

PINNER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

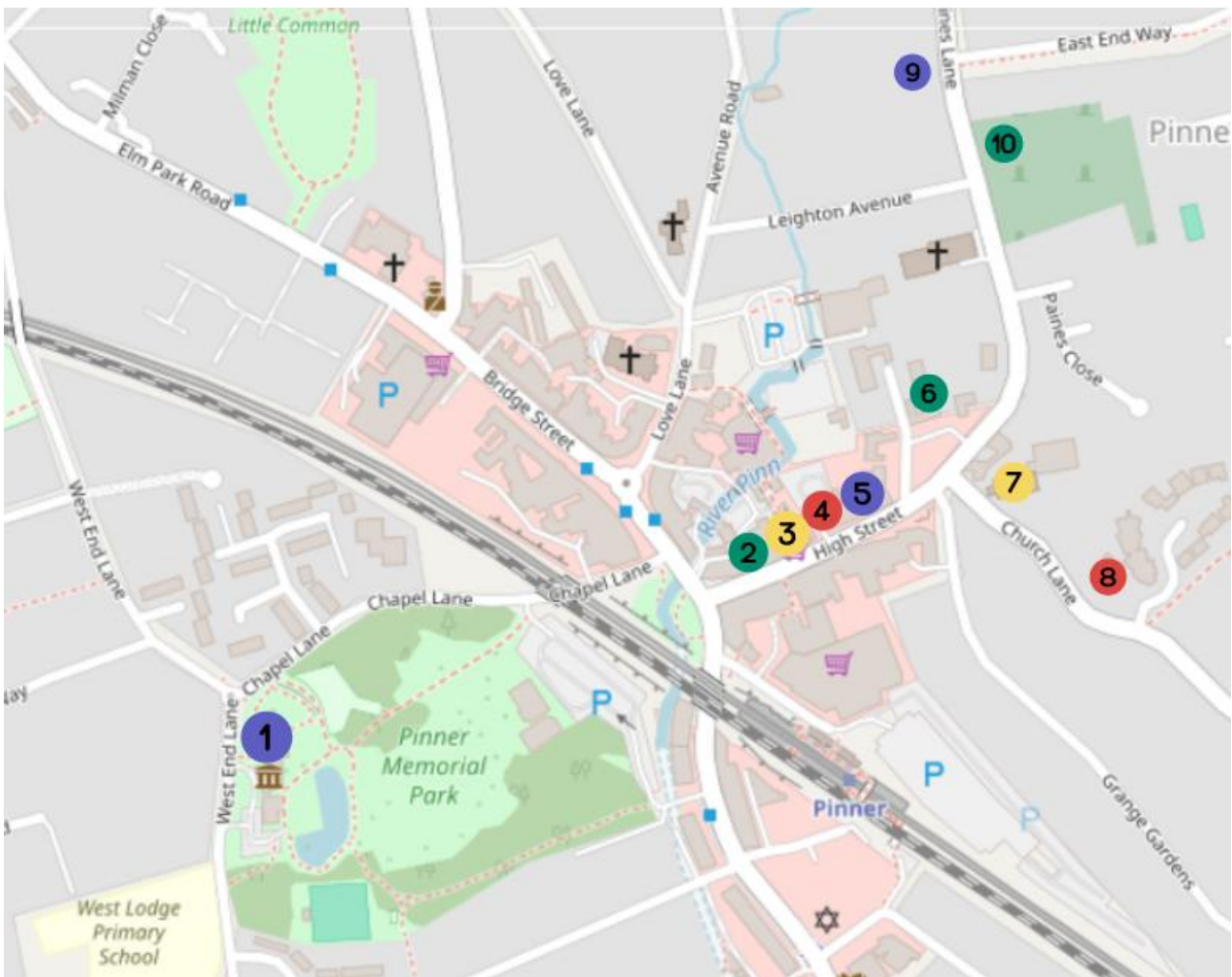
Pinner High Street History Walk

Time: approx. 20 mins at leisurely pace

All level ground, suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs

Please be respectful of private property

Starting Point: We'll begin here in Pinner Memorial Park.



