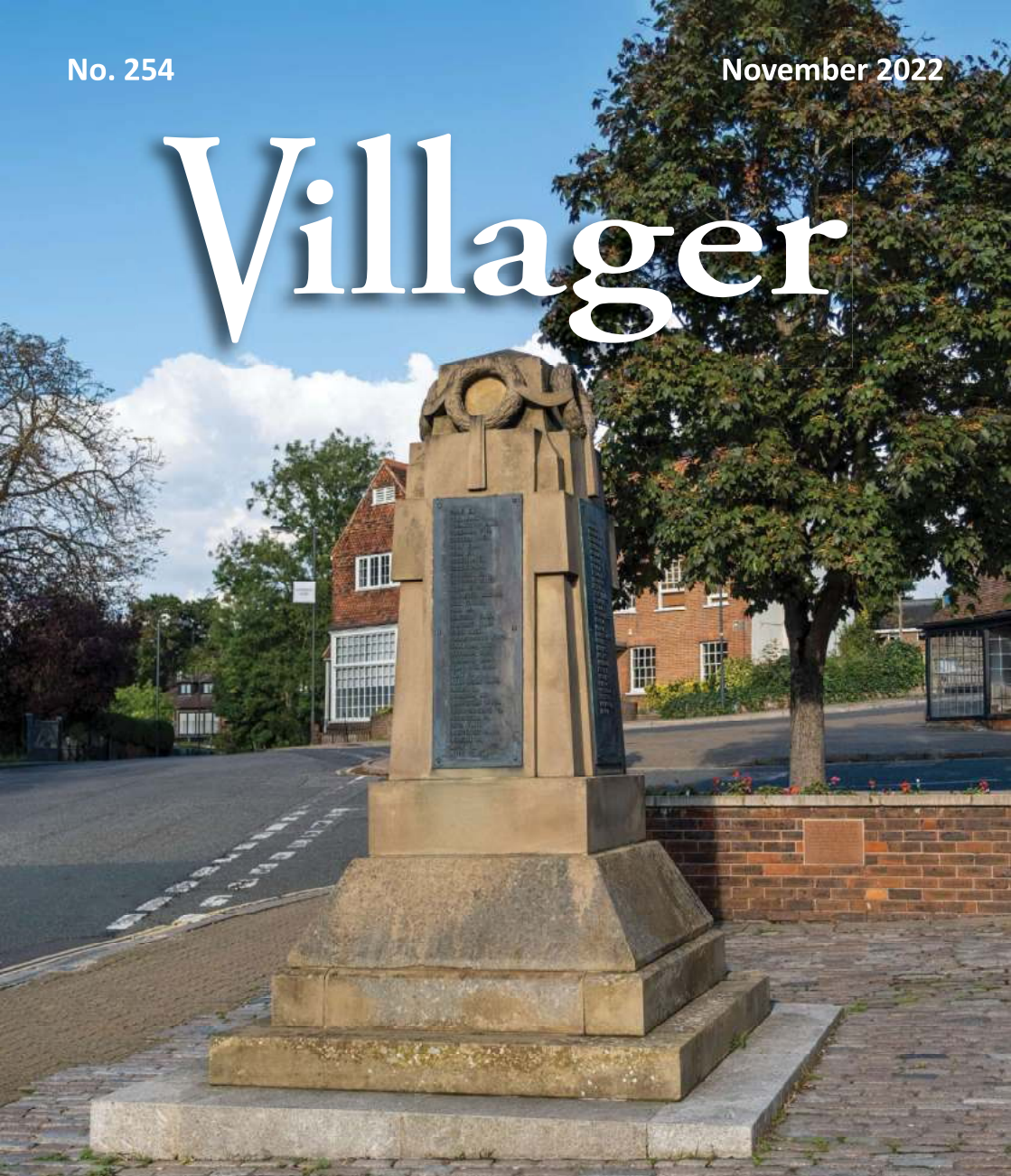


Villager



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THE Villager

Magazine of The Pinner Association

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£7 per household (2 members), £5 (concession) for single person households.

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THE MYSTERY UNCOVERED

THE INNER WORKINGS OF THE PINNER ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE.

Some of you might be put off joining the committee, as you don't know what we do. It was once the same for me. So, here's a quick rundown of why we exist and how it all works.

Why we exist

We aim to conserve and enhance the quality of life in Pinner, working in partnership with residents and local government.

We are non-party-political, and our membership is open to everyone who lives and/or works in Pinner; this is irrespective of ethnicity or gender.

What we do

We have specialist teams focused, among other things, on the High Street and other conservation areas, the environment, planning, transport, parking, and flood protection, all co-ordinated by our Chair and the Executive Committee.

The Committee

The Association is run by an Executive Committee that meets 11 times a year, be it on Zoom or in person, on the first Tuesday in the month. The exception to this is January, when we don't meet. To make decisions, we require a quorum of seven committee members. Local Councillors and visitors are very welcome to attend our committee meetings, but do not have a vote.

Without the work of the officers and members of the Executive Committee, all of whom are volunteers as well as trustees of the charity, your Association could not exist. Officers and committee members, who must be members of the Association, are elected at the AGM, having been nominated by two current members. There are seven Officers of the Association and up to 10 elected committee members (we currently have vacancies). Up to three additional members may be co-opted onto the Committee. All posts are honorary, unpaid positions.

The President is our figurehead, taking on ceremonial duties and the post is normally filled by someone who has served in several of the Officer posts.

Chair - the office may be held for three years and is one of the workhorses of the Association. The current Chair sees part of the role to be promoting the Pinner Association throughout Pinner & Pinner South.

Vice Chair - The incumbent assists the Chair and usually takes over at the end of the Chair's three years. We are desperately looking for someone to step up to the plate and fill this role, as the current Chair is only in place until April 2024.

Secretary - This role involves the organisation of the committee meetings, liaising with the Chair on the agenda, taking the minutes and keeping the Minute Book, booking the Pinner Village Hall Lounge for the meetings (in non-Covid restricted times), and organising the AGM. The Secretary is the first point of contact for many of those who make enquiries of the Association and answers queries from members and others (we get enquiries from all over the world). The Secretary liaises, when necessary, with our Ward Councillors and with Harrow Council Officers. The Secretary is also responsible for making the required Annual Return and Annual Report to the Charity Commission.

Treasurer - Our current Treasurer is one of up to three named people who may authorise day-to-day expenses, with expenditure over a certain amount requiring a vote of the whole committee. He is responsible for giving an update of our finances and producing the annual accounts that, once examined, are presented to the Charity Commission. He also ensures that our public liability insurance covers all of our activities, and co-ordinates the Gift Aid on members' subscriptions.

Membership Secretary - Our current incumbent is the lynch pin between the Treasurer and the Area Leaders. The Area Leaders organise our volunteers (Collectors) to deliver The Villager to you and, if you haven't signed up to Direct Debit, collect the membership fee. Our grateful thanks to all of the team. She is also responsible for maintaining the membership list.

Editor of The Villager – The Editor is responsible for the presentation and content of The Villager and liaises with the Advertisement Manager. The main flurry of activity occurs in the month and a half before the magazine comes through your door. When the magazine is at the first proof stage, having been thoroughly proof-read by the Editor, it is then checked page by page by the Editorial Committee. Any errors which have been overlooked are, it is hoped, picked up at this stage, and the content scrutinised to ensure it contains nothing libellous, offensive or party-political. We have recently recruited some of our members to help gather information for Talking Shops and Eavesdropper.

Committee members take on responsibility for the Association's different interests. These include:

Planning - We have a dedicated group of committee members who have the expertise to review all planning applications. Their backgrounds include RIBA stage 2 qualified, a building safety specialist and a member who is totally self-taught. If an application doesn't conform to the planning regulations, they will submit objections to Harrow Council Planning Team. Contrary to popular belief, we don't object to about 90% of planning applications submitted in Pinner. The group has recently spent a lot of time looking at the proposed changes to the five-year plan on housing.

Environment - We have committee members who take great interest in our environment, lobbying the Council about the amount of rubbish in all of our parks and the state of the footpaths. We pay gardeners to look after the Peace Garden and the wisteria in the Memorial Park. This is supplemented by volunteers who, when the weather permits, meet once a week. We also look after the Bridge Street Gardens and the Station Garden and pay for the flowers outside the Police Station.

Highways & Parking - We have a retired councillor who reviews all proposed changes to the CPZ areas, proposed 20mph speed zones, the location of zebra crossings, and other proposed traffic and parking schemes. Our views are fed back to the relevant department in Harrow Council.

Public Transport - We have a retired TfL manager who attends the Harrow Public Transport Users' Association and feeds back information to the Committee and, as necessary, takes up issues with the appropriate bodies.

Police Liaison - This is being covered by a committee member attending the Safer Neighbourhood Panel meetings, liaising with the Pinner and Pinner South Safer Neighbourhood Teams (our local police) and reporting back to the committee.

Publicity - As well as having a website, where we happily display local events for charities and clubs that are happening within Pinner, we have a Facebook page and Twitter account. We use these to keep people informed about crime as well as specific interests such as the Waxwell Lane Car Park development and, in the past, the voids under Pinner Wood School. Where we have items of interest, we will also submit copy to My Pinner News. We also publicise events for other clubs and organisations.

Events – Organising these is allocated to different Committee members. Events include the annual Band Concerts. One person takes the lead, booking the bands, the park, managing the publicity, organising the “heavy mob” (for setting up and packing away), the stewards, refreshment providers and first aider. Every year another member arranges with the Council for the Christmas trees and festive lights to be erected on the High Street and Bridge Street. We have a small team that has helped organise the Remembrance Sunday act of remembrance. The cost of these events is paid for through our members' annual subscriptions, with additional support from our local Councillors' discretionary funds (festive lights). In normal circumstances, our Membership Secretary organises an annual Collectors' afternoon tea party, to say thank you to all of our volunteers who deliver The Villager and collect subscriptions.

High Street - This is chaired by a committee member, with other participants including a retired High Street trader, our Hon Architect and two Pinner residents. The High Street team takes particular note of all planning and listed building applications in the High Street Conservation Area and comments on these when necessary, with the aim of preserving the special character of the High Street.

Other roles include:

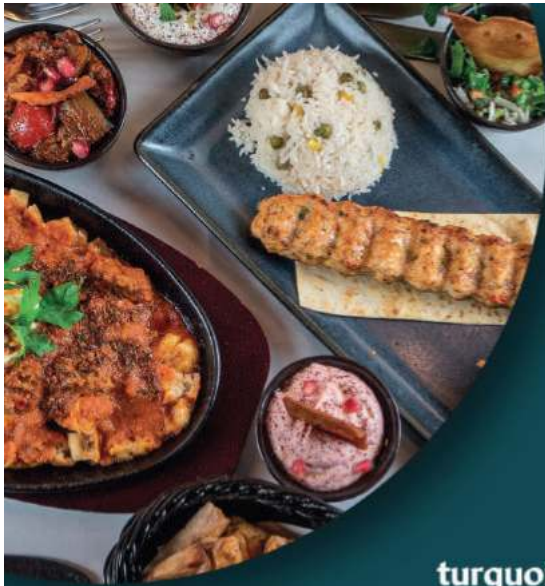
Advertisement Manager – This person is responsible for the ads that appear in The Villager magazine, dealing with queries about advertising in the magazine, invoicing and liaison with our type-setter. The current Manager would happily relinquish this role to someone else. (There is no cold-calling involved).

Notice Board Administrator - This role is currently filled by two of our younger members. Once a week, someone visits our four notice boards to replace out of date flyers, put up the new ones and remove any non-charitable flyers.

Railings at Bridge Street Gardens – The Association persuaded the Council to allow posters on these railings and, in turn, is responsible for ensuring that they conform to the regulations, and also for removing posters that are out-of-date.

Liaison - The Committee also liaises with outside groups. A member sits on the Harrow Conservation Areas Advisory Committee. This group works closely with Harrow Council conservation officers and reviews all planning applications made in a conservation area.

Your association is a member of the Harrow Heritage Trust, London Green Belt Council,



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We liaise with Pinner Business Club, Pinner & District Community Association, West House and Heath Robinson Museum, Eastcote Residents' Association & The Hatch End Association.

I hope that you now have a better understanding of what we do on your behalf. If you are interested in becoming a committee member, please contact me. I'll happily answer any other questions that you might have or find an expert to do this. chairman@pinnerassociation.co.uk or ring 020 8429 3194.

