

around ealing

Spring 2016

ealingnewsextra.co.uk

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She is 8 years old. So is the freeze on council tax.

Frozen again **p4**

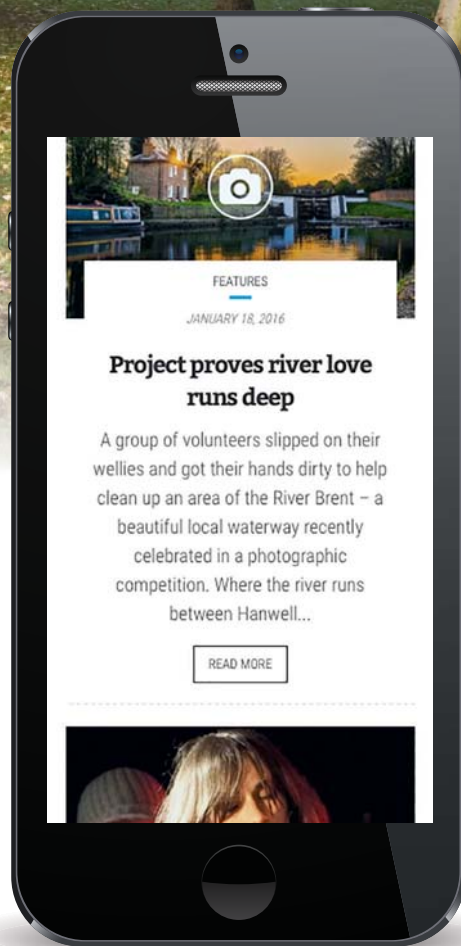


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SPRING15 EDITORIAL



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Whether by car, bus, or on foot, I always get around the borough a fair bit in the course of producing every magazine and we have a wide variety of stories in this edition.

You will also see a number of references to Ealing News Extra. It is a new online home for Around Ealing, and for all the extra stories, photos, videos, history articles and blogs we have been producing but which used to sit in various different places, not always easy to find. And also the latest news. These have all been brought together in one, user-friendly, place for you to enjoy any time you like: EalingNewsExtra.co.uk

Of course, if you sign up to receive the regular Around Ealing Extra emails you will be alerted to things you might otherwise miss. You can sign up at ealing.gov.uk/register

Richard Nadal
EDITOR

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 Register online for Around Ealing Extra updates at www.ealing.gov.uk/register Visit ealingnewsextra.co.uk for more.

PUBLISHER
Ealing Council, Marketing and Communications,
Perceval House, 14-16 Uxbridge Road, Ealing W5 2HL,
Tel: 020 8825 5000

EDITOR
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ADVERTISING
advertising@ealing.gov.uk
Distribution: 137,500 copies.

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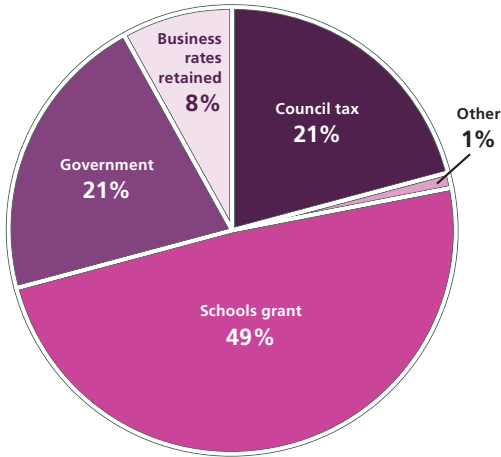
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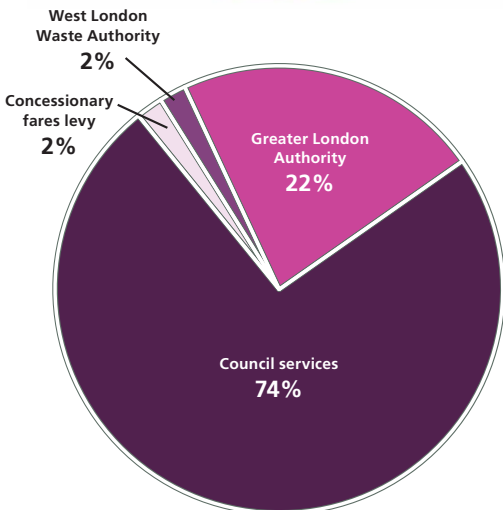
FRONT COVER: Council tax rates have been frozen for the eighth year running

Eight years. Zero rise

Ealing Council has agreed proposals to freeze council tax rates for the eighth consecutive year.



Where our funds came from 2015/16



Where council tax went 2015/16



Isobel from Hanwell is eight years old. In her lifetime, the council tax rates in Ealing have not changed.

At a council meeting in February councillors rejected the government's suggested option to raise council tax by up to 3.9% and instead chose to freeze rates for the eighth year running.

The rate freeze means that, over the eight-year period, there will have been cumulative cash savings of up to £1,040 for the average Band D council tax payer.

It had been suggested by the government that councils could increase council tax to fund social care and other services but, instead, Ealing will allocate £2.3million extra to social care next year, rising to £4million by 2019/20.

A special £5million social care transformation fund will be used to redesign services so fewer people need intensive help in future years. This social care funding package would exceed the amount of additional money the council could have raised if it had gone through with the government's proposed council tax rise.

Council tax payers will also see the GLA levy for the London Olympics removed from their bills this year – reducing bills by £19.

BUDGET CHALLENGE

The council expects to be able to freeze council tax and still balance its budget despite having less than half the money it had in 2010 to spend on services, thanks to its prudent financial management.

As soon as it became clear that local government would be facing major funding cuts, the council took immediate action to make savings as quickly as possible, putting the borough in a stronger financial position now. The council is also one of the best in London at collecting the council tax it is owed, which has helped to balance the budget.


The council will continue to face budget cuts for at least the next four years. The council is now making plans for a further £12million of efficiencies by April 2020, in addition to the budget reductions already agreed.

STILL INVESTING

By securing grants and searching for investment, the council has continued to bring in money to pay for projects that will help improve people's lives.

For example, council housing is being transformed in the borough through the council's estates regeneration programme and hundreds more affordable homes are being built through the council's New Build scheme.

The council has been fighting hard to make sure the borough gets the best possible deal from big infrastructure projects like Crossrail and HS2. Following objections by the council and the community, significant improvements were made to both the plans for the new station design at Ealing Broadway and the HS2 route through the borough, which will now be tunnelled between North Acton and Northolt. In addition, £7.3million was won to make improvements to the areas surrounding the local Crossrail stations.

Successful bids for Heritage Lottery Fund cash have been made to improve and preserve Walpole Park, Pitzhanger Manor and Gunnersbury Park. Southall Manor House, meanwhile, is on the verge of a reincarnation as a training centre and restaurant – helping to regenerate the area as part of the wider Southall Big Plan initiative and bringing in jobs, while restoring the historic fabric of the building. 



School growth

Despite the cuts we need to create places for nearly 700 more high school pupils by 2020 – when the children who have benefited from the borough's primary schools expansion programme reach secondary school age.

The council has found £9million over the next three years to create more high school places and a further £10.5million to provide more places for secondary school pupils with special educational needs (SEN) through expanding Belvue School and providing more supported places at other mainstream high schools.



MORE INFO

- You can view the council's statement of accounts at ealing.gov.uk



1 Your usual collection day for **recycling and rubbish** will change over the Easter period. See the advert on the back page of this magazine for details or visit www.ealing.gov.uk

2 Work is continuing towards acquiring the land on which Ealing town centre's new **cultural quarter and cinema** will be built. The old cinema, opposite Ealing Town Hall, closed in 2008 but work is due to start on a new multi-screen cinema this year, with the aim of opening in 2018. It will be at the centre of a two-acre complex which could have restaurants, bars, shops and homes. The land has been the subject of a compulsory purchase order by the council and its development partner Land Securities has now swung into action.

3 The **Hanwell Hootie** has become an established fixture on the local music calendar since it first ran three years ago, taking over many of the town's pubs for live bands and a festival atmosphere. On 2 April the event returns with lots of exciting new music, still backed by Ealing Council, Hanwell Association of Traders, Ealing Blues Festival, the Ealing Club and many others – including an international company with local links, Marshall Amplification whose founder Jim Marshall opened his first shops in Hanwell. Read an interview with one of the organisers and also a preview at ealingnewsextra.co.uk/features

4 The council's food safety team works hard all year-round to make sure public health is protected and that local restaurants, caterers, distributors and manufacturers are aware of the required standards and regulations. Read more at ealingnewsextra.co.uk/features

speedread

Freedom to travel

Older people across the borough whose Freedom Pass will expire on 31 March are being encouraged to renew without delay. Everyone whose pass expires should have already received a letter telling them how to renew.



The Freedom Pass allows older adults to travel on public transport for free across the capital – as well as on local bus services throughout England at certain times. The scheme is paid for by contributions from every London council.

Passes can no longer be renewed at the Post Office. Anyone whose pass expires in March but who did not receive a renewal letter in January should contact London Councils via www.freedompass.org or by calling 0300 330 1433.

A living wage borough

The council has confirmed it is setting up a scheme to encourage local firms to pay their employees at least the London Living Wage.

Up to £2,000 will be available for each of the first 100 local businesses to sign up to become a Living Wage employer. The council did this in 2013, and five firms have since followed suit.

The Living Wage is calculated according to the basic cost of living in the capital – currently at £9.40 an hour, which is £2.70 above the national minimum wage.



For more information visit www.ealing.gov.uk – and any businesses interested should email revenues@ealing.gov.uk

Topic of discussion



People are being asked to suggest subjects or problems they think the borough's councillors should look at in the coming year.

You have until 29 April to submit an idea; at which point a programme will be agreed for the council's scrutiny panels for 2016/17, which start meeting in June.

Scrutiny panels seek to improve services in the borough by examining the council's work and decisions, and those of local health bodies, contractors and other external agencies.

Topics suggested must affect a group or community of people (not just one person or a household) and must not have been considered by a scrutiny panel during the last 12 months.

Email ideas to scrutiny@ealing.gov.uk or post to Scrutiny Unit, Perceval House, 14-16 Uxbridge Road, Ealing, W5 2HL. You can also call 020 8825 7497.

Bees buzz back

Walpole Park's bees are expected to be back on show in late April or early May. The observation hive in the Rickyard building should be back in business – allowing the public to peek at the busy insects' home life.



You can open flaps to reveal a glass panel behind which there is, literally, a hive of activity.

Last year was the first the observation hive was in operation – and it could be viewed all week while the cafe kiosk was open. The bees are cared for by volunteers from the Walpole Friends group, which gathered a harvest of more than 100 pots of honey in the autumn. Sales of the dark, caramel-like honey helped to fund the hive – as did money from the council's Walpole ward forum and Heathrow Communities Together.



