Lighting up the town

St Mary’s Church located on its commanding site in The Mount, King Street, is the latest building to receive LED feature lighting as part of a scheme to highlight prominent landmarks in Acton’s town centre.

The garden and façade of the Victorian building, which dates from 1866, has also been redeveloped. The church forecourt which leads to the busy Market Square has been de-cluttered and more and brighter street lights have been installed in the pedestrianised square to improve security. The historic Acton Pump, the Ledger Stone and the Mile Marker by the church’s entrance have all been retained.

The Diocese of London and Ealing Council financed the £80,000 revamp which includes future maintenance of the uplighting to the church building. Acton Central’s Ward Forum also contributed £10,000 to help make up a shortfall in funding following a reduction of an anticipated £500,000 Outer London Fund from the Greater London Authority. The Outer London Fund was awarded to the council for the development of the town centre by improving lighting in the high street, public art, landscaping and enhancing public areas.

The recently completed lettering on Acton Vale Bridge welcoming people to the town centre, and the Oak Tree mural on Beechworth House, 40-48 High Street are the other structures that have been lit up with vibrant lighting, an improvement which has proved popular with residents.

The decision to illuminate buildings of interest was made following positive feedback from local people during a series of exhibition workshops held in December 2011 to consult on how the Town Centre should look.
Work is progressing on major highway improvements to the Acton stretch of A4020 Uxbridge Road from the junction with Mansell Road, to where it meets Gunnersbury Lane.

The developments to this busy stretch of Uxbridge Road are designed to smooth traffic flow and improve road safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

The project, which began in January 2012, is set to be completed by July and will complement the recently completed regeneration of Acton Town Centre which focussed on improvements to the streetscape along the High Street.

A number of enhancements to the road have already been completed, including the removal of the bus gate and islands near Acton Vale Bridge, more stop and shop parking places for shoppers, and loading bays for commercial deliveries between Birkbeck Grove and Church Lane.

Further work is scheduled to begin during February and includes:

- A toucan crossing for the joint use of pedestrian and cyclists near Birkbeck Grove.
- A new puffin crossing near Birkbeck Road to replace the old pelican crossing by Acton Vale Bridge.
- A roundabout at the junction of Steyne Road and Uxbridge Road to replace the existing sets of traffic lights.
- The introduction of a right turn ban from Uxbridge Road in to Gunnersbury Lane and a left turn ban from Gunnersbury Lane into Uxbridge Road for all vehicles.
- A signal controlled pedestrian crossing to be installed at the junction of Gunnersbury Lane and Uxbridge Road.
- Relocating a busy bus stop currently outside 155 High Street further west to outside 131 High Street in order to reduce crowding problems on the footpath.
- New raised pedestrian crossing point near Winchester Street.
- The introduction of mini roundabouts to replace traffic light signals in Acton Lane and Church Lane.

How your ward’s budget is being spent

Acton Central Ward has an annual budget of £37,500 to spend on projects that help improve the quality of life in the area.

Last year, the ward recommended spending some of its funds on the following projects:

- A study to investigate how to improve parking conditions and road safety in Newburgh Road, Stuart Road and Derwentwater Road.
- Contribution to the Grassroots’ Festival of Performing Arts - a community arts event that took place in Ealing Town Hall in October 2012.
- Along with South Acton Ward, jointly supporting the Acton Carnival, which took place in July 2012, and the Acton Christmas Fair in December 2012.
- Lighting improvements to the footbridge over the railway connecting Perryn Road and St Dunstan’s Avenue.
- Contribution to locally based charity A.P.P.L.E’s work with young people to create six items of public art to an existing tree trail in the park.

Further information on how your ward allocates its annual budget can be found on the council website, www.ealing.gov.uk/wardforum.
Ealing Music and Film Festival

Twyford High School is to host the local Music for Youth Regional Festival and present a jazz and gospel choir concert.

