The Quintin Hogg Trust was born with the mission: to – Quintin Hogg.

Quintin Hogg was a Victorian merchant and extraordinary philanthropist. His attention was focused on education – first opening a ‘ragged school’ near the Thames, offering free schooling for some of London’s poorest children. He then established The Young Men’s Christian Institute to provide educational, sporting and social opportunities for young working men.

In 1883, he purchased 209 Regent Street to house the growing Institute – it then attracting around 2,000 students a year. The day and evening classes ranged from arts & science including both technical and trade education. The success of the Institute enabled it to secure public funding. In 1983 it was renamed Regent Street Polytechnic. Quintin Hogg remained at the helm, and he found time to set up another school, the Polytechnic Day School for Boys. The Polytechnic itself provided, including a range of services for students and their families including a bank and a labour bureau.

The Regent Street Polytechnic was the UK’s first polytechnic and was often known simply as ‘The Polytechnic’, even after other polytechnics had been established. The new choice of polytechnics as disenchanted educational institutions, but the Regent Street Polytechnic was originally very different with education being perhaps one of its main points. Quintin Hogg’s vision was that it should cater for the social, intellectual, artistic and religious needs of young men, and later of young women. Initially the educational activities of the Polytechnic were mainly in the form of what we would now call adult education courses or evening classes. Today, the University of Westminster, the successor of the Regent Street Polytechnic, has some 18,000 students, undergraduates and postgraduates, with a student body that is exceptionally diverse.

Quintin Hogg was a learned sportsman. He played international football and first class cricket. He was also president of Chiswick Rugby Club and a life member of the London Stock Exchange.

In his youth, Quintin Hogg had been an accomplished sportsman and a sports field was a very appropriate memorial. The rugby ground still owned by the Quintin Hogg Memorial Fund, of which the University of Westminster is the successor, is the site of the Institute and now serves as an annex to the University of Westminster. The site was renamed the Quintin Hogg Memorial Sports Ground.

Quintin Hogg was a man of vision. He was an innovator who had the foresight to think strategically and creatively about the future of education and its impact on the city. His legacy lives on through the Quintin Hogg Trust and its mission to provide educational opportunities for young people, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The land next to Chiswick Bridge is now hardly used. It was previously a rugby pitch for the University and the temporary home of London Welsh. The University has a successful rugby team, reaching the finals of the University Cup in 2018 but has nowhere to train and no home ground. A new home ground for the University in the site of the old pitch will provide a first-class facility for the wider community through partnerships with local schools, many of whom already use Memorial Ground for other sports. There will be two playing pitches and an expanded home changing facilities.

A new gym within the rugby pitch will provide a much better facility for both men’s and rugby players and will enable teams to train together. Clearly there are sensitive views across the site from Ibis Cottage and from Chiswick Bridge, and the land has been worked hard to develop an appropriate scale of development, meaning that materiality has all been considered.
The Quintin Boat Club Rowing in the late Victorian era was very different from today. Few rowing clubs in the Thames valley had boathouses. Many did not even have their own boats. Originally, the Polytechnic Rowing Club, like most other clubs leased out of a commercially-run boathouse and had boats from its own. Racing at regattas was not as important as it is now.

There were far fewer regattas and there was much more emphasis on scratch outings, on internal events within the clubs and on private matches against other local clubs. Head races were unknown in those days and all races were to the water during the winter, and Sunday racing was not generally thrived on.

In 1888 Quintin Hogg paid to have a boathouse built for the Polytechnic Rowing Club on the present site at Chiswick. This was long before Chiswick Bridge was built. The site still has a coal appearance. The boathouse was succeeded by an act of the House of Commons. The site was the boathouse building, which the RC had acquired from Grove Park RC two years earlier.

As well as the new boathouse, Quintin Hogg paid for a fleet of boats, including four singles, two doubles, two half-boats and four sculling boats. In keeping with the Polytechnic's ethos of muscular and shrewd leadership there was a coxswain, (the image to the left (1) of this scene and was published in The Times.

The Quintin Boat Club, which today occupies the boathouse at Chiswick, has its origins in the Victorian London Athletic Club's rowing section, established in 1876. In the late 1890s, the new boathouse was built to accommodate the Polytechnic Rowing Club when it relocated to its new boathouse in Chiswick.

