



Rainbow Helsby

Overnight in the middle of March rainbows appeared in windows of homes across Helsby. Magically they kept appearing in all sorts of places as the grown-ups joined the kids in saying thank you and supporting the staff of the National Health Service.

This issue of Helsby News seeks to recognise the sense of community that the Lockdown has brought to our village with everyone helping others not able to get out.

Children, home schooled by Mum and Dad, spending more time together and maybe even teaching Mum and Dad a thing or two. And Helsby's dogs have never been so exercised!

So here we are - a Rainbow Village.



WELCOME TO CLAIRE



There could never be a more challenging time to start a new job than the one that newly appointed Parish Clerk, Claire Jones, faced when she took up the post on 20 April 2020.

regular meetings and committees had to be cancelled and new ways of communicating and decision making had to be found.

Helsby Parish business had to be re-organised around Zoom meetings with something of a sharp learning curve for most.

But undaunted Claire was able to draw on her experience of working in local government and community development to settle into the role. Her previous job working for Cheshire Community Action as parish community buildings adviser and grant funding officer stands her in good stead and bodes well for Helsby.

Claire feels very familiar with Helsby and the local area. She is a former Kingsley parish councillor and lives in that village with husband Martin and her nine-year-old daughter who will start at Helsby High next year. Martin is a member of Helsby Golf Club and Claire's sister lives in Helsby so there is a natural gravitation to our village!

Despite these uncertain times Claire feels excited by the challenge of being Helsby's Parish Clerk and is looking forward to getting stuck into supporting some community projects and initiatives.

The residents will look forward to getting to know you. **Welcome Claire!**

Marj Thoburn

The world had locked down, Covid-19 ruled, and she couldn't even meet her Parish Councillors face to face. All

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Locked Down but not Shut Down

For a lot of folk "Adapt and Innovate" has become the watchword during these trying and traumatic times. Never more so than in our churches.

St Paul's has gone online. A Church service video is sent out using a WhatsApp group, an Email Group, Facebook and the church website. This has allowed the congregation to support each other and express their faith even though they can't meet in church.

Rev Green told Helsby News *"The Church Family also ring each other up to keep in touch. The Mother's Union has been busy supporting frontline staff at Warrington Hospital by making scrub bags and headbands as well as toiletry bags and rainbow hand puppets for children."*

The scrub bags are used to enable NHS staff to take off uniforms after a day's shift, put in the bag to go straight into their washing machines when they get home,

The headbands help against the chafing on the neck of the plastic shields.

It's also been possible to make five deliveries to the Ellesmere Foodbank since the lockdown thanks to the folk of Vicarage Lane.

Locked Down Yes, but shut down Never!

Your Parish Council needs you!

Are you happy with the way Helsby is changing? New housing developments? The development of the new sports and social club? Improved rail links? If you are and would like to be a part of this and help shape how Helsby looks in the future, then becoming a Parish Councillor may help you to achieve these goals.

Helsby Parish is made up of three wards North, Central and South Wards. Each ward has five councillors. We meet once a month to hold a full council meeting, but have various committees to cover all aspects of village life from environment, parks and cemeteries to health and safety and the council's finances. We also have a human resource committee to look after the welfare of the full and part time staff who work for the parish council.

Due to retirements and resignations from the parish council we now have vacancies for four new parish councillors. Whilst this voluntary post may seem a little daunting it is a valuable asset for the village in continuing to improve Helsby as a place to live and work. Full training is given when you join, and you will be

joining a friendly and passionate group whose aim is to see Helsby prosper in the years to come.

So if you feel you have the qualities and a passion to help, and have some time to spare, don't be shy, don't think your views don't matter they do, and we want you to be a part of a parish council who will drive forward these ideas. For details of what the role of a parish councillor is and for more information please contact our Parish Clerk Claire Jones. She can be contacted by phone on 01928 726433 or by email at parishclerk@helsbyparish.org.uk

