

GREENHILL MANOR RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

www.gmra.org.uk

Newsletter: Spring 2025

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You are invited to the
Greenhill Manor Residents' Association

Annual General Meeting

14th May 2025
at Victoria Hall, Sheepcote Road at 8pm

Following the business meeting and refreshment break

Shinelle Sutherland and friends will be speaking on
Walking helps you to be happy

Respond to nature when walking – what's growing, what's flying,
what's singing and, perhaps, what crosses your path can change
the thought processes of our minds

*It may be possible to arrange a lift,
but this must be booked in advance as
Victoria Hall has to organise a voucher.
Contact Eddie Griffiths on 07944765825*

Message from the Chair

Dear Residents

I am pleased to share with you the newsletter for 2025 which is our Spring edition. Spring is my favourite season of the year and like me I hope you are making the best of the warm days which we have enjoyed recently.



We attended our Safer Neighbourhood Team meeting near the surgery on the 18th January and we were informed that the police force in Harrow is stretched and unable to respond to calls unless they are of a

serious nature. We must be vigilant and take an active part in contacting telephone number 101 instead of the emergency 999 number. The police would prefer residents use www.police.uk where all details including photos can be added.

The police would be interested to know of any suspicious activity. Please don't put yourself in danger and challenge the intruder or troublemaker.

Fly Tipping is another area of concern in our ward and again please contact the council as soon as possible. Our Borough was in the local news two months ago when fly-tipping was an issue on the site of the old driving centre which will cost £348,000.00

At the end of February, I had a knock at our door and the police informed me of a theft outside my neighbour's house. Apparently a woman was on her phone and she was then robbed at knife point. She screamed but to no avail.

The advice from the Police is not to use a mobile phone whilst walking especially in the dark.



I now bring you to the attention of a habit amongst the Indian community which I find very embarrassing and it is a health issue. I also come from the Indian community and I would urge you all to talk to families and friends and educate about chewing Paan (which is Betel-nut) and then spitting it on bins and near benches. It is a disgusting habit which needs to be eradicated. The bin in the photo is a typical example of bins which are around Harrow Bus Station, Shopping centre and Elm Grove Road and other public places.

As GMRA is non-political and run by volunteers, we need more volunteers from the younger generation and from different backgrounds. If you become a road representative then once a year in the summer, you would need to knock on doors and collect the annual subscription. You will be guided and helped to do this. I find it rewarding to meet the residents and to converse with them.

As you are aware that the Borough of Harrow is the 3rd safest borough in terms of crime rate out of the 32 boroughs. Harrow has good transport networks, good schools and a diverse ethnic community to name a few advantages. We can all play our part in maintaining this record or play our part in moving to the 2nd safest borough.

How about plogging You could feel virtuous and get healthy by picking litter as you jog – Jogging not obligatory.

Would you like to join our team to help keep your road clean – or, even part of it? Equipment will be provided. Please contact Godfrey O'Callaghan on 07712341677 or gdo@btinternet.com

Finally, I would like to inform you that our AGM is on the 14th May at Victoria Hall (8.00 – 9.30) pm and I look forward to seeing you.

School Litter Pick. Eager young pupils at St Jerome's School got to work on Elmgrove Road to remove some of the litter there in April. Together with Councillor Aneka Shah-Levy and parents they scavenged in the bushes, picked in the grass and generally made a big and welcomed improvement.



The Belmont Trail Spring Clean. The council are working hard to keep Harrow clean. If you see fly-tipping, do notify them at www.harrow.gov.uk/streets/fly-tipping.

They have recently been clearing the Belmont Trail Link – the historic green lane running between Manor Road and Woodway Crescent which now makes a pleasant spring time walk.

Hemuna Pather Carr

Dedicated Council Phone line

The council now have a dedicated phone line 020 8901 2610 for general enquiries for people who need to speak to someone or cannot get in touch online. Additionally, a new one-stop shop is set to open on Gayton Road, providing residents with easy access to council services in addition to the council staff situated in Greenhill Library. Look out for the council newsletter or Harrow Online or our next newsletter.

Harrow Baptist Tennis Club



We are a very friendly and competitive local tennis club. Our members are as young as 5 years old and into their 80's. It doesn't matter how old you are, it is so important to keep fit, get outdoors and enjoy yourself. There are courts available for you to book on line outside of specific social/match sessions.

Social sessions are on Saturday afternoon's from April to October from 2.30pm with tea at 5pm. We also play on Wednesday evenings from 5.30pm once the clocks have changed in Spring. We do require a reasonably competent level of play for social sessions but we do have a coach, Pamir, who coaches youngsters and adults alike from beginners onwards. Please visit our website clubspark.lta.org.uk/HarrowBaptistTennisClubHarrow for Pamir's contact details & other details.

