



# GOOSTREY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022



## Annual Report 2021- 2022

The Parish Council had a full complement of 10 local residents as Councillors during the year and I'd like to thank them all for their time freely given. Sara Lord left the Council in September 2021 and has been replaced by Arthur Freeman.

The Clerk, Sharon Jones, retired from the Council after 9 years' service and I also thank her for all her work and at the same time welcome our new Clerk, Emma Bambrook. We also welcomed our new Village Hall supervisors Yvonne and Chris Duke. During 2021 the Council moved up from the Local Council Award Scheme Foundation level to Quality level and we have just been informed that we have attained Gold level. This confirms that the Council is following all best practices in its processes.

Covid-19 continued to restrict hiring of the Village Hall in 2021, The Hall is heated and lighted by oil and electricity and the large increase in prices as well as increases in national insurance and inflation have meant that hire charges have had to be increased after 2 years. The Hall does not, and has never made a profit, it is subsidised by the Parish precept. The building is owned by Cheshire East Council and they have advised that the loft space cannot be used by the public and there are insurance, fire and safety risks. As a result, we regretfully need to empty the loft by the 1st July 2022.

Various improvements have been made around the village during the year. The phone box on Main Road has been completely refurbished and repainted to prevent decay. It houses a defibrillator which is available to anyone 24x7 and is maintained by the Council. Also 400 crocuses have been planted on the Church Bank side of St Luke's. This will serve as a memorial to all those who sadly passed away as a result of Covid-19 and the impact of the pandemic on everyone.

Based on the results of a residents' questionnaire it is intended to plant a new hedge on Shearbrook bank in the Autumn of 2022. Outline proposals for changes at the corner of Boothbed Lane and Main Road have also been agreed.

There is some limited money available for improvements to the Boothbed Lane playground, though any expenditure would need to be made by Cheshire East Council who own and maintain the facility.

Donations were made to Goostrey Scouts for the Christmas lights event, Cheshire Wildlife Trust to preserve plants and animals in the Dane Valley, 'Goostrey Men in Sheds' and the Open Gardens event. A donation has also been made to the Red Cross Ukraine appeal. Speeding continues to be a problem in Goostrey. The speed indicators show that more than 70% of all vehicles passing the Shearbrook camera are exceeding the speed limit. The SpeedWatch sessions have been temporarily suspended partly due to Covid but also due to lack of resident volunteers. The Council continue to liaise with the Police to encourage them to use their TruCam in Goostrey and average speed cameras are being investigated. A further meeting took place with Cheshire East Highways at the Boothbed Lane junction but unfortunately the Borough Council have decided not to carry out any further improvements.

The Council has responded to all planning applications in Goostrey in the last year by following the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan. It has also responded to the Cheshire East Local Plan Part 2 consultation which does not allocate any new sites or housing in Goostrey, although this does not exclude 'windfall' applications. Local council elections next May mean all positions will become vacant, any resident is welcome to put their name forward at that time for election. In the mean time we look forward to welcoming all residents to any of the Parish Council meetings and Committees during 2022.

*Cllr. Ken Morris*

**Chairman**

The full version of the Annual Report can be viewed on our website or a copy can be obtained by contacting the Clerk.

## Former Parish Clerk—Sharon Jones



Our former Parish Clerk, Sharon Jones, retired on 28th February. At her last Parish Council meeting the Chairman took the opportunity to formally thank Sharon for her hard work and dedication to the role of Clerk and the residents of Goostrey in

her time with the council.

During her time in the role she has improved the effectiveness of council procedures and has implemented a range of policies and standards of working which led to Local Council Award

Scheme awards at Foundation, Quality and now at Gold award level.

Sharon's contribution to the lives of residents has often been above and beyond the call of duty and, on many occasions, quietly, behind the scenes and in her own time. In particular, the Senior's Christmas Lunch, Rose Day and assistance with the volunteer response during the pandemic. There have also been many other improvements to the Village Hall and to village events. The Chairman wished Sharon the very best for the future on behalf of the council and presented her with a token of appreciation.

Edited by Cllr K Morris & E Bambrook

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### Police Surgeries

PSCO Chadwick will be holding beat surgeries in the Village Hall Lounge from 10.30 to 11.30 am on the following dates:

Saturday 21st May

Saturday 11th June

Saturday 2nd July

Everyone Welcome!

### Council Information:

- **Parish Councillors** - by email or speak to the Clerk.
- **Parish Office Hours** Mon, Wed & Fri 13.00 to 16.00
- **Email-** [clerk@goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk)
- **Phone:** 01477 535825  
Answer phone service available
- **Website:** [www.goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk)
- **Social Media:** Twitter @GoostreyPC

## Goostrey Village Hall—Updates and Changes

### Changes to Hire Fees

As part of the careful budget planning process which the council undertakes each autumn, the Village Hall Management Committee took the difficult decision to increase the hire fees for the Village Hall. Fees had been maintained at the same level for 2 years, however, rising costs have meant that it became necessary to increase charges. Many of you will be aware that the new charges took effect from 1st April 2022. Regular hirers were advised in advance of the changes to assist groups in planning for the increases.

