

EALING CIVIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Working to preserve and improve our Borough

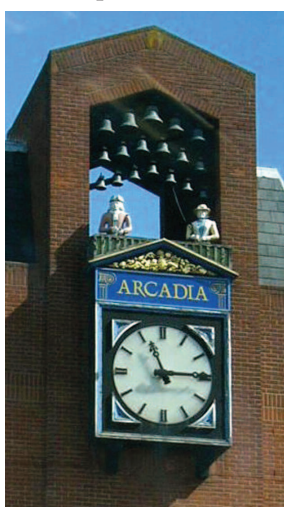


Autumn 2012

From our Chairman

Arcadia Site

Benson Elliot Capital Management, a US investment company, has won the right to be the preferred developer for the Arcadia site and has appointed Allies and Morrison, a firm of architects, to produce an overall plan for the site which is one of the largest remaining development sites in Ealing town centre. The Society, acting in concert with Save Ealing's Centre, has said that we would support a comprehensive redevelopment scheme provided that it is sympathetic to its conservation area context. This means that any development should be relatively low-rise, with any higher elements towards the centre of the site. The Council has recently issued for comment a draft development brief for the site: if approved, developers would be expected to follow the design principles included in the brief, so it is important that it is along the right lines. A draft outline brief prepared by the Council at the time of the marketing of the site at the beginning of the year contained a number of deficiencies, in particular the extent to which the Arcadia site should be considered in the wider context of Haven Green and Ealing Broadway station. We will be studying the latest version to see whether these issues have now been addressed.



cover. Both recent bids to the HLF (Heritage Lottery Fund) have been successful. Details are given by Philippa Dolphin on page 3.

Empire Work to start soon?

Following the release by Empire Cinemas in June of a press notice indicating that they will soon start work on their 20-screen cinema complex in Ealing Broadway, members of the Society met an Empire representative and their architect to discuss elements of the proposed interior design. We indicated that it would be appropriate if some of the classical design elements of the original Forum Cinema could be reintroduced in modern idiom and Empire undertook to consider our suggestions. The curved ground floor arcade will contain café/restaurants (negotiations with potential operators are apparently at an advanced stage) with the screens at the rear and on upper floors. All screens will use digital projection facilities with only one fitted with a traditional 35mm projector. The exterior design will be brick with stone facing apart from the front facade which will be the retained structure with glazed side pavilions (see picture). Further meetings are anticipated. Site preparation work was expected to start in August with construction commencing in spring 2013 with a prospective completion date of early to mid-2014.



Civic Day at Gunnersbury

We celebrated Civic Day on Saturday 23rd June at Gunnersbury. The project team responsible for the two HLF bids talked about their plans and conducted a walk around the park to illustrate what the restoration will

Coming events

London Open House weekend 22nd / 23rd September (see p. 2 for details)

The ECS Annual Awards Ceremony: Tuesday 27th November, 7.30 p.m. The Queen's Hall, Ealing Town Hall
Guest Speaker: Tony Palmer, film theatre and opera director.

Acton Town Hall

In our Spring newsletter we reported on a planning application for extensive alterations to Acton Town Hall Assembly Hall, the King's Rooms and the replacement of Acton Swimming Baths with leisure facilities including two new swimming pools. The planning application was approved in April and demolition



of the old pool, most of the King's Rooms and part of the Assembly Hall will take place shortly. We were particularly concerned that plaster artefacts from the King's Rooms should be saved for possible reproduction in the new building. We are pleased to report that a new member who lives in Acton, Jonathan Norris, has with colleagues been able to take copies of the artefacts and, in the case of the plasterwork galleon features on the first floor, successfully removed several examples which will be donated to a local museum.



