



HELSEBY NEWS

www.helsbynews.net

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The End of an Era

Our current sub-postmistress, Christine Wakefield has been running the post office and shop for 17 years and has been instrumental in greatly expanding the services and the stock available for sale, everything from stationary and greeting cards, gifts and handbags, not to mention the confectionary and the lottery! There aren't many folk in the village that she doesn't know by sight or who haven't used the post office.

Christine and her husband have decided to 'shut up shop' and that it is time to retire and give up working for and housing the Post Office. They won't be leaving Helsby just yet and for the time being they will continue to live in the property as it is their home.

Everyone knows that the village post office is a hub for any village and no more so than in Helsby. **A Big Thank You Christine** for holding the Hub for so long and through the stressful changes of the past years. The village, I'm sure, will want to wish you a long and happy retirement.



MEET CHRIS ELLAMS

Born and bred in Helsby, Chris, to his delight, has become Chairman of Helsby Parish Council for the second time. He has been a Parish Councillor for over 10 years.

Married to Jean and with two daughters, Chris says having lived here in Helsby for so long it is good to be in a position to continue helping the residents in improving the village, and also to have the chance to give something back. He is particularly keen on the transport facilities in the area and is a member of the Liaison Committee for aviation. Chris told Helsby News that the HPC has been involved in discussions concerning transport links with Liverpool airport, planning for December this year when the Halton Curve comes on stream. With trains through to South Parkway then a bus ride to the airport, it should be possible to buy a combined ticket from Helsby station for the two journeys. The Halton Curve development could also have an adverse impact on the village regarding parking of course – a big problem, and the Council is very aware of this aspect.

Now retired, Chris continues working with computers; he designs websites,



mainly for charities but including the Parish Council website – helsbyparish.org.uk. He has long been a keen photographer and latterly - and accidentally - found himself standing in at the last minute doing a couple of weddings – very difficult he found, ensuring all the right relatives in the right groups and soothing egos etc! But he particularly enjoys his connection with the Ronald McDonald charity at Alder Hey Hospital, taking photos of various events there and staff pictures for the in-house paper. Despite all these activities, he still has time for another passion which is his metallic grey mk 3.5 Mazda MX5 open top sports car, and enjoyed by both he and his wife.

With another steady hand on the wheel we can look forward to Chris steering the village through various major issues over the next 12 months.

Barbara Ginty

A YES FOR POST OFFICE LOCAL

Following a public consultation the Post Office has announced its decision to move Helsby Post Office to a new location in the closed bike shop some 20 metres away. It will open as a modern open-plan local-style branch with 7 day trading and extended opening hours from 7am until 10pm, Monday to Saturday and Sunday opening from 9am until 10pm.

Area Network Change Manager, Ian Murphy told Helsby News that the post office counter in the current post office will remain open and in service until the new premises are ready.

Marj Thoburn

Parish Council News

Perimeter path around the parish field

Changes are afoot to improve pedestrian access to the Parish Field, especially for the elderly and those pushing the very young in buggies. Helsby Parish Council will be creating a pathway around the circumference of the field, with space for an U13/ U14 football pitch in the middle. Special funding has been found to pay for the work. There will be notices at the field when activities and timings are settled so watch that space!

Best Kept Garden Competition

Closing Date for Entrants is now 30th June. The Award Categories are for Front and Back Gardens. Contact Parish Clerk on **726433** or helsbyparishcouncil@btinternet.com

Vacancy for a North 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 contact the Parish Clerk on **726433** or helsbyparishcouncil@btinternet.com



GIVING SOMETHING BACK

Our Parish Council may have a new parish councillor but Michelle Massey is by no means a new face to Helsby for she has lived here for more than 16 years and is married to Nick who was born in Helsby. Daughter, Georgia, currently at University, attended Helsby High and will be remembered there for her athletics and her cross country running.

Michelle, as well as working as a registered pharmacy technician, has always felt it important to get involved in community life and believes you only get out of life as much as you put in. As part of the founding team who mastermind the Christmas Ho Ho Helsby Celebrations she has enjoyed the challenges of getting the show on the road as an annual event. In wanting to "Give a bit back" to the village standing as a Parish Councillor seemed a natural move.

Michelle will represent Central Ward and has already joined the Environment and Human Resources Committees and finds herself absorbed by the committee work. She told Helsby News that she intended to take her time to learn the role but was determined to do a good job for her residents. HN feels sure they will be delighted to be represented by her. Welcome.

