



HARROW HERITAGE TRUST

Caring for the built and natural environment



Message from the Trustees

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- "On Our" Way gets protection
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This year was the Harrow Heritage Trusts 39th Annual General Meeting. Members can read the results of the AGM on page two and the Trust's financial statement on pages 10 and 11. When Harrow Heritage Trust began it was set up to have four groups with restricted funding (Funding donated to them can only be used for those purposes), Heritage Grants, Public Works of Art, Headstone Manor and Work with Young People. The rest of our monies are unrestricted funds and have been used for administration costs, one off charity contributions, for the Brown Plaques programme and Harrow Nature Conservation Forum. Things have changed now and inside on page 4 you can read Chair Angelique Soon's introduction to the new Harrow Rivers Group. You can find out why it was set up and what it will be doing. They are already up and running with grant funding awarded to them from the Crane Valley Partnership.

HARROW HERITAGE TRUST

Charity No. 1072773

Trustees Executive Committee

President (*ex officio*): The Worshipful The Mayor, Councillor Salim Chowdhury

Honorary Officers

Chair: Marilyn Ashton

Vice-Chair: Ghazanfar Ali

Treasurer: Leslie Bolsover

Secretary: **Vacant**

Membership Secretary: **Vacant**

Local Authority Members

Cllr Janet Mote

Cllr June Baxter

Cllr Gazanfar Ali

Executive Committee Members

Stephen Bolsover (Harrow Nature Conservation Forum)

Margaret Huitson (Harrow Nature Conservation Forum)

Paul Catherall (Harrow Hill Trust)

John Orchard (Heritage Grants)

Meena Gosrani (Hatch End Association)

John Williams (Stanmore Society & Brown Plaques)

Robin Youle (Pinner Association)

Minutes Secretary: Virginie Lambertucci

Heritage Grants

Chair John Orchard

No new grants were disbursed since our last newsletter. Chair John Orchard has contacted and advised several residents on work on their buildings via the Harrow Heritage Trust emails.

Work with Young People

Project Leader Simon Braidman

Simon continues to lead the Woodmeadow Project at Pinner Recreation Ground. Students from nearby West Lodge Primary School have been assigned survey squares and introduced to plant and insect identification. Families planted several disease resistant Elms in the autumn.

Membership

Membership numbers are static at 54 of which 25 are Lifetime Members. The position of Membership Secretary remains unfilled. Please contact info@harrowheritagetrust.org.uk if you would like to become our Membership Secretary.

New Project Proposals Need Help!

Recently, we have received suggestions for more history information plaques in the Borough of Harrow at sites of local importance. Information plaques are an excellent way of bringing local history to the wider public and Harrow Heritage Trust has funds available to make plaques and information boards, however, we lack active members who might volunteer time to research and take these excellent suggestions forward to completion. If you have an hour or two a week and the desire to get involved, please get in contact at info@harrowheritagetrust.org.uk

A New Sub-Committee for Harrow Heritage Trust

Harrow Rivers Group Chair: Angelique Soon

The Harrow Rivers Group has been set up to try to raise awareness of the issues facing the watercourses in Harrow and to try to help improve them. Unfortunately there are many problems with the streams in Harrow which keep them from being a good environment and habitat for river wildlife and vegetation. The most serious issue is the amount of pollution which enters the streams from human activity. This happens when there are misconnections from people's homes, blockages in the combined sewage network, or even just when there is heavy rain. Foul water in streams make the oxygen levels plummet and introduce ammonia, phosphates and other chemicals which aquatic life find difficult to live in.

