



HELSEBY NEWS

www.helsbynews.net

ISSUE 95 • WINTER 2020

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, Ho Ho Helsby is brightest by far!

Ho Ho Helsby's Chair, Dianne Walker told Helsby News that although the annual festival has had to be postponed for this year the new Christmas lights are shining brightly in the village.

The Ho Ho Helsby volunteers, undaunted, have created the 'Twinkle, Twinkle' campaign to encourage all of the locals to help light up the village in these dark times.

To kick-start the campaign, the Ho Ho Helsby group's volunteers had to raise funds to provide new lights including extra sparkly lights for the village's splendid Christmas tree, a nearby oak tree and some new Twinkle Twinkle motifs.

From the 5th December, Ho Ho asks that you light up your windows, doors, roofs and gardens to create a dazzling light display the whole village can enjoy. The theme is Twinkle Twinkle, so lots of stars and anything that twinkles! They will feature the best and brightest displays on their website and social media pages.

Dianne expressed her thanks to the working group volunteers, and sponsors, RSK, CF Fertilisers, Lane End and Essar for their continuing support. Ho Ho Helsby have high hopes to return with the full event next year, including the twilight parade, on 4 December 2021.

**Dianne wishes everyone a
"Merry Christmas."**



Photo credit: Duncan Cowley



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LEST WE FORGET

For many Remembrance Day Services are always moving and poignant affairs, perhaps never more so than in this 2020, the 100th Anniversary of the first service in 1920 at the newly unveiled Cenotaph in Whitehall.

Helsby's Own War Memorial is also 100 years old and bears the names of the 32 men who left the village to fight in both World Wars. The Ones who didn't return.

In November 2020 Helsby remembered them, limited by but not beaten by Covid-19.

More than fifty, socially distanced villagers and officials, who were scattered around the churchyard, met to pay their respects whilst the specially made wicker WW1 Soldier looked on.

It was a short service retaining all that is familiar.....the reading of the names, the last post, the laying of poppy wreaths and crosses and most important of all The Remembering: Lest We Forget.

Marj Thoburn

Helsby Methodist Church

Sunday 20th December, 6.00pm
Carol Service (YouTube only)

Christmas Eve 4.00pm
Christingle Service - The story of the first Christmas (YouTube only)

Christmas Day 10.00am
Christmas Celebration (YouTube and Church*)
*We may be allowed in church depending on Government guidance.

May you receive the blessings and peace of our Lord and Saviour this Christmas

Rev. David Bintliff

Christmas Services at St Paul's

Sunday 20th December, 6.30pm
Carol Service (30 mins)
This will happen on the green field by the car park. We will have a large 6ft high stable with Nativity Scene and a 7ft Christmas Tree, so out in the open, traditional carols played through a speaker and 5 readings. Social distancing.

Christmas Eve, 4.30pm
Christingle Service (20 mins)
This will be on the green field. Children Friendly. We have plenty of light sticks instead of oranges and candles, the light of Christ, and will explain Christingle with Big Orange, traditional Carols played. Social distancing.

Midnight Mass, 11.30pm in Church
Traditional Carols played, Holy Communion with the bread only. Social distancing and gel as you go in and out.

Christmas Day, 10am in Church
Traditional Carols played, Holy Communion with the bread only. Social distancing and gel as you go in and out.

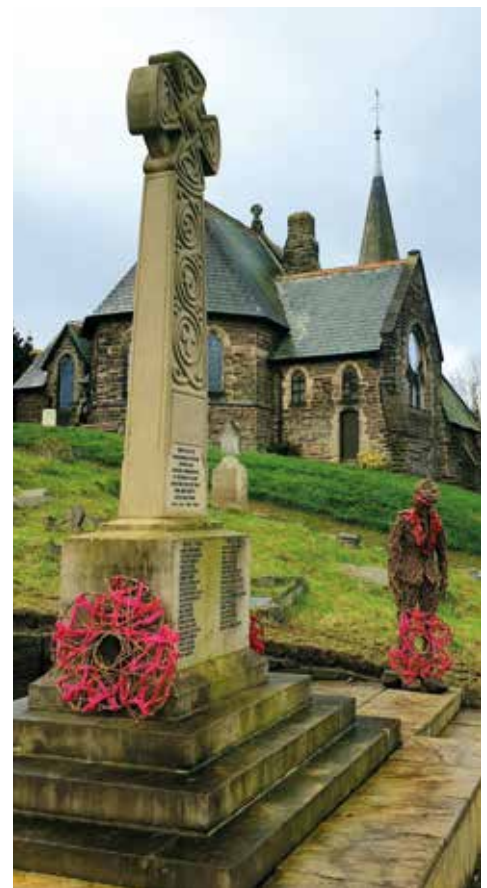
We hope you all have a very Happy Christmas in these difficult times.