Marj Thoburn



**Held at
St Paul's Church**

Helsby News Editorial Team

Marj Thoburn, Barbara Ginty,
Betty Grieve, Vicky Mohring

Web: www.helsbynews.net
Email: editor@helsbynews.net
Tel: 01928 724848 / 722304

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IN MEMORY OF STEVE

When a family loses a loved one in tragic circumstances there are a multitude of reasons to want to remember then in happier times. For the Nash family, and sister Diane in particular, there seemed no better way to celebrate the life of her brother Steve than to follow in his footsteps and walk the 33 mile long Sandstone Trail.

Many in the village will remember Steve Nash, who at the age of 53, was brutally murdered whilst traveling in Mongolia in August 2016. His killer was tried and sentenced earlier this year.

Diane told Helsby News "Steve was happiest when he was paragliding and running, competing in events all over the world. He also loved taking part in the Sandstone Trail event, winning the male, over 50 category in 2013 with a time of 5 hrs 48 mins."

Dianne, daughter Hannah Sadaoui and her boyfriend Elliot Gorst, wanted to pay tribute to Steve by raising funds for the charity 'Murdered Abroad' and there seemed no better way than to do the 2018 Sandstone Trail on May 12.

Their sponsored walk raised £2350, much needed by this small charity which seeks to help relatives of those killed abroad whose Families have to bear all the costs associated with the tragedy as no public legal funds are made available.

A fitting tribute to a special man.

Marj Thoburn



Helsby Scouts delivering Helsby News

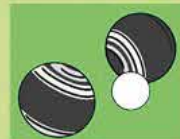
Helsby Community Sports Club

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



Helsby Sport Club & MerseyWeaver Scouts Family Funday – July 14th

Gates open @Noon



Loads of food, stalls and fun. Free sports taster sessions for all ages - Football Rugby, Bowls and Tennis. Soft play area for the littler ones. Party Faces - face painting & new bling bar. Scouts climbing wall. Dog agility by Furnominal!



@helsbysports

Chester Road, Helsby
(opposite the Shell petrol station)



Stalls - £ 5.00 Betty @ 07981415203 Entry £ 1.00



Helsby was honoured to have two of the Chester Giants open the event, seen here processing from Queens Drive through the village and down to Helsby Station.

The event, celebrating both the completion of the Halton Curve works and the Queen's Birthday, featured live music, a wide variety of food and drink, craft stalls, swings and ponies for the kids.

The Halton Curve officially opens in December 2018 and there will be a Line opening ceremony then, so watch out for further details

Betty Grieve



June 9th saw the first ever Helsby Railway Station Food and Drink Festival, Choo Choo Helsby!



MOVING IN AND CELEBRATING

Helsby Opal Club moved into their new premises as planned. They held their first meeting at Alvanley Village Hall on Maundy Thursday and will continue to meet there every Thursday as before. Volunteers worked very hard to get everything up and running and the members are getting used to having a bit more space. The volunteers find they have further to walk but are relieved that the whole operation has gone smoothly and that most items that seemed to have disappeared in the move are gradually turning up as the last of the boxes get unpacked!!

Members decided to use the Royal Wedding as an excuse to celebrate their new surroundings so last Thursday they all enjoyed a "Right Royal Time". Glasses were raised to toast the royal couple and suitably patriotic costumes were worn. The activities throughout the day, the games, talks and puzzles had a royal theme. We continue to welcome members and volunteers and anyone wishing to learn more about what goes on can contact Bidy Mason on 01928 724710.

Biddy Mason

Trains Takeover

After several months of delay The Welsh Assembly has announced who will take over from Arriva Trains Wales in October this year. France's Keolis and Spanish-owned Amey's bid triumphed over a rival offer from Hong Kong's MTR commuter railways. KeolisAmey already runs Greater Manchester Metrolink and London's Docklands Light Railway. Whilst change is not expected overnight the current time table should be the minimum service we can expect. Keolis Amey say the railway "would be unrecognisable" in five years. Transport for Wales (TfW) - which is advising the Welsh Government on the

contract - said the new franchise holder would be held to account on issues like punctuality, cleanliness and service quality or they would not get paid.

Hopefully we will see some improvement in the current aging rolling stock. The contract ATW had was a zero-growth contract so no expansion of services or rolling stock was forecast. But sources indicate ATW carried just over 15million passengers in 2003/2004 this has risen to 34 million in 2017.

