

GREENHILL MANOR RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER: Summer 2021

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Chairperson's Report

What a year it has been for us all in Harrow. I have now clocked up 4 years as a Chairperson of GMRA and I don't recall, in the history of the Residents Association since 1989, a time when it missed two consecutive Annual General Meetings.

The pandemic has helped the members of GMRA to sharpen their IT skills and with the help of Noor Mohamed, we were able to hold a couple of practice Zoom Meetings. Residents are now able to log on to the website www.gmra.org.uk to browse through and keep abreast with what is happening in the area. My sincere thanks go to Noor who created the website and has also been busy uploading newsletters, articles and keeping the residents updated. We are pleased to state that our membership base has also increased over the year.

The pandemic has been a learning curve for all of us. I recall last March when we started the lockdown and then being informed of the Critical Incident declared at Northwick Park Hospital on 20th March 2020 after running out of intensive care beds because of a surge in coronavirus cases. Since then, the hospital has been praised for the way it responded in dealing with patients in the 2nd wave. Our condolences go to families and friends who lost loved ones. I am also pleased to state that I was able to keep a medical appointment at Northwick Park Hospital in May of this year and I found it re-assuring that the doctors and staff worked tirelessly and it followed strict COVID measures. There is a huge backlog with appointments, so if you are offered one, please keep the appointment and attend. On behalf of GMRA, I would like to extend a big "thank you" to all staff at the hospital for providing such care during the pandemic. I also extend a thank you to the residents of Harrow for co-operation and adherence to mask wearing and social distancing during the year.

I now want to thank the residents of Greenhill Manor Association for participating in providing feedback on the local Low Traffic Neighbourhood scheme [LTN], the barrier in Francis Road. The outcome of the Council's decision after hearing from the residents was that it has learnt lessons and should have consulted with the residents who know the local area well. The decision to do away with the LTN has been favoured by the majority of the residents who stated that they suffered from the long delays in traffic, increased air pollution and longer journey times. Whilst some other residents felt that, while the barriers were up, air pollution was reduced and there was less traffic so safer for residents. In all this, there are no winners as the tax payer has to foot the bill of £75,000 for removal of barriers.

It is not often that GMRA pays tribute to residents who made a valuable contribution to the community over the years. Here I would like to extend our gratitude to Dennis Bristow for the support and help given during the AGM over the years. He will be sadly missed.

On behalf of GMRA, I would like to send our condolences to the family of Peter Hamill, who died recently. Peter provided us with several articles of historical interest on, for example, Northwick Park Road, Harrow High School and Bonnersfield Lane.

Our crime rate has risen slightly but we are holding 2nd position as the safest borough out of the 32 boroughs. So, I would urge you to be vigilant and report any anti-social behaviour on line.



Sadly, our landmark Debenhams has closed for good. In 1914 a major departmental store called "Sopers" opened in Station Road. It was then taken over by Debenhams in the 1980's. It is hoped that the Council will consider careful planning permission to ensure that shops, that are allowed to open, are fit for purpose.

I attended the Council meeting via Zoom when a final decision was unanimously taken by the Council and opposition councillors on Halfords in Sheepcote Road to erect 5-9 storey one-bedroom affordable flats. The new flats will be offered to the residents in Harrow first and then to others.

Buntings of Harrow Ltd. A Brief History.



Buntings has been around in Harrow and Wealdstone since 1896.

It was started by Frederick Ernest Bunting in Masons Avenue Wealdstone. He was working as a ticket collector at Harrow and Wealdstone Station during the late 1800s when motoring was in its infancy.

It was when he was working at the Station that he observed the shops opposite the station being built. He decided to purchase one or two of these shops to set up his business selling and repairing various means of transport, that is, bicycles, motor cycles, cars and, I believe, horse drawn vehicles.

The repair of these various forms of transport was carried out at the stables at the rear of no 77 Masons Avenue which he had also acquired around the same time.

As the years continued and motorised transport became more popular, he acquired the property where the business still is today in Bonnersfield Lane Harrow.

This was bought for around £150-£200 which he had won in a Castrol Oil window dressing competition in the early 1920s.

