

GREENHILL MANOR RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER – Winter 2017

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INTRODUCTION

Your Association is a non-political, non-religious organisation run by your neighbours for the benefit of local residents whether they are home-owners or tenants. If you have any comments or suggestions for your area do contact your Road Representative or a committee member on Page 11.

We asked our new Chairman, Hemuna Pather Carr, to write about why she decided to apply for the role. Her response is encouraging:

Chairman’s Statement:

Why I decided to apply for the post of Chairperson for the Residents Association.

I was born in Durban, South Africa and am of South Indian origin. I spent four years teaching at High School before emigrating to the UK.

As a Harrovian, I have lived in Northwick Park Road for the last 32 years and spent 25 years as a Business and Finance Lecturer at Harrow College. I have three grown up children and became a grandmother this year. I applied for the post of Chairperson after reading an appeal for volunteers in the annual Spring newsletter. My reasons for joining were to become more involved in the local area, meet more of my neighbours and to actively engage in any concerns or issues facing the residents and help to build a strong local community. Now that I am retired, I intend to become more involved in the area by helping in collecting subs and getting to know the residents and their concerns. I have kept abreast with what is taking place in the neighbourhood by reading the newsletters which your residents' association produces in the year. I strongly believe that the GMRA has been proactive over the years by keeping the residents informed of any changes in the area and providing invaluable advice to be safe. The neighbourhood is changing like the other 31 boroughs in London and new people are moving into the area and the community can become fractured. I very much share and uphold the aims of the GMRA Constitution, that is, to preserve the residential nature of the area. Our neighbourhood needs a voice to monitor and oppose any planning applications which could be detrimental to the character and amenities of the area. I strongly believe that, as residents, we need to get involved and have a sense of belonging in the community. I also value the views and concerns which residents bring to the meetings and I do believe that, as a strong residents' association, we can exert pressure on the local council, as well as other organisations. If we want to remain one of the five safest boroughs in London, then we, as residents need to be vigilant and take interest in our neighbourhood. I am learning the ropes in this new role and I have to say how much I admire the dedication and commitment of Margaret (the former chair) and Helen (secretary) who have given me much support and guidance. I am hoping to rise to the challenge and equally serve as a successful Chair of the GMRA as my predecessor.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? BONNERSFIELD LANE

You will no doubt be aware that the Council has upgraded the lower end of Bonnersfield Lane to make it a pleasant walk. Given the demands on Council funds – is this a justifiable expenditure? Given the unique history of the Lane I suggest the expense was fully justified.

The first mention of 'Greenhill' was in 1274, but the area had probably been farmed for many years before then. The two tracks which led off eastwards from Greenhill Lane (now called Station Road) ended in a large area called Bandon Field which was split into strips and let out to local farmers. One track was known as Dirty Lane which is now Elmgrove Road named after the many elms which were in the area. As the field became known as Banners Field and later, in 1764 was referred to as Bonners Field the track became known as Bonnersfield Lane. It is worth mentioning that the population of Greenhill Village up to the mid 1800's was about 150.

The Lane winds its way through Greenhill in a most unusual manner reflecting its ancient origins. It was originally much longer than the present. It was shortened by Robert Stephenson who was denied a direct railway line through Harrow, as Harrow School would not allow any development around Harrow Hill. The London to Birmingham Railway cut through Bonners Field, Greenhill Great Field and Greenhill Middle Field, which have become Kenton Park. The ancient Bonners Field had to end at the bridge which marks its present end.

At the beginning of Bonnersfield Lane was the Manor House (now Gold's Gym, the adjoining shops and the block of flats behind the Gym) which was the largest

building in the Village of Greenhill.



It was demolished in 1937 to be replaced by the Granada Cinema, complete with Wurlitzer organ. (Which is still there). The Manor House also had its own lake fed by a spring, which still exists under the Gym but has been culverted and diverted. Manor Road derives its name from the old building.

