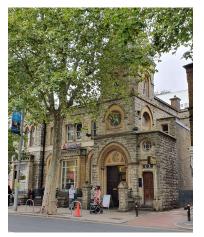
A self-guided walk of Ealing Town Centre highlighting plaques to well-known local people and the locations associated with them

This is a historic walk around Ealing's Town Centre to view the plaques which have been erected by Ealing Civic Society, English Heritage and others, plus the proposed site for a new plaque.



1 NatWest Bank, 1 The Mall W5 2PL

The route starts at the **NatWest Bank** [1], The Mall, a building designed by *Charles Jones* in 1872 and built in 1874 as the town hall, with council offices for the newly formed Ealing Local Board. By 1886 it was too small and was sold to a bank. It is constructed of Kentish flagstone with a slate roof and a small tower. Grade II listed, it is described by Pevsner as "more daring than most suburban municipal buildings of this date".



2 Charles Jones plaque, 5 Windsor Road, W5 3UL

Cross over The Mall to **5 Windsor Road** [2], where the first plaque on the route commemorates *Charles Jones* (1830-1913). Jones was Ealing's first borough architect, engineer and surveyor. He was in post for 50 years and described as the "creator of the Queen of the Suburbs". He is admired for his well-proportioned and functional civic buildings and churches, including several on this walk. This plaque was erected on his former home and office by Ealing Civic Society in 2018.



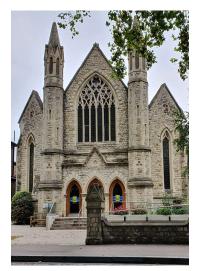
3 Polish Church, 2 Windsor Road, W5 5PD

Opposite Charles Jones' former home is the **Polish Church** [3] which was Ealing's Wesleyan Methodist church when Charles Jones (with John Tarring) designed it in 1867. It narrowly escaped demolition in the 1970s when it was taken over by Ealing's large Polish community. It is now the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady Mother of the Church. The neighbouring Memorial Hall was built in 1925.



4 Frank Richards plaque, Ealing Town Centre W5 5JY

En route to the second church designed by Charles Jones, enter Ealing Broadway Centre via the side entrance to the left of the Polish church. Go round the traffic barrier, past Starbucks and into the enclosed section with the lifts to your left. Turn left and walk past WH Smith. On the right just before the Town Square there is a private **plaque** [4] to commemorate the author of the Billy Bunter stories, *Frank Richards* (a pen name of Charles Hamilton) at the site of his former home, 15 Oak Street, where he was born in 1876. The house was demolished to make way for the Centre, and the plaque was erected when it opened in 1984. The plaque is quite high up on the wall of Pandora.



5 Ealing Green Church, Ealing Green W5 5QT

Turn right and go through the courtyard past Marks and Spencer and leave the Centre on to the High Street. Turn left and go south, crossing the turning to The Grove, and walk down St Mary's Road. The second ecclesiastical building on the route is *Ealing Green Church* [5], which was Charles Jones' first architectural commission, built in 1860 for the Congregationalists. The interior has since been extensively modernised. It is now the Methodist and United Reformed Church, the oldest nonconformist church in Ealing. The church and the manse next door are built in similar materials, in what became Jones' characteristic Gothic style.



6 Ealing Studios, Ealing Green W5 5EP

Further down St Mary's Road and across the Green are *Ealing Studios* [6]. Films have been made here since 1902, and they are now the longest running film studios in the world. An English Heritage blue plaque commemorates the film producer *Michael Balcon* (1896-1977) who ran the Studios from 1938 to 1955 and was responsible for the release of a very large number of high quality films and documentaries, including the famous Ealing Comedies. The Studios were subsequently acquired by the BBC which made many celebrated series here. It was, for example, the location of the set used for the servants' quarters in the Downton Abbey series. In 2000 the Studios were taken over by a consortium, but acclaimed TV series (*The Durrells, The Crown*) and films (*The Death of Stalin, The Darkest Hour*) continue to be produced here.



7 Pitzhanger Manor and Gallery W5

About turn and walk north up the west side of Ealing Green where you will find a hidden gem behind the War Memorial - the Grade I listed *Pitzhanger Manor and Gallery* [7], described by Pevsner as "the most interesting house in Ealing".. The architect **Sir John Soane** (1753-1837) rebuilt the eighteenth century house and it became his country house between 1800-10 (the Gallery to the north was built much later). Soane designed the original Bank of England, Dulwich Picture Gallery and his central London home, now the Soane Museum. He was also responsible for the dining rooms for 10 and 11 Downing Street. The house was sold to

Ealing District Council in 1900, and was used for a public library, and then eventually opened as a heritage attraction with an art gallery. After a major refurbishment it reopened

in 2019, to considerable acclaim, winning a number of awards, including the Ealing Civic Society Annual Award. The Society plans to erect a plaque to commemorate Sir John Soane on the nearby Lodge next to the entrance arch.



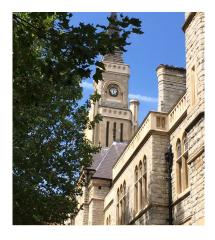
8 Memorial to Charles Jones, Walpole Park, Mattock Lane W5 5EQ

Pitzhanger Manor is situated in Walpole Park and we return to the Borough's first architect, Charles Jones, and view the **memorial** [8] to him on the path on the north side of the Gallery. Thanks to Charles Jones, who negotiated the acquisition of the land by the then Council, Walpole Park was opened to the public in 1901.



9 Barnes Pikle

Leave the park by the gate at the end of the wall to your right, cross over Mattock Lane and walk up the curiously named **Barnes Pikle** [9] (apparently a pikle is a field boundary – hence the name marks the boundary of a field once owned by a Mr Barnes).



Cross the Uxbridge Road to see the last highlight of the route: Charles Jones' finest building in the town centre, **Ealing Town Hall** [10], which was opened by the Prince of Wales in 1888 and replaced the first council offices in the Mall where we started. Ealing Council has now moved out of the Town Hall, which controversially is due to be redeveloped into a boutique hotel with some rooms retained for municipal uses.

10 Ealing Town Hall, New Broadway W5 2BY

Just off the map are the following plaques commemorating

Dorothea Lambert Chambers: 1878-1960 seven times Women's Wimbledon Tennis Champion: St Matthew's Vicarage, 7 North Common Road, Ealing W5 2QA

Lady Byron: 1792-1860 briefly wife of Lord Byron and mother of Ada Lovelace: The University of West London, St Mary's Road, W5 5RF

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