We do hold tournaments, the Liz Sanders in early summer and Edgar Boulton Handicap Doubles in the Autumn are both one day tournaments for which a cup is awarded to the winners. The main club tournaments in all events see members compete in either round robin or knock out formats through the early summer culminating in Finals Day with a BBQ in July. Pamir organises Junior tournaments for the younger members so they have the opportunity to compete against each other and have fun. Three Mens Teams play matches in the Middlesex league and also one in the National Club League, so there is an opportunity to play at an even higher standard and get more practise!

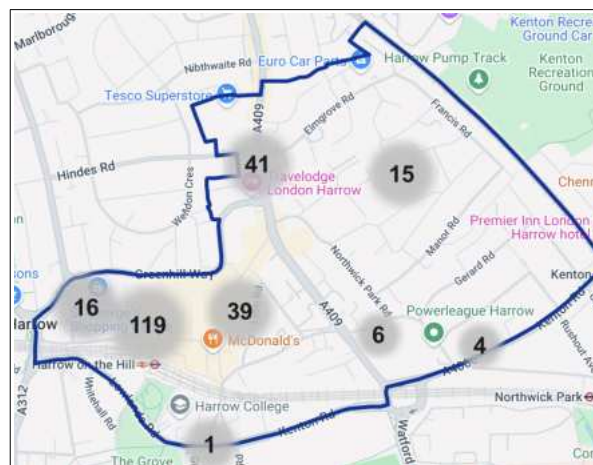
The address of the tennis club is 44-46 Bonnersfield Lane, Harrow, Middx HA1 2LE, our entrance is down the drive between houses 44 and 46. Please come down and have a chat on a Saturday afternoon if you are interested. To join the tennis club, or if you have any questions, please contact the Membership Secretary, Keith Mayes on 020 8428 1279 or e-mail him on ohbtctreasurer@gmail.com.

Crime statistics – Harrow Greenhill

Below is a snapshot of reported crime for the first two months of 2025 – March not yet published. Further information can be viewed on the Police website homepage www.police.uk/. Tap 'your area panel' which should take you to the Greenhill section where the 'Crime Maps' is the button the press.

241 crimes were reported in January 2025

Antisocial behaviour **49**
 Theft from the person **49**
 Violence and sexual offences **34**
 All other crime **109**



243 crimes were reported In February 2025

Anti Social Behaviour **58**
 Violence and sexual offences **55**
 Shoplifting **24**
 All other crime **106**

Crime data is broken down into 'major' and 'minor' crime types. Major types are: Anti-social behaviour – Fraud – Suspicious activity – Burglary – Criminal Damage Drugs – Fraud and forgery.

Other notifiable offences are: Robbery – Sexual offences – Theft and handling – Violence against the person.

The safer neighbourhood panel meets every three months. The GMRA is represented by two members to discuss, with the Police SN team and our councillors, residents concerns about policing and council matters on our streets. We nominate priority actions which can be nominated by residents.

The Police have other priorities of course and amongst them Violence against Women and Girls – in Harrow Town Centre. SNT are closely working on a variety of Operations that have a dedicated side to VAWG related activity.

Theft from the Person – Greenhill SNT has increased patrols in the area, during Op Willamar and during Op Nightingale. High visibility patrols are being conducted at business premises that are mostly affected by this type of crime.

Thefts from E scooter and bike Officers are using motor cycles and plain clothed patrols to tackle those coming into the town to commit crime.

About people coming to Harrow – part 2

by Godfrey O'Callaghan

Today, we talk of "Harrow," but Harrow was the village and school on the Hill. The land below was Greenhill, Sudbury, or Roxeth – names all in use today and left to us by the earlier Saxon settlers. It was the coming of the metropolitan railway that gave rise to the use of "Harrow".

Following the Norman conquest, the King appointed Barons – or Knights – to protect and manage regions – and to collect taxes (unpopular then as now) It was a structure borrowed from the Saxons who themselves had adapted the Roman system.

The population of Harrow in 1086 was 117. The way of life at that time was to prevail for a further 1000 years with Baronial castles slowly giving way to Manor Houses each with a Lord and powerful families.

By 1801 the population had risen to around 2884. The picture then was of a village settlement on the hill with a rural farming community below composed of a few large farmed estates each with a manor house. Headstone Manor Farm – now a museum – is a good example.