For more information, visit www.walpolefriends.org

Fowl play in park

There is a giant duck, more than 6ft high, in Hanwell. It is at Brent Lodge Animal Centre and is one of several creations by an artist who is capturing birds that are vanishing from Britain.

The mysterious street artist ATM has been brightening up uninspiring walls around the capital, including two creations at the animal centre in Hanwell – and Ealing News Extra managed to speak to him about why he does it. He also explained why he wanted to do some work in the animal centre in particular.



For the full story and interview, visit ealingnewsextra.co.uk/features



Mayoral elections

With the elections for the next mayor of London and the Greater London Assembly coming up on 5 May, people are being reminded to make sure they are registered to vote.

The last possible day you can register to vote is 19 April. The registration system changed last year to mean everyone must register individually, rather than one person being able to register an entire household.

For more information on the elections visit www.london.gov.uk or, for more details on registration, visit www.ealing.gov.uk/elections

LOTS MORE AT EALING NEWS EXTRA

Visit the website and sign up for emails



MUSIC FESTIVAL INTERVIEW

Ready to rock

Hanwell Hootie organiser looks forward to April's 2016 event.



LITTEN NATURE RESERVE

Hidden nature

Find out more and see a photo gallery of this little treasure



NEW SERIALISATION

Diary of 1930s life

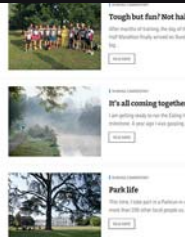
What was life like in 1930s Ealing, as the threat of war slowly loomed?



PARK'S UNSUNG ROLE

Conserving rare birds

Not many people know how much is done at local zoo for birdlife.



FILM/RUNNER/LEADER

Three blogs to read

Our popular blogs on TV and films, and running; plus leaders' new one.

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Fraud busters

All the London borough councils are working together on a new scheme to fight fraud which could save millions of pounds each year. Ealing Council is to lead the new London Counter Fraud Hub, which will be able to share and analyse data across the capital – to spot and investigate any potential cases of fraud. It will then work to recover and reinvest any funds taken illegally. See www.ealing.gov.uk/news

London's top high street

Pitshanger Lane in Ealing was named London's best high street in the Great British High Street awards.



It faced competition from two other finalists: Raynes Park

High Street in Merton and Roman Road in Tower Hamlets. Ealing Council backed Pitshanger Village Traders' Association's successful campaign for public votes. Competition judges also visited.

Competition organisers, the Great British High Street, said: "With its great community spirit, social media campaign and a commitment to supporting local retailers, Pitshanger delighted our judges."

Visit thegreatbritishhighstreet.co.uk


Help to stay home

Inspectors have praised an Ealing Council service which helps people regain their independence so they can stay in their own home.

The Care Quality Commission rated the council's reablement service, which is free to residents, as 'good' following its recent visit.

For up to six weeks, reablement carers visit people at home who need support to do more things for themselves after a hospital stay, bereavement or other trauma. This could include personal care and helping people to cook for themselves, manage their bills or do light housework and laundry.

Inspectors interviewed carers and customers as part of their visit. They noted from these conversations that 'staff took pride in their work and achieved great satisfaction from seeing people regain their independence.'

 Read an article on the service, and how it helped one man after a nasty fall, on pages 16-17.



Are you a private tenant or landlord?

Changes could be made to the current licensing rules for privately rented homes.

Ealing is one of the largest boroughs in London, with more than 137,000 residential properties. Of these, around 36,000 are in the privately rented sector.

Census figures for 2011 showed that private renting increased by nearly 70% over the 10 years between 2001-2011; and it also showed that houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) form an integral part of the housing supply in the borough.


In a bid to improve the standards of privately rented housing and tackle anti-social behaviour associated with HMOs in some parts of the borough, the council is examining the possibility of expanding the licensing system to better manage and regulate these rented properties.

Before any decisions are made, the council is running a public consultation which closes on Sunday, 3 April.

Many people will be affected by the proposed changes, including tenants, landlords, property agents, neighbours and residents. The council wants to hear their views.

In addition to the current regulations, it is proposed there would be a borough-wide scheme for smaller HMOs not already subject to mandatory licensing and also selective licensing for all privately rented properties in five wards – Acton Central, East Acton, South Acton, Southall Broadway and Southall Green.

Once the feedback has been assessed, it may lead to changes being made towards the end of 2016.

 For more information, and the chance to have your say, visit www.ealing.gov.uk/prslicensing



1 The council's recycling rewards scheme Greenredeem has helped fund a **clean-up of a river valley**. Where the River Brent runs between Hanwell and Greenford, volunteers organised by charity Thames21 and the council's park rangers have been collecting rubbish and tackling invasive weeds and generally improving the environment for wildlife. The project was funded from various sources. Residents build up points for recycling under the Greenredeem scheme and they can donate them towards community projects – including this one; and further funding has been provided by the council's Dormers Wells, Hobbayne, Greenford Broadway and Perivale ward forums. Visit ealingnewsextra/features for the full story.

2 A **running club** set up with help from Ealing Half Marathon has proved so popular that it has gained 50 regular members. Southall Running and Fitness, which operates from the council's Spikes Bridge Park, was launched last year by the mayor of Ealing, Councillor Harbhajan Kaur Dheer, and ward councillors to help improve local people's fitness, and is open to all abilities. Visit www.ealinghalfmarathon.com/running_group

3 As Around Ealing reported in the winter edition, **mini orchards** have been created by community groups taking over sections of local parks with the help of the council. The latest one is in Southall Park, where volunteers and residents joined council park rangers, school children, councillors and even police officers, for a tree planting event. The Southall Orchard Project is being led by the Southall Transition group in partnership with Ealing Council and the Tree Council. Visit ealingnewsextra/features for the full story.

speedread

The borough is blessed with interesting history and work has recently begun on restoring two of its landmark venues, reports Neelum Bains.

Stepping back to step forward

The main house at Gunnersbury

Following the successful revamp of Walpole Park, with a nod to its Regency past, similar work has started on the building, which the park once served as its grounds: Pitzhanger Manor House. Meanwhile, the much needed repair and restoration of Gunnersbury Park and Museum has also got under way.

Gunnersbury

The multi-million-pound preservation and restoration works will see new life breathed into the museum and grounds off Popes Lane, Acton. Many of the 22 structures on the site are listed but

many have fallen into disrepair and need significant attention.

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT?

Once reopened, the museum will be somewhere future generations of visitors can go to find out more about the area's past, its agricultural roots, industrial heritage and story of urbanisation.

There will also be improvements made throughout the park to restore some of its historical features including the once-impressive landscaped gardens which will reflect their former beauty. The first improvements planned include restoring the Orangery,

archways and terrace; building a new café; and reinstating the Round Pond to make it suitable for boating again. The Horseshoe Pond, meanwhile, will be recreated in its original location next to the Orangery.

New initiatives including free horticulture training sessions, a community orchard and mini-beast safaris are aimed at appealing to visitors of all ages. Meanwhile, guided walks and nature trails throughout the year will give visitors an opportunity to explore the parks beautiful grounds.

A range of activities designed to help the park become more sustainable have also been planned. These include taking on three horticulture apprentices from the local area to give them skills in gardening and conservation. This will be done in partnership with Capel Manor Horticulture College which also shares the site.





For recent history articles on Soane, Pitzhanger Manor and Gunnersbury, visit [ealingnewsextra/history](#)

Artist's impression of how Pitzhanger could look



Meanwhile, almost £9million is set to be spent on revitalising the park's sports facilities: New all-weather pitches; fresh grass pitches; a changing room block; an indoor sports hall (pictured left); and tennis courts.

TALKING NUMBERS

Visitor numbers to the park are expected to increase from an estimated 600,000

to more than one million people per year once the initial restoration work has been completed in 2017.

The park will remain open while the £21million renovation of the mansion takes place but the museum will remain closed until 2017, although school visits are still being accepted by the museum's learning service.

The Gunnersbury Park project is being funded by Ealing and Hounslow councils, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund.

Pitzhanger Manor

Undertaken in partnership with Pitzhanger Manor and Gallery Trust, Ealing Council's £10.5million restoration project will represent the biggest changes the Grade I listed building has seen in a hundred years.

Designed and built by renowned architect Sir John Soane more than 200 years ago, Pitzhanger Manor in Ealing will be restored to much more closely resemble his original architectural vision. It will also provide improved accessibility and modern facilities including a new café being built within the walled garden.

WALK THROUGH HISTORY

Victorian additions to the building put in long after Soane's death will be dismantled to reveal the house as he intended it. Visitors will be able to enjoy aspects that have not been visible for more than a hundred years.

Ingenuous elements of the original building will be reintroduced such as Soane's innovative designs for a



Artist's impression of the rear of Pitzhanger


glass conservatory to the rear of the house to allow visitors a great view of Walpole Park. Similarly, natural light will be allowed to flood back into the grand entrance lobby, illuminating the historically accurate decoration, and allowing visitors to enjoy the drama and elegance which made Soane world famous. The reinstatement of these 18th Century elements will complement the displays being designed to explain Soane's vision.

A replica of his original covered walkway will also be constructed to take visitors from the house to the gallery – which will itself be refurbished and updated to become suitable for a programme of exciting exhibitions of valuable and significant art.

GETTING IN...

While the restoration work is carried out there will be no access to Walpole Park from the Walled Garden or the arched gateway next to Perceval Lodge until the project is completed in 2018. Access will be possible via the entrances in Mattock Lane, Culmington Road, Lammas Park Gardens and via Post Office Lane.



Visit www.pitzhanger.org.uk or www.visitgunnersbury.org or email heritage@ealing.gov.uk for more information. 

Are you switched on to savings?



If you live in the borough, or run a small business here, there are ways you can save energy and money this spring.

Ealing Council is helping residents and businesses take control of energy costs through renewable sources and collective deals on bills – benefiting the environment and your pocket.

JOIN FORCES TO SWITCH SUPPLIER

Have you considered switching your energy provider to save money? Research suggests that not many of us have, but significant savings can be achieved if you do. Local people have saved £119,728 on energy since the first Big London Energy Switch auction in 2013.

The switch is open to all residents and businesses in the borough. By bringing buying power together, energy suppliers compete to offer you the best price – and you decide if you want to take the offer. Getting a good tariff has never been easier. To participate, register online before 17 May at biglondonenergyswitch.org.uk

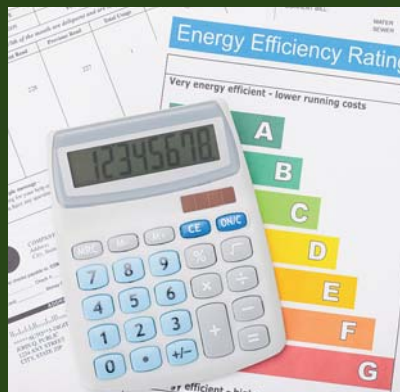
OR GET SOME ADVICE...