The current showroom was subsequently built and opened in 1928

mainly for the sale, repair and servicing of cars and some motorcycles. Business was more or less suspended during WW 2 years and opened fully again at the end of hostilities around 1945. By this time F E Bunting was employing his brother Walter Faldo Bunting and his nephew William Richard Bunting the father of the current owner, Roger Bunting, who has run the business since 1968. He too is well over retirement age and will be retiring in the not-too-distant future after working at the garage for over 62 years.

Roger Bunting kindly contributed this article and a copy of the plans for the development – 5 storeys of 22 apartments, each with balcony.

Wake up to the joys of Walking and Cycling in Harrow

The idea of walking and cycling doesn't always fall well with people. I walk for pleasure and practicality and I cycle for pleasure. I grew up at a time when this was normal, before cars had become a fixture in people's lives.

Over the years I have met and participated with many interesting companions and traveling under my own steam has enabled me to enjoy some amazing experiences.

Today the powers that be are asking that everyone takes up exercise – for health, certainly, and for pleasure and relaxation too. Our bodies evolved to walk. And for all but the past few decades human beings have walked over this planet. So why are we so fixed on a metal box with four wheels?

Admittedly Harrow and surrounding suburbia doesn't, at first glance, offer itself to enjoyable outdoor interest. But search a little deeper. A small effort of following up the links on this page (or asking at the library) might yield some gems and some healthy exercise. You may make new friends as well. There are delightful parks and open spaces, watery places of lakes and rivers, areas left wild, sights of historical interest and some hilly bits to get the pulse racing and provide extensive views over the surrounding countryside.

<p><i>Cycling Harrow for women:</i> https://www.oshwal.org.uk/wcg-bhg/ <i>Walking Harrow:</i> https://www.walkingforhealth/ https://harrowstriders.co.uk/ https://harrowonline.org/2018/ https://open-walks.co.uk/ https://shareyourroute.com/</p>	<p>Scouting: https://www.glmwscouts.org.uk/ There is one other source of outdoor activities. Become a volunteer leader with the Scouts Association. Godfrey O'Callaghan</p>
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A Part of My Life as an immigrant in the UK

My husband and I were Head teachers but my husband decided to come to the UK to do a higher education for a few years and go back to our country. After two years he decided to bring the whole family to England. I arrived at Heathrow Airport with 4 young children in the age range of 3 to 9. It was a nightmare of a journey with the youngest being three, who was very unsettled in the Plane.

We were eagerly waiting for my husband to be there to welcome us as that was my first journey to a foreign country, let alone with 4 young children. We found out later my husband was held back due to the tube signal. Anyhow, we could manage to go to one of my husband's friends' house and we met up there, needless to say it was quite emotional.

We lived originally in the East End as we could afford to do that with our meagre income. I started to work in a sewing factory part time as a machinist as my education wasn't accepted to start a job in a school.

We wanted to provide good education to our children, so we were thinking of going to an area where our children could have that. After a careful consideration we decided to move to Harrow as it has a great reputation of providing good schools, like Harrow school, where Churchill, Nehru and other political leaders went to have their education. We wanted to buy a house in Harrow but we were originally dissuaded by the estate agents as we didn't have enough deposit, but nothing could stop us, we could manage to buy one.

We could manage to give good education to the children. Two of them went to Private Schools and the other two went to Grammar Schools.

We liked living in Harrow, way back 46 years ago it was a great place to live in, very peaceful. I used to love going to Harrow town centre, now it's very crowded and full of tower blocks and over populated. I hardly go out to do shopping, let alone a peaceful stroll.

There are beggars asking for money, muggers and thieves prowling on the street. I don't feel secure to walk about.

Thanks for reading a saga of my life.

A Harrow resident



Message from Online Watch Link (OWL)



Dear Watch Member,

The summer is here and the weather is hot. We've noticed many houses have their windows open, just some words of advice in relation to this issue.

Burglars are often opportunistic thieves who prey on houses and flats. They seek out any opening that they can take advantage of, specifically doors and windows that are left open or unlocked or are easy to force. Anything of value that they might spot through a window will only spur them on. But it really doesn't take much to deter these thieves – just smart thinking.

