



# HELSEBY NEWS

www.helsbynews.net

ISSUE 96 • SPRING 2021

## Glad to be Back!

The delight to be back at school is OH SO evident in these pictures.



*Horn's Mill Children were welcomed back with a colourful Balloon Arch. Seen here is Team 4.*

Helsby High had the Welcome banners out too on the Day but their return had to be something of a military operation to ensure compliance with the Covid recommendations.

1200 students, visibly excited by the return to school, had to have lateral flow tests in the week before the return, with the school hall turned into a testing station.

On the morning of 8 March suitably dressed in school uniform, with identity lanyards and face coverings, the students assembled outside and were introduced to the new way of doing things as a whole school.

A very successful return to the new "NORMAL"



*Hillside children can't wait to get back into school*



*Year 7 pupils wearing their face coverings in lessons*



*Covid testing station*

## Parish Council News

The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council are now to be placed on the PC website 2 weeks after each Parish Council Meeting.

The Parish Council agreed to postpone the 2021 Best Kept Village Competition for 12 months due to the Covid Lockdown.

### Your Parish Council Needs You!

There are a number of vacancies on the Parish Council. Please contact Claire, the Parish Clerk for further details. You could make a difference.

[parishclerk@helsbyparish.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@helsbyparish.org.uk)

## Helsby Village Produce Association

Throughout lockdown, Helsby Village Produce Association has continued to supply gardeners with compost, growbags, fertilisers and other gardening sundries. As the shop is closed due to Covid19, we have moved on line, and offer a free home delivery service within Helsby. We are a not-for-profit organisation and new members are always welcome. For more details and a price list, please email [helsbyvpa@outlook.com](mailto:helsbyvpa@outlook.com)



### Helsby News Editorial Team

Marj Thoburn, Barbara Ginty, Betty Grieve, Vicky Mohring, Chris Ellams

Web: [www.helsbynews.net](http://www.helsbynews.net)

Email: [editor@helsbynews.net](mailto:editor@helsbynews.net)

Tel: 01928 724848 / 722304

Printed by NeuroMuscular Centre

Supported by Helsby Parish Council

Design kindly provided by

[carswellcreative.co.uk](http://carswellcreative.co.uk)

## Helsby Methodist Church

### Holy Week Reflections (Monday 29th March to Friday 2nd April)

North Cheshire Methodist Circuit (YouTube only)

### Easter Sunday (4th April)

10.30am Easter Celebration (YouTube and Church\*)

\*We may be allowed in church depending on Government guidance.

*Please see our website and facebook page nearer the time for up to date information*

[www.helsbymethodist.org.uk](http://www.helsbymethodist.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/Helsbymethchurch](https://www.facebook.com/Helsbymethchurch)

*These are all subject to Government pronouncements.*

## Easter Services at St Paul's

### Maundy Thursday (1st April)

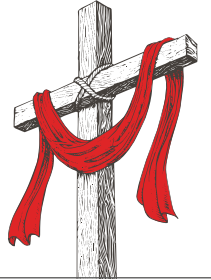
Church open for silent prayer 6pm till 8pm

### Good Friday (2nd April) Methodist Church

10am The Cross  
Live on YouTube and possibly in the building (max 26)  
Lead Rev. David Bintliff,  
Address Rev. Graham Green

### Easter Day (4th April)

8am Holy Communion  
11am Holy Communion



## INTRODUCING NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR, PAUL STANDING

Paul Standing, (a long standing resident of Helsby!) became the latest addition to the Parish Council when he was co-opted to stand for Central Ward at the February zoom council meeting. Paul told Helsby News

"I've lived on Alvanley Road for almost 20 years (having previously lived in Hapsford). I'm a consulting engineer by profession and have worked all over the globe. I enjoy living in Helsby and value its ruralness, whilst still being connected to the world with great transport links".

Paul has joined the council because he is interested in local issues and like others is particularly concerned about the proposed conservation area, speeding, road closures and car parking. Drug taking on the Hill and in the Quarry carpark is also a concern.

"These are just some of the many issues to look at and from my limited time with

the council I know that some of these things are already being looked at.

