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HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
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**Help  
with cost  
of living**

**p8**

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# WINTER<sup>22</sup> EDITORIAL

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**W**hen I was standing in a street recently that contained both a foodbank and a, seemingly ubiquitous, McDonald's fast food restaurant, it prompted the question: Which is there now more of? You could say, perhaps, that the answer I found was the perfect encapsulation of the cost of living crisis: There are now more than twice as many foodbanks in the UK as there are branches of McDonald's. Ealing Foodbank is in need of donations and volunteers and you can read more on pages 10-11.

The cost of living is not all about food, of course. And we try to list some of the most helpful ways to find support on pages eight and nine.

Lastly, I wish everyone a pleasant Christmas, or Chanukah, and a happy new year.

Richard Nadal  
**EDITOR**

**FRONT COVER:** Winner of last year's Christmas card competition. Find out who won this year's 2022 contest at [aroundealing.com/news/christmas-card-winner](https://aroundealing.com/news/christmas-card-winner)

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# Leader's Notes

'These are clearly difficult days we are living in, with challenges at every turn'

**Councillor Peter Mason**

Leader of the council



Beacon in Walpole Park for the Queen's jubilee

**A**s we come to the end of another year, it's a good time to look back at some of what has been achieved.

In the autumn edition of *Around Ealing* I explained how our new Council Plan identified what you could expect to be done by the council over the next four years (2022-2026). However, there is also an annual action plan which went into the detail of what would be done this year. A lot has already happened.

In June, we had one of the biggest programmes in London for the

Queen's Platinum Jubilee and helped residents host 150 street parties. Those memories became even more poignant with the recent passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.



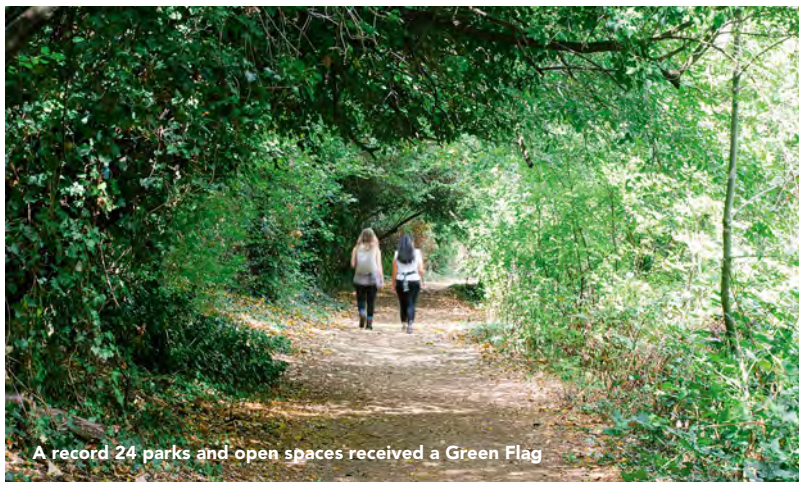
## **SCHOOLS, PARKS AND TRANSPORT**

The first of 17 new school streets has been introduced, with more to come, and we are investing in improving air quality monitoring for schools. See pages 30-31.

Ofsted inspections brought the total number of council-run schools being rated as good or outstanding to an incredible 97%.

A *Travel in Ealing* Charter set out how we will work with residents on new transport projects. We are investing £6.25million in improving pavements, tracks and roads, and £1million on





A record 24 parks and open spaces received a Green Flag

more bike hangers to slash waiting lists, with at least 150 by 2026.

Our parks and open spaces were awarded a record 24 Green Flags. And, we have embarked on our programme of planting 50,000 trees across the borough – see pages 20-21.

### DELIVERING ON COMMITMENTS

As part of our A Safer Ealing for Woman Action Plan, more than 3,000 street lights are being upgraded. Meanwhile, a new women-only gym was opened at Dormers Wells.

Following the Ealing Race Equality Commission's report, the council committed to establishing a citizens' tribunal – which has now held its first meeting – see page 17.

A special Ealing Together event honoured local heroes who helped others come through the COVID-19 pandemic, and reflected on those we have lost.

The Southall Reset programme began, to help tackle deep-rooted challenges and support its residents and

businesses to thrive. Southall Manor House has also been given a new lease of life and is being brought back into use to benefit the local community.

### BRINGING GOOD JOBS

Having invested £2 million into increasing wages for care workers, we are now adopting the Real Living Wage (RLW) for home care workers. This uplift in wages will meet the RLW of £11.05 per hour, an independently set rate that reflects the real cost of living in the capital. We are also committed to increasing this in May to meet the RLW for 2023 of £11.95 per hour.

And hundreds of residents have been helped into new jobs, while close to a thousand residents have been helped to achieve new qualifications.

Meanwhile, Park Royal has become one of the Mayor of London's Creative Enterprise Zones, supporting young, local creatives – see page 35.

It really was a very busy first half of the year. This is just a snapshot. And there is, of course, more to come.

→ We know the **cost of living crisis** will be dominating the thoughts of many of you reading this now. A cost of living emergency was declared at a recent meeting of the full council. And it is a fact reflected in this edition of the magazine. Here at the council, we are especially concerned. Anything we are all able to do to help our neighbours this winter could prove invaluable – in the same spirit of kindness shown by thousands of you at the height of the coronavirus pandemic.

We are taking action on a local level, too, with a council tax reduction scheme targeted to support those most in need; energy advice from Healthy Homes Ealing; four community hubs set up at locations across the borough with advisors on-hand and a family-friendly space to relax; and also a new section on the council website **www.ealing.gov.uk/costofliving**.

where you can find all the latest information on the help and advice available. Please see pages 8-9 of this magazine for more details. We are also in the process of working with local organisations to provide warm spaces for people to go during the colder months – please keep an eye on **aroundealing.com** and our social media channels for information.

→ These are clearly difficult days we are living in, with challenges at every turn. So, I'm sure that any time you are able to spend with loved ones, friends or family this winter will be extra special. Whatever you are doing, I wish you all a **happy Christmas, or Chanukah**, and give you my assurance that I and my team here at the council will be continuing to work hard. I hope 2023 will be a good year for us all.

**£ CREATING  
GOOD JOBS**

**TACKLING  
THE CLIMATE CRISIS**

**FIGHTING  
INEQUALITY**

**1** Ealing Council services will only have essential cover over Christmas between 25-27 December and on New Year's Day and bank holiday (1 and 2 January). Limited services will run between 28-30 December.

**2** Your usual weekly **recycling and rubbish** collections may change over Christmas and the new year – see page 29 of this magazine for more details or visit [www.ealing.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/recycling) for details of how to download a collections calendar.

**3** The council honoured some of our local COVID-19 heroes at the **Ealing Together Honours** celebration. The event was about thanking those who went above and beyond to support residents through the pandemic. Visit [aroundealing.com/news/ealing-together-honours](http://aroundealing.com/news/ealing-together-honours)

**4** Nearly £2million is to be invested by the council in continuing to offer addiction support to rough sleepers – and a further £4million so it can strengthen the help it provides to other residents with drug and alcohol misuse problems. Visit [aroundealing.com/news/addiction-help](http://aroundealing.com/news/addiction-help)

**5** An astonishing **250 tonnes of fly-tipped rubbish** was cleared from a derelict pub site. There were all types of waste at the former White Hart pub in Church Road, Northolt, and it took 25 large skips to take it all away in stages after council officers issued a legal notice. See photos at [aroundealing.com/news/250-tonnes-fly-tipping](http://aroundealing.com/news/250-tonnes-fly-tipping)

**6** The two ends of the **Elizabeth Line** (or Crossrail) were joined in November – meaning the borough is now even more connected to the city centre than ever before.

**speedread**



## Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II

This autumn, after the death of **Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II**, 1926-2022, the borough mourned and remembered.

On 9 September, two letters of condolence were sent by the council to His Majesty King Charles III, on behalf of the whole borough. One was from the mayor of Ealing, Councillor Mohinder Midha. The other was a joint letter from council leader Peter Mason, chief executive Tony Clements, leader of the opposition Councillor Gary Malcolm and leader of the second opposition Councillor Julian Gallant.

Flags on local public buildings were flown at half-mast and a book of condolence was opened at Ealing Town Hall. Members of the public were invited to leave floral tributes in an area at the front of the town hall. These flowers were later turned into mulch and used as fertiliser in the borough's parks and gardens.

On the day of the funeral, 19 September, everything came to a standstill, and many council services were suspended or closed for the day. The day beforehand, a minute's silence was held across the country – including outside Ealing Town Hall.

At [aroundealing.com/history](http://aroundealing.com/history), our local history section carried an article by borough archivist Dr Jonathan Oates on a couple of Queen Elizabeth's visits to the borough, in 1946 and 1985.

A follow-up story presented photos and memories from residents, including of a third visit to the borough when Her Majesty went to Gunnersbury Park in 2002 during her Golden Jubilee tour.

