



# HELSEBY NEWS

www.helsbynews.net

ISSUE 84 • SPRING 2018

## Parking Strategy? What Strategy?

In January 2018 CWAC agreed and published a Parking Strategy for Helsby and Frodsham which infuriated some of our Parish Councillors and invoked despair in others.

The report, produced by Liverpool based Consultants, Mott McDonald, is available on CWAC'S website and makes interesting reading recommending as it does a fixed parking charge of £1.50p for the only public car park in the village on Station Avenue and increasing maximum stay restrictions to 2 hours outside the shops of Chester Road.

Now how is that supposed to address the main parking issues in Helsby?

This, no doubt costly, report tells us what we already know. It tells us that its research in Helsby, unlike Frodsham, amounted to spot checks on a couple of occasions and anecdotal conversations with locals in 2016. We are told there are 308 car parking spaces in the village. The trouble is 285 of them are at Tesco!

We all know that Station Avenue Car Park and the station parking area are crammed to capacity and rail commuters are already overflowing on to surrounding residential streets causing hostility between station users and residents, shoppers and workers.

The situation is only going to get worse when Halton Curve re-opens in December and direct access to Liverpool by train becomes available again.

The report recognises that currently unrestricted parking on Station Avenue, Lodge Hollow, Chester Road and



Crescent Drive may need to be restricted. How will that be done? Will this mean the introduction of Residents Parking Zones in the village and eventually having to pay for the privilege of parking outside your own house? Nothing is said in the report about enforcement of any new restrictions or imposing fines or where the income generated will go.

We are told the CWAC Car Park Improvement Programme will commence between March and June 2018 so it seems already to be a done deal. What is obvious is that this programme does not and has not addressed the serious lack of public parking in Helsby.

We are all being encouraged by Government to use public transport more and there is a lot of sense in that. It is not surprising that folk from Helsby and the surrounding villages want to use the train. But where does the responsibility to provide proper parking lie? What of the train operators who benefit from the increase in passengers and increase in revenue?

Does Helsby have to become a "Park and Ride" village? Is it not possible for CWAC and the train operators to come up with a solution for Helsby rather than this papering over the cracks job that solves nothing?

*Marj Thoburn*

## Parish Council News

### Precept

At its January Parish Council meeting, Helsby Parish Councillors agreed to raise the Precept from £87,260 to £96,675 to ensure it could carry on maintaining its assets without dipping into its reserves. There is a sizeable increase in the Parks maintenance budget as the railings need urgent painting works and money has been put aside to replace the soft play surface within the next 5 years.

A balanced budget was set.

This means that a Band D Council tax payer will have to pay £49.32 per year compared to £45.24 in 2017/18.

This is an increase of £4.08 per year (8 pence per week).

All the details can be found on the Council's website [www.helsbyparish.org.uk](http://www.helsbyparish.org.uk)

### Vacancy for a Central Ward Councillor

Did you ever think about making a difference in your community?

There is a vacancy on the Parish Council and if you would like to know more about what it takes please contact Parish Clerk, Jeanette Hughes, on 726433 or [helsbyparishcouncil@btconnect.com](mailto:helsbyparishcouncil@btconnect.com)

### Helsby Best Kept Garden Competition

Closing Date for entrants is 31st May. The Award Categories are for Front or Back gardens in North, Central and South Wards.

Contact Parish Clerk to make sure of your entry.

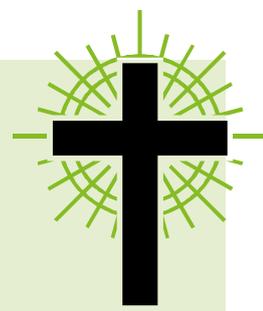
### Dog Control Consultation

CWAC are inviting you to share your views on the control of dogs across the borough.

You can complete a survey on line at <http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/DogControlOrderReview>

The consultation period closes on 28 April 2018.

