

aroundealing | summer 2025

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Borough of Sanctuary p10

PICTURE PERFECT
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summer 2025 Editorial

The summer edition of Around Ealing is always a fun one, heaving with festivals and things to enjoy – and this year is no exception (p15-17).

It's full of feel-good stories too, from our recognition as a Borough of Sanctuary and the real-life tales of those being made to feel welcome here (p10), to movie makers (p24).

Our latest Seasons of Ealing competition was hugely popular, with thousands of you voting for the spring winner (p19). I'm looking forward to seeing what you capture next, with so much happening over the summer – be sure to enter, you could be our next winner.

Tell us what you think

Have you been enjoying the crossword in previous editions? We didn't have the space to include it this time round, but we want to hear what you would like more of. Tell us by filling in our brief survey in the latest digital edition at aroundealing.com/around-ealing

Verity Adams
Deputy Editor

Contributors: James Bird (photography), Caroline Clancy, Grace Hanke, Richard Nadal, Chandima Ratnayake and Alex Sturrock (photography).

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Revealed: your winning walk



It's no secret our borough is home to beautiful green spaces and award-winning parks, making it one of the best places in London for a stroll. To celebrate National Walking Month in May, hundreds of you voted from a shortlist of 8 of the borough's most popular routes, each one showcasing at least one of our amazing 7 towns. Find out the winning walk, chosen by you, at: ealing.pagetiger.com/around-ealing-summer-2025



Fake goods seized

The director of a Southall company has been handed a suspended prison sentence after being caught with 18 tonnes of fake luxury goods worth millions of pounds. Isleworth Crown Court heard that, during a raid on Bling Master Company Limited's warehouse, trading standards officers from Ealing Council seized approximately 53,000 fake designer items. They were worth an estimated loss to the fashion industry of £5million. Read more: aroundealing.com/news/fake-designer-goods-seized



Musical showcase

Around 1,400 children from schools and music groups across the borough will be showcasing their musical talents at the iconic Royal Albert Hall on 24 June. The special performance has been organised by the council's Ealing Music Service and the Ealing Symphony Orchestra. Tickets (£29.50) are available through the Royal Albert Hall's ticketing website at: tickets.royalalberthall.com



Keeping you informed

Thank you to all those who said Around Ealing magazine and website, and Around Ealing Extra weekly email, were their preferred methods of receiving information about the council and the borough, in the most recent residents' survey (see page 6). The numbers have risen considerably since the previous survey. If you haven't signed up for Around Ealing Extra emails, you can do so at: www.ealing.gov.uk/updates

Leader's notes

'Great places to meet, play and relax this summer'

Council leader Peter Mason



As the summer approaches, it is time to get outside and celebrate the amazing outdoor spaces in our borough. Our parks and green spaces are among the many reasons that we all love our borough and that is why protecting and enhancing them is such an important part of my administration. We have put action to tackle climate change front and centre in our council plan. It is one of the 3 priorities that drives the council, and a key part of tackling climate change is ensuring green spaces are thriving and accessible to all residents.

New parks

Part of making green space more accessible is expanding the number of parks available in our borough. We are well on the way to delivering the 10 new parks we promised in 2022. We opened Pear Tree Park last year and I'm looking forward to all residents having a whole summer to enjoy this new green space.

People enjoying these spaces will notice the huge amount of tree

planting that has been going on. Our drive to plant 50,000 new trees by next year is in full swing and is a vital part of increasing biodiversity, improving air quality and removing carbon.

Spaces for nature

We want our green spaces to be diverse living spaces full of people and wildlife. That is our vision for the new regional park that will span the whole borough. We want green spaces that are fully open to all our residents with spaces to meet and play. We fully believe that we can do this whilst providing spaces for nature.

Our parks also play a vital role in mitigating the impacts of climate change. Our sustainable urban drainage schemes as well as the beaver release project in Greenford are ways for us to use nature to improve our flood resilience. We know that one of the impacts of climate change will be more days of high rainfall. Using natural means like beaver dams and building seasonal swales in our parks will simultaneously help protect homes

from flooding as well as adding new habitats for wildlife across the borough.

Everyone should get out and about for the summer to appreciate the amazing green spaces across our borough. They are part of what makes our borough special, and we have big plans to make them even better. I hope people appreciate all the progress we have already made in making them great places to meet, play and relax.

Councillor Peter Mason
Leader of the council

VE Day



Almost everyone will have their own personal, family connections with VE Day, and last month we held a number of celebrations to mark 80 years since the end of the Second World War in Europe. Read more: aroundealing.com/leaders-notes/ve-day-2



What did you say?

What do you like best about where you live? Well, more than a thousand people took part in a survey and it showed that quite a few of you would say it was our borough's parks, public transport links, and the community spirit.

