



Rainhill Parish Council



Annual Report 2023



Awarded for Excellence

Rainhill Parish Council - Annual Report 2023

Value For Money/ Parish Council Finances

Rainhill Parish Council has ensured a ZERO per cent increase for the Fourth year running in the cost of the Parish precept to residents. Rainhill Parish Council has set a budget for the 2023/2024 financial year that will result in a sum of £68,340 being raised by the Precept on domestic residents. This money is raised as part of the Council Tax collected by St Helens Council and then passed to the Parish Council. Copies of the audited accounts can be obtained from the Clerk in the autumn of 2023 once the external audit of accounts is completed.

Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Kathryn Adamson, 5 Regal Drive, Windle, St Helens, Merseyside WA10 6BJ
Tel: 07565 524414.

Your Parish Councillors

Names and full details of councillors are also available from the Clerk, Rainhill Library, Rainhill Village Hall and on the parish website www.rainhillparish.org.uk



Cllr Geoff Ward, Chair
geoffward.rpc@outlook.com



Cllr Graham Barker, Vice Chair
grahambarker.rpc@gmail.com



Cllr Ann Daniels
anndaniels.rpc@gmail.com



Cllr Ian Brown
ianbrown.rpc@gmail.com



Cllr Ann Veronica Howitt
annveronicahowitt.rpc@gmail.com



Cllr Sara Barlow
sarabarlow@sthelens.gov.uk



Cllr David Hendrick
davidhendrick.rpc@gmail.com



Cllr Matthew Jones
matthewjones.rpc@gmail.com



Cllr Donna Greaves
clldgreaves@sthelens.gov.uk



Cllr Sian Rutherford
sianrutherford.rpc@gmail.com



Cllr Kate Stevenson-Black
katestevensonblack.rpc@gmail.com



Cllr James Tasker
cllrjtasker@sthelens.gov.uk



Cllr Wil Williams
wilwilliams.rpc@gmail.com



Cllr Joanne Woodhouse
joannewoodhouse.rpc@gmail.com

Ward Councillors are available by telephone and email, and will arrange to visit residents by appointment.

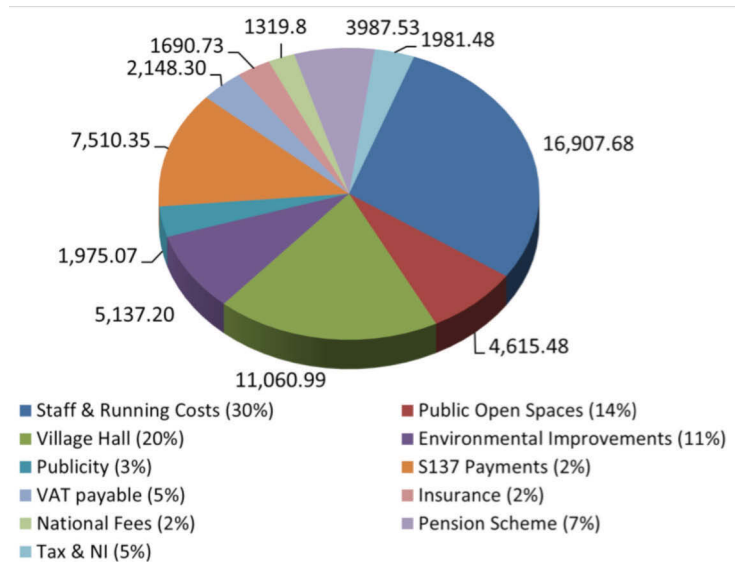
Parish Council Meetings

15th May 2023 - 12th June 2023
24th July 2023 - 11th September 2023
9th October 2023 - 11th December 2023
15th January 2024 - 4th March 2024

Financial Statement 2021/22

The Financial Statement shown below is in the same form as the summary of accounts provided under the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 for external audit.

