



# HELSEBY NEWS

www.helsbynews.net

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## Helsby goes "GREEN"

Following an extensive leafleting campaign, which left no one in doubt about the seriousness of his intentions, the residents of Helsby went to the polls and voted for Green Party candidate, Paul Bowers, to represent them on Cheshire West and Chester Council. Quite a turnaround which sent Paul to his first Council Meeting on May 21st, the only Green Party member of the Council.

Born in Liverpool but brought up in Chester, he went to school in Hoole and Mollington and has worked in Cheshire most of his adult life. His family had a painting and decorating business of which he was part. Some years ago he left the business to take a more active role in looking after his 3 children, now 16, 13 and 11. Paul is divorced and lives in Tarvin.

He began getting involved with "the Greens" some 6 years ago and was active in the anti-fracking campaign. Before the election Paul had spent time

knocking on Helsby resident's doors to canvass opinion and learn of the issues that concerned them.

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Paul told Helsby News "I'm incredibly proud to have been chosen as your representative on the council, and I'm so grateful for the encouragement and support that I received during the campaign. I will work my very hardest for you, listening and actively responding to the needs of the community."

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Paul does not want to impose Green Party politics on the village and intends to be 'Here for Helsby'. He has felt encouraged by the welcome he has received and intends to hold regular

monthly surgeries on a Saturday and Thursday and to attend Parish Council Meetings as often as possible. He believes he will learn a lot on the hoof as he walks the village and meets the people.

*Marj Thoburn*



## Green jelly fundraiser for McMillan Cancer support

This May Horn's Mill Primary School headteacher Mrs Sharon Wyatt set herself a challenge to spend the entire day (6 hours) in a bath of green jelly and the whole school came out in support with sponsorship, wearing green and a few even chose to jump in with her!

The school raised £1065. It was a fun and crazy green day!

### Helsby News Editorial Team

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## Parish Council News

### CHESHIRE & VE DAY 75 – 8th May 2020

Events up and down the country are being organised to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the end of WW II in Europe.

Helsby Parish Council is considering organising an event but it needs help from local people, schools, churches, community groups and businesses.

The Parish Council will take the lead initially by forming a group of volunteers but we need you to come forward to express a willingness to take part.

Please contact the Parish Clerk on (01928) 726433 or email: [helsbyparishcouncil@btconnect.com](mailto:helsbyparishcouncil@btconnect.com)

*Come and Sing*  
*Community Choir*  
*present*

Friday  
5 July 2019

# Homeward Bound

St. Paul's Church  
Helsby at 7.30pm

with the violinist

Elizabeth Hayes-Lundie

Admission

£6.00 on the door

*Children accompanied by  
an adult are free*

Refreshments available in the interval  
For more information ring 723 327

A summer evening concert inspired by thoughts of home including pieces by Simon & Garfunkel, Karl Jenkins' ethereal *Benedictus*, and JS Bach. The evening concludes with a ten song medley from *Les Misérables*.

## Called Into Question?

In the Spring of 2008 the Parish Council firmly put its support behind the development of the Community Sports Club (CSC) to the tune of a future grant of £100,000. A 'ring fenced' increase in the parish precept at the time, and agreed by the residents for this purpose, was set aside and has accumulated this fund over the last 11 years.

At a packed Parish Council meeting on June 10 the usual public air time of 10 minutes was extended to more than an hour to allow Members of the Community Sports Club and Residents

to express their concerns about a report affecting that promised Parish Council Grant of £100,000.

What had set the cat amongst the pigeons was a report from the Responsible Financial Officer, the Parish Clerk, calling in to question the advisability and risk of providing this Grant in association with a rent free office for the parish council in the new CSC building.

Members of the CSC spoke passionately about the enduring dedication of its project committee who have negotiated tirelessly for 11 years with CWAC, Planners, Land Owners and developers to get the project to its startup stage. Volunteers have kept the club open and operational despite lack of funding

from Vale Royal or CWAC for repairs to facilities. A young man, 18, spoke movingly about the club providing the future sport and healthy lifestyle opportunities for the young folk in the village. Increasing Membership backs its viability.

In the discussion that followed Parish Councillors acknowledged the need to be vigilant in managing grants from the public purse and voted unanimously to honour the provision of the grant, in principle, subject to appropriate leasing contracts for the parish council office.

£100,000 remains ring fenced, a designated fund in the Parish Accounts.

