

# EALING CIVIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Working to preserve and improve our Borough



Founded in 1967

Vice-President Corinne Templer

[www.ealingcivicsociety.org](http://www.ealingcivicsociety.org)

Member of

**CIVIC  
VOICE**

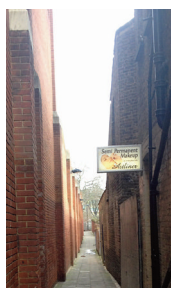
## Spring 2015

### From Our Chairman

Welcome to our spring 2015 newsletter which comes with belated New Year greetings.

The key development since our last newsletter is the announcement of plans for phase two of the Arcadia redevelopment scheme which relates to 9-42 The Broadway (the block of land lying to the east of the former Arcadia centre and the station). This is, of course, one of the most prominent sites in the centre of Ealing and its future is of immense importance to the town.

We and other community organisations have been consulted over early designs for the redevelopment of the site which consist of a total rebuild with taller elements in the centre of the site dominated by an 18-



The path now



Artist's impression: Haven Place looking east toward Ealing Broadway station

storey tower feature placed immediately south of the railway line at the dog leg of the existing pathway to the station to the side of the former Arcadia Centre (now 1-8 The Broadway). There would also be taller elements set back behind the Broadway frontage stepping up from the west to the east with a 9-storey block opposite the Town House apartments development. A new path would cut from the site of the current Office shoe shop to emerge opposite the station.

All existing buildings on the site including the

imposing Carphone Warehouse corner block would be demolished, about which we have expressed concern. Central Chambers, opposite the station, would be retained but refurbished probably at a later stage. We have also expressed concerns about some elements of the design, in particular the taller blocks, although we welcome the new cut through "Haven Place" to the station which would be a big improvement on the current unwelcoming footpath.

### Dickens Yard update

St George have published proposals for redesign of the new square next to Christ Church, including revised landscaping proposals. They also proposed changes to the community centre to be built for the church and school. The centre would now be incorporated into one of the residential blocks at ground floor and the building originally earmarked for the community centre would now house a new restaurant with the school caretaker's flat above. They also proposed minor design changes to the block on New Broadway in place of the former shops at 2-12 New Broadway. The shape of this block would be changed from circular to oval which would have the effect of presenting a larger apparent area on the side facing the square. We thought the proposed new design was less satisfactory than the original design, although we had not been very happy with that when it was proposed but subsequently passed by the planning committee. We suggested improvements to the landscaping scheme, in particular that the proposed public art should include a water feature to be decided by a public competition organised by Ealing Arts + Leisure.

### Coming Events

**Tuesday 28 April** 7.30 Annual General Meeting, after which representatives from Benson Elliot will speak about the redevelopment of 9-42 The Broadway (Arcadia Phase 2), Liz Cantell Room, Ealing Town Hall, Uxbridge Rd, W5 2BY

**Tuesday 2 June** 7.30 John Delafons lecture, Liz Cantell Room, Ealing Town Hall, Uxbridge Rd, W5 2BY. Professor Michael Hebbert will speak on *Professor Sir Peter Hall: Role Model*

**Saturday 20 June** Civic Day. Theme to be advised

**19-20 September** Open House Weekend.

**Tuesday 24 November** 7.30 Annual Award Ceremony, Queens Hall, Ealing Town Hall, Speaker: Lorraine Heggsey

## Cinema site

The Council has announced that the date of the compulsory purchase hearing against Empire Cinemas will be in mid-April. We have indicated to the Council that we would be prepared to support them at the hearing. It is of course possible that the hearing might not take place if Land Securities agrees with Empire Cinemas a price for the empty site. However, the prospect of agreement at this late stage seems to be slim. Land Securities have submitted detailed plans for their site which in many ways are less satisfactory than those approved at the outline stage: see the separate report on page 4 for more detail. Gratifyingly, English Heritage has made similar comments to our own and hopefully we can work together to improve the areas of greatest deficiency in particular the Bond Street and Mattock Lane facades. We would still like to see the Walpole Picture Theatre façade, currently stranded forlornly in Mattock Lane, incorporated into the Bond Street façade.

