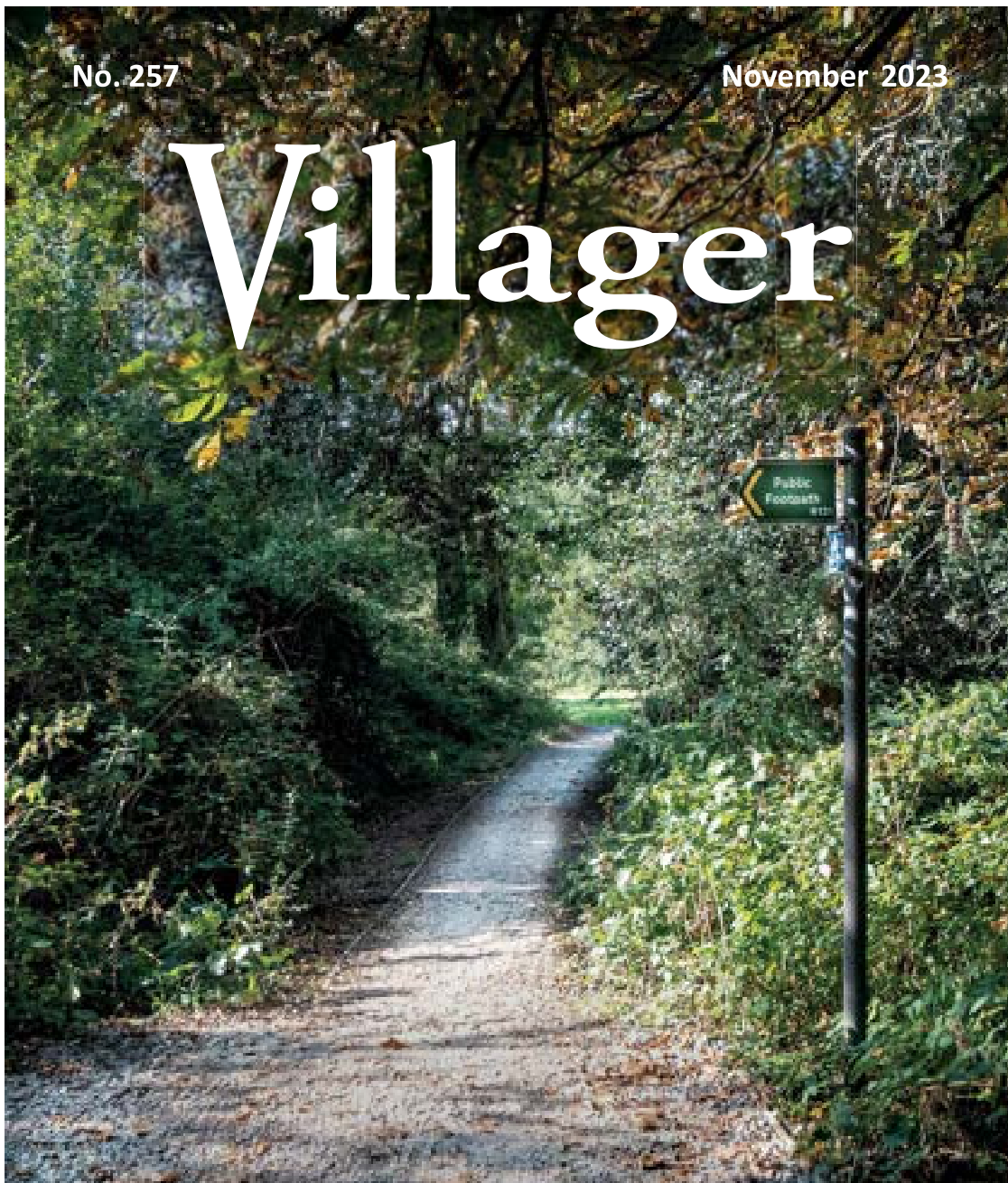


No. 257

November 2023

Villager



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Magazine of the Pinner Association



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THE Villager

Magazine of The Pinner Association

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The Pinner Association

Why we exist

Working in partnership with residents and local government, we aim to conserve and enhance the quality of life in Pinner, now and into the future.

What we do

We have specialist teams focused, among other things, on planning, the environment, health, transport, parking, flood protection and the High Street and other conservation areas.

We publish The Villager three times a year, in March, July and November, to keep members informed. Between editions, you can find key information on our bulletin boards at Sainsbury, Marks & Spencer, Pinner Station and the Memorial Park, as well as on our website, pinnerassociation.co.uk.

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THE Villager

MAGAZINE OF THE PINNER ASSOCIATION

No. 257

November 2023

FROM THE EDITOR

Remembering

We are coming round again to the season of Remembrance. Many expected the numbers that gather round the memorial in the High Street in early November to dwindle after the hundredth anniversary of the end of the First World War. If anything, numbers have increased. This is partly because of a greater awareness created by a war just fifteen hundred miles away, but I am sure that the involvement of a wider range of faiths and of the younger members of our community plays a significant role.



There are those who boycott the gathering for the Act of Remembrance, claiming that it glorifies war. They are entitled to their opinion, of course, but I take the opposite view. Once a year, we have the chance to think of those often very young people who left the everyday familiarity of Pinner and so many other similar places. People with names, friends, habits, pets, loved ones. They left and never returned. We did not know them, as earlier generations did, so cannot remember them in any specific sense. But we can certainly give them a few minutes of our time and thank them.

Community

What a strange and confusing world we live in. So much that we took for granted for much of our lives is now threatened or has vanished. The certainties that we assumed are certain no longer. That is why community matters. I was in fierce debate recently with someone who was objecting to paying more council tax on the basis that his bin had been missed three weeks previously. A few minutes' research will show that a large proportion of council tax goes to help the elderly, children, those with mental challenges and others in need. Any community is judged by how they care for their weakest.



Railings

As you pass the corner of Bridge Street and Chapel Lane, it is always worth pausing to study the myriad notices that are tied to the railings. It is a wonderful reflection of the local diversity of interests. This week, there was everything from tai chi, (one of my favourites), to caring for Harrow's streams, rock and



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roll, a painting exhibition, street dance, philosophy, football, miniature railway rides, local history, many kinds of yoga, bird watching, Indian head massage, choral singing, flower arranging and more.

While I always have to resist the temptation to add some of my own, maybe *Tightrope Walking for Beginners*, *Learn to Hop Blindfold* or *Build your own Flea Circus*, I do walk away with a sense of being a part of an interesting and stimulating place.

Roads

Later in this issue, Eavesdropper bemoans the frequent postponement of the resurfacing of High View. Our road was recently resurfaced. I'd like to think that it was the power of the press and my introduction of Pothole of the Month that brought it about, but I'm sure that our road was simply the right length for a trial run of the team, being achievable in one working day.

Either way, it brought out the ten-year-old boy in me, as machines of many shapes, sizes and purposes trundled by. Others in the road were, I understand, more excited by a bunch of men in hi-vis jackets but for me, I was back building universes on my childhood bedroom floor.



Pothole of the Month

I see that the pothole featured in the last edition has now been at least temporarily filled in. Again, power of the press? Unlikely but one likes to dream.

Competition this month is fierce. West End Lane puts in a fine performance, with a string of seven potholes running down from the junction with Chapel Lane to Cranbourne Drive, including, I believe, a unique offering of a pothole on a speed bump.

However, if we are choosing a single specimen, then this fine beast from the junction of Winchester Drive and Malpas Drive has to take the crown this time.



As always, do let me know at editor@pinnerassociation.co.uk if you spot a good candidate.

Don't miss the special offer on P 53.

Phil Lawder - Editor.

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VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Pinner has yet again had a busy summer.

Donations

Since the last *Villager* we have made a donation to Harrow Cycling Hub (see report on Page 49), to help with the cost of buying a Tomcat Dragonfly trike for youngsters. This trike can be easily adapted for youngsters of different mobility. It is being used to enable people to cycle who find traditional two-wheelers difficult to use. I was glad to eventually get to them in August, to see the work that they do and to help out for a while.

We have also supported Friends of Roxbourne Park by making a donation of £500, which will go towards the cost of some additional trees near the play area.

Band Concerts

Despite the wet weather at the first concert, which featured Harrow Steel, I was very surprised at the number of people who attended and even more impressed by those who stayed to the end – you deserve a medal! I'm glad to say that the weather gods were much kinder for remaining concerts, and, as expected, the audiences were much bigger. Paparazzi returned for their second time, with Stardust Big Band playing next and Simply Grey winding things up at the last concert.



Harrow Steel - Taken by Pinner Local

Looking back through all the copies of *The Villager* magazines, the first band to play at the inaugural concert were The Top Brass Jazz Orchestra in 2002. The only concert pre-Covid that was cancelled was in 2009, when the Royal Air Forces Association President's Band was due to play. This was due to a lack of an entertainment licence, as it was the responsibility of the organiser to get a licence. (I'm glad to say this is no longer the case.)

The bucket collection that helps offset the cost of putting on these concerts raised over £2,100. Thank you to everyone that contributed. Lastly, thanks to all of the people that volunteered in one way or another over the four concerts. It's true, they wouldn't happen without your help.



Theatre in the Park

For theatre lovers, the Weather Gods also smiled on the Heath Robinson Museum's outdoor theatre performance of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, performed by Illyria in the Pinner Memorial Park at the end of August. This is becoming a well-attended annual event.



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by



Andrew Pearce

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Pinner Village Show.

The Rotary Club of Pinner held their annual Pinner Village Show on the 9 September. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend this year, but, despite its being the hottest day of the year, they expect to have raised over £5,500, which will be distributed to a number of charities, including Prostate Cancer UK. I know that all the hard work has paid dividends, Congratulations to Pinner Rotary.

Roxyfest23 in Roxbourne Park

On Sunday 24 September, Roxyfest took place. Their dog show is growing in popularity and population, and I knew that this would bring in the visitors to the park despite the slow start and a quick shower. Funds raised will help the Friends group make further enhancements to the park for the benefit of everyone. If you would like to know more about what they do, visit <https://friendsofroxbourne.wixsite.com/park/home>

Planning

You may remember that, in the July 2023 Villager, we included an article on the consultation on the Harrow Tall Buildings (Building Heights) Supplementary Planning Document, giving the views of your Association on the proposals. The outcome of the consultation went to the Harrow Planning Policy Advisory Panel and the final document was approved by the Council's Cabinet at the end of July and is now a part of the Harrow Local Plan.

A summary of the consultation responses was published and, although the Pinner Association and many other organisations and individuals had submitted detailed responses to this consultation, there were very few revisions to the draft in the final document. Revisions were on technical matters in the main, raised by the GLA to ensure compliance with the London Plan 2021.

We welcome this planning guidance, which requires 'contextually high' (twice or more the current prevailing height of buildings in an area) new buildings to conform to design criteria which in some ways might mitigate any adverse effects they may impose upon the built environment. But we regret that the definition of 'contextually high' was not changed to being any new building proposed to be greater than the prevailing height of buildings in an area. We shall be watching closely to see if this additional SPD will achieve the Council's aim 'to protect the character of our suburbs'.

Harrow's Hero(ine)

It is with great pleasure that I am able to report that Jennie Youle was awarded a Harrow's Hero award in the Lifetime Achievement category.

It would be quicker to list the local activities she has not been involved in over the years, but if I mention being a Trustee and Committee member of the Friends of Pinner Parish Church, Co-Chair of Pinner Local History Society for seven years, a regular presenter at the Ruislip and Pinner Travel Club, helping at the Heath Robinson Museum, Parents' and Teachers' Committees of West Lodge School and Nower Hill High School, Adult Education Society committees, Save the Children Fund committee, Scout and Guide Associations committees, a valued member for many years of Pinner Safer Neighbourhood Panel,



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Harrow Steel - Taken by Jennie Youle receiving her award from Paul Osborn

selling British Legion poppies outside the station, helping at our Band Concerts, you will get some flavour of the breadth of her interests and of her contribution to the community. She typifies the advice that if you want something done, find a busy person. Her recognition is richly deserved.

Final Note.

Planning is well underway for Pinner's Act of Remembrance which will be held on Sunday 12 November by the War Memorial on the High Street. We look forward to seeing you there.

Julie Waller

International Reach

Former Chair of the Pinner Association, Bruce Watson, brings interesting news of the international fame of *The Villager*. As a boy, Bruce made many happy visits to a farm in Southern Spain, just inland of the Costa Brava. The daughter of that farm now publishes a local community magazine, and the link was celebrated recently with a cover demonstrating Anglo-Spanish friendship.





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A PINNER DIARY

Let's begin with something you are unlikely ever to get from your government or your airline: an apology. The last Diary praised Harrow Council for listening to residents and retaining machines, so we could pay on site in our car parks. However, between writing and publication, the machines in the Chapel Lane Car Park disappeared without warning or replacement, so that Memorial Park visitors must now either use the app or traipse down to the shop to pay, and then retrace their steps back to the park. In the park itself the ducks seem to have heard about the draconian (*drake-onian? Ed*) penalties proposed for feeding them and produced hardly any ducklings this year.