- Burglars target homes that they think will contain valuables. Don't leave packaging from expensive items outside your door.
- Burglars often look for homes with windows or doors left open.
- Burglars are aware of the times when someone is expected to be away from their house such as during the school run or holidays.
- Burglars typically do not want to be seen or heard and if they feel that they would be noticed by a neighbour or passer-by then they are more likely to feel exposed and may move on to find somewhere else to burgle.
- Burglars often choose a home because they've spotted a specific vehicle, motorcycle or bicycle they want to steal – and the keys are more than likely to be inside the residence.
- Sheds and garages are often vulnerable as they are not that secure and contain tools which the burglar can use to assist them to gain entry to a home.

Please follow this link for more crime prevention advice:

<https://www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>

If you need to reply regarding this message, tap on this email address:

c720279@met.police.uk

Regards,

Anda Ben-Chaim

Dedicated Ward PCSO

Email: c720279@met.police.uk

Police Contact Advice

- Telephone 999 in an emergency where there is a danger to life or a crime is in progress.
- Telephone 101 for **non**-emergencies where police attendance is required, to report a crime or to report any other incidents.
- If you are calling about the above message, please tell us that you are responding to a message from OWL.

Telling the police

We are all responsible for reporting incidents such as drug dealing and anti-social behaviour to the police who rely on information from the general public.

GREENHILL SAFER NEIGHBOUR HOOD TEAM URGES SHOPPERS TO BE VIGILANT AND STAY SAFE

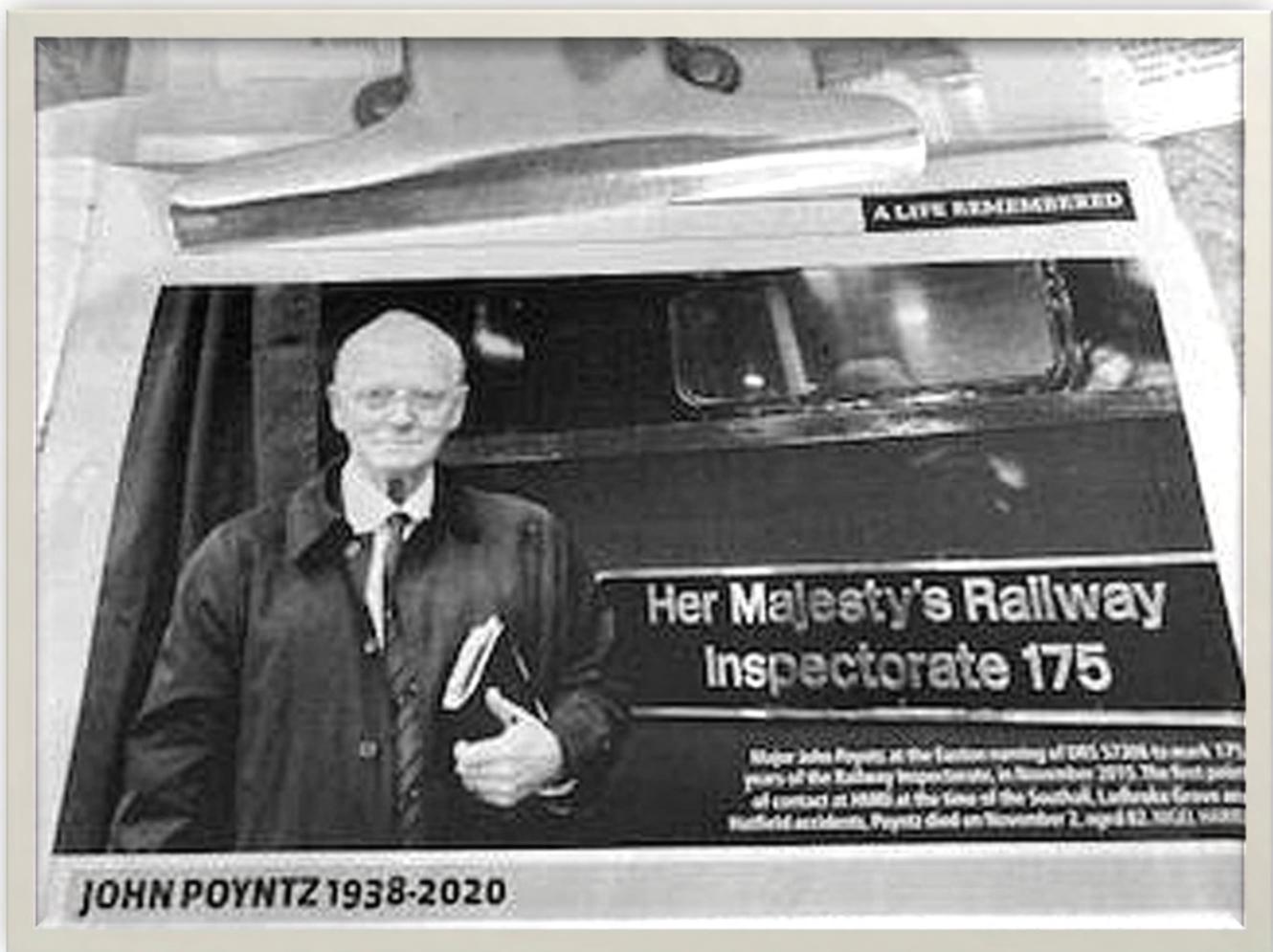
- Are you a prime target?
- Keep purses and bags closed and secure at all times.
- Carry bags in front of you or diagonally across your chest.
- Return cards to your purse or wallet quickly and zip it up or button it.
- Use a purse that's difficult to open. One that zips or snaps shut is best and keep it close
- Use a money belt if you're carrying a significant quantity of cash.
- Conceal your wallet in a buttoned or zipped pocket where it doesn't bulge
- Keep a list, separate from your wallet or purse, of contact numbers of family in case your phone is stolen.
- Keep a photocopy of airline tickets, passport, credit cards etc.
- Don't hang stuff on the back of a chair.
- Don't leave anything on the back of a pushchair
- Don't place your belongings out of sight on the floor.

