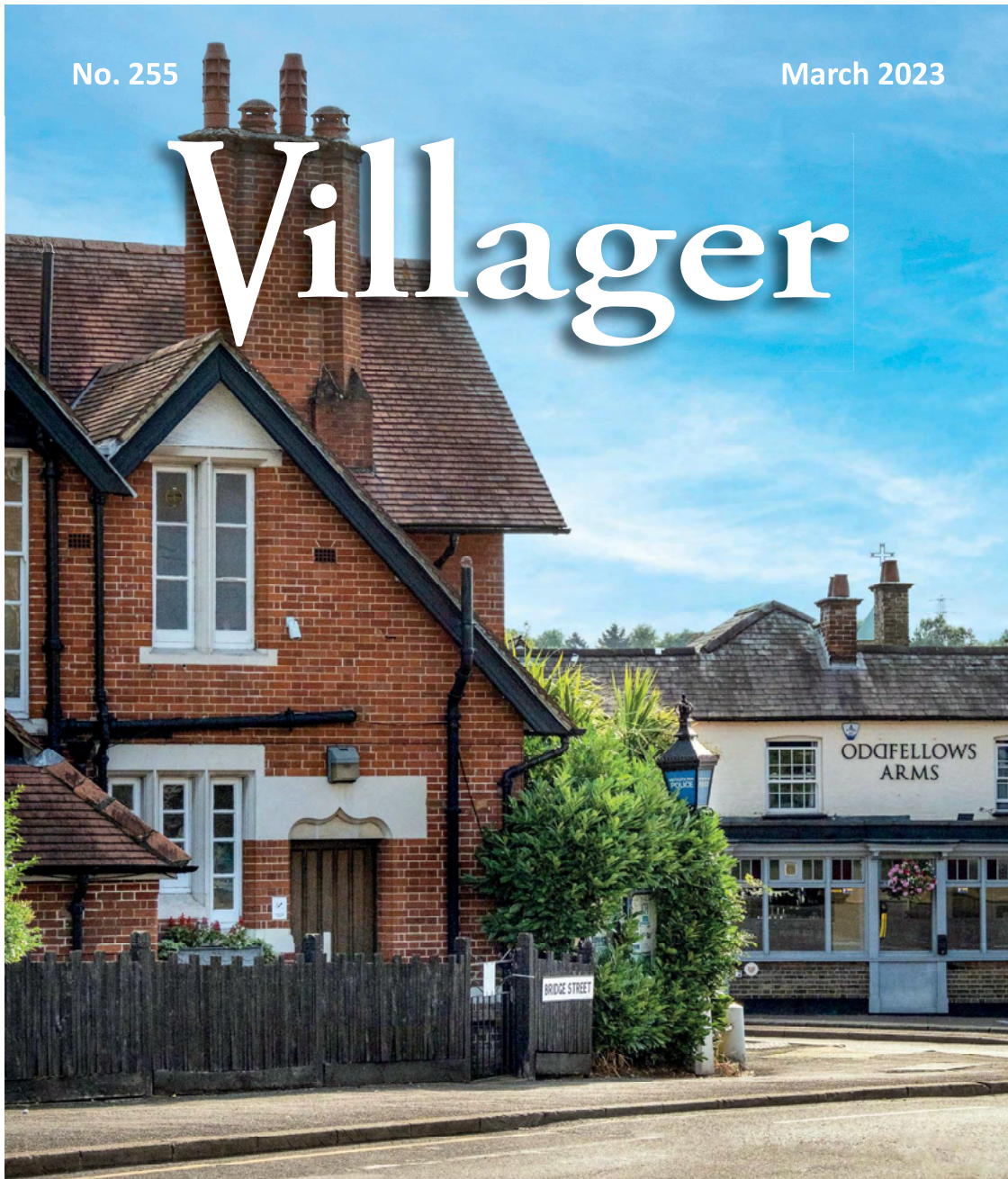


No. 255

March 2023

Villager



Pinner Association Open Meeting/AGM

In the Village Hall, Chapel Lane, Pinner. Wednesday, 19 April 2023 at 8pm

Talk by Patrick Flaherty, CEO of Harrow Council
followed by the AGM and Open Forum

Magazine of the Pinner Association



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THE Villager

Magazine of The Pinner Association

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NOTICE OF THE 90TH AGM OF THE PINNER ASSOCIATION

Notice is hereby given under Rule 5 of the Constitution that the 90th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of THE PINNER ASSOCIATION will be held at 8pm on Wednesday 19th April 2023 in the Pinner Village Hall, Chapel Lane, Pinner HA5 1AA.

The Agenda for the AGM will be:

1. Minutes of the 89th AGM held on 20th April 2022 (as published on pages 67 to 74 of *The Villager* No. 253 – July 2022 edition)
2. Matters arising
3. Chairman's Report
4. Hon. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 (as published on pages 77 to 79 of *The Villager* No. 255 – March 2023 edition)
5. Election of Officers and Committee
6. Vote of thanks to and election of the Independent Examining Accountant for the current year
7. Any other business

The Association welcomes nominations for Officers and the Committee. These must be made in writing, supported by a seconder, having obtained the permission of the proposed nominee, and sent to the Chairman or Secretary (address on page 4) at least one week before the AGM. Any Pinner Association member who may be willing to stand for election is urged to contact either the Chairman or Secretary via email – information@pinnerassociation.co.uk - to discuss how they may contribute to the work of the Association. Copies of the nomination forms for Officers and the Committee may be obtained via the same email address.

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

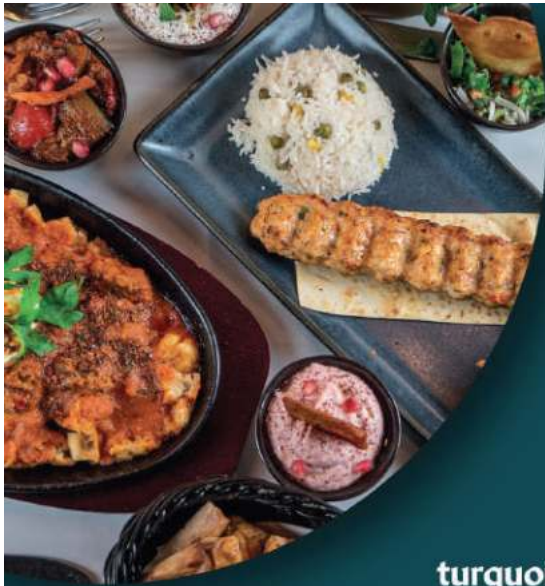
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COMMITTEE

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Pinner Association Committee News

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THE Villager

MAGAZINE OF THE PINNER ASSOCIATION

No. 255

March 2023

FROM THE EDITOR

Shirley Clark

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Shirley Clark. Shirley held many posts over nearly thirty years on the Pinner Association Committee. She kept the notice boards tidy, was Advertising Manager for eighteen years and the PA's link to the Pinner and District Community Association. She was most valuable to *The Villager* as a long-standing member of the Editorial Committee. Her careful reading of the proof copy was combined with a deep knowledge of English grammar and best practice, resulting in advice that was given constructively but uncompromisingly. She saved us from many a faux pas (should that be in italics, Shirley?) over the years and her advice will be missed.

Our condolences go to her son Nigel

This Edition

Sitting in a packed jazz concert at the Pinner Synagogue recently, one of the marvellous Music in Pinner series, I realised the real benefit of living in a place with such a diverse range of talents. People work for many hours on their passions, so that they can share them with others and bring a collective joy to occasions. It's not just the arts, of course; whether it be local history, bowls, the Village Show, the many centres of religious worship, clubs and communities, Pinner offers so much. This issue celebrates our thriving arts scene. The team at the Heath Robinson Museum (P49) continue to bring us a fascinating range of visiting exhibitions, as well as providing art classes and events for both adults and children. The annual Easter Chick Trail is coming on April 11th, always a riotous afternoon. Our Creative Pinner section (P37) features poet Neil Elder, born and raised here in Pinner. And, of course, the Music in Pinner series of concerts (musicinpinner.org.uk) continues to bring us a wide and inspiring range of music.

We also celebrate two people who have made a great contribution to life in our area and have rightly been honoured with a Harrow's Heroes award. Lee (P24) and David (P22), in their own different ways, have brought real benefits to our community. Talk about Pinner often focuses on house prices, schools and its history. But first and last, a community is its people. So, what better time to look to the future, with views from the pupils of Pinner High School on how Pinner might be in twenty-five years' time (P41).

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The Joy of Paper

People sometimes suggest to me that *The Villager* should go digital. I'm no Luddite – I thoroughly enjoy the speed, flexibility and access that the digital world brings – but I do feel that, when it comes to reading for pleasure, nothing beats holding a book or magazine in your hand. The interaction of turning the page, flicking back to check something, putting it aside and looking forward to picking it up again, sharing with someone else, cannot be equalled by a screen. Even when travelling, I will risk my baggage allowance (and my back) by packing a couple of books or three, though, in truth, my laptop comes too.

Yes, books involve cutting down trees. But now my preference has support from information that I recently read. It has been calculated that, when Cristiano Ronaldo posts on Instagram to his 240 million followers, that one message uses enough energy to power ten houses for a year, about thirty-six megawatt hours*. And each day, 95 million pictures and videos are shared on Instagram alone. As the Americans would say, 'do the math'. The Cloud is one of the cleverest pieces of branding in recent years. We all have the impression that it is 'somewhere up there,' some light and fluffy thing, rather than banks of giant warehouses churning through vast volumes of energy. And even Microsoft reckon that between 50% and 85% of the data stored is redundant and will never be looked at again**. For another perspective on the internet, turn to *A Point of View* on P67.

**RT.com 2020, quoted in data Literacy and Sustainability by Stuart McDonald.*

** *XIA.com 2016*

Really?

I grew up with a Cocker Spaniel, my great friend and confidant. Once a year, as summer approached, he went off for a 'haircut', returning looking smaller and rather bewildered. I wonder what he would have made of the van that I saw recently in Pinner, offering a 'mobile dog stylist' service (a service for mobile dogs?), a 'specialist pamper service for dogs a spa day'. The name of the service? *My Fur Lady*. When did dogs stop being dogs and become catwalk models, and has anyone told them that their role has changed?

Editor



SOLD IN YOUR AREA

by



Andrew Pearce

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VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Remembrance Sunday

We had a last-minute panic when I noticed that none of the parking suspension notices was in place on Saturday afternoon. Thank you, Harrow Council, for rectifying this quickly.

The event was well attended this year. There were a few subtle changes from the previous year. Lord Finkelstein and the David Simmonds MP laid wreaths. For the first time ever, we had a wreath laid on behalf of the Commonwealth Veterans.



Photo by Jenny McCann

This year, the inclusivity of the Act of Remembrance was enhanced with a Jain prayer for peace, read and sung by Samani Pratibha Pragyaji and Samani Punya Pragyaji from the Jain Vishva Bharti centre in Elm Park Road. The Last Post and Reveille were sounded by trumpeter Maiya Javia from Nower Hill School and the Kohima Epitaph was read by young volunteer Shaina Vadher from Hatch End - a first. A big thank you must go to the team that helped organise this, especially Sharon Pink (she held the fort while I was on holiday) and Nitin Mehta and Councillor Stevenson. I must also thank *Turquoise Kitchen, Café Amici, The California Kitchen, Robson's Estate Agents* and *The Queen's Head* for their help and support.



