



EALING CIVIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Working to preserve and improve our Borough



Founded in 1967

President: Charles Mynors

www.ealingcivicsociety.org

Member of

**CIVIC
VOICE**

Summer 2018

From the Chairman

Welcome to the Summer 2018 newsletter. This issue contains an article about our AGM earlier this year when the Mayor unveiled a plaque to Charles Jones in the presence of one of his descendants. We have the usual updates on major planning issues and details of the remaining events this year. I look forward to seeing you at our next talk on Tuesday 29 May when John Goldsmith (Crossrail) will give us his final update on the arrival of the Elizabeth Line to the Borough. Also, on Saturday 16th June there will be a conducted visit to the new Visitor Centre at Perivale Wood, followed by a walk round the Nature Reserve. Finally the John Delafons lecture is on on Tuesday 3rd July. See panel below for details.

Robert Gurd

Filmworks Cinema site

We reported in the last newsletter that work on the site came to halt shortly after Christmas for reasons that weren't entirely clear. It now seems that the delay was caused by a legal challenge by the owners of the block opposite the Town Hall. However, this now seems to have gone away and preparation for demolition of YMCA and Walpole

foundation stones carved by Eric Gill (see pictures) will be salvaged and conveyed as previously promised to the Ditchling Museum in Sussex. This early work of Gill only came to light following a lecture to us given by his brother Max's great-niece who was researching his works in the

Borough. Julian Bell issued a statement earlier this year indicating that he was frustrated over the various delays that had ensued since acquisition by St George but said that he had been assured that the cinema would be delivered by 2020 (two years delay compared with original estimated completion date).

10-40 The Broadway W5

As you know, the public inquiry due to take place in May last year was cancelled at short notice following sale of the land to British Land, owners of Ealing Broadway Centre. British Land are still considering their position having engaged new architects to undertake a study of the site. The reasons for the delay are not clear but it

is understood that BL are undertaking a "strategic masterplan study" of the site prior to drawing up more detailed plans. The next stage may be a public consultation but this is uncertain. In the meantime, the site continues to deteriorate despite our efforts to encourage British Land to undertake some external maintenance.

Dickens Yard

Retail lettings at Dickens Yard have been announced including Jigsaw & Gail's Bakery and various beauty / treatment centres as well as restaurants, gym and a regular Sunday Artisan Market. The plan still remains to open the main street and public square towards the end of the development which is expected later in 2018.



EALING CIVIC SOCIETY

Crossrail

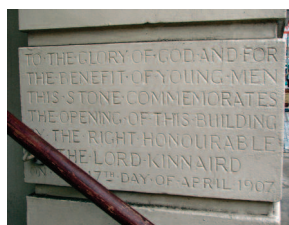
Countdown to Delivery

John Goldsmith
Community Relations Manager, Crossrail Ltd




Tuesday, 29 May, 2018
7.30pm
Liz Cantell Room, Ealing Town Hall
New Broadway, W5 2BY

All are welcome to attend this free talk
www.ealingcivicsociety.org
Registered Charity No. 290658



House is underway at the time of writing. We have sought – and received – reassurances from St George that the

Coming Events

Tuesday 29 May 2018 'Crossrail, Countdown to Delivery', Liz Cantell Room, Ealing Town Hall, at 7.30 p.m. Speaker: John Goldsmith.

Saturday 16 June 2018: 2-3.30 pm. Civic Day: A talk and walk round Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve.

Tuesday 3 July 2018 John Delafons Lecture: Gunnersbury Past and Present. Ealing Green Church, at 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Val Bott, editor of the newsletter of the Friends of Gunnersbury Park.

Tuesday 23 October, Civic Society Awards, presented by Guardian columnist Tim Dowling.

Pitzhanger Manor

The Manor House has been closed for over three years whilst the renovation works have been carried out. A new rear conservatory and link building between the house and Gallery and the new café/restaurant in the old rose garden area are nearly completed and many interesting new discoveries have been made in the original building – some not always welcome. Works are due to be completed later this year but a reopening date has yet to be announced. In the meantime, the Rickyard café has reopened under new management.

Civic Society Annual General Meeting

The ECS AGM this year was held on 16th April in the Town Hall's Nelson Room and around 60 members attended. The purpose of the meeting this time was threefold:

1. conduct the regular Society business
2. hear the invited speaker Gavin Leonard talk about the history of Ealing Town Hall
3. unveil the plaque to Charles Jones, the Borough Architect who built it.

