No 252 March 2022

Villager

News and Views of Pinner



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No 252 March 2022

The Villager Journal of The Pinner Association

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The Pinner Association

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 the Pinner area.

What we do

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

We publish *The Villager* three times a year, in March, July and November. Between editions, key information can be found on our bulletin boards at Sainsbury's, Marks & Spencer, Pinner Station and the Memorial Park, as well as on our website, pinnerassociation.co.uk

The names of the committee have been removed

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THE VILLAGER

JOURNAL OF THE PINNER ASSOCIATION

No. 252 March 2022

FROM THE EDITOR

In this issue, we mark the loss of two remarkable people; Cynthia Wells, who leaves a large legacy, not least as Editor of this magazine, and Iris Heath, a less well-known name, but someone who also had a positive and even life-changing effect on those around her. Their very different lives remind us that our community, like every other, is not made up of groups, defined by age, ethnicity, gender or wealth but of individuals, each of us living our lives and interlocking with many others.

As Pinner emerges, blinking, from two years of serious limitations on our freedom of movement and socialising, we are learning again the pleasures of eating out, meeting friends for coffee, popping into local shops and stopping for chats in the street. It will not go back to the 'normality' that we had before - things never do - and that is probably a good thing. It gives us all a chance to reassess how we allocate our time and resources. We have been frequently and forcefully reminded of the devastating effects of climate change, and this may be a chance to think afresh about the value of experiences and friendships over possessions.

This issue looks at the resurgence of Pinner's restaurant scene, with privately owned restaurants and small, local chains taking over from the big national names, surely a positive move. By way of antidote, we feature the very successful Harrow Cycling Hub, which is having a positive effect on the health of people of all ages. In this issue, we also share the joys of acting, marquetry, bowls, horseriding and gardening, as well as our cultural gem, the Heath Robinson Museum.

When we first moved to Pinner some 36 years ago, our friends' most common reaction was, 'Oh, yes, I had an elderly aunt who lived in Pinner'. This community has certainly broadened out and will continue, in our collective hands, to change. And that's to be welcomed.

I welcome all comments and suggestions. Do get in touch at editor@pinnerassociation. co.uk.

Phil Lawder Guest Editor



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CYNTHIA WELLS BEM 1938 -- 2022

It was in *The Villager* of March 1991, that went to press a fortnight before 'the wrong kind of snow' entered our language, that the PA Chairman recorded that "Mrs Cynthia Wells has accepted the Committee's invitation to take on the responsibility of Secretary of the Association". Further on, Derek Sankey welcomed her, telling us that she had lived in Pinner for 10 years, was by profession a senior civil servant working on the (now notorious) Community Charge, and speculating that she might find light relief in addressing Pinner's problems.



In that essential and taxing office she was not only to serve for 10 years with distinction, but she found time to be the driving force behind the first of 27 Pinner Pantomime Evenings, set up in 1994 to involve Pinner's traders more in their community. It is probably not coincidental that it was only last year, when her last illness necessitated self-isolation, that there was no Pantomime Evening. As if that was not enough, after *The Villager's* Editor resigned in unhappy circumstances in 1995, she volunteered to serve on the Editorial Committee formed to keep it from folding. Alphabetical vagaries meant that Cynthia was unfairly the last named in *The Villager's* list of Association Officers, but in truth she was head and shoulders above the rest of us in knowing what needed to be done. In due course, on top of everything else, she became Editor, in which office she was to serve continuously for 25 years. Fortunately, she had by then retired from the Civil Service.

As Editor, Cynthia made a number of innovations. The front cover was redesigned to feature local artist Peter Green's painting of the High Street, 'Dates for your Diary' was introduced to help local groups fill empty seats, and the list of Committee members' responsibilities was provided to enable readers to contact the right person to help with matters of concern. She also retained the Editorial Committee, which, to its members, was, and still is, an eternal source of joy. For a start, in 25 years, it never overran 2 hours, an achievement in itself, and, armed with her trusted Chambers Dictionary, she presided with humour and forbearance over all manner of arguments about spellings, commas and whether or not Eavesdropper's latest whinge was libellous. Added to all this, whisky and/or wine was usually served (next Editor please note!) Indeed, in the light of recent revelations, if we had mentioned this when nominating her for an honour, perhaps she might have made it to the House of Lords.

Eventually, in 2000, a replacement Secretary was identified, enabling Cynthia to become Vice-Chairman for 3 years. No longer being Secretary, she immediately refilled her diary by taking on the Talking Shops section of *The Villager* on Derek Sankey's retirement, metamorphosing from 'Your new friend, Alice' in 2003 to 'Your old friend, Alice'. This role she was to fulfil up to lockdown, when her much prized contact and friendship with Pinner's traders was legally constrained.

2003 saw her election as Chairman. The most tangible legacy of her 3 years has to be the introduction in 2005 of the annual cycle of summer Band Concerts, initially set up to raise funds for the Heath Robinson Museum, and now a Pinner tradition that draws visitors from all over North-West London. When Sam Upton was forced by ill health to retire from organising the Concerts, it was inevitably Cynthia who took over the task of booking the bands, and the unenviable chore of trying to extract decisions out of the council to enable the Concerts actually to happen, until Julie rescued her a few years ago. As Chairman she also put most of her predecessors to shame with the organisation and conciseness of her Chairman's Reports in *The Villager*. Each topic she covered had a bold-type heading which meant that any reader who had no interest in potholes, flood alleviation or the Green Belt could safely jump to items of personal interest without wading through the entire text.

On top of all this, Cynthia was a Trustee of Pinner House, and of the Heath Robinson Museum Trust, in which her pivotal role is described elsewhere. She and Jack were inveterate travellers, latterly on cruises after Jack's mobility was reduced, even to the extent of braving the North Atlantic in mid-winter.

To all of her positions in the PA she brought a formidable intellect, a gritty determination typically associated with her native Yorkshire, and a driven work ethic, always tempered by a huge capacity for kindness and fun. For years she and Jack threw a wonderful New Year's Eve party, characterized by fiendish quizzes, great food and even better gossip. She passed away at home on 19 January with Jack and her daughter Charlotte, to whom we offer our sincere condolences, beside her. She leaves a huge legacy of achievement on behalf of all of us in Pinner.

Warwick Hillman

CYNTHIA WELLS AND THE WEST HOUSE AND HEATH ROBINSON MUSEUM

In 1995, a small exhibition to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War encouraged the Pinner Association to work towards the restoration of West House. Cynthia had a central role in this activity, and it was not surprising therefore that she was contacted by Sue Collins, a Trustee of the William Heath Robinson Trust, who had heard that the PA had acquired a lease on West House, and proposed a collaboration. Cynthia's response was that such a collaboration would be a 'marriage made in heaven', and so the creation of the West House & Heath Robinson Museum Trust came about. Representatives of both trusts came together, with Martin Verden as Chairman and Cynthia as Secretary.

The aim then was to raise money for the restoration of West House, with the intention of creating within it a room to display some of William Heath Robinson's work. The eventual goal was to have a purpose-built museum. Heath Robinson had been resident in Pinner during some of his most productive years. Work commenced on the restoration, and, with the help of generous local contributions, it was completed, and West House reopened in June 2010.

The committee then proceeded with the application for a Heritage Lottery grant, while Cynthia continued with local fundraising. She had also arranged for legal, architectural and surveying support. Indeed, her work was critical to driving the project forward. All matters were minuted, and we as a committee were kept fully informed by her on progress. The application for lottery funding was successful, and work on the new museum began in 2013. It opened in October 2016, with staff whose appointments Cynthia had organised.

In 2016, she joined the William Heath Robinson Trust, representing Pinner's interest. In other words, Cynthia was untiring in ensuring the success of the museum. In 2020 she became Chairman of The West House and Heath Robinson Museum Trust and still effectively continued her secretarial duties. We have had great contributions from a number of trustees and volunteers, but all, I am sure, recognise the key role that Cynthia played in ensuring the success of Pinner's great museum, which has re-established the Memorial Park as a valuable social centre for the village.

Her contribution to the work not only of the Museum but also the Pinner Association over many years was recognised this year with the award of a British Empire Medal.

Phillip Snell Trustee The West House and Heath Robinson Museum Trust

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VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Happy belated New Year; at least this festive period we were allowed to meet up with our families and celebrate Christmas and the New Year.

The Pinner Association is Ninety.

By the time that you receive your copy of *The Villager*, the association will be 90 years old. The first meeting was held on 4 March 1932, at the residence of Mr C R Venner of High View. Many residents in High View thought it would be a good idea to form a community of interest. On 21 March 1932, a public meeting was held under the chairmanship of Sir Charles Gott in the Parish Hall. (It was one of the largest meetings ever held at the Parish Hall). Their main concerns were the proposed new fire station in Pinner and the amalgamation of Local Government Area into what we now know as the London Borough of Harrow. In 1938, the first copy of *The Villager* was produced. Its concept was to 'establish closer touch with their members'. The first *Villager's* stated aims were 'to secure the good and economical government of the district'. The magazine was initially published quarterly and a view of the Church was on the cover of the first edition.

AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be on 20 April at 8pm, hopefully this year in the Village Hall instead of on Zoom. Our guest speaker will be Mr Chris Woolf, Head of Pinner High School.

We are always looking for new people to join the committee, irrespective of background, gender or ethnicity. Without people stepping up to the plate, we will not be able to continue. What would that mean?

- No festive lights or Christmas trees
- No band concerts
- No central social media platform for local clubs and organisations
- No instant advice on planning applications
- No extra gardeners for the Peace Gardens or wisteria
- No donations to local organisations

You might think that you have nothing to contribute; think again. I would consider myself a generalist in all things Pinner. You might have a different perspective, ideas or way of looking at things – that's good, we need you. You don't need to attend all meetings. Interested? Please contact Ruth Boff by phone or email information@pinnerassociation. co.uk.