Anup Parmar, The Film Unit

Diwali & the festive lights

Some of you may have noticed that this year the lights on Bridge Street were switched on earlier than the others. This was to celebrate Diwali, which started on the 24 October. On the 24 November, the Mayor of Harrow, Cllr Janet Mote, switched on the Christmas trees and festive lights on the High Street. A few people braved the rain to watch this happen.

Pinnora Mews.

It's been quite a while since this development on what used to be Waxwell Lane Car Park was signed off by the building inspectors. Having enquired about the delay, we received this response from the Leader of Harrow Council, Councillor Paul Osborn.



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'I have investigated this internally and the comments being made with regards defective drainage are not factual and are based on local rumours. There has been no identified issue with the drainage on the site, in fact during the project the original specification was changed, and the Council put additional funds into the project to provide an adaptable drainage system for the development and the church behind the development. The Thames Water adoption hasn't taken place as yet, as we are finalising the legal documents between the church and the Council. The drainage has been designed to an adoptable standard and is of sufficient capacity for the site and the church. Therefore, once the paperwork is agreed between the 2 parties, we do not anticipate any issues with Thames Water sign off.

The delay is due to following the practical completion on the site at the end of November, a defect was identified on the balcony areas of the new houses. The Council took legal advice on the sales programme and was advised to 'pause' the programme until the main contractor, Claritas, had identified the cause of the leak, advised their intended remediation plan and that this plan was then independently varied and approved by F & G (the Council's agent for the project).

Following an urgent meeting on site before Christmas, the main contractor was instructed by the Council's project team to carry out investigation and dye tests on one of the of worst affected properties. This happened in the first two weeks of January. The Council met with the Managing Director of Claritas on Friday last week and we are expecting their remediation plan next week.'

Let's hope it doesn't take too long to resolve the issues.

St George's Day.

The Rotary Club of Pinner have started the organisation of St George's Day Celebrations. They are hoping to get authorisation to hold the event on April 23rd. Assuming that everything goes to plan, they will be looking for people to help steward.

Band Concerts.

We have started to organise this year's band concerts. They will be on July 30th and August 6th, 13th and 20th. It is envisaged that there will be no chair hire again this year.

Coronation Celebrations.

The Friends of Pinner Village Gardens, supported by The Pinner Association, are planning a day of celebration on Sunday, May 7th, the day after the Coronation. More details to come in the park and on pinnervillagegardens.org.uk

Happy reading

Julie



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A PINNER DIARY

Let's start with an apology for an abject failure to keep up with the speed of our present politics. When the last Diary was first typed, Pinner-educated Suella Braverman was our Home Secretary. Just before it went to press, she 'resigned'. Cue general panic and a rapid rewrite. Then, before *The Villager* appeared, she was re-appointed. Who knows where she will be when this appears in print? Perhaps Corporal Jones had a point after all.

Apologies also for maligning our new electric 183 buses for their squeaky doors. Several subsequent trips have all been admirably squeak-free, so either the maintenance staff or the garage cat seem to have solved the problem. However, one of the vehicles has metamorphosed into all-green livery. Apparently, it is one of sixteen, spread across London, advertising OVO Energy. A pity about the rear number blind, the light of which keeps flashing on and off, which is not the best advert for an energy company. Perhaps they should ask for their money back.

While on the subject of buses, BBC News assured us that one day last week we were to have a bus strike. In the event, it only involved staff in one company, so all of our buses, 90% of which, bizarrely, are sub-contracted to RATP, who run public transport for Parisians, continued to run. No such luck with the post: some friends in Kew tell us that our Christmas card had landed on their doormat along with a dozen others on January 9th.

By contrast, our last trip on the Underground could hardly have been bettered. From the end of a Wigmore Hall concert to Pinner in just 41 minutes, including 4 curtain calls for the singer, a 5-minute walk to Bond Street Station and negotiating 2 escalators, a lift and a flight of stairs to the platform. Whilst it is fashionable to moan that nothing works properly anymore, it is only fair to acknowledge how good our public services can be.

Of course, the same organisation that brings us our celebrated public transport network is also threatening us with the dreaded ULEZ (Ultra Low Emissions Zone), on which everyone seems to have a strong opinion. While it is hard to argue against the aim of reducing pollution and improving air quality, the present plan does seem to have some undesirable unintended consequences, in particular its immediate and dramatic effect on home-visiting carers, many of whom rely on elderly cars for economic reasons, as much as their often elderly clients rely on them. This is a sector already suffering huge shortages of staff, so to reduce either their numbers or their productivity, through having to relinquish their quickest way of getting from client to client, can only badly penalise the most vulnerable. Surely there is a case for exemptions for registered professional carers and possibly other essential workers.

The quickest way to get your car off the road is of course to crash it, but Pinner residents, confronted by the sight of a car, apparently undamaged, in what is now known as Bridge Street Gardens, at right angles to the road one early January morning, could only react in the immortal words of Manuel in *Fawlty Towers*, when he had mistakenly thought Basil

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Jim Boff

had told him there was a dead pig on the roof, “How it get there?”. Only the driver presumably knew how it got there or whence it had come, but one does wonder what his or her excuse was.

Excuses are one thing we are no longer allowed, courtesy of our excellent Library service. For some time now, three days before books are due back, it has become the practice that borrowers receive an email reminding them that the

due date is imminent, followed by another, one day before. Library hours are also more user-friendly than previously, evening closures being compensated for by new opening on Sundays and Wednesdays plus longer opening until 6 pm on Saturdays. So, definitely no excuses.

Pinner Library is now also a designated Warm Hub throughout its hours of opening. However, for those wishing to save energy costs without being expected to take a vow of silence, alternative Warm Hubs are available, at least on Fridays, in the shape of the Bread of Life Bakery between 12 and 2pm and Pinner Village Hall from 5pm to 8pm.

Sadly, there is no warm hub for the waterfowl in the Memorial Park, where the lake has, as I write, been largely frozen for over a week. Oddly, the Canada Geese, whose origins suggest they might be inured to the cold, have disappeared, while the Egyptian Goose that put in a cameo appearance just after Christmas, has understandably done a runner, or should it be a flyer? Meanwhile the ducks all huddle near the fountain and the remaining small area of unfrozen water.

*Phil Lawder*

Meanwhile the variety of birds patronising our garden feeders goes on growing. While we enjoy annual visits from winter visitors like Redwings and Fieldfares, fewer have appeared so far this year, perhaps because of a shortage of berries. For the first time for many years a Greenfinch has visited, and for the first time ever we have had daily visits from a Blackcap, described in our admittedly ancient Observer’s Book of Birds as a summer visitor, though ‘known to over-winter in South-west England’. In addition, although we have daily visits from a family of Greater Spotted Woodpeckers, a sharp-eyed twitcher reports seeing the much rarer Lesser version in the Streamside area.

This will be the last Diary before our first Coronation for 70 years, which promises to be very different from the 1953 ceremony, memorable to one 10 year old for Queen Salote of Tonga braving the rain in her open carriage, the electrifying performance by the Chapel Royal choir of Handel's Zadok the Priest, and the humbling sight of a very young and vulnerable Queen looking dwarfed by the size of her crown and the awesome responsibilities she was taking on. Mercifully it did not rain the next day when our primary school had its Coronation Party in the playground. Not everything went smoothly, however. We were barely out of post-war rationing, and ran out of spoons, which were distributed in age order. My younger brother still reminds me of the indignity of having to eat jelly with his fingers.

Mention of choirs reminds me how pleasurable it was to attend and participate in Harrow Choral Society's first post-lockdown Carol Concert and sing along in Harrow School's impressive Speech Room. A choir member tells me that their new Conductor, Sam Evans, is very keen that everyone should look happy while singing, so we are looking forward to a joyful account of Haydn's Creation later this month at Harrow Arts Centre. How happy they should look the next time they do Mozart's Requiem will be an interesting question: the last time I heard it, 'a laugh a minute' was not the phrase that immediately sprang to mind.

An annual local Christmas event in which your geriatric Diarist no longer has the puff to participate, not that he ever had the legs, is the Santa Dash, which in 2022 took place on December 11th. This 5km sponsored run or walk, involving over 300 locals and visitors in full Santa garb, raised over £16,000 for St.Luke's Hospice, slightly down on the previous year, but, in the light of this year's cold weather and the squeeze on household finances, was a creditable effort on the part of all involved.

Local events are central to bringing our community together, so it was with great expectations that I alighted, in a copy of the Harrow Times picked up in the supermarket, upon a whole page dedicated to publicising them. Alas, over half of the entries featured events, many involving obscure pop music groups, in such local venues as Hackney, Walthamstow and, to cap it all, Hertford Corn Exchange. Thank goodness for Pinner News, even if it doesn't always plop on every doormat.

At the risk of treading on the toes of Man about Village, it is a pleasure to welcome Oxfam back after a long period of closure caused by a search for a new Manager. They once famously started selling Christmas Cards on August 25th, but with the re-opening not taking place until November last year, they had hundreds left over to be sold at half-price, so, as you read this, you could still be in line for a bargain. Bargains also abound among their books. John Le Carre's last novel was there for £1 on my first visit, perfect for our next airport delay. If minded to donate goods, ring 8429 0926 first to check if they have room to accept your donation, as the long closure has led to a surge in donations that need to be sorted and priced.

Incongruous shop signs have long held a fascination, since spotting 35 years ago in Ibadan in Nigeria an emporium offering 'Football Pools Agent and Circumcision' . The new Vaping shop next to Sainsbury's has an even more random list of services on offer, including laptop repairs, helium balloons, luggage, mobile phones and, just as an afterthought, car hire.

Readers will remember the competition held to name the new and much opposed housing development on the Waxwell Lane Car Park site, which resulted in the rather pretentious Pinnora Mews being selected. Delays in the sale of the new properties have led to a plethora of rumours, some on social media being quite malicious towards Harrow Council. The truth has now emerged, namely that recent heavy rainfall led to a leakage fault being identified in the balcony area, which required rectification before the houses could be sold. There was no truth in the widespread rumour that the sewage disposal pipes had been discovered to be too narrow, though this was greatly disappointing to the family that, on hearing the rumour, had promptly re-christened the development "Pooh Corner".

Eavesdropper

EVENTS COMING UP

Spring Concert – Haydn's Creation, Saturday, 18th March

Harrow Choral Society returns to Harrow Arts Centre's Elliott Hall at 7.30, when the 90-strong choir will sing Haydn's great oratorio, The Creation, under the baton of its new conductor, Sam Evans and accompanied by professional soloists and orchestra.

Tickets are required and cost £20, £5 to under 18s. They can be bought online at harrowarts.com or by phone on 020 3773 7161. Please visit harrowchoral.org.uk for more information about this and the summer concert on July 1st.

Maker's Art Fair, Sunday 11th June

A celebration of the Heath Robinson Museum's Maker's Art, the range of work by local designer/makers that have featured in the Museum Shop. The full-day event will be in the Verden Gallery, (above Daisy's in the Park). It will feature jewellers, ceramicists, weavers, glass makers, wood workers and others, who will show their work and we are hoping to have live demonstrations as well.