1. West House/Pinner Memorial Park

West House represents a grand house still standing in its landscaped garden grounds, and looking in earlier days right across the valley of the river Pinn to the Church and the High Street. After the arrival of the railway in 1885 the owners planted a screen of trees to hide the embankment, but the Church itself can still be seen. The grounds were bequeathed to the community by Councillor Bennett and the house was brought by public subscription as a War Memorial for Pinner (hence Pinner Memorial Park), one room in it being set aside to contain a specially illuminated Book of Remembrance, the rest being used for community purposes. Sadly the older part of the house was demolished in 1950, leaving an ungainly rump at the southern end, a rather more attractive house originally designed for staff at the northern end, and a car park occupying the space in between. The front garden is largely filled with structures put up during the last World War. Lord Nelson's eldest grandson, Nelson Ward, son of Horatia, made this house the home of his growing family from 1873 to 1883. In the early 1860s Horatia herself had lived at a house opposite, with a daughter, grandson and four servants. Her house called West End Lodge, has been replaced by West Lodge School which was built in 1954.

Heading out of the park via Chapel Lane we head towards the High Street.

Pinner High Street

No one knows just how old the High Street may be. One or two of its houses date from the 1400s, and its general aspect will not have changed greatly since Elizabethan times, especially if it can be imagined without the pavement and cars. Many of the buildings are Grade I and II listed buildings. The fair which takes place in the street every year on the Wednesday following the Spring Bank Holiday has its origins in a charter granted to the Lord of the Manor in 1336.

We then walk up the High Street on the left hand side.

2. Numbers 25 and 27 High Street

These are now Bridal Trunk by Divya and The Willow Rooms respectively, but previously these were one house occupied by the Beaumonts. Beaumont's, which ceased trading in the 1990s, was the longest running family business in Pinner, for they were here in the late 18th century, although in those days they practised the trade of wheelwright. The fire mark on the wall was put up for a policy taken out with the Sun Insurance Company in 1773. This 15th century timber frame building was a hall house. The ground floor room was open to the roof and was heated by centrally placed hearth. As there was no chimney, smoke found its way through a louvre or similar opening in the roof. In later days a chimney would be inserted into such a hole and it would be divided into an upper and lower room.

3. The Queens Head

The Queens Head, boasting the longest jetty in Pinner, was probably built in the 16th century, and its use as an inn goes back to the time of Charles I, when Thomas and Margery Bateman were proprietors. The stagecoach for London used to leave from here daily in the 19th century.

4. Numbers 33 and 35 High Street

Numbers 33 and 35 (now Daisy & Co café) originally formed one house of probable late 15th century date, which was divided into shops during the 19th century. No 33 was a bakery for a century from 1830, and the large oven can still be seen in a room at the back. It was into No 35 that Eleanor Ward, granddaughter of Admiral Nelson, was carried in 1872 after being knocked down by bolting horse, but all efforts to save her life failed. The large windows, probably late 19th century, were installed to show off goods when it was a draper's shop.

5. Number 39

The shop at the top of the High Street No 39, built as a private residence at the beginning of the 19th century, has been a chemist since about 1870. The doorcase is the original one and the underside of its canopy is elegantly moulded. The once-folding door, however, is of a type popular in the late Victorian shops. The elaborate cast iron bracket above is also Victorian and the bay window was probably part of the conversion to the shop.

6. Church Farm (Private Property)

Church Farm, set back from the road, is one of Pinner's oldest houses. In its earliest days it had an open hall, like No 27, and it still contains panelling and another other woodwork of the 16th, 17th and 18th century. It was one of the many properties belonging to a local family by the name of Hill, several of whose members lie in the churchyard, and it remained a farmhouse until 1906, although by that time all of its farmland was far away along Rayners Lane. Bert Thomas, who was a cartoonist very famous in his day, owned the house from 1924 to 1940.

At the top of the High Street turn right into Church Lane.

