

# GREENHILL MANOR RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## ***NEWSLETTER & AGM: Spring 2022***

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## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Greenhill Manor Residents' Association will be held on:

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022,

Victoria Hall

Sheepcote Road

Time: 8pm.

The Entrance is from the black gate which is on Sheepcote Road, left of the Church.

Parking is very restricted in front of the gate.

The Committee have chosen a particularly large room so please don't be nervous about coming along. After a brief business meeting the speaker on Planning and Developments in Harrow is David Hughes, Planning Policy Manager, Planning and Building Control, London Borough of Harrow.

David will explain how the Planning process works, what constraints Central

Government sets and what other regulations are in force. If you want to know why Harrow has turned into a town of high-rise blocks of flats, come along to listen and then ask questions. Is it worth objecting to developments? How many developments are at affordable prices/rents? How many are for Harrow residents? As a lot more people come to live in the borough, will the schools and colleges, the health service, traffic and transport and even the sewers be able to cope? And how long will it take for improvements to be made in this local infrastructure?

The talk will be followed by refreshments and the opportunity to talk your committee and neighbours. We look forward to seeing you on the night.

## **Chairperson's Report**

We had another year of being vigilant, taking the booster and lateral testing to ensure that the Virus is kept at bay. I have now completed 5 years at the helm and I am still learning. This year looks promising as we are hoping to knock on doors, hand out the Newsletter and chat to residents about their concerns and share good news.

During 2021-2022, we held all our committee meetings by Zoom which was in large measure successful. We were able to exert pressure on the council about fly-tipping and litter. Our litter picking team [Godfrey O'Callaghan and Edward Griffiths] managed to get the Council to remove fly-tipped furniture and litter on the Belmont Trail/the old Bonnersfield Lane.

We would like to remind you to use our website [www.gmra.org.uk](http://www.gmra.org.uk) for the links to other useful sites such as litter picking, emergency contact numbers and important messages from the Police through OWL.

OWL allows the Police to quickly alert you to crimes in our immediate area and crime prevention messages can be sent to you by both the Police and Neighbourhood Watch.

We would urge you and your neighbours to sign up to OWL at the following address: <https://www.owl.co.uk>

OWL is a secure system, it is free to use, and your details will never be used or sold on for marketing purposes. It is a secure communication system which is approved by the Police.

Our initiatives for 2022 highlight the following issues:

1. Litter Picking - I am pleased to say that litter picking has started on a positive note and the streets in our area appear clean on most days. Currently we have 4 volunteers and we would urge you to help us to keep the streets clean. Godfrey has produced a report on Litter picking and I want to extend my thanks to Godfrey and Eddie for kick-starting this project.
2. Rat problem - see the article from Sat Bains and more details on our website

3. Theft/burglary - Theft and burglary- breaking into cars and stealing catalytic converters has been a cause for concern and we would urge residents to be vigilant and contact the police if you see any suspicious activity. The Metropolitan Police held a Catalytic Converter Marking Event at Greenhill Way Car Park recently which was a success. Forensic marking kits will only be installed on the 4 most targeted makes of vehicles: Toyota, Honda, Lexus, BMW.  
We will inform you online ([www.gmra.org.uk](http://www.gmra.org.uk)) when the next event will take place. Places are limited and there are only 75 forensic marking kits available. But if you sign up to OWL you will find out straight away.
4. Celebrate local success - we are appealing for any suggestions or groups who have started any programmes, for example, in the arts, music or empowering women in group activities, to contact us and we can inform the residents.
5. Climate change - We are also looking at how the residents can contribute to lessening Climate change. As you are aware the Council has declared a Carbon Emergency and wants to be carbon neutral by 2030. One of our committee members, Satvinder Bains, made a poster about engine idling when dropping off children or waiting to pick them up. If people do not switch off their engine while waiting, this contributes to poor air quality environment. She directed her concerns to a local school and a nursery. The head teachers in both institutions have passed on the effects of engine idling to parents by newsletters and we are hoping for a positive outcome.