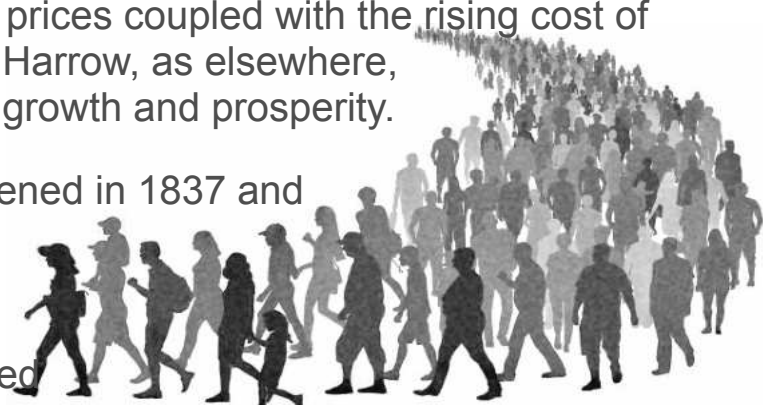
However, the Manorial system was beginning to prove untenable. Land reform, a new economic and social reality arising out of the Industrial Revolution and, ultimately, the collapse of farm produce prices coupled with the rising cost of labour eventually caused its demise. In Harrow, as elsewhere, it was to usher in an era of change and growth and prosperity.

Railways came. Wealdstone Station opened in 1837 and Harrow on the Hill Station in 1880.

Railways at that time were built to transport farm produce and manufactured goods replacing canal boats and the horse-drawn cart. Ultimately, they were to play a significant role in opening up Harrow as a place of industry.

Harrow remained largely rural but before the 1st World War several companies had established themselves in Wealdstone – Kodak, His Majesty's Stationery Office, Hamilton Brush works, Winsor and Newton (art materials) being the largest together with construction for support businesses and homes.

The population began to grow. In 1891, 12,212 and in 1931, 95,827. As incomers my own family is a typical example. They came to Wealdstone for work in the early part of the 1900's. They arrived from other parts of London



and Kent but their parents, who came with them, came from Cornwall, Yorkshire and Ireland. My paternal grandfather began work at Kodak in 1900 and remained there for 50 years. Many family members also worked there. The big growth came between 1918 and 1938. Land that had been farmed for hundreds of years was now being prepared for further new arrivals. Two-thirds of houses in Harrow today were built during that time.



Following the Second World War many more arrived from war-torn London districts. To cope with the huge demand for homes the council developed new estates, some with bolt-together homes. My parents were housed in a Prefab in South Harrow where I grew up. At first, there was a prisoner of war camp there to house Italian prisoners some of whom remained when released, as did soldiers and airmen who came from different countries to fight for freedom. Kenton, Stanmore and Hatch End became popular with Jewish residents.

By 1951 the population had risen to 215,816. Immigrants from the Caribbean arrived in London and some found their way to Harrow.

In 1972 a new wave of people began to arrive from Uganda. The, then, new President, Idi Amin, announced that there was no room for British Asians in Uganda. They were offered 90 days to leave. In total 37,500 Asians who were holders of British Passports came to the UK. Some came to Harrow. At the time I was a scout leader in West Harrow and a few of the sons of those immigrants applied to join the troop. It was a new experience for us – new dietary requirements, customs and beliefs and the educational demands on them to succeed (and some did!). They brought with them a way of life and business acumen built in Africa. They were to become a force for change.

Since then waves of new arrivals have come from Eastern, Central and Western European countries, the Middle and Far East, Africa and the Caribbean. With them came customs and skills that often seemed strange but have now successfully blended into a new Harrow. The scout group in West Harrow now has a mix of young people – nowadays, both boys and girls – from families with different cultural backgrounds and beliefs. I belong to a cycling club in Harrow with a similar mix of both men and women – some defying their cultural norms to do so. Your Residents' Association committee is similarly mixed. Today the population stands at about 251,389.

Erratum: in the first part of People coming to Harrow, it stated that the Saxons controlled Mercia. In fact it was the Angles who controlled Mercia.

Harrow Park Run

Now that summer has arrived, I thought our local community may be interested in finding out more about Harrow Parkrun.

It is a free and very friendly weekly 5k event regardless of age or gender every Saturday at 9.00 a.m. at Harrow Recreation Ground. It offers an opportunity for everyone to come together on a regular basis to enjoy the outdoors and get physically active.

You do not necessarily have to run; you can also walk, jog, volunteer or just spectate. Over 300 people of all ages turn up, from children and parents, to pensioners and of course runners and walkers of all ages and abilities. It is open to all and taking part is easy, but you need to register before your first ever parkrun, see their website to register on line. This will enable you to receive a record of your participation and your finish time and help the organisers to keep you safe.

