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THE Villager

Magazine of The Pinner Association

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The Pinner Association

Why we exist

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

We are non-party-political, and our membership is open to everyone who has an interest in Pinner.

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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PINNER ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE NEWS

Portfolios and other roles for 2023 /2024

Portfolio Holders: (Assisted by named Pinner Association Committee members and other volunteers)

Editorial: Hon. Editor *The Villager* – Phil Lawder, (Warwick Hillman, Michael Treisman, Christine Wallace, Julie Waller, Alison Whitehead)

Environment: Christine Wallace (John Hinkley, John Orchard - Hon. Architect)

Events Team: Julie Waller (Rahul Aggarwal, Ruth Boff)

Health: Warwick Hillman

Highways & Parking: John Hinkley

High Street: Ruth Boff (Margaret Catley – Resident; John Hinkley, Lecha Kowalska – Resident; Jenny McCann, John Orchard – Hon. Architect; Peter Saunders – ex-Trader)

Licensing: To be appointed if required

Marsworth Green Phone Box: Jenny McCann

Planning: Ed Badke, Ruth Boff, Christine Wallace

Police: Warwick Hillman (Robin for Jennie Youle)

Publicity: Julie Waller – Website and Facebook and Visit Pinner Notice Board; Notice Boards volunteers – Pinner Association Notice Boards

Public Transport: Warwick Hillman (John Hinkley)

Liaison:

Conservation Areas Advisory Committee: Christine Wallace

Harrow Heritage Trust: Robin Youle

London Green Belt Council: Ian Murray

PADCA: Rahul Aggarwal

Traders: Max La Frenais, Steve Brown, Keith Rookledge

West House & Heath Robinson Museum Trust: Jean Lammiman

Specific Appointments:

Villager Advertisement Administration: Julie Waller

Christmas Trees and Decorations: Tim Owen

Remembrance Service: Sharon Pink

Gift Aid Co-ordinator: Tim Owen

Minutes: Ruth Boff



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THE Villager

MAGAZINE OF THE PINNER ASSOCIATION

No. 256

July 2023

FROM THE EDITOR

The Coronation

I don't know what I was expecting when I sat down to watch the Coronation. I already knew that Britain is especially good at that rather clichéd but still extraordinary ability to put on a good show, a rather unreal fairy tale version of our country, but acted out by real people. Strange that we can present such an event with total precision, when so much doesn't work any more.

The ceremony was full of surreal, Lewis Carroll moments – The Rod of Equity and Mercy carried by a favourite *Play School* presenter, the sister of the King transformed into Gold Stick in Waiting, the speculation that holding a sword for two hours qualified you to be the next Prime Minister. And who knew that there was a Worshipful Company of Girdlers?

But, among the incongruities, and the building, music and artefacts carrying hundreds of years of history and superb craftsmanship, I was most struck by the single, rather vulnerable person who, in his own words, just happened to be born to this destiny. I found myself feeling rather protective towards this man who is my contemporary, whose life I have mapped against my own totally different and much more free path. I can only wish him well; his is a challenging and difficult role, but a role for which he has prepared all his life. I believe, or at least hope, that he will be able to continue to create change in the areas that really matter, and thereby confirm his relevance.

Meanwhile, I continue to hum Zadok the Priest.

Our Pinner Association

In this issue, The View from the Chair, the Report on the AGM and the Planning article all bear witness to the enormous amount of work that the P.A. committees put in to make life in Pinner richer. At a time when it is becoming increasingly difficult to find volunteers, we are grateful for the dedication of all those who work so hard. They would say that the reward is the satisfaction of making things happen, and they would be right.

A Fine Gift

A corner of the Memorial Park has been showing the colourful benefit of private business working with local organisations. By the West End Avenue entrance, we have enjoyed white



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Christine Wallace

tulips, crocus, miniature daffodils, deep blue hyacinths and purple alliums. These have generously been given free by Taylors Bulb Growers (by appointment to The Late Queen), working with the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association.

Most of the bulbs survived early cold weather and marauding squirrels and slugs, and flowered in succession. With luck the alliums will still be in flower when you read this and, with more luck and less mowing, they will survive to flower another year.

Too Much Choice

In 2004, an American psychologist, Barry Schwartz, wrote a book called *The Paradox of Choice*, in which he proposed that having a very wide choice actually made people less happy. Experiments showed that, if a supermarket offers more than eight choices in a certain area, people tend to walk away without buying anything. I was reminded of this when faced with the option of Lemon Curd and White Chocolate Hot Cross Buns or, if that didn't tickle my palette, Triple Berry or Blueberry, Date, Pecan and Honey, or Goat's Cheese, Fig and Honey. And, yes, they were all labelled Hot Cross Buns. I am tempted to say that they left me feeling both hot and cross. My life is full, I really don't need to wade through this kind of choice.



POTHOLE OF THE MONTH

This month's award for the Pothole of the Month goes, in a hotly contested competition, to this three-foot long ankle/axle-breaker in the Love Lane Car Park.

Runner-up was the series of fourteen along West End Lane as you approach the Chapel Lane junction past West Lodge School and beyond.

If you find a strong candidate – and there are many to choose from – please send a photo and details to editor@pinnerassociation.co.uk.

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VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Thank you to everyone who attended our AGM back in April. It wasn't without a minor hiccup. Three days before the AGM, we discovered that our key speaker, Pat Flaherty, CEO of Harrow Council, had resigned. A flurry of emails and phone calls followed, to ensure that he would still be attending. If he couldn't, we had to hastily hatch Plan B. Luckily, this wasn't needed. Hatch End Residents Association AGM, which was a week later, had to instigate Plan B.

For those that were unable to attend, here is a list of achievements:

- Band Concerts
 - o We had a change of line-up with Paparazzi making their debut.
 - o The bucket collections from the concerts raised over £2,300.
- Remembrance Sunday
 - o We had a new team organising the service last year. Subtle changes were also made by the clergy to the service, and, for the first time, we welcomed the participation of the Jain nuns.
- Peace Garden Volunteers
 - o The group of volunteers have made a massive difference to the gardens. This was noted by the Green Flag Judges, who could tell that they had 'hand-weeded the beds'. It is a shame that some of new plants have been stolen. A person was spotted taking plants from Pinner Memorial Park, and has been severely reprimanded. We hope that the plants will now stay put.
- Pinner Underground Station Gardens
 - o We continue to have volunteers that keep these gardens looking good. They are looking to make changes, so that the planting can deal with the dry spells.
- At Pinner Village Show, we were present with a 'So you think you know Pinner!' quiz.
- As well as paying for the festive lights and Christmas trees, we ensured that the festive lights on Bridge Street were lit in time for Diwali.
- The Volunteers' Party, previously known as the Collectors' Party, happened again for the first time since lockdown. The highlights were the custom-made cupcakes.
- We have adopted the phone box in Woodhall Gate, on behalf of the residents.
- We continue, as always, to monitor planning applications and comment where necessary.





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by



Andrew Pearce

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We made the following donations during the course of the year:

- £200 to 5th Pinner Scouts for use of their PA system.
- £500 to the Friends of Pinner Village Gardens, as sponsorship of their very successful Coronation event
- £500 to Friends of Roxbourne Park, towards the cost of three Coronation trees.
- £1,000 to Pinner Cricket Club, towards the youth team's caps
- Over a year ago, I approached Harrow Cycling Club to see how we could help. Now that they are settled in their new location, we donated £1,000 towards the purchase of an adaptive tricycle for youngsters (more in the next issue).

Following an appeal at the AGM, asking if anyone knew a carpenter who could fix the trough outside the Queens Head, landlord Sean White came up trumps. The trough is now fixed.

We are currently looking to amend our constitution. Key areas that we are looking at are:

- the need to ensure that it mentions the new technology that we all got to grips with during the COVID lockdown.
- to allow absent committee members to cast their votes prior to the meeting, via email.
- to change the number of trustees present for the meeting to be quorate.

For the Christmas light switch-on in the High Street, we are hoping to have a local school choir sing a few carols. More details in the November issue.

St. Georges Day celebrations, organised by the Rotary Club of Pinner, were very well attended. I understand that there were more Scouts in attendance than last year.

There was a mix-up with the Harrow Council Newsletter that stated that the Pinner Association invited people to the Coronation Picnic at Pinner Village Gardens. This was incorrect. It was the Friends of Pinner Village Gardens who organised a wonderful day. I know some parents are in the doghouse, as they didn't enter their pet into one of the many categories at the dog show.

Lastly, planning for our band concerts is well underway. By the time you are reading this, we will be looking for volunteers to help with setting up, stewarding and packing away. Please keep an eye out on our social media platforms for further details. Just a reminder, there will **be no chair hire** again this year so please bring your own.

Julie Waller



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A PINNER DIARY



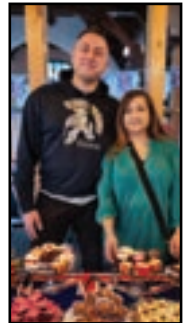
Being 6 years older than our new monarch, I hope for his sake that I have watched my last Coronation, splendid spectacle though it was, and all the better for not being only in black and white. Most unexpected, however, was Pinner's appearance, when Dan Snow quoted on Channel 4 News a Holocaust survivor's observation, "As long as the Queen is in Buckingham Palace, I feel safe in Pinner." Hopefully s/he still feels safe, but the expressions of fear shown on the News, in the context of the recent Turkish Presidential Election, put the statement into profound perspective. Just think President Corbyn, or President Truss.

The service itself contained a wonderful diversity of traditional and new music, with a wonderfully diverse array of performers. In 1953, one could never have imagined seeing a distinguished Welsh-Jamaican baritone, a black South African soprano, a Sikh in the choir, and, incongruously, the First Minister of Scotland resplendently bekilted in the Yousaf tartan. Interestingly, the King himself looked just as overawed by the occasion as his mother did 70 years ago, almost as if he expected something to go wrong.

Indeed, it came as something of a relief that our pothole-strewn, foodbank-dependent, strike-ridden country could actually get something triumphantly right. Whilst one hopes that all will indeed go as planned in an event as sacred as a Coronation Service, your diarist has to confess to hoping that something unexpected might liven up the rest of the proceedings, like the King greeting the massed military ranks on the Palace lawns with a falsetto shout of "Hello Possums".

In Pinner itself, the occasion was celebrated with street parties all over the village, though not as many as for the Platinum Jubilee. Several continued well into the evening, though drivers diverted off High View at 10 o'clock in the evening probably could not believe their luck at finding so much better a road surface in Cuckoo Hill Drive.

Nor were our pillar boxes immune from Coronation fever, the one opposite Pinner Synagogue sporting a most impressive crown, though someone who has never ever knitted



*Great Cakes
at the Baptist
Church*



Celebrations in Northfield Ave and North Way

Michael Collins

was heard to observe that the Womble-like figures beside it reminded him more of Wimbledon Common than Westminster Abbey. Another box is pictured here, photographed in Long Elmes, Harrow Weald, by an observant reader. Hopefully, he was not driving at the time.

Back on more mundane matters, our Council is so impressed by the Public Spaces Protection Order, introduced in Harrow Town Centre by its predecessors, that it is proposing to extend it Borough-wide. The consultation document lists all manner of nefarious activities to be verboten, some of which it never occurred to me that I might be allowed to do. New prohibitions include feeding the ducks and pigeons, specifically in Pinner Memorial Park. Perhaps somebody has told the Egyptian Geese that have recently taken up residence in the expectation that they will be fed out of bags marked 'For Geese Only'. As nobody seems to take a blind bit of notice of existing warnings, heaven knows how much this will cost to enforce.

