



THE HARROW HILL TRUST

Caring for the heritage of the Hill and its future

AUTUMN 2023

Chairman's Note

Debora Catherall



1

Notes from
the Chair



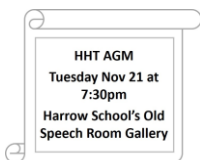
2

Planning
Matters



3

HHT Events



4

AGM Notice



5

Spotlight:
Anna Dickson



6

News from
the Hill

Welcome to another Harrow Hill Newsletter. I would like to start by thanking all the people who help the Harrow Hill Trust charity achieve our aim to care for the heritage and future of Harrow on the Hill.

As this is the first newsletter since the untimely passing of Jonathan (Jim) Edwards, I reflect on all that he contributed. Before doing so, let me pause, and send our condolences to his widow, Elspeth. Jonathan was our mainstay in developing and delivering walks and talks about the history of our local area. For seventeen years Jonathan led thoughtfully themed guided walks around the Hill. Frequently, during the summer months, crowds of people could be seen leaving from the Village Green and gathering around him, listening to his interesting presentation on some local topic. Many remarked afterwards how easily missed are the features that he researched and then told us about. He is sorely missed by those who had the pleasure of knowing him.



It is also with great sadness that we learnt of the sudden passing of Don Walter, a long-term resident of the Hill and leading Local Historian. Don published numerous books on the history of Harrow, including 'The Most Visible Church' (1994), 'Look Back at Harrow: 150 Years in Stories and Pictures' (1995), 'Harrow: The Story of a Millennium' (1999) and 'Harrow Then & Now' (2011). He also wrote numerous articles in the Harrow Observer. Don was a part of HHT's Gantry project, he would organise HHT social gatherings at his house, run quizzes, write the newsletter, and host walks which in later years became 'armchair walks'.

Keep in touch with the Harrow Hill Trust



Sign up for our email alerts at
www.harrowhilltrust.org.uk



Like us on Facebook at
facebook.com/harrowhilltrust



Follow us on Twitter
[@HarrowHillTrust](https://twitter.com/HarrowHillTrust)

Without our leaders of walks we are actively recruiting people to support us and the commitment could be as simple as only one walk that is of particular interest to you. We also welcome anyone who wishes to commit more, notes can be provided. Typically, we aim to hold three walks a year, normally in the afternoon over a weekend during the summer months. Whilst on the subject of recruitment, we are also looking for a volunteer to help with the membership duties. Keeping tabs on our members and maintaining the membership list is the key activity, as well as a regular check-in with our Honorary Treasurer to ensure that fees and members are in sync.

This year, as usual, we held regular quiz nights in the Castle Pub, always well attended and a great competitive spirit between the teams leads to a fun night for all. Everyone is welcome, we can make up teams of six on the night or come with folk you already know. Look out for the Mailchimp update and I hope to see you there.

Back to a focus on our Village Green, opposite King Henry Mews, we hope you enjoyed the sight of the bunting and the Union Flags there to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. I certainly enjoyed the festive atmosphere they engendered although my particular Coronation memory is one of being rather damp on the day standing on The Mall in the pouring rain.

Again, as every year, the Trust will be hosting our annual Christmas Carols on our Green and please have a read of details of that and other events that may be of interest.

Also, it would be super to see you at our Annual General Meeting, too. After the business aspects are covered we are always treated to a really interesting talk about the current exhibition and get to look around – feels almost like a private viewing so please join us at our AGM if you are able.

Many thanks to our teams of volunteers and supporters who make all of this possible. See you at the AGM, at the Christmas Carols on the Green, or at our regular social events!

Pictures from this summer's get-together featured below, and we look forward to seeing you soon!





Planning Matters

We can supplement your voice on planning matters on the Hill, so please do contact us with your comments. We do look at comments submitted directly on the Council website monthly. Once again, my thanks to the experienced committee members for their past and continued service to the Trust. In addition, our input is fed into the monthly meeting of the Conservation Area Advisory Committee, a borough-wide committee which provides comments to the Harrow Planning Department.

