

# GREAT SANKEY NEWS

The Newsletter of Great Sankey Parish Council

Summer 2008

Volume 3 Issue 1

## Change of Chairman for Great Sankey Parish Council

It was all change at the Annual General Meeting of Great Sankey Parish Council on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008, as Cllr Veronica Hudson handed over the chain of office to Cllr Alan Litton, who had just been voted in as the Chairman of the Parish Council for the new Civic Year.



The new Chairman thanked Cllr Hudson for her year as Chairman, he said she had held the office with dignity and had raised the profile of the Council through her service.

Eleven serving Parish Councillors retained their seats on the Council at the recent election, and four new Councillors joined them. All are looking forward to doing what they can to make life in Great Sankey pleasanter for local people.

Turn to page 2 for a photo of the new Parish Council, and details of how to contact your Councillors.

### **What else is in this issue**

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## Parish Council funds Playschemes this Summer

Great Sankey Parish Council has announced that it will continue to run summer Playschemes in 2008, despite the fact that Warrington Borough Council now has no budget for such schemes because of financial pressures.

For more than 17 years Warrington Borough Council has been running Playschemes at Community Centres operated by Great Sankey Parish Council. As well as allowing its centres to be used, the Parish Council helped to support the Playschemes with a grant of money: this was £2800 in 2007. Warrington Borough Council has the expertise and the staffing structure to be able to run playschemes, and so the Parish Council will use the grant money to pay the Borough Council to run playschemes on its behalf.

Dates and venues are

**Week commencing 28/7/2008** Whittle Hall Community Centre and Tim Parry Community Centre (both in the mornings)

**Week commencing 4/8/2008** Whittle Hall Community Centre and Bewsey Barn Community Centre (both in the mornings)

**Week commencing 11/8/2008** Bewsey Barn Community Centre (in the mornings)

**Week commencing 18/8/2008** Tim Parry Community Centre (in the mornings)

The Parish Council is also talking to the Warrington Wolves Foundation about running extra events for young people during the summer, though no dates have been set yet. When more information is available it will be on the Parish Council website ([www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/greatsankey](http://www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/greatsankey)), on noticeboards in the Community Centres and around Great Sankey, and in the local press.

## The New Parish Council from May 2008



Back row l to r Cllr Kevin Reynolds, Cllr Chris Lee, Cllr Harvey Leigh, Cllr Karen Lowe, Cllr Allan Bird, Cllr Trudi Wood, Cllr Paul Gore, Cllr Paul Carter,  
Front row l to r Cllr Liz Smith, Cllr Jim Regan, Cllr Roy Smith, Cllr Alan Litton, Cllr Veronica Hudson, Cllr Keith Gleave, Cllr Judith Wheeler

The Parish Council is there to represent your views, and as such they are always very glad to hear from Parishioners.

You can contact an individual Councillor by calling them on the numbers listed to the right, or you can come to a Parish Council Meeting and speak to all Councillors together. You are always most welcome at meetings

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month (except August) in the Tim Parry Community Centre, Cromdale Way. They start at 7.30pm.

You can see what is on the agenda for meetings by checking our noticeboards which are located

- **Outside Whittle Hall Community Centre, Lonsdale Close**
- **In Tim Parry Recreation ground, along Wroxham Road**
- **Outside the Spar shop at Hood Manor**
- **Outside Hood Lane Community Centre, facing Sankey Way (A57)**

Agendas and minutes of meetings are also posted on our website, so you check them from home! Visit us on [www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/greatsankey](http://www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/greatsankey)

### The contact numbers for Councillors are **Sankey North**

Keith Gleave	01925 727963
Veronica Hudson	01925 723374
Roy Smith	01925 654950
Trudi Wood	01925 790712
Chris Lee	01925 791922

### **Sankey South**

Alan Litton	01925 299966
Harvey Leigh	01925 723107
Jim Regan	01925 650057
Liz Smith	01925 654950
Karen Lowe	01925 712279

### **Whittle Hall**

Allan Bird	01925 659439
Judith Wheeler	01925 655621
Paul Carter	01925 712279
Kevin Reynolds	01925 442139
Paul Gore	01925 480777

If you have any questions or queries you can also direct them to the Council through the Parish Clerk, Mrs Wakefield.

