

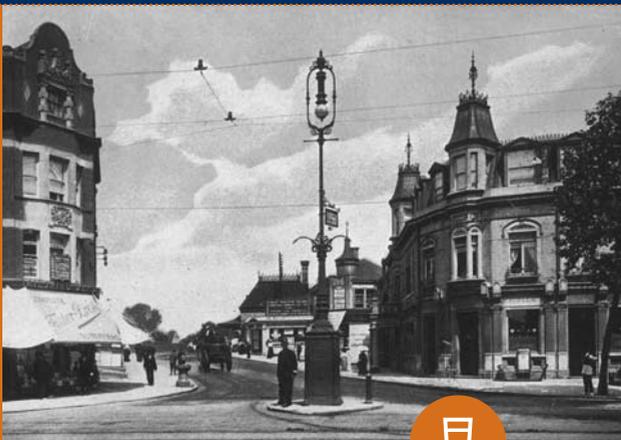
WALK YOUR BOROUGH



Ealing Town Centre's Historic Walk



QUESTORS THEATRE



THE TOWN HOUSE:





Ealing Town Centre's Historic Walk

Welcome, as part of TfL's (Transport for London) "walking improvements" project, we have produced an interpretive route map illustrating the easy access route on foot around Ealing town centre by highlighting many aspects of the town's history including the various architectural styles. Take a walk in the past and enjoy the present, Ealing town centre has a number of delightful cafes, boutiques and green spaces to discover.

The walk takes about 1½ hours at a leisurely pace.

THE EARLY PERIOD OF EALING

Objects found around Ealing Common and the railway line support that there was settlement here during the 'stone-age' period. Neolithic implements have also been discovered, as have coins of the Iron Age, and evidence of Romano-British Burials at Hanger Hill. Although no Anglo-Saxon settlement is recorded, the name Ealing relates to the Gillingas, or Gilla's people, of c. 700.

Ealing Village was also known as Church Ealing c1127 (due to the Church being situated there) and from 1593 was known as Great Ealing.

16TH - 18TH CENTURY

In 1599 Ealing had 85 households and by 1664, 116. Although the Parish became increasingly fashionable during the 18th century, housing in Ealing Village spread very little between 1746-1822.

19TH CENTURY

The railway station was thought to have brought many visitors to the previously unknown place but development continued to be slow until a spate of building in the late 1870's and early 1880's. Development was concentrated along the key routes - Uxbridge Road, where houses lined the street from West Ealing to Ealing Common and along St Mary's and South Ealing Roads as far as Venetia Road. By 1893 most business premises were located in High Street, the Broadway and the Mall or in Spring Bridge Road.

20TH CENTURY

Growth continued around Uxbridge Road and was largely driven by new suburbs to the north. Rebuilding and infilling also continued along the main roads with office blocks constructed from the 1960's. A major redevelopment project of the area south of the Broadway commenced in 1980 to construct the Ealing Broadway Shopping Centre.

21ST CENTURY

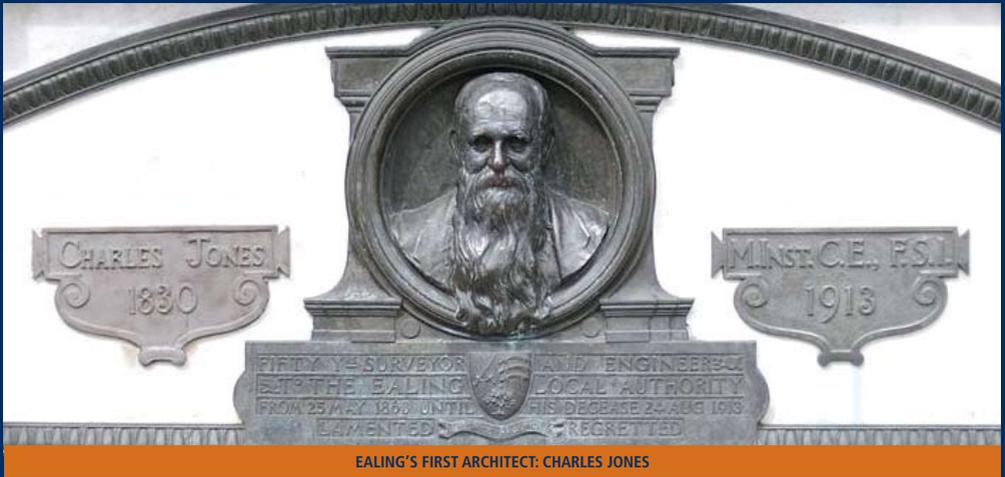
Ealing is a dynamic urban centre with great links to the city centre and surrounding areas. Two major regeneration sites at Dicken's Yard and the Arcadia site will be redeveloped in the next few years and other influences such as Crossrail will continue to shape the town.