What have we been up to?

All letters which provide comments on planning applications and enforcement matters are posted on the website on a rolling 12-month basis.

The Oldfield House replacement building at the John Lyon School. This was the largest most time-consuming project of the year. The applicant appealed the refusal of permission by the Harrow Planning Committee despite the planning officer recommending approval. The Trust was represented at the hearing alongside Councillor Ashton and a strong team of local residents.

It was a good result in that the appeal was refused for reasons stated in our letters of objections and the safeguards in place for development in that location were maintained for the future. We hope that a more open and collaborative approach can be adopted by the applicant in the future and perhaps with more input from local advisory firms with a better understanding of the local environment.

Enforcement

We have a process in place to track enforcement issues brought to our attention by committee members and local residents, either where planning has not been obtained or, occasionally, where the development has not been completed according to the permission obtained. Examples of the latter maybe where architectural detailing has been lost for windows despite the permission stipulating a 'like for like' replacement. Sometimes they result in the enforcement officers managing to nudge owners in the right direction and sometimes a formal enforcement notice is issued and logged on to the Council website.

Paul Catherall
Chair, Planning



HHT Events

Robert Lemon walks us through fond memories of Harrow Hill Trust's social events and gatherings this past year. The HHT team thank you all for your support and attendance, and we look forward to seeing you at the upcoming events! You can sign up for email updates at www.harrowhilltrust.org.uk/newsletter.

May I start by looking back to Carols on the Green, 18th December, 2022. In torrential rain, along with the Salvation Army, we prepared for the carol service as 4.30pm drew closer. However, the weather was so bad that cancelling was a serious consideration, but then as if by magic, people started arriving on The Green from all directions under umbrellas, dripping wet with children in tow and.....the show went on!

The first social event was a FUNdraising quiz on February 1st, at its regular home, The Castle. A good atmosphere prevailed, which was just the job to chase away those post festive blues! Attendance was excellent with not much room at the Inn. As usual, Tim Corbett was our quizmaster and he was armed with a mixture of interesting topics. For information food is available to purchase prior to and during these quiz nights.

On March 25th approximately 60 people gathered on The Green to attend Judith Shepherd's "Save the Spire at St Mary's Church" fundraising walk and talk on local schools and their hidden stories, plus a visit to St Dominic's Sixth Form College and its excavation history. The Harrow Hill Trust contributed to this event with stewarding and publicity.



By popular demand another FUNdraising quiz was held on May 3rd at The Castle. This was a Coronation Quiz special with Tim Corbett, our King Quizmaster and with me supporting him as the Court Jester.

We had hoped that the Harrow Concert Band would perform for us this summer, but we were eventually thwarted by lack of availability of musicians. We are planning for them to visit us next summer.

The Harrow Hill Trust Exec decided to host a summer tea party and invited all our members. We were delighted with a good turn-out, as well as the fabulous summer sunshine and enjoyed a good catchup with some old friends as well as welcoming new members. Our thanks to our hosts, Deb and Paul Catherall. We are thinking this should be an annual event on our calendar.

Our late summer FUNdraising quiz also took place at The Castle on September 6th, and was a sellout. Presided over by our quizmaster, Tim Corbett, good fun was had by all. The winning team was "Girls Night".

Judith Shepherd conducted a walk and talk in conjunction with Heritage Open Day festival on September 16th, with the theme 'Creativity Unleashed'.

What's still to come this year:

We will look at the possibility of holding a **Christmas Quiz special** this year - to be advised and we will send an email closer to the time to all members who have signed up for email updates.

Carols on the Green will be held on **Sunday December 17th at 4.30pm** – Village Green, High Street, Harrow on the Hill. Everyone is welcome.