HARROW'S HERO - DAVID PHELOPS

When David Phelops and I met at Daisy's in late November, he had a lot on his mind. David had recently been awarded a Harrow's Heroes award for his work with the choir that he had created and still conducts. *More Than Just a Choir* is an opportunity for people who have been affected by mental challenges to come together weekly, throughout the year, to sing. The choir has been very successful, offering not just the creative outlet of singing, with its well-established therapeutic values, but also a social group for many people in the Harrow area. However, it had



recently lost its base at The Bridge in Harrow, where there was room both to practise and to sit and talk, and was using more limited and more expensive space elsewhere, for which David needed to find funding. In addition, the Choir was due to perform the following week at the visit to Harrow of a 'very important person', an arrangement set up by Simon Ovens, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Greater London and a long-term supporter of the Choir. Despite subtle and possibly unsubtle probing from your Editor, David steadfastly did not disclose the VIP's identity. Time has now passed, and this can be revealed to be His Majesty, King Charles III and Queen Consort, Camilla.

I know David from his regular and much-anticipated performances at the Open Mic sessions here in Pinner, when we can enjoy his fully developed voice. His involvement with music has grown steadily through his life. Although he was aware that, as a boy soprano, he could hold a tune well, it was not until his bar mitzvah, when he had to sing a portion of the scriptures, that David realised that he actually enjoyed singing in public. He joined the school choir, under the directorship of Michael Turvey, a well-known and much-respected figure in Pinner, who has guided many young people, including Simon le Bon, towards musical careers and opened the joys of music to many more. At the age of 11 at secondary school, David's mother bought him a clarinet and he soon joined the school jazz band - 'enthusiastic but many wrong notes' is David's summary of their musical output - to play both clarinet and alto sax, baritone sax being rejected as too heavy to carry around. This led, at the age of eighteen, to involvement in a Klezmer band. Klezmer is a joyous form of music based on traditional Jewish melodies and performed with great vigour at weddings and similar social events.

Later, working as a minicab driver, David one day gave someone a ride to the Reform Synagogue in Edgware. They discussed their shared love of music, and the passenger invited him to join the choir there. David had found his great musical love, and indeed met his wife, and relished being part of the choir. One day, in the absence of the regular conductor, volunteers were invited to conduct. One person stepped forward, whom David felt was not up to the task. Inevitably, the response was 'let's see if you can do better,

then'. David could do better, so much so that, after a while, the regular conductor asked him to leave the choir!



There followed a period of building a career and doing little musical work. In 2006, following his divorce, David was attending counselling at Northwick Park Hospital. During the course of the therapy, he became friendly with the trainer in Confidence for Life and, together, they developed the idea that became More Than Just a Choir, launched in 2009. A room was found, and ten people started,

singing the Elvis hit *'The Wonder of You'*. With the support of Harrow Rethink Support Group, the choir has steadily grown. They meet once a week to practise and give regular performances. Professional musicians and singers have come in to give workshops and they have performed at events, including the current Archbishop of Canterbury and Prince Harry among their audiences, and have developed ideas with the music therapy students at the Guildhall School of Music. They have worked with RCA recording *Men in Sheds*, poetry readings by people with mental illnesses, to which they have supplied a backing soundscape.

Rather prophetically, David decided in 2019 that he wanted to do fewer public performances. The following year, the pandemic hit us. The mental health challenges that the pandemic created are well-publicised, and David linked up with other choir leaders to share ideas on how to work online. The upshot was three online sessions a week for the choir, which he continues to run for those unable to attend in-person meetings, which started again in June 2022.

One of the clearest recent testimonies to the value of the choir came from an eighty-five-year-old member who used to bring his wife, who suffered with dementia, to sing. After she died, he continued to attend. 'Before,' he said, 'I was coming for Rita. Now, I'm coming for myself.'

Do look out for performances from More Than Just a Choir. They are really entertaining and enjoyable events and well-worth supporting. Their next concert will be at Harrow Garden Centre in Headstone Lane on Wednesday, March 22nd at 2.00pm. Come and have a cuppa with added music.

As well as being supported by Rethink Mental Illness, David has recently founded a charity, Sustaining Harmony, to support the choir and provide development funds to start more choirs in the future in other areas. Donations can be made at: <https://www.justgiving.com/sustainingharmony>

HARROW'S HERO -

PCSO LEE O'BRIEN

At well over six foot, PCSO Lee O'Brien has become a familiar and recognisable sight around the streets of Pinner. So, I was happy that we talked sitting down; at five foot eight (five seven if you believe my wife), our discussion, had we been standing, would have left me with a very sore neck.

Not that there's anything looming or threatening about Lee. Many people in our neighbourhood have found his ready smile and gentle voice very reassuring in times of need. This is one of the factors in his being selected as a Harrow's Hero in 2022. Though he says, with characteristic modesty, that he suspects that only one person proposed him, he clearly has a strong following in Pinner, whether through his regular email safety messages, café meet-ups or on the street.

Like many people, I needed clarification about the role of a PCSO, a Police Community Support Officer. PCSOs were introduced into the Met in 2002 to give London a more visible police presence and to work alongside regular police officers in reducing crime and making communities safer. So, the PCSOs are a Safer Neighbourhood Team, out on the streets, talking to local people, supporting officers, preventing crime, managing traffic and building relationships with the residents.

'People don't really differentiate between us and the police officers,' explains Lee. 'Indeed, I'm sometimes mistaken for a traffic warden, which can cause some confusion. The difference is that we PCSOs don't actually have any powers of arrest. We act more as an intermediary between the public and police officers. We are more about preventing crime than solving it. We are aware of what is happening around Pinner and the habitual criminals know that we are around. Though we normally work during the day, it's not uncommon for us to do a shift up to midnight or start early, to keep an eye on things.'

So, I wondered, did he yearn for the high-speed car chases and dramatic drug busts? 'Not really. I love what I'm doing. I was not one of those kids who played all the time with toy police cars. If anything, I wanted to be a chef or write a book.' As someone whose childhood ambition was to be either a taxi driver or a waiter, to me the two most glamorous occupations, I could quite see his point about the randomness of working life. 'In fact, it was my wife, who is with the police, who suggested the job to me. I was working at Tesco at the time, in a front-of-house role, having previously worked at the bowling alley in North Harrow, and it felt like a good move. I did once look at the possibility of moving across to become a police officer, but the selection timings coincided with a long-planned trip to Australia, so that took precedence, and I haven't reapplied. Even now, I don't read police procedural; I enjoy a good horror story much more!'



Given that Lee averages about 15,000 steps a day walking the Pinner streets, what are his impressions? 'I really like working in Pinner,' says Lee. 'It's a great community with so many people working to keep it great. Though I no longer live in London and travel in, I'd love to live locally. I was born in Northwick Park Hospital and grew up not far from here.'

What changes has he seen? 'When I started sixteen years ago, there was no Nextdoor, Whatsapp or Ring, and Twitter and its like were in their infancy. The good thing about these is that they increase vigilance and help to proactively reduce the incidence of crime. They do also, of course, feed people's worry about crime. There's a lot of speculation on social media and not all of it is helpful. The other thing is that people are often busy telling each other what's going on and don't tell us. We are not clairvoyant; we can only help if we know. We make good use of social media ourselves to get out warnings about scams or to alert people about how, for example, to better protect their houses in summer or winter.' Indeed, the Pinner team have recently been rated best in Harrow for people signing up to their Online Watch Link (OWL) service. (www.owl.co.uk)

And the future? 'I can see us using drones a lot, not to replace us but to help us with our work. They are really useful and relatively inexpensive. Imagine how they could help with Pinner Fair, for example. Mind you, you can't sit down and have a chat and a cup of tea with a drone.'

So, what's the best thing about the job? 'Helping people, talking to them and reassuring them. My mum was disabled, and I did a lot to help her and worked with the MS Society, so I guess it's in the blood.'

And the worst? 'The only thing, really, is when people say that we don't care'. To be honest, I'm quite offended. I've been here in Pinner for sixteen years, and I really do care.'

And, with that, PSCO Lee O'Brien is off, back to the streets of Pinner.



GOODBYE, OLD FRIEND, OR THE LAW OF UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

CASHLESS PARKING IN PINNER

By the time you read this article, Cashless Parking, or Cashlite, as the Council insist on calling it, will have been implemented across all of Harrow. You will either love it and wonder why the Council did not do it before, or hate it and wonder why the few minutes it took to do a simple job now causes so much frustration.

I mentioned the law of unintended consequences and how two separate things conspire together to force through change. You will have read that the old Civic Centre, that brutalist concrete

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monolith in the centre of Harrow has closed. Locked away in the bowels of that building was the so-called Bullion Room. Not that Harrow had any bullion, but it was the name given to the secure location where all the coins from all the parking machines were taken to be counted. The costs of this collection and counting were high and represented a very significant part of the revenue earned. The new Civic Centre, wherever it may be, will not have this facility. Alternative solutions were expensive.

At the same time the 500 parking meters in Harrow, which cost around £4000 a piece, are reaching the end of their planned life, and, from 2023, the Government is planning to switch off the 2G signal, which provides information to those parking meters, to make bandwidth space for the 5G signals. These seemingly unrelated events have joined together to drive the decision to go cashless across Harrow for your parking.

There is a concession for the technically challenged amongst us, which is that a certain number of convenience stores which already have a PayPoint machine will be able to accept a cash payment for the parking. These PayPoint machines are already in use to allow residents to recharge their utility meters and they all have a feature to allow parking payments.

This will cost the same as using the App, and the parking session will start from the moment you register your car at the convenience store. You do not have to walk back to put the ticket on your dashboard.

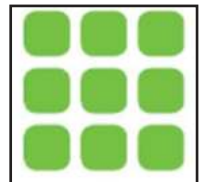
The council claim that there will be a PayPoint machine where you can pay cash within five minutes' walk of every parking location.

In Pinner there are currently PayPoints in Marsh Road (at either end of the shopping parade between West End Avenue and Eastcote Road) and the one at Pinner Local in Bridge Street. More will be added in time.

There are many publicity campaigns inviting you to download the PayByPhone App. This does make it faster and convenient, and for an extra 10p you can get a text reminder of your parking expiry time, allowing you to extend your parking. You can also pay by phone or send a text, but you have to link your credit card, and this takes longer.

There will also be two parking machines located in Pinner which will accept payment by card. The one on Bridge Street by Boots is for on street parking, the one in Bishops Walk between the M&S entrance and Love Lane is to serve the Love Lane Car Park.

Good Luck.



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THE PINNER PARISH HALL AND BRIDGE STREET GARDENS

Originally, the crossing of the River Pinn at the foot of the High Street was by means of a ford, which would have been largely on the site of the present Bridge Street Gardens, with a footbridge alongside. A vehicular bridge was built in 1809 and as part of the enclosure of common land, the land either side of the Pinn, where the ford had been, was enclosed. This facilitated the building in 1841, on land facing the High Street, of the first Pinner National School. This was followed in 1842 by the construction by Charles Woodbridge, a carpenter based nearby, of a terrace of three wooden cottages on the opposite side of the river, adjacent to Chapel Lane. By 1894, after the coming of the Metropolitan Railway in 1885, a pair of semi-detached shops appeared between the school building and the railway bridge.