With the opening of the Halton Curve in December 2018 pressure on our all

ready over stretched car parking is likely to worsen. Despite the publication by Cheshire West and Chester Council on the parking strategy for the village, little evidence is visible and it is unlikely to be in place for December. For our current and future expansion of the rail service through Helsby this is of concern and needs to be addressed urgently to prevent current parking problems. If the parking is not available the services will not get the passenger numbers required to maintain profitability of the routes.

Chris Ellams

POLICE NEWS



Chester North Rural 5-aside Football Tournament

On 19th April at Brio Leisure Centre, we hosted a local schools' football tournament. Horn's Mill Primary took part representing Helsby, and did very well finishing third in their group. The winners of the tournament were Kingsley CP. This was great youth engagement and a good way to work closely with the schools building stronger relationships.

Community Speed Watch recruitment

On 7th June we held an event on Main Street, Frodsham, where we were looking to recruit new members and relaunch the community speed watch group for Helsby and Frodsham.

Helsby Police Facebook and Twitter

I now have access to local Cyber Beat accounts, and will be in control of a Helsby Police Facebook and Twitter account specifically for the Helsby Beat area, and be able to post out local information about my whereabouts and what is going on. Additionally, I will also be able to reply to people's

comments, so please spread the word around the village.

Local issues

We have recently had reported some serious incidents involving altercations with local youths and youths from outside Helsby. We are taking this very seriously and will be giving the area extra attention. We advise people to be extra vigilant when out and about if you or your family experience any issues, please do not confront or challenge anyone but report via 101 or if appropriate via 999. My Email: john.kopczyk@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

WI

Helsby Hillside WI has continued with a varied programme since the last issue of Helsby News.

In May we learnt all about 'Town Criers' from Terry Stubbings, In June we will be discussing 'Cheshire Wildlife Trust' with Anne Brenchley and in July Mary Pease will be telling us about 'Crafts of the Andes'. There will be our Annual outing in August to the Severn Valley Railway & Kidderminster.

We had a very successful Fashion Show that was enjoyed by all, and

also had an outing to see the Terracotta Warriors in Liverpool. Theatre visits have also been undertaken to see 'Wicked' and 'Oklahoma'. Several other outings are planned in the future including a visit to Martin Mere to see the wildlife.

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.



Our Unsung Heroes

Many readers are aware of, and come along to help, the big Spring community litter-pick. Our Photo shows this Spring's valiant turnout of folk before they set out to collect more than 25 bags of rubbish from the main streets of Helsby.

But did you know about Sheila from Hawkstone Grove, John from Landscape Dene and David from Redstone Hill? All year round, they regularly clear the litter from their "adopted" roads in Helsby, unasked and unrecognised. Until now! Helsby News says a big Thank You to Sheila, John and David for their efforts that make Helsby a nicer place to live. We're sure there are others who also quietly demonstrate such community spirit, perhaps in a different way and only known to a few people. So please contact Helsby News to nominate your "unsung village heroes" and we'll give them a mention in a future edition.

Marj Thoburn



THE GREAT FIRE OF HILLSIDE

Year 2 class at Helsby Hillside enjoyed learning about the Great Fire of London and after making their own model Tudor houses, splendidly seen here in our photo, the children were really excited to recreate the blazing fire of Pudding Lane, with their very own Great Fire of Hillside!



HELSEBY HIGH CELEBRATE MCBF AWARD

Helsby High have been successful in their application to MCBF for funding and have been awarded £35,000 towards the development of community tennis and netball courts.

The school has long wanted to improve its facilities and this award will pay for the resurfacing of the dilapidated outdoor netball and tennis courts and it is hoped will encourage members of the Helsby, Elton and Frodsham communities to participate in active recreational sporting activities. As a direct result of this grant they will be able to bring all of their outdoor courts back to use and provide accessible, competition standard tennis and netball facilities for students to use.



A Happy Horn's Mill Pre-School

Hornsmill Pre-School in Helsby received £20,000 from the Marshes Community Benefit Fund for a footpath to improve pedestrian access from the A56 Chester Road, taking pressure off parking requirements at the school and surrounding areas. Here we see Diane Walker, Chair of the MCBF Panel, presenting the cheque to smiling staff and children. Cllr Alan McKie, also present, has been an active supporter of this move to open up this footpath access.

A ROYAL BAKEOFF AT HORN'S MILL

To celebrate the Wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Merkle, Horn's Mill Primary School held a Royal Bake off Competition.

The children and staff also had a garden party on the school field.