Pinner Memorial Park.

I trundled down to thank all of the volunteers who are helping to restore the Peace Garden to its former glory and thought, I can't just thank them without stopping to help. After a couple of hours merrily cutting back overgrown shrubbery, I ended up being stung by two wasps in quick succession. It was then discovered that I'm allergic to wasps and ended up at Northwick Park A&E. I was lucky, in and out of A&E in just over three hours. Since that



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fateful visit some of you may have noticed that some compost bins have been erected near the Peace Gardens (this was with the blessing of Harrow Council).

Speaking to Christine Cox, who heads up the team, if any of you have an old hoe tucked in your garden shed, the volunteers would love to have it. Please email gardening@pinnerassociation.co.uk.

In Pinner Memorial Park, Harrow Council has at last started to fix the new stream that was running down the path towards Chapel Lane Car Park. Although they have successfully stopped the stream, work is still to be completed.



New Compost Bins

Work in Progress

Pinner Acts of Remembrance

Our acts of remembrance started on Wednesday 27th October 2021 when the Mayor of Harrow, Cllr. Ghazanfar Ali, laid a poppy wreath at the Dove of Peace War Memorial in the Peace Garden in Pinner Memorial Park in memory of all those who have fallen serving their country or as a result of conflict.

Last year's planned multi-faith Remembrance Sunday service did not take place because of COVID. This year, it was able to go ahead. The horrific murder of David Amess MP made planning a lot more difficult, due to increased security alerts. A huge thank you must go to Caroline Ennis who organised this on our behalf, with the help of Geoffrey Wheal. The changes in the events team at Harrow Council meant that they had to jump through a lot more hoops to get the event authorised.

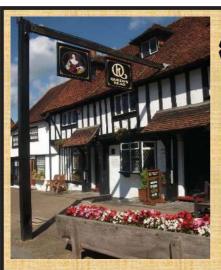
I spoke to a gentleman called Nitin who asked why we didn't have a wreath laid on behalf of the members of the Commonwealth who also fought in both World Wars. This is in hand and hopefully will be rectified next year.

Caroline Ennis, who has organised the service for us over the last 10 years, is stepping



Wreath Laying in the Peace Gardens

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down. In order to ensure that we can organise this in the years to come, we are looking for a group of people to take on this task. Organisation starts in August. If you are interested in being part of the team, please email me on chairman@pinnerassociation.co.uk.

Festive Lights

As there was no Pinner Panto Evening last year, the committee decided that the festive lights (we pay for them to be erected) in the High Street & Bridge Street should be put up and switched on in time for Diwali. The Christmas tree lights were switched on in a low-key event by the Mayor of Harrow, Cllr. Ghazanfar Ali, on the evening that would have been Pinner Panto. The Panto Committee, which is totally independent of the Pinner Association, needs new people if it is to return.



High St Lights

Santa's Sleigh

The Rotary Club of Pinner was able to take Santa's sleigh on its annual tour of selected streets to the delight of many children. You'll find an article in this issue about that.

The Villager

Producing *The Villager* has been a bit different this time. Cynthia, who was Editor for 25 years, passed away after being unwell for many months. We were hoping that she would write the editorial this time. Sadly, that wasn't to be.

Phil Lawder has gallantly stepped in to be our guest editor for the next two editions (I know Cynthia was very happy about this) and Lee at the Print Shop will be compiling the magazine. Don't worry, your old favourites, A Pinner Diary and Talking Shops are still included.

Happy reading.

Julie Waller



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A PINNER DIARY

Pride of place in the Diary goes, in this edition, to the richly deserved and long overdue award in the New Year's Honours List of the British Empire Medal to our long -serving Editor, Cynthia Wells, who sadly passed away as *The Villager* was about to go to press. With typical modesty, shortly before she died, she wrote to say how much her honour reflected the

support she had had, but the reality was that she deserved a medal for putting up with us.

Back on less elevated matters, the lake in the Memorial Park seems to have lost its Canada Geese, and, among the Mallards, males this winter have outnumbered females by about 3 to 1, almost as bad as being at university in the 1960s! Is there a word for a back to front harem, and is this normal? Whatever, the result in spring looks like being a lot of frustrated males or a rather smaller number of polygamous females.



Drakes more than Ducks

One Sunday in January, park visitors had the unusual pleasure of seeing a petite but very confident and friendly pedigree cat being taken for a walk on a lead by her proud owners. Ever mindful of the Museum's concern over damage caused by feral pigeons, we suggested that she could be rented out for pigeon deterrent duties, only to be told that, although quite unafraid of dogs, she was totally spooked by pigeons.

The Diary recently commented on the Friends of Pinner Village Gardens' splendid raised bed near the Compton Rise entrance, which has really come into its own in its first winter. They have now given a similar upgrade to the area around the Rayners Lane entrance and are planning improvements to the borders on the way in from Hereford Gardens. The whole green space is now a worthy alternative to the Memorial Park, so perhaps now is the time to think about provision of a café.

In September we should have seen more environmental improvement, when the new operating contract for our 183 bus route specified the introduction of electric-powered buses. While it only seems like yesterday that the Diary welcomed the new square looking vehicles we have come to know if not love, they are now 13 years old. However, it is reported that modifications at their garage to enable charging have delayed their introduction, and they have been deployed elsewhere, so the old ones are soldiering on. I blame Brexit. (A cluster of three were spotted recently! – Ed)

Meanwhile, for several months, a venerable Routemaster bus has been adorning the playground of Pinner Wood School, giving rise to speculation that its 7-ton weight was



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being used to test the quality of the work done to remove risk of the subsidence that caused the school to be evacuated a few years ago. It was actually on loan for use at fundraising events and was recently returned to its owner, eradicating trips down Memory Lane for your diarist, whose office for 9 years overlooked the terminus of route 279, which was displayed on its front destination blind.



A PA Committee member, who once drove Routemasters, tells us that they were incredibly easy to drive, which appeared not to be the case of the articulated lorry that, one December morning, managed to get itself stuck in the entrance to the Sainsbury's Car Park. Presumably it was connected in some way with the interminable works that have kept much of the car park closed for months on end.

At last, we have council action to make the High View/ Cuckoo Hill junction safer. Before the first lockdown. our Association asked for parking to be restricted in High View so that, in turning off Cuckoo Hill, one was not confronted immediately by a vehicle coming the other way through a very small gap, leaving no space for avoiding action. Double yellow lines have at last been approved, which may have appeared by the time you read this.

It is also pleasing to record that the completely ineffective barriers erected in the public footpath off Starling Close to deter and delay speeding illegal cyclists have been replaced by something much more practical. Thanks are due to Councillor Richard Almond for his tenacity in finally getting the matter resolved. More's the pity that he is not standing for re-election in May.

Though this may be tempting fate, this seems the time and place to acknowledge the huge effort that many in Harrow Council have been making, both behind the scenes and at the coalface, to ensure that our vital services have been delivered in such challenging times, be it in emptying our bins or educating our children or grandchildren. The same thanks are due to those who provide the health, transport and care services that we all too easily take for granted.

In this context it is fitting to record with regret but appreciation the retirement of Dr. Isobel Bleehen after 28 years at the Pinn Medical Centre. It is now several years since Dr. Shah, one of the original Partners, died, and Dr Bleehen took over many of his patients, Eavesdropper among them. Wonderful doctor though Dr Shah was, it was hard to emerge from a consultation feeling cheered up, however good the diagnosis, so seriously did he address his duties! Seeing Dr Bleehen was therefore a real breath of fresh air, though she was just as thorough, whether her advice was to eat more sensibly to avoid diabetes or simply to keep on taking the tablets. She even took the trouble to phone up to follow my progress after an accident took me off to hospital for repairs. Women's health has always

been her primary interest, so I was probably a big disappointment to her, but it was no surprise in 2016 to hear that she had joined a charity-funded team to offer gynaecological aid and advice to women in Ethiopia. She was also a loyal and regular participant at the PMC's annual Quiz Suppers, and I am sure that it was no fault of hers when the Doctors' table sometimes came last. Let us hope she enjoys a long and healthy retirement.

Indeed. as long and healthy a retirement as that enjoyed by former Editor of The Villager, Henry Rockwell, who on 24 October celebrated 100th birthday. his after retiring from the editorship around time that Dr. Bleehen arrived in Pinner. It was only recently that he was to be seen striding around Pinner, before moving into the Aarandale Care Home in Mill Hill, where a



Henry and his champagne

party was held to mark the occasion.

Confronted with a sacred river in a cryptic crossword, one's mind might identify the Ganges or Jordan fairly quickly, even Alph at a pinch, but a church in Elm Park Road, Pinner? Well, not immediately, but it's there, in the Christian Science Reading Room, just past the Police Station, where the building is now shared with the newly opened Romanian Holy River Church, which is a Pentecostal church, a branch of the Church of God UK. Its congregation give it 5 stars unanimously.

Back in the more familiar C of E, Covid put rather a dampener on Pinner Parish Church's 700th anniversary, but, hidden in the small print of 2021's last Radio Times could be found something big to celebrate. This year the organist at the iconic Christmas Eve Carol Service from King's College, Cambridge, on both the radio and television, was Paul Greally, student of Michael Turvey, the Church's former Director of Music for over 50 years. Very unusually, Paul was asked to perform in his first year as the College's Organ Scholar, a double distinction. Perhaps he can be invited to Pinner Music Festival before too long.

