

CONTACT

A large Christmas tree illuminated with blue lights, surrounded by a crowd of people at night. The tree is the central focus, with its branches densely packed with small, bright blue lights. The crowd in the foreground is seen from behind, with many people wearing winter hats and coats. The background shows a dark street with some buildings and streetlights, suggesting an outdoor public space.

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www.healdgreenratepayers.org.uk

Heald Green and Long Lane Ratepayers' Association

The work of the Association includes:

- maintaining the local environment particularly streets and local parks;
- ensuring Council services are working effectively in Heald Green;
- helping to create thriving local schools through representation on the Governing Bodies of local schools;
- playing an active role in making sure Council services work well
- working with the Greater Manchester Police Force's local officers on law and order issues;
- representing the interests of Heald Green residents through membership of Manchester Airport Consultative Committee;
- promoting community spirit through involvement in organising events such as the Heald Green Festival and annual Remembrance Service

In 1962 we started our magazine, CONTACT, which is delivered to every house in Heald Green three times a year. CONTACT is our way of keeping in touch with you and letting you know about issues and events in your local community. We also have a website healdgreenratepayers.org.uk and are on facebook. If you're interested in helping to help Heald Green we'd love to hear from you.

Get involved!

We are on the lookout for new people to get involved. It's a great way to keep in touch with community events, to make new friends, and have an influence on the life of Heald Green. Whether you would like to help out at various events, deliver CONTACT (and keep fit), or join one of our sub-committees – please contact one of the Committee members listed on page 3. We need your help to continue making Heald Green such a pleasant place to live.

We are looking for a new Treasurer – if you think could possibly help, please get in touch with Norman Humphreys or one of the Committee.

Annual Subscriptions

A big thank you to those of you who paid their subs under the new 2 year membership plan. Your new £5.00 subscription is due at the beginning of 2019. To renew, for a further 2 years, please complete the tear-off slip below and return it to either Norman Humphreys, 1B, St. Austell Drive or to any of the Committee members listed on page 3, paying with cash or cheque in the envelope provided. If you require bank account details for BACS payments, please phone Norman Humphreys on 436 4696. Many thanks for your membership and support.

Name.....

Address.....

E-Mail/ Phone.....

Cheques to Heald Green and Long Lane Ratepayers' Association, thank you.

Who We Are

The Association is run by a committee, which meets monthly. The committee members are:

David Mullin (Chair)	12 Hambleton Rd	436 1428
Carole McCann (Deputy Chair)	276 Styal Rd	499 2406
Margaret Burns (Secretary)	8 Westwood Rd	437 7197
Norman Humphreys (Treasurer)	1b St Austell Dr	436 4696
Julian Murray	42 Oakdale Drive	437 8436
Bernadette Murray-Robb	28 Westwood Rd	498 8837
Owen Morris	36B Elmsleigh Rd	07454 662356
Catherine Stuart	59 Thornton Road	436 3020
Rebecca Turner	4 Bruntwood Ave	
Tom Golden	7 Drayton Drive	07970 823539
Peter Burns	8 Westwood Road	437 7197
Nick Feist	86 Rossendale Rd	286 9440
Julia Brosnan	38 The Oval	07870 306867

Councillors

Councillor Anna Charles-Jones 283 6568	97 Queensway
Councillor Sylvia Humphreys 436 4696	1b St Austell Drive
Councillor Adrian Nottingham 07701 092930	22 Outwood Drive



If you wish to consult your councillors, you can telephone them or call in to their surgeries on the first and third Friday of each month (except August) between 6.30 and 7.30 pm at the Village Hall or email to: email@healdgreeratepayers.org.uk. Note: On Jan 4th the Village Hall is having some flooring work done so the councillors will hold their surgery in the Committee Room.

CENTENARY REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

It's a hundred years since the end of the First World War. In August 2014, we commemorated the start of the War with a Candlelit Vigil at the War Memorial and on 11th November 2018, at noon on Remembrance Sunday, we commemorated the Armistice, with hundreds of local people at a Service arranged by the Ratepayers' Association. The young people from Heald Green played a special part this year, with



the 17 names from WW1 on the Memorial, being read by pupils from our Heald Green primary schools. Research done by Hazel and Paul Crofton from Wilmslow Rd, also meant that the addresses of those fallen soldiers could be read out too, bringing home to everyone how local the fallen soldiers were, many living within yards of where we were all standing. The children also planted silhouettes of soldiers, each with a name, in the flower beds by the Memorial. The Service started with a parade of the scouts, cubs, beavers, and brownies with their standards, led by a lone piper, also from Heald Green. Wreaths were laid by representatives of

very many groups and organisations from Heald Green, from the Cheadle area, from Stockport, from Greater Manchester and from a Queen's Deputy Lieutenant of Greater Manchester. A group of local ladies made 100 poppies, which were sewn onto a black drape, which was fastened to the oak tree by the Memorial (pictured). Each carefully made poppy represented the years that have passed since WW1 finished. The names of those knitters will be embroidered onto the cloth, which can have another poppy added each year in the future. What a wonderful community event, remembering those local men who died in our country's service.



