

KENDAL

Summer 2020

More than a market town – Your newsletter from Kendal Town Council

THANK YOU

What's inside

A HUGE THANK YOU

to all Covid-19 Key workers, front line workers and volunteers

Festivals update, Waste into Wellbeing, Black Lives Matter, pioneering women, Climate Change Jury and greening Kendal updates.



New Horizons For Kendal Town Council

Kendal Town Council will be welcoming a new Town Clerk this summer. Former Town Clerk, Liz Richardson has served Kendal Town Councillors for 14 years. Councillors have thanked her for all her hard work and wish her well in her next venture. In addition to welcoming a new Clerk later this summer, Kendal Town Council have temporarily moved to a new office in South Lakeland House whilst the Town Hall is refurbished.

To protect public and staff during this time we ask that you contact Flo via office@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk or **01539 793490** to make an appointment to see an officer if your query cannot be handled over the phone or email.

A new Facebook Page is also launching in August to help residents keep up to speed with KTC projects and all the amazing community initiatives and events we support.

Covid-19

Kendal's response to COVID-19 has been incredible. It is inspiring to see the town pull together to help the most vulnerable residents through these difficult times.

Back in March, Kendal Community Emergency Planning Group (KCEPG) and Kendal Integrated Care Community (KICC) joined forces to create Kendal Self Isolation Support Group and recruited over 180 volunteers. We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to them all for everything they have done and continue to do.

KCEPG were formed in 2016 to work with the community to provide information and assistance in the event of an emergency. Funded by Cumbria Community Foundation and Kendal Town Council, their main focus has been on flooding following on from Storm Desmond in 2015. Their community emergency plan for the town also focuses on other emergencies so when the Coronavirus outbreak began the group were able to use their resources and contacts to assist those in need.

The focus of KICC is to ensure that the people of Kendal are supported to improve their own health and wellbeing, and that when people are ill or need support, they receive the best possible joined-up care. They were able to use their resources to identify the most vulnerable people in our community. The volunteers were then able to deliver 'request for help' cards

to those most in need.

Along with requests received from the card deliveries, the volunteers have also been helping people who got in touch with Cumbria County Council's helpline. The Helpline was set up to help those who are at high risk of becoming seriously ill due to COVID-19 and who do not have support available

from friends, family or neighbours.

In May alone the fabulous volunteers helped over 200 residents with shopping, prescription collections, dog walking, posting mail, friendly phone calls and even moving furniture. They also delivered 2000 wellbeing booklets to help people look after themselves during lockdown.



The Support continues...

The Cumbria County Council helpline on 0800 783 1966 will stay open until at least the end of August and many of the volunteers will continue to help people in the community for as long as they need the help. Hazel Belshaw, Co-ordinator for KCEPG said

"Even though the restrictions for people who are classed as high risk are being lifted, we realise that many people will still feel nervous about going out, especially to busy places, so we want to ensure that they can get in touch with us and our volunteers will be happy to help." If

you need help or know someone that does then please get in touch with Hazel on kendalsisg@gmail.com or call the CCC helpline on **0800 783 1966**. You can also follow them on **Facebook**.

In addition to the incredible support offered by Kendal's Isolation Support Group, the following groups and individuals have also played a huge part in helping Kendal:

- NHS workers
- All key workers
- The local authorities for wellbeing support, grant administration for businesses and the safe reopening of Kendal
- Local faith groups and faith leaders
- Local charities including Sight Advice for relaxation sessions, Lakeland Arts for care home art magazines and Manna House for their continued support to our most vulnerable community members
- Kendal schools for providing key worker support and welcoming pupils back where possible. Also Stramongate School and St Thomas's School for the 'Pots of Happiness' project
- Our creative residents for lifting spirits including Rachel Cads for Kids Kat Chit Chat sessions on Gooseholme, the Covid Pebble Snakes @ Dockray & Briarigg, Alison Nicholson for the knitted hearts project and the anonymous Burneside Road residents for leaving home schooling resources in the bus shelter!



- The Waste into Wellbeing initiative and its volunteers, supporters and partners
- Everyone who has supported friends and family, volunteered, managed work whilst looking after children and survived lockdown to help protect the most vulnerable in our community - well done all!

