



HELSEBY NEWS

ISSUE 80 • SPRING 2017
www.helsbynews.net



Local Group's Shale Gas Attitude Survey

Throughout September 2016 a survey of residents' attitudes towards Shale Gas Fracking was conducted in the Frodsham and Helsby by a local residents group 'Frack Free Frodsham and Helsby'. The process was guided a well known data analyst who ensured that the survey was undertaken in a fair and transparent way. The results were published in a report presented to Frodsham Town Council and Helsby Parish Council, by Michael Garvey, on behalf of the FFFH Group. Both Councils have had copies of the full report.

1200 Questionnaires were distributed in Helsby, with just over half returned. (56.3%) and were reported as representing the views of 1227 adult residents (Helsby has an adult population of 4059).

The report states that in Helsby 79.7% of respondents believed fracking would be a bad thing for the area, 9.0% believed fracking would be a good thing, and 11.3% did not know or had no opinion.

The survey is believed to highlight a growing concern of residents about the prospect of 'fracking', in their area. The survey follows seismic testing, undertaken in Helsby and parts of Frodsham in 2016 by TESLA, acting on behalf of IGas to determine the viability of 'fracking'.

Frack Free Frodsham and Helsby gave this statement. "Ascertaining public opinion through a survey, and insisting on democratic representation through our local councillors and MP, is a critical step in opposing the development of fracking in our area. Residents have voiced a range of concerns about the impact on the local area." The group believes that it is important to act now to produce a long term energy strategy which would ban fracking.

Helsby Parish Council was pleased to receive the informative report and like the rest of us await the TESLA results on the viability of fracking in Helsby with interest.

Marj Thoburn

GP Extended Hours

If you are having difficulty getting a routine GP, practice nurse or blood appointment, due to other commitments then the new extended times may be ideally suited to you. There are also some emergency appointments made available on the day.

**Helsby Health Centre:
Extended Hours:
GP Clinics only:
Monday & Tuesday
18.30 – 20.00**

Appointments for GP Clinics at Helsby Health Centre can be booked by telephoning Extended Hours direct on **0300 123 7740, option 3**.

Or call Reception team on **01928 723676**.

Health Centre website:
www.helsbyandeltonpractice.nhs.uk/

Frodsham Festival of Walks



As part of the Frodsham Festival of Walks, The Helsby Footpath Society is hosting the walk on Saturday 29 April - directions as follows:

Historical Ince Leaders: Sue Lorimer, David George and Betty Grieve.

Meet outside the Duke of Wellington Inn at 10am.

Walk 1 is 1½ miles and takes approx. 2 hours, so a gentle walk round the ancient Manor of Ince with a visit to the graveyard and hopefully the Parish Church. Note that tracks may be muddy in places. Meals are available at the Inn afterwards (0151 356 0222)

 **FrodshamFestivalOfWalks**

Parish Council News

Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Electorate

7pm on Thursday, 20th April 2017 in Helsby Community Centre. Residents are invited to attend and ask questions.

Allotment Vacancies Fancy Growing Your Own?

The Parish Council owns and runs 48 allotment plots and there are now some vacancies so if you are interested in becoming an allotmentee, please phone the Parish Clerk for more information on 726433.

Parish Precept 2016/17

Helsby Parish Council has issued a precept request to Cheshire West and Chester Council for £87,260. A Band D property will pay £45.24 (collected through your Council Tax payments) which is a rise of 1% on 2016/17. For the full explanation of the precept amount and budget for 2017/18 go to www.helsbyparish.org.uk from Council Documents click on 'Documents' link and look for 'Budget 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018' in the left hand column or contact the Parish Clerk on 726433 to request a copy.

Helsby Village Best-Kept Garden Competition 2017

Love your garden? Think it's a prize winner? Why not enter it into the Best-Kept Garden competition? Ring Jeanette Hughes – Parish Clerk on 726433 or email helsbyparishcouncil@btconnect.com with your details. Judging takes place in August so pick up that phone now!