In fact, the overwhelming majority (90%) of respondents said they were satisfied with their local area as a place to live. This compares to the national average of 74%.

Who did they tell? It was the latest independent residents' survey carried out by a research company on behalf of Ealing Council. The researchers knocked on doors across the borough over the winter to get a representative mix of local people.

Parks and transport

When broken down by each of our 7 towns, satisfaction with their area was no lower than 85% – and the highest was 96% in Acton, where 'peace and quiet' was listed as among the reasons by a quarter

of people. Other popular reasons included:

- the area's quality of parks and open spaces (particularly popular in Ealing, at 28%) and the access to nature. In fact, almost two-thirds of people said they visited a park at least once a week; and the 18-34 age group were the keenest visitors (at 69%)
- the availability of public transport (Hanwell residents, at 49%, appreciated this most, and people in the 25-34 age bracket most of all)

Community spirit

Almost 9 in every 10 respondents (87%) agreed their local area was a place where people from different backgrounds got on well together.

And, just under a third (28%) indicated they had volunteered, or given unpaid help, in the last 12 months, and 14% said they had done so at least once a month or more. In fact, a quarter of people in both Hanwell and Southall said they regularly did a quick favour or chore for a neighbour.

What about the council?

Consistent with the overall satisfaction with the area they lived in, 80% of people answering the survey said they were satisfied with the way the council runs things. This compares to the national average for councils of just 56%.

Just under three quarters (72%) agreed that the council provided value for money, which is double the national average of just 36%.

More than 4 in every 5 people said the council is doing a good job and, also, that it is making the area a better place to live.

Problems to deal with

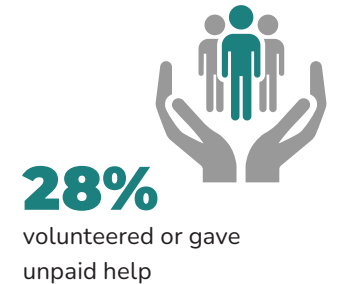
The annual survey also provides valuable insights into what the council should prioritise. You can read more about this online at [aroundealing.com/news/what-did-survey-say](https://www.ealing.gov.uk/news/what-did-survey-say); and also in the transport article on page 23.

More information

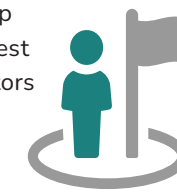
View the full residents' survey 2024 at www.ealing.gov.uk/consultations



87% said people from different backgrounds get on



18-34 age group the keenest park visitors (at 69%)



A busy year ahead

There's plenty happening in the year ahead. From new ways for you to have a say on your neighbourhood, to big changes to our parks, and much more besides.

The long-awaited new Local Plan, that will shape the future of the borough over the next 15 years, is reaching the point it can be finalised and 'adopted' by the council.

And here is a taste of what else is on its way.

A voice – and funds

New 'town teams' will be set up in each of our 7 towns and will start to spend money on community projects of your choice. This localised spending will be made possible through funds from the new Community Infrastructure Levy, which will make use of money received from developers as part of building projects across the borough. It follows the Your Voice, Your Town programme of consultations and events, asking residents for their views.

The council's new community charter will set out how residents should be able to engage with the council. A survey was completed in March, and your feedback will play a key role in shaping the charter. A team of 7 people from across the community are on an advisory group that was set up in 2023 to oversee the development of the charter, and now its close to completion.

Our borough has recently been awarded Borough of Sanctuary accreditation, providing an official endorsement of how welcoming it is to refugees fleeing conflict. See page 10.

Getting around



More than £6million is earmarked for repairing and resurfacing pavements and roads.

Meanwhile, there will be new cycle routes in Hanwell, Park Royal and Southall; another 19 bike hangers to reach a target of 150 across the borough; and another 7 school streets schemes, meaning 50 of our schools will have them. Read more on page 22.

Parks and playgrounds

The council will complete its target of planting 50,000 trees by planting the remaining 9,000. Meanwhile, further steps will be taken to protect the rewilded Warren Farm and Horsenden Hill, with Local Nature Reserve status. And, as if that wasn't enough, the council should soon be able to announce more details of a new 'regional park', following hot on the heels of

the new Pear Tree Park.

Playgrounds across the borough will continue to get a revamp (see page 20). And work on building the new Gurnell Leisure Centre, just recently demolished, is due to begin – complete with swimming pool, skate park and much more. The new centre will have an Olympic-sized 50metre pool - the second in our borough after Northolt Leisure Centre, and only the third such pool in London.

Council leader Peter Mason said of Gurnell: "The demolition takes us another step closer to having a modern, state-of-the-art leisure hub in the heart of the borough."