2020/2021		2021/2022
£	INCOME	£
68,340.00	Precept	68,340.00
392.50	Football Pitch Hire	772.00
710.24	4F Centre Insurance Premium	731.55
367.98	Other	0.00
1,586.07	VAT reclaimed	2,134.33
71,396.79	TOTAL INCOME	71,977.88
£	EXPENDITURE	£
15,616.74	Staff & Running Costs	16,907.68
4,179.19	Public Open Spaces	4,615.48
11,338.29	Village Hall	11,060.99
8,267.55	Environmental Improvements	5,137.20
2,773.07	Publicity	1,975.07
300.00	S137 Payments including GCA costs	7,510.35
2,169.33	VAT payable	2,148.30
1,654.29	Insurance	1,690.73
161.00	National Subscriptions	1,319.80
3,399.50	Pension Scheme	3,987.53
1,941.98	Tax & NI	1,981.48
51,800.94	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	58,334.61
£	CUMULATIVE FUND BALANCE	£
78,823.00	Balance Brought Forward at 1/4/2021	98,419.22
71,396.79	Plus Total Income	71,977.88
150,220.16		170,397.10
51,800.94	Less Total Expenditure	58,334.61
98,419.22	Balance carried forward at 31/3/2022	112,062.49



Surgeries

Cllr Kate Stevenson - Rainhill - cllrk Stevenson@sthelens.gov.uk - 0787488467
Surgery Details
The 3rd Saturday of every month, 10:00am - 12:00pm, Millennium Centre, Rainhill.

Cllr James Tasker - Rainhill - cllrjtasker@sthelens.gov.uk - 0786496629
Surgery Details
The 1st Thursday of every month, 7:00pm - 9:00pm, Millennium Centre, Rainhill.

Cllr Donna Greaves - Rainhill - clldgreaves@sthelens.gov.uk - 07895330594
Surgery Details
The 2nd Tuesday of every month, 9:30am - 11:30am, Millennium Centre, Rainhill.

Your local member of Parliament is: **Marie Rimmer, MP**
2nd Floor, Century House, Hardshaw St, St Helens, WA10 1QU
Tel: 01744 752075 - Email: marie.rimmer.mp@parliament.co.uk

Welcome to our 2023 Annual Report

Chair's Report



It has been another eventful 12 months in the life of a Rainhill Parish Councillor.

We have had a major fight to keep our library open. The arranged public meeting attended by over 200 residents showed the level of disappointment at St Helens council's decision to close our library. This proposal also put under threat the continuation of the Rainhill Trials Exhibition in

the carriage attached and accessed from the library. A full report is on page 8 and thanks should go to our 3 Ward Councillors for their continuing efforts and commitment to challenging the closure decision. We had concerning issues with anti-social behaviour in the village area. Our continued representations to the police, advice given on social media and with posters around the village on how to report incidents resulted in an increase in police presence which has seen a sharp decrease in this type of incident. We have supported local groups with litter picking, volunteered for the Rotary beer festival and are involved in helping a number of other organisations in the community. The Christmas tree lights switch on was a great success again this year. The annual Good Citizenship Award was again a very successful evening. Many congratulations to all the recipients' well-deserved awards. The Parish Councils tree planting initiative with Mersey Forest has begun along with some trees being planted in a few of our open spaces where poor drainage has been an issue. The ongoing village and surrounding area broadband saga continues to roll on. There has been some progress with a lot of customer end cable work being completed to the point that once main fibre cables are in situ, then customers should be able to apply for fibre broadband. As chair I was invited along with my fellow Councillors to a number of events throughout my year. AFG (Alternative Futures Group) Fun day at the Ex Servicemen's Club in Rainhill. My wife and I were invited to the Individuality Youth group's main production of the 'The lion, the witch, and the wardrobe' at Rainhill Village Hall. A further invitation from Individuality Productions to see "Friday 13th" was another enjoyable evening's entertainment. Both evenings enjoyable with some excellent performances from members of the cast. In 2022 we had our late Queen's Jubilee celebrations sadly followed by her passing later on in the year. There are many planned celebrations for the King's Coronation which will once again show the community spirit that is always prevalent on such occasions not only to the enjoyment of the residents but for the benefits gained by our local businesses.