Rev. Graham Green



"Helsby Parish Council has met with Cheshire West and Chester Council on several occasions in relation to the re-opening of Old Chester Road. It is CWAC's intention to reopen the road as soon as possible. However, they have come across some difficult and sensitive issues that they need to address in order to bring the matter to a successful conclusion. Any further queries should be directed to their highways department."

Peter Duffy, Chair Helsby Parish Council



Five Men and a Bag of Daffs!

Thanks to some back braking work by members of our Local Frodsham and Helsby Rotary Club the verge running alongside the High has been restored. Seen here the team responsible for the planting of more than 3000 daffodil bulbs to replace ones damaged by recent highways work.

In addition, a further 1000 crocus bulbs have been added to the display at the Maltby Triangle.

**Well done and thanks guys...
Something to really look forward to next Spring!**

Marj Thoburn



Ho Ho Scarecrow – Helsby Scarecrow Trail

Helsby turned into a magical story time village for October half-term. All over the village, in gardens, shop windows and schools, the Scarecrows came to town. Children of all ages were able to wander around the village and gaze in delight at the wonderful creations that had magically appeared. The scarecrows were back in Helsby for the annual Helsby Scarecrow Trail.

This year the theme was children's story books. With entrance to the competition free, over 65 residents, community groups, and local businesses created amazing displays of scarecrows hoping to win the Ho Ho Scarecrow Trophy. There was a new Covid-safe trail that delighted families, and brought back fond memories of favourite children's book characters

Organiser Kate Sillitoe said, *"The scarecrows did an amazing job of bringing cheer to people during what could have been a really 'Grimm' half-term for many children. It was wonderful to see families out and about, walking around the village finding places that they had never been to before. The people of Helsby excelled themselves and demonstrated that even when things get tough, our neighbours and the community we live in can really help to see us through the bad times. Helsby has such a wonderful community spirit that I am so proud to be a part of."*

People were able to vote for their favourite scarecrows by 'liking' them on the Ho Ho Scarecrow Facebook page. The winners included a life-size Beauty and the Beast, a wonderful wall mounted flying witch from children's book, Room on the Broom, a giant haystack SpongeBob SquarePants, a Little Mermaid window display, and the highly appropriate Scarecrows Wedding created by the children of Homestead Nursery. Each winner was treated to some fabulous prizes including book vouchers and a balloon bouquet donated by Helsby business Hullabaloo Party Supplies. Sweet treats and trophies were donated by Ho Ho Helsby, and one of our lovely residents donated a book prize for the school scarecrow winner.

Kate Sillitoe

Photo credit: Duncan Cowley



Best Business
Henrietta's Attic

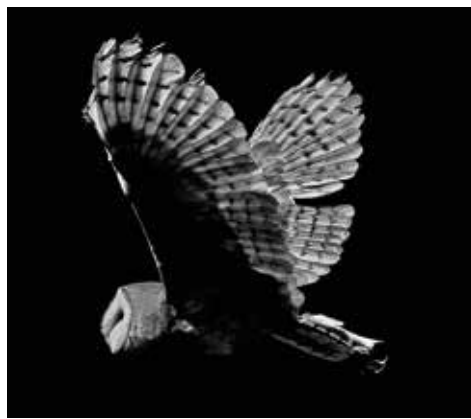


Best Residential
Katy Leach – Beauty and the Beast



Best School/Community Group
Homestead Nursery





DUNCAN'S MARSH CALENDAR 2021

"I get requests every year to do a calendar" Duncan Cowley told Helsby News, "I never really felt I had a good enough selection of images depicting all the birds and scenes on the marsh until the last few months. With everything in life I never really found the time. But with dark nights and no sport and of course the lockdown I finally went through my many thousands of photos and made 'The Marsh' collection, a calendar for 2021."

Duncan has produced some unique images of the Frodsham and Helsby area and has photographed them over a 6-year period. They really are special. Some of the pictures are depicted here. The calendar costs £14.99, including postage and packing and Duncan will sign each A4 size calendar. Contact him on cowleyduncan@hotmail.com

"I just feel it's the right time to do it - with more and more people ordering on line and the uncertainty of a new normal - local people may want these as gifts so I have given it a try!"