BIG POPPIES

The Ratepayers' Committee members with the help of supporters were busy before Remembrance Sunday, fastening big poppies to the lamp standards along Wilmslow Road and Finney Lane. This was all to show our support for the armed services, particularly those who died for us. You may also have seen the Poppy we placed on the sapling on the grassed area at the junction of Queensway and Finney

Lane. We placed this Poppy on "Joan Heinekey's" tree in memory of the work she undertook, selling Poppies for many years at the shops on Finney Lane. Carole McCann, one of the Ratepayers' Committee, also arranged for Ratepayers to sell big poppies for residents to display at their own homes and lamp standards. If you have a Big Poppy, please store it for next year.

Councillor Adrian Nottingham writes:

During October 2016 the big housing plan for Greater Manchester; the 'Greater Manchester Spatial Framework' (GMSF), was released for public consultation. This plan, created by all 10 Greater Manchester councils, looked forward to 2035 and, using projected housing needs and employment needs, sought to identify land for new homes and new jobs. This first plan suggested that whole swathes of Greenbelt should be redesignated in order to allow large-scale development; suggesting an additional 4,700 homes could be built on Heald Green Greenbelt!

Well, following around 27,000 responses to the consultation, it was back to the drawing board! We were expecting the second draft of the plan to go out to consultation this summer, but there were delays. With a lack of clarity around how to calculate housing need and uncertainty over central government housing strategy, our Greater Manchester council leaders put a pause on the release of the second draft. However, what is clear is that it isn't going away and that Heald Green is still likely to feature prominently when it does get released, which we anticipate will be soon.

If you would like know more or may be interested in joining a group that will be engaging with the consultation with a Heald Green focus, please do contact Cllr Adrian Nottingham. Watch our website for news of our Public Meeting on this. *"Growth, jobs, housing, schools - this is your chance to have a say."*

Travellers

This summer, Stockport has seen a large increase in the number of traveller incursions compared with last year. There have been several attempts to gain access onto the Village Hall playing fields but, thanks to the increased security at the gate, the attempted incursions were thwarted. Additional measures have been introduced to prevent over-winter parking of caravans on the car park. Significantly stronger padlocks and strict key sharing protocols are a part of the heightened security measures. Some concern has been raised about access for emergency service vehicles during the football season. Whilst access has never been available in the past, with the imminent placing of a defibrillator on the exterior of the Village Hall, the life chances of anyone suffering cardiac arrest will be significantly improved. For all other incidents the size of the Village Hall field is unlikely to be a limiting factor for paramedics who leave their vehicle at the gate and make their way to the casualty on foot.

Seashell Trust

As you are aware, the Seashell Trust applied to remodel their site and sell off Greenbelt land for housebuilding to fund it. The application was refused by the Council. We opposed the application because they do not need the money gained from selling the land in order to revamp their site. The Seashell Trust have now appealed against the Council decision. The appeal will go to a Public Inquiry next May. Ratepayers and the Action Group have formed a Joint Group to play a full part in the Public Inquiry.

News from the Town Hall by Councillor Anna Charles-Jones

2018 has been a busy year for the councillors. The Seashell Trust's planning application for 325 houses on greenbelt, opposed by Ratepayers, was refused by the Council. The Planning Inspector will hear an appeal next May. We met with Andy Burnham regarding the number of houses planned for Heald Green in the first draft of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework. After several delays the next Draft should be out before Christmas.

The A555 bypass finally opened to the public in October and early signs are that it is taking lots of through-traffic away from Finney Lane and other residential roads. We pushed for completion of the Stanley Green roundabout and are following up plans for some complementary measures on Finney Lane. Several roads in the village have been resurfaced or renewed as part of the Highways Improvement Programme with issues fed back to the council as necessary. Deterrent measures, including cowlings on gates, have been implemented to protect greenspaces following the traveller incursions in 2017. We are working to install CCTV at the shops on Finney Lane.