Finally, your support for our social events is truly valued, and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Robert Lemon
Chair, Social

Harrow Hill Trust Needs You: Call for Membership

We rely solely on membership to keep us going, so if you have not signed up yet, please do join us today. Membership is only £8 per year per family, or £5 for senior citizens. Corporate Membership is £25 per annum.

The membership year runs from September 1st, so it may be time to renew your membership. You can do so easily by Standing Order or one-time payment. If your membership has expired or you are not yet a member, you can renew or sign up at <http://www.harrowhilltrust.org.uk/membership>.

Your support means we can continue our aim to maintain the fantastic place in which we live. You will be supporting events such as the Summer Band Concerts, purchase of the Christmas Tree, Annual Carols on the Green and many more. Please help us spread the word!

Volunteers are also welcome to join our Exec Committee or lead special events and projects!

Cate Jaquest,
Publicity Officer

Harrow Hill Trust's Next Annual General Meeting

Bridget Campbell,
Honorary Secretary

THE HARROW HILL TRUST AGM

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the Harrow Hill Trust will be held
at

Harrow School's Old Speech Room Gallery

at

7.30pm on Tuesday, 21st November 2023

1. Chairman's Thanks and Welcome
2. Minutes of the last AGM
3. Reports
4. Presentation of Garden Competition Prizes
5. Hon Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Officers and Committee for the ensuing year
7. Election of Hon Auditor
8. Any Other Business

Please do join us for a drink and a private viewing of the gallery,
introduced by Julia Walton, OSRG Curator. All members are welcome!

Spotlight on Anna Dickson, Director of Research at the House of Commons

'Fake news' is a topic of conversation as Anna Dickson talks to Debora Catherall about her work in the House of Commons. Anna goes on to share how she balances her career and



being the mother of two boys, and how she came to live in Harrow on the Hill. We conclude by discussing the fun, local things she likes to do when she has time.

'What do you do and where do you work?'

Currently, I am Director of Research for the House of Commons, leading a research team of 100 people. We have eight research sections, with very highly specialised researchers who are subject matter experts. Our services can be broadly divided into two categories: responding to bespoke requests for research from MPs, and writing impartial research papers. Research papers can inform any debate in the House of Commons, a Bill, a Budget, or any other topic of interest. Our subject specialists have to be on top of their portfolios and able to respond to demands from MPs and Parliament more broadly, often at short notice. Our target is to have 75% of the 650 Members of Parliament, and their staff, to use our services.

There is an important distinction that our services are provided for all MPs (regardless of political affiliation) and paid for by parliament. We are separate from the government and the civil service. This separation is the basis on which we can say that our services are always politically impartial.

Whilst we do not provide political opinion - in fact, we are not allowed to express party-political views - we do deliberately look to ensure we include a range of credible perspectives. We take an evidence-based approach, recognising that not all opinions are weighted equally as we look for breadth and balance. For example, in the climate change debate most people recognise that not all views are equally credible.

It is also crucial that our information comes from trusted sources. The Speaker of the House of Commons is concerned, as many of us are, about 'Fake News' and therefore we are thoughtful about our sources. At our fingertips are university-grade information resources. All the papers we create are there to satisfy the 650 Members of Parliament and their staff, but readers may be interested to note that our research papers are also available to the public, accessible at The House of Commons Library: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/>.

The second service we provide is a confidential, research service to MPs. Different to other parliaments, like Germany for example, who publish their ad-hoc results (after two weeks) our reports remain restricted. We serve all Members of Parliament, but typically less so the government MPs as they also have support from their civil servants. Members may ask about, say, unemployment and social housing details for their constituency. My team provide information and analysis to help them do their jobs better – to create a more informed democracy.

What brought you to Harrow on the Hill?

I moved here in 2006 when my husband was offered a post teaching History and Politics at Harrow School. I remember feeling a certain amount of trepidation as I had never lived in London before, but it was an easier commute to the Houses of Parliament. In fact, my husband and I had never lived and worked in the same city before: when my two boys were young, I lived in Winchester and worked as an Academic Lecturer in Politics for the University of Durham. I chose to maintain my career as well as care for my family, but it has not always been easy.