Cllr. Geoff Ward

Chair of Rainhill Parish Council

Cover Story



Rainhill Community Choir celebrate HM Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee at St Annes Church in June 2022.

Farewell to her late Majesty as we look forward to the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.

Local Support Networks

Post Office
Address: 509 Warrington Road, L35 4LP
Number: 0151 426 4145



NHS 111 Online
Use if you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, your condition gets worse, or your symptoms do not get better after 7 days. Only call 111 if you cannot get help online.



Heath Pharmacy
Address: 18-20 Elephant Lane, St Helens, WA95QW
Number: 0151 426 4145



Rainhill Village Surgery
Address: 529 Warrington Rd, L35 4LP
Number: 0151 511 5672



Crossroads Surgery
Address: 450 Warrington Rd, L35 4LL
Number: 0151 430 9989



Tesco Pharmacy
Address: Cables Retail Park, Prescot
Number: 0151 331 1638



R D Wilkes Optometrist
Address: 15 Dane Court, L35 4LU
Number: 0151 426 2214



St Helens Mind
Number: 07912 059 881
Website: www.sthelensmind.org.uk
Providing support to people aged 18+ who



St Helens Floating Support Services
Number: 01744 451624 - SHAP
Number: 01744 605043 - St. H Gateway
Providing mental health support.



Childline
Free Number: 0800 1111
Website: www.childline.org.uk
Childline are there for children and young people whatever they're going through.



St Helens Foodbank
Number: 01744 26414
Email: info@sthelens.foodbank.org.uk
Address: Atherton Street, St Helens, WA10 2DT
Opening Hours: Tuesday and Friday 11:00 - 14:30



Child Bereavement UK
Number: 01744 26414
(based in Widnes)
Fantastic free service working with the whole family.
No limit to number of sessions.



Applying for Free School Meals
Number: 01744 676 666
Use the following link based on the postcode of your home address: <https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/schools-education/school-meals/free-school-meals/>



Prescot Salvation Army
Debt Advice Service
Number: 0151 426 2278
Email: prescot@salvationarmy.org.uk
Website: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/prescot
Address: Warrington Road, Prescot, L35 5AD



Universal Credit Claim Helpline
Free Number: 0800 1448 444



The Samaritans
Free Number: 116 123
Website: www.samaritans.org/
Get in touch about anything that's troubling you no matter how big or small the issue is.



Lloyds Pharmacy
Address: 473 Warrington Rd, L35 4LL
Number: 0151 430 9888



Longsters - Alphega Pharmacy
Address: 578 Warrington Rd, L35 4LZ
Number: 0151 426 2122



Longton Medical Centre
Address: 451 Warrington Rd, L35 4LL
Number: 0151 290 4700



Rainhill Clinic
Address: View Rd, L35 0LE
Number: 0151 289 2021



I Care Opticians
Address: 128 Thatto Heath Road, WA9 5PE
Number: 01744 811 890



Police Community Support Officers
Laura Boyle
Police Constable
Merseyside Police
Direct Line Tel: 01517776875
Please note this is not to be used to report crime, reporting is still done via 101 or 999 or online.



Dementia UK
Website: www.dementiauk.org
Number: 0800 888 6678



Domestic Abuse 24/7 National Confidential Helpline
Freephone Number: 0808 2000 247
Website: www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk



Chrysalis Centre for Change
Number: 01744 451 309
Email: chrysaliscentreforchange@gmail.com
Website: www.chrysaliscentreforchange.co.uk
Address: 1st Floor, Beacon Building, 25 College St, Saint Helens WA10 1TF
Women's support service only. Including counselling, confidence and assertion courses, CBT for depression, grief support programmes, therapeutic art and crafts sessions and domestic abuse support.