An encounter with one of our excellent bin men, after I apologized for putting our garden waste bin out late, generated the reply "It's all right, mate. You're on Assisted Collection". Come again! We have never asked for this. Can it be that a household member recently had a birthday with a nought in it? Now we don't know whether to be grateful for this unsolicited service or worried that the Council knows more about us than perhaps it should.

The Council's new parking plans initially sounded horrendous, namely, use the parking app or take a long walk to the nearest pay point. There seemed no obvious solution for those only wanting to park free for less than an hour, who did not have the app or the means to use it. Whether as a speedy reaction to protest or as part of a cunning plan all along, machines have now appeared that enable payment by card and free parking by simply entering one's registration number. Coincidentally, now that our nearest banks are in Eastcote or Ruislip, Hillingdon Council have removed the free parking half-hour from non-Hillingdon residents. Isn't life a bummer!

A black mark too for Northwick Park Hospital. After an accident 3 years ago had necessitated provision of crutches and a walking frame, we contacted NPH to ask where we should return them to, as they were no longer needed. Informed that they do not take them back, after protesting at the obvious waste of public money, we hung on to them, to the delight of grandchildren who derived endless pleasure from them. Now NPH has declared, of all things, an 'Amnesty' for those who had the temerity to comply with their own instructions not to hand them back. No mention, of course, of an amnesty from their extortionate parking charges, if we take the trouble to transport the items back whence they came.

The paragraph in the last Diary that celebrated a 40-minute journey by train to Pinner from



Chris le Bas

the Wigmore Hall was a big mistake. Our next identical journey involved being marooned at Wembley Park for over 10 minutes with no information from the driver, while trains behind were diverted past us on the fast track. This all happened, we were eventually told, because someone was interfering with the doors. But then, to add insult to injury, on our eventual arrival at Harrow, we were required to get out and wait further because the train was now going to run fast to Moor Park to recover lost time. And all without a word of apology for our lost time.

Meanwhile, on the buses, rejoice! In the old days, if asked how long the next bus would be, conductors would routinely reply "27 feet, 10 inches". Now, at the bus stop opposite the 183 terminus, we have an indicator that tells us, albeit, to quote Eric Morecambe, not necessarily in the right order, how long the next 10 buses will be. It has limitations, though, as satellite technology can locate buses while they are in motion but cannot tell us when the 183 drivers will actually decide to leave their stand. Sadly, the first time I used it, the next H12 indicated proceeded predictably down from 3 mins to 2 mins to 1 min to due and then disappeared with no sign of the actual bus itself. Whether it was abducted by aliens or forgot to turn left at Pinner Green remains one of life's great mysteries.

By the time this appears, we shall know, of course, if the new indicator has survived the ordeal of being removed and reinstated for the Pinner Fair. Across the road, the useful bench beside the bus stop disappeared some months ago for reasons unknown, and PA Committee discussion about a replacement has centred around the ability for it to be removed to accommodate the Fair. Whilst the Fair is an admirable tradition and gives pleasure to many, it is hard to avoid asking whether it is right that the Fair tail should wag the Pinner dog. (That should generate a few emails-Ed)

Also over by the time this appears will be the Pinner Music Festival. Having enjoyed Harrow Choral Society's performance of Haydn's Creation in March, your diarist was looking forward to comparing it to the one planned to round off the PMF but was even more delighted to read in the St John's Church Weekly Bulletin that the Festival was to conclude with 'Haydn's glorious The Seasons', which, though far less often performed, is arguably more consistently enjoyable. No doubt, whichever it is/was, it will be/was all right on the night.

Talking of seasons, this spring has been unusually cold and wet, but the plants in the Memorial Park Peace Garden have had more than just weather to contend with. A sharp-eyed dog walker spotted a woman and small boy not fitting the profile of members of the Peace Garden team energetically digging and subsequently transporting newly planted shrubs to a Mercedes parked nearby and took its number. She reported her observations to the police, and later heard that after a home visit and suitable advice they do not expect a repeat performance. Well done, that lady.

Walking around Pinner, one is struck by the number of one's fellows appearing to talk to themselves or so engrossed in their mobile phones that they are oblivious either to other pedestrians or, if crossing the road, the possibility of being mown down. Indeed, so



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entrenched now is the perception that we all live glued to our mobiles or that they are our only means of communication, that many organisations either cannot or will not contact us on our landlines. If, when buying an item or arranging a delivery, one says one doesn't have a mobile or wishes to be contacted by landline as it is more audible or convenient, one attracts looks of pity or contempt. Three times, the receptionists at our excellent Pinn Medical Centre have kindly noted our request for landline calls and confirmed that it is on record, but mobile calls persist. Have the machines taken over completely?

Finally, congratulations are once again in order to the staff and students at West Lodge Primary School, whose recent Ofsted inspection report noted that the leadership and management of the school is "outstanding", as are pupils' behaviour and attitudes. This is all in the context of an overall "good" rating. It would have been nice to mention the smiling efficiency shown by the regular lollipop lady, sadly not always matched by the unorthodox parking on some of the parents.

Eavesdropper

NOT JUST A PHONE BOX

One morning in 2019, Jenny McCann's children rushed in to tell their mother that a large crane was taking away the phone box outside their house in Woodhall Gate. Though still in her pyjamas, Jenny immediately went out to stop the workmen, who were from BT, delegated to remove, in their view, a now superfluous piece of equipment.

It took three years to secure the future of the phone box, partly because of Covid and partly because of the rather inflexible rules of BT. The problem arose because BT's regulations state that a box can only be adopted by a company or a charity. This problem was solved when the Pinner Association agreed to take it on. Jenny has now organised the Friends of Marsworth Green to ensure that it is well-maintained. Priorities for now are some joinery repairs and touching up the paint with the approved colour, after which it may be used as a book or plant library.

So why did Jenny persevere? 'This phone box,' she says, 'is part of what makes living in Woodhall Gate so pleasant. It stands under a horse chestnut, that is probably more than two hundred years old, and is an integral part of this area.' This particular box is the iconic K6 model, designed by Giles Gilbert Scott, and embellished with an embossed crown. Ring any bells?





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WEST LODGE NEWS.

Athletics team make history!

A group of thirty-two children from West Lodge Primary School have defied the odds and gone on to have an incredible year competing in various Sportshall Athletics competitions.



First, they were crowned champions of Harrow in the borough stage of the competition. Then, they became North London champions and progressed through to The London Youth Games Finals. In these finals, the team came third, which is the highest a team from Harrow has ever managed; West Lodge also held the previous record, coming fourth last year. As a result of their efforts, the team was then invited to the first ever South England championship. Here, the team put in their best performance of the year and finished an astonishing second. Again, another first for the borough.

‘Harrow is not typically a borough known for its achievements in athletics,’ says teacher Ronan O’Rourke, ‘but, in the last couple years, the West Lodge teams have changed that. Last year, we were up there with excellent school teams from Newham, Redbridge and Ealing. This year, we pushed those teams all the way, and that is all down to the hard work, dedication and skill that the children have shown.’

‘The children put their all into training, and indoor athletics means so much to them. Importantly, it is not only their athletic ability that improves, but also their general confidence. They learn so much from the experience and it is great to witness,’ says Liezi Stander.

‘We hope that the success of this year’s team inspires everyone,’ says Joe Khalfi, ‘and helps raise the profile of athletics within the borough. Indoor athletics is certainly a massive part of our culture at West Lodge now. It is astonishing to see past pupils, now in high school, coming back to help coach during afterschool training.’



Michael Rosen Library

We were delighted to welcome former pupil, Michael Rosen, to West Lodge, to officially open the newly renovated Michael Rosen Library and meet with our Year Six librarians, answering all of their fantastic questions.

As part of his visit, Michael hosted assemblies for children in all year groups, performing poetry and inspiring all of us to read poems and write and perform our own. He had the whole school hall in hysterics.

GRIM'S DYKE GOLF CLUB

I have noticed that those of my friends who play golf do seem more relaxed and content than the rest of us. So, when an invitation to visit Grim's Dyke Golf Club arrived in my inbox, would I find the elixir of life?

On one of the first days of a hesitant spring, I looked across the finely landscaped and well-tended acres of the course, bordered by Grim's Dyke itself, and began to understand that sense of wellbeing that my golfing friends felt. It's always a pleasure to be out in the open air and if, in the process, you can have the satisfaction of smacking a small white ball in broadly the right direction, well, why not?

There is a rather cliched view that golf clubs are rather snobbish, unwelcoming places, bastions of an outmoded male attitude. This view was quickly dispersed by the warm welcome that I received from current Club Captain, Kevin Tye and Club Captain elect Gill Smith. They are very proud of the fact that Gill, who was to take over in May, would be only the second woman in Middlesex to become a Club Captain; a sign of how things are developing.

In their very well-appointed club house, over a welcome cup of tea, they explained that the club house is open to anyone who wants to come in for a drink or a bite to eat. They point to a footpath that runs up through the course, up towards the Grim's Dyke Hotel,

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and explain that anyone can come, park in the car park and enjoy a walk across the lovely open spaces, always keeping a look-out for flying golf balls, of course.

As the Club Manager and Pro, Colin Parker, explained to me, Grim's Dyke Golf Club has worked in partnership with Golf England to provide coaching sessions for younger people, the Girls' Golf Rocks sessions, for 5 – 18-year-olds and its male equivalent proving particularly popular. Anyone, of any age, who is interested can come and play a few holes to see if they like the club. Once someone has joined, he or she is invited to team up with other players for so-called roll-ups, where they play in a foursome and have the chance to quickly get to know other members. The fact that you can start your round at one of three different holes means that there will be plenty of people in the bar at the end of the day's play.

Nor is the club just inward-looking. In the last year, they have raised £27,000 for charities including Cancer Research, Prostate Cancer and the Peace Hospice through competitive events, meals and an auction. They play twenty-four matches each season against other clubs and their members have access, at guest rates, to clubs across the country and beyond.

Since opening in 1910, when its then close neighbour W. S. Gilbert, of Gilbert and Sullivan fame, was President of the Club, it has moved with the times and continues to do so. I left impressed by the modern and positive outlook of the team at Grim's Dyke.

Editor

BIRDS AND CLIMATE

To state the obvious, birds do not read the papers, nor do they engage in debate about climate change. The changes in their behaviour are simply a reaction to those changes to our climate that have already happened, changes that we can see in Pinner and the surrounding area.

Thirty to forty years ago, birdwatchers would have had to travel to places like Wraysbury Gravel Pits or Kew Gardens to be able to see and hear Ring-necked Parakeets, such was their limited range. Now I am sure that every part of Pinner and the South-East of England can observe them in parks, open spaces and gardens. This is because our climate has warmed, which allows them to breed and flourish during much milder winters.



Ring-necked Parakeet

Another species, now quite regularly seen in places where there are water-courses or lakes/ponds, is the Little Egret. Twenty to thirty years ago, birders from all over the country were coming in excitement to places like the open spaces around Headstone Manor to catch a glimpse of them, as they then lived on the Continent and were simply not seen this side of the English Channel.



Little Egret

Today they are regularly observed at Stockers Lake, Rickmansworth, Cassiobury Park in Watford, as well as Headstone Manor Recreation Ground, and in certain places have been able to breed and raise young because of our warmer climate.

Another species of Heron, the Great White Egret, has also very recently arrived in Southern England, and has been seen at places not far from Pinner. This again is a bird that has been able to colonise this area because of our warming climate.