Remember, energy advice is available all year round. Just ring the council's free **COSIE helpline** on 0800 083 2265.

Any resident in the borough can make a free call to COSIE and receive tips and information on how to keep their home warm and how to keep energy bills down too.

Although anyone can call COSIE, some residents may also qualify for a home visit. If they are aged 65 or

older, are on qualifying benefits, have children under the age of five, or have a disability or specific long-term chronic health condition, a 'Green Doctor' may come round to offer tailored energy advice and support. Free measures such as draught-proofing, low energy light bulbs and reflective radiator panels may also be offered. Additional support is available for those who are struggling to pay their energy bills.



'GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY' FOR BUSINESS

A new two-year programme can give businesses in the borough access to experts who can help spot opportunities to become more energy efficient and save money.

The council's **Smart Business Grants** programme is a free service running until 2018, for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the borough.


All companies can find practical ways



to trim energy bills and improve their bottom line. Why not get in touch to find out more?

The first step is to register your interest with the team; you will then be visited by a professional advisor who will put together a bespoke report with recommendations on how to improve. Even better, there are grants available to help fund certain energy-saving measures, such as LED lighting, heating controls and machinery upgrades.

Andrew Jackson, energy officer for the council, said: "Businesses often lack the time, expertise and money to assess the opportunities for improving their energy efficiency and, with the cost of utilities rising, this programme offers local businesses a golden opportunity to understand just how much they can save and the expert support to realise those savings."

To book your free visit today, contact the team by email at businessenergy@ealing.gov.uk 



Sun shines on schools

Thanks to a new community energy project, led by Ealing Transition and supported by Ealing Council, seven local schools will benefit from solar power.

By 'crowd-funding' the money required for the project, Ealing Transition offered the community a chance to invest in clean energy for pupils and seven schools were suitable and willing to take part. Once installed, panels will convert the sun's energy into electricity to power the schools and students will learn about the process, and benefits, in lessons.

Keep an eye on ealingnewsextra.co.uk/features for an update in the coming weeks.



More good news brewing

The council continues to support clean energy across the borough and has installed solar panels on 521 of its homes since 2011 – bringing an estimated overall savings of £265,000 and 1.9million kilowatts in energy – enough to boil water for 93 million cups of tea.





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1

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2

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3

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Worried about Crime? Concerned about Police Performance?

The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) has established the Ealing Safer Neighbourhood Board (ESNB) to ensure police focus on the priorities of our local Ealing communities and to ensure cohesive engagement between the police and all aspects of our community.

The board will hold Ealing Borough Police to account for performance, give us as citizens and victims a greater voice in setting policing priorities, and will be able to access funds to commission projects in support of local crime prevention and confidence building initiatives. The ESNB has been established for just over 18 months and is made up of a number of members nominated by key bodies and community members recruited through an open process.

The board can only work with the active participation of our community. There are two main ways that each of us can engage.

**EALING
SAFER
NEIGHBOURHOOD
BOARD**

More information and an application pack can be found on our website

www.esnb.org.uk



Attend the open public meeting to be held at

**7pm on the
8th March**

at Ealing Town Hall. This will give you the opportunity to hear more about the work of the ESNB and to raise any concerns you may have about crime and policing in your area.

Join the ESNB. The ESNB is also looking to complement its membership by recruiting additional community members.

We are looking for dynamic individuals with a range of skills and interests to represent our diverse and varied communities. Those with particular skills in social media and proposal writing would be particularly welcome. However, more important is a keen interest in community relations, policing, and ability to understand the needs of the varied mix and diversity of our borough.



Join the debate and follow us on
Twitter @ealingsnb



WHAT HAS STARTED?

Research is under way to look at what might be needed and to help shape any work.

A new 'Town Team' has been set up for the area, which will include residents, organisations and businesses.

It will work to discuss issues that come up and help provide solutions and ideas to make improvements.

Meanwhile, work is taking place to improve road and pavement lay-outs in the area linking Acton High Street to Acton Central Station, predominantly along Churchfield Road, where there are already some popular independent shops and small businesses.

The planned transformation in Churchfield Road should help to achieve a more pedestrian-friendly shopping experience and create an outside space residents and businesses can use for events and street activities that will add to its growing sense of vibrancy and community spirit.

Other work will be put out to public consultation at a later date. The programme is being funded by The Mayor of London.

FUN TO BE HAD

The Town Team is helping plan fun town centre events such as the Acton Street Boutique Market held last year. The event gave local artists, entrepreneurs and 'under 16 entrepreneurs' a chance to showcase and sell their wares. The Mount (outside St Mary's Church) was transformed into a village square for the day with live music

and also a temporary café that raised money for the Housing 4 Women and Women's Forum charities.

A number of competitions were held. Among the winners of the various categories were:

■ Karishma Patel, for most original and entrepreneurial idea. She hand-makes products predominantly using paper recycled from old books, newspapers and magazines

■ Liberty Forsyth-Perrott, who was selected as best young entrepreneur. With the help of her father she sold toys, clothes and sweets under the trading name of Sweet Sweet Toys.

ACTON IN BUSINESS

Following on from the success of the Ealing Business Expo in November, a similar event will be held in Acton Town Hall on 19 May, 10.30am-3pm, focused solely on the businesses in the town. It will provide an

opportunity for showcasing, networking, and for entrepreneurs to find advice and information. Keep an eye on @ActonBizExpo on Twitter, or register your interest at tinyurl.com/ActonBizExpo-register

 www.ealing.gov.uk/regeneration



Acton means business

Over the coming months, Acton town centre will be undergoing some exciting changes which will enhance the area and support local businesses and entrepreneurs.

The Acton High Street Fund programme will help make the town centre a more attractive, vibrant and welcoming place. Some work has already started and there is lots more to come.



Help to heal at home

Despite a nasty fall at home which resulted in several broken bones, 70-year old Albert Daniel is determined to get back to normal with help from Ealing Council's reablement service.



Mr Daniel talking



Reablement is about helping people to regain their independence so they can stay in their own home.

Over a six-week period, reablement carers visit people at home who need support to do more things for themselves after a hospital stay, bereavement or other trauma. This could include personal care and helping people to cook for themselves,

manage their bills or do light housework and laundry.

Mr Daniel is living back at home in Ealing after a fall from a ladder which resulted in a broken arm and wrist, broken leg and broken hip. He had to have eight screws and a metal plate inserted in his forearm and, along with his leg and hip injuries, it has made simple tasks difficult – and potentially dangerous. Therefore, carers go around to help with things like showering.

His wife, Deklat, suffers from arthritis and so the help they receive from the council's reablement service is proving to be priceless.

"I'm the bionic man now," joked Albert, holding up x-ray images on his phone. "I can't use my hand a lot because there is a lot of pain and I am also scared what would happen if I fell in the shower. The service has made a big difference and I am very happy with what they are doing for me."

He is also given advice – and some exercises to do: "I try everything because I don't want to be useless," he said. "I am a guy who will fight to get better."

Deklat added: "What happened to Albert was terrible – it was a nightmare. I didn't realise before that you could ask for this kind of help. It has really helped."

Three months after receiving help, 96% of people are still living in their own homes and have avoided hospital admissions.

IT CAN START WITH A CUP OF TEA...

Care Quality Commission inspectors rated the reablement service, which is free to Ealing residents, as 'good' following its recent visit. Among the things which

impressed the inspectors was how staff took pride in their work and achieved great satisfaction from seeing people regain their independence.

For Andrea Powlett, being a reablement carer is more than just a job: "I find it very rewarding. We're here to give our clients a sense of purpose and hope back so that they don't just sit there and think their old life is gone. Everyone is different and sometimes you have to take time to build up a person's confidence that they can do things for themselves."

Reablement carers assess the needs and abilities of their clients throughout the programme, gradually encouraging them to do more for themselves.

Andrea explained: "It's about

taking time and giving someone the opportunity to do what they're comfortable with. You have to gradually encourage them to do things themselves, even if it's starting with buttering bread or making a cup of tea.

"We had a lady who had no self-confidence when we first went there but by getting to know her; asking her about what she used to do as a job and being very sensitive we gradually got her to do things herself. Little by little we were doing less for her because she had the confidence to do it herself."

As well as helping people to recover and stay independent in their own homes the service saves public money by reducing the likelihood of costly hospital admissions and people becoming reliant on other caring services. Three months after receiving reablement, 96% of people in Ealing are still living in their own homes and have avoided hospital admissions.



For more information on care and support services go to

www.careplace.org.uk



Greenford's secret garden

A Celtic hut was built at the reserve. Visit ealingnewsextra.co.uk/features for more.

Park ranger John Staples in Litten, with its London in Bloom award

The Litten Nature Reserve is an oasis of calm and natural beauty hidden just metres away from some of Greenford's busiest roads, reports Neelum Bains.

A committed team, made up of the council's park rangers and volunteers, has created a wonderful space for people of all ages to go and learn about nature and the environment. The reserve was awarded gold in the 2015 London in Bloom competition, where it was also crowned the best small conservation area.


With winding paths that lead you from one surprise to another, the reserve is made up of lots of unexpected pockets including a story circle, ponds and bug hotels.

Homes have been made for different types of bugs in a collection of mini-beast hotels around the reserve. They provide a place for small creatures to rest and nest, including beetles, centipedes, slugs and worms. The 'hotels' are made out of decaying wood and dead branches, making the structure ideal for little bugs and beasties to climb

inside and hide from anything bigger that might try to eat them. And for the more adventurous explorers, there are lifting logs that you can look under and find out what lives underneath.

With the support of the group Friends of the Litten, the reserve is a place where young people from local schools, such as Belvue, can go to take part in fun and educational activities

and help with task days to create and maintain the reserve.

There is an on-site classroom that can seat up to 30 pupils, ideal for any weather conditions, and there is always a lot to explore outside. During educational visits, young people spend most of their time outside in the reserve, exploring wildlife, natural habitats and learning about the importance of conservation. 

Why not volunteer?

If you have some spare time, enjoy spending time outdoors and want to learn about conservation, then the Litten is the place for you.

Volunteers of all ages and abilities are needed to help the park rangers during task days. Anyone taking part will need to wear appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear. Tools and training are provided by the park rangers. For more details email Jon Staples at jostaples@ealing.gov.uk or visit Bubble at www.dosomethinggood.org.uk – the council's website aimed at helping residents to connect with each other and make a difference to where they live.