Kooth
Website: www.kooth.com
An online digital counselling and wellbeing platform for children and young people aged 11 to 25 years.
Provides young people with instant free and anonymous access to selfhelp materials, live moderated discussion forums and tools such as online journals and goal trackers.



Enquiries at Making Space
Number: 01744 675 255
Email: enquiries@makingspace.co.uk
Council Tax support for those on low income



St Helens Citizens Advice
Number: 01744 751380
Website: www.sthelenscab.org.uk
Address: Millennium Centre, Corporation Street, St Helens, WA10 1HJ
Provide free, confidential information and advice to assist people with money, legal, consumer and other problems.



Rainhill Parish Council work



The public came out in numbers to support the switch on of the Christmas Tree lights after a 2 year absence. Many thanks to St Bartholomew's Primary school choir, Rainhill Rotary, East Liverpool Riding for the Disabled, The Cookhouse and The Galleria. Many thanks also to Mrs Vera Helsby (101 years old) for switching on the lights.



Members of Rainhill WI and volunteers preparing for the children's Jubilee party. It was well attended and the children had a fabulous time making it a memorable event. Thanks to the WI for all your hard work.



The Parish Council will be supporting this years market. Starting on April 1st 2023 the market will return and take place on the 1st Saturday of every month. Thanks Geoff Pearson



Thanks to the partnership between The Woodland Trust and Rainhill Parish Council the tree planting initiative has begun at Old Lane, Pennys Pit, Two Butt Lane and Albert Fellowes open Space. Protecting the environment for future generations



Rainhill Parish Council library public meeting to fight the closure. A packed village hall heard from our 3 ward Councillors who are leading the fight to keep the library and the railway carriage exhibition open. The fight continues.



An evening of celebration for our community heroes being awarded their Good Citizenship Awards by Chairman of Rainhill Parish Council Geoff Ward.

Working for Rainhill 2022/2023



Members of Rainhill Parish Council and Rainhill Railway Heritage Society meeting Michael Imperato a solicitor with many successes in reversing the closures of libraries. He visited Rainhill library to gauge the feeling and provide sound advice on the way forward. The fight goes on



The Chair attending the Individuality Youth group's main production of the 'The lion, the witch, and the wardrobe' at Rainhill Village Hall. It was a very enjoyable evening with some excellent performances from members of the cast, with a lot of hard work had gone into the performance. The production team who work very hard with the children giving them an opportunity to, maybe, seek a career in drama in the future. A further invitation from Individuality Productions to see " Friday 13th" was another enjoyable evening's entertainment.



Thankyou to Rainhill Rainbows and Rainhill litter pickers. They do an amazing job keeping our village tidy. If you see these bags around waiting to be picked up it is through their weekly efforts. They litter pick in and around the village and between them, they can easily collect 10 bags each week.

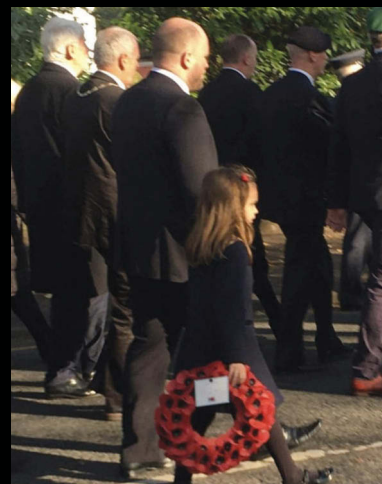


AFG (Alternative Futures Group) Fun day at the Ex Servicemen's Club in Rainhill. It was an event for the staff, volunteers, and those who receive support to enjoy a day out. We could see first hand the dedication that each aspect of the organisation gives to those who need support in the community.

The Chair was met by Chief Executive, Ian Pritchard, who explained the work that they do and the challenges ahead. It was a very enjoyable, informative, humbling experience to see the dedication of all the staff, even some of the people supported (remarkably) were caring for others. A good team effort! To learn more about the AFG go to <https://afgroup.org>.