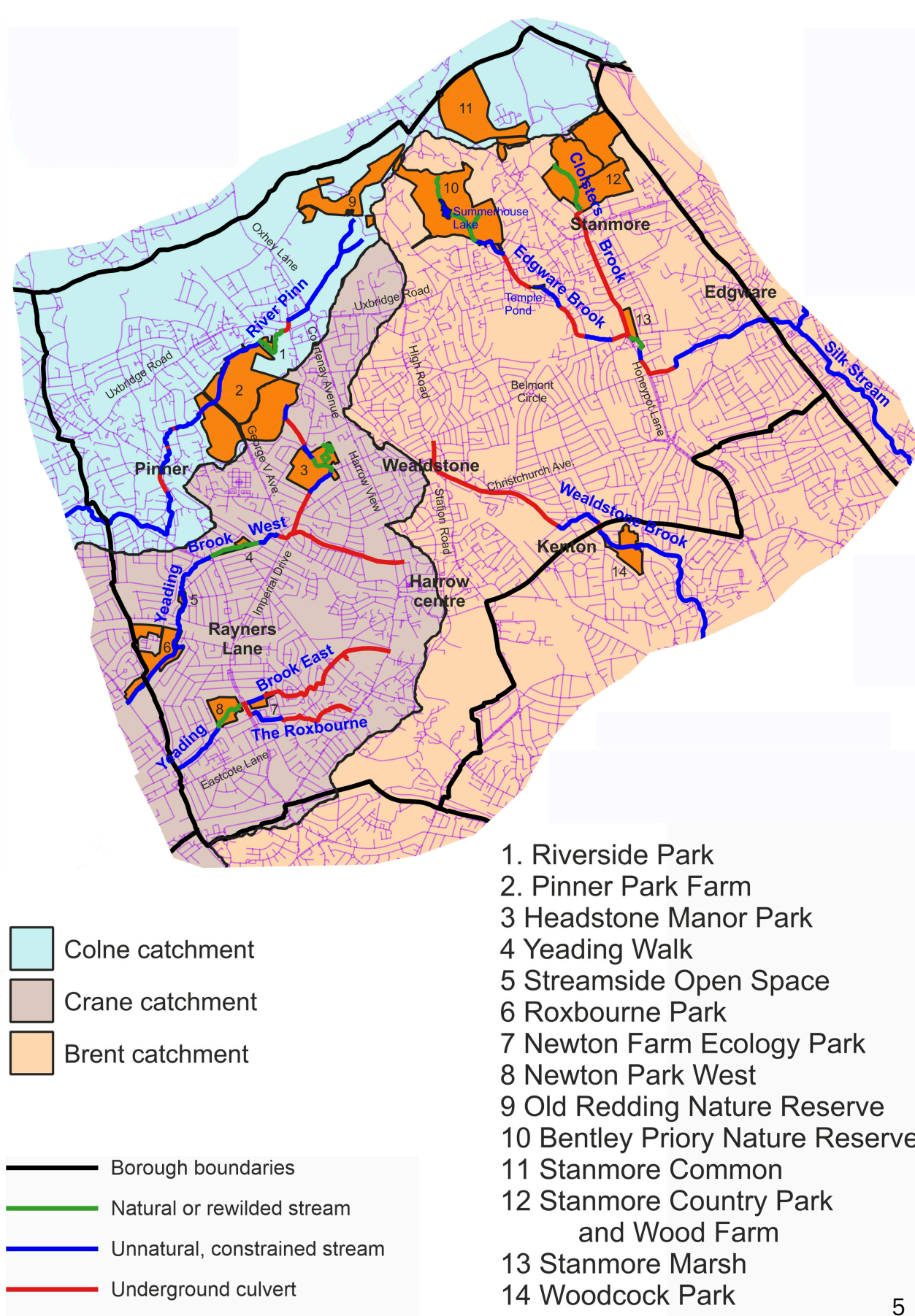
We can try to improve this by monitoring streams for signs of pollution, usually at outfall pipes, and informing water companies to investigate when a problem has been spotted. Monitoring the watercourse can just be observational from the riverbank. With this method we look for 'sewage fungus', which is a grey furry bacterial mass which grows under outfall pipes and in rivers. Another method involves water sampling with electronic equipment which can tell us the levels of chemicals that are found in the water. A third method is biological monitoring, where aquatic invertebrates are collected and counted. There are already nine established Riverfly monitoring sites in the borough. This initiative is conducted by volunteer Citizen Scientists with the support of The Zoological Society of London who help to analyse the results which are put on an online database every month. Riverfly monitoring is an important way for assessing how healthy a river is and what kind of life can survive in there. It is also a good way of spotting pollution events which may not have any visual signs too.