In the meantime, the school building had been superseded in 1866 by a much larger, new building at the end of School Lane. It was at that point that the former school building was re-designated as the Parish Hall and was much used for local activities, including meetings of the Young Men's Institute, concerts and entertainments. In 1879, services were temporarily held there during the restoration of Pinner Church. As early as 1889, there was talk of raising funds for a larger hall on the same site. For Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, this idea was apparently revived, with the possibility of merely adding a storey to the existing hall as a cheaper alternative. In the event, however, the Pinner historian, Edwin Ware recorded that a "modified scheme" was adopted, although what this comprised is unclear.



The Parish Hall, probably shortly before World War Two



Early 20th century View towards Bridge St. showing the Hall and Beaumont's shop.

In the 1930's, perhaps in conjunction with the widening at that time of Bridge Street, there were proposals for widening and straightening the section of Marsh Road between Chapel Lane and the railway bridge. In any event, all three buildings on the present Bridge Street Gardens were scheduled for demolition.

The first to go, in the mid-1930's, was the pair of shops. The shop closer to the Parish Hall was a newsagent, stationer and tobacconist. G W Beaumont had opened there by 1894. On demolition,



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the business was transferred to 16 High Street (now Barbers Walk and the adjacent De Paul Jewellery), where older readers may remember it, as it survived into the 1960's, latterly as Wilson's, also selling toys.



The three wooden cottages, Parish Hall to their left, railway embankment behind.

The three wooden cottages, by now turned into shops, went next, in 1942. In 1940, they had provided the set for a Harrow Round Table side-show at Pinner Fair, giving the public the opportunity to throw 'poison darts' at 'enemy parachutists', thrown from an upstairs window onto a panorama of Pinner Village. A photograph of this event found its way to America and featured in the Washington Post.

It had been at a public meeting held at the old Parish Hall in 1932, in the wake of the demise of the old Pinner Parish Council, that the decision was taken to found the Pinner Association. Four years later, the building was purchased from the Harrow Council by the Middlesex County Council for road improvements.

The first Villager, published in July 1938, reported the council's acquisition of land at the corner of Marsh Road and Cecil Park, in order to provide a replacement for the Parish Hall, with a library and clinic in addition. Purchase moneys had come from the proceeds of sale of the old Parish Hall. World War 2 intervened, however, preventing building from proceeding. Instead, the land at Cecil Park was utilized for allotments for the next twenty years. In the meantime, the old Parish Hall building (not yet demolished) was requisitioned by the Ministry of Defence for Civil Defence purposes during World War 2.

In 1943 the Pinner 'British Restaurant' (later referred to as a 'Civic Restaurant') was erected on a site in Bennett's Park, now part of the Memorial Park and the car park off Chapel Lane, to help the public cope with wartime rationing. The site now lies under the northern end of the Chapel Lane Car Park.

At a meeting held in the Civic Restaurant in 1945, a War Memorial Committee was formed with a view to securing the West House Estate as a War Memorial, with a recommendation that the site should include a Community Centre to replace the old Parish Hall. In the event, of course, no such Community Centre was built. In the meantime, the proposal for a new hall at the Cecil Park site was abandoned, a sum equal to the cost of the Cecil Park site being combined by the Council with the balance of the sale proceeds of the old Parish Hall



Between the High St and Station Approach, with the old shops at the right c.1930



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and applied towards acquisition of the West House estate. Public meetings continued to be held in the hall of the Pinner Conservative Club (now Elthorne Gate, formerly Ye Cocoa Tree) next to St John's Church, in the Methodist Church Hall in Love Lane or in the Civic Restaurant, which after its closure in 1951 remained as an assembly hall. After acquisition of West House, it became possible for that also to be used as a venue for many years.

In 1946, the old Parish Hall building was utilized for a public library to be set up until the new building became available in Cecil Park, which did not occur until 1960. After that, the building's final use was as temporary accommodation for businesses which had been displaced from shop premises beyond the railway bridge in Marsh Road as the shops had to be demolished and rebuilt further back from the road to enable the road to be widened and straightened at the same time as the railway bridge was being widened to accommodate four tracks.

It was in 1966, exactly a century after being converted into a parish hall, that the former school building was finally pulled down, not having served as the Parish Hall since 1939 at the latest. After years of planning and fundraising, the new community centre was built in 1981, in the park, just south-west of the site of the old Civic Restaurant. It was later renamed the Pinner Village Hall.

Turning now to the sites of the three buildings, the site of the Victorian shops became overgrown and covered with rubbish before the War. *The Villager* of August, 1940, reports that an official dump for old iron and scrap metal was sited "near the old Parish Hall" – presumably a reference to this site. The dump evidently did not cover the whole site, however, for the same *Villager* reported that part of the land had been cleared and converted into a vegetable garden to further the national effort in food-growing.

The site of the wooden cottages, at the corner of Chapel Lane, is very prominent, as one looks down Bridge Street. In 1950, The Harrow Bill Posting Company erected a huge advertising hoarding on this site, facing up Bridge Street. The local council had refused permission, but the company's appeal to the Minister was successful, despite the fact that the Council already had advanced plans for laying out a garden 'with much-needed cycle storage', according to *The Villager*. Such was the level of public opposition, however, that the hoarding lasted only eight months and by 1952 a garden had been laid out, with a similar garden on the site of the Victorian shops. (It is unclear what became of the cycle-storage.)



The Offending Hoarding

Following demolition of the old Parish Hall, the garden was extended to cover its site. The bridge linking the garden with that across the river came much later. The line of yew trees adjacent to the Pinn remains from the days of the old Parish Hall.



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PINNER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY – APPEAL FOR SUPPORT

Pinner Local History Society celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2022 and we are very proud of all the Society has achieved in extending what is known about the history of Pinner and its environs, through research, talks, and publications informing and entertaining many hundreds. We are convinced the Society is still a valuable part of local life.

However, the Committee fears the Society may not be able to continue. Membership has declined – a problem common to such societies across the country, as people now have such full and busy lives. The Society needs a healthy membership to continue to fund its programme of talks and its newsletter. More active researchers would also be welcome (including novices!): one of the Society's strengths lies in the sharing of expertise among those working on related topics.

The most immediate problem is the need for people to share the various tasks necessary to keep the Society going. These tasks include Publicity, distributing the Newsletter and helping at the Village Show. Most of its current, very dedicated, committee members have been in post a long time and have taken on additional tasks as others have moved away, retired through ill health etc, but this is becoming unsustainable.

The Committee has reluctantly concluded that, unless new helpers come forward, 2023/4 will be the Society's last year. This would be terribly sad. The Society is still doing valuable work. At the time of writing, the research group is preparing for the presentation of new research, Pinner at War, on 2nd March; an interesting programme is being put together for the year ahead; and members are working on talks, articles and a book to mark the Society's anniversary. Many local people show real interest in the area's past, and plenty remains to be discovered, particularly now that computerisation has made many historic sources much more easily accessible. Such work would be reduced if the Society closed – researchers need an audience.

Please think whether you, or someone you know, can help. If so, please call 020 8866 1677 or email us on enquiries@pinnerlhs.org.uk. or just approach any member of committee at a meeting. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings (see the programme on our website); members get the additional benefit of 3 issues of the newsletter each year, full of interesting articles; and those prepared to help, or interested in research, will find themselves greeted with open arms.

Phillip Snell, President PLHS

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HOUSE OF
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CREATIVE PINNER

Neil Elder

Watershed During Lunch-Hour

Today she watched a man clean Jesus.
With a brush you'd use for washing up
and a plastic orange bucket,
he approached the statue stiffly.

Some half-formed religious notion told her
that he'd wash the mossy feet first,
but instead he started with the face:
top-down, the window cleaner's principle.

Perhaps a change for him from statesmen
or military figures, but from where she sat,
with her packed lunch, his swift broad strokes
seemed just too rough.

Then, as he worked around the eyes of Christ,
something changed –
the man's shoulders softened,
as though he'd heard the word relax.

He began to move his brush in tiny circles,
each more careful than the last,
No longer workman, but a craftsman
in the process of restoring.

And in that moment she wanted
to stand before this man,
arms outstretched in come-to-me pose,
to be cleansed and restored by his touch.

For many of us, the word 'poetry' brings memories of having to learn *Daffodils* at school, and later, for A levels, being told to analyse a poem, taking it apart like a car engine, identifying the iambic pentameters, the trochees and dactyls, the similes and metaphors until it lost any magic and became a collection of words. In short, poetry was 'hard' and unrewarding. And, as for poets, they were just weird people who wandered around moors all day or sat in garrets.

It is, therefore, a breath of fresh air to meet Neil Elder. 'Don't try to solve a poem; it's not a riddle,' he advises. 'Just embrace the ambiguity. It doesn't have to MEAN anything.



Sometimes a poem just is.' Neil is a poet (the poems in this article are all his), who has been successfully published and is reassuringly grounded. Born and raised in Pinner, he grew up in Marsh Road and later in West End Lane, a neighbour of Cynthia Wells, former Editor of this magazine and her husband Jack. After gaining a degree in English, he did not take the expected route into teaching, but worked as a Prison Custody Officer at Ealing Magistrates Court. However, the lure of teaching was strong, and he became an English teacher at St Helen's, Northwood and subsequently Head of English at St Augustine's Priory in Ealing.

At St Helen's, he arranged a series of talks by contemporary poets, including Andrew Motion, Poet Laureate at the time. Motion was a particular influence; Neil cites his challenging observation that a poem should 'look like a glass of water but turn out to be gin.' 'A poem,' Neil explains, 'may appear to be just an observation of something quite ordinary, but it reveals a wider truth and makes a real connection with the reader.' He draws on another strong influence, the American poet Robert Frost, who explains that a poem 'begins in delight and ends in wisdom... in a clarification of life - not necessarily a great clarification, such as sects and cults are founded on, but in a momentary stay against confusion.'

Neil started writing his own poetry. An early success, when a poem of his was published by Writers Magazine, encouraged him, and he started to go to events around London, especially to the South Bank. A talk by Simon Armitage, the current Poet Laureate, at Merchant Taylors' School was particularly inspiring. Over time, Neil developed his own voice and sense of direction. 'I feel,' he explains, 'that a poem should be a comment on life today, asking the question, 'do you feel like this too?' A poem is more of a conversation with the reader that can create a real connection, more than a short story or a novel can, where the reader tends to be an observer. Poetry does not have to be POETRY, focussing on grandiose themes. The nagging feeling that you're in the wrong queue at Sainsbury's, that sense that the to-do list never ends are themes that I have used.'

No Reception

After a while we leave the footpath,
continuing in comfortable silence,
each wondering how we can turn today into forever.

Life must still be happening to people,
shops will be open, traffic is stacking up,
and we must believe that there are passengers
in planes that pass overhead.

But out here, where we have no reception,
there's sky, fields, crow crested trees and us.
The sun is splashing through leaf cover
and I squeeze tight shut my eyes
to see a kaleidoscope rush of yellow and green.

Only when we see the burnt-out car,
that's flattened a path into wheat,
do we feel the tug of our lives,
hold our phones up high
and search for a signal.

'So,' I ask, 'does this mean that the classics, the Wordsworths, Keats and Shelleys have nothing to say to us today?' 'Not at all. I certainly don't disregard what has gone before. The way that they explore human nature and behaviour is timeless; you just have to get past some occasionally archaic language. Coleridge's poems, for example, are really conversational – just think of *The Ancient Mariner* or *Frost at Midnight*.' The school curriculum cleverly links, for example, Wordsworth's *Daffodils* with Ted Hughes' *Thought Fox* and '*Jaguar*', to show the power of the imagination in different settings. You can do the same thing looking at war poetry or love poetry, for example.' When Neil talks of his work with his pupils at St Augustine's, I find myself rather wishing that I had had an English teacher like him. Mine would read out a poem in an over-theatrical way and then announce 'Bah, well, write twenty lines on what that was all about' and go and stare out of the window.