Remember, having a zipped bag does not mean you're totally safe.

Thieves have been known to walk behind victims while slowly unzipping bags. Never underestimate a pickpocket. Do not get distracted.

Please, after reading this, do not feel afraid to go out, just be careful, most of these suggestions we probably do anyway without thinking.

For more security information: visit <http://gmra.org.uk/security.html>



John Poyntz a Tribute

John was described by those who knew him as "A man of great charm and decency, and with an almost legendary status", known for his "sharp mind" and "infectious humour".

His interest in the railways went back to 1952 when, as a 14-year-old, he accompanied his family on a trip from South London to see the aftermath of Britain's worst peacetime crash, the double collision at Harrow and Wealdstone that killed 112 people. This spurred John on to become involved with the railways. Pursuing this love, he built a vast collection of railway memorabilia while enjoying a wide variety of jobs.

He initially joined the Royal Engineers in 1955 and worked his way up the ranks to become a Major in 1983. In his Army career, he was a shunter, a railway signalman, a railway traffic operator, a clerk, a bargee, a navigator, a combat engineer, a hovercraft pilot, a railway-man and a lorry driver. During his time in the army and the railways, he travelled

around the world and he spent periods of time both in Borneo and Cyprus. His time at the Longmoor Military Railways, where he spent 14 years proved the most influential on his future career. During it, he witnessed the worst peacetime accident on a military railway in October 1956 which killed 6 and became a principal inspecting officer, responsible for 200 military and smaller railways in the United Kingdom. On a lighter note, he was on duty at Longmoor Military Camp during the making of the 1966 film "The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery and was thought to have driven the "schoolgirls".



During the Cold War, John became Officer Commanding of the RCT's 79 Railway Squadron's operation for the British Army of the Rhine as well as operating on West Germany's main line network and he held the title of Operations Manager. John retired from the Army just months before the fall of the Berlin Wall. In 1989, His military railway career included service in the UK and Germany with

the Berlin Military Corridor Trains. He was honoured by the German railways for his service by being asked to name the locomotive WR360C, Num 36274 Num 14 "POYNTZ" and it is now displayed in a museum at Amstadt.

John joined the Railway Inspectorate directly from military service to become an Accident Officer on 24-hour call. When he retired, he was Chief Inspecting officer of the Railways also with responsibility for the regulation of safety on heritage railways. John voluntarily undertook additional roles of Librarian and Historian.

GB Railfreight and the Office of Rail and Road has honoured John, by naming a freight train after him. He was the last Royal Engineer to be appointed a HM Railway Inspector and spent 25 years in this role. His work included inspections of heritage railways and dealing with accidents and incidents such as the Severn tunnel rail accident and the Cannon Street rail crash both in 1991. Other investigations included Southall, Ladbroke Grove and Hatfield accidents.