Cetti's Warbler

These are examples of species of quite large birds that are easy to spot, but there is another species, member of the warbler family, that can now be heard and occasionally seen in areas such as Cassiobury Park and Stockers Lake. This is the Cetti's Warbler. Again, thirty to forty years ago, birdwatchers from Pinner would have had to travel to Weymouth to locate them, and then only during our summer, before they returned to Europe, as our winters were too harsh for them to stay. They are now with us all year round.

The Black Cap, once only a summer visitor, can also now be seen all the year round, and Willow Warblers, which used to come to the South-East, are now flying to North-West Scotland, owing to the change in our climate here in Pinner.

These species have only been able to colonise these places because of climate change, as we do not have the long, cold, frosty or ice-covered winters that we had thirty or more years ago.



Black Cap

To notice changes to species 'lost' to the area is not so easy to record, as most of them are still here but not in such large numbers. A recent speaker at our monthly indoor meetings informed us that some summer migrants to our shores are now unable to breed in the southern parts of the UK but are flourishing further north and in Scotland. This is because insects are breeding earlier in our area. As a result, when the birds produce their young, there is not the volume of insects available for them to survive. As the temperature further north is not as high as here, the birds are following their food source to ensure the next generations are successfully reared.

We and our wildlife are facing a worrying scenario, and further changes to what can or cannot be observed will only be arrested by changes to our lifestyle.

Mike Donald

Pinner Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

The Pinner RSPB Group meet at St John's Parish Hall between September and May on the second Thursday of each month at 8 pm. We have speakers who talk not just about birds, but about all things in nature. We also have mid-week guided walks on the first, third and fourth Wednesdays of each month throughout the year and one Sunday each month we meet at a bird or nature reserve.

We are privileged in Pinner, as we are surrounded by woodland, open spaces and even a farm. It really is a great place for bird watching.

If any of you reading this wish to join us, please go for more information to our website <https://group.rspb.org.uk/pinner>

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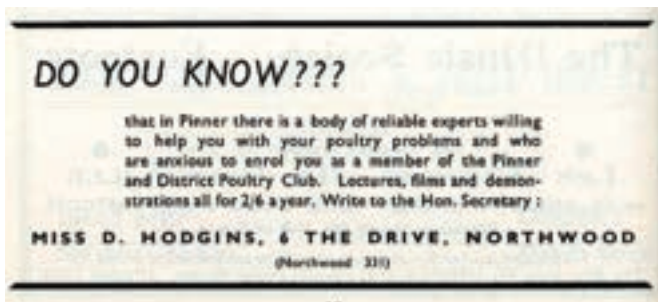
We are lucky to have a full set of copies of *The Villager*, dating back to the first edition in 1938. So, while we usually prefer to look forward rather than back, here are a few snippets from the archives.

Seventy-five years ago, in the August 1948 edition, there was a full report on the success of the fundraising that bought the grounds of West House. The plan was to combine them with Bennett's Park, the lower part of the slope, which had been used as allotments during the War, to establish a park available to everyone in memory of those who had died in the Second World War. Eight and a half acres were purchased for £14,000 (over £400,000 in today's money), much of that money raised by public subscription in a campaign spearheaded by the Pinner Association.

In the same edition, there is information about the plans for the Olympic Games, which were centred on nearby Wembley, with the marathon passing through Eastcote and Ruislip, while Pinner FC were playing Hoddesdon Town in the FA Cup.

Alongside this were details of the great successes of the Pinner Green Social Club. Among many fine events remembered was a Victory Tea at Pinnerwood School, held in November 1945, where eight hundred children had a 'grand tea, lavish entertainment with

Punch and Judy, conjuring, professional entertainers, films and a lucky dip, with a souvenir to take home. An effigy of Adolf Hitler was burned on a fifty-foot pyre, amid the grandest display of fireworks ever seen in Pinner, £50 worth (£1,450 in today's money) of set-pieces, rockets and coloured candles.' Our Coronation celebrations pale into insignificance.



Advertisements in that edition included one for flower shop *Floragarde* of the High Street, offering, among other things, 'evening sprays', and one for three generations at the Tudor Barber's Shop at 22, High St, (soon to be VIP Hearing) a 'high class,

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four-chair saloon staffed by fully qualified attendants', while the Eastcote Music Society were promoting their production of *Hiawatha*.

And, **fifty years ago**, in 1973, themes of recycling and litter featured strongly, issues still firmly with us today. Cyril Ellement reminisced about his childhood in Pinner in the late 1910s and early 1920s, when he and his friends played football in Marsh Road, something not to be recommended today. The football, by the way, was often a pig's bladder, which they begged from the slaughterhouse at the top of the High Street, now a chiropodist.

Editor

WE RANG FOR THE KING!

For hundreds of years, church bells have called people to worship and to signify special events. In June 2022, we all celebrated Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. Bells then rang out in September 2022 with a muffled sound as a mark of respect at her funeral.

The ringers in the Pinner tower have actively participated in all these events. On Friday evening, prior to the Coronation, we rang before the Vigil Service in church. On Saturday, our church bells again rang out immediately before the service in Westminster Abbey, culminating in firing the bells six times! This is when the bells all sound together making a loud crash and is sometimes done on occasions of particular celebration, such as our King's Coronation. Then on Monday we rang again as part of an Open Morning, for local residents and their families and friends to enjoy coffee and cakes, plus a visit to the ringing room. Over 100 visitors came. Many made donations to 'Firm Foundation,' a charity for the local homeless, for whom we raised almost £500.

This weekend was special. Several new recruits have joined our band in response to the appeal by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, including two juniors. A total of 15 people rang in the Pinner band over the weekend, and, after visiting the ringing chamber, will more people learn to ring?

Sue Ellis



Bellringers



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THE HEADSTONE MANOR WALK

This month I completed Walk 2 from Ten Walks around Pinner – The Headstone Manor Walk. Before setting off on this, you might want to check the Headstone Manor website to see what events are coming up and maybe plan a whole day out rather than just the walk. I will talk more about the Manor later in this article.

Once again, we start at Pinner Station and proceed down Station Approach. At the end of the road turn right and right again into The High Street. Buildings to note in The High Street include the former Victory, soon to be a Sri Lankan restaurant, a timber-framed building originating in the fifteenth century building, the Queen's Head and No 32, a charming Georgian House with balustraded steps up to the front door, useful when this was a muddy road full of cattle. I would normally have mentioned Friends Restaurant but, until the recent changes have been removed, it does not look its best.

At the top of the High Street, bear right into Church Lane with St John the Baptist Church on your left with its lychgate. If you have time, why not go for a walk around the church grounds - you might find Pinner's floating coffin. This strange tomb was erected by acclaimed landscape gardener and prolific horticultural author John Claudius Loudon (1783-1843) to the memory of his parents William (d. 1810) and Agnes (d. 1841). As you emerge from the church grounds, turn left and continue along Church Lane. You are now following the original road from Pinner to Harrow, a route high enough not to be flooded when the River Pinn burst its banks. Today's route, Marsh Road, would have been impassable in any flood – the clue is in the name.

We carry on along Church Lane, crossing the road at Pinner House to stay on pavement. While walking, you might want to take in The Grange, a fine Victorian house with views over Pinner. Towards the end of Church Lane, you will notice a grassed open area known as Tookes Green. There are several houses to note as you approach the Green, including The Bay House on your left and Grange Cottage and Elmdene on your right. Elmdene has had some famous residents including Nelson's daughter, Horatia, comic actor Ronnie Barker and actor David Suchet.

Take the left fork at Tookes Green. The granite fountain in the centre commemorates the generosity of William Tooke of Pinner Hill House, who paid for the restoration of the parish church in 1880. The name Tookes Green then replaced the earlier name of Nower Green or Nower Hill Green. At the top of the green, turn left into Moss Lane. Continue along Moss Lane until you reach a group of houses including Tudor Cottage and several houses at East End. A very pretty part of Pinner.



East End Farm Cottage, Moss Lane, Pinner



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East End used to be a hamlet of half a dozen properties. Tudor Cottage is a 20th century amalgamation of genuine bits and pieces of ancient houses, which were brought from elsewhere to adorn and enlarge the existing old house.

Retrace your steps back along Moss Lane and then turn left up Wakehams Hill. Continue along to the end of this road, where you reach a footpath with allotments on your left and Pinner Road cemetery on your right. Follow this footpath to George V Close and George V Avenue. Cross this dual carriageway (carefully) and walk into Hillview Gardens. At the end of Hillview Gardens turn left into Headstone Lane and continue along until you reach Headstone Recreation Ground on your right.

At the top end of the park, there is a footpath into it. A lot of work has been done in the park in recent years, including works to Headstone Manor and the adjacent buildings, as well as a flood alleviation scheme for Harrow. So, if you have not been for a while, it is well worth a visit.

As you walk along the path towards Headstone Manor you will notice Yeading Brook Grove on your left. This is now a wildflower meadow, so may well be in full bloom this summer. At the end of the path, there is a new bridge that leads into the Headstone Manor complex and the Moat Café and Visitor Centre, both well worth visiting.



Headstone Manor consists of four separate historic buildings, with the museum based in the Manor House itself. The site, including the moat, is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Built in around 1310, Headstone Manor is the earliest surviving timber-framed house in



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Middlesex. The fabric of this Grade 1 listed building contains work dating from the 14th, 17th and 18th centuries. Headstone Manor has been described as 'one of the most interesting domestic complexes in the whole country'.

The Grade II 500-year-old Great Tithe Barn was used to store grain and livestock when Headstone Manor was a working farm. It was also the centre of local Home Front activities in the area during World War II, as well as the first home of the museum in the 1980s.



The Tithe Barn, Headstone Manor

The Small Barn stands opposite The Great Barn and is a Grade II listed building. It also dates to the Tudor period, when it would have been used to house livestock.

Dating from the early 19th Century, the Granary was originally constructed at Pinner Park Farm. The building was relocated to the Headstone Manor and Museum site in 1992.

Finally, the Moat House Café is a new build completed in 2017, and the style complements the historic buildings elsewhere in the complex. The surrounding gardens were looking fantastic when I was there.

Suitably refreshed, we continue along the shingle footpath that skirts the cricket pitch and, after passing through some trees, enter a new field that has been developed into a flood alleviation scheme. This was quite a feat to construct and is made up of a sedimentation pond and wetland reed bed system in the space north and east of the Headstone Manor Museum, as well as a 20,000m³ flood storage in two basins at the southern end of the Recreation Ground.

We turn left over the bridge at the end of the footpath and then continue along this path until it emerges into Parkside Way where we turn right and continue to the traffic lights at the end of the road. At the traffic lights, pause for a moment and look back at the new development. It is a real shame that the developer of the new residential building was not able to reach an agreement with the owner of the corner lot. The outcome is a rather awkward relationship between two incompatible buildings.

Anyway, we cross over the road at the traffic lights and continue ahead, passing under the railway bridge at North Harrow Station, then right into Northumberland Road. At number 52, turn left into Yeading Walk. This is a lovely hidden 'pocket park' that is well looked after. Turn left on entering the park and continue along it until it emerges into Rayners Lane. Cross Rayners Lane and turn right and walk up until you reach Compton Rise. Turn left into Compton Rise and very soon you will see a path on your right that leads into Pinner Village Gardens.

