“We love the atmosphere. The teaching and pastoral care are extremely good. Our daughters are happy and academically stretched.” Parent 2014

Outstanding GCSE Results: No 2 in Ealing
The Times and Evening Standard League Tables January 2014

Open Days
Saturday 9th May 2015
Sessions 10am-12pm or 1pm-3pm

Saturday 10th October 2015
Sessions 10am-12pm or 1pm-3pm

Main entry points at Reception, 11 plus and Sixth Form with entry considered in other years, subject to availability. School mini-bus from and to Chiswick from September 2015.

To book an open event place or a personal tour please visit www.saintaugustinespriory.org.uk/visit.

Alternatively please contact the Admissions team for more information.

St Augustine’s Priory, Hillcrest Road, Ealing, London W5 2JL
Email: admissions@saintaugustinespriory.org    Tel: 0208 997 2022    www.saintaugustinespriory.org.uk

“Outstanding” by ISI Inspection Report November 2012

Nursery and Reception rated “Outstanding” by ISI Inspection Report November 2012

Leading Ealing Catholic Independent Day School for girls aged 3-18 set in 13 acres of stunning grounds

Outstanding GCSE Results:
No 2 in Ealing
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Email: admissions@saintaugustinespriory.org    Tel: 0208 997 2022    www.saintaugustinespriory.org.uk
With the blue skies and sunshine of the spring hopefully pushing through we have an edition packed with fresh starts: from apprenticeships to town centre renewal plans. We also venture outdoors with tips on composting in your garden (p40) and first hand animal encounters (p19).

To vote on 7 May in the general election, you need to be registered. Electoral registration changed last year and while most of you will be automatically switched on to the new Individual Electoral Register – it is still a good idea to check - see page 26 to find out how.

If you have not already registered to receive monthly Around Ealing Extra emails, which point you to stories, videos and additional photos online, you can do so easily on the council website at www.ealing.gov.uk/register – simply tick the Around Ealing Extra box as you do so.

Richard Nadal
EDITOR
Hundreds of new school places will be created in Northolt and Hanwell thanks to investment from Ealing Council. Elthorne Park High School will undergo a £12million expansion to enable it to gain two new classes at year 6, giving it an extra 60 places. This will mean it can enrol 240 new pupils every year, instead of 180. Other building work at Greenwood Primary will increase its annual intake from 60 reception pupils to 90, eventually creating an extra 210 places across the school.

The council is considering plans to expand, or build, other high schools in the borough to meet the need for the equivalent of 3,150 high school places by 2021.

Businesses and community groups in East Acton have been working together to produce a ‘charter’ which will set out a vision for the future of the area – and plans for how to start making it a reality.

Last year the recently-formed East Acton Partnership commissioned Acton Community Forum to carry out a public consultation exercise. Between July and December it involved more than 1,200 people, including three schools and members of eight residents’ associations.

The results of the consultation are due to be published shortly and will form the basis for an East Acton Charter. Visit www.ealing.gov.uk/regeneration for more details of town regeneration projects.
Spring into sport

Get on your marks and jump into some sports activities, with a project helping adults with disabilities and additional needs who are currently inactive or lead sedentary lifestyles.

The council’s Active Ealing service is running On Your Marks sport and physical activity days across the borough between March and May. You can read more at www.ealing.gov.uk/aroundealingextra or, for a full schedule of activities, visit www.ealing.gov.uk/sports click on disability sports and then sports projects.

One of the coaches who is part of the team providing the activities recently won a national award. For the full story, visit www.ealing.gov.uk/aroundealingextra

Banned from estate

A man who drunkenly smashed windows and verbally abused residents has been banned from entering a Northolt estate for a year, following prompt action by the council.

Its safer communities team obtained an emergency injunction banning Christopher Slattery, 61, of no fixed address, from entering Smiths Farm Estate within 48 hours of him being seen there causing criminal damage and subjecting residents to abuse and intimidation.

A full hearing at Brentford County Court resulted in the injunction being upheld and it will now remain in force until November 2015.

Report anti-social acts online at www.ealingcouncil.gov.uk/reportit

Summer fun

Keeping Ealing on the map for the ‘must-visit-festivals’ – Ealing Summer Festivals 2015 will be back in July with four weeks of fun, laughter and live performances.

Dates for the diary:
- Greenford Carnival 4 July
- Ealing Beer Festival 8 to 11 July
- Acton Carnival 11 July
- Comedy 16 to 18 July and 23 to 24 July
- Blues Festival 25 to 26 July
- Jazz Festival 29 July to 2 August
- London Mela 6 September

For more information see the summer edition of Around Ealing, for updates and news follow Ealing Summer on Twitter and Facebook

Cinema plans

Acton High Street’s old listed library building is set to be transformed into a new three-screen cinema, restaurant and bar by Curzon Cinemas.

It should be ready by the summer of 2016, subject to planning permission, after Curzon was approved as the preferred bidder for the site by the council’s cabinet.

The council moved Acton’s library into the newly-rebuilt Everyone Active Acton Centre. The proceeds of the sale from the old library will help to pay for the £19million council investment in the Acton Centre. There are also plans to build three flats on the top floor.
Budget: Tax freeze and investment

Your council tax bills have been frozen for a seventh year running as part of Ealing Council’s budget for 2015/16.

The decision has been taken by the council to keep tax held at 2008/09 levels, despite a £23.2million cut in its annual government funding from April. The aim has been to keep council tax as low as possible to help families, especially because many will not have had wage rises, or will have had low rises, in that period – while living costs have risen.

Council tax could not realistically have been used to counteract the projected cuts to the council’s funding in the coming years, because it would effectively have meant doubling your bills to bridge the gap each year. Therefore, freezing bills was deemed both fair and sensible. The government will give all local authorities that freeze council tax a grant. Ealing will get £1.3million towards helping to fund the latest freeze.

REDUCTION MEANS CUTS

Last year, the council announced that it was expecting cuts by the government, and more in coming years, to the money it gives the council. Funding from the government is one of the biggest sources of money the council has to spend on day-to-day services. The government since confirmed it was reducing the amount it allocates to the council in its Settlement Funding Assessment from £154.8million in 2014/15 to £131.6million for 2015/16. This is in line with the council’s own pessimistic forecast and represents a 15% reduction on last year’s money and is a bigger cut than the national average of 13.9%.

There is continuing uncertainty about how much money the council will get from the government in future years. This £23million cut for the coming year is just the start. The council is expecting to have to make unprecedented savings of £96million by April 2019. This also takes into account rising population, higher costs, increasing demand on services and a shortage of housing in the borough. This mammoth, four-year task is forcing it to change or stop some local services.

The council has currently been working through proposals to find the necessary savings.

A full list of proposed savings is available on the council’s website, at www.ealing.gov.uk/budget

INVESTMENT STILL PLANNED

Although the financial picture looks bleak, the council is determined to continue to invest in the borough – see next page.

For more information visit www.ealing.gov.uk/budget
Planned investment

✔ £45million over five years on expansion of secondary schools, including £12million to replace the main building at Northolt High

✔ £8.3million towards completely transforming Gunnersbury Park’s sports facilities, over five years (see p16)

✔ £4million on improving streets and footpaths

✔ £3.3million on disabled facility grants

✔ £480,000 to help start work on Dine in Southall restaurant and hospitality training school at Southall Manor House

✔ Estates regeneration programme continues, with Copley Close in Hanwell and Havelock in Southall the latest to take big steps forward this year

✔ The ongoing £11million Southall Big Plan continues with improvements at street level

✔ The council’s New Build Programme will continue, meaning new council housing stock and affordable housing for the borough. In total 70 new council homes will be completed this year, by March 2016, meaning the council will have built 307 homes since 2011.

Did you know?

Despite the backdrop of the economic crisis, the council’s latest residents’ survey has shown encouraging signs of a strong community spirit – while 82% said they were satisfied with the area they lived in. Almost a fifth of the 2,306 residents questioned said they did unpaid volunteering for local groups and organisations. And an all-time high for the survey came when 91% of respondents agreed with the statement ‘People from different ethnic backgrounds get on well together’. This is up 20% since 2003. Visit www.ealing.gov.uk/consultations for more.
JUMP TO IT
There is still time. Register to vote by 20 April.

Registration has changed. Don't miss out. Your vote counts.

General election Thursday, 7 May 2015

www.ealing.gov.uk/vote2015
Fruit route takes root

A new ‘fruit route’ will eventually connect two parts of the borough, as a group of residents work together on planting a trail of trees with the help of the council.

The Hanwell and Norwood Green Orchard Trail group is a community project started by residents, supported and organised in partnership with Ealing Council, to plant and care for a trail of native fruit trees.

Initially, the group planted 40 trees in February along the edges of the three Hanwell Meadows next to the canal and, in subsequent years, it plans to extend the trail along the canal in either direction, linking Hanwell and Norwood Green.

Read the full story at www.ealing.gov.uk/aroundealingextra

Health on the cards

Remember playing Top Trumps in the school playground? Well, now children can play using cards with a healthy message.

More than two years ago, the council’s allotments manager and its school health improvement team joined forces with Ealing-based social enterprise I Know Why It’s Yum, Mum to put on various healthy eating workshops for pupils and pre-school children, often at the allotments or during school visits.