The office is at Whittle Hall Community Centre, Lonsdale Close, or telephone on 01925 712279 Mon to Fri 9.30am to 1.30pm

## Chairman's Report for Great Sankey Parish Council May 2007 to May 2008 By Cllr Veronica Hudson

My year as Chair of Great Sankey Parish Council has been a highly prolific and most enjoyable one for me, however there are still a few challenges for the year ahead.

The Parish Council has been very committed in addressing the problems of nuisance youths – a topic which is highlighted repeatedly in the successful Community Action Meetings which take place in centres across the Parish. Police and Community Support Officers (PCSOs) are always in attendance and residents have often commented how reassured they feel in being able to personally address the officers and to highlight hotspots. Consequently from these meetings immediate action is taken to reduce or eliminate trouble. *To find out about Community Action Meetings (CAMs) log on to [www.cheshire.police.uk](http://www.cheshire.police.uk) and look under Neighbourhood policing – warrington west*

I have attended Community Action Meetings as a Councillor and a concerned resident, and accompanied PCSOs out on night patrol several times at weekends to see for myself the problems that exist around the area. These patrols proved very interesting and enlightening in showing the duties they undertake on a shift and the kinds of incidents they encounter.

Great Sankey Parish Council funds 4 PCSOs and these have been an asset to the Community with their permanent visible presence in and around the area.



*Cllr Hudson and Inspector Heywood with 3 of the PCSOs*

The Parish Council also bought a mountain bike to help them get to trouble spots more quickly. The Parish Council has been instrumental in getting CCTV cameras installed in targeted areas, and as a result reported crimes are decreasing.

During the past year in my role as Chair I have attended many functions representing the Parish Council and these include:

- Penketh Parish Civic Service
- Many events at local primary schools
- An Army presentation evening
- Remembrance Sunday Parade
- A PCSO evening at Cheshire Police HQ,
- Shadow Parish Council evening
- Penketh and Sankey Senior Citizens Arts and Crafts Spring show
- Presentation of Mountain Bike to PCSOs



*Cllr Hudson at the Arts and Crafts show*

For the 4<sup>th</sup> year running the Parish has not increased its precept from residents. This is exceptionally pleasing for the Parish Council, as it is down to prudent financial management, which we feel very proud of.

Our local junior schools are being encouraged to participate and join together in an Art competition, and our local Community Centre users have been asked to design a Logo for the Council, all of which I am certain will produce an abundance of talent in our Parish.

The second Shadow Parish Council event in October was a huge success, attended by the Mayor and her Consort, who were most impressed by the high calibre of enthusiastic students in our area. This will now be a permanent event, and maybe there are potential future Councillors in the making from our local schools, and even a future Mayor!

The Parish Council website is up and running and it is very informative to all who visit the site and view its well produced pages. We welcome feedback and comments from all who log on. To add yet more pleasing news, in December we were awarded Website of the Month!

## Chairman's Report continued

On a sombre note Cllr Peter Ryan sadly passed away last October. He gallantly conducted his role as a Councillor and is so sadly missed by us all.

Cllrs Terry and Lorna Lewis stepped down during the year, as well as Councillors Phil Hudson, Peter Carey, Christine Bird and Tony Williams; all of whom I wish to thank personally for their valued contributions in their time on the Council.

I welcome all of the new Councillors on to the Parish Council and congratulate the ones who have been elected again for another four years.

It has been a privilege to have been Chair for the past year, and I wish to thank all my fellow Councillors for their support; together with Cheryl and Karen in the office for their administrative support to myself and all on the Council; and not forgetting all the other Parish Council staff who provide the high standards in our Community Centres for all our users.

It just leaves me to wish my successor a most enjoyable role as Chair for 2008, and after being successfully re-elected by the Constituents of Great Sankey I am very much looking forward to serving again as a Councillor on the Parish Council for the next 4 years.