Helsby Public Cemetery Old Chester Road

If you love Helsby and you want to stay here, did you realise that you can choose the public cemetery for your final resting place? If you are interested in finding out more about the plots and fees, then contact Jeanette Hughes – Burial Clerk on 726433 or email helsbyparishcouncil@btconnect.com

Easter Church Services

LENT LUNCHES

A Joint Service followed by a simple lunch

29th March at Helsby Methodist Church

22nd March and 5th April at St Paul's Church Hall

Good Friday April 14th - Joint Service at Helsby Methodist Church at 10am. Walk of Witness and Hot Cross Buns at St Paul's Church Hall

HELSEBY METHODIST CHURCH

Palm Sunday April 9th
10.30am – Sunday Worship

Monday 10th April to Maundy Thursday April 13th
6pm till 6.30pm "Place to Gather"

Easter Day April 16th
9.45 am simple breakfast followed by 10.30 am Easter Day Worship

ST PAUL'S CHURCH

Palm Sunday April 9th
11am Sung Holy Communion
Blessing of the Palms

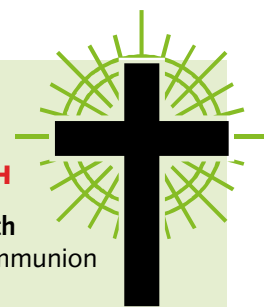
Monday April 10th and Tuesday April 11th
7.30pm Compline

Wednesday April 12th
7.30pm Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday April 13th
7.30 pm Sung Holy Communion
The Last Supper

Holy Saturday April 15th
8pm The Lighting of the New Fire
Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Easter Day April 16th
8am Holy Communion
11am Sung Holy Communion



HELSEBY GOLF CLUB POWERED WHEELCHAIR APPEAL PRESENTS THEIR 350TH CHAIR!

During an evening of "Glitz and Glamour" recently, the Powered Wheelchair Appeal from Helsby Golf Club recently celebrated the donation of the 350th wheelchair to local youngsters.

The celebration was held at Chester Racecourse and was organised by Claudia Dickens, Professional Event Organiser and Keith O'Neil, a longtime supporter of the charity.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of 4 powered wheelchairs to local children by Lucy Meacock, TV presenter, and actors Daniel Brocklebank and Emma Cunniffe. Huge thanks to Claudia, Keith, all sponsors and



supporters for being so generous with their time and money, a fantastic £7,000 was raised on the night.

Back left to right – Claudia Dickens, Lucy Meacock, Emma Cunniffe, Daniel Brocklebank, Keith O'Neil.

Front left to right – Jacob Cannell, George Blakely, Laura Hunt and Hazel Simpson.

Kathryn Hoather

Photo: Martin Pawlett Photography

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Birthday Celebrations

On Thursday, 19th January, Helsby Greenwood Opal Club members, guests and helpers celebrated the anniversary of the first meeting, nineteen years ago. Opened by Age Concern (now



Age UK) in January 1998, we have several volunteers who attended the first meeting. Invited local guests, Dr. Richard Brook, Rev. Graham Green and Parish Councillor Mrs. Patricia Holder joined the members to enjoy lunch cooked by our volunteer cooks. Whilst they were digesting the gammon and trifle, magician Pete Turner entertained.

The afternoon was rounded off with a cup of tea and a slice of birthday cake (picture to the right), made by one of our talented volunteers, Jenny Lang. Further information about the Helsby Opal Club can be obtained by calling at Springfield any Thursday and speaking to organiser Zoe Blocksidge.

Biddy Mason

Helsby Community Sports Club to Host a Fundraising Family Fun Day to help our local scouts take a trip of lifetime - Saturday 3rd June

Mersey Weaver Scout District are pleased to announce that in July 2017, we will send a contingent of around thirty Scouts, Explorers as well as five adults leaders to the world's northernmost Jamboree in Artic Circle at Bodø, Norway.

