

# Mill Hill Park Residents' Association Newsletter

March 2015



## Introduction from the Chair

Welcome to our brand new MHPRA newsletter! I do hope that it becomes part of our regular quarterly updates in the coming years to keep you informed and engaged in the activities for the benefit of our community and our area.

In this issue we provide an overview of the MHPRA committee members' roles, an update on our recent achievements and details on the upcoming improvements in Heathfield Nature Garden. We also have an exciting range of social events taking place this Spring.

I hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative. In any case, please send your feedback to [millhillparkra@gmail.com](mailto:millhillparkra@gmail.com). Thank you!

## About the MHPRA Committee

For the benefit of new members and to remind our existing members, find out about the roles and activities of our hard working committee, who perform these duties on a voluntary basis:

<b>Tatiana Collins</b>	<b>Nigel Middlemiss</b>	<b>Corinna Stowell</b>	<b>Ray Bachelor</b>	<b>Sandy Nicol</b>	<b>Claire Mitchell</b>
Tatiana took over as Chair of MHPRA last year. She is passionate about improving the appearance of our local parks and streets. Tatiana has led many initiatives, such as improvements to the Pocket Garden, Heathfield Nature Garden and a project to plant trees across Acton.	Nigel is the Honorary Vice Chair and has guided our response to many planning applications on behalf of MHPRA.	Corinna is the MHPRA Secretary and Web Manager. She has assisted with a number of planning and highways-related issues.	Ray served the MHPRA as Chair and is now Communications Officer. Ray helped to save the Mill Hill Pub from demolition, among other achievements.	Sandy is Social Secretary, organising many drinks parties. He is also the Neighbourhood Watch representative, on the look out for any trouble.	Claire recently stepped down as Membership Secretary after 10 years, and continues to be active in a variety of matters.
	<b>Ann Brennan</b>	<b>Paul Hill</b>	<b>Marcia Hurst</b>	<b>Judith Bone</b>	<b>John Dalby</b>
	Ann looks after licensing and checks all new applications for off-licences, restaurants, pubs and late night takeaways in Acton.	Paul is Treasurer and Membership Secretary. Paul regularly contributes to various initiatives.	Marcia is Environment Officer. Marcia master-minded and co-led the Pocket Garden initiative.	Judith is a new member of the committee. Her interest is Conservation. She leads on protection of mature trees from unlawful felling.	John is a long standing and a highly respected member of the MHPRA committee.



## Recent MHPRA achievements

---

### Mill Hill Road resurfacing has finally been completed!

Many thanks to Ann Brennan and Corinna Stowell for their perseverance in overseeing the completion of Mill Hill Road's resurfacing after nearly 5 years of lobbying. The Council's Highways Team will inspect the works this Spring and we will keep our members updated on any remedial work to be carried out. We took the road resurfacing as an opportunity to request via the Councillors an increase in residents' parking spaces on Mill Hill Road, in place of single yellow lines. 30 parking spaces have been added, and this so far has made a noticeable difference.

### 75 trees found a new home in Mill Hill Park area

Last year we made an application to the Woodland Trust for 105 trees for our residents, absolutely free of charge. We had hoped to raise awareness of the importance of protecting and planting more trees in our area to help reduce pollution and traffic noise. MHPRA members took 75 saplings home and we sincerely hope they become beautiful and mature trees in years to come. The remaining saplings will be donated to local schools.

### Victory for better quality construction materials at the Mill Hill Tavern

Ann Brennan, Nigel Middlemiss and Tatiana Collins oversaw the approval of construction materials for the redevelopment of the Mill Hill Tavern, working with the responsible Planning Officer. We recommended a change in the materials submitted for approval by the developer. As a result, quality London yellow brick, solid wooden doors and high quality fencing will be used instead of plastic doors and pale yellow brick, such as the brick used at Acton Care Centre. We also hope to have a tree planted in place of the now redundant Mill Hill Tavern sign.

## Local issues we are working on

---

- Tatiana Collins, Corinna Stowell and Ann Brennan are currently conducting a survey on issues, such as traffic speed and volume, parking shortages and improving the condition of pavements to the Council.
- Judith Bone is pushing for enforcement action on the illegal felling of the oak tree at 79 Gunnersbury Lane. We are asking for an enforcement of the full £20K fine and planting of an oak tree in Heathfield Park.
- Sandy Nicol is looking into the residents rota to lock up gates at Mill Hill Gardens.
- Ann Brennan, Tatiana Collins and Marcia Hurst are pushing the Council to fine its contractors for missed collections of green rubbish sacks, which should be cleared daily by 5pm.

## Dates for your diary

---

**30 March:** the next residents' drinks party will be hosted by Helen and Keith Moore at 154 Avenue Road at 7pm.

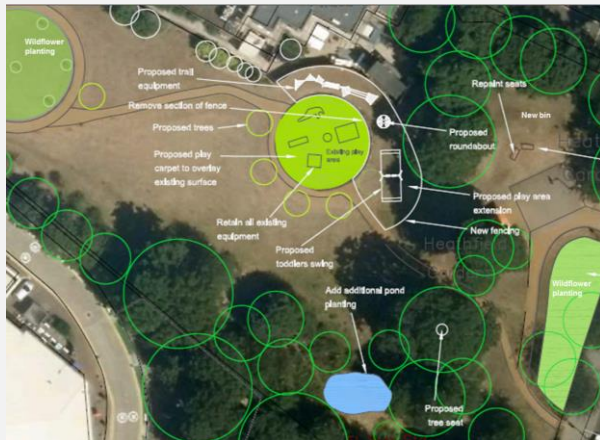
**April:** join us for a Spring Clean at the newly planted Pocket Garden on Crown Street in April; this is a perfect opportunity for everyone who could not join our planting event in November.

**29 April:** Churchfield Community Association is organising pre-election debate for local candidates. Angie Bray and other parliamentary candidates will be attending the meeting at 7pm in Acton Town Hall.

**May:** we will be holding a private tour for MHPRA members of the Transport Museum, opposite Acton Town tube station, followed by a reception with drinks and nibbles. We really hope that many of our paying members will be able to attend this event.



## Spotlight on the current initiative: Improvements at Heathfield Nature Garden



**Landscape architect's drawing of proposed works**

*With regards to a recent planning application to erect a 15 meters telecommunications mast in front of the park on the pavement of Gunnersbury Lane, the MHPRA committee made a recommendation to move the mast towards the corner of the park.*

After over 2 years of to- and fro-ing with the Council's parks department, we finally have a schedule of improvements in Heathfield Nature Garden on Gunnersbury Lane, with work due to take place over the next 5 months. Tatiana Collins has been working with the Council to secure the budget of £27,000 from the ward and other funds. Upcoming improvements include:

- Extension to the playground and purchase of new play equipment;
- Planting a wild meadow border at the front of the park and around the orchard at the back of the park;
- Adding another bin at the entrance to the park to control littering;
- Adding a bench at the back of the park;
- Ealing Transition charity, with involvement from MHPRA member Martin Kunz, will be tidying the orchard, planted 3 years ago;
- Planting 5 birch trees around the playground to replace trees lost to disease and bad weather.

## Local issues we are working on

### How you can help improve our area and strengthen our community?

- Come to ward forums and support the voice of MHPRA on local issues
- Respond to calls for action to comment on planning applications and to report issues, such as graffiti and fly-tipping
- Come to social events
- Help to look after our newly planted Pocket Garden and local parks
- Join action groups formed for various local issues
- And finally, please pay your membership fees to help us keep up with these great initiatives!

Visit the MHPRA website: [millhillparkacton.org](http://millhillparkacton.org)