## Parish Accounts for 2007/08

### General Income

Precept	£146,591.00
centres	£38,590.36
Interest	£14,232.66
VAT refund	£6,188.38
Other refunds	£137.75
Misc	£100.00

**Total Income** **£205,840.15**

### General Expenditure

Wages	£78,736.80
Insurance	£8,106.26
Subscriptions	£1,470.13
Loan repayment	£10,110.00
Gen admin	£5,669.17
Centre upkeep	£21,516.10
Utilities	£23,445.92
Newsletter	£3,533.42
Training	£174.40
Donations	£565.00
Donations under S137	£800.00
PCSO's	£44,000.00
Playscheme	£2,800.00
Miscellaneous	£548.76
Community Centre refurbishment	£6,172.92
Proactive Youth Provision	£17.60
Positive Action Fund	£0.00
Chairman's Discretionary Allowance	£160.91

**Total expenditure** **£207,827.39**

deficit (taken from reserves) £1,987.24

Most of the expenditure went on staff salaries, running costs and refurbishment costs for community centres and the Police Community Support Officers.

The Council operates 5 community centres across the Parish and one recreation ground, and employs 8 staff. All are part-time.

Mrs Wakefield, the Parish Clerk, and Mrs Carter run the office. They do the Parish administration and take bookings for the centres.

Mr Dowd, Mr Littler, Mrs Spencer and Mr Waters act as caretakers and cleaners for the community centres.

Mr Wakefield takes care of maintenance of the centres and makes sure the recreation ground and play area is kept in a safe condition during the week, and Mr Chadburn helps with cleaning and checking the recreation ground at weekends. All staff can be contacted through the office on 01925 712279

### During the year the Parish Council made donations to the following

Young Enterprise North West	£100.00
Bewsey Barn Mums and Tots	£50.00
Bicycle for PCSOs	£465.00
Jack and Jill Pre-School	£50.00
Penketh & Old Hall Angling Soc	£100.00
Hood Manor Residents Social	£50.00
Cromdale Way Pre-School	£50.00
The Royal British Legion	£100.00
Hood Lane Pre-School	£50.00
Crosfields Cobras Rugby Club	£100.00
Hood Manor OAP club	£50.00
Penketh & Sankey Senior Citizens	
Arts and Crafts Assoc	£200.00

## ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2007/08

### **The Parish Council continued to support the Police and residents in trying to make the Parish a pleasanter, safer place to live.**

The Parish Council continued to provide funding for 4 Police Community Support Officers to work in the Parish, and Councillors and Council staff liaised extensively with the police to target "hotspots" and pass on the concerns of residents. The Council continued to host Community Action Meetings in its centres, where residents can liaise direct with Police on what matters to them. The Council bought a mountain bike for the PCSOs, to help them get to trouble spots faster while still staying in contact with the streets.



The CCTV system set up at Hood Manor shops proved so successful that the Parish Council negotiated to have it made permanent. The Council tried to broker a deal whereby costs were shared between all the businesses there, but when this did not work out the Parish Council took over the payment for the service, and it is helping to make the area a safer place. The Parish Council are continuing to press the Borough Council to make further improvements in this area.

The Parish Council were also instrumental in getting a temporary CCTV system installed at the Tim Parry recreation ground.

### **The Parish Council completed its programme of refurbishment of the 5 community centres it operates for the benefit of local people.**

The Parish Council invested in new boilers for the heating systems at Hood Manor and Hood Lane community centres, making the heating systems

there more efficient and more economical.

The Council bought new, light weight tables for the Tim Parry centre to make life easier for centre users.

The fence at Bewsey Barn was repaired and extended, and the trees and shrubs around the perimeter were trimmed back, to prevent inconvenience to pedestrians and centre users. The floor at Whittle Hall community centre was sanded and re-finished, to extend its life, and a new fire escape door was installed to improve security.

### **The Parish Council continued to make efficiency savings, to save money and help save the planet.**

The Council reviewed its own contribution to climate change and has been doing what it can to save energy and therefore money. New efficient boilers and energy saving bulbs are only a small part of the story. The Council now uses refilled ink cartridges wherever possible and has switched to a waste removal firm which sorts and re-cycles our waste for us. There was a report on this in the last Newsletter and the issue of tackling climate change is covered on the Council website.