Julie Waller
Chair

Registered Charity Number: 262349

The contact details of the committee have been removed

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Hon Architect

Hon Surveyor

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Noticeboard Administrator

LIAISON

Eastcote Residents' Association

Hatch End Association

**Website: www.pinnerassociation.co.uk
E-mail: information@pinnerassociation.co.uk
Facebook: PinnerAssociation**

THE Villager

MAGAZINE OF THE PINNER ASSOCIATION

No. 254

November 2022

FROM THE EDITOR

A Sense of Absence

Not being good with crowds, I was not keen to go but, after I had given way with as good grace as possible, we soon find ourselves on a very ordinary Bakerloo Line to Charing Cross on the Friday before the Queen's funeral. Out into Trafalgar Square, through Admiralty Arch and the traffic's grumble drops away, the peremptory police instructions lose their bite.

As I feared, along The Mall there are the trophy hunters, selfie-sticks and fixed-smile poses, caustic shouts and self-conscious banter, the ankle-snapping buggies with no-mercy pushers, aggressively considerate marshals, and the first defiant campers facing three nights' chill with forced and slightly deranged defiance.

But then, as we skirt the gilded palace railings, the silence wraps around us. Behind those gates, dark and empty, Buck House stands like a discarded suitor, guarded by a clockwork sentry. Above him, the abandoned balcony, focus of so many cheering crowds, now blank and grey, empty save for waving ghosts.

We climb Constitution Hill, unsure where all the flowers have gone until finally, by guesswork and instinct, we come into that space. A hundred thousand flowers, so many of them drooping, wilting – what better metaphor – the messages, the poems that, in other times would be scorned for pathos, a lack of scansion and appalling rhymes, but here seen for what they are, a statement of love, direct, unfiltered, personal.

A deeper silence binds us, companionable and warm, despite the biting wind. No cheery banter, just a sense of being where we should be, no clear and structured explanation, just a sense of something bigger that matters more than deadlines, shopping lists, television favourites or comfortable feet.

And, though I would have justified her role with logic, not emotion, as better than any alternative, I feel now that sense of bereavement, collective and personal, seeping past my intellectual mask of sophistication. I have no wish to analyse why I should mourn someone I've never met; I simply know that there is a hole in the fabric of my life. A small hole, not terminal, but a sense of absence.

We define ourselves too often by our differences. Here, in this moment, we are defined by our commonalities. It is uplifting, confusing, comforting and deeply, surprisingly moving.

The Joys of Shopping

Like many people, I suspect, I have always found shopping a necessary but rather unstimulating pursuit; there is none of the glamour of the hunter-gatherer role in queuing at Sainsbury's. But, to my surprise, I have really enjoyed returning to it since the lifting of Covid restrictions.

There is a quiet pleasure in walking into Pinner, seeing people you know and stopping for a quick chat, working through the list and, often, picking up a reward – Foodiewuudies is always my main landing place for the guilty pleasure of a home-made slice of cake, despite the eccentric spelling – then a walk back through the park. Even the most demanding day can be lifted by a quick excursion.

I don't know what the clichéd 'new normal' will turn out to be, none of us do. And, yes, there is still that slight concern about personal safety; the 'should I/shouldn't I' of wearing a mask, holding your breath as you pass someone, timing your tube journeys, but at heart we are social animals and need to find ourselves out among others.

One of the more interesting and useful pieces of new thinking among urban planners is the 15-minute city, where all you need on a daily basis is within fifteen minutes' walk or bike ride. Pinner achieves that (we even have one building society left) and strikes a good balance between the under-resourced and isolated village and the big, shapeless suburb.

Anne Coleman

We were saddened to hear of the death of Anne Coleman. For many years, Anne gave great support both to the West House Project that created the Heath Robinson Museum and to Pinner House, which provides sheltered accommodation for elderly people, and where she held the post of Financial Controller until the age of 89, an age that meant that many of the residents there were significantly younger than her.

A keen motor rally enthusiast in her youth, she met her husband Nick at a rally meeting. She also loved music, which led to her becoming company secretary to the English Chamber Orchestra and was a very skilled gardener, carrying off many prizes at Pinner and Harrow fruit and vegetable shows.

Her work for our community is greatly appreciated and will not be forgotten.

Phil Lawder
Editor



SOLD IN YOUR AREA

by



Andrew Pearce

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VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

It's with a sad heart that I start with a mention of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. For most of us, this is the first time that we have experienced the demise of a monarch. In my view she was the ultimate civil servant to serve our country. Thank you, ma'am, for everything you did; may you Rest in Peace. Long Live the King.

Band Concerts



Simply Gray

Getting authorisation from Harrow Council to enable us to hold the Band Concerts wasn't quite as bad as last year. We eventually got the go-ahead for all of them on 21 June 22. I have been informed that this process will be the responsibility of the Harrow Arts Centre, and I hope this will improve matters. This will be a relief to us, WH&HRM Trust, Rotary Club of Pinner, Friends of Roxbourne Park and Friends of Pinner Village Gardens, who organise events. Our thanks go to Sharon Pink who arranged for the flyers and banners redesigned this year. It made our job of handing them out at Pinner Wood School and West Lodge School a lot easier.

For all of you who braved the high temperatures and



Paparazzi



Stardust Big Band

attended the Band Concerts, thank you. (Especially those on the 14 August, when it reached 33°C). These concerts wouldn't happen without a wonderful group of volunteers who give up their free time to help. I am indebted to them. Most unusually, Harrow Steel didn't bring the rain with them this time!

Simply Gray set a new record when they overran by 45 minutes on the opening day. Those that stayed instead of rushing home to watch the football were treated to a fine extended set.

We made a donation to the 5th Pinner Scouts for the loan of their Public Address system at the concerts.

Harrow Foodbank

With the escalating cost of living, the committee decided to give a donation of £1,000



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to the Harrow Foodbank on behalf of our members. Chonde Nkowane, Project Manager, asked me to convey the following: “Many thanks indeed to the Pinner Association for helping Harrow Foodbank to support the people in food crisis in our community during these unprecedented times”.

We are always looking at ways to support local charities/organisations with donations. If you have any ideas, please let me know.

Pinner Panto

For those of you who don't do social media, the Pinner Panto team have decided to disband. The organisers decided that it is 'no longer possible' to continue with this annual winter tradition. They have asked the Rotary Club of Pinner to distribute the remaining funds to local charities.

Harrow Council Planning Portal

If you have ever done battle with the council's planning portal, you will be relieved to hear that, at last, they now acknowledge that they have a problem. For the technically minded among you, they are looking to increase the processing power (a bit like putting a larger engine in a car) and make changes to the way that the files are stored on the system. My experience of IT projects is that this will take time, and, in the meantime, we have a system that constantly frustrates us until it is sorted.

Editor of the Villager.

Phil Lawder, who has been our guest editor, has stepped up to the plate and agreed to be our editor. Thank you, Phil. You will have noticed that changes are happening. Don't worry, favourites like Talking Shops and Eavesdropper are staying.

Volunteers' Tea Party.

After an absence of three years, we were able to hold our volunteers' tea party as a way of saying thank you for everything our Collectors and the Peace Gardens Team do on your behalf. As someone who is hopeless with names, I found it really helpful that everyone had a badge with their name on it. Hopefully, I managed to speak to most of you. If not, sorry, I ran out of time! Thank you, Alison (Membership Secretary), for organising this for us.

Pinner Village Show

Congratulations must go to the Rotary Club of Pinner who jumped through all the hoops and over the hurdles to hold this year's Village Show. An additional requirement this year was risk assessments being asked for from all of the stallholders etc. Thank you to all who dropped in and visited our stall. For those who completed our quiz “So you think you know Pinner!”, it might inspire you to get out and about around Pinner a bit more. Lindy won the “18 & Overs” category and Quinn won the “Under 18s” category. A full list of answers can be found on our website and Facebook pages.

Festive Lights.

Hopefully, by the time you receive this edition, some or all of the festive lights will have been switched on for Diwali. The Christmas trees will be switched on later.



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Our Chair, Julie Waller

Harrow Hero's Awards

I was very surprised back in August to discover that I had been shortlisted for Harrow's Heroes awards. Apparently, it's for bringing people together. There are a lot of volunteers out there who, in my opinion, do much more than I do. I'm humbled by the nomination; if it wasn't for the other committee members and all of

our volunteers, I wouldn't have been nominated.

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend the ceremony, as I was away on a trip that should have occurred in June 2022, but was delighted to hear that the award was won by Pinner resident David Phelops, who has done marvellous work through More Than Just a Choir, which brings together and benefits those touched by mental illness. Thank you to Harrow Council for organising this.

Part of my role as Chair of the Pinner Association is to talk to people. (For those of you that know me, I'm the quiet one of my family! My husband will confirm this.) It's a bit like being a politician without the politics.

Act of Remembrance

Planning for the annual Act of Remembrance started in July with a new team. This year, we will also be joined by a Jain priest, who will say a prayer. We look forward to seeing you at the War Memorial on Sunday, 13th November at 10:30am to pay our respects to the fallen from around the Commonwealth in all wars.

Looking Forward – Half Year recap.

It has struck me that I am nearly halfway through a possible three-year stint as your Chair. What worries the committee and me is that there is no natural successor. We really need to have a Vice Chair elected next year to ensure that they have a one-year apprenticeship before becoming Chair. Without a successor, the Pinner Association could cease to exist. I know that nowadays people have a lot of other commitments and interests, but we would love people to think seriously about joining the Committee and being an active member, irrespective of your ethnicity, background or gender. I have always said that I am a generalist with no special focus. Want to know more? Please email me Chairman@pinnerassociation.co.uk. I will happily meet you for a coffee.

Back at my first AGM, I said my aim was that the Association truly represented the ethnic mix of Pinner. Whilst we have seen some progress in terms of people attending the band concerts, progress is slow. I would love it to be faster, but these things take time. We have changed when the festive lights are first switched on, to ensure that Diwali is celebrated throughout the community. We have managed to generate more volunteers helping at the Band Concerts and Remembrance Service. This year the youngest was about 11 years old and the oldest is a secret. We now have a thriving group of volunteers that are helping restore the Peace Garden. For those of you who walk through it, I hope that you have seen the changes.

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A PINNER DIARY

First, an apology for appearing to welcome the presence of the heron in the Memorial Park in the spring. Visits across the summer have yielded not a single sighting of the thirty or so carp that had mysteriously arrived two years ago. No prizes for guessing where they are now, or for why the heron is now a much less frequent visitor.

The period of drought seems mercifully to have passed, though its effects will doubtless continue in our reservoirs for months. What was truly astonishing, however, was the speed of recovery of our gardens. Having gone away on 5 September, leaving a brown lawn and several dead plants, we returned a mere five days later to a green lawn and new life in what we had assumed was totally done for. Even a clematis believed dead in May is four feet up its fence.

Coincidentally on to our doormat plopped our water bill, accompanied by a congratulatory note on using less water than last year despite the temptations afforded by the heatwave and drought. Well, sorry Affinity Water, but we are not as virtuous as you think. Last year we went away for 10 nights in the same half year as we went away for 19 nights this year, so we were at home for almost exactly the same ratio of time as the reduction in our charges, 10 days fewer out of 183 as £8 less against £159.

All this only serves to show how easy it is to draw the wrong conclusions from statistics. Great was the rejoicing earlier in the summer at the revelation that the national economy had grown by 0.5% during May, contrary to expectations, until it eventually dawned, at least to some, that, because of the Platinum Jubilee, HMG had lifted the late Spring Bank Holiday out of May into June. Why our masters continue to measure economic performance on a monthly basis remains a mystery, as the number of productive days in each month alters each year. At least if it were measured 4-weekly, we would have a sporting chance, Easter apart, of comparing apples with apples.

At least we can believe the tsunami of statistics gushing from Nower Hill High School, which bucked the national trend, insofar as their students' achievements at both GCSE and A-level were better than in the previous 2 years, when results were based on teacher assessments rather than exams. This reflects massive credit not only on two cohorts of students who had to contend with unprecedented interruptions to their education, but also on the integrity of the staff who clearly did not indulge in the grade inflation believed to have been practised widely elsewhere. There's a report from Nower Hill later in the magazine (see Page 56), with information on what else they are doing.

Some very worrying statistics, however, emerged at a Harrow Healthwatch forum in September, enticingly called "You and Your GP". Apparently 20% of all doctors' appointments are now about delays in hospital appointments requested by doctors in previous consultations. It was then revealed that 40% of GPs plan to retire early. Hardly surprising given their reduced levels of job satisfaction.

Our much loved, if not revered, NHS does, though, sometimes shoot itself squarely in the foot. The Minor Injuries Unit at Mount Vernon Hospital has produced a helpful leaflet with opening hours, telephone number etc., but then announces that to go there you now need a prior appointment. My memory may not be what it was, but in the days when our children fell off their bikes and needed checking out there, I have no recollection of them giving us prior notice. Accidents by their nature happen, and rarely by prior appointment. Presumably the intention is to close the Unit down, in which case lack of use will be cited as the reason.