Earlier this year, of course, a programme of events was held locally to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, and you can still see photos at [aroundealing.com/news/jubilee](http://aroundealing.com/news/jubilee)



**Pictured above inset: Councillor Mason and mayor of Ealing Councillor Midha laying floral tributes.**

# Better renting

Nearly half of all of the homes privately rented in the borough will come under a new scheme that aims to improve conditions for renters.

**E**aling Council's new selective licensing scheme, which is set to be the largest of its kind in west London, will come into force on 3 January 2023.

It has been introduced to improve property conditions and management standards in the private rented sector, leading to more sustainable tenancies for landlords and better conditions for renters and the local community.

Although the scheme was approved by the council's cabinet earlier this year, its size and scope meant that government approval was also required, from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, which was received in September. The new scheme equates to more than 50% of the overall size of the borough and nearly half of all privately rented homes within it.

A smaller selective licensing scheme came into force in three wards in the borough in April this year, together with an additional HMO (house of multiple occupation) licensing scheme applicable to smaller HMOs. But this new selective

scheme will apply to all privately let properties in a further 12 wards.

## 'MOST AMBITIOUS PROPERTY LICENSING SCHEME'


With the proportion of the borough's homes in the private rented sector increasing by 65% in the last 10 years, the council has committed to ensuring that private renters have access to safe, secure and decent homes.

Councillor Shital Manro, the council's cabinet member for good growth said: "The current cost of living crisis means that supporting our vulnerable residents has never been more important. Although the overwhelming majority of landlords in Ealing are decent, law-abiding people, private rented property licensing offers us a means of tackling the minority who aren't.

"This is our largest and most ambitious property licensing scheme to date, and it demonstrates our continued commitment to supporting landlords while taking a strong approach to tackling poor property

conditions. It will foster greater security for landlords and tenants alike in this vital housing sector."

Landlords are urged to submit applications from 3 January–3 April to take advantage of a 25% discount on the licence fee, in addition to further reductions for accredited landlords.

 Find out more about the private rented property licensing schemes at [www.ealing.gov.uk/prslicensing](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/prslicensing)

## Check it out

- If you own or live in a privately rented home, or live next to a property that is privately rented, you can check to see if it falls within any of the designated areas at [www.ealing.gov.uk/postcodechecker](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/postcodechecker)
- Check to see if a property has a licence at [www.ealing.gov.uk/publicregister](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/publicregister)
- Report unlicensed properties by emailing [PRSLicensing@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:PRSLicensing@ealing.gov.uk)

## Giving your views

More than 1,000 residents are in the process of taking part in the 2022 Ealing Residents Survey. Ealing Council commissioned independent research agency Lake Market Research to carry out the survey, with interviews taking place on the doorstep between 10 November and 16

December. The survey is an important way for the council to gather residents' views on their area, their concerns and priorities, and also how they use local services. Researchers will have ID and a letter from the council. See more at [aroundealing.com/news/residents-survey](http://aroundealing.com/news/residents-survey)





# Coping with rising costs

Ealing Council's website has a section explaining what help is available during the cost of living crisis. Support is being offered by many organisations across the borough.

The webpage can be found at [www.ealing.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/costofliving)



or by using the QR code here. It brings all the help together in one place to make it easy to see exactly what you might be able to access, and how to do it.

Here is a taste of some of the information available. Make sure you are claiming the financial help that you are entitled to.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE COUNCIL

Automatically paid to eligible residents*	Residents can also apply for**
£150 Energy rebate scheme (paid by September 2022)	Local Welfare Assistance to help in a crisis or to pay for basic essentials and energy
Discretionary energy rebate scheme (from October 2022)	Discretionary Housing Payments to help with housing costs including help rent arrears and rent deposits.
Household Support Fund to help eligible families, pensioners and care leavers towards food and essential items	Council Tax Reduction or Discretionary Council Tax Discount to support paying council tax bills

\*No application required. Eligible residents will receive a notification from Ealing Council outlining more details and how money will be paid. \*\*Eligibility varies. Further information can be found at [www.ealing.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/costofliving)



## COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION

The council is changing its council tax reduction (CTR) scheme to help those who are in most difficulty.

CTR is already available to those who struggle to pay the full council tax. However, the council committed to expanding the scheme and ran a consultation asking residents for their views on increasing the maximum entitlement of CTR to people to provide help for residents who need it most. The consultation ended on 7 November and the results were in favour of going ahead. It means there will now be an increase from 75% to 80% for those who are eligible and fall into the lowest income band. Some may be entitled to even more support.

Councillor Steve Donnelly, the council's cabinet member for inclusive economy, said: "This change represents a 5% increase in the money the council sets aside to specifically help those who are the least well off in our communities. It will ensure that they pay less towards their council tax, allowing them to keep more of their money and help with the rising cost of living."

## OTHER SUPPORT FROM THE COUNCIL

■ **Employment and skills:** Work Ealing and Learn Ealing offer support to those seeking employment or looking to improve their skills or qualifications. Find out more: [www.workealing.com](http://www.workealing.com) or 020 8825 8486 / [www.learnealing.org.uk](http://www.learnealing.org.uk) or 020 8825 5577

■ **Energy advice:** Call Healthy Homes Ealing, 0800 083 2265, for advice on how to stay warm, conserve energy, and save money on fuel costs. See pages 12-13 for more

■ **Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme:** Fun activity clubs to keep

eligible children entertained in the school holidays alongside a nutritional meal. Find out more at

[www.ealingfamiliesdirectory.org.uk](http://www.ealingfamiliesdirectory.org.uk)

■ **Free school meals:** Meals provided for eligible school-aged children during term time. Your child's school can support you to apply.

Up to date information on all the support being offered by Ealing Council can be found at

[www.ealing.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/costofliving) or, for advice, call 020 8825 7170.

## COMMUNITY HUBS

Staff in four community hubs are there to offer you support and advice. They are at Acton Library, Ealing Central Library, Northolt Library and Southall Library. If you do not have the internet at home, you can also pop into your nearest hub, or any local library, to get online for free. Find out more, including opening times, at [aroundealing.com/news/community-hubs](http://aroundealing.com/news/community-hubs)

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT

A number of automatic payments have been made to households claiming eligible benefits (£650 paid in two instalments); pensioners receiving the winter fuel payment (£300 one-off); and people with registered disabilities (£150 one-off).

In addition, all UK households are receiving £400 credit directly from their energy provider into their energy account, with the money spread over several months. This payment does not need to be repaid. See more on pages 12-13.

Up to date information, including who is eligible, is available online via [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

## OTHER SUPPORT AVAILABLE

■ **Maximise your benefits:**

Make sure you are claiming all the

benefits you are entitled to. Go to [www.moneyhelper.org.uk](http://www.moneyhelper.org.uk) or call 0800 011 3797

■ **Community Support Directory:**

Voluntary and community organisations provide a wide variety of support. Go to [www.dosomethinggood.org.uk/directory](http://www.dosomethinggood.org.uk/directory)

■ **Debt advice:** Get free, confidential and expert advice. Step Change is a national charity with trained advisors. Go to [www.stepchange.org](http://www.stepchange.org) or call 0800 138 1111

■ **Foodbanks:** There are a number of foodbanks operating around the borough. Call 0808 208 2138 for free (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm) to talk confidentially with Citizens Advice about your circumstances. The council's Local Welfare Assistance team or Job Centre Plus can also make foodbank referrals. Read more about Ealing Foodbank on page 10.

■ **London-wide support:** The London Cost of Living Hub offers a wide range of support and advice about dealing with debt, claiming benefits and looking after your mental health. Go to [www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/communities/help-cost-living](http://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/communities/help-cost-living)

■ **Save money on everyday items:** Websites like Money Saving Expert support you to find the best deals for household bills and everyday items alongside helpful advice and money saving tips – go to [www.moneysavingexpert.com](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com) 

## Extra financial advice

See the second money tips column from Steve Allen from the London Community Bank at [aroundealing.com/news/common-sense-with-money-2](http://aroundealing.com/news/common-sense-with-money-2)



Ealing Foodbank team  
leader Charlie Lakin  
at St Mellitus Church

# 'Every bit of help will make a difference'

Did you know there are now twice as many foodbanks in the UK as there are McDonald's restaurants? With a hard winter ahead, they are in higher demand than ever.

The fast food chain is a very familiar sight for all of us, wherever we go, and McDonald's own website states it has 1,270 restaurants around the country. But, according to the Food Aid Network, there are at least 2,565 foodbanks. This comparison helps to show how many people now rely on help. And the cost-of-living crisis has been making things worse.

Ealing Foodbank is an independent Christian charity affiliated with the Trussell Trust network of foodbanks in the UK. It has a warehouse and main base at St Mellitus Church in Hanwell –

and now also runs centres at six other locations around the borough.

As part of the Ealing Together coalition with the council and other local organisations, the foodbank was central to the response to COVID-19 but has continued to be critical to everyday life.



You need a unique code and vouchers to use foodbanks, and to get those you need to be referred.

