NEIGHBOURS' PAPER
Putting the People of Ealing First

AUTUMN 2012
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Fight to save Ealing Hospital

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Putting the People of Ealing First

Meet the New... Editors

MICHAEL HOLMES
Joining is such sweet innovation; I've experienced just that, having been welcomed aboard Neighbours' Paper a little over four years ago. The great Ealing Volunteer Centre is responsible for telling me about this magazine and the wonderful team contributing towards a better community.

My background is as diverse as the paper, covering a number of different roles in the following: travel & tourism, retail, and distribution. Earlier this year I enrolled on a freelance journalism course with the British College of Journalism. I plan to pursue a career in the field.

A famous person once said, 'The greatest of all distinctions is SERVICE' and that's what Neighbours' Paper is about; serving the community by the community. We will raise awareness of the important issues affecting local residents. It's your magazine and you are the ones who make each issue happen.

TOM WHITING
It's been just over 12 months since I started at Neighbours' Paper – how time has flown by! I'm delighted to be able to take up the mantel of joint editor and to contribute to the vibrant multi-cultural team at NP who give their free time to bring all the latest community news to your neighbourhood.

My background? I've spent more than 15 years in the publishing industry, previously as Editorial Director for a large book publishing house and, more recently, as an editorial consultant. I'm a proud Ealing resident, having first moved to the borough in 1999, and my passions are current affairs, art and culture, and the media.

It's a change of pace for Ealing. Whether it's the cutback threats to local government, there are issues that affect every one of us. We all have a voice, and what better way to express our views and to celebrate a flourishing local community spirit than through Ealing's favourite long-standing independent magazine!

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Neighbours' Paper

Subscribe for a year - just £4. Send a cheque to Neighbours' Paper, 12 Waldemar Avenue, W13 9PY.

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If you love theatre then make your way down to the Questors Theatre, 12 Mattock Lane, Ealing. Not only does this purpose-built, amateur theatre put on productions with very high standards, but it also has a large wardrobe and set-making departments that provide opportunities for non-actors to develop other skills.

The dedicated teams of backstage volunteers are as essential to the production as the actors and directors. You can even work your way up from being a costume or set design assistant to designing your own show. There is enormous scope because The Questors stages such a variety of productions during the year.

According to one wardrobe volunteer, "As a member of The Questors, I volunteered to work in the wardrobe department. It is advisable to be able to sew a little, but you do not have to be a highly skilled dressmaker. There are experienced people on hand to help you. For my first "performance", the Wardrobe Master asked me to help in making up and selecting some of the costumes for "The School of Night", a murder mystery play written by Peter Whelan.

"This production has part Elizabethan overtones, part classic spy thriller. The script, costumes, lighting and sets illustrate the full force and realisation of a very powerful and dramatic drama. The Shakespearean/Modern dialogue complements the Tudor/ modern costume design.

"I was given items which had been previously cut out and needed to be made up into duplets for two servants in a Tudor style. There were also other jobs to do like sewing on hooks, eyes and buttons, etc. You may have to find, fix or alter garments taken from our large costume department housing items used in previous productions. It's so interesting to browse through the great variety of costumes from many eras. There are racks and racks of costumes; shoes and all types of accessories.

"Our highly-skilled Wardrobe Master made a ruff using five metres of lace for one of the Tudor costumes. He also created a long wig made entirely of straw."

Other backstage activities are set design and construction and lighting. The lighting department is staffed by a dedicated, experienced and committed team consisting of riggers, operators, programmers and lighting designers. They have one of the best lighting rigs in the country. For the Peter Whelan play, the lighting department showed a lot of imagination. They created an eerie atmosphere by lighting the stage with shafts of light protruding from the slits in the wooden floorboards.

This lighting enriched the very large, well back drop, which featured projected three-dimensional, planetarium imaginary, highly coloured and very energetic. The sets are created in the large workshop, starting in model form for the Director's approval, and the audience view is taken into account as well as design.

The great thing about joining these teams is that you learn at your own pace, everybody is welcoming and it can be fun.

There are many other things you can do as a working member. For example you can work in the Grapevine Bar, Booking Office, Front of House, Selling Programmes and other things. Please ask, the members are very approachable and they all help one another.

The Questors Academy offers a range of classes and courses. See the Academy Prospectus or www.questors.org.uk/academy for full details.

Backstage at the Questors Theatre

By Valerie Rudd

Wardrobe area. Play "School of Night" Character *Rosalinda* Costume by Raymond Childs Design

Classic Cinema Club of Ealing

SEPTEMBER screening:
Classic European Comedy Films
at Ealing Town Hall
Fridays 7.30pm
Full details: www.classiccinemaucl.co.uk
Neighbourhood Forums in Ealing

Neighbourhood Forums mean that the people of Ealing could decide local plans, bringing care, democracy and local knowledge into the decision-making process. In the past poor, unpopular and unwanted development plans have been pushed at residents in both Ealing town centres.