More non-communication from the council on the resurfacing front. Having been promised the long overdue resurfacing of High View on 14 August, residents duly moved their cars only for nothing to happen. Telephoning the Council's resurfacing number - yes, there actually is one - only yielded a message that "this voicemail box is full". The handwritten notices remained posted for a week after the non-event, but the typewritten ones, warning of the dire consequences of leaving one's car on the street, (Don't miss the next paragraph, Ed) were still on lamp standards three weeks later. Apparently, the work has been put off until December, to enable gas main repairs to be done in "the autumn", though this has not been conveyed to those affected. Given the frequency with which the utilities dig up our roads, it begs the question if there is ever a good time to resurface.

The consequences of not removing one's car are indeed dire. A reliable source relates how a lady in Rayners Lane, forced by a family crisis to go away for several weeks and leave her car outside her house, returned to find no car and no message as to its whereabouts. It was eventually traced to a nearby street. It had been considerably put in a residents' parking bay, where it had acquired 8 parking tickets! Not only did she then have to submit 8 separate appeals, but in its infinite wisdom the Council granted 3 and turned down 5. You couldn't make it up... and I haven't.

Information on issues like resurfacing and road closures would seem to be perfect candidates for dissemination on widely used local sites like Nextdoor, to add to its useful recommendations of reliable tradesmen and *cris de coeur* on behalf of lost cats. It also provides a useful forum for warning of local criminal activity and debate of local political issues. It is, however, in danger of becoming a vehicle for almost daily ego trips by one or two people, especially the councillor (not a Pinner one), whose selfies in fish and chip shops and Downing Street contribute little. At least Harold Wilson had the excuse of being only 10 at the time.

Nextdoor is also extensively used by our local Safer Neighbourhood police teams, for which many thanks, but the higher echelons of their organisation do sometimes seem woefully out of touch. On the eve of our summer Band Concert series, our indefatigable organiser and Association Chair received a lengthy questionnaire from a distant police location, asking a raft of unanswerable questions, such as the expected profile of those attending,

and irrelevant ones such as the route of the procession. Asked if she had undertaken a risk assessment, she understandably replied that, had she not done so, she would not have been permitted by the council to hold the concerts. In the event, the most disastrous occurrence over the four concerts was a wasp sting.

Over the summer the police ran a couple of public meetings to publicise the Met's planned improvements. The term 'public meeting' was less than accurate, as attendance was by online booking only. That was the theory, but in practice, attending the second meeting, your Diarist met no checking of religiously printed ticket, no register of attendance, and could easily have walked in with a hand grenade. Although most of the speakers exceeded their allotted time, and questions were curtailed in the interests of finishing half an hour before the advertised time, at least the opportunity to sit with residents from other parts of Harrow afforded the opportunity to learn how lucky we are in having such a responsive and relatively visible Safer Neighbourhood Team.

In other wards, initiatives like 'cuppa with a copper' simply do not happen, and it was at one such recent event that I learned of the latest spike in local car-related crime. Apparently, thanks to the dreaded ULEZ, number plates are now in greater demand than catalytic converters. Perhaps there is a case for personalised number plates after all.



Another police initiative, for which any of us could be grateful at any time, is the provision of an Emergency Blood Kit. One of only six in Harrow, it is located outside the Library, with a number to call to get the opening code and instructions. So, if you do have to have an accident, you now know the best place to have it. The kits are financed by the Shaquan Sammy-Plummer Foundation, set up by the family of a teenager fatally stabbed in Enfield in 2015.

Just along the road, at the foot of Station Approach, the pillar box suddenly found itself embraced by an octopus. Is this a new advertising campaign from an energy company, designed to rival the green 183 bus that trundles in and out of Pinner each day advertising Ovo, I asked myself. Will octopus-clad pillar boxes sprout all over London? No such luck. Apparently, the octopi are widely on sale or are given as prizes at funfairs, which seems a better idea than bowl-bound goldfish, and may well have been an acquisition at Pinner Fair that had outlived its welcome.



Last year, the Diary reported on our High Street being used as the backdrop to the filming of episodes in "One Life", the story of Nicholas Winton, who organised the Kindertransport trains that brought over 700 Jewish children here from pre-war Prague. The bad news, as increasingly

frequent obituaries report, is that many of those children are dying after distinguished contributions to their adopted country. As a small consolation, some of what was shot in Pinner has survived the cutting room, so that we can now enjoy what is by all accounts a rattling good story against a background we know and love.

Those were the days when something resembling a national conscience at least stopped us turning deserving cases back from our borders. A few weeks ago, many Pinnerites gathered for the funeral of Andrew Raj, former Churchwarden at our Parish Church, ex-President and Chairman of Pinner Men's Probus, and a long serving Trustee of PADCA, who run our Village Hall. In the eulogy we were told that Andrew's sister sadly could not be with us. The reason? Her only living relatives are a brother in Singapore, who was not well enough to travel, a husband and daughter in Australia and a daughter and family in Atlanta. Despite this, the Home Office would not grant her a visa. Her crime? Being born, like Andrew, in Sri Lanka. What a nasty, paranoid nation we have become.

It was Pinner Village Hall that hosted the recently-broadcast "Lucy Porter's Lucky Dip" on Radio 4, in which the comedian reflected very amusingly on life in suburbia. Although she has reportedly now moved to Eastcote, Pinner was featured several times, usually with wry affection. Among other things, she flaunted her courage in daring to say the word "penis" publicly in Pinner (A first for the Diary too, I suspect, Ed), and rejoiced in the fact that Pinner is a welcoming community where you are less likely to be judged on the basis of colour or creed than on the neatness of your front garden. Quite right too. Apparently, there are at least two broadcast episodes. Catch them on BBC Sounds if you can. Perhaps we should invite Mark Steel for a more acerbic look.



Lucy Porter

Mention of gardens serves to remind me of life on the bird-feeder. This year has been exceptional both for variety and fecundity. Our resident pair of magpies reared four young to maturity, while as many as nine parakeets at a time have adorned the feeder, all waiting to feed in turn, so possibly one family. On one occasion, four of them were driven off in turn by a Greater Spotted Woodpecker less than half their size. Collared Doves have come back, and the Crows have at last realised, as the Wood Pigeons did years ago, that there are rich pickings underneath the feeder when the smaller birds spill as much as they eat. Amazingly all this goes on three metres from our lazy cat, who lies in a large flowerpot and is too well fed to care.

No Diary would be complete without a bizarre experience on our beloved Metropolitan Line. One doesn't expect to find a semi-fast Chesham at 3pm on a Friday at Finchley Road. We duly hurtled to Harrow up the fast line, only to receive an apologetic message from the driver to the effect that "we are being held at a red signal because we are three minutes early, having been sent up the fast line". This one could understand if the points had been



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set wrongly by accident, but ‘Semi -fast Chesham’ was on the platform indicator and the front of the train. Someone had actually planned it to happen, presumably with total disregard for anyone travelling from Preston Road or Northwick Park to Rickmansworth or beyond.

Over the years, an Eavesdropper contact has been a rich source of anecdotes from working in Oxfam. Alas, no more. It finally closed for good in July, having limped along since Covid with a succession of managers and a lot fewer volunteers. Also, the premises had long needed expensive repairs. So, having appointed last November as Manager a young lady, recently married, the charity duly found the almost inevitable maternity leave seven months later, despite her competence and hard work, sufficient reason to close the branch. To add insult to injury, the first that many volunteers heard of the closure was a typewritten notice in the shop window.

Better news from the Pinn Medical Centre, whose active Patients’ Association has sponsored classes in mobility and digital skills. The former are designed to improve the stability of those of us becoming increasingly dodderly, and liable to fall. The latter are not designed to improve our dexterity, but to improve our knowledge and confidence in doing things online, in recognition of the unwelcome fact that an inability to do many things online will inevitably lead to exclusion and loneliness. Contact details for both courses are available in the Surgery or by emailing contact@pinpatients.org



Lis Warren

PMF Orchestra and Choir

This year’s Pinner Music Festival ended with a performance of Haydn’s oratorio “The Creation”, splendidly conducted by David Gould, with buoyant rhythms, clear orchestral textures and excellent soloists. It was David’s last concert after eight years in charge of the choral works that traditionally conclude the Festival, and it now seems inconceivable that, back in 2015, we wondered how on earth anyone could replace Michael Turvey after 50 years. David has proved a more than worthy successor. Following David will be

Paul Jeanes, who is already well known to Pinner audiences from six years in charge of the Amici Choir, who perform concerts regularly in the Parish Church.

Finally, a gem for those who share a love for misprinted televised subtitles. After a recent parliamentary vote, the result was declared “The Eyes to the right, 354 votes, the Nose to the left, 7.” After that, how could anyone say our politicians are two-faced?

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MUSIC IN PINNER SERIES: '23-'24 SEASON.

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Patrick Hemmerlé

Our first concert, with the James Davison/Callum Au Quintet will have happened before you receive this copy of *The Villager*, so on to the second. On Nov 18th, we welcome French pianist Patrick Hemmerlé in a typically thoughtful programme. He says, "I like to tackle works for which there is not an already congealed performing tradition, where I have to find my own approach. It does, in return, give me a greater sense of freedom when I approach works of the main repertoire." First, he brings French

composers from the turn of the 19th/20th centuries – Gabriel Fauré's Nocturne #3 in A flat, Etude for the Thirds by Claude Debussy, Etude in A flat major for the Thirds by Jean Roger-Ducasse (whose music Patrick has championed), and Maurice Ravel's haunting Gaspard de la Nuit. The second half comprises striking operatic piano transcriptions by Pabst, Liszt and Grainger: Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin; Tristan und Isolde by Wagner; Der Rosenkavalier by Richard Strass; and Don Giovanni by Mozart: spot the thematic link.

For our Dec 9th jazz concert, the Nat Steele Quartet will unveil A Portrait of the Modern Jazz Quartet, the popular and influential mid-20th century band (John Lewis, Milt Jackson, Percy Heath & Connie Kay), whose concert-style cool jazz drew from baroque music and the blues. Nat plays vibraphone (marking Milt Jackson's 100th Anniversary), with Matyas Gayer piano, Dario Di Lecce bass and Steve Brown drums. 'MJQ's repertoire is a musical springboard for our own influences and ideas'. Reviewing their CD, Peter Vacher said, "Steele ... is a vigorous, resourceful performer whose companions are with him all the way."

For their biennial visit on 13th Jan 2024 (N.B. 8.00pm start), the Scott Hamilton Quartet are back at Pinner United Synagogue, where they regularly command a full house. With Scott on tenor sax, John Pearce on keyboard, 'local lad' Dave Green on bass



Scott Hamilton Quartet

by Anthony Pinching

and the popular Steve Brown on drums, this ensemble can be relied upon for a wonderful evening of classic jazz – improvisations on great standards and some fine ballads, with typical inventiveness and mellifluous tone. Their long partnership (in Dave’s case for 33 years) explains the ready conversational style of ensemble and respectful listening that so characterise this quartet of musical friends.

On Feb 17th, at lunchtime (1.00pm) we feature a young early music ensemble, Ensemble Hesperii, with a reputation for fine music-making on period instruments and skilful programming. ‘A Curious Collection’ includes James Oswald’s A Curious Collection of Scots Tunes (1740). Scottish composer Oswald published two collections of *Airs for the Seasons*, each named after a flower or plant. “Alongside trio sonatas by Handel and Bach,”



Edward Morgan

recorder-player Mary-Jannet Leith writes, “our programme presents a cornucopia of music by Telemann. One of the most prolific composers of all time, Telemann had a much-envied garden. He often wrote to his good friend Handel in London, asking for plants from England. ‘I am insatiable’, he wrote, ‘where hyacinths and tulips are concerned, greedy for ranunculi, and especially for anemones’. All this is framed by charming airs by Oswald depicting the plants Telemann loved best.”

The Dominic Alldis Trio – Dominic on piano, Andrew Cleyndert bass and Martin France drums – will entertain us mightily on March 9th. They have a special chemistry in opening new jazz angles on famous classical themes – e.g. by Bach, Handel, Fauré, Satie, Bizet, Dvorak, Tchaikovsky and Chopin – elaborated in ‘the timeless art of improvisation’. Their concerts also celebrate the legendary French jazz pianist Jacques Loussier, whose *Play Bach* albums created a sensation in 1959 and for many years afterwards – my vinyl copy is very worn. Christopher Wood, in the *Independent* on Sunday, said: “The arrangements are strikingly original, respectfully presented ...”



