



# HELSEBY NEWS

www.helsbynews.net

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## A Wartime Footing!

### Locked Down But Definitely Not Out. Something to Celebrate

Did you hear early morning thumping noises in February and wondered what they were?

Helsby Community Sports Club members heard the sound and knew that a longed for Dream was becoming a Reality. A reality that heralded the setting down of the New Club Foundations after Twelve Long Determined Years!

For decades' members of Helsby Community Sports Club have waited for the development of new sports club facilities. In 2005 Vale Royal Borough Council bought the club from the BICC preserving a valuable recreational centre for the area. But as we all know there is no such thing as a free lunch and it soon became apparent that the club building was beyond economical repair and it was necessary to form a team to explore the possible redevelopment of the club.

The Brookhouse Group, who owned the old BICC site, suggested a land swap and relocation of the club. Plans were prepared which included housing the Parish Office in the club. Public consultations took place with 96% of those attending approving the scheme. However, as is ever the way with ambitious projects, funding proved difficult. The Sports club applied to the Parish Council for a grant of £200,000. In the event the council agreed to ring fence a small part of the annual precept to form a resident's fund of £100,000 and this has been accruing over the last 12 years.

Years of submitting and resubmitting plans have followed. Alongside these, complicated and protracted negotiations with developers, CWAC and the club took place until eventually, in March 2018, agreement was finally reached to have a 3 phase delivery plan which facilitated the building of the new club and the land swap.

It is hoped that phases 1 and 2 will be



completed by the end of September 2020 (weather permitting) and will provide a 3G football pitch, 2 artificial bowling greens, 4 full size tennis courts, a brand new building with modern changing facilities, a kitchen, sports bar and function rooms available for community hire.

Brookhouse is funding the new build by the land swap and the sale of the present club site to Trafford Housing Trust who have planning permission for 118 houses. Once the build is complete the club will vacate the existing facility and move to its new home.

The club's development team are very grateful to Brookhouse for their support and their willingness to stay with the project throughout the years it has taken to secure this fantastic facility. It will serve Helsby and the surrounding community for generations to come.

The team are continuing to work on obtaining funding from either a sponsor or by grant funding for phase 3 which is for the planned delivery of a full sized Sports Hall, fitness suite and additional changing rooms.

But for now it is time to celebrate and congratulate all those involved. Determined and dedicated folk who never gave up on the Dream.

*Marj Thoburn*



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## Parish Council News

### New Parish Councillor

The Parish Council have co-opted Michael Branigan of Woodford Close as new Parish Councillor for South Ward.

### Objection to Plans

A planning application to build 247 houses on Honeywell site has been objected to by Helsby Parish Council.

## Never Been an Easter Like It

For the first time ever and for the foreseeable future there are to be no church services throughout the land this Easter.

When everything seems to be affected by the Coronavirus it seems vitally important that we stay connected to our neighbours even if in reality we cannot touch them!

Helsby is well known for its Community Spirit, its coming together at times like Ho Ho at Christmas. We have a lot of experience of pulling together.

All over the village Neighbours are looking out for Neighbours, checking up on older folk, walking dogs, bringing milk and shopping. It's what we are good at, have been for generations.

There can be no doubt in any of our minds that this is going to be a tough

year for everyone, young and old, financially, physically and emotionally.

Never daunted, Helsby churches, St Pauls and Helsby Methodist are looking at ways to help parishioners help each other and keep the faith when there are no services.

Others are set to keep in touch using the benefits of the digital age, Facebook, FaceTime, mobile phones, on-line groups, TV and the internet. It will all help to get the village through these abnormal times. Not everyone is on-line, of course, but we can be there for each other.

This Coronavirus may have deprived us of a VE Day celebration but not of the war time spirit that many in the village remember seeing us through the last threat to the Nation in 1939.

*Marj Thoburn*

### A Loo Roll Angel

A loo roll angel tied this plastic bag and a message to the postbox in the centre of the village.

It was there for hours and was not taken! Good on them that put it there and good on folk for leaving it there for those who might need it.

*David Temple*

### CAN YOU HELP OUR PATIENT PARTICIPANT GROUPS?

Helsby and Frodsham practices are hoping to develop a comprehensive list of non-statutory, support and wellness services that are available to our local care community. We know there are some amazing services and facilities already. Opal, relaxation groups, pilates, but are there others doing fantastic work but only known to a few?