Fantastic effort as always from the knitting group of Rainhill WI. Keep a look out for the Kings Coronation Post Box topper.



Parish Councillors attending Rainhill Annual Remembrance Day. Chairman Geoff Ward laid the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council along with Cllr James Tasker on behalf of the Ward Councillors.

Rainhill Organisations and Useful Contacts

Clerk to the Parish Council
Kathryn Adamson
5 Regal Drive
Windle, St. Helens
WA10 6BJ

4F Play Centre
(owned by Parish Council)
Available for Sessional Hire
Contact Anita Hoey (manager)
anita.4fcentre@hotmail.co.uk
Tel: 07948 729588

Rainhill Village Hall
Weaver Avenue
Tel: 0151 430 9338
rainhillvillagehall@gmail.com

St. Helens Council, Town Hall
Victoria Square, St. Helens
Tel: 01744 456789

St. Ann's Centre and Parish Office
View Road
Tel: 0151 493 9350

Rainhill Community Library
View Road
Tel: 01744 677822

St. Ann's Church
Warrington Road
Tel: 0151 426 4666

St. Bartholomew's Church
Warrington Road
Tel: 01744 812127

St. James Methodist Church
St James Road
Tel: 0151 424 2494

Trinity Evangelical Church
Longton Lane
Tel: 0151 426 7794

Girl Guides & Brownies
Diane Davies
Tel: 07768 063564

Rainhill Scouts
Mr. M. Gilsenan
Tel: 07722 403621

4th St Helens Scout Group
Mr. B. Lowe
20 Old Lane
Tel: 0151 430 7988

Kidzone
Longton Lane Pre-School
Tel: 0151 430 0990

Say and Play
Carolyn Whitehead
Tel: 07702 286493

Little Explorers
Diane Davies
Scout Hut, Old Lane
Tel: 07768 063564

Rainhill Recreation Club
Mr. J. Rotherham
Tel: 0151 426 2507

Rainhill Swimming Club
Jane Bowyer
Tel: 07974 731377
Tel: 07377 697707
Jean Barratt
Tel: 07863 821648

St. Helens & Rainhill Junior Alliance Football League
Stacey Savage
Tel: 07852 656442

Rainhill Townswomen's Guild
Carol Walpole
47A The Meadows
Rainhill L35 0PQ
Tel: 0151 426 2342

Rainhill Women's Institute
Meet at Rainhill
Ex-Services Club
Mrs. E. North
Tel: 0151 426 3730

Kendrick's Cross Women's Institute
Mrs R. Proffitt
every 4th Tuesday at St
Anns Millennium Centre
Tel: 0151 430 0696

Rainhill Old People's Luncheon Club
Mrs. E. Benson
Tel: 0151 430 9276

Royal British Legion
Tom Blackburn
Tel: 07742 591610

Rainhill Ex-Services Club
Bill Devlin
Tel: 0151 426 4625

Civic Society
Ann Davey
Tel: 0151 426 3367

Railway & Heritage Society
Mrs. B. Nixon
Tel: 0151 426 1315

Rainhill Garrick Society
Judith Martindale
Tel: 07772 963172

Rainhill Musical Theatre Company
Philippa Bradshaw
Rainhillmtc@hotmail.com

Rainhill Rotary Club
John Chapman
Tel: 0151 426 1151

Rainhill Model Railway Club
Brian Davies
Tel: 01925 226266

Indoor Bowling
Rainhill Village Hall

Rainhill Gala
Steve Clarke
Tel: 07951 324 599

Rainhill Rocket JFC
Charter Standard Club
Bob Miller
Tel: 01514939010 or
07702736984

Rainhill Town FC
Charter Standard Club
Mr N. Thompson
Tel: 07539104337

Rainhill United JFC
Charter Standard Club
Mike Travis
Club Secretary
Tel: 07870249236