Eric Leach is Chair of the Interim West Ealing Centre Neighbourhood Forum. He writes: “The 2011 Localism Act is empowering people who live and work in a neighbourhood to get together in Neighbourhood Forums and create local plans, bringing care, democracy and local knowledge into the decision-making process. In the past poor, unpopular and unwanted development plans have been pushed at residents in both Ealing town centres.

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The fight is on to save
Ealing Hospital A&E
by Tom Whiting

Battles have been drawn. Talk of protest marches, strikes and occupation filled the air at an angry Ealing Town Hall meeting where citizens from across the boroughs of Ealing, Brent, Hammersmith & Fulham and Harrow were united in their condemnation of the latest round of government proposals to close four North West London Accident & Emergency departments at Ealing, Hammersmith, Charing Cross and Central Middlesex hospitals.

From militants to doves, from the wealthy to the disadvantaged, from local councillors to GPs, doctors, nurses and care, Ealing is at the forefront of the rebellion against a swathe of further cuts, make Ealing the frontline of the campaign to stop these proposals.

Consultation – or fait accompli?

Despite a consultation process running for 14 weeks until October, these proposals have allegedly already been rubber-stamped behind closed doors by leaders of all eight North West London Clinical Commissioning Groups, the GP-led local bodies which take over from the Primary Care Trusts and manage GP-led local bodies who take over from Clinical Commissioning Groups, the leaders of all eight North West London Boroughs.

What does this mean for our own Ealing Hospital? North West London has four of the capital’s most debt-encumbered Trusts, two of which, Ealing and North West London Health Trust, are planning to merge and rationalise services. Ealing’s share of the proposed budget spending cuts amounts to £20 million. According to recent Department of Health figures, North West London’s 8 boroughs, serving 2 million people and housing 14 hospitals, treated 183,000 emergency patients, more than a third of whom were treated in Ealing Hospital and North West London Hospitals Trust. Furthermore, nearly half of Ealing Hospital’s admissions were emergencies.

Closure of Ealing Hospital

If Ealing A&E closes, local residents face longer journeys to the likes of Northwick Park and the much smaller Middlesex University Hospital in Ixworth for critical emergency treatment. These hospitals would struggle to cope with the huge increase in patients and doubleplus suffer from incremental waiting times. Ealing Hospital itself would lose a significant proportion of its inpatient numbers, and would struggle to maintain its viability as a general hospital. Already having lost its Stroke Unit, other departments would follow its A&E’s demise: the Urgent Care Centre, Maternity, ITU, Emergency Surgery… the list goes on, until the hospital becomes a shell of its former self and finds it impossible to attract new staff. Closure becomes inevitable.

Dr John Lister, Director of London Health Emergency, and a lifelong campaigner against NHS cuts, is adamant that the new proposals represent the slippery slope to service chaos in North West London. “These proposals which are being pushed through with the aim to commence closures by the end of 2012, are not fit for purpose…they are not driven by clinical arguments but rather by cash savings. These cuts cannot be delivered without devastating local services, and riding roughshod over the views and needs of local people.”

Others have expressed alarm at the way the new proposals are being presented to the public. According to Dr Jenny Vaughan, Consultant Neurologist at Ealing Hospital, ‘Misinformation is rife in this document. It is fundamentally wrong to claim that Urgent Care Centres can replace A&Es, or that out-of-hours health services can handle thousands of new patients who would otherwise be taken care of by the hospital’s emergency services. And it’s wrong to focus investment in specialist hospitals, when Ealing itself has specialist units all under one roof.’

Boroughs unite against cuts

Solidarity looks likely to be the best course of action against these cuts.

Special thanks to John Lister’s Pressure Group for Ealing, Hammersmith & Harlington, whose own Hillingdon Hospital A&E is not under threat, is nevertheless united against the proposed cuts at neighbouring Ealing.

I am against closure of any A&E, and find it particularly ironic that Ealing Hospital is most under threat when it was the very hospital where Prime Minister David Cameron launched his new government’s policy for the NHS, claiming it was in “safe hands…”

Angie Bray, Conservative MP for Ealing Central and Acton says that ‘given the very many patients that use the A&E department at Ealing Hospital, it is essential that they can continue to be looked after there. ’

She hopes ‘decisions will not be rushed to meet bureaucratic timetables because it is vital that any decisions taken are given proper consideration.’

Councillor Jasbir Anand of Ealing Health and Adult Services has also spoken out against the proposals and urges Ealing residents to express their views and to be heard in the coming months.