As GMRA is non-political and volunteer run, we need more **volunteers** from the younger generation and from the ethnic minorities. The road representatives may need help to call on residents and to collect subscriptions. More litter pickers are needed too. Contact details on Page 9.

Finally, I would like to add that our AGM is on the 24th May at Victoria Hall (8.00-9.30) pm and I look forward to seeing you.

Hemuna Pather Carr

## **Pest Control in Harrow – Rats and Mice**



With spring in the air, it's time to get a move on at preventing mouse and rat infestations in your home. Rodents can cause huge problems for humans. Through mice and rats, you and your family could potentially contract diseases, and they also have the ability to cause significant damage to your home from the inside out by chewing on electrical cables.

Like many London boroughs, Harrow faces a huge rat problem. For many residents of Harrow, not a day goes by when one of us has not had to encounter a rodent pest problem. It is therefore up to all of us as residents and businesses in Harrow, to work together to tackle this problem head on.



## **Be Proactive About Rodent Control**

The good news is there are tried and true methods for preventing mouse and rat infestations. Learn how to remove rodents from your home and prevent them from returning.

### **Preventing Mouse and Rat Infestations Remove current rodent occupants**

There are two methods for getting rid of mice and rats: **Trapping** and **Baiting**.

**Trapping** - For trapping you can trap and kill permitted pest animals including rats and mice only via permitted methods.

**Baiting** - For baiting, be sure to use tamper-resistant bait stations that hold the baits in place and keep children and pets out.

Place both traps or bait along common pathways where you find droppings and gnaw marks. Ledges, fence rails, and foundations are typical paths. Only use poison to kill the pests it's intended for - this will be written on the packaging AND only use traps that have been approved for use with the species you want to control - you must follow the instructions for use.

You cannot use the following control methods for any wildlife:

- self-locking snares
- bows and crossbows
- explosives
- live birds or animals, known as 'live decoys', to attract pests (unless you have a licence)

**It is an offence to keep or release 'some' wild animals, instead you must kill them humanely if you catch them alive.**

## **Seal up your home.**

Close up all holes along your home or business exterior using recommended rodent-proofing materials. Pay particular attention to doors, windows, and vents, including air bricks which can be sealed with a special ventilated wire cover so that it still allows for airflow but does not let rodents enter and exit your home via this route. Remember a rodent can fit through a hole that is ¼ inch in width so it is vital to seal, seal, seal all entry points to your property.

## **Eliminate outdoor access.**

Trim back overhanging trees that enable rodents to hop onto your roof. Also, keeping your trees properly pruned gives rodents one less place to hide from predators.

## **Clean up your garden.**

Remove piles of debris, clutter, pet droppings and rubbish from around your

garden. Plant shrubs and bushes at least 3 feet from buildings. These spaces provide safe habitats for rodents.

### **Remove outdoor food sources.**

Gardens and fruit trees can be a real draw for rodents. If you have fruit trees, regularly remove dropped fruit from the ground. Regularly clear the floor if you have a bird feeder in your garden and keep as much of the seeds off the floor as possible. Keep the trees pruned to prevent hiding spots for rodents. Apply a rat guard to your trees by securing a piece of sheet metal 2 feet high around your tree's trunk. In the garden, keep it free of rotting food and hiding places. Plant members of the mint family in and around your garden to deter. You can also spray predator urine (such as fox) around the perimeter of your garden as a deterrent. Typically, you can find this at your local garden centre in both powder and liquid form.

### **Practice cleanliness in and around your home.**

If rodents don't have food, they certainly have no reason to want to invade your home. Don't leave food sitting out in and around your home or garden. Make sure all food related rubbish and things like pet food are securely contained in rodent-proof bins.

### **Invest in mint.**

Both rats and mice avoid the scent of mint. Plant mint outside in your garden and rub peppermint oil indoors along attic beams and other areas where you've experienced rodent problems. Even leaving some dried mint leaves can help.