There are 3 different river catchments in Harrow, and a lot of area to cover.

- The Brent- which includes Wealdstone Brook, Edgware Brook, Cloisters Brook
- The Crane - which includes Yeading Brook West, Yeading Brook East and The Roxbourne
- The Colne - which includes The River Pinn

If you would like to learn more about Harrow's Rivers or to volunteer to help monitor your local watercourse please contact: Harrowrivers@harrowncf.org.uk

Harrow Streams & Rivers



Brown Plaques

Chair: John Williams

HHT WOODLANDS PLAQUE

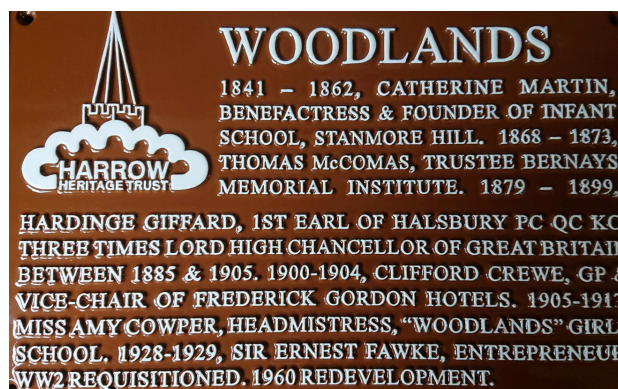
Our latest plaque is for Woodlands, a large house that stood on Stanmore Hill, now a 60's block of flats, Halsbury Court. All that remains of the house today is the listed front wall and an adjacent coach house. I have tried for several years to have one of our plaques on the boundary wall of this once significant house. At first the resident's management committee appeared keen to contribute towards the cost of manufacture. However, the residents of the 20 flats were not willing to contribute in spite of the individual amounts being relatively small. My good friend and researcher, Sharon Ward, had spent quite some time on researching the history of the house and the many owners of the property. The news of their reluctance was a great disappointment, and I was concerned for the time spent by Sharon on her detailed research now being wasted.

However, St John's C of E School Governors stepped in to save the day. The school owes its establishment as a fulltime organisation to the original owner of Woodlands, Miss Catherine Martin, who at her sole expense paid for a delightful school building and an adjacent cottage for the headmistress, as pictured. St Johns School has a long history and existed prior to Miss Martin's building as a Sunday School, thought to have been a small building standing in the churchyard. The original Stanmore Hill building sadly no longer remains but the cottage is still in place.

The Woodlands plaque has a special significance for me, as it acknowledges Catherine's generous contribution to the children of Stanmore by giving the first proper school building. My first school, thank you Catherine.



St. John's School built 1845



New Brown Plaque

PUBLIC WORKS OF ART

The Heath Robinson Museum in Pinner was London's first new purpose-built museum to open in 40 years when it opened in October 2016. Harrow Heritage Trust members supported and encouraged fundraising efforts. To support and augment the opening of the new museum, the Public Works of Art committee commissioned a new sculpture from Tom Harvey. Tom 'Carver' Harvey uses a mixture of chainsaws and chisels to create individual large scale sculptures out of tree stumps and trunks

He created the now much beloved sculpture "On Our Way" which sits at the beginning of the Celandine Route walkway at the Pinner Park Car Park entrance to Pinner Memorial Park with the artistic style of Heath Robinson in mind.

Being wood, the sculpture will eventually deteriorate however Carver Harvey has been back once to clean and protect his work. He also left instructions as to how we could help "On Our Way" last as long as possible by using a protective, water resistant, sealing agent periodically on the wood. This autumn members of Harrow Heritage Trust did just that. Executive Board members Robin Youle and Leslie Bolsover put two coats of sealant on the sculpture as you can see below.



Harrow Nature Conservation Forum

Chair: Stephen Bolsover

Since the last Trust newsletter we have welcomed three new wardens to take responsibility for three of our sites.