Councillor Chris Ellams



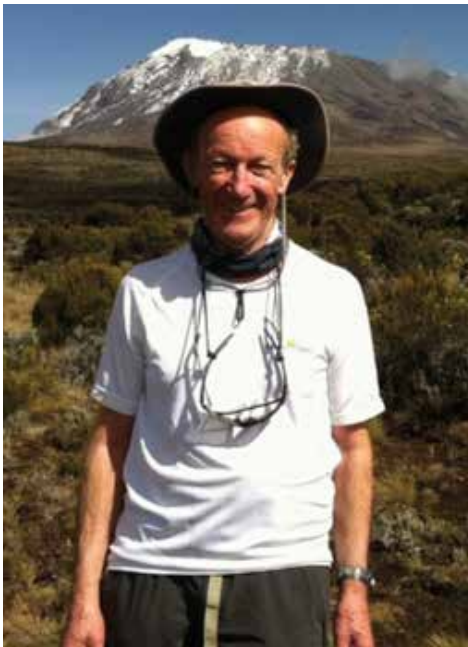
Flourishing Allotments

Nothing holds back the growing season



Read the Chairman's Annual Report here www.helsbyparish.org.uk

EVEREST – MARCH 2021 FOR IZZY



In 2012 the then 70 yr old Alan McKie, former Borough and Helsby Parish Councillor, made his second successful sponsored climb of Mount Kilimanjaro. Now approaching 80, next year he is taking on another Challenge. Together with his grandson, Matt Galley, they will reach Everest base camp in an attempt to raise £10,000 for Claire House Children's Hospice. Naturally they will be looking for sponsoring.

Alan told Helsby News, *“Matt and I decided that together we could do something to support Claire House at a time when all*

charities are being affected by the Covid-19 shut down and will be short of funds to provide their valuable and freely offered services”.

Claire House was involved in the care of Izzy McEgan, Alan's niece, who died in May at the age of 19 after a year-long battle with cancer and it feels like a way to say Thank You.

To add to the fund raising total contact www.justgiving.com/fundraising/matt-and-alan

A Modern Sleek Beauty Emerges

Helsby Community Sports Club is starting to emerge from the ground up as a modern sleek beauty, in one of the most important and transformative years in the club's history.

A socially distanced walk past the site on Calendar Way will give you an indication of the phenomenal progress that's being made each week and what a fantastic up to date facility is coming to Helsby this autumn.

During the lockdown period work has continued on the site of the new facility. Strict social distancing has been a priority throughout and the great weather has helped though the availability of both materials and construction workers did affect progress on the new build.

The activity is spread across the site where the work is proceeding on the construction of the 3G pitch, the 2 artificial bowling greens and the 4 tennis courts.

The club has followed strict government and sporting body guidelines to keep our community safe and that has meant that the club has closed, however we have been incredibly busy behind the scenes.

In addition to all the planning for the new facility our sections have been doing their bit to support our community. The cycling section raised an incredible

£1927.32 taking part in the 2.6 challenge. 11 members of the club rode 26 miles each, the distance from Helsby to Perth Scotland with money donated to the Countess of Chester hospital.

Our tennis section has ensured that the courts were prepared safely, accessibly and followed every social distancing guideline to allow tennis to be played in family groups or singles at existing Helsby and Frodsham courts. Your chance to exercise safely outdoors in the glorious summer weather.

When the site opens later in the year all facilities will be accessible by the public. If you or your team wish to show an expression of interest in hiring the pitches, bowls green or courts or you are considering a party or event then please

do contact us on 07936 306066. You can follow progress on our facebook page or our website www.helsbysports.co.uk.

If you'd like to support us now and join as a community member you will reap a range of benefits later in the year. Its £20 for an adult, £15 concession, £30 for a family and £20 for single parent family. While we are finalizing our booking system we are using the tennis clubspark site for remote bookings to ensure remote payment to the club is possible. Simply choose your category which are listed after the tennis ones.

Stay safe and enjoy the progress for your sporting future.

Jo Ellis





Baking Isn't Hard

Helsby resident Kay Warren has posted baking recipes to local Facebook sites daily, during lockdown. Her slogan "Adapt and Succeed" is certainly demonstrated in her Facebook posts where she not only offers recipes and baking tips but suggests substitutions for shortages and even has recipes showing you how to use up what's in your fridge to make tonight's tea!

Kay has received many comments requesting a lock down recipe page! So for users of Facebook head over to Baking isn't hard:
www.facebook.com/bakingisnthard/

Here is Kay with her dog Dobby, a canine concern dog who visits the residents of Loxley Hall and other care homes.