What a great job the Friends have done with this park in recent years. I did this walk in

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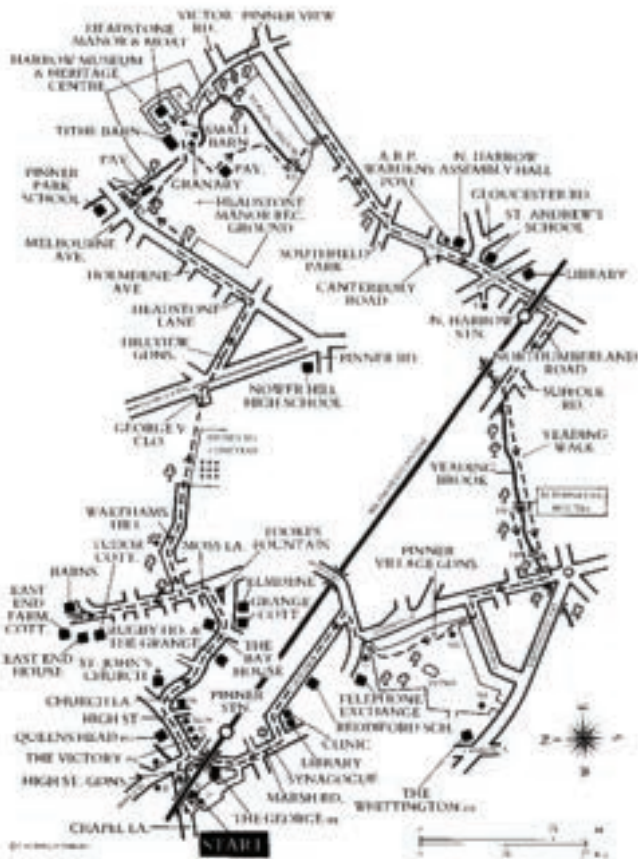
late spring, just after the Coronation, and it was looking great. There is more on the history of this park elsewhere in this edition. Bear right and wind your way across the top of the park, to leave by the wrought iron gates that emerge onto Marsh Road. Cross Marsh Road and turn right and then left into Cecil Park. Cecil Park contains an interesting assortment of buildings some of which date back to the 1890s. It also contains a school which I believe a certain Reg Dwight attended at some point.

At the end of Cecil Park turn right and, in a few minutes, you will be back at the station, where this walk ends.

Ed Badke

Map by Tony Venis

Illustrations by Alan Morrill



CREATIVE PINNER

Artist Charlotte Harker

Artist and writer Charlotte Harker has lived in Pinner for over thirty years. Like all artists, she is an acute observer, so it was surprising to learn that only in recent years has she created a series of drawings of Pinner itself.

‘When you live in a place, you often don’t really notice it,’ she explains. ‘You’re heading off to another place with your mind focused on that. But I realised that there is so much to see in Pinner, from the soft texture of the stone of the parish church to the hard, industrial shapes of the Chapel Road railway bridge.’



When Charlotte talks about ‘seeing’, she is saying more than most of us. ‘It starts with really looking, taking time to see the patterns and textures, to decide how to frame a picture, what to include and what to leave out. Then I need to decide what style and techniques best fit the view that I’m wanting to capture.’ A look at her webpage (axisweb.org/artist/charlotteharker) shows how many different styles Charlotte has in her locker.

‘So,’ I ask, ‘what is the difference between a quick sketch that an amateur might do, or a snap with the phone camera, and the work that you do, as a professional artist?’

‘There’s a saying that every landscape is a self-portrait. It’s not just about capturing the scene, it’s about your own response to that scene. The mood that you are in, the memories that scene might evoke, all this goes into the picture. The same landscape painted by different artists would result in works that evoke very different moods and

interpretations. It's important that my work is also open and accessible, so that the viewer can bring his or her own experience to it. That may sound contradictory, but art works at its best when it combines a very personal statement and that accessibility.'

Charlotte grew up in Lincoln. Her memories of teenage years are of sitting in her bedroom, listening to music, reading and drawing. Like many of her generation, she was the first in her family to go to university; she studied Urban Land Economics in Sheffield. After graduation, work brought her to London. Here, as well as working full-time, Charlotte explored the many art courses available in the capital city. 'I was off nearly every evening to different classes at wonderful places like Chelsea School of Art, and the more I did, the more I realised that I wanted to be an artist. It was an intense time; I must have got some sleep but not much.' Eventually, encouraged by a good friend, she put together a portfolio and applied to study art full-time, leaving behind the security of paid employment.



'I knew that I had to do this. I was not fulfilled in my work, and I knew that art could not just be a hobby for me.' Since completing her art course, Charlotte has worked on a wide range of projects, many of them collaborative with other artists and writers. On one project, *Nowheres*, Charlotte saw how her collaborator, poet Tamar Yoseloff, responded to her drawings with poems. This led Charlotte to develop her own writing. She is now an accomplished and highly involving performer at open mic evenings and has a book of poems, *The Wear and Tear of Conversation*

(<https://www.dempseyandwindle.com/charlotteharker.html>), and one of short form prose, *The Novel and Other Incidents* (<https://londongrip.co.uk/2022/09/the-novel-and-other-incidents/>), both featuring her drawings as well. She finds that her writing, often highly amusing but with a sadder undertow, has brought new elements to her drawing. 'Both are layered processes,' she explains, 'building over time to a fully formed idea. There



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is almost a kind of freedom in not having done a Creative Writing course that I can bring across into my artwork, making it more exploratory and intuitive, and less descriptive.'

The most recent project, working with poet Louise Warren, is a work celebrating the churchyard of Old St Pancras (londongrip.co.uk/2022/11/sometime-in-a-churchyard/). The same interactive process, building on each other's ideas, has resulted in a fascinating exploration of the history and atmosphere of this Inner London space. The process has become ever more important to Charlotte. 'It's a build-up of tiny marks that gradually coalesce to form the image and can only come from really looking. I wanted the printing process to retain this level of involvement, so there are no computers used. Each image has its own separate etched plate, and the text is printed in Letterpress, a traditional approach that involves setting the text by hand. This is not just a whimsical indulgence; the book feels more 'human' in the hand.'

Charlotte is fond of quoting Kierkegaard, 'Life can only be understood backwards but it must be lived forwards'. The practice of art, with all its exploration and introspection, is, perhaps, a way of driving forward the experience of life, and learning in retrospect.

Editor

GOODBYE TO PC GURDEEP

On PC 2321NW's last day at Pinner, local business owner and community volunteer Sharon Pink presented him with a farewell card, a letter of thanks from Pinner Association Chair Julie Waller and a gift of travel essentials to use on his career break.

We'll miss our lovely lad! His colleagues say it's a lot quieter since he's been gone.



PCSO Lee O'Brien

PINNER VILLAGE GARDENS

– A LONG HISTORY AND A GREAT FUTURE



It is strange to think that a park in Pinner, nearing its centenary, is still unknown to many of us. Unhelpfully described on the Harrow Council website as being 'on the outskirts of Pinner', though just ten minutes from the tube station, Pinner Village Gardens is in fact a vast space, over fifteen acres (six and a half hectares), with a fine history.

As the Pinner public park with the longest history, one of its most attractive features is also perhaps a reason that it is a less well-known space. Each of its four entrances - from Rayners Lane, Compton Rise, Hereford Gardens and Whittington Way - is quite discreet, with a path or flower beds guiding you in, before the full vista of the park opens up to you. From the start, the plan was to have houses all around the park, for commercial reasons, so it feels quite tucked away.

The area was farmed for many centuries, initially as common land. If you stand at the top of the park, you can see how the land undulates. This reminds us of the ridges and furrows of medieval times, showing where families would grow crops for sustenance and sale. From the 17th century, enclosures became common, and soon after 1805, the land

became part of a private farm, known as Cannon's Farm. The last farmhouse stood near Coronation Parade, the row of shops including Meat Like It Used To Be, and part of the original barn is now incorporated into the Montessori School.



With the coming of the Met Line, Pinner started to expand from the 1880s, though development was relatively slow until the First World War. So, the site remained a farm, with local residents increasingly unhappy about cows escaping into their gardens, until the park was created from 1930, becoming known as Pinner Village Gardens, rather than 'Public Open Space off Rayners Lane' in 1931. Because of the development of Whittington Way (initially planned as part of the Pinner Bypass, which was never completed), the shape of the park changed slightly until, in 1938, the final layout was agreed.

The initial design appears to have been influenced by the Art Deco style that was popular in the 1930s. This style represented luxury, Hollywood glamour and faith in social and technological progress. We see this if we look at the structural elements around the central pond area, including the pond itself, and the outside bed at the Rayners Lane entrance, with its mature conifers. The modern raised bed at the Compton Rise entrance echoes this style. Art Deco influence can also be traced in the selection of mature specimen trees and shrubs, including hardy palm trees, azaleas, rhododendrons and Japanese acers, especially in the Compton Copse area.

In the early 1980s, the Council wanted to flatten the ridges and furrows to make it easier to mow, a plan that was strongly and successfully resisted, but the park was downgraded by the Council and became less well tended. The Friends of Pinner Village Gardens was formed in 2015 with the aim of bringing the park back to its former glory and making it



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The Pond

relevant to residents of Pinner. Extensive replanting followed, together with the renovation of the children's playground, the establishment of the central play area and outdoor gym, the fine new bed by the Compton Rise entrance and, more recently, the redevelopment of the 'pocket park' near the pond. Last year also saw the introduction of the Junior Park Run, a free 2km event every Sunday at 9.00 a.m.

Any visitor to the park will also see how popular it has become with dog-walkers and



Rayners Lane entrance

their enthusiastic pets, who clearly enjoy the open spaces. It really came into its own during lockdown, when we were all forced to explore our local area more thoroughly.

And now Pinner Village Gardens has established itself as an integral part of Pinner by hosting a Coronation Party, organised by the Friends of Pinner Village Gardens, with support from the Pinner Association. Between the picnics, the live bands and the dodgems, we paused



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The new raised bed



The lower bed

to listen to a stirring address from our Mayor, Pinner-based Janet Mote, and to hear a message from the King, read to us by Simon Ovens, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of London, who certainly made us feel part of something very special. Even the dogs, gathered for the afternoon's dog show, stood in reverent silence.



David Phelops leads More than Just a Choir

Brian Chapman & Sarah Brook

There are more than 225 Friends of Pinner Village Gardens and 900 followers on social media. We welcome supporters of this lovely park.

*For more information about how you can get involved, please go to our website:
pinnervillagegardens.org.uk*

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THE JOY OF LANGUAGES

Languages have been my passion since starting French at the age of 11. I discovered the Hillingdon Language Clubs about 18 years ago but have been more closely involved in the last five years.

We meet at St Giles Church Hall in Ickenham at 7.30pm on a Thursday evening. The first Thursday is for the Spanish club, second for French and the third for Italian.

The level varies from post GCSE to native speakers. Some of us are members of all three groups. As the largest group, the French club has the budget to pay for visiting speakers and is also able to offer us a free glass of wine at each meeting. The Spanish club recently celebrated their 35th anniversary with an evening of food and a flamenco performance. The Italian club went from strength to strength during the pandemic, when our chair Lucia was able to live stream many of her friends from Italy, to talk to us on a variety of topics, followed by conversation in small groups in break-out rooms.

If you are interested in finding out more, please email the groups:

hillingdonfrenchclub@gmail.com

hillingdonspanishclub@gmail.com

hillingdonitalianclub@gmail.com

www.hillingdonlanguageclubs.wordpress.com

Or give me a ring.

Alison Whitehead

020 8429 2358



NEAT PARKING

The prize for the neatest piece of parking this month goes to this clever piece of slotting in outside the former Tummies in the High Street.

LESS NEAT PARKING

Can the urge for a Subway be so urgent that you have to drive your car up onto the pavement, so that you only need to walk three paces?



A POINT OF VIEW

A regular series presenting an individual perspective.

A GUIDE TO ALLERGIES

What are Allergies?