Joining the council is an opportunity to help us to develop the parish in a way that meets our needs and aspirations, within the parish council's remit, of course."

Paul hopes to raise awareness of the council's work and to encourage participation from more of Helsby residents. His email address is [paul.standing@helsbyparish.org.uk](mailto:paul.standing@helsbyparish.org.uk)

Paul is married, has 2 children and can sometimes be seen walking his 2 dogs on the Hill.

*Marj Thoburn*



## HELP FOR HARMERS WOOD

We are expecting two loads of wood chippings to be delivered to Harmers Wood in the next few weeks and if there are any volunteers who would be willing to help us move the chippings, to

fill the holes in the paths, please would you email Mo (Trustee) at [teuthillmo@gmail.com](mailto:teuthillmo@gmail.com) with your name and telephone number and I will contact you.

# Helsby Scouts achieve Top Award

Three Helsby scouts have been awarded the Chief Scout's Personal Award for tackling anti-social behaviour in Helsby.

Oliver Chambers, District Commissioner for Mersey Weaver Scouts, wrote "We are delighted to announce that the Chief Scout, Bear Grylls, has awarded Blake, Caleb and Oscar, three Scouts from 1st Helsby seen here, the prestigious 'Chief Scout's Personal Award', in recognition of their bravery to challenge antisocial behaviour and for reporting vandalism to the emergency services in September last year.

We are incredibly proud of the actions of the three boys – their character exemplifies our Scout values and they deserve the recognition. They are huge credit to Scouting in Helsby and Mersey Weaver as well as their local community.



We hope to present the three Scouts with their certificates, letters and badges in a socially distanced way (restrictions permitted) in the new year at one of the Group's section meetings. The three Scouts will appear in the 2021 roll of honour in March 2021."

*Fiona Barry*

## Replacement Bridge over M56 between J11 and J12

A £23million project to secure a vital road link over the M56 in Cheshire is set to start in the spring.

The A533 Southern Expressway bridge has been described as a vital connection for people living and working in the Runcorn area with the communities of Brookvale and Murdishaw on one side of the motorway and Whitehouse Industrial

Estate at Preston Brook on the other.

As part of the efforts to minimise inconvenience to users of both the M56 and A533, the main concrete bridge deck will be constructed in a nearby compound then moved and lowered into place over the M56

This will be done during a weekend-long

closure of the motorway in the autumn ready for opening in spring 2022.

Highways England is aiming to run some public information events before preparation work starts in the spring with main construction set to start before the summer.

*Marj Thoburn*



## Helsby - The Art of Here Project

On your lockdown walks around the village don't miss the large display screen in the window of the Old Bank JTO Tea rooms showing scenes from past events in Helsby.

Helsby Parish Council received funding for an arts project in the village. Some progress was made but due to the restrictions in place due to the pandemic moving the project further has been limited for the time being.

However, the screen currently displays photographs of the 2019 Ho Ho Helsby Christmas event and some from 2010 when we had plenty of snow about. The presentation concludes with some pictures of the 2020 Christmas decorations in the village. The next presentation will show a stroll through the village featuring old and new images of Helsby.

Future presentations are planned and if your club, group or society have a story to tell or if you just want the village to know how you coped and what activities you got up to during lockdown and you would like to be featured please email [art-of-here@helsbyparish.org.uk](mailto:art-of-here@helsbyparish.org.uk) with some details.

*Chris Ellams*

# Seeing is Believing



If you take a walk to the bottom of Calendar Way in Helsby you will be amazed at what you find there. During lockdown the new and longed for Helsby Community Sports Club has been quietly built and is about to open. Covid 19 regulations have restricted the launch and held back the opening but we now have an impressive sports club surrounded by state of the art sport facilities.

It has taken 12 years of patient and determined negotiations and countless volunteer hours as well as generous support from key partners and sponsors. But it is here now, made possible by an innovative land exchange which allowed the club to be built before any other new builds were started.

This beautiful new addition to the village will be open to all, and has the potential to become a real hub of the community, a facility that the village and surrounding area can be proud of. The club is entirely volunteer led and is a not for profit organisation. An amazing army of volunteers have kept the club going over the years until this wonderful phoenix could rise from the ashes of the old and display its fabulous facilities.