The most common types of referrals to foodbanks come from job centres, housing charities like Acton Homeless Concern and EASE, a local community development charity. But Ealing Foodbank actually has more than 200 referral partners, including schools, local charities, health visitors and the council's local welfare assistance (LWA) service. For advice on vouchers, call the LWA team on 020 8825 6237 or Ealing Advice Service on 020 8579 8429 (option 1).



## 'BUSIER THAN IN THE PANDEMIC'

"Ealing is the busiest Trussell Trust foodbank in London, which is not necessarily a badge of honour," said Jeremy Hyde, the interim manager of Ealing Foodbank.

"In the first six months of 2022, we were helping 19,542 adults and children – which is 35% more clients than the same period in 2021. And this is all before the cost-of-living crisis really hit."

"The queue is longer than we've ever seen," confirmed team leader Charlie Lakin. "It's busier than in the pandemic. There is a lot of discussion amongst clients of a choice between eating or heating and a lot of anxiety about how they will get help."

## CAN YOU DONATE OR VOLUNTEER?

"Food donations have gone down," said Jeremy. "Not least because the crisis is affecting local people who used to donate."

Hilary Padmore, the foodbank's warehouse manager, agreed: "We are very short on everything at the moment. At the peak of the pandemic, we were getting seven or eight tonnes of donations a week, whereas now it is more like two or three tonnes. We are having to fund the gap."



Warehouse manager Hilary Padmore

The foodbank is also in need of volunteers – people who can help direct clients as they come in, and also drivers who can take food packages out from the warehouse to the other centres and also pick up food from collection points at local supermarkets.

Jeremy added: "Every bit of help from local people, whether through volunteering or donating, will make a difference."

## SUPPORT AND ADVICE

"It is more than just food here, of course," added Jeremy. "The support and advice provided here aims to help clients get into a position where they

no longer need to use a foodbank."

Crosslight, a charitable organisation, provides in-depth debt and benefits advice at the foodbank; and further, wide-ranging support is also on-hand through Help Through Crisis Ealing, which is funded by the

National Lottery Community Fund and is a partnership between the foodbank, Ealing and Hounslow Community and Voluntary Service, West London Equality Centre and Ealing Law Centre. [ae](#)

## More info

■ To volunteer or donate visit [ealing.foodbank.org.uk/give-help](https://ealing.foodbank.org.uk/give-help)

■ To read the full story of our visit to the foodbank, visit [aroundealing.com/news/busiest-foodbank](https://aroundealing.com/news/busiest-foodbank)



## Community hubs

Four community hubs have been set up by the council, offering cost-of-living support and advice – and free internet use. They are at Acton Library, Northolt Library and Southall Library, and also at Ealing Central Library. Go to your nearest one. Find out more, including opening times, at [aroundealing.com/news/community-hubs](https://aroundealing.com/news/community-hubs)





# The rise in energy costs

Households are facing rising energy costs – and the price cap rise in October caused widespread concern about how some will be able to afford to heat and power their homes.

**T**he End Fuel Poverty Coalition estimated 23.6% of the UK is already living in fuel poverty, which is defined as a household that spends more than 10% of their disposable income on fuelling their home.

Ofgem sets an 'energy price cap' limiting how much you can be charged for the energy you use.

From 1 October, this cap went up by 80% for 24 million people in England, Scotland and Wales. This would have seen the price cap rise to £3,549 a year, an increase of £1,578. The increase was expected to plunge an additional 15 million households into fuel poverty (up to 32% of UK households).

However, the government announced

an 'Energy Price Guarantee' (EPG) to help to counteract this. It will restrict the amount we have to pay energy firms until 31 March 2023 – at which point some targeted support is due to become available for some households.

It will mean a typical UK household will now pay up to an average £2,500 a year on their energy bill until the end of this financial year. This is automatic and applies to all households.

However, this EPG does not mean that you will not pay above £2,500, because the figure is based on an 'average use' across all home types. See the table on these pages.

If your home uses an above-average amount of energy, you may pay more than the cap.

The guarantee is in addition to a one-off £400 energy bills discount being applied to all households since October (this will mean £400 in total, spread across a few months of bills).

Obviously, this is much better than the Ofgem price cap rate of £3,549 for the average household. But up to £2,500 a year is still potentially worryingly high for many people – and more than most are used to paying.


## WORSE TO COME

And, from April, this will get worse. The government has said the EPG will rise to an average of £3,000 per year. This time, there will not be a £400 discount offered to all homes, either. Instead, targeted support will see £900 given to households on means-tested benefits, £300 to pensioner households, and £150 for those on disability benefits.

**Lower your  
thermostat by  
1-2 degrees  
when you can**



Find out more on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Councillor Bassam Mahfouz, the council's cabinet member for decent living incomes, said: "Anything any of us can do to cut our energy use now, without making our homes cold, could prove to be a useful defence against the rises. Even more importantly than this, however, please seek help if you need it." 

## Do you need help?

■ Visit the council's cost of living webpage [www.ealing.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/costofliving)

■ **Healthy Homes Ealing** provides free energy advice for via the freephone number 0800 083 2265 (available Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm). Advisors from Groundwork London, a city-wide charity, will provide you with impartial, free advice. You will also be screened for eligibility for a free telephone consultation or home visit from a 'Green Doctor' energy expert. See more at [www.ealing.gov.uk/healthyhomesealing](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/healthyhomesealing)

■ **The West London Green Homes Grant: Local Authority Delivery Scheme** is open until March 2023 to landlords and homeowners of west London homes with D, E, F, and G ratings on their energy performance certificates. It offers grants for energy efficiency measures. To be eligible, the household income must be below £35,000-per-year (and up to £20,000 in housing benefits). Landlords may apply on behalf of eligible tenants but must agree to cover one third of the cost of works (owner occupiers do not have to contribute towards the cost of works). Call 0808 196 8255 to be screened for the programme.

## Energy price guarantee – average annual costs

Property Type	Under October Price Cap	Under Energy Price Guarantee until 31 March	Difference
<b>All Dwellings</b>	£3,550	£2,500	£1,050
<b>Houses</b>	£3,800	£2,650	£1,150
<b>Detached</b>	£4,700	£3,300	£1,400
<b>Semi Detached</b>	£3,800	£2,650	£1,150
<b>End Terraced</b>	£3,500	£2,450	£1,050
<b>Mid Terraced</b>	£3,300	£2,350	£950
<b>Bungalow</b>	£3,500	£2,450	£1,050
<b>Flats</b>	£2,450	£1,750	£700
<b>Converted Flat</b>	£2,750	£1,950	£800
<b>Purpose Built Flat</b>	£2,400	£1,750	£650

## What can I do at home?

Start by reducing your home's energy use through simple behavioural changes, such as:

- 1 Turning off lights when you are not in a room
- 2 Lowering your thermostat by 1-2 degrees when you can
- 3 Using a microwave, air fryer, slow cooker or a crockpot to cook or warm your meals
- 4 Draughtproofing doors, windows, letter boxes, and – where possible – keyholes. You might consider a curtain across your front door, or draught excluders at the bottom of doors
- 5 If you can, put a timer on your central heating thermostat to maintain a constant temperature in the home – 18–21 degrees Celsius is considered a healthy range
- 6 Avoid heating rooms that are not in use
- 7 Use energy-saving LED lightbulbs
- 8 Avoid obstructing radiators, or drying clothes on them, so the warmth spreads through the room.

Improving the energy efficiency of your home is also important, if you can. Insulation is one of the most effective measures to install, especially in lofts and cavity walls. There are other things you can try, too – visit [aroundealing.com/news/energy-costs](http://aroundealing.com/news/energy-costs) for more ideas.

# Hello electric, goodbye gas

We are in a climate emergency. And we are in a cost-of-living crisis, with energy at the forefront of it. These things are not unrelated.

According to the Committee on Climate Change, 40% of the UK's carbon emissions – which are harmful to the environment – come from households. And almost half of these come from heating alone.

And, with energy costs a challenge to an ever-increasing number of households, there is also an urgency to find a cheaper way to run our homes.

The answer, many hope, will be found in new, innovative 'green' technology that replaces our reliance on gas. In fact, a recent Oxford University study found that switching away from fossil fuels like gas and transitioning to greener energy would save the world trillions of pounds – while also helping the environment.

Ealing Council has been one of those leading the way by trialling several electric-only, energy efficient heating systems in local council housing. We have featured two of these recently in Around Ealing: Energiesprong and NexGen.

They are electric-only because gas is by far the worst offender in our homes when it comes to carbon emissions. And it

'This isn't just good for the climate, it's also good for our tenants'



is also an ever more financially expensive fossil fuel for us to use. The war in Ukraine has further highlighted how important it is for us all to get off gas.

What is more, electricity can be generated in a greener – and far cheaper – way. Renewable energy can even be brought right to your doorstep by installing solar panels on your roof and smart batteries or thermal storage units, as the council has been doing.

Indeed, the council is committed to ending gas boilers being installed, or replaced, in its homes from 2023.