Robert Gurd

Three Plaques Walk

There was a good turnout for a historic walk round Acton on 11 August, run jointly with Acton History Group. Different speakers talked about three historic plaques in the area. The first two were installed by Ealing Civic Society: the bronze pavement plaque outside the original Waitrose shop and the recent Winnie the Pooh plaque on a wall at Twyford High School. Finally we saw an English Heritage plaque commemorating Richard Titmuss, the sociologist. The walk ended with tea and cakes in St Martin's Church.

Philippa Dolphin

London Open Houses 22nd / 23rd September Ealing houses

2 Holinser Terrace, The Grove, W5 LH

Bluebell House: 38a Waldemar Avenue, W13 9PY

Ealing Abbey: Charlbury Grove W5 2DY

Ealing Town Hall, Council Chamber and Mayor's Office

Northala Fields: Dolphin Rd, Kensington Rd

Pitzhanger Manor House: Walpole Park, W5 5EQ

South Acton Children's Centre: Castle Close, W3 8RX

St Mary the Virgin: Perivale Lane, Perivale UB6 8TL

St Thomas the Apostle: Boston Road, Hanwell W7 2AD

Zero Carbon Loft: 38a Cumberland Road, Hanwell W7 2EB

(See Open House booklet for more information on houses and walks)

Mapping our local gems

Earlier this year we made contact with *Mapping for Change* at University College London. The aim of this not-for-profit organisation is to develop mapping to give any organisation, group or enterprise access to maps and techniques that will help them make a change and improve their environments. They have created interactive maps for a range of community groups, charities, societies and other bodies such as the Conservation Foundation, the Thames Estuary Partnership, the London Transport Museum and Green Alliance UK. Their maps cover a variety of topics, for example: environmental information, such as noise pollution or air quality, information about planning, regeneration or economic activity, or historical features. We were interested in a map to show locally and nationally listed buildings and monuments in our Borough, to which we could add buildings or local gems which we and our members would like to see listed. As part of our 2011 Civic Day initiative we invited and received many suggestions for listing.

Mapping for Change have now created a map for us, which can be seen via a link from our website.

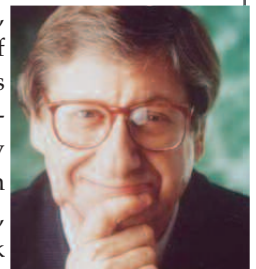
We are still testing it and would welcome any feedback. Say what you think!

Philippa Dolphin

ECS Award Scheme

Help promote good design in the borough

Entries for our award scheme are needed by 30th September for attractive and sustainable building or landscape schemes completed in the last two years that have been in use for six months. The consent of the owner is required and entry forms can be obtained from the ECS website or by telephoning the Secretary on 020 8997 8824. There is still time to nominate entries for consideration by the judges, so let us know about any impressive developments, buildings or landscaping in your local area. Completed forms should be sent to 72 The Knoll W13 8HY including any photos and plans to assist the committee in selecting entries to be visited by the judges. This year's award evening will take place at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 27th November in the Queen's Hall. Our guest speaker will be Tony Palmer who, in addition to being a resident of Ealing with strong views about its current state and threats to its future, has also produced a very wide-ranging filmography, from early works with The Beatles, Cream, Jimi Hendrix and Frank Zappa, to portraits of Walton, Britten, Stravinsky, Maria Callas, John Osborne, Margot Fonteyn and Menuhin.



Judy Harris

Book Review

Acton Through Time

Acton has now been covered in the Amberley series of books contrasting historic photos with their modern-day equivalents. It is written and photographed by Amanda and David Knights, stalwarts of the Acton History Group, with whom of course our Society has close associations. The results are quite fascinating. It is perhaps to the credit of the photographers that many of the buildings such as the Baptist church in Church Road and the Goldsmith Almshouses look better than they did 100 plus years ago.

There are of course some instances which are the exact opposite, where tower blocks intrude or where large fascia boards destroy attractive shop fronts. Particular instances are in the High Street - the charming Ravillious tailors shop (the family of the famous artist) now a McDonalds and of course the first Waitrose shop the site of the Society's first plaque and now Pizza Babylon.

