

Providence Row GAZETTE

• COMMUNITY MAGAZINE •

HOPE

Hope springs eternal, they say. Bob Marley certainly thought so in his song Three Little Birds with its iconic line 'Every little thing's gonna be alright'. Jo asks how we continue to find hope in Marley's words 30 years after his death.

Rubbing alongside the wealthy financial institutions of the City of London is Tower Hamlets. Terry Mellish former chair of Natixis Investment Managers speaks to the Gazette about the investment company's generous support for Providence Row.

Speaking of which, economics seems to have come into its own as predictions of the country's finances become ever more volatile. Our house philosopher Liam reckons that even economists cannot put a price on life's most valuable qualities such as hope.

Meanwhile Providence Row's rooftop garden is a beacon of hope. Hannah takes a tour of the newly planted vegetable patches while head gardener Julie gives her some surprising news - there's even a fig tree basking in the sunshine up there.

Luigi's a basker too. But then he knows just where to find the best rays to lift his spirits. Cat Leo's approach to sunbathing leaves is befuddling though. Too much fur going on, Luigi reckons.

Befuddled is how Sam's Easter teasers left us too. Even though we can see the solutions to his teasers, we still cannot work out that pesky numbers stickler.

Can you...?



Mew!

CONTENTS

2. Interview with Terry Mellish
3. What's coming up in the garden?
4. Economics
5. Don't Worry 'bout A Thing!
6. Tales from Tails
7. Art & Fun



Interview with Terry Mellish

Former UK chair of Natixis Investment Managers (IM)

Terry Mellish led on investment company Natixis IM' support for Providence Row

Within sight of London's City spires and skyscrapers, Providence Row benefits from the generosity and altruism of one of the City's largest financial institutions.

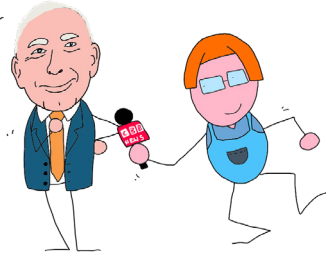
Until he retired recently, Terry Mellish was UK chair of the board of Natixis IM, one of the world's largest asset management companies. He was also responsible for the company's diversity and inclusion programme.

'People often think of financial institutions rather negatively but asset management probably touches every household,' Terry says.

'The prudent management of investments and assets such as in pension funds, pays for the country's infrastructure like roads, railways, airports, yet people are often unaware of those social benefits,' Terry maintains.

Many City institutions have an acute social conscience Terry believes, Natixis IM being a prime example. At the instigation of a philanthropic chief executive, a competition amongst staff to find deserving charitable causes in East London identified Providence Row for the company's support.

By volunteer Frances!



