

## **CHISWICK'S CULTURAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HOUNSLOW**

From the frivolous, lighthearted humour of Tommy Cooper, to the shocking, shaking impact of a V2 bomb, from scandalous love affairs to the blossoming delight of the royal family, from a country idyll to a vibrant, metropolitan hub, Chiswick has a centuries long tradition of cultural diversity at the eastern gateway to Hounslow. We hope that highlighting the most significant aspects of Chiswick's local culture, in its broadest sense, will add significantly to Hounslow's bid to become the London Borough of Culture 2021.

We have defined culture as anything that contributes to the cultural well-being of our society, the local community of Chiswick, and Hounslow as a whole. Taking in history, music, architecture, art, faith, literature and languages, it shows fundamentally an integrated pattern of human knowledge, belief and behaviour through the outlook, attitudes, values, morals, goals and customs shared by our people.

We have included many (but inevitably not all) of the events, markers and assets that enrich our lives. With so much already on our doorstep, it is imperative that we highlight a few cultural aspects that could enhance the interwoven threads of Chiswick's history, historical figures and contributions to the arts of all forms. From cuisine to painting, literature and architecture, media and sport, there is a cornucopia of culture to celebrate and enjoy.

When considering how we would want to prioritise mayoral funds that might come to Chiswick, we have been circumspect and mindful of the whole borough. Better funding for the dramatic arts and making it easier for young people to access music and drama is one request. Investing more in our sporting facilities and green spaces is another. Various trails in and around Chiswick – enhancing our reputation as a destination for food and drink, shopping and entertainment, exploring history, art and literature – are an obvious and inexpensive ambition that could be realised with a little kick-start funding. We want to honour our unknown heroes, whether they are battlefield heroes, documentarians of life, or pioneers lost to the winds of time. The list could go on – we have so much to celebrate and promote.

However, we want to make sure that, whatever money comes our way, we use it in a manner suitable for a 21st century Chiswickian, for the tourist who visits inspired by an Instagram post, or those lucky few who happen to stumble into this town in London accidentally.

For that to happen, we need a central focal point.

### **Restoring the focus of our community**

Our handsome Grade II listed Town Hall, with stunning stained glass and impressive wood panelling, is a logical suggestion. It needs modernisation as well as sensitive renovation, making it attractive for today's needs while conserving its late 19th century heritage.

An in-house PA/AV system, discreet enough to be unseen when not needed, but effective enough that when events are held here there is atmosphere, is a must-have. So is good lighting, making sure it is as sought after for special celebrations as for community events.

With appropriate investment, it could become an important local asset, for shows by local schools, dance and theatre groups; performances or competitions for a much-forgotten group of residents – teenagers – for some of whom sport is not an attractive pastime; lectures, discussions, exhibitions on our impactful history; for events that promote our many hidden makers; a food festival (The Cheese Wick perhaps, or A Taste of Chiswick) where all our existing local food and drink traders can showcase the best of what they have to offer and hold talks and workshops pass on knowledge and skills.

By regaining this public asset for the community, we can weave the tapestry of Chiswick as richly textured and vibrant as all the different threads that make its culture so unique and valued.

## **FAITH**

For centuries, Chiswick has been a centre of worship. St Nicholas Church in the heart of Old Chiswick sits on the site of a pagan shrine that was converted in the 7th century. Today, we are proud that there are eight faiths or denominations in Chiswick:

- Baptist
- Church of England (including a convent)
- Elim Pentecostal
- Iranian Christian Church
- Methodist
- Muslim prayer hall
- Roman Catholic
- Russian Orthodox

These places of worship add a vital aspect to our community by hosting cultural events including jazz, choral, classical, modern and country music. Through their parochial work they create a support network for the community, especially homeless and older people.

St Michael and All Angels in Bedford Park sets a standard it's hard to match having for 52 years run the hugely popular Bedford Park Festival, two weeks of concerts, performances, talks, walks, trails and competitions starting with Green Days, a traditional fete and craft fair. It also runs the Chiswick Book Festival, now in conjunction with the Chiswick Cookbook Festival, bringing highly acclaimed authors to Chiswick. It frequently hosts classical music concerts and performances.

## **CHISWICK IN WAR**

Much like old Father Thames which meanders along the southern border of Chiswick, the history of Chiswick has been steady. Starting as a small agricultural hamlet, the town and area has grown steadily, as shown in the broad ranges of architectural styles seen here.

However, there are two notable times where the peace in this idyll was interrupted.