WALK YOUR BOROUGH



Ealing's Architect

Charles Jones (1830 - 1913) was Ealing's first architect, engineer and surveyor. He held these posts for fifty years. He is admired to this day, by both local residents and visitors, for his pleasing, well proportioned and functional civic buildings. He first started working for the Council on a commission only basis in 1863 until he was given a salaried post in 1882, which he held until he retired in 1913, shortly before his death the same year. His most prominent work is that of Ealing Town Hall.



EALING'S FIRST ARCHITECT: CHARLES JONES

EALING'S HERITAGE QUARTER

In February 2008, Ealing Council announced plans to create a 'Heritage Quarter' giving a new lease of life to one of Ealing's most prestigious areas with an investment of £4 million.

Improving the area for residents and encouraging new visitors into the town the Heritage Quarter has been defined as a way of preserving and enhancing Ealing's unique cultural heritage. It takes in a number of streets in the borough's Northfield and Walpole wards, which you can see on this walk covering the area from Pitzhanger Manor House and Gallery and Ealing Studios, to the roads around Northfield Avenue shopping area. It will also take in Walpole and Lammas Parks.

Start at Ealing Broadway Station - stand in the forecourt of the station or on the pavement alongside the Broadway. From here you can see Haven Green and the Parade Delicatessen.

1 EALING BROADWAY STATION

Opened in 1838 as the first station from Paddington on the Great Western Railway (GWR) line. As the only station in the area when it opened, it was initially named Ealing Station. The district line opened as a separate station in c1879 and central line followed in 1920.

The two merged in the 1960s, but the underground's original face remains.



2 HAVEN GREEN

This open space dates back to at least 1741 and originally was much larger. Purchased by the council in the 1860s.

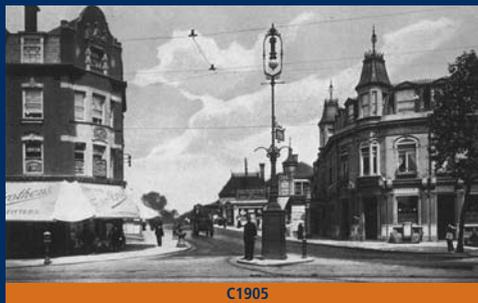
3 PARADE DELICATESSEN

This is one of the earliest and best known of Polish shops in Ealing; it has been so since the 1950s. Now also an information exchange.

Direction - From this point walk down to The Broadway, (the Town House is on your left).

4 THE TOWN HOUSE

'The Sign of the Feathers' an ancient hostelry dating back to at least 1747, and rebuilt several times. The current building dates from c1930 and was imaginatively renamed The Town House in 1998 which has now closed for refurbishment. Back here in 1947 the murder of Samuel Verry, a local farmer attacked by robbers and died of wounds was famously reported in newspapers around London.



Direction - From here cross over at the traffic lights and walk along on the right side of the New Broadway.