An allergy is a reaction that the immune system has to a substance or food that is not normally harmful to the body. During an allergic response, the body will activate white blood cells to fight the 'invader'. When contact with the allergen occurs again, the immune system will respond by releasing antibodies and histamine, which triggers the symptoms of allergies. Histamines are an organic, nitrogenous compound made by the immune system from the amino acid histidine.

The release of histamine and other inflammatory mediators from mast cells in the body leads to acute allergic and inflammatory responses. Mast cells are found in the highest concentration in the blood vessels of the respiratory tract, conjunctiva, gastrointestinal tract, and the skin.

Following contact with an allergen, the body will often respond with inflammation as a method of protecting itself from the threat.



Nip Allergies in the Bud

Allergies encompass a number of conditions caused by hypersensitivity of the immune system. The most common include food allergies, sensitivity to grass and pollen (hay fever), reaction to pet fur, dust mites, latex, nickel and household chemicals.

Common reactions to allergens include itching, sneezing, wheezing, rashes, swelling of facial features, sore, red eyes and digestive pain. In more serious cases they can lead to life-threatening conditions such as severe asthma or anaphylactic shock.

Please note: any sudden onset or changes in the severity of an allergic reaction should be checked by your GP or other specialist healthcare professional.

For more information head to ***Bodywise Health Foods***.

Hay Fever

Hay Fever (also known as allergic rhinitis) is a common allergy affecting up to 30% of adults and 40% of children. The symptoms of sneezing, dry throat and itchy eyes are normally a reaction to pollen from different plants. It can also be triggered by other allergens such as dust mites, or animals. The body makes allergic antibodies to these substances and, when exposed to them, presents with symptoms of an allergic reaction.

Hay Fever can appear at any age but is more prevalent in children than adults. Research suggests one of the factors for increased likelihood of developing Hay Fever is less exposure to bacteria and pathogens during earlier years. As we get older, symptoms of Hay Fever

can lessen. However, Hay Fever does not always completely go away. The best thing is to manage symptoms with nutrition and lifestyle interventions.

Treatment

Antihistamines are the most common remedy for hay fever but can cause side effects such as drowsiness. Natural remedies tend to have fewer side effects. For example, Vitamin C can reliably lower blood histamine levels without additional side effects. A study demonstrated that 2000mg of vitamin C per day for two weeks reduced blood histamine concentrations by 30-40% in adult participants, thereby reducing hay fever symptoms. Other natural remedies include black seed oil which can reduce nasal congestion, runny & itchy nose, and sneezing.

In a small study, quercetin, a natural bioflavonoid that inhibits the production and release of histamine, gave better relief of nasal symptoms, compared with the effect of antihistamine, and caused no side effects when given at safe doses. Alternative allergic mediators include apple polyphenols, bromelain and beneficial bacteria.

Supporting Nutrients that may help Allergies

Black seed oil, Bromelain, Vitamin B5, Vitamin C, Nettle Leaf, Pink bark extract, Quercetin, Vitamin D, Lactobacillus rhamnosus GG, Apple polyphenols.

The Next Best Step

If you are experiencing allergies for the first time, or have experienced changes to the severity of your allergies, here are the top three things to consider:

1. Get your allergies checked

Allergic reactions can have similar symptoms to sensitivities and intolerances. True allergies can be identified via a skin prick test or through blood tests, which can be arranged by your GP.

2. Monitor your daily habits

If you are unsure what the cause of the reaction is, track your triggers with a diary and be sure to avoid the identified cause. Even the smallest change to your day could cause an allergic reaction.

3. Seek further advice

Visit your local health food store for expertise and tailored guidance about which food supplement maybe best for you and for assistance with your symptoms.

For further help or Information call in at ***Bodywise Health Foods***.

Sunil Bilakhia

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HIGH STREET HISTORY - NOS. 33-39 HIGH STREET OVER THE CENTURIES

Today, we know these buildings as Daisy & Co, the former antique shop and In-Flow financial advisers, but there is great history here. Nos. 33-35 form the earliest part of this row of four, and until the start of the 19th century the site of the adjoining nos. 37-39 was its yard. Many of the owners or occupiers can be traced from medieval times in the records of the Manor Court of Harrow. Yet it is not the first house on the site.



There was a cottage here as early as 1394, though whether even that was the first is unknown. In that year, the cottage was occupied by William and Agnes Sutton, a childless couple. Along the eastern side of the yard, a wide pathway curved down to the Pinn, which William rented to his neighbour, John Palfreyman - a small point which is worth noting, because the path continued to be let through the ages and was still discernible on the

1865 OS map. In 1399, William Sutton, by then a widower, sold his house to William Wellys on condition that he, Sutton, had exclusive use of one room at the eastern end of it, and of part of the garden, until his death. This was a practice sometime adopted by a seller who had no living relatives to care for him in old age.

A similar arrangement was made some seventeen years later by John Palfreyman himself, by then the owner, with the incoming owner, John Dell. He arranged to have a room at the eastern end, perhaps the same room, but he clearly drove a harder bargain, as he was provided with firewood, a gallon of ale a week, and a length of woollen cloth every year. In 1456, Dell, or his son, passed the property to William Stokker, who was there until 1495, and William is the most likely person to have built no. 35, and perhaps no.33.

The earliest remaining part is no.35, that is, the part from and including the fireplace in 33-35 to the wall adjoining no.37, the right-hand part of Daisy's. It formed a house comprising a main room or hall, open to the roof, and a two-storied, gable-ended cross-wing at the eastern end, still a feature of the building. When built, the upper floor of the wing was jettied out at the front to overhang the ground floor. The carpentry within the cross-wing is diagnostic of the second half of the 15th century, making this house one of three

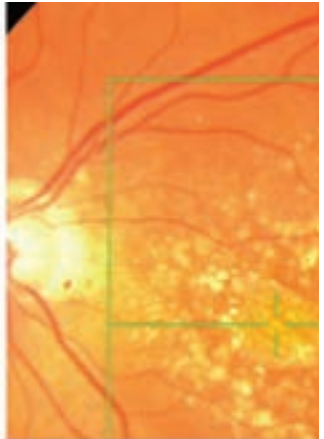
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similarly dateable houses in the High Street. This was a time before brick for chimneys was easily available. The house would have been heated by an open fire in the middle of the floor of the main room; there could be no floor above it as it had to be left open to the roof, to allow the escape of smoke and fumes through a louvre. Across one end of the hall would be a two-storeyed section, or bay, with unheated rooms, providing service rooms, such as a pantry and a buttery for food and drink respectively and perhaps upper sleeping space for the master's family, the servants sleeping in the hall.

Some houses could afford such a wing at each end, which might have been the case here. However, the western wing, now no.33, is of a later build than the rest of the house, which means that it was either added at a later date, or that it replaced an earlier cross-wing. It is impossible to tell now. This also was jettied at the front. Alterations at some point in the 19th century underbuilt the jetties and brought the whole facade into one line.

William Stokker's son moved away, probably during the reign of Henry VIII, and the next owning family disposed of it to Henry Meredith in 1567. Henry Meredith had been the curate of St. John's Church from 1564, at the latest. By this date Protestant clergyman were allowed to marry, and in 1567 Henry moved into this house with his new wife Amy, previously a widow. When he died, soon after Amy, in 1586, the property went to her heirs.

In 1600, the house was acquired by Phillip Street, member of a family which had many branches in Pinner and the surrounding area. His son John inherited it about 1631, by which time the adjoining property to the west had become a hostelry, later called The Queen's Head. John's business was as a butcher in Great Stanmore, so he rented this house out. When he gave up the property to Richard Jacket in 1659, the tenant was a blacksmith named Thomas Bayley.

The period from the death of Meredith to the end of Street's ownership was the classic time for the insertion of brick chimney stacks. Here a stack with back-to-back hearths was inserted at the western end of the hall and then, or later, the building was divided

into two dwellings, the dividing line being north/south through the stack, providing one hearth for each house. Furthermore, one or two upper hearths could be included, and the opportunity taken to divide the open hall into two floors. Such a floor was inserted here.



33-39 High St about 1900

The Hearth Tax returns of 1664 and 1672 show that

Richard Jacket and Bayley the blacksmith occupied the house in two separate parts. An inventory of Jacket's goods, made after his death in 1680, shows that he had the eastern part, containing the former hall, the new room created above it and three other rooms. He also built a barn at the eastern side of the site. We do not know how Richard or his son John earned their livelihood, but John's only child Mary married a victualler called Richard Oates, and here they carried on business as victuallers, that is, grocers. They moved away in 1708, selling to Mrs. Martha Richmond, owner of Pinner Place and Waxwell Farm among several others, who would have let this property. Little is known about the premises and its occupiers for the rest of the century, except that it remained with Mrs Richmond's descendants, the Aubreys.

Things come back into focus at the start of the 19th century. In 1807, Edward Aubrey sold the eastern part of the property to George Webb, the sitting tenant, who was described as a shopkeeper. George was ambitious. First, he added a small cottage adjoining at the east, now no.37, and by 1822 had built no.39 on the site of Jacket's barn. No. 37 was single fronted with the door at the left, whilst no. 39 was double-fronted with a fashionable fluted door-case which still survives. The earliest picture of the High Street shows the property between the two builds, which is a significant point in helping to date the picture. See Villager No. 239 Nov. 2017 p.67.

At the rear of 35 is a two-storey extension of similar date, containing a bakehouse at the ground floor east. There are two ovens side by side, housed in solid brick casing almost the size of a room to give a large thermal mass. Each comprises a furnace hole at ground level with an oven above. The stout cast-iron door which closed the oven is missing for the larger oven. The right-hand oven is smaller and has above it provision for a small water cistern with tap. Over the door to this oven are embossed the words



The main oven

"Thomas Powell 49 Lisle Street Leicester Square". Pigot's Directory of Pinner for 1823, the earliest directory available, shows George Webb as a grocer and, in those for 1824 and 1826, as a baker and grocer cum linen-and-woollen draper. George is the most likely person to have installed the ovens.

George junior bought no. 33 in 1833 from the Aubrey family, thus bringing the row of nos. 33-39 into one ownership. In 1846, Henry Tuck became the owner, followed in 1854 by Thomas Pugh, who was the sitting tenant at no.35. Only partial details of subsequent ownerships have been found.

However, as Pinner flourished, so did the High Street, and directories show that the various parts of 33-37 were occupied as shops from early in the nineteenth century, while no. 39 remained as a dwelling until about mid-century. The censuses show that, in 1851, Henry Hodgetts was a shoemaker at 33, Thomas Pugh a baker and grocer at no. 35, and Anne White a linen-draper at 37. In 1861 Frederick Hedges, who had grown up at East End Farm, was a baker at 33, with use of the ovens behind 35, while John Emery was a grocer at 35, where his 18-year-old daughter also conducted the Post Office for a few years, and William Rosington had the drapery at no.37.

Yet, as a reminder of how different some things were in those days, when Fred Hedges had taken over the year before, in 1860, his lease included a right of way to the pump and well behind no.35, which served 33, 35 and 37. By 1871, William Rosington had spread his business into no.35, where he installed a fine shop window whose framework still survives, and 39 had become Henry Edwards' chemist and druggist shop, complete with a new bay window for display.



33 High Street, Peters Bakery

All of these trades remained, in changing hands, well into the 20th century, but during the last third, those in nos.33-7 were variously replaced by estate agents, an art shop and a tailor. By the end of the century all had changed - nos. 33-5 had become Pizza Express, no. 37 an art/antique shop, and no.39 a financial agency. During the 19th and 20th centuries, there had been several internal changes, such as the repositioning of

fireplaces, apart from the main one, and the removal of some dividing walls, especially in the restaurant. In about 2020, structural repairs were carried out at 33-35 and at the time of writing, the premises have become the restaurant Daisy and Co.