Protos Progress and Plans

It's now over 10 years since Peel obtained planning permissions for an incinerator and a resource recovery park on the marshes near Ince. So what's happened since then and what's going on now? "Phase 1" infrastructure to create and modify roads has been completed, a biomass plant generating 20MW electricity from waste wood finally became operational last year, a timber recycling unit is in full swing and two ecology areas have been created. These nature areas are managed by Cheshire Wildlife Trust and one is open to the public with a short walking trail. During all that, the quality of our local air has been monitored by a station near RSK at Mountain View to meet planning conditions requested by the Parish Council. A year of "baseline" data was collected before the biomass plant started. Monitoring resumed in July last year, shortly after the plant became operational, and a similar "before and after" program is required for the Energy From Waste (EfW) incinerator.

And what's happening now? The coronavirus crisis means that although CWAC have granted planning permissions for new facilities, timescales for anything taking shape on the ground are uncertain. Construction of the 49MW EfW plant, to be operated by Covanta, was supposed to start this year when the financial deal was closed but they have requested the planning permission is extended to March 2021. Plans by the British Geological Survey for an underground

"GeoEnergy Observatory" were approved in July last year. There are 9 boreholes due to be created on Protos land, out of the 50 across Cheshire, but no news on when. In November last year, CWAC approved plans by Progressive Energy for a plant to produce BioSNG (BioSubstitute Natural Gas) from waste wood or refuse-derived fuel. However a final design and decision on that £150 million investment isn't due until end 2020. And just before coronavirus changed everything, on 3rd March CWAC approved plans by Waste2Tricity for a facility to produce hydrogen from unrecyclable plastic, using innovative technology developed by University of Chester.

So much for the technology, what's in it for Helsby residents? Helsby Tennis Club and Horn's Mill Primary School have already benefited from the Protos Community Benefit Fund (CBF). Last year the fund donated £30,000 to various local small projects, and other Helsby-based projects are currently in the pipeline. The 2020 fund was increased to £40,000 and the CBF panel is continuing to review new applications, albeit by Zoom and not in person.

**So if your organisation has a good idea but no cash, and you finally have some spare time, check out the details at www.protos.co.uk/community/
 The system is simple and quick - and it's first come, first served!**

Sarah Temple

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 has been delayed due to the epidemic but it is hoped that it will be available for viewing at Helsby Library from 1st September to 10th October, where your comments

will be welcomed on the questionnaires provided. However if the library remains closed due to the current situation, please refer to the Parish Council website for an update.

Sue Lorimer

STOP PRESS!

National Pageant Master, Bruno Peek, announces the format for the VJ Day commemorations on August 15 2020. Victory Over Japan Day marked the final end of WW2. Those who fought in the Far East can feel that they are the Forgotten Army with the prominence given to VE Day. To ensure they are not forgotten go to www.battlesover.org/vjday75 to see what is being proposed.

Betty Grieve

A NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR FOR SOUTH WARD



Introducing Michael Branigan, newly co-opted Parish Councillor for Helsby's South Ward.

Mike has lived in the area since 1983 and moved to Helsby 3 years ago when he and his wife Pauline decided to downsize from the family home in Elton where they had raised four daughters.

Two of his daughters live in Helsby themselves and the other two are nearby in Elton and Runcorn.

A retired chemical industry production manager Mike found he had plenty of time on his hands and felt he wanted to make a contribution to the community he lives in. The vacancy on the Parish Council seemed the ideal opportunity

to "put something back" Mike told Helsby News. Mike sees himself as not having any particular axe to grind but is particularly interested in developing facilities and resources for the young people of the village as it continues to expand.

He intends to take time to get to know the workings of the PC meetings and feels it will take a good 6 months to get the hang of things. Joining just as the lockdown kicked in has, of course, hampered this process for Mike for he is having to meet his fellow councillors by Zoom for the moment.

An interesting introduction!

Marj Thoburn

DISPUTE OVER

The ownership of Harmers Wood has been in dispute for more than five years, culminating in the High Court in Liverpool and costing thousands of pounds. On 18th March 2020 Judge Deane issued that the claimant's claim be dismissed and the claimant to pay the defendant's costs. This meant that we had won the case.