There are too many people in this lovely town to name every single brilliant being but we trust that this list gives a flavour of some of the fantastic initiatives that have helped others and demonstrates our gratitude for all the positive responses during this difficult time.

THANK YOU ALL

Vegetable and herb planters



South Lakes Action on Climate Change has volunteers caring for "Edible Planters" in three sites around Kendal. The planters provide vegetables and other edible crops and look great!

The vegetable planters at the South Lakes Foyer have courgettes, beans, peas, cabbages and lots of herbs and will

soon be adding a tier of lettuces. The produce will be used by the Waste into Wellbeing project later in the year. South Lakes Action on Climate Change also care for a planter outside the leisure centre and two by Nobles Rest in Maude Street.

SLACC are always looking for support in caring for the planters and spare seedlings to help them thrive as the year progresses are welcome.

Contact : slacc@slacc.org.uk

Civic planting



The last few months have been a challenging and uncertain time for most people. We are pleased that we have been able to continue to keep Kendal looking bright and beautiful with the installation of the summer plants. We hope this has helped to lift people's spirits and spread a little happiness at the sight of the summer blooms.

Tree tubs



Kendal Town Council are delighted that the new cladding on the high street tree tubs has been welcomed by local businesses and residents. The cladding has given the old black tubs a mini face lift and complements the wooden benches in the Town Centre. Kendal Town Council are grateful to SLDC and Continental for their installation help.

Shap Road bench

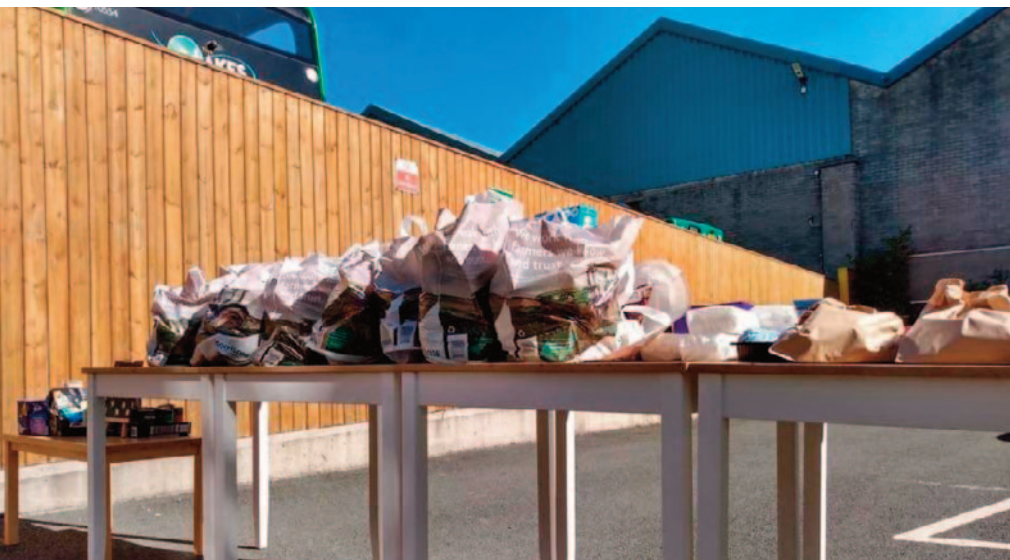


Thanks to Cllr Cornthwaite and Thomas Armstrong, the Shap Road cycleway contractors, a well-loved bench has been upgraded and reinstated after its removal for the works. The bench was installed by family members in memory of Brian and Terry Mattison, local and active Councillors. The bench is now looked after by Kendal Town Council.





waste into
wellbeing
KENDAL PEOPLE'S CAFE



The much-loved Kendal People's Café has held an important place at the heart of Kendal since 2017 and now forms part of the Waste into Wellbeing (WIW) initiative, alongside Kendal Food Hub. The core goal is to reduce food waste, operate in an environmentally friendly way and have a positive impact on food poverty as well as the planet.

The project is now an integral part of the local environmental charity, South Lakes Action on Climate Change.

Whilst WIW has grown and evolved, no changes have been as rapid as when the Coronavirus pandemic struck. It forced the suspension of the twice monthly pay as you go café sessions and event involvement and

a radical rethink to ensure the continuation of community support.