Jobs, skills and homes

A new Ealing Learning and Skills Hub will be set up, along with 3 new 'learning zones' in Greenford, Perivale, and Ealing, to complement the 3 freshly revamped libraries (see page 25).

A new Private Renters' Association (PRA) is due to start meeting from October to support the 15,000 families renting homes privately in the borough. And the £150million investment will continue in 100 new safe and secure places for people in temporary accommodation; while more genuinely affordable homes will become available (see page 29).

Read more at [aroundealing.com/news/the-year-ahead](https://www.aroundealing.com/news/the-year-ahead)

2025-2026





Ukrainian celebrations

A place to call home

Ealing Council has been awarded ‘Borough of Sanctuary’ status by the City of Sanctuary organisation in recognition of its work to welcome and support people who are fleeing violence and persecution.

By becoming a Borough of Sanctuary, the council has set out its commitment to create a place for people like Olga and Olena.

They are 2 women, who were unknown to one another, that both came to the United Kingdom from Ukraine in 2022, during the brutal invasion by Russia. They left behind loved-ones without knowing if or when they would see them again. They came to a country where they knew barely a soul and had to rebuild a life for themselves. But, thanks to the support and warm welcome they received from the borough and the people who live

here, they now have a place they can call home again.

Both women played a part in the council’s work to be recognised as a Borough of Sanctuary through their involvement in projects to support and help other refugees.

Olena Horkovenko is chairwoman of BRIDGE for Ukrainians, a charity supported by Ealing Council and Ealing and Hounslow Community Voluntary Service (EHCVS). And Olga Dudnik is the service manager of the EHCVS Ukrainian Project.

‘A part of something meaningful’

Olena said: “Through volunteering, I’ve had a chance to contribute to events, organise cultural sessions, and be part of something meaningful. I didn’t expect to be given so much trust and responsibility so quickly – but people here really believed in me and others like me.”

Olga added: “Through community work, I’ve been able to apply

my skills in a meaningful way — supporting others while continuing to grow myself.”

‘Safety and a new start’



Blerina Hashani, the council’s cabinet member for thriving communities, said: “I am proud that we can officially call ourselves a Borough of Sanctuary. The accreditation is a recognition of all the amazing work already being done to support sanctuary seekers in the borough who are looking for safety and a new start. I would like to thank all the community organisations and especially the sanctuary seekers who shared their experiences and worked with us to shape the strategy.”

Go to: aroundealing.com/news/ealing-becomes-a-borough-of-sanctuary



BOROUGH OF SANCTUARY



Fleeing war and finding sanctuary

Read Olena and Olga’s remarkable stories, and watch a video, at ealing.pagetiger.com/around-ealing-summer-2025

(L-R) Olga and Olena in Walpole Park



“Being paid the London Living Wage means I can maintain my day-to-day expenses and save a bit of money”

Almost 100 local businesses – like Yamini Panneerselvam’s Greenford-based employer, Belazu – pay the London Living Wage.

Being accredited can increase staff retention rates and attract more customers.

Sign up to become accredited by 31 March 2026 and unlock access to a range of great benefits from Ealing Council including free employee training and business support programmes, grants to cover costs, and free recruitment services.

The London Living Wage – good for business, good for Ealing.



Find out more

Fly-tip fines doubled

Watch out fly-tippers. You could be hit with tougher new fines of up to £1,000 – more than double the old amount.

Ealing Council has started a campaign to crack down on all anti-social waste dumpers. This new, steeper, fine replaces the old limit of £400.

The higher fine sits alongside an awareness campaign, ‘This is our home, not a tip’. It aims to explain the impact of fly-tipping, and how everyone can help.

Why is it such a problem?

The council recorded 22,730 incidents of fly-tipping across the borough in 2024 and spends £3million on average per year in clearing it up. That is money that could be better spent. For example, it would be enough to pay for:

- 200 more CCTV cameras to help fight crime

- 32,000 potholes in our roads to be repaired
- more than 4,000 weeks of support at a day care centre for a vulnerable adult

Greener Ealing Ltd, the council’s rubbish and recycling contractor, works hard to collect as many fly-tips as possible, as quickly as it can. Currently, 98% of reported fly-tips are collected within 2 working days. But, this is time that could be better spent on keeping your streets clear of litter.

The council also has to spend time and money working hard to identify offenders. It uses evidence found in the dumped waste itself, CCTV footage and videos from witnesses to track down fly-tippers and issue fines.

Alongside the campaign, and penalties and fines, the council also works directly with residents – especially with the community group LAGER Can, which organises regular litter picks and reports fly-tips its members come across. See

more at: www.lagercan.co.uk

‘A blight on our streets’

Council leader Peter Mason said: “Whether it be a single bag of rubbish or heap of household furniture, fly-tipping is a blight on our streets and has a direct impact on the environment and the quality of life for our residents.”