## **GAS CANNOT BE PART OF OUR FUTURE**

"Gas is not only heating our homes, but heating up the climate emergency," said Councillor Deirdre Costigan, the council's cabinet member for climate action. "And it's also hard





## 'Electric wallpaper'

'Electric wallpaper' using pioneering technology is being fitted in council homes in Greenford in a pilot scheme that Ealing Council is running with energy company NexGen Heating. It is replacing the gas heating in 25 homes with special, warmth-emitting panelling on the ceilings.

It is as thin as wallpaper and harnesses two types of cutting-edge technology, graphene and far infra-red, to make it feel as if you are sitting in the warm glow of the sun's rays, in your own home.

It can be flipped on and off in specific rooms, like a light switch, providing instant heat. So, unlike traditional heating, it does not have to be on throughout the whole house. It can be turned on in the rooms where you are – thus further saving energy and money. And solar panels on the roofs are generating much of the electricity.

Read more at [aroundealing.com/news/nexgen](https://aroundealing.com/news/nexgen)

## Energiesprong

This is a Dutch concept which means 'energy leap'. It retrofits existing homes to make them incredibly energy efficient by improving or replacing existing heating and ventilation systems.

Buildings are wrapped in protective insulation, triple-glazed windows, and draught-proof doors; and powered with electricity mainly generated by solar panels on the roof. The work keeps the home at a steady 21 degrees Celsius all year round – and there is no longer any need for gas.

Our borough is leading the way in London and work started this autumn on council-owned homes in South Ealing, with nearly 70 houses and flats earmarked for the project.

You can read more about it at [aroundealing.com/news/retrofit](https://aroundealing.com/news/retrofit)

on our pockets at a time when we can least afford it.

"Securing a carbon-neutral future for Ealing by 2030 is vital to the council's climate action plan. We knew we needed to look at ground-breaking and bold solutions to the biggest challenges facing us and we are now seeing these pilot schemes get under way.

"If one or more of these schemes prove to be as successful as we hope they will be, then we can potentially look to eventually introduce them in thousands of our homes.

"This isn't just good for the climate, it's also good for our tenants by reducing how much energy they need to buy from the open market.

"It could be a game changer nationally, too, as others start to follow suit. And that can have other positive knock-on effects. The green energy and green homes industries are growing fast and these kinds of projects could help put Ealing at the forefront of the green economy."

## Brick by brick

A third trial scheme, which began this autumn, will see 50 local homes have new technology installed underneath the buildings. AirEx replaces traditional air ventilation bricks under older homes with a brick-shaped device with a flap that opens and closes depending on the weather conditions.

The warmer it is, the more the flaps open; and the colder it gets, the more they close. This helps to save money on energy bills – up to 12% in tests – and is easily operated via WiFi in your own home. The scheme has been tested and approved by Ofgem, the national energy regulator. Find out more at [aroundealing.com/news/air-bricks](https://aroundealing.com/news/air-bricks)



**TACKLING**  
THE CLIMATE CRISIS

# FOSTER FOR EALING



"The training is excellent"

Caleb, foster carer for 15 years



"You receive ongoing support and there is always someone there for you"

Donna, foster carer for 5 years

"You can make a real difference to a child's life"

Rukhsana & Zahid, foster carers for 24 years



"It's a local service, so everything is based in Ealing"

Ruqaya, foster carer for 8 years



## WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP CHANGE A CHILD'S LIFE?

We need more people to become foster carers to look after the children in our care. Foster carers come from all walks of life and everyone brings something different. As a foster carer we will provide you with excellent support and training. You don't need a spare bedroom to foster with us, as you may be able to look after babies if you have space for a cot in your bedroom. We also pay allowances of between £276 to £470 per week for each child you look after, depending on their age and your experience.

Find out how, together, we can do this at

Freephone: **0800 731 6550** Email: **fosteradopt@ealing.gov.uk**

Website: **ealingfosteradopt.co.uk** Facebook: **/ealingfosteradopt**



**Ealing**

[www.ealing.gov.uk](http://www.ealing.gov.uk)

**CHANGE THE FUTURE**

• EALING FOSTERING CONNECTIONS •



# 'Tell us your concerns'

"I can't do the whole world, but I can be part of Ealing's solutions," said the woman who is chairing the new **citizens' tribunal** set up by Ealing Council.



**A**n already active member of the community, Denise Charles is head of curriculum at West London College and chair of the Acton-based charity Descendants.

She also sat on Ealing's independent Race Equality Commission, whose report published earlier this year led to the citizen's tribunal being set up in response to its findings.

## 'FAIRNESS FOR EVERYBODY'

The tribunal is independent of the council and held its first meeting in October. Its aim is to hold the council and its partners to account on their responsibilities to fight race inequality and promote equality – and, also, to suggest ideas and initiatives for how to achieve this.

Earlier this year, the Ealing Race Equality Commission (EREC) published its report after a year of listening to the experiences of local people. It set

out priorities for how organisations across the borough could work towards tackling inequalities.

In response, one of the council's commitments was to set up the tribunal and, over the course of the summer, 10 tribunal members were recruited via an open application process overseen by an independent panel. And then Denise was appointed as its chair.

She said: "I love the fact everybody is independent on the citizens' tribunal. It means we can hold people to account.

"We want to make sure all the actions from the EREC report are focused on and dealt with, whether it is housing, hospitals or education.


"What has inspired me to work with the citizens' tribunal is to be part of the solution, ensuring that there is fairness for everybody within the borough.

"This is not a tick-box exercise. If it was a tick-box exercise I wouldn't be here, I wouldn't want to be part of that. I am here to ensure for the people of Ealing

that their voices are heard and that, if they have concerns, that they are addressed and that we are actioning those."

## GET INVOLVED

Regular online meetings will be held, where anyone from the public can get involved.

"We want to get people to give us their ideas, give us their thoughts, give us their concerns," said Denise. "So, then we can then start to address them, raise it with those people who it needs to be raised with and get solutions." 

## More info

■ Find out how to get involved at [www.dosomethinggood.org.uk/citizens-tribunal](http://www.dosomethinggood.org.uk/citizens-tribunal)

■ Read the full interview with Denise at [aroundealing.com/news/tribunal-denise-charles](http://aroundealing.com/news/tribunal-denise-charles)



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## BOOST YOUR IMMUNITY THIS WINTER

### FLU + COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINES

COVID-19 and flu spread more quickly in winter and can cause serious illness. If you're over 50, in an at-risk group or pregnant you are eligible for a free flu vaccine and a COVID-19 booster. Many children are also eligible for a free flu nasal spray vaccine.

**GET BOOSTED. GET PROTECTED.**

For more information about these vaccinations  
and where to get them in Ealing visit:  
[nwlondonics.nhs.uk/Winter](http://nwlondonics.nhs.uk/Winter)

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# It is our future

The future of the borough is in your hands, with a large public consultation under way asking for your views.

**SHAPING  
EALING**

**O**n 30 November, a consultation opened on Ealing Council's draft Local Plan. This sets out how life across all of our seven towns might develop over the next 15 years – from climate and transport to regeneration and homes, and many more things besides.

You will have until 25 January 2023 to get involved.

It follows the results of Shaping Ealing, one of the borough's biggest ever public listening consultations, which were published in September. More than 10,600 people and businesses took part and gave their thoughts on local facilities and communities. You can see more at [aroundealing.com/news/what-you-said-about-shaping-ealing](https://www.roundealing.com/news/what-you-said-about-shaping-ealing)

The information gathered from Shaping Ealing helped the council put together its initial proposals for the

new Local Plan. And now it wants your views on what has been drawn up.

Council leader Peter Mason said: "Ealing is changing. It always has. It always will. Our task, together as residents, businesses, and people who care, is to shape it to be the kind of place we want it to be."

"This process is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to have a say in how our home will develop over the next 15 years, in ways that touch almost every aspect of everyday life."

Once the consultation has closed, the feedback will be used to put together an updated version of the Local Plan – which the council will then ask your views on again.

## HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

■ Find details of how to give your views on the new Local Plan by 25 January 2023 by visiting [www.ealing.gov.uk/newlocalplan](https://www.ealing.gov.uk/newlocalplan)

■ You can respond by email at [localplan@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@ealing.gov.uk)

■ You can respond by letter by posting to: Strategic Planning Team, Perceval House, 14–16 Uxbridge Road, London, W5 2HL

■ There are also hard copies of the Local Plan consultation document available at all local libraries, and at the council's Perceval House offices in Uxbridge Road, Ealing (W5 2HL). At these locations, there will also be forms available for people to submit handwritten comments and to pop them into a secure box to be collected by the council. Find your local library at [www.ealing.gov.uk/libraries](https://www.ealing.gov.uk/libraries)

■ Pop-up consultation events are also due to be held in all seven towns across the borough. You can find details of these by following the link to the Consultation Events page from [www.ealing.gov.uk/newlocalplan](https://www.ealing.gov.uk/newlocalplan) **Be**





# Healthy growth

A pioneering project based at Blondin Park has been bearing fruit for an astonishing 25 years. It is now providing a blueprint for an ambitious programme of greening and growing across the entire borough.

