



HELSEBY NEWS

www.helsbynews.net

ISSUE 87 • WINTER 2018

ANOTHER HAPPY HO HO HELSEBY!

For more event photos visit www.hohohelsby.co.uk

Photography: Duncan Cowley, Paul Downey, Lynda Haney and Gary Stevenson.



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A Role for YOU!

Are you someone who takes an interest in local issues?

Do you want to make a Difference?

Have you recently taken early retirement?

There's a role for you as a Parish Councillor. Contact Jeanette, Parish Clerk on 726433

helsbyparishcouncil@btinternet.com

UNBELIEVABLE! YET ANOTHER APPEAL!

Once more there has been another appeal by the Travellers against the injunction to leave the Towers Lane site and once more this has been granted!

At the long awaited October hearing the application for the injunction was challenged by all the occupants on the site and the High Court ordered that both parties, Travellers and CWAC, submit information to the High Court, Queen's Bench Division, for a further hearing.

It now looks as if there will be a four day trial in Manchester and that this will take place after May 7 2019.

Residents may be interested in knowing that Helsby News has been reporting on this saga since 2006 when the travellers first arrived on the Green Belt.



**NEW RUNNING TRACK
ON PARISH FIELD**

HAPPY CHRISTMAS HELSBY!

The Ho Ho Helsby volunteers have had a tough job throughout 2018. How to do better than last year and make sure there was 'something for everyone'?

We got Helsby's first red 'land train' to join the parade alongside the huge Mavis vehicles pulling the beautifully decorated floats, gleaming vintage cars and bikes, all led by a rhythmic samba band, some GIANTS and of course, Santa in his sleigh. The parade was 20 vehicles long this year and was quite a spectacle for all the happy, smiling crowds to see.

The village Christmas Tree, at Queens Drive, twinkled brightly with its star, thanks to Hillside School's help (a big thanks to all who are keeping a watchful eye on it). The Ho Ho Helsby lights marking the borders of the village on

the A56 certainly give a welcoming glow to locals and visitors.

All through the day people skated, sang, danced, posed in a snow globe, twirled in teacups, touched the sky in swing boats, patted reindeer and ponies, chatted to friends old and new and... at the end of the day some even sipped some local Ho Ho Helsbeer@!

So Happy Christmas Helsby and a huge thank you to all of the local people and businesses who supported the event on the day and also donated money, time, apples, tea, coffee, cakes, straw and even electricity, and a special thank you to the hard-working Ho Ho Helsby team. **See you next year: Saturday 7th December, 2019!**

Dianne Walker, Chair, Ho Ho Helsby

Christmas Services At The Churches Of Helsby

HELSBY METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 23rd December

10.30am Carol Service followed by refreshments including mince pies

Monday 24th December – Christmas Eve

4.00pm Christingle Service - The story of the first Christmas with sweets, candles, oranges!

Tuesday 25th December – Christmas Day @ The Hurst, Kingsley

10.00am Christmas Family Celebration



ST PAUL'S CHURCH

Sunday 16th December

6.30pm Carol Service

Monday 24th December – Christmas Eve

4.30pm Christingle and Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Tuesday 25th December – Christmas Day

10.00am Holy Communion with Carols



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AT LAST IT'S SMILES ALL ROUND

Finally, some fabulous news about the redevelopment of Helsby Community Sports Club.

After much anticipation the club's development team, seen here with their thumbs up, are delighted to announce that work will start in the new year on the new site for sporting and social facilities in the village. It will be centrally located off Callendar Drive.

It's been a long time coming. The initial planning consent goes back to 2009. Many have been sceptical that the land swap would ever happen!

Trafford Housing Trust, a profit-for-purpose developer, has agreed to purchase the current site with its dilapidated premises, with outline consent for 120 houses. (Trafford Housing Trust reinvests profits in the provision of more new homes and wider social purpose initiatives).