Rodent pest problems are a year-round occurrence. Being proactive about your rodent pest problems can improve your quality of life in a big way. Contact a pest control company to take care of existing pests, establish an effective pest barrier around your home, and maintain it through regular treatments. **Harrow Council have a pest control service too**, so for a free consultation you can speak to them and they can guide you on how to best protect your home or business from pest problems.

## **Pest Control – Harrow Council website information**

<https://www.harrow.gov.uk/environment-parks/pest-control> or Tel.020 8420 9501

The typical cost of 3 x rat/mice prevention treatments is £154.10 as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

**An article from The Daily Mail on 22 July 2017 includes a video of the rat problems in Harrow:**

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4720624/Video-shows-rats-swarming-rubbish-Harrow.html>

# Air Pollution



We would like to request parents can you please switch off your car engine. Many parents leave their car engines running while dropping off or waiting for their child and this is known as **Engine Idling** and is very harmful to both our health, especially young children and the environment.

Idling increases the amount of exhaust fumes in the air.

These fumes contain a number of harmful gasses including carbon dioxide, which is bad for the environment and contributes towards climate change, as well as a range of other harmful gasses including nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons which are linked to asthma and other lung diseases.

We hope you will take this into consideration and switch off your engines while waiting. Thank you.

## Scouting



A number of groups meet locally. Look up [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk) or Tel. 0345 300 1818 for details. More than one Scout District has groups in Harrow.

17<sup>th</sup> Harrow Scouts have given the following details of their group which meets at The New Headquarters, Roxborough Park, Harrow HA1 3BE Website [www.17Harrow.org.uk](http://www.17Harrow.org.uk). The Group was started in 1925 and attracts young people mainly from Harrow. There are over 90 young people and over 14 adults in the group today and the group is one of 17 scout groups in the scout district, Harrow & Wealdstone. 17th Harrow Scout Group offers challenge and adventure to all its members. We believe in helping our young people fulfil their potential by working in teams, learning by doing and thinking for themselves. We are working to make Scouting available to all and we are passionate about what we do.

We would like to think that 17th Harrow have a long-standing friendship and relationship with our local community. After over a year on Zoom we opened the doors again



offering our Young People a place to meet with their peer groups, learn new life-skills, take part in days out, camping, adventures, challenges... and most of all... to have fun. You may have even seen us in the District vans a few weeks ago heading to the RAF museum!

We are lucky to host four sections in our HQ with a wonderful team of leaders.

Beavers (school years 2 & 3) meet on a Tuesday evening between 5:30pm and 6:30pm, followed by Cubs from 6:45pm to 8:15pm, Scouts & Explorers meet on a Friday evening between 7:30pm to 9:30pm.

Our own events are back again... we had our OAP Carvery in December and a carvery for people on their own at Christmas that was held on Christmas Day with more Carveries to follow later on during the year. These Carveries are open to the community, so you are more than welcome to attend.

If helping out with our group is of interest or, you would like a place for your son or daughter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Also, if there are any community projects, please do let us know, and providing we can get past our own strict risk assessments, we will do our best to incorporate them into our programme.



## Litter Picking



**Godfrey, Hemuna and Eddie ready for more action**

A litter picking group was formed last year to cover the 8 roads in GMRA. Outside the town centre the council only clear the streets once a month. So much rubbish is dropped by pedestrians and out of cars, leave alone fly-tipping, that this is not often enough.

Householders can help, and many do, by keeping their section of pavement and road outside clear of litter. It isn't so much a

matter of "It is the council's job" but it is a matter of pride in our environment. Nothing spoils a stroll more than being confronted by mess carelessly and thoughtlessly scattered on our paths and roads.