**T**he park, in Northfields, has an apple orchard planted in 1997 – which was the borough's first community orchard. It has been able to grow and mature in the two decades since thanks to the work of local volunteers and the council's park rangers. The orchard, and parkland beyond, provide not only a valuable green space for people and nature-rich landscape for wildlife – including kestrels and woodpeckers – but regular harvests of fresh apples, available to the community.

Now, as the council's ambitious programme to plant 50,000 new trees

takes shape, the aim is to expand the number of orchards, so that each of the borough's seven towns has at least one.

## 'A VALUABLE SPACE FOR LOCAL PEOPLE'

Jamie Passmore has seen the orchard at Blondin Park grow and grow over his time as a park ranger. Residents started things off by planting those first young dwarf stock apple trees – and Jamie was instrumental in helping them set up the Friends of Blondin Park group, the following year, to help care for it.

Since then, the dedicated work of the Friends and rangers has seen the

orchard bloom, with a pond, hedgerows, new paths and trails all introduced over the years, ensuring that it now enjoys Local Nature Reserve status.

Jamie explains: "This project started 25 years ago with around 50 Old English apple trees – we helped choose this type because they originally grew locally a century before. The area was known for its market gardens, so we thought it would be a lovely nod to our history and a good way of honouring what had come before.

"Over the years we have hosted many 'apple days' where the local community comes together to harvest the fruit. It's one of the borough's very



1997



2022



Volunteers Helen and Jim with the first tree in Blondin – 25 years apart

first community orchards and it is a great testament to the volunteers of the Friends group, which is now the Blondin Consortium, that it remains such a valuable space for local people.

“At the moment we work day-to-day with volunteer groups to manage the orchard and nature area. We have got a lovely pond we’ve been able to improve for wildlife such as newts and frogs and we now have a forest school area for local pupils to learn about the orchard.

“We now have numerous orchards in locations across the borough and we are working to help support local people manage these vital spaces and expand so more people than ever can benefit from having them on their doorsteps.”

### ‘WONDERFUL GREEN SPACES AND LOCALLY HARVESTED FRUIT’

The council is committed to expanding the tree canopy across parks, neighbourhoods and streets to ensure that it covers 25% of the entire borough by 2030 – and to plant more orchards

for the benefit of the local community.

Councillor Deirdre Costigan, cabinet member for climate action, said: “We are planting 50,000 new trees across our borough because green spaces and biodiversity matter to us.

“The council has a wide-ranging programme to fight the climate crisis. This includes expanding the number of orchards across the borough so that, across our seven towns, we have wonderful green spaces and locally harvested fruit that is accessible and free for the local community.



Park ranger Jamie Passmore

“I’d like to thank everyone involved with the long-lasting success of Blondin Park, which acts as an inspiration for the future.”

### WHY PLANT TREES?

The tree planting programme is central to the council’s biodiversity action plan (BAP), which it announced last year. The BAP aims to increase and preserve the diversity of local wildlife and plant life – from the canopy cover of trees to the creatures living beneath. This is not just to help nature thrive, but also to keep our ecosystems healthy.

Achieving a 25% tree canopy would not just offer wildlife shelter and habitats, but it would also help to filter and clean the air we all breathe – as well as to keep climate change in check – by ‘capturing’ or absorbing harmful carbon dioxide from everyday activities like driving. But that is not all. Tree root systems play a role in our water systems and can also reduce the risk of flooding in winter by sucking up excess water – and, of course, everyone knows the benefit of the shade their boughs lend us on blisteringly hot summer days. 

# Staying well this winter

Looking after our health is important at any time of the year, but particularly during winter when some illnesses are more prevalent – and when keeping warm is harder.



**T**his winter it is expected that many respiratory infections, including influenza (or 'flu') and COVID-19, may be circulating at high levels. The effects of flu and COVID-19 can be more serious if you are over 50 or have an existing health condition.

Some people may be eligible for a free flu vaccine and a COVID-19 booster. If you are offered both vaccines, it is safe to have them at the same time. Others can book online to pay to have flu vaccines at local pharmacies.

More people are likely to get flu over the winter months than usual because fewer people will have built up natural immunity to it during the COVID-19 restrictions last winter. If you get flu and COVID-19 at the same time, known as co-infection, research shows you are more likely to be seriously ill. Getting vaccinated against flu and COVID-19 will provide protection for you and those around.

Councillor Josh Blacker, Ealing Council's cabinet member for healthy lives, said "Residents have already

shown a million acts of kindness towards each other and have made huge sacrifices to their lives to protect their neighbours and loved ones during COVID-19. We are asking residents to continue to protect yourself and those around you this winter by getting the flu and COVID-19 vaccines, and by looking out for vulnerable and elderly neighbours."

## THE FLU VACCINE

Anyone aged 50 or over is eligible for a free flu vaccine on the NHS. A nasal spray flu vaccine is also available to help protect children who are at risk of flu – and you can find out more at [aroundealing.com/news/are-your-childrens-vaccinations-up-to-date](https://www.ealing.gov.uk/news/are-your-childrens-vaccinations-up-to-date)

## THE COVID-19 BOOSTER

People aged 65 years and over were being prioritised for a COVID-19 booster. Other groups, including those aged 50 to 64 who are not at higher risk, were due to be eligible to get one as we went to press.

## WINTER WARMTH

You can also get some simple tips at [aroundealing.com/news/energy-costs](https://www.ealing.gov.uk/news/energy-costs) but, if you are struggling, the council's Healthy Homes Ealing service offers free advice to eligible residents on how to stay warm despite rising bills. You can call the free helpline on 0800 083 2265 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm) or use an online referral form at [www.ealing.gov.uk/HealthyHomesEaling](https://www.ealing.gov.uk/HealthyHomesEaling)

## More info

- Read the full story at [aroundealing.com/news/wintervaccines](https://www.ealing.gov.uk/news/wintervaccines)
- For the full list of people eligible for the free flu vaccine and COVID-19 booster, and details of how to book, visit [www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)







# Are you a champion?

Community Champions is a new, dedicated network of local volunteers who are passionate about making a difference to the wellbeing of people in their community. Could you be one?

It is all about finding new ways to help people stay healthy by getting reliable and useful information to them.

Trust is so important when it comes to health, which is why the champions are being trained to share the latest health information. Not only with friends and family, but also with their community of social networks.

## IS THIS ROLE FOR YOU?

Champions are being recruited by the council. The voluntary role is flexible, and champions can share information in a way that suits them.

The council is looking for people who are:

- 18 years old or older, who live or work in the borough
- Passionate about making a difference in their communities
- Good listeners and support people's right to make decisions for themselves.

One of the new community champions, Suzanne Fernandes, is passionate about volunteering. She is proud to be part of St John Ambulance and supports Healthwatch Ealing with patient surveys. Keep an eye on [aroundealing.com](http://aroundealing.com) to see Suzanne 'in action' in the coming weeks.

## BUILDING ON EALING TOGETHER

The Community Champions network aims to build on the success of Ealing Together, a collaboration between charities, local groups, businesses and concerned residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councillor Josh Blacker, cabinet member for healthy lives said, "The way local people stepped up through Ealing Together really showed how we can come together to provide help and support to those that need it in our communities.

"During this time, it showed that a lot of you know your communities

much better than the council or health partners and know how to work with them to get them the best results. We need champions who understand the specific needs in their community and can act as a link between the council and their community to support these needs. Together we can do all we can to make sure that everyone in Ealing has the information they need to stay safe and healthy."

## APPLY TODAY

To find out more, or apply by completing a sign-up form, visit [www.ealing.gov.uk/communitychampions](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/communitychampions)

## More info

Read the full story at [aroundealing.com/news/community-champions](http://aroundealing.com/news/community-champions)



# Christmas in Ealing



Christmas in Ealing is here with festive lights, seasonal markets, switching on of Christmas tree lights in towns, Santa Claus, family activities and carol singing.

Details were correct at the time of going to print, but please visit [www.ealing.gov.uk/christmasevents](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/christmasevents) for the latest event details.