The first of these significant occasions, the Battle of Turnham Green, took place on 13th November 1642. Towards the end of the first campaign season of the First English Civil War, 37,000 Royalist and Parliamentary troops assembled to fight for London at Turnham Green. The under-equipped Royalist army was outnumbered by almost 2:1, having annoyed a lot of Londoners the day before in Brentford. The 24,000 strong Parliamentary army had swelled on their march from Chelsea, along the Great West Road, with the intention of blocking the road to London. Thankfully, losses were light and the Parliamentary army was able to secure the field and stop the Royalist force's route. This would prove to be the closest they got to London in the entire campaign.

The second notable occasion was on 8th September 1944 when the first V-2 bomb of the Second World War changed the landscape of Staveley Road permanently. The bomb killed three people, injured 19, destroyed 11 houses and left a crater 30 feet across. The bombing during this period didn't finish for a while; the whole of Chiswick was bombed extensively until the end of the war. A map showing bomb damaged houses is included in the Chiswick Timeline mural at Turnham Green station.

A torpedo gunboat, HMS Speedy, was built by Thornycroft at Church Wharf. Launched on 18th May 1893 by Lady Hamilton, wife of the First Lord of the Admiralty, she was sunk by a mine in the North Sea in September 1914.

## **ARCHITECTURE AND STRUCTURES**

Chiswick is noted for its numerous listed buildings and structures and its varied architectural styles including Norman Shaw's Arts and Crafts houses in Bedford Park, the unique Georgian houses lining Strand-on-the-Green and Chiswick Mall, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott's K6 phone boxes and Christ Church on Turnham Green, and Art Deco buildings in Power Road. Older buildings in Chiswick include the oldest shop on Chiswick High Road, Foster's Books, and the now defunct post office on Church Street. The 18th century Palladian-style architecture of Chiswick House and grounds is a sought-after venue.

Some other notable buildings or structures:

- JL Pearson's St Nicholas Church
- the Lamb Brewery
- the Griffin Brewery
- Hogarth's House
- WD Caroe's Church of St Michael, Sutton Court
- Barley Mow Centre
- William Kent's design of the gardens of Chiswick house
- Christ Church Turnham Green
- Russian Orthodox Church
- Voysey House, formerly the Sanderson Factory
- 2 Belmont Terrace, original location of Women's Aid, now known as Refuge
- Chiswick Business Park
- Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church
- The Crown and Anchor pub
- Walpole House, Chiswick Mall
- The Icehouse, Grove Park

## **ENTERTAINMENT**

Due to its impressive architecture and beautiful landscapes, Chiswick can often be seen by those who have never visited it. The 2018 TV adaptation of William Makepeace Thackeray's *Vanity Fair* was filmed in Chiswick Mall. The popular ITV series *Harlots* was filmed in the grounds of Chiswick House. And Dirk Bogarde's 1961 *Victim* was set and filmed in Chiswick.

Aside from being a regular filming location for international blockbusters and the smaller screen, Chiswick is known for its vibrant entertainment scene. It's no surprise that it is therefore also home to many actors, musicians, comedians and performers.

## **Festivals**

The number of festivals keeps increasing; it seems there is no limit to the good ideas local people have. The work done behind the scenes to bring to life what happens in the area is truly admirable. They include:

- Artists at Home
- Bedford Park Festival
- Chiswick Dog Show
- Chiswick Book Festival
- Chiswick Cookbook Festival
- Green Days
- Great British Food Festival
- The Grove Park Music Festival
- Pub in the Park
- Super Sports Saturday
- Tide Fest

## **Theatre and film**

The most notable connection with the theatrical arts has to be the presence of the Arts Educational School on Bath Road. Not only does the Arts Ed train future thespians and dancers, it provides a top-rate education for those whose careers may not go as planned. It has recently expanded to Dubai. There are many notable alumni including Angela Lansbury and Julie Andrews as well as Nigel Harman who played *EastEnders* heartthrob Dennis Rickman and appeared in *Hotel Babylon* and *Downton Abbey*.

The Chiswick Playhouse puts on performances of an extremely high standard in a relatively small theatre above The Tabard pub on Bath Road.

We are delighted that construction is currently underway for a new modern cinema in Chiswick and look forward to its opening and undoubted success.

Performances take place in various churches, as we have noted above. There are numerous amateur dramatic societies. At St Michael's Elmwood Road, The St Michael's Players puts on several plays throughout the year culminating in their extremely successful Christmas pantomime.

## **Television**

The creators and writers of BBC3's "People Just Do Nothing" attended Chiswick School.

