

# CONTACT

**WINTER 2019    ISSUE 195**

[www.healdgreenratepayers.org.uk](http://www.healdgreenratepayers.org.uk)

## Heald Green and Long Lane Ratepayers' Association

The Ratepayers' Association is run by a committee, which meets monthly. The committee members are elected by the community at the AGM in March.

Julian Murray (Chairman)	42 Oakdale Drive	437 8436
Chris Walsh (Deputy Chairman)	10 Waterford Place	07974914417
Margaret Burns (Secretary)	8 Westwood Rd	437 7197
David Mullin (Treasurer)	12 Hambleton Rd	436 1428
Julia Brosnan	38 The Oval	07870 306867
Peter Burns	8 Westwood Road	437 7197
Nick Feist	86 Rossendale Rd	286 9440
Tom Golden	7 Drayton Drive	07970 823539
Bernadette Murray-Robb	28 Westwood Rd	498 8837
Stephen Pearson	10 Avon Road	07587 146422
Catherine Stuart	59 Thornton Road	436 3020
Lynton Threadgold	5 Troon Drive	491 0983

### Councillors

Councillor Anna Charles-Jones  
283 6568



Councillor Carole McCann  
07771 681004



Councillor Adrian Nottingham  
07701 092930



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@healdgreenratepayers.org.uk](mailto:email@healdgreenratepayers.org.uk).

### Get involved!

We are always 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 or join one of our committees, please contact one of the Committee members listed above. We'd love to hear from YOU!

## Are you a Litter-Picker?

Tidy minded Heald Green residents came out in force recently for a community clean up. Around 50 people of all ages, including Heald Green Scouts, Brownies and Guide groups and members of Cheadle Mosque, collected 50 bags of rubbish. Ratepayers' Councillor Adrian Nottingham, who leads our two litter picks each year, says:



*We've been doing this for over ten years now and it's become a real fixture in the Heald Green calendar. It's a pleasure to see so many local residents taking such a pride in the environment. As well as tidying up and showing what a difference a clean environment makes, it's a great way for people to get to know their fellow residents, which strengthens community ties.*

Afterwards the litter-pickers were invited to Cafe Unity for complimentary coffee and cake, courtesy of the Ratepayers. A job well done!

## CCTV

As many will have noticed, we now have CCTV installed at the Heald Green Village shops, with cautionary notices displayed. The cameras cover the shopping area on the North side, from Freshfields to the railway. The CCTV only covers the actual pathways outside the shops and not across Finney Lane.



This has been achieved with ongoing financial input from Ratepayers and support from Stockport Council and Greater Manchester Police. A great deal of work and time has gone into the planning and installation of the CCTV system which has already been used by the Police.

Because we are a community organisation, we had to adhere to very strict policies about how the CCTV footage may be used. Detail on this is available on the Ratepayers' website.

Many thanks to all the shop owners who agreed to participate in the scheme and the Ratepayers' Councillors and committee members who worked to achieve this success. If you believe a crime has been committed which may be covered by the cameras, please contact the Police directly. We hope the system gives an added measure of security to those who shop and work in the village.

## My First 6 months as Your Councillor by Carole McCann

What a journey my first 6 months have been. I have helped many residents of Heald Green with problems including missing bins, parking, pot holes, planning permission and the Airport. I have held surgeries at the Village Hall, where residents can come to chat to councillors about any issues.

In May I attended training sessions and seminars where I learnt more about how the Council works and what it does. Planning was very interesting but licensing, which includes taxis, was a particular eye opener! I sit on a Scrutiny Committee where we monitor and examine different aspects of the Council. I also sit on the Corporate Families committee as well as the Audit committee dealing with the budget and attended their rigorous training courses.

I arranged for the cutting back of overhanging branches wherever possible and for the Pay Back Team to clear passages. I have also been involved in looking at various local planning applications.

September was mainly dominated by complaints of speeding on our major roads and arrangements are in hand to try and alleviate the situation. I have also been closely involved in setting up the CCTV system in the Village. The start of a new school year, saw plenty of work as a governor at Outwood Primary and now also at Cheadle Catholic Junior School.

I sit on the Heald Green Festival Committee and help with the extensive organisation it takes to bring this fabulous Festival to Heald Green. I liaised with the Council to close Finney Lane for the parade. It was a massive success and I hope to be able to do this for the next Festival, on 27th June.



October and November were spent getting ready for Remembrance time. I organised hundreds of Poppy Boxes to be made up and delivered to shops, pubs and restaurants in Heald Green, Gatley, Cheadle & Cheadle Hulme. Large poppies were put on the majority of lamp posts on Finney Lane, Wilmslow Road and Styal Road by Ratepayers' Committee and

other volunteers. Some residents also erected poppies outside their own homes. The Remembrance Service was organised by Ratepayers, with lots of children taking part. I've learnt so much during my first 6 months as one of your councillors and hopefully I've made a difference.

## Heald Green Scouts Get Fired Up about Bushcraft

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Heald Green Scout Group received a welcome boost following the donation of a cheque for £950 from the Heald Green Ratepayers' Grant Scheme. The money will help provide the scouts with a dedicated space at their Brown Lane base, for their outdoor activities. Peter Metcalfe, pictured with Beavers, is the Group Scout Leader of 2nd HG Scouts, which has over 65 young Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Phoenix Explorers, both boys and girls, from 6-18. He said:

"This will make a big difference to us and means we can really focus on our bushcraft activities, which are so important for scouts. At last we will have a dedicated space for our bonfire pit, where we can practice skills such as fire lighting, cooking over fire, axe work and whittling. Up until now we've had to unpack and pack all the equipment every time we start an activity, but this grant enables us to develop a permanent all year outdoor facility."



Here are some of the Beavers enjoying some bushcraft activities.

