

## But what is Kensington?



Kensington is, of course, many things - historical, literary, artistic, residential, architectural, social, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, and indeed a microcosm of the world community.

The amenity concerns of the Kensington Society lie in the area bounded by the former Royal Borough of Kensington, the dividing line with Chelsea being the Fulham Road, Walton Street and Basil Street. We and the Chelsea Society act together on matters of common concern.

Conservation Areas cover some 70% of the Royal Borough. There are 35 in all, of which 25 are in Kensington. These Areas provide some planning safeguards against inappropriate development.

The Royal Borough is unique. With an area of only 4.78 square miles and a population of around 190,000, it is the most densely populated area in the UK. It also contains many of the nation's most distinguished, best known, and irreplaceable public and domestic townscapes and buildings. The Royal Borough has some 14 Grade I listed buildings, 248 Grade II\* buildings and more than 3,500 Grade II buildings from the late 17th century to the mid 20th century. With some of the highest property prices in the UK and with extremely limited space for expansion there is uniquely high pressure on development.

The results of this pressure the Kensington Society continually monitors, lending support to affiliated local conservation societies on major issues and on matters of planning principle, above all seeking to preserve and enhance our unique heritage. Where the site allows we seek modern architecture of the highest quality.