



HELSEBY NEWS

www.helsbynews.net

ISSUE 81 • SUMMER 2017



Is This the Last Chapter in the Traveller's Tale?

Helsby Residents can be forgiven for asking this Headline Question for its been more than 11 years since the first traveller arrived and parked up illegally on Green Belt land in Towers Lane. You are reading Issue 81 of Helsby News and this arrival was first reported in Issue 38!

The village watched incredulously as the saga unfolded and Helsby Parish Council was faced with recognising that whilst the land in question was in the jurisdiction of Alvanley Parish the access used by the travellers was off Primrose Lane. Not a happy situation.

There then started the long and costly round of enforcement notices to vacate the site, with appeals and interim permissions to stay, granted until such time as Cheshire provided permanent sites for Gypsies and Travellers. Despite those sites being provided in Ellesmere Port and Winsford in 2014 the travellers lodged a further appeal against the

enforcement notice resulting in more delays and yet another hearing.

At the last hearing a final order stated that the site was to be vacated by May 19 2017. There was to be no appeal this time.

Residents of Primrose Lane may have held their breath as they saw some of the travellers leave before the deadline. However at the time of going to print some families are still on the site and Helsby News understands that CWAC's legal team have started the process of applying for an injunction to finally remove them.

The travellers are required not only to cease residential use but to return the land to its original agricultural Green Belt state. Let's hope that seeing will be believing and we the ratepayers don't end up footing the cost of restoration?

Marj Thoburn

SECOND TERM FOR CLLR RANDES

Our picture shows a smiling Cllr George Randles as he takes up his role as Chairman of the Parish Council for the second time, 2017/2018.

George and his wife Pippa are well known and active in the village. George has been involved for some years in the campaign to rebuild the Community Sports Club and hopes to see positive progress during his year as Chairman.

He is keen to see younger residents getting involved in the Parish Council and encourages anyone interested to come along to meetings to see what happens. There is currently a vacancy in the North Ward.



Parish Council News

Message from the Parish Clerk

This is the 2nd time of advertising and I haven't had any entries! I know you're all terribly busy but this isn't going to cost you anything and you could win a nice silver trophy (for 1st place that you can keep for 1 year) and certificates (keep forever) for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place in each individual ward (North, Central & South). Judging is done by our Parish Councillors. I drive and walk around this village all the time and I know that there are some really cracking gardens out there. I understand that you don't do it to win prizes but it would be awfully nice to hear from those of you with a competitive spirit. Please contact the Parish Clerk on **726433** or email: helsbyparishcouncil@btconnect.com

Allotment Vacancies

Fancy Growing Your Own? The Parish Council owns and runs 48 allotment plots and there are now some vacancies so if you are interested in becoming an allotmentee, please phone the Parish Clerk for more information on **726433**.

Vacancy for a North Ward Councillor

If you are really interested in the village and you have time to attend meetings and get involved with the community, did you ever think about becoming a Parish Councillor? I'm keeping it brief but ideally you'll be over 18, have lived in Helsby for over 12 months (preferably in North Ward which is roughly from Railway Inn to Frodsham end) and be connected to the internet.

If you'd like to know more about the expectations of a Parish Councillor, then please contact the Parish Clerk on **726433** or email: helsbyparishcouncil@btconnect.com

Planning Application for Proffits Lane

Following a Housing Needs Survey and a recent open meeting, held by MCI Developers, to show proposed plans for the building of 23 affordable houses on Green Belt land on Chester Road and Proffits Lane, the Parish Council have been informed that a planning application has been submitted to CWAC and when the plans are received, by Helsby Parish Council, a Public Consultation event will be held to seek the views of residents.

Summer Fete



St. Paul's, Helsby
Vicarage Garden
Saturday 24th June, 12noon

Come and join us for fun and games
BBQ, refreshments, welly throwing,
competitions, plant stall, tombola and cake stall
We look forward to seeing you all



LOCAL LIONS MAKE DONATION TO SCOUTS



Ellesmere Port & District Lions' Easter Egg Raffle and the Farndon Brass Band Concert in St Paul's Church in April helped raise funds which enabled the Lions to make a handsome donation to 1st Helsby Scouts to support those chosen to take part in the Jamboree in Bodø, Norway in the Arctic Circle later this year.

If you would like more information about what Lions Clubs do, please telephone **01928 722121** or email mplm@talktalk.net They don't just work to raise money, they have a great social life too.