Marj Thoburn



# What is a PPG?

You might well ask. A PPG is a Patient Participation Group. The Helsby and Elton PPG is a small team that supports the Helsby and Elton GP Practice.

The role of the PPG includes,

- Advising the Practice on the patient perspective and providing insight into the quality and responsiveness of the services
- Organising health promotion events
- Supporting the Practice in developing and delivering high quality care that is crucial to meeting the needs of the Practice population

The PPG meets bi monthly. If you would like to know more about what we do or would like to consider joining the group please contact us on [helsbyandelton2@gmail.com](mailto:helsbyandelton2@gmail.com)

## 'Best Kept' In Helsby

At the Annual Parish meeting in April winners of the various "Best Kept" categories were presented with their prizes by Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Chris Ellams.

Seen here are 2 of the First Prize Winners, Dianne Ormrod, Best Xmas Illuminations and for Best Queen's Drive Allotment, Brian Cartwright.



## A COMPROMISE AND A PROMISE

Helsby News reported in Autumn 2018 that after listening to speeches from local councillors, Cheshire West Planning Committee had refused to let Peel off the hook which requires them to build a rail link between the canal berth and mainline rail network before the incinerator became operational. We thought at the time that Peel may appeal the decision and yes, they did.

On 20th March 2019, there was a hearing at Chester Town Hall in which the Planning Inspector listened to arguments from planners on both sides (unlike an enquiry, there were no lawyers involved) and on 3rd May, she issued her decision to allow the appeal.

In a detailed and well-balanced judgement, the Inspector agreed with Peel's argument that the rail link wouldn't be used in the short-to-medium term because the incinerator

would now be smaller than originally planned and the developer could only obtain a waste contract using road transport (with vehicle movements within the number already allowed for the site). However, she also agreed the site had always been intended to use multi-modal transport and emphasised that a key factor in her decision was Peel submitting a legally-binding Unilateral Undertaking to deliver the rail link within 10 years i.e. by 24 April 2029. Finally, she made both parties give her an up-to-date list of all 48 planning conditions and added yet another one which restricts the incinerator to 49MW.

April 2029 is a long way off but some Helsby residents have long memories and will hold Peel to their promise for that rail link!

*Sarah Temple*

## Double Celebration For Helsby Opal Club

Maundy Thursday saw celebrations taking place at Alvanley Village Hall. The Opal club were celebrating their twenty first birthday.

Formed in 1998 under the influence of Grace Johnson, who was appointed to Helsby Health Centre to improve the lot of older people in rural communities, it was taken over by Age Concern (now Age UK) and is now overseen by Rural Community Services. The club met at Springfield (with a short spell at St. Pauls Church Hall) but had to move to Alvanley when Springfield closed. It was a double celebration as the club has been there a year, moving in just before Easter in 2018.

The Ellesmere Port Lions provided a lovely buffet and one of our volunteers made a splendid birthday cake. Old and new friends were invited and spent time chatting to members and recalling times past. Thanks were expressed for all the

hard work that the volunteers do every week and organiser, Zoe Blocksidge, stressed that without the volunteers the club would not be able to function.

Unfortunately we are experiencing problems with transport. We need more drivers as the Dial-a-Ride service is only able to run one bus on a Thursday instead of two. This now means a shorter day for our members.

If you could help drive some of our members to their club, or know of someone who can, Zoe can be contacted on Thursday on **07745 970465** or [zoe.blocksidge@opalsercs.org.uk](mailto:zoe.blocksidge@opalsercs.org.uk)

# Choo Choo welcomes Halton Curve

"The weekend of the 18th & 19th of May saw yet another successful village community event organised by the 'Ho Ho Helsby' volunteers, in partnership with 'Beer Heroes', our local Tap Room.

Warm, dry weather, a selection of local street food, drink & crafts, along with our wealth of local musical talent, gave the Helsby folk and their welcome visitors another memorable opportunity to socialise, whilst raising money for local charitable causes.

The event marked the re-opening of The Halton Curve and the Chester Giants were present again, to give a huge and warm welcome to the first trains of the new service.

Thanks again to all of our Ho Ho Helsby volunteers, the stalls, performers, photographers, Beer Heroes, and of course the attendees for yet another successful community event, putting Helsby on the map!

