

Walking Ealing Plaques – 2020

8 or 9 Plaque Walk starting Ealing Common Station (Piccadilly and District Lines)

Instructions:

1. From Ealing Common Underground Station turn left and walk along the Uxbridge Road for about 200m to the main traffic lights which cross the North Circular Road (A406).
2. Using the lights, cross over, firstly the North Circular Road to the Common and then across the Uxbridge Road to join North Common Road which runs parallel to the Uxbridge Road.
3. Follow the line of houses on your right-hand side. Immediately after St. Matthew's Church, at No. 7 North Common Road, you will see the **1st Plaque** to Dorothea Lambert Chambers (*
4. Continue to the end of North Common Road and re-join the Uxbridge Road continuing towards Ealing Broadway. The road is now called The Mall. At the junction coming in from the right (Haven Place and where there is a Metro Bank) cross this road but turn right into the road which is one-way to traffic. About 100yds on the left is a somewhat scruffy reddish door. Look up above this and slightly to the left you will see your **2nd Plaque** the Red Door. (*
5. Retrace your steps back to the main Uxbridge Road at Ealing Broadway but now turn right. Cross the road at the first pedestrian crossing and then walk to the right. You will see, on your left Ealing Broadway Centre where, once on this site, was Oak Street where Charles Hamilton lived at No. 15. Charles was an author who, under the name of Frank Richards wrote the Billy Bunter stories. Somewhere it is recorded and photographed there is a plaque on a red brick wall but, after a number of walks around the outside, I was unable to find this. However, between the Centre and Windsor Road, there is a small lane called Oak Road. Extra points for anyone who can locate the **3rd Plaque**. (*
6. From the Uxbridge Road walking around the outside of the shopping centre, turn left into the High Street. Continue straight until you join a small green to your right and get to the corner of The Grove a road on the left leading to the back of the Shopping Centre. Cross over the main road at the lights away from the Shopping Centre and continue ahead in the direction you were going. Use the small slip road past West London College (Ealing Site), the Jehovah Witness Centre and some very pretty cottages, until you reach Ealing Studios.
7. Walk to the furthest point of the Studios where you will see your **4th Plaque** to Sir Michael Balcon. (*
8. Continue along Ealing Green Road until you see the University of Westminster building on the left hand side of the road. Cross over at the pedestrian crossing to find your **5th Plaque** to Lady Byron. (*

9. Take the road left around the University (Warwick Road) which finally leads to Ealing Common (approximately ½ mile). When you reach the Common, with The Grange pub on the left hand corner, turn right into Warwick Dene. Keep on the right-hand side of the road until you get to the junction of Elm Grove Road. Turn right and, at No. 3, you will find your **6th Plaque** to Margot Fonteyn.
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10. Cross over the road to the Church (All Saints) where there is your **7th Plaque** to Spencer Perceval – a Green Plaque no less.
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11. Turn left and retrace your steps to the corner but this time walk straight ahead with the Common on your left (Elm Avenue). Continue to the end to meet Gunnersbury Avenue (A406). Turn right, keeping on the right-hand side until you reach No. 35 your **8th Plaque**, Sid James.
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NOTE: There is an extended option at this point (no. 12) but you may wish to go straight to Instruction 13 below.

12. Carefully cross over the main road, turn right walking down Gunnersbury Avenue, over the railway bridge until you get to No. 74, your **9th Plaque** to Arthur Haynes.
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13. To return to Ealing Common Station, turn left retracing your route but stay on the East side of Gunnersbury Avenue. When you meet the Common at Leopold Road, turn right across the mini Common to Ealing Common Station.

Carole McLoughlin

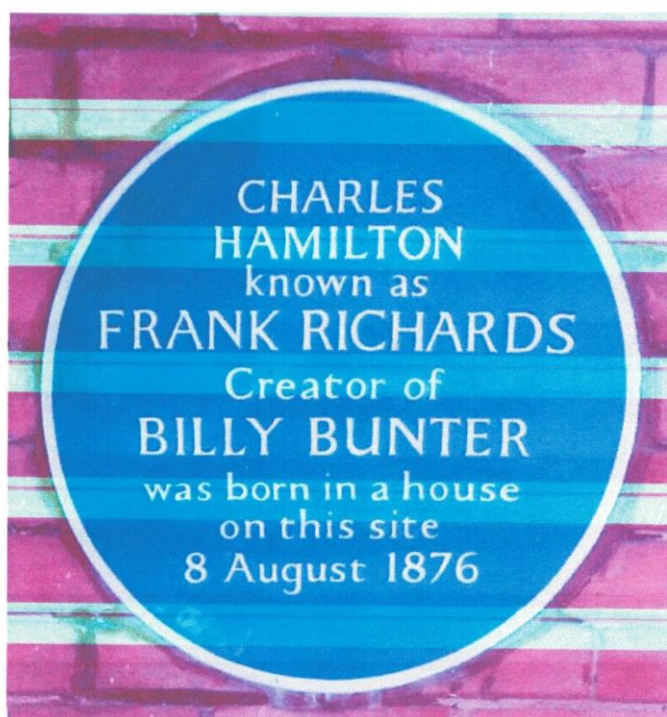
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Further details relating to each of the 9 Plaques