Congratulations also to Pinner High School on being one of five schools selected from hundreds across London to receive a £10,000 award from the Mayor of London to help them accelerate student-led environmental projects. For such a new school, they are rapidly building a high reputation. Perhaps they can be let loose on pressurising TfL to accelerate the overdue introduction of our promised electric buses.

Down the road at Nower Hill High School, students and staff enjoyed in November the accolade of a rare Royal Visit. HRH the Duchess of Cambridge came as Patron of the SEEN initiative - Secondary Education around Early Neurodevelopment - a research project aiming to teach the key principles and importance of early child development and neuroscience to students. Let us hope they complete their education before needing to put principles into practice!



Kate at Nower Hill

It's good to see that the Harrow Choral Society are back to live performances. April 2nd sees a performance of Handel's Messiah at 7.30 in the wonderful Speech Room at Harrow School. Tickets and information at harrowchoral.org.uk.

Covid continues to disrupt our lives and threatens us with running out of usable letters of the Greek alphabet, while making sense of the plethora of daily statistics becomes ever harder. On 23 December, Harrow had the lowest infection rate among London boroughs. As I write, it is now fourth highest, but why? This is despite Harrow being in the leading cohort for vaccination of all age groups, for which we should all be grateful, and even perhaps congratulate ourselves. Why, for example, has the vaccination rate fallen so quickly since Christmas? Is it simply fear of being televised alongside Boris Johnson on yet another vaccination centre visit?

Perhaps the last word should go to Pinner- born former Children's Laureate Michael Rosen, who suffered very badly from Covid in 2020 and nearly lost his life. On hearing of the now notorious May 2020 'work gathering' he tweeted, "Damn, I missed it. In a coma at the time. Just my luck."

Eavesdropper

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SHOUTING IN THE EVENING

Have you ever wondered if you could act on stage? To perform in front of a live audience, rather than on a social media video? To learn and deliver lines written by talented playwrights, rather than offer your own opinions to the world? Amateur theatre might be just what you're looking for. A change from sitting in front of a computer or a television, watching other people perform!

Pinner Players was founded in 1936 and was then called the Popular



Players. We have been performing in Pinner ever since. Amateur actors do not get paid any wages for our work and our groups are financed by our small annual subscription and the income from tickets. Professional actors usually find that their profession is overcrowded, with jobs hard to come by, but we amateurs get a chance to play the major starring roles that the professionals only dream of getting. Our actors have a day job or have retired. Teachers, lawyers, doctors, carpenters, software developers and many more all join an amateur theatre group because they want the excitement and challenge of working together as a team and making new friends.

Michael Gambon is reputed to have said that stage acting is "shouting in the evening". But do you have what it takes to act on stage? Well, if you have ever entertained friends or family or colleagues by doing your imitation of a comedian, or by trying out foreign or regional accents, and have sometimes raised a smile from other people, then you're more than halfway there. We don't have formal auditions at Pinner Players. When we cast a play, everyone is welcome to come along to the Village Hall and read for a part even if they have not yet joined our club. When we sit in a circle and hear each other read from the script, we know whether a newcomer has enough talent and, with the right make-up, will



fit the part. We are an equal opportunity club, and we do not discriminate against anyone. If you are not given a part as an actor, or if you prefer not to act on stage, we have many other roles for you to consider. Set build, set decoration, carpentry, sound, lights, props, costumes, stagehands, all need newcomers to join the team.





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Our rehearsals are at the Village Hall in Chapel Lane on Tuesdays (except for one Monday a month) and Fridays, at 8pm. Our past productions have included popular comedies and profound dramas, works by Arthur Miller and Tennessee Williams, and some large cast productions such as *Stepping Out* and *Hi-de-Hi*. Next May, we plan to perform the hilarious comedy *One Man, Two Guvnors*. In the current climate,



Covid restrictions have sometimes resulted in the postponement of our productions, but we hope that we can continue to attract our large and enthusiastic audiences and foster the spirit of live theatre for many decades to come. Newcomers are always welcome. If you would like to join us, please visit our website at www.pinnerplayers.com

Jon Grunewald

NEW GROUP FOR LOCAL KIDS

My name is Max, and I'm 15 years of age. I'd like to ask readers if their children or grandchildren have any interest in creating a local group for young people of all ages, either through WhatsApp, as many neighbourhood groups are, or through Discord (which may be more familiar to them - it is for me, anyway!)

The idea is to provide somewhere for us to hang out together and chat about our interests and experiences. As we all know, the pandemic has, since early 2020, denied everyone (particularly home-schooled kids like me) many of the previously available social opportunities. I'd like this group to provide a way for kids to reconnect and rebuild our social connections, online at first and then perhaps in person as well, as that becomes less difficult.

Also, over the past couple of years, I've been involved in running several globally-based online RP (role play) and D&D (Dungeons & Dragons) communities and would also like to see if any local kids would be interested in forming something similar as a sub-group of this new local group. Maybe we could even meet up once a week face-to-face to storm imaginary castles and generally have fun! This role-playing sub-group would be limited to ages roughly 12-17, just so all players are on the same page, but of course the general online group would definitely be for kids of all ages.

If you're interested in doing either (or both!) please email me on MaxBPinnerSocial@gmail.com. Let's do this!

PINNER STATION GARDENS

Pinner Association has been caring for the flowerbeds on Pinner Station since the 80s, when the late Joanne Verden persuaded the authorities that local gardeners would provide greater care than tight transport budgets would permit. The beds looked good for some time, but by 2017 rampant shrubs were becoming a problem, swamping many plants of greater merit.



I was volunteered to take on the role of putting the beds in good order. The first thing was to find out what TFL permitted and wanted of the flowerbeds.

I soon had a shortlist of not very severe constraints:

- Plants should not run onto the platform to provide a trip hazard
- Plants should not obscure the view of the CCTV cameras.
- Shrubs should not obscure the Pinner signs at the back of the beds
- If possible, the rather elderly lavenders should be left, as the passengers liked to stroke them
- No, I couldn't have a compost heap on the platform

With such light constraint, where was the problem? Well, the area of the beds is large, and I had taken on two distinct gardens.

The beds at the London end had some very overgrown shrubs, including a very large Photinia in front of a CCTV camera, but otherwise just required a little attention. This garden was sheltered, and in the Summer received some shade.

The one at the Northwood end had been colonised at one end by winter honeysuckle, a lovely plant but with imperialist tendencies. At the other end, shrubs had overgrown and intermingled to form a dense thicket. Herbaceous plants, roses and overgrown shrubs filled the gap between them. The garden was less sheltered than the London end, and in the Summer was baked. This was the bigger job.

In addition, working slowly seemed advisable. The facilities for watering were limited and remote from the beds; initially we had to get water from the gents' toilets, latterly from a tap just outside. This meant that replanting a large area was not sensible if the plants were to last their first Summer.

A plan was needed.

Accordingly, the first year's campaign was to tidy the London end and to reduce the amount of winter honeysuckle at the Northwood end, put in some herbaceous plants and replace some roses and lavenders that were past their best.

Subsequently, fresh shrubs have been planted, and the renovated area expanded, although Covid restrictions did mean that little was done in 2020.

The Pinner Association provide a budget for plants, and this is supplemented with cuttings and seedlings from my garden.

All plant material cut from the beds is composted [in my garden] and returned to the beds during the Winter. This has already reduced watering requirements.

Long term, the aim is to have beds with flowering shrubs to give a year-round display, but in the meantime herbaceous plants are doing most of the work.

This is a work in progress and the gardener would be delighted to talk to anyone who spots him at the station.

Jim Boff

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THE PINNER ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES (PAC)

As with most organisations, because of Covid, the last two years have been quite challenging. There has been a lot of 'shall we, shan't we?' when it comes to arranging meetings as to whether we meet in person or over

Zoom. Like many others, we have been uncertain about holding events, but we have, so far, weathered the storm. In June 2021, I became Chair of the PAC for the next eighteen months, with a Zoom AGM and a small church service at St John's Church. Normally, each Chair comes to that position from within a rota of the five Churches in Pinner. They are St John the Baptist, Church of England, St Luke's Roman Catholic Church, Pinner Baptist Church, Pinner Methodist Church, Love Lane, and Cannon Lane Methodist Church.

The PAC was formed to enable all churches of all denominations to work and worship together. In the 1960s the different denominations had little to do with each other, but there has been huge progress since that time. In 2019, the PAC celebrated 50 years of 'continuing to seek not to do separately those things that can better be done together'. The PAC has four joint services per year, and it is uplifting to share in fellowship and prayer. We also meet for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Our mission is one of prayer and service within our local community. The danger, though, is that our respect for each other may make us feel that what we do now, as the PAC, is sufficient. But is it?

We do have many strengths. One is our Christmas Day lunch, held annually in St John's Church Hall and aimed towards those people who would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day. Our Welcome Lunches are a great resource in bringing people together and are held six times a year.





Preparing PAC Christmas Lunch

The Good Friday Walk of Witness, held annually, has 200 to 300 people walking through Pinner, passing four of our churches before congregating at St Luke's Church for hot cross buns.



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Other events include the Carols around the Christmas Tree in the week before Christmas where, this year, about 150 people attended. Along with many other organisations, the PAC is always represented at the Remembrance Day service at the War Memorial, organised by the Pinner Association. These events have been very successful, and we surely hope to continue them.



PAC Carols

For now, we must decide what sort of PAC we want for the future. Our predecessors have left us a great legacy to work with. There is a lot to ponder.

Rosemary Lay



What is this?

Spotted in the Memorial Park by Jon Keyes, this has had us guessing. A new way to encourage kids to take their rubbish home? A contemporary sculpture? A sociological comment on waste, environmental responsibility and our children's future?

