



# CHISWICK HOUSE FRIENDS

## NEWSLETTER Autumn 2022

Charity No: 289907

Patron: Lord Burlington

**Halloween at Chiswick House**  
14th - 31st October



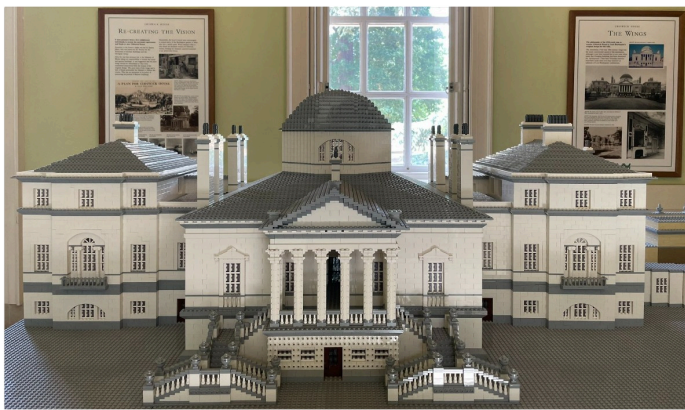
**Wedding Showcase**  
6th November



**LEGO® brick model**  
Until 30th October



*Chiswick House will soon be coated in frost*



*LEGO® brick model now on display in the Summer Parlour*

Dear Friends

We hope you like the new look of our newsletter – after 15 years of the old format, our Editor Tara Fair has given it a more modern look. Do tell us what you think. In this edition we feature extracts from an interview with CHGT Director Xanthe Arvanitakis, with news from the Black Chiswick through History project; reports from last month's Dog Show and June's JRAM concert; and confirmation from our Water's Edge correspondent Richard Sales that there really are a pair of male swans nesting together.

*John Armstrong, Chairman*

**Xanthe Arvanitakis, Director of the Trust, told the Friends:**

"It's been a real journey for me as the director and for the trustees, we've been reconnecting with our charitable purposes and why we exist. We've put a lot of work into reaching new audiences. Those have been the key learnings both from visitors and from ourselves.

The sense of connection that people have with local green spaces has been much deepened since the pandemic. We've certainly seen more people visiting in recent months. There's absolutely no doubt about it, footfall is up."

**Growing together at Chiswick House**

The Trust's flagship community project, 'Growing together at Chiswick House', is now in full swing. Backed by a £180,000 grant from the Linbury Trust, Chiswick House is now the home to a range of activities from active gardening to art classes to festivals.

One example of how 'Growing Together at Chiswick House' is making an impact, is the 'Black Chiswick Through History' research project which aims to look more deeply at the House's collections.

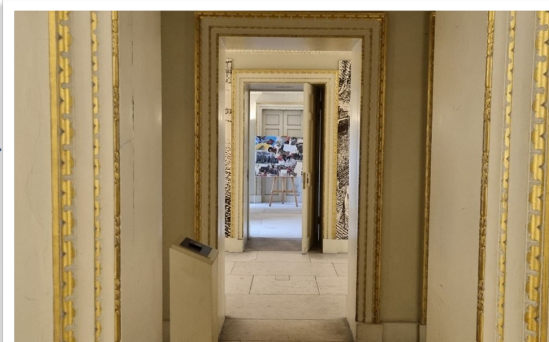
This project has been running since 2021 and involves work with Chiswick School and Hogarth Youth and Community Centre.

Those involved seek out the stories of people and places relating to Black history, with both global and local connections.

Xanthe said: "This has been a really brilliant project running through a number of months where we've been working with a group of young students looking at six historical objects. We have provided some information and they've gone away and developed their own artistic interpretations. The art created as part of that project is now on display within the house."



*Students from Hogarth Youth Centre creating a collage*



*Art on display in House*

Chiswick School produced a series of short films exploring the visibility of people of colour in historical houses. They address the changing attitudes towards faith communities and highlight how influences of African art and culture can be found throughout our Gardens and how some of our most iconic sculptures can be linked back to prominent people of colour in history. Hogarth Youth Centre produced a collage working with a local artist, exploring the people of colour past and present associated with the area.