Both Heald Green scout groups are looking for new adult volunteers in order to continue with their splendid work. 2nd Heald Green is based at the Methodist Church, Brown Lane, whilst 3rd Heald Green is based at St Catherine's Hall, Outwood Rd. If you're interested we will pass on your details, email us at: [email@healdgreenratepayers.org.uk](mailto:email@healdgreenratepayers.org.uk).

## Heald Green Parks

Heald Green is fortunate to have two parks and children's playgrounds and, over the years, both groups of Friends of the Park have raised funds and dramatically improved both Rosevale and East Avenue Parks. However, both Friends groups need more people to help with ideas and fundraising to continue to improve both the parks. Recently, East Ave Park organised a children's event but had to cancel as they did not have enough people to help. So if you want to keep both our parks in good condition and help to keep them as good places to relax and play, please get in touch with April McCulley (East Ave Park) on 07854 942285 or Stephen Pearson (Rosevale Park) on 07587 146422. Green spaces are good for our well-being and for our children.

## Half Term Family Film Afternoon

We are arranging an inexpensive family film afternoon at the Village Hall on 19th February, which is during half-term. More details after New Year!

The work of the Ratepayers' Association includes:

- monitoring the local environment particularly streets and local parks;
- helping to create thriving local schools through representation on their Governing Bodies;
- 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, Carols round the Christmas tree and Crib and the Community Remembrance Service, Litter Picks and planting of the flower tubs;
- Organising Public Meetings about current issues.

In 1962 we started our magazine, CONTACT, which is delivered to every house in Heald Green, three times a year, by volunteers. We also have a website [healdgreenratepayers.org.uk](http://healdgreenratepayers.org.uk) and you can follow us on facebook too.

## Subscriptions

Many thanks to those residents who have paid their subscription to Ratepayers this year. Remember that £5 subscription is for two years. You can either put a cheque or cash into an envelope with your name, address, email or phone number and pop it through the door of any of the committee or councillors, whose addresses are in this magazine. Please state if you require a receipt. Many thanks.

## Do you want to look after the grass outside your house?

Some months ago, Stockport Council announced a new scheme whereby residents are able to "adopt" the grassed area outside their home. You can apply via one of your local councillors to adopt the grass outside your house.

We are pleased to announce that a Heald Green resident has been the first to do this.

They have pledged to look after this green space, keeping it neat and tidy and litter free. It can't be used for parking or for building. If you're interested, contact a Ratepayers' councillor for further information or email to: [email@healdgreenratepayers.org.uk](mailto:email@healdgreenratepayers.org.uk)

## The future of GMSF is uncertain!

The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) is the planning document currently being written, which seeks to ensure that Greater Manchester has the right land in the right places to deliver the homes and jobs needed up to 2037, along with identifying the new infrastructure required to achieve this. This draft plan proposes the building of an additional 1,700 homes on Heald Green's Green Belt over the next 17 years.

A final public consultation on the draft plan is scheduled for the Summer of next year but following delays and some uncertainty around political direction, there are genuine doubts as to whether the GMSF will be completed at all.

However, what is certain is that Stockport continues to look for where it will locate the houses that it has a statutory obligation (imposed by law) to build and Heald Green's Green Belt is still very much in focus within those plans. It does seem certain that even if GMSF gets scrapped the pressure to build homes on Heald Green's Green Belt will not go away!

## Seashell Trust Inquiry Feedback

The Seashell Trust's plan to build up to 325 houses on the Green Belt to pay for a rebuild of their premises came before a Public Inquiry in May. The Ratepayers' Association paid for a Planning Consultant and worked closely with the Action Group to present a joint case to the Inspector, using the tremendous amount of research carried out by the Action Group. The Inquiry sat for 16 days, spread over 7 weeks. The Inspector's recommendation is expected before Christmas. The final decision will be made by the Secretary of State. Who that will be depends on the aftermath of the General Election. Full details about the issue are available on the Ratepayers' website

## CMA Award

The Cheadle Muslim Association, located at the Mosque on Wilmslow Rd has been honoured with the award of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. This is the highest award for voluntary groups. It was awarded for the voluntary community work they do. Some of this is seen in their participation in the Festival and the litter picks but most of it is unseen, such as the tremendous amount of fundraising they do for various charities. Our congratulations to them.

**Last date to apply for a Stockport Primary school Reception place for September 2020 is 15th January 2020. Don't be late! Contact Admissions at SMBC.**

## Christmas Church Services in Heald Green

The Ratepayers' Councillors and Committee wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. As usual you can meet up with all your neighbours and friends at 7pm at Carols Round the Tree and Crib on Christmas Eve; a great Heald Green tradition. What a way to start your Christmas! Please bring a torch, carol sheets provided. You are also invited to join Grace Notes who will be leading Carols at Cafe Unity on Saturday, 14th December from 10.30am. Free mince pie too!

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

### **Christ Church R C, Finney Lane**

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

### **St Catherine's C of E, Outwood Rd**

15 <sup>th</sup> December	6.30pm	Carol Service
24 <sup>th</sup> December	4pm	Christingle Family Service
24 <sup>th</sup> December	11.30pm	Christmas Eve Communion Service
25 <sup>th</sup> December	10am	Christmas Day Worship

### **Heald Green United Reformed Church, Wilmslow Rd**

22 <sup>nd</sup> December	10.30am	Carol Service
25 <sup>th</sup> December	10am	Family worship, café-style

### **Heald Green Methodist Church, Brown Lane**

22 <sup>nd</sup> December	6.30pm	Carol Service
24 <sup>th</sup> December	8pm	Christmas Eve Communion
25 <sup>th</sup> December	10am	Christmas Day Celebration

### **Life Church, Outwood Rd**

15 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	Carol Service
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	10.30am	Carol Service

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