If you know of or run a service or group and would like to have it included in the local database please let us know by emailing the addresses below:

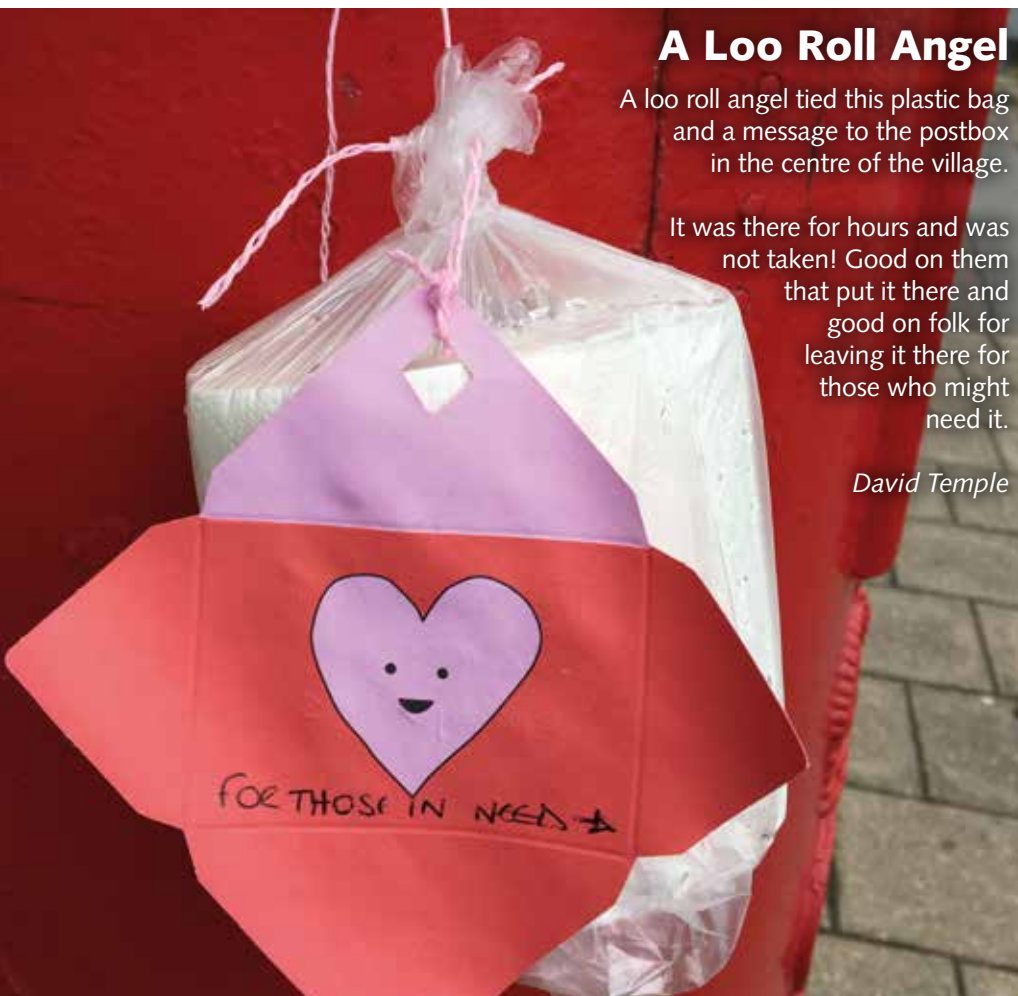
[helsbyandeltonppg2@gmail.com](mailto:helsbyandeltonppg2@gmail.com)  
[theknollppg@gmail.com](mailto:theknollppg@gmail.com)

### Locked Down at Home? More Gardening?

The Village Produce Association Hut is staying open on Saturday mornings, 10am until noon.

### Where is it?

Off Mountain View, next to RSK site which used to be the Eccies.



# Over £2000 raised by Helsby Scouts for Clatterbridge

1st Helsby Scouts have been busy supporting the Clatterbridge Cancer Centre by building lego models that will be placed on the model of the new Centre which is relocating from the Wirral to Liverpool.

1st Helsby Scouts provides a varied programme of skills for life to around 100 children and young people from Helsby and the surrounding areas and is continually on the look out to recruit adult volunteers in a range of different roles. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact our Group Scout Leader at [Judith.potts@1sthelsbyscouts.org.uk](mailto:Judith.potts@1sthelsbyscouts.org.uk)



# CF Fertilisers wins Safety Award

CF Fertilisers, the local Ince-based manufacturing site for international fertiliser producer, CF Industries, has achieved global recognition for innovation in safety by winning the company's Stephen R. Wilson Award for Excellence in Safety.