To try to cope with the ever-increasing demand for GP appointments and to free up telephone lines, our excellent Pinn Medical Centre has introduced "Patches", an online booking system. However, despite seeming to ask all the right questions, the software seems imbued with the spirit of CJ, whom older readers may remember as the tyrannical boss of Sunshine Desserts, whose employees were always granted audiences with him at times precisely opposite to that requested. Having typed that she would prefer to see a female doctor and that she could not make an appointment after 12.45 that day, Mrs.E., whilst surprised and delighted to be offered a same day appointment, was less than wholly grunted to read on and find out that it was with a male doctor at 2pm.

The Pinn though, rarely misses an opportunity to set a trend and, while for some years it has amused with its on- screen invitation to blood tests with Ms Phlebotomist Phlebotomist, tautology has really caught on nationally at last. First during the Tory leadership election, we had Liz Truss endlessly banging on about a "temporary moratorium " to something or other - I have yet to identify a permanent one - but at the Queen's Funeral Service the Classic FM commentator surpassed himself with his reference to "6 living former prime ministers who are still alive".

Nobody who watched any part of the Queen's funeral could fail to have been impressed by its solemnity, pageantry and public reaction, but it was sad to note that the Committal Service, billed for 4pm, started 11 minutes late. Had the ghost of Reggie Perrin, whose train to work was always 11 minutes late for a variety of exotic but plausible reasons, infiltrated the office of the Earl Marshal?

Elizabeth II was of course the first monarch to be buried in colour, which seemed slightly incongruous to those of us who remember that sombre day in 1952, seen on our 12 inch screens in black and grey, which somehow seemed more appropriate. Our primary school class were required to write an essay the next day, which gave a very unfair advantage to those who had a television, but the mood of the occasion was lightened by the disclosure that another 9 year old had written that the cortege was followed by three " royal ducks." Perhaps having the corgis there was not quite such an innovation after all.

The last Diary alluded to the unexpected exterior noise level of our new electric 183 buses. A recent ride on one, however, reveals that this is nothing compared to the squeaks and rattles inflicted on passengers. The entrance door in particular seemed to have been invaded by the entire population of the Memorial Park aviary, and a friend confirms that

this is common to most vehicles. The old crew operated buses lasted 40 years with the help of a 4-yearly overhaul. The new ones sound about to fall apart after 4 months.

Some 6 years ago Harrow Council spent £132,000 of our money re-paving Cuckoo Hill Drive, despite the existing pavement being in far better condition than that of neighbouring High View, destroying 12 trees in the process. Pinner South now has three new councillors, and one can only hope that they are more successful than their predecessors in persuading the council to fulfil its promise to replace them. It should not be difficult or prohibitively expensive.

By contrast, a defective street lamp outside our house was recently rectified before we had even noticed that it wasn't working. Enquiries of the chap 20 feet above us revealed that the Council employ a Night Scout, whose job it is to tour the borough nightly and report all non-operational street lamps. Obvious really when you think about it, but it's a pity we cannot also have a Tree Scout, and our trees replaced with similar alacrity.

Fortified by being allowed to scrape the saucepan after Mrs. E has cooked another delicious cauliflower cheese, I am finally in the mood for congratulations, in particular to *Pinner News*, whose 100th issue has just arrived. The loss of the *Harrow Observer* left a large void in up-to-date news, which *Pinner News* has filled admirably, covering a wide variety of issues and always seeking out people who are making positive contributions to our community. It is a shame that it cannot appear weekly, as the *Harrow Times* often has more news about Brent than Harrow, and little more than advance notice of road closures.

Congratulations also to local resident George Guest, who has raised over £1/2 million for a plethora of charities, leading group trips world wide since 1980, and donating the profits therefrom, his favourite charity being one supporting street children in Tbilisi, Georgia. Now 90, and having organised and led his last tour, George began as a PTA Chairman leading a school fundraising educational trip to York, but soon expanded to lead trips to every continent except Antarctica, usually so packed with sightseeing that participants said they needed a holiday to recover.

Final congratulations go to Pinner's long-serving Police Community Support Officer, Lee O'Brien, who was a winner in the Clean, Safe and Green Communities section of Harrow's Heroes in September. Whilst we have had some six Sergeants and a rapid turnover of PCs, Lee has been a reassuring presence on Pinner's streets right from the start of Neighbourhood Policing over 15 years ago, and not only because he has a photographic memory of local miscreants. His award is long overdue.

Once again, our High Street has recently acted as the backdrop to filming, this time of a feature film starring Sir Anthony Hopkins (see under Talking Shops for more info and pictures). Entitled "One Life", it records the action of stockbroker and international fencer Nicholas Winton in setting up, in the teeth of many obstacles, the evacuation by train of 669 Jewish children from Prague immediately before the declaration of war in 1939. These trains later became known as the Kindertransports. Winton lived to the great age of 106,

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but initially went unrecognised for 50 years before being knighted eventually, and sadly 370 of the children, who were adopted by British couples, have never been identified. The new Home Secretary, Suella Braverman, was revealed recently to have been educated at the former Heathfield School in Pinner. Wouldn't it be nice to think that in 83 years' time a film would be made here to commemorate her compassion to refugees?

Eavesdropper

A SURE SIGN OF CHRISTMAS

You know that the seasons are turning when Harrow Choral Society announces the return of its popular Christmas Celebration to the Speech Room of Harrow School at 7.30 on Saturday 17th December. "Our Christmas Celebration is always a very special occasion, and we are thrilled to return to the Speech Room, this year with our new Music Director, Sam Evans," said HCS Chair, Margaret Davies. "The combination of the historic setting and superb Christmas music will make a wonderful start to the festive season." The 90-strong choir will be accompanied on the organ by composer and arranger, Paul Ayres.

The varied programme will include new and traditional carols (with opportunities for audience participation), performances from Kensington Brass and seasonal readings by actress Jane Asher, whom the choir is delighted to welcome as its celebrity guest. Jane began acting at an early age and has subsequently enjoyed a successful career on stage, TV and in film, one of her most memorable roles being that of Celia Ryder in Granada TV's acclaimed production of *Brideshead Revisited*. She is also well-known as a designer of highly original celebration cakes!

Tickets are £18 (free to under-18s, although a ticket is required) and can be obtained via the choir website at www.harrowchoral.org.uk or at boxoffice@harrowchoral.org.uk, or by phone on 07794 253463.



PINNER PEOPLE...

Anthony Pinching

Anthony Pinching's study is exactly as a study should be: rolltop desk, computer on its own desk (a converted square piano from c. 1830), books everywhere – on shelves, piled on tables, even on the floor – and, of course, a discreet drinks cabinet. This is the home of an avidly inquisitive man.

Anthony is the Director and driving force behind Pinner Music Festival, which takes place every June, and Music in Pinner Series, concerts that take us through the winter months. In 2015, Anthony took over running the Music Festival from Michael Turvey who, for a quite remarkable fifty years, had built up the Festival to be a landmark event in our area. Three years later, when Stuart Natrass wanted to step down from organising PinnerJazz concerts, Anthony also took on the filling of these slots, reshaping them to encompass both jazz and classical music performances.

So, how did a medical clinician and academic come to be running a music festival? For Anthony, music and medicine intertwine, a theme we will return to later. Anthony would say that he did not come from a particularly musical family, though it was clearly more musical than most. His father, a local GP, sang in the church choir and Anthony remembers his mother singing to him as a child, often Bach arias, rather than the rather garbled nursery rhymes and lullabies that most of us received.

As a boy, Anthony studied and gave up the piano before taking up the clarinet – Acker Bilk, after all, lived just up the road from where Anthony grew up in Somerset. His older brother introduced him to jazz and swing, and soon, after a visit to a Count Basie concert, they had pulled together a dance band that quickly morphed into jazz, with Anthony doubling up on clarinet and saxophone.

Parallel to this, a very special music teacher at school was opening his eyes to classical music. There was one particular school outing, at the age of seventeen, to a concert of Mahler and Brahms in Bath at which both Yehudi Menuhin was playing and Victoria de los Angeles was singing. Sitting



behind the orchestra, in the cheap seats, barely able to see the players, Anthony 'got it' – becoming aware of how music can connect and move a person, a powerful resource for self-discovery as well as exploration.

University brought involvement in both a jazz band and classical performances. However, when the very able pianist in the jazz band was sent down for not applying himself to his studies, Anthony felt that it was time to sell the saxophone and focus on medicine, though he still has the clarinet and plays, on and off, to this day.

His career was very demanding, both physically and emotionally, especially during the time when he was part of the international effort to find better treatments for AIDS, working at an intense pace and having to deal with losing patients whom he had come to know well. When time permitted, long walks in the Scottish Highlands helped him to deal with these losses. This was not always possible, of course, and listening to music played an essential role in supporting and enabling him to work through the profound emotional and spiritual challenges of involvement in such complex and demanding work, and the grief that frequently came with it. Anthony found that he would instinctively know what piece of music was needed on each occasion. 'Music,' he explains, 'is not only a language beyond words, it is a language before words. Look at how people talk to a baby; they sing, and the baby's response is to those sounds, not the content.'



Anthony with Paul Robertson

Towards the end of his career in medicine, in 2003, Anthony became the Associate Dean of the Cornwall locality of Peninsula Medical School, based in Truro. While there, he established The European Centre for Environment and Human Health, a major research centre. Peninsula had a Medical Humanities Programme, using the arts and humanities to inform medical practice. Through this, he met Paul Robertson, someone whom Anthony acknowledges as a major influence and

guide in his journey to greater understanding of music. Paul was a violinist and leader of the Medici Quartet, a major force in British music from the 1970s through to the early 2000s, and was fascinated by the link between music and brain science, its power in human life, cognitive and emotional development and health. Through many hours of talking into the night, he and Anthony developed this thinking in lectures and workshops for students. They also explored how music and medicine, while based on great learning, logic and structure, both also demand that, at the right moment, intuition should take over, risks should be taken and new possibilities explored.

While in Truro, Anthony also developed a friendship and collaboration with composer Russell Pascoe, which resulted in Anthony writing his first libretto in 2013, for his Secular

Requiem, work that required Anthony reading thousands of poems about death, to select the right mix. However, he could not find one that worked for Pascoe for the final section. At Pascoe's insistence, Anthony wrote the final poem of the Requiem, an earlier interest in writing poetry having been rekindled during this project. This work has recently been recorded and will be available soon. They have worked together on several other works, large and small, including the Hymn to St John the Baptist that Russell Pascoe wrote for the 700th anniversary of Pinner Parish Church, performed last year.



Russell Pascoe

Which brings us back to Pinner. I asked Anthony how he goes about putting together a festival programme. 'I usually have one or two probable signings, impressive artists with whom I have been in discussion for some time,' he explains. 'Once they are in place, it is a matter of balancing the programme to appeal to as wide a range of tastes as possible. I listen to a lot of recordings, concerts and YouTube pieces. And I like to slip in one unusual concert each time. This year, for example, we had Synthesisers playing Bach. As you can imagine, it all also involves a serious amount of juggling, persuading and negotiating, but there is a real satisfaction when it all comes together.' This year, sadly, Anthony caught Covid early in the festival. 'Unimaginably frustrating,' he says, with, I suspect, a fair degree of understatement.



Rossetti Ensemble

This balance of material is also evident within each concert. 'I like to ensure that those who come will hear something familiar and something that will surprise,' he explains. 'For example, the Rossetti Ensemble, who will be performing here in Pinner at the church on Saturday, February 25th, will feature works by Mozart, Brahms and Mahler, but also The Song and Dance Sketchbook by David Matthews, a very fine and underrated English composer who is celebrating his 80th birthday next year.

We hope that David Matthews will be able to come and enjoy the concert with us.'

I finish by asking Anthony why musicians like to perform at Pinner. "Three reasons. Firstly, a really attentive and appreciative audience, secondly the excellent acoustic in the church and last, but by no means least, we look after them – they get a very fine quality of sandwich with us!"

Editor

Wonder

By embracing structure
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the lines flexed by meaning;
give voice through sonata –
to reach between, beyond;

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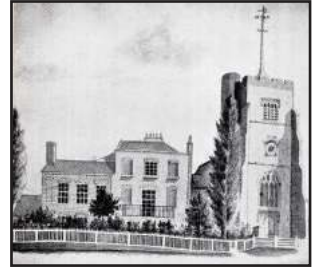
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PINNER PLACES...

