

March
2022

Volume 2 Issue 2

Harrow Heritage Trust



Caring for the environment

Special points of interest:

- * PWA—Refurbs & Repairs
- * WWYP—Woodmeadow Project
- * 3000 Snowdrops for Harrow
- * Eliza Brightwen exhibit at Headstone Manor
- * Statement of Financial Position
- * Harrow Litter Pickers

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Message from the Trustees

Members of Harrow Heritage Trust have been busy since our last newsletter. Even with the continuing Covid restrictions, we were able to work on projects which involved outdoor work and contribute positively to the Borough of Harrow where we live. The remit of the charity is to preserve and improve the historic built and natural environment. We hope you enjoy this recap of our activity. You'll also find our 2020-2021 Financial Statement and details of the HHT Executive Committee inside. All four Harrow Heritage Trust sub-committees have been active and it is good to be back in action.

Heritage Grants—John Orchard, Chair

The Grants committee did not disperse a payment since the last newsletter but has been active in advising on restoration and repair projects and in sending out applications for grants. Window replacement was a popular enquiry for the Heritage Grant application committee however, the decision was taken last year to disallow such requests and this has resulted in a renewed focus on heritage architecture. To further stimulate interest in the Heritage Grants program, criteria and more information will soon be added to the Harrow Heritage Trust website.

Committee Chair, John Orchard, was invited to view Old Pye House where there is interest in renovation work. Old Pye House is on the "at risk" register and this snippet from English Heritage At Risk describes the building.

Old Pye House—Harrow on the Hill

"Probably C15. A portion of a larger building consisting only of a hall. Architecturally 2-storeys but open from ground to roof as originally. South front is plain C18 or early C19 red brick. Slate roof. Interior has timber framed walls, gable ends with tie beams and upward curving braces. Hall of 2-storeys. One and a half-bays, with a near central tie beam supporting a plain kingpost with 3 (out of 4) upward curving struts. Name derives from that of temporary mediaeval court for travelling merchants at local fair ("pied poudre")."

Public Works of Art

The trustees approved costs for repair or refurbishment to several of Harrow's public works of art this financial year

The Meeting Tree (Claire McDermott) —Newton Farm Ecology Park

In 2018 the sculpture in Newton Farm Ecology Park, The Meeting Tree, was damaged by an oversized mower being used on the site. The sculpture, by local artist Claire McDermott, is a concrete representation of a large tree stump made with a strong concrete core and realistic concrete bark panels. It is a popular seating and play area and stands in the centre of the dry meadow. The mowing accident damaged a substantial area on the "stump". Claire McDermott was engaged to recast the damaged bark panels and affixed new panels onto the exposed concrete core. After the dry meadow's annual mow in September, Claire brought her wheelbarrow full of VERY heavy tools into the meadow. Then she set about cleaning the damaged site, chiselling replacement panels to fit and then fixing the new panels. The panels were secured for drying but after a few days the ropes were removed and the Meeting Tree could be used. In collaboration with Claire, we are planning on improving the area around the sculpture and plan a rededication ceremony in late spring. The restored tree is a wonderful place to sit and read, play or, as seen recently, use as an open air office!

The Leaf (Diane Maclean) —Grove Open Space

The other art work due for refurbishment was the "The Leaf". The Leaf was initiated by The Trust during the first Arts Festival and installed in place in 1994 in Grove Open Space. It was definitely showing signs of rust and wear and upon examination, there were also some gashes to the base, possibly due to grass strimming too close to the housing. Claire McDermott works in a variety of mediums skilfully and was hired for the refurb. The process was time consuming but fascinating to watch. We caught up with Claire at various intervals in the process, first when rust patches were treated, then when the undercoat and regilding of the concave back was in process and finally when the front, more public side was gloriously restored and the sculpture given a protective coat of varnish. Regilding is an expensive process but I think all will agree that the results are worthy of its place in Grove Open Space. It looks spectacular and if you haven't visited lately, do give it a look.

