



HELSEBY NEWS

www.helsbynews.net

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Introducing Mr Martin Hill, Helsby High's New Head Teacher

Helsby High School's fine reputation was well known to new head teacher, Martin Hill, long before he was appointed to the post in July last year.

He took up the post in January 2019 and although new to the school Mr Hill knows the local area well, having grown up just outside Chester and having spent his entire career teaching in Cheshire schools. Mr Hill is married and has a son, aged 11. His wife is also a teacher.

Mr Hill told Helsby News "I am very aware of the existing strengths of the school and its well-deserved reputation.

Mr Dowler has left the school in very good heart and I pay tribute to him and the staff's hard work. Already I have seen the potential to build on the current strong position of the school following 2018's exceptionally positive Ofsted report and the very successful GCSE and A-level results."

Mr Hill believes the school and the communities it serves are entitled to expect year on year success. He wants to continue building the effective liaison with the primary schools to support the transition to senior school for 11 year olds and to encourage Helsby High's involvement in local village activities and fundraising.



Pictured here with Mr Hill, are the Year 7 Buddies who will make sure that the 2019 Year 6 primary school pupils will get a good introduction to Helsby High School.

Visits and events are planned throughout the spring and summer term and are designed to enthuse and encourage new students who are joining the school in September. Judging by the positive feedback from last year the Buddies are first class ambassadors for the school and are making it possible for their younger colleagues to make that sometimes daunting transition to senior school life.

Marj Thoburn



Parish Council News

A £2,000 grant from Marshes Community Benefit Fund, has meant that the Parish Council has purchased and installed two brand new defibrillators in two ex-BT telephone boxes.

With help of KDE the defibs are now located in the red telephone box opposite Crescent Drive and the glass phone box outside The Paddock on Alvanley Road (seen here).

For security, both are code operated.

In an emergency situation, phone 999 and the operators should be able to tell where the nearest device is and the code for opening up the casing.



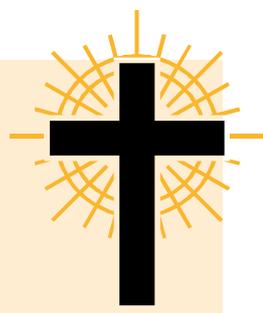
2019 Local Elections – May 2nd

Put May 2nd in your diary as the day you get a chance to vote for Helsby's next Representative on Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Current Councillor Alan McKie is retiring at this election from the role he has held for the past 4 years.

So make sure you make a date with the ballot box on May 2nd.

Easter Church Services



JOINT SERVICES

Lent Lunches - a joint service followed by a simple lunch
3rd April at Helsby Methodist Church
10th April at St Paul's Church Hall

Good Friday April 19th 10am
Worship at Helsby Methodist Church followed by Walk of Witness and Hot Cross Buns at St Paul's Church

ST PAUL'S CHURCH

Palm Sunday April 14th
8am Holy Communion
11am Sung Holy Communion
Blessing of the Palms

Monday April 15th, Tuesday April 16th, Wednesday April 17th, 7.30pm
Compline

Maundy Thursday April 18th, 7.30pm
Sung Holy Communion
The Last Supper

Holy Saturday April 20th, 8pm
The Lighting of the New Fire
Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Easter Day April 21st
The Celebration of the Resurrection
8am Holy Communion
11am Sung Holy Communion

HELSEBY METHODIST CHURCH

Palm Sunday April 14th, 10.30am
Sunday Worship

Maundy Thursday April 18th, 7.30pm
Joint Service at Kingsley, Blakelees Methodist Church

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

Easter Day April 21st, 9.45am
Simple breakfast followed by 10.30am Easter Day Worship



Crocus Burst Out

Wondering about the display of crocus appearing at Maltby Triangle (seen here) and outside Loxley Hall? They have been planted by Frodsham and Helsby Rotary Club to raise awareness of Rotary International's Polio eradication campaign and to brighten the village.

Nice One Rotarians!

Helsby News Editorial Team

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Cubs and Clatterbridge Lego

Along with Helsby Hillside and Hornsmill primary schools, 1st Helsby Scout Group has adopted the Clatterbridge Lego Hospital Appeal for the year.

Back in December, Helsby was the first village to host the Lego model which is being created to raise funds for the new Clatterbridge Hospital. In January, the Cubs and Beavers followed up their initial efforts and held a movie night with tuckshop proceeds going towards the appeal.