Neil's work has enjoyed growing success. His first collection, *Codes of Conduct*, was published in 2016 and featured the wonderful creation, Henderson, a man trapped in an office job, surrounded by the banalities of everyday office life. This was followed in 2017 by *Being There*, in 2018 by *The Space Between Us* and, in 2021 by *Like This*, a title that picks up on social media neediness. He collaborated with local artist Charlotte Harker on *And the House Watches On*, a book of poems and images built around West House in the Pinner Memorial Park and the changes they both have witnessed in the last two hundred years, from Nelson to Daisy's. Details of all these books can be found on Neil's website, <https://neilelderpoetry.wordpress.com/books-shop-2/>

And finally, if we want to rekindle our relationship with poetry, where should we start? 'I'd suggest Wendy Cope, genuinely funny and sharply perceptive, or Billy Collins, recent American Laureate, or Simon Armitage, our current Poet Laureate. And there is so much poetry available free online at the Poetry Foundation or Poetry Archive websites. If you don't like what you are reading, just move on to something else. There are millions to choose from.'

Hopeful

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then perhaps it was not meant to be.
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What will Pinner be like in 25 years?

Written by students from Pinner High School



One of Pinner High School's weekly Head's Challenge clubs was set the challenge to consider what Pinner might be like in 25 years' time. Here are some of their responses.



Pinner is centuries old. It was one of the ten hamlets of the medieval Harrow Manor and is still the most easily distinguishable today. The name Pinner is nowadays considered to be of Saxon origin. Among the oldest written records of Pinner is one telling us that the church was here during the 1230s. Remarkably, Pinner High Street is one of the few streets in the county that has retained its initial charm.

Seerat and Nithusha's opinion...

We think that the Church in Pinner is going to be there for a really long time, but that the way it looks might change. We also think that the church is still going to be known by many people who live in Pinner.



Elise's opinion...

In 25 years, I think everything will be closer together, with many more flats – and maybe only wealthier people will live in houses, as the cost of living is increasing and most people cannot afford just to have heating.

I think people will keep buying online, unless they have the money to spend on fuel. Although, there might be a delivery cost, so anyone who wants to be cautious in spending their money they'll have to sit down and think.

Isabella's opinion...

I believe that lots more advanced technology will be used, as communication technology keeps growing better by the year. People might start using computers more to do their lessons, and/or school might be online. I think this because the more technology there is, and the more advanced it gets, the more people are distant, so they might start doing school online. I think there will hardly be any schools where you have to actually go to a building.

**Himani's opinion...**

In 25 years' time, I would hope that Pinner still kept some of its historical buildings. I do think that the shops will become much more modernised and more high-tech, like it is in some current shopping malls. The high street may move further away from physical shopping to more restaurants and service-based shops.



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Shubhangi's opinion...

I believe that in 25 years, people will have less children. If we look at the population of the UK in general, the birth rates are falling drastically because of more women choosing a child-free or child-limited lifestyle.

People are becoming more money minded and materialistic, they might no longer believe in spending time and communicating with other people. In the future, the restaurants on the High Street may no longer focus on the dining experience, as people will not bother to sit down and eat. Maybe there would be no such thing as restaurants and they would just focus on takeaways.

The grocery stores might no longer be in-person shopping experiences and would be replaced by online grocery shopping, as people will believe it is easier and less time consuming.

The impact of religion might decrease and people might start following no religion. It has been recorded that 55% of people in Britain say they do not follow a particular religion. This number might increase in the near future.

In the future I hope Pinner High Street will still have restaurants, as well as entertainment centres, such as: an arcade, a bowling alley or a café-library. All of the above places would be popular places for hangouts amongst young people.






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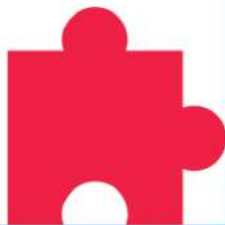
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Mouskan's opinion...

In 25 years, I think that the Pinner Fair will still be taking place every year, but there will most likely be more advanced rides. Due to its rich heritage, I think that the fair will continue through the years and evolve to match the times.

**Janet's opinion...**

I think, that in 25 years, Pinner will undergo regeneration (like Stratford) and the old architecture will go, being replaced with futuristic looking buildings that are hundreds of feet tall. I think Pinner Memorial Park will get smaller and have flats built on it. I also think that more small cafes will appear but fancy restaurants may disappear.

Dom's opinion...

I believe Pinner will be more urbanised and regenerated. Things like Amazon food shops will be more prominent. In 25 years, we will have more developed technology, such as the iPhone 38 and the PlayStation 7. Pinner will also be more diverse, with more ethnic communities and diverse businesses. Overall, I think regeneration and urbanisation would be great for the future of Pinner.

Contributing writers: Seerat Gandhok, Elise Meehan, Himani Nandha, Nithusha Ravirajah, Luke Saldanha, Shubhangi Shukla, Lonndris Bytyqi, Lianne Fares, Isabella Mills, Joel Spence, Rebecca Stancea, Janet Szirtes, Mouskan Totakhail, Dominick Wilson

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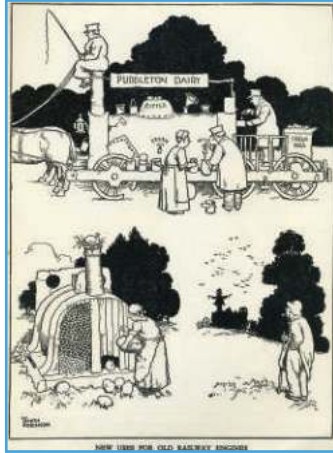
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HEATH ROBINSON MUSEUM

Our new exhibition, Hidden Treasures, will open on March 25th and run until May 21st. The exhibition shows the body of works collected by Martin and Joanne Verden, whom many of you will have known.



She felt herself changing



New uses for old railway engines

The Verden family's ties with the Heath Robinson Museum and Pinner's local community are longstanding, and this exhibition will highlight excellent artworks from the family collection, many of which will be shown to the public for the first time.

The Verden Collection contains exceptional illustrative works by William Heath Robinson and his brothers Charles and Thomas. The range is diverse, covering William

Heath Robinson's humorous cartoons, illustrations and advertising work, including original drawings for *Railway Ribaldry* and his *How To...* series of books. The exhibition will contribute to public understanding and appreciation of the Robinson brothers' work. Visitors will be able to see these original artworks for the first time, brought together as an exceptional collection.

Meanwhile, the popular Easter Chick Trail makes a welcome return on April 11th between 11am and 1pm for kids aged 3 – 10 and there will be another Meccano Mini-Engineers' Workshop on May 27th from 10 – 3pm.

We are very excited to be reintroducing our Coffee and Craft workshops in 2023. These are monthly taster sessions that explore a wide range of crafts and techniques. The day may vary every month, to allow more people to join us. The classes are open to everyone, from beginners to confident makers. Coffee and cake will be offered during the break! Please note that prices may also vary depending on course leader fees and materials. Booking is essential.

And if you are interested in art, there is a range of term-time classes for children, teenagers and adults. Full details about all our activities are on the Museum's website, heathrobinsonmuseum.org

PINNER CAMERA CLUB



In this digital age, we are all photographers. Indeed, it is estimated that, today, about 3.3 million photos are taken every minute around the world. So, what does it mean nowadays to be a camera enthusiast? I went along to a meeting of the Pinner Camera Club to find out and received a warm welcome. This was a competition night,

when about sixty shots were being assessed by an external judge, a tremendous range of landscapes, animal photography, urban images and people, so there was a real buzz in the air.

Talking to the current Chair, Kevan Rosendale, and to many members during the break, I sought to understand what makes a good photograph. It all starts with the subject, of course, something that catches the eye and the imagination. But that is just the start. Modern software has completely changed photography, with techniques available to the amateur photographer that are more developed than those used by professionals just a few years ago. No longer can one say that the camera never lies, as images can be manipulated, backgrounds blurred, contrasts increased, elements made to move or disappear, colours changed to reach a satisfying result. And this is where the members find it so useful to be part of a club. 'You never stop learning,' I'm told, 'and people are so supportive, sharing what they have discovered, offering constructive advice, encouraging those with less experience. You just can't get there on your own, or, at least, not nearly as quickly.' Tellingly, the taker of each picture is described as the author rather than just the photographer.

Pinner Camera Club holds weekly meetings and organises several competitions each year, talks on techniques, regular outings to places with specific interest and, for those who want it, an annual holiday somewhere with great photographic potential. This year, they are off to St Ives and, in previous years, have been to the Yorkshire Moors, the Isle of Wight, the Peak District and the Lakes. Next year will be Norfolk, where the flatter landscape will offer its own challenges.

One question remains unanswered. What makes a good photograph into a great one? It seems that there is no clear answer. Everyone at the club was of the view that it is very much in the eye of the beholder, whether a particular shot connects with you and excites. One thing is clear, though; the members of the Pinner Camera Club will continue to search for that elusive great shot and will help each other in the quest.

If you would like to know more about the club, go to their website, pinnercameraclub.co.uk, where you will see their full timetable and a great range of shots taken by members. The images opposite are the highest scoring on the night that I was there.

Editor



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TALKING SHOPS



*Dorota, Guy and
Zac at the awards
evening*



The Award!

We start this time with news of a Pinner Winner! **Smart Guys**, the dry cleaner in Whittington Way, were declared winners of the National Laundry and Dry Cleaning Awards. At a grand ceremony at Mercedes World in Surrey, Guy Deakin, his wife Dorota and son Zak picked up the award, beating strong competition from national players such as Timpsons, as well as smart West End operators Belgrave Premium Dry Cleaners and Chelsea Green Valet.

Guy puts their success down to a combination of customer care and high quality, modern and more green appliances and solvents, as well as their range of services. Zac is the fourth generation in the family business that has run for thirty years, and he and father, Guy, were trained by the staff instructor at Jeeves of Belgravia, rumoured to be the preferred dry cleaner of our current prime minister.

We always like to welcome newcomers to Pinner, and we're delighted to report on seven new businesses who have opened their doors since last time.

There's still plenty of scope for more, as the property agents report some albeit slow progress on letting the empty space.

Starting our stroll in Love Lane for a change, we come across the first of our newbies at No.17 where **The Social Dough Company** have had a busy start.

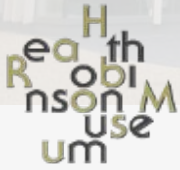
When Kara from Northwood met Claud (from a farming family on the border of Shropshire and Staffordshire) at The University of Reading in 2015, I doubt that they imagined running a pizza restaurant in Pinner – Claud hadn't even heard of the place!