On Our Way (Tom Harvey)—Pinner Memorial Park

Robin Youle, Trustee and Pinner Association representative, requested that the wooden sculpture at the entrance to Pinner Memorial Park be cleaned and refurbished. Tom Harvey, who was commissioned to do the sculpture in honour of the opening of the Heath Robinson museum in 2010, agreed to come do the job in the autumn. Tom came and cleaned, refurbished and oiled the sculpture. He explained that oiling was the best way to keep the wood from splitting and suggested that oiling be done periodically. This the Trust will try to arrange with interested parties, particularly the Pinner Association. Ideally, it could be a task for Duke of Edinburgh students or students of art.





This picture taken in spring shows The Meeting Tree surrounded by flowers, mainly cow parsley .



Replacement panels affixed to dry



The backside of The Leaf in Grove Open Space mid-regilding. You can see the blue undercoat—spectacular!



Meeting Tree damage—ouch!



Claire McDermott finishes the under-coat on The Leaf.



What a fantastic result!

Work with Young People—Simon Braidman, Antonia Savvides

Pinner Rec Improvements

This Spacehive funded project is now in an advanced stage. It has been a joy to watch the interesting and satisfying transformation from grass monoculture to incipient Woodmeadow at Pinner Rec. Let us take you through the steps. First a small team of Simon Braidman, Josh Kalms and Rich Grinholm came to remove some non-native and invasive trees. Then in November 2021, Steve Whitbread, Harrow Biodiversity Officer, brought the Harrow Council mini-digger on site to sculpt a new pond and a series of ditches. Bunds of waste dirt were shaped into mounds beside the ditches. The bunds and ditches will provide varieties of habitat for native plants and animals where there was once a uniform monoculture of grass. Unfortunately, the mini-digger ran out of time and needs to return to finish the pond and 2 new ditches in the spring. The next step was to prepare the ground for wildflower sowing. On November 15th Alan Scott of Complete Ecology Ltd brought his rotavator to Pinner Rec and rotavated our “wild zone”. Rotavating breaks up the surface exposing the dirt ready for sowing. On November 20th 40 volunteers, whose work-time represented 106 volunteer hours, had great fun sowing wild flower and grass seed. With so many volunteers we could also set about “softening” the shape of the new ditches somewhat by widening and creating shelves as well as sculpting some flattened areas for ground nesting bees in the bunds. Next came the tree and shrub planting phase. Project leader Simon Braidman, ably assisted by his partner Emmanuelle, carefully marked the positions for 120 new trees. On December 4th, Harrow 4th Scouts and the 401 American Scout Troop along with Duke of Edinburgh students from Nower Hill planted Hawthorn, Dog Rose, Hazel and Crab Apple. We give a huge thanks to all who came and to John Faulds who led a ditch team making further improvements to their sculpting. Further trees were planted in January by a corporate team from Zero Carbon Farms. The second batch of trees and shrubs will add variety to the planting. On March 5th 2022, a smaller band of volunteers gathered again for a spring resowing of wildflowers and grasses. Further sowing of specialist seeds for the pond edge and shady areas will take place once the final trench and bund have been created in late spring. So we wait for the final ditch to be dug by the Harrow Council mini-digger and we will also need to do work on the new pond. Once that is done, the project can be deemed finished with the creation stage. A management plan has already been agreed involving Harrow Council and volunteer groups.