The Quintin Boat Club was founded in 1907 as a means of catering to the increasing demand for the Amateur Rowing Association and Henley Royal Regatta and in the following year Freddie Potter was appointed as the first boatman, thereby starting a family connection that has lasted to the present day through three generations.

The Boat Club is a TV star, as it forms the backdrop to the finish for the Oxford and Cambridge University Boat Race each year.
The northern Polytechnic Sports Ground, still owned by the Quintin Hogg Memorial Fund, is fully operational today. The facilities continue to be used by the Students of the University of Westminster, the successor organisation of the Regent Street Polytechnic, as well as The Richmond Hockey Club and many local schools. However the facilities now need investment and the first step towards a wider masterplan to revitalise the Memorial Ground is shown on these boards.

A place in history. Over the first part of the 20th Century the Polytechnic Sports Ground was at the very heart of British Athletic, Rowing, Rugby and in fact most sports:

- 1903 - Quintin Hogg dies
- 1906 - The Quintin Hogg Memorial Sports Ground opens for the use of the Poly athletes
- 1907 - Quintin Boat Club formed
- 1908 - The London IV Olympic Games held at White City 27 Poly athletes compete
- 1909 - The Polytechnic Marathon is held for the first time - its runs until 1996
- 1912 - The Stockholm Olympic Games 12 medals are won by Poly athletes
- 1921 - The Rowing Tank opens in memorial for fallen comrades from the QBC
- 1924 - The Paris Olympic Games 2 medals are won by Poly athletes
- 1928 - The Amsterdam Olympic Games 4 medals are won by Poly athletes
- 1932 - The Los Angeles Olympic Games 4 medals are won by Poly athletes (including a first Italian medal)
- 1939 aerial photograph of the Polytechnic Sports Ground stadium
- 1939 members of the Polytechnic Athletics Club at the 1908 Olympic Games
- 1939 the last Polytechnic Athlete to win a medal at the 1976 Summer Olympic (Alan Pascoe)

The proposed cluster of new sports facilities sits in harmony with existing Victorian and arts & crafts architecture.
1956 - The Melbourne Olympic Games 2 Poly athletes compete
1960 - The Rome Olympic Games 2 Poly athletes compete
1964 - The Tokyo Olympic Games 1 medal is won by a Poly athletes
1968 - The Mexico City Olympic Games 5 Poly athletes compete
1972 - The Munich City Olympic Games 1 medal is won by a Poly athletes
1976 - The Mexico City Olympic Games 3 Poly athletes compete

However after 1976, and slowly over the 1980's and 1990's sport took a back seat as the Poly, and later Higher education as a whole changed. As a result the focus of the new Universities like Westminster moved away from the physical activity backed vocational training, to research, away from the student to academia. This is now shifting, and we are pleased to be looking to the future at Chiswick.

The Trusts ambition is to create a centre of sporting excellence at Chiswick both for the students of the university of Westminster and for the wider Chiswick community. A facility that honours the vision of Quintin Hogg and perpetuates his memory by bringing together a range of partners to provide unparalleled opportunities to engage in a variety of sports and become active.

Studies show that young people, through school and university, who are active enjoy better educational outcomes and are better equipped to succeed. Following Quintin Hogg's example, the masterplan aims to provide facilities to tempt those less likely to participate in physical activity from diverse and disadvantaged backgrounds and those with special educational needs or disability by offering the widest range of sporting opportunities from taster sessions to training to nurture sporting talent.

Working with the QBC, QHT and the University of Westminster, creating an outreach programme existing term partnerships with local schools (both public and state) will also access for young people from across London. This will be led by QBC and the QHMF/QHT working as a provider of boats, coaching and skills to introduce this sometimes very “elite” sport to those who may otherwise never have the chance.

The outcome of this project is hard to predict, but the long term aim of both QHMF and QBC is to create a strong membership of younger people coming to the club while the University of Westminster commits via the Student Union to increase funding for rowing and rugby which will mean greater life chances for all. The first phase of the masterplan is focused on the site south of Hartington Road fronting the River Thames expanding the opportunities for rowing, bringing back first class rugby to the site and creating a large studio space for the University, other student groups and young people to participate in a range of activities including dance, yoga and martial arts.