Helsby News Editorial Team

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Printed by NeuroMuscular Centre
Supported by Helsby Parish Council

Design kindly provided by

carswellcreative.co.uk

FRODSHAM AND HELSBY ROTARY CLUB NEWS

Two annual youth competitions were held in Helsby over the past few months, organised by the Rotary Club. Once again, pupils from Helsby High School took part in the 'Youth Speaks' competition - which encourages and develops speaking and presentation skills in young people. The second event was the Young Chef competition, which took place in Helsby High School. This competition takes place in high schools across the UK and the competitors have an hour and a half to make a main course and a dessert for no more than £10. Two of the judges were from the Old Hall in Frodsham.

Rotary also organised and ran its annual 'Know Your Blood Pressure' Day on 8th April. This community event was a great success as over a 4 hour period, 124 people had their blood pressure checked, of which, 35% were advised as a precaution to follow up with their doctor.

Over the years, the residents of Frodsham and Helsby have been extremely supportive of the Rotary Clubs' efforts to raise funds for local and international good causes and charities. With the £20,000 raised this year here are some of the local organisations that the Rotary Club has financially supported.

Ash-Worth Time Bank
Halton Haven Hospice
Will to Work Workshop
Weaver Vale Primary School
Frodsham Community Centre - roof replacement
Frodsham Girl Guides - hall refurbishment
Cheshire NeuroMuscular Centre
Mersey Weaver Scouts
Helsby Sports Club

HELSEBY NEWS SAYS THANKS

Did you know that Helsby News is entirely produced, contributed to, edited and distributed by a group of more than 40 volunteers?

Without them we would not be able to bring you news of local village events and celebrations. So we owe each one of them a grateful thank you for their efforts on behalf of us all.

Here are just a few of our youngest distributors, five of the 1st Helsby Scouts, who deliver more than 200 copies of Helsby News to the village. **Well done and thanks.**

Marj Thoburn



MARGARET MARSH

Local resident, Lion Margaret Marsh was honoured to be presented with an award for her volunteering work with Cheshire Young Carers by the High Sheriff of Cheshire, Kathy Cowell OBM DL



Can You Help Helsby News?

We need to recruit volunteers willing to deliver Helsby News in the following areas:
Crosland Terrace, Back Crosland Terrace, Mere's Edge Apartments

There are 4 deliveries a year and if you would like to help contact Marj Thoburn on 722304 or email marj@thoburn.clara.co.uk



Let your imagination run free!

Come to

'The Wonder'

Helsby Hillside Primary School

Grand Opening by famous author Faye Hanson

Wednesday 12th July 2.30pm - 6.00pm

Thursday 13th & Friday 14th July 8.00am - 6.00pm

For.....

A FREE Creative Exhibition to celebrate Hillside's skills in the Arts and Literacy.

Please visit our website for previous exhibitions at www.helsbyhillside.co.uk

This is a school whose children are filled with Wonder.

Enough to share with everyone!



DOWN HELSBY'S MEMORY LANE

On a taxi journey, Dominic Lightfoot, got chatting to his taxi driver Tony Griffiths, who talked of his father and his being an unofficial photographer of Helsby. Tony was keen to make these photographic memories of Helsby available to a wider audience.

Dominic posted a thread on Helsby Facebook page enquiring how this could be achieved. Cllr Chris Ellams, a keen amateur photographer, responded and with his knowledge of web design found himself volunteering to take on the task of scanning in excess of 200 photos and putting them on a dedicated website. The site, www.helsby-memories.co.uk was born and is packed with some remarkable old photos of the BICC and the village.

Still in its early stages Chris hopes to expand the site with his collection of old photos of Helsby and the surrounding area.

So thanks to that chance conversation between Dominic and Tony a slice of Helsby's nostalgic past is available to all. And thanks to Chris Ellams for all that hard work setting up the site

If anyone has any pictures they would like included on the site please email Chris at admin@helsbymemories.co.uk

Marj Thoburn

"Best Kept" Competition 2016

More than twenty awards were made to Helsby Residents at the recent Annual meeting of the Parish Council.

Cups, certificates and highly commended were presented by Cllr Terrence O'Neill, seen here with Central Ward Garden winner, Alison Senior.

The awards range from Best Kept Gardens (Front or Back), Allotments, Community Businesses and Plant Tubs. All you have to do is contact Parish Clerk, Jeanette Hugues, (726433) to express your interest.



WI

Helsby Hillside WI continues the year with a varied programme.

In May we heard about 'Trees' from Mr Richard Baker, and in June we will be discussing 'What's in a name?' with David Greatorex. July's speaker is Mrs Penny Dean who will be telling us about 'Small in a Tall Persons' world' and in August there will be our Annual outing to Levens Hall and Kendal.