## Easter Church Services



### JOINT SERVICE

**Good Friday March 30th, 10am**  
St Paul's Church Worship followed by Walk of Witness and Hot Cross Buns at Helsby Methodist Church

### ST PAUL'S CHURCH

**Palm Sunday March 25th, 8am**  
Holy Communion  
11am Sung Holy Communion  
Blessing of the Palms

**Monday March 26th, Tuesday March 27th, Wednesday March 28th, 7.30pm**  
Compline

**Maundy Thursday March 29th, 7.30pm**  
Sung Holy Communion  
The Last Supper

**Holy Saturday March 31st, 8pm**  
The Lighting of the New Fire  
Renewal of Baptismal Vows

**Easter Day April 1st,**  
The Celebration of the Resurrection  
8am Holy Communion  
11am Sung Holy Communion

### HELSEBY METHODIST CHURCH

**Palm Sunday March 25th, 10.30am**  
Sunday Worship

**Monday March 26th to Wednesday March 29th, 6.30pm to 7.00pm**  
Evening Reflections

**Maundy Thursday March 29th, 7.30pm**  
Joint Service at Kingsley, Blakelees Methodist Church

**On Good Friday and over the Easter weekend the church will be open with a '7 words from the cross' theme exhibiton and prayer focus . This will be suitable for all ages and refreshments will be available .**

**Easter Day April 1st, 9.30am**  
Simple breakfast followed by 10.30am Easter Day Worship

## Call for Volunteers - Helsby Footpath Society

**Are you interested in walking the many local paths of Helsby? Do you know that our parish paths are maintained by a small group of volunteers?**

Helsby is blessed with many footpaths off the beaten track, from the Helsby Hill to the marshes!

Our Society aims to keep the footpaths in our part of the Cheshire countryside open and accessible, and to help look after and protect the Public Rights of Way within the Parish.

We have printed a local walks booklet and Map which is on sale in our Helsby Post Office and is our main source of income.

We are putting out this call for new members. Please consider joining us in the Spring for a working party. And if you see any problem with a path in the Parish, please report it to either Helsby Footpath Society - [betty.grieve@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:betty.grieve@liverpool.ac.uk) or - Jeanette at the Parish council.

*Betty Grieve*

**Helsby News Editorial Team**  
Marj Thoburn, Barbara Ginty,  
Betty Grieve, Vicky Mohring

Web: [www.helsbynews.net](http://www.helsbynews.net)  
Email: [editor@helsbynews.net](mailto:editor@helsbynews.net)  
Tel: 01928 724848 / 722304

Printed by NeuroMuscular Centre  
Supported by Helsby Parish Council

Design kindly provided by  
**carswellcreative.co.uk**

# Proffits Lane Update

Since our last edition, Helsby Parish Council has been battling with CWAC Planning and Housing officers over how the Proffits Lane “affordable” houses will be allocated by the registered provider, Equity Housing Group.

Proffits Lane is the first affordable housing development approved as a Rural Exception Site based on a housing needs survey for a parish with a made Neighbourhood Plan.

The concept that these new houses will be for Helsby people is part of Helsby Neighbourhood Plan and recognised by a condition in the planning permission.

However, CWAC will only restrict allocation to Helsby for the first 10 weeks after the houses are made available. They will then be offered to people in the adjoining parishes for 4 weeks, people within CWAC for 2 weeks and then to anyone “in need” from anywhere in the country.

No one wants to see houses lying empty – least of all the developers – but the Parish Council believes Equity Housing should look at any reasons for an incomplete uptake, such as price, before simply going ahead to a geographical cascade.

The scheme will have 12 properties to rent and 11 available as shared ownership in which you buy at 50% market value and then pay rent on the rest. The Parish Council did manage to persuade Equity to offer some at 25% of market value. To even be considered for a house, all applicants need to be on CWAC's Housing Register. If you are interested better make sure you are on it. For Helsby locals, it shouldn't be necessary to be top of the list to qualify.

It's obvious to all that the new development is moving ahead fast so keep a look out over the next few months for more information on how and where to apply.

