

GREENHILL MANOR RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2015

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Introduction

Your committee is living in exciting times! We were lucky enough to be nominated for a Harrow's Heroes Award. This is an evening organised by Harrow Council and the police to acknowledge and celebrate the work of volunteers in Harrow. There were about 450 people at the Leisure Centre for entertainment and refreshments. Every group or individual nominated was given a certificate but, more importantly, we were told about the winners of the awards. Some young people, for example, had spent years volunteer mentoring as well as dealing with their own lives, problems, exams and so on. There were also 10 nominees for the Gold Star award – over 20 years of volunteering!

This recognition should energise your committee to carry on! We do need help though – would someone volunteer to be **Vice Chairperson**?

Committee meetings are every other month and usually last about 1 to 1½ hours. Contact the present Chairperson, Margaret Bristow, [who has not missed a meeting yet] or the Secretary, Helen Shorter – their details at the end of the newsletter.

Contributions to the newsletter would be welcome. We have tried to include things of local interest but please give us details of more events or organisations.

Harrow's Heroes Awards

GMRA was nominated for the Harrow Heroes Volunteer Team Award and were also invited on 3rd November 2015 to the event at Harrow Leisure Centre. Margaret Bristow, Helen Shorter and Noor Mohamed represented the committee at the awards ceremony.

The Awards ceremonies were interspersed with performance from Kidology Dance Company. Solo Singer and East West Fusion dance.





*Greenhill Manor
Residents Association*
nominated for a
Harrow's Heroes
Volunteer Team Award

Recognizing an invaluable contribution to volunteering in Harrow

[Signature]
Councillor Krishna Suresh
Mayor of Harrow

[Signature]
Councillor Sue Anderson
Community, Culture & Resident
Engagement Portfolio Holder



Local facilities

Tennis

Harrow Baptist Tennis Club [HBTC] / TStar Academy is to the rear of Bonnersfield Lane. Entrance to the club is between 44-46 Bonnersfield Lane, Harrow, HA1 2LE [Lucky residents backing on may collect carrier bags full of tennis balls!]

TStar Academy runs all the tennis classes at the club for children and adults. They offer group coaching, 1-2-1 coaching and also holiday camps for children. All ages are welcome. Junior membership costs £35, student membership £75 and adult membership £100 [with or without coaching]. Every Saturday there is club play, where the members come down and play tennis with other members of the club but at other times 2 members may also come to play. It is not necessary to book a court. Winter season the start time is 10.30 until 2.30pm with the summer season starting at 2.30pm until 6.30pm

More information on the tennis coaching can be found at www.TStarAcademy.com. The number for the tennis coach, Bhavin Khatri, is 07725 040044 and the number for the club is 0208 428 1279.

Skills Exchange

HARROW LETS

LETS stands for Local Exchange and Trading Scheme, a barter system for skills. They also trade goods such as unwanted household items, plants, crafts and garden produce etc. They provide services such as sewing, house minding, computer skills, help with gardening, housework, giving lifts, teaching crafts, languages etc Do you have a skill you could pass onto someone, or just give some time?

For more information contact www.harrowlets.org.uk, miriam.cartwright@axianet.com, telephone 020 7607 7852

Your committee has not had any dealing with LETS so we would be interested to know how you get on should you decide to contact them.

HARROW COMMUNITIES CLICK [HCC]

HCC is a new membership network managed by Age UK Harrow, in partnership with Harrow Carers, Mind in Harrow, Harrow Mencap, Third Sector Potential CiC and Timebanking UK and funded by Harrow Council. It currently has just under 300 members and is growing fast. The goal is to have 2000+ members by the end of June 2017. Everyone has something to give, whatever age or ability. People join the network and give their time to other members, so earning 1 hr time credits for every hour given. These time credits can then be spent on something they may need or want to do. There are a range of services available from gardening to cooking, learning a language or joining a group. The scheme is intended to help people stay independent by supporting them with practical tasks around their home, helping people meet new friends and have some fun. It is intended to reduce isolation that some people might experience by connecting them with people with shared interests in their local area. All the group events are free, here is an example of just some of them

- COFFEE MORNINGS meet HCC members and build friendships
- KNIT & NATTER GROUP to learn how to knit and make new friends
- JEWELLERY MAKING GROUP make jewellery for you or loved ones
- MEDITATION guidance to help you relax and de-stress
- EXERCISE CLASSES provided by HCC member Harrow Leisure Centre

Members are encouraged to set up their own shared interests groups, and the above is just an example of some of them.