The latest initiative has seen allotment plot holders help to illustrate a pack of 30 educational playing cards for children to use, in collaboration with Winning Moves, makers of Top Trumps.

Natasha Gavin, founder of I Know Why It’s Yum, Mum, said: “Ealing Council helped us to make this genuine set of limited edition fruit and veg Top Trumps cards, to help children learn about how food grows and how healthy fruit and vegetables are. We will be giving these packs of cards to schools we visit.”

Scores for the various foods are based on their nutritional values, with relevant and interesting facts also included at the bottom of each card.

Cycling award

Ealing Council’s Bike Swap initiative has won the Modeshift sustainable travel award for cycling.

Bike Swap, developed in partnership with The Bicycle Society, involves parents and pupils exchanging bicycles they have outgrown for suitably sized models. Bikes are dropped off at the start of school, fixed by mechanics and then swapped after school.

The council teamed up with St Gregory’s RC Primary to trial the Bike Swap, as part of a push to get more children to cycle to school, and it has now introduced the scheme to a number of other schools in the borough. To find out more email TelkmanK@ealing.gov.uk
Choose the right care

Self-care

Pharmacists

111

GP weekend opening

Visit your pharmacy for free expert advice - no appointment needed.

GP services available on Saturday and Sunday.

Treat simple health problems at home.

Call NHS 111 free for advice and details of local services.

Use your NHS wisely

www.rightcarenwondon.nhs.uk
A musical collaboration between young people from South Acton estate and the war-torn Kivu district of eastern Congo has resulted in the release of an album. The album, called Acton2Kivu: Dance for Freedom, is a melting pot of different musical genres. It can be bought from the Bollo Brook Youth Centre or a download is available from the www.bandcamp.com website. It costs £7 and all money raised will go to a charity in Kivu called Congo in the Picture, which works with young people living with the daily threat of war and violence and tries to keep them away from joining armed gangs.

Youth workers from Ealing Council’s Bollo Brook Youth and Community Centre on South Acton Estate originally made contact with the charity and then involved the young people who use the centre. They then co-operated over the internet with those in Kivu to make the music. To bring home the dangers of life in Kivu, while the album was in the final stages of production one of the Congolese performers was killed during a raid on his village.

Colin Brent manages the Bollo Brook Youth Centre. He said: “The conflict in Eastern Congo is often called the ‘forgotten war’, but our project might help to raise some awareness and some money.”

Kashindi Pierre is the project manager for Congo in the Picture. He said: “For the Congo, this project is very important because it embodies the goals we have set for advocating peace through many activities, including music.”

Dementia cafes

People with dementia, and their friends and families, can attend one of three regular dementia cafes for support and socialising: Michael Flanders Centre, Acton, 10am–4pm (monthly), call 020 8825 7875 – next one is Sunday, 29 March; Ealing Town Hall 7–9pm (every two months), call 020 8568 4448; Greenford Community Centre 2–5pm (monthly), call 020 8580 1057. For information on other support visit www.dementiafriends.org.uk or www.dementiaconcern.co.uk

During the Easter period your recycling and refuse collection days may change. Take a look at the advert on page 42.

The Independent Health Commission examining the NHS reducing local hospital services is holding public hearings, including one in Ealing on 21 March. See What’s On (page 51).

Thousands of you recently contributed to the council’s latest residents survey about how the council is doing, and what your area is like. The results were published as Around Ealing went to press. It was carried out at the end of 2014 by independent experts, involving a cross-section of more than 2,300 people. View the results at www.ealing.gov.uk/consultations

The annual Hanwell Hootie music festival returns on 28 March. Turn to page 37 for more details and a video.

Is there a local issue you would like councillors to look into? If so, this is your chance to put forward a suggestion for the council’s scrutiny panels for 2015/16. If you live or work in the borough, you can submit ideas until Friday, 1 May. Topics must affect a number of people (not just an individual). Call 020 8825 7497, email scrutiny@ealing.gov.uk or post to Scrutiny Unit, Perceval House, 14-16 Uxbridge Road, Ealing, W5 2HL.

The council’s cabinet has approved plans for a 20-unit pre-fabricated homes scheme in Bordars Walk, Hanwell, to better house homeless families temporarily, rather than staying in ‘bed and breakfasts’ while they wait for somewhere to live. Subject to planning permission, the units would be erected for 10 years. A location for a second, 30-unit site is also being investigated.
Pack it in

Easter eggs; spring sales; it is a busy time at the shops – and a busy time for your bins as they fill up with packaging, often unnecessarily. But it does not have to be this way.

Packaging makes up about a fifth of our household waste. Most of the products we buy need some form of packaging to help us carry, store and preserve the products but there is sometimes more than is necessary.

The packaging you cannot avoid can usually be recycled. Most cardboard, paper, glass and plastic can be. Even foil, if it is clean and passes the scrunch test (if it stays scrunched, it is usually recyclable).

However, by shopping smartly you can also reduce this waste in the first place, by choosing products with less or no packaging. This may even save you money. Apart from simply avoiding overly-packaged items, there are some easy ways to do this:

A. Choose refillable or reusable products, for example rechargeable batteries. Some cleaning products only need a refill pouch, so buy these instead of disposable products
B. Buy concentrated products. Do not forget to follow the measurement guidelines, you will be surprised how much less you need to use
C. Buy in bulk. Products with a long life, like cereals, can be purchased in large packages. Buying in bulk means less packaging because you will need fewer trips to the shops
D. Do not waste food. Visit Love Food Hate Waste (www.lovefoodhatewaste.com) for tips.

From hangers to carpet

If you are having a clear out or garden tidy up, do not forget the many items that can be recycled at your local recycling and re-use centre, including wooden fences, guttering, plastic garden furniture, old flower pots and much more. Many items can be recycled at Greenford Re-use and Recycling Centre, in Greenford Road, including some that residents may not be aware of – including plastic coat hangers, mattresses, books, carpet, tyres, gas cylinders, and much more. Visit www.ealing.gov.uk/recycling for further information.

Changes to our Greenford centre, and the one in Stirling Road, Acton, have been made to make them easier to use – including new signs and containers. The project was fully sponsored by the London Waste and Recycling Board.
I was really pleased with the introduction of the food waste scheme,” said Liv Thomsen of Ealing after communal food waste bins were installed at blocks of flats across the borough, including hers.

The caddy takes up very little room in the kitchen and the communal bin is emptied regularly so it doesn’t smell”, said Liv. She and her partner Andrew Sherwood have embraced the chance to recycle more since the bin was added in October.

She said: “I know it helps reduce the effects of climate change, so we are pleased we can do more. We try not to waste food in the first place but we can’t eat egg shells, banana skins and tea bags and now we have somewhere to put them.”

The bins have been installed since March last year at blocks of flats which already had communal recycling facilities for materials including cardboard, plastics, glass bottles and jars, food and drink cans, and paper.

To help residents carry their raw and cooked food waste back and forth to the bins, they have also been provided with a small kitchen ‘caddy’ and a roll of biodegradable/compostable liners to go inside.

The communal food bins are encased in a robust, lidded metal container to help stop the food from smelling. Being able to recycle the food waste from flats means it no longer has to rot in the general waste collections and sent to be dumped in landfill – where it would generate the unpleasant greenhouse gas, methane.

Now, all the food waste in the new recycling bins can be sent to a company called Biogen in Bedfordshire, along with the rest of the borough’s collected food waste. There, it is broken down into a fertiliser for agricultural use – while the process involved generates energy that can be pumped straight into the National Grid. This process is called anaerobic digestion.

WHAT FOOD CAN I RECYCLE?
Leftover food waste can be recycled including fish and meat bones, tea bags and vegetable and fruit peelings. Food waste can be wrapped in newspaper or put in to a compostable/biodegradable liner. Plastic bags cannot be used because they contaminate the load. Visit www.ealing.gov.uk/recycling for more information.

Liv Thomsen using the bins
Join the Residents’ Rewards Scheme and get rewarded for recycling. There are over 100 ways to reward yourself, including donating to community projects or winning prizes in our monthly prize draw.

Joining the scheme is free. With so many reasons to join, we look forward to rewarding you for recycling soon.

Joining is easy

**Website**
Register for free at [www.greenredeem.co.uk](http://www.greenredeem.co.uk)

**App**
Download the free app for iPhone and Android

**Phone**
Call us on 0844 409 9490*

*Please note that calls are charged at 5p per minute plus network extras from a BT Landline. Calls from other networks and mobiles may vary and may cost more.

**Recycling is rewarding**

**Rewarding Yourself**
Choose from over 100 exclusive rewards. Just for you!

**Rewarding Others**
Donate your points to community projects. Help others locally.

**Rewarding Prizes**
Win prizes from iPads to High Street vouchers in our monthly prize draw.

Residents’ Rewards by [greenredeem](http://www.greenredeem.co.uk) rewarding action

[www.ealing.gov.uk](http://www.ealing.gov.uk)
Generating your own electricity by harnessing the sun’s energy is a cost effective option for many homeowners. It involves fitting solar panels on your home to collect the sun’s energy – and you can get money back for every bit of power you generate.