The monies from this sale provide the necessary funding to build the new sports club. The project will be overseen by the Brookhouse Group who have undertaken to deliver completion of the new facility before the work to build the houses can begin on the clubs existing site.



Building of the new 2 story club house, with modern changing facilities and disability access, will commence in the New Year and when completed, will be a tremendous boost for the range of clubs – tennis, football, running, rugby, fishing, bowls, darts, snooker and more – already operating out of the club.

New facilities will include a 3G football pitch providing teams with a weather-proof option, minimising the risk of cancellations due to bad weather. It is hoped that the new premises will be more attractive to the women's game and the 'walking game' popular with older players. The expanding and successful Rugby Club will be able to use the 3G pitch for training and the planned running track around the pitch will allow Helsby's Running Club to encourage youngsters to take up running without going near the roads.

The 150 strong Tennis Club will have floodlit adult and mini courts built to LTA specifications and the Bowling Section will have two new artificial crown green bowling greens providing all year usage.

The Fishing Club, which has temporarily shut down, is planning a new 36 peg pond

following an intensive survey by RSK and environmental agency approval of a new location.

The new club house will also house much needed social facilities, a bar and a function room.

The Club is extremely grateful to all the members of the Brookhouse team, who for the last 10 years, have worked tirelessly with the Club's Development Team to secure the delivery of this fantastic development which will serve Helsby and the surrounding community for years to come.

The Sports Club's Development Team is continuing to work on obtaining further funding either from a sponsor or grant funding for Phase 3 which is for a full sized sports hall and fitness suite.

It has been a marathon effort. Many would have given up. The Development Team hung on to their vision and remained enthusiastic despite the knockbacks. Helsby News believes they need medals the size of a frying pan for their grit and determination in the face of what must have seemed like endless hurdles over the years.

On behalf of the village and what's to come A Very Big Thank You

Marj Thoburn



Old Chester Road Still Closed

How temporary is a Temporary Road Closure? That's what's puzzling householders who use Old Chester Road. It has now been almost a year and a half!

It seems that the closure will continue until such time as there is an appropriate

agreement between CWaC, Cholmondeley Estates and the owners of a big brick wall about who does what, how and when!

Hard to understand what's so difficult or whether cost is the dead hand.

Marj Thoburn

For Our Tomorrow They Gave Their Today

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, 2018, the folk of Helsby turned out in their hundreds to commemorate Remembrance Day and the 100 years since Armistice Day 1918 and the ending of the First World War.

Rev Greene read out the names of the village fallen of the two wars, a total of 37, and the traditional last post was sounded before the laying of wreaths around the War Memorial and the processing of the congregation into the Church.

St Paul's Church was full to capacity with many listening outside on the steps.

At the end of the service to mark the Armistice the bells of St Paul's were rung and folk were invited to visit the church hall for refreshments and to see the Special WW1 exhibition dedicated to those who had died.

In the evening Helsby's very own Beacon was lit on top of Helsby Hill, joining the hundreds of other beacons across the nation.



Photo credit: Duncan Cowley

At the going down of the Day.
Helsby Remembered Them.



DANCING DANASH "TAKE TO THE STAGE"

Dancers from Helsby based Danash Dance School transformed the community centre into a theatre once again for their show "Take To The Stage". The show included numbers from Sweet Charity, Mary Poppins, The Greatest Showman and hits of the 80's.

Three generations of the Nash family are now involved with the show - Maureen, founder of the Danash School, the show's producer and costume designer, assisted by daughters Bev and Gette who still perform. Bev is choreographer and teaches the dances and granddaughter Molly, aged 5, is now one of the dancing cast.

Scouts Chamboree

Helsby scouts had a once in a lifetime opportunity this summer, when they participated in Cheshire's own scout Jamboree - known as 'Chamboree' - which was held over one week at Tabley. The theme was 'pirates' and there were plenty of opportunities for adventurous activities, with an escape room, quad biking, rifle shooting, BMX biking and even scuba diving on offer

at the camp. As well as two separate programmes of activities each day, the scouts had evening entertainment and competitions. In addition, there was a guest appearance by Bear Grylls during heavy rain on the second day of camp.