Planning Matters

An application has been granted to demolish the Cumberland Hotel (St. John's Road) and build two blocks of flats (123 flats in total). Maximum height will be 9 storeys. Since the hotel stretches back to Sheepcote Road, the trustees of the Victoria Hall are considering the opportunity to redevelop. The hall would be demolished and rebuilt with more flats on top to pay for the work. It should still be possible to hold the GMRA Annual General Meeting there in early May 2016.

The committee went to a consultation on McCarthy and Stone's proposal to demolish the Comfort Hotel and to erect 'Assisted Living Accommodation', namely, 48 flats with a warden on site 24 hours a day and a minimum level of care included in the maintenance charge with the option to buy more. The roof of the present building will only be ½ metres higher although the new building will be 3 storeys. Apparently the amount of traffic should be less since the hotel has 50 rooms. The formal application will go before the Council's Planning Committee at the end of November.

This is how the new development will look where Comfort Hotel is now.



Your Greenhill councillors to deal with local matters

Susan Anderson - EMAIL sue.anderson@harrow.gov.uk

Keith Ferry - EMAIL keith.ferry@harrow.gov.uk

Ghazanfar.Ali – EMAIL Ghazanfar.Ali@harrow.gov.uk

Your member of Parliament

Gareth Thomas was re-elected MP for Harrow West at the recent election. He lives locally, went to school in Harrow and has been Harrow West MP since 1997.

The constituency office is 132 Blenheim Road, West Harrow, HA2 7AA
Tel: 020 8861 6300. Surgeries are usually held on Fridays on a weekly basis.

gareth.thomas@harrowlabour.org

His Parliamentary address is
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Tel: 020 7219 4243

Fax: 020 7219 1154

thomasgr@parliament.uk

Your current committee

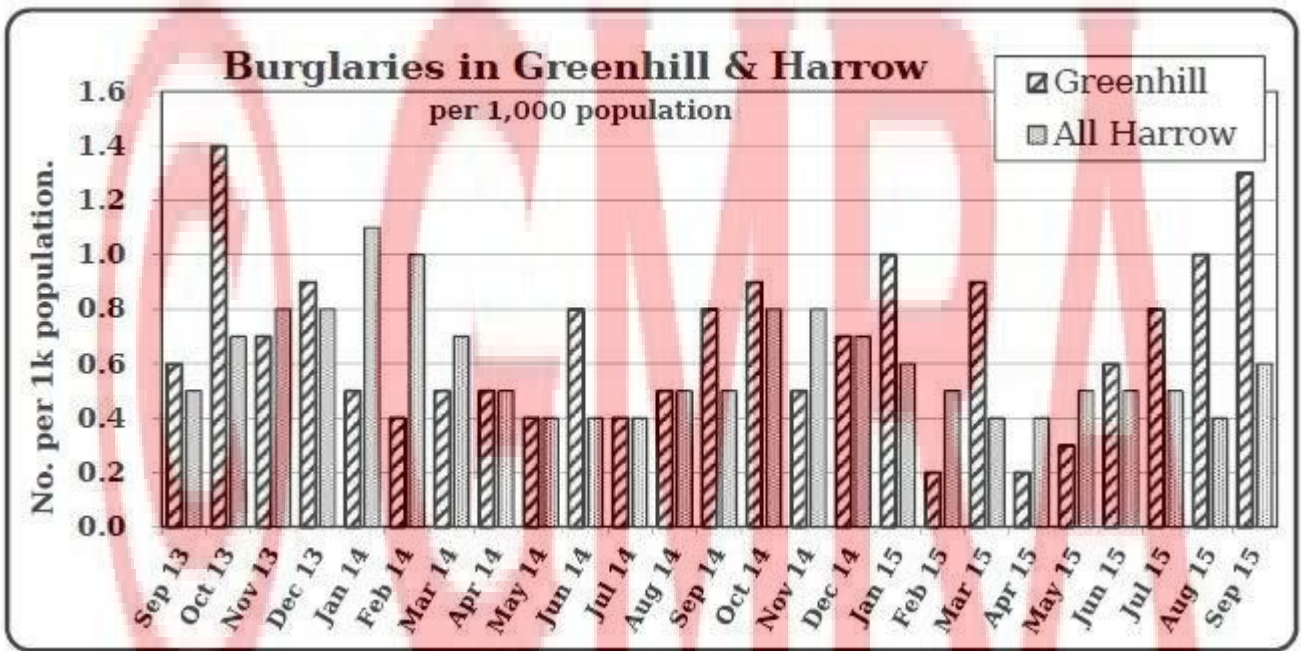
Chairman	Margaret Bristow, 118 Crofts Road
Vice Chairman	<i>Position vacant</i>
Secretary	Helen Shorter, 55 Grange Road
Treasurer	Eddie Griffiths, 11 Northwick Park Road
Road Representatives	
Bonnorsfield Lane, Close & Croft Villas	Noor Mohamed, 71 Bonnorsfield Lane
Crofts Road	Margaret Bristow, 118 Crofts Road
Francis Road	Bijal Vekaria, 35 Francis Road
Grange Road	Helen Shorter, 55 Grange Road
Hill Crescent and Road	Myrna Albertsen, 27 Hill Crescent
Manor Road	Mike Moran, 43 Manor Road
Northwick Park Road	Sylvia Farooqi } Northwick Gwen Batham } Park Road