I am passionate about women having the opportunity to hold better positions in society and I know that balance of work and family life can be reached with support. I empathise with any parent working and running a home (mostly mothers), but recognise that domestic duties are nowadays not assumed to be a mother's prerogative!



What do you like to do in your spare time?

My family have lived in Harrow for 17 years and on balance it has been good. I have built up a network of local friends through the children's schools and other activities. In addition, I enjoy a local book-club with other women, some of whom have children and are balancing their careers too. We have interesting debates after reading our recommended novel! At the moment we are reading *River Sing Me Home* by Eleanor Shearer. It is about an ex-slave's efforts to find her lost children.

I run to keep fit with many ups and downs around here! I also enjoy dog-walking, joining a Harrow on the Hill puppy club with my two and half year-old rescue dog, Wellington. I also discovered a super evening ceramics class at Harrow College, Harrow Weald a few years ago and am now hooked on making vessels. It's great to do something that uses your creative instincts.

Our thanks to Anna for sharing her interesting story. It's great to understand more about someone in our local community and their life and contributions in the world.

News from Around the Hill

In addition to our own events and programs for members and the community, Harrow Hill Trust is also proud to support local organisations and initiatives for the benefit of the community.

You can always keep up to date via our Facebook page [@Harrow Hill Trust](https://www.facebook.com/HarrowHillTrust) or via our e-mail distribution list - just write to hello@harrowhilltrust.org.uk if you would like us to add you, or if there are any relevant updates you would like us to share with our members in future newsletters or emails.

Communi-tree!

Every year, Harrow Hill Trust sponsors the Christmas Tree on the Village Green, and a team of tree elves...oops, volunteers...come together to ensure it goes up safely and lights up Christmas for our community. It's hard work, but always a fun day, no matter the weather – or size of tree! Many thanks to of all the team who make this possible. This year the tree will go up again on **Saturday, 2nd December**. Do come along and say hello to the team, and see you there for Carols on the Green on 17th December!



Bell Ringing on the Hill, at St Mary's Church

The last HHT newsletter acknowledged the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September 2022 and, as bell ringers at St Mary's, we arranged a variety of ringing to mark the passing of the sovereign within a national ringing plan and also for our local community.

On 9 September we met to toll 96 rings for the Queen's age, ring an arrangement called Queens, and toll 70 rings for the years of her reign. The bells were half-muffled in advance of our ringing to give a solemnity to the ringing, particularly the tolling. The muffles then had to be removed for ringing on 10th September to acknowledge the Proclamation of HM King Charles III, and our ringing included an arrangement called Kings.

The bells had to have the muffles replaced ready for bell ringing prior to the Civic Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on Sunday, 18th September, attended by the Mayor of Harrow, the Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London, Honorary Alderman, local councillors, and burgesses and representatives of other faiths and organisations. We then met the next morning to ring St Mary's bells for an hour prior to the funeral service. Again, the tenor was tolled 96 times and our ringing included Queens and Kings.

In November, a Quarter Peal of Stedman Caters lasting 56 minutes was rung on the ten bells to commemorate Harrow School's 450 years. Many thanks go to Lucinda Woodward, a past ringer of St Mary's, who composed a special QP of 1450 changes to reflect the school's anniversary. Normally a Quarter Peal is 1260 changes and lasts 45 minutes.

This year we rang on 6th May prior to the Coronation Service of HM King Charles III and HM Queen Camilla, including Kings and the band for the event is shown in the photograph.

It is a privilege to ring St Mary's bells, two dating from the 1600s, for such important national and local events but we also appreciate and enjoy our ringing practices on Monday evenings (7.30pm to 9pm) and ringing for Sunday services (9.45am to 10.30am). We also ring for weddings, funerals and memorial services, christenings and other celebrations giving much purpose to our ringing. Hopefully bellringing will continue into the future at St Mary's but it is dependent on the success of the fundraising for the spire, as water is now starting to leak into the tower, and on new recruits of any age, any religion or none, coming to join us. If you can help in either way, thank you for helping this tradition continue.