Most poignant are the buildings that have been lost to the bulldozer: the splendid Globe cinema, reputedly the largest cinema in Europe, is now the Oaks shopping



centre. The equally impressive Berrymead Priory in Acton Lane shown here was demolished only in the 1980s. Other lost buildings of note are the Park Royal showground buildings and the old smithy in East Acton.

This book is a welcome addition to the visual history of Acton, priced £14.99 it is available at all the usual outlets. The equivalent 'Ealing Through Time' book is expected to be published in the later in the Autumn.

Paul Fitzmaurice

Subscriptions

If you pay your subscription by standing order in the second half of the year please ensure it has been altered to £10 to take account of the increase agreed at the 2011 AGM. If you pay by cash or cheque, and you have not yet paid it in 2012, please pay as soon as possible to avoid the need for a reminder. The amount for 2012 is £12. Your cheque payable to Ealing Civic Society should be sent to: Robin Roads, Hon Treasurer, Ealing Civic Society, 2 North Lodge, Ealing Green, London, W5 5QU.

Hope for Gunnersbury at last

This summer we heard that both bids for Heritage Lottery (HLF) funding for Gunnersbury have been successful. This is wonderful news for local residents who have watched with concern as the park and 22 listed buildings have become increasingly dilapidated.

The HLF Parks for People award was announced in June. The Parks for People programme aims to regenerate public parks of national, regional or local heritage value for the enjoyment and recreation of local people. There is initial support for a £4.6m bid, including £321,000 development funding which will enable the project team to work



up detailed plans for future restoration of the park. A second round bid must be submitted within the next 2 years in order to compete for a full award which would be used to improve the park's

landscape, lakes and horticulture.

A few weeks later came the news that a Stage 1 Heritage Grant of £386,400 had been awarded. This will enable detailed plans to be drawn up for the restoration of the Large Mansion, a historic (Grade II* listed) Regency house which once belonged to the Rothschild family. The plans will also cover a major enhancement and modernisation of the museum which serves both Ealing and Hounslow. A Stage 2 bid for £3.8m will then be submitted to HLF.

Additional funding for both bids will be required from the Boroughs of Ealing and Hounslow and other sources. There will be many opportunities for local residents to get involved in volunteering and fund raising. To learn more or to get involved:

email gunnersbury@ealing.gov.uk or join the Friends of Gunnersbury Park and Museum. Meanwhile information about the regeneration of Gunnersbury Park is available on the London Borough of Hounslow website and in a short film entitled *Gunnersbury 2026*.

Philippa Dolphin

From Jonathan Oates, LBE Archivist

"We're beginning on a large scale IT project to scan and catalogue the painting and photograph collection held at Ealing Library, in order to make this available to the public online in a searchable form, rather as Brent have done. In order to do so we are looking for volunteers to assist in this process with photographing the painting collection, scanning photographs and cataloguing them. This would take place at Ealing Library from this autumn onwards. The minimum commitment would be two hours per week on either Tuesday, Thursday or Friday.

I was wondering whether anyone in ECS might be interested." If so, get in touch. Tel: 020 8825 8194

joates@ealing.gov.uk

Planning Issues

We commented on an application for Conversion of **St Albans Church South Parade W4** in 2011. There are now community groups interested in using the church so we have added a letter supporting retention of community use rather than conversion to residential. We objected to a back garden development at **125 Church Rd Hanwell** which would be an overdevelopment in a conservation area that would cause overlooking with a congested access. **4-14 Shakespeare Rd** is another Hanwell application that is an overdevelopment with inadequate parking and garden spaces. The objection to application **176A South Ealing Rd** was to development on a small back garden and parking area that would impact on the local character of Chandos Ave.