## Ealing ✨

*Christmas at Ealing Broadway* - events in and around Ealing Broadway shopping centre, with Santa visiting on a Saturday and a Christmas market until **until 24 December**. [www.ealingbroadwayshopping.co.uk](http://www.ealingbroadwayshopping.co.uk)

*Ealing Project* will bring you a variety of festive films and entertainment with Christmas cheer. [www.ealingproject.co.uk](http://www.ealingproject.co.uk)

*The Questors Theatre's* pantomime, "King Arthur & the Twelfth Knight", **8-31 December**, and the world premiere of "The Remarkable Theatrical Adventures of Peregrine Proteus", **16 - 31 December**. [www.questors.org.uk](http://www.questors.org.uk)

Make 2022 a Creative Christmas at *Open Ealing* at Dickens Yard. **Saturday 17 December 3pm** Family Theatre: A Kidnapped Santa Claus, £5 per ticket includes a post-performance workshop. [www.openealing.com](http://www.openealing.com)

*Christ the Saviour* the Ealing Charity Christmas Card Shop holds its 38th festive season at the Church of Christ the Saviour, New Broadway, Ealing W5 2XA. [www.christthesaviour.com](http://www.christthesaviour.com)

*Trash & Treasure Street Food and Christmas Shopping Night Market* at The Brentham Club, **Friday 9 December 5pm – 9pm** with local street food and artisan traders. [www.trashandtreasuremarkets.com](http://www.trashandtreasuremarkets.com)

**Thursday 15 December 6pm – 9pm** West Ealing's *SET studios* alternative Christmas fair with artists selling their original artworks. [www.setspace.uk](http://www.setspace.uk)

*Ealing Farmers Market* will be holding festive markets during December, open **every Saturday** from 9am-1pm at Leeland Road, West Ealing. [www.lfm.org.uk/markets/ealing/](http://www.lfm.org.uk/markets/ealing/)

## Acton ✨

*RE'Store* will be hosting a festive circular economy themed pop-up shop at 98 Churchfield Road, Acton, supporting brands selling vintage, repurposed and up-cycled fashion, gifts and items along with workshops, including Christmas jumper and gift making, to encourage people to reuse and recycle. [www.restorew3.com](http://www.restorew3.com)

*Acton Market* at The Mount, will be holding festive markets during December, open every week from **Wednesday to Friday from 10am to 5pm**. [www.actonmarket.co.uk](http://www.actonmarket.co.uk). The new Saturday Market will have sustainable, eco, local, handmade and artisan products, every **Saturday from 10am-4pm**. [www.marketw3.co.uk](http://www.marketw3.co.uk)

Christmas events at *Gunnersbury House* include special celebrations for Chanukah and Christmas, as Victorian servants prepare for the season with Maciek O'Shea and special film screenings. [www.visitgunnersbury.org](http://www.visitgunnersbury.org)







More 'Merry Ealing' events and locations are listed below:

December	Event
5th - 11th	Christmas Market Stalls - Ealing Broadway Shopping Centre
8th - 31st	PANTO: King Arthur & the Twelfth Knight – The Questors Theatre
10th	Santa Saturdays - Ealing Broadway Shopping Centre
	Live Music - Ealing Broadway Shopping Centre
	Grinch and Cindy Lou - Ealing Broadway Shopping Centre
	Dickens Yard Food Market, Ealing
12th - 18th	Christmas Market Stalls - Ealing Broadway Shopping Centre
16th - 31st	The Remarkable Theatrical Adventures of Peregrine Proteus – The Questors Theatre
15th	Party Party Bingo - Ealing Project

December	Event
17th	Santa Saturdays - Ealing Broadway Shopping Centre
	Live Music - Ealing Broadway Shopping Centre
	Dickens Yard Food Market, Ealing
19th - 24th	Christmas Market Stalls in Ealing
21st - 31st	PANTO: King Arthur & the Twelfth Knight – The Questors Theatre
20th - 23rd	The Remarkable Theatrical Adventures of Peregrine Proteus – The Questors Theatre
24th	Santa Saturdays - Ealing Broadway Shopping Centre
	Dickens Yard Food Market
January	Event
2nd	Bank holiday family special – Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery

## Hanwell

FoxMarketW7 is hosting its popular market with local artists, makers, and vintage traders at this family-friendly outdoor market on **Saturday 10 December 2022 11am-3pm**. [www.thefoxpub.co.uk](http://www.thefoxpub.co.uk)

## Greenford and Perivale

HEOS Musical Theatre is staging *Sleeping Beauty*, a traditional family pantomime on **29 and 30 December 2022**, at Greenford Hall, 2pm and 6.30pm, every day. [www.thelittleboxoffice.com/heos](http://www.thelittleboxoffice.com/heos)

Trash & Treasure Market's "Christmas at Greenford Quay" **Greenford Quay, Grenan Square, Saturday 10 December 11am – 5pm** with local street food traders and Christmas artisan gift stalls. [www.trashandtreasuremarkets.com](http://www.trashandtreasuremarkets.com)

IMPACT Theatre Group is staging 'Red Rope - The Immersive Experience' at Ealing Central Sports Ground, Horsenden Lane South. Various dates and times are available. [www.impacttheatre.co](http://www.impacttheatre.co)

## Southall

Come and see the lights and support this fantastic experience in *Southall High Street*. With value for money more important than ever this Christmas there is no better place to visit than Southall Broadway. You can absorb the Asian atmosphere, go for a shopping spree in Southall's shops or enjoy authentic mouth-watering cuisine and colourful sweets.

And watch out for exciting Christmas events on [www.ealing.gov.uk/christmasevents](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/christmasevents) in Southall and Northolt too.



# Dumping food waste is hard to swallow

This festive season, as we all hopefully enjoy some good food, it is worth remembering that chucking food leftovers in the rubbish bin comes with a huge cost. Not just to our wallets but to our environment, too.

It is estimated that around 70% of the six million tonnes of food thrown away in the UK each year is food we could have eaten or reused. Not only does that cost an average family with children £60 a month, but the wasted food leftovers can also have a big impact on climate change.

If someone throws food waste in a

rubbish bin, it ends up in landfill, where it creates some of the most harmful and polluting greenhouse gases as it rots.

This is so unnecessary. Any leftovers you cannot use can be recycled.

In our borough, you can use the council's weekly food waste collection service to recycle it. Indeed, many of you do. In 2021-22, you put out 7,600 tonnes of food waste to be collected for recycling.

Not only has this saved money and cut carbon emissions, but there is a third and, to many, unexpected benefit: Helping to create power for homes.

All of the food waste that Ealing Council collects is taken to a special processing site in England. At this 'anaerobic digestion plant' the waste is broken down and this process creates:

- Electricity that is fed into the National Grid to power our homes, and
- Nutrient-rich fertiliser to help farmers improve their soil to grow more food.

## I DON'T RECYCLE FOOD YET.

### WHAT DO I DO?

It is simple. All you have to do is stick your leftovers, scrapings, tea bags, peelings and out-of-date food in your kitchen caddy bin, preferably lined with a compostable bag (easy to get from supermarkets). And then, once it is full, take the bag from the caddy (or the caddy itself) and either:

**a** If you live in a house, put it out in your green food waste bin ready for your kerbside collection day each week, or

**b** If you live in a flat, take it down to the communal food waste bin and tip it in for recycling. More and more flats are gaining access to these bins and, eventually 417 locations and 20,000 flats will have one.

**i** If you do not have a food waste bin, you can ask for one at

[www.ealing.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/recycling)



Ealing has  
2nd highest  
recycling rate  
in London

# RECYCLING

All your recyclable items can be mixed together in the bin. Please make sure you put the right things in the right bin.

- Empty and rinse all containers before putting them into the bin
- Remove film lids from plastic pots, tubs and trays and put them in the rubbish bin
- Do not use black sacks. However, you can keep your recycling in a plastic carrier bag and put the whole bag into the recycling bin.



## DID YOU KNOW?

■ **Clothes and textiles, and small electrical items:** TR Aid provides free home collections in the borough – visit [www.traid.org.uk/wlwa](http://www.traid.org.uk/wlwa) for more. There are also clothes banks and electrical item banks located around the borough

■ **Batteries** can be recycled by placing them in a tied-up bag on top of the blue bin on recycling collection day. Or you can use an online recycling locator [www.recycle-more.co.uk/where-to-recycle](http://www.recycle-more.co.uk/where-to-recycle)

■ **Garden waste:** You can sign up for fortnightly collections of your cut grass, plant and hedge trimmings, with either a wheelie bin or sacks. Visit [www.ealing.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

YES PLEASE	NO THANKS
✓ Plastic bottles tubs, trays and lids	✗ Food waste and oil
✓ Glass bottles and jars	✗ Nappies and sanitary products
✓ Tin, cans, clean foil, aerosols	✗ Clothes and textiles
✓ Clean dry paper, envelopes, newspaper, magazines and junk mail	✗ Crisp packets
✓ Cardboard, toilet rolls, cereal boxes	✗ Plastic film, cellophane, cling wrap, expanded polystyrene
✓ Tetra Pak and cartons	✗ Black bags

# RUBBISH

Your rubbish bin is for household waste that cannot be recycled. The less you put in here, the less goes to landfill. For tips on how to recycle, go to [www.ealing.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/recycling)



YES PLEASE	NO THANKS
✓ Crockery and pyrex	✗ Plastic bottles tubs, trays and lids
✓ Used tissues and baby wipes	✗ Tetra Pak and cartons
✓ Nappies and sanitary products	✗ Cardboard, toilet rolls, cereal boxes
✓ Crisp packets	✗ Clean dry paper, envelopes, newspaper, magazines and junk mail
✓ Plastic film, cellophane, cling wrap, expanded polystyrene	✗ Tin, cans, clean foil, aerosols
✓ Black bags	✗ Glass bottles and jars
✓ Plastic bags	✗ DIY or garden waste
	✗ Food waste – please use a food waste bin instead (see page 26).