5 SITE OF WH SMITH

The Lyric Theatre was here in the late nineteenth century, followed by the Hippodrome cinema, and was finally known as the Broadway Palladium which retained the appearance of a theatre until it was demolished in 1958 and replaced by the present WH Smith building.



Direction - Continue straight ahead until you reach Perceval House. You will pass point 6 and 7.

6 CHRIST THE SAVIOUR CHURCH ✝

Ealing's second Anglican church consecrated in 1852 and designed by Sir Gilbert Scott. Its first vicar, the Rev. William Lambert was dismissed due to his links with spiritualists, his successor, Rev. Joseph Hilliard, was a prominent local figure and involved in parochial reorganisation as Ealing expanded. There is a monument to him in the churchyard.

7 EALING TOWN HALL 🏛

Designed by Charles Jones costing £16,000, it was opened in 1888 by the Prince of Wales. Apart from still being used for its original purposes, it has also been the place for social and political meetings as well as private functions such as weddings.

8 PERCEVAL HOUSE 🏠

Always envisaged as being used as office space it was built as the Great Western House in the early 1980s. Used as council offices from the late 1980s, it was recently bought by the council and renamed after the assassinated prime minister (1809 - 1812) Spencer Perceval who lived in Ealing.

Direction - From this point, you can see the Ealing Cinema across the road and to the left.

9 EALING CINEMA 🎭

Designed by John Stanley Beard and built in 1934 this was Ealing's last cinema to be built in that period and the only one to survive. Originally named 'The Forum' though its design appears to be a pseudo Egyptian style. The cinema is currently under refurbishment with a reopening scheduled in 2010.



FIRST REHEARSAL ROOM ON THE RIGHT - 1929

Direction - Cross over at the traffic lights and walk through the pathway (Barnes Pickle) located to the right of the Cinema, this leads to Mattock Lane, at the end take a right and walk up for Questors' Theatre.

10 QUESTORS' THEATRE 🎭

Founded in 1929, this is now Europe's largest amateur theatre. The current building dates from 1964 and was built by Norman Branson. High quality drama can be seen here and its patron is Dame Judi Dench.



1934

Direction - Turn around and walk back, you will see a narrow entrance across the road to Walpole Park. At this point cross the road safely and enter Walpole Park.

11 WALPOLE PARK 🌳

Originally the grounds of Pitzhanger Manor House, the park and the house, was bought by the council in 1900 for £40,000 from its last private owner, Sir Spencer Walpole. Originally it was to be named Perceval Park after the Perceval sisters who were the Manor House's last occupants.

Direction - Take your time exploring the park as you wander to the southern entrance. Turn right and cross the road to enter (side entrance) Lammas Park.

12 LAMMAS PARK 🌳

Bought by the council for £4,000, it was opened in 1883 and one of Ealing's first designated parks. Cattle still grazed there in the 1890s.



C1900

Direction - When you have explored Lammas Park exit the gate alongside East Lodge and turn right onto Church Lane. Follow Church Lane around until you see St Mary's Church.

South Ealing Station - If you have arrived at South Ealing Station, walk across the crossing and turn left so you are walking North towards St Mary's Church (point 13).

13 ST MARY'S CHURCH +

Ealing's parish church, there has been a church here since at least the twelfth century, but the present structure is the third known building. The first fell down in 1729 and was not rebuilt until 1740. In turn, S.S. Teulon designed a new church in 1865 -1873 in the shape of a basilica. There are monuments inside to Sir Spencer Walpole and Spencer Perceval.



Direction - Please cross over using the Zebra Crossing and walk straight ahead along St Mary's Road until you reach Thames Valley University (TVU).

14 THAMES VALLEY UNIVERSITY (TVU) 🏠

First founded in 1860 as the Lady Bryon School TVU has over 140 years experience in technical and vocational education. Ealing Technical Institute expanded to fill this site in 1953 and became known for its catering and art design courses. Freddie Mercury attended the college in the late 1960s, also in the 1960s the first ever degree in Business Studies was introduced here. Thames Valley University became a university in 1992.

