

For further information please contact  
Kensington Regeneration on 233 6136.

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تۆ مەڵاوێرە بۆ زانیاری زیاتر  
(Kensington Regeneration)  
هەتەرە بۆ 2336136 بەدەست ئەنێت

edgehill fairfield hollyroad holtroad kensingtonfields

April 2009 Issue 32

# kensington

## news

Local views, local issues

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## Paula heads for Number 10

Paula Nolan (second left) who manages HEAT, one of Kensington Regeneration's flagship projects, was recently invited to a reception at 10 Downing Street by Prime Minister Gordon Brown. See page four for full story.

# Creating change for the better



Attainment levels in local schools have increased significantly.

## Kensington Regeneration is beginning the final 12 months of its ten-year programme to improve the area.

As it does so, a new report has revealed that the Partnership has had a really positive impact on local life.

Kensington is one of 39 New Deal for Communities areas across the country and a survey was commissioned by the Government to evaluate its investment in all these schemes.

The household survey in Kensington, conducted by top polling organisation MORI, focuses on the key issues of housing and the environment, crime, education, health and worklessness.

It reveals that satisfaction with the local environment has increased substantially since the first survey was done in 2002. 69 per cent of people said they were satisfied with the state of repair of their homes, and there has also been a significant drop in the amount

of poor housing in the area.

In terms of community safety, there was a 22.6 per cent reduction in the number of reported crimes in Kensington in 2008 compared with the previous year. Because of this, MORI's assessment is that 'significant improvements are being achieved in the area'.

This view is backed up by residents. Since 2002 there has been a 20 per cent drop in the number of people concerned about vandalism, graffiti and other criminal damage.

Concerns about car crime and youth disorder have also decreased significantly, while there has been a

10 per cent rise in the proportion of residents who feel safe walking home after dark.

The survey also highlights the progress that is being made in local schools. Attendance is now higher than the Liverpool average and the number of pupils achieving five A\*-C passes at GCSE has risen by 17 per cent since 2002.

Overall performance in English and maths at Key Stage 2 level 4 has also improved significantly, with 28 and 31 per cent increases respectively.

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all the latest news on Kensington Regeneration developments is just one click away...

[www.kensingtonregeneration.com](http://www.kensingtonregeneration.com)





# WELCOME TO KENSINGTON NEWS

Welcome to the latest issue of Kensington News which you are receiving as we begin the final 12 months of our ten-year programme to improve the area and the opportunities for local people

.....

**This is a good time to look back at what has been achieved since 2000, and ahead to what will be done before and beyond March 2010.**

There have been a huge amount of positive developments in the area in recent years.

We now have major new facilities like Kensington Community Sports Centre, the Academy of St Francis of Assisi and the Life Bank.

There have also been many successful initiatives to address issues around crime, community safety, the local environment, housing and health.

In addition, we've been able to help large numbers of residents into work, and to support the remarkable successes of our local schools in recent years.

We should all be proud of what has been achieved, but there is still work to be done in our final year on completing the major housing schemes and the new complex at the corner of Beech Street, which will include 50 new homes, shops, offices and a community fire station.

At the same time, we will be working closely with our partners

to ensure that as many of our key projects and services as possible will continue to benefit local residents after Kensington Regeneration closes its doors.

This is very important, because I believe it is essential that we regard March 2010 not as an ending, but as the start of a new era in the regeneration of our area.

There will be new opportunities and new sources of funding open to us in the future, if we continue to work together as a community as we have done over the lifetime of the New Deal programme.

We've made really good progress on the regeneration of our area over the last few years. Together, we can now go on and finish the job.

With best wishes  
Norma Williams  
**Chair of Kensington Regeneration**



**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**





Crime has actually reduced in Kensington in recent years.

## PRESS REPORTS ON CRIME IN KENSINGTON 'MISLEADING'

**Kensington Regeneration has rejected recent press reports on crime in the area as 'misleading'.**

According to Community Regeneration Manager Alan Kelly, the coverage gave the impression that crime is on the up in Kensington, while the reverse is actually true.

This view is backed up by Inspector Dave Charnock, who heads up the Kensington New Deal Police Team. He explained: "The recent press coverage was unfortunate. The figures quoted seem to have been based on one particular month rather than showing the true picture over a longer period of time.

"Our figures in fact indicate that there has been a significant reduction in all crime in the Kensington New Deal area over recent years.

"This is a reflection of the hard work and commitment of all the agencies working to improve community safety in the area and the residents who support them."

In detail, the Merseyside Police figures show that:

- All crime within the Kensington New Deal area has been reduced by 44 per cent since 2002.
- Violent crime has been reduced by 58 per cent since its highest level in 2004.
- Robberies have been reduced by 74 per cent since their peak in 2002.

