 Across'
- Relieved (5)
- Drama (4)

Solution on page 8

STEPPING UP THE JOB AND TRAINING LADDER



Steps Co-ordinator Yolande Walsh with some of Kensington's new Skills Passport holders.

Kensington Regeneration has been celebrating the success of a programme to help local residents get jobs in the sport and leisure industries.

Thanks to the Steps Project and its pioneering Skills Passport initiative, 50 people across the east of the city have obtained jobs in these sectors with participants gaining almost 400 new qualifications overall.

The project - funded by Kensington Regeneration and the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme - has also enabled residents to gain valuable

work experience in voluntary posts.

Steps Co-ordinator, Yolande Walsh, said: "Over the past 17 months it has been extremely satisfying to work with local residents and help them realise their dreams through qualifications and employment.

"We have been particularly targeting people who have had to overcome obstacles in finding work and training, for example lone parents, people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds and young people."

Free carbon monoxide alarms on offer...

Kensington Regeneration is offering local people a final chance to acquire a free carbon monoxide alarm.

The Partnership has given away 370 alarms over the past year and now has 50 left which it is offering to residents on a first-come, first-served basis.



...So pull your finger out and ring Maria Curran on 0151-233 6182.

More than 50 deaths a year are cause by carbon monoxide which is extremely poisonous and known as the silent killer because victims can neither see nor smell it.

The alarms will alert householders to the presence of carbon monoxide if, for example, it is being released by a faulty fire.

The alarms can be collected from the Job Bank on production of a utility bill showing that you live in the Kensington Regeneration area.



Surgery will tackle hate crime

A new hate crime surgery has been launched in Kensington.

The surgery is based at Venture Housing's premises in Boaler Street and will operate every other Tuesday.

The aim of the initiative is to give people who experience incidents relating to their race, sexual orientation, disability or religion the chance to report them confidentially.

The surgeries are staffed by plain clothes police officers from Tuebrook Police Station.

Sergeant Linda Bruckshaw, who is organising the surgeries, told Kensington News that the aim is to give residents who suffer any type of hate crime a convenient local way to raise their concerns with the police.


The next surgeries are on January 6th (10am-12 noon) and January 20th (6-7pm).

For more information contact Sergeant Bruckshaw on 0151-777 4347.



Sgt. Bruckshaw (front) pictured with representatives of partner organisations at the launch of the new surgery.

KENSINGTON SUPPORTS CHILDREN IN NEED



Putting some colour in his cheeks - face painter Ronnie Cook with Tom White and Libby Morris at Asda.

Kensington residents once again proved enthusiastic supporters of Children in Need this year.

One of the most successful activities saw a team of local face painters bringing smiles to the faces of shoppers and raising more than £1,000 for the BBC appeal.

Members of the United Colours of Kensington used their skills to conjure up lions, butterflies, cats and fairies on the faces of staff and shoppers at two local supermarkets - Tesco in Old Swan and Asda in Huyton.

The three-day fundraiser was organised by Kelly Marie Hodgers. There were between ten and 15 face painters at work each day, helped by volunteer driver and collector Sean Hodgers and Wesley McGee.

The name of United Colours of Kensington - which has received funding from Kensington Regeneration - reflects its international membership.

Face painters on the Children in Need project included members from Egypt, Iran, Trinidad and the local Chinese community.

Event puts the spotlight on Polish culture

Around 40 teachers attended a special event in Kensington which put the spotlight on various aspects of Polish culture.

The inset day at Sacred Heart Primary School was organised by staff from John Paul II Polish Saturday School and supported by Kensington Regeneration.

The primary and secondary teachers took part in a variety of workshops and classes and had the chance to learn more about the Polish language and the country's traditional music, food and costumes.

There were also opportunities to network with Polish teachers and pick up resources supplied by the European Commission.

Alexandra Mrozik, who co-ordinated the event, said: "The workshops were a great opportunity for Kensington teachers to find out more about the similarities and differences between the educational systems in Poland and this country."



Malgorzata Trzeciecka shows off her Polish national dress to Cllr Laurence Sidorczuk.

SOLUTION TO BUMPER FESTIVE CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Cocktails; 6 Dwarf; 9 Icier; 10 Christmas; 11 God Rest You; 12 Edge; 14 Spirits; 15 Shingle; 17 Emerged; 19 Tidings; 20 Hymn; 22 Espadrille; 25 Re-release; 26 Lambs; 27 Shyly; 28. Sustained.

Down: 1 Cling; 2 Childlike; 3 Three Kings; 4 Incites; 5 Sermons; 6 Dash; 7 Aimed; 8 Fasteners; 13 Cinderella; 14 Shepherds; 16 Gentlemen; 18 Dismays; 19 Travels; 21 Merry; 23 Eased; 24 Play.

ANSWERS TO CHRISTMAS TV AND FILM QUIZ

Film:

1. Indiana Jones 2. Heath Ledger 3. Olga Kurylenko 4. Edward Norton
5. No Country for Old Men 6. Mamma Mia! 7. Iron Man 8. Waste Allocation Load Lifter Earth-Class 9. Ellen Page 10. Sex and the City.

TV:

1. Britain's Got Talent 2. Long Way Down 3. Natalie Dormer 4. Sue Perkins
5. Jenny 6. Ashes to Ashes 7. Kim Cattrall 8. Spooks: Code 9 9. Olivia Williams
10. Rosie Webster.

other languages

For further information contact Kensington Regeneration on 0151 233 6136.

Kensington Regeneration للمزيد من المعلومات، الرجاء الاتصال على اعادة تعبیر كزنگتون 233 6136 على الرقم

欲知詳情・請致電 233 6136 向「肯盛頓重建組」查詢。

Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez contacter Kensington Regeneration au 233 6136.

Po dalsze informacje należy skontaktować się z Kensington Regeneration pod numerem telefonu 233 6136.

notice board

Upcoming dates for your diary:

Fairfield Neighbourhood Assembly

WEDNESDAY 22ND JANUARY
6.30-8.30pm
The Police Club, Prescott Road, Fairfield.

Hate Crime Surgeries

TUESDAY 6TH JANUARY
10am-12 noon
TUESDAY 20TH JANUARY
6-7pm
Venture Housing, Boaler Street.

Thursday Afternoon Discos

for people with learning difficulties and their carers

WEEKLY FROM THURSDAY 8TH JANUARY
11.45am-2pm
St Philip's and St David's Community Hall, Sheil Rd.

The Kensington Regeneration website can be accessed at:
www.kensingtonregeneration.com

Kensington News wishes all readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



we're all ears

We want to hear from you about life in Kensington.

Whether you've got a news story you'd like us to cover, or you want to have your say by sending us a letter with your views on a local issue, Kensington News is for you.

Please get in touch with us using the contact details below, clearly marking all submissions 'Kensington News'.

We look forward to hearing from you!



edge hill fairfield hollyroad holt road kensington fields

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