The government supports solar power and other renewable energy sources by offering a ‘clean energy’ cashback scheme called the Feed in Tariff. The tariff is simply a payment made to you for all the electricity you produce for your home, and also for any that you can pump back in to the electricity grid when you do not need to use it.

**DOING IT LOCALLY**

Ealing Council is leading the way for renewable energy locally and is continuing to expand its solar panel programme on council homes to help residents cut their energy bills. The revenue generated will improve the energy efficiency of council housing and helps residents who face fuel poverty in the borough. As much as 10% can be saved on energy bills, which could save residents up to £170 a year. The council is also surveying its offices for the installation of renewable energy, with the first projects due to be completed by this summer.

**‘AN EASY PROCESS’**

Solar panels have been installed by St Mary’s Church Homes Trust on their alms houses to help generate enough electricity for one of the flats.

Vicar of St Mary’s, Reverend Steve Paynter, said: “Installing the panels was an easy process and did not cause any disruption. There is an initial cost to buying the panels and having them installed, but the panels will pay for themselves in the next 10 years and should last for another 20 after that which will help generate funds for the charity for many years to come. It is really important to the church that we encourage more people to think about the environment and find ways to use sustainable energy.”

**AN EFFICIENT HOME**

Before you consider producing your own energy, it is best to make sure your home is running as efficiently as possible through insulation, double-glazing, draught proofing and energy-efficient appliances.

Did you know our borough is part of Green Homes Together? It is a partnership that provides advice on energy efficiency in homes, and can arrange a visit from an advisor. Call 0300 111 3330 or discover the latest offers available, at www.greenhomestogether.org.uk

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**SUN TRAPS SAVE MONEY**

Why rely on an energy company to supply your electricity when you can get the sun to help you instead? We may not seem to get a lot of sunshine in this country, but we get more than you might think.
The work, when complete, would mean the park has the largest, and arguably the best, collection of outdoor sports facilities in west London.
A new dawn for sport

The regeneration of Gunnersbury Park is set to transform tattered changing rooms, bumpy pitches and underused spaces into an expanse of modern outdoor sport facilities – the largest in west London.

Ealing and Hounslow councils share ownership of the 186-acre site and Ealing’s cabinet recently approved plans to attract funding of up to almost £9 million specifically to utterly change sports at the park for the better.

It will mean replacing tired old buildings, upgrading pitches and adding a whole array of new features.

Some of the country’s biggest sporting bodies have shown an interest in getting involved in making the plans a reality, covering the sports of tennis, football, rugby, cricket and more.

Ealing Council’s assistant director of major projects, Jonathan Kirby, said: “The work, when complete, would mean the park has the largest, and arguably the best, collection of outdoor sports facilities in west London. There has been a lot of interest from national sporting bodies in getting involved, which is exciting.”

Proposals are being worked-up for new artificial turf, all-weather pitches; fresh grass pitches; a changing room block; indoor sports hall; and tennis courts.

These will add to planned improvements to the existing 10 football pitches, rugby and cricket pitches, cricket pavilion and a bowls green.

“About 80,000 people live around the park, within a mile radius, but it can also draw residents from all over the borough,” said Mr Kirby. “It is amazing to think the site was once enjoyed solely as the home of one family but should now become a modern place of leisure catering for everyone interested in sport.

“It represents another step towards the overall regeneration of Gunnersbury to make it a destination fit for the 21st Century. Transport connections, including major roads, make it the ideal location for such a significant sporting venue.”

If the funds are secured, work could begin later this year subject to planning permission, which will be determined by Hounslow’s planning committee. However, it is expected to then take between 18 months and two years to complete the work.

THE WIDER PLAN

The sports development project is part of a wider scheme to transform the park entirely by its 100-year anniversary in 2026.

Preservation and restoration work is due to begin on the park’s historical and grand, but crumbling, buildings in May. Many of the 22 structures on the site are listed. Ealing and Hounslow councils joined forces to win millions of pounds from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to do the work, with additional money from both councils.

Visitor numbers to the park are expected to increase from 600,000 to more than one million people per year once these initial restoration improvements are completed in 2017.

The first improvements in the pipeline include restoring the Orangery, archways and terrace and other listed structures; building a new café; and reinstating the Horseshoe Pond. There is also a plan to make the Round Pond suitable for boating again, and to introduce horticulture training and nature trails.

Meanwhile, Gunnersbury Park Museum closed for refurbishment in December and will remain shut until 2017. Activities, learning sessions and events will continue on site in the meantime.

MORE INFO
Visit www.ealing.gov.uk/parks
Ealing Coffee Festival

13 - 16 April 2015

Masterclass workshops
Talks exploring world of coffee & tea
Art Cup competition
Just add coffee bake off
Mixology classes & tasting!

Visit website for more details
www.inwestealing.co.uk
www.makeitealing.co.uk

AVENUE VINTAGE & ANTIQUE MARKET

THE AVENUE, WEST EALING, W13 8JR
Saturday 28 March
Saturday 25 April
Saturday 30 May
Saturday 27 June

Decorative arts and prints, furniture and ornate mirrors, costume jewellery and vintage clothing, bric-a-brac, silver collectibles, glass and ceramics, old fashioned toys, treasured books, rustic gardening tools, unique kitchen ware and old fashioned advertising signs.

#inwestealing
FB/AVAM

Please visit website for more details
The Brent Lodge Animal Centre is the only place in west London where you will find a porcupine, peacock and a pair of pigs all living harmoniously together. Neelum Bains reports on how you can get a closer look.

Known locally as the Bunny Park, the free attraction in Hanwell is officially a small zoo. Thousands of visitors over the years have enjoyed seeing the many furred and feathered residents in the animal centre as well as the vast open space that surrounds it.

The centre has more animals than ever, with more than 25 different species including a rare red crowned crane, mischievous meerkats and Bill and Marjorie the giant rabbits. There are also chickens, a rooster and friendly peacocks. That is not to mention the dozens of other birds, insect and mammal species that have long called the centre their home, from butterflies to monkeys. More recently, however, there have been some exotic new arrivals that have already proven really popular.

**MEET THE MEERKATS**
Six meerkats moved in with Hitari the recently rescued porcupine last year and they have already been visited by a celebrity. Stephen Fry opened their new enclosure and, since, one of the male meerkats has been named after him. The centre is offering visitors the chance to get up close to the cuddly critters and feed them while a zoo keeper explains more about the friendly little gang, for £35 (or £60 for two people).

**BUTTERFLY HOUSE**
The tropical butterfly house will reopen to visitors from Monday, 30 March. For just £1 per person, you can experience the magical world of butterflies, watch them feeding, flying around you and even landing on you; it is an experience you will not forget.

**SCHOOL VISITS**
The centre’s award-winning education programme gives young people an amazing opportunity to get close to some of their most delicate animals with a tour of the stunning tropical butterfly house. At only £3 a child it offers an incredible chance for young people to spend the day experiencing nature in the heart of Ealing.

Enjoying the butterfly house
Relief passenger assistants

£9.27 per hour
Grade: 2

As and when required appointment (casual), up to 15 hours per week (term time only).

If you like working with children and enjoy a challenge, this is the job for you.

Several vacancies exist for passenger assistants to escort vulnerable children with special educational needs (SEN) from their homes to school and safely return them back home at the end of the school day. The schools could either be in the borough of Ealing or outside the borough, depending on the needs of the child.

You will be required to cover for our permanent members of staff and therefore will need a flexible approach to work. An early morning start is essential. You will be required to make your own way to the various pick up points in the borough of Ealing, where a vehicle will be waiting.

Ealing Council is committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and expects all staff to share this commitment. The council follows safe recruitment practices to protect children and vulnerable adults.

The post holder will be subject to an enhanced disclosure and barring service (DBS) check and the council’s enhanced vetting process.

For an informal discussion regarding this post, please contact Lorna Joseph, manager SEN transport, on 020 8825 6214.

If you are interested in this role, apply online at www.ealing.gov.uk/jobs

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

Ealing Town Hall and Greenford Hall offer stunning architecture and modern facilities ideal for:

- Weddings
- Anniversaries and birthdays
- Families gatherings
- Special events
- Dining capacity 100–400

TO FIND OUT MORE OR TO ARRANGE A VIEWING

Web: www.ealing.gov.uk/halls
Email: halls@ealing.gov.uk
Telephone: 020 8825 6060
Facebook: ealingvenuehire
Although people aged over 75 make up less than 5% of Ealing’s population, they account for a quarter of all hospital stays in the borough. Studies suggest that many of these hospital stays could be avoided.

Ealing has good health and social care services in the community, but a historic lack of co-ordination and not enough emphasis on prevention and staying healthy means that patients can sometimes find themselves experiencing longer hospital stays than is needed or wanted.

Stephen Day, director of the council’s adult social services, said: “Many older people stay far longer than they want to in hospital simply because there isn’t the right support. Hospital stays are expensive for the NHS and most people would rather be at home. Along with local health services, we are working to give older people better options so they stay out of hospital.”

A range of nursing, therapy and social care services will be available for patients with urgent needs in their own home for a short period of time. There will be a focus on responding quickly and getting people better so they can carry on living in independently.

