

November
2019

Volume 1 Issue 2

Harrow Heritage Trust



Caring for the environment

Special points of interest:

- * AGM
- * Heritage Grant applications
- * Grimsdyke, Pear Wood segment gets a Brown Plaque
- * We win a Postcode Lottery Grant!
- * Harrow's first Ecology & Sustainability Fair

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Message from the Trustees

We held our annual AGM on October 9th in the presence of our head, The Worshipful The Mayor, Councillor Nitin Parekh . Our Trustees were re-elected and are:

Chair, Cllr Keith Ferry

Deputy Chair, Vacant

Honorary Treasurer, Leslie Bolsover

Secretary, Vacant

Heritage Grants, Chair, John Orchard

Work with Young People, Chair, Anne Swinson

Brown Plaques, Chair, John Williams

Harrow Nature Conservation Forum, Chair, Steve Bolsover

Plus co-opted Trustees

We have vacancies for secretary, membership secretary (which could be combined) and for a Vice-Chair. If you feel inclined to become more involved, then get in touch. Your feedback on this newsletter would be appreciated. Get in touch!

info@harrowheritagetrust.org.uk

Heritage Grants—John Orchard, Chair

The Grants committee did not disperse a payment in the last six months but has been active in advising on restoration and repair projects and in sending out applications for grants. Applications have been sent to:

- Canons Park Estates for a possible grant to restore the entrance to Canons Drive, Edgware,
- Hussein Islamic Centre, Wood Lane, Stanmore, for rebuilding a portion of a Grade II listed brick wall
- Property in West Towers Conservation area for window replacement
- Property on Stanmore Hill for repair work to red brick boundary wall fronting Stanmore Hill and Fallowfield .

AGM 2019, Financial report from the Treasurer

Incoming and Outgoing since March 2019

INCOME

Donations = £630

Primarily from these sources

- Pear Wood walking group = £140
- Lady Gilbert's Orchard = £100
- Harrow Wins Lottery = £90
- Recycle for Charity = £18
- Sustainability Fair = £120

Grants = £15,170 [Our grant money is for specific projects ; not counted as net assets]

- Neighbourly (TK Max) = £200
- Harrow Giving (VAH) = £2500
- Postcode Lottery = £12,470

Membership = £640

EXPENDITURE

Non-grant expenditure

- Plaques = £492
- HNCF = £1248 [Admin = £251; 1 x Chainsaw course = £997]

At March 2019 our net assets were £93,789

Net assets October 2019 are £93,319

For our Financial Statement 2019 please visit www.harrowheritagetrust.org.uk

"Harrow Wins, a new and exciting community lottery, with a jackpot of £25,000 - is now live!"

Membership

At the first executive meeting in 2019, Trustees voted to introduce a new level of HHT membership. Now, for a **one-off payment of £35 you can receive lifetime membership** and no longer have to pay annually. After our membership round in 2019 we have added 10 lifetime members.

Next year, 2020, is the Trust's 35th year in operation in Harrow. We will continue to offer lifetime membership and publicize on Social Media and elsewhere.

"Get all 35 years of Harrow Heritage for £35 and receive lifetime membership as well"



Our members make a difference!

Volunteering for change project—Simon Braidman,

Caroline Nathanson and Leslie Bolsover

In January 2019, Harrow Heritage Trust agreed to be the delivery organisation for a Lottery funded project to promote volunteering in the community surrounding Newton Farm Ecology Park. The Trust has been involved with the Ecology Park since its beginning 35 years ago and the Conservation Forum has tried to maintain a volunteer warden there with success most years. The present warden, Leslie Bolsover, has been active for three years. Rachel Wright, of Harrow Community Action, along with Colin Powell of Harrow Carers, encouraged the dynamic duo of Simon Braidman (Warden Stanmore Common) and Caroline Nathanson (HNCf Education Officer) to proffer a grant proposal which would see them taking on the lead role in organising fun and productive volunteering events for the benefit of the park and also raise the profile of the park with the community by running family events there under the banner of Harrow Nature Heroes, which is Caroline and Simon's popular nature reward scheme for children.

In the beginning of April they teamed up with Leslie and the regular park volunteers to run a very successful Big British Spring Clean which addressed and all but cured the historical build-up of rubbish in the park. This effort involved 40 volunteers including the Harrow 4th Scouts, Artemis Tree Service and Cllr Graham Henson & Cllr Dean Gilligan who turned out to be handy with a litter picker and wheelbarrow as well as members of the local community.