Lots of furry friends, including five mischievous meerkats, are waiting to meet you this spring. Neelum Bains reports on how you can get a closer look.

The meerkats live at Brent Lodge Animal Centre, in Hanwell, with a pair of porcupines in a specially made enclosure that you can enter with a zookeeper. They take their time to approach you but once they get their courage up, they will make a lot of effort to make you feel part of their family: Pushing food pellets in your direction and climbing up to get a better look.

Your fun with the cute critters (for £35 per person, or £60 for two) does not have to end there. You can buy a meerkat adoption pack including a cuddly toy meerkat. You can also buy a sponsorship plaque to go up on the enclosure wall with your name on it.



If the fast and furry meerkats are not quite your cup of tea, the animal centre has more than 40 other species to enjoy, including snakes, peacocks and kune kune pigs. Or you can take in the beauty and light touch of its butterflies from 25 March.

The tropical butterfly house and reptile house costs just £2 to enter. You can watch butterflies feeding, flying around and even landing on you, before seeing the snakes, frogs and lizards next door.

HOLD A PARTY

You could make your child's party one to remember by having it at the animal centre. Parties last for two hours and include animal-themed activities, a private tour of the butterfly house and tropical rainforest walkthrough (where you can see snakes and poison frogs), and a chance to feed some of the centre's charismatic characters. Not every animal will be suitable for parties, but if you have a favourite remember to mention it when making your booking.

The parties accommodate a minimum of 10 children and a maximum of 20, and each child should be at least four years old. Prices are £15 per party guest (there is no fee for adults) and party bags are available for £3 per child. All of the money raised goes towards future projects and maintenance at the animal centre. ^{ae}

 Call **07956 362341** or email **animalcentre@ealing.gov.uk**



Construct your own career

This will become the 10th year that Ealing Council's internal apprenticeship scheme has recruited 25 enthusiastic young people as apprentices – and you can apply for the next set of vacancies in April.

There are numerous advantages to becoming an apprentice which can help you go on to build a career or be able to compete in the future job market, including the ability to earn while you learn.

In fact, there has never been a better time to become an apprentice.

Last year a new law came in which meant young people had to stay in education or training until they turned 18 years old.

Staying on in school or college may not always be the ideal path for everyone, so lots of young people are choosing to combine both training and education by joining an apprenticeship programme.

The council's apprenticeships are often in a wide range of disciplines – from planning to parks; and from housing to horticulture.

LUKE'S STORY

Luke Phippen, 19, is a multi-skills apprentice working with the council's repair service, which fixes and maintains council-owned property.

He's been learning plastering, plumbing, carpentry and bricklaying and, when we met with him, he was doing some fencing work.

The former Elthorne Park High School pupil is almost half way through a two-year apprenticeship and splits his week between two days of college-based study and three days with the repair service putting the theory into hands-on practice.

"I'm not doing the same thing every day", said Luke, "which is a real strength of doing this. Today I'm fencing;





That is not all...

As well as taking on its own apprentices, the council runs the Ealing Apprenticeship Network (EAN) to help local businesses set up apprenticeships of their own.

EAN recently celebrated the end of its third successful '100-in-100' campaign to encourage companies to pledge 100 apprenticeship opportunities in 100 days. It ran


between September and December, and young people are being invited to apply for the 159 placements that were pledged. Hurry, because as Around Ealing went to press, more than a third of the positions had already been filled.

Each year, EAN runs an awards night and opportunities for businesses to network. At the 2015 awards, Sophia Cabral (pictured) from social housing company

A2 Dominion was declared the Network Apprentice of the Year – and other apprentices and businesses were recognised for their efforts, too.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

If you think you have what it takes to fill one of the 159 EAN placements, go online at www.ealing.gov.uk/apprenticeships to fill in a questionnaire. You could be invited to a workshop or to meet with an advisor.

Businesses interested in taking on apprentices can call 020 8825 6234, any time of the year. 

tomorrow I could be fitting a new kitchen. It keeps it enjoyable and interesting. It is a great way to learn – some of the time I sit at a desk studying and the rest of the time I'm doing physical, hands-on work, which is the best way to properly learn – with the muscle memory.

"After this I am going to join the army and I wanted to have a skilled trade to fall back on when I return to civilian life.


"All the staff are great and it is a great first place to work. They get me involved and learning hands-on, which is what you want.

"I'd recommend an apprenticeship to anyone."

INTERESTED? HERE IS HOW TO APPLY

You must be aged between 16 and 23. The next round of vacancies at the council will be advertised in April. To find out about current vacancies, eligibility criteria and to apply for an apprenticeship, visit www.ealing.gov.uk/apprenticeships

KEY DATES

- Opening date for applications: 1 April
- Closing date for applications: 30 April
- Screening workshops: Tuesday, 17 May and Thursday, 19 May
- Interviews: From Monday, 30 May
- Apprenticeships start from September 2016 



Sophia Cabral

MORE INFO

- Call 020 8825 6234
- Email apprenticeships@ealing.gov.uk
- Visit www.ealing.gov.uk/apprenticeships



ACCESS ALL AREAS

Although Sally O'Connor has lived in Ealing for many years she has never used Ealing Broadway station because there are no lifts for the wheelchair user. As Caroline Clancy reports, this is set to change in 2017.

When four lifts are installed at the station, which is currently being transformed to prepare for the introduction of Crossrail, they will take passengers such as Sally from street level to platforms.

Sally, who is a member of accessibility campaign group Transport for All, said: "Any complex journey can take me twice as long as anyone else. For example, sometimes I go to the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square. At the moment I have to get an E2 bus to Brentford station (which has step-free access) and a bus from Waterloo.

"We've got to get these things in

place and it will be really good when lifts are installed at Ealing Broadway because it's a station I've never used."

Crossrail services will start running through Ealing Broadway from 2019, and it means Sally will be able to get to Tottenham Court Road in just 12 minutes and to Canary Wharf in just 26. Journeys to Heathrow will take just 15 minutes.



▲ The new incline lift at Greenford makes it easier for buggies and wheelchairs

▶ Crossrail will improve Ealing Broadway station.



Originally, it was planned that three smaller lifts would be fitted at Ealing Broadway. However, Ealing Council called on Crossrail to install four lifts and make them larger as well. The council backed this up with its own studies showing how many people with reduced mobility used the station. The council also pushed for lifts to be installed at Hanwell station as part of the Crossrail work.

Other Crossrail stations in the borough, West Ealing, Southall and Acton Main Line, will also get lifts.

In 2015 the council won a pot of £7.3million from Transport for London (TfL) to improve the areas around the borough's five Crossrail stations. The money will be used to make the stations more accessible. For example, more open forecourts and crossings or bus stops will either be moved or installed nearer to stations. Signage and information will also be improved and there may be extra seating installed near the stations.




GREENFORD'S INCLINE LIFT

Last year Greenford Station offered step-free access to its platforms for the first time in its 68-year history with the unveiling of an incline lift – finally making them accessible to pushchairs and wheelchairs, and easier to reach for people with luggage.

The council worked closely with TfL to make the idea of a lift a reality. The innovative lift travels on a slope beside the escalator and stairs.

It was cheaper to install than a standard lift because it saved the cost of excavating a lift shaft. But that is not all – it only uses an existing escalator space and is 50% more efficient than a standard lift because it only uses half as much power to run.

The council is now working with TfL to look at how accessibility can be improved at other stations in the borough, including North Acton, Northfields and Northolt station.

 For more information on transport in the borough, visit www.ealing.gov.uk/transport

ON THE BUSES



Another way in which the council has made it easier for everyone to use public transport is by making changes at bus stops. In order for a wheelchair user like Sally to be able to board a bus, a ramp extends out from the bus and on to the kerb.

In order for the ramp to be used safely so that it is not too steep for passengers, kerbs must be a certain height (at least 125mm).

In 2009 only 43% of the borough's bus stop met this requirement but now 96% do and the council is working towards 100% being accessible by 2018.



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING POSITIVE TO DO IN THE COMMUNITY?



FOSTERING - YOUR CHANCE TO REWRITE THE SCRIPT

You could make a real difference to the lives of local children by becoming a foster carer. In particular, we would like to hear from people who can look after sibling groups, older children and children with disabilities.

Foster carers are people just like you. They come from all types of backgrounds and are of all ages. Some of them have retired or their own children have left home.

You can be single or in a relationship, live in privately owned or rented accommodation and you can be any sexual orientation. You do need to have a spare bedroom and a genuine interest in children.

You will be fully supported in your role as a foster carer and you will be helping local children in your community to have a better chance in life. Your role will be challenging, but very rewarding.

You can meet some of our foster carers at our monthly information sessions. It's a great opportunity to ask questions and to find out how it all works.

Our next sessions are on 7 March, 11am-1pm and 11 April, 7.30-9.30pm in Ealing Town Hall. Contact us to find out more and to book your place.



"I'm helping children in the local community."

SUAD, CARER FOR 9 YEARS



"We receive excellent support to help us in our roles."

SHAKEELA AND TARIQ, CARERS FOR 2 YEARS



"I feel I'm making a difference to the lives of children."

CALEB, CARER FOR 9 YEARS



"I enjoy watching the children grow and thrive."

GERI, CARER FOR 7 YEARS

BE THERE. BE AN EALING FOSTER CARER.

Call Ealing Fostering and Adoption Connections on Freephone 0800 731 6550
Email fosteradopt@ealing.gov.uk

'We are a family now'



Mehrat Wosseneleh

do everything together and have lots of common interests. They follow her and copy what she's

and I always think – if you don't teach children how will they know? I always tell the girls to be positive in everything they do. I talk to them; listen to them. I have encouraged them to become involved in activities, like after-school clubs, to build their self-confidence and relationships with other children.

Finding foster carers who can care for siblings can provide many benefits to the children. It gives them comfort and security and can make it easier to settle into a new home. However, it can also help the foster carers, too.

Mehrat Wosseneleh lives in Greenford with her 11-year-old daughter and the two young girls she is fostering on a long-term basis. The girls are sisters and have been with Mehrat now for three years.

"It's very important they've been kept together," said Mehrat. "And being together also helps them settle in to their new home.

"My daughter has also played a big role – they play together nicely,

doing. We are one big family.

"I had been thinking of fostering for a while. I have always been really interested in children and I saw how my friend enjoyed fostering and the difference she has made to the children she cares for. And then the company I worked for closed down. I had a spare room and I thought – 'I could do that – I am raising my daughter anyway.'