Stephenson Model Railway Group
Tom Lowton
Tel: 0151 430 6883

Probus Club Rainhill & Prescot
Chris Bean
c.bean118@btinternet.com

Rainhill Bowling Club
Crown Green Bowls
At Rainhill Cricket Club
Eric Davies
Tel: 0151 426 5818

Rainhill 'Forget-Me-Not' Dementia Awareness Support Group
St Anns Centre
View Road
Margaret Lutner
Tel: 0151 426 8040

Rainhill Village Hall



The Village Hall continues to provide space on a regular basis for a wide range of activities. They include craft work, performing arts, luncheon club, mums & tots and baby groups, keep fit activities for older people, pilates and

yoga, indoor bowls and tea dance. In addition, the Hall provides accommodation for a variety of training events, Alzheimers support, various fayres and exhibitions, blood donor sessions, children's parties and talent shows.

Room hire costs remain very competitive and a range of room sizes ensures the Hall's popularity. Increased activity and a subsequent increase in enquiries for room hire led to office hours being extended. The office is now open from 09.00 to 14.30, Monday to Friday. In way of improvements, sensors have been installed in corridors to help save on electricity costs. An additional CCTV camera has been fitted to cover the left side of the building after a window was broken by youths. This was necessary as the police are more likely to be able to take action with CCTV evidence.

The Village Hall continues to receive an annual allowance provided through the Rainhill Parish Council precept. Along with income through room hire, the Hall maintains an adequate financial balance which would cover six months of operation if future income was affected. This is a legal requirement.

If any resident is at a loose end, there is probably something going on at the Village Hall that will take their interest.

Millennium Centre

We have continued to welcome back old friends and clients whilst being delighted to meet new ones.

There is a happy buzz about the centre as we all enjoy the freedom that end of Covid regulations brings.

Like all small businesses who are also charities we are struggling with increasing utility bills, and look forward to the warmer weather which will ease the pressure.

For room hire or party bookings, please contact us on 0151-493-9350, stannscentre@yahoo.co.uk



Rotary Club of Rainhill Report 2023

Normal service resumed after all fu restrictions associated with the Covid Pandemic.

The Rotary Club of Rainhill has the reputation of being one of the most successful fundraisers in the country, they more than lived up to that this year. Strengthened with an influx of new members, beginning during the Easter weekend with a major drive to provide help to the people of Ukraine. The Rotary Christmas sleigh was re-painted in the yellow and blue of Ukraine, several thousand pounds were generously given by residents across the Borough of St Helens. The Beer festival resumed after a gap of three years, supported by many sponsors and volunteers the club put on a bigger and better event,



resulting in over £25,000 raised, facilitating help to local, national and international causes. It didn't stop there, during December the famous Christmas Sleigh returned to the streets to the delight of children of all ages. Again the generosity of local people raised another £12,000, allowing even more donations to be given to local organisations. Rotary Club of Rainhill would like to say a big thank you to all those who have supported our efforts during the year. See you all again next year.

Any group or organisation who would like to make a bid for funds from the Rotary

Community Support Fund contact:
davidwreeves@hotmail.co.uk



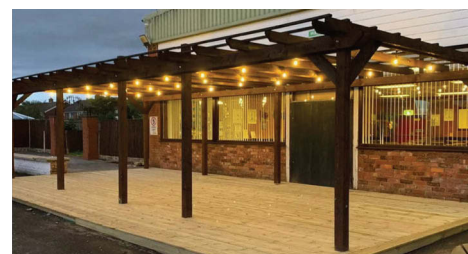
4F Centre

The 4F Centre is a valuable commodity to the community. It is self sufficient and greatly depends on the support of Rainhill Parish Council and local funders like Rainhill Rotary. Since Covid we have seen the return of Childrens Educational Groups ,Zumba,Yoga and many more (please see our facilities on Facebook/Website for days and times) . Availability for childrens groups in the daytime any enquires please call Anita 07948 729588 or email anita.4fcentre@hotmail.co.uk Old Lane, Rainhill, Merseyside, L35 0NE Facebook: The 4F Centre www.4fcentre.org.uk anita.4fcentre@hotmail.co.uk(Manager/bookings)

Rainhill Ex-Services Club

We have functions on most weekends from Christenings/funerals/Weddings/Birthdays from 21 years old only (strict rule) and they are the main source of income for the club.