The Regional Festival, which takes place on Friday 15th February from 9am to 5pm, is organised by Music for Youth, a national music education charity that aims to provide groups of young musicians with first-hand experience of live music-making in festivals across the UK. At 6.30pm, a ticket only concert will take place at the school, featuring: Twyford High School’s Gospel Choir, Ealing Youth Jazz Orchestra and Tomorrow’s Warriors, a leading music education organisation.

The festival and concert are part of the first Ealing Music and Film Festival, to be held in prominent venues across Ealing over the Valentines weekend 14th – 17th February. The festival will showcase music and film, exhibitions and a photography competition open to all.

Headline events during the weekend will include performances by the English Chamber Orchestra and the Ealing Symphony Orchestra, as well as a Raga Jam. There are tours of Ealing Studios and at the University of West London, talks and exhibitions about Ealing Studios’ history and Ealing’s Rock and Blues legacy.

Acton based film producer and director, Tony Palmer, part of the team behind the festival said: “Ealing has a fabulous tradition of music of all kinds and, obviously, film. This we must celebrate.”

For more information and to book tickets, visit www.ealingmusicandfilmfestival.org or email chair@ealingmusicandfilmfestival.org.

Fortune favours Acton’s Christmas Fair

Santa’s Grotto, carol singers and a gospel choir were just some of the family entertainment at the Acton Christmas Fair, which took place on Saturday 10 December.

The fair, held on The Mount, King Street, featured more than 20 community-led, commercial and charity market stalls in two marquees selling a range of arts, crafts and Christmas gifts, as well as traditional holiday treats. It was also an opportunity to help others with St Mungo’s, the charity for homeless people, receiving donated items to help keep rough sleepers warm during the winter.

Visitors were invited to get into the festive spirit with an instant nativity play with costumes provided for visiting children to turn up and participate in an improvised performance. A jazz collective and steel band provided musical entertainment and dance troupes performed tap and Polish style dancing.

The fair’s bustling atmosphere drew in crowds throughout the day. More than 200 children received free presents when they visited Santa’s Christmas workshop and local traders reported an increase in sales on the day.
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 Acton Central ward have been discussed. These items include:

- Regeneration – town centre and housing estate developments
- Community safety – neighbourhood policing and anti-social behaviour
- Community support – grants for community activities and events
- Environmental concerns – air pollution levels and also 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.

In order to help the council achieve its savings target, this will be the last printed newsletter to be delivered directly to your door.

In future, Acton Central’s neighbourhood news will be available to read as an electronic newsletter or online on the council’s web site at www.ealing.gov.uk/wardforums.

To receive the next edition of the Acton Central e-newsletter please email mywardmatters@ealing.gov.uk with ‘Acton Central e-newsletters’ in the subject line.

You can also register on the council web site to receive updates and alerts about your specific interests such as: activities for children and young people, public consultations, events, arts and culture, parks and open spaces. Go to www.ealing.gov.uk/register to find out more.

Ealing Involved is a joint initiative between Ealing Council, local social media company Sticky Board, and Ealing Community and Voluntary Service (ECVS), a charity supporting more than 800 groups in the borough.

It has launched a new community website called www.ealinginvolved.org which aims to bring people who want to volunteer locally and donate money or goods with local organisations who need help.

**Safer Neighbourhood Team**

**Acton Central**

www.met.police.uk/teams/ealing

Tel: 020 8721 2921

In an emergency always dial 999. In a non emergency call 0300 1212.

**Enviromine**

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.

**Your Neighbourhood Co-ordinator**

Kofi Nyamah

Tel: 020 8825 5818

E: mywardmatters@ealing.gov.uk

www.ealing.gov.uk/wardforum

**SURGERIES**

1st Sunday of every month: New surgery details will be forthcoming. In the meantime, contact Cllr Daniel Crawford on 020 8992 9353 or by email daniel.crawford@ealing.gov.uk;

2nd Saturday of the month, 11am-12noon, Friary Park Community Centre, Joseph Avenue, Acton, W3 6NL (except August);


The Acton Labour Councillors will take turns to attend a surgery every Saturday, 11am–12noon, Ruskin Hall, 16 Church Road, Acton, W3.