Not too soon to learn about Democracy

Back in March, as part of the schools work around democracy and British values, 12 Helsby Hillside school councillors, visited the House of Commons in London. The visit included a tour of the Houses of Parliament and Lords, a workshop on campaigning and watching a live debate about refugees. On their return, this inspired them to hold a Helsby Hillside school election where three parties presented their 'manifesto' and campaigned in school during one week, culminating in a London History Day where each child voted for their favourite party.

REVIEW OF HELSBY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Did you miss out when the Neighbourhood Plan was first prepared? Were you involved but now think there are parts that need changing?

As stated in the Plan itself, in 2018 there will be a thorough review of progress by a Steering Group which will have a wide community base - so now's your chance! Please contact the Parish Clerk (helsbyparishcouncil@btconnect.com or **01928 726433**) if you would like to help update our Neighbourhood Plan.

The current Plan is available on the Parish Council website at www.helsbyparish.org.uk/council-documents/ and the review group will aim to meet in September. Provided any modifications to our Neighbourhood Plan are approved by Helsby Parish Council and CWAC agrees the changes, there's no requirement for another referendum and the revised Plan will continue until the next review in 2023.

ALLOTMENTS

It's strawberry season but Tesco can't compete with the taste of the first ones you've grown yourself and picked, warm from the sun, off your own allotment. Give it a go! Helsby Parish Council has two allotment sites, at Old Chester Road and at Queens Drive. Growing your own fruit and veg gives you fresh air, gentle exercise and a healthy diet, to say nothing of the company of fellow allotmentees who are happy to offer friendly advice from their own knowledge and/or experience. Tempted? Then contact the Parish Clerk, Jeanette Hughes, on **01928 726433** or email helsbyparishcouncil@btconnect.com for more info.



RSK TO THE RESCUE!

Helsby Parish Council has negotiated a long term lease with RSK to take on the Eccies building and surrounding land. The plan is to refurbish it to provide much needed office and storage space for what is now a Global company.

RSK has grown hugely since it was set up in Helsby in 1990 and is now an international business with 2300 staff working on projects all over the world.

Did you know that Helsby is RSK's Global Headquarters?

Dr Alan Ryder, Chief Executive of RSK has written an open letter to local residents outlining what is proposed and reassuring them that they intend to be a good neighbour and not cause a nuisance. He has offered all his contact details and invited residents to contact him directly if there are any problems. Many will be delighted to hear of the change of use of the Eccies after years of noisy late night revellers in the past.

It is thought that it will be business as usual for Queens Drive Allotment gardeners and members of the Village Produce Association as there will be special access through a barrier system designed to prevent unwanted strangers taking access at night or at the weekend.

Cllr Chris Ellams, Chairman of the Parish Council is pleased that RSK, who have been looking for additional premises, have agreed to take on the Eccies.

"It is good for Helsby and good for the Company" Cllr Ellams told Helsby News.

Marj Thoburn

Saving the "Best Kept" til Last!

Every year Helsby News intends to publish the winners of the Village "Best Kept" Competition and most years we fail because the awarding ceremony invariably falls just after our Spring publication date! Well not this year!

Here are some of the stars of our village being presented with their 'Best Kept' 1st Place Awards by Cllr George Randles.



Diane Ormrod, JTO Vintage Tea Rooms



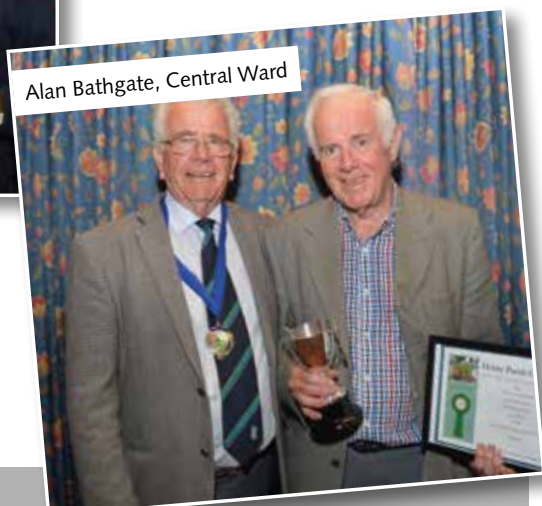
Lynne Warburton, South Ward



Allan Thoburn, Best Planter



Graham O'Reilly, Queens Drive Allotment



Alan Bathgate, Central Ward

Helsby Parish Council

North Ward

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

Central Ward

Michelle Massey 727377
 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