

## Harlesden, I presume

by Anna Maxted



- 1 When Rose Rouse moved to Harlesden, a deprived area in north London, 18 years ago, she felt “apprehensive”. Its immigrant communities – West Indian, Somali, Afghan, and Irish – kept largely to their little enclaves, and there was a reputation for gun crime. But rather than 26, she determined to go out and make friends.
- 2 Armed with little more than a cackling laugh and infectious enthusiasm, Rouse approached strangers in the street, asking if they knew the whereabouts of an old landmark, the Willesden Hippodrome. “It was a ploy to chat and to ask questions you never usually get the chance to ask,” she says. And she discovered a heart-warming truth: that if you approach with an open spirit, people come out to you.
- 3 After various schemes – sitting under the famous Jubilee Clock with a sign reading “Talk to me” and organising a dance-fest in the streets with six friends in evening gowns – Rouse hit on the idea of inviting residents, including documentary maker Louis Theroux and comedian Alexei Sayle, to walk through Harlesden with her and chat about their lives. Her journeys of discovery will be published in a book, *A London Safari: Walking Adventures in NW10*.
- 4 “Harlesden is a colourful, wild cacophony,” says Rouse. “It’s dirty and gritty, and has this untamed air.” There are wig shops, grocery stores with

piles of plantains, Portuguese bakeries and Brazilian cafés. We pass Hawkeye Records, the reggae store that also sells bread, and there is a shop that sells “spray for de-demonising your house”.

- 5 Many residents, such as Leroy Simpson, have lived here all their lives. He is chair of Harlesden Town Team, which is a residents’ group that tries to improve the area. Among their achievements are the building of “pocket parks” with allotments where people can grow their own vegetables and playgrounds for children. Simpson’s parents fled Harlesden 15 years ago, but on a recent visit, he says, “they felt different”.
- 6 “They’ll be wanting to move back,” says Rouse. “If they can afford it,” says Simpson. “I just saw the first £1.5 million house get sold.” Rouse isn’t pushing for a posher neighbourhood: she just wants to make Harlesden friendlier. Simpson says: “Because we keep ourselves to ourselves, we’ve become isolated. We want to encourage people to come out into the community. We have a chance to rekindle all the good neighbourly stuff we used to do for each other.”

*The Sunday Telegraph, 2014*

## Tekst 9

---

- 1p 26 Kies bij 26 in alinea 1 het juiste antwoord uit de gegeven mogelijkheden.
- A interfere
  - B protest
  - C retreat
- 1p 27 Which of the following descriptions fits Rose Rouse best, based on paragraphs 2 and 3?  
She is
- A ambitious and dominant.
  - B careful and modest.
  - C outgoing and resourceful.
  - D silent and wise.
- 1p 28 What becomes clear about Harlesden in paragraph 4?
- A It has been transformed into a popular London tourist attraction.
  - B It has developed into a rather diverse and vivid neighbourhood.
  - C It has opened large department stores to attract foreigners.
  - D It has turned into a dismal place that people avoid with reason.
- 1p 29 What is the function of paragraph 5?
- A to explain why some people still refuse to live in Harlesden
  - B to give an example of what went wrong with Harlesden
  - C to make clear that locals are also working to improve Harlesden
  - D to stress what still needs to be done to change Harlesden
- 1p 30 “If they can afford it,” (paragraph 6)  
What becomes clear from this remark by Leroy Simpson?
- A Banks are reluctant to provide mortgages for houses in Harlesden.
  - B Former residents of Harlesden are familiar with its drawbacks.
  - C Harlesden is turning into a fashionable and attractive area.
  - D Simpson’s parents have unsuccessfully tried to sell their house.
- 1p 31 “Because we keep ourselves to ourselves, we’ve become isolated.”  
(alinea 6)  
→ In welke alinea is dit aspect al eens benoemd?  
*Noteer het nummer van deze alinea.*

---

### Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.