Councillor Paul Driscoll, the council’s cabinet member for climate action, added: “The increased fines, partnership with LAGER Can and launch of the ‘This is our home, not a tip’ campaign will all help to show our communities’ united front against these anti-social dumpers.”

Dealing with waste

Visit the council’s website to find out how to report fly-tipping, and how to properly dispose of your waste, including details of the bulky waste collection service. Go to: www.ealing.gov.uk/flytip



Ealing needs foster carers

Ealing needs foster carers to provide loving homes for the children we care for.

We're excited to announce some fantastic new benefits to support our foster carers.
Foster carers with Ealing Council will receive:

- full council tax exemption for Ealing residents and reimbursement for out of borough carers
- highly competitive fees and allowances – recent payment uplift of 18.5 %
- free parking in resident-controlled parking zones (CPZs) borough-wide
- free garden waste collection
- dedicated therapeutic support from our clinical psychologists
- discounts at council leisure centres
- excellent support including dedicated out of hours support, peer support and Mockingbird scheme
- bespoke training and other incentives



Contact us

Phone: 020 8753 1075

Make an enquiry: ealingfostering.co.uk

(*Fee uplift from Jan 2025, Council Tax exemption for band 2 carers and above whilst child is in placement, parking and garden waste incentives from April 2025, for band 1 carers and above)



Summer's truly here

Get your diaries out, it's set to be an action-packed summer with lots of events you won't want to miss.

It's festival season and a chance for you to enjoy time outdoors with family and friends – or meet some new ones along the way.

Here are some suggestions for your calendar:

Hanwell family day

Hanwell Carnival is taking a break this year, but the organising team is working hard to raise funds for 2026. A number of events are scheduled, beginning with a Family Day at the Viaduct pub on Saturday 21 June. There will be outdoors children's entertainment, live music and DJs, craft stalls, refreshments and more. For tickets and more information, go to www.hanwellcarnival.co.uk

Community fun

Enjoy some free fun and family

entertainment at Hanwell Community Centre on 28 June from 11am-4pm. You can expect arts and crafts, wellbeing stalls, artisan products, face painting activities and more. Go to: ealingculture.org/event/hanwell-community-centre-fun-day

Ealing Beer Festival

The largest outdoor London CAMRA beer festival will be returning to Walpole Park for its 34th year, from 9-12 July, featuring over 330 cask ales, ciders, perries, craft keg, wines and world beers. For tickets and more information, go to: ebf.camra.org.uk/tickets

As One in the Park

Head over to Walpole Park on Saturday 19 July for this over-18s festival. It celebrates all things LGBTQ+, with 4 stages of music and performers. For tickets and more information, go to: www.asoneinthepark.co.uk

Latino Life in the Park

The UK's largest Latin music and culture festival, Latino Life in the Park, is returning to the borough on Sunday 20 July. All ages are welcome but under-18s must be accompanied by a responsible adult. For tickets and more information, go to: www.latinolifeinthepark.com

New Gen Festival

New Gen Festival, a celebration of music, dance and spoken word – by. and for, young people in the borough – will be returning to Walpole Park in Ealing.

The fun starts at 2pm on Wednesday 30 July, with artists taking to the stage and local dance groups leading workshops until 9:30pm. Tickets cost just £3 for young people (aged up to 25) and £5 for the over-25s. Go to: www.newgenfestival.com or [@newgen_fest](https://www.instagram.com/newgen_fest) on Instagram.

Main events: turn page 



Big top tent in Walpole Park

Time to party in the park

It's nearly July, and that means the Ealing Summer Festivals is the hot ticket in town.

It's going to be popular, so don't miss out on a chance for you to win some tickets in our competition. This year, tickets are being sold in tiers, so the earlier you buy the cheaper it will be. For more information on the events and how to buy tickets, go to ealingsummerfestivals.com

Produced by The Event Umbrella on behalf of Ealing Council, this package of outdoor, summer fun is being delivered to your doorstep. Step into some side-splitting stand-up, soul-stirring blues or uplifting jazz and world music. There's something for everyone to enjoy, in a beautiful park setting.

Follow [@Ealing_Summer](https://twitter.com/Ealing_Summer) on X, [ealing_summer](https://www.instagram.com/ealing_summer) on Instagram and give a like on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ealingsummer

Competition: win tickets

Around Ealing and Ealing Summer Festivals have teamed-up to give away 4 tickets to readers in a competition.