Oaks shopping centre, Acton

Revised proposals for the Oaks shopping centre, Acton have been submitted by the developers over the summer holiday period. Disappointingly, these are very similar to those issued for consultation earlier in the year which were strongly criticised by many local residents and by the Society. The only concession to local concerns appears to be over the shape of the tallest 11-storey element, originally dubbed "the periscope" by local residents, which would now have a more conventional rectangular shape. But it would still loom over neighbouring residential areas and the town centre conservation area which is no more than 3-4 storeys in height. Also, the proposal to cover the development with bizarre oak tree inspired metal cladding adds to the general incongruity of the proposal. We shall be objecting once again to these proposals on the grounds that they are too dense and out of character with the area.



mer holiday period. Disappointingly, these are very similar to those issued for consultation earlier in the year which were strongly criticised by many local residents and by the Society. The only concession to local concerns appears to be over the shape of the tallest 11-storey element, originally dubbed "the periscope" by local residents, which would now have a more conventional rectangular shape. But it would still loom over neighbouring residential areas and the town centre conservation area which is no more than 3-4 storeys in height. Also, the proposal to cover the development with bizarre oak tree inspired metal cladding adds to the general incongruity of the proposal. We shall be objecting once again to these proposals on the grounds that they are too dense and out of character with the area.

Twyford Abbey, West Twyford

Our readers will recall the regular applications over the years for redevelopment of the Twyford Abbey site. A new application was submitted, again over the holiday period, for a variant of an earlier proposal which would involve enabling development on the grounds (mainly in the vicinity of the walled garden to the north of the Abbey) in order to finance the high cost of bringing the derelict Abbey back into use as flats. There would be 66 new housing units in the grounds and 25 in the Abbey itself which is a reduction in the number of units previously sought by the developers.

The walled garden would be restored and the former dairy unit refurbished for community use. The grounds to the south of the Abbey would be open for public use. The new proposals are an improvement although the design of the new housing units in the grounds of the Abbey would be uncompromisingly modern and in some eyes out of keeping with the Abbey itself. No doubt English Heritage will have a big say in whether such an enabling development should be permitted on Metropolitan Open Land given their continuing interest in the grade II listed Abbey which has been on their heritage at risk register for decades.

Judith Harris and Robert Gurd

Ealing Civic Society Annual Lecture

About 75 people attended our President Sir Peter Hall's lecture on Tuesday 6th June, entitled *Ealing in the Second Reign of King Boris*. This was a wide ranging lecture covering past and future plans for the capital, and their impact on our borough, and ending with some challenging questions.

Reading this and not a member?

Why not join us?
Phone **020 8567 4682**
or see our website
www.ealingcivicsociety.org

President Prof. Sir Peter Hall 2012/13 Executive Committee

Robert Gurd (Chairman)
60 Beaufort Rd W5 3EA (8998 4417)
Corinne Templer (Hon. Vice President)
28 The Grove W5 5LH (8567 5353)
Judy Harris (Secretary)
72 The Knoll W13 8HY (8997 8824)
Robin Roads (Treasurer)
2 North Lodge, Ealing Green W5 5QU (8579 5910)
Deirdre McLellan (Membership – new members)
36 The Grove W5 5LH (8567 4682)
Michael Tiley
30 Devonshire Road W5 4TP (8840 7447)
Paul Fitzmaurice
18 Elers Road W13 9QD (8567 3024)
Margaret Gold
24 Lyncroft Gardens W13 9PU (8567 6158)
Tony Miller
6 Winscombe Crescent W5 1AZ (8930 5130)
Philippa Dolphin (Web Manager)
Jen Henley (Minutes Secretary)
Tony Williams (Newsletter Editor)
2 Nicholas Gardens London W5 5HY (8567 6941)

The Autumn 2012 ECS Newsletter was edited by Tony Williams. **Writers:** Paul Fitzmaurice, Robert Gurd, Philippa Dolphin, Judith Harris, Mike Tiley, Tony Williams. **Pictures:** Robert Gurd, Philippa Dolphin, Empire Cinemas, Jonathan Norris
Printer: Pollyprint, 263 Northfield Avenue, W5 4UA