For our final concert (April 20th), the Solarek Piano Trio (Marina Solarek, Miriam Lowbury & Andrew Bottrill) bring a wonderful mix of familiar and unfamiliar. Johannes Brahms wrote his B major Piano Trio in 1854 but, perfectionist that he was, continued to revise it with a major edit in 1889: “I have written my B major Trio once more ... It will not be so muddled ...but will it be better?” he wrote to Clara Schumann. This is a work of great substance and variety, with lyricism, joy and

emotional tension in spades. Before that, they play trios by H  l  ne Liebmann, an early 19th century pianist and composer – lively and reflective in a Haydn-esque style; and a bold and tuneful trio by mid-20th century Dutch composer Henri  tte Bosmans (recently featured on BBC Radio 3’s Composer of the Week), whose works the Solarek Trio have recorded.

All in all, this season’s Music in Pinner Series has about as much variety, within and between genres, as we have ever had. Don’t miss a thing.

Anthony Pinching
Director, Music in Pinner Series



Sam Evans

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

- A FESTIVAL OF MUSIC FOR CHOIR AND AUDIENCE

Harrow Choral Society is returning to Harrow School’s prestigious Speech Room on **Sunday, Dec 18th at 5.30** for its festive concert of carols, readings, brass ensemble performances and audience participation carols. They are delighted to be welcoming back **Tim Bentinck** (David Archer in *The Archers*) as Guest Reader. All music will be conducted by Music Director, Sam Evans and accompanied by composer Paul Ayres.

Tickets:  22, under 18s  2 (ticket required)

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A REMARKABLE SERVICE

One of my guilty pleasures is to comb through the books in a charity shop, looking for classics and modern works that I have not yet read. If that shop is St Luke's Hospice in Bridge Street, then, rather than just add them to the never-decreasing 'to read' pile at home, I will pop next door to Something Brewing for a cup of tea and a cake (another guilty pleasure) and settle down to indulge in a quiet read.



St Luke's in Pinner

Until recently, I never really thought much about the process and purpose behind those books being available to me, other than a vague warm feeling that I was somehow supporting a valuable charity. However, the cost of living and NHS crises have raised many new issues.

The St Luke's Hospice does remarkable work. The skilled team not only provide end of life care and support with terminal illness, they do this in a deeply caring and supportive way, both for the patient and for family and carers. And this wonderful service, and other wellbeing services, are given for free. Their website is full of deeply grateful comments from families who have found themselves needing highly skilled, caring support at a time of great distress.

However, it costs about £5,000 a week to provide full 24-hour care to each patient. A total of £5 million must be raised each year to ensure that the hospice continues to provide this invaluable service. The shops are an essential part of this, raising about a third of the money needed. Another third comes from the NHS and the final third from fundraising. Inevitably, at the moment, fundraising is under pressure, as it is with many charities. People's disposable income has taken a hard knock in many cases, and this puts greater demand on the shops to deliver income. And St Luke's has risen to the challenge.

Peter Brook, whom many of us remember very fondly as the leading light, with Sarah, of the greatly missed Brook's bookshop, café and wine bar, is now heading the shops division, and much more, at St Luke's. Under his leadership, they have now opened a fine new Superstore and Donation Centre on the Waverley Business Park behind Harrow Crown Court, just a ten-minute drive from Pinner. When you arrive, one of its greatest assets is immediately obvious; the ability to park for free and easily, sometimes a challenge in Pinner.



St Luke's Superstore Exterior



St Luke's superstore

This shop, which complements the sixteen existing shops, is laid out in an interesting and useful way, with mini-shops for children's clothes and toys, glass and china, vintage and collectables. Glass showcases display some wonderful pieces of glass and ceramics; when I was there, one star piece was a vase made of Murano glass, standing next to an unopened pack containing an action figure based on Marty McFly

from the Back to the Future films. Such variety! Smaller items of furniture – occasional tables, small chests of drawers – are also on display. Some items are also available on eBay, when the team feel that they can get a better price there.

Next to the shop is a vast area where you can leave your donations, with a team busy sorting, cataloguing and storing. There is little that they do not take. They have a PAT testing facility that ensures that small electricals are safe. They do not, however, take anything that could be a risk for the purchaser; no bicycles, roller blades and such like, where they cannot check that everything is as it should be.

St Luke's plans to create a thriving community hub at the new centre, where knowledge and skills are shared among the residents of Harrow and Brent. There are exciting plans to host events and workshops which will focus on sustainability, designed to benefit and engage the local community. With so much discussion about the carbon footprint of fast fashion, one gets the feeling that shops like this are really coming into their own.

"The Pinner store will continue, of course, to be an important part of the St Luke's mix," comments Peter Brook. "We have a great team there and really value the work that they do.

Other stores have also developed specialities. Kenton deals with furniture and will happily collect from you, and our newly refurbished Harrow Weald shop specialises in small electrical items."

St Luke's sums up what they do as 'Making every moment matter'. They are a true community asset, transforming the experience of many people at a very difficult and challenging time, and well-deserving of our support, whether that be by donating goods or supporting financially, either through personal donation or a fundraising activity. You could also consider volunteering or leaving a gift in your will.

To learn more about St Luke's, visit their website at stlukes-hospice.org

Editor

FAR OUT

AN UNUSUAL EATING EXPERIENCE

A quiet evening at home with the much better half, letting Masterchef wash gently over us. The amateur cooks were being taken to an experimental restaurant - Kitchen Theory - for an all-sensory cooking trial. Now, for me, watching other people prepare dishes and swoon over them, whilst I am using just two senses (at most), is beginning to pall. So, an idea popped into my increasingly vacant head. Why not go and try the theory ourselves? So, we did, even though the restaurant is in Barnet, far out from Pinner, and the price is far out from what any sane person would pay for a meal, especially when £6 will give you a lash-up feast at McDonald's.

We signed up for a weekday Supper Club Set Menu meal. First hurdle - would they cater for our restrictive tastes? No shellfish, pork, mushrooms, rosemary, sage etc.etc. No problem! Indeed, two days before the witching hour, we received a call from one of the chefs. Would we eat molluscs? (Are molluscs not shellfish? Is that not their whole point?)

"I am afraid not," we replied. "Apologies for being difficult." "No problem," came the reply, "we have an excellent alternative for you. I'm glad we asked."

So, on Friday, 11th August, off we went to the back end of Barnet in the middle of rush hour, parked conveniently and, in accordance with the online instructions, met a nice man who guided us into an untidy, small industrial estate and on into an unprepossessing grey, old, ramshackle warehouse. Once inside, we entered a 1950s gated, black, squeaky, unlit goods lift, within which I could not tell when it started or stopped. Luckily, another nice man met us and guided us along a surgically white, bright corridor into a studio of similar temperament, with a smudgy grey speckled ceiling and decorated with precise pictures of dishes of food.

There, in no particular order, we encountered our ten other dining companions, saw an interesting five-minute film about the link between all our senses and food and were presented with three glass receptacles with aromatic pads, to guess what food each represented. None of us got them all but between us we certainly did. Fruit Prosecco for the boozers and a weird fruit fermented tea for me.



And then on to the main event. The studio is small with a sterile white rectangular dining table for 12 and the open-plan, gleaming kitchen. The founder and head chef, Yosef Youssef, and his team (Freddie, Josh and Benjamin) had already been buzzing about unobtrusively and now led us to our allocated seats. Impressively, when each of them heard one of our (first) names on introduction, they immediately knew the (first) name of our partner.



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It became clear to me that education was a major theme of the evening. More games to start us off. Taste in turn two black, jellied globules and guess the flavour. Without sight or smell, it was hard to tell and, in truth, even after being told that one was pineapple, I couldn't taste anything.

Next, nose-clip on (I kid ye not) and taste a red bean. No flavour. Nose-clip off and Wow! Strong pepper tang. Next time I have a dinner party....

Then Bouba and Kiki. The former rounded and soft (a jackfruit doughnut), the latter spiky and spicy (tapioca crisp with hearts of palm and assorted sharp thingummies).

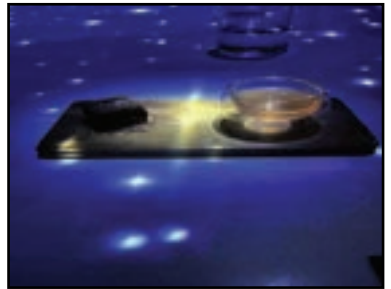
There followed a succession of exquisitely designed dishes, each served to accompanying mood music and appropriate film, projected on to the magic white plastic wipe-clean tablecloth/screen. Each was introduced by Yosef in an interesting, informative way and with his voice in consonance with the theme.

We kicked off with sourdough bread which Yosef introduced softly as a connection with prehistoric man. The team made a spectacle of preparing the flour, yeast and water with naked flames and - Lo! - here is one I prepared earlier. The room was bathed in a gentle purple, supported by candlelight on the table and gently discordant background music. Theatrical, yes. But, also, I did feel echoes of the past. And the bread and beurre noisette was probably the best I have ever tasted.

Then I thought that all my Christmases had come at once. To the theme of the sea, complete with moving images on the table and relaxing music, out came yes, you guessed it, McDonalds. But not as I have ever had it. Served in the typical red boxes (without logo) came divine filet of jellyfish with cucumber relish and over-salted (for me) millet fries.

The Squid ink risotto tasted strange at first - not salty, not sweet but both at the same time - but grew on me and by the time I was finishing it I had fallen completely for it.

By this time, I was besotted with the whole experience, but I was wondering where on earth smell came in. I needn't have worried. Along came the tenderest, tastiest, duck with truffle and mash served in the middle of a jungle, conjured up by a combination of the magic tablecloth transforming into a verdant green canopy, dry ice pouring out



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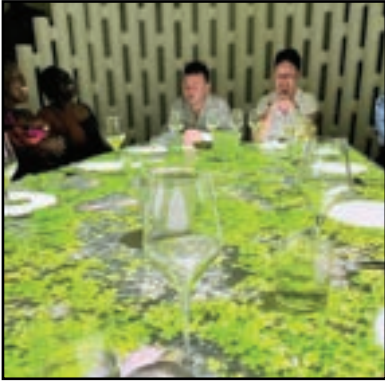
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with the aroma of trees and personal headphones softly whispering birdsong and rustling leaves. I was totally lost. Immersed, even.

Two outstanding desserts - summer fruit sorbet with beetroot sauce, and brioche with vanilla and honey plus white chocolate and coconut beehive (served to the buzz of bees and the picture of the inside of a beehive) - and tea and a chocolate ganache completed the meal.

Wines had been paired and I had a succession of odd fruit-fermented tea. The service went beyond friendly, well into the caring zone.

This was what it said on the tin, only much more so. An immersion of all the senses into a meal experience that was sensational. Literally. My wife and I were treated to the culinary equivalent of opera, theatre, concert and cinema. Played out in an old warehouse. It was not too far out after all.

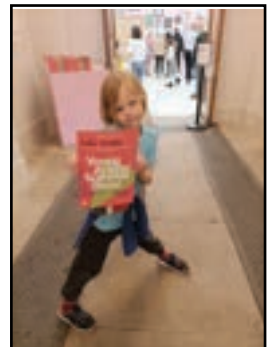
Peter Jacob

A NEW PINNER ARTIST

Felix Escoffey, Year 3 student at West Lodge, was overjoyed to hear this year that an artwork that he had created had been selected for the Royal Academy of Arts Young Artist Summer Show. Out of 21,000 submissions, his was one of only 248 to be chosen.

‘Felix likes order and symmetry’, his mother Elise explains. ‘He also likes LEGO. So, he created something that he called Future World out of LEGO bricks and elements, ensuring that the piece was symmetrical four ways. He took a photo into school, and we thought that was that. In May, though, we received an email saying he had been chosen. He was very proud of himself, as were his family and teachers.’

The exhibition was an inspiring, impressive and occasionally amusing display of artworks by children aged 4-19. You can see more about it, including examples of the works selected, here: <https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/>





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THE IMMUNE SYSTEM, OUR WINTER PROTECTION

With the coming of winter, we all need to think about the best way to protect ourselves. The immune system is the body's defence mechanism – the army with which the body protects itself against disease-causing organisms such as viruses, bacteria or fungi, known as pathogens. The troops that make up this army are various types of white blood cells, produced in the bone marrow. When working well, the immune system is constantly vigilant in order to protect us from infection, infestation and general invasion by bugs of all descriptions.



How does it work?

An invading pathogen has many obstacles to surmount, in order to infect the body. Firstly, the pathogen must penetrate the external barrier of the skin or survive the stomach acid if entering via the digestive tract. The nasal passages might seem a good potential entry route but they secrete mucus that traps and then flushes away pathogenic matter. Saliva and tears both contain antibacterial enzymes, to neutralise pathogens that attempt to enter via the mouth or eyes.

Pathogens that make it past the salivary enzymes and stomach acid still have to contend with gastrointestinal mucus, which can trap and expel them. Additionally, the gut contains more than 70% of the body's supply of immune cells, which seek out and destroy pathogens that have made it past the mouth and stomach. Any pathogenic matter that gets into the bloodstream from the digestive tract will have to travel through the liver, where more immune cells are on hand to deal with them.

If a pathogen gets past all these defences and manages to infect tissue cells, an immune response is triggered.