Please save the date for Ho Ho Helsby on 7 December 2019. Enquiries: HelsbyXmas@gmail.com "

*Dianne Walker, Chair Ho Ho Helsby*



## New Faces



**Although Helsby did not need to hold an election this year, there being no competition for the vacancies, nevertheless we have two new faces on the Parish Council.**

Mags Porter, having lived in the village for 26 years, decided that it was time to stand for the Parish Council as she had been toying with the idea for a number of years. She is well known as a Helsby High School Governor and with her term of office coming to an end in the next year or so she feels she will have the time to get more involved in community affairs.

Many will remember her husband George who served on the Parish Council in the past. Mags is particularly interested in making education provision a priority for the village as it expands and ensuring we cater effectively for our young population. Mags will serve Central Ward. She is seen here with husband George.

Another new face is Mallie Poulton, who lives in Frodsham. Mallie is a former mayor of Frodsham who has elected to stand and serve Helsby's South Ward. He is particularly keen to encourage Helsby and Frodsham businesses to work together to ensure CWAC pay attention to the needs of the 2 villages. Although unable to drive now he intends to walk his ward regularly to hear of residents issues and concerns and to continue fighting for vulnerable people.

Mallie will serve on the Environment and Human Resources Committees.

*Marj Thoburn*



# POLICE NEWS

**I am pleased to report that in my short time in Helsby the village has shown itself to be a strong, safe and welcoming community. I am very pleased to have been assigned here.**

One of the major complaints I have had within the village has been about motorists speeding. I am able to go out with the enforceable TruCam camera at least once a week, schedule permitting, and as such have been able to prosecute speeding drivers.

However I cannot be out there at all times. As such Helsby has a new Community Speed watch group which gives the chance for volunteers, who feel passionate about stopping speeding, the opportunity to go out with a speed device and record the vehicles exceeding the speed limit. This is organised through myself and the local police support volunteer, John Lloyd, so if you would like to know more or want to volunteer please email myself.

With the nice weather returning and the days getting longer people will be spending more time in their gardens. Can I remind everyone to clear tools,

gardening equipment, BBQ's etc. away at the end of the day as these can attract opportunistic burglars during the night.

Remember my police surgeries are posted on social media and the Cheshire Police website so if you have any issues you would like to speak to me in person about please feel free to attend. They are in various locations and on various days and times to try and be suitable for everyone's schedule.

**Niall.dudley@cheshire.pnn.police.uk**



## Third Time in the Chair for Stuart

The new chair of the Parish council for 2019/2020 is an old and familiar hand at the role. Cllr. Stuart Hulse took the Chair of the PC for the third time at the May meeting. He looks forward to supporting a year where Helsby continues to be a nice place to live with residents proud of the way the community comes together to share in the vibrant village activities like Ho Ho Helsby which are proudly organised by volunteers.



## The Next train to Liverpool Lime Street will be in 44 Years..!!

On the morning of 19th May 2019 over thirty years of campaigning came to fruition when the first fair paying passenger train destined for Liverpool Lime Street via the Halton Curve departed from Helsby Station.

The 08:40 service by Transport for Wales signalled the start of the new service that now gives direct access from Chester and some services from Wrexham to the heart of Liverpool.

The new service will operate an hourly service in each direction, stopping at Helsby, Frodsham, Runcorn Main Line, Liverpool South Parkway (for connection to Liverpool Airport) and Liverpool Lime Street. Journey times are around the 45 minute mark.

All credit must go to The North Cheshire Rail Users Group, a small, informed and well-respected group within the rail industry. Their continued efforts to see the line reopened have been rewarded with the re-opening of this 2.4km length of track closed in 1975.

Another new service launched at the same time is the Northern Trains service from Chester to Leeds. This hourly service is a limited stop service for Helsby, so check the time table for services that stop at Helsby. Both new services are a welcome addition to the current Transport For Wales North Wales to Manchester services.

*Chris Ellams*



# HILLSIDE WI NEWS

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

In May we learnt all about 'Holidays in Peru and North America' from Margaret Brooks, In June we will be discussing 'Storytelling' with Elizabeth Morris and in July Mr Dalton Boot will be telling us about his medical work in Cambodia. There will be our annual

outing in August to Llangollen and Oswestry, taking in a horse-drawn canal boat trip and a visit to the Metal Museum.

Theatre visits have also been undertaken to see 'Wicked' and 'Oklahoma'. Several other outings are planned in the future including 'Calendar Girls' in the Autumn.

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

Our Helsby Hillside WI Quiz Team were successful in winning the Cheshire Federation Quiz this year and we have a lovely cup to hold for 12 months.