*Marj Thoburn*

## NEW SHOP ON THE BLOCK - HENRIETTA'S ATTIC

### **An Aladdin's cave no less, in Helsby!**

Since discovering Annie Sloan decorative chalk paint about five years ago, Fiona Turner has built up a steady client base giving old but loved furniture a new lease of life. Working from home in her workshop, she has transformed many precious items with this 'magic' paint – as she calls it! But later, and with her experience, came her desire for a shop to showcase some of these transformations as well as to display many of the unique items she had acquired over the years.

Fiona definitely has an eye for design and colour and her shop demonstrates her passion for the unusual. She is keen to share her experience of using this versatile decorative paint with

others, pass on tips and techniques and encourage the use of colour in the home.

Although now living in Runcorn, Helsby is where her parents have lived for over 30 years, so she was delighted to open her first shop here, and what a transformation too, with her eye for detail there are many small unexpected items amongst the painted and restored furniture, not to mention unusual ornaments – definitely a shop for a quiet browse! And a place for ideas on how old but useful furniture can be given a new lease of life.

For more information, contact Fiona on 01928 897880

*Barbara Ginty*

## Finding out more about your Ancestors

Most of us only know as far back as who our grandparents were. Before that, it is so often half-remembered stories or, too often, nothing at all. And even such stories that survive tend to get exaggerated or distorted over time. Before you start searching it helps to talk to any surviving parents or grandparents about what they remember, because the odds are they'll know a generation further back than you.

Finding out what really happened in your family's past used to be really difficult and expensive in terms of both time and money but things have got a lot easier with online services like Ancestry and FindMyPast.

Did you know that Cheshire West Libraries offer free access to these websites in their buildings and that Helsby is especially fortunate in having free one-to-one help available on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings 5.30pm to 6.30pm. Pop in or call Helsby on 01244 981150 to find out more.

*Ian Anstice*  
Locality Librarian – Rural  
Cheshire West and Chester Council

 **ancestry.com**  
library edition



# Helsby Community Sports Club

"A vision for sport, leisure and recreation in Helsby, Frodsham and the surrounding villages"



## Family Funday July 14th



We are a group of 11 Scouts representing the District of Mersey Weaver in Cheshire at the 24th World Scout Jamboree in 2019 In West Virginia and across North America.



Jamboree is the largest gathering of young people across the world which occurs every four years. Its a once in lifetime opportunity for Scouts to meet new people, experience other cultures, make new friends and much more.



We need to raise £48,000 to fund our trip.



Please donate or sponsor us and for more information go to <http://wsj.mwscouts.org> Help us get to America!



### Stalls £5

Contact: Michelle Pickstock - [mich\\_pickstock@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mich_pickstock@yahoo.co.uk)  
Or Betty Grieve - [betty.grieve@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:betty.grieve@liverpool.ac.uk)

Tel. 07518 106294

[@helsbysports](https://twitter.com/helsbysports)

[www.helsbysports.com](http://www.helsbysports.com)

## THE 'LAST' GRANT SHOW WINNERS - NOVEMBER 2017

More than £4500 of grants were made to lucky applicants at the 5th Helsby Grant Show 2017.

The money was awarded in £500 blocks to a variety of local groups and schools for equipment and special projects.

The winners were:

Friends of Horns Mill Primary School, Friends of Hillside Primary School, Helsby High School, Helsby Tennis Club, Frodsham Youth Association and Weaver and Sandstone Cycle Forum. Ho Ho Helsby was awarded £1000 towards the Christmas Community Event.

As a number of new sources of community funding have become available in the past couple of years the Parish Council has decided not to run the Grant Show again in 2018.



Laurie Williams receiving £500 on behalf of Helsby Tennis Club.

## Ken raises Money for Macmillan

Ken Walker, decided he wanted to say thank you to Macmillan and organised a Singalong at the Community Centre. He used to sing at the Tuesday Club before it disbanded and felt a get together would be just the fundraising ticket.

Ken always loves to sing to an audience and said that singing for the Tuesday Club was like singing at the London Palladium to him!

Ken sang songs from the 50s 60s and 70s to a packed audience who sang along, danced, enjoyed tea, coffee and

biscuits and a catch - up with friends, neighbours and family.