GB Railfreight's Class 66 train – 66764 – was named "Major John Poyntz - Engineer and Railwayman". His life was celebrated at industry event,

Rail Live, on the 16 June this year, where the name plate was unveiled by his Wife, Anne, in front of a large crowd.

Throughout his life, John dedicated much of his time to his country and railways and he maintained a passionate interest in rail-borne transport of all kinds. He leaves behind his Wife, Anne, 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Harrow Baptist Tennis Club



This is a very friendly, local club and we would like to invite new members of all ages to join us. Courts are available to members at all times for self-organised games with turn up and play social sessions taking place on Wednesday

evenings and Saturday afternoons in the summer period and Saturday mornings in the winter. We all encourage each other when playing and enjoy the sets, even when losing. It is taking part and improving our game with friends which is so important as is the Saturday afternoon tea and cake. The club runs Summer and Autumn tournaments which usually end with a BBQ and there are a few other social functions through the season.

We do require a reasonably competent level of play to join the Weds/Sat social sessions but all members can use the courts at other times. At present we are in the process of finding a new coach and are hopeful this will be finalized soon, so then will be able to offer better beginner and novice playing opportunities.

The address of the tennis club is 44-46 Bonnersfield Lane, Harrow, Middx HA1 2LE.

Car entrance is through a lane between houses No. 44 & No. 46.

To join the tennis club or if you have any questions, please contact the Membership Secretary, Keith Mayes on 020 8428 1279 or e-mail him on: hbtctreasurer@gmail.com. Alternatively, please come down on a Saturday from 3pm to meet us and see how you get on.

NB HBTC abides by Covid 19 regulations so some activities and events are restricted at this time but we are playing.

Kind Regards
Jenny Fischer

GREENHILL LIBRARY



Have you visited our new library yet? It used to be called Gayton Library now renamed Greenhill.

Where is it? It is situated in College Road. Walking up from Station Road, on the left-hand side, past the shops and before the office block and Harrow on the Hill station, there is a gap, look up between the buildings, and you will see the library. It is sign posted.

Do you get the feeling it is moving further and further away from us?

From Gayton Road to St. Johns Road, now into college Road. Let us hope this will be the last move.

The library has been open for a couple of months now and you are welcome to go in and browse even if you do not want to borrow a book, at the moment there is a time limit of 15 minutes per visit (Covid Restrictions)

On the ground floor, there, is the information desk, children's books, fiction books plus a couple of computers. The book shelves are nicely laid out, with lots of new books for us to sort through for our favourite authors.

Upstairs, not yet open but maybe, by the time you read this, are the Non-fiction books, Study space, Photocopier, Flatbed Scanner, Computers, Internet access, parent & baby changing facilities and also 2 meeting rooms. One room with 10 chairs and the other with 15 chairs, both with tables, A/V Screens and Flipcharts.

Beside the Library is the Pavilion with a capacity of 60 people, chairs, tables, overhead projector plasma screens plus kitchen and toilet facilities.

Unfortunately, too far away for us to consider for our AGM

Opening hours 10am-4pm Monday – Saturday

Telephone: 020 3714 7731/7732

Email: greenhill.library@harrowlibraries.org.uk

Margaret Bristow

GMRA Finance

GREENHILL MANOR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL ACCOUNT 2020 - 2021

Income & Expenditure

As at 31st March 2021	2020 - 2021 £	2019 -2020 £
Membership Subscriptions	0.00	227.00
Other Income	0.00	0.00
Total Income	0.00	227.00
Printing Newsletters	35.00	103.20
Hire of Hall for AGM	0.00	-6.48
Refreshments for AGM	0.00	0.00
Stationery	22.83	23.00
Total Expenditure	57.83	119.72
Net Income/(Expenditure)	-57.83	107.28
Assets	2020 - 2021 £	2019 -2020 £
Bank	899.59	957.42
Cash	4.05	4.05
Creditor	-	-
	903.64	961.47

Since there has been no Annual General Meeting due to the pandemic, the annual accounts are included here so that you, the members, can see what has happened with your subscriptions.