By careful management of the money the Parish Council was able to avoid raising the precept to taxpayers yet again this year, and was able to keep their hall hire charges unchanged for another year.

### **The Parish Council improved its communications with Great Sankey residents**

The Parish Council website expanded and improved. As well as details of Councillors and Council business you can now see what's on in the centres, check the weather and follow many useful links to local information and services.



[www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/greatsankey](http://www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/greatsankey)

### The Parish Council improved its communications with Great Sankey residents

Four issues of this newsletter were printed and put in local shops, libraries, schools and community centres. One issue, which like this contained the Parish Council's Annual Report, was distributed free to all homes in the Parish. The Parish Council tried to encourage the people of the Parish to communicate back, by asking for people to give their views on a Parish Plan and by launching a scheme "What can the Parish Council do for you" (see the back page for details of the re-launch). Unfortunately the response has been disappointing so far, but the Parish Council will continue to encourage feedback from the people it serves.

### The Parish Council faced and put right many problems

The Parish Council has encountered a lot of damage to its property this year through vandalism and theft. Two of the centres had windows repeatedly broken, 2 had lead stolen from the roof, another roof was damaged by heavy objects being thrown on to it and a wall had to be repaired after being damaged by having a football continuously pounded against it. In addition play equipment has been repeatedly damaged, defaced and dirtied and there is a constant battle to keep the playground free of

broken glass. Although a fair amount of money had to be spent on fixing vandal damage, Parish Council staff managed to mend a lot in-house to keep costs down.

The Council would like to appeal to all residents to help in the battle against vandalism by being vigilant and reporting to the Police any damage they see being done. You may not see results quickly, but all reported incidents help to set the Police staffing levels for the future. The number to ring is **0845 458 0000**

### The Parish Council is continuing to try to improve life in the Parish

The Parish Council has set aside 2 sums of money – a Positive action Fund and a Pro-active Youth Fund – to try to make improvements to life in the Parish.

A Youth Group is looking at what the Council can do to help provide facilities for young people and children, on the basis that if young people have something positive to take part in they are less likely to be caught up in anti-social behaviour.

The Council is also seeking suggestions from you, the Parishioners, for what would help you, Please see page 8 for how to get involved.

### Record of Parish Council meetings attended by Councillors, April 2007 to March 2008

Councillor	Parish	Finance	Total	Other	Notes
Allan Bird	10	-	10	YG, E	
Peter Carey	8	-	8		
Keith Gleave	11	12	23	B, YG, CC	
Phil Hudson	8	9	17		Resigned February 2008
Veronica Hudson	9	2*	12	E	1 Employment group meeting
Harvey Leigh	11	1	13		1 Employment group meeting
Alan Litton	9	1	11	B, E	1 Employment group meeting
Jim Regan	10	11	21	B, CC	Missed 1 PC meeting for WBC meeting
Liz Smith	9	1 *	10	B, YG, CC	
Roy Smith	8	-	8	B, YG, E	Missed 2 PC meetings through sickness
Judith Wheeler	7	8	15	B, YG	Missed 2 PC meeting for WBC meeting
Tony Williams	2	-	2	E	

**B** shows membership of Warrington Borough Council as well. When meeting dates clash WBC meetings take precedence

**E** shows membership of, and attendance at meetings of the Employment Group

**YG** shows membership of, and attendance at meetings of the Youth Group

**CC** shows membership of, and attendance at meetings of the Community Centre Review Group

\* denotes attendance as a substitute for another Councillor

In the year there were 11 scheduled Parish Council meetings, 12 Finance Committee meetings and 1 Employment group meeting.