- Burglaries have dropped by 43 per cent since their highest level in 2002.
  - Theft of motor vehicles has dropped by a massive 92 per cent since 2000.
  - There has been a similar 92 per cent drop in thefts from motor vehicles since 2002.
  - Criminal damage has been reduced by 53 per cent since its highest level in 2003.
  - Reported sexual offences have been reduced by 68 per cent since their 2005 peak.
- Alan Kelly commented: "We think it is important to present these figures which show long-term trends rather than statistics based on a snapshot of what happened in one particular month.

"The figures clearly show that crime in Kensington is falling, which is why the work of our New Deal Police Team has been recognised regionally and nationally.

"Of course, there is always more work to be done, and statistics aren't much comfort to anyone who finds they are a victim of a crime. But the overall picture is encouraging and we should give credit where credit is due."

John Smith pictured with volunteers (from left) June Belger, Mark Malone, David Knight and Ann Walker.



## Kensington plays host to pilot community travel initiative

**Kensington is playing host to a pilot scheme which aims to create a network of Merseytravel community travel offices across Merseyside.**

The offices will offer residents help and support with planning local and national public transport journeys as well as acting as a port of call for general enquiries and suggestions.

The ATLAS travel project is the result of a partnership between Kensington Community Learning Centre (KCLC) and Merseyside Network for Change. The pilot scheme involves training volunteers to staff a travel advisor office based at KCLC.

John Smith, Project Director of Merseyside Network for Change, said: "This new service will ensure that local residents have good access to a dedicated travel advisor. The travel surgeries will help the public to plan their route and we will be on hand to answer any enquiries they have."

KCLC Manager Alan Tapp added: "The project will give us the opportunity to offer more benefits to our volunteers, who will be issued with a free

bus pass and expenses. It is a pleasure to participate in this pilot scheme and the service will certainly benefit members of the local community."

For further information regarding the project, please contact John Smith on 0151-707 0566.



John chairs a volunteers meeting.



...continued from page 1

## Partnership creates change for the better

Individual schools have also achieved some remarkable successes. For example, St Sebastian's is one of only 20 schools in the country to have received three 'outstanding' Ofsted reports in a row.

While there is still some way to go in terms of health improvements in Kensington, death rates as measured by the Standard Mortality Ratio have fallen significantly.

82 per cent of residents described their health as 'good' or 'fairly good' and four out of five people said they engaged in some form of physical exercise for at least 20 minutes a day.

On the jobs front, the unemployment rate in Kensington is now 10.1 per cent compared with 12.4 per cent in 2000.

The proportion of household members who are economically active is 54 per cent (up from 44 per cent in 2002) while 43 per cent of

residents are in paid employment compared with 35 per cent in 2004.

Overall, the survey reveals real strength in the local community in terms of the friendliness of residents and the way that they support each other.

Commenting on the survey findings Kensington Regeneration Chief Executive, Lynn Spencer, said: "It is very pleasing that this report has highlighted some of the really positive benefits that the Partnership has helped to deliver in the area

"Of course, though a lot has been achieved, there is still much to be done, both in our final year and beyond.

"However, this report clearly shows that we are on the right track and that - with the support of local people - it will be possible to continue improving life in Kensington in the years to come."



More Kensington residents are now satisfied with the local environment.

## Kensington remembers the Holocaust

**Kensington residents who moved to the area from some of the world's worst war zones were among those who took part in a recent Holocaust remembrance event.**

Local people from Jewish, Congolese, Darfurian, Kosovar, Kurdish, Polish, Roma, Rwandan and Burundian backgrounds shared their experiences at an event at the

Academy of St Francis of Assisi.

Kensington Remembers was funded by Kensington Regeneration and commemorated the Second World War Holocaust and other more recent genocides and ethnic cleansing programmes.

Co-ordinator Aime-Claude Ndongozi, commented: "It is very important to raise awareness of the tragedies that have taken place - and

which are still taking place - around the world.

"It is not just about dwelling on the past. It is also about looking forward with hope to the future."

The event included an exhibition featuring photographs of Auschwitz by Kensington-born John Guy. There were also banners showing photographs and poems about Auschwitz, created by young people from Kensington-based arts organisation Yellow House.

Visitors were also able to view the film A Painful Reminder which includes footage shot by troops as they liberated concentration camps, with testimonies by survivors and other witnesses.

Speakers from the Congo and Darfur gave presentations about the use of rape in genocide and ethnic cleansing, while pupils from the Academy showed a video they had created on difference, bullying and related themes.

Teachers from Merseyside also



Ryan Janny and Sophie Hamlet from Edge Hill Youth Club performing at the event.

took part in a discussion on educational resources developed in Kensington focusing on case histories of Jewish, Congolese and Rwandan immigration to Liverpool.

Kensington Regeneration Community Regeneration Manager, Alan Kelly, said: "This was an important event which addressed some very serious issues which have had a direct impact on the lives of many of our local residents."