Our Sports Section has regular skittles and ten-pin bowling, and the outdoor bowling season is now well under way.

For the Cheshire Show to be held on 20/22st June, several of our members have submitted exhibits and this year we will be putting in a Group Exhibit on 'All things Bright & Beautiful'. Good luck to them all.

Future organised outings include a fund raising effort for Denman College at Houghton Hall on 18h May, a visit to the National Gardens open day at Burton, and later in the year a theatre trip to see 'War Horse' in Liverpool.

New members to our Group would be very welcome so come and join us – in the Helsby Community Centre, 7.30 start on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

If you would like to know more, or just come for a visit, contact Pam Hinkley on 01928 722161.

Marshes Community Benefit Fund

The Panel are pleased to announce the following groups and projects were successful in our first round of funding:

Frodsham Women's Institute - £250 towards the cost of the Frodsham Show.

Frodsham Junior Volleyball Club - £1,000 for training and development for their coaches.

Girl Guiding Frodsham - £1,500 towards the cost of an accessible toilet.

Alvanley Village Hall - £5,000 for cladding and insulation of the Hall.

1st Helsby Scout Group - £30,000 towards refurbishing the Scout Hut.

Frodsham Cricket Club - £10,000 for a lawnmower and storage.

Elton Primary School & Nursery - £12,000 for a community garden.

Thanks again to everyone who applied. The standard was really high and we are looking forward to the next round.

Dianne Walker



Once again the Village Produce Association produce a sell out May Plant Sale in the Community Centre.



POLICE NEWS



I am pleased to report that we now have a fully active community speed watch group and they have been doing some great work monitoring the speed on major roads which have speeding issues, using the non-enforceable speed gun, which Frodsham Town Council have kindly agreed for our group to use. If there are any residents interested in joining the group please contact me. We are always looking for more members.

Unhappily there have been a number of complaints and reports about antisocial behaviour near the community centre involving youths. To tackle this issue we have robustly policed and patrolled the area on a regular basis at the times issues occur. In doing this it has

prevented issues from escalating and reduced the number of reports. It has also given us the opportunity to engage with youths and find out what they would like in the area. This is an area which myself and my colleagues will continue to monitor and police on a regular basis.

On Friday 21st April we went into Helsby High School to engage with pupils through the use of Panna cage football, during lessons, break and lunch time. This was a very successful event with over 100 pupils taking part. The school are very keen on the idea of coming back into the school before the summer term ends for another Panna Cage Event.

A new national scheme, called the Herbert Protocol, which encourages carers and family members who look after others who have dementia, to compile useful key information, which could be used in the event of a

vulnerable person going missing. The Herbert Protocol will put systems in place for early intervention when a vulnerable person goes missing.

In a nutshell the idea is to complete a form, recording all vital details such as description, photograph, medication, routines and places frequented. So in the event of a family member or friend going missing this information can be easily sent or handed to the police to reduce the time taken to gather these details. This helps remove some of the stress and provides those involved in the search with the vital information to promote the safe return of a loved one.

I feel this is a fantastic scheme to be a part of, and if there are residents or family members of Helsby who feel this would be useful to them please contact me for the relevant forms and information.

John.kopczyk@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Latest New from North Cheshire Rail Users Group (NCRUG) and Helsby Station

Advance warning, for Steam enthusiasts!! - Steam trains will be run on the North Cheshire line between Warrington and Chester on Sunday 23rd and Tuesday 25th July 2017. Their destinations are Holyhead and Blaenau Ffestiniog respectively. For those who wish to travel or to get a photo full details @ <http://www.railwaytouring.net/uk-day-trips/>

NCRUG have a provisional date of Saturday 29th July for the **Annual Parliamentary Trip** from Chester to Liverpool South Parkway – stopping at Helsby at 08:01 and Frodsham 08:06 more info @ <http://www.ncrug.org.uk/> Your chance to ride a "Ghost Train" and the last of the parliamentary trips on the Halton Curve Line before its re-opening.

Work on restoring service over the Halton Curve is still on schedule for completion with the start of services December 2018. Disappointingly on the Hooton to Helsby Line, Northern Rail has announced that the current service is going to be replaced by a one train a

day in each direction from Ellesmere Port to Leeds and back as part of their new 'Connect' service between Chester and West Yorkshire Leeds/Bradford. Due to the shortage of platform space at Chester, trains may have to start at Ellesmere Port; by passing Chester entirely. The North Cheshire Rail Users' Group goal is to expand local rail services and continues to lobby local MPs on this matter.