In neighbouring Hammersmith & Fulham, Labour MP Andy Slaughter says, ‘A&E closure will mean virtual closure of Charing Cross Hospital. They matters to everyone. No campaign is bigger than your local hospital.’

Act now

These are cuts that strike at the very heart of our community. The axing of Ealing hospital A&E will have a lasting impact on all Ealing borough residents, as well as sending a tidal wave of trouble across hospitals in neighbouring boroughs. Emergency services already teetering on the edge of the precipice face an uncertain future, with the health of local residents, jobs, and, at stake. We should unite with all threatened hospitals to say an unequivocal ‘NO’ to any cuts throughout the region, sign petitions, and lobby our local GPs and MPs to stand up and fight to save our hospitals. Once lost, we will never get them back.

Ealing residents need to go online to view the consultation document and take part in the questionnaire. The deadline for submissions is 8 October.


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Ealing SOS petition and demonstration dates: www.ealinghospitalsos.org.uk
Twin Towns: Marcq-en-Baroeul and Ealing

‘MARCOQ-EN-BAROEUL’ says the signpost on Ealing Green, ‘Twinned with Ealing’. Have you ever wondered what this really means? Twinning arrangements do vary, but in the case of Ealing and Marcq it refers to quite a fun activity, as the links are mainly social and cultural between ordinary citizens of both boroughs. Certainly, our Mayor always shows support − by kissing guests on both cheeks! Again, it is no surprise that the Ealing programme includes French lessons (kindly hosted by UW1), but there are also more light-hearted activities with a French flavour. As well as games of Scrabble (in French, of course), there are even activities where French-speaking is completely unnecessary, such as an annual afternoon playing ‘boules’ in Lammas Park, wine-tasting evenings, and even champagne tasting planned for October.

These activities have been going on for over 25 years. According to the group’s website (www.fomeb.eu), joint events and exchanges such as family and ‘work experience’ have already been taking place for some time when the ‘Friends’ were officially inaugurated in November 1987 to promote the twinning on a more formal basis. This culminated in the signing of a ‘Twinning Charter’ by the two boroughs in 1991.

The Friends of Marcq is run by a small committee – this is the second year Gillian & I have been on it, so we are still learning the ropes. This year we are responsible for the Publicity, which includes French lessons (kindly provided by the Ealing Library), keeping the library supplied with leaflets – and writing articles like this one!

By Roger Haines, Friends of Marcq

Ealing Mayor, John Gallagher, has officially opened the Greenford Open Market, while being supported by Council Leader, Julian Bell to commence the novel project. The market, which trades every week on Mondays and Thursdays from 9am to 5pm, has more than 20 stalls which sell items ranging from fabric, flowers, tools, kitchenware, hats, clothing, toys, music and DVDs and food items.

Mixed feelings

The idea of the open market across London is to give traders and buyers the right of choice, bargaining in a more flexible and relaxed atmosphere; that option is not available in the conventional retail market. The opening of this market has been greeted with mixed feelings: locals who enjoy shopping at a street market against those that complain of the more congestion on the streets. Traders and shoppers alike are always looking forward to pitching up at the market, which has become a regular vibrant feature in Greenford. The market has been funded as a 12-month pilot scheme using some of the £128,000 secured by Ealing Council to revamp Greenford from the Mayor of London’s Outer London Fund. The Consulting firm Regeneris was appointed to conduct an evaluation to determine how the market could complement, and not compete with, existing Greenford shops.

Opponents are not totally opposed to the opening of the market in Greenford, but the location to them has brought untold hardship in the area of vehicular traffic arising from the volume of cars, trucks and visitors to the very fragile Greenford Broadway, known already for its traffic challenges.

A local, who prefers to remain anonymous, said, ‘The Broadway had been bastardised, scandalised and commercialised, without regards for preservation, culture and traditions, all in the name of boosting the local economy.’

Areas for improvement

Perhaps relocating the market to the back open space of the Broadway would appease its opponents, while a Saturday Market could be introduced for weekend shoppers who work during the week.

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By Foluso Dawodu
The Families' Relief Mission

To help and support the family unit to acquire basic needs such as food, water, shelter and sanitation.

To promote citizenship and positive living through teaching and training.

To engage in community development and capacity building initiatives benefiting the family unit through focusing on the positive aspects of its culture.

To encourage environmentally friendly initiatives and commit through recycling and reuse.

To collaborate and cooperate with similar projects in the UK and elsewhere.

Over the past 15 years Families Relief has helped many thousands of families across the world. Some of their achievements to date include the successful construction of a deep well in Niger, which now provides clean water for over 2,000 villagers, as well as implementing self-sustainable projects in Sri Lanka which helped communities recover after the tsunami and return to their normal lives providing for their families. In Bangladesh they successfully constructed a school which caters for over 230 students.