We hope you will take the opportunity to visit the tower on the various open days to see the bells, learn about bell ringing, and to see the amazing views.

For more information, please contact Bridget Campbell, Tower Captain, St Mary's Church, Harrow on the Hill at bcampbell2114@icloud.com

Special Harrow Hill Christmas Cards

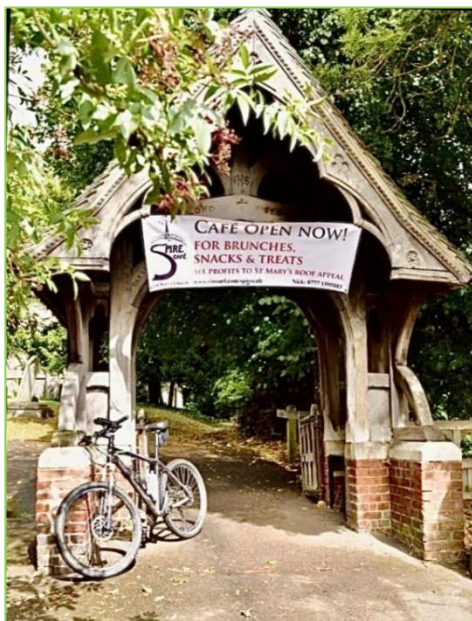
Some of you may know the artist, Sandhya Singh, and may have visited her Harrow Open Studios exhibition or remember the portrait she painted of HM The Queen at the Platinum Jubilee celebrations organized by HHT on the Village Green last year.

This year, Sandhya was invited to paint 'live' at the St. Mary's Church Fete in June, and she chose to paint a glowing landscape capturing an impression of our iconic hill and St Mary's Church, in her own, inimitable style known as 'Rhythmism'.

Sandhya has kindly agreed to a special order of Christmas Cards of this painting, and to donate all proceeds to the 'Save the Spire' campaign in aid of our special landmark, St. Mary's Church. We hope you will send these cards to family and friends along with your best wishes from the Hill!



Please contact Judith Shepherd via stmarys.harrow@btinternet.com or Sandhya Singh at artistsandhya@yahoo.co.in to pre-order your copies!



Spire Café

Did you know that a team of volunteers run the popular Spire Café at St Mary's Church, Church Hill, HA1 3HL once a month on Saturday (most months) as well as on special occasions.

There is always a selection of homemade seasonal goodies including their famous cakes, soups, scones and drinks. All funds raised go towards the 'Save the Spire' campaign.

So, stop over next time with your family or friends, or take a break on a walk or a cycle ride. It's a great place to grab lunch or a snack, relax for a bit, and meet the wonderful volunteers and local community.

You can sign up to the Spire Cafe mailing list to stay abreast of the next opening dates and menu. Write to Sarah or Nick at spirecafe@gmail.com for more information.

From Fear to Fulfilment in 2024

Many of you may know our very own Stuti Singh, who is also the founder of 'A Life without Fear' series of talks, workshops and programs around the world. She is a 3-time TEDx Speaker, an award-winning corporate trainer and coveted coach. Stuti will be hosting a series of talks and discussions locally in 2024 to serve the community.

You can find out more at www.stutisingh.com and write to Stuti directly at stuti@alifewithoutfear.org if you would like to stay updated and attend.



The Coronation of HM King Charles III

Residents of the Hill celebrated an historic occasion on 6th May, the coronation of the new monarch, HM King Charles III. Harrow Hill Trust purchased and put up flags and bunting on the Village Green, and it was wonderful to see homes and businesses bring out the festive decorations, too. Best of all was the local community coming together with street parties, themed events and, of course, delicious treats!



Middlesex Day

16th May was a day to celebrate and recognise the Historic County. Proud Middlesaxons reminded us that the County was first recorded in a Saxon Charter of 704 AD. The County of Middlesex is over 13 centuries old and Harrow lies within.

