First petal added to flourishing mosaic

One month on from the anniversary of the Grenfell Tower tragedy, the first of 12 mosaic petals has been added to the Grenfell Memorial Community Mosaic. The petal, created by Latymer Community Church, features the word “Love”, as chosen by members of the church.

The centre of the mosaic, which sits at the base of the Tower, was unveiled on Thursday 14 June 2018 as part of the Grenfell anniversary events programme.

Over the course of a year, 12 different community groups will be working with mosaic artists Emily Fuller and Tomomi Yoshida to produce the 12 mosaic petals, with each petal featuring a word chosen by the community group. These petals will then be installed on the 14th of each month.

The commemorative piece is a collaboration created by visual arts charity ACAVA and Al Manaar, the Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre.

The next group to create a petal will be Henry Dickens Community Centre during July followed by the ClementJames Centre in August.

For updates on the Memorial Mosaic and other ACAVA projects, follow @ACAVAflourish on Twitter.
Voices from Grenfell take to the stage

On Saturday 14 July Kamitan Arts brought their Poetry 4 Grenfell show to The Bush Theatre in Shepherds Bush for a one year on from Grenfell commemorative performance. The sold-out show, featuring poetry, spoken word and performance, was a heartfelt tribute to the families and friends of those who lost their lives in the Grenfell Tower Tragedy.

Attendees at the show were moved and heartened by the performances, with one audience member describing the evening as “heartfelt, vital and necessary – the community’s soul speaks volumes”.

As well as hosting an evening of live poetry and performance, Poetry 4 Grenfell has released a book, “Voices from da Grove and Latimer”, featuring many of the pieces performed on the night.

Co-founder of Justice 4 Grenfell, Yvette Williams MBE said, “It is my pleasure to welcome this publication by Kamitan Arts/Poetry for Grenfell who have been both inspirational and therapeutic following the dreadful tragedy at Grenfell Tower. They have provided a positive artistic presence in North Kensington. My daughter has gained a renewed confidence and has thrived on their activities and performances she has taken part in this year. I wish them every success in the future”.

Survivors and those bereaved by Grenfell can email ka.1@hotmail.co.uk for a complimentary copy of the book.

If you missed out on this touching evening of tribute, come along to St Phillips Church, Earls Court Road, W8 6QH on Monday 30 July where Poetry 4 Grenfell will be hosting a free show at 7pm, after a poetry workshop for children at 5pm. To register for this show or workshop email ka.1@hotmail.co.uk. You will be able to buy the Poetry 4 Grenfell book at this event.

Family fun this summer

Summer in the City is your one-stop guide to activities for kids and their families across Kensington and Chelsea and neighbouring boroughs this summer. The huge array of events, workshops, sports programmes and more will make sure there’s not a moment of boredom this summer. Why not spend the next few weeks getting fit and active, diving into a new hobby, meeting new friends and getting creative?

So what’s on offer?

For kids who love to perform, try your hand at creating a whole play in just a day at the Chickenshed “Play in a Day” workshop. Think you could do it? Save the date Wednesday 25 July and book your place today. This free day of drama, music and movement is for 12 to 19 year olds and will run from 10.30am to 3.30pm at The Curve, 10 Bard Road, W10 6TP. To book a place or for more information, email bookings@chickenshed.org.uk.

Bring some adventure to your summer by joining the fun at the Canalside Centre, Canal Close, W10 5AY on Monday 23 July to Friday 24 August. Kayak down the canals of London or build your strength by climbing the purpose-built climbing wall. The action packed activity days cost £2 per session and are for ages 16 to 19 year olds.

The ClementJames Centre has a fantastic week of free activities for young people aged 12 to 17 years. The “Express Yourself” programme will give young people the chance to try their hand at creative writing, t-shirt decorating, Djing and digital orchestra, all leading up to a showcase event for family and friends at the end of the week.

The week-long course will start on Monday 23 July and run each day from 9.30am to 3pm until Friday 27 July. The majority of activities will take place at The ClementJames Centre, 95 Sirdar Road, W11 4EQ, however there will be a trip to BSix Sixth Form College in Hackney (Kenninghall Road, ES 8BP) on Wednesday 25 July for the Djing workshop.

There are limited places on this course so to find out more or book a place, email renuka@clementjames.org or call 020 7792 9189.

On Friday 17 August don’t miss the Kensington and Chelsea Play Day, a free fun family day out for all families across the borough and beyond. Enjoy fun fair rides, games, sports, arts and crafts, inflatables, bike riding and activities for young children. No need to book, just come along with the family and enjoy an action packed day out from 12 noon to 4.30pm at Emslie Hornimans Pleasance Park, Bosworth Road, W10 5EG.