Stanmore Marsh is a small site at the junction of Marsh and Whitchurch Lanes in Stanmore. In the 1950s the site was drained and the open ground set to boring short grass but during 2015-2017 was rewilded in a project funded by Thames Water, Thames21, and the Greater London Authority. This involved opening up the culverted Edgware Brook which now flows in a natural channel, dredging a pond, and creating depressions and swales over the ground to collect and hold rainwater before delivering it to the pond or to the Edgware Brook. The variety of plants and animals found on the site is large for a site so small and reflects the survival of species from the time before the site was drained. We are very pleased that Dhillan Sood has stepped forward to be the warden – contact him at dhillansood1@gmail.com with any queries about the site – or better, come along to help maintain and improve the site; he leads a working party on the first Monday of each month, starting at 10AM.

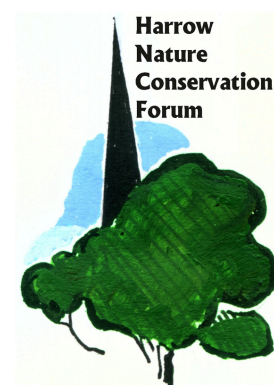
Stanmore Country Park is one of our larger and more diverse sites. Since the resignation of David Rice as warden in 2023 Margaret Huitson has been organizing work in her capacity as assistant warden, but we are very glad that Nik Jackson has agreed to take on the role of chief warden. Contact him at nickjackson166@outlook.com and if you can, come help him maintain the site at his working parties which are on the first Wednesday of each month, starting at 10AM.

Bentley Priory is Harrow's only biological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and our best known wild open space. Since the death of Peter Peretti in 2022 the site has been rudderless, with time-pressed council officers stepping in to organize work on the site. We are therefore very happy to welcome Tony Hassan as chief warden. He and assistant warden Martin Fairley have jumped enthusiastically into their roles and are working on the site two mornings every week. Contact Tony at bentleypriory@harrowncf.org or, once again, he would welcome help: his public working parties are on the last Saturday of each month, starting at 10AM.



Left:
Nik Jackson (with
brush cutter) and
other volunteers
clearing bramble at
Stanmore Country
Park.

In other personnel news we have sadly said goodbye to not one but two biodiversity officers at Harrow Council: Steve Whitbread left after seven years for a job in Yorkshire while his replacement, Debbie Salmon, had to leave after an impressive month in post for personal reasons. The council also lost its capable Nature Recovery Ranger, Luke Farnsworth. These events emphasize how essential HNCF volunteers are for providing continuity and day to day management of the sites. The time stress on the council officers meant that items promised on grants arrived very late and sometimes not quite as expected – but welcome nonetheless, especially the secure container for tools at Bentley Priory. This arrived as a flat pack, so a heroic band volunteered at short notice to assemble it. We participated in a number of public events over the summer. Probably the most fun was a stream dipping event organized by Clean Up the River Brent (CURB) in Long Wood, Ealing. The river Brent itself is horribly polluted but this small tributary, which begins at private fishing ponds in Osterley Park and flows just north of the busy M4 motorway, is clean and full of life. One young man even found a healthy Perch!



Above:

The Harrow Nature Conservation stand at Long Wood organized by our friends at CURB (Clean Up the River Brent). CURB is active in bringing pollution issues to light in the river. We used our USB microscope and laptop as a projector to show visitors the life in the stream.

Right:

Tony Hassan and Martin Fairley clearing cherry laurel by Summerhouse Lake in Bentley Priory





CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Harrow Heritage Trust

1072773

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from

01/04/2023

To

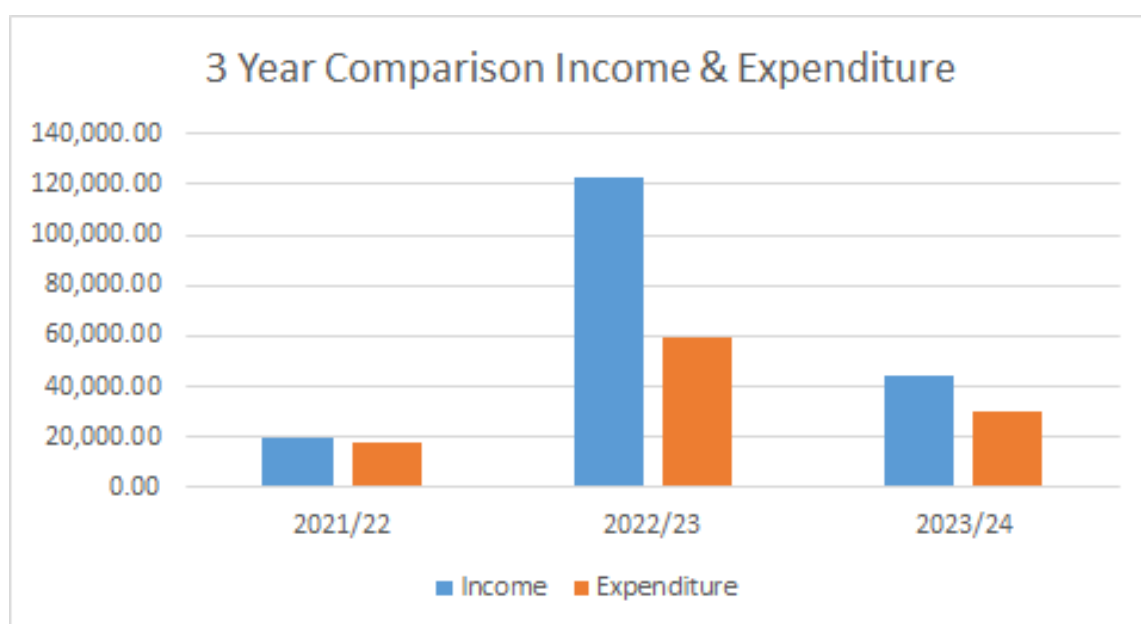
31/03/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Subscriptions, Donations and other income	11,939			11,939	93,753
Local authority grants					-
Other grants	26,026			26,026	27,167
Deposit interest	817	5,608		6,425	1,288
					-
					-
					-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	38,782	5,608		44,390	122,208
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	38,782	5,608	-	44,390	122,208
A3 Payments					
General fund					
Admin expenditure	1,952			1,952	1,359
Direct charitable expenditure	904			904	108
Harrow Nature Conservation Forum	26,458			26,458	44,075
Work with Young People	-			-	10,522
Public Works of Art	-			-	3,313
Headstone Manor	-	350		350	-
Heritage Grants	-			-	-
					-
Sub total	29,314	350		29,664	59,377
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	29,314	350	-	29,664	59,377
Net of receipts/(payments)	9,468	5,258	-	14,726	62,831
A5 Transfers between funds					
	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	27,463	141,927		169,390	106,559
Cash funds this year end	36,931	147,185		184,116	169,390

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	General fund	36,931		-
	Heritage Grants		31,573	-
	Public Works of Art		17,446	
	Work with Young People		3,143	
	Headstone Manor		95,023	-
	Total cash funds	36,931	147,185	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
	Details	Unrestricted funds Fund to which liability relates	Restricted funds Amount due (optional)	Endowment funds When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities				
	Crane Valley Partnership	General fund	1,714	30 September 2024
	Harrow Streams	General fund	4,625	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		<i>Mrs. L R Bolsover</i>	Leslie Ruth Bolsover	05/09/2024



WINTER WORD SEARCH

Find the winter words and circle them.

Y	P	W	X	S	K	A	T	I	N	G	I
H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	S	B	S	H	C
L	T	M	S	I	I	B	C	L	N	C	I
G	A	I	L	N	H	A	A	I	O	Q	C
L	H	T	E	I	I	U	R	Z	W	M	L
O	T	T	D	D	L	B	F	Z	M	H	E
V	W	E	E	G	G	L	S	A	A	J	S
E	S	N	R	E	B	E	E	R	N	D	E
S	A	S	M	E	R	S	P	D	T	W	F
W	X	M	R	E	B	M	E	C	E	D	U
J	S	N	O	W	F	L	A	K	E	Y	U
S	L	E	D	D	I	N	G	S	Y	R	A

snowflake

scarf

blizzard

gloves

icicles

snowman

skating

baubles

holidays

december

mittens

sledding