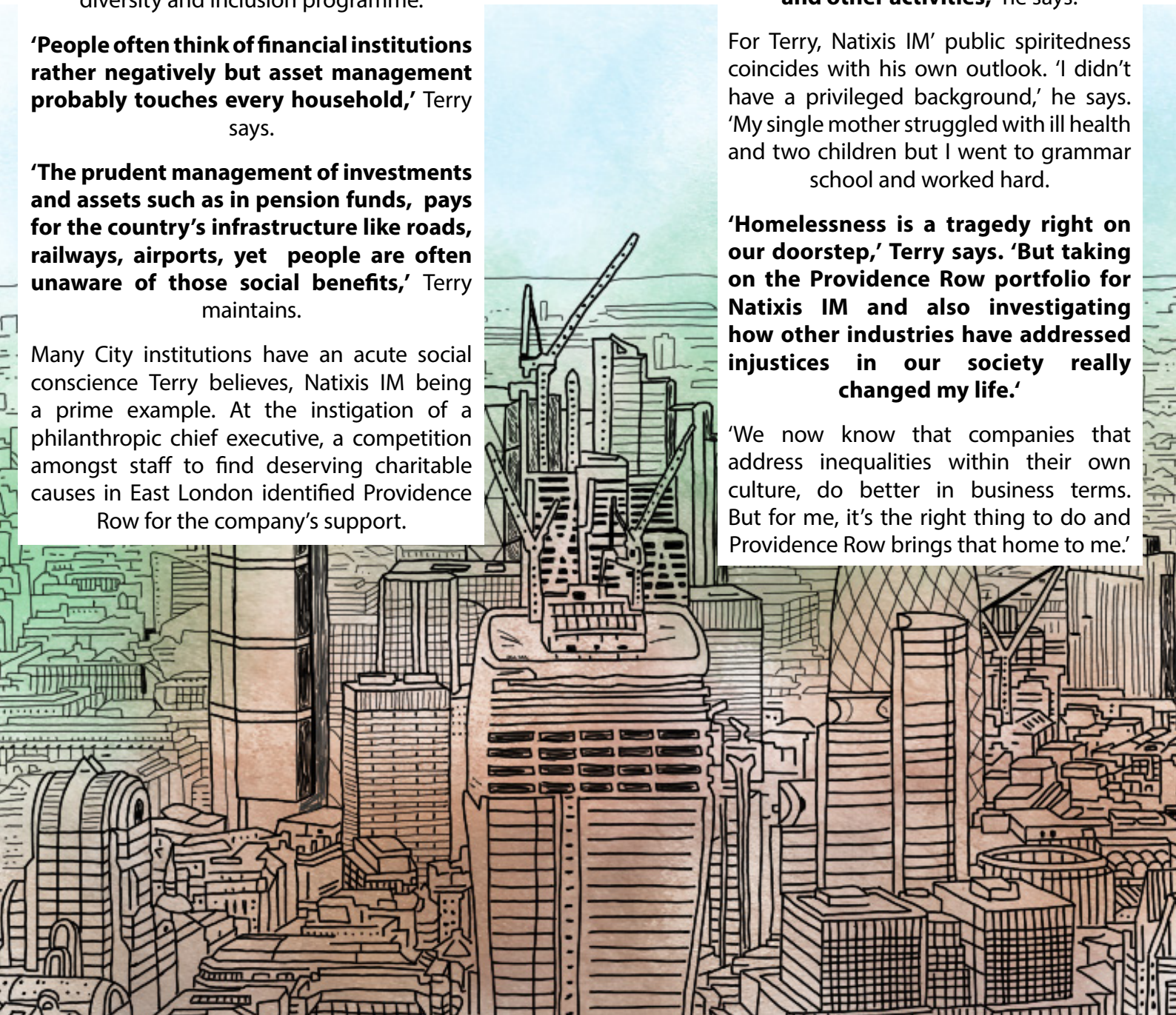
In nearly seven years of the partnership, Natixis IM has helped Providence Row in many practical ways. 'Natixis IM fundraising helped establish Providence Row's roof garden and more recently to launch the lockdown food distribution programme and also to restart the employability service,' says Terry.

'Natixis IM staff also help Providence Row's clients with their IT skills, CVs and other activities,' he says.

For Terry, Natixis IM' public spiritedness coincides with his own outlook. 'I didn't have a privileged background,' he says. 'My single mother struggled with ill health and two children but I went to grammar school and worked hard.'

'Homelessness is a tragedy right on our doorstep,' Terry says. **'But taking on the Providence Row portfolio for Natixis IM and also investigating how other industries have addressed injustices in our society really changed my life.'**

'We now know that companies that address inequalities within their own culture, do better in business terms. But for me, it's the right thing to do and Providence Row brings that home to me.'



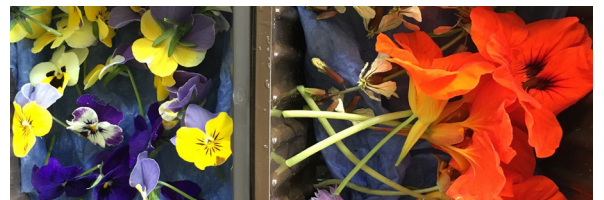
Spring has sprung!

What's coming up in the garden?

By volunteer Hannah!



Spring equinox was a few weeks back. Hooray for longer days, lighter evenings, blossom and blue skies. In the coming months spring will turn to summer, and our lovely roof garden will come into its own. Here's a look back at our harvests in 2019 to get us excited about what's to come...



With figs, plums, pears, apples, grapes, potatoes, beans, tomatoes, kale, spinach, courgettes, peppers, chillis and more, we're looking forward to harvesting all the colours of the rainbow!

