

Heathrow

Community Bulletin

Autumn 2021



HEATHROW BETTER NEIGHBOUR PROGRAMME

In October we celebrated the opening of the Urban Garden Pavilion at Cranford Community College, one of our latest community investment projects, with local residents in Cranford and Heston.

Local community members and representatives from Heathrow, Keep Britain Tidy and the London Borough of Hounslow came together for the official opening ceremony. Guests enjoyed locally cooked food and drinks before gathering around the pavilion where the Mayor of Hounslow, Councillor Bishnu Gurung, cut the ribbon and pronounced the pavilion open to all!

Standing at 2.8 metres tall, with an internal seating area and filled with plants on each layer, this spherical garden makes for a striking addition to the college entrance. Currently the pavilion houses young plants – mainly perennials such as herbs (rosemary, thyme and sage) alongside tumbling ivy and tall grasses.

The Urban Garden Pavilion has been built by volunteers from the local community and is made almost entirely from plywood. Its clever design allows the pavilion to be slotted together like a giant jigsaw puzzle. Each layer is filled with plants to bring the pavilion to life. With its internal seating area, the pavilion becomes a place where visitors can enter, rest and connect with their natural surroundings.

This project forms part of the Heathrow Better Neighbour Programme.

HEATHROW RANGERS

Our Rangers have been busy over the autumn completing a variety of projects in the Harmondsworth allotments in preparation for a grand opening attended by the Deputy Mayor of Hillingdon. The works were carried out to support the charity MIND to help create a sensory garden for users to enjoy, especially autistic children who benefit from the different elements in the garden. The works included clearing of the area, building and installing a shed, a bench and some colourful planters, plus the creation of a pond to attract insects to improve biodiversity.

The Rangers have also helped transform Pippins Primary School by painting and decorating the hall and communal area, as well as custom-building and installing large planters for each class. The school reports that the children are excited about their new planters and will take great joy in ensuring their plants are well maintained.

HEATHROW'S INFRASTRUCTURE TEAM GOES GREEN

On Friday 15 October the infrastructure team at Heathrow got their hands dirty with some important habitat works.

The Biodiversity team and contractors from Ecology & Habitat Management Ltd. were pleased to welcome back their first volunteer team since the first lockdown last year. Planned by Biodiversity Conservation Officers Charlie and Emma, this was a rewarding and productive day for all involved.

Hosted at the landside site at Princes Lakes, one of Heathrow's 13 award-winning biodiversity sites, this historic water skiing club has been maintained for biodiversity and conservation since being taken over in 2012. Some of the habitats now found here include woodland, reed beds, meadows and scrub. They are all vital in supporting local populations of wildlife. On two of the islands located at the site volunteers were set the task of pushing back scrub including bramble, hawthorn and buddleia, to allow the meadows to continue spreading and flourishing. Buildings and infrastructure from the previous landholder remain, around which hefty trees and plants are beginning to grow. Removing these was another task set on the day!

Lisa Lewis, who organised the event on behalf of the infrastructure team said after the event:

"A truly great day was had by all... to be able to enjoy the outdoors whilst achieving such a rewarding experience in helping towards the maintenance of these lovely biodiversity sites, it is beneficial to everyone who participated, as well as our precious habitats."



UNIVERSITY OF WEST LONDON: HEATHROW ARCHIVE

The Heathrow Archive was first deposited to the University of West London in 2015. The archive collection tells the story of Heathrow's history from 1946 to 2016 and originates from the British Airport Authority (BAA) which operated Heathrow from 1965 until 2006.

There are more than 800 items within the collection currently, however the university is looking to grow the archive further and also looking for support from those that can share their stories.

This might be donating items to the archive: photos, memorabilia, uniforms, models, leaflets etc. These materials would form part of the archive and would be kept safe as a reference for future generations.

Alternatively, the university is also looking for local residents or previous airport workers to share positive stories about their experiences at the airport. Their stories will be recorded by a filmmaker and featured as part of the archive and exhibition.

If you have a story or an item you'd like to share then please contact Anne-Marie Purcell, archivist for the Heathrow collection:

anne-marie.purcell@uwl.ac.uk

Items can be posted or dropped off in person. The archive is on the third floor of the university's Paul Hamlyn Library.

Heathrow Archive
University of West London
Ealing
W5 5RF



Access is by appointment only, available Monday to Friday 10:00am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 4:00pm.

You can find out more by clicking this link to visit the [University of West London](https://www.uwl.ac.uk) website.

HEATHROW TEAMS UP WITH MICROSOFT

Heathrow has partnered with Microsoft to trial the world's first artificial intelligence system to combat illegal wildlife trafficking. Project SEEKER detects animal trafficking in the cargo and baggage passing through the airport by scanning up to 250,000 bags each day. It recorded more than a 70% successful detection rate and was particularly effective at identifying ivory items such as tusks and horns. By identifying more trafficked items and detecting them earlier, authorities have more time, scope and data to pursue criminals and to combat the \$23 billion illegal wildlife trafficking industry.