*Robert Gurd*

## The Arcadia Bells

Many members will remember the set of 18 bells, the two little figures and the clock which used to adorn the Arcadia Shopping Centre above HMV on Springbridge Road. Bob Gurd and I heard that the owners of the Centre did not want to keep them after the recent refurbishment and we feared that they might be sold for scrap: the bells are heavy and contain 80% copper and 20% tin. We learned that Christ the Saviour School would be keen to incorporate the bells and clock into the atrium of their school reception of their new five story building. Father David Birt is their clock expert and he commissioned the well known clock and carillon makers Gillett & Johnston to produce an attractive new frame to house and display the clock and bells in the school where they now ring the hours. There is also a keyboard which can be used by staff and pupils to play tunes on the bells. The clock is now very accurate and is linked to a radio signal from Germany.

It is a pity that the replacement clock at the Arcadia Centre on the corner above McDonald's is almost useless, as the clock hands are the same colour – brown – as its housing and only has quarter marks so you can only get an impression of the correct time if you stand closely in front of it during daylight hours. It would be better if the clock hands were painted in a contrasting colour and illuminated.

*Mike Tiley*



## Library Talks

**All talks at 6.15pm in the Central Library. Cost £4.00**

**Miss Susan Smee**

19 March: Jonathan Oates, Acton Library

Miss Smee was Acton's first female councillor, first female alderman, first female mayor, first female magistrate and first curator of Gunnersbury Park Museum. The talk examines her life and career.

**An American President in Ealing**

26 March: Little Ealing History Group, Ealing Library  
John Quincy Adams, later President of the USA, was the American Ambassador to Britain in 1815-1817 and lived in Little Ealing. His diaries reveal much about life in early nineteenth century Ealing.

**Fifty Years of Experience of the London Borough of Ealing**

9 April: Ian Potts, Ealing Library. Former Mayor discusses the first 50 years of the borough in a talk which is mainly political.

**Life on the Home Front in 1915**

16 April: Jonathan Oates, Ealing Library

The second talk concerning the centenary of the First World War, describing the local impact of the war on Ealing's people.

**Ealing's River: The Brent through time**

23 April: Jonathan Oates, Ealing Library

How was this 'little river' viewed in the past by residents and poets? How dangerous was the river in terms of pollution, flooding and drowning? What are its recreational uses?

## Protecting Haven Green

A planning inspector has now ruled on the outcome of the public inquiry he held last September into the Council's plans for further widening footpaths on Haven Green. Friends of Haven Green objected that as Common Land, the Green is protected by national legislation for future generations to enjoy as open space. The inspector accepted all of FoHG's main arguments and refused to approve the changes the Council wanted to make. He gave permission only to resurfacing existing footpaths.

This is unlikely to be the end of the matter. The Inspector declined to rule on the legitimacy of the cycle hub and racks that have been installed on the Common Land. Other avenues may now have to be pursued for getting these regularised. Ealing will surely have to do something to accommodate the significant increase in passengers passing through the Green. Their consultants have told them that once Crossrail opens the levels of overcrowding will be unacceptable, if nothing is done.

*Will French*



## Ealing Civic Society 2014 awards

Angie Bray MP presented the Awards at our 25th anniversary awards evening on 25 November. The short-listed entries were judged by local architects Tom Jestico, Franklyn Nevard and Anthony Ferguson. Tom Jestico talked about the five Award winning schemes and the qualities which made them special. He praised the high



Angie Bray with Notting Hill Director of Operations Roger Walker

standard of all eight shortlisted projects although sadly there was no exceptional building or landscape which the judges felt should win the 2014 Award. We were delighted to hear that the judging panel felt that there is clear evidence of an improvement in the general design quality of buildings being built in the Borough. There were four highly commended projects: 25C Montpelier Road (Villa Caroisla) , 44 Mount Park Road, new buildings at Notting Hill and Ealing High School and William Hobbayne Community Gardens. Drayton Manor High School Arts Centre was commended. Full



Notting Hill and Ealing School

details of all the 2014 awards can be seen on our Awards pages.

Angie Bray made a thoughtful, well-argued and well-researched speech ranging over the most important new and old building matters in various parts of the Borough. As an Ealing resident – she lives in Southfield – she has a close interest in developments around her and showed that she is prepared to step out of line on vital matters and can be called on to speak up on contentious issues, such as the future of the Town Hall and the need for an Ealing Arts Centre. Acton, she reminded us, was once famous for its number of laundries.

Angie Bray's speech in full can be downloaded from our website.

## History on our Doorstep

I would like to pass on a YouTube link to a short BBC2 *History on your Doorstep* TV film about Ealing, presented by a youthful-looking Fred Housego.

I was aware of Fred Housego's programmes on Ealing but thought this was all around the Castlebar area not in the centre and the old village. Surprisingly and despite all our misgivings there haven't been any major changes in this film apart from, I suppose, the building of the Broadway Centre.