Since March, the project has seen surplus collections decline, while the demand for support continues to rise. WIW is responsive to collecting surplus produce when available and a weekly community donation from Morrisons supermarket has enabled WIW to operate three weekly food shares at locations around the town.

Since the start of lockdown until the beginning of July, WIW has shared over 1,500 mixed grocery bags with residents of Kendal. The food shares are free to attend and open to anyone needing help. Over the summer, the group will be trialling a food larder style share, offering attendees more choice. For the latest information about the food shares visit the **website** or follow the latest news on **Facebook**.

WIW and the NHS Integrated Care in the Community team also host a monthly social meal for vulnerable and isolated elderly residents through its Lunch Bunch scheme. Despite Covid-19 the Lunch Bunch has continued thanks to the help of marvellous carers and nurses who have helped deliver over 200 meals; all of which have been met with smiles of appreciation.

Waste into Wellbeing was delighted to be chosen as one of Mayor Alvin Finch's charities for 2019/20, and will benefit from the Mayor's fundraising efforts.

The Charity has also partnered with Kendal Town Council to urge allotment holders, residents and businesses alike to donate their surplus produce to support the community. **Follow this link for more information** about how you might be able to help or email slacc@slacc.org.uk directly.

WIW is only possible thanks to the hard work, creativity and generosity of its 80 volunteers.

Kate Tordoff describes what drove her to get involved "I've been volunteering with Kendal People's Cafe for the past



Special delivery for Lunch Bunch members for VE Day.

three years or so. I was attracted by the ethos, turning food waste into healthy nourishing foods, and motivated by the wish to give something back to this lovely town that has been my home for only a few years. I love the buzz of the cafes,

meeting a whole range of people and personalities, and have enjoyed the pop-up events we have run, making pizzas in Sandylands and burritos on Stricklandgate and taking our message of waste into wellbeing out to the wider public."

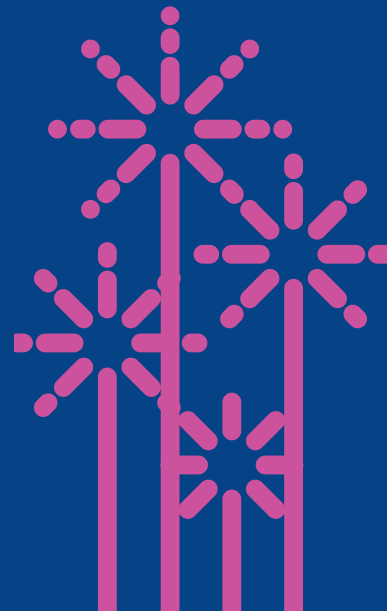
Let's celebrate Kendal!

Now that the bunting is up and shops have re-opened, Kendal Town Council is keen to play its part in helping Kendal to safely welcome back responsible visitors.

We have already confirmed to our wonderful existing festivals that our grants for this year will still be paid to them, whether or not their event is able to go ahead.

We have received lovely messages, telling us how Kendal Town Council's grant will help them meet expenses already incurred, enhance their planning for next year and/or help them create a digital event.

Follow these links for news about exciting plans for
Kendal Torchlight Carnival
Lakes International Comic Art Festival
Kendal Mountain Film Festival



New Festival Start Up Grant

Kendal Town Council want to do more to give Kendal and our community a boost and to support our local economy. We have created a fund of

small start-up grants of up to £500 to encourage new festivals and events in Kendal from next spring. **To find out more and apply follow this link.**

Christmas Lights

Save the date, Saturday 21st November, has been pencilled in for the town's Christmas Lights Switch-on event. As always there will be a Christmas tree and Christmas lights no matter how these strange times

unfold. Hopefully we shall be able to gather round our tree, celebrate together and give thanks to all those wonderful people in our community who have worked so hard to keep others safe and well.



Unity Festival

The third Kendal Unity Festival was a virtual event this year because of Covid-19.

Kendal Unity Festival is designed to help build community cohesion and foster good relations by tackling prejudice, promoting mutual understanding and celebrating the diversity of people and cultures in Kendal.

Marcia Reid Fotheringham, the former High Sheriff of Cumbria, opened the festival on June 20th, **hear her opening speech here.** Several online activities

including music sessions, creative workshops, cooking demonstrations and story telling. The connection hub activities culminated with a closing video created by young people.