The damaged cells call for help (by releasing chemicals such as TNF- α that attract immune cells).

Immune cells come along, identify the pathogen as bad or unfriendly to the body, and call up more troops that attack and, ideally, kill the pathogen. Symptoms of this attack are a raised temperature, feeling tired and a little achy, slightly swollen lymph glands, and possibly a runny nose.

The immune system can also make an antibody for that pathogen. An antibody is a bit like a customised pair of handcuffs, which attach to the baddie and make it easier for the alerted troops to spot and kill it. The antibody remains in the system, ready to use if that particular bug turns up again.

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COMMONS



If your immune system is working well

- You don't fall prey to every bug around
- You throw off infections quite easily
- You aren't constantly itching or sneezing
- You generally feel well

If you have a fully functional immune system, then when you are exposed to a bug, you should kick it out quickly and symptoms such as a raised temperature will not last for long.

What if it isn't up to scratch?

Weak immune function makes it harder to withstand infection by viruses, bacteria or fungi. You will be more susceptible to contracting colds, flu and cold sores. The immune system will take longer to detect and conquer the bug, so symptoms such as raised temperature, swollen glands, sore throat, coughs, catarrh, etc., will be present more frequently.

Why might you have weak immune function?

- Eating a bad diet
- Eating lots of fatty foods
- Drinking excessive amounts of alcohol
- Smoking
- Being stressed and unhappy
- Not getting enough sleep

Looking for a herbal remedy to support the immune system, helping to maintain the body's resistance to infections such as cold and flu?

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REALLY?

Does anyone else spot the anomaly in the photo, spotted on a recent trip to London?



CREATIVE PINNER

SAM HARVEY

‘The sense of touch is the first we use – just look at a new-born baby wrapped in soft fabric. It’s no wonder that people leave our creative sessions feeling calmer, less tense and more fulfilled. We need this.’

Sam Harvey, who runs Stitch Club in Pinner, is on a mission. She sees that, in today’s world with its emphasis on teaching STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths), rather than STEA(rts)M, we are losing the fulfilment that comes from the creativity, especially working with our hands, fixing, tinkering, making. ‘Some forget that it’s the creativity and experimentation learnt in the Arts which enables leaps of knowledge in the application of STEM.’

As someone whose early career was very tied into computers and their development, Sam knows whereof she speaks. ‘Humans are meant to make things, and needles are among the oldest tools to have been found,’ she reminds me. ‘And here in Pinner, we have communities with a long history of working with textiles, whether making clothes or more refined embroidery work.’

Like many of us, Sam’s path to the work that she does today was quite circuitous. Born in Britain, she emigrated with her family to Australia at the age of eight. Her mother was a milliner and dressmaker and her grandmother, a major influence, was both a seamstress and worked on one of the first computers, soldering the leads, a foreshadowing of the two great interests of Sam’s creative life.

‘I don’t remember not sewing,’ says Sam. ‘My Gran taught me to crochet in the back of the car, I always embroidered in front of the TV.’



Rainbow Dragon



Rainbow Dragon Detail

When the time came to leave school and decide on the next steps, Sam chose university over art college, though not for the usual career reasons. "I was incredibly shy at that time, and, while art college application involved an extensive one-to-one interview, this was not a requirement for the university. So, university it was!"

At the end of her degree course in Geography, she started working with her professor, a leading thinker in the then rapidly evolving field of computer sciences and their application to demographics. She worked on using computer technology to harness and share census data in an understandable and useful form. Integral to this was the development of the first use of CD for data storage and sharing, where her professor led the world.

An assignment to do similar work on the British census brought her back to England. Working in Cambridge, she began to develop and lead a design team, looking at the best ways to capture and communicate information. This work led to her joining Abbey Road Studios, where she pioneered putting video onto cd-rom, which led to the launch of the first music video on dvd, Queen's Greatest Flicks (not, perhaps, a title that would mean anything to readers under 50 – ask your parents!).

This work re-awakened Sam's interest in applied art in general, and she signed up for a foundation course at High Wycombe. Though this was rather interrupted by the birth of her son, Jack, she came out with a focus on constructed textiles, combining embroidery, by hand and machine, with the three-dimensional, often using found or waste objects.

Looking at Sam's work today, one can easily see the influence of a life by the sea in Australia, with the shapes, colours and textures of underwater life mingling with reference to the many extraordinary Australian plants and beasts.

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Stitch Club Summer Workshop

In 2007, Sam bought into the Stitch Club franchise, and still runs sessions for students from eight years old to adulthood. She gets tremendous pleasure from watching as people pursue their own interests and memories in their work in a calm, supportive and non-competitive environment, using the treasure trove of samples and materials that Sam has accumulated in her well-equipped studio. She also runs one-to-one and family sessions. 'It's a great antidote to school,' she explains. 'Here, you can experiment,

go off-piste, make mistakes and learn from them. It's not about being better, or top, it's about exploring and creating something that is yours.'

Alongside this, Sam volunteers with Fine Cell Work, an organisation that works with prisoners and the recently released, teaching high quality needlework skills. These have both a therapeutic effect through the calm and concentration the work engenders, and also offer the opportunity for income. Sam has also developed workshops for those who are emotionally or behaviourally challenged, where the work's focus, unforced socialising and the satisfaction in the end result can deliver great benefits. This approach has been particularly effective with children excluded from schools.

And, of course, there is Sam's own work. Her intriguing constructed textiles can currently be seen in exhibitions in Chichester, Brighton and the White Cube at Harrow Arts Centre.

'It's about making things, expressing your view of the world and how we fit into and relate to it.'

We all need some of that.

Find out more about Sam Harvey and her work at samantha-harvey.com, and about Stitch Club at stitch.club

You can also find out more about Fine Cell Work and see the beautiful products that they have for sale at finecellwork.co.uk



Sam's piece Dionaea

NEWS FROM HEATH ROBINSON MUSEUM

A grotesque moment

After the success of Uncle Lubin, Heath Robinson was commissioned to illustrate an edition of Rabelais' work. Acidic, bawdy, grotesque, his illustrations for Rabelais explore a much darker and more dramatic theme than his children's stories. While studying at the Royal Academy Schools, WHR had purchased a set of Goya's *Los Caprichos*, experimental etchings portraying beasts, scoundrels and a society in ruins. It is clear that Goya's powerful, satirical style really inspired him on this commission. Goya's work is displayed alongside Heath Robinson's in the exhibition, making a powerful and impactful show.



Triboulet

The exhibition runs until Jan 7th.

Suffragette, Illustrator and Toymaker

Rabelais will be followed by a rather gentler exhibition, celebrating Mary Vermuyden Wheelhouse (1868 – 1947): British illustrator, toymaker and campaigner for women's suffrage. Wheelhouse is an artist who, in spite of her significant contributions to the history of British art, has perhaps never received the recognition she deserves. Despite a career illustrating books, crafting toys for Liberty and Harrods, and promoting the work of her fellow women artists, Wheelhouse's work has never been shown in a solo exhibition.

Familiar with both the paintbrush and the placard, Wheelhouse was a dedicated suffragette. She helped found the Artists' Suffrage League and exhibited with the Women's International Art Club for many years, and was a tireless supporter of women artists, writers and crafters. This exhibition displays her vivid and detailed illustrations, as well as the wooden 'Pomona' toys that she created with fellow artist and suffragette campaigner Louise Jacobs.

Events coming up

There's plenty coming up with *Coffee and Crafts*, our monthly craft taster sessions for adults. These are suitable for beginners and improvers alike, and great to buy a ticket as a gift from someone.:

Thursday, Nov 23rd 10am – 12. Sew and glue your own textile seasonal ornaments or tree hangings with Sam 'Stitch' Harvey.



Thursday, Dec 7th 7pm – 9pm. A special evening of fun Cocktails and Crafts, includes prosecco and nibbles, to make your own Christmas wreaths.

Then get creative and craft your way out of those winter blues:

Monday, Jan 22nd 12:30 - 2:30pm. Introduction to lino-print making.

Friday, Feb 23rd 10am to 12am. Introduction to botanical watercolours.

And, on **Sat, Dec 23rd**, 11 – 3 (last start time 2:30pm), fun for all the family - our annual children's Christmas trail and quiz around the park with a small present for all the kids.



Help needed

We really do need more volunteers, particularly with school sessions (pretty seasonal - very busy in spring), holiday arts and craft activities for kids (every school holiday).

We also need regular help stewarding in the museum.

We would also be interested in talking to retired or part time experienced art teachers to help with new classes.

Maker's Art

The Maker's Art is a collection of contemporary designer makers' work on sale at the Heath Robinson Museum shop. For the past seven years the shop has showcased beautiful ceramics, jewellery, textiles, wood, glass, paper, felt, and cork. Most participating craftspeople are locally based.

From mid-October until mid-April 2024 the shop will stock the work of Stephen Myers, a glass artist who etches text and natural forms onto vintage glass.

Alongside him will be jewellery from the SILVERSHED Collective: Lynne Bernstein, Alison Brown, Gail Newman, and Vanda Parkinson. These four silversmiths handmade original and imaginative silver pieces, sometimes adding Perspex, enamel, or semi-precious stones.

Do come and check out the new ranges, for gifts to others or to yourself.



Pendants by Alison Brown



Decanter by Stephen Myers



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THE ODDFELLOWS ARMS

The Oddfellows Arms in Waxwell Lane, is one of just two surviving traditional pubs in Pinner. In the nineteenth century a pub was somewhere fairly close to home where people, mostly men, could have some alcohol and meet and chat with their neighbours. The average labourer's home was small and crowded, with little room to chat to neighbours, but perhaps the pub's greatest attraction for men was as a temporary escape from the home, away from the noisy demanding children and the stressed wife.

When the Oddfellows Arms opened in 1853 there were already nine other pubs or beer-houses in Pinner. Seven were either in, or close to, the High Street, serving the heart of Pinner, whilst two, The Bell and The Starling, were close to the junction of the road into Pinner, now Elm Park Road, and Uxbridge Road, which was part of the through route from Edgware Road to Ruislip and beyond. These two, whilst serving the scatter of people living nearby, would probably have caught some passing trade from travellers and coaches. Two pubs built after The Oddfellows Arms also served outlying parts. The Railway, opened in 1854, was part of the new, mid-nineteenth century neighbourhood called Woodridings, which is now Hatch End, while The Letchford Arms, opened in the 1860s, served the cottages at the original tiny Hatch End cluster near the top of Headstone Lane, now opposite Hatch End High School.



P Saunders Collection

Oddfellows c. 1860

The Oddfellows Arms arose in a newly developing extension of Pinner itself, focused upon Waxwell Lane, where the old houses - Orchard Cottage, Bee Cottage and cottages behind the Manor House had already been subdivided to their limits. It was becoming something of a honeypot for local builders, and Thomas Ellement and the Oddfellows were the most instrumental in its development.

So, who were the Oddfellows? The Manchester Unity and Independent Order of Oddfellows, to use its full name, was basically a Friendly Society, a benevolent group whose members contributed to a general fund upon which a member could draw in times of sickness or bereavement. In those days membership of such a society was usually the only way to obtain such assurance outside the immediate family. The MUIOOF was a nation-wide society, run along the lines of the Freemasons, and the Pinner branch - the Loyal British Queen Lodge of Pinner No.3861 - was set up in 1845 by Pinner tradesmen, including Thomas Ellement. The Lodge met initially at the Queen's Head, whose licensee, Harry Mayo, was treasurer of the society, then at the National School, situated in what is now Bridge Street Gardens, before moving to an upper room at The Oddfellows Arms itself in 1861. The doorway to that upper room had a peephole, to allow identification of those

entering for meetings. By 1866 the Lodge had its own Lodge Room at No. 31 Waxwell Lane.

Thomas Ellement, born in Pinner, was a carpenter and joiner by trade, like his grandfather, another Thomas. He was a founder-member of the Pinner branch of the MUIOOF in 1845, one of its most active and respected members, and seldom out of some sort of office in the branch. In 1852 he set up as a builder on his own account, bought a plot of land in Waxwell Lane, and with a loan of £100 from the Oddfellows built himself the pub on the part nearest Bridge Street and named it after the society. In the same year that he built the pub, Ellement sold the adjoining unused piece of land to two brothers-in-law, local husbandmen living in Bridge Street, who built Unity Place (Nos. 4-14), also financed by a society loan.

Thomas opened the Oddfellows in 1853 with himself as the first licensee. He lived there with his family, including his father John, until 1864, and presumably spent most of his time pulling pints. At first, the Oddfellows Arms looked a little different from now. The brewer's name, Wortham and Co., was given by far the largest lettering on a sign that extended almost the width of the building. There was a tiny, enclosed garden at the front through which the main, the public, bar at the left was entered, the delivery hatch precluding a garden in front of the private bar to the right. Towards the end of the century, Ellement acquired an adjoining plot at the corner of Bridge Street upon which he built a stable. It survives as No. 60 Bridge Street and is used as a shop.