Fred Housego

This is fascinating, not necessarily for its historical content but seeing what Ealing looked like in 1980 (a year before I moved to Ealing).

*Paul Fitzmaurice*

Ed: Some once household names still there on the 1980 film include Collingwood, Hepworths, Dunn & Co, Dolcis and on Ealing Green War on Want and the Ealing Community Relations Council.

The link is <http://tinyurl.com/p2wrge2>

*Tony Williams*

## Neighbourhood Forum

The Central Ealing Neighbourhood Forum (CENF) has been moving, albeit slowly, toward the creation of a set of policies for the Neighbourhood Plan for the area. At the end of last year, it completed the analysis of the nearly 200 individual and business responses to its survey last autumn. It has now progressed to drafting policies to reflect both the preferences expressed to the options offered in the survey, and the evidence required to demonstrate the need for each proposal. It is hoped that an outline of the plan will be presented to the next full CENF meeting, which is due in March.

A parallel survey has just been launched by the Campaign for an Ealing Performance and Arts Centre (CEPAC) as part of its feasibility study for a multi-purpose performance facility in central Ealing. CEPAC participates in CENF, and its general objective is shared by the Forum. It has just received backing from Ealing Council and all four of the major developers in the town centre to conduct its study. Its results will be known in March.

*Tony Miller*

## Pitzhanger Progress

At the Walpole Friends AGM, Helen Walker, the Pitzhanger Manor and Gallery Manager, talked about the major restoration project which is about to start. The building closed on 10 January 2015 and will not reopen until April 2018. It will be worth the wait. The beautifully refurbished Walpole Park was officially opened on 24 October 2014. Spencer's Café and the toilets are now open for business every day.

## Planning Issues

Ealing Civic Society comments on planning applications submitted from across the borough, many with heritage implications. Three applications for changes to historic buildings stand out in recent months, all in Acton. We have responded to these and, at the time of writing, we are still waiting for the outcomes of the consultations.

### Acton Town Hall

The next phase of the redevelopment of Acton Town Hall involves an application to demolish part of the rear of the building, construct a five-storey extension and provide 71 residential units. While we felt that the developers' proposals were by and large sympathetic to many of the original features of the building, we recommended that the Council's Conservation Officer satisfy herself that this would indeed be the case. We did object, though, to the proposed loss of the old council chamber and suggested instead that it should become an amenity space for the residents. This would allow the integrity of the building to be maintained and permit occasional public access.

With respect to the new build element of the application, we would have preferred the proposed set back end gable to have been brought forward to match the gable of the neighbouring old town hall. We argued that its architectural design should also reflect that of the old town hall, with, at the very least, the material of the roof in keeping with it. We proposed a sympathetic lead or bronze patinated copper.

### The Chatsworth Pub, Uxbridge Road

We objected to the application to demolish this public house as the building is locally listed and we consider it a heritage asset making a very significant contribution to the street scape. There is a concentration of such assets at this key junction in Acton, including the 'Belle Vue' building and the Grade II listed Acton Hill Methodist Church, which played an important role in Acton's history and we feel strongly that all need to be preserved. We considered that the proposed building was of poor design, completely out of keeping with its surrounding architectural style and provided no justification for the potentially significant loss of heritage.

### St Saviour's Church, Old Oak Lane W3

This building (not to be confused with the Church of Christ the Saviour in Ealing's centre), shows an influence of Swedish architecture. It was built for the Royal Association in Aid of the Deaf, and is an early example of Sir Edward Maufe's work. St Saviour's was the only English church ever designed specifically for the Deaf community, in both its architecture, and its fixtures and fittings. Owing to loss of funding the St Saviour's church and centre closed at the end of

September 2014.

We're pleased that its significance has been recognised recently and given Grade II spot-listing. As such, any alterations need to be made sensitively. This application made by the Eastern Orthodox Church community



proposes first floor extensions to the front and side elevations to the buildings, external stair access from ground to first floor at the rear and alterations to window and door openings. We objected to the application because we felt that the extensions would adversely affect the massing of the existing building as well blocking the existing tall lancet windows which are an essential part of the church. The proposed extra storey on the front porch would also seriously compromise the design of the main elevation of the building.

### The Hoover Building, Western Avenue

Change of use from office to residential with external alterations has been proposed to accommodate 52 residential units in the building. We told the Council that we'd prefer the offices to remain and that we'd only accept change to residential if absolutely necessary. We said if this change were to happen the heritage features would obviously need to be retained and restored and we'd be looking for a condition to provide regular public access to the common parts of the heritage areas, for instance, on Open House Days. In addition, as the plans haven't included an on-site amenity site, we advocated an adequate Section 106 contribution in compensation.