Each year, CF's nine manufacturing complexes and distribution facilities submit nominations for the Wilson Award based on safety innovations and improvements generated by employees and transferable to all CF Global sites.

Two local electrical engineers Leigh Williams and Luke Simpson, part of the Ince CF team, designed the site's winning submission; an extremely effective 'trapped-key' interlock system that keeps their electrical workers safe when working with high voltage electricity.

Pictured here are David Hopkins, CF UK Managing Director, Stephen Elliott, Chief Executive of Chemical Industries Association (CIA), local councillors and MPs celebrating the achievement.



## UP UP AND AWAY

We are all aware of how quickly technology changes, almost on a daily basis. This you may think is the same for the aviation industry. While aircraft design has moved with this fast pace producing much quieter and more fuel-efficient designs, the air traffic control systems still run on 1960 technology. The current system relies on a series of ground-based radio beacons and VHF radio communications.

The CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) are who responsible for aircraft movements are consulting on the future introduction of a satellite GPS system to improve the

routing of aircraft. The new system will alleviate the need to hold aircraft in a circling pattern waiting for landing slots or moving to different flight levels.

The CAA would like to hear the views of residents in the area near airports. Details can be found at the following link <https://airspacechange.caa.co.uk> This process is underway at both Liverpool and Manchester. Please take time to visit the CAA portal to understand how these changes may affect flight paths in our region.

*Chris Ellams*



**At last!**

It seems that at last the end of the road closure is in sight and the bridge over the Old Chester Road is being replaced.

Work demolishing the existing bridge started in February and it is being replaced with one that has a reinforced concrete deck. The bridge position will be altered to give more headroom.

The Contractors say the slow progress has been caused by the protracted planning process and the rebuilding of the retaining wall. All of which they state have been beyond their control. Not much of a consolation for the inconvenienced residents of Helsby?

*Marj Thoburn*

## CONSERVATION AREA CONSULTATION

A designated Conservation Area has been proposed to help preserve Helsby's distinctive character derived from its landscape, history and buildings. A draft document is being put together and will be available to be viewed at Helsby Library during normal opening hours for 6 weeks from 1st June- 11th July, where your views will be welcomed on the questionnaires provided.

*Sue Lorimer*

## Halton Curve Award

**What better way to celebrate North Cheshire Rail Users Group 30th Anniversary year than to start it with an award for what the local railway group originally set out to do and that was to restore services over the Halton Curve to Liverpool after 44 years!**

The Annual awards took place in January and the Group received the John Hobbs Award. It is a fitting award and a tribute to a well-respected member of the NCRUG team who did so much to see services restored to the line. The group were incredibly proud and humbled to

receive this award in his name. John passed away before the curve reopened but he knew the campaign had been successful and services were returning. He leaves a wonderful legacy behind for future generations to enjoy as the new Liverpool service continues to grow in popularity.

Seen here, in the centre of the picture are John's widow, Kathleen and Mark Messham, Transport for Wales along with public dignitaries from Runcorn and Frodsham.

*Ian Whitley, NCRUG*

**HELSEBY VILLAGE SOCIETY AND HILLSIDE WI NEWS**

The outbreak of the Coronavirus has necessitated the cancelling of the remaining meetings until further notice.

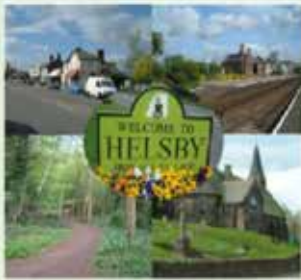
It is hoped they will restart in the Autumn.



## HELSEBY PARISH PATHS

Newly Updated

HELSEBY, ALVANLEY and parts of MANLEY



Sponsored by, The Helsby Parish Council and The Helsby Footpaths Society

Funded with a generous grant awarded By Tesco's Bags For Life

£ 1.50



To be sold in the Library and JTO Bank Tea Rooms

# Introducing PCSO Lauren Davies

Unlike some of our past officers, who tended to be new to the job, Lauren Davies is an old hand. She has been a Police Community Support Officer for 5 years, previously station in Saughall and Handbridge. At 25 she brings a lot of experience of community work and is particularly interested in developing productive relations with our village young folk and to making regular contact with the different groups and individuals in the village.

Born in Birkenhead, educated at Wirral Grammar and reading Psychology at university Lauren is also a keen footballer. She has played for Tranmere Rovers Ladies FC since she was 10 and still plays for the First team. Lauren also has a Football Coaching Badge and is instrumental in organising Cheshire Police's Cage football events for this part of the county. She helps develop the 15-18 year old Chester Police Cadets and encourages their volunteering activities.