The Cheshire Show will be held on 18/19th June and several of our members have put in exhibits. This year we will be putting in a Group Exhibit. Good luck to them all.

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.

## Lincoln Court Marathon Challenge!

It's not every day that along comes a suggestion to compete in a marathon – especially for retired gentle folk enjoying their well-earned retirement! So when Rita Stubbs floated the idea to the residents of Lincoln Court in Helsby there were gasps of amazement... run a marathon??? Never!

But Rita went on to explain it would be a combined marathon, walking was encouraged and the event would be spread over 6 weeks! And whilst the objective was to cover a total of 26.2 miles, a full marathon, this was to be a joint effort with all entrants contributing their individual mileage. Slowly the idea took root and by the start date of 6 March, 21 residents had taken on the challenge. Their ages ranged from 70 – 92, with quite mixed mobility, but all were fired up by the challenge and off they went!

Rita was delighted. Some of the residents used walkers and did extra laps of the indoor corridors, some did laps of a 400m track at a local sports field, whilst others ventured further afield, but all made a careful note of the distance they had covered each day, over and above their usual activities.

17 April was the finishing date and over tea and cakes, Rita proudly announced that their combined mileage was equal to 10 marathons! A grand total of 267.4 miles had been clocked up by these amazing plucky residents. They all received medals, presented by David Parry, founder member of the Team

Akobe Marathon Community, which is a non-profit making association dedicated to motivating people to engage in outdoor activities.

Rita said she was delighted with the result, but mainly with the reaction to her suggestion! The enthusiasm with which the residents responded to the challenge was contagious, with much more social contact and outdoor activity. Quite a few participants had surprised themselves, and inspired by their achievement, most are already looking forward to the next challenge! Congratulations to them all, and well done Rita, and yes, she does have another challenge lined up... more about that later!

*Barbara Ginty*



## CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE MINISTER

It's not every day that a school gets congratulated by a Minister of State but recently Head Teacher, Mr Hill, received a letter from Rt. Hon. Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for School Standards expressing delight at the school's GCSE language results.

85% of pupils were entered for a language GCSE in 2018 putting Helsby High in the top 10% of all secondary schools in the country for language teaching.

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**Mr Hill praised all with "Following on from last year's positive Ofsted report, the largest-ever number of Year 7 students joining the school this September and a recent SSAT award for the school recognising its 'Climate for Learning', these accolades highlight the strength and success of the school over the last 12 months and I am delighted to see the hard work of students and staff given the recognition it deserves."**

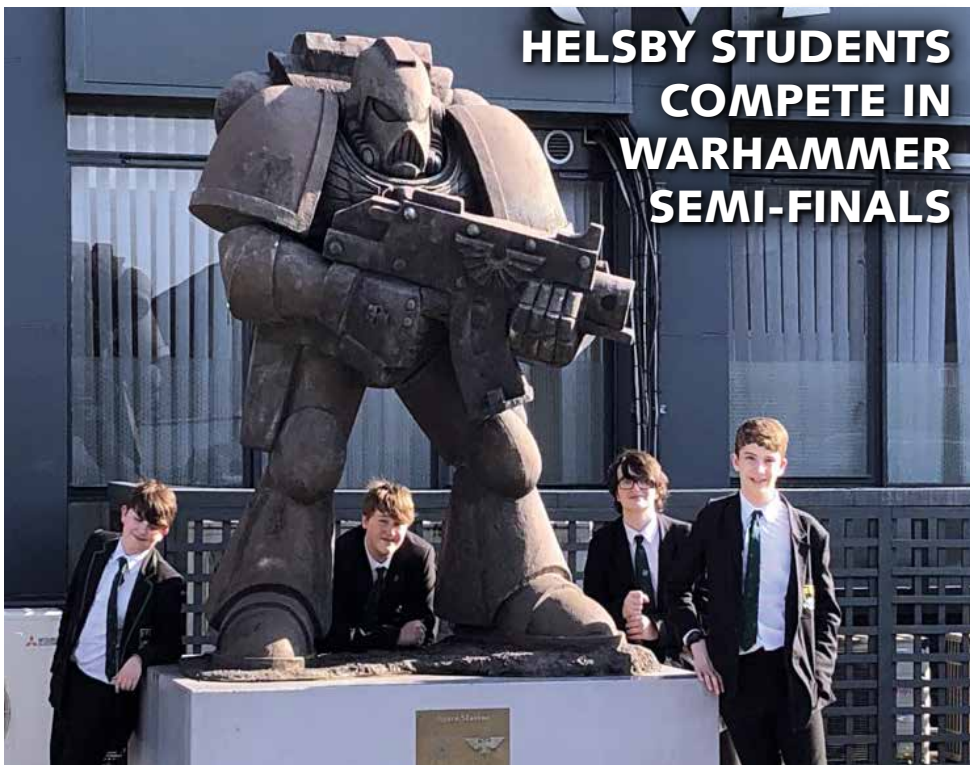
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Encore! Wieder! de Nuevo!