“Everyone had fun and a huge thanks goes to Antonia Savvides for her drive and determination to make this happen, and her bringing Duke of Edinburgh students from Nower Hill. Leslie Bolsover for looking after the pennies and giving good advice, Dan Carne from the Woodmeadow Trust for his advice, Brian Chapman and his Geocacher Team who provided the majority of the work force for the first seeding, Russell Everton who stored plants, put up publicity and checked the site and worked on the ditches, my lovely wife Emmanuelle for putting up with me and helping out on the day. Thanks to Josh Kalms and Rich Grinholm for removing non - native and invasive trees and everyone else who helped.” - Simon Braidman

Harrow Nature Conservation Forum—Steve Bolsover, Chair

Our volunteer wardens continue to do a great job maintaining and improving the sites for people and nature. They need both to think about their sites and plan strategically about how to maintain and improve them, as well as getting stuck in with physical work. One example of the latter has been the work by the wardens and volunteers at Stanmore Common, where they put on waders and dredged, all by hand, part of the Pynding Mersc pond at the lowest part of the site to prevent it silting up. The team at Stanmore Common have also bought two fearsome tools called Tree Poppers that, again just using human muscle, can pull significantly sized saplings up by the roots. They are using these to maintain the open heather and grass clearings that are such a special feature of that site.

A constant theme is the recruitment of new wardens to take up the work. In September 2021 Hannah Nathanson and Andrew Fernandes joined us as assistant wardens at Bentley Priory. They organized an enthusiastic work day in October 2021 when they and other volunteers equipped the inside of the pillbox at the top of the site as a bat roost. Sadly, Hannah had to resign soon afterwards due to ill health, but Andrew is settling into the role well and organized a second working party in February 2022 to cut back encroaching scrub along the Weald Path at the top of the site. Meanwhile at Wood Farm, Marian Rastelli and Miles Robertson, who are regular volunteers with us, have agreed to become assistant wardens.

We have continued our outreach to the public. In September the team at Newton Farm held a “Green Get-Together” with talks, guided walks and stalls. We also manned stalls at three public events: two at Headstone Manor, on August bank holiday and then again a few days later at the formal opening of the park and new wetland, and then in October at the annual Apple Day at Grimsdyke Hotel. Since the end of July 2021 we have held fifteen guided walks, the most recent being a visit to the lovely display of snowdrops in the old orchard at Pear Wood.



Hannah Nathanson and Andrew Fernandes at Bentley Priory

In February 2022 we were awarded £3,822 from the “OurSpace” initiative to improve Stanmore Little Common “for pollinators, pondlife and people”. The most noticeable component will be a wildflower area in what was a patch of boring short grass, but the award also pays for removing terrapins from the pond and planting two hazel trees, as well as funding two one day courses, on pond life and pollinating insects, by professional ecologists. The work should start in mid-March.

We should hear very soon about a larger application, for £42,273, that we submitted to the Mayor of London’s “Rewild London” initiative for work at Old Redding. This would pay for work to improve Gilbert’s Lake and other water bodies for great crested newts and other pond life as well as clearing a lot of rhododendron and laurel from the western part of the site. It would also pay for training the volunteers in skills they need to maintain the site and buy them both tools to use and an all-weather strongbox in which to store them on site. We have every expectation that this will be successful and it will give a real boost to the volunteers and wardens at that site.



The Woodmeadow Project covers a large area of Pinner Rec so needs a healthy number of volunteers.



Sowing the wildflower meadow.



Woodmeadow Project Leader Simon Braidman and volunteers get muddy shaping the bunds and trenches.



Zero Carbon Farm employees prepare to plant trees & shrubs



Volunteers do stream litter clearance at Newton Farm Ecology Park



Dead hedges are fantastic for biodiversity. This one at Newton Farm Ecology Park was made from willow coppiced on the site.



Volunteers at a Conservation Action Day at Wood Farm dealt with winter litter build up, hedge pruning and an unwanted bike ramp .



Corporate volunteers from Coca-Cola learn to layer a hedge.



The new warden team at Old Redding have already built up a good volunteer group, here seen removing invasive laurel around Gilbert's Lake.



Also at Old Redding—Removing invasive Azolla from a pond.



Desilting Pynding Mersc , Stanmore Common



Keeping trees from invading glades is a common task at Stanmore Common. Here a tree popper is used to remove larger saplings.

