

Welcome to the EFRA newsletter. This issue is being delivered to the 2,000 households in our membership area, which consists of thirty five roads surrounding Northfields tube station.

In this newsletter we summarise what EFRA has been doing over the last twelve months and our concerns and aspirations for the future. There's much to be done and we welcome the support and participation of everyone who lives, works or studies locally.

NORTHFIELDS CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF COMMUTING



Photograph copyright and courtesy of Nigel Jordan

New railways to the City of London resulted in the building of our homes and neighbourhood on the fields of Little Ealing a hundred years ago.

Last Summer London Underground celebrated the anniversary of steam on the network by running heritage trips using preserved locomotives and coaches. The Saturday trips ran from Northfields Depot to Moorgate and back.

We are immensely grateful for the above photo, which shows one of the special trains leaving Northfields Depot.

DON'T MISS THE EFRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Wednesday 20th May at 7.30pm at the LOG CABIN
(behind Northfields Library)**

**This is your opportunity to find out what's happening locally
and air your views and concerns about the issues that affect you.**

Refreshments will be available, so please join us at this annual event which enables residents to meet and discuss local matters with their neighbours.

Please arrive by 7.15 if you would like to join or renew your membership.

PLANNING MATTERS

See our website <http://www.efra.org.uk/>
for more planning stories

It has been a challenging year for planning applications, with a number which would cause harm to the neighbouring residents and/or failed to respect the character of our hundred-year-old Edwardian residential neighbourhood.

An emerging concern has been where the Council's planning officers have recommended the approval of applications which were clearly in breach of the Council's own planning policies.

The following is a brief summary of **just some of the applications we have commented on**. There is more information and copies of our submissions on the planning pages of the EFRA web site.

Six flats at the corner of Wellington Road and Northfield Avenue

This application to construct six flats on the site of a modest end-of-terrace family home was recommended for approval by the planning officers. Fortunately EFRA, together with twenty neighbouring residents, were able to convince the members of the Planning Committee that the proposals were unacceptable and the committee unanimously refused the application. The developer has appealed and we are waiting for the decision of a Government Planning Inspector.

Basement use of 222-224 Northfield Avenue

Following the unauthorised and disruptive use of the basement and rear yard of 222-224 Northfield Avenue as a café and party venue, a new operator has applied for planning permission for the same uses. After consultations with neighbours, we objected to this application because of the nuisance it would cause to the residents living in Belsize Avenue and the flats above the shops in Northfield Avenue. We are waiting for the Council to make a decision on this application.

Subdivision of house in Overdale Road

Together with neighbouring residents we were disappointed by the Council's decision to allow the conversion of a modest terraced family home into two poorly designed flats, one of which would not have access to garden space. This house is located midway between four popular primary schools and any conversion should have been capable of accommodating families with young children.

Motorbike Training

Following an injunction preventing motorbike training on the open areas of the Orion Park works behind Belsize Avenue, Mayo Court and Jefferson Close, this activity transferred to the large car park behind the Ealing Christian Centre, which is overlooked by residents of Blondin Avenue and Redwood Close. After representations to the Council's enforcement officers this activity ceased.

SUPPORTING YOUR RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Please think about becoming a Committee member of EFRA. We have a few vacancies that we would like to fill. We meet every six weeks or so to discuss local issues including planning applications and the delivery of local services. Local Councillors attend our meetings which gives us direct access to the Council's decision makers. Committee members will be available to discuss their role with local residents who might be interested in joining the Committee.

We are also looking for an additional Street Rep to cover Cranmer Avenue (part), Jefferson Close and Littlewood Close, who would help with the distribution of our Newsletter and act as our eyes and ears in the local neighbourhood. Again, speak to Committee members if you are interested in taking on that role for EFRA.

Help with our Website and E-Newsletters

The committee member who maintains our website is moving out of London, so we are looking for someone who can help with the management of our website and coordinate the production of our E-Newsletter.

These are important roles that keep us in touch with people in our local community. If you have the skills, do think about taking on these roles within EFRA.

NORTHFIELDS TUBE STATION

Northfields Tube Station is at the heart of our community. Over the last few years we have reported that the Council has been working with TfL on improvements to Northfields Tube Station forecourt and the crossing opposite the station. The crossing has now been installed but unfortunately the other improvements to the forecourt (including new lighting and new cycle racks) have been abandoned for budgetary and other reasons.

Other works however are in hand to the ticket hall itself. As a result there will be changes to the way customers will be able to buy tickets. As part of this process, the ticket office at the station has closed. TfL tell us that the new ticketing arrangements at the station will give better flexibility, for example by allowing staff to offer refunds. Staff will also be on hand in the ticket hall and elsewhere in the station complex to help with ticketing and other enquiries.

From September the Piccadilly Line will be running all night on Fridays and Saturdays. This will inevitably mean that there will be more people around the station in the early hours of Saturday and Sunday mornings from the autumn. As the local residents' association we will keep a close eye on the impact of 24 hour operation of the Tube on our community.

Do contact us with any concerns you may have with these changes through our website. Our email address is contact@efra.org.uk

Contacting EFRA
If you have any local concerns, please email us at:
contact@efra.org.uk

HEATHROW EXPANSION

The Airport Commission chaired by Howard Davies is expected to publish its final report this Summer. No specific date has been provided.

Recommendations will be made on three short-listed proposals, two at Heathrow and one at Gatwick (for further information, see our January E-Newsletter). Both Heathrow and Gatwick have ramped up their marketing efforts to get public opinion behind their projects. The pro-Heathrow camp emphasises the potential benefits of an expansion to the local economy and appears to indicate that Heathrow will not be viable without it. There is no evidence at this point that the airport would not continue to thrive if the 3rd runway were not built.