End-note: Photographs of the 1880s and 1890s show a sign above Hedges Bakery at 33 proclaiming 'Established 1840', which was roughly correct, whereas some early 20th century ones show it occupied by Peter's Bakery with a sign above proclaiming 'Established 1480' - mischief or dyslexia? The date of construction had not then been discovered.

Patricia A Clarke

NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

Exhibitions

The Heath Robinson Museum's current exhibition is '**Happily Ever After? Fairy Tale Illustrations by Two Fine Artists**'. Explore an enchanting world of fairy tales – from the gentle Thumbelina to the roguish Puss in Boots – as seen through the eyes of two iconic illustrators, across a hundred years.

Fairy tales have captured the imaginations of children and adults alike for centuries, and perhaps none have made such an impact as the works of Charles Perrault and Hans Andersen. With such classics as *The Little Mermaid*, *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Captain Bluebeard*, these authors have created timeless fairy tales, not only as bedtime stories, but as complex tales that captivate readers of all ages. This exhibition presents illustrations by William Heath Robinson and contemporary illustrator Michael Foreman, each interpreting the works of Perrault and Andersen with his own perspective, technique and style. See *Captain Bluebeard* brandish his cutlass, or *Puss in Boots* befriend the mice.



After this exhibition, from mid-September, the Museum will present Heath Robinson's illustrations for the works of Rabelais in conjunction with Goya's *Los Caprichos*, which WHR would have been able to study while at the Royal Academy. Experience a darker, more grotesque side of Robinson's work, alongside some of the most dramatic prints in illustrative history.

Coming Up

Following on from our collaborative Meccano workshop for children at the end of May, the West London Meccano Society will be back to show their great constructive creativity, exhibiting **Meccano models** of all sorts of themes and dimensions on Saturday August 12th, 11.00 to 4.00, up in the Verden Gallery above Daisy's Café. Entrance is free.



Also, on every Thursday afternoon throughout the summer, we will be running **Art in the Park**, drop-in art activities for all; adults, families and children alike. This will be outside the museum in the park, or in the Verden Gallery (numbers limited) in case of inclement weather. Payment will be by donation (suggested minimum £3 pp) to cover materials.

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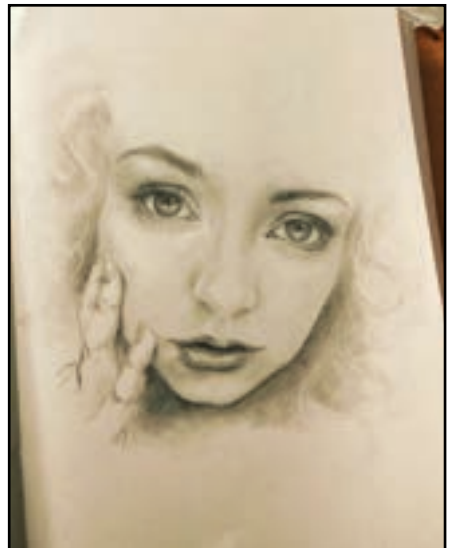

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The West House and Heath Robinson Museum Trust - Charity No. 1030167

On August Bank Holiday Sunday, the award-winning outdoor theatre company, Illyria, will return to Pinner Memorial Park to perform **Shakespeare's Twelfth Night** at 7pm, August 27th. Tickets are available online at heathrobinsonmuseum.org: £16 for adults and £10 children. Don't forget to bring your picnic chairs or rug and, of course, a picnic.

Coffee and Crafts is our monthly introduction to a variety of arts and crafts, always with coffee and cake. This will return from its summer break in late September, with a wide variety of subjects to interest everyone, including bookbinding, portrait drawing, children's book illustration, Indian folk art and raffia bowl-making, to name but a few. Details and booking on our website as and when dates are finalised.

Expressions of interest please

Although the Senior Art Academy is fully booked and has a long waiting list, we are trying to introduce another one from September on Thursday evenings, along with additional adult classes, such as printmaking and drawing, during the daytime. If you are interested in any of these, drop us a line on learning@heathrobinsonmuseum.org and let us know, and we will put you on the waiting lists and keep you informed.



Claire Linge



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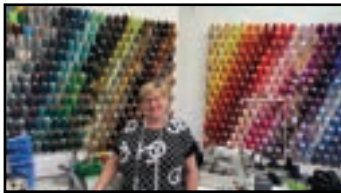
There are several businesses in Pinner that operate without a shop front, tucked away from the main streets, but which, nevertheless, provide a useful service to the community.

Amongst them are Rob Egleton and James Forbes, who run Personal Training Performance (PTP) from their studio around the back of Boots at 45b High St. Celebrating their tenth anniversary here, they have built up a clientele ranging, literally, from the age of 5 to 90.

Both are well qualified to give specialist advice to build a bespoke programme to help with your nutrition and mobility.

The gym is a peaceful hideaway, perfect to give the personal attention that is their USP and a world away from the crowded workout spaces of the bigger operators.

Pay them a visit for an initial assessment if you want to stretch your horizons.



Margaret Tailor

Across the road, tucked away on the first floor at 22c Bridge Street, **Margaret** has been operating a tailoring business for the last seventeen years, having arrived from Poland in 2001 to help her sister with her newborn!

All types of repair and alterations are catered for, and Margaret can also call on her daughter, Agnes, who runs a similar business in Ruislip Manor.

Your correspondent can confirm that Margaret provides a fast, reliable and friendly service at a reasonable price. Margaret is adamant that she has every colour of cotton thread in her workshop – why not test her out?

Just down from her, past the bus stop, is **Jafvans** Car & Van Rentals, who have been serving the Pinner and surrounding community since 2006. The family-run business is a household name in Harrow and Hillingdon Boroughs and has recently celebrated 64 years of service! For many years - since 1959 to be exact - the main office in South Harrow has been providing individuals and companies with a great range of cars, vans and minibuses for rental.



Sinisa at Jafvans

In May 2006, there was an opportunity to open another branch in Pinner, the rental office being located at the rear of 2 Bridge Street (behind **Swags & Tails Interiors**). Currently run by Sinisa, Jafvans in Pinner is a friendly company that will provide you with any size of car, manual or automatic, people carrier or Minibus.

Sinisa has been with the company for over twenty-five years and, after successfully running the South Harrow office for nearly 10 years, took over the Pinner office in 2009. Originally



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from Croatia, with Serbian heritage, Sinisa is a family man who is also happy to provide top tips for a great Croatian holiday!

Moving back up to the top of Bridge Street, it's nice to report on a continuing success story, with so many restaurants having closed recently (La Cucina, Tummies, Matsaya and Thai Villa). Tareq Idbihi opened the doors of **Sougtani** at the top of Bridge Street in January 2017. Moroccan national Tareq had been the restaurant manager at Harrods for the previous 15 years and is now Head Chef at Sougtani, while his Polish wife, Anna, is the front of house manager.

The food is a mix of Lebanese and Moroccan, with the set menus proving very popular. The restaurant is licensed, but from the very start BYO (with no corkage charge) has been permitted.

During Covid, Tareq was determined to support the community with takeaways and Uber deliveries. More recently, the rising cost of electricity, gas, meat, oil and vegetables, coupled with staffing difficulties, have provided more challenges. However, Tareq and Anna have worked very hard to establish a great restaurant and they deserve our support!

It's a while since we paid a visit to **Café Amici**, and what a hive of activity it is. Owner Salam El Haje Ahmad took over the business in August 2020 and after the initial upheaval of Covid, trade has steadily improved and it has become one of the busiest cafes in Pinner.

The English/Mediterranean menu offers a range of dishes from English to Lebanese and Moroccan cuisine, catering for every taste from all-day English breakfasts to vegetarian, vegan and halal options and everything in between.

Current opening hours are 7:30am to 5:00pm, but Salam is hoping to build an extension at the back to provide a new kitchen and increased seating from 32 inside (with 10 outside) to double that number, enabling her to stay open later and serve dinner. Good luck with your plans Salam. We will call in again next year to see how you're getting on.

In May, **The Pinner Village Store** re-opened after a major facelift. The shop has been acquired by Kaysir Nazir, who previously ran a similar store in Kenton. The former owner, Mr Shah, had decided to retire after running the show for 30 years.

The major refit included a new shopfront, new flooring, new racking, new counter – in fact, a new look all round!

As well as stocking a similar range as the previous owners (some much extended such as glassware), the shop has added new lines, including toys, rolls of tablecloths, perfumes, blankets and barbeques.



Kaysir and Priyank

Kaysir is helped by 3 other members of staff including Priyank who is always there! They say that many prices have been reduced and are more competitive than previously –



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there's something we haven't heard in the cost-of-living crisis! Please keep it up (or should that be down?)

Still in Bridge Street, the old **Harris & Hoole** and **Foxton** units at numbers 27 - 31 are covered in scaffolding. The upper floors are being converted to flats (including an additional storey on top) so it'll be several months before the retail units are occupied.



We recently paid a visit to Gary Rawlinson, co-founder of **Rawlinson Gold**, who are approaching their 30-year anniversary in Pinner. Gary has built up a loyal client base over this period and finds that repeat business bears testament to their philosophy of providing a personal service and building up a complete understanding of their customers' requirements. More and more, he finds that clients moving up the property ladder no longer sell their existing homes but take on a 'let to buy' mortgage, let it and retain the property as a long-term investment.

Gary and his team have therefore recently opened a letting and property management section, ably assisted by daughter Chloe, an expert on social media platforms.

Moving to 32 Bridge Street, the old Halifax, at the end of April Harrow Council granted planning permission to extend the proposed pub closing time from 10:30 to 11:30pm' (Monday to Thursday and Sunday). The previous planning consent allowed opening until 12:30am on Friday and Saturday. So, will we have **Three Wishes** in time for our next edition in November?



Since 2020, Prasad Prabhakaran and his **Code Ninjas** team at 26 Bridge Street have been encouraging children from the age of 7 to 12 to think for themselves and solve problems. The youngest children start with toys, including Lego, and begin to learn how to code through video game building. This progresses to more complicated problem-solving for older children, using a roadmap from 'White Belt' through to 'Black Belt'. All the while, one-to-one teaching is on hand.

Typically, the busiest times are 4pm to 7pm during the week and 10am to 2pm at the weekends, with about a hundred and twenty-five children expanding their horizons each week. Extra boot camps are available during half-term and school holidays. The centre manager, Hemanth, has built up good relationships with many of the local schools including Reddiford, St John Fisher, West Lodge and Pinner Wood.



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

Cannon Lane Methodist Church; Pinner Methodist Church;
Pinner Baptist Church; St. John the Baptist Church of England;
St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church.

Prasad, a former data scientist at Microsoft for fifteen years, is one of four partners who joined forces to open the first UK franchise of the US-based company. There are now over thirty franchises in the UK, so it's good to know that Pinner was at the forefront!

Over in the High Street, the long running saga at **Friends** has entered a new phase. The previous tenant company having gone into liquidation, the landlord has taken back possession. This has enabled him to undertake various repairs, following enforcement action by the local planning authority. This added expense, coupled with a large loss in rental income, has proved very costly for the landlord.

At least, it is good to see the right windows and the front fence back, and there is rumour of a new occupier, so maybe this sorry story will soon be behind us.

One of the many listed buildings in the High Street, number 27 is reputed to be one of Middlesex's oldest. The property has recently had a full facial treatment and re-opened as **The Willow Rooms**. Owner, Lucy Mrowiec (whose grandfather docked in Ipswich during World War 2, fell in love and never returned to Poland) worked for over 10 years under the expert guidance of much-missed former owner, Fridolin.



