Commemorative plaque in Twyford High School celebrates old Actonian, Winnie-the-Pooh

A plaque to Winnie-the-Pooh, the teddy bear created by A.A. Milne, has been unveiled on the east wing of The Elms wall of Twyford High School, Twyford Crescent.

The green plaque, which was funded by South Acton’s Ward Forum as part of its annual budget for local improvements, commemorates the world famous teddy bear and the soft toy factory of J.K. Farnell & Co Ltd, where the Farnell’s Alpha teddy – the inspiration for Pooh Bear – was first created. The company became the first British manufacturer of teddy bears and Farnell teddy bears are now collectors’ items.

In 1921, Daphne Milne, wife of the author A.A. Milne, bought a fine Alpha teddy bear from Harrods’ toy department as a gift for their son, Christopher Robin Milne. The bear was named ‘Winnie-The-Pooh’ by his young owner. Christopher Robin’s father decided to write about the adventures that his son had with his bear and his other soft toy animals: such as ‘Eeyore’, ‘Piglet’ and ‘Tigger’.

The Farnell factory, was located besides The Elms, a fine Georgian house built in about 1735 (now a Grade II* listed building), where the Farnell family lived from about 1898 until the 1950s. When the business ceased to exist, Middlesex Council bought the property for a new secondary school, which is now Twyford High School.

Shirley Harrison, author of The Life and Times of the Real Winnie-the-Pooh, The Teddy Bear who inspired A.A. Milne, visited Acton in March to speak to the Acton History Group about her book.

If you would like to view the plaque at the school, the best time to visit is during weekends when outside groups take space in the school and the gates will normally be open for visitors.

Next Ward Forum Meeting
18 July 2012
Centre for Armenian Information and Advice
105a Mill Hill Road
Acton W3 8JF
Acton, along with other parts of the borough, is currently experiencing a significant rise in demand for primary school places. As well as an increase in the number of babies born in the area, more people than ever before are choosing to send their children to a state primary school.

As a result, additional spaces for children have recently been confirmed for Berrymede Infants and Junior Schools in Acton.

The infant school will start admitting the extra students this year, with 120 starting in the reception class in September, meaning there will be an extra 210 places when full. These students will eventually move on to Berrymede Junior School, which will start admitting the extra pupils in September 2014.

The Priory Community Centre in Acton Lane is due to become a school once again. The site was originally known as Priory Infants and Middle School before it was turned into a community centre. The plans are to admit 60 children each year until it reaches its capacity of 420 pupils in 2019.

ARK Schools, an academy sponsor that already runs several schools in London, will run the new primary. The school is planned to open in September 2013, subject to planning permission.

These expansions will help to relieve some of the wider pressures on school places in the local area.

Community groups that previously used the Priory Centre will be offered space in the new Acton Town Hall when its redevelopment is completed in 2014. The council is working to find temporary accommodation for the groups until the town hall is ready.

Work is taking place to spruce up Acton’s High Street and its surrounding areas following an award of £500,000 for improvements by the Mayor’s Outer London Fund.

The money was awarded following a successful application made by Ealing Council last year.

The projects are intended to make the High Street – from The Vale to King Street in the town centre - more vibrant by improving street lighting, public art displaying Acton’s heritage, landscaping and enhancing public areas. This will include creating more appealing public spaces, new feature lighting to some buildings along the high street, improving the consistency of street furniture and signage, planting new trees and installing artwork to brighten up Acton Vale Bridge and the vicinity.

High Street traders will also directly benefit from the Outer London Fund money, with visual merchandising training provided to 25 independent retailers to improve their shop displays. Aspiring local entrepreneurs will be encouraged to start their business ventures in Acton Market, with grants and business support from Action Acton, based in Crown Street.
Community orchard to bear fruit in Heathfield Gardens

Acton residents with ‘green fingers’ are being encouraged to help care for a new community orchard just outside Acton High School in Heathfield Gardens off Gunnersbury Lane.

Residents of Mill Hill Park, Acton and others worked to break through the crust of frozen ground in February, to dig and plant 16 fruit trees, including apple, pear, and plum trees, an apricot and a medlar.

To survive, the trees now need carers to water and maintain them during the early months of their lives.