The concert room is a great space to hire. Events in the near future include a Fleetwood Mac group on 8th July 2023 and a Peter Kay impersonator in September 2023.



Good Citizenship Awards 2022



ANN MURRAY

For the Rainhill Little Pavement Library
NOMINATED BY KENNETH TIERNEY

JAMES GUMLEY (known as Frank)

for dedicating over 30 years to the Royal British Legion
NOMINATED BY TOM BLACKBURN

ROBERT OWENS

Coordinator of the Covid Testing facility at Rainhill High
NOMINATED BY KELLY BLACK ON BEHALF OF ALL THE VOLUNTEERS

LAURA CROWTHER

For going over and above in her role as a Family Support Worker
NOMINATED BY LAURA RYNN

MARY RUSH

For outstanding service to the Rainhill Townswomen's Guild
NOMINATED BY VAL KERR
ON BEHALF OF THE RAINHILL TOWNSWOMENS GUILD

LAUREN TOBIN AND VICKY TAYLOR

For acting quickly and supporting a lady who had critically fallen
NOMINATED BY IAN HOWITT

GORDON LOWE

For his relentless dedication to Rainhill Rotary Club fundraising
NOMINATED BY RUSS OWENS
FROM RAINHILL ROTARY CLUB

DELPHINE CORCORON

for dedicating over 10 years as Editor to the Rainhill Rocket Magazine
NOMINATED BY REV ALAN CONANT

JOAN BROWN

For outstanding service to the Royal British Legion of Rainhill
NOMINATED BY TOM BLACKBURN

JUNE MANSFIELD

For her dedication since 2013 to the Rainhill ECO Garden Group
NOMINATED BY SANDRA ROSCOE BEM

NOEL LEE

for dedicating over 30 years to the Royal British Legion
NOMINATED BY TOM BLACKBURN

NEIL RYNN

For all his support to Rainhill United Reds Team
NOMINATED BY EMMA TALLANT

HAROLD SCOTHERN

For dedication to the Poppy Appeal
NOMINATED BY TOM BLACKBURN

ALICE FLETCHER

For dedication to the Poppy Appeal
NOMINATED BY STELLA JOHNSON
ON BEHALF OF RAINHILL TOWNSWOMENS GUILD

CATHERINE FAIRHURST, ANN DEANS, CAROLE LOWEY, TESS CLANCY, SUE MOORE AND SHARON COOKE

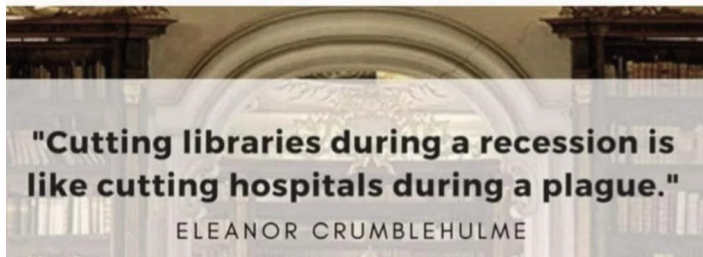
For their devotion as members of the Rainhill litter picking squad
NOMINATED BY ELIZABETH AND FLYNN
FROM RAINHILL CHASING RAINBOWS

CONGRATULATIONS

to all the winners of Good Citizenship Awards and Rainhill really does say thank you.
Keep a look out on Rainhill Parish Council Website and Facebook pages
for the nominations opening for 2023 in September.

