

The Hatch End Bulletin

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SUMMER 2020

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Please visit the Hatch End Association's website at: www.hatchend.org.
You can use it to contact the Committee – this is explained on the website.

THE HATCH END BULLETIN

Issued by the Hatch End Association

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EDITORIAL

As I write this Editorial in our first-ever digital format (see From the Chair), the sun is shining and there is a whiff of spring. My Last Sunday I had a welcome sign that we were returning to normal when my niece and her fiancé came out from south London for a barbecue. It was a long-awaited meeting as I hadn't seen her since January, having planned to meet her in mid-March as lockdown took place. For those of us living on our own, lockdown has been tough but with relaxation we have gradually been able to see our loved ones. What kept me going, apart from phone calls, Zoom, What's App and FaceTime meetings with friends and family, was the kindness and support of my neighbours, culminating each week with the Thursday night clapping with a friendly chat in the street afterwards. If we didn't know it before, we certainly realised it in lockdown, that Hatch End is a neighbourly and friendly "village". And when the Open Door team appeared with an Easter egg and box of chocolate biscuits "to let you know we are still here and thinking of you" it was such a boost. Lockdown has been hard for us all in different ways, but I can't think of a better place than Hatch End in which to spend it with our wonderful green spaces, public footpaths and sense of community.

As lockdown is relaxed, this wonderful community spirit continues with the team of volunteers who have undertaken to water and deadhead the plants in The Broadway. We really appreciate their help and that of local businesses to keep Hatch End the place we all love. I am also hoping that once life gets back to the "new normal" that the sense of volunteering will continue and that there will be people with some time to spare to join our committee or become a road steward.

Finally, I look forward to being able to producing a bumper Autumn Bulletin with stories of your lockdown experiences. Please contact me with your stories.

Sheila Reid

From the Chair

Strange times and so a different bulletin. While we could have printed a Bulletin for this summer edition, we were not happy that our Road Stewards would be able to deliver it under the conditions prevailing in May when the decision had to be made. We therefore decided to produce an electronic version available to all from our website. I hope you will enjoy it and please circulate it to friends and family, especially anybody without electronic access.

The committee has continued to function through the use of emails and having our regular meetings by Zoom. We do miss the face-to-face contact with people, but we have adjusted and as I write this in June as social distancing is being reduced and shops are opening again we are beginning to action matters in Hatch End.

As you will have noticed, we have arranged for the flower display in The Broadway as a way of cheering us all up as we venture out this summer. We have to thank the Council for providing and planting the flowers, delayed a little by the dry weather, and the many businesses and helpers who are watering and looking after them.

We had to cancel our Litter Pick-Ups in March and June but hope we will be able to achieve our usual clean up on 19 September. Meanwhile, through the actions of an Association member, National Rail is maintaining and removing the graffiti at the Millennium Bridge. This will improve the journey for the Grimsdyke children returning to school. While on the environment, I still have a cherry tree whip – it is now 4ft tall – that I mentioned in the Spring Bulletin. It is awaiting a good home.

The long-promised Grimsdyke CPZ consultation is in full swing with strong feeling for and against. We await the result with interest. The metered parking in The Broadway has been in force for over six months and we had hoped to review displaced parking. However, due to the lack of commuters and traffic over the past three months we feel that the effect has not been fully experienced, so we will wait until after the summer to gauge the effect.

We made a donation to the fabric fund of St Anselm's church to commemorate its 125 years standing in Hatch End. Unfortunately, the celebrations were cancelled due to Covid-19 but still the building has seen many difficult times during its long life, so delayed celebration is understood.

Unfortunately, I have to record the resignation of Robin Rattray from the committee for health and personal reasons. Dermot Wilson has also had to temporarily leave the committee for personal reasons until life returns to

more normal. I would like to thank both for their enthusiasm, hard work and support over the years they have been on the committee.

We hope to produce a printed Autumn Bulletin when road stewards may be collecting subscriptions. However, if they have to ask for two years' subscription in 2021 I am sure members will understand and cooperate.

Your Association is well and functioning during the pandemic, but we do still need more members willing to be involved on the committee and help overview conditions in Hatch End for the residents and businesses. We are using our website www.hatchend.org to notify members of happenings in Hatch End as much as possible and from where I can be contacted.

Finally, please keep safe and stay well..

Julian Maw, Chairman

Membership Report

We don't have to tell you that this has been a very strange but, in some ways, inspiring time. It has been remarkable how people in all walks of life have come forwards to help others in whatever way they can. In that same spirit, some of our more able road stewards stepped up to cover for those who needed to isolate even before the lockdown was enforced. This meant that the Spring Bulletins were delivered and a handful of road stewards were even able to collect subscriptions. But most subscriptions will now have to wait until we can safely call at other people's houses. With luck, this may be possible this autumn, but it may mean that some of this year's subscriptions will not be collected until next year.