YE COCOA TREE

The building now called Elthorne Gate, next to St John's Church at the top of the High Street, comprises two distinct parts. The right-hand side is Georgian, dating from 1790-1830, and was originally part of a house known at one time as Equestrian Villa, and later as Belle Vue. The original left-hand part dated from the early eighteenth century. Ownership of the house from 1822 by the owner of the Pinner Stage Coach, Charles Turner, may have given rise to the former name. The stagecoach ran daily to London until 1845, a year or two after the opening of the first railway station in the area (now Hatch End). Turner was also landlord of *the Queen's Head* from 1825 until he died in 1832. His widow was succeeded at the house by their son-in-law George Stanborough, in the 1850's. The house was at some stage renamed Belle Vue – presumably on account of the view that it would then have commanded towards West House.



*The building in
Turner's time*

In 1875 William Barber Q.C., a wealthy philanthropist, who lived at Barrowpoint House in Paines Lane, bought the house. A champion of the temperance movement, he spent £1,200 turning the house into a "temperance tavern", (with no alcohol allowed on the premises), called Ye Cocoa Tree. He engaged the eminent 'Arts and Crafts' architects Sir Ernest George and Harold Peto to redesign the left-hand part, demolishing the original. It was opened by Lord Ebury in 1878.

The ground floor had a coffee room and a kitchen where customers could have their meals cooked, while the room above was a clubroom for local workmen, who paid a subscription. The Band of Hope, a total abstinence association, held meetings there. There were also several bedrooms providing hotel accommodation.



Postcard circa 1909

There was an associated field, behind the building, which was used as a 'treat field'. William Barber wished to host large entertainments of a charitable nature for seasonal haymakers and for children from the East End and such like.

Although apparently not very successful in its original purposes, Ye Cocoa Tree became a flourishing tea-room and was a popular venue for outings of various kinds. Its hall was available for public meetings and bazaars and private functions. The extension of the Metropolitan Railway to Pinner in 1885 no doubt contributed to its popularity. From about 1888 until 1903, it was run by Albert Cross. Cross claimed to have built in the adjoining

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The adjoining field with buildings built by Cross



The Treat Field off Eastcote Road

field buildings to accommodate 1500 excursionists. However, neighbours' complaints about noise resulted in eviction from the field. Cross then took a lease of a mansion, fronting Marsh Road, adjacent to Eastcote Road, called Pinner Place, whose land included a meadow off Eastcote Road (subsequently developed as Meadow Road) which was used as the 'treat field' for Ye Cocoa Tree. The additional expense on Cross's part, including that of replicating the buildings in the field, led to his bankruptcy. However, Ye Cocoa Tree was clearly very popular in Cross's time. In fact, a song was composed in 1902 in praise of both, presumably sung to the tune of "The Vicar of Bray", upon which the chorus is so obviously based, the first verse being as follows:

"Of Pinner now I'll sing the praise
 If you will only hear me.
 We'll mind not mud, nor wind, nor rain,
 When housed so very cheerly.
 Assembled round "the Cocoa Tree",
 In chill and wintry weather,
 By Mr Cross's kindness great
 We meet each week together.
 Chorus: And this is truth & I'll maintain
 Or I should be a sinner
 That wheresoever you may live
 There is no place like Pinner."

Ye Cocoa Tree was quite a local landmark, and its tearooms were a popular venue for Sunday outings for children from London and elsewhere up to the 1920s.

In 1931, the building was bought by the Pinner Conservative Association, although, in the absence of a village hall at that time, its premises and adjacent hall were still let for public meetings.

In the 1960s, the adjacent hall was demolished, and the building was adapted to create offices, earlier known as Haywood House, now as Elthorne Gate.



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THE WOODMEADOW PROJECT

A local community wildlife improvement scheme

In Pinner, we are rightly proud of and grateful for our parks. The Memorial Park is a great social hub and Pinner Village Gardens offers open spaces, great planting and more tranquillity.

A less well-known open space is the Pinner Recreation Ground, tucked away off the upper part of West End Lane. Many of us will have memories of our children's football matches on rainy winter Saturdays, or we may cut through on our way to the Pinner Green shops.



A Bund

Anyone passing through recently will have seen a transformation taking place. Channels have been dug, mounds created, and a wildflower meadow is starting to bloom. Simon Braidman of the Harrow Nature Conservation Forum explains. "There is a real shortage of habitat for small animals and insects in today's cities and towns. Here, because the Recreation Ground frequently floods in winter, we are creating channels that will be a habitat for aquatic and semi-aquatic creatures

alongside the more familiar ones. The earth that we have dug out is left in mounds, called bunds, for solitary bees and other insects to make their homes."

The project has its origins back in the winter of 2020, when Antonia Savvides, at the time a resident and Chair of the Friends of Pinner Village Gardens, working with Simon Braidman, approached Harrow Council to set up London's first ever woodmeadow. The idea of combining meadow and woodland habitats came from the pioneering work by the Woodmeadow Trust, based in Yorkshire, where former pesticide-soaked farmland in Yorkshire was transformed into a wildlife-rich landscape with over 1,000 species of invertebrates.

David Corby of the Community Engagement Team at Harrow Council suggested Pinner Recreation Ground as a suitable site for the project. The Woodmeadow Trust's Community Engagement Officer, Dan Carne, was very keen to demonstrate that one can create such habitats in small spaces, especially in towns and cities, and he drew up the initial Woodmeadow Plan. Simon Braidman carried out soil tests that showed low nutrition levels in the topsoil of the park, ideal for wildflowers.





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With a grant from the Mayor of London and some online fundraising, the initial plan was drawn up and work started in March 2021. The Northern section of the park was taken out of the regular mowing cycle, allowing the flora already there to flower. In spring, the park is yellow, as the buttercup flowers. In September, with the help of the Harrow graveyard team, ditches were dug, and the bunds created. Changing the topography in this way helped to create changes in soil dampness, wind shelter and sun exposure, ensuring a diverse range of plants and insects. Then the area was rotavated, to get bare soil so that wildflowers and wild grasses could be sown.

The first public event was the wildflower and grass sowing on November 22nd, 2021. Then, on December 4th, the 4th Harrow Scouts and 101 American Scout Troop came to plant 120 native trees and shrubs and free hedgerow packs from the Woodland Trust. The packs contained Hazel, Hawthorn, Crab Apple, Dogwood and Dog Rose. More planting followed, including trees from Zero Carbon Farms Ltd, planting to offset carbon emissions.

Winter rain filled the ditches, attracting damsel flies, pond skaters, diving beetles and others. This summer, we have seen, as well as the buttercups, poppies and cornflowers, corn chamomile, pale flax, corncockle and black knapweed, while the trees and shrubs, such as the Guelder Rose have started to flower. Many varieties of butterflies, moths and wasps are thriving, and this, in turn, encourages a wider variety of bird life.

During the heat of the summer, one neighbour generously allowed us to pipe water from his house, which backs onto the Recreation Ground, thus ensuring that all the hard work did not go to shrivelled waste.



New sapling



Very new saplings

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HOUSE OF
COMMONS

Alongside all of this, life continues at the Recreation Ground. The playground and the games pitch are still available to be used. The idea of mixed-use parks like this is quite new but is certainly the way that things will develop.

As I walked around the area with Simon, he enthusiastically showed me the range of flora already present. He is clearly very excited about the diversity that this area will generate as the trees, shrubs and plants develop. These areas do not, however, look after themselves, especially in the early years. Simon is looking for more volunteers to help with the work. If you are interested, even if you can only spare an hour a week, do please contact him at simonbraidman@hotmail.co.uk.

Editor



A TOUCHING TRIBUTE

One of our collectors, Catherine Glozier, received this very touching message from a Swiss friend, Georg Sabathy, who used to live in Pinner.

Sad and with a heavy heart, I'll extend my deepest sympathy to you as representative of the British Nation. The world is silent, my sincere thoughts are with my dear friends in the UK and we all reflect on an impeccable person – although unknown and from afar – has become part of all our life. The Queen has been the face of Great Britain but also the face of more than one generation around the globe. I'm grateful and humble to have been allowed to sing with you the National Anthem before the curtain rose at Watersmeet Theatre and to toast to the Queen at the Guild Mason's reception – if not by heritage at least by heart I was welcomed to be part of the English culture.



While reading through all the media coverage on Queen Elizabeth II. 70 years of reign and 96 years of life, an era comes to an end, an empty space in our very own biography is apparent but filled with all the wonderful memories and colours the recent platinum celebration has brought to us. This will remain in our hearts, in our thoughts, in our souls.

It was accompanied by this photograph, taken on the morning after the Queen's death.

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HISTORY THROUGH THE YEAR

We all know that Pinner is steeped in history. Some of the images from earlier times are quite familiar to us, but David Charles, Pinner's longest-serving estate agent, has taken the search for images of our past a step further.



The Langham Cinema by the Post Office in 1935



Gurney & Sons in the early 1900s, where Chin Chin and Hand in Hand are now



Harry Lines in the High Street circa 1900

Since 2006, when Managing Director Warren Baker took over, the firm has produced a calendar each year that features some remarkable images of Pinner and Hatch End, many from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is a true revelation to look through the calendar, expertly put together by Lee at the Print Shop, to discover the roots of Pinner and work out the changes that have occurred in intervening years.

“We are constantly searching for new images,” Warren tells us. “Michael Treisman and his colleagues at Pinner Local History Society have been a tremendous help and clients often let us use images that they have. Only last year, we were able to include four previously unused images.”

The calendar is available free of charge from David Charles, though they do suggest a donation to their charity of the year. Previous charities that have benefitted include Red Cross, Alzheimer's Society and Cancer Research UK. This year, David Charles will be supporting MIND.

So, if you have any old images of Pinner or Hatch End that might be of interest, do contact Warren at his office in the High Street.

MUSEUM NEWS

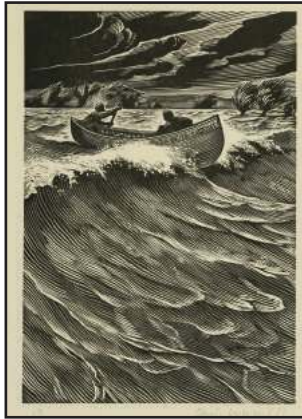
SCENE THROUGH WOOD

A remarkable exhibition featuring some of the finest wood engravings of the past century has come to The Heath Robinson Museum in Pinner from the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, home of one of the most extensive collections of wood engravings in the world.

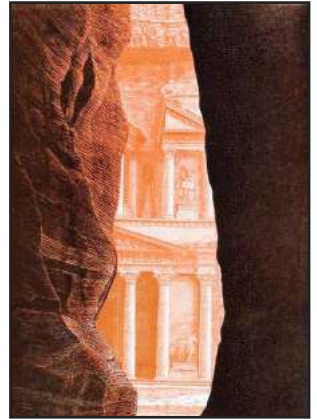
‘Scene through Wood’ offers a visual feast of wood engravings from the past 100 years, and celebrates the extraordinary artists, past and present, who made them.



Brooklyn Bridge Afternoon
2015 by Anne Julie Desmet



Book of Dust by
Christopher Wormell



Petra image by
Geri Waddington

Wood engraving is a historic printing technique, notable for producing images of enduring artistic merit with extremely fine detail and outstanding tonal range. Perhaps the only visual art form to have originated in England, it was developed, honed and refined to extraordinary finesse by the naturalist Thomas Bewick (1753–1828). Within a few years, it became a thriving industry for illustrating newspapers and books until photomechanical illustration took over in the late nineteenth century.

Artists began to realise that they could create images of tremendous dynamism and energy, and The British Society of Wood Engravers was founded in 1920 by leading artists including Lucien Pissarro and John Nash.



Yorkshire by Edward Wadsworth

This exhibition, curated by engraver and artist Anne Desmet RA RE, the only engraver elected to the Royal Academy of Arts, was originally on display at the Ashmolean. Anne has focused on the last hundred years and takes us right up to contemporary work based, among others, on J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter books and Philip Pullman's *The Book of Dust*.

'Scene Through Wood' explores the medium's continued and varied uses in commercial applications, from book illustration to advertising and fine lettering design.

This fascinating exhibition will be at The Heath Robinson Museum in the Memorial Park in Pinner until 11th December 2022. Opening Times: Thursday – Sunday from 11am to 4pm. Entry included in the cost of museum entry.

ONLINE SHOP

The museum's online shop develops apace. With Christmas rapidly approaching, if you do not have the time to see the wider selection at the Museum shop itself, you can buy a great range of cards, calendars and gifts online. The online shop now also features a selection of the jewellery and woven textiles from The Makers Art, a range of work by designer makers in the area, again with a wider display in the museum shop. Well worth a browse for that elusive gift (or, indeed, a gift for yourself).