The council spent time and money a few years ago improving the Old Bonnersfield Lane - the historic footpath which is part of the Belmont Trail - the bit of it running between Manor Road and Francis Road. Nowadays it is a delightful green corridor to the footbridge and Kenton Park. Some people though see it as a dumping ground, as a place to meet for a drink or to smoke cannabis. It is a shame and we are seeking to improve that situation but it does use up scarce resources that might be deployed elsewhere. Once again, everyone in Greenhill Manor can assist by reporting anything they witness on the trail or elsewhere around the local roads

either to the GMRA, the GMRA website, the council or police. Do take a look at government and police issued documents on the [www.gmra.org.uk](http://www.gmra.org.uk) Resource Page.

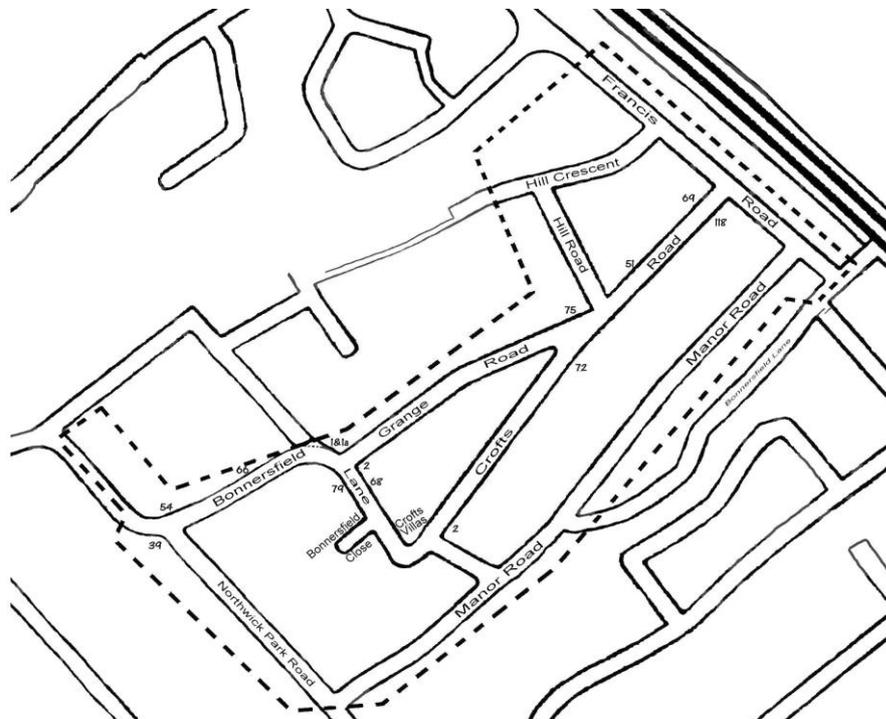
A number of volunteer groups, many of which have a Facebook page, exist in Harrow both for cleaning streets and upkeep of parks. Typical are Friends of Kenton Rec, Friends of Harrow Weald and Harrow Litter Pickers.

If you can help with our group, please contact Godfrey O'Callaghan on 07712341677. As you can see from the photo, equipment is provided.

Hemuna Pather-Carr

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## **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 owners of houses, flats or tenants.

## **GMRA Membership & Contact**

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

## **Your current committee**

Chairperson	Hemuna Pather-Carr, 41 Northwick Park Road
Deputy Chairperson	Margaret Bristow, 118 Crofts Road
Secretary	Helen Shorter, 55 Grange Road
Treasurer	Eddie Griffiths, 11 Northwick Park Road
Planning Adviser	Godfrey O'Callaghan, 14 Lowndes Court, Manor Rd.
<b>Road Representatives</b>	
Bonnorsfield 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
<i>Webmaster Volunteer</i>	<i>Noor Mohamed, 71 Bonnorsfield Lane</i>

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

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:thomasgr@parliament.uk)

## **Your Local councillors**

*After the local elections, we will update our website with the details.*

## Useful Telephone Numbers

All <b>MAJOR</b> emergencies: Fire, Police or Ambulance	999
Harrow Council	
Civic Centre	(020) 8901 2600
<b>Metropolitan Police – Urgent</b>	<b>999</b>
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