The increase brings the Village Hall charging into line with other similar venues in the area and allows the council to ensure that the high standard of service and facilities is maintained. It also means that the council can continue to invest in the Village Hall and improve the amenities offered to hirers.

While the hall was closed during the pandemic the council changed the ceiling lights in the hall to warm white LED panels and replaced the spot lights with new LED fittings. This both improved the appearance of the lighting and made the lighting more energy and cost efficient. In the lounge, the bar servery had a modern refurbishment including spot lights.



Through careful management and investment the Village Hall Management Committee and the Parish Council as a whole seek to secure the future of the hall so that the community will be able to continue to enjoy the benefit of having this important village facility on its doorstep.

### Storage at the Village Hall

Over the years some of Goostrey's fantastic clubs and groups have stored items which are used to run community events and activities in the loft area of the Village Hall.

The council became concerned that the ladder used to access the loft was no longer suitable and a member of the public could be injured. As the building is owned by Cheshire East Council (CEC), the Clerk met with CEC Building Control and an architect about replacing the loft ladder and improving the storage space. The council was advised that if access to the loft space was improved the area would need to be designated as permanent storage and would be subject to building regulations. The council was also advised that the loft area would not be considered suitable for storage used by members of the public as it is not on ground level.

The Clerk was also made aware that items stored in the Village Hall, which are not owned by the Parish Council or the school, were not covered by the Parish Council's insurance and therefore would have to be insured by the owners of the items.

It was on this basis that the council was forced to conclude that the loft area was no longer viable for

long term storage and that organisations storing items in the loft would need to be advised that from 1st July 2022 they would need to find alternative storage space.

Having been made aware of the problem, the implications and possible consequences of allowing the situation to continue, the council had to take appropriate action.

The council recognised that this would present the groups involved with difficulties which is why groups were contacted and given as much notice as possible to make arrangements. Where possible, storage suggestions within other areas of the building were made, although these are extremely limited, particularly as the council shares the space with the school.

The council have also offered to provide a skip for groups to dispose of any items that are no longer needed.

If anyone in the community is able to offer any storage space to any of these groups then please contact the Parish Clerk, Emma Bambrook on 01477 535825 or by email at [clerk@goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@goostreyparishcouncil.gov.uk).

### Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

The Parish Council will be marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with an exhibition in the Village Hall, Main Hall on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June from 1pm – 5pm. The exhibition by Goostrey Parish Archive will include a map of the parish identifying all the buildings of historical interest including those officially 'listed'. There will be a note on each building showing the information the Archive has on the date the building was erected, its main function in the past, any photographs of the building and how it is used today.

Where historical events are associated with the building these will be included. Members of the public are welcome to share any memories or any additional facts they have about the building and the Archive team will be on hand to record these.

Tea, coffee and cakes will be served courtesy of Goostrey WI and we look forward to seeing you whether you will be enjoying a trip down memory lane or are eager to find out about the history of Goostrey's buildings.

## Goostrey Rose Day 25th June 2022

Lucy Boardman will be crowned Rose Queen on 25th June as Goostrey Rose Day returns in full.

The procession - children's floats plus village organisations or groups of adults can enter too -

email [enquiries@goostreyrosefestival.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@goostreyrosefestival.co.uk)

Flower and craft competitions—all age groups may enter.

Decorate the front of your property for a chance to win the Smallwood Trophy - email your address

to [s.smallwood@btinternet.com](mailto:s.smallwood@btinternet.com) by 23rd June, judging will take place on Friday 24th, presentation on Rose Day.

Stalls can be booked by e-mailing [stalls@goostreyrosefestival.co.uk](mailto:stalls@goostreyrosefestival.co.uk).

Teams of 8 adults (aged 16+) can enter the Tug-o-War. Email team name

to [enquiries@goostreyrosefestival.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@goostreyrosefestival.co.uk).

Tickets for the evening Ceilidh led by the Moody Food Band will be available shortly.

Find the latest information on our website and Facebook page.

Without the scores of people who support Goostrey Rose Festival with their time and money it would not

be such a successful event. But costs continue to rise so our generous patrons are very important. If you

would like to become a patron please email our treasurer on [peter@qualicum.co.uk](mailto:peter@qualicum.co.uk). *Christina Burgess*

## Friends of Goostrey Station Win Seventh Award

On Friday 1st April, members of FOGS attended a ceremony in Northwich to collect the Sustainability Award in the Cheshire Best Kept Station competition 2021.



Bill Macdonald and David Mason (centre and second from right) receiving the CBKS Sustainability Award 2021 (credit CBKS)

The award recognises how improvements have been carried out in a sustainable manner.

For nine years FOGS members have been improving the area around Goostrey Station but there are only a small number of active volunteers and new people are needed to help out. Could you spare a few hours each month to help this friendly group keep our station tidy by watering flower tubs, strimming grass and removing fallen leaves?