CLASSES

Do also check the website or pick up a leaflet for the many classes available for all ages at the museum. A perfect place to be on a wet winter's day!

PERU COMES TO PINNER

The Pinner Village Show was, as always, full of wonderful events from the petting zoo to Simply Gray's performance, from Punch and Judy to a great range of stalls and stands. New, though, this year, was a riveting performance of Peruvian dance, not something you see every day in the Memorial Park. Not quite sure what brought them to Pinner, maybe a recommendation from Paddington Bear, but their dancing certainly gave us something new and intriguing.





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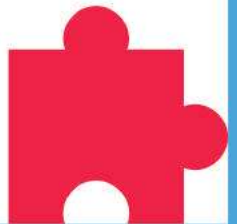
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HARROW STEEL

Julie Waller



One of the stand-out performances in the Pinner Association's highly successful band concerts in the Memorial Park this year was Harrow Steel, whose mellow steel pans sound fits perfectly with a sunny Sunday.

Few of us may know that Harrow Steel is a charity working with young people to develop self-confidence, self-esteem and musicianship skills. I asked Sue Joseph, their band manager, to tell us more.

"The Steel Band formed in 1986 when the London Borough of Harrow was given a grant to start multicultural music in schools. We have performed in several prestigious venues in London including the Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall, the Barbican and the Queen Elizabeth Hall. We have toured in Spain, Germany, Italy, Holland and France.

Our band director and arranger is Dexter Joseph. His father Winston was born in Trinidad and was a founder of Ebony Steel Band. Dexter teaches steel pans at a number of Harrow Schools.



Julie Waller

Harrow Steel became a charity in 2019. We create an ethos of challenge and nurture that provides an opportunity for gifted and talented young musicians aged 13 – 21 to learn complex music aurally within a Steel Band.

We welcome a variety of young people from a range of backgrounds. Our aim is to give these young people a sense of belonging, whilst teaching leadership skills and teamwork, which will stay with those in our community as they progress throughout their lives."

Nathan Brown, now in his third year at the Guildhall School of Music says, "I would definitely say that Harrow Steel hugely impacted my career as a musician, simply for being exposed to lots of different musical genres and styles and being taught aurally – which is something most musicians have not experienced. Dexter is also like a mentor for each individual in the band and I believe this kept quite a few people from making bad decisions inside and outside of school.

The overwhelming sense of family, where everyone is different and is accepted for these differences, is something that is rarely found in groups of young musicians and was a really important part of my development."

Visit their website <https://harrowsteel.org.uk> to join or support them.

Sue Joseph



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www.rightathomeuk.com/harrow



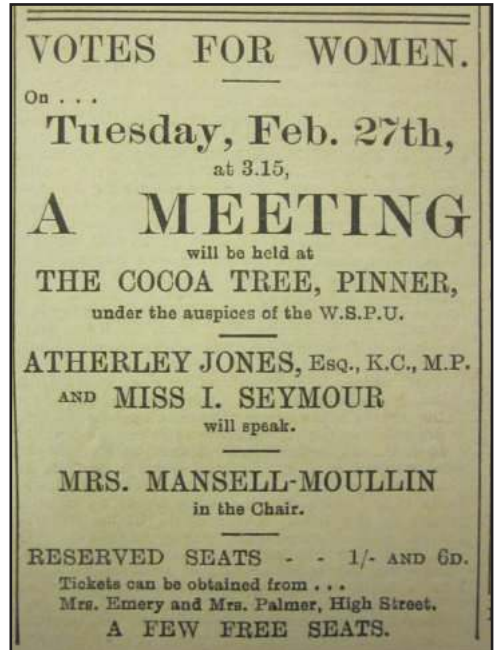
“Right at Home have been outstanding.
It is because of your service that I have peace of mind.”

HB



PINNER'S SUFFRAGETTES

Before the First World War, Pinner had an active branch of the Women's Social and Political Union, the militant group associated with the Pankhursts. It was set up by several very different women, most of them from Paines Lane. The suffragettes engaged in campaigning and fund-raising, with regular meetings in Bridge Street, in members' houses and gardens locally, and in commercial buildings in Pinner. We think the group had around 80 members at its peak, though some meetings were attended by many more. Members were also involved in activities organised by the national group, including marches, and two were imprisoned, one becoming a hunger-striker. Their activities provoked hostility locally, culminating in a riot in Pinner in June 1914.



The first to join the WSPU had been mother and daughter, Epsey and Elspeth McClelland. Epsey was originally from Rochdale, at a time when the North-West was more radical than the London area. (The Pankhursts were from Manchester.) She and two sisters had been involved for decades in efforts to improve the position of women, with a particular focus on broadening employment options. All were also engaged in the decorative arts, an area promoted for women workers. The youngest, Charlotte, became an interior designer, with shops in London and Manchester selling decorated furniture. Epsey headed the workshop of women that produced the furniture and, after Charlotte died in 1901, the McClellands, who had recently moved to their brand-new house Neal's Ing (No 54) Paines Lane, continued the business for a few years. Elspeth did a course at the London Polytechnic in building, to equip her to supervise works during makeovers: newspapers reported that she was the first woman to do so. From this she developed an interest in designing cottages. She was the only woman to enter the Letchworth Cheap Cottages Exhibition and went on to design other cottages, including numbers 34 and 36 Rickmansworth Road for her future father-in-law. She and her mother joined the WSPU around 1907. By 1909 she was a volunteer in their London headquarters and involved in the so-called "human letter" stunt. Arguing that a change to postal regulations had made it possible to post people, Christabel Pankhurst "posted" Elspeth and another woman, wearing placards advertising the next WSPU deputation to Parliament, to 10 Downing Street, where they were photographed for press coverage. Then Elspeth became a paid organiser for the group, tasked with encouraging support first in Croydon, during a by-election, and then

in Marylebone, in advance of a march through the area. In each place a local branch was then founded. Elspeth's experience and contacts will have been important to the Pinner branch.

Janie Terrero, the Pinner branch's first secretary, had supported women's suffrage since the 1870s and had hosted meetings in Southampton for the long-established and more conventional National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. Her husband too was an active campaigner. They lived in Rockstone House in Paines Lane (since demolished). The other key Paines Lane household was that of the Verdens, at No 60. Marie Verden and her eldest daughter Edna were founder members, her younger daughter Phyllis was briefly secretary, and Marie would be the branch's last secretary. (Martin Verden, well-known to some readers, was Marie's grandson.)



At first the activities of the Pinner women were under the umbrella of the North West London branch of the WSPU, established with responsibility for the huge Harrow parliamentary constituency (of which Pinner was part) and based in Kilburn. The first public meeting in Pinner was at The Cosy Corner Café (at what is now 26 Bridge Street – Code Ninjas) in March 1910, when the speakers included Lady Emily Lutyens (wife of the architect and sister of Lady Constance Lytton) and the first open-air meeting in April 1910 in front of the fire station in Bridge Street (near the junction with Love Lane), addressed by Elspeth McClelland. Open-air meetings became a regular feature of Saturday evenings. Speakers included both local women and people from the national organisation, the most famous being Flora Drummond, "the General", their London organiser.



Suffragettes meeting at Rockstone House

The Pinner branch was formally established in February 1911 at Rockstone House, in the presence of Flora Drummond. Over the next few years, they held numerous public meetings, in members' houses and gardens and at The Cocoa Tree (now Elthorne Gate) in the High Street, with speakers including Madeleine Lucette Ryley (Marie Verden's stepmother, a playwright and President of the Actresses' Franchise League) and Mrs Pankhurst's brother. They raised money for the central organisation through

collections, fêtes, bazaars and an entertainment and they sold the WSPU journal, as well as jams and items made at a sewing party. Around the winter of 1913/14, they had a shop in the High Street (probably at No 26, now part of Bennett Holmes). The branch was

represented at various marches through London and at rallies in Hyde Park and Gladstone Park, where their presence was marked by the banner created by the McClellands.

Individual members participated in the campaign in various ways. Janie Terrero invited women injured on Black Friday to convalesce at Rockstone House and said this led her to become a militant. All the first officers of the branch boycotted the 1911 census – the reason it has been impossible to identify one of them, Bessie Barrett. Elspeth McClelland and the Verdens acted as speakers for other London branches. Janie Terrero and another Pinner member, Mabel Wilkinson from Meadow Road, alias Mabel de Roxe, were among those who smashed windows in the West End in 1912 and both went to prison. Janie became a hunger-striker, at some cost to her health. Mementoes from this episode are in the collection of the Museum of London.

Pinner suffragettes were generally from families that had only recently moved to Pinner, without strong links to churches or political parties. The leaders at least had strong support from family members, including male relatives. They were very much a minority. When the case for women's suffrage was debated at the Free Church Society, for instance, the majority was opposed. Some locals were patronising. The Royston Park Lawn Tennis Club, for example, put on a dramatic sketch mocking a keen suffragette, while Margaret Maddocks, raised in Cecil Park, remembered years later the alarming woman with a moustache who told her mother how oppressed she was and left pamphlets. There was also active opposition, including a short-lived women's anti-suffrage group. Those speaking in Bridge Street faced heckling, from attempts to rebut their arguments to efforts to drown their voices with a gramophone. One man interviewed in the 1970s remembered being sent by his uncle (the local gravedigger) to get flour and bad eggs saved by the grocer to be distributed at meetings and thrown at speakers. He saw this as a response to the failure of the authorities to deal with the suffragettes. In June 1914 the local papers carried reports of a riot, triggered when a supporter tried to eject a drunken heckler. The speaker was toppled from the chair she was standing on and the local police sergeant, trying to shepherd her to a passing bus, was hit with a bag of flour. The crowd, said to number hundreds, then pursued the bus up the High Street and windows were broken at the houses of suffrage supporters in Paines Lane. Mrs Verden believed the violence involved men from Harrow, backed by Pinner tradesmen. As elsewhere, WSPU activity in Pinner ended after the First World War began.



Tamar Maclver

TALKING SHOPS

Before we get into the detail of who is doing what, there's an issue about the Council's new and very welcome free parking offer that is worth sharing.

Some people have found themselves issued with a parking fine despite having a ticket from the machine. If you park in a Residents' Bay between the hours of 11.00 and 12.00, and do not have a Resident's Permit for that area, you are liable to get a ticket. So, please ensure that you use either the Pay and Display or the Shared Use bays.

This time we start our wander through the centre of Pinner in Bridge Street. It may be a bit of an understatement to say that Bridge Street has been looking a bit sorry for itself of late, so let's begin with 3 "Long Service Awards". (*if you know of any others, do let us know – Ed*)

Pinner Local (8 Red Lion Parade)

In 1996, Mr S Arunagiri took over Gibbs News and converted it to **Pinner News**. For the next 26 years his alarm clock went off at 3:30 AM so that he could deliver the newspapers to the people of Pinner. Now he has sold his business so that he can spend more time with his wife, Chelvi, and their two daughters; he proudly tells us that one is an Assistant Head Teacher and the other an Oncology doctor. It just shows that hard work and dedication pay off! The family lives in Pinner so you'll see him on his daily walks around the village. Mr Arunagiri sums up his retirement by saying "No early starts, no stress, nice sleeping, nice walking and nice holidays!"



The baton has been passed to fellow Sri Lankans Ranjith and his wife Kajenthiny. After a refurbishment in the summer, the shop reopened as **Pinner Local**, open every day from 5:00am to 11:00pm. Newspapers (including deliveries) and magazines remain an important feature, but the offering is complemented by groceries and much more. There's been a newsagent in this shop since the 1930s (when they hadn't heard of Lottery ticket sales), so it's great to see that it has evolved and is in safe hands.

Hallmark (4 Red Lion Parade)

The end of August saw the closure of **Hallmark Cards** in Red Lion Parade. Bharat and Padmini Sampat have been running the business for the 43 years since 1979, one of the longest established family firms in Pinner. Padmini assures us that, while they live in Stanmore, they will continue to do their shopping in Pinner, where they have made so many friends. We wish them well for the future.

Andrew Pearce have been handling the letting of the shop to the new tenants, **Expert Laser Clinic**. All sounds very *Star Wars*. We will pay them a visit before the next issue.

Berkeley Square (6 Red Lion Parade)

Our 3rd and final award goes to Anna Wiggins, who is celebrating 20 years owning and 48

running **Berkeley Square** at 6 Red Lion Parade. In the mid 1960s, one of the first salons in Pinner opened as Michaels. At some stage it was rebranded to Berkeley Square, as a nod to Michael's Mayfair training ground, and soon Anna started as a Saturday Girl, aged 14. On 5th August 2002 Anna acquired Berkeley Square, and the business has flourished over the next 20 years with the help of her loyal staff Amir (Manager), Jody, Deveena and Grace. Special mention must go to Maria, who has 42 years' service, and Anna's parents, Pat and Pete, who run the admin in the background.