For patients with less complex needs there will be new GP-based care co-ordination teams with dedicated social care expertise. Where appropriate, patients will be given the support of a care co-ordinator, attached to their GP surgery, and their own care plan.

There will also be investments made in local counselling services for older people and improved patient information.

Over the next year, patients, GPs and health and social care providers will be invited to move towards these new ways of caring. This will be helped by a successful council bid for £1.9million of government funding.

Mr Day continued: “This is an important change in focus and puts the patient’s needs at the heart of decision-making. Rather than having to deal with several different organisations and services, care co-ordinators will make sure patients have good health services when and where they need them, with the priority being on staying healthy and independent.”

Dr Mohini Parmar, chairwoman of the NHS Ealing Clinical Commissioning Group, said: “Ealing has a strong record in terms of health and social care. By improving communication between the different parties involved in providing care we can minimise confusion, and duplication, to create a health and social care system that is seamless and efficient.”

Ealing Council and local NHS services are working together on new ways of helping older residents stay healthy and access the support they need outside of hospital, reports Deborah Dickey.
You could easily feel like you have nowhere to turn to for help, or feel unable to ask your family and friends for support. It does not matter how old you are, or whether you need support with drugs or alcohol – there is lots of help available in the borough.

Ealing Drugs and Alcohol Team (DAAT) has set up services in the borough, with the support of Ealing Council, to support adults and young people to recover from addictions to drugs and alcohol. One of those is Recovery Interventions Service Ealing (RISE). It helps adults struggling with drug and alcohol-related issues, as well as their families, partners and loved ones. It offers a wide range of support, including counselling, treatment and rehabilitation. Its services are free, completely confidential and available to anyone over the age of 18 or registered with a GP in the borough.

When you are suffering with the pain and distress of watching someone you love suffer from the effects of substance misuse, it can feel very isolating. Neelum Bains reports.
Getting help can change your life

Bobby*, of Ealing, has struggled with addiction for years. However, he started to turn his life around when he summoned up the courage to ask for help.

“I lived with bi-polar for years and dabbled with most drugs but codeine was my main addiction,” he said. “What started out as a hangover cure developed into a serious addiction and I was eating painkillers like sweets and my liver had swollen. I had no choice; I put myself in to the hands of the experts. I got the help I needed and was given options. I got prescribed with the medicine I needed and started a volunteer empowerment scheme which really helped me get myself sorted. It’s important to know that there are people who can help out there – I’d advise anyone in a similar position to speak to them and lose the shackles of your addiction.”

*Name has been changed to protect his identity

“The type of help you can get at RISE includes one-to-one support with a trained counsellor, taking part in group sessions with other people who are in similar situations, and getting checked for any harm caused by using drugs, with medical help available if needed. We can also help with things like housing, benefits and getting you into training courses and employment when you’re ready.”

You can contact Ealing RISE on 0800 195 8100.

UNDER 18?

Ealing Alcohol and Substance Youth (EASY) based at Westside Young People’s Centre, Ealing W13 provides specialist help for young people aged 10-18 experiencing, or at risk of having, problems with drugs and alcohol.

Call EASY on 0208 825 9888 for more information.

“Many people see no way out. It’s important to know there is help available.”

EFFECTS ON CRIME

A big part of the council’s drive to make the borough safer is to tackle crime head-on. Drug addiction is one of the biggest factors behind crimes like burglary, robbery, assault and street theft. The gains are sold cheaply on the street and the money is used to pay for the addict’s next ‘fix’.

The council’s community safety teams and the police have been working with agencies like RISE and others to help reduce the effect on the community caused by people dependent on drugs and alcohol. Crimes including thefts from a person, motor vehicle and burglary, decreased in 2014.

“If you’re addicted to something it can seem like it will last forever. Many people see no way out,” explained Michelle Brown, manager of Rise West Ealing. “It’s important to know there is help available and, although it’s never easy and tackling an addiction can take time, having somewhere to go where you will be safe, looked after and given some structure to your treatment can help a great deal.
Do you have good quality, unwanted furniture or electricals?

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Mental wellbeing can mean many different things but is often simply about feeling good and functioning well. Contentment, enjoyment, confidence and engagement with the world are all a part of mental wellbeing. So are good friendships or relationships with others, and a feeling that you can do the things you want to do.

Good mental wellbeing does not mean you never experience feelings or situations that you find difficult. It does mean that you feel you have the resilience to cope when times are tougher than usual. Nonetheless, if negative feelings persist, are too much for you to cope with, or are stopping you from carrying on with your normal life, you may need to get help and advice.

Dr Jackie Chin, the council’s director of public health, said: “Many of us will occasionally feel down for a short time. However, if you’re still feeling down or anxious after a few weeks, or you have concerns that you may be depressed or suffering from anxiety, it is important to speak to your GP.”

KEEPING ACTIVE
It has long been known that regular exercise is good for our physical health, reducing the risk of cancer, heart disease and strokes. Additionally, regular physical activity will greatly benefit our mental health, too. Exercise can help people with depression and may prevent them becoming depressed in the first place.

Dr Chin added: “Being more physically active has many benefits. Fortunately Ealing’s great parks, open spaces and sports centres, means there’s something for everyone, regardless of age or ability.”

When we are not exercising, evidence suggests there are additional steps we can all take to improve our mental wellbeing. Approach them with an open mind and judge the results for yourself:

- Connect – connect with the people around you: family, friends, colleagues and neighbours
- Keep learning – learning new skills can give you a sense of achievement and a new confidence
- Give to others – even the smallest act can count whether it is a smile, a thank you or a kind word
- Take notice – be more aware of the present moment, including your feelings and thoughts, your body and the world around you.

If you are concerned that you may be depressed or suffering from anxiety, it is important to speak to your GP (who might refer you to the Mental Health and Well-being Service). You can also self-refer to the service by calling 020 3313 5660 or emailing wellbeing.selfreferral@nhs.net.
The biggest change to voter registration in a lifetime started last year as our borough joined the rest of the country in switching to a new system.

Following the UK’s change over to an individual electoral registration (IER) system, the way you register has changed. Previously, electoral registration forms were annually completed on behalf of a household. This included families and individuals such as students or people renting who are not related living in one property. Now, in a bid to cut down on electoral fraud and to increase confidence in the system, everyone eligible to vote will have to register themselves, individually. To make this easier, a new online registration form is available at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Most Ealing residents who were registered to vote by 10 June 2014 will have been registered automatically under the new system and should have received letters to confirm their status.

Do not worry if you are not registered – it is easy to do and should only take a few minutes. Before you start, make sure you have your national insurance number to hand and use your name the way it appears on your official documents to avoid your registration not being verified.

Anyone new to the borough can register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or contact electoral services on 0208 825 7777 or email elections@ealing.gov.uk to request a paper form. You can also contact the electoral services team if you are unsure about your registration status.

WHY SHOULD I REGISTER?
You will need to be on the electoral register to be able to vote in the May general election. Being registered to vote does not mean you have to, it just means you can. If you are not on the register, that choice is taken away. Not being registered may also affect your credit rating.

With the general election approaching on 7 May, the council is reminding every resident who will be aged 18 or over on that date to make sure they are registered to vote.
Polling stations: Strut to your local

There will be approximately 167 polling stations set up across the borough for residents to cast their vote on Thursday, 7 May. If you are eligible to vote you will be sent a polling card with the details of the station you will need to attend. Alternatively, you can find your polling station online at www.ealing.gov.uk/vote2015

HOW DO I REGISTER?
Registering to vote is straightforward. Log on to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote and fill in your name, address, date of birth and national insurance number. You can find this on official paperwork such as payslips, or letters about benefits or tax credits. Once you have completed your online details, you should get an email to confirm that your application has been sent to the electoral registration team.

If you have any problems, or cannot access the internet, call 020 8825 7777 and a member of the electoral registration team will be able to help.

The new online system is a quick and secure way to register but if you do not have access to the internet, a paper form can be requested from our office.

To find out more about the changes go to www.gov.uk/yourvotematters
Or to register to vote go to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

MORE INFO
- Contact the electoral services team between 8.30am–5pm (Monday–Friday) on 020 8825 7777 or email elections@ealing.gov.uk or visit www.ealing.gov.uk/vote2015
The Crossrail route will run more than 62 miles from Reading in the west, through new tunnels below London, to Abbey Wood in the east. Along the way, it will take in Acton Main Line, Ealing Broadway, Hanwell, Southall and West Ealing stations. These will each benefit from better buildings, new ticket halls and other improvements and, as we reported in the autumn 2014 edition of this magazine, designs are already being worked on. However, there is more to come because Crossrail and Ealing Council have been working on masterplans that set out how the areas immediately around these five stations can be improved as well.

To this end, the council successfully bid for £7.3million from Transport for London (TfL) to carry out these ‘doorstep’ improvements. This means Ealing has snared one quarter of the share of the total money made available by TfL for these kinds of projects across the capital.

Nick O’Donnell, the council’s assistant director of strategic transport, said: “I think most people see the obvious benefit of Crossrail making the borough better connected and will have heard about the improvements to the stations. The additional benefit of boosting the areas directly outside the stations is perhaps less well known, though it is also incredibly valuable. Securing such a large share of funding to carry out the work is great news.”