Those who have a keen eye will notice that, on Strictly Come Dancing, they have filmed on the roofs of the buildings in Chiswick Business Park and often filmed in the Virgin Active gym in Chiswick Business Park or on Dukes Meadows.

Various locations have been used to film parts of BBC's The Apprentice. In the first series, the apprentices lived at Said House on Chiswick Mall. Losers were sent to Chris's Fish & Chips on Turnham Green Terrace to contemplate their failures.

## **Live music**

Regardless of your musical tastes, there is something for everyone, and some of the notable regular performances include:

- Jazz at the George IV pub on Chiswick High Road
- Friday night at The Bull's Head on Strand-on-the-Green
- Irish Traditional Sessions at Connolly's pub every Friday
- A variety of musical events are held regularly at the Old Station House in Grove Park
- Karaoke nights are held at The Hothouse Cafe every Thursday, Friday and Saturday on Chiswick High Road
- Live music performances regularly take place at Rhythm & Brews at Fromow's Corner
- There is scope to reinstate performances at the bandstand at Duke's Meadows
- Many other concerts take place in churches, as described in the Faith section above.

For those who would prefer to show off their vocal stylings, there are several choirs and singing groups that are open to all, such as the Chiswick Rock Choir which meets regularly at Strand-on-the-Green Junior School.

## **Comedy**

The Chiswick Playhouse in its former life as The Tabard has been the trial ground for many stand up comedians wanting to test their sets before setting off for the Edinburgh Fringe. Local resident Al Murray, The Pub Landlord, often tried new material on local residents. The Unexpected Items comedy troupe, which became a viral success with the skit "Gap Yah", was formed in Chiswick.

Regular comedy nights are held in the Boston Room of the George IV pub on Chiswick High Road.

## **Literature and journalism**

Many writers have lived in Chiswick including Nancy Mitford, Harold Pinter, EM Forster, Dame Iris Murdoch and JG Ballard. A scene in Alain Fournier's Le Grand Meaulnes was inspired by a works fete at Voysey House, when it was Sanderson & Sons and where he worked as a translator. Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, lived at Chiswick House. Many contemporary authors and journalists live here too, of course. And Chiswick features in many historical books and novels.

The list is too long for this document. They have been catalogued by Torin Douglas here:  
<http://www.chiswickbookfestival.net/programme/chiswick-timeline-writers-books/chiswick-timeline-250-writers-listed-subject-1/>

## **Art**

Numerous local artists and makers take part in the annual Artists at Home weekend, opening their studios to the public and showing the immense talent there is in Chiswick whether from well-known established artists to the emerging next generation.

The view of Chiswick from the other side of the river is a constant source of inspiration, whether it is photographers or painters capturing the skyline as the light changes or as the tide rises and falls. It has inspired many for centuries. Arguably the most famous was Pissarro who was commemorated here for years, providing the name of a riverside restaurant now unfortunately closed. Zoffany lived here.

The Chiswick Calendar, one of our news websites, hosts an annual Chiswick in Pictures art exhibition at the Clayton Hotel on Chiswick High Road. St Michael and All Angels church is the venue for an art exhibition and a photography exhibition, all works by local artists and photographers, as part of The Bedford Park Festival.

Of course we have an independent art shop supplying our many talented artists, established and up and coming.

### **Horticulture and trees**

Historically, Chiswick has a strong agrarian tradition, due to the fertile lands surrounding the Thames. Much of the area that is now Sutton Court was originally set up as market gardens, providing a wide range and steady supply of fresh produce to London. Growers would often use Wellesley Road to avoid the toll roads.

The first recorded flower show in Britain was held by the Royal Horticultural Society in Chiswick on 25th May 1833. This became one of the main events of the London season with carriages to Turnham Green lining the road from Hyde Park Corner.

The cherry blossom trees that line Staveley Road are a fan favourite, and it is rumoured that the Queen Mother used to instruct her drivers to take Staveley Road instead of the A4 on her journeys between Buckingham Palace and Windsor.

Today, enthusiastic residents work hard at their allotments with some locals running allotment societies to support each other, guide amateur gardeners and sell produce within Chiswick. Seven of the borough's allotment grounds are in Chiswick.

The oldest wisteria in England has been creeping up the side of the walls of Fuller's Brewery since 1816. Several ancient trees still grow in Chiswick, carefully protected from the public.

