

# Anthony Burgess: Why No Blue Plaque in Chiswick?



English Heritage has again turned down a bid for a blue plaque on the Chiswick home of writer **Anthony Burgess**. Burgess is best known for his dystopian novel *A Clockwork Orange* and lived at 24 Glebe Street (*above*) between 1963 and 1968, where he wrote several of his most important novels and other works.

Professor Andrew Biswell, director of the International Anthony Burgess Foundation, said: "Anthony Burgess was one of the major British writers of the 20th century, but his achievements have gone largely unrecognised in the country of his birth. When English Heritage turned down our first application in 2015, they said we could re-nominate him after five years, rather than the usual ten. His international reputation has grown since then, so we are very surprised and disappointed."

The news was announced ahead of a debate on blue plaques at the Chiswick Book Festival - on the day that a plaque was unveiled on the Hampstead home of **Jim Henson**, creator of *The Muppets*.

# Hampstead or Chiswick? The Muppets or A Clockwork Orange?



In a panel discussion on Sunday September 12th, chaired by Festival director **Torin Douglas**, we'll look at how plaques are awarded with **Anna Eavis**, curatorial director of English Heritage. And we'll discuss who - if not Burgess - should get one, with **John Walsh**, former literary editor of the *Sunday Times*, and **Rose Sandy**, author, HarperCollins publishing director, diversity champion and founder of the HarperCollins Author Academy. Session sponsored by Chiswick Auctions, which this week featured a Jane Bown portrait of Anthony Burgess in its 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Photography sale (above right).

## Which Chiswick author would you nominate for a Blue Plaque?

The Chiswick Book Festival invites you to nominate an author you would nominate for a blue plaque, in not more than 30 words. The best entry will win a vintage edition of a Burgess novel from Foster Books, which sells rare books in Chiswick High Road. To comply with English Heritage criteria, the author must have a connection with a London building and have been dead for at least 20 years. Exhibition and competition sponsored by Bown Design & Build.



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Please email your entries to [admin@chiswickbookfestival.net](mailto:admin@chiswickbookfestival.net) or send them to: Blue Plaques Competition, Parish Office, St Michael & All Angels Church, Priory Avenue, London W4 1TX by Friday October 1st 2021. The judges' decision will be final.