

Greenford's Rector becomes Borough Alderman

From a London Borough of Ealing Press Release-

“A Government minister, a Rector and a West Country greengrocer were among the 19 former Ealing councillors honoured for their years of public service on Tuesday 19th June, 2007.



They were bestowed as Honorary Aldermen of the borough, in recognition of their service to the Council and the borough's residents. Many of them had served alongside each other or debated issues across the Council chamber and were re-united at a ceremony in the Mayor's parlour before the Full Council meeting. All three party groups on the Council then praised their work and achievements during the meeting. Ealing's Mayor, Councillor Mrs Diana Pagan, said: "Every one of this group has been a loyal and dedicated servant to the borough and worked tirelessly for many years to make Ealing a better place. "It is right that the Council shows its appreciation for their hard work and devotion."

The rector named was in fact our Rector, the Revd. Neil Richardson, who was among those honoured. The Council paper noted that he had been elected four times to four different wards between 1986 and 2002. Neil was a member of the Borough Education Committee from 1984 (when he represented the Church of England,) and then from 1986 when he sat in his own right as an elected Member until the demise of the Committee in 2000 as the new Cabinet system was introduced. Neil became Chair of the Ealing Borough Education Committee from 1998 until 2000. He was also a member of Ealing's Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) from 1987 until the present day. He chaired SACRE from 1987-2000, and then again from 1994-2002. Neil was a member of numerous other committees and Council panels during his 16 years as a Member of the Council.



In addition to this community involvement, recognition of his hard work and commitment to the Parish of Greenford Magna was expressed when the Bishop of London appointed Neil to the honorary position of a Prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral in 2002.

Among the other new Aldermen were several luminaries, including- The Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn MP who is currently the

Secretary of State for International Development and MP for Leeds Central; Wolf Feldman; Brenda Hall; Frank Impey; Ron Johnston; Stephen Sears; Len Turner; Walter Ward and Tony Oliver. Neil was pleased to be included in this company.