We would be interested to hear your interpretation. Do send us your thoughts at editor@pinnerassociation.co.uk

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Join The Pinner Association and help us:

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HEATH ROBINSON MUSEUM NEWS

Over the past 3 months we have had a particularly magical time with our special exhibition of the works of the illustrator of Winnie the Witch, Korky Paul, who kindly visited the Museum for a number of special events; an expert talk, a family Hallowe'en event and private views for the friends and volunteers of the Museum. He also gave a special private view for many of the publishing houses that he had worked with over the years, which coincided with his 70th birthday. Winnie's cat, Wilbur, made a special appearance, albeit as a rather delicious and greatly admired birthday cake specially designed and made by a local artisan cakemaker just for us.



Korky Paul teaching how to draw imaginatively

The Hallowe'en event was packed with magic and fun, with Korky giving an interactive story telling of one of Winnie's adventures, followed by a lesson in creative drawing for all the children, parents and carers who attended. Everyone then decamped to the Museum where they were treated to an array of different games and activities throughout the galleries. Much fun was had by all, including our wonderful volunteers who dressed up especially for the occasion.



Children at the Museum's Hallowe'en event Photo by Beverley Peters

Christmas was a mixed blessing at the museum. While the "Santa's Missing Reindeer" trail event had to be cancelled due to the rise in Covid cases, the museum shop did particularly well, with many of the calendars, jigsaws and Makers Art 'grumpy fish' pots being snatched up to go in the Christmas stockings of friends and family.

And so now we look forward with hope to a new year. We have just installed the latest special exhibition on Heath Robinson's children's books, which includes story books that he both wrote and illustrated, such as Uncle Lubin, Peter Quip and Bill the Minder, all of which have a cast of strange and mysterious characters, whose adventures soon became children's favourites. Also included is a visual feast of artwork from Robinson's adaptation of The Arabian Nights, simplified and illustrated for young children.

We are looking forward to a very significant date in May this year. On 31st May it will be the 150th birthday of Heath Robinson, and we are celebrating by having a special anniversary exhibition of the best of his humorous cartoons, which will be showing from 14th

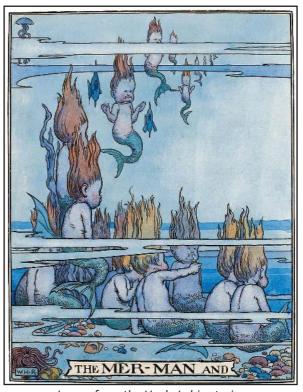


Image from the Uncle Lubin stories

May through the summer to 4th September. In addition, there will be a series of events starting in the half-term on his birthday, Tuesday 31st May, where we will have a fun-filled family day out on the lawns surrounding the museum, with many wacky Heath Robinson activities and art activities. Keep an eye on our website (heathrobinsonmuseum.org) for details of this and other events which will happen over the summer holidays.

Finally, we are announcing a children's (5-18yrs) art competition to coincide with the anniversary exhibition. The theme is "What would Heath Robinson make of life today?", with age categories of 5-7, 8-10, 11-14 and 14-18 yrs. Prizes will be announced on our website and the winning entries in each age group will be exhibited in the museum and be shown on our website and social media. So, calling all children, teachers and schools! Why not have a go at creating humorous artwork that comments on today's society, technology, news, etc? You could even invent and illustrate a Heath Robinson gadget to solve some of today's problems – 'How to have a secret garden party' springs to mind for some reason.

Claire Linge Learning Officer

SANTA DELIGHTS THE CROWDS

Pinner Rotary's Santa's Sleigh broke all records this year, attracting even greater crowds and raising more funds for charity than ever before. The six-night tour of the streets of Pinner is now a firm favourite in the build-up to Christmas in the local area and beyond.

The event provides a terrific opportunity to bring some traditional cheer to the season's celebrations – a big, brightly lit red sleigh, the distinctive costume and beard, plus familiar seasonal music announcing Santa's arrival. But he isn't afraid to embrace new ideas; with social media, a tracking app on his sleigh and digital donations, Rotary's Santa combines the best of the old and new.

A great boost to 2021's event was that, with fewer Covid restrictions, there was the chance for children to board the sleigh, have their photo taken and tell Santa their hopes for Christmas.

Whilst Santa was the focal point, his band of elves, suitably dressed and armed with collection buckets (plus card readers), worked tirelessly to gather donations from local



Santa Sleigh

residents. Their only reward was mince pies and a glass of mulled wine at the halfway point.

Such was the elves' success, and the generosity of the public, that Rotary collected over £6,000, a record amount. This will be distributed to local children's charities.

Event organiser Steve Morrisby said, 'When the sleigh arrives, the smile on people's faces, young and old, says it all. It's so pleasing that we can bring some cheer at this time of year, and at the same time raise money for local good causes.'

While (hopefully) the event may seem effortless on the surface, it takes many months of planning and preparation, plus hard work on each of the evenings, much of which is undertaken by our Rotary members. But we don't achieve this on our own, and thanks are due to friends, family members and neighbours who offered their support. A special mention is due to Tim Wood and Charles Hall, who gave up their time and vehicles to tow the sleigh expertly around the crowded streets of Pinner.

So, Christmas is over, we've played our part, and the sleigh is packed away for another year. But already thoughts are turning to our next event – the St George's Day celebration on Sunday 24th April – as well as the Village Show on 10th September.

If you'd like to be involved in these community events, and make them even better.



why don't you consider joining our Rotary Club. You can discover more of what we do from our website www.pinnerrotary.org.uk and if that appeals, then email membership@pinnerrotary.org.uk. Next time, you could be the one to make it happen?

Malcolm Mitchell Pinner Rotary Club

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COME AND JOIN US AT PINNER BOWLS CLUB

Let me firstly introduce myself. My name is Rob Atack and I am currently the President of Pinner Bowls Club. My first introduction to the club was in the summer of 2008, when my cousin and I walked through the club's metal gates, and we haven't looked back since. At that time, we played golf together a few times a year and, although these rounds were thoroughly enjoyable, our handicaps were getting bigger every year and bowling seemed a good alternative.

In essence bowling looks and is a very simple game; the premise is to bowl your wood nearer to the jack than your opponent. This is sometimes easier said than done! The game itself takes little time to understand but will never fail to surprise you.

The bowling green is situated in Pinner Memorial Park, next to the pond, and has an idyllic outlook over the park. During the season, which runs from late April through to September, there are regular social events, a good way to meet the other members.

Lawn bowls suffers with the image that you have to be elderly to play. This is not the case. The sport is accessible to everyone, whether you play socially or at a competitive level. If you would like to try this fantastic sport, come along and the club will allocate a coach to see you through your first sessions. They will provide you with helpful tips on technique and etiquette; all you require is a pair of flat-bottomed shoes.

Once you become a member there are a lot of options open to you; friendly games called roll ups, internal competitions, friendly matches with other local teams, league and cup games countywide.

Since taking up bowls I have been very lucky to make lifelong friendships, sometimes with our biggest rivals locally!

A little bit of trivia is that in 1588 Sir Francis Drake was playing bowls when the Spanish Armada was sighted off the English coast. When told, he is reputed to have said in an act of English heroism that he wanted to continue undisturbed. In reality, Drake and his fellow captains knew full well that the wind and tide conditions at the time precluded the English Fleet from putting to sea.



A warm welcome awaits you at Pinner Bowls Club, which well deserves its nickname of "The friendly little club in the park".

You will be very welcome to come along for a try once the season opens in April.

Please contact using the email: - pinnerbc53@ gmail.com and leave your name and phone number and we will contact you.

Who's closest Rob Atack

PINNER'S OPEN GARDEN



We live in Haywood Close in Pinner and, over recent years, have opened our garden for the National Garden Scheme (NGS). The NGS was founded in 1927 with the aim of raising money to support the Queen Alexandra Nursing Institute by opening private gardens to visitors. In the first year 609 gardens opened for 'a shilling a head', raising a total of £8,191. By 2017, the NGS opened over 3,700 gardens, raising over £2 million for nursing charities, including Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Queen's Nursing, Parkinson's, Mind and the Autistic Society.

When we moved to the Close in 2012, we inherited a reasonably blank canvas. Over the next few years we set about planning and developing the garden, with no intention of opening for visitors. A good friend of ours,

who is a county volunteer for NGS, suggested we open, to raise money for their charities. We were accepted by the NGS in 2016 and opened in the summer of 2017 on one sunny Sunday afternoon in June.

With the help of the good weather, we attracted 217 visitors, raising £1,667 for the NGS, with an additional £404 for Breast Cancer Now from plant sales. In addition, we have opened, by arrangement, for local organisations, including the Hatch End Horticultural Society, Eastbury Horticultural Society and the Hillingdon U3A.

Over the recent years we have continued to develop the garden to its current state. We have herbaceous perennial borders surrounding an oval lawn. The garden contains over 50 varieties of roses and clematis, a rose walk, gazebo, sink gardens, pleached hornbeam trees with box collars and a small vegetable & fruit garden. There are seating areas to rest and relax. My wife, who is an enthusiastic plantaholic, has grown many of the annuals and perennials from seeds and cuttings. There is always more to be done and areas to mature. A garden is a journey, not a destination.

The weeks leading up to our openings are a flurry of activity; getting the garden tidied, plants potted for sale, teas and cakes organised and publicity distributed. We are lucky to have an army of good friends to help on gate duty, organising the parking,







serving teas and cakes, selling the plants and clearing up. We were also lucky to have a neighbour from the Harrow Beekeepers Association, who came to talk about beekeeping. While many people travel quite a distance, the majority of visitors are local, and the afternoon ends up more like a private garden party than a fundraising event. The day is great fun, tiring yet very rewarding. At the end, we thank our helpers and unwind by having a BBQ in the evening.