There are 2 chances to win, because 2 lucky entrants will be able to win 1 of the following prizes:

- 2 weekend tickets with VIP upgrade for Ealing Blues
- 2 weekend tickets with VIP upgrade for Ealing Jazz

How to enter
Go to ealing.pagetiger.com/around-ealing-summer-2025



Here is just a taste of the artists you can see during the 3 main events in Walpole Park:



Ealing Comedy Festival

24-25 July, 30 July – 1 August

Comedy legends Rory Bremner, Stephen K Amos and Michelle De Swarte will lead the bill – with many more incredible guests.

- it is run in partnership with Headliners Comedy
- and tickets cost from £26.50 (VIP upgrades available)
- age: 16+. Under 18s must be accompanied by a responsible adult



Ealing Blues Festival

26-27 July

Headliners across 2 stages include rising star Toby Lee, an award-winning guitarist and vocalist who has graced iconic stages including the Royal Albert Hall with Jools Holland and Glastonbury. And, you won't want to miss Errol Linton, Brixton-born-and-bred British blues singer, writer and harmonica player.

- run in partnership with Ealing Blues Club, tickets cost from £10 (VIP upgrades available)
- doors open 1pm. All ages welcome, but under-18s must be accompanied by a responsible adult



Ealing Jazz Festival

2-3 August

Get ready for an iconic home-coming show from Ealing's very own pioneers of acid jazz, The Brand New Heavies, headlining the Hokum Stage on Saturday 2 August as well as Hot 8 Brass Band headlining on Sunday 3 August. Meanwhile on the Big Top stage, underground sensation and UK afro supergroup, Afriquoi will be bringing an uplifting fusion of African music and live electronics. Hot 8 Brass Band will be headlining on Sunday.

- tickets cost from £10 (VIP upgrades available)
- doors open 1pm, and all ages are welcome but under-8s must be accompanied by a responsible adult

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better.org.uk/gunnersbury-park



BETTER

Spring into summer

This is the Seasons of Ealing spring photo competition winner voted for by thousands of you, our readers. Why not enter the summer contest to see if you could be our next winner?

We received scores of entries to the spring competition, and it was a tough job for the judges to agree on a shortlist of 10. Once again, you voted for your winner online, and there was a clear favourite.

*Picture
house*

tickets to watch a film at Ealing Picturehouse cinema – the proud sponsor of the competition.

In second place was borough resident Gavin Clive-Smith, and his photo of a busy mum fox and pup.

And, in third place was Marek Salajka, of Ealing, with a photo of a Northfields tube station.

Well done to everyone who was shortlisted and thank you so much to everyone who took part.

Could you be a summer winner?

The summer 2025 Seasons of Ealing competition is now open and will close on Sunday 27 July 2025 at 11.59pm.

The spring snaps were taken from places across the borough – depicting it in all its spring glory. There was lots of beautiful cherry blossom, picturesque parks and more.

And the winners were...

It's always a tricky task to agree on the shortlist, but you had the final say as to who should be crowned the winner through a public vote during April.

The runaway winner, with more than 2,000 votes, was Havin Jagtiani, of Southall, and his picture of blooming blossoms in Walpole Park.

As well as the photo appearing here and on Around Ealing website, Havin will receive the top prize of 4

COMPETITION



For full details of how to enter, visit aroundealing.com/news/summer-ealing-seasons-2025



Midland Terrace playground
Photo by Zute photography

Outdoor fun got better

Playgrounds across the borough are being renovated and kitted out with new equipment, to ensure a fun-filled summer ahead.

Ealing Council is investing almost £2million across 22 playgrounds so that children can enjoy spending more time outdoors and stay active too.

Families are already benefiting from the improvements at a number of sites since the programme started, such as new equipment and child-friendly surfacing.

The latest playground to receive a makeover is Midland Terrace in North Acton.

Help from the experts

And, who better to ask for ideas on what their ideal playground should look like than children and their grown-ups?

The council's parks and design teams held drop-in sessions, along with the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC), to get residents' views on which ideas they liked, and the equipment they would like to see there.

The result was a vibrant, new play area.

Train and trampoline

The transformation has seen additions such as a wooden play train for toddlers to ride on, a new see-saw and trampoline that can be used by children of all abilities, and a slide and climbing frame for older children.

There is even a picnic table and benches for anyone that wants to enjoy a spot of al-fresco snacking.

Birds and bugs

The playground is also now home to 2 bird boxes and a bug hotel, thanks to donations from residents. This should attract more wildlife and

encourage young people to learn about nature.

A community mural is being created for the site later this year, with input from the people that live nearby and use the playground.

'Make friends, have fun'

So far, playground improvement works have been completed at 11 of the 22 sites. An additional 11 playgrounds are due to be revamped later this year.

Councillor Blerina Hashani, the council's cabinet member for thriving communities, said: "Play is a fundamental part of childhood.