The scouts also had a whole day's treasure hunt around Liverpool. They also invited a group of Danish scouts to share cake and play games one evening, a unique opportunity to meet

fellow scouts from around the world. We are now looking forward to the next camp in 2022!





POLICE NEWS

Hi everyone

Just a quick message leading up to the Christmas period. During this time of year there tends to be an increase in burglaries, shed breaks and suspicious activity. This is not to alarm you; it is just to make you aware and to be more vigilant. Please ensure that you, your properties and valuables are secure. If there is anything you feel is suspicious or out of the norm please report it in to 101.

New Base at Helsby High School

I am pleased to report that I now also have a base at the High School, where I am holding weekly required police surgeries for residents to attend if they have any issues they would like to raise. I will still be holding once a month surgeries at the library and the tea rooms. Details will be displayed on posters.

I need to stress that if people are having issues please report it to 101 or

999 if there is an immediate threat to life, and not via social media as this is not monitored 24/7.

If you want to just make me aware of a concern please email me on **john.kopczyk@cheshire.pnn.police.uk** or send a message on the Helsby Police social media accounts.

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and a Happy New year.

PCSO John Kopczyk

Dr Agnew's Retirement Reflections

After 29 years, I am retiring from General Practice in Helsby and Elton. Here are a few thoughts of what it has meant to be a GP in Helsby and Elton.

I graduated as a doctor in Bristol in 1983 and did my GP training in Liverpool qualifying in 1987. I came to Helsby in 1989 having been recruited by Dr Adair at my son Tim's christening at the back of St Paul's Church! Initially I worked as a sessional GP and became a partner in 1992 and have worked in the practice ever since.

When I started Helsby Health Centre was a relatively new building, the practice had moved in the late 70s from surgery in Crosland Terrace. We also did 3 surgeries a week in Elton library, armed with a stethoscope, a sphygmomanometer (BP machine) and a prescription pad!

Back then the two surgeries had 4,500 patients, appointments were 6 minutes long. We now have 9,500 patients between the 2 villages and the surrounding area.

Drs Brook and Smith were both trainers and we had a steady stream of young doctors, with patients willing to share their problems with students and young doctors and welcoming videoing and sitting-in consultations. As a result, we have been lucky enough to have several registrars back as partners. (Dr Gregson, Dr O'Shea and Dr Kumar). Dr O'Shea is our lead for student training, Dr Roy for registrars training to be GPs and Dr Fletcher is taking over the Foundation doctor training when I leave. This is all good for the future of the practice.

In addition to teaching, for 10 years I was our GP with a specialist interest in gynaecology at Halton Hospital. I've always enjoyed gynaecology, family planning and loved doing the baby and postnatal checks. Of course much has changed over the years. GPs now do all the chronic disease management, previously done in hospitals, with the help and support of the wonderful practice nurses. Many people we see have several medical problems, often very complex, and the challenge of



addressing those in a limited time is the hardest one.

I have loved being a GP, seeing the beginning of life and having the privilege of being part of a family at the end of life too. If I had to pick one aspect of general practice to preserve, it would be continuity. It's at the heart of what we do, but also something that is constantly threatened as money goes into extended hours and other services.

I'd like to thank all the staff at Helsby and Elton surgery for their support, patience and dedication, and also to thank all the patients, who've been so kind and taught me so much over the last 29 years.

Dr Elisabeth Agnew

THE HELSBY AND ELTON PRACTICE

Online Facilities to Make Your Life Easier - www.helsbyandeltonpractice.nhs.uk
Helsby and Elton Practice offers a number of useful online facilities through the practice website. You can book appointments to see a GP or a practice nurse, have full access to your medical records or order repeat prescriptions.