We have decided not to open in 2022, as we are still concerned about what the pandemic holds in the future. However, we will open by arrangement for groups, to support the NGS. If you are interested in visiting gardens and supporting a worthy charity, you can normally find an open garden most weekends during the summer on ngs.org.uk.

TALKING SHOPS

We start this time with one of our more outlying areas, Cannon Lane, or Cannons Lane as it used to be called, shops that were developed in the 1930s, at the time of the Metropolitan and Tithe Farm areas boom. In the background in the picture can be seen Coronation Parade which was built in the late 1930s to commemorate the Coronation of George VI.



Cannon Lane in the 1930s

On Coronation Parade, we start at the **Day 1 Local Express**, which has been on the site for over 14 years. Mr & Mrs Jaso provide an excellent service to residents and it is a very friendly shop.

The Meat Like It Used to Be Company needs no introduction to any lovers of fine meats. Bridget and Gary Early provide a tremendous range of high-quality and award-winning meats and cheeses, sourced from specialist farms around the country. There has been a butcher's shop on that site since the Parade was built, and they are carrying on the noble tradition.

Across the road, **Smart Guys** needs no introduction. The Deakin Family have been there for a long time and Zak is the fourth generation to be involved in the business. They offer collection and delivery of both dry cleaning and laundry services. Recently they have introduced new Italian equipment, which is very eco-friendly, delivering a high standard of finish to garments.

Just along from them, Steve at **Diamond Hair** provides hairdressing and styling for men. He has been there for over 30 years. The shop was even a hairdresser's prior to Steve taking it over.



Aanana Beauty

aanana.co.uk to check on their range of services and special offers.

Alexandra Pizza and Pinner Chef all offering a tantalising range of foods.

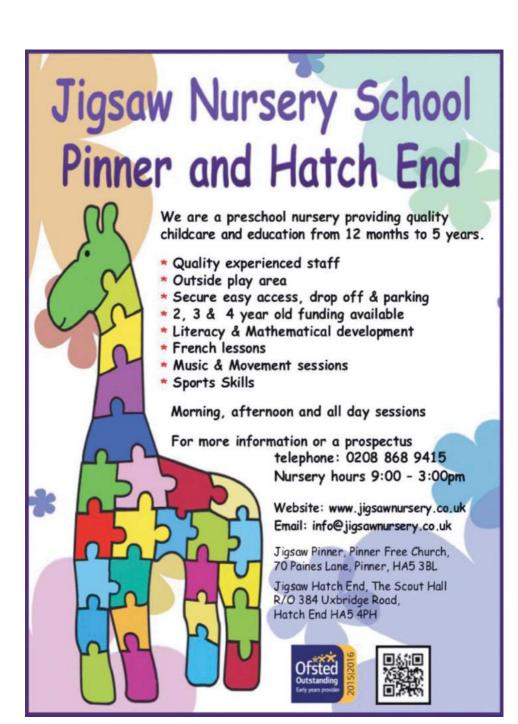
At 74 Cannon Lane is Aanana's, a beauty and complementary therapy saloon. By setting up strict standards. thev were able to provide a wide range of beauty therapies throughout most of lockdown, and are now already enjoying an increase in work, as people get ready to go out into the world a bit more. It's worth visiting their website

There is no shortage of takeaway food in this area, with **Gourmet Grills**, **Fusion Gardens**,

The Cannon Lane Convenience Store has recently changed hands, having previously been a Cost Cutters. In addition to a wide range of provisions, it is good to see that we once again have a local post office there.

Finally, for the practically minded, the former Waterworks, which provided offices with water dispensing service, has recently been taken over by John and is now a plumber's merchant, a very useful addition for braver DIY addicts.

Heading back to the High Street, we now have a really interesting range of restaurant choices. It's good to see The Victory back in business, now as a restaurant with the enticing name of **Tummies**. Set up by a family and friends, Tummies have had a restaurant in Slough for many years; this is their second venture. Hasan, their General Manager, tells me that it's been a long road towards getting the building ready. Originally acquired in Oct 2020, they eventually opened in January of this year. They have created a fine, restful interior, with a menu of familiar favourites. Open for lunch and dinner, it is well worth a visit.





The new Hand in Hand

Sombra, the coffee shop, have taken over the former Vintage Bar, going back to the earlier name of **Hand in Hand**; it's good to see that name reappear. They have created a modern twist on the pub, with beer, wine and cocktails, and tapas and pizza to help things along. Manager Charlotte Fox tells me that they have now introduced a vegan menu. They even have a small dancing area, now that we are allowed to do that sort of thing again.

Just next to Hand in Hand, in the former Prezzo location, we find **Chin Chin**, a new Asian fusion restaurant offering a range of Chinese, Japanese and Thai dishes in a lively and opulent setting.

Across the road, **Matsya** offers authentic pan-Indian cuisine, a major step up from the former Café Rouge in that space. If you are wondering about the name, Matsya, in Indian mythology, symbolises renewal and regeneration, and the celebration that goes with that. The owner, Vikkas Puri, has gone back to original Indian recipes, the type handed down from mothers over generations, and is presenting them in a contemporary form. If you're wondering if that means uncomfortably mouth-burning food, they point out that, while heat comes from chillies, spices are not hot. They are offering an extensive buffet on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, at an initially discounted price of £14.99, if you feel like checking them out.

Next to Matsya, in the former Carluccio space, **Turquoise Kitchen** has, through the lockdown, been running a very welcome home delivery service alongside their restaurant service and is now happily welcoming more guests back to their richly designed space.

At **Foodiewuwdies**, the indomitable Bev and Kev are celebrating eight years of providing delicious real sandwiches (unlike the soggy supermarket imitations) and mouth-watering cakes. Their lockdown idea of Tea for Two was a tremendous success, with hundreds sold, and they are carrying on with that. Catering for events is building again. 'It's clear', says Bev, 'that people really want to get back to entertaining and parties', and they look forward to a busy summer.



Cakes at Foodiewuwdies

At the top of the street, hairdresser **Luke Ormsby** has opened as a salon with a strong sustainability ethos. Their products are organic, made from natural oils in Bologna, Italy. They are 99% plastic-free and use 50% less water than usual systems. Open seven days a week, with a late night on Thursday, they also offer a free fifteen-minute consultation to any new customer, with no commitment required to then use them.

An intriguing new addition is **Bridal Trunk by Divya**, whose window displays exquisite bridal outfits. Owner Divya Suri tells me that they offer not just the dress, but a full styling service, colour theming and outfits for groom, bridesmaids and family. Divya sees clients by appointment.

Along the alley towards M&S is one of our more unusual coffee shops. **Crazy Goat** is part of a small chain stretching out into Hertfordshire. They take their coffee seriously; each one is checked by a professional panel and the owner has visited plantations in Ethiopia. They use a local artisan bakery for their pastries and offer an intriguing range of breads on order. Unusually, they also sell a selection of house plants; the owner's cousin has a nursery.

Mortgage broker **Paul Ripley** has taken office space next to David Charles. A veteran of the housing scene in Pinner - he sold his estate agency Ripley Estates to Andrew Pearce in 2005 - Paul has worked out of several locations in Pinner. He moved into these premises last year, having found that home working was really not for him. After 35 years' experience, he has several thousand clients on his books. He has even worked for one 1990s client's child and grandchild. Whilst wisely not predicting the future, he sees a very buoyant housing market in Pinner, which is reassuring.

Up in the approach to Sainsbury's, it is sad to see that Augustina's oasis of a tearoom is no more. Opposite, though, **Sue Ryder** continues to offer an intriguing range of goods, from furniture to knitting wool and refurbished electricals. They are keen to have more

furniture. If you are clearing out, do contact them. If it is something they feel they can sell, they will come and collect. You will, though, need to show a photo and to confirm that the item conforms to current safety standards.



We have read a lot about people buying dogs during lockdown, and the team at **Spoilt Rotten** have certainly been busy. The family business, which has been on our High Street for about four years, started originally in Chalfont St Peters and has garnered no less than fourteen business awards since they opened. They wisely keep their front door locked, so none of their charges can escape onto the road, but there's always someone there to greet you and your canine chum and to send at least one of you out looking a lot better.

I see in the windows of estate agent **Gibbs Gillespie**, that they are giving West Lodge Primary School £250 for every house sale or rental deal that they complete. It's genuinely heart-warming to see a local firm so deeply involved with the community in this way and I hope that it brings them plenty of business.

Round in Love Lane, we find that **Vassar's**, the lovely little newsagent, was having a closing down sale. The owner, who has had the shop for around 30 years, said that even with reducing the opening hours (they'd been closing at 2 p.m.), the increasing of the rent, coupled with reduced footfall was forcing the closure. Fortunately, his associate, Tony, has taken over the paper delivery business and, from 5.00 to 9.30am, can be found in the office behind Bradley & Jones, accessed from the side path.

As you walk under the bridge, you come across **Paige & Petrook**, which has been the leading lettings agency in Pinner for the last 50 years, and is still family owned and run.

Just past **Smile**, the denture repair shop, was one of the most useful shops in Pinner, the **shoe repair shop**, which has closed down. For those of us who knew him, we know Paul tried really hard to survive the pandemic and we wish him well. Meanwhile, **Timpson's**, up at Tesco, offer a shoe and key service.

Whilst new private dentists are popping up in Pinner quicker than barbers, one of the first, **Apple Dental Studios**, is still going strong.