1st Plaque – Dorothea Douglass Lambert Chambers: nee Dorothea Katherine Douglass won 7 Wimbledon Women's Titles and a gold medal at the 1908 Summer Olympics. Born 1878 in Ealing she died in Kensington at the age of 81. Dorothea also wrote a book Tennis for Ladies.

2nd Plaque – The Ealing Jazz Club – founded by Alexis Korner and Cyril Davies. The Rock Club or Blues Club opened in 1959 but only lasted 4 years. Many of the 60s pop stars visited and cut their teeth in the club, including members of The Who, The Rolling Stones, Manfred Mann and Mitch Mitchell, drummer in the Jimmy Hendrix Experience and a local Acton lad. In 1962 Alexis and Cyril's band was called Blues Incorporated – the club had an “open mic” policy – and encouraged future stars to join them on stage. In 1962 a film was made of the Club “Suburban Steps to Rockland.

3rd Plaque – Somewhere on an outside wall of the Ealing Shopping Centre. Charles Hamilton lived at 15 Oak Street (now demolished), wrote under many pen-names and first published the stories of Billy Bunter in “The Magnet” comic.



Description	Blue plaque (erected by local group) to Charles Harold St. John Hamilton. Born 1876-08-08 died 1961-12-24. Author: wrote under the nom de plume of Frank Richards and Martin Clifford. Born: 15 Oak Street, Ealing W5 London UK. Grounds of
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4th Plaque - Sir Michael Elias Balcon. Became head of film production at Ealing Studios where, from this lowly place, were produced some of the best films ever made in the UK. He gave Alfred Hitchcock his first directing opportunity. In 1944 Ealing Studios was taken over by Rank Organisation and in 1955 Rank sold the studios to the BBC. Balcon left in 1956 and set up a production company called Ealing Films which distributed via MGM.

5th Plaque – Lady Noel Byron (wife, for a short time, of Lord Byron. They married in 1815 and separated 1816. Born Anne Isabella Milbanke in 1792 and from 1822-40 lived locally both at Fordhook House (note Fordhook Road opposite Ealing Common Station) and at Hanger Hill House. In 1833 she established Ealing Grove School for boys on the site of the current University. These were for boys of “common ranks”, who had an academic education of sorts plus gardening skills. The school closed in 1852. Their famous daughter was Ada Lovelace, the mathematician.

6th Plaque – Margot Fonteyn, the legendary ballerina. Margot was born in Reigate in 1919 Margot Evelyn Hookham with an Irish mother and Brazilian father and started dancing at the age of 4 years old. Owing to her father's job, the family moved to Shanghai when she was 8 years old where she continued her ballet lessons. At the age of 14, and to enhance her career, her mother brought her back to England and she attended the Sadler's Wells Ballet School. For her dancing career, she took up the name of Fonteyn (evolved from her mother's family). She died in Panama City in 1991.

7th Plaque – Spencer Perceval (the green plaque). In 1808 he and his wife Jane moved into the large mansion called Elm Grove and had 12 children. He was the only evangelical Prime Minister and was shot in the House of Commons by John Bellingham. After his death his wife married Colonel Henry Carr, son of the Vicar of Ealing. After her death, her four unmarried daughters moved into Pitzhanger Manor next door to their sister, Isabella, who had married Spencer Walpole. Frederica was 7 years old when her father died, lived until the age of 95. The Rothschild Family, who owned the land on which Elm Grove had been standing, donated the land and, in 1905, All Saints Church was built.

8th Plaque – Sid James was born Solomon Joel Cohen in South Africa to a middle class Jewish family. He was married three times, 1936-40 to Sadie Delmont, 1943-52 to Meg Williams and from 1952-76 to Valerie James and he had four children. A hard drinker, gambler and a philanderer, he died from a heart attack after a stage performance in Sunderland. He is, of course, remembered as the dry funny man in the famous Ealing 'Carry On' films.

9th Plaque – Arthur was born in Fulham in 1914 and was married from 1939-66 to Queenie W Banks. He first cut his teeth with Charlie Chester as part of the British Army's Concert Party troupe and from 1956-66 had a great TV presence which included his own show. He died of a heart attack in Ealing age 52.