Patient Access: Patients can register On-line by clicking on the Patient Access icon on the website. You can also phone the reception team on 01928 723676 or visit the front desk to register an account.

HORN'S MILL 50TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



Horn's Mill Primary School rang with the sound of celebration when more than 300 friends, neighbours, pupils and staff, past and present, came together to mark its 50th birthday. Horn's Mill opened its doors to the first pupils, many of whom were at the event, on 10th September 1968.

Head Teacher Mrs Sharon Wyatt as seen in the photograph opening the event.

The day was full of activities, side stalls and competitions. A time capsule was buried at the front of the school, by Aarifa, Sam and Layla whose letters had been chosen to be buried in the capsule along with local and national newspapers and discs of music and

video which were played on the day.

Horn's Mill Pre School, 35 this year, also joined in the celebrations

All the children, from both schools, were presented with a pen engraved with the schools 50th celebration logo to mark a great day in the history of Horn's Mill school.



BUDDING MUSICIANS AT HILLSIDE

During this Autumn term, Helsby Hillside Primary School's Year 4 pupils have been enjoying learning a musical instrument.

The school raised the funds to buy new pBones and pTrumpets through the Tesco 'Bags of Help' scheme and a grant from Councillor Alan McKie. An exciting afternoon experience included a workshop with Music for Life musicians and a final performance to family and friends. It is hoped that this experience inspires some of them to continue and join the Hillside School Band.

Helsby Village Society Next year's programme is as follows:

Thursday 31st January

A Whistle, a truncheon and a pair of boots by Bill Johnson.

Thursday 28th February

The Russian Caucasus by Peter Llewellyn

Thursday 28th March

The Creation of the Eden Project by Dr Richard Dutton

Thursday 25th April

AGM followed by From the Earth

Cometh Light (the story of the Dream Sculpture) by Gary Conley

£3 per night including tea and biscuit.
Community Centre. 7.30pm

Farewell to Mr Dowler

It is eight years since I wrote an article in Helsby News welcoming 'new' Head Teacher Mr Dowler and here I am now writing a farewell.

Mr Dowler will be retiring at the end of this Autumn Term and I was pleased to take an opportunity to meet with him to reflect on his time at Helsby High.

When we last met Helsby High was in the middle of the process of becoming the local Community School for all of the surrounding villages, including Frodsham, following the closure of their senior school. Hard to remember that now that the young people have integrated so well together.

Working in partnership with others, particularly fellow Head teachers of catchment area Primary Schools, has been a priority and the success of this is evidenced by the co-operative effort put in by pupils and staff to help Primary Year 6 children transition to senior school.

Year by year increases in academic effort is a given and reflected in results.

Mr Dowler is pleased to have seen the High become more involved in the village community, more engaged in village affairs. Leadership, shared responsibility and acceptance of difference are bywords in the culture of a school whose May 2018 Ofsted report commented especially on the leadership of the staff.

So what of life after Helsby High? Mr Dowler plans to spend more time on his favourite sport, sailing, and wants to do a bit of travelling which doesn't restrict him to the school holidays. He may look to explore a part time Education Consultant role assisting other schools in due course.

Mr Dowler told me that he knows he will miss the day to day interaction with staff and students and thanks them for their understanding of his sometimes "dodgy" sense of humour!



He has much valued working with the Governors, the parents and of course the 1000's of young people who have passed through the school and are a credit to their families and to their communities.

A Long and Happy Retirement, Mr Dowler.

Marj Thoburn

ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADORS AT HELSBY HIGH

Following anti-bullying training, led by the Diana Award, a team of Student Ambassadors has formed in Helsby High to promote anti-bullying within the school. All issues associated with bullying were covered on the day including cyber bullying and the young Ambassadors learned of the different ways fellow students can be bullied both offline and online.

The Diana Award trainers emphasised just how vital it is to spot bullying before it becomes a serious issue. Plans have been formulated for

this academic year which it is hoped will make a positive change in Helsby High School.