In late April we returned to plant a new wildflower meadow. We had 21 volunteers who dug out some invasive bramble, planted plugs of new wildflowers and scattered seed donated by Kew Gardens, the Hedgehog Trust, Save the Bees and other wildlife loving organisations. The results in the summer were spectacular and what was a rather neglected rubbish strewn corner is now a summer focal point for walkers, bees and butterflies. Some dumping of rubbish continues in the area, but with the help of the Harrow Green Team and volunteers, the rubbish has decreased.

Caroline and Simon went on to run four very well attended Harrow Nature Heroes family days during the summer months; "Please the Bees", "Beautiful Butterflies", "Pond Dipping" and "Natural Magic". The stone circle adjacent to the dry meadow served as a perfect staging point and one event had to be done twice as so many children wanted to attend.

Finally, to end the wonderful summer of public engagement we, and our new volunteer recruits, successfully ran Harrow's first Ecology & Sustainability Fair on September 14th. We invited 20 stall holders and small organic traders, planned 6 informative and entertaining speakers for the speakers tent and arranged live music plus teas and cakes in the Shaw Trust site. Special thanks go to Sheila from the Shaw Trust for organising the teas and cakes on the day and generously opening the hut with its vital toilets for attendees!

The day was warm and sunny. About 250 people from the surrounding community attended and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. We've heard so many positive comments from local people as it has been a while since there was an event in the area. One lady, on a mobility scooter, remarked how hard it was just to get out and chat with neighbours and relax. It was a wonderful community get together and we feel it went some way in changing people's perception of the park.

Caroline and Simon can justifiably be extremely proud of the positive difference they engineered in the area and in volunteers who attended. All of us thank Rachel & Colin with Harrow Community Action and Harrow Careers for supporting the project so well.

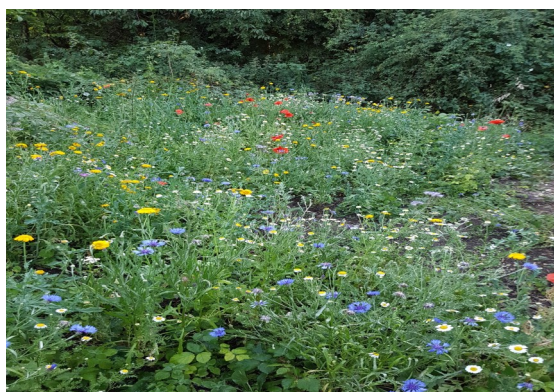
.....and we are already planning what to do next summer to sustain the momentum!



Our Great British Spring Clean April 6th—We had 40 volunteers, including help from the wonderful Artemis Tree Service, and picked up years of litter that had built-up in the park.



April 27th we swap rubbish for Wildflowers.



New Meadow in July. Stunning!

First Harrow Ecology & Sustainability Fair



Stories for children in the tent (Thank you Caroline and Simon). Talks to stretch your mind (Thank you Priya)



Stalls, & Wellbeing area (Thanks Dhanu, Varsha and others.). Plus live music in the Shaw Trust site with drinks and cakes!



Public works of art

Many years ago the Public works of art committee purchased the sculpture of two stone heads which has graced the island at Headstone Manor. Named Merlin and his Wife, they lent an air of mystery. In the recent restoration phase at The Manor, the heads have been moved from their original island home to a place beside the new café. They are showing their age! Friends of Harrow Recreation Ground would like to do the following as a matter of urgency:

Replace the damaged wooden block and create a plinth with gravel infill and also provide the public with an information panel to describe the artworks' history. Investigations are underway with the artist, Andrew Smith now of Nottingham, and older committee members to try to make this happen. One thing Andrew doesn't remember is why they are named Merlin and his Wife! So if anyone out there has a long memory and could fill in details of the history please let us know.....



Close up of wear and tear on Merlin and his Wife

We Win a Postcode Lottery Grant!