**£307 was generously raised for Macmillan Cancer Support.**

Everyone agreed that it was a fantastic afternoon and asked when will he come again? Ken will be singing again on Wednesday 21st March at Helsby Community Centre from 1.30 pm until 3.30 pm. Admission will include refreshments in the interval; everyone very welcome.

*Photo: Chris Ellams.*



# POLICE NEWS

## Bike marking event and OP. Shield DNA kits

On Sunday 28th January, we held bike marking event, successful marking 37 bikes Any resident who would like their bike marking please contact me by email. We will be looking to roll out Op shield in the village, and slowly getting the village involved in the Selecta DNA scheme. If you would like to know more contact me and I will explain and deliver a kit.

## Disabled bay

I understand that parking in the village is difficult, but please do not park in the disabled bay by the Post Office unless you have a permitted blue badge on

display. This will be monitored and if necessary enforcement will be carried out.

## Dog Fouling

There appears to be an increase in dog fouling around the village. This is unacceptable. Dog Owners must pick up their dog's mess when out walking. The Parish Council has been informed and community safety wardens will patrol the area and carry out any enforcement to anyone who allows their dog to foul.

## Chester Police North Rural 5-a-side Football Tournament

Chester Police will be hosting a North Rural 5-a-side football event on Thursday 19th April at 4pm at Brio Leisure Centre,

Frodsham which it is hoped should provide closer links between the schools, young people and Cheshire police. We are hoping for 12 schools to compete in mini groups with the winners and the most sporting team progressing through to the semi-finals; then the two winners will compete for the trophy and prizes. I am pleased to say that both Helsby Hillside and Horn's Mill primary schools have confirmed they will be taking part.

Contact 101 – Please can residents report any issues they have to 101, or email me if it is not urgent.  
[John.kopczyk@Cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:John.kopczyk@Cheshire.pnn.police.uk)



# HELBY HAS DONE IT AGAIN!

Joan Langton, Helsby's own Poppy Organiser, writes:

*Helsby has done it again.... we raised a staggering £14,044.22p. Thank you to all my lovely volunteers and the generous people of Helsby.*

*If you would like to take part this year... give me a ring on 723895. I have also got the new 2018 badges and the WW1 Commemorative.*

*Once again many thanks, Joan Langton*



**The Helsby and Elton Patient Participation Group (PPG)** held a well-attended 'Keeping Well in the Community' (KWIC) event at the Community Centre in February.

A number of organisations who help patients with self-management of health conditions & general well-being were represented including Diabetes UK, MacMillan/Brio Partnership, Age

UK, HealthBox, Older People Active Lives (OPAL), Slimming World, Helsby Holistics and Helsby Running Club. Visitors could also talk to experts about blood pressure, osteopathy and Pilates. The PPG would like to thank all the organisations who contributed to the event and also to Tesco Helsby for providing a healthy luxury hamper for the raffle.



**Sunday April 29th at 11am**

Helsby Footpath Society will be hosting a walk a little further afield this year: **Little Barrow, Plemstall, Guilden Sutton loop. 3.5 -4miles.**

Start: Foxcote Tea rooms in Little Barrow, CH3 7JN car park. The walk involves crossing fields and the river Gowy as well as walking along quiet country roads. The historic St Peter's Church in Plemstall, is on our route as well another tea room and a pub.

Dogs allowed but may need to be on a lead in some fields.

Betty Grieve

## Keen to Read

On 29th January Horn's Mill Reception class children, along with their Team 6 buddies, made a visit to Helsby Library. They had a great time, and really enjoyed reading stories with each other. The visit gave the pupils an opportunity to read lots of different stories and reminded them of how much they love reading at Horn's Mill!



## YEAR 5 PRIMARY SCHOOL TASTER DAYS

At the beginning of February Year 5 students from eleven local Primary Schools were offered a Taster Day at Helsby High School.

The Taster Days provided the youngsters with a valuable opportunity to experience life as a Helsby High School student. It also aimed to encourage students to look forward to the transition to Secondary School and the exciting opportunities the next phase of their education will bring.