“The idea is to primarily improve the look and function of the areas immediately outside the stations, provide higher quality interchange between the station and different forms of transport like buses and bicycles, install better facilities like cycle parking and seating, enhance accessibility to the stations and help better define and ‘landmark’ the station entrances.”

“At this stage, the improvements are only first stage ideas and a series of options and further design work and consultation will take place from April through to November.

“The exact split of the £7.3million funding between the stations will be determined according to what comes out of the next stages of design and consultation.”
A few early consultations have been held, with two public meetings relating to West Ealing and a public event outside Ealing Broadway, because these two stations will be dealt with by Crossrail first. The wider consultation will involve open workshops, presentations, online material and perhaps more.

**ACTON**
A new station building will also be built for Acton Main Line, on the junction of Horn Lane and Friary Road – a new road lay-out, bus stops and bicycle parking, and also a new forecourt, are all planned.

**EALING BROADWAY**
Proposals include improvements to the forecourt and better located pedestrian and drop-off areas. There are also plans to provide easy access to the redeveloped Arcadia shopping centre, which is separated from the station by Haven Green. And, the council’s ‘mini-Holland’ scheme, which will bring improved and easier cycling around Ealing town centre, is being deliberately designed to link into the station and the nearby cycle hub. Work on the station is expected to start this year, two years earlier than Crossrail’s original schedule, after the council and other groups pushed for it. It will feature four new lifts.

**WEST EALING**
Crossrail intends to relocate the West Ealing station building from Drayton Green Road to the quieter Manor Road. A new forecourt, a cycle hub and other improvements are also proposed.

**HANWELL**
The Grade II listed building would be preserved and fully refurbished. The surrounding area is to be improved, including better lighting, CCTV and signs. The council has worked with residents to realise the long-standing desire to reopen the station’s south entrance, which officially took place in December, making it easier for people to access it from the Uxbridge Road side. As well as two entrances, it will have two lifts. The council has been working with Crossrail and TfL to identify how to improve disabled access before 2018, and TfL is committed to providing two lifts that will be ready before the Crossrail trains start running. Crossrail, meanwhile, has confirmed at least four trains per hour would stop at Hanwell during peak travel times.

**SOUTHALL**
In Southall, it is intended to improve the layout of the road and paving around the station, as well as the building itself – and to provide better access for pedestrians and cyclists. The project would tie-in to the ongoing Southall Big Plan regeneration scheme.

**AND...IN GREENFORD**
While Greenford will not be a Crossrail station, the council has been working hard with TfL to bring an incline lift into service by early summer. It would be the first incline lift installed in a station in London, an innovative design where the lift travels alongside an escalator, making it easier for disabled and elderly passengers to use.

For more information on transport in the borough, visit www.ealing.gov.uk/transport.
LOOKING FOR SOMETHING POSITIVE TO DO IN THE COMMUNITY?

FOSTERING - YOUR CHANCE TO REWRITE THE SCRIPT

You could make a real difference to the lives of local children by becoming a foster carer. Foster carers are people just like you. They come from all types of backgrounds and are of all ages. Some of them have retired or their own children have left home.

You can be single or in a relationship, live in privately owned or rented accommodation and you can be any sexual orientation. You do need to have a spare bedroom and a genuine interest in children.

You will be fully supported in your role as a foster carer and you will be helping local children in your community to have a better chance in life. Your role will be challenging, but very rewarding.

You can meet some of our foster carers at our monthly information sessions. It’s a great opportunity to ask questions and to find out how it all works.

Our next sessions are on 2 March, 13 April and 11 May in Ealing Town Hall. Contact us to find out more and to book your place.

“I’m helping children in the local community.”

KEMI, CARER FOR 7 YEARS

“We receive excellent support to help us in our roles.”

TOM AND MAUREEN, CARERS FOR 2 YEARS

“I feel I’m making a difference to the lives of children.”

CALEB, CARER FOR 8 YEARS

“The hard work pays off and makes me feel proud.”

MEHRAT, CARER FOR 3 YEARS

BE THERE. BE AN EALING FOSTER CARER.

Call Ealing Fostering and Adoption Connections on Freephone 0800 731 6550 Email fosteradopt@ealing.gov.uk

www.ealing.gov.uk
Ealing Council sometimes finds itself on the end of fraudulent insurance claims: Either completely fabricated, or exaggerated, by people looking to make some money.

Every year, this fraud results in millions of pounds of taxpayers’ funds being wasted in the UK. These criminal attempts to steal from the public purse are not victimless crimes.

You, the taxpayer, are always left to pick up the bill – and, consequently, funding for our local services suffers.

Even if an insurance claim is turned down, you are still paying for it to be investigated and defended. Every pound we save by preventing this type of fraud could be spent on local services instead. In these tough economic times, it is especially important.

By calling FraudLine, you can help us stop these crimes against our community. If you think you have some information about a fraudulent insurance claim you can call 0800 328 9270 – a special 24-hour hotline. It is free and confidential, and is manned by people with the expertise to help.

The council, and FraudLine, has the support of the government-funded Insurance Fraud Enforcement Department, led by City of London Police.

**TYPES OF FRAUD**

There are common types of insurance fraud. These include making exaggerated claims by pretending an accident was far worse than it really was; untrue personal injury claims that describe a false set of circumstances, time or place of an accident; completely bogus claims that use invented symptoms or an incident that never occurred; and multiple claims where the fraudster knowingly makes claims for the same injury in a number of different local authority areas.
As we reported in the winter edition of Around Ealing, there are many benefits to shopping local. Whether that is a haircut, flowers or groceries, buying from local shops helps put money back into the local economy. Being able to shop locally supports local trades, their suppliers and their employees, who often live locally too.

To help encourage more shoppers to venture close to home, Ealing Council has been working its way across the borough to spruce up town centres with improvements to pavements, roads and shop fronts. The improvements have meant better parking availability, wider pavements making it safer for pedestrians, and better accessibility for people with disabilities.

The council’s highways team has been talking to businesses and residents behind the scenes finding ways to improve the shopping areas which can often be crucial to people who cannot travel into the town centres.
With parking bays, uneven pavements and cars being able to mount the pavement all previously raised by residents as an issue, the team decided to tackle the areas most in need first. Working with residents, ward councillors and businesses the highways team completed a number of shopping parade improvement projects.

PAVEMENTS
Getting the pavements right was an essential part of the design for each project. Making sure the materials used would improve the look of the area, getting permission to make changes to private land owned by the businesses and ensuring accessibility for people with disabilities. In some cases that meant the removal of unnecessary steps and using non-slip paving.

OFF THE KERB
The design team also had to consider ways to stop cars mount the pavements, especially near schools and open spaces to be used as community spaces, not just a walk through. They achieved this by using thicker paving and using bollards, railings and lining the new pavements with trees to stop the cars.

TREES
To maintain the borough’s reputation as a leafy borough and to brighten things up, many of the projects had new trees planted (each with matching surrounds that help reduce the risk of trips).

Responding to demand
The council has used a number of different ways to help improve shopping parades and create a stronger local economy. Many projects have come about as a result of requests from residents and referrals from ward forums.

One such project was the transformation of an area behind shops in Greenford Road, North Greenford, which was being used for fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour. The space, which was meant to be used by the shops for deliveries had turned into an eyesore, attracting dumped rubbish, street drinkers and an intimidating environment for anyone passing through.

Residents, traders and the local community approached the North Greenford ward forum for help. They were given £18,000 towards the costs of clearing the rubbish, installing new fences and resurfacing the area. This opened up the space, with no nooks to hide behind, increased the number of business parking bays and made the area feel safer.
Back in business

Largely behind the scenes, a small partnership of residents, businesses, voluntary organisations and Ealing Council officers have been working together to turn West Ealing’s fortunes around.

In just two-and-half years, the West Ealing Partnership has helped shape an environment that has seen shop vacancy rates drop by more than 25%, a new town centre management company established and more business start-ups moving in. An underused park has also been put back at the heart of the community.

With a new Crossrail station due to open in 2018, bringing the promise of development opportunities; and new housing currently on the way; West Ealing is witnessing positive signs of growth at just the right time.

BRINGING PARK LIFE BACK
Dean Gardens has opened up its gates to some exciting events, hosting a Christmas market (www.w13-christmasfair.co.uk); a roller skating rink (www.rolladome.org.uk); the ‘big picnic’; and also the SoundBite festival (www.soundbitefestival.org), which has started to establish itself as a yearly destination for music lovers from across Ealing and beyond.

Work is now taking place to install ‘up-lighting’ to trees and entrances to make them more attractive, promote the park as an outdoor venue for events throughout the year and encourage local people to make more use of the green space the rest of the time.

MANAGING THE SUCCESS
There is a large number of independent shops in West Ealing, and a traders’ group which had already been running for several years, but it was decided to carry out a study to see how they could all work together to improve the trading environment.

A ballot was held in March 2014 – and 87% of the eligible businesses that participated voted in favour of setting up a business improvement district (BID), a company owned and funded by all of these firms.

Funding is now raised from the businesses (a levy is charged based on their size) and is being used to fund a West Ealing BID for five years to look after joint services, safety, marketing, events and other activities.