Interior today

Normally a pub would have two bars, a public and a private one. The private bar was the smaller and usually a little more comfortable than the other, and you might pay a little more for your drink. It was often favoured by unaccompanied ladies. The public bar was the larger, cheaper, and more simply furnished - sometimes a darts board or billiard table was available. During the 20th century there was a fashion for some pubs to rename the private bar as a saloon bar. Later in the century, the two bars were frequently thrown into one, as happened here at the Oddfellows Arms.

Charles Bilton took over as licensee in 1864, perhaps because Ellement wished to pursue his building interests.

In 1865, Ellement bought Bee Cottage and sold part of its land to the MUIOOF. On this the society erected Manchester Villas (Nos. 33 and 35) to bring income from rents, and a Lodge Room (No.31), probably engaging Ellement as the builder. No. 31 was a single-storeyed building containing only one room, which was used for Lodge meetings, and which still bears a whitened plaque incised 'British Queen Lodge Manchester Unity Oddfellows'. It was enlarged by an upper storey and converted into a house in about 1990. A board from the meeting room displaying the names of its chief officers was given to the new museum at West House.

The use of parts of the Society's title in the names of several buildings close by seems to make it a little enclave, something of a Pinner curiosity. However, the MUIOOF was a nationwide society, and a little probing reveals Oddfellows Arms and Unity Cottages/Place/Villas in several towns and villages throughout the land. Buildings using 'Manchester' may well escape notice. All these clusters seem to have been associated with the MUIOOF. In 2020, Pinner Local History Society received correspondence from Australia about a pair of Unity Cottages in Balmain, a suburb of Sydney, New South Wales. It turns out that Balmain has not only Unity Cottages, but a Unity Hotel, regarded as historic, and an Oddfellows Hall, also historic.

In 1868, Thomas Ellement sold Pinner's Oddfellows Arms to William Green, who lived at St Mary's Cottage, further along Waxwell Lane. In 1899, Green sold it to the Reverends Gordon and Thomas Sedgwick, who must surely have been members of the Sedgewick brewing family, because in that same year the supplying brewer changed from Mercer & Co., who had taken over from Wortham & Co. in 1875, to Sedgewick's of Watford. This brewery folded in 1923, and its competitor, Benskins of Watford, replaced it. Ownership has since been held by breweries, currently Heineken.



Waxwell lane oddfellows c1947

Sometime between 1896 and 1913, the Oddfellows Arms was enlarged by building over the garden and replacing it with a single-storey front extension incorporating a gabled porch before each bar entrance. From 1896 to 1906 the licensee was Frederick Gregory, sometime tenant of Pinner Hill Farm (whose tower still stands). Fred had five sons, four of whom became professional footballers, though well after Fred had left The Oddfellows. Their careers began in 1911 and resumed after World

War One. Val Gregory captained Wolverhampton Wanderers, the losing side in the 1921 Cup Final, whilst Fred Gregory junior, who captained Watford for three seasons, became licensee of The Victory from 1926 until his death in 1937.

A later licensee at the Oddfellows was Walter Rackliff, who died of Spanish Flu in 1916, whilst only in his mid-thirties, and whose widow Frances took over for a year or so. Their successor, Frederick Wolters, was there until 1941, and, in about 1921, the frontage was again altered to the one we see today, which extends across the whole building, except that the right-hand door was not then blocked. Not too long ago, one of the Ds in the pub's name on the upper wall was deliberately reversed.

There has been much publicity recently about the future of The Oddfellows Arms. Talking Shops has the latest update on that, elsewhere in this magazine.



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PINNER ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS LOCAL CHARITY

In March 2022, *The Villager* featured Harrow Cycle Hub, a charity founded during the pandemic to enable everyone in Harrow who wants to, to cycle. Pinner residents volunteering include Karl Howe of St Michael's Crescent and Ketan Mistry of Melrose Road. Pinner Councillor and Council Leader Paul Osborn is a Trustee. The Hub's volunteers teach people to cycle two-wheelers, but some people need more support.

Our first **Wheels for All** event in 2021 attracted 50 disabled people to try handcycles, tricycles and two-seaters. Two years on, Wheels for All is established at the former Harrow Civic Centre; more than 30 people attend Tuesday and Saturday morning sessions. Sarfaraz Sheikh, father of two young men with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, comments:

'I never imagined one of my sons would ever be cycling as he was very sceptical about anything moving under his control. After two sessions, he was up and running all by himself and has gained confidence beyond my expectation.'

What do participants say?

'I like it. It is great racing. I like to come every Tuesday. Good exercise for my knee.'

'It's good fun. You meet people. It keeps me fit, makes me feel happy. The volunteers are very good and helpful.'

'Cycling makes me feel good. It makes me more active. I'd like to learn/do more skills in the sessions.'

Shirin Saghir volunteers regularly. 'I'm really enjoying it, especially seeing how they have come up in the skills of cycling, braking, stopping, taking the instructions. They are a lovely bunch, I love helping them, having a chat with them while cycling.'

Adapted cycles don't come cheap, so the Pinner Association supported the Hub with a £1,000 donation towards a Tomcat Dragonfly, a three-wheeler for children and smaller adults, which has been a hit with riders. Julie Waller, Association Chair, visited to see the trike in action. She also tried piloting a transporter for wheelchair users and found it tricky!

'It was great to eventually get down to the Hub,' Julie said, 'and see the wonderful work that all of the volunteers do.'

We'd like to thank the Pinner Association very much for their donation. If you'd like to volunteer, or help fund an adapted cycle, email wfa@harrowcyclehub.org

Veronica Chamberlain, Moss Lane resident and Chair, Harrow Cycle Hub
<https://www.harrowcyclehub.org>



WELCOMING WINTER GARDENING ADVICE FROM HARROW GARDEN CENTRE

With falling leaves and dipping temperatures, it's clear that winter is fast approaching. However, don't let the darker days discourage you from enjoying your garden this month. There are still plenty of tasks that can be completed to ensure the garden is in top shape for the new year. Additionally, take advantage of any sunny and crisp days to start planning for next year. To help you out, we've compiled a guide to the essential November garden jobs.



Planning for next year

Now is the perfect time to plant for next year's garden, ensuring a vibrant and delightful display. During this season, winter bedding plants are an excellent choice to add a pop of colour while the rest of the garden slows down. Late bloomers like pansies, Bellis, polyanthus, and violas are easy to grow and would look great in one of our many containers available in-store.

November is the ideal month to plant tulips. Planting flower bulbs at this time reduces the risk of them being affected by viruses and allows them to establish themselves before frosts arrive. You can also get ahead for the new season by sowing sweet peas now and storing them on a porch, cold frame, or unheated greenhouse until spring.

Fruit trees like apples and pears and fruit bushes can also be planted in the garden in November. When they arrive, soak their bare roots in a bucket of water for about thirty minutes before planting them in the ground or container. Ornamental trees, hardy annuals, flowering shrubs, and hedges can also be planted now to establish their root balls and start their journey for the new season.

For those who have a vegetable patch, there's still time to sow produce like spring onions, winter greens, radishes, spinach, broad beans, brussels sprouts, Jerusalem artichokes, and first peas. Additionally, onions, shallots, and garlic can be planted now and will overwinter, providing a flavourful start to your garden come spring.

Protect your plants



It is important to protect sensitive plants from frosts and wind damage as the weather turns colder. Place the most cold-sensitive plants in the centre of the cluster so they receive a layer of protection from the hardier plants. Place the containers into a sheltered position, and group them in a cluster. This will also help to protect your plants from pests and diseases.

In the garden, horticultural fleece jackets offer the best protection against frosts and pests. November can also be a notoriously wet month so it's advisable to raise containers off the ground with pot feet to avoid waterlogging.

You can also apply a layer of mulch around the plant's base in the ground. Mulch acts as an excellent insulator, regulating soil temperature and moisture levels. Additionally, it helps suppress weed growth. Use organic materials such as straw, shredded leaves, or wood chips for effective mulching.



Leaf mould

Maintenance

Performing basic Autumn lawn care tasks such as aerating, seeding, and fertilising is crucial to achieve a vibrant green lawn in the spring.

In November, it is important to remove fallen leaves from your garden to prevent them from decomposing and suffocating your lawn. These leaves can be incredibly valuable and can be transformed into leaf mould or organic matter, which serves as a beneficial soil enhancer. Simply add them to your compost heap to provide nourishment for your plants.

Don't forget to trim your existing garden trees and shrubs during this time. Tidy up borders, trim herbaceous stems, and clear away any remains of annual plants that have withered. By removing dead or damaged branches, you help promote healthy growth and shape your plants. Remember to sterilise your pruning tools to prevent the spread of diseases among your plants.

Additionally, it is an excellent time of year to declutter your greenhouse and ensure your essential garden tools are in top condition for the coming season. Remember to oil, clean, and sharpen your tools for optimal performance.

Preparing your soil during winter is crucial for a successful growing season. Add organic matter, such as compost or well-rotted manure, to improve soil structure and fertility. Turning the soil gently helps aerate it and allows nutrients to penetrate deeper. Remember to check the pH levels and amend accordingly to ensure optimal growing conditions.

Wildlife

To support garden birds throughout the winter season, it is crucial to supply them with sustenance and shelter. By installing bird feeders containing bird seed, suet, nuts, and sunflower hearts, you can provide them with the necessary energy and nutrients to endure the colder months. Additionally, maintaining a readily available water source in your garden, such as replenishing water baths daily, is vital for birds to drink and bathe.

Consider leaving a portion of your garden untouched with log piles and long grass, allowing beneficial insects and small mammals to find refuge during the winter months.

Here at British Garden Centres, we strongly believe that winter presents an opportunity to perform essential tasks that will ensure its health and beauty in the seasons to come. By following these winter gardening tips, you'll set the stage for a thriving garden that will reward you with abundance and beauty throughout the year.



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SPECIAL OFFER

To all readers of The Villager

The team at Harrow Garden Centre, Headstone Lane, HA2 6NB have put together an expert talk for us. Do come and join us.

A GARDEN FOR ALL SEASONS

How to ensure that you have colour and structure throughout the year

There will be a Q&A session and refreshments after the talk.

Thursday, Jan 25th - 10.30

Everyone who attends will receive a **20%** voucher to spend at the Garden Centre on the day.

Space is limited, so please reserve your place by contacting editor@pinnerassociation.co.uk or call 020 8868 1174.

THE 1ST HATCH END SCOUT GROUP (1922-2022)

On 1 August 1907, 20 boys gathered to join the first experimental Scout camp on Brownsea Island, in Poole Harbour in Dorset. Robert Baden-Powell's vision was that by bringing young people from different backgrounds together, he hoped to bridge gaps in society and give everyone the opportunity to learn new skills. The Scouting Movement now has over twenty-five million members worldwide, but it remains true to Baden-Powell's vision to support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

By 1922, when the first world census of Scouting took place, there were one million Scouts from 31 countries. Contributing to those numbers was the newly created 1st Hatch End Scout Group. Much has changed in the one hundred years since 1st Hatch End was founded, but, thanks to the dedication and hard work of successive bands of volunteers, four generations of young people in Hatch End have been able to enjoy the benefits of Scouting.

In 2022, we marked the centenary of our Group with a series of events.

Time Capsule Dig

On May 21st, 2000, Cubs from 1st Hatch End Scout Group buried a time capsule in the Sundial Garden outside Hatch End Arts Centre. It contained items to represent the millennium,



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In attendance: Robin Grant, Jane Cohen, Kumail Merali

as well as their lives as 8–10-year-olds at that time, and included a Year 2000 Scout Badge, a 1990s Cub t-shirt, a Pokémon card and a poster for the latest James Bond movie.

Originally the idea was to dig the capsule up in 2025 but, with 2022 being our centenary year, we thought it would be fitting to open it in our centenary year. So, on May 12th, 2022, David Poole, Group Scout Leader, welcomed over 50 past and present members and friends of the group, who had gathered at the Sundial Garden in eager anticipation of the dig. Could we find it? Would the items be intact?

At 11:30, with the sun shining, the Cubs set to work with their spades, and, after a few nervous moments, they pulled the capsule from the ground. So far, so good, but the next step was to open it. No-one could quite remember how it had been sealed, but it definitely resisted all attempts to unscrew the top. Eventually, scouting skills came into play and with the help of a handy penknife, Simon Rutstein, Cub Leader, broke through the lid and started to reveal the contents. It's probably fair to say that some of the contents had stood the test of time better than others. The Scout badge was pristine but some of the paper-based items had not fared so well.

The Cubs still had more work to do. They had prepared another time capsule representing the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and 1st Hatch End Scout Group's centenary anniversary. As well as current newspaper articles, this one includes a 1st Hatch End centenary scarf, Platinum Jubilee badge and letters intended for the Cubs of 2047, when it is hoped the time capsule will next be revealed. A bit more digging, and the new time capsule was lowered into the ground.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon

Alongside much of the country, on Friday, June 2nd, 2022, members of 1st Hatch End Scout Group supported the ceremonial lighting of Harrow's Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon. We were delighted to provide a guard of honour for the Mayoral party arriving on site, and watched with great pride as Milly Dale Mahon, one of our Explorers, carried out her first duty during her year as Harrow Mayor's Scout by helping then Mayor Cllr. Janet Mote light the beacon.