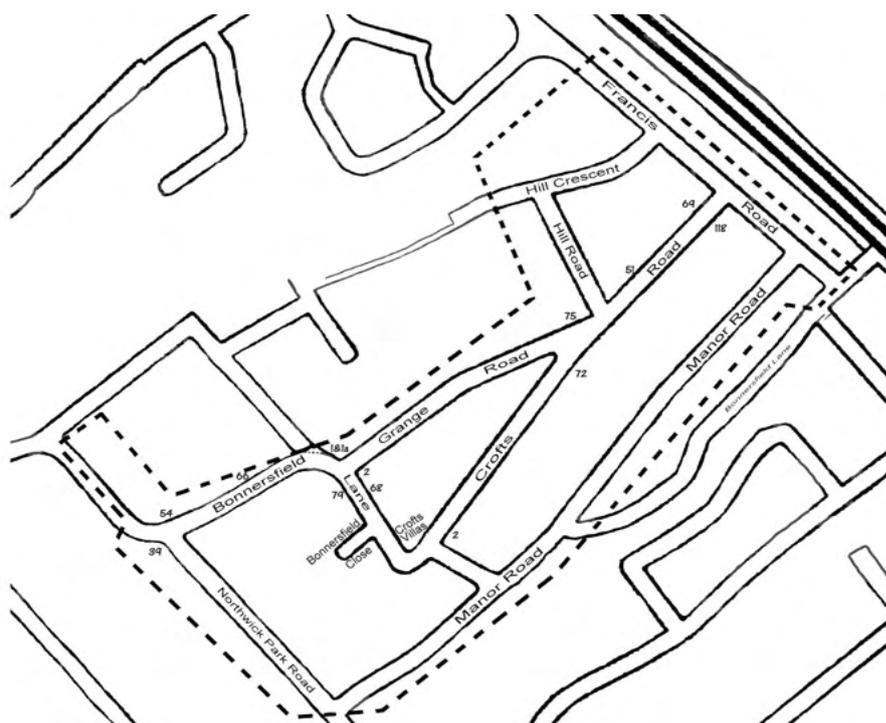
Covid 19 and Government advice regarding staying safe and protecting the NHS and the lockdowns that followed prevented the normal contact between road representatives and residents. The Management Committee of the Association took the decision not to collect membership fees for the financial year to 31st March 2021. Membership has therefore been allowed to roll over during this grace period of 12 months. As a result, the Association's total cash reserves decreased from £961 to £903.

Honorary Treasurer – Eddie Griffiths CPFA

GMRA Membership & Contact

By Post: Hemuna Pather-Carr, 41 Northwick Park Road, Harrow
By E-Mail: gmra@gmra.co.uk
Via web page: <http://gmra.org.uk/contact-gmra.html>

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.

Your current committee

Chairperson	Hemuna Pather-Carr, 41 Northwick Park Road
Vice Chairperson	Margaret Bristow, 118 Crofts Road
Secretary	Helen Shorter, 55 Grange Road
Treasurer	Eddie Griffiths, 11 Northwick Park Road
Road Representatives	
Bonnersfield Lane, Close & Croft Villas	Simon Dunkerley 11 Manor Road
Crofts Road	Kinmar Patel, kinmitali@gmail.com
Francis Road	Muhub Anis
Grange Road	Helen Shorter, 55 Grange Road
Hill Crescent and Road	Sat Bains, satbains108@hotmail.com
Manor Road	Godfrey O'Callaghan, 14 Lowndes Court, 17 Manor Road.
Northwick Park Road	Sylvia Farooqi, Northwick Park Road

There are six committee meetings a year, which usually only last from 7.30pm to 8.30 or so.

<i>Newsletter Producer and Web Designer</i>	<i>Noor Mohamed, 71 Bonnersfield Lane</i>
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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 have been MP for Harrow West since 1997.

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

Useful Telephone Numbers

All MAJOR emergencies: Fire, Police or Ambulance	999
Harrow Council	
Civic Centre	(020) 8901 2600
Metropolitan Police – Urgent	999
Metropolitan Police, request Harrow Police Station	(020) 8423 1212
Anti-Terrorist Hot Line	0800 789 321
Crime Stoppers (confidential)	0800 555 111
Greenhill Safer Neighbourhood Unit	(020) 8721 2780
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