

Leader's Column

October - November 2017



The Mayor of London is searching for the capital's first ever Borough of Culture as he bids to celebrate the creativity and character that make this one of the world's great cities.

When the Mayor announced his competition, my first thought was "call off the search". Surely nowhere else in London can hold a torch to the rich variety of culture we enjoy here in Haringey?

The borough that is home to Alexandra Palace, Jacksons Lane Arts Centre, Hornsey Town Hall, Bernie Grant Arts Centre, the Chocolate Factory, and no fewer than three arthouse cinemas must surely be a front runner for the accolade.

And the great venues we enjoy here in Haringey are just the tip of the iceberg. Events such as Wood Green Open Studios, Crouch End Open Studios and the Crouch End Festival – the largest grass-roots community festival in the country – bring thousands of visitors to the borough each year.

We're home to amateur dramatic organisations such as the Crouch End Players and community choirs including the Tottenham Community Choir, the New Tottenham Singers and the world-famous Crouch End Festival Chorus – which has performed alongside stars including Ray Davies and Noel Gallagher.

In music, we count stars including Adele and Skepta amongst our alumni, whilst our young musicians recently performed at the Royal Albert Hall. And in Spurs we have a Premier League club that epitomises the role of sport in popular culture.

We can be proud to count award-winning young cartoonist Zoom Rockman – whose work regularly features in the Beano – and arts collective Studio 306 – whose creativity also supports those with mental health difficulties – amongst our artists, and we have a growing reputation for creative industries, such as the Fashion Technology Academy and Tottenham's Mill Co. Project. Our young people, too, continue to amaze with their talents and creativity.

And there are many more examples throughout Haringey. I'm proud of the wealth of creativity and culture in our borough, and of how that strong spirit of culture runs through our diverse communities. We are a borough where more than 100 different languages are spoken and where diverse communities celebrate their cultures together – from Jewish New Year to Eid, and Christmas to Diwali.

All of this is why I'm rooting for Haringey to be London's first Borough of Culture. I hope that you will too.

- Read the latest edition of [Haringey People](#)

Contact details

Councillor Kober's ward surgery and contact details are shown on her [councillor web page](#).