Clare Goldschmidt & Susan Tyler,
Membership Team

From the Archive - HEA Bulletin issue 3, 1950

Welfare: The last Bulletin reported the acquisition by the Harrow Council of "Antoneys," Uxbridge Road, to house aged folk: various ways of running the home have since been examined and the Clerk has been instructed to ask suitable local associations with a view to preparing a list of old people who desire to live there, and also to enquire of the County Welfare authority, as to nominating residents .

Street lighting: The inadequacy of the street-lighting in the Harrow area appears widely agreed; this Association has taken up with the Council specific complaints with respect to specially dark spots, generally to be informed that remedying such must await replacement of the present gas-lamps by electric-lamps. The lamps placed experimentally in Uxbridge Road have been highly appreciated. To provide 5,000 lumens per 100ft. of roadway by mercury lamps would mean an initial cost of £12,428 with annual maintenance of £4,230, whereas sodium lamps would cost £13,728 but the maintenance would be £3,128. The lower initial cost of £1,300 is compensated for by the higher maintenance of £1,102 p.a.

Road safety: In response to further enquiry on traffic in Uxbridge Road, which the Harrow Council forwarded to the Commissioner of Police, we have received a copy of a letter dated August 15, 1949. The Commissioner noting that there were five " personal injury " accidents, and five "damage" accidents, three involving dogs, in the section of Uxbridge Road between the Station and Wellington Road during the twelve months ending July 24, 1949, comments: "The accident rate generally does not appear to be excessive in relation to the amount of pedestrian and vehicular traffic and the length of road involved."

Grimsdyke: "Grimsdyke House" long the residence of Lady Gilbert, was bought jointly by Harrow, the M.C.C. and the L.C.C. as a public open space. It is at present occupied by the N.W. Regional Hospital Board as a convalescent home. The Committee decided against seeking a lease from the M.C.C. of part of the estate for open space purposes, and is inviting the observations of the County Valuer upon a proposal to construct and maintain a public footpath and is finding out whether the Harrow Weald Common Conservators would undertake to patrol and maintain such path if constructed..

Planning and Green Belt Report

Covid-19 has certainly not slowed down the number of new planning applications but it does seem to have made life more difficult for Harrow Council planning team. In the past three months there have been 36 new applications within Hatch End; 12 applications were refused and 40 were approved.

We have had two consultations for masts to allow the mobile networks to cope with the new 5G services to come in over the next few years. We expect these to be the first of many as each mobile service has to upgrade its network. One mast is on open land at the end of Colburn Avenue and will increase to 15m high (from 12.5m). In addition, they are seeking to put a new mast on Uxbridge Road between St Thomas's Drive and Paines Lane. We are providing input to the consultation process.

Harrow Council has decided to sell various pieces of land it owns, to raise revenue and mitigate maintenance costs. The garages at Pinewood Close will be put up for sale this summer. They expect a small housing development to take their place and we have registered the need for side access to the garage at 5 Pinewood Close.



In addition, the Council has given notice to Headstone Lane Horticultural Society (HLHS) to terminate their lease, so additional housing can be built on the site. The HLHS were responsible for the flowers in Hatch End Station last year (which helped the station win those TfL awards for best kept station). We have requested that the Council find an alternative site and clubhouse for them as they are a key part of the community at the southern end of Hatch End. We have not heard if this has been resolved, so if anyone is aware of where they could relocate please let us know.

We note that the Council refused the application to remove two magnificent Wellingtonia on the roadside in Sequoia Park to stop settlement in the adjoining houses. However, they have approved a root barrier trench and copper membrane 4m deep and 24m long to restrict future root penetration.

The application at 106 Uxbridge Road to demolish the detached house adjacent to the Baptist Church for six rather small flats has now been approved after going to appeal. This may be symptomatic of things to come.

There is an application at 388 Uxbridge Road (Mills Chody Solicitors) to build four flats on the upper storey and move the solicitors' office to the shop area on the ground floor. The retrospective application by "Fire & Ice", the Shisha bar beside the pub, has now been approved subject to noise and smoke controls.

You will have seen the major earthworks on the corner of Oxhey Lane by Roger Bannister Athletics ground. This is the ground levelling for the four new football pitches that are being constructed to replace the rugby pitches.

The application for a large barn with offices and kitchen to support an apiary in the fields behind Grimsdyke Hotel and beside the golf course went to Appeal with the Bristol Inspector and has now been refused; this will help protect the Green Belt on Old Redding. However, the road across the fields just to the north of the Roger Bannister together with a new concrete bridge across the River Pinn was built without permission and is now subject to an enforcement notice by the Harrow Council enforcement team to remove the bridge and hard-standing and revert to Green Belt land.