## DID YOU KNOW?

- You can use our bulky collection service to dispose of large items such as furniture, mattresses, fridges or other large items. For more information, visit [www.ealing.gov.uk/bulkyitems](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/bulkyitems)
- You can also take these items to a re-use and recycling centre – see [www.ealing.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/recycling)





# Recycling and rubbish

## Christmas and new year collections

Rubbish and recycling wheelie bin collections may change over Christmas and new year for homes and businesses.

Normal collection day	Date	Revised collection day	Date
Monday (Boxing Day)	26/12/2022	Wednesday	28/12/2022
Tuesday (bank holiday)	27/12/2022	Thursday	29/12/2022
Wednesday	28/12/2022	Friday	30/12/2022
Thursday	29/12/2022	Saturday	31/12/2022
Friday	30/12/2022	Tuesday	03/01/2023
Monday (bank holiday)	02/01/2023	Wednesday	04/01/2023
Tuesday	03/01/2023	Thursday	05/01/2023
Wednesday	04/01/2023	Friday	06/01/2023
Thursday	05/01/2023	Saturday	07/01/2023
Friday	06/01/2023	Monday	09/01/2023
Monday	09/01/2023	Tuesday	10/01/2023
Tuesday	10/01/2023	Wednesday	11/01/2023
Wednesday	11/01/2023	Thursday	12/01/2023
Thursday	12/01/2023	Friday	13/01/2023
Friday	13/01/2023	Saturday	14/01/2023



Collections from flats will be unchanged



Collections return to normal on Monday, 16 January 2023.  
For more information, visit [www.ealing.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/recycling)

### Christmas tree recycling

Real Christmas trees will be collected for recycling during January – just leave them out on your black rubbish bin day. Alternatively, there will be collection points in 19 local parks. For details, visit [aroundealing.com/news/christmas-trees-2023](http://aroundealing.com/news/christmas-trees-2023)





# Cleaner air and travel

The council has an action plan for improving air quality along our roads, and at school gates, across the length and breadth of the borough.

It aims to help fight the choking pollution in the capital that is adding to the climate crisis, and to health problems for residents.

Research by Transport for London showed only a third of the car trips made by Londoners were for a distance of more than three miles. The remaining two-thirds of car journeys were over shorter distances and could potentially have been made in other ways.

And, for those journeys that need a car, the council is trying to make it easier for residents to switch to electric where possible.

Councillor Deirdre Costigan, the council's cabinet member for climate action, said: "Tackling the climate crisis is a huge challenge and, to be successful, we need to drastically cut the polluting gases released from shorter car journeys – it's vital for our key aim of achieving net

zero for carbon emissions by 2030.

"We also want to make our borough a healthier, safer and more pleasant place for all – which is why we are dedicated to improving air quality everywhere. From securing cleaner air at our school gates, to installing fast charging electric vehicle charging points across the borough, we are taking action to ensure we secure this positive change for our residents now, and for all of our futures."

## SCHOOL STREETS

The council continues to expand its School Streets programme to make it





National award for  
school travel project.  
Visit [aroundealing.com/news/active-travel-elves](http://aroundealing.com/news/active-travel-elves)



easier and safer for children to travel to and from school by bike, scooter or on foot. By the new year, more than 8,000 pupils at 20 schools will be benefiting from the schemes. More should be ready by next spring. The aim is to take the total up to 50 schools by 2026.

Find out more at [aroundealing.com/news/50-school-streets](http://aroundealing.com/news/50-school-streets)

### AIR QUALITY IN SCHOOLS

The council has secured around £240,000 to install air quality monitoring devices in local schools, which use live data to keep an eye on harmful pollution. The investment is also supporting educational programmes for pupils, teachers and parents, focusing on the impact of air pollution and traffic congestion on health – and to highlight how positive actions such as walking, cycling and scooting on the school run can result in cleaner air.

### ANTI-IDLING

The council is continuing to back the London-wide campaign Engines Off for Every Stop. The campaign has visited

local schools in the borough to spread the message about how switching off car engines when making even a small stop around the school gates can make a difference to local air quality and the wellbeing of pupils. The council has also asked the government for permission to put fines up to the legal maximum.

### BIKE HANGARS


A huge expansion of bike hangars for secure, easy and cheap cycle storage is taking place across the borough. The council is committing £1million into slashing waiting lists for access to the hangars and will deliver at least 150 by 2026. Costs to store a bike are being cut from £6 to just 70p per month, meaning storing your bike will cost just a fraction of a car parking permit.

### ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Last month, the council launched a new partnership with provider Liberty Charge to deliver 13 new fast, electric vehicle charging points (EVCP) across the borough, making it easier than ever to make the switch to an electric car.

There are now more than 300 EVCPs across the borough, with more than 100 of these added this year. There are also plans for up to another 400 next year. Visit [www.zap-map.com/live](http://www.zap-map.com/live) to find an EVCP near you. Meanwhile, the council has already switched much of its own fleet of vehicles to electric.

### 20MPH ZONE

Since this spring, roads across the whole borough have had a 20mph speed limit. It followed trials that began in 2018 and a gradual introduction of 20mph zones then took place across the borough. Now, the only roads that have a higher speed limit are the main roads operated by Transport for London – the A40, A406 and Church Road (between White Hart and Target roundabout). It was done in line with the transport strategies of the council and the Mayor of London, to improve safety for all road users and encourage residents to choose greener modes of travel like cycling and walking. The police will enforce the speed limit, but the council is also asking the government for permission for council officers to have the power to enforce it too. 




# PITZHANGER

MANOR & GALLERY

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Discover a garden-like setting where you will can interact with life-size robot figures, lenticulars and AR features in this audio-visual exhibition.

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 Ealing Broadway  
Members go free

Book your visit



Supported by the Deborah Loeb Brice Donor Advised Fund

Ealing Green, W5 5EQ [www.pitzhanger.org.uk](http://www.pitzhanger.org.uk)    @Pitzhanger



# Help projects swing into action

Community projects looking to make a positive impact in the local area are looking for your help.

**T**he council's Ealing Together Fund is helping residents find the means to get their ideas off the ground and, after launching in October, a number of proposed projects have now been published.


You can find them on the website of Spacehive, the council's crowdfunding partner. They are looking for your backing – whether through donations or volunteering, or both.

Then, this month, the council is due to announce which of the projects it will be backing financially, and by how much. It will also give successful projects helpful advice. The hope is that these projects can then get under way in spring.



There is a pot of £100,000 in the Ealing Together Fund. There will be a maximum of £10,000 awarded for the capital elements (substantial, physical parts) of a project – no more than 50% of its costs. There will also be a simplified route for smaller projects (costing less than £3,000), with less criteria to qualify.

Councillor Jasbir Anand, the council's cabinet member for thriving communities, said: "I encourage everyone to go and check out the projects looking for your support – at [www.spacehive.com/movement/ealing/projects](https://www.spacehive.com/movement/ealing/projects) – because there have been so many wonderful schemes to have received backing.


"Recent projects have included Save Ealing's Swifts, to put up specially-made birdboxes around the borough to help support the dwindling swift population; Ealing Writing Trail, which is an interactive walking route with writing workshops and a focus on mental wellbeing; and Garden Share, which is tackling food poverty and loneliness for the disabled and older people." 

## GOLF ACADEMY SHOWS THE WAY

Another recent start-up project, which received funding last year, was the Brent Valley Golf Academy. It has proved so successful that it was able to run a second year, with additional funds from the council, and is now preparing for a long-term future.

It linked up with local schools to get youngsters into golf who might otherwise have never picked up a club. It has given them a set of golf clubs, equipment and professional coaching. Many have gone on to join the Brent Valley Golf Club.

Richard Gray, the academy's chair of trustees, said: "The two streams of funding from Ealing Council allowed us to set up our golf academy last year and expand it this year to a point where it will be self-sustaining in future years."

 Read more about the golf academy at [aroundealing.com/news/golf-academy](https://aroundealing.com/news/golf-academy)



# From lollies to green energy

A dozen entrepreneurs and small businesses in the borough are developing exciting new products and growing while creating new jobs. It is being done with the help of the council's pioneers' fund – which provided a £1million to boost local innovation.

**"We** launched the pioneers' fund last winter and it has been great watching things develop from there, as the businesses got to work with the money" said Councillor Bassam Mahfouz, the council's cabinet member for decent living incomes. "We awarded 12 small and medium sized businesses grants after each of them was able to demonstrate how it would help them grow, expand their workforce and stimulate the local economy. It is all about supporting local innovation and creating good, new jobs for local people."