## What's on in the Community Centres

Great Sankey Parish Council operate 5 Community Centres across the Parish, and each has a varied programme of events and activities,

### For young people

#### Mums and Tots – a chance for children from 0 to 4 and carers to meet and socialize

At **Whittle Hall** 9.30-11.30am on Mondays and Fridays, contact Anna Astley on 01925 486544

At **Tim Parry Centre** 9.00-11.30am on Tuesdays and Fridays, contact Anna on 07840 873783

At **Bewsey Barn** 9.00-11.45am on Wednesdays. Contact Tina Bryan on 01925 415557

#### Pre schools – activities and learning for 2 to 5 year olds

At **Hood Lane Centre** 9.00-12.00am Monday to Friday, contact Jackie, Ann or Val on 01925 231827

Cromdale Way Pre-School at **Tim Parry Centre** between 9.30am and 3pm Monday to Friday. Contact Julie on 07799 310733

Jack & Jill Playgroup at **Bewsey Barn** on Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri. Contact Gill Lawson on 07761 906697

#### Dance and drama Classes for children and young people

At **Whittle Hall** dance lessons for 3 to 18 yrs, Tues evenings. Contact Miss Gautier on 01244 671464 for more details or e-mail [gautier-price@btinternet.com](mailto:gautier-price@btinternet.com)

At **Hood Manor** dance, music and drama classes for 3 to 17 year olds, Thursday evenings. Contact Sharon Denmade on 07725971395 for more details or email [shadansa@aol.com](mailto:shadansa@aol.com)

#### Army Cadets

At **Bewsey Barn** on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7-9.30pm see [www.cheshirearmycadets.com](http://www.cheshirearmycadets.com)

#### Guides/Brownies/Rainbows

Rainbows & Brownies at **Bewsey Barn** Thursdays, 5.30-7.45pm. Contact Tricia Brown on 01925 710122 or e-mail [brownies@broons.org.uk](mailto:brownies@broons.org.uk)

Guides/Brownies/Rainbows at **Tim Parry Centre** Thursdays either 5.30 or 6.30pm start, term-time only. Can be contacted at the centre during meeting times, or ring Parish Office on 01925 712279

Guides/Brownies/Rainbows at **Bewsey Barn** one Saturday a month 10am-4pm. Contact Barbara Robinson on 01925 634990 for more details

#### Rhythm time – music classes for babies and children

At **Whittle Hall** on Tuesday mornings, classes for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers. Contact Jane

on 01270 529224 for more details or see [www.rhythmtime.net](http://www.rhythmtime.net)

#### After school club

At **Tim Parry Centre**, child care for ages 4 to 12, before and after school, Mon day to Friday.

Contact Jackie on 07929 264886 or email [cookieslinkclub@googlemail.com](mailto:cookieslinkclub@googlemail.com)



*Tim Parry Community Centre, Cromdale way*

### For Health and Fitness

#### Slimming Clubs

Weight Watchers at **Whittle Hall** Tuesdays 6.30-8.30pm. Phone Michelle on 01925 483755 for more information or see [www.weightwatchers.co.uk](http://www.weightwatchers.co.uk)

Slimming World at **Whittle Hall** Mondays 7pm to 8pm. Contact Chris Danks on 08000 112194 or see [www.slimmingworld.com](http://www.slimmingworld.com)

#### Pilates Matwork Classes

At **Whittle Hall** Wednesdays at 6.15pm or 7.45pm. For all adults - improved posture, stability, relaxation. Contact Helen Baker for details and cost. Tel 01925 638269 or email [hbakerpilates@ntlworld.com](mailto:hbakerpilates@ntlworld.com)

#### Karate Classes

At **Tim Parry Centre**, Fridays 7.30pm. Karate lessons (KUGB affiliated) ages 6 to 60! £3 per session. Contact Ken on 01925 727338 for details or see [www.kugb.org](http://www.kugb.org).

#### Martial Arts Classes

At **Whittle Hall** on Thursday evenings from 5pm. Classes from age 3 to adult. Contact Steve James, Matt Fiddes School International on 07968 704887 for details or see [www.mattfiddes.com](http://www.mattfiddes.com).