The works for the new dance studio at Harrow Arts Centre are well under way; this is located by the cafe and will be a very welcome addition to the community space available. There was also a consultation in March for the further redevelopment of the Arts Centre following a £4m grant. This will remove the old portacabin blocks and provide a new set of meeting rooms and studios behind the Hatch End Suite (beside the boiler house chimney). This is very good news.



John Cobb

CONCERT AT ST ANSELM'S – HARROW APOLLO MALE CHOIR

On a sunny Sunday in March I was ensconced in a pew in St Anselm's, Hatch End's beautiful parish church, waiting for the start to an afternoon concert by the Harrow Apollo Male Choir. Having heard them a few times before I knew I was in for some musical delights. The setting was impeccable, for the choir stood in front of the magnificent rood screen with a stunning Whitefriars Glass stained window behind it. To celebrate St David's Day, the choir burst forth with a stirring rendition of March of the Men of Harlech. Other favourites in the first half were Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah which gives me goose bumps every time I hear it, especially in a church setting; and California *Dreamin'* which was new to the repertoire. This was a hit for the Mamas and Papas in the 1960s and took me back to my younger days. Organist Martin Singleton played Mendelssohn's March of the Priests and Finale from Symphony No 1 by Vierne on the Willis organ, which was built in 1911 and gifted to the church by the Royal Academy of Music. Martin is a supremo on the organ and really made this beautiful instrument sing. An American Trilogy finished off the first half –made famous by Elvis Presley, it was so powerful it almost raised the roof! The choir was definitely ready for tea and biscuits – and so were we.

In the second half, the harmonies were delightful in *He Ain't Heavy*, another new song to the choir and a hit in the 1960s for The Hollies. This was my favourite of the concert. Father David Green, vicar of St Anselm's is a fine singer and he kindly gave a glorious rendition of the Welsh hymn, Cwm Rhondda. His powerful voice soared to the wooden beams of the roof. The finale was *You'll Never Walk Alone* by Gerry and the Pacemakers – another 1960s hit and now sung by Liverpool football supporters, but it fitted into the church setting beautifully. The audience were encouraged to join in, filling the church with music. There was a retiring collection in aid of church funds and a magnificent £735 + gift aid envelopes was raised.



Father David Green

Sheila Reid

HARROW APOLLO MALE CHOIR

The Harrow Apollo Male Choir was formed in 1941 by eight engineers at the de Havilland Aircraft Factory to give them a break from their war work. Recruitment officer, Stephen Sweden writes: "I would like to invite all budding Pavarottis to attend our rehearsals, which are held at the Belmont room, Harrow Arts Centre every Tuesday at 8pm. You are welcome to come for a trial period without any obligation. The repertoire is varied, and we have an accomplished pianist to assist us with teach tracks and the musical scores, so every encouragement is given. The choir has been in existence for 79 years and we estimate we have raised over £160,000 for good causes."



There is a wonderful camaraderie and we have at least two social functions every year where wives, partners and friends are made extremely welcome. We have been invited to sing at various locations in the UK and abroad. If you're shy about turning up on your own, feel free to contact me (8954 6345; StephenS@jannardquadrant.co.uk) and I will be happy to help. For more information on the Choir, visit www.harrow-apollo-male-choir.org.

Stephen Sweden

THE HATCH END ASSOCIATION'S CONSTITUTION & RULES

The 1929 Constitution and Rules of the HEA stated that the objectives of the Association, which is non-political and non-sectarian, shall be:

- To foster interest in local government affairs and promote efficient and economical administration of the district,
- To act in the interest of members in matters affecting them as a body,
- To enquire into and if possible take steps to obtain redress of grievances affecting any part of the district,
- To preserve and develop local amenities,
- To extend the Association's activities and interests as seems advisable.

A copy of the latest version of the HEA Constitution and Rules (dated 24 Nov 2010) was included on page 19 of the Spring 2011 issue. An outline of the Ward boundaries may be obtained from the Co-Chairmen. This is an on-line bulletin so no copies will be printed and distributed.

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Data Protection Act, 1984

Officers and some road stewards of the Association may make use of computers in their HEA work for keeping names and addresses of members (and perhaps phone numbers) where it is easier to do so electronically. No other personal information is so stored. Names and addresses of Committee members and road stewards have long been published in The Bulletin, but no lists of the general membership, either electronic or on paper, are or will be disclosed to anyone outside the Association. If you prefer your name or address not to be stored electronically, please inform a committee member or road steward, and it will be removed.

NOTICE ON COMMUNITY EVENT DATES WITHIN THE BULLETIN

All information on events is correct at time of going to press. However, because of timing issues associated with printing and distribution, the Editor regrets that occasionally you may receive an issue of The Bulletin too late to catch an event.