After many visits and correspondence with the bank and eventually submitting a complaint to the Ombudsman, we were awarded control of the bank account. At this point, the bank admitted that everything on the Harmers Wood accounts was, and had been, in order and no money had ever been missing from the accounts. Detailed examination of the accounts, payments and receipts, confirmed that all were in order, in accordance with the findings

of independent checks carried out earlier in the course of the dispute.

Mrs Audrey Davis had accused Mr David Summers (then Treasurer) of misappropriating £500 from the trust's funds. Unfortunately, Mr Summers died a few weeks after this accusation and the trustees have fought to clear his name, which they have now done. Unfortunately, the Harmers Wood website, still in operation, tells a different story and although the trustees cannot do anything about this, one of the members has kindly offered to develop a new website for us.

We would like to say a very big "Thank You" to Andy Mackenzie from Butcher and Barlow, who has been our efficient and friendly solicitor throughout this ordeal and to all our members for their support and to let



them know we will be in touch again soon.

If anyone wants any further information about Harmers Wood or wishes to become a member, please phone the Chair, Mrs Teresa Summers on 07530 429549.

Emilia Hoyle is announced as a winner at the National Apprenticeship Awards 2019

Emilia Hoyle from Heat Trace Limited in Helsby has won the Lloyds Banking Group Award for Rising Star of the Year award in the National Apprenticeship Awards 2019. The ceremony was held on 27th November in London. Emilia Hoyle won the prestigious award, ahead of finalists from eight other English regions, following a series of regional ceremonies across the country in September.

The Rising Star Award seeks to recognise impressive career progression to date and the potential to go even further. Whilst still completing her Degree Apprenticeship, Emilia has already risen to the position of Marketing Manager at Heat Trace, a successful high growth manufacturing company.

Emilia joined Heat Trace Limited in 2014 initially on a Level 4 NVQ Business Administration Apprenticeship working in the Marketing Department. In 2016, Emilia started a Degree Apprenticeship

at Chester University and was promoted to Marketing Assistant. In 2019, Emilia was promoted to Marketing Manager and now manages a department.

Heat Trace Limited is an innovative British manufacturer of electric heat tracing cables and associated equipment. The company started an apprentice program in 2011 in order to introduce young talent and grow their own "managers of the future". This has proved very successful and a number of apprentices have won local awards over the last 5 years with Emilia's latest award being the most prestigious to date.

Outside Emilia's day job, she is vice-chair of the North West Young Apprentice Ambassador Network and enthusiastically promotes Heat Trace's apprenticeship scheme and proactively seeks opportunities to promote apprenticeships in schools.

"I am delighted to be crowned the winner of the Lloyds Banking Group



Award for Rising Star of the Year at the National Apprenticeship Awards 2019. It is great that my achievements have been recognised at a National Level. I am very grateful to have been given this opportunity and for all the help and support from my colleagues at Heat Trace. I would like to thank everyone that voted for me in the public vote. This award is the icing on the cake!"

OPAL SERVICES AWARDED QUEEN'S AWARD



OPAL



We've had to keep a very close secret here at OPAL over the last few weeks but we are now delighted to inform everyone that we have been awarded a prestigious Queen's award for our 'valuable contribution to voluntary work'.

The Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire David Briggs, M.B.E., K.St.J, will honour OPAL with the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK - along with a signed certificate from the Queen and an invitation to the Royal Garden Party next year. This is an amazing honour

and a fabulous nod to our amazing Volunteers — well done everyone.

Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire David Briggs, M.B.E., K.St.J commented

"OPAL Services truly is a remarkable organisation which provides what I can only describe as a lifeline for older residents in rural villages throughout West Cheshire. Thanks to their team of very special volunteers it puts smiles on people's faces and it brings happiness and purpose back into the lives of many."



NORTH WEST RAIL USERS GROUP

2020 marks the 30th anniversary of the formation of the North Cheshire Rail Users Group.

Last year we were pleased to see the restoration of regular services to the Liverpool route via the Halton Curve and while they have been withdrawn as part of a number of cuts due to the Coronavirus outbreak we are advised they will return imminently. We had planned to mark our anniversary year with an event at Castle Park, Frodsham but this will now take place for our 31st - next year!