Kensington Regeneration Board Member John Caton and his wife Barbara view the John Guy exhibition.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Euro boost for local jobs

Kensington residents will benefit from a new £5.7 million European Social Fund grant which Liverpool has received to tackle worklessness at neighbourhood level.

The cash will be used to develop the work of the city's JET Service and Transitional Employment Team.

It could help to get more than 9,000 people into work, especially lone parents, the over 50s and black and racial minority residents.



### New 'cop shop'

A new police room within the Tesco store in Edge Hill is thought to be the first of its kind in the country. The room in the Overton Street supermarket will be staffed by officers every day as part of efforts to break down barriers between local people and the police.

Merseyside Police say the new facility will enable officers to listen to the concerns of residents in an informal setting, and to tackle any issues they may raise.



### A taste of Poland

Kensington residents were recently invited to sample a taste of Poland at an event at the Academy of St Francis of Assisi.

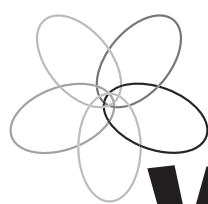
The evening was organised by Merseyside Polonia to give people a better understanding of Polish people who have settled in the area. Organiser Gosia McKane said the event was designed to give people the chance to meet the Polish community and sample the country's tasty food.



### Fitness on the rise

Thousands more people in Liverpool are taking part in sport and physical activity, a major new report has revealed. The Active People Survey from Sport England shows that an additional 5,000 people are now exercising at least three times a week compared with the 2006 figure.

It means that the percentage of the local population keeping fit has risen from 18 to 19.4 per cent. The national rise was just 0.3 per cent over this two-year period.



## what next?

Kensington Regeneration Partnership is planning for the future after the NDC programme comes to an end in March 2010. We have set up a company that puts community benefit at the heart of its business. The company will conduct activities for community purposes. If you are interested in finding out more about the company or wish to become a member\*, please contact Anne-Marie Turner at the Job Bank, 4 Tunnel Road L7 6QD.

**kensington**  
community interest co.



\*You must be over 18 years, be a resident of the Kensington NDC area and support the aims of the company.





Paula (right) and MP Jane Kennedy are pictured outside the famous door at Number 10.

# DOWNING STREET HONOUR FOR PAULA

**The manager of one of Kensington Regeneration's flagship projects was recently invited to a reception at 10 Downing Street by Prime Minister Gordon Brown.**

Paula Nolan of the Health Energy Advice Team (HEAT) was chosen to attend a special event celebrating the country's female 'community heroes' which was organised to mark International Women's Day.

Guests at the prestigious event included Gordon Brown's wife Sarah, Leader of the House of Commons Harriet Harman and Wavertree MP Jane Kennedy.

Paula commented: "The whole thing was a fantastic experience. I had the opportunity to chat with the Prime Minister and to explain what we do at HEAT. He was asking about the type of people who benefit from our services.

"He was also saying how much he liked Liverpool and mentioned that he had been in the city recently for one of the regional meetings of the Cabinet."

There was another major highlight of the day for Paula: "I got someone to take my picture in front of the famous Number 10 door which was great," she said.

The invitation to Downing Street crowned a great year for HEAT which was recently put forward for a national Regeneration and Renewal Award in the

neighbourhood renewal project of the year category.

Over the past year more than 2,000 local residents have benefited from the project's services which include:

- The Winter Survival Project which helps vulnerable residents who are suffering the effects of social and economic exclusion. In the last year HEAT staff have helped 1,023 people to access a total of £879,537 in unclaimed benefits and other entitlements. New fire safety measures and improved security features have also been installed in almost 300 homes.
- Kensington Community Assistance Project which supports residents affected by the Housing Market Renewal clearance programme. 328 people received help during the year with issues such as security measures, fire safety improvements, Corgi gas safety checks, disabled adaptations, energy efficiency work and accessing fuel assistance grants.
- Kensington Access to Training and Employment (KATE) which helps people in the area who face significant barriers in terms of accessing jobs and education and training opportunities. Such groups include long-term unemployed residents, people with disabilities, lone parents, refugees and - more recently - migrant workers.

Over the past 12 months 47 residents found work with the project's help. 93 local people accessed new training opportunities, with 59 gaining an accredited qualification.

- Kensington Family Support Group which provides support and counselling to the families of drug users. Over the past year the project has supported 59 families. It also organised 48 support group sessions, 12 alternative therapy days and three family day trips.
- Kensington Domestic Abuse Service, HEAT's newest project, which opened its doors in October 2007. Over the past 12 months HEAT has supported 124 victims of domestic abuse in Kensington, trained four volunteers and provided domestic violence awareness training for staff in 12 local organisations.

Paula Nolan commented: "It's been a really good year which reflects how much HEAT is now 'embedded' in Kensington and part of the local community.