## And what facilities.

The club showcases a new floodlit 3G Football pitch with shockpad allowing full contact sports like Rugby and American football to be played. Helsby's resident football club can now play all year round and teams from around the area can also hire the pitch.

There are 2 spectacular artificial Crown green bowling greens offering year round play.

The 4 new floodlit tennis courts offer exceptional opportunities for tennis players to take part in coaching, competitions and social play. The courts will be able to be booked online using the Lawn Tennis Association's innovative sponsored gate access scheme. The tennis section has its own clubhouse next to the courts.

The proximity of the new club to the established Rugby pitches means that players can now find these excellent facilities on their door step.

Inside the impressive club house on the ground floor, there are accessible changing rooms, showers and equipment stores. Upstairs there are two enormous function rooms, one with a balcony overlooking the 3G pitch, a fully kitted out snooker room with 2 full size tables. There is a handsome bar and modern catering facilities as well as a stage for entertainment. The state of the art audio-visual system, placed around the function rooms, means that the best of televised sport and music can be broadcast.

## Nothing has been forgotten.



All-Weather Bowling Greens



All-Weather 3G Football Pitch



Tennis Courts



Sports Club



Tennis Clubhouse



Function Room with Balcony View



TV Viewing

The club is home to 6 resident sections, Running, Football, Tennis, Rugby, Bowls and Snooker and details of all of these clubs can be found on the website [www.helsbysports.co.uk](http://www.helsbysports.co.uk)

Enquiries are welcomed from other sports keen to create a section or develop sporting opportunities.

This really is a wonderful new facility for the village and open to all regardless of membership. There are great benefits in joining as a member and the club is busy finalising its membership packages for 21/22 onwards. Benefits include priority booking, reduced priced facility and room hire, sports tasters, partner

benefits and discounted drinks and sports TV.

**What's Not To Like?**

The Village owes a big debt of gratitude to all those who have supported the dream. They made it happen.

It is up to us, Helsby and the surrounding community, to make it thrive.

*Marj Thoburn*

## To Make Dreams a Reality

Helsby Community Sports Club has appointed an experienced facilities manager, in the shape of Simon Greensmith. His job is a challenging one for he has to make the longed for dreams of the army of volunteers who have kept the old club going, a reality. During the lockdown the new club and surrounding pitches have emerged like a phoenix on Callender Way. Simon is ready to launch the beautiful new addition to our village now that some of the Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted.

Originally from Northwich Simon moved south and after eight years as a sub-mariner, he left the military to carve a career in sports and leisure facility management in South East London.

He brings a wealth of experience of managing staff and volunteers in the private and NHS sectors. He intends to build the Club into the best sports centre in the North West whilst ensuring the founding sports sections are protected. Extending the range of new activities and social events in the future is also part of his remit.

Simon sees himself as a laid back, outdoors kind of guy who loves rugby and fishing and walking his two Labradors, Blake and Poppy.

He and his partner, Lucy, an engineer, decided they wanted to come back north and this job opportunity was shown to him by his mum who lives in Frodsham. Lucy was able to happily transfer to Liverpool with her company so putting roots down and buying a house locally is part of their dream. Members of HCSC know that dreams come true. The new club is the witness.

Congratulations on your appointment and welcome to Helsby.

*Marj Thoburn*



Simon Greensmith

# Goodbye to the Quiet American

When Betty Grieve leaves the village to move to Scotland many will feel the draft of her going. Betty, who has lived in the village for 16 years, has been that quiet American who can be relied on to volunteer and what's more deliver!

Never afraid to get stuck in, she has contributed to numerous committees and planning groups for village events. The Running Club, Footpaths Society, Ho Ho Helsby, Litter pick, Neighbourhood Planning group, Helsby Community Sports Club, Queen's Jubilee and the ill-fated VE Day Celebrations, to name a few. Often the committee minute taker, always the willing deliverer of leaflets, the clearer

of footpaths on the Hill, the person to ask if you want something done.

All this and a full time job too.

I first met her at the first Sports Club Family Day in 2008 which she helped organise. Soon afterwards she joined the Helsby News Editorial team and has been at its backbone ever since.