The course consists of 3 laps on tarmac around the perimeter of the park path. After finishing, there is an opportunity to chat to other parkrunners over a cup of tea or coffee, and there is always more than a little interest in receiving your results and finish time www.parkrun.org.uk/harrow/

I personally have turned up regularly every Saturday morning after setting my alarm for 7.30 to allow me to walk to the park by 8.45 and I have completed 22 parkruns with finish times of between 42 and 48 minutes. I have met many wonderful people, some of whom have become new and close friends.

If you feel this may be of interest to you, I would encourage you to search for www.parkrun.org.uk/harrow/ and register your own personal details.

Give it a try; I think you will enjoy it



Eddie Griffiths, your slimmer and fitter Treasure

GMRA Membership & Contact

*By Post: Hemuna Pather-Carr,
41 Northwick Park Road, Harrow HA1 2NY*

*Email: gmra@gmra.co.uk
web page: <http://gmra.org.uk/contact-gmra.html>*

Your Councillors

Cllr. Dan Anderson

Dan.anderson@harrow.gov.uk 020 8424 1897

Cllr. Ghazanfar Ali

Ghazanfar.ali@harrow.gov.uk 07940 50944

Cllr. Aneka Shah-Levy

aneka.shah-levy@harrow.gov.uk 020 8424 1897

Councillors hold a surgery at Greenhill Library in central Harrow on the 3rd Saturday of every month from 10.30-12.

Greenhill Library also has an information point staffed by council workers to help with accessing council information, paying bills etc. Your

Your Member of Parliament

Gareth Thomas who lives locally, went to school in Harrow and has been Harrow West MP since 1997.

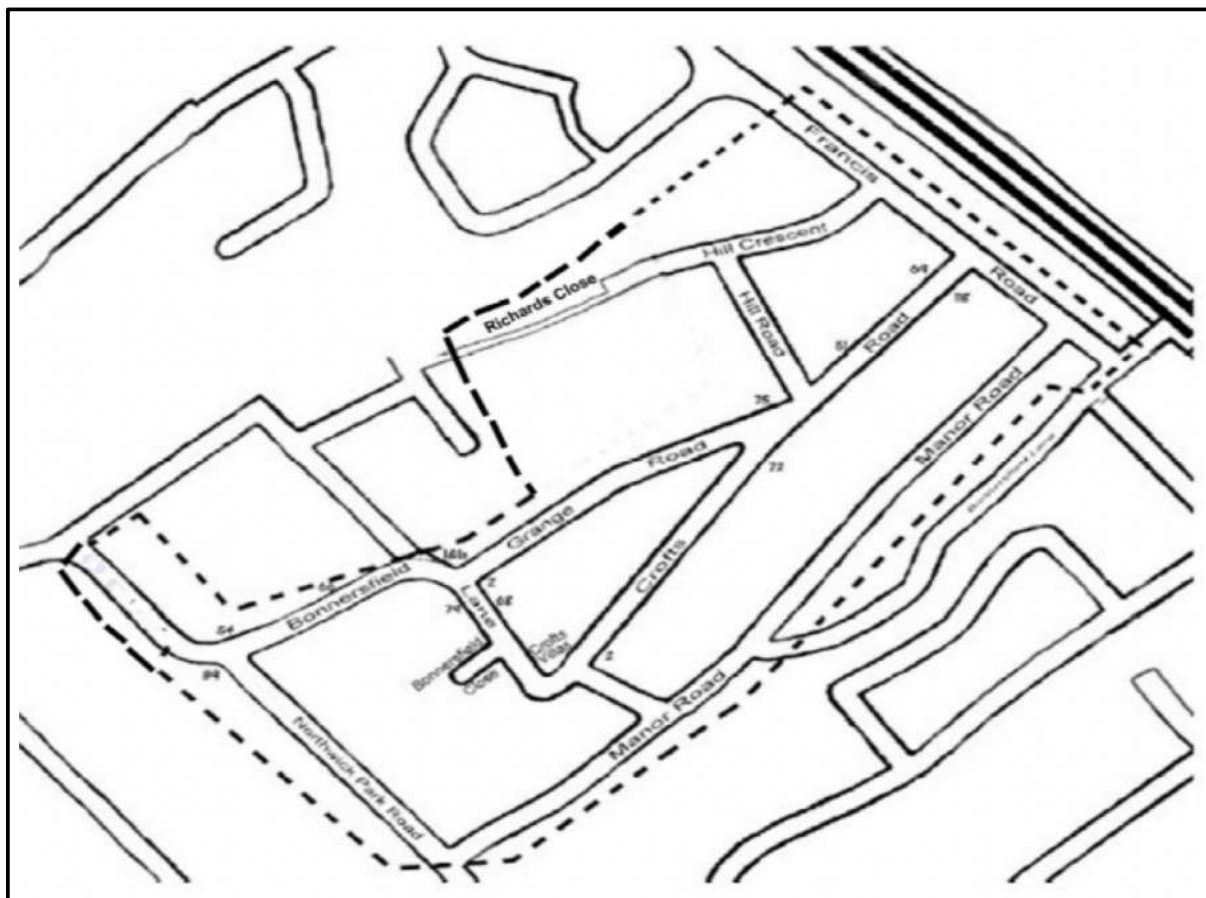
The constituency office is:
132 Blenheim Road, West Harrow, HA2 7AA
Tel: 020 8861 6300.