Helsby desperately needs new volunteers: We are down to 4 regulars and the problem we are facing is that the station is becoming a bit of a jungle. Helsby did not win at the Best Kept Stations this year for the first time in the history of the awards. The fear is as franchises change next year that whoever takes over will remove the gardens completely if they look messy and over grown to be replaced with slabs to extend the platform area. It would be a shame to lose the wonderful gardens. Please contact NCRUG via the website. It doesn't matter how much time you can spare

and full training is given as well as appropriate safety gear. Active volunteers get rail travel vouchers once a year and are invited to Station conferences at Chester Station where they get to mingle with rail bosses, get a free meal, receive free gifts from Arriva, volunteers can also attend the Best Kept Station awards held in Northwich once a year.

The ARRIVA franchise expires Oct 2018. There are four companies bidding for the franchise. This section of the rail network will be managed for first time by Transport for Wales and it will be the first time that the Welsh Government has awarded a rail franchise. It did not have the power to do so when the all-Wales franchise was awarded to Arriva.

Ian Whitely



Monitoring Rail Services & the Travelling Environment

BAND NIGHT

The HoHo Helsby volunteers were thrilled to find that their Band Night on Saturday 22 April was a sell out with standing room only.

With the smooth Sax Attack quartet starting the night off, their mellow tones welcomed the audience and put everyone at ease. Next up was Sophie Asher, a super talented singer who rattled off popular covers, peaking with a fabulous rendition of Amy Winehouse's Back to Black. Next up were the foot-tappingly infectious Motley Ukes who are a local favourite; the dance floor was soon filled with all ages throwing themselves around to a wide variety of songs and a memorable version of Teenage Kicks.

After a warming supper of chilli, baked potatoes and hotdogs the raffle produced some very happy winners; thanks to local residents and businesses

who donated the prizes. Declan Furlong then took to the stage with just an acoustic guitar, a chair and a mic, his very popular set list which soon had people up and dancing (a first for his music, said Declan).

Finally, at the top of the show were local boy band 'Off The Grid', with their unique blend of banjo and guitars, as well as tub-thumping percussion. Encore after encore continued.

Special thanks to our vivacious compere Joyce Bailey who danced her way through the whole evening.

The event raised nearly £1,000 for the community Christmas event, also a local 80s night contributed a further £350 making a great start to the Helsby festival's fund-raising for 2017.

Dianne Walker



Ho Ho Helsby®



HYDRO THERAPY POOL FOR PAMPERED POOCHES OPENS IN HELSBY

Sophie's Groom Room recently opened in Helsby after the closure of Birchwood Kennels in Frodsham where it had been since 1997, run by husband and wife team John and Sophie Riley. Sophie is a fully City and Guilds qualified groomer who has won many dog grooming competitions over the years. The new premises in "The Old Bank" on Chester Road houses the state of the art grooming salon catering to all breeds of dog.

John started the hydrotherapy pool in 2007, he is a level 3 qualified hydro therapist and a member of the Canine Hydrotherapy Association. The hydro therapy pool is 12 feet in length, equipped with adjustable water jets and a ramp for easy access, canine life vests are provided.

The benefits of hydrotherapy are well known, long being used for human rehabilitation and elite race horses.

Vets are increasingly prescribing hydrotherapy for pre and post-operative care, muscle strengthening, maintenance and restoration, obesity, cardiovascular fitness, hip dysplasia, spinal injuries, as well as mental stimulation and many pet insurance companies now cover such treatments. Swimming and gentle stretching in water allows recovery to start much earlier following surgery or injury. The warm water and increased range of limb movement, which may not be possible on land, helps to promote circulation which in turn aids healing. The hydrostatic pressure of water can also have an anti-inflammatory effect which relieves pain and reduces swelling. Each hydrotherapy session is tailored to an individual dog's needs. Located at 245 Chester Road Helsby WA6 0AQ, for further information give Sophie or John a ring on 01928 740566.

Betty Grieve

HORN'S MILL COLLECT FOR CHARITY

Throughout Horn's Mill School the children have been involved in a variety of activities to support local charities. Our Team 3 have been collecting old, spare, used clothing to help raise much needed funds for the 'Hospice of the Good Shepherd. In March we had a visit from Phil and Paws, who work for the charity and they explained to us what it is they do and how we could help raise money for the charity. The class were extremely enthusiastic to help, making posters and asking other classes to help collect unwanted clothing. By the time Phil and Paws came back in May, Team 3 had collected nearly 30 bags of clothing. Here is our Team 3 helping to load the van!



Helsby High School Finalist in Cheshire Schools Awards

Following the judging session by Chester Chronicle and executive partners Excell Supply we are very proud to announce the students at Helsby High School are finalists in the category Active Community Award for Cheshire Schools Awards 2017.