The group meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month between 10am and 1pm. Further information is available on their website at [www.friendsofgoostreystation.org](http://www.friendsofgoostreystation.org) or speak to chair Dave Roberts on 01477 544779.

## Bluedot Festival 21st—24th July 2022

The organisers of the Bluedot Festival have provided an update on new developments and the return of the festival in 2022.

They now have a dedicated residents' website to help residents access their discounted tickets. Those who qualify for the discount will receive 30% off the ticket price and will have a choice of options from single day tickets to a full weekend pass.

## Goostrey Open Gardens - Sunday 12th June 11.30am—5.30pm

14 gorgeous gardens of all sizes, settings and styles will be opening on behalf of East Cheshire Hospice.

Tickets are now on sale and cost £8.50 for Adults and £3 for children

(accompanied by a responsible adult). No dogs, except for guide dogs

A brochure is included which provides a brief guide to each garden and a map of their locations.

There are a number of mini events in some of the gardens with refreshments, plant sales, herb talks

and flower arranging displays, in addition to children's activities such as molehill archaeology.

Tickets are available online via the East Cheshire Hospice website or at The Trading Post or Goostrey News.

*Clare Downing*



## News from Goostrey Art Studio



The Community Fund of the National Lottery has awarded Goostrey Art Studio £10,000!

In 2015, Friends of Goostrey Station paid United Utilities to reconnect the water supply by installing a pipe from the road to a lockable tap outside the station building. The water has helped to keep displays of flowering plants around the station healthy throughout the year. However, the building doesn't have any toilets or wash basins and



this latest grant will be used to improve the internal facilities.

If you're interested in attending a workshop or bringing a group to Goostrey Art Studio, please contact Debbie Goldsmith on [deborahgoldsmith@me.com](mailto:deborahgoldsmith@me.com)

Debbie Goldsmith and local children celebrating the generous grant from the Community Fund of the National Lottery

## Residents Information *(stick this on your fridge or notice board!)*

### Phone Numbers for Local Services

<b>Bus Services to Holmes Chapel/Sandbach</b>	0871 200 22 33	<b>Goostrey Tree Warden - Thelma Carter</b>	01477 533760
<b>Cheshire East Council</b>	0300 123 55 00	<b>Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School</b>	01477 534513
<b>Cheshire Police Non-Emergency</b>	101	<b>Holmes Chapel Health Centre</b>	01477 533100
<b>Cheshire Police - PCSO</b>	101	<b>Holmes Chapel Library</b>	01477 535126
<b>Chelford GP Surgery</b>	01625 861316	<b>Member of Parliament - Fiona Bruce</b>	01260 274044
<b>Citizen's Advice Bureau, Congleton</b>	03444 111 444	<b>Mobile Library Service</b>	01270 375325
<b>Goostrey Community Primary School</b>	01270 685658	<b>Parish Council (Clerk)</b>	01477 535825
<b>Goostrey Pharmacy</b>	01477 549481	<b>Rail Services</b>	0800 528 0200
<b>Goostrey Post Office</b>	01477 549241	<b>Village Hall Supervisor - Bookings &amp; Caretaker Arrangements</b>	07425 511680

### Parish Councillors Cheshire East

<b>CLlr K Morris - Chairman</b>	<b>CLlr A Kolker</b>
<b>CLlr T Rathbone - Vice Chairman</b>	<b>CLlr L Gilbert</b>
<b>CLlr N Beckham</b>	
<b>CLlr A Freeman</b>	
<b>CLlr P Morgan</b>	
<b>CLlr I O'Donoghue</b>	
<b>CLlr D Roberts</b>	
<b>CLlr C Ross</b>	
<b>CLlr J Sulej</b>	
<b>CLlr E Williams</b>	

### Goostrey Community Speed Watch

Could you spare some time to volunteer with the Goostrey Community Speed Watch team? The Speed Watch team uses hand held radar equipment at pre-identified locations to check vehicle speeds. In addition to acting as a deterrent, these checks provide valuable information about the speed vehicles are travelling through the village which helps to inform what further enforcement activity may be required.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a member of the Speed Watch team then please contact the Clerk.

### Cheshire East Borough Council Services

In Goostrey, many of the services are provided by the Borough Council, paid for by your Council Tax, and not by the Parish Council, residents can contact the Borough Council online with any issues. Examples are:

**Roads** – potholes, white lining, street lighting, gullies, road signs, pavements and other Highways matters. These can be reported by Googling for 'Report IT Cheshire East'.

**Grass verges and weed control** Google for 'Cheshire East Grass Verges'

**Street Cleansing** – fly-tipping, litter, graffiti.

Report it by Googling for 'Cheshire East Street Cleansing'.

**Environment** – noise nuisance (Google 'Cheshire East Noise'), air pollution (email [environmentalprotection@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:environmentalprotection@cheshireeast.gov.uk))

**Planning** – enforcement issues. Report suspected breaches of planning or damage to protected trees by Googling for 'Cheshire East Planning Enforcement'.

If in doubt, the Cheshire East Council general telephone number is: **0300 123 5500**.