"Because of this, people seem to trust us more than some of the statutory organisations and we get lots of word-of-mouth recommendations. This is good because it means we can provide practical help to large numbers of the most vulnerable people in our area."

**It's been a very successful year for the team at HEAT.**



[www.dreamhigh.org.uk](http://www.dreamhigh.org.uk)  
Tel: 07921 372844



dream high

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business  
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Dream High helps people who want to start a business or develop an existing business. It is different from other kinds of business support and is based on the International Sirolli Institute's approach.

In East Liverpool a panel of about 60 people, with a wide range of experience and skills have been brought together to help people start their own business or help existing businesses to expand.

If you have a business idea or just want to know more, call Claire for an informal chat on 07921 372844 or email her at [Claire@dreamhigh.org.uk](mailto:Claire@dreamhigh.org.uk).

A kensington regeneration funded project

 developington

## Twin celebrations for Kensington primary school

**Pupils and staff at a Kensington primary school have been marking a remarkable double anniversary.**

St Sebastian's Catholic Primary School Head Teacher Dennis Hardiman has been celebrating 25 years in the post at the same time as his school enters its 100th year.

The special anniversary has been marked with the production of a calendar of photographs - funded by Kensington Regeneration - and a celebration mass at St Sebastian's Church.

Mr Hardiman, who has also been Head of St Cuthbert's on Prescott Road since the schools formed a federation in April 2006, said: "It has been a privilege and an honour to be the head of St Sebastian's and to have served the communities of Fairfield and Kensington since 1984.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed working with such a dedicated, talented group of staff who have helped to make my job exciting and fulfilling. We are part of a

wonderful community that has always been so supportive of the aims of the school.

"The partnership with local parents has also been fantastic and has helped to create an atmosphere in which all the children can develop their full potential.

"Completing the Field of Dreams nursery, with the help of Kensington Regeneration, also shows what partnerships can achieve - a lasting quality provision to meet the needs of our community."

Kensington Regeneration Board Member, John Caton, said: "It is a pleasure to help Dennis commemorate his achievements. He has been a truly inspirational figure in the community and has helped the school to develop and grow. Dennis has ensured that the leadership and management of St Sebastian's is second to none."



Dennis Hardiman (left), John Caton and Teacher Patricia Minogue launch the calendar with children from the school. Patricia was actually a pupil at St Sebastian's and started on the same day as Dennis.



PROJECT PROFILE

# COMMUNITY WARDENS

**The Kensington community wardens recently reached a remarkable milestone when they completed their 10,000th environmental job in the area.**

The wardens - funded by Kensington Regeneration and Community Seven - joined forces with the Kensington Clean Team to remove a mountain of tyres that had been dumped in a local street by a fly tipper.

Tackling this type of incident is all in a day's work for the ten-strong team that was formed in 2003 with the aim of acting as the 'eyes and ears' of the local community and making Kensington a cleaner and safer place to live.

Patrolling the streets from 8am to 8pm on weekdays, and from 12 noon to 8pm on Saturdays, the wardens are always on the lookout for the latest problems with graffiti, litter, fly tipping, faulty street lighting, abandoned cars and stray animals. These are all reported to the relevant authorities by members of the team.

Although environmental work accounts for the largest proportion of cases handled by the wardens, they have two other very important roles as well.

One of these is to support the police in tackling crime and improving community safety by reporting incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour that they come across while on patrol.

The other is to engage with the local community, offering information and advice to residents and signposting them to other sources of help and support if they need it.

In the case of some vulnerable residents, the wardens act almost



Team Leader Sue Tracey says that all the wardens are passionate about helping to make Kensington cleaner and safer.



Seeing is believing – Sue Tracey pictured with some of her warden colleagues.

like members of an extended family.

Sue Tracey - one of two warden Team Leaders, the other being Alan Ashworth - explains: "We have a list of vulnerable people in the New Deal area and we ensure that we visit them all at least once a month. This helps to give them peace of mind and, over the years, our wardens have got to know the residents they visit very well."

Although a warden's job can often be challenging, Sue Tracey is the first to admit that there are many very enjoyable aspects to it as well, in particular the work the team do with local schools.

This ranges from leading pedestrian safety courses to accompanying groups of children when they go on walking trips from school, for example around the historical sights in the city centre.

Developing this type of relationship with local people, and working in partnership with other organisations and agencies, has been the key to the wardens' success over the past five and a half years.

According to Sue Tracey, it's also what makes the job so satisfying: "It's great to know that we've been able to make a difference in terms of Kensington becoming cleaner and safer. Looking round the area now it's certainly a lot better than it was a few years ago."

"This reflects the fact that all the members of our team are passionate about their duties, and committed to doing everything they can to help the local community and improve life in the area."

## Kids in Kenny going strong

**Kids in Kenny, the magazine produced by and for young people in Kensington, is going strong.**

More young people have been recruited to the project with a new weekly workshop taking place at the Academy of St Francis of Assisi.