ECONOMICS

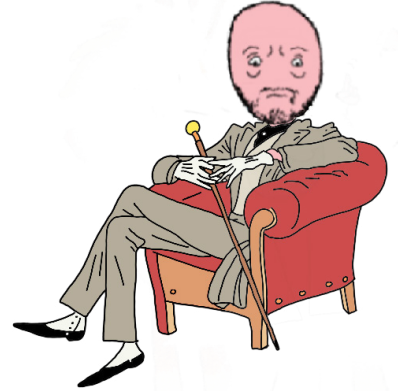
The word 'economic' comes from two Greek words, 'eco' meaning home and 'nomos' meaning accounts.

By volunteer Liam

The subject has developed from being about how to balance the family budget into the wide-ranging social science it is today, utilised by all major governments and economies.

Essentially, economics is about scarcity and choice; that is, reconciling unlimited wants with limited resources.

Economics not only explains life in terms of resource costs and consumer benefits, but also keeps a watchful eye on business activity and market trends.



Of course, how countries perform economically needs to be measured and compared, perhaps in relation to previous administrations, or to comparable economies elsewhere; for example, the UK might be compared to say France, Spain or Italy.

How do we objectively measure performance? Generally speaking, economic performance is measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This is the final value of the goods and services produced by a country during a specified period of time, normally a year. As such, GDP growth rate is an important indicator of the economic performance of a country's financial well-being.

Having said that, GDP has its limitations, Robert F Kennedy, an American politician, famously said in a speech to students at the University of Kansas in 1968 that GDP "...does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education or the joy of their play. It does not include the beauty of our poetry or the strength of our marriages, the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials. It measures neither our wit nor our courage, neither our wisdom nor our learning, neither our compassion nor our devotion to our country, it measures everything in short, except that which makes life worthwhile".

Maybe, in view of what Robert Kennedy said, we need an alternative measure of economic performance?

Don't Worry 'bout A Thing!



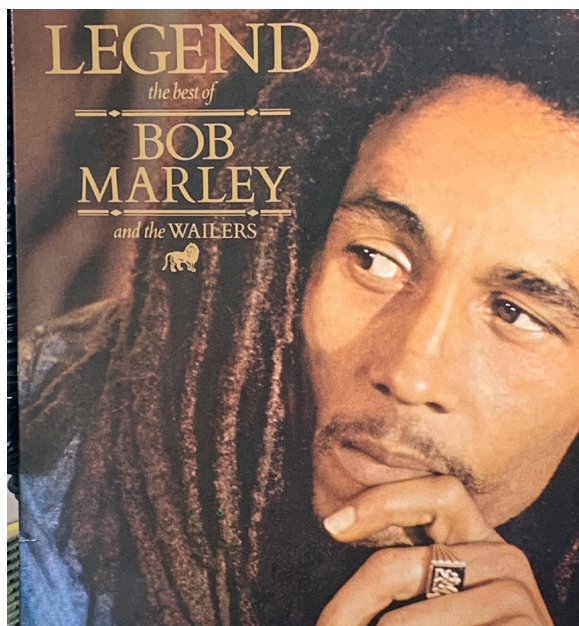
By volunteer Jo!

What is it makes a really catchy song? Is it the tune? Is it the lyrics? Is it the singer?

I asked people and some of the songs which keep going through peoples' heads are maybe ones with a sense of humour and optimism. As Bob Marley put it:

Don't worry about a thing.
'cause every little thing
gonna be alright!

Marley was challenging but always humorous. He somehow found words and names which captured a spirit of mischief and fun. His bands went through names like "The Teenagers" and "Rudeboys" before ending up as "The Wailers".



Arriving in London as a Rastafarian with dreadlocks he packed a lot into what was sadly a short life. He was a survivor of an assassination attempt but died of an illness at only 36. Loved by so many, even the guy who took him on at Island Records gifted him a house which became both his home and Tuff Gong Studios where he recorded his songs in aptly named, Hope Road Kingston.

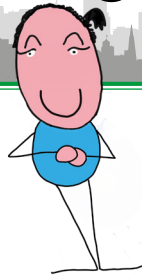
Everyday images and light but powerful rhythms captured a mood in the song "Three Little Birds" in unexpected ways.