In addition to Microsoft, Project SEEKER was developed in partnership with UK Border Force and Smiths Detection and is supported by the Royal Foundation. Microsoft developers taught Project SEEKER to identify animals or items such as the illegal products used in medicines. Trials at Heathrow have demonstrated that the algorithm can be trained on any species in only two months. The technology automatically alerts security and Border Force officers when it detects an illegal wildlife item in cargo or baggage scanners. Objects that have been seized can then be used as evidence in criminal proceedings against smugglers.

Following the pioneering trials at Heathrow, Microsoft is now calling on conservation organisations, law enforcement agencies and other major transport hubs to deploy Project SEEKER to help improve the capabilities of the artificial intelligence model.

AIRSPACE MODERNISATION

In the Summer bulletin we told you about how Heathrow is supporting the Government's Airspace Modernisation Strategy – the national programme to modernise and upgrade the UK's airspace.

Heathrow's Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) to support airspace modernisation will seek to redesign flight paths to and from the two existing runways using newer technologies, such as satellite-based navigation. It is anticipated that new flight paths will be implemented in the period 2027 to 2029 following a full public consultation on final flight path options, likely to be in 2025.

The ACP is broken into seven stages. In the first stage, Heathrow submitted its Statement of Need to the CAA in July, setting out our objectives for the airspace change. The next step requires us to engage with stakeholders to set our 'design principles' for the airspace change, set out below.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

In September and October we held a series of online workshops with stakeholder groups and members of the public to hear their views and to help generate a list of design principles. These are strategic policy objectives and criteria that Heathrow seeks to achieve through the airspace design including policy, safety, environmental and operational objectives.

In November a second round of workshops took place with stakeholders to confirm these views and condense them down into a short-list of final design principles. These will be taken forward to the formal CAA assessment in early 2022 before progressing to the second stage of the ACP process, which focuses on developing and assessing early design options.



HEATHROW COMMUNITY TRUST

The Heathrow Community Trust (HCT) is pleased to let you know that the Projects for Young People programme is now open to new applications.

The programme's criteria are outlined below. Further information and an application form can be found on the Trust's website by clicking this link:

[Projects for Young People](#)

- Grants of up to £7,500 available for one-year projects with a total cost up to £30,000
- Applications opened 15 Nov 2021
- Applications close on 17 Jan 2022
- Projects can't start before 14 Feb 2022
- Open to new organisations and those previously funded by HCT

HCT also plans to reopen its [Environment and Sustainability](#) and [Communities Together](#) programmes soon and will share details on its website and social channels.

- Communities Together Round 1 opens 10 December 2021 for grants of up to £2,500 for projects with a total cost of up to £10,000
- The Environment and Sustainability programme opens on 17 January 2022 for grants of up to £7,500 for projects with a total cost of up to £30,000

If you have any questions or would like to join the HCT mailing list, please contact the team at hct@groundwork.org.uk

CONTACT US

As always, our team is here to help with any questions you have about Heathrow. Please get in touch – give us a call or drop us an email:
t: 0800 307 7996
e: communityrelations@heathrow.com

HEATHROW ACADEMY

As a result of the global pandemic, employment for many people in the aviation sector has been impacted. The Heathrow Employment & Skills Academy is playing its part to help support those currently looking for work.

The Heathrow Employment & Skills Academy currently has over 200 live vacancies at the airport mostly in retail, food and beverage and travel services. For more information and to apply please visit www.heathrowacademy.co.uk

HEATHROW OPERATIONAL UPDATE

In October we forecasted 730 to 900 flight movements a day during November, plateauing as additional traffic from the opening of the US was offset by the reduction in short-haul leisure travel at the end of Summer. The lowest daily number of flights in the month was 747 (10 Nov) and the highest was 886 (28 Nov), well within our predicted range.

Our forecast for the month of December is between 500 and 1,070 flight movements a day; the large range owing to typically far fewer flights on Christmas Day. However, while growth is expected in December which is normal for this time of year, this may be impacted by the new Omicron variant and fresh global travel restrictions.

In June 2021 we mobilised Terminal 4 as a dedicated red list arrivals facility for all passengers arriving into Heathrow from red list countries. As several countries have now been newly added onto the red list, Terminal 4 reopened as a separate arrivals facility for red list countries from 1 December – separating these arrivals from other passengers in our other terminals. We support the Government's temporary measures to protect public health as we learn more about the new variant.



FREE FLU JABS

Heathrow has 2,000 free flu jab vouchers for local residents who would like to further protect themselves this winter, on a first-come-first-served basis. Visit the Boots website to book your jab (link on voucher) and select from over 2,000 stores. At check-out enter the voucher code to make the appointment free. To request your voucher please contact the Community Relations team from Tuesday 14 December (see left). The flu jab normally costs £15. The voucher is only redeemable at Boots and expires on 31 January 2022.