A Vice Chairman is needed. Please think about it or if there is anyone else you could suggest. There are six committee meetings a year, which usually only last from 7.30pm to 8.30 or so. It is an opportunity to see how the committee works and, if the Chairperson is absent, to run the meeting

Greenhill Burglaries

The article on securing property is reprinted below.

Here is the chart with the latest burglary figures for Greenhill – unfortunately rather higher for September 2015. Since May 2015, the burglaries have been on the rise in Greenhill compared to the rest of all Harrow. The chart below shows how the number of burglaries in the whole of Greenhill has changed through the last two years. It should be noted that Greenhill extends past the town centre as far as Bessborough Road.



These figures were produced by the Metropolitan Police. They show the number of burglaries for every 1,000 people.

Securing Your Property

Every kind of property is different. To make it safe is your responsibility. How does one make the property safer?

Simple: **think like a burglar!**

Stand outside your property and inspect your doors and windows. See if you find a way to enter your property.

Easy Targets are as follows:

1. Access through a window; even a small window is accessible by the bad elements so always keep them shut and locked.
2. Standard glass doors and windows; these can be broken and entry made.

3. Double Glazed UPVC Doors; Check that the key insertion is not jutting out. If it is, it can be broken off. For further information, Go onto your web browser and search for 'Snapping Locks on Double Glazing Doors'.
4. Double Glazed UPVC windows; these can be yanked out from the frames and entry done. Put extra Sash Locks on them. Look up on YouTube for further information about sash locks.
5. Flat roof; very easy to climb up using drain pipes. Protect it by using slip paint.
6. Rear and Side Fences; how low are they? They should be 2 metres high.
7. Side gates; this is another way to enter. Use Key Locks and Lock them from inside.
8. Have you an alley way at the side or rear of the house? This is another way to enter. Put a gate there with trellis above and also make your fences higher using trellis.
9. Your keys to the doors and windows; are they still hanging on the doors and windows? Remove the keys and keep them in your bedroom.
10. Isolate your rooms by putting heavy duty bolts and lock them before going to sleep or going out or at night.
11. Get an Alarm System Fitted which has:
 - A. Inertia Detector and Integral Contacts on the Doors and Windows.
 - B. Passive Infra-Red Movement Detector in every room.
 - C. Look for an alarm system that can have partitioning [*with different settings?*] meaning that you can set it fully when you go out and part set it with the Passive Infra-Red Movement Detector switched off when you are inside at night.
12. Put a light outside (At the Back or Side or Front) which has a timer that can be set according to changing night times.
13. Have you got a loft access? Lock it as well.

One may argue that the light will increase the fuel bills. Look at the 'bright side', it is a deterrent and for your own safety and property.

By Noor Mohamed

Dark evenings and seasonal celebrations lead to an increase in burglaries. This advice has been repeated as there have been burglaries locally in October. Please note that one number to contact the police has been updated in 'Useful Telephone Numbers'. I have known people to pin up a copy of the list and not to replace it with an update.