Church Lane

7. St John the Baptist Church

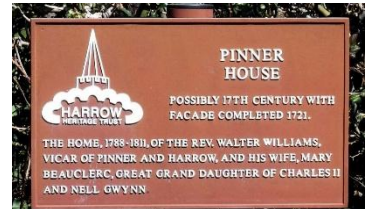
St John the Baptist Church presents its 15th century tower to the High Street. This is a handsome, boldly-buttressed piece of work containing a two-centred doorway set in a square head, with rosettes in the spandrels. The clock has a 17th century face though the mechanism is Victorian and the frame was replaced in teak in 1926. The huge cross at the top of the tower which equals the height of the chancel, replaces an identical one dating from the 17th century. The church as a whole is built of flint, which is the

only local building material available in any quantity. The nave and chancel were rebuilt in 1321, while, to judge from their windows, the transepts are a little older. Notice that their quoins are made of ironstone, unusual in this area. The chapel to the south of the chancel was added in 1859. The Porch appears to be contemporary with the tower and contains a modern statue of the patron saint in the niche above the entrance. There are 8 bells, the oldest ones dating from 1770. Take a look inside if you can, to enjoy the harmonious interior, and the windows, renewed in the 15th century but now filled with coloured glass of the 19th and 20th century. The huge pyramid-shaped memorial in the churchyard covers the grave of the parents of the noted architect and horticultural writer JC Loudon. The coffin shape protruding from the side has given rise to many fanciful theories, including the fact that it might contain an actual burial, but it is merely decorative.

Chestnut Cottage (private property) adjoins the eastern end of the churchyard and its many little gables and ridges give it an interesting appearance. It probably incorporates the work of several centuries. Notice how the chimney at the western end curves and leans against the house. Special permission had to be obtained for the insertion of windows overlooking the churchyard in this wall of the house. John Smart, an artist of some note in the early 19th century, once lived here.

8. Pinner House (Private Property)

Pinner House is an imposing Queen Anne house which retains several of its original interiors. It enjoyed a fine view over southern Pinner before semi-detached housing covered the fields. The Woodbridge family owned the house for most of Queen Victoria's reign, having come to the area at the beginning of the 19th century and made their money in the building trade. In 1947 the house was converted for use as an old people's home. New wings were added at the rear during the 1970s to provide warden assisted accommodation, and the rooms in the big house are largely used for communal purposes nowadays. Look out for the plaque.



Turn round and go back down Church Lane to where it meets the High Street and turn right into Paines Lane.

Paines Lane

Paines Lane was well established in the time of Henry VIII and had this name even then. A large house, Barrow Point House, stood at the corner with Barrow Point Lane until early 20th century and was occupied by St John's School until the school's removal to Potter Street Hill. Number 77, was formerly the house of Janie Terrero a local suffragette who spent some time in prison. No 50 is the only survivor of three houses built side by side in 1870, and was initially called Stoke Villa.

9. Pinnercote No 60 (Private Property)

Pinnercote No 60 was the home of another suffragette, Mrs Mark Verden. The first occupant of Ewelme Cottage No 62 was Louis Davis, designer of stained glass whose work includes several windows in the Church of St Anselm's in Hatch End, and a strongly-coloured window to the memory of Mrs Nugent of The Hall, Uxbridge Rd, in St. John's church in Pinner to the south of the porch.

Turn round and go back down Paines Lane to the cemetery on the left hand side.

10. Paines Lane Cemetery

The cemetery was consecrated in 1859, after attempts to secure more land for the enlargement of the churchyard failed, and an extension was provided at the back for Nonconformist burials. This cemetery is typical of its time and is worth looking at to see some of its memorials. If you walk halfway up the path, you will find, within a very low railing several yards off to the right the grave of Horatia Nelson Ward, who died in Pinner at the age of 81; along the main path to the left, on the eastern side, is a large memorial to Sir Ambrose Heal of Heal's furniture store in Tottenham Court Road, who lived at The Five's Court in Moss Lane. *Cemetery Opening Times: Jan/Feb 9am to 4.30pm, Mar 9am to 5.30pm, Apr 9am to 7pm, May to Aug 9am to 8pm, Sept 9am to 7pm, Oct 9am to 5.30pm, Nov/Dec 9am to 4.30pm.*

*We hope you enjoyed this brief tour of some of the history of Pinner.
If you would like to find out more about Pinner and
the Pinner Local History Society please visit: www.pinnerlhs.org.uk*