All the stylists have regular training with, among others, L'Oréal and Wella. Their products, many of which are organic, are available in the salon. A recent addition to the product range in store is Kerastase.

Another feature of Berkeley Square is their charity work, Anna having completed a 100 mile walk in June raising £800 for Cancer Research. A great success story for someone who is born and bred Pinner!

Shic Dry Cleaners (89)

Up to the top of Bridge Street where owner Imran has run **Shic** as a traditional Dry Cleaners and Laundry since 2006. In recent times, business has been difficult, with the move to home working and less formal business attire. However, Shic is a specialist in Indian garments with customers coming from as far afield as Stanmore, Watford and Edgware. Additionally, Hamid, who has 30 years' experience, offers a full alterations service. In another diversification, Shic has become a UPS delivery and collection hub, bringing new faces into the premises.



Hilton & Family (59)

In August 2020, **Hilton and Family, Butchers**, which was established by Bob and Lyn Prieg, was sold to Brazilian Andrea Oliveria, who already owned Moore & Sons in Barnet. For the last 5 years, the shop has been managed by Pat Kelly. As Pat says, nothing has really changed except for a new fascia erected during lockdown, which was a particularly busy and challenging period. Lyn had established the popular Cheesemongers, which has been expanded.

All the bangers and burgers are made on site, the best seller being The Bridge Street Banger. As we saw recently, queuing is a British speciality and Christmas in Pinner wouldn't be the same without a huge queue outside Hiltons, all patiently waiting for their Norfolk turkey - long may it continue!

Foxtons (33/35)

Not content with arranging house moves, **Foxtons** have moved themselves after 15 years in Pinner. When they opened their doors here, they covered the whole of North-West London but, with branches now in Harrow, Wembley and Stanmore, they have downsized into the former Santander space. The service (including the 10 staff) remains the same, with the team led by Sales Manager James Murdock and Lettings Manager, Amina Patel.

Harris & Hoole (29/31)

The former **Harris and Hoole** at 29/31 Bridge Street remains vacant and, with Foxtons' relocation, that's 2 big empty shops in a row, the equivalent of four smaller shops.

Brooks (44/46)

The Landlord is still promising a new café in the old Brooks unit at 44/46 Bridge Street....

Copper Kettle Café (34)

If you can't wait or prefer to support a long-standing business, you can stop for a quick tea, coffee or full English in the **Copper Kettle Café** at 34 Bridge Street. There you'll find a warm welcome from Ali Tepe, who has been running KKC for the last 9 years. He tells us that footfall has decreased considerably over the last few years, in large part because of bank closures, so please do pop in.

Halifax (32)

Next door, at 32 Bridge Street, a planning application by Three Wishes (a pub chain with outlets in, amongst others, North Harrow and Northwood) has been submitted. Like banks, pubs have been closing at an alarming rate, so we should be welcoming a new addition. But we must be mindful of local residents – let's see what the planners decide.

Barnes & Partners (38)

Still no sign of a new occupier...

Moving on to the vexed subject of banks, and with so much bad news about bank closures in Pinner, mirroring the trend across the country, let's look at some positive news:

Nationwide (63)

The only bank or building society in Pinner is **Nationwide** at the top of Bridge Street. A spokesperson for Nationwide Building Society said:

"Branches play a vital role for our members and the communities in which they live. That's why we extended our promise, originally made in 2019, to leave no town or city where we currently have a presence without a Nationwide branch until at least January 2023. We've committed to maintaining a strong network, upgrading 245 branches, and investing over £260 million since 2017. We're proud to have had a branch in Pinner for around 40 years."

Fingers crossed that their commitment extends beyond next January....

To keep Nationwide company, it's refreshing that **The Post Office** continues to provide a wide range of banking facilities for customers of all banks and building societies. As well as a selection of services for Business Customers, everyone can pay in cash and cheques, withdraw cash, and check their balance. Full details can be found on the Post Office website:

<https://www.postoffice.co.uk/everydaybanking>

Of course, one downside is longer queues (we were advised that 9:00 is the quietest time!)

Ruislip Currency (41)

Also, after closing its Pinner branch during the lockdown, **Ruislip Currency** has reopened in the rebranded LOVi LONDON (formerly Fashion Tree) at 41 Bridge Street. It's good to see someone who knows there is money to be made in banking!



Moving over to the High Street:

Happy Hair (10)

Happy Hair were due to open at 10 High Street in the summer, but things seem to have been delayed.

Hopefully we will be able to tell you more about it in the next issue.

Bricks & Mortar (12)

The old Bricks & Mortar at 12 High Street is still vacant.

Bloom Hearing (22)

At 22 High Street, Bloom Hearing has closed (I said "BLOOM HEARING HAS CLOSED"). We hear that a new occupier has been found – more news next time.

Matsya (13)

Big changes 13 High Street. Co-owners of **Matsya**, Palak Barot and Vikkas Puri, relocated their restaurant from Mayfair in May 2021. In July this year, they decided to repaint the shop front, introduce a new menu and relaunch as "Matsya – Nosh/Cheese/Wine". Palak describes the new food offer as comfort eating, featuring some of the old house favourites and lots of other dishes that you won't find elsewhere in Pinner. She adds that the Fondues (cheese and chocolate) have been particularly popular. All this is accompanied by a revamped wine list.



In Hindu mythology, Matsya means Reincarnation – we wish Palak and Vikkas well in their new life!

Tummies (6)

And possibly big changes at Tummies, who seem to have been suffering from indigestion. They have been 'closed for refurbishment' after only a few months' trading. Rumour has it that the owners of the restaurant chain are considering a different type of cuisine.

Pizza Express (33/35)

It seems that owners of **Daisy's in the Park** have been busy working on fitting out a new restaurant in the old Pizza Express at 33/35 High Street.



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Friends (11)

In May, **Friends Restaurant** closed abruptly when the Landlord changed the locks. There appears to be a dispute between landlord and tenant around non-payment of rent. In addition, there is an ongoing wrangle with the Council over planning matters, with a retrospective application for planning permission for the alterations not granted. Lawyers are involved and the restaurant remains closed. It would be nice to think that we might get back the only front garden on the High Street - watch this space!

California Kitchen (40/42)

Customers of **California Kitchen** must have been surprised when they arrived for a California Bircher or a California Veggie Wrap in mid-September, to discover a new fascia advertising Debbie's Florist.

It turns out that none other than national treasure, Sir Anthony Hopkins, was in Pinner filming 'One Life'; the true story of Nicholas Winton who helped rescue over 600 children from Czechoslovakia on the eve of WW2.



Anthony Hopkins chats with Sohini Amin

Manager Sohini Amin, photographed here with Sir Anthony, said the whole crew spent some time in her cafe seeking sustenance during a busy day's shooting!

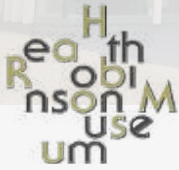


Anthony Hopkins with the Luke Ormsby team

We see that the antique shop in Barter's Walk is no more, to be replaced by a mobile phone and vape shop. Hmm.

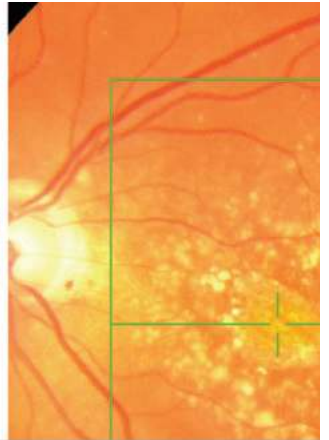
Around in Love Lane, after the closure of CC Vassar newsagent, it's great to be able to welcome **The Social Dough Company**, a new business to Pinner. The Social Dough Company was created during Lockdown by Claud and Kara. They initially built their business from a van, travelling around to locations, but now are going for a Pizza restaurant and takeaway at 17 Love Lane – a full review next time (it's an uplifting story!).

The Heath Robinson Museum



Open Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday
11am to 4pm

For further information visit
heathrobinsonmuseum.org



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Down on Marsh Road, a planning application is in for a new gym at Monument House. At least, it is close to Indulge, so you can go for a fine cake or ice cream after the workout.

Across in Cannon Lane, we see the former carpet store transformed into **Healthhive**, where Charlie and his team are building a community-based health and fitness location, with offers, including Breakfast Clubs, for all age groups, including retirees, busy mums and dads and working professionals. As well as the workouts, they do a great line in smoothies! Find out more from healthhive@hotmail.com or follow them on Facebook and Instagram. More next time on this.

We hear that the Post Office at Pinner Green has been closed 'temporarily'. We encourage everyone to find the online consultation and lobby in favour of its retention.

Moving a bit further out of Pinner, we have two gems worth remembering. Since Sainsbury's closed their wet fish counter, we have been left with only frozen fish and a limited range of pre-packed fish.

Down in Alexandra Avenue, **Hodge's** wet fish shop has been run by the family since 1959, Steve Bing being the owner and manager now. The shop provides a really wide range of wet fish and shellfish. In addition, they will smoke any catch you have on the premises. They also have a home delivery service.

For Pinner artists, **Hammond Roberts** in Eastcote have long provided a range of art material. Ownership has recently changed and the new owner, Aash Magdani, has kept the range of supplies available and will be adding to the stock. As well as art supplies, Ash provides a good range of stationery and has an excellent selection of cards to commemorate celebrations.

Since we have lost two card shops in Pinner, this is most welcome. There is adequate parking in Eastcote as well! though now without the free half hour of parking. You can still park for free in Deane Croft Road, after The Chase.

And, finally, Santa chocolates in Sainsbury's on September 22nd. Do they really think we were ready to buy them?

Man about Village

My thanks to my assiduous newshounds, Keith Rookledge, Steve Brown and Max la Frenais



NEWS FROM NOWER.....

It's been an excellent start to the school year for the staff and students of Nower Hill High School.

The school returned to record breaking results at both GCSE and A Level. In a year when nationally, results were expected to fall from the inflated grades of the pandemic years, Nower Hill bucked the trend with a significant increase across the board and the best results that the school has ever achieved. In spite of all the disruption to their education over the past two and a half years, the A Level students excelled, with 45% of all grades at A*/A and 70% of all grades at A* to B; that really is a remarkable achievement and one that any school would be proud of, let alone a co-educational, inclusive, comprehensive school such as Nower Hill. Just for comparison, this was an impressive 9% and 8% respectively above the national average figures for all schools, selective and private included. Our students have gone on to a wonderful array of destinations including top universities, prestigious art and drama schools and apprenticeships; we wish them all the very best for their future success.

GCSE results presented a similar picture, with record breaking results again: 46% of all our grades were at the highest level of 9 to 7 (formerly the old A*/A); 91% of all grades at 9 to 4 (A* to C in old money); and 88% of all students achieved grade 9 to 4 in English and Maths. Again, for comparison, the national average figures were 26%, 73% and 71% respectively, a really satisfying result for a cohort of students who have sat GCSE public examinations for the first time in 3 years. We are absolutely delighted that the outstanding results achieved will allow all of our students to progress to their next stage of study and are even more pleased that for the majority of them, that is at our own Nower Hill 6th Form.

We heartily congratulate our young people who have demonstrated remarkable determination, resilience and optimism, in spite of all the disruption to their education over the past two and a half years.



We were also delighted to welcome our newest Year group to the school. With 324 students in a Year group, we take from almost 50 different Primary schools each year, so we make sure that we facilitate plenty of fun induction activities for the children, to ensure that they feel welcome and have the opportunity to make new friends. Last week, they enjoyed an afternoon of team building games, musical performances from our older students and finished off the afternoon with pizza and ice cream. Our Year 7 students certainly seem to have settled in well and we wish them all the very best on their academic journey over the next 7 years.



At the time of writing, we are very much looking forward to welcoming next year's intake of Nower Hill students next week, when we will be opening our school every morning to prospective students and their parents for our Open Week.