There were taster lessons delivered by trainee teachers from Liverpool John Moors University and question and answer sessions led by High School students from the Year 7 Buddy Team who shared their own experiences of moving from Primary to High School.

A very positive and valuable day.



## Platinum for Hillside

Helsby Hillside Primary School has become one of the first schools in England to win the 'School Games Platinum Award' – which is a new national award for making a commitment to competitive school sport, and is part of the School Games Mark, a government-led scheme launched in 2012 and administered by the Youth Sport Trust.

The Platinum Award is the new fourth level of the award scheme, introduced earlier this year to celebrate schools which had shown consistently high-levels of enthusiasm and commitment to school sport. Applications were only open to those schools who achieved five successive gold awards. To achieve the gold award, a school had to meet a certain set of criteria, which includes engaging a high percentage of young people in both curricular and extra-curricular activities, participating in a minimum number of competitions across different sports, and reaching out to target groups, including young leaders, volunteers, and those previously identified as the school's least-active pupils.

Headteacher Craig Richardson told Helsby News "We are delighted that our strong and sustained commitment to school sport, and to enabling our pupils to participate in a wide range



of sporting activities, has been recognised by this important award. Hillside has a long tradition of sporting excellence and we look forward to building on this and to our young people continuing to enjoy sport in the future. We are part of a terrific sports partnership, 'Frodsham and Villages Schools Partnership', and this has played a big part in our success. Thanks to all the children, staff, parents, our partner schools and our school games organisers for all their support and help!"

Ali Oliver, Chief Executive of the Youth Sport Trust, said: "At a time when young people are becoming less healthy and less active, the School Games provides opportunities for millions across the country to participate in sport and reap the benefits of an active lifestyle both on and off the field. Schools like Helsby Hillside are really leading the way."

## Big Lottery Boost for Pre-School



It's not every day £10,000 drops through your letter box but that's what has happened at Horn's Mill Pre-School. The Big Lottery Fund made the award to enhance the outdoor equipment at the school and now that Spring is on its way, there is plenty of additional fun to be had outdoors.

Sue Huntback (manager) and her staff, along with some of the children are seen here with Cllr Alan McKie at the opening of the new facility on 18 January.

Situated next to Horn's Mill Primary School the Pre-School caters for children aged 2 to 5 yrs of age.

*Marj Thoburn*



## HAPPY RETURNS AND SAD DEPARTURES

On Thursday, 18th January, Helsby Opal, (Old People Active Lives) Club members, guests and helpers celebrated their twentieth birthday. The Ellesmere Port Lions provided a splendid buffet lunch which was enjoyed by everybody. Dr. Richard Brook, the Chairman of our Local Management Committee, cut the birthday cake and we all sang "Happy Birthday". At home time, everyone present was given a slice, in very pretty boxes that members had made in a craft session.

For almost all of those 20 years we have met on Thursdays in the lounge at Springfields. Weaver Vale Housing Trust has now decided to close the accommodation and all the residents have been given notice to quit. A number of them are Opal members and understandably they are distressed at having to move.

### Statement from Weaver Vale Housing Trust about the closure of Springfields.

"After reviewing all options, we believe that the accommodation and facilities at Springfields no longer meet the standard that we believe our customers expect.

"We recognise that this may be an unsettling period and our priority is to support residents and their families, so a dedicated team is working to ensure we meet everyone's specific housing needs to make the move as smooth as possible.

The club is also having to find a new home. This has not been easy as we need use of a kitchen to provide our cooked lunch for our elderly members and a light warm room with easy access, suitable chairs and room to dine. Unfortunately, nowhere in Helsby satisfied all these requirements and was available for use on a Thursday. So we are going to rent Alvanley Village Hall. It is available on a Thursday and we are hoping to move in by Easter. Our Dial-a-Ride driver is happy to ferry the members and those volunteers needing transport can be given lifts by those of us with cars. We are sorry to move out of Helsby but had little choice. Now that the Tuesday Club has closed there is no other organisation catering for older people who have restricted mobility and are unable, therefore, to use public transport to go further afield.