"Playgrounds are somewhere for children to make friends in their neighbourhood, have fun and explore nature. That's why we've invested £2million to revamp 22 playgrounds so that they're inclusive and engaging spaces."

For latest updates go to [aroundealing.com/news](https://www.aroundealing.com/news)

Big idea pays off

"We want to see the positive impact it will have on the environment," said one of the pupils helping to create a special pond in their school grounds.

Featherstone High in Southall was the winner of a recent Big Green Ideas competition for local schools run by the Green School Network – a collaboration between community climate group ActForEaling, and Ealing Council.

As the winner, Featherstone was awarded £1,000 in prize money to help make its pupils' idea for a biodiversity, carbon-capture pond become reality.

Work began in the spring to dig-out the hole for the pond, plant some tree saplings donated by the Woodland Trust, and start to create paths.

Further support came from Southall Community Alliance, Southall Transition, Berkeley Homes and other community organisations, as pupils and staff got stuck in on the project.

In particular, a group of 6 student representatives have been heavily involved from the start, along with a group of enthusiastic Year 7 pupils.

Soniya Malhotra, one of the Year 10



Watch video at [ealing.pagetiger.com/around-ealing-summer-2025](https://www.ealing.pagetiger.com/around-ealing-summer-2025)

(L-R) Zahara, Arya and Jess

pupils who helped to come up with the idea for a pond, said: "Ponds are a great place to encourage biodiversity. We are looking forwards to using it for carbon capture and other types of learning."

'A great space for learning'

Year 11 student Jess Fernandes added: "I've really enjoyed working on this project. It's going to be a great space to come and enjoy nature and spend time away from technology. It will be an inspiring place with lots to discover."

Alexandra Thompson, the school's project co-ordinator, said: "The students have put so much work into this project, and we have been very fortunate with the support we have had from local groups too. It's really taking shape now and, once finished, it will become an outdoor classroom for our pupils to learn about growing, nature and the environment.

"It's a great place to encourage

positive mental health and well-being too, because a lot of our students don't have outside space that they can easily access."

Featherstone's team will be sharing the knowledge they gain with other schools via the Green School Network and report on the progress of the project.

Councillor Paul Driscoll, the council's cabinet member for climate action, said: "The climate crisis is something that will affect all of us and it is so heartwarming to see children looking to be part of the solution, supported by their schools.

"The Big Green Ideas competition had some fantastic plans put forward, but Featherstone was a worthy winner. The pupils were passionate about improving their school grounds and helping the environment. They had carefully considered how they were going to measure and monitor the carbon absorbed by the pond and I look forward to seeing it flourish."



How do you get around?

In the latest residents' survey, 4 in every 5 people said their short journeys were made on foot, by bike or on public transport. The council is working hard to help everyone else do the same.

Leaving the car at home helps cut congestion on the roads, improves the quality of the air we breathe and also reduces the amount of 'greenhouse gases' that are harmful to our environment. But that's not all, because the evidence is overwhelming that walking and cycling are also good for our physical and mental wellbeing. Everyone is a winner.

However, it's not always easy to do. And, 1 in 5 people in the survey said they did not walk or cycle more often because they didn't feel safe, or they thought cycle routes were unsafe.

That is why the council is spending £28million on schemes to improve road safety, reduce congestion and air pollution. All with the aim of making it more convenient, pleasant and safer to walk, cycle or wheel from A to B.

This has included resurfacing more than 6 miles of roads and almost 5 miles of pavements. And new, and improved, cycle lanes.

'Healthier and less stressful'

Did you know the borough now has 41 school street schemes? These

close the streets around a school to most traffic at the start and end of the school day – to make it safer and more enjoyable for pupils to do their school journeys on foot, bikes or scooters.

Another 9 schemes will be added by February 2026, taking the total up to 50. Since September 2020, school streets have seen school-related driving in cars reduce by 18% and walking, wheeling, cycling and scooting to school increase by 29%.

Drayton Green Primary recently joined the school street scheme. Deputy headteacher Laura Richter said: "We used to have cars flying down the road and some children have nearly been run over. Now, the roads are so much safer in the mornings and it's healthier and less stressful for the children.

"We're seeing children walking when they possibly wouldn't have before and biking or scooting to school. They're also coming to school less stressed and more ready to learn, because they've had some exercise."

Getting about by bike

Rental e-bikes and e-scooters continue to be popular, and, in March, they were introduced to Greenford and Northolt for the first time, meaning they can now be hired anywhere in the borough.

The council helped 417 adults and 1,094 children learn to ride bicycles last year.

And, if you have limited space to store a bike at home there are now 132 bike hangars placed across the borough by the council. Another 18 will be added this year, taking the total up to 150.