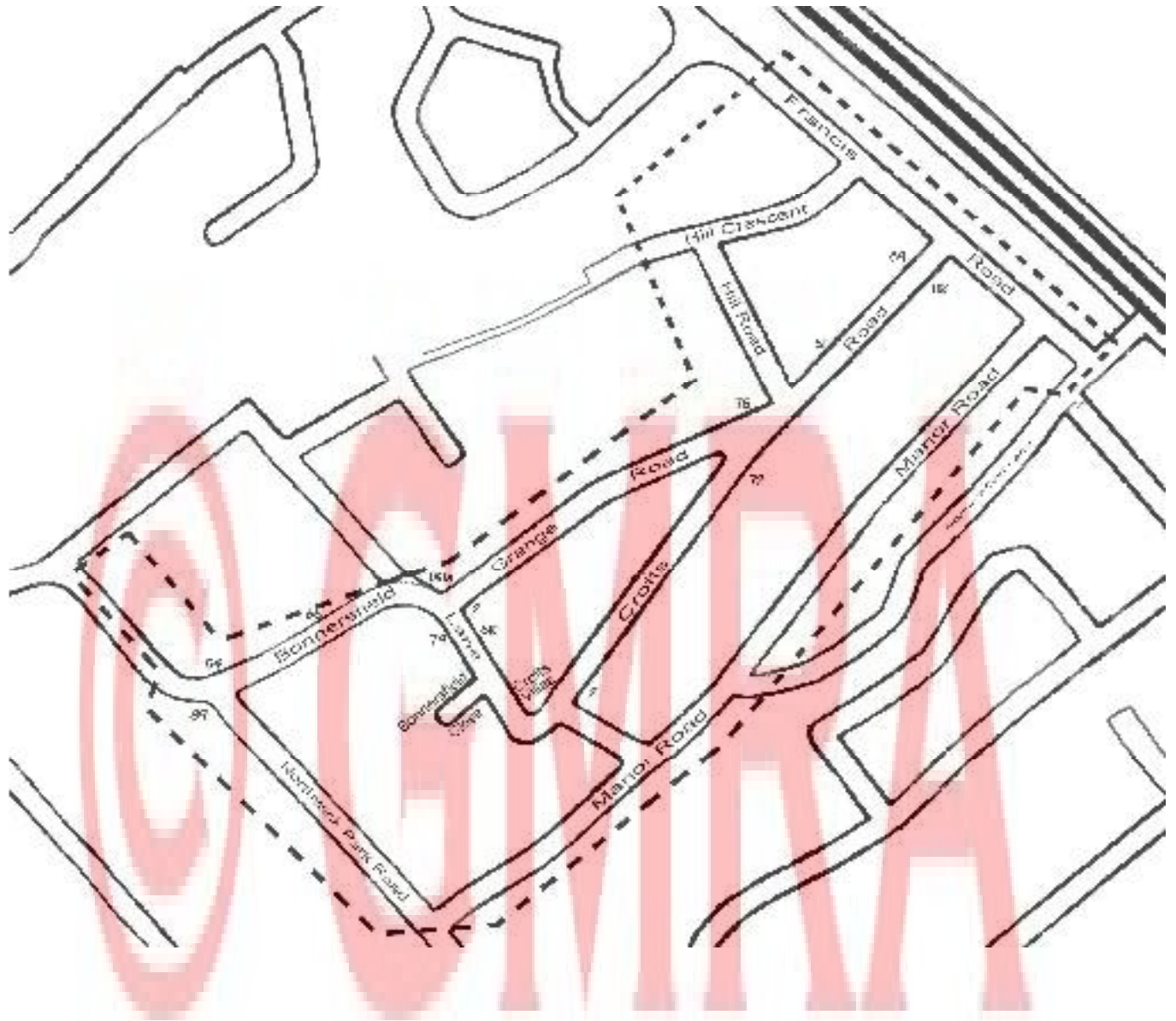
Greenhill Neighbourhood Policing Team

Email - greenhill.snt@met.police.uk

Tel - 020 8721 2780

If you would like regular newsletters from the team, email them as above.

About the Association



The Association is a non-political, non-religious organisation run by your neighbours for the benefit of all residents in Greenhill Manor [see map], whether they are home-owners or tenants.

Useful Telephone Numbers

All MAJOR emergencies	999
Harrow Council	
Civic Centre	(020) 8901 2600
Abandoned Cars	(020) 8424 1548
Removal of bulky items	(020) 8424 1770
Metropolitan Police – Urgent	999
Metropolitan Police - Harrow Police Station	(020) 8733 5407 (020) 8733 5409
Anti-Terrorist Hot Line	0800 789 321
Crimestoppers (confidential)	0800 555 111
Greenhill Safer Neighbourhood Unit	(020) 8721 2780
or mobile	0782 565 7975
To report an electricity power cut	0800 783 8838
National Gas Emergency Service	0800 111 999
Water leak (Affinity Water)	0800 376 5325
Telephone Preference Service - to stop unwanted calls	0845 070 0707
Mail Preference Service	(020) 7291 3310
Harrow Energy Efficiency Advice helpline and Energy Saving Guidance	0800 838 650
Brent and Harrow Trading Standards Service Shoppers rights	(020) 8937 5555