### Cinema Site, Uxbridge Road

Detailed plans for the redevelopment of the cinema site have been submitted to provide for a multi-screen cinema and mixed commercial floorspace together with approximately 150 residential units that would be between 5 and 7 storeys in height. Creation of the public realm, including outdoor performance space, is also planned.



We raised many objections to the application with the Council – we're unhappy with proposals for each of the Mattock Lane, Bond Street and New Broadway frontages and also the interior public space.

The planned Mattock Lane frontage would have a monolithic commercial appearance. We thought this design and massing inappropriate and detrimental to the setting of the Grade I listed Pitzhanger Manor House and not reflective of the articulation and rhythm of the domestic buildings on Mattock Lane.

The proposed Bond Street frontage would be of flush uniform brick, with the upper storeys overbearing rather than lightweight and insufficiently stepped back from the front façade. Again, what's planned is not reflective of the articulation and rhythm of neighbouring buildings – here, Edwardian terraces. We remain

particularly disappointed with the potential loss of the YMCA building plus the failure to re-locate the entrance arch of the Walpole Picture Theatre in this façade. We maintain our grievances about the New Broadway frontage such as the intended lack of active frontage behind the retained columns of the old cinema façade and apparent lack of fenestration in this area. In addition, many of the important features of this retained façade are apparently not planned to be reinstated.

*Jo Winters*

#### Do we have your email address?

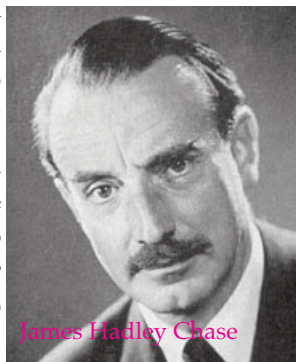
To receive regular communications from ECS on matters of interest and news updates please ensure we have your email address. Just click on the box on our website or email [info@ealingcivicsociety.org](mailto:info@ealingcivicsociety.org) with your name and preferred email address.

## Plaques

We have two plaques which are nearly ready for unveiling in the Spring or early Summer:

\* Dr Edith Whetnall 1910-1965 was a Consultant Audiologist renowned for her pioneering treatment of deaf children. She founded an experimental hostel for such children on Castlebar Hill W5 in 1955 until it closed in 1993.

\* James Hadley Chase (nom de plume) was born at 4 Woodfield Avenue in 1906 and he later became an author of crime novels such as 'No Orchids for Miss Blandish'.



His real name was René Brabazon Raymond and he died in 1985. The unveiling has been provisionally arranged for May 2015.

We are discussing the possibility of erecting a plaque at his former home in Elm Crescent W5 to Ralph Downes, who was a distinguished organist who designed the organ at the Royal Festival Hall.

Another possible plaque under discussion is for Ho Chi Minh who it is said worked as a kitchen porter at the Drayton Court Hotel in 1913. He later became the first President of Vietnam. We are seeking evidence of his connection there and also permission and funding from Fullers who own the hotel.

*Mike Tiley*

The 2015 AGM will be held in Ealing Town Hall  
7.30 pm, Tuesday 28 April 2015

### Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Chairman's Report for 2014
3. Adoption of the Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report for 2014
5. Adoption of the Treasurer's Report
6. Subscriptions (see below)
7. Appointment of Auditors
8. Election of Officers:

Currently:

Chairman – **Robert Gurd**

Vice-Chairman – **vacant**

Secretary – **Jo Winters (co-opted)**

Treasurer – **Robin Roads**

9. Election of other committee members

The following current committee members have indicated

a willingness to stand for a further year: **Corinne Templer (Vice President), Ann Chapman (co-opted), Jenny Gadsby, Deirdre McLellan (Membership), William Hardman, Tony Miller, Jonathan Norris, Mike Tiley, Paul Fitzmaurice, Maggie Gold, John Sears, Jo Winters, Philippa Dolphin (Web manager)**. In accordance with the constitution, further nominations for election to the committee may be made by members of the Society. They must be submitted in writing to the Secretary Jo Winters at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting, supported by a seconder who is also a member of the Society. The consent of the nominee must first have been obtained. If the nominations exceed the number of vacancies, a ballot shall take place.

