



High Lane Residents' Association

Newsletter October 2025

A warm welcome to this year's High Lane Residents Association Newsletter and a special welcome to those of you who have moved to our village this year.

The High Lane Residents Association was founded 94 years ago in 1931. It was initially known as the High Lane RatePayers' Association. It is a wholly voluntary organisation. Every High Lane Resident is automatically a member and we seek to represent all views within the community and aim to keep our village attractive and welcoming to live, work and play in.

All residents are welcome to come along to our regular meetings, which are on the first Thursday of the month at 8pm, currently in the Village Hall, but will be moving back to the library meeting room in the autumn. The meetings are usually attended by one or more of our councillors, and a member of the local community police.

A new noticeboard was installed in Brookside Park in the spring, after the old one rotted away. This was kindly provided with funds from Marple Area Committee. Again HLRA Committee members were involved in its design. If anyone wants to advertise an event in the village in this notice board, the library board and Hartley Woods contact Caroline Smith on 07776241930



Work has been carried out by a council contractor this year in Hartley Woods, mainly to remove and shorten dangerous trees, especially ash trees with ash dieback. Wider paths with chippings, some seating areas for children and new bird and bat boxes, plus new trees are included in this work. Committee members met with the contractors to discuss improvements that could take place. Hartoo, the owl looks happy in his tidy surroundings.



The litter pick in June resulted in 30 sacks of rubbish. This is a well-rehearsed team who always welcome new members.

The HLRA hosted a Task leader training course for Stockport Council. 7 HLRA members attended plus others from across Stockport.

We put an article in St Thomas' Church magazine each month.

Committee members have also reported many issues of overgrown hedges, broken trees, signs needing repair, pot holes and other issues on behalf of villagers. If you wish to report your own issues the HLRA website has the contacts you need.

The team also do weekly checks on the defibrillator (provided and maintained by the HLRA) outside the surgery so it is always ready.

Sainsbury's opened on the old Dog and Partridge site. We had had regular meetings during the build.

Spar also has new owners, now called High Lane Superstore.

Seeds from last year's sunflowers display opposite High Lane Station have grown and been planted around the village.

FUN FACTS

Did you know that the milestone at the end of Middlewood Road is a listed monument, as is the war memorial?

Did you know the road over Carr Brow was part of the Roman Road from Manchester to Buxton?

Did you know High Lane had a population of about of 617 in 121 homes in 1850 versus a population of about 4700 living in 2100 homes? The youngest person working in 1851 was 8 years old and the oldest resident 72 years old.

Norbury Hollow Level Crossing.

A few years ago it was rumoured that Network Rail intended to close the crossing by 2025. Recently I spent some time in the office by the crossing, with Dave Evans, one of the men who manage it. He assured me that there are no such plans in the pipeline or the foreseeable future.

He educated me about the lights, bells, buzzer, switches, phones & computer which demand his attention. Also, there are four large signal levers which have to be operated at just the right time. Locking the big gates in place sends a signal up the line to the driver allowing the train to proceed.

The audible warning system in the cabin is foolproof. The team comprises remarkable men, very aware of their serious responsibility, who keep alert, and work alone, every shift.

WB



Now & 1971



'Image courtesy of Stockport Local Heritage Library'

St. Thomas', High Lane

This is just by way of a short introduction! On 14th September, I am to be installed as the new Vicar of St Thomas' High Lane and I am very excited at the prospect. I have been serving and leading worship at the church since the beginning of March and have now been officially appointed as Vicar. My background is originally in education, I was a primary school headteacher for 18 years and have been ordained since 2007 and was Vicar of St Paul's Compstall for 11 years.

I am very much looking forward to getting to know the people of High Lane and ministering to the needs of the parish. Once my phone and email are set up I will make them available. In the meantime, it would always be lovely to see you at our regular worship on Sundays or Wednesday mornings.

God Bless

Reverend Lynn

Future ambitions of HLRA

Provision of an inclusive outdoor adult gym for use by over 13s and all adults is underway. We have acquired some funding but we still need more funding. Discussions have taken place with SMBC for permission and siting.

High Lane Neighbourhood Forum

What the **High Lane Village Neighbourhood Forum** Does

Planning for the Future

The forum is different from the Residents' Association. The Forum is your Statutory Consultee on local planning and development proposals working with SMBC Planners, our local councillors and Marple Area Committee. Our focuses are residential housing developments, but our planning group review all applications made to SMBC. We manage the Neighbourhood Plan that the community voted for in September 2021 and use it as our guide. Its 4 main policy areas are Housing, Transport, Greenspaces and Heritage. We support the Brownfield First Policy!

Representing the Community – Stockport Local Plan

The forum listens to the ideas and concerns of everyone in High Lane and our Designated Area, which was approved in 2017 (see Map on HLVF website). We ensure we make the community's voice heard in important local decisions. We expect the Stockport Local Plan (which will propose sites for development) to be issued in the autumn for consultation before Christmas. We will support this with public events and information to help people understand it and respond.

Sharing Information

The forum keeps everyone who is a member up to date about planning news in High Lane with our public meetings, detailed minutes and website (www.hlvnf.org). It's free to join us by email or come to a meeting. (Next one **16th September at the Village Hall**)

Speaking Up for High Lane

The forum speaks for the community working closely with the Residents Association. It represents the future needs of our rural village & its people.

Your Village, Your Voice, Your Plan



A team of residents look after the book table in the GP surgery. Most popular books are thrillers, romance and comedy. Thank you to all our contributors for using the table and thereby paying for the plants around the village and War Memorial.

A gardening team also maintain the War memorial.

Please read furiously!

There were many more spring bulbs around the village thanks to Warren and Alison and the team. The planters around the village have continued to look bright and cheerful, courtesy of the team who maintain them.

We rely on donations and voluntary household subscriptions to fund our Village projects and maintenance.

If you are able to support us, please donate or become a subscribing member. We suggest £5 per household per year but any donation is appreciated. You can pay by:

Cheque [payable to High Lane Residents' Association]

Cash

Debit or credit card

Direct Bank transfer --

Name: High Lane Residents Association

Sort code: 30-96-26

Account no. 55885660

Reference: House number & postcode

Name.....

Address.....

Email.....

Pay in person at a meeting or drop your donation through the door at:

59 Windemere Road

18 Rostherne Avenue

10 Cromley Road

9 Hartington Road

3 Meadway

45 Russell Ave

15 Manifold Drive

Would you like to know about volunteering opportunities – litter picking, gardening etc YES/ NO