Lauren sees her role quite clearly. There is an energy and enthusiasm about her that is a delight to see. She hopes to be as responsive, visible and supportive as possible. She is realistic about how tall an order that might well be in a two-mile-long linear village like Helsby.

Lauren told Helsby News "These first few weeks have been a very positive and happy experience and I am grateful for the welcome I have already had from residents and businesses. I am really pleased to be posted here."

You are very welcome Lauren and we look forward to seeing you out and about in the village.

Marj Thoburn

## POLICE NEWS

Hello all,

Firstly I would like to introduce myself as the new PCSO for Helsby. I have been a PCSO for 5 years and have moved over from covering Handbridge. Thank you all so much for making me feel welcome in my first couple of months covering this ward area. I am slowly getting to know the area and the people who make this area so fantastic. I am always keen to get involved in different community groups, as this is a great way to settle into the community.

During my first few weeks the main issues raised to me were both parking and speeding. As a result, I have carried out a number of deployments with the speed gun. A number of motorists have been dealt with by our central ticket office for excess speed. I will continue to listen to residents' who raise different locations as a point of concern. Myself and Parish Counsellors have this week met with Highways to discuss parking within the village. We will continue to work together to improve the parking situation in the village.

Last week we successfully held our first youth engagement event in Helsby this year. I would like to thank the scouts

for allowing us to use the scout hut at short notice for this event due to bad weather. We will be planning more events for the school holidays so please keep up to date on Helsby Police Facebook and Twitter.

One event of note in the next few weeks – Free Bike Marking event Helsby High School – Saturday 4th April



# Bumper year for Helsby GC Powered Wheelchair Appeal - £66,000 raised and 400th chair presented!

2019 was a hectic year of fundraising for the Powered Wheelchair Appeal based at Helsby Golf Club and this resulted in a fantastic £66,000 being raised and the presentation of the 400th wheelchair!

To celebrate the milestone, a celebration "Glitz and Glamour" evening was held at Chester Racecourse. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of 5 powered wheelchairs to five delighted youngsters.

The Appeal was thrilled to welcome special guests on the night – actors Alison Steadman, Michael Elwyn and Emma Cuniffe and also England Ladies cricketer Sophie Ecclestone. Representing Helsby GC were Captain Roddy Snedden and President Peter Duffy.



Photo by Simon Warburton

The Organisers would like to pass on huge thanks to all the sponsors and supporters for being so generous with their time, donations and money, and a fantastic sum of £15,340 was raised on the night – Many thanks to all!

## RETIREMENT FOR JEANETTE

Retiring Parish Clerk, Jeanette Hughes, was recently given a fond farewell party at Helsby Golf club to mark her 18-year service to Helsby Parish Council.

Jeanette became Parish Clerk in 2002 and for the first 9 years worked from home in Alvanley until the Parish Office was opened in 2011. Working in the community made a big difference to Jeanette and she felt more able to keep a 'clerk's eye' on things that mattered in the village. A pivotal role in any small village. She has worked with 10 different Parish Council Chairman and clerked almost 1000 meetings.

Jeanette has seen so many changes in her time..... the small industry development of the old BICC site, the opening of Tesco, the disappearance of pubs and the arrival of new housing not to mention the ever improving Xmas lights in which she takes much pride and the annual HO HO parade which highlights Helsby's public profile.



*"The job has always been challenging" Jeanette told Helsby News. "In the early days everything was paper based, and of course now it is all computer systems, emails and planning applications. I am very proud of the village. It has been a pleasure to be part of the growth of Helsby over these past years. I shall miss it."*

Jeanette has ideas about how she might spend her time and has booked a flower arranging course and wants to get into exploring her ancestry. Husband Bob and her two daughters are looking forward to seeing more of her as she settles into her retirement.

**Helsby says a Big Thank You, Jeanette.**

Marj Thoburn

## RADIO CHESTER 103

During January, Horn's Mill Primary School hit the airwaves every day for a week at 3.30pm on Chester's Dee 103 radio station. The school was nominated by a parent for their hard work and dedication in supporting their child with their learning. Two children from each class were chosen to talk about what they enjoy most about school life. The radio station also heard from Mrs Sharon Wyatt the head teacher on why Horn's Mill Primary School is worth celebrating! The Horn's Mill song was played and uploaded to the Dee 103 website for parents and viewers to enjoy.



