Heritage boards take visitors back along Ealing Common’s memory lane

Two new boards displaying Ealing Common’s remarkable past are proving to be a popular attraction for historical enthusiasts and passers-by.

The boards, installed in the early summer, are situated on the public open land alongside Uxbridge Road, near the road junctions of Leopold Road and The Common.

The interpretation boards illustrate the origins of what was once ancient scrub land, up until the modern day and gives details of events and personalities that have shaped the common over the years. The also show some prominent landmarks around the green space, including Warwick Dene Rose Gardens, the water fountains, The Grange pub and the churches of All Saints and St Matthew's.

Following proposals from local people, the boards were funded by Ealing Common Ward Forum. They will form part of a package of enhancements to the common, including the restoration of the obelisk water fountain in Uxbridge Road and refurbishing some of the surrounding posts and railings.

With the assistance of members of the Ealing Common Society (ECS), the history of the common and original photographs were researched and provided by the borough’s archives. Copies of the original photographs can be viewed by appointment at the local history section in Ealing Central Library.

Brigid Simpson, Chair of ECS, said: “I wanted to thank the ward forum, councillors, council officers including the borough’s archivist Jonathan Oates and also ECS members; Elaine Fraser and the late Mark Harrington for the heritage boards, which have been placed on the common. Nearly every day I have observed people consulting them and have been told by friends how interesting they are”.

Future Ward Forum Meeting
Wednesday 14 November 2012
7.45pm – 9.45pm
Grange Primary School, Church Gardens, Ealing, W5 4HN

Ward councillors Roz Reece, Jon Ball, Joanna Dabrowska with members of Ealing Common Society at the Heritage Board.
A presentation about the multi-million-pound project to restore the historic Gunnersbury Park and Museum will take place at the next ward forum on the 14 November.

The Grade 2 registered, 75-hectare park is jointly owned by Ealing and Hounslow councils and recognised by English Heritage as one of the most important parks in the country.

Two development grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund, totaling more than £700,000, have been awarded to the councils to bring forward plans to transform the park and its historic buildings and improve visitors’ experiences before its centenary year in 2026.

If successful at the second round of bidding a further £7.7 million would be awarded to implement the plans to restore the historic buildings and grounds, including the Grade 2 listed Large Mansion, home to the museum.

Since 1929 the museum has displayed items of interest, including paintings and photographs reflecting the history of local life in the London boroughs of Ealing and Hounslow. The planned work to the museum aims to raise its profile as a cultural attraction to more people by creating a new education centre.

The mansion, which is open to the public every weekend from April to October, still retains a suite of grand reception rooms and a well-preserved original Victorian kitchen.

People attending the ward forum will be able to learn more about the future of the park, ask questions, and have their say on the regeneration plans.

If you would like to participate in the Gunnersbury 2026 plans, please email gunnersbury@ealing.gov.uk or phone 020 8825 6742.

Road safety improvements are being introduced in the Rothschild residential area, between Ealing Common and Acton Town underground train stations.

The £70,000 project, which included two rounds of public consultation, will see a 20mph zone launched to reduce vehicle speeds and deter rat-running in the residential roads bounded by Uxbridge Road, Gunnersbury Avenue and Gunnersbury Lane. The traffic calming measures will include:

- A raised table at the junction where Carbery Avenue meets Boddington Gardens and Tudor Way.
- A raised table at the entry of Leopold Road by Uxbridge Road
- A one-way system created in Gunnersbury Crescent from Gunnersbury Lane towards Gunnersbury Gardens
- 12 new cycle friendly speed-humps.

The work, which started in early August, is scheduled to be completed in early October. The raised table in Leopold Road will be constructed in late September after the embargo ends on non-emergency roadworks during the Olympic and Paralympic Games.
Ealing Common Ward has an annual budget of £37,500 to spend on projects that help improve the quality of life in the area. This year, the ward has recommended spending some of its funding on the following proposals:

- Building a pedestrian crossing on St Mary’s Road between Grange Road and Webster Gardens.
- Introducing yellow line restrictions to deter vehicles parking on a bend in Delamere Road, from its junction with St Paul’s Close to Elgar Avenue. Consultation documents are to be sent to affected residents to obtain their views on this scheme.
- Improving the street lighting in Roberts Alley, leading from Grange Primary School to Church Place, with brighter and more efficient lanterns.