Middlesex County Council was created in 1889, but, with a change in Local Government, abolished and swallowed up by the Greater London Council in 1965. The Middlesex Regiment (The Die-Hards) made a heroic stand at the battle of Albuhere on 16th May and it was decided that date should be a celebration of both the county of Middlesex and its own Regiment.



You can read the full article on our Facebook page [@Harrow Hill Trust](#), and do follow us to keep up to date with more interesting news, facts and updates!

Caring for the Environment of the Hill



Thanks to Harrow on the Hill Ward Councillors, Eden Kulig and Stephen Hickman, for listening to and acting on residents' concerns about broken benches, ineffective rubbish bins, street lighting, signage, road markings and the management of Church Fields as meadow land – including a meeting to gauge interest in setting up a Church Fields Friends Group. *Let us know if you would like to receive more information, and to join!*

As summer comes to an end and Harrow prepares for the changing colours of autumn, it's time to mark your calendars for the Hillplayers' Christmas panto as they perform Andrew O'Leary's adaptation of *The Frog Prince*.

Castle Awesome and its surrounding village are getting ready for the event of the year... Prince Norman's coronation! The King is retiring for a simpler life of 'Cash in the Attic' reruns, cups of tea (poured by servants, of course!) and time spent in his jim-jams. Join The Hillplayers as mayhem is brought on by our panto baddie, Aunt Phibian as she has other ideas for how things should be done.

Contains: spoilt princesses, a froggy pop group, mischievous grandkids and much more!

This interactive panto will have kids (and big kids alike) laughing and booing to their hearts' content.

It's the perfect event for feeling festive on the run up to Christmas. Make sure to purchase early as tickets will likely sell out.

Tickets on sale from 23/10/2023

www.ticketsource.co.uk/hillplayers

Where:

The Ryan Theatre, 5 Yew Walk, Harrow HA1 3EJ

When:

Saturday, 16th December - 3pm and 7pm

Sunday, 17th December - 11am and 3pm



The Hillplayers are a registered charity (1138598) with all profits going towards further productions for the benefit of the Harrow community. Interested in joining? Head to www.hillplayers.co.uk.

Thank you for supporting Harrow Hill Trust. We greatly value your membership and support.

We hope you enjoyed reading the news and updates in this edition of the HHT Newsletter. You can always keep up to date with future updates via our Facebook page [@Harrow Hill Trust](https://www.facebook.com/HarrowHillTrust) or via our e-mail distribution list - just write to hello@harrowhilltrust.org.uk if you would like us to add you.

Harrow Hill Trust is proud to support local organisations and community initiatives, and we welcome contributions for our newsletters - just drop us a note at the above email address if you would like share any relevant updates or images with our members!

Do remember to let us know if you move, so that future newsletters continue to reach you. We wish you all the best for the coming holiday season and for 2024, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS:



020 8385 1246



www.dmcaccountants.co.uk



www.waitrose.com



www.dollshouseonthehill.co.uk



www.harrowschool.org



www.harrowonthehilldental.co.uk



www.johnlyon.org



www.letsinvest.co.uk



www.londonbr.co.uk



www.groveonthehill.com



<http://mellypotter.com>



THE CASTLE

www.castle-harrow.co.uk



www.nimdesign.com



Orley Farm

www.orleyfarm.harrow.sch.uk



<http://roxethmead.com>



www.squiresestateagents.co.uk



www.kkcl.org.uk



St Dominic's

www.stdoms.ac.uk

WOODROW MORRIS

www.woodrow-morris.co.uk



www.woodward.co.uk

Battels
Comparex
Copperfields Management
Doorstep Pharmacy
Harrow on the Hill Motors

Ipsos MORI
Kubera Wealth
Lysiane Bysh Associates
Retouch Lighting

Shaws News
Suzanne Neville
Swiss Group
The White Horse
Wilson Hawkins