Looking ahead SMBC faces significant financial challenges due to ongoing cuts in government funding. This will likely see opportunities for residents to play a more active role in managing local green spaces etc as pressure on services increases. We continue to assist individual residents on a range of issues and encourage you to contact us if we can be of assistance.

An Inspector Calls

50 people attended a lively meeting at the Village Hall on 13th November to listen to Inspector Rob Hawksley. Rob is the officer responsible for Community Policing in Cheadle, Gatley and Heald Green. He explained how the police strategy had been forced to change as a result of successive cuts by the government. The number of officers has fallen to the 1996 levels.

Not all reported incidents are followed up. They have to be assessed to decide whether further action will be taken. Most of the questions were submitted in advance, which gave Rob time to research his answers. Some of the answers weren't popular, because there simply isn't the staff to respond to every incident and Rob's frustration was evident in his replies.

How can we help the police to help us? Most Police funding comes from the government. Maybe it's time to write to our Member of Parliament to demand more money.

We can also form more Neighbourhood Watch groups. It may be as simple as setting up a WhatsApp group with your neighbours. Contact us if you need help email@healdgreeratepayers.org.uk

Farewell to Derek

Derek Whitehead has retired from the Ratepayers' Committee, after over half a century of service to the community. Derek joined the Committee in the early 60's and became Vice-Chairman in 1967 and then Chairman. In the early days he led many of the battles to get facilities for the rapidly expanding Heald Green. He was our representative on the Airport Consultative Committee from its formation until 1981. In 1999 he was elected as one of our councillors on Stockport council, a position he held until 2010. During this period, he served on the Waste Disposal Authority and also sat on the Planning and Highways and Cheadle Area Committees.

Derek was also a leading instigator of the building and financing of the Sylvia Robert's Guide Hall on Cross Road. He led a group of Guides' parents to get the Guide Hall built and was an active participant of the Heald Green Village Hall Management Committee.

For over 50 years he served the Heald Green community with diligence. Whilst caring for his wife, Barbara, and following her death, Derek spent much time researching treatments for stroke victims. For his work in this field he received an MBE from the Queen - but it is for his work within Heald Green that we want to thank him and wish him well for the future.



Heald Green Cleans Up

Litter pickers were out in force recently when 55 local residents turned out for Heald Green's twice-yearly tidy up, organised by Councillor Adrian Nottingham (pictured) for the Heald Green Ratepayers Association. Pickers included residents from the Heald Green Ratepayers Association, Cheadle Mosque, and the 3rd Heald Green beavers, cubs and scouts. Armed with long-reach grabbers and bin bags, residents scoured the area for rubbish and collected a total of 35 large bags!



The Heald Green Festival

The Festival was once again a successful community event for everybody. The sun was out, and thousands came to enjoy over 50 community and charity stalls as well as a funfair, donkeys, model train, body zorbing and plenty of refreshments and entertainment. Congratulations to Etchells Primary School who won the Junior Football Trophy. Next year's Festival will be on 29th June but more people are needed to organise it. If you can help, please contact Charles on 485 3397. The first planning meeting will be in January.

Christmas Church Services in Heald Green

The Ratepayers' Councillors and Committee wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. You are invited to join Grace Notes who will be leading Carols at Cafe Unity on Saturday, 15th December from 10.30am. There will also be Carols Round the Tree on Christmas Eve, 7pm, a great Heald Green tradition. What a way to start your Christmas. Please bring a torch, carol sheets provided.

You will also be given a warm welcome at the following Christmas church services:

Christ Church

24th December	5.30pm	Children's Mass
	11.30pm	Carols and Midnight Mass
25th December	9am, 11am	Mass

St Catherine's Christmas Services

20 th December	12-1pm	Organ Recital and refreshments
23 rd December	10am	Sunday Worship, 6.30pm Carol Service
24 th December	4pm	Christingle Service
24 th December	11.30pm	Midnight Holy Communion Service
25 th December	10am	Christmas Service

Heald Green United Reformed Church, Wilmslow Rd

23rd December	10.30am	Carol Service
24th December	11.30pm	Candlelight café-style service with communion
25th December	10am	Family worship, café-style

Heald Green Methodist Church, Brown Lane

16 th December	6pm	- Carol Service
24 th December	8pm	- Christmas Eve Communion
25 th December	10am	- Christmas Day All Age Service

Life Church, Outwood Rd

16 th December	9.45 - 10.45am	Carol Service
23 rd December	9.45 - 10.45am	Carol Service

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