3000 Snowdrops for Harrow

Snowdrops signal the beginning of spring and in flower mythology they are said to symbolise purity, innocence, and sympathy. When the HHT executive committee discussed how to remember the contribution Martin and Joanne Verden made to the borough, thoughts turned to planting trees and flowers. After a vote authorising funding, the Harrow Heritage Trust contribution amount was matched by the Verden family. As a result, 3000 snowdrops and a tulip tree have been planted in the last few months in 5 spaces in Harrow in honour of the Verdens.

1000 snowdrops went to Headstone Manor. DofE students planted them under the guidance of the Friends group. The Verdens were involved with the Headstone Manor restoration from the beginning.

500 snowdrops went to Yeading Walk and were planted by the Friends of Yeading Walk.

At Pinner Village Gardens, DofE students planted 500 snowdrops “in the green”, adding to an existing drift.

Roxbourne Rough and the Friends of Roxbourne Park, where the Verdens’ long-time gardener, Dave Bolton, served as volunteer warden for many years, also planted 500.

And 400 went to Stanmore Marsh, one of Harrow’s nature areas still under development.

The final 100 were planted around a tulip tree which has been planted in the Peace Garden in Pinner Memorial Park in remembrance of Joanne Verden. She was instrumental in the Peace Garden’s design and maintenance for many years. The inhabitants of the borough, present and future, will be able to enjoy these plantings and those of us who knew them will remember them each spring.



Planting snowdrops at
Roxbourne Rough



Warden Simon Braidman planting at
Stanmore Marsh



Tulip tree and snowdrops at the
Peace Garden in Pinner Memorial
Park



3000 snowdrops in packets ready for distribution around Harrow

Exhibition at Headstone Manor and Museum

Summer this year finally saw the realisation of the Exhibition: **Nature in Harrow from Eliza Brightwen to the Present**. The exhibition, supported by the Harrow Heritage Trust was the result of a successful collaboration with the Museum. The Exhibition celebrated the 19th Century Harrow naturalist and bestselling author Eliza Brightwen who lived for many years at The Grove in Stanmore. Her writing and art work still resonate with us today and inspire us to live more at one with nature. A treasure on display was Eliza's "Bible Album" which was lent for the Exhibition from the Whipple Museum of the History of Science in Cambridge. The Exhibition also marked the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Harrow Natural History Society (in 1970) by Miss Pollard, head of Harrow Council's library reference service. The Society helped look after the green spaces in Harrow and also ran an extensive programme of walks and talks.

A further focus of the Exhibition was to encourage involvement in looking after nature and the environment in Harrow and how important it is for all of us in the future. Stacey Bagdi, Collections & Exhibitions Officer at the Museum, had organised an attractive poster "tree" to collect nature memories from the Harrow Community.

Several members of the HHT were amongst those attending an event at the Museum on the 6th September and the feeling was that the Exhibition and the children's events associated with it, including a family trail focusing on Eliza's unusual pets, was very timely.

Eliza Brightwen's books are now in the public domain and can be accessed online.

Brightwen, Eliza. Wild Nature Won by Kindness. (1890)

Brightwen, Eliza. More about Wild Nature. (1892)

Brightwen, Eliza. Inmates of my House and Garden. (1895)

Brightwen, Eliza. Glimpses into Plant Life. (1898)

Brightwen, Eliza. Rambles with Nature Students. (1899)

Brightwen, Eliza. Quiet Hours with Nature. (1903)

Picture below used with the kind permission of: Franziska Trodd



Eliza Brightwen née Elder (30 October 1830 – 5 May 1906) was a naturalist and author. She was self-taught, and many of her observations were made in the grounds of The Grove in Stanmore.