#### Freestyle Fitness Yoga Classes

At **Whittle Hall** on Wednesdays 9.30-10.30am. Contact Justine on 0151 420 1582 for more information

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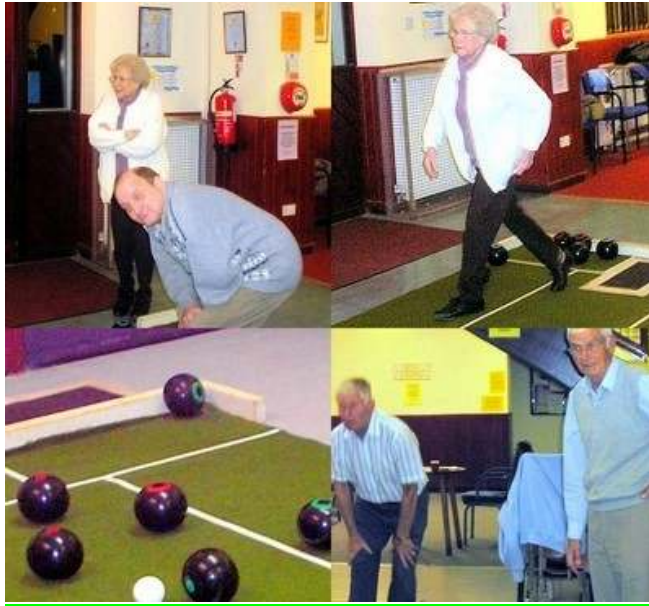
## Social Activities

### Bingo Clubs

At **Bewsey Barn** on Mondays 7.30-10pm.  
Contact Mrs J Miller 01925 415840 for details.  
At **Hood Manor** Social and Bingo Club on  
Wednesday and Friday evenings 7.45-9.45pm.  
Contact Mrs Calland 01925 493109.

### Bowling Club

Indoor Bowls for adults at **Bewsey Barn** on  
Thursdays 8-10pm. No experience needed.  
Contact Brian Robinson on 01925 415318 for  
details or email [oldhallcommunity@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oldhallcommunity@yahoo.co.uk)



### Dog Training classes

At **Whittle Hall** on Fridays at 6pm or 7pm or  
**Hood Lane** on Wednesdays at 6.30pm. Contact  
Angela or David Jones on 01925 712131 for more  
information

### Social Groups and Clubs

**Warrington Friendship Club** (formerly Heydays)  
meet one Thursday afternoon a month at **Bewsey  
Barn** for various social activities. Contact Mrs  
Davies on 01925 264254 to check details.

**National Association of Womens Clubs** meet at  
**Tim Parry Centre** on Tuesday evenings 7.45–  
9.45pm. Contact Betty Pennington on 01925  
710336 or Glenda Cottrell on 01925 726638 for  
more information

### Craft Club

At **Hood Manor** every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday evening on the  
month, all welcome. Contact Parish Office on  
01925 712279.

### Religious groups

**The World Evangelical Gospel Mission** meets  
at **Hood Manor** on Sundays 10.30am-1.30pm. All  
ages welcome. Contact Pastor Ayo Oderinde on  
01925 415067.

**PLEASE NOTE, THESE LISTINGS ARE  
CORRECT AT THE TIME OF GOING TO  
PRESS, HOWEVER PLEASE CONTACT  
ORGANISERS BEFORE GOING TO A MEETING  
OR CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR ANY NEW  
ADDITIONS**

[www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/greatsankey](http://www.thelocalchannel.co.uk/greatsankey)

### How to book a Community centre

If you are interested in starting up your own  
activity or society, or if you simply want to book  
any of the centres for a one-off event, please  
contact Mrs Wakefield or Mrs Carter at the Parish  
Office, Whittle Hall Community Centre, Lonsdale  
Close, Great Sankey, Warrington WA5 3UA, Tel:  
01925 712279.

## WHAT CAN THE PARISH COUNCIL DO FOR YOU?

Great Sankey Parish Council has set some  
funds aside to help improve the Parish, but  
the Councillors want to know what **YOU** want.



Do you have a suggestion for something that  
can be done that can make the Parish a  
pleasanter place for the people who live  
here? Share your idea with the Parish  
Council and let them see if they can make it  
happen.

***The Parish Council can't promise to take  
up every idea, but does promise to  
consider them all.***

Drop ideas into our suggestions box at

**The Parish Office  
Whittle Hall Community Centre  
Lonsdale Close  
Warrington  
WA5 3UA**

or post them to us at that address, or email  
them to us at

[ideasforgreatsankey@uwclub.net](mailto:ideasforgreatsankey@uwclub.net)