Well Done Duncan, Helsby and its Marshes at its best.

Marj Thoburn



Marshes Community Benefit Fund – Some Good News as 8 New Projects Awarded Grants

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 Wind Farm Limited.

"Panel members agreed to award a total of just over £72,000 to eight projects which, in the views of the Panel majority, really encapsulated the requirements and objectives of the Community Benefit Fund."

Joyce Bailey, MCBF Panel Member, PR

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

4th Frodsham Scout Group's Scout hut was, prior to Covid 19, very popular as a venue to hire out. Their **£11,500** award will go towards phase one of the planned refurbishment work and it is hoped will eventually encourage expansion of the troops who use the facility.

Alvanley and Manley Pre School provides wraparound care for Alvanley and Manley Federated Primary School. They have a before and after school club. The pre-school plan to spend the awarded **£8,500** on purchasing a 9-seater minibus, which will enable them to transport the children between the Federated schools.

Elton Community Centre impressed the panel with their detailed application. The group plan to use the allotted **£18,120** on improving the facilities for the village whose population is now twice the size that it was when the community centre was first built. The group have already built a food bank and food pantry to help the village get through the pandemic and are now looking to provide support in the form of a community café to serve all age groups.

Frodsham Allotments manage and supervise the Association's Allotment Gardens, educating allotment gardeners, and advocating the benefits of environmentally sustainable allotment gardening. They wish to spend the allotted **£2,500** on providing a mains water supply to their Kingsway site.



Helsby Football Club a successful local football team playing in the West Cheshire League and Wirral and Chester League. With a move to the new sports Academy impacting on their current funding the awarded **£3,000** ensure that they can meet their pitch fees and continue playing throughout the coming season.

Helsby Sports Club, formed in 1991, is a community amateur sports club offering sport and leisure facilities to the communities of Helsby and surrounding villages. This non-for-profit organisation plans to use their awarded **£8,054** to buy maintenance equipment for their new 3G pitch and a large storage container in which to house the equipment.

Ince Village Hall has fallen below government and social standards, the Hall's trustees plan on spending the **£18,000** award to begin a multi-stage project. This award will rejuvenate the hall's purpose. Using their practical project management skills and those of local tradespeople, the Trustees envisage that the project will bring the whole community together

Red Lion Crown Green Bowls volunteer group will use the **£2,500** awarded to expand and encourage people of all ages to take part in crown green bowling by purchasing additional equipment which will enable them to set up weekly sessions locally.

Dianne Walker (Panel Chair) praised the efforts of the community volunteer groups who took time and effort to apply for funding. It is worthwhile recognising that the total awards to date are now just short of half a million pounds.

For details of the Fund and information on the application process you can visit the FAQ page, applications for the next round of funds will re-open on 1 December 2020 and close on 28 February 2021.

VOLUNTEERS OFFICIALLY REWARDED FOR THEIR WORK

On Wednesday 11th November, David Briggs, Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire, formally handed over to OPAL volunteers the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

The virtual event took place prior to OPAL's Annual General Meeting and was attended by over 60 guests. Jane Colville, Chair of Trustees, received the award on behalf of all OPAL's volunteers.

"We are delighted to have been recognised by the Queen for the work we undertake for older people and carers in rural communities. Although we received notification of the award earlier this year, COVID-19 has meant we needed to adjust the 'usual' presentation of the award. It was amazing to see so many faces on the Zoom session".



David Briggs commended our volunteers saying

“ You are truly stars. OPAL is a special charity and you are spreaders of happiness. This is the highest award a group of volunteers can be given—the equivalent of an MBE ”



Poppy Appeal

This has been a difficult year for everyone. In a year when we should have come together to remember the anniversaries of VE Day, The Battle of Britain and VJ Day it was important to make the 'poppy' available to people. Sadly 2020 has also seen the Royal British Legion's Welfare Department receive more requests for support from veterans self-isolating or suffering hardship so fund raising was never more important.

I am grateful to everyone in Helsby who felt able to support the Poppy Appeal this year; to Tesco (Helsby) for allowing us to have our regular stand; to the schools and businesses who displayed

our boxes but most importantly to the volunteers who gave up their time so willingly to collect, not to forget those volunteers who were self-isolating for their encouragement and good wishes. To date Helsby has raised **£6,698.35** at the Tesco stand and a final village total will be available after the current lockdown, and will be published in the next newsletter.

Thank You to you all!

