



London Borough of Hounslow

The Mayor's Office
London Borough of Hounslow
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James Wisdom

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Date : 7th October 2026

Dear James,

I am writing to you on the occasion of your retirement as Chair of the Thomas Layton Trust to thank you for your long period of dedicated service in supporting this wonderful body in so many different ways. It is clear that you have made a tangible difference to the Trust and helped in its success over many years.

It truly is an example of matchless dedication to have been an active member of the Trust for 36 years since you first joined in 1990 and to have worked so hard in its service for so long, culminating in being its Chair for two decades. Even now, as you retire as Chair, and despite ill health, I know you intend to continue to act as a Trustee and I am sure that your successor will be grateful for your continued support, knowledge and devotion, not to mention helpful advice when the need arises.

As the Mayor, and as a member of the Council, I know that Members from across the political spectrum have admired and respected your expertise and enthusiasm for the Thomas Layton Trust and the collection it oversees. We all appreciate your dedication in ensuring not just that the collection survives but that it thrives and can continue as a priceless cultural resource for future generations.

Under your very capable stewardship, the Trust has come a long way, including moving the collection from its home in the Treaty Centre in 2017 and ensuring that a selection of books are available for all to see at the Feltham Library, and reinvigorating the Trust's website in order to improve knowledge and understanding of the Trust.

I was personally impressed to learn that it was under your leadership, that the Trust commissioned the production of a short film to promote its work and the collection in 2019, and of the strong links which you had helped to develop with the London Museum, which holds a number of the Collection's artefacts. I hope that the Museum's forthcoming re-opening at Smithfields Market will provide an opportunity for an even greater opportunity for the items from the collection to be seen and appreciated.

The Council is in your debt for your superlative work and unwavering commitment to the Trust and the Collection.

I speak on behalf of all Members when I say that we wish you a return to full health as soon as possible and many, many more years of involvement and happiness as a continuing Trustee of the Thomas Layton Trust. I sincerely thank you for all your fruitful work over so long a period.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ranjit Gill', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Councillor Ranjit Gill
Mayor of the London Borough of Hounslow