Ambassadors can be identified by their blue anti-bullying badges. Helsby News was told that the Ambassadors want people to feel free to come up to them at any time if they have any questions about their role or if they wish to report a case of bullying. They are all looking forward to making Helsby High a safer and happier environment in this new year.

The school would like to thank the Frodsham Ladies Circle for their kind donation which has allowed the school to pay for the training.



Helsby Hillside WI has continued with a varied programme since the last issue of Helsby News. Several theatre visits have been undertaken, and the monthly lunch club has been enjoying visits to local restaurants.

Our Sports Section has regular ten-pin



bowling in Cheshire Oaks. Our Craft Classes have been busy preparing for the festive season and made a shabby chic Christmas wreath ring.

Our meeting in November will be Ian Black telling us about 'Hairdressing through the Ages', and we finish the year with Helen Bundy from 'Blood Bikes'.

We have a new programme of events starting in January 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.

MARSHES COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND AWARDS £67,000

The fourth round of awards from the Marshes Community Benefit Fund saw 5 local community projects benefit from the annual £120,000 payment made by Frodsham Windfarm Limited. The successful applicants are:-

- Frodsham Junior Football Club £40,000 towards a 3G pitch at Helsby High School.
- Helsby Hillside School, £7,123 for a running track
- Helsby Parish Council £2,000 for two defibrillators
- Frodsham Castle Park Arts Centre £15,000 for a new elevator

The application process attracted a lot of interest, with twelve applications, totalling just over £238,315, competing for the £67,000 of funding available in this round.

Projects that were not awarded funding in this round may reapply for future rounds. MCBF Panel members will be monitoring the projects as they develop to ensure they meet the objectives and conditions set out in the signed award agreements.

Dianne Walker, Chair of the MCBF, commented that some of the projects from 2017 are now reaching completion, with photographs and



Cllr Ellams receives cheque for defibrillators

reports on their progress available to view on the Marshes Community Benefit Fund web-site, Twitter and Facebook page.

For details of the Fund and information on the application process you can visit the website www.marshescbf.uk applications for the next round of funds will re-open on 1 December 2018 and close on 29 February 2019.



HELSEBY SPORTS



**Essar
Four Villages
Half Marathon**
Sunday 20th January 2019
@ 10.30am



Entries are now open for the popular local Essar Four Villages Half Marathon, organised by Helsby Running Club.

FULL ROAD CLOSURES ON A FANTASTIC ROUTE
WELL SUPPORTED FRIENDLY LOCAL RACE
PRESTIGIOUS COLLECTORS MEDAL & GOODY BAG TO ALL FINISHERS

Only £23 UKA or £25 Non UKA

“Excellent friendly race in fantastic countryside. Very well organised.”

loverunning3, Runner's World.

Enter online at www.helsbyrunningclub.org.uk

Facebook: [FourVillagesHalfMarathon](https://www.facebook.com/FourVillagesHalfMarathon) Twitter: [#4vhm](https://twitter.com/RunHelsby)



Pictures courtesy of Essar and Mick Hall.

2018 - A BUSY YEAR FOR HELSEBY GOLF CLUB POWERED WHEELCHAIR APPEAL!

It has been another busy year for the powered wheelchair appeal, which has been running for the last 35 years and to date has presented 379 powered wheelchairs to local deserving youngsters.

In 2018, we held a Chinese evening in Delamere, a Spring dance, and a couple of golf events at Helsby. Our annual Wheelchair Classic golf match raised an amazing £18,000. 2019 promises to be a big year for the charity – we are hoping to raise additional funds to allow us to present our 400th wheelchair at a Glitz and Glamour Ball at Chester racecourse on 23 November 2019.



Anyone who wishes to support us in fundraising/providing raffle and auction items or attending the ball will be most welcome and for further details, please contact poweredwheelchairappeal@gmail.com

Kathryn Hoether

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