Centenary Group Camp

On July 1st, 2022, 1st Hatch End Scout Group gathered at Gilwell Park, the home of Scouting in the UK, for our Centenary Group Camp. This is the highlight of the Scouting year for many of us. It is the one time in the year when young people from Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers get together with all the Leaders and a host of active parent-helpers to spend a weekend of fun, food and laughter. This year was extra special, as we invited past members to join us to help celebrate our centenary. The undoubted highlight of the weekend was the campfire on Saturday night, when 90 of us camped out.

For most of the Beavers and their parents, this would have been their first experience of a scouting campfire, but we do hope it will not be their last. Gordon Williams, who was

Scout Master from 1963 until 1971, declared the campfire open. We then had a mix of traditional and modern scouting songs, sketches and yells to the delight of those in the know and perhaps slight confusion to people experiencing them for the first time!

Scouting skills were on display all weekend. The Explorers erected a pioneering flagpole and some of our guests helped out with fire-lighting and axe skills for the Scouts. We also made good use of the extensive grounds at Gilwell for a group 'wide game' and a 'hike to the pole', a meridian line marker.



Centenary Weekend

Saturday, Oct 8th was a big day in our centenary celebrations.

We started the day with a litter pick, in partnership with the Hatch End Association. There was a fantastic turn out with 50 litter pickers. At least 50 bags of rubbish were cleared from an area between Morrisons, St Thomas Drive and Shaftesbury playing fields. As always, it is sad that people drop litter in the first place but lovely to have such great support, with many litter pickers joining us at St Anselm's church for a well-earned cuppa afterwards.

Later in the day, members past and present gathered in Hatch End Broadway to unveil a new Elm tree, planted to celebrate 100 years of 1st Hatch End. The new tree is on the corner of Uxbridge Road and Wellington Road and a couple of trees down from the Elm tree planted to commemorate the 90-year anniversary of the Group. Gordon Williams, Ayaan Soneji and Zane de Silva carried out the ceremonial planting. Gordon is the oldest member and has been instrumental in arranging many of the celebrations to mark our centenary year. Ayaan and Zane are two of our youngest Beavers and this collaboration between oldest and youngest gives such a lovely symbol of continuity. As we left, Ayaan asked me if we would be planting another tree in 10 years' time.

In the evening, the celebrations continued with a meal in the Elliott Hall attended by over 100 people. We had many current and past members of 1st Hatch End and a special appearance from Cllr Janet Mote, Mayor of Harrow. Janet presented Gordon Williams with a Long service Certificate (70 years associated with the Group) and David Poole announced, much to Gordon's surprise, that he was to become the Group's 1st President, an honour he very much appreciated.

As well as fine food and telling of tall tales, people had the chance to write something in a memory book to mark the occasion.

The Group has always been an 'open' Group, in that it is independent from any religious or secular organisation and is therefore open for membership to young people from all walks of life.

Compiled by David Poole (Current Group Scout Leader) and Gordon Williams (2nd Scoutmaster 1963 – 1971)

BOOK REVIEWS

FILTHY RICH BY MANOJ RAITHATHA

Manoj Raithatha is the Minister at the Pinner Baptist Church in Paines Lane. His route to that post is, however, most unusual, and his recently updated book *Filthy Rich*, charts that journey in sometimes astonishing detail.

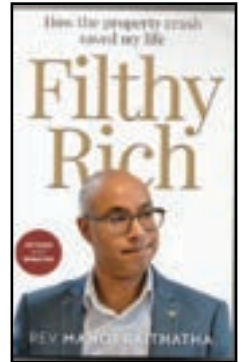
The clue is in the subtitle, 'How the property crash saved my life'. For many years, Manoj pursued wealth quite ruthlessly through often rather speculative dealings in the property market. A burning need for success, with all its trappings, driven by family financial problems, dominated his thoughts, until it all fell apart in the 2008 financial crisis. Born a Hindu, he had experienced Christianity at school in Kenya but, despite early interest, had turned his back on it. It was only after the crash that he found a route to God and committed to a life of Christian service.

In telling his story, Manoj is unsparing about his own behaviour and attitudes. One gets the sense that, even now, he is sometimes unimpressed by himself, crediting many, especially his remarkable wife, Maria, for his ability to turn his life around and refocus.

Many may take issue with some of his assumptions about God's interventions into his life; I certainly raised an eyebrow at the suggestion that God had persuaded his creditors to be lenient. But Manoj is a sincere and experienced writer – he wrote a BAFTA-award winning television series in earlier days – and the book is a revealing and involving read.

Cicero

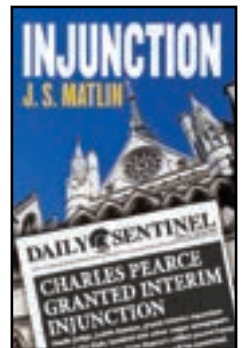
Filthy Rich can be bought at instantapostle.com/books or amazon.co.uk.



INJUNCTION by JOHN MATLIN

News just in of a new book by Pinner resident Dr John Matlin. His Driscoll Quartet novels told the story of journalist, David Driscoll, and the ups and downs of the American newspaper and political world from the 1920s to the 1960s.

His latest, *Injunction*, is set in the UK in current times and examines the right to privacy and the legal moves needed to stop 'door-stepping' by a national newspaper. The story intertwines the rise of an uneducated East End boy to fortune at Lloyd's of London, and the scandals of the 1980s insurance world, with the desire of a popular novelist to maintain his privacy. Newspaper moguls are determined to find and expose the truth of his life, whatever the cost.



For a signed copy of the book, price £15.00, go to <http://jspublishing.biz> or email John direct at dearjasm@uwclub.net.



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PINN MEDICAL CENTRE PATIENTS' ASSOCIATION

Registered with the Charities Commission, we are a small charity set up primarily for patients of the Pinn Medical Centre. We are aligned with the surgery but are separate from its organisation and decision-making. We aim to represent the Patient Voice to the Partners at the surgery and help to make what they do even more effective and even more impactful, if that is possible – the Pinn after all has several times been judged to be outstanding by formal inspection.

Our work has two main areas of focus – to help the doctors understand the impact their decisions may have upon the community and to support the patients by appropriately interceding on their behalf, and to provide services, offer support, practical help and try to keep patients informed as best we can.

We have recently boosted our Board of Trustees. Over 130 people expressed an interest in becoming a Trustee at the PMCPA, 30 applicants were shortlisted and 15 people interviewed. The field was of exceptional quality, with many serving clinical professionals and several others of great skill and wide experience included within the shortlisted group. It was a difficult task for the Selection Panel.

Eight interviewees were appointed, and the AGM unanimously accepted their candidature. The new Trustees will each undertake a leadership role on the Board, and each will also serve as an assistant in another area of responsibility. In this way, a team approach will develop and the work of the PMCPA will enjoy a strong philosophy of togetherness by sharing tasks and developing a good degree of shared knowledge.

We are hoping to add to our list of services as the work of the Board of Trustees develops.

Introducing

Jasmine Desai

Jasmine is an occupational therapist and most recently the Deputy Director of Therapies for a local NHS trust. Her organisational, leadership and communication skills were instrumental in the management of large teams of therapists across three hospitals. Jasmine leads on the Yoga and Mobility Groups

Pauline (Polly) Angel

Polly has worked in the NHS for over 40 years, first at The Middlesex Hospital, (now UCLH), and the last 18 years at Barnet Hospital, part of the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust. She is a clinical scientist in Clinical Biochemistry, also known as Chemical Pathology. Her main interest is the ever-increasing area of Point of Care (POCT) in primary and secondary care. Pauline is Secretary and leads on the Pinn Piper newsletter.

Hema Khimasia

A Chartered Accountant by profession and for the last 25 years specialising in Corporate Tax, Hema has experience of working with large multi-national companies. In recent years, she has worked with various charities that specialise in helping the underprivileged out of poverty and supporting children's education. Hema leads on the Carers' Café.



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Binoy Dharsi

Binoy studied Business, Finance and Economics at the University of East Anglia and moved into a career within the electricity industry in 1997. Binoy is experienced in helping to manage difficulties in business that sometimes require a tribunal approach in reconciling commercial disputes. Binoy leads on Website Management with Susana.

Raj Bhatti

Raj has worked in the Pharmaceutical Industry for over 25 years and has led and managed teams across Europe as well as India, supplying clinical trial drugs and life-saving medications. Raj is Membership Secretary.

Susana Perez Rodriguez

Susana has 15 years of experience in the management of technology and digital projects in large and complex organisations such as Transport for London (TfL) and Imperial War Museums, where she has successfully led digital projects and taken part in larger scale digital transformation programmes. She specialises in helping organisations to improve the services they provide to their customers, and to achieve better business results through the adoption of digital technologies and leads for us on Website Management with Binoy and on Patient Education.

Sangeeta Basson

Sangeeta is a qualified accountant with over ten years of experience in both the corporate and charity sectors. In recent years she has focused on leading finance and strategic projects for international healthcare charities. Sangeeta leads on Computer Skills.

Jano Sathasivam

Jano is a Management Consultant and delivers business solutions to clients in the areas of finance transformation, business advisory and process enhancement, change management, controls, and compliance. He is a qualified Chartered / Chartered Management Accountant with an MBA. Jano leads on Fundraising.

Alongside them Kevin Mahon is Chair and leads on Patient Transport, Phillip Snell is Vice-Chair and Anita Manek is Treasurer.

PMCPA have, for a long time now, provided a transport service to our patients. And again, for some years we have provided a support group for Carers. Both these initiatives are excellent and provide a really vital function for those in need. Further to these, we have recently added a Computer Class (or Digital Inclusion to give its more correct title!) and a Mobility Group. Shortly to be launched are a Yoga Group and a Walking Group.

There are other ideas we are exploring – support for parents with young children, parents of Downs Syndrome children, diabetes, HIV, women’s wellbeing, men’s wellbeing, shopping, and befriending. If you have an idea for a support group, please let me know.

Should you be interested in registering for any of the support groups mentioned as a helper or as someone who would benefit for that help, please contact me.

Kevin Mahon – Chair PMCPA

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HARROW FOODBANK

Two years ago, when I last visited the Harrow Foodbank, every shelf was full of packets and tins of all shapes and sizes. This month, when I returned, there were plenty of gaps.

The soaring cost of living means more and more people are being forced to use foodbanks. The cost-of-living crisis has, of course, affected Harrow Foodbank. Need has increased to a record level, up 65% from Apr 2022 to Mar 2023. More people are needing assistance more often, and, at the same time, their supporters are not able to give as much as they used to. Up to last year, the Harrow Foodbank occasionally had surplus stock that they would redistribute to other Trussell Trust London Foodbanks and to other charities. The crisis has led to a shortfall in essential items at the foodbank, who then have to buy stock to make up the shortfall. As from this June, the foodbank is reliant on financial contributions, alongside the items that people donate, to buy the essential items that are in short supply.



Fortunately, thus far, there has been support from local organisations including the Pinner Music Festival and many churches, as well as generous individual donations. But Chonde (Project Manager) is under no illusions that the problem will disappear soon. It is a difficult situation, but the team are not daunted. At Tesco in Pinner Green and Station Road, Harrow, Asda in South Ruislip and Waitrose at both Harrow Weald and South Harrow,

there are collection points, where people can drop off their donation. In Pinner itself, there is a box just inside the Parish Church at the top of the High Street, where donations can be left.

Those who need support can get vouchers from a range of organisations, including Citizen's



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Advice Bureau (CAB), local schools and doctors' surgeries. Harrow Foodbank work with frontline professionals, who identify people in need of support, and give them a foodbank voucher. Clients then take their voucher to any one of four distribution centres where it can be redeemed for three days' emergency food, or vulnerable clients can redeem their voucher via the direct delivery service. It is a very well-run system with a lot of hard-working volunteers keeping everything moving. These volunteers have recently been trained by CAB to offer advice to clients on issues of benefits, homelessness, budgeting and to point them to the right organisation for further help.

There is also a partnership with Fairshare, to collect surplus stock from Waitrose that is nearing its sell-by date and would otherwise be thrown away. Additionally, the foodbank is signed up with Neighbourly, to collect surplus food from Sainsbury's in Stanmore and also has a similar arrangement with the local bakery Wenzel's. In this way, the Harrow Foodbank is encouraging surplus food providers to become 'zero waste' and providing businesses with the opportunity to create a positive social impact.



As Christmas approaches, the Foodbank team work hard to ensure that every child, whose parent or carer accesses the foodbank, has something to enjoy. Many people donate wrapped presents, labelled with an age and gender, and these are distributed, with gifts of chocolate and similar treats in December.