Lucy in the Willow Rooms

Lucy acquired the business in accordance with Fridolin's wishes and refitted the interior, giving it a much brighter, modern look. She is continuing the high-quality treatments with a focus on luxury brands Clarins and Elemis.

In addition, a whole host of massages, waxings, manicures and pedicures are available (for men as well as women!).

Lucy is a fully qualified beauty therapist, as is the other full-time member of staff, Elena. Both undertake ongoing training programmes with Clarins and Elemis. Plans are in hand to employ a third full-time therapist.

The Willow Rooms also stock a wide range of merchandise and their status as a Clarins Gold Salon enables them to offer special promotions throughout the year.

Lots more information is available on their website www.thewillowrooms.com or just pop in – you'll receive a friendly welcome.

Finally, Lucy is somehow finding time to plan and organise her marriage to Oliver in December!

Popping into **The Queen's Head** for a well-earned pint, we manage to catch up with landlord Sean White, whose plans for the rear garden space are reaching fruition.

Planning permission has now been granted for a super gazebo-type structure, with open



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sides, louvred roof and heating. A new brick wall will enclose this section of the car park, and, with additional outside benches and tables and re-siting the existing canopy umbrellas, he will be adding 120 seats to the 42 within the pub itself.

Work should start in early September and take 7 weeks to complete.

Patrons who have been in recently may also have noticed that the menu for both lunch and dinner has been substantially expanded.

However, Sean is most proud of his revolutionary staff training programme, which he runs in association with Arden University, Coventry. Being a former teacher himself, he holds education close to his heart, and three of his young staff are currently on a 3-year BA course in Business Management. Sean guarantees their employment during this period and, assisted by Government grants, covers the course fees. He also covers the cost of private health care and late-night cabs home.

The project has already turned out a former trainee who has gone on to be an Operations Manager at Soho House, and another who now runs two pubs in Tooting.

Knowing a part of the profits is contributing to such a worthwhile scheme we decide we should invest in a second pint before moving on to our next call.....

Daisy & Co has opened in the former Pizza Express in the beautiful historical site of the Old Bakery at 33-35 High Street. During the refurbishment, much care was taken to keep the character of the building intact, and the restaurant has mostly been decorated using upcycled furnishings. These include the Gin/Cocktail Bar that is be available within the Old Bakery room for private evening hire. Throughout, the walls are decorated with a mix of local artists' and vintage oil paintings. In homage to Heath Robinson - and where Daisy's journey began - some of his prints are on display.

The ground floor leads out to a limestone-paved courtyard - a lovely place to sit with a cocktail watching the sun go down over Pinner!

The menu has popular Brunch items during the day, to enjoy with the Fizz menu if you wish, while the evening offering includes wood-fired sourdough pizzas, along with some evening classics to be enjoyed with Daisy's craft beer selection and English Wine range.

All the menus are seasonal and will use fresh produce, grown by the team of growers from Daisy's own 4-acre market garden in Radlett, that was started last year. Four times a year, to celebrate the amazing produce that comes from there, Daisy & Co will offer a ticket-only Supper Club.

Daisy's in the Park seems to be as busy as ever, so it's great to see a truly local business thriving!

On the other side of the road, **VIP Hearing** have been based at 121 Field End Road since 2017 and they recently opened a second branch at 57a Wimpole Street in Marylebone, London's medical district.

We now welcome them to 22 High Street in Pinner. The site has been a hearing aid centre for over twenty years and changed hands more than once. Now, VIP want to bring their high-



level customer service ethos to serve the community, as they do in Eastcote and London, with fast response appointments for wax removal and hearing tests, and an ear-health check appointment, which is completely free. Free hearing aid trials are offered to clients, so they know they are making the right decisions before they buy.

Tim Johnson is the latest member to join the VIP team of audiologists. He will be primarily based at the Pinner branch, having relocated from Manchester.

Sarah Slade started as the receptionist at 22 High Street about 20 years ago, when it was first established as a hearing aid centre. She joined the VIP team 6 years ago, and is now the Branch Manager, based in Eastcote. Given her experience and deep connection to the community in the area, she will once again be an integral part of the establishment and provide initial management of VIP's new branch in Pinner.

Owners Mo Khan and Nick Clive are excited about the future of VIP and their vision for community-led hearing care, coupled with good old-fashioned customer service. Hear hear to that!

Finally, at the bottom of the street, we learn that **Tummies** has changed hands and will be a smart new Sri Lankan restaurant. Full review next time!

LAW, PRISONS AND A PIANO

Ten years ago, Anthony Harkavy, a Pinner resident for fifty years, was on the concourse of St Pancras station with a friend, the poet Jeremy Robson. Anthony sat at the piano there and played Georgia on my Mind. He looked up to see a group of French students standing round the piano, with their hands on its bodywork. It transpired that they were all deaf and were enjoying his music through the vibrations.



Robson wrote a poem based on the incident, sent it to Anthony, who responded with a short story of his own. That was the start of his joy and fascination in short story writing that has resulted in some two hundred and fifty stories. Now, at the age of eighty-five, he has put twenty-seven stories together in *The Jury's Out*, his first, recently-published collection. The focus of this collection is experience gathered during Anthony's long career as a lawyer and subsequently on the Independent Monitoring Board, which oversees the management of prisons. Though only two of the stories are reports of actual events, they are all based on experiences and the inevitable 'what-ifs' of legal life, though the reader needs no legal knowledge to enjoy them.

The collection can be bought at <https://www.ypdbooks.com/biography/2135-the-jury-s-out.html> or from Amazon.

Review



Any author who is able to make his reader laugh and gasp in shock has a rare gift - all the more so when the subject is law. Harkavy has written a cornucopia of short stories, detailing his wide and varied experiences in the legal profession, including time spent in the prison system as a member of the Independent Monitoring Board. Until the final story, the reader has to suspend belief. Did these stories really happen, are they just figments of the author's vivid imagination, or are they old lawyers' tales?

There is no doubt that 'Hark', as he calls himself, can write. He is articulate, with a rare turn of phrase. It took a while to get used to his writing style; he often follows one sentence with another that does not contain a verb. I initially found this jarring but settled into it.

The book could use a careful edit. Many of the stories have an unexpected ending. Fair enough, but consecutive stories where the defendant has to be treated as a hostile witness to secure the truth? In both cases, the defendant has nobly kept silent to protect third parties. Is this beyond credulity? Possibly, these stories would have been more palatable had they not been consecutive.

The characters are quite two-dimensional, but, in a book of short stories, this can be unavoidable. There are too many knights of the realm for my taste, but Hark's experience of the characters who pervade criminal law merits respect. Are most judges great lawyers, but awful people?

The main character, Anthony Harrison – or is it Anthony Harkavy – is an advocate/solicitor with *'a reputation for winning the unwinnable, defending the indefensible and defeating the heavy odds on a conviction'*. He doesn't take fees from his clients; he really is the Don Quixote of lawyers. What real lawyer doesn't get paid?

I would have liked more stories about the prison system, where Hark is clearly an expert. I also enjoyed his golf club stories. I would wager my state pension on knowing where he plays. His golf club is easy to recognise, as are the golfing characters he writes about.

Despite minor shortcomings, this is a most enjoyable book, an easy read, and I hope Hark will be inspired to publish more. I must declare an interest. I haven't seen Hark for more than fifty years, but I used to be fleeced by him regularly when we played bridge. I remember him as a great bridge player, probably as good as he was a lawyer.

John Matlin.

Dr John Matlin is a retired commercial solicitor who went to university after his legal career closed. He has a doctorate in American Political History. He publishes a weekly blog on America. He is also the author of the Driscoll Quartet, novels about the life and time of an American journalist. John's new novel, "Injunction," will be published this autumn.

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HARROW TALL BUILDINGS (BUILDING HEIGHTS) SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT - RESPONSE FROM THE PINNER ASSOCIATION

Harrow Council have recently consulted on a draft Tall Buildings (Building Heights) Supplementary Planning Document (TBSPD) and your Association submitted a detailed response. Under the guidance in the TBSPD, any new development which would result in a 'contextually tall' building would be required to conform to certain design principles to mitigate the effect on the surrounding area. Whilst we support the aim to control the development of tall buildings in the borough, and particularly in Pinner and Pinner South, we feel that the scope of the draft document is insufficient to protect our street scenes and the amenity of residents.

In our view the height of new buildings should reflect and respect the height of the existing buildings in an area and minimise or eliminate any adverse effect of a tall building on a wider area. Suburban areas and the older "village" parts of the borough should be protected from the detriment to their character that buildings taller than the established building height of an area could cause.

The London Plan 2021 defines a tall building as being not less than 6 storeys or 18 metres as measured from ground to the floor level of the uppermost storey. The TBSPD seeks to give further protection to the suburban areas of the borough by defining a 'contextually tall' building as being equal to or more than twice the prevailing height of existing buildings in the area. A study has been undertaken to determine the prevailing height (P) of buildings in all the areas of Harrow borough; those in or close to our area are:

Neighbourhood / Town Centre	Prevailing Height (storeys) P value	Contextually Tall (storeys)
Pinner	2	> 4
Pinner Town Centre	3	> 6
Pinner Green	2	> 4
Rayners Lane	2	> 4
Rayners Lane Town Centre	3	> 6
Hatch End	2	> 4
Hatch End Town Centre	2	> 4

We commented that these values of P should not increase with time, i.e. the P value for each area of the borough should be maintained at the base line 2023 value in the table and the addition of any building with a greater number of storeys than the P value for that

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area (whether via planning permission or under ‘permitted development’) must not be allowed to increase the P value for that area, to avoid height creep over time changing the character of an area.

A ‘contextually tall’ building of a height 2xP (twice the height of the existing buildings in an area) would have a significant detrimental impact on the street scene and potentially the amenity of residents in a suburban area. It would be too dominant and change the character of an area. An example is the part six-storey Trinity Court development in Pinner Town Centre (P=3 area), which to our amazement was used as an example of a good design that fitted into a street scene in the draft TBSPD, is clearly visible from the Pinner High Street Conservation Area and from Pinner Memorial Park, and it has severely intrusive detrimental effect on the character of the area.



The draft TBSPD states that Height and massing must be located with regard to the proximity and outlook of neighbouring buildings, minimising harm through loss of light, outlook and overbearing. We responded that this implies that Harrow Council considers it acceptable to inflict some harm on the existing residents of the borough, as long as this is not to the maximum that the proposed development may have caused, without design modifications. We consider that all new developments should, in every case, be designed so as to eliminate any harm from ‘loss of light, outlook and overbearing’. Any site where a ‘contextually tall’ building could give rise to actual or perceived overlooking of private rear amenity space or into a residential property should not be considered suitable to accommodate a ‘contextually tall’ building.

We were asked if the draft SPD as written provide(s) clarity and certainty for the preparation of planning permissions and/or developments that seek to increase height above the surrounding prevailing heights. Our answer was that the SPD must be applied to all developments greater than the existing 2023 prevailing height of an area (>P) to achieve that aim, and that this should be the basis on which the SPD is applied to any proposed new development in Harrow borough. Any higher (taller) definition of what may constitute a ‘contextually tall’ building would be excessive and cause real harm to the mature suburban areas in the borough.

The draft TBSPD was written with a presumption that a ‘tall’ or ‘contextually tall’ building may be a suitable form of development in a mature Metroland suburb, a presumption that your Association would challenge. In our opinion, a ‘tall’ or ‘contextually tall’ building should only be considered acceptable in a suburb in exceptional circumstances, and all other forms of development should have been considered prior to proposing an over-prevailing height building for a site.