They need to raise over £38k through fundraising to get there – further details of the fun day coming soon!!!



THERE'S A VERY NEW SHOP ON THE BLOCK!

Ellen Thomas Bridal opened its doors in February, in time for Valentine's Day!

This is a dream come true for owner Tracy Redican who lives in Runcorn with her husband Paul and two children Thomas and Holly.

A former beautician - Tracy just loves making people feel special and her shop – stocked with beautiful wedding gowns, is a delight. She is thrilled that a leading British designer, Donna Lee, has chosen her as exclusive stockist for the north west and Tracy also stocks gowns designed by House of Nicholas. But it's not just wedding gowns - she has some very glamorous evening gowns to fit all shapes and ages – and that includes prom dresses too. Future plans include stocking head dresses and jewellery for the big occasion - bridesmaid's dresses and mother of the bride outfits - and Tracy also has plans to stock outfits for special events, like a day at the races or a special garden party perhaps! Because she wants to offer a bespoke service, Tracy has linked up with seamstress Dawn from Elizabeth Arnold (Lady Hayes), which means a perfect individual fit can be achieved.



Tracy has a keen eye for detail and believes the personal touch is very important, as is her desire to ensure that her clients feel special when visiting her shop. Appointments can be arranged to suit clients and at the rear of the shop is a fitting room and very comfortable viewing room, with huge ornate mirrors, for family and friends to be involved in important decisions!

Tracy will be delighted to show you her lovely dresses and discuss your particular needs, so pop in next time you are passing - her advice is free !

More information – ring 01928 890581

B Ginty



Helsby Health Centre Spring Report

A New GP Partner at the Practice – Dr Simon Mills

The Practice is pleased to inform all patients that Dr Simon Mills joined us as a new GP Partner on February 1st. Replacing Dr Sage, who left us in December last year, Dr Mills has joined us from a GP practice in Liverpool and will be working 8 sessions at various times in both our surgeries. We are delighted to have Dr Mills join us and we know he is looking forward to helping our patients with their health care.



The Ho Ho Helsby volunteer group of Helsby residents have agreed to go again with another HoHoHelsby Christmas Festival on Saturday 2 December 2017. The date and format have been agreed with the CWAC Council, including an extended parade route and more attractions provided throughout the village.

The event will remain a truly inclusive, community event, with as many local businesses, community groups, churches and local crafters involved, as well as all of the local schools. All ages and abilities are welcome to participate.

To kick off this year's FUNd raising, Helsby Community Sports/BI Club will host a band night at 7pm on Saturday 22 April. Look out for posters on-line at our website www.HoHoHelsby.co.uk

and around the village and in the Tea Rooms for more details.

For anyone who would like to make a donation or provide raffle/bingo prizes towards the event, please email HelsbyXmas@gmail.com, or send a message to the HoHoHelsby Facebook or Twitter pages, or just call into the Old Bank Tea Rooms. An on-line donation page will also be set up again shortly.

So a big thankyou to everyone for who supported and sent their thanks for the very first HoHoHelsby event, we hope we can count on your continued support this year.

PS. Humbug the pony is resting up over the spring and summer in preparation for his big day!

*Dianne Walker
Chair Ho Ho Helsby
Christmas Community Event*

HELSDY HILLSIDE WI HAS CONTINUED WITH A VARIED PROGRAMME

Our meeting in February heard the fascinating History of Harps given by Katy Williams. She brought two of her harps and explained the workings and played some very intricate pieces to the delight of the audience.

In March we will be getting Up Close and Personal with Birds of Prey and in April, Mrs June Corner will be giving us 'Snippets and Stories from the 50s.'

With a new programme of events for 2017, 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.



Some people may not have heard about the recent opening of the Beer Heroes Tap Room and Bottle Shop, in the newly refurbished waiting room down at our Helsby Train Station.