We will be releasing some special limited edition merchandise to mark our milestone. Seen here are the metal cut out garden sculptures (priced at £42 +P&P) depicting the class 175 locomotive, a common sight on the North Cheshire Line over the last 20 years.



Marshes Community Benefit Fund - Ten New Projects Awarded Funds

Helsby tennis club, Frodsham Youth Association and Horn's Mill Preschool are among the community projects that will benefit from the latest series of grants.

A variety of community-based projects have been awarded just over £73,000 in the latest, the fifth, round of awards since the Marshes Community Benefit Fund was established in 2016.

The Marshes Community Benefit Fund (MCBF) Panel reveals the projects which have been awarded funding from the annual £120,000 community payments made by Frodsham Windfarm Limited.

"During these difficult times and amidst the lockdown the independent Panel were able, through the Zoom meeting platform, consider this round's applications. After much deliberation and discussion, members agreed to award a total of just over £73,000 to ten projects which, in the views of the Panel majority, best met the requirements and objectives of the Community Benefit Fund."

Joycey Bailey MCBF Panel Member PR

The following is a snapshot of successful applicants and how the funding they receive will be used: -

- **1st Helsby Scout Group** awarded £14,850 to replace old camping equipment that is no longer fit for purpose.
- **Alvanley Village Hall** awarded



£3,106 to replace the existing 1970s built asbestos and concrete boiler house

- **Frodsham Youth Association** awarded £9,724 to refurbish and enable disabled access to the hall and toilet facilities at the youth club.
- **Frodsham & District History Society** awarded £5,000 to ensure on line availability of their collection of archived documents.
- **Helsby Tennis Club's** awarded £2775 to purchase a wall mounted defibrillator and two ball machines.
- **Horn's Mill Pre School** awarded £19,425 enabling two roof canopies to be installed providing ultraviolet and wet weather protection.
- **One Voice Community Choir** awarded £280 to purchase choral music that has been specifically arranged for rehearsals and community performances.
- **OPAL Services** awarded £10,000 funding for two community schemes, within the Helsby and

Frodsham area, for a further year.

- **Sutton Weaver Parish Council** awarded 5,565 to replace a damaged slide.
- **The Countess Charity** awarded £2,500 funding a smaller appeals fund for additional new Vital Signs machines.

Dianne Walker (Panel Chair) explained *"Projects that were not awarded funding in this round have also been notified. Eligible schemes that were unsuccessful in this round may reapply for future rounds."*

For details of the Fund and information on the application process you can visit the MCBF website FAQ page, applications for the next round of funds will re-open on 1 June 2020 and close on 31 August 2020.

Joycey Bailey and Dianne Walker

VICTORY OVER COVID 19

The Parish Celebrations for VE Day may have had to be cancelled but Helsby Residents were determined to mark the 75th Anniversary with street parties and WW2 music.

The bunting came out and homes were decorated with Union Jacks. The sun broke through and at 11 am folk stood for the 2-minute silence.

St Paul's Church bells were rung out by Rev. Green and all through the village there were appropriately distanced get-togethers with neighbours.

The Lockdown was managed with people sitting at front gates or in back gardens, raising glasses and cups of tea and belting out renditions of We'll Meet Again and It's a Long Way to Tipperary and generally feeling uplifted by the friendship and camaraderie.

Despite being deprived of the Parade and the marching bands the village found its way to remember and look back to the end of WW2 and Victory in Europe.



WONDERFUL WINDOW

In the run up to May 8th a fabulous display of straw poppies and a soldier appeared in the window of the Old Bank Tearooms, dressed by proprietor Diane Ormrod.



Willow art was made by Sarah Gallagher-Hayes for the Parish VE Day Celebrations

OPAL SERVICES – ADAPTING AND OVERCOMING...



OPAL has been part of Helsby and surrounding rural areas for 22 years with our weekly Clubs, Branching Out, What's Cooking and GoOnLine drop in sessions and Breaktime. Coronavirus has meant we had to quickly adapt how we support older people in our local communities.