The BID has worked on an array of projects, ranging from business support, to creating a new website www.inwestealing.co.uk (free for local groups to use), to holding regular meetings to discuss any concerns over crime or anti-social behaviour.
Natasha Patel, project assistant at the BID, said: “The number of businesses who voted in favour of forming the West Ealing BID was a huge endorsement and it’s been a busy and exciting start to the BID’s term. Having launched a new consumer brand for the area, InWestEaling, we set up our vintage and antiques market which has trebled in size already, with more than 30 stalls. Training and development courses, free to businesses and their staff, have proved popular; and the BID has also been brokering joint services for members.

“Meanwhile, a number of businesses have been given security radios which connect them to the police, council CCTV operators and the BID team. In addition, since January, Town Rangers have been patrolling the area to support businesses. The BID team is looking forward to leading more projects for our businesses throughout the next year.”

GETTING INVOLVED
Each event held in West Ealing has offered the partnership an opportunity to speak with the community to ensure local people get an opportunity to have their say in shaping the area’s future. In particular, it has worked with West Ealing Centre Neighbourhood Forum, Ealing Community and Voluntary Service and the Lido Centre.

Pop-up shops and start-ups
By developing relationships with landlords and business owners, the partnership has helped to bring vacant and underused business premises back into use as pop-up shops for new businesses to test their product. The Ealing Pop-Up Shop was a very successful four-month trial which gave eight new entrepreneurs the chance to test out their business ideas in a high street shop. One of these businesses has gone on to establish a successful handmade clothing company called Rapallini; a second, Tea Darling, teamed up with a social enterprise to provide a traditional tea and cake making service; and a third business has gone on to set up in West Ealing itself, with the help of a shopfront improvement grant from Ealing Council – Juice Cube sells healthy juices and smoothies and now employs local residents, too.

Co-owner of Juice Cube, Anuj Dhanak, said: “We were given our first chance to run a juice bar in the pop-up shop by the council and have received lots of support from its regeneration team. The grant was a massive help in getting the shop ready for opening. We want to help our customers learn about ‘eating clean’ and its health benefits.”

AND THERE IS MORE...
The Drayton Green shop was provided rent-free by a local landlord so that the partnership could trial a number of initiatives there. A local art group called OPEN Ealing ran workshops, performances and exhibitions before moving to the new community café in Singapore Road, parallel to West Ealing high street (www.openealing.com). Now, a new five-month trial has seen the shop transformed into a space for business people to share ideas, work, run seminars and benefit from a low-cost site in a high street location. It is being run alongside Chat and Meet, a networking café, to create a business buzz in the centre of West Ealing. You can find out more at www.ealingblueprint.co.uk
If any holiday was made for kids, it’s surely Easter, with bunnies and bundles of chocolate. Easter treats us to an extra holiday, which is a great opportunity to get out and about in Ealing with the family.

Ealing Broadway Shopping Centre has some cracking free kids’ activities on Good Friday and Saturday, so you can tire the little ones out in time for a nice relaxing Easter Sunday.

**Easter Arts and Crafts** — Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th April

Get those creative juices flowing with Easter Arts and Crafts. Create Art Studio are hosting a free workshop at the shopping centre — Easter themed, of course.

11am – 4pm Town Square

**Egg-stream Easter Egg Hunt** — Saturday 4th April

Join the Egg-stream Easter Egg Hunt around the shopping centre. Collect your map from Town Square and spot the Easter eggs in the store windows to claim your chocolate Easter treat.

10am – 4pm Town Square

Enjoy some fun-filled family time this Easter, for more details visit ealingbroadwayshopping.co.uk.

**Easter Opening Times:**

Good Friday 11am – 5pm
Saturday 9am – 6pm
Easter Sunday Closed
Easter Monday 11am – 5pm
Crossrail will come to a revamped Hanwell Station in 2018 and the hope is that it will complete a decade of transformation. A successful regeneration programme in 2008 led to a 50% fall in vacancy rates and the formation of the Hanwell Association of Traders (HAT) with the help of the council. Since then, HAT has played a central role in building and supporting a vibrant town centre with a high percentage of independent shops and cafés around the Clocktower conservation area. Its members and other residents have now begun steps to set up a ‘town team’ to drive further development of the area. Bids have been put in to various bodies to raise potential funds.

A town team would bring together different local groups and organisations, with support from the council, to work together on specific projects to improve the area. Similar ideas have been taken up in East Acton and West Ealing.

“We want to add to the look and feel of Hanwell and create a prominent town centre that will be used by everyone,” said June Martin of HAT. “We want to work on designing a high street that draws people in while still serving the local community.”

June, who owns The Little Art Room in Boston Road, added: “Hanwell already has a lot to offer and so much has been done over the past six years but we don’t want the momentum to drop.”

With the help of residents and local charities, HAT runs a yearly Christmas market and also the extremely popular Hanwell Hootie music festival, which is strongly supported by the council and has run for two years. It attracted more than 7,000 people last year and pays homage to Jim Marshall of Marshall Amplification who set up his first shop in Hanwell more than 50 years ago before going on to develop a global brand.

“There was a lot to build on, before we even started in 2008,” said June. “Yet HAT and our partners are continuing to add to Hanwell as a destination – both in terms of the retail on offer but also the entertainment. Recently the Bearcat Comedy Club started running regular nights at the Viaduct pub and the Clocktower Café organised a popular Halloween event at the old police station. There’s lots of enthusiasm here to harness.”

Hanwell is increasingly attracting independent traders and boasting an impressive array of annual events that bring the community together. A small group of locals are aiming to build on this momentum.

Talk of the town

Mathieu Rogers of the council joins Hanwell businesswomen Rosie Kendrick, Morna McAuley and June Martin for a planning meeting
The ‘perfect choice’?

Apprenticeships are becoming an increasingly popular way for school leavers to enter the world of work. With the new law increasing the age at which young people are required to participate in education or training, becoming an apprentice has never been a better option. Dilly Begum reports.

Young people leaving school from 2015 onwards will have to continue in education or training until their 18th birthday in accordance with the Education and Skills Act 2008. Yet, staying on in school or college is not the only path on offer and lots of young people are choosing to combine both training and education by joining an apprenticeship programme.

There are numerous advantages to becoming an apprentice that help you go on to build a career or be able to compete in the future job market, including the ability to earn while you learn.

KARAN’S STORY
Karan Beghi was taken on as an apprentice at Ealing Council two years ago. After a successful apprenticeship, he was employed full-time as a business support officer at the council.

He said: “There are pressures on young people to go to university or follow certain career paths, often from their peers and family. I thought about university, but realised it wasn’t the right choice for me.

“The council’s apprenticeship programme was the perfect choice for me. It gave me a step-up into the world of full time employment while receiving lots of support and training over the two years. I grasped the opportunity and used the experience to apply for a job with the regulatory services team. It has been the best choice for me and I would encourage anyone leaving school who is unsure of what they want to do next to consider an apprenticeship.”

Karan has since gone back to his old school, Featherstone High in Southall, to give talks to students about his experiences.

Gerry Wadwa, headteacher at Featherstone High School, said: “We are currently talking to some pupils about the apprenticeship programme. For us, it's a valuable learning path which has been popular with lots of students. It’s fundamentally important to us to see young people feel comfortable with the choices they make and it’s a pleasure to see our students doing so well through the apprenticeship scheme.”

WANT TO BE AN APPRENTICE?
Since 2007, Ealing Council’s internal apprenticeship scheme has been recruiting 25 enthusiastic young people each year for placements at the council, and the next set of vacancies
will be available to apply for during April. You need to be aged between 16 and 24.

**HOW TO APPLY**
The next round of vacancies at the council will be advertised in April. To find out about current vacancies, eligibility criteria and to apply for an apprenticeship, visit [www.ealing.gov.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/apprenticeships)

**KEY DATES**
- Opening date for applications: Wednesday, 1 April
- Closing date for applications: Thursday, 30 April
- Screening workshops: Tuesday, 19 May and Thursday, 21 May
- Interviews: Between Monday, 1 June and Friday, 12 June
- Apprenticeships start from September 2015

**WANT TO KNOW MORE?**
If you think you have what it takes to fill an apprenticeship position, go online at [www.ealing.gov.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/apprenticeships) to find out more or call 020 8825 6234. Businesses interested in taking on apprentices can contact the same number, any time of the year.

**NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK**
Co-ordinated by the National Apprenticeship Service, the National Apprenticeship Week (9-13 March) is designed to celebrate apprenticeships and the positive impact they have on individuals, businesses and the wider economy. Events organised by the council will include: Afternoon tea with the mayor of Ealing, a promotional event for health and social care employers, and a charity fundraising challenge for council apprentices.
Using the service is much more convenient than taking your garden waste to the tip yourself to be recycled. Nearly 14,000 people were so pleased with the service that they renewed last year. And, in total, almost 16,500 signed up.

By signing up, you will have regular collections from 1 April until 31 March 2016. Unfortunately, the annual charge has had to rise this year.

The council has made changes to the service so it will work better for you, following feedback from residents. Some people said sacks would fall apart or blow away – so the council has switched them for heavy duty sacks with weights put in the bottom.

Others also said they had a lot of garden waste over Christmas they wanted to get rid of – so the service will now collect the whole year round.