Featuring 8 craft beers on tap and over 300 different bottles to drink in or take home.

**Open Thurs: 5-9pm
Fri: 2-9pm, Sat: 1-9pm
and Sun: 2-8pm**

Weekend beer tasting mornings have already sold out, new dates in the Autumn.



POLICE NEWS



Almost six months now since I started work as the Police Community Support Officer for Helsby and enjoying the work. Still continuing to deal with the regular issues of speeding, parking and youth Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), and working closely with the Parish Council, schools, and residents to help tackle some of these issues. This has given me the opportunity to build strong working relationships, and is something I would like to maintain and improve.

With use of social media I now have access to the Chester Police Facebook and Twitter pages, allowing me to post

what is going on in Helsby. It is a very useful modern tool to engage with the community. Helsby now has two members of community speed watch group who are fully trained and ready to go out with the speed gun to help tackle the speeding issue. If anyone else is interested in joining the speed watch group then please don't hesitate to contact me as you could be a great addition to the group. We will also be looking out for drivers committing driving offences such as not wearing a seat belt or driving while using a mobile phone.

If anybody has any issues they wish to discuss with me or suggestions to make, please contact me via email john.kopczyk@cheshire.pnn.police.uk I will be more than happy to help.

Do you want to make a difference?

Influence local issues?

Put something into your Community?

A casual vacancy has arisen for a new Parish Councillor for the North Ward. You must be over 18 and have lived in the village for at least 12 months, (ideally with internet access although not essential).

If you are interested and would like to know more please contact the Parish Clerk on 726433 or email helsbyparishcouncil@btconnect.com

GUESS WHAT WE GOT!

At the Frodsham Annual Awards night in January, organised by the Mayor of Frodsham - and where lots of local Awards were given out, - Councillor Terry O'Neil was delighted to accept the Good Neighbour A ward - after the good people of Frodsham voted for HELSBY as their good neighbours.

Helsby Community Centre Needs You!

Helsby Community Centre is managed by Helsby Community Association, a Committee made up of representatives from organisations and volunteers. It is a well-used asset to the Village. We meet 6 times during the year, on the fourth Wednesday of alternate months, beginning in January.

We are now looking for some more volunteers to join our Committee, and

help with the running of the Centre. If you have a couple of hours to spare 6 times a year, and would like to join us in running the Centre, please contact John Carter, General Secretary on Helsby 723441 or email him on Hca@jacarter.com. He will be pleased to hear from you, and answer any questions you may have about joining us.

John Carter

Ellesmere Port & District Lions Club

Young Leaders In Service Certificates were presented at an assembly at Helsby High School in mid-November. These are given when 100 hours of service in the community has been achieved. These certificates are recognised, on CVs, by universities, colleges and future employers. This is the 6th year that the school has participated in YLIS. The photo shows YLIS co-ordinator Mrs Rob-inson and Lion, Margaret Marsh. On the 8th December the Lions hosted

a Christmas Lunch for senior residents of Springfields along with members of OPAL and several carers. The Lions acted as waiters and the meal was much enjoyed by all who attended. The picture shows several of the diners and Lion Jo Bott as their waitress.

On Saturday April 8th the Lions are hosting a Charity Concert in St Paul's Church, featuring the Farndon & District Brass Band - back by popular demand.



The proceeds will go to the Lions' Local Community Charity Fund. Tickets are £5 and are available from the Church, the Post Office and Jingles Hair Salon or ring Margaret Marsh on 01928 722121.

Theatre comes to Hillside

On 30th January, children in Reception, Years 1 and 2 at Helsby Hillside Primary School enjoyed a performance from 'Just Soph', a high-quality, professional piece of theatre for children aged 4-7. It explored stories in a playful, imaginative way, helping the children to develop literacy skills and making a complex, classic text accessible. It featured live music, songs and puppetry, using familiar household materials and objects.