We closed our Clubs and other services early on, recognising that many of our members and volunteers are in the highly vulnerable group or are shielding. But we knew it was vital we found other ways for people

to stay in touch with one another so we rapidly developed a number of ways to keep our OPAL community connected including :-

- **A telephone befriending service**
- **A telephone IT support service**
- **A fun and informative weekly news sheet called OPAL Reach**
- **A weekly online meeting for Carers.**

All our OPAL volunteers, trustees and staff have stepped up to the plate and we have some wonderful stories of support, kindness and compassion

during these strange times.

Thanks to some emergency funding from the Cheshire West and Chester Coronavirus Community Response Fund we are now delighted to open up our new services to new members - free of charge. So, if you live in Helsby, Frodsham or one of the surrounding villages in rural west Cheshire and are aged over 60, why not combat coronavirus isolation and get in touch with us today?

More information can be found at www.opalservices.org.uk or by calling Zoe Blocksidge on 07562 619 275, or if you would like to find out more about volunteering at OPAL please contact volunteering@opalservices.org.uk.

Wild Flower Wizardry

Earlier this month, exercising lockdown walkers reported the appearance of labels, (seen here), naming wild flowers, along the verges of Bates Lane. Most were intrigued by their mysterious arrival and charmed by the whole notion of learning the names of plants as part of a daily stroll.

But how did they get there and who had taken the time to make the labels?

All was revealed when it was discovered that local resident, Dr Peter Llewellyn, Chairman of the Wild Flower Society, had decided to use his lockdown time to pursue one of the aims of the Society: 'to promote a greater knowledge of field botany among the general public and in particular among young people'

Dr Llewellyn told Helsby News "*I thought it would be a way of pursuing this aim if I labelled some of the wild flowers growing on the verges of Bates Lane. Over the past years I have found about 60 to 70 species of wild flower growing there.*

To my great surprise and delight many people have commented positively

about the labels. I believe that some enterprising families have even used the experience as a botany lesson for their home schooled children"

They have been quite a success and Peter, encouraged by the enthusiasm, intends to collect the labels and repeat the process next year.

His web site, ukwildflowers.com is well worth a look. It has over 1500 British species illustrated, plus some from Europe and Western Australia.

The current pandemic, with all its restrictions, has offered us all opportunities to slow down, get in touch with nature, hear the birds sing and, thanks to Peter, know more about the wild flowers in our village verges.

Something to look forward to. Thank you.

Marj Thoburn



WIND FARM GAINS FOR HELSBY

Projects funded in Helsby by Marshes Community Benefit Fund now amount to £219,202 out of the total awarded to date of £410,000.

Projects in Helsby include:

- A 3G pitch and clubhouse by FJFC at Helsby High £40,000.
- A Running track at Hillside School £7,123.
- Hornsmill pre-school walkway £20,000 and weather canopies £19,425.

- Helsby rugby club electricity supply point £1,800.
- Phone box defibrillators at Chester Rd and Alvanley Rd £2,000.
- New Helsby Community Sports Club - equipment £13,500.
- Helsby High School netball and tennis courts refurbishment £35,000.
- Helsby Scouts £30,000 for a new roof and £14,850 for camping equipment.
- Helsby Community Centre for disabled toilets £2,100

- Radiate Arts to help combine OAP and children's creative activities £1,269.
- OPAL - social isolation activities for OAPs £29,360.
- Helsby Tennis Club defibrillator and ball machine - £2,775.

Underlying message here - keep applying.



Not even Covid-19 can Stop Scouting!

Face to face Scouting came to a halt nationwide on March 17th but 1st Helsby Scout Group have been actively "Scouting at home". As well as working for badges by helping around the house and perfecting a whole host of skills, the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have taken part in a "camp at home" event by making dens in various parts of their homes or setting up camp in their gardens. Five of our youngsters actually camped for the whole 30 days of April!

around the garden or going up and down the stairs and then making a donation to charity. The Scouts have hiked all the way the moon and back to earth again, raising over £308,000 for the BBC TV's BigNightIn. Two of our youngsters have also organised their own fundraiser, inspired by Captain Tom. They set themselves the challenge of cycling 100 laps of their garden (7.5 miles) to raise money for the NHS and to date have raised over £300!

On 30th April, 66 young people and 11 adults from the Group, participated in a world record breaking Virtual Camp and were part of the record for the largest ever camp that involved 95,342 people from 68 countries.