The achievements of schools from across Cheshire will be recognised at a celebratory afternoon at the Queen Hotel in Chester on Wednesday, June 28 2017. Helsby High School students and teachers will be represented. During the celebratory afternoon recognition will be given to all finalists across all award categories. The winners will be revealed on the day.

The students and families of Helsby High School have been involved in a wide range of community events and projects over the last 18 months. Examples include coordination of the Christmas food hampers, 700kg contribution to the Foodbank, compiling 150 rucksacks for refugee children, organising & hosting a Christmas Party for Senior Citizens, raising over £800 for the Poppy Appeal and £650 for Red Nose Day.

To celebrate National World Down Syndrome Day, the staff and children at Horn's Mill Primary School wore stripy socks, completed 213 miles of exercise as part of the Get up for Down's campaign and had an assembly to gain a better understanding of Down Syndrome. The event takes place on 21st March every year as it represents the 3 copies of chromosome 21 which is unique to people with Down Syndrome.



Parent Parking Charter Launched

Helsby Hillside Primary School, in partnership with Cheshire West and Chester Council, recently introduced a Parent Parking Charter scheme to help reduce congestion and alleviate parking issues outside school. The school council, Year 6 safety officers and the local PCSO worked together with the CWAC Road Safety team to launch the scheme which highlights the dangers of parking on the zigzag "School Keep Clear" markings, parking on the pavements, parking too close to schools and the congestion that this can create. The scheme was launched with a whole school assembly which local residents were invited to attend and parents/carers were asked to sign up to pledge their support.

Come and Sing
Community Choir
present

All you need is Love

Friday
14 July
2017

St. Paul's Church
Helsby at 7.30pm

Tickets
£6.00 on the door
Children with an adult are free
Refreshments available in the interval
For more information ring 723327

A summer concert featuring music by the Beatles, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Celine Dion and of course a few surprises along the way!



HELSEBY SPORTS

HELSEBY INTER BOYS DOMINATE COUNTY COMPETITION FIRST ROUND

The first round of the English Schools Track and Field Cup was held recently with competitions taking place all over the country. The two Cheshire events took place at Warrington and Macclesfield.

Despite the cold, damp conditions and being understrength, the Helsby boys got off to a flying start on the track and after 13 of the 25 events were well in the lead with 242 points. In the 12 field events the boys notched another 166 points to give them a total of 408 points, 69 clear of second placed Weaverham.

In order to be guaranteed a place in the North-West 'A' final and a chance to qualify for the National Final this score had to beat the winners of the event running simultaneously in Macclesfield. The score in Macclesfield was just 329 so the team will compete in the 'A' final at Robin Park Stadium in Wigan and have a chance to again represent the school at the National Final.

The team was amongst the leading scorers in the North-West and with some athletes still to return to the team after injury, they should be confident of repeating their feat of two years ago.



SUMMER TOUCH RUGBY! 6.30pm – 8.00pm EVERY TUESDAY

JUST TURN UP AND PLAY!!!

- Mens, Womens, Mixed and Junior Teams
- Individual players welcome
- Fun for all the family
- Call **07804 656558** for more details

WWW.HELSEBYRUGBY.COM
Helsby Rugby Club pitches (alongside Tesco Helsby) @helsbyrugby

Helsby Golf Club Captains Drive into office!

On a crisp bright day, the new officials at Helsby Golf Club took part in the annual Drive In competition recently.

New Captain Neil Johnson from Frodsham, Lady Captain Gill Smith from Delamere, President Jim Potter from Helsby and Junior Captain Imogen Lightfoot from Kingsley were delighted to hit drives down the middle of the fairway in the traditional start to their year in office!

The chosen charities for the year are, for the Captain, Claire House Hospice and the Powered Wheelchair Appeal based at Helsby, for the Lady Captain – Dogs for Good who provide assistance dogs for those with disabilities and children with autism. Both Neil and Gill will be raising money for these very worthwhile charities with a variety of events throughout the year.

Helsby Parish Council

North Ward

Sylvia Crossley-Jones	723115
Alan Gardner	722360
John Kimpton	724236
Sarah Temple	722181
Vacancy	

Central Ward

Tim Thorne	726433
Chris Ellams	724409
Patricia Holder	727384
Sam Johnson	722297
Terry O'Neill (Chair)	723205

South Ward

Peter Duffy	722908
Stuart Hulse	724272
Andy MacPherson	722168
Alan McKie	724960
George Randles	724775

Clerk

Jeanette Hughes 726433
Parish Office:
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