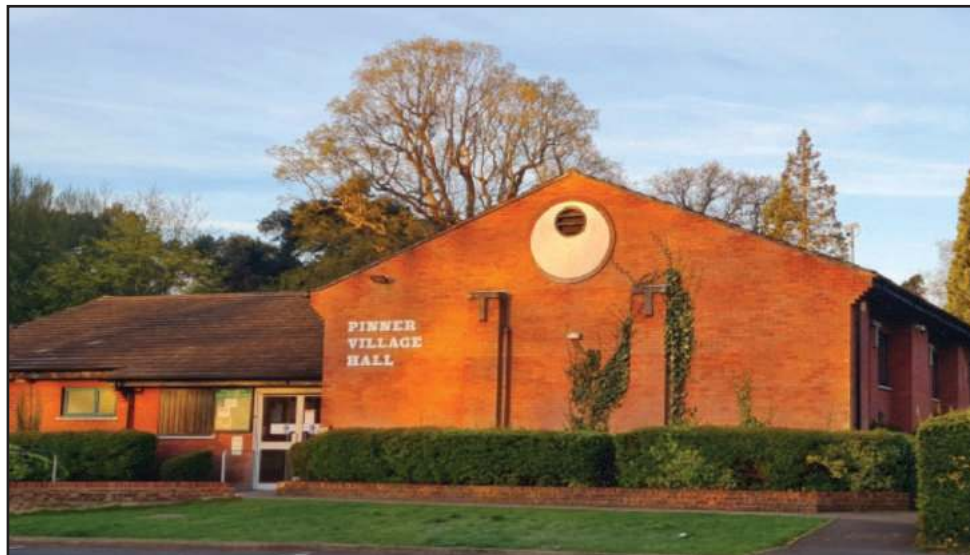
With life more or less back to normal, we are looking forward to resuming all of the community activities we have enjoyed in previous years, and hope to be meeting lots of Pinner residents in the process. Our Head Students will once again be laying a wreath at the Remembrance Day Service in Pinner High Street on the 13th November, and we will be holding the annual Santa Dash. After an absence of two years for reasons too well known by us all, we will also be delighted to welcome back to Nower Hill, for their Christmas lunch, senior citizens from Milman's Day Centre and Betjeman Close; this was always a lovely event, with our neighbours being served a full Christmas lunch by our students, entertained by our choir and enjoying a game of after-dinner bingo! We can't wait to see them again.

A school cannot thrive as Nower Hill does without the support of all the community and I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank all of our fantastically supportive parents and carers, our incredibly hard working staff and governors, and all in the local Pinner/North Harrow community who support the school so well throughout the year. The final and biggest thank you though is to our awesome young people, who, and I know all of my colleagues would agree with this, make working in education possibly the best job in the world!

*Louise Voden
Headteacher*

OUR VILLAGE HALL

Whilst the Chapel Lane Car Park cannot claim to be the most exciting location in Pinner, it does allow easy access to one of Pinner's great assets, the Pinner Village Hall.



Many years ago, Pinner had an old village hall on the site of the Bridge Street Gardens, at the bottom of the High Street. This building also functioned as our library. When it was demolished in 1970, the Pinner Association took on the task of building a new hall, a resource created by Pinner for Pinner and its immediate area and run by Pinner people.

After years of fundraising and debates about location, the hall was finally opened by Ronnie Barker in 1982. It is run by PADCA (the Pinner & District Community Association), a registered charity. Today, after years of steady improvement, it offers a fine range of resources: the Warburg Hall is ideal for plays, concerts, dances, meetings and private parties; the Lounge is a smaller space for more intimate meetings and gatherings; and the Village Bar is often the heart and soul of many events. There is a large kitchen available for self-catering, and when you walk into the welcoming foyer, you see straight away that this is a well looked after facility. Upgrading is in hand



for coming months to ensure that the building continues to meet modern needs.

From its very beginning, the Hall's core charitable aim has been to promote the social

welfare of all the people of Pinner. Many societies and groups use the space. Probably the best know are the Pinner Players Theatre Company, whose regular performances have been a major feature on Pinner's cultural scene for many years. But there is everything from lunch clubs to exercise sessions, Bollywood and Salsa classes, and even drumming lessons.



Ferryman, will be performed from the floor of the hall, rather than the stage, from Nov 17th to Nov 19th.

Another highly successful user of the hall is Sumeet's Step2Step Bollywood Dance Academy, who hold classes there every Tuesday. Sumeet comments, 'We absolutely love Pinner Village Hall. The staff, cleanliness, accessibility, parking - everything is on point. We have a very pleasant experience there running regular classes. We believe dance is the ultimate language of the soul and there is nothing better than dance for a happy soul. Our dance talents range from 3-year-olds to 65, from beginners to professionals, doctors to accountants, teachers to entrepreneurs because Any Body Can Dance!!'



At the same time, there are many family and cultural events that take full advantage of the space and facilities. If you want to enquire about hiring, you can fill in the online enquiry form or contact the team at bookings@pinnervillagehall.org.uk.

All this, of course, does not run itself. A team of dedicated trustees and staff ensure that everything runs smoothly. You can have your own say in this by becoming a Member of PADCA (for a very small





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annual fee), so you can vote at the AGM, make proposals for the Trustees to consider, and be kept up-to-date with forthcoming events. And the trustees are particularly keen to welcome new trustees – anyone prepared to give up a little of their free time to help run this excellent community facility for Pinner’s benefit. If you would like help in any way, or would just like to find out more, do get in touch by emailing administration@pinnervillagehall.org.uk

To find out more about Pinner Village Hall, you can visit the website at <https://www.pinnervillagehall.org.uk/>

POSTBOX OF THE MONTH

This month, we celebrate the wonderful postbox cover outside Bread of Heaven, home of fine bread and pastries, in the old post office at the top of Bridge Street.

If you see a cover that catches your eye, do send it in to us at editor@pinnerassociation.co.uk



Julie Waller



STANDING GUARD

Our local Memorial Park heron, mentioned by Eavesdropper, has been a regular feature in the park this summer. I always felt that he looked rather like the playground supervisor, solemn, arms folded behind his back, keeping a careful watch over the ducklings in the lake, whereas Eavesdropper rightly pointed out that he (I’m assuming he) was simply on the lookout for the next meal. Such is the risk of romanticising nature.

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A POINT OF VIEW

Amar Patel has lived in Pinner for about eleven years and his three children are at school here. Until recently Chair of Governors at West Lodge School, he is now a trustee for St Luke's Hospice Shops.



Pinner is just a wonderful place to bring up kids. It's a great community, the schools are truly excellent and, of course, it's a very pretty, relaxing place to be. It's a safe, happy, comfortable place for children to grow, and my kids are lucky to be here. But that is also a potential problem. If we bring up our children to think that the whole world is as safe and thriving as Pinner, and that all children have these advantages, are we doing them a disservice? Will they grow up with the sense of drive and purpose that we all need to fulfil our potential? Will they understand the value of money and what it can achieve for good? And true, I suspect, of children in many places today, will they really understand the world beyond the computer screen? Will they learn what to do with failure as well as success?

My wife Sejal and I decided some time back that we need to redress the balance a little. Here are some of the ideas that we are trying with our kids, now twelve, eight and six. I don't think we have all the answers by any means – no-one does – and I'd be interested to hear what other parents have tried.

- Let them get bored. When that happens, they start to play together, get out the board games, talk.
- Limit pocket money. If they have to buy lunch or snacks, and they run out of money in the first week, they will budget much better in the next week.
- Give them a budget to buy gifts. This will help them to understand the value of money, something that tapping a screen does not achieve.
- Vary holidays, so they are not always tucked away in a resort somewhere and can see the real world.
- Reward achievements, though not with money, and ensure that those achievements are what they want, not what you want.
- Help them to understand that their community is not just their friends, but everyone around them, right through to the man with the sign, sitting outside Sainsbury's.
- Spend family time together, round the table, at the beginning or end of the day, whenever you can (and I realise this is often hard to arrange).
- Discuss and be open to help children understand the privilege they are being brought up in
- Help them to learn how to fail. We all do, sometimes, and need to learn how to come out of it with a growth mindset.

I did not grow up with easy money, and this, I'm sure, colours my views. There is no one way to bring up a child and none of us will succeed totally. West Lodge School does a brilliant job in helping pupils there to feel citizens of the world. I guess that's what we are trying to do too.

Amar Patel



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TIME FOR ANOTHER WALK

If you are reading this article, I hope you read the Elton John walk that we included in the last edition of *The Villager*. In fact, more than just reading it, I hope you found time to get out and complete the walk. By the way, that article has created a bit of a controversy – did Elton attend Pinner Wood Junior School? A local resident has contacted me and could not trace his name on the school records so I have been in touch with Elton’s ‘people’ to see if we can solve this conundrum. I will let you know if I hear back.

The good news for this edition is that I have managed to find my copy of *Ten Walks Around Pinner*. What a great book from a bygone age (lovely local walks and historical notes and fantastic hand drawn maps and sketches) – no internet, social media, Google Maps, Strava etc – and so it is even more remarkable that a group of residents, co-ordinated by Joanne Verden, managed to pull this publication together. With the kind permission of The Pinner Association, I have reproduced Walk 1 and brought it up to date where things have changed, along with the wonderful pictures by Alan Morill and map by Tony Venis.

So, get your walking shoes on, or boots if it’s muddy. We are going on The Pinner Park and Hatch End Walk (approx. 5 miles and two to two and a half hours, depending on how much you pause along the way, which is, after all, one of the joys of walking). This is a more rural walk than the Elton John walk so I hope you enjoy the contrast. Once again, we start at Pinner Station and head down Station Approach to Bridge Street, where we turn right and then right again into the High Street.

No one knows just how old the High Street may be. One or two of its houses date from the late 15th century, and its general layout will not have changed greatly from Elizabethan times. *The Queen’s Head*, a local landmark (that I have attended from time to time!), was built in the 16th Century and its use as an inn goes back to the time of Charles 1. In fact, the stagecoach for London used to leave here daily until the middle 1840s, by which time it had been superseded by the railway.

If we stop for a minute at 33 and 35 High Street, up from the pub, what is the first thing we notice? Yes, you’ve got it, the bakery sign. No 33 is of 16th century origin, the No 35 part is 15th century, and they came to form one house. Then number 33 was converted into a bakery around 1830. It was into number 35 that Eleanor Ward, granddaughter of Admiral Nelson, was carried in 1872 after being knocked down by a bolting horse. Sadly, all efforts to save her life failed. The two houses were, of course, recombined by Pizza Express, where some of you may remember the old baking ovens in the back room. We wait to see whether the long-awaited new owners will continue to make them a feature.

At the end of High Street, we take the second right into Church Lane and stop for a moment at St John the Baptist Church. The church has just celebrated its seven hundredth birthday, the tower dates from the 15th century and there has been a clock here since the 17th century, though the current mechanism is Victorian. As we walk along Church Lane we pass three interesting buildings – Church Cottage, Chestnut Cottage, and the imposing Pinner House.

Just after crossing over Ingle Close, we come to a public footpath (the wonderfully named



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Church life is changing as several churches now turn to live-streaming to connect with people both locally and further afield. Activities for all age groups are still provided, either face to face when allowed, or on Zoom when necessary. Toddler Groups, Youth Groups, Senior's Groups, Tuesday Lunches, Carols by Torchlight and the Christmas Day Lunch.

Cannon Lane Methodist Church; Pinner Methodist Church;
Pinner Baptist Church; St. John the Baptist Church of England;
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Blackgates footpath) which leads up into Moss Lane. This footpath has certainly been here for two centuries, and very likely much longer than that.

As we enter Moss Lane there is an important building on our right, The Fives Court. This was designed in 1900 by Cecil Brewer for Ambrose Heal, of the furnishing family and is recognised by a blue plaque.

We cross diagonally and to the right over Moss Lane, a medieval highway, and then proceed up Wakehams Hill, another ancient way, which leads to paths around and across Pinner Park.

At the top of the hill, we take the footpath on the left which is signposted to George V Avenue. We pass through the gate to enter Pinner Park, which can be traced back to 1274. In medieval times, it was a deer park, though it has been a farm since the 16th century. We follow the footpath between two fields until we reach George V Avenue.

We cross George V Avenue - carefully, as the traffic is fast - and take the bridleway signposted to Headstone Lane. This takes us to the heart of the farm, with many interesting buildings as well as a healthy collection of cattle. What a lovely facility to have on our doorstep. Let's hope Harrow's ambition to convert this to a 'Country Park and residential development' remains just an ambition.

As we leave the Farm behind us, we continue along the wide road, until we come to the end of the fields. Through the narrow exit at the end, we cross the track that leads to the cricket ground and take the winding footpath to the right of the entrance to the Sports Ground and Hall, towards Chantry Place. This footpath can get a bit overgrown, but we soon come to the bridge across the railway.

We go over the bridge and then take the second left into Letchford Terrace, which joins Headstone Lane after two hundred yards. We carry on into Headstone Lane and are now in the medieval settlement of



View from Wakeham Hill



Path to Railway Bridge



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Hatch End, so named because it was at the hatch, or gate of Pinner Park.

