ERECITION OF IRON DUKE PUBLIC SCULPTURE AT HANGER LANE BRIDGES
THURSDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2013

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

09.55-10 AM Assemble at Sculpture

10.00 (approximately) Mayor of London arrives

10.05 Welcome by John Hummerston, chairman of Ealing Arts + Leisure

10.05 Unveiling by Mayor of London, Boris Johnson

10.10 Depart for Ealing Village

10.15 Onwards Reception at Ealing Village Clubhouse

‘The long-running saga of the design of the replacement Hanger Lane bridges on the North Circular Road has now reached a satisfactory conclusion. Local residents’ groups, including Ealing Civic Society, have been in discussion with TfL about the scheme for over five years. We were most concerned about the unimaginative ‘engineered’ design that was emerging. We have now managed to persuade TfL to introduce more landscaping, to create a more colourful design of the parapets (picking up the red, white and green colours to be found in the neighbouring Ealing Village) and, most significantly of all, to find £10,000 for public art in the vicinity of the old retained bridges which will be part of the landscaped area. We hope to be involved in a public competition – to be run by Ealing Arts + Leisure – to choose a design in time for the completion of the bridge works, expected in 2011 (building work is due to start in autumn 2008).’
The quote is an extract from the Ealing Civic Society website in 2008 recording the outcome of long discussions between local residents’ and amenity groups, the Council and TfL over the designs of the replacement Hanger Lane road bridges. The original bridges had been in place for over 100 years and were nearing the end of their useful lives. Some 50,000 vehicles cross the bridges each day including two busy bus routes. The opportunity was taken to improve landscaping, cycle routes, footpaths and local access routes as well as to increase the amount of common land in the vicinity of Ealing Common. The project was carried out on behalf of TfL by UK based civil engineers, Norwest Holst. It was completed in autumn 2011.

Ealing Arts+ Leisure organised a public art competition in 2010 and received 3 entries of which the Iron Duke sculpture, designed by Michael Sinclair, was judged the clear winner. It was erected in October 2012 following the completion of the new bridges.

**Background**

Michael Sinclair has worked and exhibited in the UK and abroad. The Iron Duke was constructed in the workshop of Julian Raffe an artist blacksmith from Surrey. The supporting structure was designed by consulting engineer Rusi K. Dalal. Local builder Andy Hobden assisted in the erection of the sculpture while the scaffolding tower was kindly donated by HSS Hire of Acton. The stainless steel signs were supplied by Wards of Bristol and were fitted by Reginald Cole & Co Ltd of Ealing.

The design competition and overall project was managed by John Hummerston, chairman of Ealing Arts + Leisure, on behalf of the local community and amenity groups which originally inspired it. These were Central Ealing Residents’ Association, Ealing Civic Society and Ealing Village Residents’ Association which also assisted toward funding for the cost of erection as did Ealing Common Ward Forum.

Iron Duke was in fact the name of the class of broad gauge locomotives employed on the Great Western Railway designed by their chief engineer Daniel Gooch. *Iron Duke* itself was one of the first batches to be built. The name of the class was a reference to the first Duke of Wellington. These locomotives ran from London to the West Country from the 1840s until their withdrawal in the 1880s. The Broad gauge was subsequently converted to standard gauge in the 1890s.

**Plaque wording**

“The ‘Iron Duke’ was a class of steam locomotive used from 1846 on the GWR from Paddington to the West Country and ran under the adjoining bridges. Unveiled by Mayor of London Boris Johnson on 14 November 2013. The designer was Michael Sinclair. The work was crafted by Sussex blacksmith Julian Raffe. The sculpture was financed by TfL and the Ealing Common Ward Forum with contributions from Ealing Arts + Leisure, Ealing Civic Society and the Ealing Village Residents’ Association.”

**Links**

http://www.ealing.gov.uk/
http://www.ealingcivicsociety.org/
http://www.julianraffe.co.uk/
http://www.hss.com
http://www.ward-signs.co.uk/