It is a sad indictment that these dedicated organisations need to exist at all and thank goodness they do. But they are dependent on our active support. Each month, Harrow Foodbank publishes a shopping list of the food items and supplies that they need (and those that they do not need). If you can help them, go to harrow.foodbank.org.uk/give-help and click on the Donate food button to check what is needed. You can then leave your donation at any of the supermarkets where there is a Harrow Foodbank collection point, at their warehouse, or at Pinner Parish Church. Monetary donations are welcomed too; go to harrow.foodbank.org.uk/give-help and click on the donate money.



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For full details of the Churches; Services (in person and online) and activities for all ages, please visit the PAC website www.pinnerchurches.org.uk, where you can access the website for each Church.

Details of the PAC Christmas Day Lunch are available on the PAC website.

Cannon Lane Methodist Church; Pinner Methodist Church;
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TALKING SHOPS

We start this time in Bishop's Walk, developed in the 1970s for the new Bishop's supermarket which, some years later, morphed into Budgens. If there's anyone out there who worked in either, please do get in touch (information@pinnerassociation.co.uk)



M&S now open!

In 1987 it became the first food-only M&S store in the whole of the United Kingdom. Isn't it amazing that the sign in Love Lane heralding its opening, is still standing more than 36 years later?

They now trade as **M&S FOODHALL**, where the current manager, Richard, has been at the helm for the last three and a half years. He tells us that recent improvements include the resurfacing of the car park (*nothing to do with us awarding them Pothole of the Month last time, I'm sure - Ed*), the expansion of self-checkouts and the introduction of 'Click & Collect Pick up & Returns' – one of the few M&S food stores to have this facility.

Another small change across the chain: the ready-prepared Chicken Kiev, introduced in 1979, has recently been rebranded as Chicken Kyiv – it's great to see M&S's support for Ukraine. But the biggest selling line is fresh fruit – who knew that the people of Pinner are so healthy?

Crossing over the River Pinn, we come to **Rock Paper Scissors**, hairdresser and barber run by Anand Vad who rents out chairs to a variety of hairdressers, stylists and barbers. The lights aren't always on (presumably to trim running costs) but the formula seems to work well.

Passion Boutique has been in Bishop's Walk since 2013 having started life in the High Street in 2007. Owner Chandi Lakharni worked in the ladies' fashion department at Harrods for 20 years. A wide range of fashionable but affordable Italian items are stocked, all sourced from a single factory by Lake Garda. Chandi has a very loyal customer base and she estimates that 60% of sales are dresses. So, next time your wardrobe needs a refresh, pop down to Passion Boutique. She is one of the rare shopkeepers who are keen to take cash payments. At the back of the shop Samia operates an alterations service for ladies', men's and children's clothes.



Passion

Now, if you too fancy a trip to Lake Garda, pop along to **B away**, who are a local, service-orientated travel agent and tour operator. They opened in the High Street in 2008 and have been in Bishops Walk for the last ten years. The company was founded in 2001 by MD Jeremy Scott, other key team members being Paul & Carolyn, who are based in Pinner. They specialise in tailor-made holidays for the independent traveller with particular emphasis on cruises. B away have developed excellent relationships across the industry, allowing them to offer excellent value on luxury cruises and hotels.



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Hot on the heels of the air traffic control shambles in August and other travel nightmares, Jeremy commented, “While many people now seem to think they are all travel agents, we still know we can offer more flexibility and better value than most online alternatives. We are always here when disruption occurs to travel arrangements, irrespective of opening hours.” Now there’s a challenge!

The final occupier in Bishop’s Walk is **Crazy Goat** who back onto B away’s shop. Manager Millie, ably supported by Abbi and Sasha, serve coffees, teas, smoothies, milkshakes, cold drinks as well as pastries, cakes and toasties. You must pay a visit, if only to discover the origin of its slightly crazy name!

Moving onto the High Street, the old Hand in Hand wine bar has been taken over by neighbours Chin Chin under the name **CO YO CHO**, and will offer wine and small plates. We’ll give it a thorough road test over the Christmas period and report back!

Further down, we were promised that the old **Tummies/Victory** would be opening as a Sri Lankan restaurant. That hasn’t materialised so it’s ‘so long’ (or should that be Ceylon) to them! (Co-author of Talking Shops, Max, asks me to point out that he carries no responsibility for that joke; it was all the other writer Steve – Ed.) Opposite, the freehold of the old **Friends** restaurant is being marketed. Let’s hope we have news of a new owner and occupier in the next issue.

Next up, imagine three good friends - an IT professional in banking, a Chartered Accountant and a freight forwarder - all with a shared love of food, pooling their resources to open a fine new restaurant in Pinner. Well, this is exactly what Sanjay and his chums have done at 13 High St. Gone are the darkened windows of the old Matsya and up has sprung Awadh. After a full refit of the restaurant and kitchen, the 70 covers sit in an airy, well-lit space, the wall murals, floor covering and tables reflecting the architecture of the **Awadh** region of Northern India with its use of light-coloured sandstone and marble.

The region is also well-known for its fine cuisine especially their meat dishes (tenderised by marination in yogurt and blends of spices, so that it melts in your mouth) as well as numerous vegetarian options. That’s what is being served at Awadh – please give it a try and lend your support to three bold entrepreneurs.

Almost opposite we find the dog groomers, **Spoilt Rotten**. Despite calling in a few times we’ve had no luck in meeting owner Natasha who spends much of her time in Devon apparently. Her young enthusiastic team always seem busy with some lucky pooch being pampered in the salon at the back of the shop.

It’s good to see a thriving enterprise in this stretch of the High St, where nearby long-



Awadh



Awadh interior

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Spotted recently in the High Street





term vacancies at Nos. 10 & 12 still look sorry for themselves, although, at No. 58 at the top, we are told by Mr Patel, the boss at **KPSR**, that his contractor has been fitting out the old L'Orient restaurant (or Hill Top Wine Bar for older readers) for his chartered accountancy business. Hopefully, if his numbers are adding up, he's up and running by the time you read this.

In Bridge Street, **Mobile Connect** is a niche business for our modern times and provides a useful service for those of us who need assistance with all things IT. Owner Mohammed opened his shop at 61 Bridge St eight years ago with manager Ahmed dealing with sales, while whizz technician Raza works his magic on fixing phones, laptops and iPads. Open 10.00 am to 6.00pm everyday (till 4.00 pm on Sundays) they sell new and refurbished IT devices and accessories, as well as offering a handy photocopying service.



In this day and age of people being mugged for their phones, it's reassuring to know that all their stock is acquired through regulated channels, where the all-important unique 15 digit IMEI number has been checked and approved, ensuring the item is not on the stolen list. Disappointingly, that stands for International Mobile Equipment Identity.... not 'Is My Equipment Illegal', but it amounts to the same thing, I suppose.

Moving on to 10 Bridge St, we find **Photo Place**, who provide a wide-ranging service for all things photographic – adapting old 8mm ciné film to dvd, frames, prints on aprons, ashtrays or mugs and much more. Having opened in 2002 under the Kodak banner, the unit was rebranded in 2021 as Photo Place.

The maestro of all the technology is manager Iresh, who joined in 2012 and divides his time between Pinner and their branch in Gloucester Road tube station. Having qualified as a computer IT engineer from the University of Sunderland, Iresh has combined his skills with his hobby of photography to forge a career in retail, although somewhat depressingly his hobby is on hold for the time being, following the loss of all his expensive equipment, when his car was stolen during Covid.

The industry has changed dramatically in recent years with the advent of digital photography. Kodak closed their factory in Harrow, so supplies of chemicals, paper and film come in from Germany and the US, which inevitably increases prices. Recently, though, Iresh has noticed a marked increase in the younger generation taking an interest in traditional photography, using cameras and film and the shop's dark room and developing facilities. There is also a good trade in disposable cameras, popular with young children on school trips where digital cameras are not encouraged. These are also developed in the shop, and the cameras re-cycled, so there's no chance of your cherished photos being

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lost in the post (unlike the two reels of my honeymoon photos all those years ago. Still waiting...).

Staying in Red Lion Parade, we visit Rabika in **The Laser Clinic**. She's been open for nearly a year now and tells us the people of Pinner have been very welcoming and the business is doing well. She is qualified to the top level 7 in Aesthetics and her anti-ageing Botox and hair removal treatments are available to all genders. There is no invasive surgery involved and the modern equipment ensures that the treatments are pain free. Nevertheless, your intrepid reporter, always keen to carry out market research on your behalf, left the meeting in the same hirsute condition as he'd arrived as apparently hair removal laser treatment is not effective on grey hair. You learn something every day.

Rabika tells me she will give a **20% discount** to any new client coming in armed with a copy of *The Villager*.

The last public house to open in the village centre was the Hand in Hand, about fifty years ago, and the one before that was when Queen Victoria was on the throne. So, it's great to welcome **Three Wishes**, one of a chain of pubs in North West London, to the old Halifax unit at 32 Bridge Street. To ensure that they serve good quality beer, your two correspondents have tried out their pubs in North Harrow, Northwood Hills, Northwood and Eastcote. The verdict: exshellent! (*Note from editor: your expenses claim has been rejected*).

John Hayes, Portfolio Director of Three Wishes, tells us that all their pubs are different and aim to "keep the feel of the locality". To that end, the range of real ales, lagers, gins and spirits will evolve to meet the demands of the local punter. John assures us that pricing will be "competitive" and we certainly "won't be seeing London prices". As with all their outlets, a key part of their offering will be the screening of live sport with the occasional live music thrown in as well.

At the top of Bridge Street, **Bread of Life** has seen a few changes recently. Sri Lankan brothers, Steffan and Teddy, continue to run the bakery business, with a large part being wholesale. The third brother, Dinesh, has taken over running the café/restaurant with his French wife, Marion. With its épicerie, Bread of Life has become the French Corner of Pinner.

In addition to the café, which is open throughout the day, opening hours have been extended to Friday and Saturday evenings. Friday is family night with a focus on burgers, nachos and the odd Sri Lankan dish. Then on Saturday it's the grown-ups' turn, with the **French Lounge** specialising in charcuterie, a variety of French cheeses (a vegan alternative is available), wonderful crepes and, most important of all, fine French wine!



Further down Bridge St, it is sad to see that Oxfam has closed its doors. We will miss the happy browsing in there for everything from books to clothes to Moomin cards.

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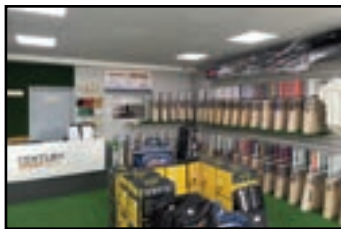
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Next door, the rumour mill has been grinding away overtime recently, with talk that either Travelodge or a hotel housing asylum seekers is moving into the upper parts of the old Foxtons/Harris & Hoole. However, we're assured by agents CBRE that this is not the case, and there will be flats on the upper floors (in accordance with the planning consent). So don't believe everything you hear in the pub or coffee shop or hairdresser or nail bar!

A better-founded rumour has reached us that **Caffe Nero** may have to vacate their popular coffee shop at 1 Love Lane as the landlord is proposing extensive building work. We're assured Caffe Nero will be grinding and brewing again when it's all finished.

We also have unconfirmed rumours that another coffee shop will be opening in the former **HSBC** bank on the corner of Love Lane and Bridge St. We calculate that would be the twelfth such establishment in the village, one for every morning and afternoon of the week, assuming you need to stay at home to detox on a Sunday.

Off now to Cannon Lane where we find two new traders to Pinner. At 88 Cannon Lane, Jagtar has taken over **the Post Office**. The shop, which trades as PSD Food & Wine, is run by her brother Raj, who tells us that new lines include Asian grocery and Pinner's largest collection of disposable vapes. It's also worth noting that the Post Office is open 7 days a week (9:00 to 12:00 on the weekend).



It's nice to welcome a new retailer, **Century Cricket** at 58 Cannon Lane. Mehul Patel started repairing his son Dev's cricket bat at the back of his shed at his home in Harrow during lockdown. Word spread and soon he was doing repairs for family and friends, who passed on the message. By the end of 2020, Mehul was able to give up his job in procurement at Northwick Park Hospital and Harrow Bat Repairs was launched. Mehul's wife, Shilpa, is a freelance graphic designer and soon she was helping with the branding. The result was the launch of their own brand, Century Bats.

Fast forward to September 2023 and the Century Cricket shop was opened, stocking over 400 bats (both Century and well-established brands such as SS), pads, gloves, helmets, bags, clothing, stumps, balls, boxes (no sniggering at the back) – in fact every cricket item you will ever need.

Mehul is busy in his workshop at the back, which also houses his knocking machine, which ensures that a new bat is ready in 45 minutes - much quicker than the hours of using a mallet when I was at school! Shilpa runs the front of house, while also continuing her graphic design business. Dev is known to help out, but his focus is on his promising cricket career with the Hertfordshire junior teams – obviously he uses a custom-made Century Bat! The repairs continue throughout the long winter months, and there's the indoor season to service, but the big Test will be next spring when the new season kicks off – Good Luck!



