

Ealing Common Society

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2016

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Ealing Common Historic Walk

As part of the Annual Open House Weekend in September, the Ealing Common Society has a tradition of leading a walk around Ealing Common, exploring the Common's rich architecture and history.

On Saturday 17th September 2016, the walk attracted a crowd of over 20 people. Some were local Ealing residents, keen to know more about their Common, others came from further afield.

Blue Badge guide Roger Jarman led the walk, and Elaine Fraser showed the group round beautiful St. Matthew's Church. The walk ended at All Saints Church, built in honour of Spencer Perceval, the only British Prime Minister to be assassinated. The All Saints Archivist, Richard Bowden, talked about the church and its interesting history, and the group enjoyed tea and delicious homemade cakes, made by the parishioners.

Work Proceeding on the Common

Works have commenced on the Common. The drainage is being improved at the entrance to the Common on the Uxbridge Road, where vehicles enter for the fair and the circus. The ground here is frequently waterlogged and deeply rutted by the wheels of heavy vehicles. Works should ameliorate the situation with excess water being piped to a soakaway. Also, on the South Common the current meadow area is to be stripped of its surface layer of soil and seeded with a wildflower mix which will create a more attractive and diverse wild meadow area in the future.

Old Lavatory Block

The Council has planted roses, clematis and other climbing plants against the walls of the ugly toilet block on the corner of Leopold Road and the Uxbridge Road. Eventually the building will be covered in a plethora of beautiful flowers making the area more attractive.

More Bulbs

Following last year's most successful bulb planting in the gardens at Warwick Dene, courtesy of the Bubble Fund, we will be using the remaining money to plant further bulbs in the gaps! A photograph was taken when the daffodils bloomed this Spring, so we have a record of where more are needed. We also hope to add some extra bulbs to the small area of garden in front of the disused public lavatories on the Uxbridge Road.

Thank you to The Grange

Barbara Smith, the Manager of The Grange public house overlooking the Common, has been most generous in her support of the Ealing Common Society. We would like to express our thanks to her. We are immensely grateful for her unfailing encouragement and generosity allowing the Committee to congregate in the Garden Room at The Grange for their meetings. A most successful venue!

The Circus on the Common

The dates for the Circus performances this Autumn are 21st to 29th October.

Eat, Drink, Ealing Festival

The Eat, Drink, Ealing Festival was held on the Common on 2nd and 3rd July this year. Ealing Council let Ealing Common Society have a stand at the festival where we could raise awareness of both the society and the Common. Many people visited our stall and new members joined. A very successful event in our eyes.

Our New Website

We are thrilled and excited to have the opportunity to develop our own website thanks to the generosity of Donald Collins and the team at Go View Estate Agents, Ealing Common. We are most grateful to Donald for supporting us in this endeavour, and our thanks also to Anita Wong, who is doing the design and is responsible for the creation of our new website.

Annual General Meeting

Our next annual general meeting will be held as usual in the Spring. The date has yet to be determined, but please look out for the announcement, as this is an occasion not to be missed. Refreshments will be served, and our splendid Ealing Common Society mugs and cards will be available for purchase.

2016 was a momentous year for ECS. We celebrated our 25th AGM and were delighted that original members of the Society, Elaine Fraser, Chris Rowe and Ted Reece helped cut our splendid Silver Anniversary Celebration cake.

Elaine Fraser and Ted Reece cutting the Anniversary Cake!



On another note, do you know what Billy Cleal kept on Ealing Common in 1911? (Donkeys) Do you know who spent two years in Ealing before he became President of the United States? (John Quincy Adams 1815 - 1817). At this year's AGM we held a quiz which revealed many fascinating facts about The Common, and we all learned a great deal. Well done to the winners. Their prize of chocolate rabbits were well received!

Morus Londinium

We applied for and have been chosen to receive three "King James I" black mulberry saplings, which we will have in November in time for National Tree Week. These saplings will come from Morus Londinium. This is a project being carried out by the Conservation Foundation, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. It was prompted because mulberries rarely feature in tree surveys, possibly because most are in private gardens and therefore more difficult to find than street trees. The history of these trees is fascinating. Mulberries are the food source for silkworms, and King James I attempted to establish a silk industry in Britain in the seventeenth century, when many black mulberries were planted, although white mulberries are actually preferred by the silkworms. The National Plant Collection of mulberries is held in the grounds of Buckingham and Kensington Palaces. We hope to plant our mulberries in the gardens at Warwick Dene. Please look at www.moruslondinium.org for more information about the historic mulberry trees.

A Black Mulberry Tree



An Ealing Common View



Ealing Common Greeting Cards

A range of wonderful Ealing Common greeting cards, in colour and in striking black-and-white, and blank inside for your own message, is now available for sale at the Ealing Common Post Office.

Interested in preserving and protecting Ealing Common?

The Ealing Common Society was founded in 1991 to foster, preserve and protect the facilities and amenities of Ealing Common. Membership is only £2 per household per year. You can renew your membership at the AGM in the Spring and further details of how to join will appear on our website, once it is launched.