"I always encourage other people to think about it, too, and they always say 'oh, but it looks so hard and is a big responsibility'. But I tell them not to worry – it is how you look after the children that will determine how you change their life. At the beginning I needed to explain to the girls why it is important to have routines and rules because it was all new to them, but they understood me;

"And the training I have had from the council has really helped me learn a lot and I still go to sessions now. The social workers give me a lot of support and advice – they give me anything I need.

"It is very rewarding. I can see a difference in the children almost every day. If they are happy, I am happy. I am proud of myself and feel really good to see them flourishing. We are a family now. Everyone leaves home one day, but even when that happens I will always be there for them."

BE THE DIFFERENCE

Interested in finding out more about fostering? View the advert on the facing page, email fosteradopt@ealing.gov.uk or call freephone 0800 731 6550. 



Staying alive



Young drivers, and their passengers, are at a much higher risk of being involved in a crash despite making up a tiny percentage of licence holders.

A hard-hitting theatre production combining film and true stories told in person by people affected by road crashes is working to counteract these alarming statistics by both shocking and educating students. Those who are on the cusp of driving age, or already getting behind a steering wheel – or even just those climbing into friends' cars as passengers.

Young people (aged 17-24) are more likely to take risks and, because of their inexperience, less likely to spot hazards. However, they are also more likely to drive under

the influence of drink or drugs, not to wear seat belts or to be distracted by using their mobile phones at the wheel to make calls or send texts.

Peer pressure from passengers can exacerbate these types of behaviour by encouraging drivers to show off and by making it harder for them to concentrate on the road. Passengers in crashes often come off worse than the driver – and 65% of passengers injured in accidents involving a young driver are aged between 17-25 themselves. In contrast, 23% fall into the 26-59 age category.

SO, WHAT IS BEING DONE ABOUT IT IN EALING?

Safe Drive, Stay Alive (SDSA) is a production run jointly by Ealing and Hounslow councils with the Metropolitan Police, London Fire Bridge and London Ambulance Service and funded by Transport for London. It is held at Questors Theatre in Ealing for students in years 12 and 13.

In 2015, 18 schools from Ealing and Hounslow took along a total of around 2,500 pupils to hear and experience the all-too-real tragedies caused by speeding, be told about the dangers of not wearing seat belts and understand the impact of peer pressure on poor decision-making and distractions.



Students are taken through the reconstruction of a fictitious, but typical, scenario which reveals the life-changing, or life-ending, consequences of dangers on the road. A short film tells the story of five youngsters travelling home in a car after a night out, and their evening ends in tragedy. The film goes on to tell of the impact it has on individuals. Speakers then come on stage and share their own stories of how a crash affected their lives, and their current personal circumstances. The speakers have included a police officer, a fire officer, a paramedic,

a father whose daughter was killed in a hit-and-run, and a young man who is now in a wheel chair

SDSA appears to be having an impact in London, with the number of young people killed and seriously injured gradually reducing.

BE THERE IN 2016

The next SDSA performances are due to take place between 10-14 October (Mon-Fri) – and the school of your son or daughter can be there. If it has not already signed up and you would like it to, speak to the school or email sta@ealing.gov.uk

i For more information on road safety for, and about, young people of secondary school age, visit think.direct.gov.uk/education/secondary

CRASH FACTS

According to road safety charity Brake:

- Drivers aged 17-19 only make up 1.5% of UK licence holders, but are involved in 12% of fatal and serious crashes
- Drivers aged 16-19 are more than twice as likely to die in a crash as drivers aged 40-49
- One in four 18-24 year olds (23%) crash within two years of passing their driving test



A hard-hitting film is shown

The Duffy family trying the new blue recycling bin. You can read their story soon on ealingnewsextra.co.uk/features

A better service

Most households will move to a new-look recycling and rubbish collection service in June, reports Deborah Dickey. Look out for your letter...

Those who currently use a green box for their recycling will move to a new system in early June:

- A new, **blue** wheelie bin for recycling, so you can put all your usual recycling – plastics, cardboard, paper – in one place
- You will keep your small, **green** bin for food waste; and
- A **black** wheelie bin to dispose of any waste that cannot be recycled.

WHEN WILL THEY BE COLLECTED?

Food waste will be collected every week. The two wheelie bins will be collected fortnightly: Your blue

recycling bin one week and then your black refuse bin the next week. People living in blocks of flats with communal recycling facilities will not be affected by the changes but they will see some improvements in the coming year.

WHEN DO I GET THE BINS?

- If you currently use black bin bags for rubbish and green boxes for recycling, you will get your new blue and black wheelie bins between now and June
- Some households already have a black wheelie bin. They will keep these and the council will just deliver a blue

recycling bin to them between now and June

- Everyone should already have a green food waste bin. Those who do not can order one from the council free of charge at www.ealing.gov.uk/reportit
- Most flats and homes on red-routes will continue to use clear plastic sacks for their recycling, unless they are suitable for a wheelie bin
- The garden waste collection service will continue as normal.

Everyone affected by the changes will receive information about their new service. Look out for a letter in the post soon. BE

IT REALLY WORKS

Recycling will be easier, because plastics will not have to be separated out any more and all recycling apart from food waste will go in the blue bin. And because unrecycled rubbish will be in wheelie bins, animals will not be able to rip open black sacks and spill their contents all over the streets.

Across England, 70% of councils already successfully collect their rubbish and recycling this way. Closer to home, it has been introduced with great success in other London boroughs:

- Bexley saw an increase in recycling from 41.6% to 50.6% in one year
- Haringey rose from 24% to 32%
- Bromley was 40% and rose to 49%
- Harrow was 27.7% before the service change and now four years later achieves 50% recycling, one of the highest in the country.



Weekly

Recycling week

Rubbish week

BRING IT TO YOUR BOUNDARY

Leave your bins at the edge of your property by 7am on your collection day

Any extra refuse left outside your black bin won't be collected.



HELPING HAND

Residents who are physically unable to put their bins out for collection can apply to receive an assisted collection. If you think you will have difficulty moving your bins, and there is no one in your household to help, you can fill in a form on the council's website www.ealing.gov.uk (search for 'assisted collections'), or you can call the council's customer service line on 020 8825 6000.

MORE INFO

Find out more information about the new service at ealing.gov.uk/recycling and facebook.com/ealingrecycling



Most people are now recycling

More than 72% of you are now doing some recycling, and it is saving thousands of tonnes of waste from landfill every month, reports Deborah Dickey.

Cans, glass bottles, paper, cardboard, juice cartons, plastic bottles and food trays are being given a second lease of life by being sorted and sold to manufacturers who use them to produce new goods. And food waste is being sent to a special plant where it is turned into electricity and sold back to the national grid, and fertiliser for agriculture.

When the new bin collection service starts, it will become easier to do even more. You will only be asked to separate food waste from the rest of your recycling. All the items that currently go in the green box and


Read tales of local 'recycling champions' at ealingnewsextra.co.uk/ features





white sack can be put together in the new, blue wheelie bin.

This mixed recycling will be sent to a facility where the recycling will be separated by magnets, spinning drums and electric currents; as well as hand sorting.

Each of the separated material types are then bundled together before being sent off to be transformed into new items. 

What could your recycling become?

Did you know that your recycling has the potential to live again and again?

Drink cans can become

- Train tracks
- Bicycle parts
- Paper clips

Plastic bottles can be turned into

- Clothing
- Fences and garden furniture
- Window frames

Glass bottles become

- New glass bottles
- Glass fibre insulation

Paper can be used as

- Newsprint
- Tissue
- Packaging materials

Juice cartons can become

- Large inner tubes for industrial purposes

Myths about recycling

MYTH: Hardly anyone recycles so why should I?

TRUTH: More than 72% of households in the borough already recycle something, with more than a third using the food waste collection.

MYTH: What's the point? It all goes to landfill anyway.

TRUTH: In London last year, only 3% of recycling went to landfill and this was because it was placed in the wrong container in the first place.

Recycled material becomes a valuable commodity that can be sold on to manufacturers, so why would it be thrown away?

MYTH: Food breaks down naturally in landfill anyway, so what is wrong with putting it in the bin?

TRUTH: Rotting food in landfill actually produces large amounts of methane, a harmful greenhouse gas. It also produces a toxic liquid called leachate (bin juice) which can pollute nearby

ivers and other water sources.

But, when food is disposed of properly in the green food waste bin, it is sent to an anaerobic digestion plant where micro-organisms break it down and it is converted into electricity for the national grid and fertiliser. So, food recycling is more powerful than you might think.

MYTH: It takes more energy to recycle materials than to make new ones

TRUTH: Making products out of recycled materials uses considerably less energy than using raw materials, even when other costs like transport are taken into account.

MYTH: Recycling does not affect me anyway

TRUTH: Recycling makes a big difference to everyone in Ealing. It stops your council tax money from being

wasted on landfill charges – it cost £8million in charges last year because the council has to pay for every tonne of rubbish that is not recycled; this cost ultimately trickles down to affect you, the tax payer. And, of course, recycling helps the environment. Together, everyone's small recycling actions can add up to help make a big difference.





Spring clean your garden

The council's garden waste collection service is 'convenient and easy', said Southall resident Simmi Gill (right), who also keeps the cost down by sharing a bin with neighbours. Deborah Dickey reports.

Almost 16,500 households in the borough use the council's garden waste collection service to get rid of their cuttings, leaves, twigs and old plants, instead of making the journey to the tip.

MORE ABOUT THE SERVICE

- 1** The service costs just £60 a year (April to March)
 - 2** Subscribers can choose between using green bags or a green wheelie bin, depending on how big their garden is and how much waste they produce
 - 3** The council collects the waste fortnightly and sends it to a special digestion plant where it is turned in to high-quality compost – which is then used for agriculture
 - 4** When people sign up to the garden waste service they automatically become members of the Gardening Club. This means that they receive a regular newsletter packed full of expert gardening advice and special offers
 - 5** If garden waste is not recycled and is sent to landfill instead it rots without air, it creates methane – a greenhouse gas 20 times more harmful than CO₂
 - 6** Garden waste cannot be put in your general rubbish bin – if it was, then your bin would not be collected. There are three ways to dispose of it: Take it to Acton or Greenford re-use and recycling centres; use a compost bin (see below); or sign up for the garden waste collection service.
- Visit www.ealing.gov.uk/recycling for more information.

OTHER WAYS TO BE GREEN

You can make your own compost in your garden using a discounted compost bin or a wormery. Compost bins are priced from £17.98 from www.ealing.getcomposting.com and advice on how to get started can be found at www.ealing.gov.uk/recycling



Splitting the cost

Simmi Gill is a mother of two and she has been using the garden service since 2012. She has a small garden so shares a single green wheelie bin with her next door neighbours. They then split the annual cost between them so both households benefit from having their green waste collected from their doorsteps.

