

Dear Friend of the Hogarth

The highlights of another busy three months include two more very well attended holiday programmes, our June wine tasting for more than 60 participants and two successful grant applications. We continue to record a material increase in attendances by young people which is very encouraging. Our busiest time of year approaches and we look forward to delivering our flagship four-week Summer Holiday Youth Programme in July and August.

PROJECT 2024 (Youth Programme 2024)

Young people will return to a place where they feel safe and where they have fun. I am therefore very pleased to report that the number of attendances in the first five months of 2024 have risen by 41% to 1,728 of which 64% were attendances by young people under the age of 13. By the end of June our youth team had delivered 101 uninterrupted days of PROJECT 2024. In that same six-month period 11 youth workers delivered almost 4,600 hours of work, most of which was contact time with young people.

The *Get Off The Fence* project with Chiswick School officially ended in March, but the school asked Denny to continue this project which he has done. In May session discussions focused on anger management, trauma, positive relationships and sportsmanship. Our seven-day Easter Holiday Programme comprised various sports, three offsite excursions, workshops including cooking, jewellery-making, dance, drama and a First Aid course for 24 juniors and 9 seniors. Once again one of our licensees (Leon of Chiswick Boxing) kindly donated his time to do boxing training which the young people really enjoyed. Our three-day May Half Term programme was well attended and included two offsite trips. Juniors enjoyed indoor golf at the Puttshack in Westfield and Seniors went to Chiswick Cinema which kindly offered us a discount.

Our Core Programme continues to the end of term in late July and is followed by our Summer Holiday Programme. This will run for four weeks from 24th July. For the first time, the Youth Team will run two programmes simultaneously at the Centre and at Dukes Meadows, a very bold expansion of our normal summer programme. Using the proceeds of our successful fund raising, a cohort of 10 youth workers will take 35 young people (vs. 27 2023, 18 2022 and 12 2021) in four minibuses to the Isle of Wight for four (hitherto three) days in mid-August.

Billy Beatty, one of our trainee youth workers, also won a *One Hounslow Community Award* – many congratulations to Billy! I was invited to speak about

the Charity's work with young people at a meeting of the Chiswick Labour Party on 13th May. I was delighted to meet a parent who attended the youth programme in the 1970s, a reminder of our Charity's long and proud history of service to the local community.

FINANCE AND FUNDING

Centre Revenue & Costs

The Centre continues to attract many new and diverse users, especially on weekends. Thus far this year we have licensed space to 43 different users. First half license fees are 10% higher than the first half of 2023 and with a tail wind our full year license fees should reach a record £170,000. Although we are now benefiting from lower gas and electricity costs, inflation for our basket of goods and services remains elevated. Our total operating costs for 2024 look likely to remain close to budget of just over £250,000 which broadly splits £145,000 for PROJECT 2024 and £106,000 to run the Centre.

Grants & Other

Donations in the first six months were almost £26,000. The second tranche of the Thriving Communities grant and two further grants from the council brought in another £15,500. As below, our annual wine tasting raised £10,700 after costs. Combined these external funding sources have reduced our forecast £(80,000) funding deficit at the beginning of the year to £(27,800). We have applied for two more grants to support our expanded Summer Holiday Programme and will continue to search for other sources of external funding to close our deficit.

Summer wine tasting at the Centre

Our third wine tasting at the Centre on 27th June was enjoyed by a record number of 62 participants, the majority repeat attendees and local residents. Another lovely sunny evening enabled us to gather in our refurbished courtyard where Jane Oliver, a virtuoso cellist, performed brilliantly (thank you again!), cold prosecco was served and welcoming speeches were made by myself and Denny. Tim Syrad, our *super sommelier extraordinaire*, repeated the popular format of 2023 with blind tastings and a quiz which was won by Jinni Featherstone-Whitty. One question asked *what is the speed of a champagne cork?* The answer of 40-50 mph underlines the importance of opening a bottle of fizz safely which Tim showed everyone how to do. Once again Tim's thoughtful cheese pairings accentuated everyone's appreciation of the eight splendid wines which we tasted and which were sourced from Australia, France, Italy (the slopes of Mount Etna in Sicily), New Zealand, Portugal and Spain (all are available from timsyradwines.com).

Sales of raffle tickets (131), generous donations plus the proceeds from our blind auction of a VIP dinner for four at Michelin starred *La Trompette* (thank you very much Nigel Platts-Martin) and a VIP lunch for four at *Villa di Geggiano* (thank you very much Ilona Pacia) helped lift the total raised after costs to £10,700. This surpasses our target of £10,000 and means that we can confidently expand our Summer Residential to the Isle of Wight.

A very big thank you to all generous participants, our sponsors (*Analytical People, Bown Design & Build, Cornel Lucas Collection, Helicon Health, King's Tennis Centre, La Trompette, Plane Saver Credit Union, Villa di Geggiano and Whitman & Co.*) and many kind donors including those who provided the four prizes for our raffle (*Andy Gedah of Hair at No.3, Sandra Haining-Dunn and Trustee Jonathan Walker*). Thanks also to Team Hogarth for their huge effort organising such a memorable and fun evening – a small team with big hearts! And, of course, a huge thank you to Tim Syrad who delivered another most memorable event. When our new website is up and running later this summer we will upload photos of the evening and the summer residential that it funded.

CHARITY MATTERS

Following their examination which is now underway, we will file our 2023 Report & Accounts with UK Companies House and the UK Charities Commission. Once again thank you to our Accounts Manager, Jamilla Amra and Trustee - Finance Director, Jonathan Walker who led the drafting of this important document which is used for grant and other funding applications.

We are progressing our lease renewal with the Council who have committed to provide a new long-term lease by early Autumn 2024. This will give us a much stronger base for long term financial planning and also help the Charity to source multi-year sponsorships.

We wish you all a very happy and restful summer.

Thank you for your continued support

**The Trustees, Youth Team, Centre Staff
and our many hundreds of young participants**



We would very much like to retain your contact details so that we can update you on our progress and events. If you do not wish to be updated, please respond to this e-mail with the word **UNSUBSCRIBE** and we will remove you from our records, in line with data protection (GDPR) requirements.