## Helsby Hillside Through to the Finals

Helsby Hillside is justifiably proud of its Basketball and Netball teams (seen here).

The teams took part in February's Frodsham and Village School Partnership Tournaments and both won through to represent the FAVSP at the area Finals in March.

**What fabulous talent!**



## HORN'S MILL'S QUIZ KIDS

A very well done to our Team Six super mathematicians who came in 2nd place in the primary maths quiz. Mathematicians from around the local area came together at Helsby High School for a fast-paced maths quiz. Much to our delight and testament to each child's mathematical ability we got a well-deserved 2nd place ... Finals here we come!!

## Helsby High's Outstanding Sixth Form Success

On Thursday 23rd January the Department for Education published their Post-16 Performance Tables, showing the summer 2019 examination results in different schools and colleges across the country.

These 'league tables' show just how well last year's Year 13 students did in Helsby's Sixth Form.

- An average grade of 'B-', the highest grade achieved by any state school Sixth Form in Cheshire West and Chester.
- An average 'best 3 A-Levels' grade of 'B-', a figure only exceeded by 3 independent school Sixth Forms in the Local Authority.



Helsby High School's Director of Sixth Form, Ian Duffell commented: "We knew in the summer how well last year's Year 13 students did - it was evident in the joy on their faces on

*A-Level Results Day. It is very pleasing to see their results recognised nationally in these Performance Tables."*



# HELSEBY SPORTS

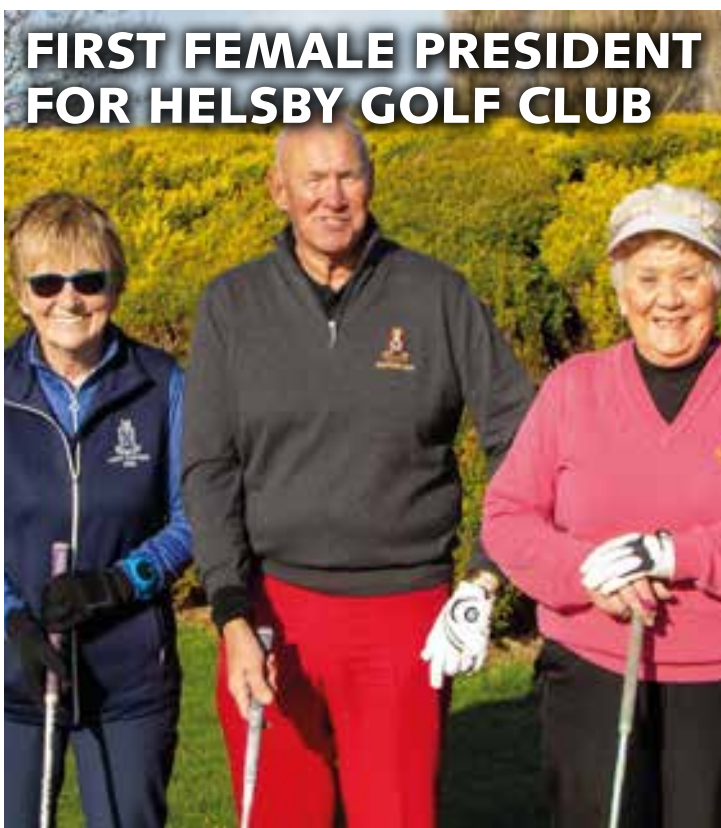
On a crisp wintery day, the new officials at Helsby Golf Club took part in the annual Club Drive In competition.

Captain Chris Stubbs from Kingsley, Lady Captain Chris Marsden from Chester and President Kathleen Wilkinson from Ellesmere Port were delighted to hit drives more or less down the middle of the fairway in the traditional start to their year in office!

Captain Chris Stubbs has been a member at Helsby for 39 years and Lady Captain Chris Marsden joined Helsby 6 years ago.

The Club's first Lady President Kathleen Wilkinson has been a member for more than 50 years. Her family has strong links to the club: her husband is a past Captain, daughter Julia came through the junior ranks and her mother was a Past Lady Captain.

The chosen charities for the year are - for the Captain, Claire House Hospice and for the Lady Captain, The Neurotherapy Centre in Saltney Chester. Both will be raising money for these very worthwhile charities with a variety of events planned throughout the year.



## Helsby Parish Council

### North Ward

Polly Barry	723238
Alan Gardner	722360
Vacancy	
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 (Chair)	722908
Michael Branigan	
Vacancy	
Vacancy	
Vacancy	

### Clerk

Interim Clerk 726433

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