Beavers (ably assisted by some of their friends in the Cub section) built some Lego IV lines, beds, chairs, benches and cupboards for the model.

This is just one example of the varied and lively activities in which the Beavers and Scouts take part.

1st Helsby Scouts are desperately seeking new volunteer leaders to replace Judith and Diane, (Falcon and Robin) who after clocking up 39 years between them are stepping down this summer.

Without someone stepping forward to take on the role, Beavers is in danger of closing. If any Helsby News reader would be interested in getting involved, please email our Group Scout Leader – gsl@1sthelsbyscouts.org.uk.

*Judith Potts, Beaver Scout Leader
1st Helsby Scout Group*



For further info on the appeal, please see the Clatterbridge website www.biglegobrickhospital.org.uk/

A UNIQUE PIECE OF MARITIME HISTORY ON OUR DOORSTEP

When passing over the Sutton Weaver Swing Bridge, have you ever wondered about the Steam Tug moored there?

She is The Daniel Adamson affectionately known as "The Danny" built in 1903 and rescued from the scrap yard at the eleventh hour in 2004 for the princely sum of £1.

Since her rescue and with the help of a dedicated band of volunteers, plus funding from the Lottery Heritage Fund, she has been returned to fully working condition including the amazing Art Deco lounge. The Danny

is the only remaining steam tug / tender built on the River Mersey and is ranked 15th on the Historic Ships Register.

The Danny will start river cruises in May but until then she is open to visitors at the weekend, so if you want to find out more about this unique steam ship, have a free tour of the ship and relax with a cup of tea or coffee, please go down and see her.

For more details of the tour and educational packages available please visit www.thedanny.co.uk.

Chris Ellams



Helsby Village Produce Association

The VPA hut will be open on Saturday mornings from 10am to 12 midday starting on 3rd March. Membership is £2 per household per annum (except for those who are already life members.)

At the AGM held on Wednesday the 20th February, it was decided, by unanimous vote, not to hold a plant sale this year. The amount of work involved is quite considerable, especially transporting the plants from the nursery in Dunham on the Hill on Friday afternoons and there aren't enough people who are willing to use their cars etc. and time for that purpose.

The membership of the VPA continues to drop year on year, and there are now only about seventy yearly members and a handful of life members compared to the hundreds we used to have only five years ago. Perhaps it is due to the fact that most people who have a house locally don't have a garden of any size and consequently don't have the need for the products that the VPA provide.

However the VPA still has a good range of gardening items, but with the falling numbers a decision will have to be made later on this year about whether the VPA is to continue or not.

Mike Culverhouse

Firefighters brief the Scouts

On 25th February the firefighters at Ellesmere Port's fire station put 1st Helsby Scouts through their paces to gain their Fire Safety Badges.

The fire crew went through every aspect of fire safety focussing on the home. The Scouts learned a lot about risk and were particularly intrigued when told not to leave their phone chargers plugged in when not in use. After a fascinating visit they all went home determined to discuss fire evacuation plans with their families!

Many thanks were offered to Graham McEnaney and his staff for the time they gave the pack and for helping the scouts achieve their Fire Safety badges.



Liverpool Here We Come. Hopefully!!



The timetable change takes place on Sunday 19th May 2019 and, fingers crossed, will include the introduction of the long-awaited services by new rail operator Transport for Wales over the Halton Curve, after a gap of some 27 years.

On Sundays the first service departs Chester at 0831, Monday to Friday at 0607 and Saturdays at 0604 with a service roughly every hour into the late evening. The last train is expected to leave Liverpool at 2328 on a Friday night and 2220 on a Saturday and should open up opportunities for evenings out in Liverpool.

All trains will call at Chester, Helsby, Frodsham, Runcorn, Liverpool South Parkway and Lime Street. Some

selected services will start and finish at Wrexham General.

North Cheshire Rail User Group will be marking the start of the new service over the Halton Curve with some commemorative giveaways.

Travellers will be pleased that the work on Helsby Footbridge has now finished, after an over-run of several weeks. It should see the structure fit for use for at least another 15 – 20 years.

*Ian Whitley
Publicity and Volunteer Officer
North Cheshire Rail Users Group*

Run Your Own Poppy Appeal

Poppy Appeal Organiser & Volunteer Vacancies
Available throughout Cheshire and we would
love to hear from people especially in Helsby

For more information email
rejones@britishlegion.org.uk
or call 0776 823 8875



JOAN TO RETIRE

Well done Helsby for raising over £16,000 during the last Poppy Appeal.