You will be keenly missed, Betty. Many will thank you for all you have done. We hope you enjoy your retirement with husband Ken as you return to his roots in the Highlands. Sutherland's gain is Helsby's Loss.

*Marj Thoburn*



## LOXLEY CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

Christmas should be full of good will and surprises and this certainly happened at Loxley Hall in December last year! As Christmas approached, so did the visits from the postman with sacks of mail and parcels, and how delighted everyone was when opening lots of cards, lovely drawing and parcels too - all sent by children from the following local schools.

Frodsham Manor School, Hornsmill Primary, Horns Mill Preschool, Helsby High, Kingsley St John's Primary, Sandymoor School, Runcorn, St Mark's Primary at Antrobus, Helsby Scouts and last but not least, Hillside Primary, whose pupils stood outside and sang for the residents.

The Staff and resident made a huge display of some of the cards letters and drawings on their big notice board and used the others to decorate the Christmas trees throughout the care home.

All at Loxley Hall very much appreciated the thoughts and efforts, which gave the residents a lot of pleasure. Thank you to all involved.  
*Barbara Ginty*



## PROPOSED CONSERVATION AREA IN HELSBY

Helsby Parish Council has been involved with Cheshire West and Chester Council on the possible introduction of a conservation area. Initial documentation can be found by visiting the Parish Council website at [www.helsbyparish.org.uk](http://www.helsbyparish.org.uk) and following the links to the proposed conservation area. It was hoped by this stage of the process to have a public consultation so that residents affected by the proposed conservation area could voice their opinions concerns and ideas.

Sadly, due to the current pandemic situation this has not been possible. Residents who may be affected are encouraged to read the documentation, and if they wish to forward their

thoughts to the Parish Council, by email to [conservation@helsbyparish.org.uk](mailto:conservation@helsbyparish.org.uk) or if no internet is available a telephone call to the Parish Office on 01927 726433 during normal office hours are welcome. Comments received will be compiled so that when a public consultation can take place the full amount of information can be freely distributed.

Helsby Parish Council will endeavour to keep the affected residents as informed as possible and a decision on the public consultation will discussed at the July Parish Council meeting.

*Chris Ellams*  
*Helsby Parish Council, 19/02/2021*

## HELSEBY HILLSIDE WI

As I write it is apparent the days are getting longer, the news is better regarding the pandemic and many of us have had at least the first vaccine. I would like to extend thanks to all members who have worked so hard during lockdown to keep our WI in touch either by telephone or zoom meetings. It will be lovely when we can all meet face to face, and it is something we will never take for granted again. Keep safe and best wishes to all members.



Pictured here are WI President, Treasurer and Secretary ready to distribute Christmas presents to members and also delivered gifts to local residential homes.

*Pam Hinkley*



## A Logged On Helsby Hillside

School has certainly been different for the pupils at Helsby Hillside Primary School but learning has continued. Pupils have logged in to two live lessons every day and their teachers reported excellent levels of engagement and effort! Headteacher, Craig Richardson, has been delighted with how remote education has gone.

“The teachers have delivered excellent lessons and the children have responded brilliantly. Parents have been very supportive and have helped their

children access the technology and attend the lessons. We can see that the children have made progress and this will mean that we can move on again when we return to school. We have had around 40 to 50 children attending school as part of our critical worker group and our terrific team of teaching assistants have been supporting these children with accessing the online lessons and completing their work too. Overall, I am very pleased with how things have gone but I can't wait to have everyone back in school!”

## BACK TO NORMAL AT HORN'S MILL

Whilst we remained open only to the children that really needed us, we worked tirelessly to support ALL of our families through the third lockdown. Teachers had two classes each – one at school and one at home! The children were wonderful; they continue to be resilient, excellently behaved and really hard working. They never

cease to surprise us with what they are able to 'bounce back' from. The entire team at Horn's Mill have pulled together and I am extremely proud to hold the position of head teacher in our community, especially at this difficult time. Our parents and carers have been wholly supportive and kind to us, in what could have been a

very emotive time; we are extremely grateful for this. We are so glad to have welcomed all of our families back, and to commencing some well-deserved “Extreme Fun!” during the Summer Term!