Claud and Kara in action at Social Dough

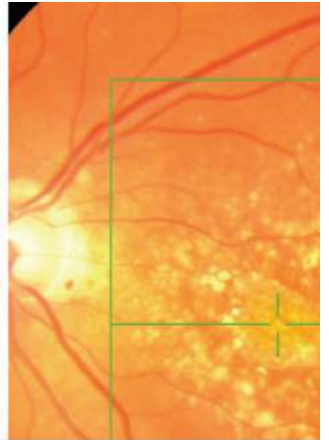
At the end of 2019, Claud had parted company with his employer and then Kara was placed on furlough in April 2020. Back in the summer of 2019, they'd hosted a pizza party at Kara's parents' home, but it turned out to be a disaster – holes in the dough, terrible toppings and all the pizzas burnt. So, the couple thought they'd do something useful in lockdown and decided to learn all about pizzas.

The Heath Robinson Museum



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Testing their pizzas on family members, they realised they were pretty good at it. So, they bought a pizza oven, converted a 1980's horse box into a pizza truck and started driving around the local area bringing pizzas to people stuck indoors. A WhatsApp group followed, allowing people to book them for a 'Driveway Dough Service'. All within Covid rules.

The big breakthrough came when their pizza truck was hired for parties by a string of celebrity clients including Giovanna Fletcher, Kimberley Walsh and Emma Bunton (Google them if you don't know who they are!)

In January 2022, the decision to open a restaurant was made and after a lot of hard work The Social Dough Company opened its doors on 15th December in Love Lane. The interior design is chic with a nod to Shoreditch. The menu focusses on pizza – that's their speciality – with a great selection of nibbles and starters. The challenge is to leave enough space for dessert! All this is washed down with a small but fantastic wine offering, including Staffordshire wine from Halfpenny Green Vineyard, which is in the neighbouring field to Claud's family farm!

The food truck still operates, the restaurant has really taken off and click and collect is available via the website www.thesocialdough.com. The team is now 5 strong and they are looking to develop the private hire and events offering. Please give them a try – you won't be disappointed.

Oh, by the way, Claud and Kara got engaged last summer – we wish them all the best!

At 8 Red Lion Parade, the old Boston Peri Peri has changed to **Hemi's Daily Meal**, as husband and wife team Hemantha and Vasantha opened their first restaurant here in November. Hemi has 40 years' experience as a chef, including 30 years in Italy as well as a short stint in Hollywood! The family have been in the UK for the last 8 years, with Hemi's last job being as a chef at Merchant Taylors' School.

Having taken on the equipment in the property, the menu (eat in or take away) still has fried chicken on it but Hemi is looking to add more of an Italian slant – Vasantha says his pasta is the best in the world!

Hemi's is open daily from 11:30 to 21:30 (19:30 on Sunday's) and during the busiest periods at the weekend the couple's daughter and son help out. It's great to welcome another new family venture to Pinner.



Hemantha and Vasantha

Over the road, we pass the still empty old **HSBC** and, while the exterior has been smartened up, we're told that the original safe remains inside, which may or may not appeal to a new occupier, depending on whether the bank has left any money in itand the combination.



Bride Avenue

Further up the hill, after passing the old Halifax where **Three Wishes** are still battling to get planning permission for a pub, we find our third newcomer, **Bride Avenue** at No.38, the old Barnes & Co office. While their main branch is in Dubai, Nisreen, who is running the business, is local and believes there is strong demand for her brides' and bridesmaids', evening and prom dresses. She stocks international brand names with prices ranging from £500 to as much as £15,000. However, if that is over-stretching the budget, she is offering a hire service as well.

Continuing up the slope we have another new face at Nos. 44/46, the old Brooks. Welcome **Something's Brewing**, 'a charity-run coffee shop and community hub', according to the driving force behind it, Dan Davison.

He, with his wife Ashley and business partners Stuart and Chloe plan to create 'a dwelling place for the community' where one can drink the popular, ethically and sustainably sourced Monmouth coffee, snack on bespoke treats supplied by **Bread of Life** from across the road and spend time with friends, or just strike up a conversation with other customers. It's good to see this space come alive again.



Something's Brewing

Crossing over, we pop into **Bodywise Health Foods and Therapy Centre** to chat with Sunil Bilakhia, who has been running the business for 27 years. Trade is brisk and there's strong demand for professional advice on healthy nutrition and ways to keep the bugs at bay. He also has many enquiries about child insomnia, brought about mainly by the use of phones and laptops before bedtime, and the stresses that late night social media can bring.

Sunil has an ambition to start a *Shop Local, Shop Pinner campaign*, with the help of other shopkeepers, to encourage people to make the most of our local facilities. What a splendid idea, Go, Sunil, Go!!



Bodywise

Back down the hill, property consultant giants CBRE and JLL have been brought in to find tenants for the former **Foxtons/Harris + Hoole** units and the old **Barclays** respectively. Whilst both report a limited response to their marketing efforts, let's hope they're successful soon.

At the crossing we go straight into No. 6 Bridge St to see Seema at **Insight Opticians**, home to some great Prue Leith-style frames. They are celebrating their 40th anniversary of trading in Pinner. We offer our congratulations to her and her three loyal staff.

Seema has witnessed many changes over the 16 years that she has been running the business and has become something of a specialist in the treatment of myopia in children, which she sees as a worrying trend, following the advent of tablets and iPads. The associated lack of time playing outside, using their long vision, exacerbates the problem.

They also offer a recycling service for all used contact lenses and their packaging. *TerraCycle* very cleverly convert them into garden benches, which proves the old adage that you always end up sitting on your glasses.

A few doors away at 4, Red Lion Parade we have another new face following the opening of **The Laser Clinic**, offering a variety of face and body treatments. We're yet to pin down owner Mr Kumar so we'll find out more for next time. Let's hope it's not a case of hair today gone tomorrow – or perhaps we should.

Round the corner in the High Street, flooding from a burst pipe has forced **Gibbs Gillespie** to de-camp into their other office but they hope to be reinstalled by the time we go to print.

Next door **Tummies'** indigestion from last time seems to have developed into a serious case of colic, with no sign of the promised refurbishment getting under way. We notice that their parent restaurant in Slough is also 'temporarily' closed'.

As we were going to press, we heard the very sad news that Bev Kelly of **Foodiewuudies** had died. She will be greatly missed, not only for her warm welcome and wonderful sandwiches and cakes, but for her real contribution to Pinner. When she and husband Kev took over from Dining in Style, they honoured all of its commitments, despite the cost to them, and went on to build a fine catering service as well as a welcome hub in the High Street. Our condolences to Kev and family.

Across the road, **Friends** remains closed, where sensitive legal issues are due to be heard in court in May. We hope that, at that point, things will be resolved.

Agents VDBM seem to be busy with the three shops that they have to let up and down High Street, with good interest reported on all of them. Fingers crossed that results come through soon.

Turning into **Barter's Walk** we find two more newcomers, both of whom, coincidentally as it turned out, are in the vaping and phone accessories business.



Insight

Young entrepreneur **Jitu at No.2** has opened his first venture, taking hold of the keys on the same day as Baz three doors up in **Dial-A-Vape**. This is Baz's fourth shop with others in Cricklewood, Greenford and Feltham.

We wish them both well. There's nothing like a bit of healthy competition (If that's the right expression for a vape shop)

Back in the High St, our final newcomer, though a familiar name, is **Daisy & Co** at the old Pizza Express site. They plan to open in March with a brunch menu running through the day, evening menu, craft beers, English wines, food from their own market garden and a terrace out at the back.



Dial a Vape

Finally, in Pinner, we're blessed with four helpful and delightful pharmacists. In these challenging times for medical care, we've chatted with them all to get their take on their role in the community and how it's changed post Covid.

We've had the pleasure of meeting Jayesh Shah in **Boots**, Mr & Mrs Patel in **Carters**, Mihir in **Angies** and Mr Gor in **Gor Pharmacy** at the Pinn (he also has a pharmacy in Marsh Rd). They share a similar story, where they have become the first port of call for patients unable to get prompt attention from a GP. More and more, they are having to diagnose problems where they can and do issue non-prescription drugs.

The situation is complicated by the intermittent shortage in supply of many vital drugs like, for example, children's antibiotics, insulin and even paracetamol, which have all been occasionally difficult to get hold of recently.

Mr Patel has even written to our local MP David Simmonds to ask for an investigation.

When we look at our village centre today, we're lucky to have not only four highly professional pharmacies but we can visit health shops, find herbal remedies, have an acupuncture session, get a hearing or eye test in a choice of six opticians, have our teeth whitened, have micro-suction on our ears, plus laser for whatever needs lasering.

We should all be in the rudest of health to go shopping.

Until next time, keep taking the pills.

Man about the Village

Compiled by Max La Frenais, Steve Brown and Keith Rookledge

WALKING OUT WEST!

I hope that the weather is a bit warmer when you read this article or, better still, when you complete the walk. I am writing this in late January in a cold snap, when going for brisk walk was the better option, the other choice being putting the heating on. So, by getting out of the house for a few hours, I must have saved myself an absolute fortune!

I hope you are enjoying the series of articles on walks around Pinner. (Note for Editor, can we call three articles a series?) We would welcome any feedback on the walks and expressions of interest in joining us for our next walk which we plan to complete in April. If you would like to join us, send an email to editor@pinnerassociation.co.uk and we will let you know when it is happening. We also plan to upload these walks onto the Pinner Association website, so watch this space.

We start this walk at the top of Pinner Memorial Park. What a lovely park this is, with its children's play area, lake, museum, café, and bowling green. We are fortunate to have this right on our doorstep. Interestingly, Lord Nelson's eldest grandson, Nelson Ward, son of Horatia, made this house his home for a time and Horatia lived opposite in West End Lodge, now the site of West Lodge School.

Leave the park through the top car park and turn right into West End Lane. Soon you will come across Sweetmans Hall, a timber-framed house dating from about 1600, featured in a recent Villager. Here you cross West End Lane and enter the footpath between Nos 95 and 97. This path soon emerges onto North Way, which you cross and continue down the footpath next to number 13. After about 100 yards or so, you will come across a lamp post, where you turn left and enter Birchmead Avenue. If you follow the road downhill, you will discover a footpath next to number 8 on your left. Take the footpath, turn right and you will soon emerge onto Cheney Street. This area can get very muddy, so if it has been raining, I suggest you wear waterproof walking boots. Trust me, from previous experience, it is not much fun walking four miles in damp socks.

Cross Cheney Street and enter Long Meadow with the River Pinn on your left. Towards the end of Long Meadow you will be able to see The Case is Altered on your right. This is a nice summer pub, with a great garden. However, sadly we don't have time to stop today unless.....

Beside The Case is Altered, on the corner of Southill Avenue, you will notice Haydon Lodge, once the lodge to Haydon Hall, a rather splendid half-timbered house, that backs onto the cricket fields. However, you now need to head left and cross the River Pinn via the footbridge where you will enter Eastcote House Gardens. What a fantastic job Hillingdon Council and the Friends of Eastcote House Gardens have done. There is a huge



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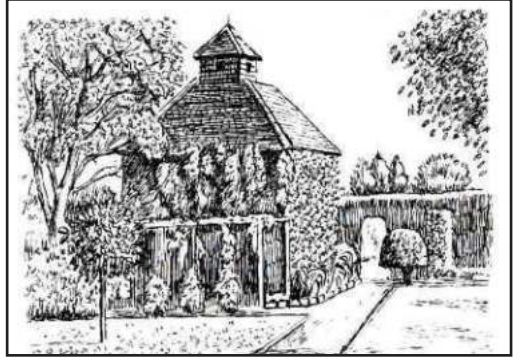
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amount of information available on the website eastcotehousegardens.org.uk.

