

Green Shoots Stories

In September 2018 we launched **Green Shoots** as part of our **Grenfell Community Development Fund** to enable one-off projects which bring bursts of hope and joy to North Kensington.

The fund is open to any constituted group which is recognised as being part of the local community, including charities, community interest companies, faith groups and residents' associations. Groups can apply for grants of **up to £1,000 in a 12-month period**.

In year one of Green Shoots we awarded grants totalling **£68,848**, for **67 projects** which ranged from community festivals and family fun days to art workshops and gardening projects. So far over **10,000 people** who live, work and go to school in North Kensington have benefitted.

Here are just some of the projects we supported in year one:



Rugby Portobello Trust's Christmas Lunch

In December 2018 Rugby Portobello Trust hosted a Seniors' Christmas Dinner, which provided 100 North Kensington residents aged 50 and over with a free sit-down community dinner prepared by a local Caribbean restaurant owner. Many of the guests live close to Grenfell Tower and this event provided them with the opportunity to come together at a time of year that can be particularly difficult.



Hodan Somali Community's Family Fun Day

In February Hodan Somali Community hosted a family fun day for local families. In addition to refreshments and entertainment for the children, a local artist also worked with the families to create a map of all the local places and services available to them. After the event one parent said, *"I feel happier and more confident now. I made friends and feel now I am part of a community"*.



Salamat Festival

In July the Sudanese Community & Information Centre partnered with a number of other community groups and RBKC's Grenfell Recovery Team to host the Salamat African Cultural Awareness Festival. The event brought together 700 to 800 people from North Kensington's diverse community for a day of entertainment and education celebrating African culture and history. Attendees enjoyed contemporary and traditional live music, dance, food stalls, talks and market stalls selling clothes, art and jewellery.



24 Hearts CIC's 'Up the Junction' Carnival 2019 Project

In August local artist Sophie Lodge held a series of free workshops in Maxilla Gardens where local adults and children made decorations to 'dress up' the junction between Ladbroke Grove and Lancaster Road for Notting Hill Carnival. They created giant colourful butterflies out of willow and strengthened tissue paper which were displayed during Carnival on the front of North Kensington Library and surrounding lampposts and railings.



Age UK K&C's Notting Hill Carnival Party

In August Age UK also celebrated Notting Hill Carnival with a party for local older people on Portobello Green held a few days before the bank holiday weekend. Delivered in partnership with the Venture Centre, the event celebrated the history of the Carnival and provided a safe and inclusive environment for around 200 people to enjoy live soca and calypso music, dancing, steelpan performances and Caribbean food.