Rainhill Parish Council - Annual Report 2023

Library Closure



There were high emotions as you would expect from Rainhill Library, the 3rd busiest library in the borough, being proposed for closure by 31st October last year. There was the feeling that as a village, we were being penalised by St Helens Council for loving and using our Library facility to its maximum, plus the prospect of the devastating loss of our Rainhill Trials exhibition, which should form a key part of the St Helens Borough Heritage as part of the Borough of Culture this year.

Upon investigation, we uncovered inconsistencies in the Council Locality Model and also with the boroughwide consultation, both of which were used as the foundation which led to decisions on which libraries to close. For example, why was Rainhill being asked to travel to Bold Library as an alternative when there is a 70mph dual carriageway to cross to reach any services and there is no direct public transport route? We were told that closures were necessary to improve facilities in more deprived areas and the alternatives was to close the library or take over the running of the library as a community group which was a huge undertaking.

We immediately formed a community group to campaign against the closure and ran online campaigns, and village poster campaigns, with banners across Rainhill to raise awareness. Following a public meeting in August, (attended to the Village Halls full capacity), we were able to launch a legal challenge on the Council over their decision to close our Library. The timescales for action were incredibly tight, but after various meetings with the Council and members of the public, we consulted a solicitor and a barrister (funded with Legal Aid), on the closure decision.

BBC Radio Merseyside had been involved throughout our campaign, and we were delighted when they informed us on the 29th September that our challenge had succeeded in keeping not just Rainhill, but all of the Borough libraries open.

Whilst our Library and Exhibition remain open for now, St Helens Council Labour Cabinet have announced they will be repeating the consultation at some point. We will keep you updated, but in the meantime, the best way to keep Rainhill Library open, is to visit and use all the facilities that we all know and love!!

The King's Coronation



Seventy years is a long time, it will be almost that between the coronations of the late Queen and her son King Charles the Third.

We know that many residents and local organisations have events planned to celebrate a unique occasion in our country's history. Rainhill Parish Council have invested in the provision of flags, banners and bunting, we have many volunteers to ensure that the centre of the village and many businesses will benefit, resulting in a show fit for a king!

Rainhill Gala Makes a Comeback

It's been a long time coming but May 29th is the day when The Rainhill Gala returns after 3 years.

On the showground you will find the some great fun attractions with something for everyone. A kids funfair, stalls, miniatures railway, food court including local eateries from Rainhill village cooking some of your favourite snacks and of course the Rainhill Rotary Beer Festival on tour!

Across the road however, and building on the success of the 2019 series of events to celebrate 190 years since the Rainhill Trials.

The first Rainhill transport festival will run alongside the main event with exhibitors from across the country proudly displaying their vehicles, a must for anyone interested in vehicles old and new!

And new for 2023, the L35 Radio Roadshow will be broadcasting live from the main stage which will feature local groups and artists throughout the day, check out the Rainhill Gala and L35 Radio pages on Facebook for more info.

Since the Gala started in 2007, an estimated £100k has been either given away or raised directly by local groups and charities that otherwise find it difficult to fundraise or promote their own cause, all of these are in and around the Rainhill area, it's hoped that dozens more can benefit this year.

The Gala is a volunteer run event, nobody gets paid and we aim to give as much money to local good causes as possible.

We're always on the lookout for new people who like to do something different in a fun and informal environment, or even just to help setup or on the day, please get in touch if you would like to know more.

The Gala will be held on St Ann's school field and the transport festival at Dane Court, the fun starts at 11:30.

Look out for the event programme or for the most up to date information, find and follow us on our socials (Facebook, Twitter & Instagram) @rainhillgala. See you there.....

Rainhill 200



Planning has begun to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Rainhill Trials which took place in 1829. A significant event in the history of our country and the world.

The development of the Railways and all that meant to progress and prosperity could be said to have started here in our village. The Parish Council have brought together interested parties and experts to formulate events that will do justice to this momentous occasion over the May 2029 Bank Holiday.

We are keen to involve as many people as want to make a contribution, if you have any ideas or a special interest in the history of rail transport please get in touch and email gwbarke1@btinternet.com and play a part. It promises to be a history making experience.