As we walk along Headstone Lane we soon come across the beautiful Letchford House on our left. This is believed to be the oldest building in Hatch End and the timber-framed portion is probably of 17th century origin. What a lovely building.

At this point, we can continue to the end of the road and turn left at the roundabout. We would recommend, though, that you cut across the sports field, turning into the entrance opposite Tillotson Road. Cross diagonally (assuming they are not playing football!) to the red brick building in the top right corner. This is the swimming pool. Pass to the right of this and you are in the car park of the Harrow Arts Centre, where we can pause to admire the recently installed statue outside the Dance Centre to Swami Vivekananda, patriotic saint of India.

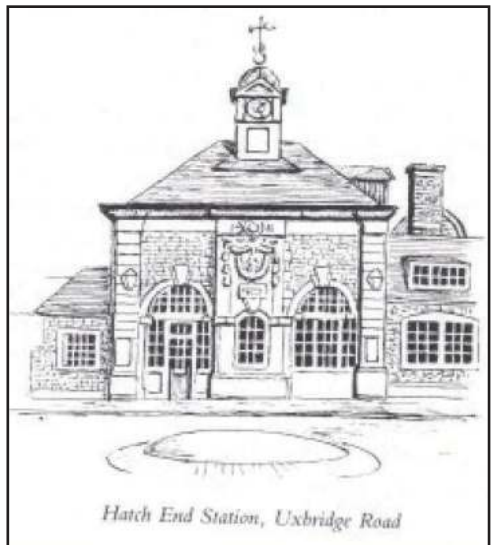


Letchford House, Headstone Lane, Hatch End

Here at the Arts Centre, if you wish, you can pause for refreshment at the Backstage Bar (open weekdays between 10.30 and 3.30). It is also worth checking what is showing in the little gallery by the box office entrance, though we hear that this may soon become the Mayor's Parlour. The Arts Centre began as the Royal Commercial Travellers' School, a boarding institution for the orphans of commercial travellers and was opened in 1855. Many of the original buildings no longer exist. The impressive red-brick Tudor Gothic Elliott Hall was constructed in 1904. It gave a grammar school education until 1967 when it was acquired by Harrow. For many years, the site's heritage was recognised through the naming of the Travellers Theatre.

Whichever route you choose, when we get to the roundabout at Morrisons, we head towards Hatch End over the railway bridge. At the traffic lights, we cross Uxbridge Road and continue towards Hatch End. Hatch End Station is a neo-Georgian building designed for the London and North-Western Railway in 1911. The first station was opened in 1844 and was called Pinner Station. When the Pinner Metropolitan Line station was opened, this station's name was changed to Hatch End for Pinner and this was shortened to Hatch End in 1920.

We now take a slight detour and turn right into Westfield Park where, after about two



Hatch End Station, Uxbridge Road

hundred yards, we soon come to St Anselm's Church, consecrated in 1895 and one of the nicest local churches, by *IMHO. We take the loop around the church (it is only open on Wednesdays between 10.30 and 1.00 and, of course, Sundays) and head back towards Uxbridge Road, where we turn right towards Hatch End.

After Grimsdyke Road, we cross Uxbridge Road at the Pelican crossing and then turn right. Outside Lattakia, the last restaurant in the row, we see a plaque telling you that Mrs Beeton, the famous Victorian cook, lived in a house on that site. We then soon come to Wellington Road, where we turn left. Nos 40 and 44 Wellington Road are the only survivors of the large Woodridings estate of rather grand villas, built in the 1850s to attract new residents who could commute to London via the new railway station just along Uxbridge Road. At the end of Wellington Road, we go straight ahead on the footpath that soon leads us into fields again.

After a stile, we turn right and follow the path back to George V Avenue. After another stile at the end of the field, we (again carefully) cross George V Avenue and then enter the footpath directly opposite, signposted to Moss Close. We walk down the slope, over two more stiles, and then follow round to the right. A word of warning, this part of the walk can get muddy if there has been rain recently and the footpath can be overgrown.

The footpath soon leads into an alley between houses which takes us into Moss Close, where we turn left and walk down the road until it meets Moss Lane. We turn right at Moss Lane – again with care, as there is a blind corner and no pavement - and come across the residence of our very own William Heath Robinson at No 75 (another blue plaque).

At the end of Moss Lane, we find one of the oldest houses in the area. The oldest part, timber-framed, is now concealed by weather boarding and forms No 2, Moss Lane. The more showy black and white part dates from the late 19th century and forms 31 Paines Lane. Paines Lane is another of Pinner's medieval lanes. It has two more houses of note, the mid-nineteenth century No 50, on the corner of Barrow Point Avenue and originally called Stoke Villa, and No 60, Pinnercote, the home of the Verden family, where they sheltered suffragettes.

Further along, we come to Paines Lane Cemetery, which was consecrated in 1859. If you walk halfway up the path, you will find, within a low railing several yards to the right, the grave of Horatia Nelson Ward, and, along the main pathway to the left, a large memorial to Ambrose Heal.

After a quarter of a mile, Paines Lane leads us back into the High Street where our walk ends with a cup of coffee and, maybe a cake. Go on, you deserve it after the walk!

This is the second article in *The Villager* on local walks around Pinner. We hope you find these articles interesting and would welcome any feedback on the two we have published and any ideas for future articles. Do contact us at editor@pinnerassociation.co.uk.

Credits: Words by Ed Badke, based on research by Pat Clarke.

Illustrations by Alan Morill.

Map by Tony Venis.

**In my humble opinion*



1 The Pinner Park and Hatch End Walk

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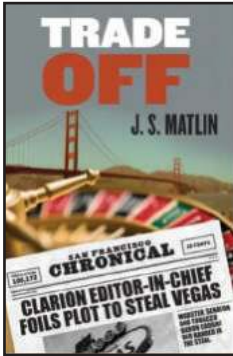
Dr John Matlin

When local resident, John Matlin, left a successful career as a City of London lawyer in his 50s, he little realised that this would lead to him writing a series of fascinating novels.

John went to Brunel University and then Birmingham, where he gained a doctorate in American political history. He was particularly interested in the period from 1920 to 1950, and this led to the idea of writing a series of novels about this formative era, based on his research but focused on a fictional newspaper man, David Driscoll.

The novels weave tense and exciting stories into the true events and personalities of the time, as Driscoll fights corruption and speaks truth to power. Now, the fourth and final book of the series, *End Game* is about to come out. You can browse the books and buy at jspublishing.biz.

John is an enthusiastic Tottenham Hotspur fan and is thus inured to disappointment.

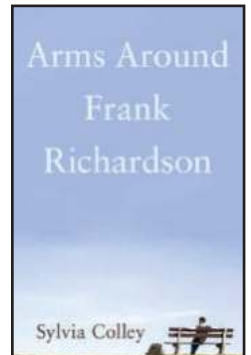


Sylvia Colley

Sylvia is a former Head of English and Drama at Purcell School and lives in Pinner. Her third novel, *Arms around Frank Richardson* has been published this year by Muswell Press. It explores the age-old theme of nature v nurture by following three challenged but initially unconnected lives until the time that they come together, with explosive repercussions.

This work follows on the success of *Lights on the Water* and *Ask Me to Dance*. It is available through Blackwells, Amazon, WHSmith and independent bookshops, and Sylvia will be doing a book signing at Smiths very soon – no date fixed but watch their windows.

Sylvia is also a talented jewellery maker, whose work has been featured in the shop at the Heath Robinson Museum. (See her website sylviacolley.co.uk)



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QUIZ

We have just passed the harvest season, one of my favourite times of the year (Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness...) Here's a quick quiz to test how much you know about harvest. Answers on the Pinner Association website from Nov 14th.

1. The word Harvest comes from the Old English haerfest. What did this originally mean?
2. In 1834, Hiram Moore invented the combine harvester, which reaped, threshed and winnowed. What do 'threshing' and 'winnowing' mean?
3. How many varieties of English apples have been developed? 150, 800, 2,500?
4. What is made from the last stalks of corn at harvest time to represent the spirit of the corn?
5. September's moon is called the Harvest Moon. What is the name of the October moon?
6. What is a stook?
7. Which painter's work includes The Potato Harvest and The Sower?
8. Which BBC radio programme has an agricultural editor?
9. How much do we spend on strawberries in Britain each year. £7m, £70m, £700m?
10. What marks the end of the Harvest season in Alaska?
11. Which crop is celebrated in France at Harvest time?
12. What is the name given to harvest celebrations in the U.S.?
13. What do Ceres and Demeter have in common?
14. What is micromys minutus?
15. How many foodbanks are there in the UK – 1,000, 2,500, 4,000?
16. Which English Romantic poet wrote Ode to Autumn?
17. Which vegetable, associated with harvest and Hallowe'en was thought to cure freckles and snake bites?
18. Name these crops



COLLECTORS' CORNER

BARBARA PRENTICE

Hello, I am Barbara, a retired teacher, historian and very keen amateur gardener.

I have been a Collector for the Pinner Association for 28 years and my 'Corner' is a residential crescent built by William Old & Sons in the early 1960s. The development was squeezed into an Open Space between the Green Belt, Pinner Chalk Mines, Grim's Ditch, and a small livestock farm where cows still grazed until the early 1970s. It was a quiet haven, away from busy traffic and safe for children to play outside. I was fortunate to be one of the first residents in 1962 and lived there for 23 years.



When I started collecting it meant just that - door-to-door collection of subscriptions (£4) and delivery of The Villager magazine. I inherited 72 member households out of a possible 145, and aimed to increase this to 100. However 89 has been the highest to date.

The best part of being a Collector has always been catching up with old neighbours, who have become friends, and meeting so many newcomers. I believe that chatting on doorsteps is very much part of the role.

The character and appearance of the Crescent have changed significantly since the 1960s. Only 16 of my 'original' Association members remain and there is a constant cycle of removals and renovations. The road is still very popular and a much sought-after haven for new generations of families. As part of my role as Collector, I make a point of welcoming new arrivals and hope they will get involved in local activities. I visit every new household with a sample edition of The Villager, explain the aims of the Association, and encourage them to become part of the Pinner community. The responses are varied but the related conversations are always interesting!

After nearly 30 years of walking uneven pavements, side-stepping skips and ever-larger cars, limbo dancing to all manner of letterbox positions, and being interrogated by remote doorbell devices, I currently have 75 members. Given the constant changes, I consider this quite an achievement.

I do fear that new methods of subscription payments will remove the valuable interaction between Collectors and Members, giving rise to impersonal 'Distributors' and risking an erosion of the neighbourhood connections and community spirit which we have sought to inspire. However, for now, I will continue to nurture my 'Corner' and hope that the next generation of residents will give back to the lovely village which they have chosen as their home and support the future efforts of the Pinner Association.

Alison Whitehead, our membership Secretary, comments:

Thank you so much to Barbara. I have been amazed by her hard work and enthusiasm for

the work of the Pinner Association. Her round and membership numbers are the highest in Pinner. I believe the longest serving collector is David Butler, a good friend of Barbara's, who tells me that he has been a collector since 1975. Please do correct me if I am wrong.

It is true, as Barbara says, that being a collector gives our volunteers an opportunity to meet and maintain contact with the neighbours, which does help foster a sense of community.

However, I am also extremely grateful to those collectors who have worked hard to get people onto direct debit, thus minimising the workload to themselves and perhaps more importantly to their successors. It is so much easier to find a new collector when I can reassure them that over 80% of the round is already signed up to direct debit.

VOLUNTEERS' TEA PARTY

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, we were able to resume our custom of thanking our collectors with an afternoon tea. We have traditionally used the Verden Gallery above Daisy's to do this. However, the gallery has a maximum capacity of 60 people, and we were inviting 78 collectors plus partners! On top of this were committee members, and this year we were pleased to invite the volunteers who help maintain the Peace Garden. We therefore renamed the event the 'Volunteers' Party'.

I was guided by my predecessor, Jill Cock, who told me not to worry about the numbers, as tradition showed that 'it would all be alright on the night'. Indeed, she was correct as we welcomed 55 guests who enjoyed each other's company, sandwiches by Marks and Spencer, and home-made cakes. The 'pièce de résistance' was the Pinner Association cupcakes, made by my daughter's friend Annabelle.

I was delighted that my efforts in the kitchen meant that we were able to provide a pleasant afternoon for our volunteers at a relatively low cost.

A big thank you to all our many volunteers and to those who helped on the afternoon of the 4th September, with particular thanks to my daughter Clare and her friend Annabelle.



AREA LEADERS AND COLLECTORS

The contents of this page have been removed

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