'Reducing isolation'

Kuldip is a wheelchair user and group ride leader from cycling group Let's Ride Southall, which is supported by the council. He said: "We're getting lots of people active via our group bike rides, and a huge benefit of that is reducing isolation, breaking down cultural barriers and improving people's mental health."

Did you know?



- the number of cyclists has increased by 30% on Mandeville Road in Northolt compared to last year, since a new cycle lane was installed at the Mandeville/Ealing Road junction
- there are now more than 1,000 electric vehicle charge points in the borough – 375 more than in March 2024
- 6 new cycle lanes are planned for west Southall, Boston Road, Iron Bridge, Horn Lane, Uxbridge Road and Yeading Lane/Kingshill Avenue

Fake guns, talking fish

“West London, in my opinion, is where it’s at, especially for young independent filmmakers like me. Definitely, more people should be filming here.”

Max Mir, a filmmaker originally from Barcelona, has made a significant mark in the film industry. His career journey began at the Met Film School in Ealing Studios, where he learned his craft; and he’s since gone on to shoot movies and shows with Hollywood stars. And our borough has featured heavily as a backdrop.

Max’s breakout moment was a short film called Walking Fernando, about a bored travel agent convinced by a talking goldfish to break free from her mundane life. It was shot in West Ealing’s Dean Gardens, and Northala Park in Northolt.

Hollywood star Javier Bardem, who has won Oscars and BAFTAs, was the unlikely voice of the goldfish in Walking Fernando.

“It was a piece of luck. We met at a bar, and he agreed to be part of the film,” remembered Max. “Working with Javier was very, very, very special. It was also just easy in general because he was

so transparent and so humble and honest about everything.”

Max’s latest movie features George MacKay of 1917 fame: “Working with George has been a dream come true. He has an incredible sensibility for humour, and a willingness to always go an extra mile to deliver the best performance. He’s incredibly humble and brings the best vibes to set, which is priceless.”

This latest project is not being filmed in the borough, but Lammas Park in Ealing is among the multitude of other familiar locations to have featured in Max’s previous work.

“Moving to Ealing was like a breath of fresh air,” said Max. “Not only because of all the locations and everything that has to offer, but the people. To me, it’s the people always, because everybody’s so welcoming and receptive. Everybody’s very film oriented and arts oriented and knows that there’s lots of artists and filmmakers here.”

Watch video at [ealing.gov.uk/around-ealing-summer-2025](https://www.ealing.gov.uk/around-ealing-summer-2025)



Local filmmaker Max Mir

And Ealing Council’s West London Film Office has played a central role by helping Max to find locations, as it does for film and television projects every day.

“Working with the film office has been very, very straightforward,” said Max. “They are very helpful. They are super supportive of up-and-coming filmmakers. For example, they helped co-ordinate with the police for a film involving a fake gun, making the process smooth and stress-free.”

Fancy a piece of the action?



Would you like the chance to have your house or flat in the next must-watch TV series and earn some money? The West London Film Office is on the lookout for local properties that could be transformed by film and TV crews. Visit westlondonfilloffice.co.uk and email wlfo@ealing.gov.uk to find out more.

Action-packed libraries

The time when libraries were a place of hushed silences, with no more than the rustling sound of turning pages, are a thing of the past. They are becoming a thriving place for people to connect with one another.

Of course, you can still get peace and solitude there if you want – thanks to dedicated silent study spaces they still offer. But, Ealing Council’s libraries now offer much more, too.

Acton Town Hall and Northolt libraries, and Southall Library in the Dominion Centre, reopened in April. It followed a £900,000 refurbishment to create spaces for community and cultural events.

The improvements were funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, allocated to the council by the government.

Lots going on

Each of the new-look libraries, along with the other council and community-run libraries across the borough, are a great way to find out

what’s happening in your area and to meet others through the activities they run there.

There are regular activities such as baby and toddler groups, arts and crafts, games afternoons and coffee mornings.

So, go along and grab the latest book from your favourite author, a travel guide for an upcoming trip, or just enjoy the company of others. Or, you may want to consider using the space to hold your own community group activities.

‘Great way to spend quality time’

Councillor Blerina Hashani, the council’s cabinet member for thriving communities, said: “We want to support our libraries to be vibrant and inviting places that offer a variety of services. Which is why we’ve made a significant investment in them at a time when some boroughs are making difficult decisions to reduce their library services.

“Our vision is for our libraries to evolve to meet their community’s needs and become dynamic,



John Chilton pupils and staff visit Northolt Library

multi-use spaces which encourage cultural enrichment and the promotion of community connections.”

