

The Village Voice



Contents:

- Aims of GHRA
- What we're doing
- Next meeting
- How to get in touch
- Meet the members
- Events past and future

Welcome to the first edition of the Newsletter of the Graven Hill Residents' Association (GHRA)! Our group was formed in September 2020 with the following aims:

- To promote community cohesion and inclusion within the Graven Hill Village site through seeking to raise awareness of, and actively involve residents in, the Graven Hill Residents' Association
- To eliminate all forms of discrimination within Graven Hill Village
- To deliver community led events and activities
- To represent the interests of the village residents in dealings with the local authorities and the Graven Hill Village Development Company
- To manage Community Assets for community benefit

So what is the GHRA up to? As reported at the last meeting in April, the areas we are working on are:

- Getting feedback on past events and planning future events for 2021
- Reporting on our finances to fund the running of the GHRA and events
- The active travel routes linking Graven Hill to the wider Bicester community
- Speeding and parking issues on site
- Council tax banding
- Pushing for the delivery of facilities on site – including the post box, glass recycling, playparks, retail units (under the apartment blocks), primary school, community centre, allotment and sports pitches, and the pub!

Everyone will be pleased to hear that we've had some success with the long awaited opening of the playparks! On Friday 14th May, our younger (and some not-so-young) residents were queuing up to be the first to try out the parks. Many thanks to the photographer for allowing us to use this photo of a very happy playpark customer.



Next Meeting: Wednesday 2nd June 7:30 pm via Zoom

Access details for the meeting can be found on the GHRA website: <https://gravenhillra.com/> or on the GHRA Facebook 'Events' page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/GravenHillResidents/>

To get in touch with the GHRA, either use the 'Contact us' link on the web site, or email: gravenhillresidents@gmail.com

Meet your residents association team...

Chair: Philip Sore (Westacott Road)

Max Dias-Gunawardena (Roberts Drive)

Secretary: Christine Clynes (East Circular Road)

Simon Kirkman (West Circular Road)

Treasurer: Sam Omotayo (Bolero Gardens)

Karen Sims (Roberts Drive)

Stephen Aggett (Edmunds Drive)

Eleanor Smith (Tancred Grove)

Helen Baker (Read Place)

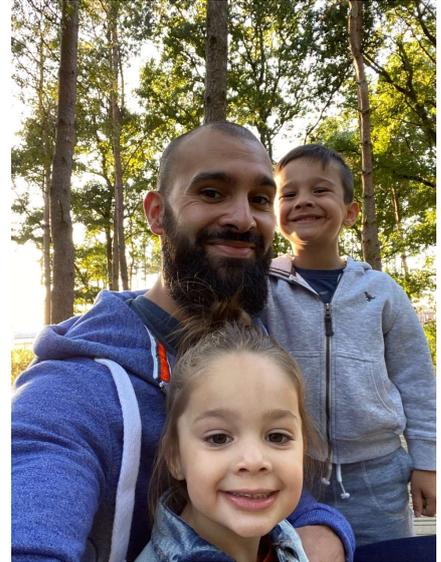
Susan Weston (Wood Crescent)

Each newsletter, we'd like to introduce you to one of the group. Our first profile is: Max Dias-Gunawardena:

Max moved into Roberts Drive in January 2019 with his partner Chloe and their three children. Together they have shared ownership of a Bromford property. He works for a company which makes exhibition stands for trade shows and events, where he recently became a director of the company. Max and his company were responsible for building the internal area of the vaccination clinic at Bicester Heritage Centre.

Max was born and bred in Bicester and has fond memories of visiting Graven Hill with his family before it was redeveloped into the community we are a part of now - so much so, that he celebrated his 18th birthday at Rodney House! Little did he know then that he would eventually bring his family to live on the development which, was back then, not even in the planning stage.

Max is a committed ice cream connoisseur – if you ever need to give him a treat or a present, ice cream will impress him more than anything else! In particular, he favours honeycomb flavour!!



Events update...

It has been a challenge to continue putting on community events during the pandemic, but during 2021 we have so far hosted an online quiz night which was thoroughly enjoyed by those who took part. Not all of us did particularly well, but we had fun and congratulate the Roberts Drive Team who won the trophy.

We also enjoyed a very original online Wine Tasting event during which we had to guess which 'expert' was telling the truth about the profile of the wines we were tasting. Not only did we have a lot of fun, but the event also raised an impressive £1152 for future Graven Hill Community events.

At Easter, the Events Group organised an Easter Egg Trail. Those solving the clues were able to come to Chadwick Place Green on Easter Sunday and receive their reward of an Easter Egg donated by GHVDC and Dan-Wood homes. Even the weather was kind for our outdoor, socially distanced celebration!

Later this year, we plan to hold a community Olympics event, a photo competition, a summer BBQ, Halloween Trick or Treating, and further Christmas celebrations. These are in the planning stage now; if you would like to be involved in helping with these or any future events, please get in touch via email:

gravenhillresidents@gmail.com.

Keep an eye out on
Facebook and the
website for all the
latest event details