There’s something for everyone in the Summer in the City guide. To see a list of events taking place in Kensington and Chelsea, see the flyer on the Grenfell Support website https://bit.ly/2jvtrEY. For more information on the programme and to see even more events, visit www.mysummerinthecity.org.uk and take charge of your summer!
Activities programme at The Curve Community Centre

Monday 23 July

- 10am-12.30pm – Nova ICT Class
- 10.30am-3.30pm – The Chicken Shed Theatre Group (a fun theatre workshop encouraging families to create and perform together for local residents of all ages)
- 1pm-3pm – English skills (literacy for native speaking)
- 1pm-3pm – Total Family Coaching - coping skills
- 2pm-4pm – Grenfell Support Service (drop-in)
- 2pm-4pm – Epic Youth Group (a group for teens to discuss diversity)
- 5pm-7pm – Homework Club (ages 11-18 with a qualified tutor (drop-in)
- 6pm-8pm – Pre-ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) English
- 6.30pm-7.30pm – Women’s only Zumba Class

Tuesday 24 July

- 9.30am-11.30am and 12.25pm-2.30pm ESOL English language classes (please email sakinahtouzani@westway.org to book)
- 10.30am-12.30pm – Job search and CV sessions (open area 1st floor) (drop-in)
- 10am-3pm – Fouzia’s Sewing Club – sewing club for all, grow your skills, knit and natter (drop-in)
- 5pm-7pm – Arabic Language Classes for ages seven plus (registration is required - please email thecurve@rbkc.gov.uk)

Wednesday 25 July

- 10am-12 noon – World coffee morning – free and open to all for a coffee and a chat
- 10am-12.30pm – Nova ICT employment skills
- 10.30am-12.30pm – Job search and CV sessions (open area 1st floor) (drop-in)
- 10.30am-3.30pm – The Chicken Shed Theatre group (a fun theatre workshop encouraging families to create and perform together for residents of all ages)
- 2pm-4pm – Drug and alcohol support drop-in session
- 4pm-5pm – Clay Workshop for children aged six-12 years
- 4pm-7pm – Girls youth group for ages 13 plus (run by Laura for emotional health and wellbeing)
- 6pm-7pm – Shared reading group, open to all reading abilities. Come and share the joy of reading as a group

Thursday 26 July

- 10.30am-11.30am – Stay and Play – giving children and their parents/guardians a chance to play, sing, explore and learn together
- 1pm-3pm – ICT Skills and pre-employment support, suitable for those not ready for the Job Centre (drop-in)
- 2pm-3pm – Nova (Alex) ICT Employment skills (drop-in)
- 4pm-4.45pm – Healthy snack time for kids (limited spaces, please email thecurve@rbkc.gov.uk to book)
- 5pm-7pm – Arabic Language Classes for age seven plus (registration is required – please email thecurve@rbkc.gov.uk)

Friday 27 July

- 10am-1pm – Midaye – Somali development network
- 11am-11.40am – Zumbinis – Zumba for children under five and parent/carers
- 6pm-8pm – Kids on the Green (Fun arts and crafts activities for any ages)

Saturday 28 July

- 12am-2.30pm – Metronomes steel pan orchestra (A vibrant selection of music originating from Trinidad and Tobago)
Support services on offer
Anyone who would like to speak to the police in relation to the investigation into the Grenfell Tower tragedy is asked to contact the Met Police on 0800 032 4539.

Important Contacts
Cruse Bereavement Care
Call the Freephone helpline on 0808 808 1677 or email helpline@cruse.org.uk
The helpline is open Monday–Friday from 9.30am–5pm. Extended hours Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings until 8pm.

Replacement UK passports, visas or immigration queries
Call our advice line on 0300 303 2832.
The line is open 24 hours.

Air quality and smoke exposure
If you have concerns about any symptoms, please see your doctor or call NHS 111.

Housing support
If you have any questions about housing or want to find out who your housing officer is please call 0800 137 111 or 020 7361 3008.

Victim support
Call 0808 1689 111 for practical and emotional support, or visit victimsupport.org.uk The line is open 24 hours a day.

The Grenfell Muslim Response Unit also offers additional support. Find out more by emailing info@gmru.co.uk
You can also get physical and mental support at The Curve Community Centre. Call 077 1223 1133.

Hestia, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust, and the Drug and Alcohol Service are based overnight at the Notting Hill Methodist Church, Lancaster Road from 10pm to 8am. Pop in for a chat and support.

Upcoming meetings
Residents welcome to attend.
Grenfell Recovery Scrutiny Committee:
Tuesday 24 July, 6.30pm
Kensington Town Hall
Leadership Team Meeting
Wednesday 25 July, 6.30pm-8.30pm
Small Hall, Kensington Town Hall
Full Council:
Wednesday 17 October, 6.30pm
Kensington Town Hall

Future of Grenfell Tower site
Ministers are committed to continuing on the journey towards a fitting memorial at the Grenfell Tower site and are working closely with the bereaved and survivors on the best way to do this. There are other shorter term issues in relation to the site which need to be handled sensitively. Ministers have written to the bereaved and survivors set out the key stages they see going forward. You can find that letter here: https://bit.ly/2uIneA1. Further conversations with the community will be had in due course.

Kensington Aldridge Academy update
You may be aware of Kensington Aldridge Academy’s (KAA) plan to return to its original site in Silchester Road in September. As part of this, the school governors sought a range of information from experts and partners including the NHS and the independent Grenfell Site Management team. The site team has worked closely with the school to reassure them about the stability of the Tower and the likely impacts, if a decision is made to deconstruct the Tower. The team would like to make sure you have access to this information, which has been made available on KAA’s website: https://bit.ly/2jx3Qvp.

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The newsletter is also available in Arabic and Farsi languages.