We will be hosting a number of free events for adults and children to learn more about plants and animals in the local area thanks to a funding boost of £12,400 from players of People's Postcode Lottery. Stories of climate change, species extinction and habitat loss occur daily and Harrow Nature Conservation Forum believes that education can be the difference between improving biodiversity and losing it. Over the coming year, nature lovers can find out how they can make sure our precious biodiversity is protected for future generations by learning about Harrow's surprisingly rich biodiversity, many green spaces and their range of habitats. Funding from Postcode Local Trust, a grant giving charity, is enabling the organisation to host nine events for adults, as well as five events specifically for children, aimed at getting them into nature and learning about the fantastic wildlife that can be found on their doorstep, and doesn't just exist far away, only to be viewed on TV or screen.

"We aim to inspire lifelong involvement with nature and the wild outdoors in Harrow by providing training for new recruits and fun and educational activities for children." Steve Bolsover, Chair

Brown Plaques—John Williams, Chair



We added another Brown Plaque, on ancient monument number 120 or, as you may know it, Pear Wood "West of Watling Street", Stanmore section of Grim's Dyke. It is installed on a boulder donated by the American School and kindly transported and dropped into place by Harrow Parks and their grab truck; normally in service hauling fly-tipped refrigerators. Grim's Dyke, as the plaque will tell you, stretches from Pinner to Stanmore. The exact use of the dyke is unknown but it probably formed a

boundary. Grim's Dyke had generally been dated as fifth to sixth century AD, but an excavation in 1979 produced a radiocarbon date of 50 AD +/- 80 year. Claire Abbott and Rosemary Etheridge, volunteer warden and deputy warden of Pear Wood, maintain the dyke making sure that it is not overgrown with Holly and Bracken. The condition of the dyke is inspected periodically by English Heritage who contribute to the upkeep and preservation.

Harrow Nature Conservation Forum—Chair, Steve Bolsover

Some new sites have been highlights over the summer. In September the Belmont Nature Trail formally joined the Forum. This is the disused railway line from Christchurch Avenue in Wealdstone to Vernon Drive in Stanmore. Mark Brooker has been unofficially looking after it for years, but now he has the support of a Friends group and all the resources the Forum can provide. On November 20th the Friends group are organizing a quiz night to raise money for the Trail. Meanwhile we are getting to know two sites that joined the Forum earlier. We have held two working parties at “The Spring”, a fragment of ancient woodland at Headstone Manor, and are getting to know the site where Jonathan Barker and Stephen Mills are wardens. At present the site is closed off at the north by temporary fencing along the line of the Yeading Brook during the Heritage Lottery Fund works to renovate the park; once the work is completed there should be a new fence to keep the site secure. In September we picked litter at Stanmore Marsh, the rewilded area at the junction of Marsh, Honeypot and Whitchurch Lanes that is looked after by wardens Dan Bingle and Ian Pearse. We are currently in the process of generating a web page for this site.

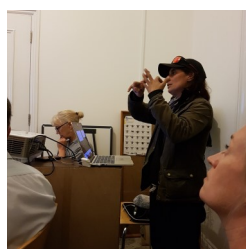
Our established sites are all doing well. As well as physical work we need to survey the plants and animals on the sites to see what is there and assess how well our management is doing. In June we carried out botanical surveys of all the grasslands at Stanmore Country Park. We were very pleased with the condition of 40 Acre Field, which has now had cattle on for three summers. Among the plants present were several flowers of *Lathyrus nissolia*, the grass vetchling, a plant that was recorded on the site in 1999 but had not been seen again until it reappeared in 2018 and which produced a fine spread of flowers in May this year. David Rice and Claire Abbott, wardens at Stanmore Country Park and Pear Wood respectively, put out reptile survey mats at Stanmore Country Park and recorded a new species, slowworm, which had never been recorded from the site – or from neighbouring Pear Wood and Wood Farm - before.



To aid us with our survey and management work we are running a number of courses in species identification and surveying. During the autumn Huma Pearce of Mostly Bats taught two courses, one on bats and one on small mammals. At the mammal course several scouts had their first experience of scruffing a wild rodent to pop it in a bag and weigh it, and did magnificently! The next course is in February 2020: Winter Tree Identification, taught by Paul Losse of Salix Ecology, followed by Riverfly Monitoring on April 18th taught by Phoebe Shaw-Stewart of the Zoological Society of London. The full list of courses is on the HNCF website.



Bat Detectorists



Huma in teaching mode



What small mammal is this; We want to know!