Our local Poppy Appeal Organiser, Joan Langton, who has done a wonderful job organising the teams of volunteers is stepping down this year. She has been involved with the Poppy Appeal for 25 years, and has served as the Helsby organiser for the last four years. She plans to stay involved and hopes to be of help to a new organiser.

**Thank You Joan. A true un-sung
Helsby Hero!**

POLICE NEWS

Hello everyone,

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as Helsby's new Police Community Support Officer. I am excited to be working within your area and have already felt Helsby's strong sense of community. In my first few weeks I have been lucky enough to meet a few of you and look forward to meeting more of you at community events and on my rounds. I intend to go to as many Parish Council meetings as my shifts will allow.

A lot of people have already asked me if I intend to use this role as a stepping stone to becoming a Police Officer. Let me say, first off, and honestly, that is not currently on my agenda and I see my foreseeable future working within Helsby.

I will be holding weekly police surgeries at Helsby High School, the dates and times of these will be advertised on Facebook, Twitter and on a notice board outside the school. Please come along if you have any concerns or need any advice. Additional surgeries in the middle of the village will continue and be confirmed at a later date.

You should also see me out and about patrolling your area so please feel free to come and say hello.

If you want to make me aware of a concern, not in person, please email me on niall.dudley@cheshire.pnn.police.uk. Please remember that if it is a live issue or a crime has been committed contact 101 or 999 for emergencies.

PCSO Niall Dudley

Our New PCSO, Niall, 25, comes from a family well versed in community work. He graduated from John Moores University having read Journalism but then felt drawn much more to working with people. He took a post with local Cheshire charity 'Save the Family' which provides homes for troubled families and this kindled his interest in community policing.

Niall knows he will never be an office worker; he likes to be out and about meeting people, learning something new every day and hopefully making a difference.



Helsby News says 'Welcome to Helsby'

HELSEBY NEWS NEEDS YOU!



Can you help distribute Helsby News in your street?

We need help just 4 times a year from volunteers who will deliver to their locality. Currently we need volunteers for:

- Chester Road- from Primrose Lane to the Maltby Triangle. 29 copies
- The Paddock (Horse and Jockey site). 23 copies
- Portland Place. 15 copies
- Old Chester Road - top of Crescent Drive to Hale View Road. 15 copies
- Old Chester Road - Hale View Road to Portland Place. 13 copies

If you can help please contact Marj Thoburn on **722304**.

Powered Wheelchair number 383 presented to local boy

The Powered Wheelchair Appeal based at Helsby Golf Club recently presented their 383rd chair at Kingsley St Johns School near Frodsham.

The chair went to 8 year old Zac Owen who was accompanied by his parents and brother Jake. He also has a twin sister Hannah who unfortunately was not able to make the presentation.

Zac also attends Hebden Green Special School and Stick n Step in Runcorn. His fellow pupils and teachers at St Johns School held a "dress down" day and a cake sale and raised £120 for the Powered Wheelchair Appeal. Zac's mum donated £100 and these monies will go towards the fundraising for the next chair to help another local deserving youngster.

Zac and his family are looking forward to the independence his new chair



will bring and thanks to everyone who supports our fundraising. For any information or offers of support for the Appeal, please contact Penny Ainsworth on poweredwheelchairappeal@gmail.com

The photo shows Zac in his new chair with the Captain of Helsby Golf Club Roddy Snedden.

New Officials at the Golf Club

Captain - Roddy Snedden who lives in Frodsham and owns a local electrical contracting company.

Lady Captain - Liz Fudge who lives in Frodsham and is retired.

President - Peter Duffy who lives in Helsby - he is a former Club Captain and is a retired policeman.

Roddy Snedden



Liz Fudge



Peter Duffy



Hillside WI

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

Our meeting in February detailed 'Wildlife in the Garden' whilst in March we were 'Remembering when?' with Rob Mason. April will see us enjoying Carole Codd giving her anecdotes as a Registrar.

The Sports Section is looking forward to the forthcoming bowling season and has continued with Ten-Pin Bowling events throughout the winter.

We have a new programme of events for 2019 and we would like to welcome



new members to our Group. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 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,

Pam Hinkley



NEW HOME FOR THE POST OFFICE

There was alarm and despondency when Christine Wakefield, the sub-postmistress, announced her retirement last summer...yet another shop and a valuable asset going from the village!

