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Remembering Margaret Donnelly 1941 – 2023

Everyone at ADKC was saddened to receive the news that Margaret Donnelly, the Chair of our organisation, has passed away.

Margaret was a kind, intelligent and universally loved member of ADKC who, as well as chairing our organisation for the last 12 years, was also active as a volunteer and member of our groups.

I will personally miss Margaret very much. She was quite simply one of the nicest people I have ever met. A gentle woman with a strong sense of right and wrong and a great sense of humour. We worked closely together for many years and she was a hugely supportive presence within the organisation. Someone I

could always go to with any problem, safe in the knowledge that she would take the time to talk things through with me (regardless of the challenges she was facing in her life).

A retired librarian, Margaret was a keen reader and I treasure the many conversations we had about favourite books. She also enjoyed a drink and introduced me to membership of The Wine Society, for which I am eternally grateful.

When I think of Margaret, I think of kindness, laughter and a strong moral compass. All things I will miss. All things we could do with much more of right now.

Memories of Margaret

"I really valued the time that Margaret was volunteering in the office - she sat close to my desk, so it was nice to be able to have a quick chat between calls and appointments."
Jenny Hurst, ADKC

"Margaret will surely be missed by us all. She was such a wonderful kind soul."
Glenda Joseph, ADKC

"Margaret was a lovely lady"
Simone Galloway, ADKC

"She was such a lovely person."
Mary Ann Mallet, ADKC

"I will always remember Margaret quietly reading a book in between telephone calls or talking to staff as an office volunteer."
Marian O'Donoghue, ADKC

Editor's word

Jamie Renton



Welcome to the first Newsflash of 2023.

In this issue you will find tributes to Margaret Donnelly who chaired our organisation from December 2011 until her sad death in January of this year. I cannot express to you how much Margaret will be missed.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to update you regarding the ongoing (and seemingly never-ending) saga of the reopening of our building. Every time we think we're ready to reopen, we discover something else has gone wrong! At the moment we're working to get our heating, hot water and shutters repaired. Clearly, we

cannot reopen until all of that is sorted out. However, as soon as it is, I very much look forward to welcoming you back to The ADKC Centre, if you can make it there (and I'll make sure the kettle's on!)

Until then, please take care and remember, ADKC is here to support you whenever you need us.

Jamie Renton
Chief Executive

Pictures from ADKC's Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 14th December 2022

This was a hybrid meeting, with over twenty people attending in person and many more joining online.

It was a learning experience and we are using feedback from the meeting to help us to develop this way of working and meeting in the future.



The ADKC staff



Jamie Renton
Chief Executive



Catherine Dohou
Support Worker



Marian O'Donoghue
Information and Advice Officer



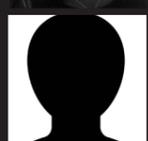
Simone Galloway
Disability Connect Co-ordinator



Jenny Hurst
Independent Living Project Co-ordinator



Glenda Joseph
Personal Development Officer



Carla Camilleri
Disability Specialist
Legal Advice Worker



Mariya Stoeva
Access Project Co-ordinator



Mary Ann Mallet
COVID-19 Volunteer Coordinator



Theresa McGrady
Voice of Experience Co-ordinator

Disabled People's Question Time

The next Kensington and Chelsea Disabled People's Question Time will take place on Thursday 13th April, 4-6pm.

It will be a Transport Special with a panel of local senior

service providers answering your questions on transport for disabled people.

This will be our first hybrid Question Time, offering you the option of joining the meeting in person

at Kensington Town Hall (places will be limited) or remotely via Zoom.

More details to follow soon.

Save the date!

Feedback on New Housing Policy

Theresa McGrady, ADKC's Voice of Experience Co-ordinator reports on the Positive Rights Action Group's (PRAG) recent success...

Staff from RBKC attended as guests at the Voice of Experience/PRAG meetings and the feedback was incorporated into the new policy, which I received last autumn.

Paste the following link into your browser to read the policy:
www.rbkc.gov.uk/media/document/housing-management-repairs-policy

The main questions/concerns that Members had raised were:

- How to report a repair job.
- The length of time waiting for repairs to be carried out.
- Choice over appointment times.
- The importance of minimising mess and the need to ensure space for disabled people to get

about while repairs are carried out.

The policy sections that cover the above points are sections 8, 9, 10, 11 & 15. Section 18 covers the Council's commitment to involving residents.

ADKC and VoE/PRAG Group member Steph Vaz has provided feedback:

We met with the council through the Voice of Experience Project last year to discuss the housing repairs policy.

The RBKC staff we met were really engaging and made me feel comfortable to speak. They listened to our personal experiences when it comes to repairs and also our suggestions on how to make it a better experience for disabled tenants. I was sceptical about our suggestions being used but

now I have seen the new policy I am so proud to see they have listened to ADKC members and have actually adopted our ideas. This is an amazing step towards making the lives of disabled people more accessible.

It's great to see that when the council want to listen to us, they can. I look forward to being part of more projects like this.



SAVE THE DATE!



**The next Kensington and Chelsea
Disabled People's Question Time
will take place on Thursday 13th April, 4-6pm.**

Topic: Transport!

Where: More details to follow...

**Watch our website: www.adkc.org.uk/
OR phone 020 8960 8888**

