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The Hammersmith Society announced this year's winners of its prestigious Awards presented by the Society's patron, Cllr Emma Apthorp, Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham, on Wednesday 22 June at Latymer Upper School.

The Environment Award

The Palladium, Shepherd's Bush Green



This building first opened in 1923 as the Palladium Cinema and was more recently the Walkabout Pub. The original arched front of the cinema is retained in the new building built by the Dorset Hotel as an annexe with serviced accommodation and entertainment space. The design we now see was developed through many consultations between a dedicated planning officer and the architects, together with the Historic Buildings Group and the Hammersmith Society. The building is a great contribution to the streetscape on this side of the Green and makes a confident but respectful

companion to its distinguished neighbours, the Shepherds Bush Empire and the Dorsett Hotel. To the rear, the building steps down, reducing its impact on the Pennard Road houses behind. The original cinema ticketing signage is reproduced on one side of the building facing the side lane which is now completely renovated, including new lighting, and provides an inviting short cut to the Green. This building is a significant contribution to the general renewal of Shepherds Bush Green. (Architect: Flanagan Lawrence)

The Nancye Goulden Award

The Elder Press Cafe, Black Lion Lane



The Nancye Goulden Award is intended to single out smaller schemes which have improved the local environment. The Elder Press Cafe used to be the office of a local builder with the builder's yard alongside. The builder moved on and the building has now been transformed into a popular local cafe. This conversion has been carried out with unusual care and sensitivity – the shop window is retained to bring life and light which animates this little street and the builder's yard is brought back to life as an outside seating area with fine new timber gates thrown open during the day. This is a

great asset to Black Lion Lane. (Architect: Bridges Associates)

Jane Mercer Award

The Green Project Shepherd's Bush



The Jane Mercer Awards is for schemes where there has been local community collaboration and co-operation. Plants and trees can transform the sameness of a residential street – and this is happening in some of the streets around Wormholt Park. Left-over corners at road junctions on Sawley Road which had been subject to fly-tipping have been turned into little pocket parks through something called The Green Project, a remarkable community initiative set up by Shepherd's Bush residents to make the neighbourhood greener and at the same time to bring the community together.

The project is run by hard work and enthusiasm and it has inspired a growing team of volunteers, assisted by a little landscape guidance and a small grant from W12Together and later money from the Neighbourhood Improvement Bid applied for in association with the Wormholt Residents Associations and approved by the resident-led Investment Group. Other community groups were also involved in planting and providing plants. Besides bringing the pleasure of plants and flowers, these improvements reflect the vital notion of civic pride, promoting the message that we care for our streets.

Wooden Spoons

Borough tree maintenance. The Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham rates poorly in a survey of tree coverage of London boroughs which was published on Earth Day this year. The Hammersmith Society have noted many young trees which have been planted by the Council but which have not survived and have died probably due to lack of watering, and there are many instances of inappropriate treatment of the paving around the trees. Trees bring life, colour and summer shade to urban streets and they help with the carbon reduction equation — but the borough needs more trees and better maintenance of young trees.

Cycleway in King Street. King Street is one of the principal arteries of Hammersmith Town Centre and the major surgery required to introduce the cycleway has been carried out not only without public consultation but without consideration by the Cycling and Walking Residents Commission which was set up for this specific purpose. Consultation would have provided an opportunity for the Council to explain the design and planning of the cycleway and at the same time to learn from, and respond to, the ideas and comments raised by the public. The Council advise that the current cycleway is an interim solution. A permanent design is currently in development, incorporating lessons learnt from the current scheme and taking account of the views of the borough residents. It seems to be a costly and inefficient way to progress a new cycleway. A programme for the testing of the interim scheme and the procedure for public consultation on the proposed permanent scheme are yet to be revealed.

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