The first thing to notice is the Prairie Garden on your right as you enter the gardens. Then, as you head up to the walled garden, you will see some interesting topiary and the fine square dovecote. A dovecote was an indication that its owner was important, since the birds, used for fresh meat in the winter, would feed themselves on other people's crops!



*The Dovecote at Eastcote
House Gardens*

As you approach the walled garden, turn left and then right at the end of the walled garden. Here, on your right, you will see that hard work that has gone into preserving the wall and at the top of the park you will discover a new orchard with fruit trees. I am not sure if the apples are for public consumption, so I will leave that choice between you and your conscience!

After passing through the orchard, follow the garden wall round and back down and back down to the bottom corner. This will take you to the entrance to the garden and, depending on the time of year, you might want to pause on one of the seats and admire the beautifully laid-out garden for a few minutes. The herb beds were planted in 1977 to mark Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee and, since 2009, the Friends have restored and improved the Walled garden. They are a reminder of the types of gardens that were often found in the grounds of large houses.

When you leave the walled garden you will notice a pergola on your right, which has a beautiful display of wisteria in the spring. Then you come to the the Stables and Garden Café, where you may want to stop for a bit of light refreshment (and a loo break, if necessary).



The Stables and Garden Café



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The main house was demolished in 1964, although the footprint can still be seen in the park. The Stables and Dovecote remain though and were restored in 2014 with National Lottery Funding. The Garden Café was built in 2014 to complement the existing old buildings.

You now proceed down the long central path, with the café to your left and the footprint of Eastcote House to your right. Leave the park at the bottom and cross the road (carefully) to your right, then turn left into Eastcote High Road. Ahead of you is a grassy area. At the end of this open space, turn right across the footbridge and the left onto the footpath along the right bank of the river. When you come out onto Fore Street, turn left. At the corner, you will notice a small, grassed area with a yew hedge which, rather romantically, is known as Pretty Corner, somewhat nicer than the earlier name of Guts Pond, when the building opposite was an abattoir.

Turn right onto Eastcote High Road. After about 100 yards, cross at the zebra and walk straight up the footpath opposite, pausing to read the plaque about the original GCHQ, located here before it moved to Cheltenham. This path brings you out into the new housing estate. Turn right on Flowers Ave and then left at the Highgrove House sign. It is worth walking up to Highgrove House, to enjoy the fine brickwork around the front door. Now flats, the house was rebuilt in 1881 after a catastrophic fire and Winston Churchill's brother spent part of his honeymoon there. Walk back down the road about fifty yards and, at the end of the beech hedge on your right, turn right onto the wide footpath. Keep following this path, which crosses the top of Flowers Ave, comes out on the edge of The Sigers and then continues on to emerge onto Field End Road, with St Thomas More Church on your left.



Highgrove House



The Path between the Pinn and the allotments

Here, you turn right and, at a convenient point, cross the road. At the roundabout, continue up into Bridle Road and after a short distance turn left into Cheney Street, an old lane without any footpath, so take care – the traffic can be quite fast. Cheney Street's history can be traced back to the 16th century. Soon you will come across Cheney Farm and, further down the road, Hornend, which are both probably 17th century and were owned by local famers Daniel Long and his son, also called Daniel. At the end of Cheney Street, you will find yourself back at the entrance to Long Meadow. Turn right into the 'muddy' area you visited a couple of hours ago. As you enter this green space you should bear right and follow the path towards a wooded area. This is an attractive area with the River Pinn on your right and, if you have four-legged friends with you, they may like to take a dip at one of the



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entry points to the river.

Continue along this path and you will soon see some allotments on your left and then the entrance gate into Cranbourne Drive. Turn left as you enter Cranbourne Drive and then left again at the junction with West End Lane. As you walk up West End Lane you might want to spend a few minutes taking in, on your right, Rose Cottage, built in the 1850s with a rose motif at first floor level, as well as the Victorian Cornwall and Gloucester Cottages. In the 1880s Mr Treneman, born in Cornwall, lived in one cottage and Mr Easton, born in Gloucester, lived in the other cottage. What a coincidence!!



Rose Cottage in West End Lane

After 50 yards or so you will find the entrance into Pinner Memorial Park where you can pause for a well-deserved coffee and sit down.

Ed Badke

Illustrations by Alan Merrill

Photographs by Phil Lawder

YOUR PINNER ASSOCIATION IN NUMBERS

We have:

- 11 members of the committee – we could do with more
- 4 life-vice presidents
- 4 area leaders and 1 postal co-ordinator
- 71 area collectors/distributors
- 30 volunteers at the Band Concerts
- 20 volunteers at Pinner Act of Remembrance
- 5 general helpers
- 7 volunteer gardeners in the Peace Gardens

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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;
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A POINT OF VIEW

What would some past philosophers have thought of the internet?

The internet did not exist when I was growing up but here it now is, a massive factor in all our lives. Is it a good or a bad thing? What are its advantages and what its disadvantages? What would some of the great philosophers of the past have made of it?

Plato, two and a half thousand years ago, once said that books were bad because they are likely to detract from our developing memory skill. There's truth in that. Quite often, when not sure of a spelling, I will simply type my best effort into a search engine and see if it recognizes or corrects it. Now it is so much less necessary to commit learning to memory – pi to three decimal points, the wives of Henry VIII, what an oxbow lake is - simply look it up on the internet. Good or bad?

The eighteenth-century thinker Jean-Jacques Rousseau was keen on something he called the General Will. This seems to have been akin to the rule of law but was taken up during the French Revolution as little more than a justification of the tyranny of the urban poor. Be that as it may, the internet furnishes us with a way of finding out what vast numbers of people think about multiple issues very quickly. It could be a tool of direct democracy, albeit a dangerous one.

Utilitarians of the nineteenth century such as Jeremy Bentham may or may not have approved of the internet and would have asked themselves whether it, as a whole, benefited or hindered most people. On balance, are more people happier as a result of it than without it? Personally, I find it a wonderful piece of technology. However, others do not and have been hounded online and in real life, because leaders of virtual dog packs don't like what they say and pick them out. How are we to weigh the strengths and number of benefits against the strengths and number of harms?

On the other hand, a deontologist such as Immanuel Kant, who believed in moral rules, would say these must never be broken even if it makes people less happy. Although Kant mostly wrote about how individuals should lead a morally correct life, he might have wanted to shut down a form of communication such as the internet, that seems to positively encourage some to treat others not as ends in themselves but as clickbait for their money-making ventures.

I think Marx, and more particularly Lenin, would have seen the effect of the internet as being to continue to prop up the flawed economic system of capitalism through a new medium of consumerism, that feeds lies to working people to keep them docile. In an odd way this analysis seems to work well as an explanation of the echo chambers of conspiracy theory websites: they divert genuine discontent into a passive rage that spawns its own enormous economy.



Peter Keeble and friend



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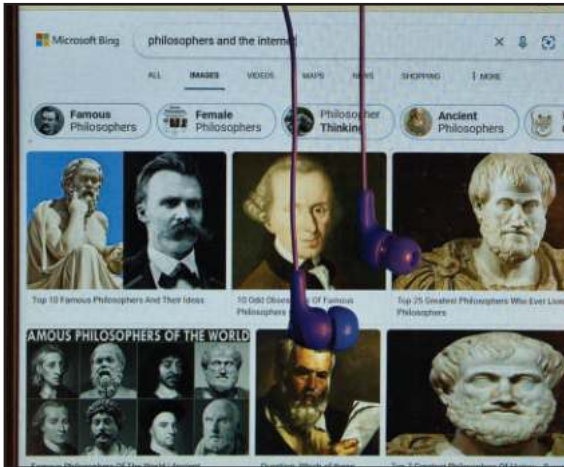


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Jean Baudrillard is a postmodernist who argues that we have no idea of social or physical reality, because we live through the media we watch. This is an extension of Friedrich Nietzsche's insight that we often see the world through stale metaphors that trap us into false ways of life. In Baudrillard's case, he seemed to question whether, in some senses, the second Gulf War actually happened at all, given that for most of us in the West it played out on television screens and had no obviously discernible effect on our lives. All this can be applied in spades to the internet.



Philosophy and Internet

What do I think? I wouldn't scrap the internet, but I would like to see it much more tightly regulated in the way the press is. I would justify this in terms of a combination of utilitarianism and deontology – allow something that brings great benefits to many people to carry on until it becomes unacceptably and unfairly harmful to some people, even a minority. As anyone with a philosophical perspective will see, the word 'acceptable' in that last sentence is a problem. How are we going to decide what is and is not acceptable? That is a whole new discussion of the sort that is often taken up in the Pinner Philosophy

Group which, at its weekly term-time meetings, has a relaxed, creative, rigorous and idiosyncratic approach, structured within themes, that has opened up the subject to me in new ways, and I think would do so for anyone without any prior experience of philosophy.

In recent years we have had presentations on such diverse topics as Medieval Music, Jainism, religion without God, how marketing uses our beliefs, what it is like to be a bat, morality and the war in Ukraine, a Socratic dialogue, conspiracy theories, Stoicism, free will, other minds, John Stuart Mill's *On Liberty*, the philosophy of love, magical thinking, Postmodernism in the arts, Simone de Beauvoir, what we should teach in schools, the philosophy of history, meditation, reality in a quantum world – to name just a few.

Peter Keeble

The Pinner Philosophy Group welcomes new members. If you are interested, contact the chairman Paul Skidmore at paul_skidmore@yahoo.co.uk or on 07930 424520. More information is available at pinnerphilosophygroup.org.uk. You can also find us on Facebook: (20+) Pinner Philosophy Group | Facebook



PINNER ROTARY

It's a wintry December evening, and children are braving the cold to catch a glimpse of Santa in his sleigh, as it makes its annual journey through the streets of Pinner. Santa's 'elves' are ringing bells, knocking on doors, and collecting for charity, while Santa, warmly wrapped up, is smiling for photos with the children who have gathered round his sleigh. It's a scene of festive cheer, and one that Santa's elves, members of Pinner Rotary, look forward to hosting each Christmas. Their sleigh-riding efforts have raised over £5,000, which will be divided between this year's Rotary President's charities, Harrow Young Carers and Northwick Park Renal Dialysis Unit, and other charities supported by Pinner Rotary.

While the sleigh might have been stowed away for another year, a full schedule of local club and community events keep Pinner Rotary members busy all year round. There are the St George's Day celebrations in the High Street, including the famous Wheelbarrow Race, on 23 April 2023 and the annual Pinner Rotary Village Show held in the Memorial Park, scheduled for 9 September 2023.

2022's Village Show was a great success, with many local businesses, community groups and charities exhibiting, and residents enjoying their afternoon in the park. But it's not just about sleighs, wheel-barrow races, and petting zoos in the park; Pinner Rotary is committed to making a lasting difference to the local community through their projects and service. It's a very active and social group, and one whose presence and contribution is very much felt in the local community and beyond; their indefatigable fundraising efforts raise around £20,000 in total for their chosen charities each year.