The Government will have to make a decision about the recommendations and how to take them forward. Whatever its decision, there will be further public consultations before any scheme can go ahead.

In addition to the expansion debate, and not entirely dependent on it, there is still uncertainty about NATS' flight path plans. In South Ealing, we need to be vigilant about these as they could have an impact on us even if expansion at Heathrow does not go ahead. We will continue to report on this and other Heathrow issues in our E-Newsletters posted at www.efra.org.uk.

Ealing Fields Residents' Association (EFRA) subscribes to both the Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise (HACAN) and Ealing Aircraft Noise Action Group (EANAG).

We therefore appreciate your subscriptions and donations which enable us to continue to support, and affiliate to, these vital voluntary groups.

LOCAL HISTORY

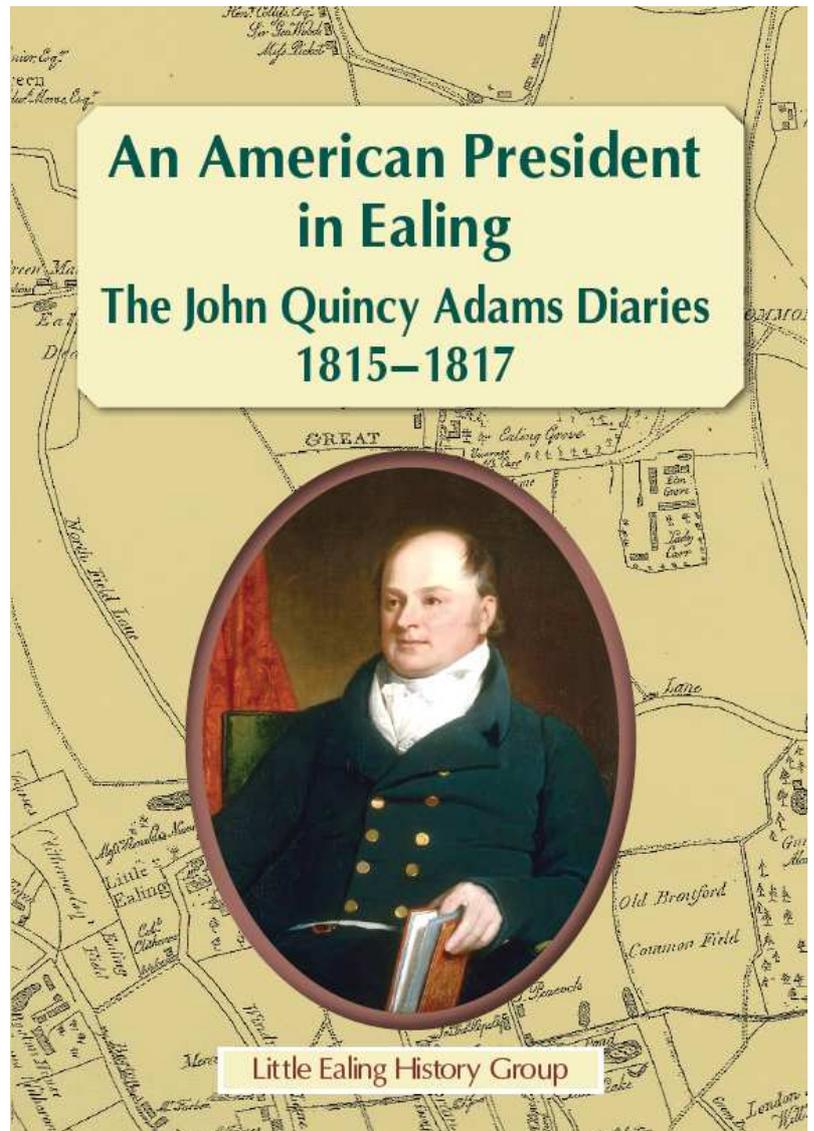
Following on from the success of *Little Ealing: a walk through history*, the **Little Ealing History Group**, which grew out of an EFRA Millennium project, has produced a second book.

It is based on the detailed diaries kept by future American President John Quincy Adams, who served as the United States representative in Great Britain between 1815 and 1817 and lived with his family at Little Boston House in Windmill Road on the border of Ealing and Brentford.

Adams's record of his two years here provides a fascinating insight, not only into his life and thought, but also into Ealing life and society in the early nineteenth century.

The 94-page full-colour book, which costs £10, is available from: Darch & Duff, 90 Northfield Avenue; Paperback Coffee Shop, 153 South Ealing Road; and Kaboodles, 71 St Mary's Road.

It can also be ordered on line from:
www.littleealinghistory.org.uk
(free delivery within the EFRA area).



On **Wednesday 8th July at 7.30pm at the Log Cabin**, 269 Northfield Avenue, the Little Ealing History Group will be presenting an illustrated talk on the book. There will be a small charge of £2 at the door and this will be deducted from the price of the book if you buy a copy there.

Ward Forum

The next Ward Forum will be at
Mount Carmel Primary School

At 7.30pm on
Wednesday 10th June.

Police updates

Residents are invited to register with the Northfield Ward Police Team to receive the team's **monthly email** and **quarterly residents' survey**.

Register by emailing:
Northfield.snt@met.police.uk

Blondin Festival

Sunday 6th September

We are pleased to announce that due to popular demand the 'Brentford Festival' will be returning to Blondin Park for another year.

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