**If you would like to know more about the project please contact Harvinder at: [info@chgt.org.uk](mailto:info@chgt.org.uk)**





## Chiswick House Dog Show 2022

On Sunday 25th of September, the cricket pitch of Chiswick House grounds was FULL of dogs and their owners as they entered into the spirit of the Chiswick House Dog Show 2022. Nearly 600 dogs were registered for entry into one or more of the 16 classes – which ranged from (the most popular) puppy classes to Best Groomed and My Dog's Got Talent. Celebrity judges this year included Bonnie Langford and Neil Dudgeon.

Put on by Chiswick House Friends, the event, now known as the "Biggest Dog Show in London", was themed on Harry Potter to celebrate 25 years since the first book was published (Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone).



*Prize to Reserve Best in Show, Harry*

Enjoying the fine weather, dog owners and walkers mixed with non-dog owners to peruse the many stalls – commercial, charity and catering – as well as the Dog Show bar, which did a roaring trade!



*Best Puppy Bitch winners with celebrity judge Neil Dudgeon*

The competition winner for 'Best in Show' was Kiki, who also won Best Rescue. Her story was hard to believe: a street dog from the Middle East, she had been scavenging for scraps for her newly born puppies in the local market, when she had boiling oil poured over her. She was subsequently rescued by one of the dog rescue services and found her way over to the UK, where she has been for the past three months and has now found a forever home with a new loving owner.

It takes over 160 volunteers to put on this community event – and all the monies raised go towards the upkeep of the beautiful and varied Chiswick



*Winner of Best in Show, Kiki*

House gardens and for dog-related activities within the grounds. This annual show, held at the end of September, is organised by Chiswick House Friends and a committee of 12 dog-loving locals, all of whom regularly walk their dogs in the grounds. A huge thank you goes to the Dogs Trust Centre at Harefield and their band of volunteers.

## From the water's edge, by Richard Sales

What an extremely hot and dry summer we have had. The horse chestnut trees, already weakened by Leaf Miner disease, lost most of their leaves by July - but in a show of defiance have new leaves and white blossoms showing oddly against the still growing conkers.

The lake is filled by slightly saline water from the tidal Thames, which reduces the amount of blanket weed and virtually eliminates all duckweed. But as a consequence, we had from July and August a large covering of a floating weed which was new to me.

This weed was identified by two local botanical experts, Mick Massie and Chris Frost, who are both local dog walkers and told me that its newer name is Ulva.



It grows in the Thames estuary, loves sea water, is commonly called gut weed and is a member of the sea lettuce family.

On a local social media site, there is a photograph that purports to show one or two eggs on a nest, thereby proving

that our swans are a breeding pair. This is NOT a swan's egg which is usually 3.5 inches across. Please do not be misled, the swans are both male.

This season has been particularly good for our breeding waterfowl, especially tufted duck. Our new resident Egyptian geese had their only brood predated. Our disabled 'Angel Wing' Canada goose is still with us; but 'limpy mallard' has not been seen since early spring.

**Published by the Chiswick House Friends**

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## Junior Academy of Music Chamber Concert

Twenty-four young musicians from the Junior Royal Academy of Music gave us a real treat in the Upper Tribune with their 'Through the Ages' programme of well-known, and not so well-known, pieces from Bach to John Williams. Six ensembles took part: Recorder, String, Wind Quintet, Wind Trio, Brass and Clarinets/Voice. The highlight was the first String Quartet piece 'The Faustian Bargain', composed by one of the musicians performing. The Recorder Ensemble covered the centuries with contrasting early and modern pieces, and the two Wind Ensembles gave excellent renditions of compositions by Nielson and Malcolm Arnold. The Brass Quartet performed four pieces spanning five centuries, and the String Quartet an exciting piece by Janacek. The Clarinets and Voice concluded the concert with a marvellously smoky performance of Summertime.

These chamber concerts enable young musicians to perform in front of a live audience in a truly historic setting – there can really be no better use of Chiswick House, and Burlington himself would surely approve.