The organising committee would like to thank Erika Ghinelli, Jemima Longcake and Charles Whitehead for all they have done to make this virtual Kendal Unity Festival a success.

Further information including videos, photos and access to the online activities can be found on our **website.**

Pioneering Women list features Kendal

Kendal based Jacquetta Gomes has been recognised in the UK's 100 pioneering women list as the world's first female Buddhist Fire Chaplain.

Chaplains play an important part in the fire service, offering pastoral, spiritual and religious support to anyone in the service who requests it. Jacquetta's role involves offering a confidential listening service to members of the team.

Jacquetta has been a Buddhist for most of her life and this role provides the opportunity to be of service to the community 'Every time I act as a Chaplain as well as helping others I learn and expand my understanding,' she explains. As the daughter of a firefighter herself, she's keenly aware of the bonds between people working in the fire service, 'We see the fire service as a family and I'm very happy that I've been part of that family.'

Jacquetta is a crucial member of the fire service team and we are very pleased and proud to benefit from her service here in Kendal.



Black Lives Matter

As Martin Luther King Junior once said "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere". Prejudice, racism and intolerance should have no place in the UK and to overcome this deeply rooted problem effort is required from all of us. No longer is it enough to simply not be racist, we all need to be active anti-racists to help tackle it in all its forms.

Human experiences connect us, as individuals. Most human experiences are not unique. At some point we will all lose a loved one, we will all know someone who has been discriminated against for just being who they are, or we will be discriminated against for being who we are. Sharing those experiences can help break down the silos, break down the walls, and hopefully, change and save lives.

We want Kendal to be a town where everyone is comfortable to be themselves so that we can all live and work together in peace and harmony.

Kendal Town Councillors have agreed to develop and adopt a Black Lives Matter statement to show their solidarity for the movement.





Kendal's Climate Change Citizens' Jury Gets Under way



Members of the Kendal Climate Change Citizens' Jury have now been agreed following a four-week recruitment drive with 4,000 letters sent to randomly selected addresses across Kendal and 250 replies received. The twenty strong Jury has been chosen to reflect the diversity of Kendal's population in terms of age, gender, attitudes to climate change and geography.

Cllr Eamonn Hennessy from Kendal Town Council said: "We have been astounded by the response to the recruitment drive, with registrations of interest coming from all corners of the town and from people of all ages. After so much planning and campaigning to make Kendal the first ever town to host a Citizen's Jury on climate change, it feels fantastic to finally have this exciting and innovative process under way. I for one am looking forward to following the jury's progress throughout."

The first of nine sessions begun on the 2nd of July when Jury members were introduced to each other for the first time at an online meeting hosted

by Shared Future, a not for profit social enterprise. The jury members will get to listen to and question a range of expert commentators before creating a set of recommendations which will be presented in October to the Town Council and other key organisations.

Businesses, residents and visitors are encouraged to follow this important and influential group as they debate, discuss and consider the question 'What should Kendal do about the emergency of climate change?'. A dedicated **website** allows access to recordings of presentations made to the jury by the expert commentators. The first three experts have been selected to set the context for the jury, but after that the group will steer the sessions and identify the topics they wish to explore in their fortnightly meetings. Details of the jury's developments will be shared via the website and social media as they evolve throughout the process. The website also offers information on what a Citizens' Jury is and how the process has worked in cities around the UK. It will be regularly updated and will record the recommendations

made by the Jury after they've been presented to Kendal Town Council and partners in October. Following the process, the website will be kept updated with the actions made based on the recommendations.

Cllr Jon Owen from Kendal Town Council said: "The Crowdfunder campaign proved just how important climate change is to Kendal's community. We urge businesses and residents alike to join us on this journey by keeping up to date with the jury as it progresses. Between now and October we will be sharing commentator presentations, interviews and summaries of jury sessions via our new website and Facebook page. Everyone has a part to play in ensuring the recommendations are responded to, so make sure you stay informed."

Funding has come from the Town, District and County Councils and 181 local people and businesses who contributed to a Crowdfunder campaign which raised over £6,000.

For more information visit our **website** or follow Kendal Citizens' Jury on **Facebook**



www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk | 01539 793490

Contact newsletter editor via helen@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk