

GREENHILL MANOR RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER – Spring 2018

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**Association's Annual General Meeting
on Tuesday 22th May at 8pm**

YOU ARE INVITED

to your local residents' Association's Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 22th May at 8pm at the Victoria Hall, Sheepcote Road. Our speaker this year is Sonoo Malkani on Present Day Policing in Harrow. As Vice Chair, Harrow Safer Neighbourhood Board, Sonoo is well able to keep us up to date. There will be time to talk to your neighbours.

Please make an effort to come along!

Chairperson's Review of 2017/2018

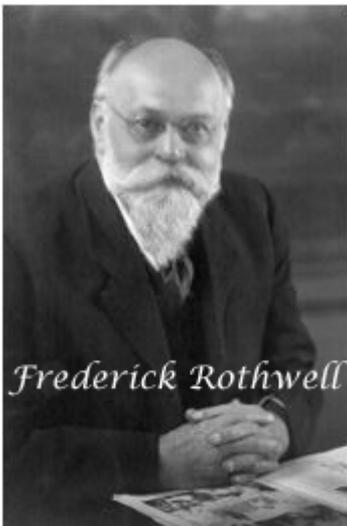
The essential reason for our Association's existence is to inform and alert on developments likely to have an impact on residents in our ward and borough. An obvious example of such is the demolition of the Comfort Hotel and its replacement by a block of retirement flats for the elderly called "Randolph House".

The information is provided by the committee in a newsletter which is produced 3 times a year. I would like to thank Noor Mohamed for his role in producing them. Residents and committee members have been taken down memory lane by Peter Hamill in researching and providing the history of Bonnersfield Lane, Courtfield Avenue and Station Road in the Winter newsletter. Feedback from residents on the article produced by Peter was warmly welcomed. I take this opportunity to thank him for his time and effort.

I am happy to report the Association was successful in seeing the big improvement in the pavements in Manor and Crofts Roads completed in 2017 after a long correspondence and pressure on the Council. This is a good example of our role in acting as a conduit between local concerns and the council.

Looking back over the past year, although there were no great crises, it would be remiss of me not to mention that your Association is voluntarily run and relies on community-spirited volunteers. For its future more volunteers are needed so we would love to see more representation from the younger generation and from the ethnic minorities – in particular a Road representative is needed for Bonnersfield Lane and Close and Croft Villas.

ROTHWELL'S ORGAN WORKS



On the corner of the junction between Bonnersfield Lane and Courtfield Avenue is a small block of flats which is appropriately named 'Rothwell Court'. It is the site of a manufacturer of church organs and was known as 'Rothwell's Organ Works'. The firm was established by Frederick Rothwell (1853 - 1944) in Clifton Road, Willesden Junction in 1887 and moved to Harrow in 1922. Frederick was a long-standing friend of the musician and composer Sir Henry Walford Davies who greatly admired Rothwell's skill. Frederick built or rebuilt all the organs with which Walford Davies was closely associated.

Before starting out on his own Frederick Rothwell worked for fourteen years as a voicer and finisher for the notable firm of Gray and Davison. During that time, he worked on the organs at Magdalen College, Oxford and St. George's Chapel Windsor.

Frederick had three sons, Fred, George and Dudley who all followed their father in the organ trade. He patented a stop-key control system whereby stop-keys placed above each manual replaced the conventional stop-knobs on either side of the console. Rothwell installed consoles in St. George's Chapel, Windsor in 1930 and designed the organ in such a way to enable it to be played by two organists together and independently'

The organ at St. George's, Headstone was the largest built by Rothwell entirely as new and is included in the British Institute of Organ Studies' register of historic instruments of importance to the national heritage. Frederick's sons took over from their father when he died in 1944 and continued to provide organs throughout the world, and locally. There are Rothwell's organs at St. John's Stanmore, St Saviours, Chalk Farm, St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, Harrow High School, St. Augustine's, Edgbaston and in Scotland, Norwich, and others.

All the organs produced by Rothwell's were considered to be of the highest quality and are much admired by organ players. The organ at Harrow High is disused and has no consol. The organ at St. George's is played often and can be heard on your computer under 'organs' then look up 'St. Georges'.

There is very little information about Rothwell's in Harrow. If you, or anyone you know has any knowledge of the organ factory please let us know.

(With thanks to the Harrow Museum for their assistance with this article)

The Patient Participation Group [PPG]

**Would you like to help the Northwick Surgery?
Do you know about the services on offer?
Do you have positive ideas for improvements?**



- The Patient Participation Group [PPG] is the name for a meeting of patients and surgery staff three times a year.
- The aim is for patients and staff to work together to help improve the services.
- New members are needed for the group so why not give it a try!
- If you are interested, please contact Surgery Reception for details.

A RISING STAR

Sanjna Vakaria, who lives in Crofts Road, appeared as the “Unexpected Star” on a recent BBC1 “Michael McIntyre’s Big Show. Her performance was dubbed “Better than the X Factor final” after she sang “Feeling Good” in front of a large live audience and a television audience of ten million.



She was secretly entered by her mother Chhaya, who was in the audience along with about thirty friends and family. Sanjna, 18, went through a series of BBC auditions which she was told was for a talent agency, before appearing on the show.

Sanjna, who is studying History, Psychology and Sociology at Uxbridge College, and practices Tae Kwondo in her spare time, found herself face to face with Michael in the guise of a Grandmaster, after being asked to teach at a fake training centre set up behind the theatre.

She said “I was dressed to teach Tae Kwondo and definitely wasn’t expecting to go on television!”

After her performance Sanjna said,

“I actually wasn’t nervous at all when it came to performing. Anyone who sings, has thoughts about doing this in their dreams. As I only had an hour to get ready, I didn’t have time to get nervous. I didn’t know the song though! Luckily I had an autocue.”

Since the show, Sanjna has been working with a couple of producers, and has been given more work. She hopes to be able to build a career in singing. She already sings regularly at local events and at the Westfield Shopping Centre in Shepherds Bush.

[Since writing this article Chhaya has sadly passed away].

THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF BONNERFIELD LANE/BELMONT WALK

PART 1 – THE TREES



The information board at the bridge end of the Bonnersfield Lane walk can only display a portion of what is in the Walk and is an excellent introduction to this ancient pathway. However, there is a lot more to see in spite of the bottles and cans

distributed by those who are too idle to use the bin.

The most obvious plants in the walk are the several oak trees (about 8) which are considered by some to be boundary oaks. That is, oaks particularly planted to mark the edges of plots of land. By measuring the girth of the trees, we were able to deduce that the trees are from 200 – 250 years old, and so they may have been used as boundary markers as shown on the map of 1864 on the notice board.

It is impossible to imagine life without oak timber in the pre-industrial age. Oak was used for buildings (look at Headstone Manor), wheels for carts were usually oak, ships were oak and barrels were oak; the bark of the tree was used for tanning leather. Something like five hundred invertebrate species are supported by oak trees and the canopy must be thronging with insect life.

The tree which is most abundant on the Walk is the ash. The ash re-seeds easily and so there is a wide range of trees, some about fifty years old, many fairly recent. Ash is used extensively in tools - handles on chisels, shovels, spades and hoes; also used as axles on carts. It was regarded as a valuable crop in earlier times.

The other trees along the walk were not used extensively. There are some elder trees which produce flowers and berries from which excellent wines and drinks can be made. There is holly, an essential Christmas decoration, and hawthorn the leaves and flowers of which are edible. The blackthorn, which is quite abundant was used throughout the country as hedging and there are cherry trees, although the birds will soon demolish any cherries. Hawthorn and chestnut are here as well as saplings of hornbeam and hazel although any hazel nuts will soon be taken by the squirrels. Holly and hazel were used for walking sticks.

Dogwood, chestnut and laurel can also be found in the mass of saplings and grass as well as field maple. These have undoubtedly been brought in by birds as seeds and have multiplied over the years.

Many of the larger trees are swamped by ivy, which is a food for the birds and other creatures, but the trees cannot cope well with such abundance and so the ivy is being removed from some trees.



Phone and Email scams that are floating around. Be careful.

Hotel Scams

- This is a new hotel scam that you need to know of, in order to protect yourself. Please take it very seriously.
- It's one of the smartest scams I've heard about. When you arrive at your hotel and check in at the front desk, you typically give your credit card (for charges to your room), and they do not retain the card. After you have settled in your room, the hotel receives a call, and the caller asks for (for instance) room 620.
- When the phone rings in your room and you answer, the person who's on the other end says: 'This is the front desk. When checking in, we came across a problem with your charge card information. Please re-read me your credit card numbers and verify the last three digits numbers on the reverse side of your charge card.'
- The thing is that they sound professional, so you think you are indeed talking to the front desk. If you ever encounter that scenario on your travels, you must tell the caller that you'll be down to the front desk to clear up any issues. Then, go to the front desk and ask them whether there was any problem. If there was none, you need to inform the manager of the hotel that somebody tried to steal your credit card information, while they were acting like a front desk employee.
- Please, spread the word by forwarding this message. Who knows, you may just help somebody avoid a nasty experience. All travellers should be aware of this one!

Telephone Scams

A. Transfer Funds

- This starts when the fraudsters ring you and pose as coming from a bank or another organisation. They call from a 'spoofed' number to convince you that they are from the bank.

- They use the trick that there is fraudulent activity going on your account and you must transfer your funds into a 'safe account'. You will often be pressurised to act immediately.
- This safe account is the fraudster's account.

Your response should be that you will contact the bank directly and put the phone down. The bank/Building society will never contact you by phone.

B. Withdraw Cash

Some fraudsters pose as police officers to persuade you to visit your local branch and withdraw funds from your account. They'll tell you that you're helping with a police investigation.

- The fraudster will tell you not to inform the staff at the branch of the real reason for the withdrawal.
- Once withdrawn, the money is collected in person from you by a courier or the fraudster themselves.
- Some fraudsters might ask you to make a high value purchase, for example, a watch, which is collected by the fraudster.

Remote access scam

A fraudster cold calls and says they're from a telecommunication or computer company and will try to access your computer.

- They might offer to fix, upgrade or protect your computer - this could be to improve its running speed or internet connection - or for assistance for refunds of overpayments.
- These callers may ask you to log on to your online banking and will attempt to remotely access the computer to 'help' you with the problem.
- However, the remote access allows them to release malicious software and gain access to personal and security data. They may even be able to access your online banking directly
- Never allow anyone remote access or connect to your computer following a cold call.

Other scams to be aware of

Buying scams

These scams are where you find an item online at a very

reasonable price, but after talking to or emailing the seller, you're told that the item (such as a car) can't be seen in person.

- The seller will persuade you to transfer money to secure the item.
- Sometimes they send you a fake website link to send the payment. This is to make the transaction look real.
- Beware - the site may look like a well-known website, but the link will take you to a fake version of it.
- Once the funds are transferred into the fraudster's account, the seller and listing vanish. It'll leave you without the item or your money.

Selling scams

Be careful when you're selling something. A buyer could be a potential fraudster. Here's how they do it.

- The buyer will give you a cheque of greater value than the value of the item being sold. They ask for the extra money to be transferred back or sent to a third party, for example a 'shipping agent'.
- Once this has been done by the seller, the cheque bounces and the buyer then disappears, leaving the seller out of pocket.

Smishing

Fraudsters send texts saying that they're from your bank, and that they need you to update your personal details or speak with you urgently.

- The text message can fall into previous genuine text threads, this helps to make it look legitimate.
- The message normally contains a telephone number (premium rate) to call or a link to a counterfeit website that asks you to enter personal details or transfer money as your account is at risk.
- Never give out your personal or security details; you can provide a fraudster with everything they need to take money from your account.

The information on scams from Santander Bank's Leaflet.

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](tel:07840514852)

Local Elections are on 3rd May 2018.

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 Park Road

The Residents' Association Planning Advisor will continue to check the council 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.

A Volunteer Road representative is needed for Bonnorsfield Lane and Close and Croft Villas. There are 6 committee meetings p.a., 3 newsletters to distribute and subscriptions to collect once a year. Please get in touch with Hemuna or Helen above or come to the AGM.

Useful Telephone Numbers

All MAJOR emergencies: Fire, Police or Ambulance	999
Harrow Council	
Civic Centre	(020) 8901 2600
Metropolitan Police – Urgent	999
Metropolitan Police - Harrow Police Station and request Harrow Police Station Anti-Terrorist Hot Line	(020) 8423 1212 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