Helping Hand Long Litter Pickers for Harrow Litter Pickers



Harrow Litter Pickers are cleaning up the borough, literally, and they are organised and zealous. Led on Facebook by Casey Dalton, shown here in the middle, and helped by many regular volunteer litter pickers, they are making a very positive impact on "grot spots" and crevices full of cans and bottles. The crevices need special equipment so, at the litter picking group's request, Harrow Heritage Trust supplied them with both a 50" and a 72" long litter picker.

They are also liaising with Harrow Council to discuss ways of preventing littering and dealing with "grot spots" effectively for the benefit of all. Needless to say that we are behind them one hundred percent and our members have worked with them on several litter picks. If you see bags with signs marked "Litter picked by volunteers" or see a whole group of volunteers litter picking don't hesitate to give a thank you or more!

Membership

Membership numbers have remained steady. New members are balanced by those who can no longer be with us. Currently we have an opening for a Membership Secretary. If you would like to volunteer for membership secretary please get in touch at

info@harrowheritagetrust.org.uk or speak to any trustee.

Lifetime membership has been a popular option this year as it is a one time payment which means you never have to remember to renew membership again!

We now have 16 lifetime members. How about you? Only £35!



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Harrow Heritage Trust		1072773		CC16a
Receipts and payments accounts				
For the period from	Period start date 1 Apr 2020	To	Period end date 31 Mar 2021	

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Last year £
A1 Receipts				
	-	-	-	-
Subscriptions, donations + other income	1,067	-	1,067	4,840
Local authority grants	-	-	-	-
Other grants	3,632	12,431	16,063	7,394
Deposit interest	39	64	103	520
	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	4,738	12,495	17,233	12,754

A2 Payments

Direct charitable expenditure:

General Fund:

Harrow Nature Conservation Forum (inc. Admin)	3,474	-	-	3,474	5,857
VAH Grant	-	-	-	-	3,633
Postcode Lottery Grant	8,303	-	-	8,303	3,099
TKMax Community Grant	-	-	-	-	200
Orchard Project Grant for restorative pruning	-	-	-	-	400
Unrestricted funds	1,329	-	-	1,329	911

Working with young people:

Memory project- Grange Farm	-	-	-	-	30
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Administration Expenditure

	140	-	-	140	1,002
	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	13,246	-	-	13,246	15,132

Net of receipts/(payments)	(8,508)	12,495	0	3,987	(2,378)
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A3 Transfers & adjustment between funds

	0	0		0	0
2020 Debtors & Prepayments - settled	(2,015)			(2,015)	
2020 Creditors & Accruals – settled	9,372			9,372	
2020 Creditors & Accruals – not settled	0	1,700		1,700	
2021 Bank Balance adjustment	23			23	
(Basis :2020 Accruals to 2021 R&P)					
A6 Cash funds last year end	39,083	52,328		91,411	93,789

Cash funds this year end	37,955	66,523	-	104,478	91,411
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HARROW HERITAGE TRUST

Charity No. 1072773

TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President (ex officio): The Worshipful Mayor, Councillor Ghazanfar Ali

Honorary Officers

Chair: Cllr Keith Ferry

Vice-Chair: vacant

Treasurer: Leslie Bolsover

Minutes Secretary: Virginie Lambertucci

Local Authority Members

Cllr Simon Brown

Cllr Janet Mote

Cllr Sarah Butterworth

Elected Members

Stephen Bolsover (Harrow Nature Conservation Forum sub-committee)

John Williams (Stanmore Society & Plaques sub-committee)

Margaret Huitson (Harrow Nature Conservation Forum sub-committee)

Eilen Kinnear (Harrow Hill Trust)

Robin Youle (Harrow Museum and Heritage Centre & Pinner Association & Pinner Local History Society)

Co-opted Members

John Orchard (co-opted member—Heritage Grants sub-committee)

Cllr Marilyn Ashton (co-opted member)

Simon Braidman (co-opted member—Work with Young People sub-committee)

Antonia Savvides (co-opted member—Work with Young People sub-committee)

Independent Examining Accountant: Chaweevan Williams FCCA of Verdant Accountants