As Simmi showed us round her well-kept garden, she said: "I really enjoy my garden. I have a lawn with pot plants and grow a lot of my own herbs for cooking. I keep my garden neat and tidy so of course I end up with grass cuttings and clippings from the shrubs and trees. I know that it's wrong to put this stuff in the general rubbish collection and I don't have the time to take it to the tip in Greenford.

"That's why the garden waste collection is ideal for me. It's convenient and easy, because all I have to do is put it in the wheelie bin and it's taken away for me. And because I share the bin with our neighbours, it only costs about 60p a week which I think is a bargain."



Can you think like a burglar?

Burglaries are often carried out by opportunist thieves, and some do not even have to use much force to get in through doors and windows that are not properly secured, reports Gracia Leo.

In the run up to Christmas, the council's safer communities team joined forces with the police to visit homes in a burglary hotspot area in north Greenford. As part of this they were able to speak to a number of residents and offer information and advice. The team does this type of activity regularly.

As well as the obvious requirements of having strong, certified locks fitted

to doors and windows, residents are also encouraged to look at the home through the eyes of a burglar. This includes thinking about how they would get in to their home if they had forgotten their keys. If they think they could do it without getting a locksmith then so could a burglar.


Most people have a practical routine that they follow to make sure their home is secure every time they go out.

But there are also many simple precautions that can be taken to reduce the risk of your home being burgled if you are out, or away.

If you know what burglars are looking for, you can try to do something about it. These are some of the main things they look out for:

- High front boundary that acts as cover (like large hedges, for example)
- Low side and rear boundaries (for easy access)
- Insecure side gate
- Insecure garage/shed door or window
- Insecure or weak front door
- No lights on when its dark outside
- No burglar alarm on the house
- No security light
- Open windows
- Valuables visible from the windows
- Long, uncut lawn or unkempt garden (suggesting absence).

Remember, most burglaries happen when a property is empty. They are also more likely to happen during the evening or night. Use timer switches to turn on lights, radios and other appliances when you are out or planning to go away. If you need to, also cancel delivery of mail, milk and newspapers if away for long periods.

For more tips www.ealing.gov.uk/staysafe or call the safer communities team on 020 8825 5994. 

SAFETY STATS IN 2015

- 1 More than 300 'Smartwater' packs have been provided by the council so residents can identity-mark property
- 2 Almost 40 lockable, steel gates have been installed in private alleyways to protect homes from burglars, fly-tippers and other anti-social behaviour
- 3 More than 50 spy-holes and intercom systems for front doors have been put in to protect vulnerable and elderly residents against distraction burglars and other unexpected callers.
- 4 In 2014/15 burglary offences in the borough fell by more than 25%.

'This is much safer'

In 2015, Vivian Springer of Evergreen Court, Hanwell, agreed to try-out a spyhole and intercom system and a new front door, along with her neighbour Frances Holder, at their sheltered housing block. They were approached by the council's sheltered housing team, which was working with colleagues in the safer communities team to help prevent residents falling victim to con artists who distract people or lie about who they are to get inside and burgle homes.

When she had her old front door and chain Mrs Springer much preferred to go and check through her kitchen window when anyone called. But since having the new front door fitted, complete with the spyhole and intercom, she feels much safer dealing with unexpected callers.

She said: "This is a brilliant idea and much safer, especially for older and more vulnerable people. We hear lots now about bogus callers and with this new door you can quickly check to see, and even speak to anyone who comes calling. You don't have to open the door unless you want to."

Following the successful trial, every home in the block has now had a new front door installed with an integrated spyhole and intercom installed.



Safer communities officer and police constable speaking to a resident in Greenford about home safety

Changes to Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support

Housing Benefit changes

- Local Housing Allowance rates for private tenants will be frozen from April 2016 for four years
- From 1 April 2016 backdating for Housing Benefit will be limited to a maximum of one month for people of working age
- From 1 April 2016 Housing Benefit cannot be paid to people who go abroad for more than four weeks (exceptions apply).

Council Tax Support Changes from 1 April 2016 for working age

Pensioners are not affected by these changes.

- the amount that is ignored from a person's weekly earned income to calculate council tax support entitlement will increase
- the maximum council tax support for customers who have been in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance for more than 12 months will increase from 70% to 75%
- people who fall into the vulnerable categories will have to pay a minimum of 8.5% towards their council tax
- non-dependant deductions will increase

For more information about these changes, go to
www.ealing.gov.uk/housing

Tell us about changes

You must tell us straight away about any changes to your circumstances that may affect your housing and or council tax support.

Report your changes

Online: www.ealing.gov.uk
Phone: 020 8825 7000

Apply for support

You can apply online for housing benefit or council tax support if you are on a low income and need help making payments.

Sign up for MyAccount to access your council tax and benefit accounts on our website.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC EXHIBITION: PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF 52 – 58 UXBRIDGE ROAD, EALING

CEG invites you to attend a public exhibition to view early proposals for a high quality office space development on 52 – 58 Uxbridge Road, Ealing.

We will like to meet with members of the local community to discuss the need for quality office space in the area and how to help to retain and attract local employment opportunities into Ealing.

We are keen to hear your views prior to a planning application being prepared.

The exhibition will be held on Tuesday 22nd March 2016, between 4.30pm until 8.30pm at the Ealing Town Hall, New Broadway, London W5 2BY

*We look forward to meeting you at the event.
If you would like any further information please call 08448 425 285 or email ceg@onlybeattie.com*



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A new centre for teenagers with special educational needs and disabilities is set to open, which will help them develop the skills and confidence to find work. Caroline Clancy reports.

Just the job

From September, students from Belvue will have fresh, modern facilities at the refurbished Ken Acock Centre; and the chance to take hands-on courses there in hospitality, catering, basic carpentry, painting and decorating and tiling.

and crafts made of glass they produced themselves, will also be based at the centre. Meanwhile, vegetables grown by the students on two nearby allotments will be used in catering classes held there, too. English and maths lessons will also be taken.

"Here we have a higher level of pastoral care and support," said Shelagh, "which makes a difference in helping our students to develop and become more mature."

Belvue School, for students with moderate or severe learning difficulties, is set to grow by bringing the Ken Acock Centre in Northolt under the school's control. The centre will reopen as an exciting new 'hub' offering 16-19 year-olds vocational training.

The move has been made possible thanks to funding from the Department for Education and additional funding from Ealing Council as part of an initiative to improve skills and opportunities for young people with special needs.


'GIVING THEM ANOTHER CHOICE AT 16'

Belvue headteacher Shelagh O'Shea said: "The harsh reality for young people with learning disabilities in the long term is that they are more likely to be unemployed and can feel isolated. The whole concept of the new resource centre is to maximise the opportunities for our young people over the age of 16 to get them into paid or voluntary work.

"We want to make them feel more confident and give them another choice at 16."

Smashing Glass, a business run by Belvue students selling gifts

MORE RESOURCES AT SCHOOLS

A new base for students with special needs opened at William Perkin High School in Greenford last September, funded by the council and government; and another is due to open at Elthorne Park High School in Hanwell this September. Following a consultation held earlier this year, the council is expected to decide in May whether to open an additional one, for 20 pupils, at Greenford High as part of the school's expansion plans. 

 Details of services for children, young people and families with additional needs and disability is available at www.ealing.gov.uk/SEND



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[†] Based on weekly statistics provided by Siteimprove

Could you share your life?

“Now I feel I belong to a family – and I had never felt that way before. It’s great,” said Norvege Mbiya. As part of the council’s Ealing Shared Lives (ESL) scheme, Norvege lives with a family in Greenford.

The scheme brings together adults with mild to moderate learning disabilities and local families. It can be a long-term living arrangement, in the carer’s home or it can come in the form of respite for a few days or weeks at a time. Carers can also provide day support in the community for a few hours, such as accompanying someone to regular activities.

Patricia Quarshie started looking after Norvege as a foster child at 15 years of age, Norvege is 28 now. She was recognised as having moderate learning disabilities and it was agreed that Patricia could stay as her carer so

See what others like Norvege and Patricia have to say. Watch a video on the Ealing Council YouTube channel

she joined Ealing Shared Lives and they have continued to live together since.

Patricia said: “It is what we both wanted. It is perfect. She is my daughter. It is rewarding seeing the transformation in her over the years and I also see Shared Lives as contributing to society.”

Norvege said: “Sometimes I call Patricia my mum. And it’s like being at home. Before, I was moved from one place to another. Now I am part of a family.”


COULD YOU SHARE YOUR LIFE?

ESL is looking for more carers. Are you flexible, committed and caring? Do you have a spare bedroom and live in the borough? Have you ever considered a career in care?

Carer Myrna Odeyale said: “It’s an ideal job for someone whose kids have grown up and they have a spare bedroom. What better way to bring someone into

their lives? It will enrich their lives and the other person’s life as well.”

Interested? You do not need to have any qualifications but you must be able to communicate effectively. A long term placement is paid between £342 and £449 a week. Respite/day support is paid on a daily or hourly rate. You will receive training and support along the way.

The ESL team has had information stalls at various locations around the borough – keep an eye on @EalingCouncil on Twitter for the latest events. Alternatively, the team would like to talk to you – just call 020 8825 5436. 

MORE INFO

- Visit: www.ealing.gov.uk/sharedlives
- Twitter: @EalingCouncil



Parked or dumped?



© Drina Film / Shutterstock.com

We have all seen it before – an unfamiliar car that has sat untouched in your road for days. But you may be surprised to know only 3% reported last year were actually confirmed as abandoned and taken away to be crushed.

Just because a vehicle is poorly parked, or is not believed to belong to a resident in the road, it does not necessarily mean it has been abandoned.

Last year, a total of 1,843 vehicles were reported to the council as being abandoned, but only 62 were removed for destruction. Nearly a quarter of them could not even be found by officers because the car owners must have driven them away.

So what do you do if you think there is a problem with a car in your road?

PROBLEM 1: MIGHT NOT BE TAXED

Tax discs stopped being issued in October 2014, which could make it more confusing for someone trying to figure out if a vehicle has been abandoned.



So, if one of the main reasons you are suspicious of a car is that it does not have a tax disc the first port of call should be the DVLA – or you can check its tax status on the gov.uk website because they still need to be taxed, of course. Visit www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax and enter the vehicle registration and make.

The council does not remove untaxed vehicles, however. Enforcement of this lies with the DVLA. So if the car is not taxed, it should be reported to the DVLA by calling 0300 790 6802 or via the gov.uk website.

PROBLEM 2: CAR IS NOT FROM THE UK

Foreign vehicles that may have been abandoned should be reported to the DVLA – Under EU legislation, vehicles from the European Union are permitted to be in the UK for a period of six months before registering with the DVLA for tax purposes.

