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## DIY SOS begins work on boxing club lost in Grenfell blaze

DIY SOS presenter Nick Knowles today described the show's project to rebuild a boxing club and community space lost in the Grenfell Tower fire as "easily the most important thing we have ever done".

The **BBC1** renovation programme began work today on the site where the facility will be rebuilt, under the A40 Westway, as it appealed for firms and construction workers to offer assistance.

The Dale Youth Boxing Academy, which counts WBA super-middleweight champion George Groves and 2008 Olympic champion James DeGale among its former members, was on the first floor of Grenfell Tower. It has been in temporary accommodation in a car

park since the fire in June last year, which killed 71 people. Knowles said: "It's the biggest and morally the most important project we've had. To get something up and built inside a year will remind the community that people do actually care.

"We don't want to build a token, or a sticking plaster — it had to be worthwhile. It's easily the most important thing we have ever done."

The DIY SOS team was on site days after the fire, but proceeded cautiously.

Knowles said: "It's important that the community feel in charge of something and that something is happening. We have a large majority in favour of what we are building. People are ready and will come to help the community rebuild themselves."

Dale Youth boxing coach Peter Liggins said: "We had so many people coming to help out [after the fire] it did make a difference, it brought both elements of North Kensington together, the deprived and the richer side. We need to keep that connection alive because it wasn't there before the fire." A two-part special will be broadcast later this year. To donate or get involved, email [diysos@bbc.co.uk](mailto:diysos@bbc.co.uk)



"Biggest project": DIY SOS presenter Nick Knowles on site under the A40 today

Barney Davis and Ross Lydall