### **Open spaces**

Chiswick's green open spaces are home to a huge amount of biodiversity, no doubt the parakeets we often see and hear have to be the first to be named. Supposedly released after filming The African Queen up river in Twickenham, they came to roost in the trees of Grove Park and the wider Chiswick area and are distinctive in the sky, swooping around our skies as the day ends.

The nature reserve at Gunnersbury Triangle is an unsung hero, squeezed between the train tracks and a treasure of flora and fauna as well as a magical escape from rushed daily life.

Other open spaces include Dukes Meadows, Chiswick House and Gardens, Turnham Green, Chiswick Common, Chiswick Recreation Ground, Strand on the Green Recreation Ground, Harvard Hill Recreation Ground, the lake and surrounding open landscape in Chiswick Business Park and two cemeteries.

### **The river**

As already stated, Father Thames is Chiswick's southernmost boundary, without which we may not be a unified borough. Keeping all users of the river safe is the role of the RNLI who we are proud to have based at Chiswick Pier.

The Chiswick Pier Trust holds events and celebrates the river with watercolour painting workshops, talks, lectures, nature walks, cruises and mudlarking.

The annual Oxford and Cambridge Boat Races end in Chiswick, at Chiswick Bridge. The Great River Race passes Chiswick. During summer, impressive Dutch barges and hand built wooden boats travel past Chiswick to and from the Traditional Boat Rally at Henley-upon-Thames. Several rowing clubs and other river sport societies line Chiswick's riverside.

The river provides houseboat moorings at Chiswick Pier offering a way of life unlike any other. Walking along the riverside is a regular source of cultural calm.

Thornycroft shipbuilders was based at Church Wharf in Chiswick and launching ceremonies were great social occasions with crowds lining the Surrey side banks to watch.

## **FOOD AND DRINK**

Chiswick is home to a broad range of culinary styles from the Michelin star of La Trompette to the family favourite Fouberts. Residents and visitors can try cuisines from all over the world:

- American
- Argentinian
- Chinese
- English
- French
- Greek
- Indian
- Italian
- Japanese
- Malaysian
- Middle Eastern
- Persian
- Polish
- Singaporean
- Spanish
- Thai
- Vegan
- Vegetarian
- Vietnamese

With its wide tree-lined pavements and village charm, Chiswick is well-known for its cafe culture with outdoor eating along Chiswick High Road, side roads and other shopping streets. Among its numerous independent cafes, bars, pubs and restaurants it has three ice cream bars, three delicatessens, two butchers, two chocolatiers, two greengrocers and a fishmonger. Family run fruit and veg stalls sell top quality produce which you can choose yourself and take home in brown paper bags.

Not only do people come here to sample its fantastic food, but Chiswick is also home to several cookery schools so aspiring chefs can put their skills to the test.

On the river stands the impressive Griffin Brewery, home of Fuller's London Pride. A short walk away, behind a quiet residential road, is the Sipsmith Distillery linking Hogarth's influence back to this corner of west London. Several pubs in Chiswick are Grade II listed including The Old Packhorse and the Crown and Anchor on Chiswick High Road.

Linked to the farming past of Grove Park and Dukes Meadows, the weekly farmers market at Dukes Meadows is a constant reminder of the superb local produce available. With traders selling fruit and veg, local honey, preserves, fish and meats, you can also try some of the more exotic foods from Italy, Spain, Japan and El Salvador that are available to eat from the food stalls.

Behind closed doors off our main roads, enterprising Chiswickians make various foods and drinks including Chiswick Chillies hot ketchup and sauces, Duckworth's Chiswick Honey (and soap) and Chiswick Tea.

## **SPORT**

Sport in Chiswick has been as steadfast as the Thames, upon which many rowing clubs train. The stretch of river passing south of Chiswick Eyot and Dukes Meadows forms part of the Championship Course from Mortlake to Putney, and has been home to the world famous Boat Race since 1829. The olympic rowers James Cracknell and Peter Reed (whose win is commemorated by the Golden Post Box outside Chiswick Town Hall) are both locals and have rowed locally.

