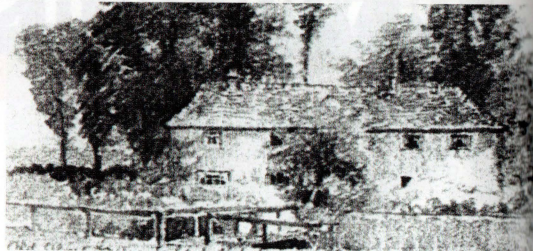


Pinner once had a workhouse. It stood from 1790 where the railway embankment behind Bridge Street Gardens is now, and was reached by a footbridge over the River Pinn. It could accommodate 30 men, women and children, with rooms for the master of the workhouse.

'The separation of men, women and children must have been devastating for families'

The intention was to provide for the destitute without encouraging idleness. Some residents were found work with farmers, while others had to spin flax, pick oakum from old ropes, or tend the vegetable garden.

They received three meals a day, mainly bread and



After 1835, the workhouse became five cottages, pictured here just before they were demolished

thin beer, with gruel, soup, cheese or butter, and hot meat four times a week. Workhouse residents typically included elderly people. There were children too, though the authorities would try to place older ones as servants or apprentices.

Albert Pell, who lived at Pinner Hill House in the 1820s, remembered 'the village idiot' who spent his days chained to a railing outside the workhouse.

After 1835, the destitute from Pinner and other districts were sent to a much bigger workhouse in Edgware, where the separation of men, women and children must have been devastating for families.

At our next meeting at Chapel Lane car park at 8pm on Thursday, April 4, Michael Clarke will speak on the history of electricity and the roles of two women in its development. Visitors are welcome. Suggested donation £3.

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