The Kids in Kenny sessions are being held on Tuesday lunchtimes in the school library, while Tuesday evening workshops continue at Kensington Fields Community Association and Edge Hill Youth Club.

The Editor of the magazine's fourth issue, 12-year-old Jake Evason, recently spent a day on the newsdesk of the Liverpool Echo, learning how the evening paper is put together by its team of journalists, photographers and designers.

Jake and his team expected the next issue of Kids in Kenny to be published at Easter. It includes a feature on Liverpool's spectacular spider artwork in the city centre.

In the meantime, any young people interested in taking part in the project should call the magazine funders, Kensington Regeneration, on 0151-233 6136.



Local MP Jane Kennedy tries her hand at judo with the help of experts (from left) Andrew Moshinov, Matthew Clempner and Neil Anderson.

## Top judo star visits Kensington club

**Kensington recently welcomed one of the top names from the world of judo.**

Andrew Moshinov of Russia - who is a Black Belt 6th Dan - hosted a seminar for North West judo coaches at the AYAC Judo Club in Fairfield.

Andrew is currently the Technical Director of the British Judo Association. Previously he was a technical advisor to the Russian Judo Federation and the national coach of China.

The AYAC Club also plays host to the Merseyside county judo squad aged 8+ who train with member Neil Anderson who is Merseyside County Coach.

The squad recently triumphed in a four counties event in St Helens, beating off the challenge of teams from Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Cheshire.

A photograph of a modern, multi-story building with a glass and brick facade. People are walking on the sidewalk in front of the building. The text '25% more pupils are gaining five A\*-C grades at GCSE now' is overlaid on the bottom right of the image.

**'25% more pupils are gaining five A\*-C grades at GCSE now'**

We've come a long way in the last nine years. Just think where we'll be in the next.

[www.kensingtonregeneration.com](http://www.kensingtonregeneration.com)

The 'believington' logo, featuring a stylized 'b' and the word 'believington' in a green, lowercase font.



# news round up

## Dog owners beware

Liverpool City Council is turning up the pressure on people who allow their dogs to foul the city's streets and open spaces. Council chiefs say they could hand out over 1,000 fixed penalty notices to dog owners in 2009/10, more than any other local authority. The move is a response to the city's annual quality of life survey which repeatedly highlights dog fouling as one of the major concerns of residents.

## Art success

Four members of a Kensington project for people with learning disabilities recently had their art works exhibited at two city centre venues. The work of the residents from the L'Arche Project in Fairfield was on display at the Studio at the Tate and at the Egg Cafe. The pieces were created on an 'in my Liverpool home' theme linked to the city's Capital of Culture celebrations.



## Drama premiered

A gritty drama about knife and gun crime was premiered at Kensington Fields Community Centre recently. Da Boyz, written by former Brookside writer Carol Cullington, focused on the impact of street violence on families and neighbourhoods. The play - which was supported by Jimmy McGovern and Phil Redmond - was subsequently performed at a number of other venues across the city.

## Parking triumph

After years of campaigning, people living in Kensington near the Royal Liverpool Hospital have won the right to park outside their own homes. A new scheme is being introduced in the Edinburgh Road area of Kensington Fields which will provide local residents with their own parking permits. In future, hospital visitors and other people visiting the Royal on business will face fines if they park in the area covered by the permit scheme.

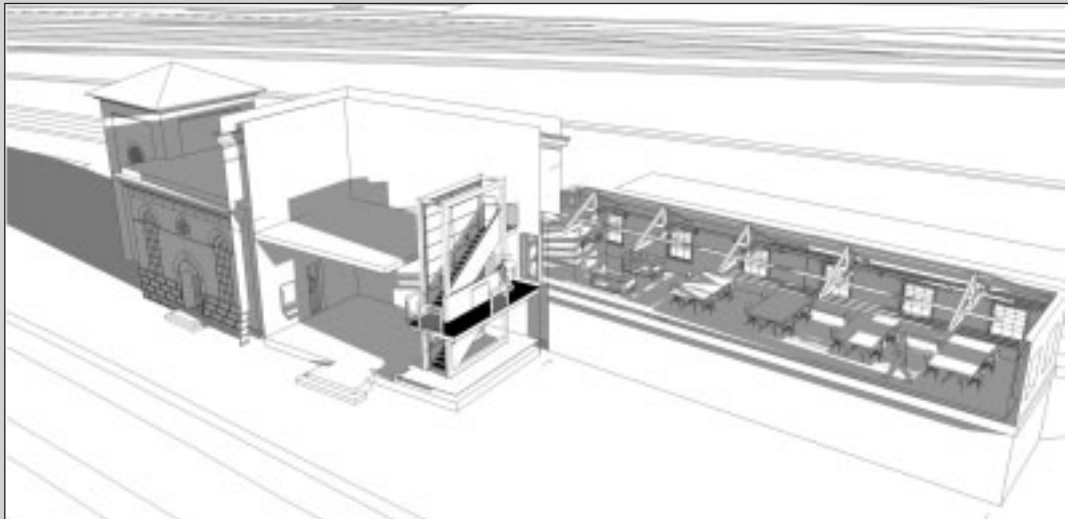
## Clean winners

Members of the Kensington Clean Team, who are a familiar sight around the area, have picked up a leading city award. The ten-man team has been honoured as team of the year by social enterprise group Local Solutions. The award recognises the team's work on tackling fly tipping, cleaning up grotspots and maintaining open spaces.