Our response to the consultation was submitted to the Harrow Local Development Plan team and copied to all our Pinner and Pinner South Ward Councillors. We await the publication of a revised TBSPD, with the hope that due consideration will have been taken of our comments together of those of other consultees.

Ruth Boff

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PATRICK FLAHERTY, CEO OF HARROW COUNCIL AT THE PINNER ASSOCIATION AGM / OPEN MEETING

The Pinner Association AGM/ Open Meeting on 19th April 2023 in the Pinner Village Hall was attended by approximately 60 persons and Julie Waller, Chair of the Pinner Association, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Those present included Cllr Janet Mote, Mayor of Harrow, David Simmonds, MP, Krupesh Hirani, AM, Cllr Paul Osborn, Leader Harrow Council, the Pinner and Pinner South Ward Councillors and members of the Pinner and Pinner South Safer Neighbourhood Police teams.

Patrick Flaherty, CEO of Harrow Council, spoke on the approach he had taken to improving the communication between the Council and Harrow residents, and the effectiveness of council officers. Local government had to cover a diverse range of services for residents, which was difficult, and his first impression of Harrow borough when taking up his post last year was of the great diversity which existed within the relatively small area; this included diversity of landscape from urban to suburban and rural, and of the various communities, all of which he had found to be friendly, gregarious and talkative.

Many people in Harrow had needs that it was the responsibility of the council to provide, and it was a challenge to provide these services before a crisis occurred in a densely populated area. The council had enthusiastic and willing staff who wished to do the right thing, and it was his job to guide their best efforts to achieve the desired outcome. Half of the council's funds was spent on services such as adult social care, children with learning difficulties, and child protection, where the aim was to identify those needing support before any harm could occur. These were 'hidden services' which the majority of residents will never see or use. He was pleased that Harrow's childcare services were so good.

However, for most people their interaction with the council involved matters such as potholes, street cleaning, fly tipping and instances of anti-social behaviour, and addressing such matters had to come from a minority of the council's funds, which was a dilemma for the management of the council.

These problems were not unique to Harrow and many councils had similar aims to improve their services to their residents. In Harrow the priorities were to restore pride in the borough by being more responsive as a council, not being complacent about current performance, putting the needs of residents first, making the borough cleaner and its roads in a better condition and working closely with the Police and NHS.

Things which were already good in Harrow were the education system, with many schools in the borough still being supported by the council, and the protection of vulnerable adults and children. Something which was currently not so good was replying to enquiries from residents, only 40% of which had been achieved after ten working days. This had now improved to 80% receiving a reply in that time. The Harrow Planning Service also was not good enough. Decisions on planning applications had taken far too long and the planning website was not fit for purpose. New software had been commissioned and the new Planning portal on the council's website would be ready by this autumn, so this service should be improving.

The waste services were doing well with 100,000 bins being collected every week, but the response to missed bins and getting replacements for broken bins was not yet fast enough.

The recycling rate for household waste in the borough was only 33%, which was not high enough, with some other boroughs achieving 50%. It costs the council money to dispose of the residual waste', so a 10% increase in the recycling rate would save both money and the environment.

There were now to be expectations placed upon council staff to respond and to deliver services to the residents, councillors and our MP among others. Over the next two years the focus would be to improve the level of service from staff and make Harrow Council more visible, by being on the doorstep when people needed help, improving the responsiveness to residents and improved customer services. This would include improvements to the council's website and customer-facing services.

Already there was improvement in the services to residents; one hour of free parking in car parks and on-street, the green garden waste collection, identification of the condition of roads and a better method of pothole reduction. However, the funding available was tight, and rightly so, so priorities had to be set. The street scene environment in the borough, the use of back alleys for fly tipping waste; street lighting; the proactive identification of vulnerable residents who need help; the 5,000 social housing units, all of which need to be brought up to safe; modern and decent living conditions, and assisting young people in Harrow to find homes, all required improvement.

Mr Flaherty answered questions from the floor.

Q: Was the Public Health role of local authorities insufficiently funded from central government, and, for this to be effective, does it need to be more visible, as in Harrow it was not prominent? A: Harrow already did much in this area with childhood immunisations, pre- and post-natal checks, and using 'nudges' to improve mental health.

Q: What about the damage made to pavements when large extensions are being built onto existing residential properties, which is not made good? A: As the local authority know when such works start and end, there should be inspections by the Highways Officers and any damage repaired at the expense of the developer and/or site owner. The previous system to do this was inadequate and this matter would be addressed. The council now has improved powers when utility companies do works on the highway.

A comment was made that many posts in the council had been filled by interim rather than permanent appointments, resulting in a lot of staff turnover. A: It was now the policy to appoint permanent heads of departments and at lower levels, which should increase the efficiency and reduce the cost to the council. The permanent staff were being given clear direction on what was expected in the role.

Other questions were about the poor access and inadequate response when residents use the council's website, particularly the Planning website and when reporting fly tipping, missed bins, etc., and why was it now necessary for a resident to create a passworded account in order to comment on council consultations? A: Mr Flaherty acknowledged that parts of the council's website required improvement regarding ease of access and effectiveness of outcome, and that a study was underway to establish best practice for consultations.

Mr Flaherty was thanked by the Chair for his interesting and informative presentation and the audience showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

REPORT OF THE OPEN MEETING / THE PINNER ASSOCIATION 90TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 19TH APRIL 2023 IN THE PINNER VILLAGE HALL.

MINUTES OF THE 90TH AGM OF THE PINNER ASSOCIATION

The formal business of the AGM commenced at 8.45pm. There were 59 persons present.

Minutes of the 89th AGM

A vote to approved the minutes of the 89th AGM held on 20th April 2022, as published on pages 67 - 72 of The Villager, No 253 – July 2022, was proposed by Jim Boff and seconded by Warwick Hillman and unanimously agreed by the meeting.

Matters Arising

None.

Chair's Report

Julie Waller, Chair of The Pinner Association gave a report outlining the activities undertaken over the past year – see View from the Chair on Pages 11-13 in this edition of The Villager.

Treasurer's Report

Tim Owen, Honorary Treasurer, referred the meeting to his written report on Page 77 of the March 2023 edition No. 255 of The Villager, and the abbreviated accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 provided on the reverse of the AGM Agenda. A copy of the fuller set of annual accounts, in the format required by the Charity Commission, and which had been examined by and signed off by the Independent Examiner, could be made available for any member who wished to see them.

The income over 2022 had included a £3,000 legacy, but the income from membership subscriptions had decreased by 9% from that in the previous year, because the 2021 subscriptions included those from 2020 that had been delayed by the Covid pandemic. Overall, the income from subscriptions in 2023 was only 3% down on the average for 2020 and 2021. Other income had been gained from the bucket collection donations at the summer band concerts, and the amount that the Association had been able to claim back from Gift Aid had increased as the bucket collection donations were included. However the advertisement income from The Villager had decreased by 13% due to the difficult economic conditions, which had resulted in the net cost of producing the magazine rising to £2,619.

Expenditure had risen to £28,982, a £2,325 increase over the previous year, because of an increase in the Association's funds used for charitable purposes, including the band concerts and the maintenance of the Peace Garden and the Pinner Station and Police Station gardens (the latter being co-sponsored by Mansi's Florist). A donation of £1,000 was made to the Harrow Foodbank, and the cost of providing the festive lights and two street Christmas trees in Pinner had risen to £5,473, with £2,975 of that expense having been funded from the

remainder of previous grants for this purpose from Harrow Council.

The net income for 2023 was £2,570 and the Association's financial position remained strong, with over £61,000 being available for unrestricted purposes. Tim asked that anyone who could suggest a project within Pinner that may benefit from some funds from the Association, should let the committee know, so that it may be considered for sponsorship.

The full accounts had been approved by the Pinner Association Executive Committee on the 2nd February 2023, and subsequently inspected by the Independent Examiner, who had given an unqualified report. A signed copy of the accounts was available for inspection. There being no questions on the accounts, a vote was conducted on the motion, proposed by John Hinkley and seconded by Julie Waller, to approve the end of year accounts for 2022. This was passed on a show of hands with no votes against the motion, and accordingly the accounts for 2022 were adopted by the meeting. The signed adopted accounts will be filed with the Charity Commission.

Election of Officers and Executive Committee

All the candidates for the elections had been duly nominated and seconded, and all the posts for election were unopposed.

Julie Waller, Chair, conducted the election of the President. Robin Youle was duly elected by the meeting.

Robin then conducted the election of Julie Waller for the post of Chair, praising her for also acting as the temporary Advertisement Manager and for administering the Association's website and social media platforms, and the meeting voted unanimously for her election as Chair of the Association.

The Chair then conducted the election of the Officers. For the Officer posts there were no contested positions, and the following, having been nominated and seconded by the due date, were confirmed in post with agreement via a show of hands: Vice-Chairman - John Hinkley; Hon Treasurer - Tim Owen; Hon Secretary - Ruth Boff; Hon Membership Secretary - Alison Whitehead.

There had been six Executive Committee nominations for the ten posts available under the Constitution, and the following, having been nominated and seconded by the due date, were confirmed in post with the agreement via a show of hands: Rahul Aggarwal, Ed Badke, Warwick Hillman, Jenny McCann, Keith Rookledge, and Christine Wallace. Four elected Committee positions remained vacant.

Vote of thanks to, and election of, the Hon. Independent Examining Accountant

Tim thanked the Hon. Independent Examining Accountant, Mr Anthony Fineberg, who had kindly agreed to continue to act in this capacity. He proposed the vote of thanks to Mr Fineberg and his re-election as the Independent Examining Accountant for the coming year, seconded by Julie Waller, and this was passed unanimously by the meeting.

A.O.B.

None.

The Annual General Meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Open Forum

The questions raised from the floor during Open Forum included:

Q: How to pay for parking without installing the parking app on a smart phone? A: John Hinkley replied for the Association saying that there were “PayPoints” in shops close to parking locations where payment could be made in cash.

Q: The app was too complicated to use for the one hour free parking. Could there not be simple dedicated machine to get the one hour free parking? A: The old parking machines were to become redundant when 2G connectivity was turned off later this year, and Harrow Council now no longer had the facilities to handle large amounts of cash. However, Cllr Osborn said some car parks and streets now had new pay by card machines which could also be used to obtain one hour free parking, and that these machines operated via 4G. These would be installed where the PayPoint shop was not very close to a car park or on street parking location. There were already two such machines in the Love Lane car park and one in Bridge Street.

Q: What is happening at the premises that previously housed Friends Restaurant? A: Ruth said that the Association had been liaising closely with the Harrow Principle Conservation Officer over the works that were required by a very detailed Listed Building Planning Enforcement Order, which would restore both the exterior and interior of the building at 11 High Street to the condition and appearance they had prior to the unauthorised alterations. The ground floor windows were currently being hand-made to match as exactly as possible the pre-existing windows of this important building in the High Street.

Q: Was there a proposal to construct a Travelodge hotel in Pinner? A: There was no planning application for any such development and the Association had not heard of a current proposal to do so.

Q: Why were some of the restaurants in Pinner struggling? A: Julie said that certain restaurants such as Turquoise Kitchen and Chin Chin were usually very busy, and that “Tummies”, although temporarily closed, had had some works being undertaken to the interior. She suggested that Pinner residents should make use of the local businesses whenever possible.

The meeting finished at 9.45pm.

Ruth Boff

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Acting Advertisement Manager - Julie Waller

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