'Every Poppy Counted'

Fiona Purcell
Poppy Organiser for Helsby

OVERNIGHT ANGELS

Volunteers from Ho Ho Helsby distributed knitted angels, at random, around the village overnight on December 4th. A lovely surprise for over 200 households.

More angels are available to purchase, by donation to Claire House Hospice, at The Old Bank Tea Rooms.



Credit: Angela Hayes

HILL CONSERVATION AREA CONSULTATION

The draft appraisal of the proposed Helsby Hill Conservation Area, designed to protect and enhance the areas special architectural and historic interest, will be available to view for six weeks from 4th January 2021 on the Helsby Parish Council website. Or alternatively at the Parish Council Offices, 200 Chester Road by appointment, Covid restrictions permitting, by phoning Claire on 01928 726433.

You will be able to voice your views by post or email to Helsby Parish Council and there will be opportunities to discuss issues online with representatives from Helsby Parish Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Sue Lorimer

LAST FINISHING TOUCHES

By the time you read this the Brand New Building that is the Helsby Community Sports Club will be having its last finishing touches by the builders. And what magnificent facilities Helsby will have.

Santa says.... awesome, gobsmacking, breathtaking, inspiring and **OPENING IN THE NEW YEAR!**



A MESSAGE FROM "HARMERS WOOD"

Since the last edition of Helsby News, we are pleased to tell you that the fencing round all the quarries has now been finished, thanks to the grant from Protos which paid for a large part of the cost.

We would like to thank two staunch members who have been cutting back the brush and holly and generally tidying up the wood and the long serving member (c2008) who has been responsible for liaising with the fencing contractors.

The Covid lockdown has found the wood even more popular and of course that means more cars and more parking. Some drivers have been parking without much thought. We ask that visitors please park with regard to the limited space available and not park on the road. We doubt if it is the residents of Helsby who have ended up in the ditch or added to the parking all along the road but this has caused a few problems to the residents of Hill Road North. We did not envisage when we fought to buy Harmers Wood for the village that there would be this kind of congestion.

Please enjoy the wood, but please, dog walkers, be sure to take your doggy bags home with you. Plastic bags can take years to disintegrate!

Many thanks from The Trustees of Harmers Wood.

WI News

Covid 19 has put a stop to all of our WI meetings and the Cheshire federation celebrations since March 2020. We are hopeful that we will be able to start afresh in the New Year.

However, Helsby WI has provided afternoon tea to 3 nursing homes, namely Chappelfields, Heathercliffe and Loxley Hall. The residents were surprised and delighted to receive this treat.

In the first phase of lockdown members were making scrub bags, face masks and headbands to donate to local hospitals and care homes. We are now being asked to knit squares to make knee blankets in preparation for winter.

On behalf of our members we wish you all a Happy Christmas. Please be vigilant, take care and stay safe.

Pam Hinkley



**FRODSHAM
AND HELSBY**

Ho Ho Grotto

2pm to 7pm

16th, 17th, 18th, 21st & 22nd December

The Old Bank Tea Rooms, Helsby

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Email: jto.vintage@yahoo.co.uk

**All money raised goes to charity.
Please give generously!**





DIWALI COMES TO HORNS MILL

Grey skies were swept aside by the children of Horn's Mill Primary School as they were treated to a week of fun activities and stories linked to the Hindu Festival of Light, Diwali. They examined artefacts like Hindu statues and Diwali greetings cards, made beautiful Rangoli patterns and ended the week with a whole-school Diwali Day where everyone dressed up in their brightest colours to celebrate the festival of light. They also showed off some of the traditional Indian poses they learned in their exciting dance workshops. Some wonderful Diwali-inspired writing will soon be on display in the school hall to commemorate the day.

Service and Ambition at Helsby High

Helsby Sixth Form has a new team of Head Students for the academic year 2020/2021. The five students have already begun their duties, which include representing the Sixth Form both within the school and out in the wider community.

The students (pictured left to right) told us about their plans for their time in post and their career aspirations:

Bronwen studies English Literature, History, Politics and Art. Bronwen explains, "Studying such subjects has developed my passion for law and I hope to read it at University. Helsby High School and my teachers have always supported me in both my academic studies and my extracurricular activities and it's my turn to give something back. Being a Head Student helps me in that ambition."

Lucy is studying Business, ICT and Sociology and intends to secure a Business/Finance degree apprenticeship. Lucy told Helsby News that she felt it was particularly important for the Head Student Team to be active in getting to know the younger students, be a voice for them and help with any problems or concerns they may have.