Help in Fallujah

Families Relief was the first charity to establish a presence in Gaza in 1995, and built on this with a permanent office which opened in 2004. They provide hundreds of families with clean water on a monthly basis in the region, and have installed water fountains in schools. Significantly, it was one of the first charities to help the people of Fallujah and has maintained a presence in Iraq helping the families and community during the conflict of recent times.

The charity has a strong record of working alongside aid agencies, demonstrating by the fact that they provided over 1,000 families in Kosovo with food parcels during and after the Kosovo War. Families Relief also reacted quickly to the recent earthquake in Pakistan and distributed over 700 tents for families affected by this terrible natural disaster.

Monetary donations are welcomed via the Families Relief website at www.familiesrelief.org.uk. As well as donating online, Ealing residents are fortunate in that there are two shops in the borough that accept b前行 cash donations, and sell a wide variety of goods with all funds going towards the Families Relief mission. The addresses are:

Greenford
64 The Broadway , Ruislip Road , UB6 9QJ
0208 578 0808
greenford@familiesrelief.org.uk

Ealing
93 The Broadway , West Ealing W13 8BP
0208 567 3999
ealing@familiesrelief.org.uk

IMPACT Outreach Network: ‘Disability Art at its best’

Last year I wrote about IMPACT Social Enterprise. This offers theatre and expressive arts courses to people with disabilities. After many moves in its history it was settled in the Council owned Stirling Road Acton premises where IMPACT developed a studio theatre, music and media area. In January 2011 they were devastated to find the Council wished to sell these premises. IMPACT’s future looked in doubt.

However there is good news! New Council owned premises in the old Library Resource Centre in Hornsbrook Lane South, Perivale have been found. The Council arranged a lease for IMPACT with a peppercorn rent and have contributed £200,000 to extend and renovate the building. The Social Enterprise Investment Line (SEIF) has added to this with a £150,000 grant and a £172,000 loan. Work on the site is now in progress and IMPACT hopes to move from Acton in September in time for the new term. If the date slips however, IMPACT can remain at Stirling Road until the new premises are ready. All credit to IMPACT for gaining these hugely competitive deals with SEIF and to the Council for all their help.

Would you like to help IMPACT with the work? Volunteers to help decorate in August are warmly welcomed. Please e-mail impact-theatre@connect.com or phone 0208986 3682 or mobile 07512951452 for information including performances in August see www.impactiondisabilityarts.co.uk

By Judy Borens
We are currently experiencing the greatest sporting event ever and what a privilege to have three home-grown athletes from Ealing taking part; but first a bit about these enormous games.

The Olympic Games (French: Les Jeux olympiques) (JO), is a major international event featuring summer and winter sports, in which thousands of athletes participate in a variety of competitions. The Olympic Games are considered to be the world’s foremost sports competition and more than 200 nations participate. The Games are currently held every two years, with Summer and Winter Olympic Games alternating, although they occur every four years within their respective seasonal games. Originally, the ancient Olympic Games were held in Olympia, Greece, from the 8th century BC to the 4th century AD. Baron Pierre de Coubertin founded the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1894. The IOC has since become the governing body of the Olympic Movement, whose structure and actions are defined by the Olympic Charter.

The evolution of the Olympic Movement during the 20th and 21st centuries has resulted in several changes to the Olympic Games. Some of these adjustments include the creation of the Winter Games for ice and winter sports, the Paralympic Games for athletes with a physical disability, and the Youth Olympic Games for teenage athletes. The IOC has had to adapt to the varying economic, political, and technological realities of the 20th century. As a result, the Olympics shifted away from pure amateurism, as envisioned by Coubertin, to allow participation of professional athletes.

The growing importance of the mass media created the issue of corporate sponsorship and commercialization of the Games.

Over 13,000 athletes compete at the Summer and Winter Olympics in 33 different sports and nearly 400 events. The Games have grown in scale to the point that nearly every nation is represented. Such growth has created numerous challenges, including boycotts, doping, bribery of officials, and terrorism. Every two years, the Olympics and its media exposure provide unknown athletes with the chance to attain national, and in particular cases, international fame. The Games also constitute a major opportunity for the host city and country to showcase itself to the world. (It's the turn of London).

Ealing is honoured to have three athletes taking part in Team GB at the current games. They are Great Britain hockey players Hannah Macleod and Anne Panter and sprinter Laura Turner. These athletes have had some great achievements that continued at the Olympic showpiece spectacular. All have come through Team Ealing which will continue to produce such talent. Sadly two other members of Team Ealing missed out at the final selection this time. They are boxer Hannah Beharry and Taewondo fighter Josh Wembley. Josh is determined to try for Rio in 2016. We are sure we will see more of all our athletes in the future.

Please read and find out more about this Fab 3 on: http://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/200250/team_ealing/520/team_ealing

http://www.teamealing.com/