Another remarkable building on Bonnersfield Lane was Rothwell's Organ Works which was on the corner of Courtfield Avenue, now a block of flats. It produced full organs for churches and other establishments including St. John's Church and Harrow High School (where it still sits). Rothwell's Organ Works was demolished in the 1970's as the demand for organs disappeared.

Other large buildings in the area included Greenhill Lodge, which was behind a number of trees on the left-hand side as you pass Courtfield Avenue. There was also a building off what is now Station Road and opposite Fairholme Road separated from Greenhill Lodge by a small field, called 'The Crofts' (hence Crofts Road).

As the area developed in the early 20th century the houses took over the farmland and the tracks became roads with pavements (and humps) but a piece of Bonnersfield Road somehow was ignored and remained as it had been for centuries, but has now been made into a pleasant walkway – with a thousand years of history in its path.

POLICE CHANGES CONSULTATION

London's Police Service is undergoing substantial changes due to changes in government funding and recently consulted on its Public Access and Engagement Strategy. A public meeting was held recently to present the changes to the public. The proposals should have little effect for this area.

The intention is to close down seven neighbourhood hubs across the borough – as these were underused and expensive to run – and divert resources to support the front line. South Harrow Police Station will remain fully operational. Three new hubs will be set up, but their location is still to be determined.

The main route for contacting the police, particularly in emergency, has long been the telephone. The police are keeping the commitment to current response of answering emergency calls – 999 - within 10 seconds 70% of the time. Harrow has the fastest response time to emergency calls in London. The non-emergency 101 number, introduced in London in July 2011, now makes up about two-thirds of the total call volume and the response commitment is to answer 101 calls within 30 seconds 90% of the time with current work taking place to deliver improvements in the speed with which these calls are dealt.

The current Local Policing Model was based on all of London's 629 wards having one PC and one PCSO dedicated to policing them. When he was elected, the Mayor committed to increasing this to two PC's and one PCSO and more tightly ring-fencing their activity, reducing times when they are taken to respond to issues outside their ward.

The intention is to provide Dedicated Ward Officers (DWO) with two sworn officers in every ward with a clear commitment for exceptional duties to be minimal and they will not be used to backfill response teams or perform other functions across the borough. They will be a source of expertise and intelligence in the community, with an understanding of hotspots, problems, prolific offenders and vulnerable victims and any developing issues. They will be problem solvers and crime preventers, working with the community they police, and known by them, to improve their lives.

As well DWO's providing visible policing in the community, the number of Safer Schools Officers is to be increased, ensuring that every school has access to one. The officers will also liaise with the community around schools Their work with young people and schools will also include the investigation of crimes that are connected to schools as well as working to prevent crimes involving young people.

Harrow continues to be the safest London borough. The changes should be minimal and the overall effect should be positive. No doubt time will tell,

The full document can be viewed on <http://www.London.gov.uk./public-access>, but be warned: it is 70 pages long!

YOUR LOCAL TENNIS CLUB

Apologies for the misleading details in our 'Game, Set and Match' item in our previous edition regarding the tennis club in Bonnersfield Lane.

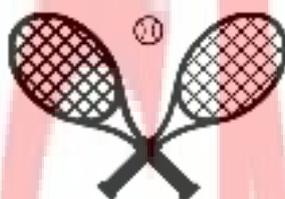
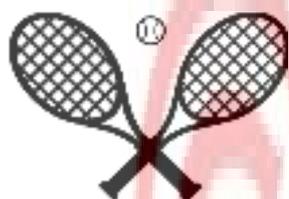
The HB Tennis Club is situated in Bonnersfield Lane (between 44/46) and is a private members club which welcomes new members, both adult and children. The club has members' social play every Saturday from 2.30 on Saturday afternoon during the summer, also Wednesday evenings from about 6pm during the summer. During the winter from 1am on Saturday mornings.

Coaching is available and times can be arranged directly with the club's coach.

To find out full details about the club and further playing times and arrangements you are welcome to come down at these times or you can go to HB Tennis Club's website at

<http://hbtc.weebly.com>

or contact the club secretary on 020 84281279.



Update: Number of crimes in Greenhill between September 2016 and August 2017

Crime type	Total	Percentage of total
Anti-social behaviour	444	28.48%
Bicycle theft	16	1.03%
Burglary	99	6.35%
Criminal damage and arson	66	4.23%
Drugs	28	1.80%
Other crime	10	0.64%
Other theft	151	9.69%

Crime type	Total	Percentage of total
Possession of weapons	10	0.64%
Public order	58	3.72%
Robbery	25	1.60%
Shoplifting	179	11.48%
Theft from the person	36	2.31%
Vehicle crime	78	5.00%
Violence and sexual offences	359	23.03%

More information may be found by going to www.police.uk, then follow through to crime and policing, and then Greenhill [don't forget, this includes the town centre]

FLY TIPPING

There are many types of fly tipping from large scale dumping of rubbish, by contractors who don't want the expense of taking their unwanted rubbish to a properly designated site to the motorist who throws his/her drinks can out of the car rather than take it home and dispose of it in the conventional manner.

Fly tipping is illegal, bad for the environment and often a health hazard. It is estimated that clearing fly tipped rubbish costs local councils £4 million a month. Fortunately, large scale fly tipping in our patch is rare. However, there is a substantial amount of small scale dumping. One particular popular 'dumping ground' is the unoccupied section of Bonnersfield Lane between Crofts Road and Manor Road. Bags of rubbish and discarded clothing are frequently dumped on the pavement, often spilling out to create a hazard and an eyesore.

The old part of Bonnersfield Lane, now improved and turned into a pleasant walkway, clearly attracts many people who like to take a drink with them. The evidence is to be found all along the path: cans, plastic bottles and food wrappers are scattered among the grasses and shrubs which encompass the pathway. This is a great pity, and spoils a valuable asset to our area.

Fly tipping on any scale should be reported to the Council. Harrow Council regularly do 'clear ups' of blighted areas. They also endeavour to find the source of the dumping with a view to prosecution if at all possible. Harrow also has promised that more bins will be provided around the Borough to eliminate the need to leave rubbish. What is essential, of course, is that these bins are regularly emptied, before they overflow into the surrounding street.

CONTROL OF 'THE DUMP'

If you have taken rubbish to the Civic Amenity Site (known to all as 'The Dump'), particularly at weekends, you would have been somewhat impressed at the length of the queues. On occasion the traffic waiting to unload was stretching back to the roundabout at Station Road. It could take two hours to reach the bay at the top of the dump.

The reason? One of the staff at 'The Dump' explained:

'The Civic dumps in Brent, Barnet and Uxbridge are charging for their residents to leave their waste, so they bring it here, where it's free.'

The Council obviously picked this up, and, quite reasonably felt that the present situation must change. There were two options:

1. Charge to use Harrow 'Dump' to make the situation equal to the adjoining boroughs.
2. Identify Harrow residents and allow them free access, and charge non-Harrow residents.

Fortunately, the Council have taken the latter course and will ask you for a means of identification when you go to take your garden and general rubbish to the Dump. The reasons are sound and the queues have shortened considerably.

Much waste can be composted and it is certainly worthwhile to purchase a composter and put all your garden clippings, and some food waste, to work for your garden.

POSTCARD SCAMS – Be Alert!

Alert: "We are holding a parcel in your name" scam postcards delivered to resident's homes.



Scam postcards are being delivered to UK residents' homes claiming that a parcel containing "jewellery" is waiting for the homeowner.

The personally addressed postcards say:

"The office is attempting to reach you. To claim this parcel and accept this offer, you must telephone the number below immediately and arrange for a delivery.

The item is prepaid, but a processing and delivery free of £10 must be remitted. This fee can be paid only by telephone and only with a credit card (VISA or MasterCard). This is your only notification”

If you call the 020 number you are asked to pay £10 by credit card. Victims who have reported this to Action Fraud have said that the automated service told them the package would be delivered the same day, but did not receive anything.