After summarising the society's activities over the past year and in the future, our Chair Robert Gurd reminded us again that he intends to resign as soon as a replacement chair is selected. The members of the current executive committee were re-elected. Robert Gurd introduced us to a great-great grandson of Charles Jones present in the audience, the music producer Jez Coad, who was



Jez & Gill Coad

delighted to attend this occasion along with his wife Gill. Another great-great grandson, Jonathan, was unfortunately unable to make it for the unveiling. Also in the audience was Professor Alan Gillett who told us of his personal connection with the great man: at various commemorative events he dressed up,



Prof. Alan Gillett

donned a beard and impersonated him, to the amusement of children of all ages. Charles Jones was the first Borough Architect and Gavin Leonard was the last, so it was apposite that a good deal of our



Gavin Leonard

speaker's talk on the history of Ealing Town Hall was devoted to his early predecessor, responsible for so much that is good in Ealing today. As well as architect he was also an engineer and oversaw the creation of Ealing's sewage system, swimming baths, washhouses, public library and much else. Like many eminent Victorians he was devoted to the public good and negotiated the purchase

of Pitzhanger Manor land from the last surviving daughter of the assassinated Prime Minister Spencer Perceval, which was to become Walpole Park.

Gavin is particularly concerned for the preservation of the Charles Jones' plans and other documents relating to building work in the past and in his time with the Council he managed to rescue many plans which had been consigned to the rubbish bin. The Society is concerned that a safe and permanent home be found for these testaments of the past.

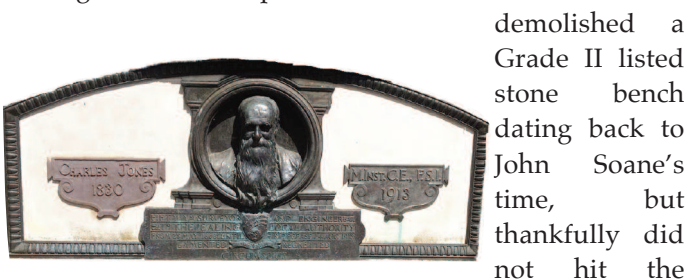
One eye-opening recollection from Gavin went back to a refurbishment of the west part of the Town Hall, in the form of a long and alarming crack in the wall. This is evidence of the blast from a World War II bomb which fell in Gordon Road, shifting the Victoria Hall southward.

Gavin had interrupted the early part of his talk to make way for the Mayor Cllr Woodroffe and his official consort Helen Johnson who had donned their chains of office to unveil the plaque to Charles Jones. It is planned to find a permanent site for the plaque on the house at 5 Windsor Road where the architect lived.



Mayor and Consort

The recent fall of an ancient chestnut tree which crashed through the north perimeter wall on Mattock Lane



demolished a Grade II listed stone bench dating back to John Soane's time, but thankfully did not hit the

memorial in Walpole Park to Charles Jones.

Tony Williams

West Ealing Centre Neighbourhood Plan passed

On the same day that the local election results were declared (4 May) the returning officer also announced that, of the people and businesses who voted in the business and residential referenda for the West Ealing Centre Neighbourhood Plan, more than 50% had voted in favour of the plan. The plan now becomes part of Ealing's Local Plan.

The verified number of voters in the business referendum was 21 (46.7% of those registered to vote) of whom 19 were in favour. The verified number of residential votes was 1576 (35% of those registered to vote) of whom 1345 were in favour.

The Other Mr Jones

Frederick Hall Jones (1865 – 1938)

The recently unveiled Civic Society plaque commemorating Charles Jones, the borough surveyor, engineer and architect rightly recognises him as 'the maker of modern Ealing' and the huge contribution he made to the later Victorian development of Ealing. However another Mr Jones also had a significant influence on the look of Ealing in the subsequent Edwardian period. He was Frederick Hall Jones the second son of Charles Jones who, like his father, was an architect.

Unlike his father, Hall Jones worked entirely in the private sector establishing practices in Ealing and central London. The most prominent of Charles Jones' designs are the public buildings in the town centre – the Town Hall on New Broadway, the old Town Hall (now the NatWest Bank) on the Mall, the Methodist Church (now the Polish Catholic church) in Windsor Road and the United Reform Church on Ealing Green. As if to complement these buildings Hall Jones designed many of the attractive



shopping parades in the town centre. These include the 'Edwards' parade in the Mall which provides an attractive entrance to the town centre when approaching from the station, the elegant south side of New Broadway from the High Street running into the equally stylish east side of Bond Street. At that time a canopied veranda ran the whole length of these two parades of which only a sadly neglected portion still remains today. It was largely the combination of the distinguished public buildings and elegant shopping parades which engendered the sense that Ealing was different from its neighbouring towns and which led to the maxim 'Queen of the Suburbs'.