Direction - Continue straight along St Mary's Road.

15 RED LION PUB 🍺

An ancient hostelry, dating back to at least the eighteenth century, it was once a coaching inn on the route between Kew and Uxbridge. It has also been called the fourth stage because many of the actors from the Ealing Studio's great age used to drink here and there are many photographs of these worthies on the pub's walls.

Direction - As you leave the pub, walk straight ahead and you will be able to see Ealing Studios across the road. The pedestrian crossing is opposite Finnegan's Wake pub. On the way you will pass Ealing Green Church.

16 EALING STUDIOS 🎬

Filmmaking began here in about 1904 by Will Barker. Its heyday was under the aegis of Michael Balcon (commemorated by a blue plaque on the building) from 1938 - 1955, when the famous Ealing comedies were made, as well as several war films. It was later sold to the BBC, and then bought by Fragile Films in 2000.



17 EALING GREEN CHURCH +

Charles Jones' first architectural commission in Ealing was to design and build this congregational church in 1860, of which he was a lifelong member.

Direction - Cross the road at the crossing and walk across Ealing Green to take a closer look at Ealing Studios and Pitzhanger Manor.

18 PITZHANGER MANOR

John Soane rebuilt the eighteenth century mansion at the beginning of the nineteenth century as a country house for his family, though he retained the southern portion or the older building. It was later the home of Spencer Perceval's two unmarried daughters until their deaths, when it was sold to the council who used it as a library until 1984. It is now designated as a historic house and art gallery and is the borough's only grade one listed building.



C1928

Direction - Return via the crossing and turn into 'The Grove' and follow it to the intersection of Windsor Road. If you would like to return to the Broadway at this point walk along Windsor Road via the Polish Church and the Natwest Bank. If you wish to continue the walk to see St Matthew's Church and Ealing Common, continue along The Grove until you reach the Common at the end of the road.

19 EALING COMMON

The ancient common land of 47 acres was threatened by building in the mid nineteenth century, but was bought by the council. The ponds that were once here have now been filled in, and there were air raid shelters here during World War Two.



DATE UNKNOWN

Direction - Cross over the Uxbridge Road towards St Matthew's Church.

20 ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH

Alfred Jowers designed this church in 1883 -1884. A blue plaque is on the adjacent vicarage, to commemorate Dorothea Chambers, the vicar's daughter who won the Ladies' Singles at Wimbledon more times than any other British player. The church was once shared with Ealing's Polish community before they had their own church.

Ealing Common Station - If you are returning to the Ealing Common Station, walk toward Hanger Lane and cross over at the crossing on Uxbridge Road. Staying on the Uxbridge Road walk straight ahead until you see Ealing Common Station on your right.

Ealing Broadway Station - To return to the Broadway, walk north along the Uxbridge Road, opposite on your left in Windsor Road is the Polish Church.

21 POLISH CHURCH EALING PARISH

This was Ealing's Wesleyan Methodist church when Charles Jones designed it in 1867. It became redundant in 1972 and is now the Polish Catholic church in Ealing known as 'Our Mother of the Church'

Direction - From here you will also be able to see the Natwest Bank on the corner of Uxbridge Road and The Broadway.

22 NATWEST BANK

Designed by Charles Jones and built in c1872 as council offices for the newly formed Ealing Local Board. A decade later the offices were too small and the present building was built. The council finally sold the building to be used as a bank.



DATE UNKNOWN

If you are catching the bus to return home, bus stands are located throughout the town centre and the Haven Green Interchange. If you are unsure where you bus leaves from consult one of the maps in any bus stand.

Direction - If you are leaving by train or tube, cross Uxbridge Road and walk up to the station.

Further information about London on foot can be found at www.tfl.gov.uk

Further information on walking routes in Ealing can be found at www.ealing.gov.uk/walking



EALING COMMON

