

Green Shoots Stories

Green Shoots is our easily accessible small grants fund for projects designed to bring hope and joy to the North Kensington community. This funding is for one-off events and short-term projects such as cultural and celebration events, school holiday activities, workshops, sports sessions, and equipment for community groups. Activities can take place both in person and online.

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. From September 2020, groups can apply for grants of up to £2,500 in a 12-month period.

We have awarded grants totalling **£98,726** for **95 projects** which ranged from community festivals and family fun days, to art workshops and gardening projects. So far over **12,000 people** who live, work and go to school in North Kensington have benefitted.

Here are just some of the projects we've supported so far:



Rugby Portobello Trust's Christmas Lunch

Rugby Portobello Trust's Seniors' Christmas Dinner 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 lived 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.



Salamat Festival

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 over 700 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 Project

In August 2019 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 Ladbrooke 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.



Minds United F.C.'s Football Sessions

Minds United F.C.'s weekly sessions provide people affected by mental ill health and substance abuse in North Kensington with the opportunity to play football and socialise in a safe and non-judgemental environment. The team was set up in 2019 by local resident Tarik, who says football played a “massive role” in his recovery after being diagnosed with bipolar disorder seven years ago. Over 30 players are now registered with Minds United, many of whom say the sessions are the highlight of their week.



TedX Ladbroke Grove

In November 2019 Nova New Opportunities hosted the first ever TedX Ladbroke Grove conference at The Tabernacle. The event celebrated the diversity and strength of the local community and explored the power of humanity, technology and innovation as a means to effect positive social change. Speakers included community activist Joe Delaney, inspirational speaker Lee Lawrence and Jo Cox Foundation ambassador Kim Leadbeater, as well as a performance by the Kensington Aldridge Academy Choir.



Morley Heart Gardens

In July 2020 Morley College in North Kensington partnered with Grow2Know CIC to redevelop a green space outside the college to create a tranquil garden area and a lasting memorial to the victims of Grenfell. Following the Covid-19 lockdown, young people had the opportunity to spend time outside in a safe space, learn about gardening, plant vegetables and create a space which can be enjoyed by students and the local community for years to come.



Age UK K+C's Virtual Carnival Party

Despite the cancellation of this year's Notting Hill Carnival due to the coronavirus pandemic, Age UK K+C still enabled the community to come together and celebrate with a two-day online intergenerational event. Over 150 people took part in a variety of Carnival-themed activities including Caribbean cookery demonstrations, steel pan performances, Calypso and Soca dance classes and talks about the Carnival's rich history.