10. Motions and any other business submitted to the Chairman in writing prior to the meeting.

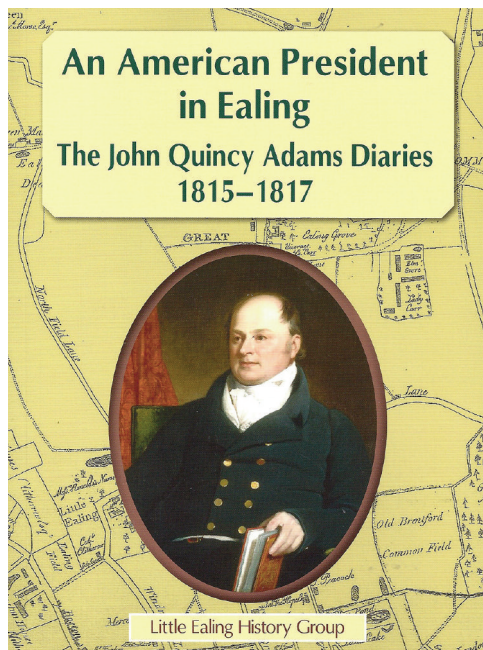
11. Talk by representatives of Benson Elliot about the redevelopment of 9-42 The Broadway (Arcadia – Phase 2)

*Ealing Civic Society is on Facebook and Twitter*

## An American President in Ealing – The John Quincy Adams Diaries 1815-17

Four members of Ealing Civic Society, Rosmarie Matter, Paul Fitzmaurice, Andrew Dick and Duncan Cameron are members of the Little Ealing History Group which recently published 'An American President in Ealing'.

The book tells the story of John Quincy Adams who from 1815 to 1817 lived in Ealing when he was American ambassador and ten years later became the sixth American President. Throughout his life he kept a very detailed diary recording not only his political and diplomatic life but also his home and family life. The



diaries therefore give a very full and remarkable insight into what life was like in Ealing two hundred years ago, which was in the era of other notable Ealing historic figures such as Spencer Perceval, Sir John Soane

and the Duke of Kent.

The book portrays a complex man: highly intelligent and serious minded to the point of being pompous. In London he records meeting the Prince Regent, the Duke of Wellington, the Prime Minister, members of the

cabinet and the aristocracy.

However, at the same time he was determined to enter into the local life in Ealing. Adams lived in Windmill Road in Little Ealing at a now demolished house called Little Boston which was then the dower house for Boston Manor. His sons attended Great Ealing School adjacent to St Mary's Church which he attended each Sunday, producing some very acerbic comments about the clergy. There were regular visits to the New Inn for a gentlemen's dining club and a memorable visit to Gunnersbury to watch a cricket match followed by supper and fireworks. There was pony racing on Ealing Dean Common, fairs on Ealing Green and Brentford where someone attempted to pick his pocket. Adams was dismayed by the occasional scenes of poverty he encountered on his walks round the locality and being a true egalitarian always offered assistance to those in distress.

The early part of the book's development was a massive exercise. Andrew volunteered to go up to the Bodleian Library in Oxford to identify and print off the relevant period of the diaries from the microfiche copies held there. This consisted of 400 pages of very dense handwriting of about half a million words. Then began a very laborious process of reading it through, highlighting the text relevant to our locality and transcribing it all. We probably transcribed about a fifth of the original diaries. This was all required before we could even properly plan or write the book.

Beautifully illustrated with full extracts from the diaries this book makes a fascinating read for anyone with an interest in Ealing's past. The book is self-published and costs £10.00. For further details and to purchase a copy visit: [littleealinghistory.org.uk/adams](http://littleealinghistory.org.uk/adams)

There will be a talk about the book at Ealing Central Library on the 26th March starting at 6.15pm. Tickets £4.00 available from the Library.

*Paul Fitzmaurice*

## Subscriptions

If you pay your subscription by cash or cheque, early payment will save you from receiving a reminder later.

The amount due for the calendar year 2015 is £12.00. 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

Members who pay by standing order pay £2.00 less and are not worried by reminders. If you would like to change your method of payment please download a form from our website. Alternatively e-mail me:

[Robin@robinroads.co.uk](mailto:Robin@robinroads.co.uk) or Tel 8579 5910

*Robin Roads*

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Photos: *Paul Joachim* St Saviour's, *Tom Doran* Angie Bray; *William Hardman* Notting Hill School, *Little Ealing History Group* American President cover; *Wikipedia* James Hadley Chase; *Tony Williams* Haven Place; 9-42 *The Broadway* Haven Place impression.

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