The improved service will now cost £60 a year, but this increased price only equates to an extra 64p per collection.

Subscribers also have enjoyed a free newsletter with advice and little tricks to help get the most out of the garden. See Emma Allen’s column on these pages as an example of what you will receive.

Meanwhile, subscribers for 2015/16 who sign-up to the Greenredeem residents’ rewards scheme will be given 300 points (150 points for those already signed-up) to use towards discount offers – or to donate to support community projects.

How do I subscribe?
You can start subscribing for the garden waste service online at www.ealing.gov.uk/gardenwaste or by calling customer services on 020 8825 6000 from 7 March. Previously subscribed? You will receive a renewal letter or email from 1 March.
Spring shrub pruning
Spring is the time to prune flowering deciduous shrubs, those that are slightly tender or are stooled (cut back hard).

General pruning tips for all shrubs:
- Remove any damaged or dead stems
- Where there are many stems remove some at the base to keep the bush open and avoid congestion
- Remove weak, spindly or twiggy shoots so the plant concentrates its resources on strong new shoots that will bear the best flowers
- After pruning, mulch and feed shrubs to help them recover from the shock of losing limbs.

Shrubs that flower after mid-summer
Shrubs such as buddleja, ceratostigma, hydrangea and lavatera usually produce flowers at the ends of the current season’s growth, so pruning in early- to mid-spring allows time for the new growth to mature and flower in the same year. Cut back the previous year’s flowering stems to within one or two buds of the older woody framework. Also, remove any thin, weak or dead growth. Hardy fuchsias may need cutting back close to ground level to stimulate strong new growth on which flowers will be produced in late summer.

Spring flowering shrubs
Delay pruning until immediately after they have finished flowering, otherwise this year’s display will be lost. Shrubs such as forsythia and flowering currant (Ribes), which flower on strong young growth, should have their flowered stems cut back to strong young shoots lower down and one-in-five old stems removed at the base. Those that flower on new growth from ground level, such as kerria, should be cut back to vigorous side shoots and one-in-three stems removed at the base.

Tender shrubs
Mediterranean shrubs such as lavenders, helichrysum (curry plant) and santolina (cotton lavender) should be lightly cut back in April to prevent them getting too leggy and woody.

Stooling
This is performed in early spring to produce new growth either for larger or more brightly coloured juvenile foliage (e.g. cotinus and sambucus) or deeper coloured winter stems (e.g. salix and cornus). Prune back hard all the previous year’s growth to within 1-2cm (0.5-0.75in) of the framework. 

Gardening notes
Emma Allen is manager of Walpole Park in Ealing and trained at Kew Gardens. She writes a gardening column in the council’s quarterly gardening newsletter.

Compost give-away
This May, go along to Walpole Park in Ealing for the council’s annual compost give-away day to help you kick your flower beds into life, tackle your vegetable patch and get your plants growing.

Stacks of nutrient-rich compost will be turfed out for you to collect and take away to use on your garden – completely free of charge. We will be asking you to take a maximum of 100 litres or so, to make sure there is plenty for all to go round. Members of the council’s recycling team will be happy to answer questions about composting and the council’s recycling services, to help you make the most of them.

For more details on when the give-away will take place, keep an eye on www.ealing.gov.uk and the council’s Twitter feed @EalingCouncil.

Get your own bin
Composting at home is the perfect way of giving your garden a boost, and it is easy to get started. Any leftover fruit or vegetable peelings, grass trimmings, or even shredded paper and egg boxes, can be used to make compost.

You can take advantage of a reduced-price compost bin through Ealing Council, which are available for as little as £20. They are delivered to your home and come with a handy guide. To find out more, visit www.ealing.getcomposting.com.

Emma Allen

Around Ealing | Spring 2015
Refuse and recycling
Easter holiday collection

Collection days for refuse and recycling will change over the Easter holiday period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Revised collection day</th>
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<tr>
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For more information on refuse and recycling please visit www.ealing.gov.uk/recycle
Find out what you can recycle at home by using the interactive website www.recyclemystuff.org.uk

Ealing Adult Learning
Email: adultlearning@ealing.gov.uk
Tel: 020 8825 5577

New courses for 2015
- First Aid
- Animal Care
- Building a Business
- Creative Writing
- Pilates
- British Sign Language
* New computer courses for ALL levels at Acton and Southall Library

And many more!
The Mayoralty

Mayor of Ealing
Councillor
Tej Bagha

Deputy mayor
Councillor
Harbhajan Kaur Dheer

Councillor Ranjit Dheer
Deputy leader, and community services and safety

Councillor Binda Rai
Children and young people

Councillor Yvonne Johnson
Finance, performance and welfare

Councillor Yoel Gordon
Chief whip

Councillor Patricia Walker
Leisure, culture and customer services

Councillor Jasbir Anand
Housing, employment and skills

Councillor Julian Bell
Leader, and regeneration

Councillor Hitesh Tailor
Health and adults’ services

Councillor Bassam Mahfouz
Transport and environment

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Councillor Bassam Mahfouz
Transport and environment

The Mayoralty

More details on the cabinet are available at www.ealing.gov.uk/councillors
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<thead>
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<th>Area</th>
<th>Councillor</th>
<th>Party</th>
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Hitesh Tailor  
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Hitesh.Tailor@ealing.gov.uk  

Send letters to: Ealing Council, Town Hall, New Broadway, Ealing W5 2BY.
Don’t miss out on a free nursery/childcare place for your two-year-old

If you are on an income of less than £16,190 either from work or from benefits – your two-year-old may be entitled to a free nursery/childcare place for 15 hours a week (38 weeks of the year).

At nursery or with a registered childminder your child can have fun with other children, develop their speaking and listening skills, learn new things and build up their confidence ready for school.

Find out if you can get the free childcare:

**Call 020 8825 5588** (Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm) with your National Insurance number.

Text your name to **07545 412213** and we will call you back.

Or text your full name, date of birth and National Insurance number. We will check if you can get the free offer and call you back.

Email **children@ealing.gov.uk** with your full name, date of birth and National Insurance number.

Go online at **www.childrenscentres.org.uk** and complete an enquiry form and we will get back to you.

Like ‘Ealing Family Information Service’ for news, information and advice
Honouring the past

To commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the start of the First World War, ward forums remembered the fallen by supporting and helping to pay for repairs carried out on memorials.

A war memorial at the corner of Pitshanger Lane and Denison Road outside St Barnabas Church in Cleveland ward was one of the restoration projects. Members of the church, along with Pitshanger Community Association and Brentham Society, worked together to restore the memorial’s stonework and overhaul its surrounding area. Following the completion of the work, a service attended by more than 100 community members was held to re-dedicate the monument and mark the 100-year centenary of the beginning of the First World War.

Other war memorials, including ones near Greenford Town Hall and the Manor House Grounds in Southall, received funds from their local ward forums for restoration, with all five Southall wards contributing to restore the monument in The Green which is modelled on the cenotaph in Whitehall.

WHAT IS IN A NAME?

Elsewhere in the borough, history is being preserved with a popular programme to renew street nameplates. The initiative, which has seen many street fixtures and fittings restored, began as a result of a review of the old nameplates by residents living in the Brentham Garden Estate Conservation Area in Ealing. Brentham Garden is one of the borough’s 29 conservation areas. Many of the plates, which had been used for more than 60 years, were in poor condition or not easily visible to drivers. They have since been repositioned or replaced by new or refurbished cast iron signs that are in keeping with the style of the area.

MORE INFO

To have your say on matters that affect your area, and on how money is spent to make it better, visit www.ealing.gov.uk/wardforum and find out when your next meeting is taking place. You can also find out more, including a check of which ward you live in by getting in touch with your neighbourhood co-ordinator. Keep in touch by following @ealingcouncil twitter feed.

- Acton and Chiswick
  Kofi Nyamah, call 020 8825 5818
- Ealing and Hanwell
  Tan Afzal, call 020 8825 6426
- Greenford, Northolt and Perivale
  Evelyn Gloyn, call 020 8825 8021
- Southall
  Dennis Frost, call 020 8825 5453
From wasp-infested cricket games, to pony races and local gentry, the fascinating diary of a famous US president has been uncovered which outlines the years of his life spent living in Ealing. Mary Woods, of the Little Ealing History Group, explains all.

John Quincy Adams lived in Ealing with his family between 1815 and 1817. He went on to become the sixth president of the USA. Adams kept a diary throughout his life and this has provided a mine of information about the family and life in the area at the time.

During that period, the young diplomat was made the United States Ambassador to the United Kingdom – which was known formally as Ambassador to the Court of St James’s. Together with his wife Louisa and their three sons, George, John and Charles, he moved to England. Although his office was in central London, he lived in the less expensive ‘country village’ of Ealing, as it was then, to free-up enough money to maintain the expensive carriages and liveries the post demanded.

They lived at Little Boston House, in Windmill Road. Part of the Boston Manor estate, on what is now the border between Ealing and Brentford, the house was demolished in the 1930s. The family attended St Mary’s Church and soon settled into the society of professionals and local gentry in what was then a rural hamlet. The boys
attended Great Ealing School which stood in the present Ranelagh Road, close to St Mary’s Church. The headmaster was Dr Nicholas and the Adamses soon became close friends with the Nicholas family. The diary is full of references to them and to the other friends and acquaintances Adams made in the area. Some met at a dining club at the New Inn in the present St Mary’s Road.