# Major new arts facility for Kensington

**Kensington is set to benefit from a major new 'platform' for arts activities in the summer.** Marmaduke Street-based arts organisation Metal is to reopen the buildings at Edge Hill railway station to the public for the first time in many years. Thanks to funding from Kensington Regeneration, Metal is turning the



How the exciting new Edge Hill arts facility will look.

buildings into a creative 'hub' for the local community, artists and the wider public. The new centre will host exhibitions, performances, discussions and events throughout 2009 and beyond as well as providing space for businesses and artists' studios. As part of the creation of the new centre Metal has also formed a group of people called Future Station to develop ideas and projects for the new facility. The group is keen to attract new members so if you would like to get involved please call 0151-261 0514 or email Jodie@metalculture.com. Edge Hill was where passenger railways began back in 1830 when Stephenson's Rocket pulled out of the station with then Prime Minister, the Duke of Wellington, on board. The two island platforms each have an original building dating from 1836. The station buildings are due to reopen around June this year.

# Bogus callers event

**A special event in Kensington has highlighted the threat that older people can face from bogus callers.** The event at Fairfield Police Club included advice from Merseyside Police and an interactive play, produced by the Evergreen Drama Group, which helped to raise awareness of the various forms of so-called distraction burglary. These can range from callers pretending to be from a utility company in order to gain access to a property to people asking for their ball back. Around 120 people attended the event, which was funded and organised by Kensington Regeneration and Merseyside Police. Sergeant Simon Joyce of the Kensington New Deal Police team said: "The aim of the day was to educate local residents about the dangers of distraction burglary. "It was a great success and we have signed up a number of individuals who wish to undergo a free crime prevention survey to help increase the safety of their homes." The event was also attended by a number of other agencies, including Age Concern Liverpool and Kensington Health Energy Advice Team (HEAT), who were on hand to discuss residents' concerns and give advice.



PC McNally from Merseyside Police lays down the law to cast members Barbara Davies (left) and Ann Roberts.



Siddi (right) is pictured with Tranmere Rovers star Edrissa Sonko.

# Local footballers embark on an African adventure

**A Kensington-based community sports group has been on an African adventure to forge links with Gambia.** Liver World recently took a group of young men to west Africa to take part in a variety of workshops and a football tournament, organised in partnership with the Gambian Football Association.

The squad took a specially designed trophy with them, signed by Tranmere Rovers star Edrissa Sonko, who is a regular for the Gambian national team. The trip was funded by Kensington Regeneration's Community Interest Company Community Fund and Community Seven. The voluntary organisation is behind a number of successful multi-cultural events, such as the Anthony Walker Festival and the Liverpool All Nations' Cup, which involved 20 football teams from different nationalities and faiths. Siddi Majubah, Liver World Co-ordinator, said: "This project will promote football as a way of building links between Liverpool and Gambia. We hope that it will encourage friendship and cultural exchange between the two countries. "The trip is educational and will improve the players' self-confidence and serve to expand their horizons. It is a pleasure to help local young people experience other countries and cultures first-hand."

'over 150 new homes are being built in kensington'

We've come a long way in the last nine years. Just think where we'll be in the next.

[www.kensingtonregeneration.com](http://www.kensingtonregeneration.com)





Olympic swimmer Steve Parry and Kensington Regeneration Chair Norma Williams (centre) with the first swimmers at St Anne's School pool.

## New pool puts Kensington in the swim

Olympic swimmer Steve Parry helped to make a big splash with the opening of a new pool in Kensington.

He launched the pool at St Anne's Primary School along with pupils, local residents and Board members of the main funders, Kensington Regeneration.

Kensington Regeneration paid £275,000 to refurbish the disused school pool, with another £10,000 from Liverpool Sport and Physical Activity Alliance.

Steve said: "This is a great opportunity for swimming in a time when so many school swimming pools are closing down. St Anne's pool will provide great opportunities

for the local community as it is the only swimming pool in Kensington so we have the opportunity to reach out to a whole community.

"In the run up to the 2012 Olympics in London we want children to be inspired by the likes of Becky Adlington and this pool will provide an opportunity for children to take part in our wonderful sport."