Rise up this mornin', / Smiled with the risin' sun, / Three little birds / Perch
by my doorstep / Singin' sweet songs / Of melodies pure and true, / Sayin',
"This is my message to you-ou-ou:"

So what do we feel? Is it the words? Is it the singer? Is it the tunes? What makes a song capture our attention? What gives us hope and a continuing pleasure hearing these lyrics in memory as well as when we listen in the first place? What songs and singers give you hope and a bit of optimism in the tough times? We'd love to know what you think!

Tales from Tails

By Emma!

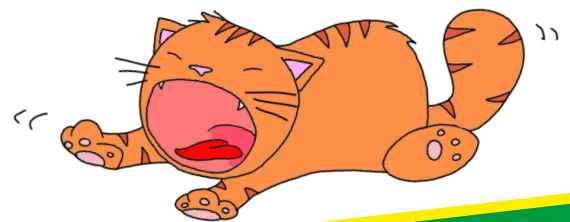


Boy, am I feeling good. The sun is out, I'm an Italian greyhound and even though I'm from Chelmsford I really, really love soaking up the sun and posing of course. Poor Leo has so much fur it's ridiculous. He too loves to bask in the sun but starts panting within minutes. He never learns.

We are talking about hope in this edition and I'd like to say the sunshine absolutely gives me hope. It definitely gives flowers hope. Animals, people, plants too. Even London looks lovely in the sunshine. What gives you hope we wonder?

They say a life without hope is a life not worth living. A little harsh but I sort of get the sentiment. Though isn't it tough to feel hopeful? I think trying to think about at least one hopefully thing everyday is really useful. Hope can be big or small. I mean of course I hope I win the lottery one day, I hope to go on holiday this year, I hope I become a big movie star. I also hope that you've found people a bit more friendlier today in the sunshine. I hope you have managed to eat something, I hope you have shelter tonight. I hope you can find something to be hopeful for today.

MAKE ME A LITTLE ROOM,
WOULD YOU...





By volunteer Sam!

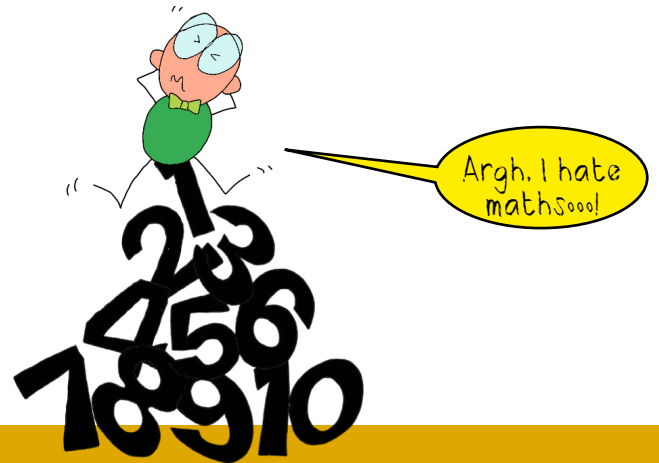
1. What do the following words have in common?

Assess - Banana - Dresser - Grammar
- Potato - Revive - Uneven - Voodoo

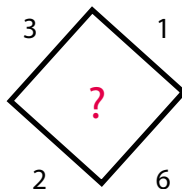
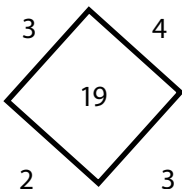
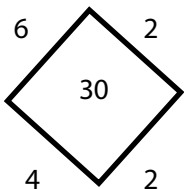
2. Can you find the the **mistake**?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

3. What is the biggest number that can be written with four 9s?



4. What will come in place of "?"



5. I went on a holiday to a hill station. It snowed for 15 days. But when it snowed in the morning, the afternoon was lovely. And when it snowed in the afternoon the day was preceded by a clear morning. Altogether there were 14 very nice mornings and 17 very nice afternoons. How many days did my holidays last?

SOLUTIONS

1. If you take the first letter and move it to the rear of the world, you get the same word when read backwards.
2. I don't think you need two "thes" in the same sentence ;)
3. 9999
4. 25

5. Let the holiday lasted for x days. If 14 mornings were nice, then x - 14 evening had snow. Similarly if 17 evenings were nice, then x - 17 mornings had snow. So we have x - 14 + x - 17 = 15 => x = 23.