This joint initiative by Mill Hill Park Residents’ Association, The London Orchard Project, Ealing Transition and Ealing Council is in part a practical way of improving the environment, but also aims to encourage community production and ownership of fruit.

Lewis McNeill from the London Orchard Project explained. “The move towards growing your own veg has really taken off, but the idea with urban orchards like these is to put in place a food resource which will last a hundred years or more. And once the trees are established, they are incredibly low-maintenance.”

It is hoped that further trees will eventually be planted, and that Acton residents may be able to enjoy local fresh fruit for decades to come.

Big Lunch to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee

Many people will be holding street parties for “The Big Lunch” on Sunday 3 June as part of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee extended celebrations.

The Diamond Jubilee will be taking place on 4 June, with an extra Jubilee bank holiday on 5 June.

If you and your neighbours would like to hold a party, you need to apply to Ealing Council for approval.

You need to apply to the council, letting it know what you are planning, and for how long, so it can make arrangements for any necessary road closures or other measures.

Because it is a special occasion, most small events will not incur a cost. But, this depends on the application and the size of the party. The Highways department will decide once it sees the application.

If you are planning a party on a larger scale, with live music or alcohol, you may need to apply for an alcohol or entertainment licence.

To obtain an application form or for further advice, contact Izzy Brumpton at the council, either by email at izzy@theeventumbrella.com or call on 020 8825 6064.

Rejuvenation of Acton Town Hall set to commence

Work is set to begin on modernising Acton Town Hall in the summer, after the planning application for the multi-million pound revamp of the buildings was approved in March.

The plans will be sent to the Department for Communities and Local Government for final approval. If granted, work will start straight away.

The Kings Rooms and Acton Baths, within the town hall complex, will be largely demolished and subject to planning permission a new three-floor centre built in their place as part of the new town hall complex. The new buildings will house a large modern gym, leisure facilities, council offices and community spaces available for hire. A new library will replace what is currently the Assembly Hall.

The façade of the Kings Room will be retained to create a new entrance into the set of buildings from Uxbridge Road.

The iconic frontage of the town hall and the chimney to the rear are Grade II listed and they will be retained and restored.
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 South Acton ward have been discussed. These items include:

- Regeneration – town centre and housing estate developments
- Education – the creation and expansion of local schools
- Environmental concerns – waste and recycling matters
- Transport – traffic calming schemes and Controlled Parking Zones
- Development of local parks and green open spaces
- Community safety – local neighbourhood policing issues including anti-social behaviour.

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

Are you interested in learning about computing, music, sewing and arts & crafts? Ealing Council offers a variety of adult learning courses across Ealing. Why not sign up now to receive the latest course list www.ealing.gov.uk/register (tick Adult Learning) or call the team directly on 020 8825 5577 or email adultlearning@ealing.gov.uk to find out what is happening at your nearest centre:

- Action Acton, 112-114 Hardy Court, Bollo Bridge Road, Acton, W3 8DD
- Acton Library, 119, High Street, Acton, W3 6NA
- Acton Training Centre, 296-300, High Street, Acton, W3 9BJ
- Music Education Language (MEL) Productions, 25 Churchfield Rd, Acton, W3 6BD
- Learning Curve, 3 Roslin Road, Acton, London, 8DH
- SASAC, 1st Floor Webb Court, Enfield Road, London, W3 8QZ

Property developer, Acton Gardens, has submitted its master plan for South Acton Estate to Ealing Council planners, following consultation with residents over the plan’s development. A decision on the planning application is likely be made by the council’s Planning Committee this summer.

1. **Safer Neighbourhood Team South Acton**
   www.met.police.uk/teams/ealing
   Tel: 020 8649 3574
   In an emergency always dial 999. In a non emergency call 0300 1212.

2. **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.

3. **Your Neighbourhood Co-ordinator**
   Kofi Nyamah
   Tel: 020 8825 5818
   E: mywardmatters@ealing.gov.uk
   www.ealing.gov.uk/wardforum

**SURGERIES**
2nd Wednesday of the month, 6.30pm-7.30pm (except August), Oaktree Community Centre, Osborne Road, Acton, London, W3 8SR.

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