During the performances, everyone was encouraged to get involved including the children and staff, who all thoroughly enjoyed the performance. This formed part of the schools literacy development programme to help develop the children's literacy skills through a creative and exciting curriculum.

Fleur MacCready



The Frodsham Roundtable have very kindly purchased 10 Chromebooks for the pupils of Helsby High School. The Chromebooks will be used by pupils, who for a variety of reasons, are unable to access their learning without the opportunity to word process. There are pupils with dyspraxia, arthritis, dyslexia and many other conditions who will greatly benefit from the kind generosity of Frodsham

Frodsham Roundtable Donate 10 Chromebooks

Roundtable. Pupils are able to sit their GCSE exams with the use of technology in certain situations where a pupil's condition meets the criteria of the JCQ. However, they can only do this, if using technology has been their normal way of working inside the classroom. The SENDCo, Emily Tobin said, "we are not trying to replace pen and paper, and in most cases even pupils with serious conditions will be encouraged to write in some subjects. However, in lessons where students are asked to produce longer passages of written work, we find that some pupils are better able to demonstrate their ability when the pressure of writing with a pen is taken away from them." One pupil sat the same PPE

exam with and without the use of a Chromebook and the difference in marks equated to 2 grades. Helsby High School are keen to ensure that any barriers in displaying knowledge, ability and progress are removed for all pupils. One student who is benefiting from Frodsham Roundtable's kind donation said, "I feel like I can write what is in my head and I don't feel as stupid, because I can now produce work at the same pace as my peers."

If your child has a special education need and you would like to know more about the provision provided by Helsby High School, please telephone Mrs Tobin, SENDCo, on 01928 723551.

Local MP visits Horns Mill School

Horns Mill Year 6 pupils and members of the School Council were pleased to have a visit from local MP, Graham Evans. Mr Evans talked to them about British Values and the role of a Member of Parliament. Much to the enjoyment of the children as our photograph shows.



HELBY LIBRARY'S REGULAR EVENTS

All are free but donations are welcome

Mondays

11.00am - 11.30am

Rhyme time for the under 5s

Tuesdays

11.00am - 1.00pm

Jigsaw mindfulness for adults

Wednesdays

11.00am - 1.00pm

Colouring mindfulness for adults

Fridays

11.00am-11.30am

Storytime for the under 5s

Saturdays

11.00am-12.30pm Lego Club

Children must be supervised at all times by a parent or guardian.



"Smile for a Mile" at Horns Mill

January saw the official opening of the running loop at Horns Mill School. Our children walk or run a mile every day due to our "Smile for a Mile" initiative and this path now allows them to access our school field the whole year round.

We were extremely grateful for funding support from CWAC Localities team, Cllr Alan McKie, Active Cheshire, Tesco Bags of Help, Helsby Running Club, and Heat Trace that enabled this project to go ahead.

Sharon

HIGH VIZ AT HELSBY HIGH

Year 7 students enjoying being part of The Great British Spring Clean on March 4.



A sad farewell....

On Dec 13th 2016 the Tuesday Club held its last meeting.

It started with a wonderful Carol Service led by Rev Graham Green who was presented with his favourite delicacy – chocolates – to show our appreciation. Singing carols would not be the same without the magic touch of Christine Chritchley playing the piano - and Christine also received a gift. Then we had tea, cakes, mince pies and a good old natter about old times.

The members of the Club presented all 4 team leaders with a lovely basket of plants, and a voucher to spend as wished.

Their appreciation was a very emotional moment.

Brian Griffiths the Caretaker also received a gift, a 'thank you' for his hard work setting up the hall each week.



It was all very emotional and to lighten up the afternoon, we held a Secret Santa, where we all give and receive a prize then later, we said our last goodbyes with a glass of sherry, and a lot of tears!

All the Team wish all members the very best, take care and do please keep in touch.

Any funds left in the account will be divided between our 3 charities - Halton Haven, Clare House and the Good Shepherd Hospice.