After the long trek to Cannon Lane, another quick detour to refuel. You may be forgiven for thinking that kebabs are either Turkish or Greek but welcome to Saeed at 10, Station Approach who, after a prolonged fitting out period, has opened **The Great British Kebab**.

Trading from midday to 10.00 pm, the friendly owner, Saeed, is delighted by the feedback he is getting from his customers. His house-prepared chicken has proved exceptionally popular. Whilst customers are free to walk in and order, much of his business is coming via Uber Eats. You need only to download a QR code on your phone, place your order and your sizzling kebab will be with you before you can say "Raza at Mobile Direct". (Like me, you may have to ask him to download the QR code in the first place!) If we order enough not only will Saeed be delighted but we will also be keeping the scooter delivery drivers busy, thus unclogging the parking bays in High Street where they seem to congregate.....

We finish on some good news. It's been a difficult twelve months or so for Richard Devine, landlord of the **Oddfellows Arms** in Waxwell Lane. Actually, Richard isn't really the landlord, he's the tenant, and his landlord is Heineken, who own the pub. Richard's lease expired in June and he has been negotiating a new lease, which has now been agreed. As part of this process, a number of repairs were required, many dating back to before the time when Richard took over, seven years ago.



So, a crowdfunding page entitled Save the Oddfellows Arms Pinner was launched, and a special Community Day took place at the end of July. The story was picked up by ITV News London (try googling Oddfellows Arms Pinner ITV News). Richard, who has been blown away by the support he has received, told us: "The roof repairs were only possible because of the generosity and the goodwill of two contractors". Other vital health and safety works have been completed. Richard also tells us that Heineken have been very constructive in the negotiations. Meanwhile, their quiz nights are fully booked, the W.I. Knitting Group use the pub for their meetings and live music is planned.

As we wish him well, Richard raises his glass to the people of Pinner: "I'm very thankful for the generosity of the local population. The pub belongs to the community - it's been here a long time before me and hopefully will be here long after I've gone."

Steve Brown and Max La Frenais.

HATCH END, LITTLE OXHEY AND BACK.

Well, dear reader, this is the fourth of the walks that we are serialising from that great book *Ten Walks around Pinner*. If you know of any local walks that other readers of *The Villager* may be interested in, why not send them to our editor, Phil Lawder (editor@pinnerassociation.co.uk), and we will try to include them in a future edition of *The Villager*.

I am writing this walk at the end of our summer, on a nice warm day. However, by the time you get to read this, we will be well into autumn. So, if you do want to follow this route, I recommend walking boots and a stick. Parts of the walk may be a bit overgrown and/or muddy.



Today we start at St Luke's Church in Love Lane and go through back roads, alleyways and fields to Hatch End and Oxhey, before we make our way back to Pinner. The walk is about five miles long and will take just over two hours to complete.

St Luke's was Pinner's first Catholic Church, originally established in 1915. This first church, now the Church Hall, was dwarfed by its replacement, built in 1957. I have probably walked past thousands of times and never noticed the sculptured representation of St Luke on the façade!

As you leave St Luke's on your left, walk on until you enter Avenue Road, with the Methodist Church on your left. We have not travelled more than 100 yards and I notice another 'new' building feature – the entrance porch to the Church has been rebuilt. How many more surprises shall we encounter on this walk today.....?

Along Avenue Road, perhaps one of the less inspired road names in Pinner, you will notice a row of bungalows on the right set back behind the River Pinn. At the end of the road, turn right into Barrow Point Avenue and continue until you reach the junction with Paines Lane. You cross Paines Lane – carefully, the traffic can be fast - and enter the footpath on the other side of the road. This path follows the River Pinn, bringing you to Moss Lane.

Why not stop for a moment and look at No. 75, the house where our very own local artist, William Heath Robinson, lived? The original walk takes the path next to this house. However, it was so overgrown I decided not to go that way. Instead, turn right and then first left into Moss Close.

Just past No. 18, take the footpath which leads to a path through woods, with a field on your right. At this point, you should take the footpath on the right, adjacent to the fence. You are now in Pinner Park. Take care as you walk down this path, as the brambles, nettles and blackberries are quite overgrown. At the end of the path, you should cross the footbridge and go up the slope to enter George V Avenue. I have often wondered why this road name uses the roman numeral V. Do you know of any other similar examples for road names?

Anyway, back to the walk. Cross George V Avenue and take the footpath signposted to Wellington Road. Follow the broad path across the field diagonally to your left. At the end

of the field, climb over the stile and follow the footpath into Wellington Road.

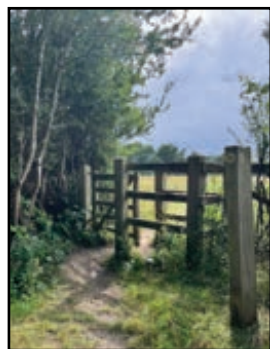
Wellington Road has an interesting history. It is part of the Woodridings Estate and, originally, consisted of some fifty detached and semi-detached villas built in the 1850s. Only Nos. 40-42 survive to give you a sense of what the road looked like originally. Until the 20th century, the estate had no shops, and so tradesmen sent their vans to serve the residents, including Mrs Isabella Beeton, of cookery book fame, Horatia Nelson Ward, the daughter of Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton, and Ivy Compton Burnett, the novelist.



Wellington Rd Villa

At the end of Wellington Road, cross Uxbridge Road and enter Woodridings Close. Follow the Close to the end and take the footpath to the left of No. 10. This path will take you into Grimsdyke Road, where you turn left and walk for a little while. At No. 100 Grimsdyke Road, take the footpath that leads into Pinnerwood Farm.

As you enter the field, turn right and follow the path along the edge of the field. Halfway along this path, you will pass a new telecommunication antenna and, eventually, will reach the top of the field. At this point you should go through the gap in the hedge and turn left to cross a stile and enter another field. Head diagonally across this field until you reach an alleyway in the top right corner of the field. Take the alleyway and continue ahead until you reach Little Oxhey Lane.



We are now about halfway through the walk so if, at this point, you feel in need of a break and refreshment you can turn right and pay a visit to Carpenter's Park Garden Centre, which is about half a mile up the road and has an excellent café. Alternatively, if you want to press on, turn left into Little Oxhey Lane and take the second left into Lytham Avenue. Go along Lytham Avenue and take the second right into Ilkley Road. Take the footpath on the left in Ilkley Road, between Nos 66 and 68. Soon you will come to a junction in the footpath where you should bear left and enter a new field through a kissing gate on your right, with a No 10 in a yellow arrow. Cross the field diagonally to the far-left corner. At the double kissing gate, bear left and, on your right, you will see a field sloping away from you towards a green barn.

Walk down the field towards the barn, passing a dressage school on your right. Take care as the ground is rough and can be very muddy. At the bottom of the field cross the farmyard and enter a small path that leads into a concrete drive. There are some very nice houses in this road including Pinnerwood Farm, Pinnerwood House and Pinnerwood Cottage. Is it me, or is there a theme running through these names?



At the end of the road, turn left and continue along the concrete drive until you see a footpath on your left. Go over the stile and enter the field. Cross the field diagonally to your right and continue into the next field keeping to the right. You will come to a footpath between the houses on your right which you should take, following the path until it emerges onto Evelyn Drive. At Evelyn Drive, turn right and cross the road and continue till you reach No. 31. Take the path next to number 31 and continue until you reach Uxbridge Road.

On reaching Uxbridge Road, turn right and cross the road using the traffic refuge. Turn left into Paines Lane and then immediately right into Woodhall Avenue. At this point the route of the original walk is impassable, so this is an alternative way back to Pinner. At the end of Woodhall Avenue, just past Lawn Vale, take the footpath on your right and continue along it until you enter Waxwell Lane.

Turn left and continue to the end of the road. Waxwell Lane has many interesting buildings; Waxwell Farm (the former Grail); Waxwell Close, on your left, a crescent of neo-Georgian artisans' cottages built in the 1920s; Bee Cottage, on your right, one of Pinner's oldest houses; and, at the end of the road, the Oddfellows Arms. Rumour has it that there will soon be an addition to the urban landscape, Pinnora Mews. Maybe one day this development will be completed and occupied. Let's hope so.



Bee Cottage

At the end of Waxwell Lane turn left into Bridge Street and then take the next left into Love Lane to finish this walk where you started it.

Ed Badke

Drawing by Alan Morrill

If you would like to, do send us photos of your walk and we may feature them in the next edition.

LOOKING BACK

75 Years ago

In *The Villager* of Dec 1948 (a mere 28 pages, no doubt due to paper shortages), there was a strong call for traffic lights to be installed at the junction of Elm Park Rd and Uxbridge Rd at Pinner Green. It seems that traffic was a problem even then.

West House and its land were finally bought by the community, to be established for all time as Pinner Memorial Park, and there were plans for a 'garden estate of bungalows for the aged' off West End Lane.

There was great relief that the damage caused by a V2 rocket on Pinner Rd, by the cemetery, had finally been repaired.

Cautious approval was expressed about improvements to the Met Line, delayed by the 'exigencies of war'. Though the additional tunnels into Baker Street clearly created provision for more services, there was unhappiness that all trains stopped at Finchley Road (they had the Bakerloo, after all) and too many trains stopped at the stations between Finchley Road and Harrow-on-the-Hill, resulting in a longer journey time to Pinner, 27 minutes compared to a previous 22.

And there was a rather irate piece about council house accommodation not being available for the children of local residents but being taken up by 'people from other parts of the country', and about the destruction of trees by 'newcomers'.

50 Years ago

In the November 1973 issue, there was great rejoicing at the introduction of the travel pass for pensioners.

A request went out for 'ladies with typing experience, badly wanted to help with sub-committees'; not something that one could ask for today.

There was a surprisingly prescient and strongly argued article about the 'environmental crisis', written by a member of Friends of the Earth.

A Compulsory Purchase Order had been approved for the purchase of Westbury Lodge, off Chapel Lane, with some debate about whether houses or flats should be built, the decision coming down on the side of houses.

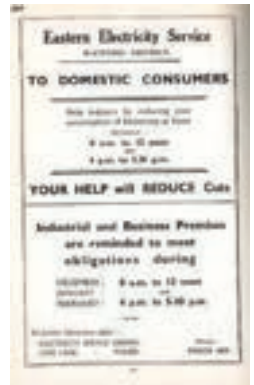
25 Years ago

The November 1998 issue reported on a feasibility study into the rebuilding of West House. Though the plans are very different from what we see today, this was the beginning of the creation of the Heath Robinson Museum and Daisy's in the Park.

Pigeons nesting under the railway bridges were causing heated debate.

An article celebrated the Peace Garden in the Memorial Park. Completed the previous year under the leadership of Joanne Verden, it had received its third award of the year, this time The Harrow in Bloom cup for Best Community Effort.

And Lidl opened.



VOLUNTEERS' TEA PARTY, SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD

92 invitations went out to our volunteers, mostly to those who collect subs and distribute *The Villager* but also to others, including our gardening volunteers who come together to look after The Peace Garden twice a month.

I was somewhat worried by the prospect of all the invitees, plus partners, turning up to a venue which accommodates 60, but later I became concerned that numbers would be too low, as I had picked a weekend when the whole of Pinner was on holiday.

In the end, we had a very pleasant afternoon with just under 50 attending – excellent venue, good company, perfect weather and great food - thanks again to M&S and my home baking. A big thank you goes out to Ruth Boff for all her support on the day and indeed throughout the year(s).

Thanks were also given to Phil Lawder for the excellent job that he is doing on *The Villager* magazine and to Brian Glozier, who has had to stand down this year as Area 2 leader. Brian has done a wonderful job over many years. We are pleased that we will still be able to welcome him to the annual tea party, as his wife Kate is continuing as a collector.

If you would like to volunteer with us in any capacity, please contact any of the committee members.

As several people expressed their appreciation on the day, I am including my recipe for gluten-free orange and almond cake which is a slightly modified version of this https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/orangecake_83870 .

Orange and Almond Cake

Ingredients

- 2 large oranges
- 6 free-range eggs
- 200g ground almonds
- 200g caster sugar
- 1 tbsp baking powder (gluten-free, if required)

Method

1. Wash the oranges thoroughly and cut into quarters. Bring them to the boil in a large saucepan of water and gently cook for 30 minutes.
2. Preheat the oven to 175C/325F/Gas 3 and line a 23cm cake tin with greaseproof paper.
3. Pulp the oranges in a food processor.
4. Beat the eggs and gradually stir in all the remaining ingredients, including the orange pulp. Pour into the cake tin and cook for about an hour, until the cake is golden in colour and has risen.
5. Transfer to a wire cooling rack, keeping the cake in the tin. When the cake has cooled, carefully remove from the tin and serve cut into slices.

AREA LEADERS AND COLLECTORS

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