*Sharon Wyatt, Head Teacher*

## JOHN ROBOTHAM RETIRES

Helsby Parish Council's long-serving general assistant, John Robotham, will be leaving his post at the end of March. He has been with the council since February 1999. During this time, John has been out and about in all weathers to keep our village looking so well cared for. His duties have included removing litter and weeds, maintaining planters and flower beds, inspecting council assets such as its parish field, outdoor gym and play area and carrying out essential maintenance work around the village. John, along with the Council's other long-serving general assistant, Stan Jones, who retired last Summer, have both shown great dedication to the Council and to Helsby. Helsby News caught up with John.

“I retired from the County 22 years ago and after 6 months I was bored, saw an advert for the parish job and applied. The job's been very varied and turned out to be bigger than originally

intended. I have enjoyed working with the Parish Clerks and Counsellors over the years and meeting the people of Helsby”

John says he will still be around in the village and plans to spend more time on his main interests, field archery, bowling and swimming.

Parish Clerk, Claire Jones, told Helsby News “John has been an enthusiastic and hard-working member of the team here at Helsby Parish Council. He has kept the village looking smart for over 20 years and we will all miss him greatly.

We wish him a well-deserved and enjoyable retirement”.



We had a super proud moment recently when the song that OUR Hornsmill Team 6 children wrote back in the Summer term, was featured in an online music session by AmaSing. Thousands of children across Cheshire West and beyond joined in the zoom meeting, (that is designed to support everybody's mental health and well-being) to learn OUR song. Well done to our lovely, creative, compassionate children for writing such an emotive, relevant and beautiful song. You can listen to the song on Twitter “Let's Build a World”

If any children would like to join in with any of these future AmaSing well-being singing sessions, they take place every Thursday morning. Just take a look at the links provided by @amasingcic on Twitter.



## Life goes on at Helsby Golf Club – despite the lockdowns!

Despite the lockdowns and restrictions seen in the last twelve months, life at Helsby Golf Club has continued, albeit in different ways, and we are now looking forward to getting back to golf at the end of March! Here are a few things that have been happening recently ....

During the enforced closures we kept in touch with the members by way of regular updates and essential maintenance on the course has continued.

The Pro, John O'Neill, organized a couple of raffles and 2 lucky members won a golf club which they were delighted with. There was a draw for those members who had introduced new members to the Club, and it was a great draw for the winner, member Carl Robinson from Widnes, as that means he doesn't have to pay golf fees for the next 12 months!

As the clubhouse has been closed and therefore no social events happening, our chef Dave Brinkley has diversified and introduced a take away service for Sunday lunches where members, friends, neighbours and families could preorder and then collect a pre-prepared meal from the club to reheat at home.



Finally, our pro is arranging some golf activities for Juniors starting in Spring – these will be fun, involving games, exercises, learning and prizes. If you want more information on how you can get your youngsters involved, please contact John O'Neill on **01928 722021** or [johnoneill@helsbygolfclub.org](mailto:johnoneill@helsbygolfclub.org)

**HELSBY GOLF CLUB**  
**JUNIOR ACADEMY**  
STARTING SPRING 2021  
CONTACT 01928 722021  
Helsby Golf Club, Towers Lane, Helsby, WA6 0JB  
DELIVERED BY FULLY QUALIFIED PGA COACHES

**Opening News from HCSC**

Facilities Manager, Simon told Helsby News

*"We will be opening up for tennis, bowling and football on the 29th March. Unfortunately, facilities inside the club house can't be in use because of Covid restrictions so it will be 'beach ready sport' for the time being, (Players turn up and leave in what they play in). We will provide a toilet facility in the Tennis Pavilion for everyone to use but it will be a strictly 1 in 1 out policy to maintain COVID rules. "*

### Helsby Parish Council

#### North Ward

Alan Gardner	722360
Sarah Temple	722181
Allan Fincham	890334
Vacancy	
Vacancy	

#### Central Ward

Chris Ellams	724409
Patricia Holder	727384
Michelle Massey	727377
Terry O'Neill	723205
Paul Standing	

#### 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