Parents from all over NW Middlesex come to **Kevins**, which continues to thrive, as does the **Ideal Fish Bar** next door, providing locals with some of the finest Fish and Chips for miles.



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Over the road the team at **Costa** coffee continues to provide caffeine to those who need it. If you time it right, Anthony can serve you a coffee, and then your fish and chips over at Ideal!

Star Dry Cleaners have cut themselves in half, and whilst we may have lost an ATM machine at this end of Pinner, we've gained **TJ Barbers**!

Spark have got themselves a brand spanking new sign, and have installed an *Inpost* machine round the side where you can send and collect packages, just next to the clothes recycling bin. Now if they could just deal with the graffiti covered wall.....

Before you know it, you're in Pinner Memorial Park where you can sit outside **Daisy's**, watching the world go by. Up above Daisy's, **West House Dental** have reintroduced their evening and Saturday dental appointments, for those back to the office. They also have a professional medical grade skin clinic. If you would like a professional assessment of your skin, from Dr Milvia Di Gioia, for issues such as dullness, pigmentation, dark circles, age prevention, or treatments such as skin peels, Profilo, or hifu, with scientifically proven products, give them a call. They are a female-led private dental practice with over 40 years of experience between the two owners.

Meanwhile, up at Pinner Green, Nick Mansi tells me that his family have been running the shop since 1973, and he started working there when he was eleven. He says they are very busy; 'going great guns'. It seems that, during lockdown, flowers delivered to the home became one of the great compensations. A lot of their sales now are done by phone or through their website. They no longer keep cut flowers on display in the shop, but instead keep them in a fridge at the back, where they stay super-fresh. The staff are happy to take customers to choose flowers from the fridge when asked.

Across the road, George at **The Upholsterer** tells me that he has been running the shop for twenty-two years. They have been busy in spite of the virus. I guess that, with so many of us being stuck at home, those repair and replacement jobs have become unavoidable.

Next door, at **The Print Shop**, Lee Mc Gregor tells me that they have been printing *The Villager* for about twenty-five years. The business had a rough time through Covid, but things are now improving. As well as the shop, there is a website where orders can be made, and he also makes deliveries. They can offer a same-day service. Lee grew up off Pinner Hill, so knows a lot about the area. His shop was previously a butcher's shop and, for reasons unexplained, had a fish tank in the window.

If you are visiting **Kaylex**, home to all things electrical, take your old batteries with you. They now have a container in the shop where you can deposit them.

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SJP11763i V4 (01/22)

Ruth Boff

GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME?

What would Monty Don make of the increasing pressure to develop housing on the gardens in Pinner?

Over the past six months your Association has had cause to object to four planning applications on the grounds of 'Garden Land Development'. In two cases we were successful. We objected, firstly, to an application to build an additional detached dwelling on the side garden of an existing house, and, secondly, to an application to demolish a modestly sized detached dwelling house and build a block of eight flats on the plot. The applications were refused by the planning officers. Two other applications, one to build an additional chalet bungalow in the garden of an existing bungalow, and a revised application for a block of six rather than eight flats on the site referred to above, are, as we write, still under consideration by the Harrow Local Planning Authority.

These successful objections demonstrate the importance of the *Harrow Local Plan Garden Land Development Supplementary Planning Document*, which was adopted in 2013, following a consultation on a draft document to which your Association submitted a detailed response. Our work resulted in several of our revisions and additions being included in the adopted guidance document. There is a presumption against building on private garden land in the *Core Strategy of the Harrow Local Plan*, which has helped to maintain to some extent the attractive "green and leafy" aspect of our suburban area.



Leafy Pinner

Another very useful document to which we regularly refer in our objection letters on planning matters is the *Residential Design Guide*, which is a guidance document within the *Harrow Local Plan*. However, there is now a proposal to supersede the *Residential Design Guide*, as a part of the reforms to the planning system being introduced by the government and by the *2021 London Plan* (the overarching planning document for Greater London, written by the GLA and Mayor of London). Instead, there is to be a *Harrow Small Sites Design Code* and the consultation on the draft document for this was live from 17th December 2021 until 7th February 2022. The Pinner Association Planning Team have spent many hours poring over this draft document and have written a response.

While we are pleased that the Harrow Local Planning Authority has taken the initiative to commission the draft *Small Sites Design Code*, it has been written by an architect firm, who have been consultants for the council on major development projects, without any community engagement before the draft Code was published for consultation. This is not regarded as good practice, according to the training events held by the London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies, which were attended by members of your Association's committee. Best practice would be to ensure that meaningful community engagement in the writing of Design Codes starts at an early stage of the process, to establish the opinions



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Ruth Boff

of current residents of an area. Concerned community groups should be identified and be involved with writing the draft code, and there should be a commitment by the Local Planning Authority to listen to all points raised by the community. The lack of any such meaningful community engagement was mentioned in your Association's response to Harrow's consultation on their draft code.

Three members of your Association's Planning Team attended the online consultation events organised by Harrow, at which the public could question the architects and LPA about the draft Code. At the first event, our representative was the only member of the public to attend the poorly advertised Zoom meeting. We, therefore, had the advantage of being able to question, for the best part of an hour, four senior members of the Harrow Local Planning Authority and the architect who had written the draft code.

The draft Code covers both new developments on brownfield or infill sites in the borough and the guidance for residential extensions. For the Pinner and Pinner South area most of the streets are recognised as being 'suburban', although Central Pinner is regarded as 'urban core' in character. These designations matter, as the density of any new build developments and the height, scale and massing of buildings would be greater in 'urban core' areas rather than in 'suburban' areas. A detailed analysis of the character of the different areas in the borough and the opportunities for development in each area was published last year (Harrow Characterisation and Tall Buildings Study August 2021) and the draft code draws upon this document in its guidance for the style and scale of development appropriate in any area. The suburban areas of



'Tudorbethan' Metroland

Pinner and Pinner South are identified as being mainly comprised of typical 'Metroland' development.

Both 'core urban' and 'suburban' areas would be regarded as suitable for new build development, with infill sites being regarded as appropriate for development in suburban areas. The current yearly average of 250 housing units per year being provided in Harrow



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Pinnora Mews Jan 22

borough from 'small sites' (less than 0.25ha) has to increase to 350 per year due to the new targets in the 2021 London Plan. This would result in an increased intensity of occupation of both types of area, and this raises concerns that the presumption against building on garden land may be disregarded, particularly as there is no reference to 'garden land' in the draft Small Sites Design Code. Your Association's response to the consultation on the draft code has included comments objecting to this important omission. Other comments in our response included the lack of sufficient detail, and departure from established practice in the guidance on residential extensions. We also gave general observations on the proposed style and site layout guidance for new build developments, which would be very similar to the new development on the site of the Waxwell Lane car park (Pinnora Mews) and Trinity Court, the six-storey block of flats next to the railway bridge in Marsh Road.

At the time of writing, we are waiting to see whether the responses to the consultation received by the council result in modification of the draft code. This should be the case if they are sensitive in their reaction to this late-stage community engagement in writing the new *Small Sites Design Code*.

Ed Badke, Ruth Boff and Christine Wallace, Planning, Pinner Association Committee.



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HARROW CYCLE HUB

Readers may have noticed groups of women on cycles who regularly assemble outside the Heath Robinson Museum. They are on a Breeze ride – a sociable ride led by a British Cycling-trained volunteer. Pragna Shah leads rides from Hatch End, Fatema Sunderji and Veronica Chamberlain from Pinner and Janet Flemming from Eastcote. You can book through https://www.letsride.co.uk/rides

Breeze rides are brilliant, but they only reach women who can already ride. Many local people, especially women of BAME communities, never learned to cycle as children.

However, people really want to learn. They are keen to get more exercise, cycle with children and grandchildren, do their bit for the environment and use a cycle to get about. Some want to commute to work, avoid driving for short journeys and take children to school by bike.



Pinner resident Bethan having fun on a recumbent tricycle at Wheels For All



The Mayor Cllr Ghazanfar Ali enjoyed a ride with Jamie and Ian

A group of volunteers registered Harrow Cycle Hub as a charity in January 2021, to enable everyone in Harrow who wants to, to cycle. Harrow Council supported us at the Civic Centre by providing a container for bikes, two small offices and car parks to coach in. Voluntary Action Harrow gave invaluable advice on setting up a charity and Harrow Giving provided a grant covering insurance, volunteer coach training, DBS checks and a mechanic to check and repair donated bikes. Pinner residents Simon Kwan and Kin Lee of Reuse

Your Bike kindly gave bikes for our training and British Cycling lent others. Our trustees include Karl Howe from Pinner and Soraya Janmohamed from Hatch End. We work closely with the Muslim Women's Cycling Network, Evolve, and have many other partners.

Now our qualified volunteer coaches teach regular Learn to Ride and Confidence Builder courses. We run Puncture Repair



Some of the 30 volunteers at the Wheels For All event

courses, kindly hosted by Harrow Recreation Ground Users' Association. Most students are women, but men attend too. We have run a Basic Skills session in Pinner Village Gardens and beginner Breeze rides from the Civic Centre, with bike hire.

To open cycling to everyone, we ran, with national charity Cycling Projects, a two-day Wheels For All event in August at Bannister Sports Centre, using adapted cycles such as handcycles, tricycles and two-seaters for people who find traditional two-wheelers difficult. This was a huge success, with 50 people attending and very positive feedback. Now we need to raise £20,000 to launch a permanent scheme; any help from readers would be greatly appreciated. To donate, email harrowcyclehub@gmail.com for bank details and a Gift Aid form.

Sport England recently funded us to coach in South Harrow; in time, we'd like to replicate this around the borough, bringing cycle coaching to people.