News from Helsby First Scouts Group

In December, the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts of 1st Helsby Scout Group and the Helsby Brownies, gathered at St Paul's Church for their annual carol service. The service was led by the young people themselves and highlights this year included some beautiful singing of Away In A Manger from the Brownies and the Beavers using their newly acquired skills in British Sign Language to sign "We Wish You A Merry Christmas".

At the end of the service, the Group bade a fond farewell to long serving Cub leaders, Vanessa Mallalue and Sue Pearson (known to many a Helsby Cub as Akela and Bagheera). Between

them, they have given over 30 years of service to the Group and we recalled many happy times at various camps and activities.

1st Helsby are now desperately searching for new Cub leaders and assistants and if nobody has stepped forward to run this section by Easter, one of our two Cub packs will, unfortunately, have to fold. If any readers would like to know more about getting involved, we would love to hear from you! Please email our Group Scout Leader, Richard, at gsl@1sthelsbyscouts.org.uk for further information.





The area's first ultra distance race to traverse Helsby Hill

Saturday 25th March, keep an eye out for some green Helsby Running Club vests competing in the first Chester Ultra 50 Marathon race.

This new Ultra-Marathon covers 52 Miles of the best Trails in the region including the Marches Way, River Dee, Old Dee Bridge, Chester Racecourse, Shropshire Canal, North Cheshire Way, Mid Cheshire Way, the Sandstone Trail, Helsby Hill, Frodsham Hill and Delamere Forest.

A check point mid-way will be stationed at the Dunham Hill & Hapsford Village Hall.

<http://cluster4.website-staging.uk/gbultras.com/chester-ultra-50/>



www.helsbytennis.co.uk

Helsby Tennis Club is a great place to enjoy tennis and meet local people! We are a small, friendly club with 3 floodlit all-weather tennis courts, with 2 mini courts for children. We provide coaching for all ages, from beginners to the more advanced. Absolute beginners are always welcome to join us.

Try tennis for free this summer at our Great British Tennis Weekend event on Sunday 14th May. Visit our website for more information.



HELSEBY HALF 2017

Photo: Duncan Cowley

This year's Essar Four Villages Half Marathon was a thankfully snow free but soggy race with more than 1500 runners completing the course.

Our "Helsby Half", a not for profit fundraising event with the Helsby Running Club proudly making donations to our two local charities – Halton Haven in Runcorn and Hospice of the Good Shepherd in Chester as well as the Greenwood Club.

This race can only happen with the fantastic support of a large number of people and local community organisations.

The Running Club would like to thank the Helsby Community Sports Club

for hosting the start, Horns Mill School for hosting the finish and Helsby High school for hosting the car park.

There were three drinks stations manned by Elton Guides, Helsby Scouts and Ashton Scouts. Others handled marshalling duties, directing runners and traffic and included teams from Beacon Explorer Scouts, Dewa Explorer Scouts, Mersey Weaver Jamboree Scouts and Mersey Weaver Scout Active support unit, Manley pre-school and Helsby Tennis club. Quite an army!

At the start and finish the Runcorn Canal Boat Project, Helsby & Frodsham Guides and the local Marie Curie Fundraising Group - helped with baggage and goodie bags - Helsby WI again provided the runners drinks and Frodsham and Helsby Rotary managed the car parking and hot refreshments. An amazing local fundraising event that our whole village should be proud of.

Helsby Parish Council

North Ward

Sylvia Crossley-Jones 723115
Alan Gardner 722360
John Kimpton 724236
Sarah Temple 722181
Vacancy

Central Ward

Tim Thorne 726433
Chris Ellams 724409
Patricia Holder 727384
Sam Johnson 722297
Terry O'Neill (Chair) 723205

South Ward

Peter Duffy 722908
Stuart Hulse 724272
Andy MacPherson 722168
Alan McKie 724960
George Randles 724775

Clerk

Jeanette Hughes 726433
Parish Office:
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Helsby, WA6 0AP