Kensington Regeneration Chair Norma Williams welcomed the first swimmers and said: "It is fantastic to have a new pool in Kensington, with regular lessons for school children

and also for community groups. This is an important part of our regeneration programme, to improve access to sport facilities and help people to improve their health – and who knows, even become a future Olympic medallist like Steve Parry."

The pool will be used by pupils at St Anne's, Kensington Infants, Kensington Juniors, Sacred Heart RC Primary, Phoenix Primary and St Sebastian's RC Primary. Community groups will also be able to book sessions, but it will not be open to the general public.

## Rail link back in business

A disused stretch of railway line in Edge Hill is back in business after 20 years, linking the Port of Liverpool with the West Coast Main Line.

Merseytravel's Olive Mount Chord project has involved reopening a stretch of track about a quarter of a mile long between Edge Lane junction and the Canada Dock branch line, usually known as the Bootle dock branch line.

The rail link was closed in 1988 following a fire in a signal box. Since then, freight trains have had to reverse at Edge Hill and cross the busy lines in and out of Lime Street station.

Now, following the completion of a £7.9-million project, freight will be able to move in and out of the docks much more quickly, helping it to expand and create jobs.

Merseytravel bosses also believe that the restored link will help to reduce the number of heavy vehicles travelling to Bootle from the motorway junction at Switch Island. This in turn will help to reduce road congestion and air pollution.

A number of organisations supported the Olive Mount Chord scheme including Network Rail, the Northwest Regional Development Agency, local councils and Peel Holdings. The project was also backed by European funding.



Alan Tapp and Jane Kennedy enjoy the unique 10 Downing Street atmosphere.

## DOWNING STREET INVITATION FOR KCLC MANAGER ALAN

Prime Minister Gordon Brown recently invited the manager of Kensington Community Learning Centre to a reception at 10 Downing Street.

Alan Tapp was accompanied by Wavertree MP Jane Kennedy at the event.

The invitation acknowledged the outstanding success of the centre in helping local people to acquire new skills.

Last year, KCLC was honoured as social regeneration project of the year in the prestigious awards organised by Regeneration and Renewal magazine.

This followed hot on the heels of the centre being recognised as one of the country's top five Online Centres

from a field of more than 6,000.

At the Downing Street reception, an audience of around 100 guests from around the UK were addressed by Leader of the House of Commons Harriet Harman, as Prime Minister Gordon Brown was unexpectedly called away.

Alan said: "It was a fantastic experience to go inside 10 Downing Street, to see all the photographs and paintings of past prime ministers going back to the eighteenth century and to have a look inside the Cabinet Room."

## SAFARI PARK READER OFFER



More than 35 years after opening its gates for the first time, Knowsley Safari Park remains one of the North West's most popular attractions.

And now, thanks to a great Kensington News offer, kids can go free at the park any time over the next six months (except bank holidays), saving the normal £9 admission price.

Simply cut out the vouchers on this page and hand them in at the ticket office when you arrive - it's as simple as that.

Kensington residents will find that the park on the Earl of Derby's estate gives visitors the chance to get 'up close and personal' with exotic animals from all over the globe.

These include rhinos, camels, buffalo, bison, wildebeest, lions, tigers, zebras, monkeys, deer, antelope, wallabies and – of course – Knowsley's famous baboons!

Current highlights of the safari drive include three baby white rhinos – Flannery, Cara and Kimba - plus more than a dozen lion cubs born in recent months.

Other attractions at the park include the safari village with its miniature railway and a walkaround animal area where elephants, giraffes, meerkats and otters can be viewed at close quarters.

A major new feature in this area is the park's revamped sealion facility, with a larger outdoor pool and underwater viewing facilities, which enable visitors to watch the sealions' antics throughout the day, not just at show times.

Meanwhile, Knowsley's Bug House

offers everything from snakes and lizards to cockroaches, creatures a world away from the goats, lambs, cattle and horses for the youngsters to enjoy at Children's Lake Farm.

Knowsley is also home to Aerial Extreme - the North West's largest adventure ropes course - and at peak periods there are also amusement park rides and bird of prey displays. (Additional costs apply for the ropes course and rides).

The park is open every day of the year except Christmas Day. Tickets – which have been pegged at 2008 prices - cost just £12 for adults and £9 for children, with a family ticket on offer at £37 for two adults and two children.