Surgeries are usually held on Fridays on a weekly basis.
gareth.thomas@harrowlabour.org

His Parliamentary address is
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AATel: 020 7219 4243
Fax: 020 7219 1154
thomasgr@parliament.uk

About the Association

Showing 2023 boundary



MEMBERSHIP

There are 3 newsletters a year, Winter, Spring with details of the Annual General Meeting and Summer. The Spring newsletter is free to all households. If you wish to join and missed your representative's call, you can still pay your membership online [now £2] but, if you do so, give your name and address and use your address as reference.

A/c Name: Greenhill Manor Residents Association

Fee: £2 via Natwest bank

Sort Code: 54 21 41 Account No: 29203791

Reference: your address

GMRA's costs will increase considerably now a commercial printer is used. If you are willing to receive the newsletter by email, please give your address via the contact on the website.

Your Current GMRA committee

Chairperson	Hemuna Pather Carr, 41 Northwick Park Road
Deputy Chairperson	Deputy Chairperson – Volunteer needed
Secretary	Helen Shorter 55 Grange Road
Treasurer	Eddie Griffiths 11 Northwick Park Road
Webmaster	Noor Mohamed 71 Bonnersfield Lane

Road Representatives

Bonnersfield Lane, Bonnersfield Close & Croft Villas	Simon Dunkerley 11 Manor Road
Crofts Road	Elvira Miranda 5 Grange Road
Francis Road – <i>Volunteer needed</i>	Come and join us
Hill Crescent, Hill Road, Richards Close.	Ellen Ramsaran 13 Crofts Road
Grange Road	Helen Shorter, 55 Grange Road
Manor Road	Godfrey O'Callaghan 14 Lowndes Court email: gdo@btinternet.com
Northwick Park Road	Sylvia Farooqi Northwick Park Road

A volunteer is needed to represent Francis Road. There are committee meetings every two months and an Annual General Meeting in the spring. Collecting membership moneys once a year is a good way to talk to and get to know your neighbours. Come and join us!

Useful Telephone numbers & emails

All MAJOR emergencies: Fire, Police or Ambulance	999
Harrow Council switchboard or www.harrow.gov.uk <i>also on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, LinkedIn, Twitter</i>	020 8901 2610
Metropolitan Police – Urgent	999
Police UK website for reporting or information	www.police.uk
Metropolitan Police, request Harrow Police Station	(020) 8423 1212
To report a crime that has occurred but not urgent Anti-Terrorist Hot Line Crime Stoppers (confidential) Greenhill Safer Neighbourhood Unit	101 0800 789 321 0800 555 111 (020) 872 2780
To report an electricity power cut https://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/power-cut#	0800 783 8838
National Gas Emergency Service https://www.nationalgas.com/emergency-contacts	0800 111 999
Water leak (Affinity Water) https://myonlineaccount.affinitywater.co.uk/ReportaLeak/Index	0800 376 5325
Blocked Drain (Thames Water) https://www.thameswater.co.uk/contact-us/report-a-problem/report-a-problem-online	0800 316 9800
Telephone Preference Service – to stop unwanted calls https://www.tpsonline.org.uk	0845 070 0707
Mail Preference Service https://www.mpsonline.org.uk	(020) 7291 3310
Harrow Energy Efficiency Advice helpline and Energy Saving Guidance https://www.harrow.gov.uk/benefits/help-cost-living/2	0800 838 650
Brent and Harrow Trading Standards Service Shoppers rights https://www.brent.gov.uk/business/trading-standards	(020) 8937 5555

**Get to know the police website for advice, reporting crimes,
local crime reports and much more: www.police.uk**