A cycle hub can tackle so many issues: public health and wellbeing (Harrow has an obesity and diabetes crisis), the climate emergency, congestion and pollution, employability, road danger, social distancing, flexible travel to work... We are discussing with Harrow Council the development of a permanent base in the middle of the borough with repair workshop, meeting and training rooms, bike recycling, cycle coaching, led rides and more.

Cycling is so much fun; do get involved! Subscribe to our newsletter via harrowcyclehub. org. We always need volunteers: coaches (training available); administrators, event organisers, trustees (especially with legal or HR skills), mechanics, ride leaders, cake bakers and more. We welcome people from all our many and diverse communities. Please email harrowcyclehub@gmail.com with your skills and interests.

Veronica Chamberlain, Chair, Harrow Cycle Hub Registered Charity No 1193039

ACCOLADE FOR PINNER MEMORIAL PARK

Our Pinner Memorial Park has been voted the favourite park of all Harrow residents in an online poll posted by Harrow Online.

We are all rightly proud of our park, which was bought by the residents of Pinner after the Second World War and is now managed by Harrow Council. With its combination of open spaces, the calm of the Peace Garden, the ducks on the lake, the children's play area, the green gym, the fine Daisy's café and, of course, our unique Heath Robinson Museum, there truly is something for everyone, whether you want to kick a ball around, check out a new exhibition or just sit quietly. We even get four and a half stars on Tripadvisor.

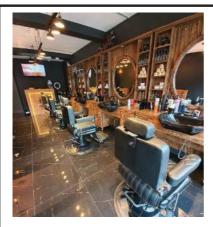
It's always a pleasure to see it so well used on a summer's day and the special events such as the band concerts or the treasure hunts organised by the Museum add an extra quality of magic. Now, if we can just sort out the litter problem....

Pinner is well served for open spaces, with the newly restored Pinner Village Gardens now well used and looking splendid and Little Common at the top of Bridge Street offering a quieter space. There's interesting work on rewilding going on in the Recreation Ground on West End Lane. They are about to enter a second phase of work there, which we will report on next time.











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PINNER LADIES' GROUP SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

Ladies Probus Club - one of the oldest established groups in Pinner may face an uncertain future. *The Villager* reporter caught up with their Chair, Doreen Luff to find out more.

VR - So what is 'Probus'?

Doreen - the word Probus dates from the time when the club was open to retired Professional and Business women. These days we are pleased to welcome diversity and any ladies of retirement age, whatever their background are invited to come along to a meeting to see if it's for them.

VR - What's the aim of the Group?

Doreen – our foremost aim is to promote friendship. We do this through monthly meetings when we have interesting and stimulating speakers – and generally we get to know each other over a cuppa. We also plan other events.

VR – When and where do you meet?

Doreen – we meet on the second Monday of each month from 10.00am to 12 noon in the PADCA Hall. Following the meeting some members have lunch in a local restaurant.

VR - You've mentioned speakers and other events - please give some details

Doreen – Every year the programme is carefully planned and this year our speakers gave us a fantastic variety of talks, ranging from The Story of the London Underground to the Edible History of Food; from Mary's Meals, a charity tackling World Hunger, to the work of a Medical Herbalist. We also have a Christmas event – last year this included a guitarist as well as a quiz and members' contributions. In June we are looking forward to a summer lunch in my garden! Every month the Men's Probus Group invite ladies to join them for a coffee morning again with speakers; and twice yearly, Men's Probus invite ladies to join them for lunch.

VR – Is it expensive to become a member?

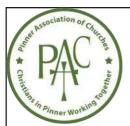
Doreen – Annual fees are presently £35 – there will probably be a small increase at the AGM in October. Additionally, we ask members for a nominal amount for refreshments each time they attend.

VR – what's the best thing about being a Probus member?

Doreen – Definitely, it's the sense of belonging; the kindness shown by members towards each other and the caring ethos of the club. One member who finds herself in a challenging role, caring for a much-loved husband, recently told me that Probus is a lifeline – not only does it get her out of her home for a few hours on a Monday morning, but she is welcomed by old and newer friends.

VR – why do you need new members?

Doreen – It's a great club, but without new members our current subscriptions do not cover the costs of our activities. We are especially seeking members who would like to be involved in steering the direction of the club – one example may be to support setting up a theatre group or a breakfast club. Membership numbers are limited, so don't miss an opportunity to develop the club at this exciting time. Call Doreen on 07939 718146 or Bridget on 020 8866 2984.



Pinner Association of Churches Christians in Pinner Working Together

The five Churches in Pinner welcome you to the many activities provided on our premises for all ages. We aim to provide a safe environment where the local community can find friendship, support, fun and people who care.

For more information see the web site www.pinnerchurches.org.uk

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; St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church.

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My name is Scarlett Nash, once next-door neighbour to Iris Heath. Little did I know that when I first met Iris at 5 years old, she would grow to be an incredibly important part of my life. Though I have fond memories of my childhood home, the personal struggles of my family led to the house becoming a dysfunctional environment for a little girl to grow up in. It was at this time that Iris' home became my refuge. Her quirky home on Cannon Lane was known by many as the 'Triangle House on the corner', though I came to know it as my second home. Iris and her husband Sam would often knock on our door, offering to let me play in their garden, help bake apple crumble and stay for Sunday roast.

As I grew older, I realised how lucky I was to have met Iris and Sam. The two of them cared for me as if I were family, offering me peace, safety, and a source of happiness when I needed it most. One of my most special memories would be when Sam and Iris used to save up coins that were circulated in 1984, the year I was born. I couldn't wait to spend them at Tim's Newsagent on all the penny sweets!

Sam was the love of Iris' life. They had married at Hendon in 1943 and, undeniably, had a real romantic love. She would often sit on his knee and I wondered what always made them laugh so much all the time. Their daughter, Vivienne, who mostly lived in Germany, had an incredibly successful career as a professional ballerina.

The second love of Iris' life was her garden. Iris spent most of her time there and was very modest when talking about just how spectacular it was. Many people would stop to marvel at it and say hello to Iris. Her gardener Bruno helped with the heavier duties of the garden as she got older, but no matter what the weather and her physical state, her garden was her sanctuary.

After Sam and Vivienne died, Iris' grief was intense and, as my family environment was becoming unlivable, we sought companionship in each other. The two of us became closer



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than ever, forming a family-type bond; I saw Iris as my surrogate grandmother, a true friend. Though it may have been an unconventional relationship to many, we developed an unconditional love for one another.

We would spend many Sundays going out for a roast dinner, spending Christmas together drinking brandy on ice with mince pies, and my personal favourite times were when we were just on the sofa watching 'The Bolero; Torvill & Dean' over and over again as she was obsessed with ice skating.

Iris was incredibly supportive of my further education, and I was privileged to have her at my graduation as I qualified as an Adult Nurse in 2011 at Hertfordshire University.

So many Pinner locals knew of Iris, from pharmacists to all at Pinn Medical Centre, her gardener, her cleaner, her neighbours and probably so many more I didn't know about.

As Iris became more frail, lonely and vulnerable, her cognitive health started to decline and eventually she was admitted to Northwick Park Hospital and diagnosed with Lewy body dementia. Her care was then moved to Maidstone Care Centre in Kent, where she eventually lost all her capacity. When visiting her there, I was always reassured by the outstanding care she received.

Having nursed in the community in the past, I know that many vulnerable older adults live alone and suffer from acute loneliness, as the community they once formed a close bond with fades away as they do. Having cared so deeply for Iris and feeling eternally grateful for the impact she has had on my life, I felt it important to let Pinner locals know that such an incredible human lived amongst them once. In memory of Iris, keep smiling as you walk past your neighbours, stop for a chat, marvel at their garden, help them with the bins. Do they need milk from the shops while you're down there? Stop for a moment and consider who might need the help. Have fun getting to know your community because connection is everything. You never know what unlikely connection might change your life.

Report by Eleanor Clavin from notes by Scarlett Nash

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PINNERWOOD STABLES

Did you know that hidden away in Pinner, about a five-minute drive from the station, are stables with over 50 horses? And given its London location and site within the M25, there are acres and acres of fields for the horses to graze in and to ride round?

Well now you do know about it, and it's called Pinnerwood Farm, a protected conservation area, used for agriculture for centuries. And they've even found Bronze Age flints in the field.

It used to be a stud farm for breeding Arab horses and was famous worldwide for the calibre of foals that were bred there. Arabs are unsurprisingly suited to hot weather and so excel at endurance riding, and they are also known for not being fans of jumping.

Before the Arab horses, it was a cattle farm, but before that had more glamorous origins — the main farmhouse, Pinnerwood House, used to be owned by Mathias Kamprad, heir to Ikea! And before that Lord Edward Bulwer-Lytton lived there, a poet, author and politician who eventually became MP for St Ives.

Going down to the woods

Technically, we go up to the woods! Up the bridlepath next to Pinner Hill Golf Club, and then it is a short ride around the quiet roads to the woods.

Being based in London, we are extremely lucky to have access to miles of woods to ride through at Oxhey Woods, and also Ruislip Woods, which is a short ride away. Alongside this, in summertime, we are able to ride around some of the fields that aren't being used. We also ride along the roads by the entrance to the farm, which are usually very quiet and perfect to ride around. So, we have plenty of options. Remember to slow down and give us a wide berth if you see us!

Fire at the barn

You may be aware that recently there was a fire at one of the barns, set alight by local youths. We are very lucky in the fact that this barn is far away from any stabled horses or other buildings. While the damage was significant, the barn was primarily used as a hay store. The roof is mainly intact and the metal structure still stands, so, while a lot of hay was destroyed, the building is still usable as a hay store. We're very grateful to the member of the public who saw the hay store being set alight and called the fire brigade, who attended and were able to bring it under control.