CROWDED DANCING, AND CRICKET
Adams describes a ball which took place at the assembly rooms attached to the New Inn. It was held to mark the birthday of the Duke of Kent, the son of King George III.

The Duke was Ealing’s most notable local resident, and Adams writes about meeting him. At the ball, two lines of dancers each with 21 or 22 couples, took part in country dances. But the ballroom was newly finished, damp, hot and overcrowded – which led to ill effects for some participants, including Louisa.

Adams writes about another social occasion at Gunnersbury Park which was owned at the time by Alexander Copland, a successful building contractor. Adams attended a cricket match there; he says little about the game but describes how the cold dinner served in a tent was interrupted by a swarm of wasps.

POVERTY AND LOCAL FAIRS
Adams describes his walks around the area and his observations of local life. He comments on poverty and social conditions. He writes somewhat scathingly about the abilities of the local clergy.

The family visited and enjoyed local events and fairs, including pony races on Ealing Dean. A poster for a fair in Ealing from 1813 spoke of such attractions as ‘grinning through a horse collar’ to win the prize of ‘a large leg of mutton’.

Adams also writes extensively about family life, including his concerns about his sons' education and the family’s health. The diaries provide intriguing glimpses of both the life of the family, and the community in this area two hundred years ago.

Adams was recalled to the USA in April 1817. He writes wistfully of leaving Little Boston House; it had been a happy period. He served as President of the USA between 1825-29 and was a forceful opponent of slavery.

READ MORE
Little Ealing History Group has published a book based on the diaries and further research into the people, places and events they refer to. An American President in Ealing: The Diaries of John Quincy Adams 1815 to 1817, is available now at £10. For more information, visit www.littleealinghistory.org.uk

Poster for the Ealing Fair on Ealing Green
**Pitzhanger events**

**Access all Areas**

**Saturday 28 March, 11am–4pm**

Join Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery for a special closing event before work begins on a major restoration project. You will have exclusive admission to areas that have never been seen by the public before, as well as the chance to record your memories. Find the wine cellar and explore rooms that have previously been used for office space and storage. This event is free to attend, no booking required.

**Little Builders: Parent and Toddler Group**

**Monday 16th, 23rd & 30th March, drop in between 10.30am–12pm and 1.30–4pm at The Rickyard**

While we are closed for redevelopment, discover Pitzhanger Manor and its famous architect Sir John Soane at our spring parent & toddler group. Sessions include creative arts and crafts, storytelling and songs for little ones aged from babies up to five years old. Suggested donation £3 per family group, including fruit snacks and tea/coffee. For more information, please contact Charlie Coffey on 020 8825 9808 or ccoffey@ealing.org.uk

**Fine art classes**

**Our popular adult education programme run in partnership with Ealing Adult Learning, is led by practising artist Idun Eustace, who has many years’ experience leading fine art classes. Her unique, open style of teaching has consistently inspired confidence in our students. These classes are run at The Rickyard in Walpole Park (by the children’s playground).**

**Life Drawing (experienced)**

**26 April – 7 July, 4.30-7pm**
Build on your figurative drawing skills, and develop your own unique ideas and artistic processes with the support of a tutor and peer critiques. £143 per term (concessions £98)

**Life Drawing (all levels)**

**26 April – 7 July, 1-3.30pm at The Rickyard**
Build on your figurative drawing skills, and develop your own unique ideas and artistic processes with the support of a tutor and peer critiques. £143 per term (concessions £98)

**Oil painting (all levels)**

**29 April – 8 July, 9.30am-12pm and 1-3.30pm at The Rickyard**
Through painting from observation the course will teach the essentials of colour mixing, composition and using brushes and paint media. £105 per term (concessions £60)

For more information or to book please contact Ealing Adult Learning on 020 8825 5577 or visit www.ealing.gov.uk/education

**Libraries in Ealing**

There are 13 public libraries in the borough where you can borrow items from books to DVDs and CDs. Free internet access is available in all libraries to members and non-members. Libraries are free to use. Events are also free unless otherwise specified.

For more information visit www.ealing.gov.uk/libraries

**Local history talks**

These are all held on Thursdays, cost £4 per ticket and begin at 6.15pm.

- **19 March** Miss Susan Smee: Acton’s pioneering female councillor. Talk by Jonathan Oates at Acton Library
- **16 April** Life on the Home Front in 1915. Talk by Jonathan Oates at Ealing Central Library
- **26 March** An American President in Ealing. Talk by Little Ealing History Group at Ealing Central Library
- **9 April** Fifty Years of Experience of the London Borough of Ealing. Talk by Ian Potts at Ealing Central Library
- **16 April** Life on the Home Front in 1915. Talk by Jonathan Oates at Ealing Central Library
- **23 April** River Brent. Talk by Jonathan Oates at Ealing Central Library
- **7 May** Our Belgian guests: The reception of Belgian refugees in West London, 1914–1915. Talk by Dr Peter Hounsell at Ealing Central Library
- **21 May** The Young Oswald Mosley. Talk by Jonathan Oates at Hanwell Library
- **28 May** Ealing’s open spaces, commons, greens and parks. Talk by Professor Alan Gillett at Ealing Central Library

For more information, call the local history centre at Ealing Central Library on 020 3700 1055 or email ealing.localhistory@carillionservices.co.uk
Other events

Health services: Public hearing
Saturday, 21 March – all day, from 9am at Council chamber, Ealing Town Hall
Public hearing of an independent health commission set up by local councils to examine the impact of the NHS’s decision to reduce hospital services in the area, including A&E and maternity. Contact: Peter Smith, clerk to the commission, email peter.smith@lbhf.gov.uk

Work clubs
Unemployed residents can find help getting back into work thanks to three work clubs. Practical advice and support is provided. No appointment is necessary, admission is free:
• Hanwell: Hanwell Community Centre, Westcott Crescent, Hanwell, W7 1PD. Weekly on Tuesdays. From Tuesday, 10 March, 9.30am–1.30pm. Call 020 8575 7019
• Northolt: Northolt Library, Church Road, Northolt, UB5 5AS. Weekly on Tuesdays. From Tuesday, 10 March, 10am–1pm. Call 020 3700 1078
• Ealing: Ealing Central Library. Ealing Broadway Centre, W5 5JY. Weekly on Fridays. From Friday, 13 March, 10am–1pm. Call 020 3700 1052.

Hanwell fun day
Saturday, 14 March, 12noon–10pm at Hanwell Community Centre
A day of activities for the whole community, with music, exhibitions, rolladisco, tea dance, film and more. A partnership event between Ealing Autumn Festival, Hanwell Big Local and Hanwell Community Centre, supported by Arts Council, Heathrow Communities Together and Ealing Council. Cost: £2 plus; Rolladisco £2, evening concert £5. For more Information visit www.hanwellbiglocal.org.uk and www.ealingautumnfestival.co.uk

Seen in Southall exhibition
5–19 May at Dominion Centre, The Green, Southall
Seen in Southall is a unique street photography exhibition by Mandeep Nandha which captures and shares the diverse community. The exhibition documents the day-to-day hustle and bustle, the cultural beauty and vibrancy on the streets; bringing the people, their stories and the town to life, one photo at a time. FREE

Anyone for tennis?
7 May–1 July at Acton and Southfield parks
Players of all standards are invited to join the next round of the Acton and Southfield Parks Tennis League (supported by the council’s Active Ealing). Deadline for signing up is 4 May. Cost: £15. Visit www.localtennisleagues.com/acton for more details or contact via email actonparktennisleague@gmail.com

Cycle training sessions 2015
Gunnersbury Women’s Cycle Rides - ongoing-14 March, 10am - 1pm at Gunnersbury Park
Social ride for women. For more information visit www.cycletraining.co.uk

Monday Cycling Club Southall - ongoing-16 March, 9am - 4pm (hourly slots) at Southall Park
Hourly slots from 9am - 2pm and a social ride between 2pm - 4pm.
For more information contact jean@cycletraining.co.uk or visit www.cycletraining.co.uk

Win:
Sports fun
Our 10 vouchers to give away to enjoy white-water sports or cycling at London 2012 Olympic Games venues.

There are four vouchers on offer for Lee Valley White Water Centre – this entitles the winners to go rafting or hydrospeeding. Plus, there are six vouchers for Lee Valley VeloPark – this entitles the winners to a taster session in any of the cycling disciplines there.

To be in with a chance of winning, answer the following question correctly by Friday, 3 April 2015: How many different cycling disciplines will you be able to experience at Lee Valley VeloPark?

A) One    B) Three    C) Four

Meetings all due to be held at Ealing Town Hall, and correct at time of publishing. Visit www.ealing.gov.uk/committees for more details and to check dates and times.

For more events visit: www.ealing.gov.uk/whatson
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OPEN DAYS 2015

SATURDAY 7 MARCH
Southall College, 11.30am-2.30pm

SATURDAY 14 MARCH
Ealing College, 11.30am-2.30pm

SATURDAY 21 MARCH
Hammersmith College, 11.30am-2.30pm

• Meet College tutors and advisers
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