Action Fraud has received several reports of this recently occurring fraud and this information has been assessed by National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) resulting in disruption of the fraudster’s phone number.

Also, be on the lookout for slight variations of this scam - which use different phone numbers and delivery items.

Protection and reporting advice

If you receive one these postcards:

- ***Do not call the number provided.***
- ***Do not give your card details.***
- ***If you receive a delivery card through your letterbox which you do not believe is genuine and which asks you to dial a premium rate number, you can contact PhonepayPlus on 0800 500 212 (Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm) for further guidance.***

If you receive one of these delivery cards, do not pay any money and report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or by using the [online reporting tool](#).



Adventure for girls - BE PREPARED!!!

'Girls can climb trees, roll down hills, play football, search for creepy crawlies under stones and jump in puddles just because it's fun. The world is theirs to explore.'

- *Girlguiding volunteer*

Girlguiding Girls are Fearless Adventurers

We run, slide, climb, row, walk, paddle, skip and whizz our way through challenging activities. We laugh all the way and encourage each other to keep on going, ignore the mud on our faces, and never mind which of us capsizes the canoe or stumbles on the slack line.

I have never had so much fun on the water - paddle boarding, windsurfing, kayaking and sailing all in one camp. – Guide

Volunteers are with girls every (slippery) step of the way. Through leading camps, trips and unit meetings, and taking girls to our activity centres and girl-only festivals – they give girls opportunities to try all sorts of activities. Here is just a collection of the activities you should try with us, the stories of girls who already have, and the training we offer our volunteers to get adventures started.

This year 2017, Brownie and Guides are celebrating their 90th Birthday.

We are part of the World-Wide Girl Guiding movement which is the largest voluntary organisation in the UK for girls and young women. We are open units having girls from all faiths and cultures.

This year our Brownie and Guides units are celebrating their 90 Birthday.

Brownies is for girls between the ages of 7 and 10 years. We meet on Fridays, during school term times, from 6.00pm - 7.30pm. We have 3 qualified leaders with additional helper from 2 Rangers

We plan a varied programme each week which includes games, craft activities, challenges and badge work. From time to time we organize outings, events and camps with other packs in our district. We aim to ensure that the girls have fun, make new friends and learn new skills. The leaders are all qualified Guiders.

The Guide company is for girls aged 10-14+ and meets between 7.30 pm. and 9.15 pm. on Friday evenings. Activities include games, cooking, crafts and badge work. Some of the evenings are planned by the girls themselves.

We support a different charity each year and at present are looking at the work of CamFed, a charity which provides schooling for girls in Africa.

Further information can be found at www.girlguiding.org.uk and if you would like your daughter to join us you can register her by clicking on the parent's area.

Your Greenhill councillors to deal with local matters

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

Mobile number: 07875094900

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

Mobile number: 07922227147

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

Mobile Number: 07840 514852

Your Member of Parliament

Gareth Thomas was re-elected MP for Harrow West at the last election.

Gareth Thomas lives locally, went to school in Harrow and have 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	Hemuna Pather-Carr, 41 Northwick Park Road
Vice Chairman	Margaret Bristow
Secretary	Helen Shorter, 55 Grange Road
Treasurer	Eddie Griffiths, 11 Northwick Park Road
Road	

Representatives	
Bonnorsfield Lane, Close & Croft Villas	<i>Position Vacant</i>
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	San Thaker, 35 Francis Road
Manor Road	Mike Moran, 43 Manor Road
Northwick Park Road	Sylvia Farooqi } Northwick Gwen Batham } Park Road

The Residents' Association Planning Advisor will continue to check the Council's website regularly for planning applications in our area. The relevant Road Rep will be notified so that they can make sure all residents likely to be affected know about the application.

Useful Telephone Numbers

All MAJOR emergencies: Fire, Police or Ambulance	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 and request Harrow Police Station	(020) 8423 1212

Anti-Terrorist Hot Line	0800 789 321
Crimestoppers (confidential)	0800 555 111
Greenhill Safer Neighbourhood Unit Or MOBILE	(020) 8721 2780 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