**For more details ring the 24-hour information line on 0151-430 9009 or log on to [www.knowsley.com](http://www.knowsley.com)**



**EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER  
KIDS GO FREE  
AT KNOWSLEY SAFARI PARK**



VOUCHER ONE

**THIS VOUCHER ADMITS ONE CHILD FREE WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY ONE FULL-PAYING ADULT WORTH £9.00**

Offer not valid on Bank Holidays.  
Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer, including family tickets.  
Normal entry price Adults £12.00. Child £9.00  
Knowsley Safari Park, Prescot, Merseyside L34 4AN.  
24 hour information line 0151 430 9009.  
Open 10am daily. Last entry 4pm.  
[www.knowsley.com](http://www.knowsley.com) Voucher expires 30.09.09  
KENSINGTON MINIBUS OR CAR ENTRY ONLY

**kensington news**  
Local views, local issues

**SAVE UP TO £13  
BY USING THESE VOUCHERS**

**Directions:** Leave the M62 at exit 6, then take the M57 at exit 2. At the roundabout follow the brown safari signs.

VOUCHER TWO

**THIS VOUCHER ADMITS ONE CHILD FREE WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY ONE FULL-PAYING ADULT WORTH £9.00**

Offer not valid on Bank Holidays.  
Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer, including family tickets.  
Normal entry price Adults £12.00. Child £9.00  
Knowsley Safari Park, Prescot, Merseyside L34 4AN.  
24 hour information line 0151 430 9009.  
Open 10am daily. Last entry 4pm.  
[www.knowsley.com](http://www.knowsley.com) Voucher expires 30.09.09  
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Local views, local issues



# SUPERLAMBANANA MAKES A VISIT TO ST SEBASTIAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pupils and staff at St Sebastian's Primary School in Kensington recently welcomed a VIP guest in the form of one of Liverpool's much-loved Superlambananas.

The striking sculpture named 24 Hours was given pride of place in the hall of the Fairfield school for the week-long visit.

Deputy Head Teacher, Margaret Hagan, said: "Everyone was really excited to see this fabulous creature in our school. Children were bringing in their parents to have their pictures taken with the lambie and it was a great boost for all the staff too."



The VIP guest is welcomed by Margaret Hagan (right), Nursery Nurse Angela Denson and a group of St Sebastian's pupils.

## Interested in FREE training for your staff or volunteers?

KCLC are now working in partnership with Intellect Training Enterprise (ITE) to provide FREE NVQs and Skills for Life courses. Students who are employed, or involved in voluntary work are eligible for the following funded courses:

<b>ITQ</b> levels 2 & 3	<b>Team Leading</b> level 2
<b>Business Administration</b> levels 2 & 3	<b>Management</b> level 3
<b>Customer Service</b> levels 2 & 3	<b>Business Improvement techniques</b> levels 2 & 3

In addition, courses in Literacy & Numeracy (levels 1 & 2) can be delivered at KCLC.

So, are you an organisation interested in FREE training for your staff or volunteers?

Or are you employed or working as a volunteer and want to achieve a nationally recognised qualification?

If the answer is YES to any of these questions, please contact either Danielle at ITE on 07894 793 366/0151 647 7505, for more information on NVQs, or contact KCLC on 0151 260 1006 for an assessment appointment for Literacy and Numeracy.

kensington community learning centre

ITE

A kensington regeneration funded project

learnington

## Artistic celebrations

A Kensington community group gave local residents the chance to brush up their art skills to mark International Women's Day.

United Colours of Kensington (UCOK), a group that provides face painting at community events, held painting workshops and design competitions at Kensington Infants School.

Around 70 people attended the day, which also included salsa dancing, arts and crafts for children, head massage and keep fit activities.

All proceeds from the event went to Steps To Freedom, a local charity that supports survivors of childhood abuse.

UCOK Chair Oli Thomas said: "It was a fabulous, fun event with lots of colour. I think everyone really enjoyed themselves. We have also recruited some new face painters as a result of the workshops."



Facing a challenge – Olivia Taylor gets busy with a group of local youngsters.

## other languages

For further information please contact Kensington Regeneration on 233 6136.

للمزيد من المعلومات ، لطفا اتصل مشروع إعادة انعاش كزينجتون على هاتف رقم 233 6136.

Pro další informace, volejte prosím Kensington Regeneration na tel. čísle 233 6136

Pour plus d'information, veuillez contacter Kensington Regeneration au 233 6136.

بۆ زانیاری زیاتر تکایه په یوښوونکى بکه به کښنگتون جنډرېشن لاسار ژماره 2336136

மேலதிக விபரங்களுக்கு தயவு செய்து கென்ஸிங்டன் ரிஜனரேஷன் பகுதி 233 6136 உடன் தொடர்பு கொள்ளவும்.

لپه معلومات زیاتر تکایه (Kensington Regeneration) ژانډرېشن 2336136 په پیاوړه تم کړئ.

## notice board

Upcoming dates for your diary:

**Fairfield Neighbourhood Assembly**  
Wednesday 22nd April  
6.30pm-8.30pm  
Fairfield Police Club

Don't forget Kensington Regeneration also has a website where you can find information about the partnership and what's going on in the New Deal area as well as the latest from Kensington News. You can also have your say about the issues that affect you most.

The Kensington Regeneration website can be accessed at:  
[www.kensingtonregeneration.com](http://www.kensingtonregeneration.com)

## 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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