PROBLEM 3: IT IS DANGEROUS

If a vehicle is dangerously parked, causing an obstruction or is a danger to other road users, it should be reported to the police – by calling 101. The police have the power to immediately tow away any such vehicles.



PROBLEM 4: IT IS PARKED ILLEGALLY

If you think a vehicle is parked illegally or in violation of parking restrictions contact the council's parking services – parkingservices@ealing.gov.uk


PROBLEM 5: ANYTHING ELSE

The council has a legal duty to deal with other vehicles reported as abandoned on land in the open air, rather than in a road, whether it is on the public highway or private land e.g. housing estates, garage blocks, parking areas. An officer will contact the owner, where possible, to either remove it or claim it. Once officers are satisfied a vehicle has been abandoned, it will be

removed. However, if a vehicle is claimed, the council is not able to take any further action.

In order to report an abandoned vehicle to the council via its website at www.ealing.gov.uk/reportit, you will need to know the following or it might not be able to be investigated:

- The vehicle registration
- Make, model, and colour

- The exact location of the vehicle (i.e. nearest house number or junction).
- To know if the vehicle is taxed (by calling the DVLA on 0300 790 6802 or via the www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax)
- The exact location of the vehicle (i.e. nearest house number or junction).
- Contact details for the person reporting must also be provided. 

WHEN IS A VEHICLE ABANDONED?

The following features are generally associated with abandoned vehicles:

- Stationary for a considerable length of time
- Detritus, like leaves and litter, gathered around vehicles
- Deflated tyres or missing wheels
- Rusted brake discs
- Significantly damaged, run down or not roadworthy
- Accident damage
- Malicious damage

- Build-up of waste within the vehicle
- Missing number plates.

A VEHICLE IS NOT DEEMED ABANDONED IF:

- It is parked legally on the road
- There are no restrictions on that road and the vehicle is not breaking any traffic laws
- It has valid tax
- It is in good condition or it is not causing an obstruction.



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Caught on the hop

One in five of all insurance claims in the UK are shameless fakes. Why should you, and Ealing Council, pick up the bill for scams this spring?

The council sometimes finds itself on the end of such claims: Either completely fabricated, or exaggerated, by people looking to make some money. And, even if an insurance claim is turned down, your council tax is still helping to pay for a case to be investigated and defended in court. A recent case cost the council £100,000 to disprove a bogus claim about a faked fall.

Every year, this fraud results in millions of pounds being wasted across the country. These are not victimless crimes because you, the taxpayer, are always left to pick up the bill – and, consequently, funding for our local services suffers.

Every pound saved by preventing this type of fraud could be spent on local services instead.

HELP US STOP THEM

By calling FraudLine, you can help us stop these crimes against our community. If you think you have some information about a fraudulent insurance claim you can call 0800 328 9270 – a special 24-hour hotline. It is free and confidential, and is manned by people with the expertise to help.

The council, and FraudLine, has the support of the government-funded Insurance Fraud Enforcement Department, led by City of London Police.

TYPES OF FRAUD

There are common types of insurance fraud. These include making exaggerated claims by pretending an accident was far worse than it really was; untrue personal injury claims that describe a false set of circumstances, time or place of an accident; completely bogus claims that use invented symptoms or an incident that never occurred; and multiple claims where the fraudster knowingly makes claims for the same injury in a number of different local authority areas.

FRAUDLINE

Call the 24-hour freephone hotline

0800 328 9270





Public Health
England

NHS

Ealing

Clinical Commissioning Group

Need medical advice fast?

...but it's less urgent than 999?



The NHS
non-emergency
number

Call 111 when it's less urgent than 999

If you need medical help or advice fast, but it's not a 999 emergency, call the free NHS 111 line at any time. You can also call NHS 111 for emergency repeat prescriptions and medications.

Ask the pharmacist!

Pharmacists can offer advice and provide medicines for coughs and colds, pain relief, flu vaccines, and other common conditions. Some pharmacists are open late, on weekends, or on the bank holidays. To check the opening times and addresses of your nearest pharmacies, visit www.nhs.uk/service-search.

Need to see a GP or practice nurse when your practice is closed?

Patients in Ealing who need to see a GP or nurse urgently in the evenings, weekends or bank holidays, can book a same day appointment at a number of GP practices in the area. To find out which practices are open when yours is closed, telephone 111.

Need emergency mental health support out of hours?

If you live or work in Ealing, Hounslow, or Hammersmith & Fulham, you can phone the West London Mental Health out-of-hours telephone number for urgent help in a mental health crisis on **030 0123 4244**, 24 hours a day.

For immediate, life-threatening emergencies, continue to call 999.



www.staywellnwl.nhs.uk

Leyla Hannbeck, Pharmacist

Road to repair

A pot of £4.4million was earmarked for resurfacing roads and pavements across the borough this year. Deborah Dickey found out how some of the projects are progressing.

An independent survey of all the roads and footpaths in the borough is carried out every year. Surveyors walk the entire length of the road network looking for problems such as potholes, cracking, and other signs of deterioration and damage. Only independent, professional survey companies can carry out this work for the council.

Each road is then given a condition rating on a scale of 1-100. Those with a low rating are in the best condition. Those with a high rating are in the poorest condition and are targeted for resurfacing. During the course of this past year, roads and pavements with a rating of 80 or more were prioritised.

Ealing Council dedicated £3.5million to resurfacing work and was granted a further £935,000 from Transport for

London for important repairs. Most of the schemes are now complete and the council will be announcing its programme for 2016/17 in the next few months. Again, it will focus on the roads and pavements that the independent survey shows to be in the worst condition.

TWO RECENT EXAMPLES

Around £300,000 was spent on improving the section of Castlebar Road between Haven Green and Mount Avenue last autumn. This is a busy route for cyclists and drivers and the road had been in poor condition.

It introduced a new 250-metre uphill cycle lane, keeping cyclists separate from other traffic on the narrow main road. Cycling can be difficult uphill and this scheme makes it much safer to do so. The cycle lane and the resurfacing of the road have complemented each other and benefited all road users, especially cyclists.

Cyclists and motorists who use Twyford Avenue, meanwhile, will have also noticed the difference in the surface. The section between Uxbridge Road to Noel Road had become increasingly damaged and has been patched extensively in the past. The new surface not only makes it easier to

cycle and drive down, it will also reduce the council's maintenance costs on this important thoroughfare because of the longer-lasting repair work. [ae](#)



Twyford Avenue before



Twyford Avenue after



Councillor Julian Bell
Leader, and regeneration



Councillor Ranjit Dheer
Deputy leader, and safety, culture and community services



Councillor Yoel Gordon
Chief whip



Councillor Hitesh Tailor
Health and adults' services



Councillor Binda Rai
Children and young people



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Housing



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Councillor Harbhajan Kaur Dheer



Deputy mayor
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Acton

- **East Acton:** Mon 14 March, 7.30pm at East Acton Primary School, East Acton Lane
- **South Acton:** Wed 2 March, 7pm at Centre for Armenian Information and Advice, Mill Hill Road
- **Southfield:** Wed 9 March, 7.30pm at Southfield Primary School, Southfield Road

Ealing

- **Cleveland:** Tue 1 March, 7pm at Hathaway Primary School, Hathaway Gardens
- **Ealing Common:** Tue 1 March, 7.45pm at Boddington Gardens Sports Ground Pavilion, Boddington Gardens
- **Hanger Hill:** Thu 3 March, 7.30pm at West Twyford Primary School, Twyford Abbey Road

Hanwell

- **Elthorne:** Thu 3 March, 7pm at St Mellitus Church Hall, Church Road
- **Hobbayne:** Wed 9 March, 7.30pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Greenford Avenue

Greenford


- **North Greenford:** Thu 3 March, 7pm at Horsenden Primary School, Horsenden Lane North

Northolt

- **Northolt West End:** Wed 2 March, 7pm at Viking Primary School, Radcliffe Way

Southall

- **Lady Margaret:** Wed 9 March, 7pm at Lady Margaret Primary School, Lady Margaret Road
- **Norwood Green:** Thu 17 March, 7pm at Havelock Primary School, Havelock Road
- **Southall Green:** Wed 23 March, 7pm at The Dominion Centre, The Green

 For full details, visit www.ealing.gov.uk/wardforums



Providing hope

Five ward forums in Southall have stepped forward to support a scheme to provide an around-the-year homeless shelter and help to get people sleeping rough off the streets.


After a plea from the Hope for Southall Street Homeless project, run by charity St Mungo's, the council's ward forums in the area all contributed equally to a £10,000 fund to get things started. The money from the Dormers Wells, Lady Margaret, Norwood Green, Southall Broadway and Southall Green wards has been used to set up 'roving' shelters in faith venues around Southall and further money is being gathered from other sources to establish a permanent shelter from which outreach workers can help individuals find accommodation.

Elizabeth Ursell, manager of St Mungo's Broadway outreach team in Ealing, said: "This scheme is about the community's involvement in saving lives. We

opened up a cold weather shelter for the first time in 2014, just after Christmas, for a few nights, and again last winter when the temperature dropped below zero. Having a shelter that's open all year will help provide longer term solutions for those who find themselves homeless and sleeping on the streets."

The shelters are not direct access, so people with concerns about a person sleeping rough can call StreetLink on 0300 500 0914.

HAVE YOUR SAY

To have your say on matters that affect you where you live, come along to the next meeting in your ward by putting the meeting date, shown on this page, in your diary or by following @ealingcouncil on Twitter. 

Ealing no mystery to Agatha Christie

Did you know the well-known character Miss Marple was based on a lady who lived in Ealing? Or that her creator also featured our borough a number of times in murder mystery stories?



This year marks the 125th anniversary of the birth of the most famous detective writer of all – and also the 40th year since her death: A double milestone being marked around the country.

The 1911 census lists, in the household at 99 Uxbridge Road, Ealing, a 20-year-old named Agatha Miller. Later, she was known as Agatha Christie.

She was visiting her great aunt Margaret Miller, who had lived in Ealing for more than three decades. Mrs Miller had an important role to play in her great niece's future because she was the inspiration for her favourite fictional character, Jane Marple. Although there were differences between the two elderly ladies, they shared a great scepticism about human nature and their fears

usually turned out to be correct.

Although Agatha was born in Torquay and lived for much of her life in Devon and Oxfordshire when she was not on one of her numerous trips abroad, she often visited her great aunt in Ealing in its late Victorian and Edwardian years, when the term 'Queen of Suburbs' was first coined.