Go to: www.ealing.gov.uk/libraries

Summer reading challenge



Join in this year’s Summer Reading Challenge, which is once again coming to libraries across the borough. The free, annual celebration is the perfect opportunity for children to improve their reading skills and confidence and enjoy the brilliance of books over summer holidays. There are prizes for each book read, and once completed you’ll be rewarded with a winner’s medal.

Pop into your library and find out more, or go to: readingagency.org.uk/the-summer-reading-challenge-2025



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How sport can give you a 'lift'

With the winners soon to be announced for this year's Ealing Sports Awards, Around Ealing caught up with a former Olympic weightlifter and Ealing Coach of the Year to find out more about the sport.

The Ealing Sports Awards are run by Ealing Council in partnership with Everyone Active and this year's winners will be announced in July.

Kazem Panjavi was crowned Coach of the Year in 2017 and continues to work with lifters of all ages and abilities. He is head coach and club manager of Ealing Weightlifting Club, based at Perivale Athletics Track.

"Weightlifting is just very different to other sports," said Kazem, who lifted at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona. "It's very technique-oriented. It's not just about strength. Strength is a factor, but technique is very important."

He prides himself of being able to get the best out of his athletes, from novices to British champions.

"I get satisfaction by seeing my lifters win their titles, become British champions and become national team members," he said.

Record breakers

Kazem's protégés include Reza Rouhi. Reza arrived in the UK as refugee from Iran in 2022 and, under the guidance of Kazem, a fellow Kurdish-Iranian immigrant, Reza competed as a guest at the British Senior Championships and earned a spot on the IWF Refugee Team.

A year later, Reza claimed both English and British titles, setting a new British record with a 203kg clean and jerk.

Asees Dhanda, 16, began training with Kazem at the age of 6. She holds more than 200 British records and won a bronze medal at the World Youth Championships in 2023. She was due to be competing at the 2025 World Youth and Junior Championships in May, as Around Ealing went to press.

Kazem said: "Weightlifting has the power to develop discipline,

character, and resilience. I believe that, through this sport, we can reduce crime, provide structure for young athletes, and create a safer, more positive community."

Get involved

The club offers a variety of sessions designed to improve strength, flexibility, speed, and overall fitness for all ages and abilities. You don't have to be a master athlete to get involved.

For more information go to:
ealingweightlifting.uk

Sporting inspiration



A total of 234 sports awards nominations were received across the 9 categories in this year's Ealing Sports Awards. This follows a borough-wide call to find and honour those who have contributed to the health and wellbeing of residents and towards sport locally. Read more: **aroundealing.com/news**



Weightlifting champion Reza, who is trained by Kazem

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‘A happier home’

Moya is one of the tenants to move into their newly refurbished 2-bed home in Warwick Court, in Hanwell's Copley Close. She is one of thousands of residents moving into new or renovated socially rented homes in the borough in recent years.

At Warwick Court, 18 maisonettes have been extensively refurbished as part of the wide-ranging, long-term regeneration of the Copley estate. A further 3 new apartments have also been built. 18 of those homes will be let at London Affordable Rent, which is priced to suit the budgets of local households on moderate incomes.

Moya said: "I'm moving back home with my 2 sons and we are really excited and happy about it. There's a feeling of more space. It's airy and light, and having the balcony overlooking our shared outdoor space is a great bonus. I think it'll be a happier home."

‘Better quality of life’

Councillor Shital Manro, the council's cabinet member for

good growth and new homes, said: "These newly refurbished homes will provide more local families with substantially improved, high-quality and affordable housing. We have set ourselves an ambitious target of providing thousands more genuinely affordable homes in the borough within the current council term, within flourishing neighbourhoods. This should mean a better quality of life, as well as a better standard of housing."

Also in development

Work is under way on hundreds more genuinely affordable homes, available to let, at locations around the borough.

Northolt Grange

84 affordable homes to let, and 8 shared ownership homes, are being built at the site of the former Northolt Grange Community Centre, in Rushdene Crescent. The development will host a mix of 1- and 2-bed apartments and 3-bed duplexes, a children's play area and a new landscaped, open space.



Moya Salter

HOMES

Construction is scheduled to be completed in spring 2026.

South Acton



Construction is under way on 67 more genuinely affordable homes as part of the regeneration of the South Acton estate. Once completed, the rebuilt estate will host a total of almost 3,500 new homes, with more than 40% to be let to people on the council's housing waiting list.

Golf Links

The 104 genuinely affordable new homes to let being built at the Golf Links estate in Southall are expected to be completed in autumn 2026. Two phases of regeneration have already been completed at the estate, with the construction of Dormers Rise in 2016 and Peterhead Court in 2019.



Watch video at ealing.pagetiger.com/around-ealing-summer-2025

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