Pinner Village Show

Pinner Rotary Club is one of around 1,400 local clubs which make up Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland, to which more than 36,000 men and women of all ages currently belong. Globally, Rotary International is one of the largest international membership and service organisations with 1.4 million members in more than 200 countries. Their campaigns and charitable initiatives are underpinned by 'Seven Areas of Focus', which include 'disease prevention and treatment', 'the environment, and 'community economic development'. The impact of Rotary in such areas is clear to see – whether that be in their leading support of the eradication of polio, championing of environmental programmes, or in their provision of opportunities for young people.

Rotary Clubs in Great Britain & Ireland have been very involved with supporting Ukrainian relief efforts, working closely with Rotarians in the Ukraine on a daily basis and supporting them with the provision of healthcare supplies and generators. An estimated £5 million of support to Ukraine has been provided over the last year. Pinner Rotary has contributed to these efforts with a collection at Morrison's, Hatch End and other initiatives to raise funds as well as the donation of a second-hand generator.

Rotary was originally formed in Chicago in 1905 as a networking organisation, and this still plays a very important part in Rotary life today, giving members myriad opportunities to meet new people from all backgrounds and build lasting friendships, whether in the local community or more widely, both across Great Britain & Ireland and globally. All Rotary members are encouraged to visit local Rotary Clubs when they travel at home or abroad. Pinner Rotary has recently welcomed visitors from Turkey and Uganda and Pinner Rotary members have developed friendships with Rotarians in Belgium and Germany and most recently the Philippines. Rotary is sometimes described as having '1.4 million friends that you haven't met yet'.

Since its establishment on October 1st 1943, Pinner Rotary Club has actively contributed to life in the Pinner area and brought together a lively community of Rotarians. Although a fairly small group of currently just over 20 members drawn from Pinner and the surrounding area and representative of the diversity in our community, Pinner Rotary punches well above its weight both in the local community and more widely, with members actively involved in national Rotary leadership roles.



Wheelbarrow race contestants

Currently, Pinner Rotary meet on Tuesday evenings, alternating between dinners at Pinner Hill Golf Club, usually with a speaker, and social activities and Zoom meetings.

John Whitehead

Pinner Rotary is actively looking to attract new members who would like to get involved in organising our community events and enjoy the many other activities that Rotary has to offer.

If you'd like to find out more, join one of our meetings as a guest, or speak to a current Pinner Rotary member about what motivates them, please look at our website www.pinnerrotary.org.uk or email info@pinnerrotary.org.uk. Further information is also available on www.rotarygbi.org

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BRANCH MANAGER

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PLANNING MATTERS – TELECOMS INFRASTRUCTURE FOR 5G ROLLOUT

In the past few months, the Pinner area has seen three very controversial ‘prior approval’ planning applications for new telecom masts and associated equipment cabinets on sites next to the footway in residential roads. All these applications have been refused by Harrow Council Planning Services, but the applicants appeal to the Planning Inspectorate, or new applications for alternative locations may be submitted, as the new masts were said to be required for the rollout of 5G in our area.

The installation of telecoms infrastructure would normally count as ‘development and require a full planning permission. However, communications network operators have certain additional permitted development rights, granted by the Government in order to expedite the expansion of 5G. These are rights to make specified changes to a building or land without the need to apply for planning permission from the local planning authority (LPA).

Whether or not a mobile mast is permitted development depends on its height and location. Since April 2022 new ground-based mobile masts up to 30 metres in non-protected areas and up to 25 metres in protected areas (such as conservation areas) are allowed under permitted development rights, but telecoms infrastructure that counts as permitted development may still require ‘prior approval’ from the LPA. This gives an LPA the opportunity to assess whether the proposed development meets the conditions set out in the permitted development rules. For mobile masts under 30 metres, the main condition is that their siting and appearance must be such that their visual impact on the surrounding area is minimised. Factors that the LPA might consider when assessing a ‘prior approval’ application include a mast’s height in relation to the surrounding land and buildings, and the materials, design and colours used.

The recent applications in the Pinner and Pinner South areas were all of the ‘prior approval’ type, asking the LPA (Harrow Council Planning Services) to allow the installation of a new mast (two applications were for a 20 metre mast and one for a 15 metre mast) and three associated equipment cabinets on each of the proposed sites. The applicants stated that the equipment cabinets were permitted development, which did not require any prior approval from the LPA, but the Harrow planners took the view in each case that, as the proposal included the cabinets and associated works in the submitted development description, they were all part of a single proposed development.

The applications on the three sites, on the verge in North Way near the crossroads junction with High View, on the sloping verge in Moss Lane near the corner of Terrilands, and in Albury Drive in the Pinner Wood Conservation Area on a designated open space, were refused by



Telecom mast site in North Way

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Harrow Council on the following grounds:

The proposed telecommunications mast, by reason of its siting and excessive height and prominent location would be visually obtrusive in the streetscene, to the detriment of the character and appearance of the area,

and

The proposed telecoms cabinets, by reason of their quantity, height and siting would be visually obtrusive in the streetscene, to the detriment of the character and appearance of the area,



Telecom mast site in Albury Drive

Additionally for the Moss Lane site the grounds for refusal included the detriment of the setting of the Grade II Listed Fives Court and the Tooke's Green Conservation Area and potential damage to the roots of a TPO tree. For the Albury Drive application, the grounds for refusal included the detriment of the character and appearance of the Pinnerwood Park Conservation Area and the designated open space.

Your Association wrote detailed objection letters for each of these applications which cited the above grounds and additionally that there had been little or no consultation, and certainly no 'meaningful consultation', with the local authority and none at all with any local stakeholder groups, contrary to the Code of Practice for Wireless Network Development in England.

For each site, the applicants claimed to have looked at alternative locations in the neighbourhood but had rejected these for various reasons, but the Harrow Council Planning Officers in their reports on the applications were of the opinion that those reasons were not all valid. Your Association considers that other, less prominent, locations could be found for the required new telecoms infrastructure.

You will note that any potential health risks were not given as grounds for refusal. This is due to the proposals including a declaration confirming compliance with the public exposure guidelines and therefore being deemed "safe", and to health matters not being assessed by an LPA under the prior approval planning process.

Members who may wish to object to any future applications for new telecoms infrastructure should therefore focus their objections on the visual intrusion and the detriment to the character of an area.

The Pinner Association Planning Team



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HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Financially, the Pinner Association had a solid year. Our income was £31,552, just over £3,000 more than in 2021. This was mainly due to receiving a legacy of £3,000. Income from membership subscriptions fell by 9% as 2021 had included some late subscriptions from pandemic-disrupted 2020. Against the average of 2020 and 2021, our subscriptions fell by only 3%. In 2022 the £2,302 proceeds of the bucket collections at our summer band concerts were kept by the Association whereas they had been passed to the Heath Robinson Museum during its development phase. Our Gift Aid income increased as we were also able to claim it on the bucket collections. Advertising income for *The Villager* fell by £1,459 (13%) due to the more difficult economic situation. This meant that the net cost of producing *The Villager* rose substantially to £2,619.

Expenditure rose by £2,325 to £28,982. This was mainly due to increased spend on our charitable activities, principally the maintenance of various gardens in Pinner and the band concerts. We made one significant donation during the year: £1,000 to Harrow Foodbank. The cost of Christmas trees and festive lighting increased slightly to £5,473 although £2,975 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 and the Pinner Station Gardens, as well as the floral display at the Police Station, in conjunction with Mansi Florist.

As a result of all the above, the Association had net income of £2,570 in 2022. Our finances remain strong, with funds of over £61,000 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 2022**

This page has been redacted

Net Cost

2,619

1,317

**THE PINNER ASSOCIATION (REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 262349)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

This page has been redacted

COLLECTORS' CORNER

Many members living on Church Lane, Ingle Close, Mayfield Drive, Copperfield Way, Nower Hill and The Squirrels will have fond memories of Pat Willmington, who collected their subscriptions for many years. A few months ago, I heard that Pat had sadly passed away.

When I became Area 3 Leader in 2015, I was surprised to find that one of my collectors, Pat, covered all the above streets. This amounted to over 90 magazines at a time when payments were all by cash, so this entailed, on top of careful record keeping, a huge amount of knocking on doors, with return visits in order to find people in. I understand that, before I took over as area leader, Pat was also looking after the residents in Pinner House on Church Lane. Pat was well known to her members and would call on newcomers to her patch to welcome them to Pinner and invite them to join the Association. Her record keeping and good spirits were exemplary, and it was a huge pleasure to 'work' with Pat.



Pat Willmington

Sadly, Pat began to suffer from ill health, and in the ensuing years she sensibly decided to drop parts of her round; firstly Pinner House, then The Squirrels and ultimately by 2017 the rest of the round.

Many thanks to Pat for all her hard work over a period of over 20 years and condolences to her daughter Karen, another Pinner resident.

To take over from Pat, I have needed to recruit, not one, but four volunteers. Some years ago, Christina Garratt kindly volunteered to take on The Squirrels as a good way to meet more of her neighbours. Pat was relieved to no longer have to climb the many steps there to ring the doorbells.

Marion Siskin is looking after Church Lane and Ingle Close. She writes that she 'moved to Pinner in 1994, sent my boys to local schools. Love the village atmosphere and feel it is a real privilege to live here.'

When I look for new volunteers, I tend to enclose a note with the magazine saying that we need someone for that street. I realised too late that I had accidentally posted a magazine and note to a non-member but was delighted when Lizzie Levingston of Copperfield Way not only joined the Association but offered her services as a volunteer. Like Max, below, Lizzie is a chartered surveyor and, being under 40, is one of our younger volunteers. I have also had the pleasure of meeting Lizzie's cat Reggie who has enjoyed a couple of my hand knitted catnip mice.

Last but not least, Max La Frenais has recently taken on Nower Hill and The Chase. Max has lived in Pinner for over 40 years, firstly in Eastcote Road before moving to Nower Hill in 1985.

He is a retired chartered surveyor and worked in the West End, so the convenience of the Met line was one reason for choosing Pinner, although the proximity of his parents-in-law for babysitting duties was another main factor.

Max has recently started to co-write the Talking Shops column in the magazine and thoroughly enjoys chatting with local retailers, seeking out the latest news about who is coming and going.

Thanks are also due to Edward Whitehill who looked after Nower Hill and Mayfield Drive from 2017 to 2020 and who persuaded most of the residents in those streets to set up direct debits.

ROTA THE LION

In Manchester, where I grew up, my father used to tell me a story that his father had told him. My grandfather worked in Manchester as a publicist and had a colleague, George Thomson, who lived in Pinner and was head of a printing company. This Mr. Thomson had won a bet, the prize being a lion.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomson named the lion Rota, after his firm Rotaprint, and made a cage for him in the garden of their home at 49 Cuckoo Hill Road. My grandfather told me that Mr Thomson would take the lion for walks on a leash through the streets of Pinner. But, when the war came, the Thomsons could no longer find the twenty-five pounds of meat to feed their lion each week and had to look for another home for him. In addition, the neighbours protested that, with the arrival of war, they were afraid that a bomb would fall on the cage, and the lion would escape and roam the streets of Pinner.

The owners presented the lion to Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who, being a little busy at the time, passed him on to London Zoo. But Mr. and Mrs. Thomson often went to visit their 'pet', who would recognise them and give them a great welcome.

There is a clip of YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUliA1evwgE> where we see the lion in the garden in Pinner and in the zoo with his former owners.



Alison Whitehead

AREA LEADERS AND COLLECTORS

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Tai Chi	Laughing Monk Tai Chi	www.laughingmonktaichi.com	ibc
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