Agatha clearly had plenty of affection for Mrs Miller, for she spends pages describing her aunt and her social circle and the Ealing of the times in her autobiography. She remembered walking around the fields near St Stephen's Church and also the alarm felt by some at the arrival of the trams in 1901. However, once Mrs Miller left Ealing in 1914 Agatha knew it no more, having no reason to visit it again. As with many other detached houses on the Uxbridge Road,

the house was demolished in the 1960s to make way for office blocks, but her older home near Florence Road, survives.

Yet Ealing did feature in a number of Agatha's later stories, more so than any other identifiable suburb of London. An alleged murder weapon is found on Haven Green in a short story in the 1920s. Reference is also made to the District Line station nearby. In Poirot novel the detective visits a house in the fictionalised Castlebar Road to talk to a retired civil servant about a current investigation. Miss Marple once takes a train through 'Haling Broadway' and 'Harwell' (Ealing Broadway and Hanwell).

There is even a place for what was once known as the County Asylum, referred to by the characters in *The Big Four* as the Hanwell Asylum. A member



CHURCH'S CHANGING FORTUNES

Have you ever thought about the history that lies behind the names of bus stops as you travel through Perivale towards Ealing Broadway? Manor Farm Road really does refer to farmland that stood in 'Greenford Parva' as it was once known.


In 1963, church historian Eric Beavis published a book: *Perivale – Its Manor, Church and Patronage*. More than 50 years later, his daughter Hilary has published an updated version to reflect the remarkable resurrection of St Mary's Church.

The rural community of Perivale preceded the church and it appears in the Domesday Book of 1086. Its farming existence, and wheatlands, continued down to the end of the 18th Century.

St Mary's was founded in the 12th Century. It would have looked very different then, with an earthen floor, no windows and probably a thatched roof. The chancel was added around 1250 and the vestry and wooden tower about 1510. Its ancient history makes it well worth a visit during the annual Open House weekend in September.

Throughout all these changing centuries, St Mary's remained a constant. But then trouble hit the church in the 1960s and it was described as being in danger of falling down.


It fell to a group of local volunteers to turn things around; enabling the church to become a well-regarded venue for classical music concerts.

Read the full story, extracted from Hilary Beavis's book, at www.ealingnewsextra.co.uk/history 

of staff arrives at Poirot's flat, wanting to know about a man who has allegedly escaped from there. It is not one of Poirot's more astute moments in one of Agatha's lesser books.

A real life murder in Ealing in 1936 may have inspired part of Christie's novel *Towards Zero*, written a few years later. In 1954 there was a murder in Ealing which might well have been subliminally inspired by an Agatha Christie style whodunit.

A few other coincidences are that David Suchet, well known for playing Agatha Christie's Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot, lived in Southall and Acton in the 1980s, and Philip Jackson who played Inspector Japp also lives locally. In 1985, when living in Acton, Suchet played Inspector Japp in the TV film *Thirteen at Dinner*, alongside Peter Ustinov as Poirot and recalled it was not one of his best roles.

Dr Oates gave a talk on this subject at Ealing Central Library recently. Keep an eye on the What's On pages for other talks. 





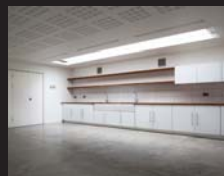
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WHAT'S ON

PM Gallery & House

Walpole Park, Mattock Lane,
Ealing W5 5EQ

The house and gallery are closed to the public for restoration until spring 2018. However, Pitzhanger will continue to hold a range of heritage and arts activities, workshops and classes at the new Rickyard venue in Walpole Park, and in spaces across the borough.

For information contact: 020 8567 1227 or visit www.pitzhanger.org.uk



Libraries events

Mother's Day craft

5 March – see below for venues and times.

Make something special and show your mum how much she means to you. Contact the specific library for more details.

Ealing Central Library – 2-3pm

Jubilee Gardens Library – 2.30-3.30pm

Northolt Leisure Library – 10-11.30am

Perivale Library – 2-3pm

Southall Library – 2-3pm

West Ealing Library – 11am-12noon

Wood End Library – 2-3pm

LEGO Education workshops

Children will be introduced to the fun and interactive LEGO Education programmes, WeDo and StoryStarter. Using LEGO Education children can stretch their imagination and boost their literacy and numeracy skills, as well as developing their understanding of computing and design technology. Suitable for children aged eight-12 years old.

Advance booking required through the library. £7.50 library members, £12 non-library members per session. Each workshop is three consecutive sessions. For further information visit www.ccslibraries.com/legoeducationealing or email ccslego@ealing.carillionservices.co.uk

Hanwell Library – 4, 11 and 18 March, 3.45-5pm

Northolt Library – 3, 10 and 17 March, 4-5.30pm

St Patrick's Day craft

12 March at Greenford Library, 11am-12noon

Make your friends green with envy. Create something nice for St Patrick's Day. Free, drop in.

Storytime and art activity

17 March at Pitzhanger Library, 2-3pm

What does your dream park look like? Does it have swings, trees, giant animals? Design your own and put it on display in the library. Free, drop in.

Easter craft and activities

Contact the specific library for more details.

Free, drop in.

Ealing Central Library – 19 March, 2-3pm

Northfields Library – 19 March, 2-3pm

Hanwell Library – 24 March, 11am-12noon

Jubilee Gardens Library – 26 March, 2.30-3.30pm

Southall Library – 26, 30 and 31 March, 2-3pm

Wood End Library, 30 and 31 March, 2-3pm

National Storytelling Day

20 March at Southall Library, 2-3pm

Commemorate the lost art of storytelling. Listen to stories and discover new worlds from the comfort of your library. Free, drop in.

Local history talks

• **29 March: Underground Ealing**

Dr Oates's talk examines air raid shelters, ice-houses, tunnels (real and imagined) and rivers that are or were beneath the surface in Ealing. Why were they built? Why are they often the subject of urban myth?

• **12 April: How local history can assist with family history**

A study of local history can add flesh on to the bones of your ancestors' lives and this talk by Dr Jonathan Oates shows how this can be done.

• **10 May: Teaching Ealing**

Professor Alan Gillett was educated in the borough and is now a school governor and his talk looks at local schooling from the 16th Century to the present.

All in the **Green Room at Ealing Central Library at 6.15pm**. £3 library members, £5 non-members. Contact the local history centre on 020 3700 1055 or email ealing.localhistory@carillionservices.co.uk

Libraries in Ealing

There are 13 public libraries in the borough where you can borrow items from books to DVDs and CDs. Free internet access is available in all libraries to members and non-members. Libraries are free to use. Events are also free unless otherwise specified.

For information contact your local library or email reading@ealing.gov.uk or visit www.ealing.gov.uk/libraries

Acton Library

High Street, Acton W3 6NA.

Tel: 0203 700 1056

Ealing Central Library

103 Ealing Broadway Centre, The Broadway, London, W5 5JY. Tel: 0203 700 1052

Greenford Library

Oldfield Lane South, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 9LG.

Tel: 0203 700 1062

Hanwell Library

Cherington Road, Hanwell, London W7 3HL.

Tel: 0203 700 1076

Jubilee Gardens Library

Jubilee Gardens Health Centre, Jubilee Gardens, Southall, UB1 2TJ. Tel: 0203 700 1088

Northfields Library

Northfield Avenue, Ealing, London W5 4UA.

Tel: 0203 700 1082

Northolt Leisure Centre Library

Northolt Leisure Centre, Eastcote Lane North, Northolt UB5 4AB. Tel: 0203 700 1080

Northolt Library

Church Road, Northolt, Middlesex, UB5 5AS.

Tel: 0203 700 1078

Perivale Library

Horsenden Lane South, Greenford, Middlesex

UB6 7NT. Tel: 0203 700 1090

Pitzhanger Library

143/145 Pitzhanger Lane, Ealing, London W5 1RH.

Tel: 0203 700 1086

Southall Library

Osterley Park Road, Southall, Middlesex UB2 4BL.

Tel: 0203 700 1059

West Ealing Library

Melbourne Avenue, Ealing, London W13 9BT.

Tel: 0203 700 1065

Home Library Service

Tel: 0203 700 1073

Wood End Library

Whitton Avenue West, Greenford, Middlesex

UB6 0EE. Tel: 0203 700 1084

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WHAT'S ON

Gunnersbury Park Museum



Gunnersbury Park Museum is currently closed for restoration until January 2017 however there are still lots of activities to attend.

Join us for fun, free Easter holiday activities for children and families. Art workshops delivered by community arts group APPLE. Song writing

workshops with Magic Numbers singer/songwriter Michele Stodart. Advance booking is essential.

We will also be hosting a series of exciting, creative workshops over the May half term, including a Mini Beast Safari with an Ealing park ranger.

For full details of all holiday workshops and activities, please refer to our website: www.visitgunnersbury.org

Should you have any queries please email the public programmes officer, Sharon Walters at gunnersburylearning@ealing.gov.uk

**For information contact
020 8992 2247/1612**

Council meetings

MARCH

- Tue 8** Health and adult social services scrutiny panel
- Thu 10** Overview and scrutiny committee
- Tue 15** Audit committee
- Wed 16** Planning committee
- Thu 24** Overview and scrutiny committee
- Wed 30** Standards committee
- Thu 31** Scrutiny review panel 2 (community centres)

APRIL

- Wed 13** Regulatory committee
- Thu 14** Scrutiny review panel 3 (co-operative enterprises)
- Tue 19** Cabinet
- Thu 21** Scrutiny review panel 4 (child sexual exploitation)
- Tue 26** Health and adult social services scrutiny panel
- Wed 27** Planning committee
- Thu 28** Licensing committee

MAY

- Tue 10** Full council
- Thu 12** Overview and scrutiny committee
- Tue 17** Cabinet
- Wed 18** Planning committee

Meetings due to be held at Ealing Town Hall at 7pm. Correct at time of publishing. Visit www.ealing.gov.uk/committees to check dates and times.

EAL COURSE GUIDE

DAYTIME & EVENING ADULT LEARNING COURSES

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www.ealing.gov.uk/adultlearning

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Courses for 2016

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- Introduction to Crochet, Embroidery & Tapestry
- Tai Chi for All
- Cup Cake Decorating for Beginners
- Computing Absolute Beginners
- Sign Language
- Health and Well Being

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Ealing Adult Learning
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Tel: 020 8825 5577

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Easter collection dates

Your usual collection day for recycling and rubbish will change over the Easter period:

Usual collection day	Revised day
Friday, 25 March (Good Friday)	No change to collections
Monday, 28 March (Easter Monday)	Tuesday, 29 March
Tuesday, 29 March	Wednesday, 30 March
Wednesday, 30 March	Thursday, 31 March
Thursday, 31 March	Friday, 1 April
Friday, 1 April	Saturday, 2 April
Collections return to normal Monday, 4 April	



For more information on rubbish and recycling services please visit www.ealing.gov.uk/recycling