

Growing Together at Chiswick House

[Growing Together at Chiswick House](#) is our exciting new community engagement programme. Working closely with local community groups to participate in a variety of hands-on gardening and creative activities. Our programme encourages groups to come together to learn about nature, gain skills, grow plants, build confidence and aid wellbeing. All set in the beautiful and safe spaces at Chiswick House and Gardens.

All our programmes can be adapted to the needs of your group and are inspired by the 5 Ways to Wellbeing to encourage physical and mental wellbeing: *to connect, be active, keep learning, take notice and give.*

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

We want our programme to be relevant to our community's needs and interests. Let us know how we can best work with you and any ideas you have for collaborative projects. All the programmes below are adaptable and can be used as a springboard for other ideas and projects.

We welcome discussions around multi-partner projects with community groups, creative and cultural organisations, artists and researchers. Particularly if these ideas link to the Kitchen Garden, growing plants, food, biodiversity, sustainability and reflect the rich cultural diversity of our local area.

GARDENING TOGETHER in the Kitchen Garden

[Growing Together Plots](#)

Garden together as a community group in the Kitchen Garden. Attend regularly as a group to care for a small plot or planter in the Kitchen Garden to grow your very own fruit, veg, herbs and flowers. A wonderful way to spend time together and develop gardening skills, supported by our Kitchen Garden team.

Or volunteer across the Kitchen Garden with your group, helping to grow produce for our Kitchen Garden Cart (selling fruit and veg every Thursday and Saturday morning) with other volunteers. We can arrange an *Intro to Volunteering* session to give you a taste of what is involved.

*No experience needed. All tools provided.
Dates and times for regular volunteering will be arranged with the Kitchen Garden Team in advance.*

[Introduction to Volunteering](#)

Led by our Gardener, this practical session will introduce your group to volunteering in the Kitchen Garden. If your group is interested in regular volunteering, this session will give you a taster of what is involved, from planting to weeding, watering and pruning plants.

*Tasks will be simple depending on the season and need within the garden.
Maximum one hour. Maximum 15 people per workshop. Includes tea & biscuits afterwards.*

CREATIVE WORKSHOPS inspired by nature

These workshops use our Kitchen Garden to encourage creativity and wellbeing. Let us know what interests your group. You can sketch beautiful flowers and vegetables, write poetry about plants, create music based on nature's sights and sounds or take photographs of seasonal highlights. These workshops can be delivered as a one-off session or arranged as a longer programme designed to meet your interests. These are co-developed with you and delivered in partnership with local arts organisations.

*No experience needed. All material provided apart from cameras.
Maximum two hours per session. Maximum 15 people per workshop. Includes tea & biscuits.*

SELF-LED VISITS

We are keen to support groups and schools who are using the gardens for their own activities. If you run workshops, wellbeing walks, tours or classes in the grounds please do get in touch. We can come say hello and welcome you onsite, as well as give you access to the Kitchen Garden.

WHO IS THE PROGRAMME FOR?

We are keen to build stronger partnerships with local community groups in Hounslow and West London who reflect the diversity of the Borough. In particular, we want to work with groups who have limited access to these opportunities and face barriers to engagement. The programme aims to engage with local health and social care charities, specifically those who support vulnerable and isolated communities.

GET IN TOUCH

If you would like to find out more about our [Growing Together at Chiswick House](https://www.chiswickhouse.org.uk/growing-together-at-chiswick-house) Community Programme please email: community@chgt.org.uk

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- All our programmes can be adapted to your group's needs and interests.
- Our Kitchen Garden and Learning Space is fully wheelchair accessible and includes an accessible toilet and small kitchenette.
- We have accessible onsite parking for a limited number of vehicles.
- We can try to assist local groups who may have transport needs.
- Our sessions are facilitated by skilled DBS checked staff, experienced volunteers and high-quality external practitioners.
- Groups can do one session or a series of these sessions over a number of weeks. This may depend on availability and resources.
- It can take time to coordinate suitable dates and facilitators, alongside staffing and room availability.
- Due to staff availability most programmes take place during the weekday.



Kitchen Garden at Chiswick House and Gardens Trust