Apart from rowing, there is a diving school – the London School of Diving where Sandi Toksvig was a regular scuba diving – and many state-of-the-art sporting facilities scattered across all three Chiswick wards. These clubs are proud to call Chiswick their home:

- Gunnersbury Triangle Tennis Club
- Rocks Lane Multi Sports Centre
- Active 360
- Chiswick Rugby Football Club
- Chiswick Cricket Club
- Chiswick & Latymer Cricket Club
- Barnes Hockey Club
- Old Salopian Football Club
- London Welsh FC
- Old Meadonians Football Club
- Little Kickers Football Club
- Chiswick Gators Basketball Club
- University of London Boat Club
- Team Keane Sculling School
- Quintin Boat Club
- Tideway Scullers School
- Westminster Boat House
- Thames Tradesmen's Rowing Club
- Cygnet Rowing Club
- Emanuel School Boat Club
- Barnes Bridge Ladies Rowing Club
- Gunnersbury Triangle Sports and Social Club
- Chiswick Tennis Club
- Virgin Active
- The Hogarth Health Club
- Ten Health & Fitness
- W4 Fitness
- West 4 Gym
- The Gym Clinic
- Roko Health Club
- Chiswick Sports and Fitness
- Dukes Meadows Golf, Tennis & Ski Club

Aside from the numerous clubs, there are plenty of opportunities for all to enjoy some aspect of healthy living, from taking part or volunteering at a park run, to practising yoga, pilates and barrecore, dance classes, martial arts and using public swimming pools and tennis courts. There is something for everyone.

The facilities at Active360 under Kew Bridge allow for the more adventurous of us to take part in water activities, including stand-up paddle boarding and kayaking. The Rocks Lane Multi Sports Centre provides top-quality five-a-side football and netball courts for over 4,000 people a week.

Our open spaces host various events each week including the Hounslow Good Gym, Fullers London Pride 5K, and the Chiswick Half Marathon.

## **VOLUNTEERING**

There is a richness of organisations and societies throughout Chiswick, set up to encourage and support a sense of civic duty including:

- 20th Chiswick Scouts - Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorer Scouts, Network
- Chiswick Sea Cadets
- 11th Chiswick Brownies
- 6th Chiswick Brownies
- 6th Chiswick Rainbows
- 6th Chiswick Guides
- 3rd Chiswick Scouts - Beavers, Cubs, Scouts
- TS London Naval Cadet Corps
- Hogarth Youth and Community Centre
- Age Concern Chiswick
- The West Chiswick and Gunnersbury Society
- William Hogarth Trust
- Dukes Meadows Trust
- Chiswick House Kitchen Garden
- Chiswick Catenians
- Chiswick House Friends
- The Friends of Turnham Green
- The Friends of Chiswick Common
- Abundance London
- Brentford and Chiswick Historical Society
- Chiswick Lifeboat Station
- Chiswick Horticultural Society
- The Bedford Park Society
- The Victorian Society

## **DIVERSITY**

Not only does Chiswick have places of worship for people of eight faiths or denominations, so is it home to people from around the world. About 25 languages are taught at the International School of London in Turnham Green ward; many of its students live in Chiswick.

## **NOTABLE RESIDENTS – PAST AND PRESENT**

Throughout its history, Chiswick has been home to a great number of individuals who have contributed to local society and culture, a few of these are commemorated on English Heritage blue plaques. Of the 10 blue plaques within Hounslow, nine commemorate Chiswick residents:

- Jack Beresford, 19 Grove Park Gardens, Olympic Rowing Champion
- Tommy Cooper, 51 Barrowgate Road, Comedian
- E.M. Forster, Arlington Park Mansions, Novelist
- Joseph Michael Gandy, 58 Grove Park Terrace, Architectural Visionary
- Patrick Hamilton, 2 Burlington Gardens, Novelist and Playwright
- Private Frederick Hitch V.C., 62 Cranbrook Road, Hero of Rorke's Drift
- Lucien Pissarro, 27 Stamford Brook Road, Painter, Printer Wood Engraver
- Alexander Pope, 110 Chiswick Lane South, Poet
- Johann Zoffany, 65 Strand-on-the-Green, Painter

Other residents who have had a connection with Chiswick include:

- W.B. Yeats, poet
- William Hogarth, artist
- Barbara Palmer, 1st Duchess of Cleveland, Countess of Castlemaine, former mistress of King Charles II
- Charles Holland, 18th century actor
- Georgiana Cavendish, Duchess of Devonshire
- William Makepeace Thackeray, novelist, author and illustrator
- Henry Francis Cary, poet
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau, philosopher, writer, composer
- Francis Ronalds, inventor of the electric telegraph
- John Edward Thornycroft, engineer
- Patrick Hamilton, playwright and novelist
- Montague Dawson, painter
- Ugo Foscolo (Italian revolutionary)
- Camille Pissarro and family, painters
- Lewis Pinhorn Wood, landscape artist
- Daniel O'Connell, Irish Politician
- Harold Pinter, playwright, screenwriter, director and actor
- The Hon Thomas Walpole, MP
- Patsy Hendren, cricketer
- Jack Robertson, cricketer
- Aubrey Manning, zoologist and broadcaster
- Frederick Vine, marine geologist
- John Entwistle, musician
- Pete Townshend, musician
- Peter Brook, theatre and film director
- Thomas Layton, collector and local councillor
- Edith Humphrey, chemist, first woman to obtain a doctorate in chemistry
- Mike Selvey, cricketer
- Donald Pleasence, actor
- Phil Collins, musician
- Kim Wilde, musician
- Clifford Harper, illustrator
- Derek Ridgers, photographer
- Kate Beckinsale, actress
- James McNeill whistler, artist
- Beatrix Whistler, artist
- Mel Smith, comedian
- Florence Farr, West End leading actress, composer and director.
- Dimitri Mascarenhas, cricketer
- Anthony Burgess, novelist
- Peter Blake, pop artist
- James Murray Grant, artist
- Hugh Grant, actor
- Bruce Dickinson, singer
- John Thaw, actor
- Sheila Hancock, actress and author
- Kate Humble, TV presenter
- Elizabeth McGovern, actress
- Simon Curtis, film director
- Colin Firth, actor
- John Lowenthal, American lawyer
- Cara Delevigne, model and actress
- Michael Frayn, playwright
- Rebecca Frayn, filmmaker and novelist



- J.G. Ballard, novelist, short story writer, and essayist
- Anthony Burgess, writer and composer
- Jeremy Vine, TV journalist
- Rageh Omaar, TV journalist
- Fergal Keane, TV journalist
- Phyllis Logan, actress
- Clare Balding, TV presenter
- Sarah Greene, TV presenter
- Gavin Campbell, TV presenter
- Angellica Bell, TV presenter
- John Edwards, musician
- Tim Vincent, TV presenter
- John Leslie, TV presenter
- Beverley Turner, TV presenter
- Davina McCall, TV presenter
- Mary Nightingale, TV presenter
- Alice Arnold, journalist
- Anthony McPartlin, TV presenter
- Declan Donnelly, TV presenter
- Peter Osborne, journalist
- James Cracknell, Olympic Rower
- Peter Reed, 2012 Olympic Rower

In our graveyards:

- William Hogarth, artist
- William Kent, Landscape architect
- Philip James de Loutherbourg RA, painter
- Thomas Bentley, business partner of Josiah Wedgwood
- Mary Fauconberg, daughter of Oliver Cromwell
- Barbara Palmer, 1st Duchess of Cleveland, Countess of Castlemaine, former mistress of King Charles II
- Private Frederick Hitch VC, hero of Rorke's Drift
- Percy Harris, Liberal Party politician
- James Abbott McNeill Whistler, artist
- Sir Charles Tilston Bright, electric engineer responsible for the laying of the first transatlantic telegraph cable in 1858 from Valentia Island, Co. Kerry to Trinity Bay, Newfoundland. Later a Liberal MP.

### **ENHANCING CHISWICK'S CULTURAL LIFE**

We have already noted the potential of Chiswick Town Hall as significant cultural hub for Chiswick. Sensitive and prudent renovation and improvement are needed, as outlined above.

Chiswick's food and drink culture is currently struggling in today's bleak retail climate. A local campaign, the Chiswick Shops Task Force, is working to change this but requires some modest funding to complete work already started. This includes an interactive map, available online and in print, to be distributed to residents, the 12,000 or so people who come to Chiswick to work, and in hotels and clubs encouraging everyone in Chiswick to eat, drink, socialise and shop locally. We would like to develop a programme of events, some to take place in the Town Hall, to promote them and improve their business.

Our teenagers are significantly under represented democratically and socially/culturally. If they aren't interested in sport, there is very little for them to do here. The Chiswick Cinema provides opportunities for them to feel more a part of Chiswick's culture. We have suggested that the cinema could become a hub for them, not only by putting on films that particularly appeal to them but perhaps also to see it as a place for them to socialise with each other outside their homes. There are challenges – their spending power is limited – but we think there is some merit in exploring this possibility.

The Hogarth Youth and Community Centre has worked hard at raising funds to fill the funding gap imposed on them in 2018. We would like them to receive funding specifically to develop a cultural programme.

**Councillors Patrick Barr, Joanna Biddolph, Michael Denniss, Gabriella Giles, Ranjit Gill, Sam Hearn, Gerald McGregor and Ron Mushiso**  
**London Borough of Hounslow**