*Biddy Mason.*

As part of our support, all Springfields tenants are entitled to a home loss compensation payment, as well as further discretionary payments to help with the cost of moving.

"No decision has been made regarding the future of the building. We are currently exploring a number of options and we aim to keep all parties informed about any future decision."

*Judith Burbidge,  
Director of Neighbourhoods and  
Wellbeing at Weaver Vale Housing Trust*

## Helsby Hillside WI

Helsby Hillside WI has continued with a varied programme this year.

Our meeting in February detailed the life of Florence Nightingale. In March we will be learning about Chutney and Cheer with Melanie Latham and in April, Dianne Shaw will be telling us how she went from teacher to author.

The Sports Section enjoyed their afternoon tea at Patisserie Valerie prior to their Ten-Pin Bowling event.

Theatre visits coming up include a trip to Liverpool to see 'Wicked' in March and to the Brindley in May to see 'Oklahoma'

Our Fashion Show, Sponsored by Inspirations, will be held on 22nd March in Helsby Community Centre. Admission by ticket only at a cost of £6.50.

**We have a new programme of events for 2018 and we would like to welcome new members to our Group. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month in the Helsby Community Centre at 7.30pm. If you would like to know more, or just come for a visit, contact Pam Hinkley on 01928 722161.**



**Local resident and Holistic therapist Emi Howe is calling for social change with her parliament-published petition.**

Emi is calling to have Advertising Codes changed. She says: Many adverts and branding campaigns use only thin models, which sends a really clear message that if you're not thin you're not good enough.

Emi's petition runs until July and is in need of as much support as possible. With 10,000 signatures, Parliament will respond. For more information and to sign the petition, please visit [www.BodEquality.com](http://www.BodEquality.com)



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

Captain Graham Poland from Helsby, Lady Captain Barbara Prince from Cuddington, President Peter Duffy from Helsby and Junior Captain Harry Tilston from Helsby were delighted to hit drives more or less 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 for the Lady Captain, St Luke's hospice in Winsford. Both Graham and Barbara will be raising money for these very worthwhile charities with a variety of events planned throughout the year.

*Captain Graham Poland, Lady Captain Barbara Prince, President Peter Duffy and Junior Captain Harry Tilston.*  
*Photo by Phil R Barker ARPS. CPAGB*



## FOUR VILLAGES HALF-MARATHON 2018

*Photo: Duncan Cowley*

This year the 35th Essar Four Villages Half Marathon took place on Sunday 21st January. Nearly 1600 runners gathered on the start line at Helsby Community Sports Club. A very impressive turnout, considering the challenging weather conditions. Runners had travelled from as far afield as Devon and India. Overall winner was Ben Fish from Blackburn Harriers, who came second last year and the first female to cross the finishing line was Gemma Connolly, who runs for St Helens Sutton AC. Local trophies went to Richard McGeachie, from Frodsham and Hannah Cowley, from Helsby. Congratulations!

The competition amongst local schools to design the race T-shirt, was won by Horn's Mill school pupil Amy Jackson, from Ince so Amy and her family came

along on Sunday to officially start the race.

Local MP Mike Amesbury presented the winners with their prizes during a presentation at Helsby Sports Club after the race.

The race allows Helsby Running Club to donate thousands of pounds every year to Halton Haven in Runcorn and the Hospice of the Good Shepard in Chester, as well as to local community groups, most of whom volunteer on the day.

Even with the weather, the feedback from runners was all positive, highlighting the tremendous community spirit that makes our "Helsby 1/2" such a special race.

*Betty Grieve*

### Helsby Parish Council

#### North Ward

Vacancy	723115
Alan Gardner	722360
John Kimpton	724236
Sarah Temple	722181
Polly Barry	723238

#### Central Ward

Vacancy	
Chris Ellams	724409
Patricia Holder	727384
Sam Johnson	722297
Terry O'Neill	723205

#### South Ward

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

#### Clerk

Jeanette Hughes 726433  
Parish Office:  
200 Chester Road,  
Helsby, WA6 0AP