These plans are in addition to the projects already agreed in March, including:

- A tulip tree planted on the North Common, outside St Matthew’s Church to commemorate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee.
- A pedestrian zebra crossing in Knights Avenue, near its junction with Popes Lane.
- Litter bins and new benches along Warwick Road.
- New play equipment for Maytrees Gardens in South Ealing Road.

Further information on how your ward allocates its annual budget can be found on the council website, www.ealing.gov.uk/wardforum.
What is a ward forum?

Ward forums are one of the ways you can bring matters that affect your area to the attention of the council. The forums are also an opportunity for the council to consult on projects and policies affecting local people.

Many topical issues affecting Ealing Common ward have been discussed. These items include:

- Transport and highways – traffic calming schemes and controlled parking zones
- Community safety – local neighbourhood policing, including anti-social behaviour.
- Development of allotments, local parks and open spaces
- Environmental concerns – street cleanliness and waste and recycling matters.

Further information on meeting dates and agendas can be found on the council web site, www.ealing.gov.uk/wardforum or by contacting your neighbourhood co-ordinator.

Safer Neighbourhoods Team
Ealing Common
www.met.police.uk/teams/ealing
Tel: 020 8721 2948
In an emergency always dial 999. In a non emergency call 0300 1212.

Envirocrime
Tel: 020 8825 6000 Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Report it online at www.ealing.gov.uk Email: customers@ealing.gov.uk for litter, abandoned vehicles flytipping, graffiti removal, and flyposting.

COUNCILLORS’ SURGERIES

Jon Ball: Second Saturday of month, 2–4pm, Thames Valley University, St Mary’s Road.

Joanna Dabrowska and Roz Reece:
First Saturday of month (except January), 10–11.30am, Ealing Town Hall; third Friday of month, 7.30–8.30pm, Ealing Town Hall;

Joanna Dabrowska: Polish Surgery second Friday of month, 7.30pm–8.30pm, Ealing Town Hall (except August); Polskoj zyczne Spotkania z Radn: 2-gi pi tek miesi ca w Radzie na Ealing’u, (oprócz sierpnia) - w godzinach 1930 do 2030.

A new pavilion and sports pitches in Carbery Avenue are due to be completed by Taylor Wimpey by the end of this year. The ground, previously privately owned by Liverpool Victoria, spent years in a state of disuse. A third of the site has been redeveloped for housing, but the council helped secure the rest of the space for community sports, including the new pavilion with meeting rooms, cricket pitches and artificial turf pitch.

A free exhibition celebrating 10 years of the London Mela in Gunnersbury Park is being held until 24 September in the park’s museum, off Pope’s Lane.

The exhibition will open daily from 11am – 5pm and will feature a collection of memorabilia and photographs of the attractions and costumes, people and performers who have participated in the Mela over the years.

For more information, contact vanda.foster@laing.com

News in brief

1. A new pavilion and sports pitches in Carbery Avenue are due to be completed by Taylor Wimpey by the end of this year. The ground, previously privately owned by Liverpool Victoria, spent years in a state of disuse. A third of the site has been redeveloped for housing, but the council helped secure the rest of the space for community sports, including the new pavilion with meeting rooms, cricket pitches and artificial turf pitch.

2. A free exhibition celebrating 10 years of the London Mela in Gunnersbury Park is being held until 24 September in the park’s museum, off Pope’s Lane.

The exhibition will open daily from 11am – 5pm and will feature a collection of memorabilia and photographs of the attractions and costumes, people and performers who have participated in the Mela over the years.

For more information, contact vanda.foster@laing.com

ECO3016 Produced by Ealing Council Neighbourhood Governance Team. Printed on recycled paper.