## FROM ART TO LOLLIES

Ice Kitchen, based in Park Royal, is one of the companies that benefited from the grant. It specialises in award-winning

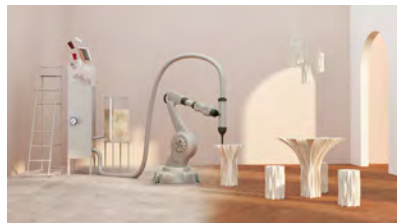
gourmet ice lollies.

During the pandemic it launched non-ice cream products like frozen pesto and curry pastes, and it is now using the pioneers' grant to develop blender-free smoothies and hire more staff.

## COFFEE CUPS TO LAMPS

BioBlast is on a mission to educate us about the connection between waste and recycling. It is transforming used coffee cups (30,000 tons are produced in the UK each year) into furniture and architecture.

The grant will be used for a space where people can see exactly how a coffee cup ends up being a lamp, chair or table through live 3D printing performance. BioBlast are also planning community workshops and increasing their staff.



## CONNECTING TO GREEN


Cultivate London is encouraging communities to better connect with green spaces, including growing food and plants and getting families involved.

The pioneers' grant will be used to develop a system that will take green waste from local schools and use it to

produce liquid feed compost for farming and generate clean energy. Then crops for the school and local community can be grown. Artificial intelligence is also being explored with University of West London.

## GREEN AND LOCAL HYDROGEN

HyWaves produces carbon-free hydrogen from renewable, cheaper sources like wind and solar energy. Most hydrogen produced today comes from natural gas and is highly polluting and expensive to produce.

Niall, the company's chief financial officer, said: "The pioneers' grant has been a big boost. It gave us the funds to create a field prototype, hire four employees and two contractors and enabled us to secure further government funding." 

## More info

■ Read more about the pioneers' fund companies at [aroundealing.com/jobs](https://aroundealing.com/jobs)

■ Read a feature in the summer edition of Around Ealing at [aroundealing.com/around-ealing](https://aroundealing.com/around-ealing)





## Find a career at jobs fairs

After five successful jobs fairs this year, the council is planning on holding more to help residents find a new career and speak with local employers.

Most recently, two fairs were held in September – for hospitality and retail careers, and the primary care sector – and there was a general winter jobs fair on 30 November.

To stay informed on upcoming jobs fairs and other related information, sign up for the jobs fair mailing list at [www.ealing.gov.uk/register](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/register) now; just select *Employment, skills and training*.



## Pay for carers

The council has adopted the Real Living Wage (RLW) for home carers, earlier than it had planned to. The uplift took place in November and brings carer pay into line with the RLW of £11.05 per hour, which is calculated on the basic cost of living. From May, the council then aims to match the new 2023 RLW rate of £11.95 per hour.

Council leader Peter Mason said: "This will make a huge difference to the pay packets and the wellbeing of care workers, and ultimately to the people they care for."

Read more at [aroundealing.com/news/home-care-workers-to-get-real-living-wage](http://aroundealing.com/news/home-care-workers-to-get-real-living-wage)

## Learning zones

A new 'Learning Zone' has been set up at Northolt Library, offering training and learning opportunities – including staff from Work Ealing offering career support every Thursday. Similar zones are due to be set up at another five libraries located across the borough from the new year. Find out more about the Northolt Library zone at [www.aroundealing.com/jobs/maths-fun-fair](http://www.aroundealing.com/jobs/maths-fun-fair)

## Help finding a job

Steps4Success, a recent employment support programme run by the council, has helped 41 residents into jobs after they had been struggling to find work. The programme ended this summer, but you can still get tailored support in finding training and work by filling in a form on the Work Ealing website [workealing.com](http://workealing.com) or calling 020 8825 8486.

## Getting creative

Sculptors, designers and other creative minds have been pitching ideas for funding opportunities to help grow local creative jobs and businesses following the launch of the Acton and Park Royal Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ). The council, and Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation, will be providing more than £100,000 of funding for the best concepts. Local artist and designer Yinka Ilori, said: "The area's new CEZ status will enable the next generation of talent in west London to start a career in the creative industries." Find out more at [aroundealing.com/jobs](http://aroundealing.com/jobs)





# Primary places

If your child was born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019, they will be due to start primary school in September 2023 – and applications for pupil places are being received.

**U**nder the London-wide primary school admissions scheme, parents living in the borough will submit a single application to Ealing Council, listing their preferences, even if they are applying for a place at a school outside the borough.

## WHAT TO DO

All parents and carers living in the borough need to list up to six different schools that they want to apply for, including any that are located outside the borough (but not private schools). Your choices have to be ranked in order of preference, from one to six.

Only one offer can be made to you, and this would be from the highest ranked school from your list that is available.

The closing date for applications is 15 January 2023.


## HOW TO DO IT

Apply online at [www.eadmissions.org.uk](http://www.eadmissions.org.uk)

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

After the deadline on 15 January 2023, the applications will be processed. Then, on the London-wide offer day on 17 April 2023, an offer will be made to all applicants, as far as practically possible.

If a school is over-subscribed, its published admission criteria will be used to decide the order in which applicants are offered places.

 You can read the borough's admissions prospectus online at [www.ealing.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/admissions)

## USEFUL TO KNOW

■ If you want to apply for a place at a faith school, you will also need to fill in the school's own 'supplementary information form'. These are available from the schools concerned or on the council's website at [www.ealing.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/admissions) and will be used to assess denominational commitment. The supplementary form must be returned to the school before the closing date. If you do not complete both the main application form and the school's supplementary information form, your application will not be regarded as valid. For more information, contact the school(s) concerned

■ If you live want to apply for a place at a school in another borough, it is important you read the primary prospectus for that borough to make sure you understand the admission criteria for the schools you are applying to.



# Life lessons

"I think that role models are really important for children," said the former pupil of a local school who became headteacher there exactly 30 years after starting as a 5-year-old.

**C**raig Ross started at St Gregory's Primary School in Woodfield Road, Ealing, in 1992. This September, he began life as its headteacher.

After he left primary school in 1998, Craig went to Cardinal Wiseman High School in Greenford, before going on to university and then training to be a teacher – his aim since being inspired by a teacher at St Gregory's aged just 10.

Craig explained: "I suppose, as a child I was looking for a profession that would enable me to make an impact on the world. And my year 6 teacher, Mr Kelly, was extremely inspiring. He

very much wanted to get to know all of his pupils, and we all just wanted to try our best for him."

## 'IT'S WHERE I GREW UP'

In fact, he has gone on to fulfil a triple dream...

"For a very long time, I've had this dream of being, firstly, a teacher; and, secondly, becoming a teacher at St Gregory's – just because I wanted to give something back to the community that had given me so much," explained Craig.

"And, lastly, because I was quite competitive as a child, I also thought being the headteacher would make you the 'best' teacher. So, ever since then, I suppose at 10, that was just basically my dream.


"When I go to work in the mornings it's not really like going to work, it's almost like home. This place does very much mean a lot. It's where I grew up."

## 'INSPIRING OTHERS TO INSPIRE'

When we visited the school, the children were enjoying a day dressed

up as teachers for World Teachers' Day; and Craig said inspiring the children to fulfil their own aspirations and dreams, like he had been inspired to do, was critical to him and to the school's ethos.

"But really, from then, it's about those children then inspiring others and that sort of continuation of children inspiring others," said Craig. "So, really, it is not about me. My journey is about inspiring others to inspire others.

"It's very much a privilege to come to this place every day – I won't call it work – to basically continue to implement my dream of making sure that the school is absolutely fantastic. And, more importantly, delivering for our pupils in the way that the school delivered for me." 

## More info

For the full story, visit [aroundealing.com/news/headteacher](http://aroundealing.com/news/headteacher)





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# Find out **Flu jab + COVID-19 booster** vaccine information in your language



تعرف على معلومات عن  
لقاح عدوى الأنفلونزا +  
الجرعة المعززة للقاح  
COVID-19 بلغتك

Consultez les informations  
dans votre langue  
concernant le vaccin contre  
la grippe et la dose de  
rappel contre le COVID-19

ફ્લુ જેબ + COVID-19  
બૂસ્ટર રસીની માહિતી  
તમારી ભાષામાં મેળવો

اطلاعات دربارہ واکسن  
آنفلوآنزا + واکسن یادآور  
COVID-19 را بہ زبان  
خود مشاهده کنید

ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ  
Flu jab + COVID-19  
ਬੂਸਟਰ ਵੈਕਸੀਨ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ  
ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰੋ

Poznaj informacje w Twoim  
języku o szczepionce  
przeciwko grypie +  
szczepiącej przypominającej  
przeciwko COVID-19

Ku hel luqaddaada  
macluumaad ku saabsan  
tallaalka ifilada + tallaalka  
xoojiyaha COVID-19

உங்கள் மொழியில்  
Flu jab + COVID-19 பூஸ்டர்  
தடுப்பூசி தகவல்களை  
தெரிந்துகொள்ளுங்கள்

فلو جيب + COVID-19  
بوسٹر کے ٹیکے کی  
معلومات اپنی زبان میں  
تلاش کریں