Hall Jones designed many buildings in the UK – including banks, factories and housing estates; however his first allegiance was to his home town where he designed many other buildings. These included St Paul's Church in Northfields and the Good Shepherd Mission Church in the South Ealing Road (now an Assyrian Church); he was also responsible for the rebuilding of St John's Church in Mattock Lane after a fire and the building of the old King Edward Memorial Hospital in Mattock Lane.

Paul Fitzmaurice

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All this is because of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which is coming into force on 25 May 2018. If you want to see our privacy policy it's on our website at <http://ealingcivicsociety.org/about-us/>.
Philippa Dolphin

Plaques Planned

The Society is planning to commemorate two renowned women who lived in Ealing. **Ada Lovelace** was the world's first computer programmer who made Charles Babbage's work possible. Josette Bishop has written about her and an article will appear in the next issue of the newsletter. **Lillian Board**, the world champion runner in the 1960s attended Grange Secondary Modern Girls' School (later moved to Ellen Wilkinson). She has a street named for her in the Munich Olympic Village. Lillian died tragically young.

2018/19 Executive Committee

Robert Gurd (Chairman) 60 Beaufort Rd W5 3EA (8998 4417)

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Corinne Templer (Hon. Vice President) 28 The Grove W5 5LH (8567 5353)

Josette Bishop (Treasurer)

Paul Fitzmaurice 18 Elers Road W13 9QD (8567 3024)

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Jo Winters (Secretary) 28 Ranelagh Road W5 5RJ (8579 1885)

Josephine Barry-Hicks (Minutes Secretary) 62 Haven Green Court W5 2UY

Planning applications

The Society looks at all major planning applications submitted to Ealing Council. Major schemes and projects are examined in detail. A sample of the applications considered is below:

83-85 Gunnersbury Lane, Acton: a proposed multi-storey block of flats which is high compared with neighbouring properties and would constitute considerable over development.

Westgate House, Ealing: an application to construct two extra floors on Westgate House, a former office block, and erect an 8 storey building on the western part of the site. We said that the new floors would reduce the amount of daylight into the lightwell of the existing building and the proposed new block would be located in a very unsuitable site between a large warehouse and the railway lines/A40.

140 Wales Farm Rd, North Acton: the proposed demolition of existing buildings and construction of 3 buildings between 12 and 25 storeys in height. The Society objected as follows to a previous and very similar application in July 2017: "We regret the planned demolition of the remaining locally listed Elizabeth Arden Perfume Factory buildings which were designed by Wallis, Gilbert & Partners in 1939. While we acknowledge that the original building has been severely compromised by the loss of the central tower and replacement of the original windows, we believe that the development would benefit greatly from the retention of the original buildings. In addition, despite a precedent having already been established elsewhere in the vicinity for higher buildings than proposed here, we maintain that the planned development would be far too high."

The Arches Business Centre, Southall: we objected to the demolition of the locally listed arches, one of the few remaining relics of the Otto Monsted margarine factory which was originally on the site, and their replacement by buildings ranging in height from 15-23 storeys to provide 570 flats and some office/commercial floor space. One of the reasons for objection was the planned height which would be far higher than any other development in the area.

Clergy House, The Grove, Ealing: this was a revised application for conversion into flats of this Grade II listed former residence for clergymen at St Saviour's Church which was destroyed by bombing during World War II. We noted that a much more detailed assessment had



Clergy House, the Grove

been provided in contrast to an earlier withdrawn application which gave rise to concerns. We regretted the loss of the former oratory on the upper floor which the alterations would entail and asked that the conservation officer paid particular attention to the proposals for this part of the building.

59 Eaton Rise, Ealing: whilst we would not normally comment on domestic applications we looked at this one because of considerable local concern over the proposal to convert the building, a heritage asset along with its immediate neighbours, into 8 self-contained flats. We objected on the grounds of over-development, the design of the proposed very large rear extensions and the potentially overbearing nature of the proposed building upon neighbouring properties including those in the adjacent Elmcroft Close.

Jo Winters, Robert Gurd

From our Treasurer

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Treasurer Ealing Civic Society

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Tony Williams (Newsletter Editor) 2 Nicholas Gardens, W5 5HY (8567 6941)

Contributors: Robert Gurd, Jo Winters, Josette Bishop, Paul Fitzmaurice, Tony Williams, Philippa Dolphin.

Photos: AGM: Tom Doran, PD; *Jones memorial*: TW; *Clergy House*: RG; *Eric Gill carvings*: Mike Jordan; *New Broadway*: PF.

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