Many of our leaders are key workers and are juggling jobs to keep the country going as well as running Scouting programmes from their laptops. Two of our leaders, Dawn from Cubs and Sandra from Beavers, are voluntarily running up scrubs for NHS and care workers.

They have been doing their bit to help others too. Many 1st Helsby members have taken part in the National Scouts 'Hike To The Moon' event by logging their daily exercise distances whether it be a walk around the village, running

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



How Helsby High School has operated during the Covid-19 crisis



The current Covid – 19 crisis has affected all of us in some way.

Students of Helsby High School have been home learning since Monday 23rd March and the school building has remained open as a childcare facility for children of key workers and those the government regard as vulnerable. School teaching and pastoral staff have been supporting students (and parents) at home by setting work each day, communicating with students and parents via our communication app and ensuring that those who need to talk to someone in school have the opportunity

to do so via the telephone. As a school we are prioritising the mental health and well-being of our young people and also the online safety of all of our community first and foremost, signposting students and families to appropriate website and social media sites.

At home, students have taken part in a number of virtual community events such as making yards of bunting for the recent 75th Anniversary of VE Day and the local virtual careers festival held by The Pledge Cheshire and Warrington.

We would like thank our parents for being so supportive of the school during this period and for the many messages of thanks they have sent to the school about contact/support for young people at home and for the work being set each day. We also want to thank the wider community for their support, especially the staff at Tesco Helsby and Morrison's Frodsham for the kind donations they have made to the school over the past 8 weeks and for helping provide vouchers before the free school meals national system was set up.

J Cooney



LETTERS TO CARE HOMES

Horns Mill Primary School wanted to do something to support the local care homes in Helsby. We knew it was important to keep spirits high in these challenging times. Teams 2,3,4 and 6 from our school were so excited to write letters, poems and draw pictures to the elder generation in our community. We delivered letters to the Heathercliffe care home and the Winding care home where the staff were so enthusiastic to give the letters to their residents.

Since receiving the letters The Windings care home have tweeted the school back thanking us for our heart-warming letters. The residents have written some inspiring letters back filled with details about their past experiences in their schools, interests and their enjoyment of sports and activities during their childhood. The school cannot wait to share these letters with all the children upon their return. This is a real show of community in Helsby and the wider district, we hope this inspires more people to support, be kind and appreciate all in our communities.



LOCKDOWN FUND RAISING CHALLENGE

Lady Captain of Helsby Golf Club, Christine Marsden, has named the Neuro Therapy Centre as her charity of the year.

She said: "My father had Motor Neurone Disease and I have friends and relatives with MS, Huntingdon's Disease and other neurological conditions, so I realise how important exercise and socialising is to people with these health concerns. The centre and its staff provide the facilities and support whereby people with neurological conditions can join in various fitness classes and meet up with friends."

Christine added: "In a normal year, our Lady Captain's charity would benefit from a series of events held at the golf club. But this year due to the current pandemic, Helsby Golf Club has been closed, so I had to think of something different."

Christine has taken up cycling during the lockdown and is using this interest to undertake a sponsored virtual cycle journey. During May and June she will be travelling 325 miles on local roads to fulfil the distance from Helsby Golf Club to Royal Portrush Golf Club in Northern Ireland.

To sponsor Christine's challenge visit the Centre's website at: www.neurotherapycentre.org/fundraisers/chris-cycles-325-miles

If you have a neurological condition and you'd like to access the Centre's support on their website visit www.neurotherapycentre.org or follow them on their Facebook or Twitter pages @NTCentre

Helsby to Perth in Lockdown

While the lockdown was on members of Helsby Cycling Club took part in the nation's 2.6 challenge and raised £1927.32. 11 members rode 26 miles each on 'indoor' trainers, the distance from Helsby to Perth, Scotland! They biked in garages, bedrooms conservatories and even out on driveways for a bit of fresh air.

This challenge helped plug the gap created when events had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

The money will go to the Countess of Chester charity for the NHS.



Helsby Parish Council

North Ward

Alan Gardner	722360
John Kimpton	724236
Sarah Temple	722181
Vacancy	
Vacancy	

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	
George Randles	
Vacancy	
Vacancy	

Clerk

Claire Jones 726433

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