But then came news of a new store opening in premises which had been vacant since the Bike Shop closed. 'Thriftys' opened just before Christmas and Area Manager Kelly recalled that when the company was approached regarding the possible re-housing of the Post Office in their store, they were pleased to be able to say yes.

Without a new home Helsby might well have lost its Post Office.

The store opened in early December and they were ready for the Christmas rush. Despite a lot of initial hassle with

internet connections and general start-up hiccups the staff managed to cope and were grateful for the patience and co-operation of the customers and for the help and advice from Christine.

Now it all runs smoothly, like a well-oiled machine, offering all the usual service as previously, like pension payments, banking facilities, returned parcels etc. The shop is open from 7am through to 10pm from Monday to Saturday and 9am to 10pm on Sundays (and this includes the Post Office too).

Good for the village that a home has been found for our Post Office - let's hope that the its future is now secure for years to come.

Barbara Ginty

Helsby OPAL Club now has room for new members

We open every Thursday at Alvanley Village Hall, 10am-2pm and offer a fun day filled with activities, a hot homemade dinner and plenty of tea and chat! Transport can be provided if needed

If you would be interested in joining us, you are over 70 and would welcome the opportunity to get out and socialise more, please contact Zoe Blocksidge, Club Organiser on **07562 619 275**.

ALSO VOLUNTEER DRIVERS URGENTLY REQUIRED

Rural Community Services (West Cheshire), PO Box 161, Whitchurch SY13 9BG. Email: info@opal.org.uk. Rural Community Services (West Cheshire) is a company limited by guarantee; registered charity no. 1143753; registered company no. 7521625. Registered office: 18 Utinton Road, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 0HS. www.opal.org.uk



HELSEBY HILLSIDE SCHOOL COUNCILLORS VISIT PARLIAMENT

On Thursday 10th January the democratically elected school councillors of Helsby Hillside Primary School visited London. As well as seeing the sights, they were given a guided tour of Parliament and had a Q&A session with Mike Aymesbury MP. They also took part in a workshop

entitled 'Laws and Debating' and are now busy reviewing their school's own rules as well as providing a debating competition for the rest of the school to take part in. A fantastic time was had by all including dinner at Nando's before getting the 6pm train home.



New Path to Hornsmill School

Determined to ease the traffic congestion in Denbigh Close and to open a new route to school the staff, school governors and local councillors were delighted to see the New Path opened earlier this year.

This was made possible thanks to a grant to the Hornsmill Pre-school of £20,000 from the Marshes Fund and a further £1000 each from the Running Club, Cllr McKie's CWAC grant and £2000 from the parish council.

"It is already making quite a difference" Cllr McKie told Helsby News. It is thought that more than 50 children used the path on the first day and continue using this safer way to school.

Marj Thoburn



For only the second time in their long history, Helsby FC have reached the final of the prestigious Cheshire County FA Amateur Cup.

Helsby have upset the odds on their journey to the final, beating four sides from higher leagues, most recently Ellesmere Port Town in their 2-1 semi-final victory.

They now face Blacon FC from Chester in the final, which will be played at Vauxhall Motors on Friday 5th April (kick off 7.30pm). All support will be welcome on the night!!

36th Essar Four Villages Half Marathon

1700 runners gathered at the start line at Helsby Community Sports Club to take part in The 36th Essar Four Villages Half Marathon on Sunday 20th January.

The competition amongst local schools to design the race T-shirt, was won by Lucas Sean Seery, 10, from Alvanley Primary School. Grace Martin (Manley) and Olivia Jones (Hillside) were highly commended. As tradition has it the winner, Lucas, and family officially started the race.

This Year, Helsby Running Clubs own Hannah Cowley, seen here, finished in 2nd place in the Woman's field and secured the Woman's Local Trophy. Local MP Mike Amesbury presented

the winning runners with their prizes at Helsby Sports Club after the race.

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

A race as old as the London Marathon our "Helsby 1/2" is such a special race, due to this fantastic community involvement.

Betty Grieve

Photo Credit: Duncan Cowley



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 (Chair)	724409
Patricia Holder	727384
Sam Johnson	722297
Terry O'Neill	723205

South Ward

Peter Duffy	722908
Stuart Hulse	724272
Andy MacPherson	
Alan McKie	890289
George Randles	724775

Clerk

Jeanette Hughes 726433

Parish Office:
200 Chester Road,
Helsby, WA6 0AP