Winter weather

Some horses are very hardy and those who are 'native breeds' usually do very well being out in all weathers! However, the same cannot be said for our owners, who worry about whether their horse will get too cold, too wet, too muddy etc. So, most of us will put our horses in the field during the day in winter and then they will be stabled again overnight. This suits most horses really well, and if you're out walking the footpaths, you can usually see horses gathered near the gates in the afternoon as they know they will be brought in for their dinner!

So, there's a little bit about the horses who live in Pinner. Please do say hello to us if you see us!

Charlotte Blackburn

essentially financial

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- Eruv
- Interfaith Dialogue



t: 020 8868 7204 www.pinnershul.org



HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Financially, the Pinner Association has rebounded strongly from the initial impacts of the pandemic in 2020. Our income was £28,297, almost £4,000 more than 2020, if one excludes 2020's £5,000 donation from Harrow Council towards Christmas lighting costs. Income from membership subscriptions rose by 13% as we were able to collect some outstanding 2020 subscriptions. Taking 2021 and 2020 together, the average membership income was virtually the same as 2019's, a pleasing result after several years of decline. More of our members confirmed their eligibility for Gift Aid during the year, so our income from this source rose by 20%. Advertising income for *The Villager* rose by £2,000 (22%), almost back to 2019's level. This meant that the net cost of producing *The Villager* reduced substantially to £1,317.

Expenditure rose by £3,027 to £26,657. This was mainly due to increased activity: we were able to reinstate our summer band concerts, and made donations to Pinner Cricket Club junior teams (£1,000), the Pinner Village Gardens Junior Parkrun (£500) and the Reuse Your Bike scheme (£200). Our AGM and most committee meetings were held online, though we reverted to in-person meetings in the autumn. The cost of Christmas trees and lighting was steady at £5,130 although £2,800 of this was funded from donations received from Harrow Council in previous years. We continued maintaining some of Pinner's parks and gardens, principally the Peace Garden in Pinner Memorial Park, as well as the floral display at the Police Station, in conjunction with Mansi Flowers, and the Pinner Station gardens, which were commended in a competition during the year.

The Association's finances remain strong, with funds of £56,000 available for unrestricted purposes.

Finally I would like to thank those volunteers who have delivered *The Villager* and collected subscriptions, their Area Leaders, the committee members and others who do so much for the Association's prosperity and activities, and the local businesses who advertise in *The Villager*.

Tim Owen

THE PINNER ASSOCIATION (REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 262349) STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Fund	Funds	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Subscriptions and donations	13,565	_	13,565	11,994
Gift Aid	3,121	_	3,121	2,607
Advertising in The Villager	11,229	_	11,229	9,200
Restricted donation	-	_	-	5,000
Interest received	354	28	382	506
Total Income	28,269	28	28,297	29,307
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
The Villager (as detailed below)	12,546	-	12,546	12,940
Grants and Donations				
Pinner Cricket Club	1,000	-	1,000	-
Pinner Village Gardens Junior Parkrun	500	-	500	_
Re-use your bike	200	-	200	-
Harrow Foodbank	-	-	-	1,000
Small donations and subscriptions	348	-	348	318
Management and Administration				
Committee and general meetings	219	-	219	205
Membership recruitment & renewal	1,302	-	1,302	679
Insurance	369	-	369	280
Miscellaneous expenses	410	-	410	621
Charitable Activities				
Summer Band Concerts	1,827	_	1,827	_
Pinner parks and gardens upkeep	2,521	-	2,521	2,543
Christmas trees and lighting	2,330	2,800	5,130	5,044
Remembrance Sunday	285	-	285	-
Total Expenditure	23,857	2,800	26,657	23,630
Net Income/(Expenditure)	4,412	(2,772)	1,640	5,677
Net Funds brought forward	51,651	9,922	61,573	55,896
Net Funds carried forward	56,063	7,150	63,213	61,573
The Villager				
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Printing			11,876	12,037
Administration			670	903
			12,546	12,940
Less: Income				
Advertising revenue			(11,229)	(9,200)
Net Cost			1,317	3,740

THE PINNER ASSOCIATION (REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 262349) BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Current Assets				
Debtors	2,736	=	2,736	2,376
Bank Balances	57,707	7,150	64,857	63,165
	60,443	7,150	67,593	65,541
<u>Less:</u> <u>Current Liabilities</u>				
Creditors (falling due within one year)	523	-	523	692
Advertising Revenue received in advance	3,857		3,857	3,276
	4,380		4,380	3,968
Not Appete	56,063	7.150	62 212	61 572
Net Assets	56,065	7,150	63,213	61,573
Represented by Income Funds				
Unrestricted Fund	56,063	-	56,063	51,651
High Street Fund	=	1,094	1,094	1,091
Christmas Lights Fund		6,056	6,056	8,831
<u>Total Funds</u>	56,063	7,150	63,213	61,573

Approved by the Executive Committee on	1 February 2022 and signed on their behalf by
Julie Waller Chair)	Timothy Owen FCMA FCT (Hon. Treasurer)

Subject to examination by the Hon. Independent Examiner.

A copy of the complete Report and Accounts together with the Report of the Independent Examiner will be filed with the Charity Commission and can be obtained from the Hon. Treasurer on request.

COLLECTORS' CORNER

In the past, we have dedicated a page of *The Villager* to list the names and telephone numbers of our volunteer collectors. We have now decided that perhaps a more interesting way to celebrate and thank them would be to have a focus on one or two collectors in each issue.

For this, our first time, I decided to focus on our newest collector **Joan Foxley**.

After our questionnaire in summer 2019, Joan questioned why she/the Pinner Association was paying to have her copy of *The Villager* posted, when she lived in Northumberland Road, so close to the centre of Pinner. But this comment came with an offer of help. Joan offered to run not only in her own area, but to all the peripheries of our hand delivery area to save on postage costs, both for the members and the Association.

With a postal charge of £3 a year, the Pinner Association was subsidising each member household to the tune of nearly £2 a year, as we currently pay £1.53 to send each magazine. We have



now passed on this cost to members. At the same time we looked at our distribution and were able to save several members from this price increase by transferring them to hand delivery. Our biggest thanks go to Joan with her new patch, running (literally) along Pinner Road and the streets of North Harrow. Thanks also go to Clive and Lesley Fickling and Cathy Lyons for talking on new addresses in the George V Avenue area and to Pauline Sanders, Sjur Berven and John Hinkley for increasing their rounds on the Eastcote side.

Lasked Joan:

How did you end up volunteering for this role?

By resenting the Association paying the Post Office to misdeliver *The Villager*, especially when we are so close to Pinner!

How long have you lived in Pinner/North Harrow?

My husband Den and I moved here in 1972, when I was a programmer at OUP, working on

typesetting books. We paid just over £15,000 for our semi-detached backing onto the Met line.

Do you do other volunteering/ have other hobbies?

Don't do much volunteering now. Hobbies include running (preferably off-road), making quilts and other sewing, also reading crime fiction and going to concerts and the theatre when possible. For years, I've grown two tomato plants in the porch, almost always eating the last fruits at Christmas.

How was your first experience of delivering The Villager?

It was really fun. I saw bits of Pinner that I did not know existed. Den cycled a couple on his way to school, when I'd had a couple of goes and missed them. But it should be fine next time, now I know where they all are.

It has been a pleasure to meet you, Joan, and many thanks for your enterprising spirit. I can vouch for *The Villager* delivery being good for the 'step count', although in my case it has been at a much slower pace!

Alison Whitehead

From the Editor – My thanks too to all of the area leaders and collectors. For some years, we have looked forward to the arrival of *the Villager* at our door and have opened it in anticipation of information and real insights into what is happening in Pinner, with its myriad interests and activities. Now, as I'm editing, the surprise factor will have gone, but I will feel instead a sense of relief that the work of the advertising and editorial team has once again delivered the goods.











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AREA LEADERS AND COLLECTORS

The names on this page have been removed

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Final Thought from the Guest Editor

I would be very interested to hear your feedback about The Villager.

I have read the responses to the survey that was completed in 2019 and am looking at how we can incorporate the recommendations that came out of that.

I am also keen to know what you think about this current edition.

Please let me know what you like, what could be changed, things that could be included that are not currently there and anything else that could keep The Villager as a true mouthpiece of all of Pinner.

You can email me at editor@pinnerassociation.co.uk

Phil Lawder



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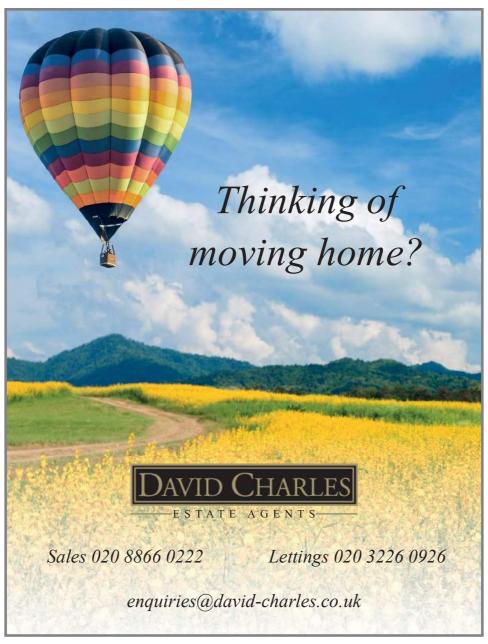
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Typeset and Printed by The Print Shop, 4 Pinner Green. Tel: 020 8429 0020