Sarah studies Sociology, Politics and Philosophy and Ethics. She is passionate about social justice and intends to study anthropology and international relations at University. She is ambitious to forge a career in human rights. As part of the Head Student Team she hopes to be able to honestly represent the views and opinions of her peers and work with the school to achieve the best outcomes for everyone at Helsby High.

Jess is studying Business, Economics and Psychology and has already completed the Certificate in Financial Studies (CEFS). She is drawn to Business management with Marketing at University. As a Head Student, she is hoping to support the

students and the local community to become more aware of issues such as Inclusion and Diversity, Sustainability and Resilience in an ever-changing world.

Jaiden is studying Economics, English Language and Geography and has already made inroads into qualifications in Year 12. Jaiden plans to study Economics at university. He explains, "I feel honoured to have been chosen to be Head Student. I am excited to accept the opportunities and challenges that will come my way while in this role and aim to set a good example both within the school and within the wider community."

Director of Sixth Form at Helsby High, Ian Duffell added "It is great to be working with such a talented and enthusiastic team of Head Students. The team are an exceptional group of ambassadors, both for The Sixth Form and for the wider school."

Ambition and Service, a fine combination. We wish you a fine and rewarding Year 13.

Marj Thoburn





HELSEBY GOLF CLUB WELCOMES A NEW PROFESSIONAL!

Helsby Golf Club is delighted to announce the appointment of John O'Neill as the new Head Professional at the Towers Lane club.

John replaces the former Professional, Chris Cousins who along with Anthony Dempsey (Assistant Professional) has moved to a new role at Beau Desert Golf Club in Staffordshire. We thank Chris and Anthony for all their hard work at Helsby over the past few years and wish them both all the best in their new roles.

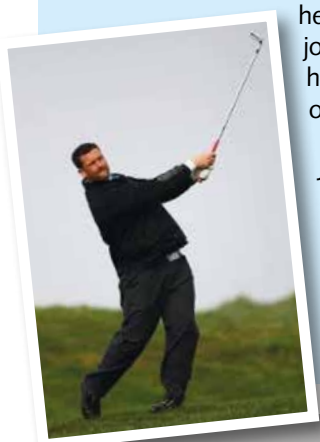
We welcome John, who has 18 years experience working in the golf industry including Junior development, coaching, golf retail, customer fitting and golf club management. He recently joined Helsby from Blackburn Golf Club where for the last 4 years, he was Head Professional and Club Secretary.

He has a real passion for coaching and providing a quality retail offering. John plans to develop a coaching academy at Helsby Golf Club to encourage the growth of the Junior and Ladies sections. John would be delighted to

hear from you:
johnoneill@helsbygolfclub.org

John lives in Liverpool and has 2 children aged 7 and 3.

Welcome to Helsby John!



A Big Win for Helsby FC

With no fans present, Helsby FC progressed through their league to win the West Cheshire League Shield Final 2019/20! Playing in Crosby against Marine AFC Reserves last month, a "superb performance" from the Green Army saw them win four goals to zero. Smiles All round Seen Here!

Norman celebrates 70 years as a member at Helsby Golf Club!

In December 2020, Helsby resident Norman Littler celebrates 70 continuous years service as a member at Helsby Golf Club. To the best of our knowledge, this is a record achievement and during those years, Norman has shown a lifelong commitment to the Towers Lane Club.

Not content with being a playing member, Norman has also held the following positions:

- Captain in 1964
- Club President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Organiser for the Juniors for 35 years
- Life member
- Club Trustee and Board director

Until the recent lockdowns intervened, Norman also organised the regular Bridge sessions at the Club. He won his last golf "major" competition in 1999. The Past Captains have donated a new "Norman



"Littler Trophy" for an annual competition in recognition of Norman and his service to the club.

2019 was a big year for Norman as he celebrated his 90th birthday and also he and his wife Audrey (a past Lady Captain at the Club) celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary. They have a daughter Pauline who lives in St Lucia and a son Geoffrey who lives in Runcorn and they have 4 grandchildren.

Norman is a true gentleman, and a very special person who is much admired and respected by everyone at the club – **Thanks for 70 years of outstanding service Norman!**

Helsby Parish Council

North Ward

Alan Gardner	722360
John Kimpton	724236
Sarah Temple	722181
Allan Fincham	890334
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	607821
George Randles	724775
Vacancy	
Vacancy	

Clerk

Claire Jones	726433
Parish Office: 200 Chester Road, Helsby, WA6 0AP	