*Marj Thoburn*



## HELBY STUDENTS COMPETE IN WARHAMMER SEMI-FINALS



For the first time from Helsby, 4 students competed as a team which made it through the regional round to participate in the Warhammer 'Kill Team' semi-finals. They performed extremely well and were very supportive of each other, as well as supporting other less experienced students to compete against them as opponents. They achieved a strong score and only narrowly missed out on progressing to the final round!

The semi-finals competition was held at Games Workshop's Warhammer World in Nottingham. They played on gaming tables in a huge hall with 200-300 students from all over the UK. The staff were really friendly and helped the students learn to play better. It was really exciting competing against people from other schools – not knowing how good they were going to be or how they might play.

## Horn's Mill's Got Talent Competition

Back in March we held a talent competition. We had tons of auditions showcasing talents from juggling to jokes, dancing to football skills. The final saw singing lobsters and cake scoffing children.

We had guest judges Alan McKie, a local councillor and Rev Graham Green.

Although the competition was fierce Arlo Parker wowed the judges by singing "A Million Dreams" from the Greatest Showman and became our deserved winner.



## HILLSIDE PRIMARY'S RUNNING TRACK

Following a successful grant application to the Marshes Community Benefit Fund, Helsby Hillside have recently installed a running/walking track around the perimeter of the school grounds. A Grand Opening was held on 28th March, attended by representatives from the MCBF and Helsby Parish Council and Helsby Running Club, who supported the project. The track is 407m long and provides a safe and

accessible running facility for the school children during the school day in PE lessons, cross country club and daily mile activities and will also be accessible to families and members of the local community, outside school hours. It is hoped that the track will help to promote physical activity which in turn will provide benefits to the children's health and mental wellbeing.

## SING-A-LONG AT LOXLEY HALL

In April, as part of their work supporting the local community members of Helsby Hillside sing-a-long club from Y1 and Y2 visited Loxley Hall. The children loved performing and spending time with the residents who really also enjoyed the visit.







## Helsby President scores an ace abroad!

The President and Past Captain of Helsby Golf Club, Peter Duffy, recently scored a hole in one at the Sueno Golf Resort in Belek, Turkey.

Peter was there on holiday with a number of golfing pals from Helsby when he scored the ace on the 4th hole of the Dunes course. The achievement will mean his name will be added to the resort's Hole in One board in the clubhouse.

He was fortunate, though, at not having to foot the traditional bar bill when achieving a hole in one – he was staying in an all inclusive resort!

Well done Peter!



## HELSEBY FC TAKES THE CUP!

Congratulations to Helsby Football Club's first team who won their League cup final against Higher Bebington Kelma FC. 4-0. The game was played at Chester Football Club and Reece Dwyer was man of the match for Helsby!

*Photo credit: Duncan Cowley*



**HELSEBY RUNNING CLUB - IMPROVERS RUN GROUP**  
Every Wednesday, 6.30pm at Helsby Community Sports Club

Can you run for 30 minutes and want to improve or simply run with others? If so, this is the group for you! No matter how slow you are, you won't be left behind. All abilities are catered for.

If you are wanting to join in on a free, friendly and supportive session, then come along to **Helsby Community Sports Club every Wednesday at 6.30pm.**

**Contact Helen at [heowens@me.com](mailto:heowens@me.com) for more information**

### Helsby Parish Council

#### North Ward

Polly Barry	723238
Alan Gardner	722360
Sam Johnson	722297
John Kimpton	724236
Sarah Temple	722181

#### Central Ward

Chris Ellams	724409
Patricia Holder	727384
Michelle Massey	727377
Terry O'Neill	723205
Mags Porter	725080

#### South Ward

Peter Duffy	722908
Stuart Hulse (Chair)	724272
Andy MacPherson	
Mallie Poulton	731817
George Randles	724775

#### Clerk

Jeanette Hughes 726433

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