



HELSEBY NEWS

www.helsbynews.net

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4th Time in the Chair for Terry

Way back in 2002 Terry O'Neill, who had recently returned from working in Oz, decided it was time he gave something back to the community he had grown up in and where his extended family lived.

That was Helsby's gain..... for he has been serving on the Parish Council ever since. Terry took on the Chair of the Parish Council for the 4th time in May 2021. Peter Duffy has agreed act as Vice Chair.

In these trying and abnormal times it is business as usual where possible for the Parish Council given that meetings have had to be done by Zoom and with a much reduced membership. There are currently 5 vacancies across the North, Central and South Wards.

Terry is keen to get back to normal and hopes to be able to chair the regular Parish Council meetings where members of the public can attend from June 21st. He also has plans to re-establish the monthly face-to-face Parish Council surgeries for residents which used to be held in the community centre.

Then there is the move of the Parish Office to the Community Sports Club, not to mention some significant planning issues to monitor and stay on top of. So no shortage of things to do for this 4th term of office, Terry. Just a shortage of parish councillors.

Surely there are others out there, in the village, who might want to make a difference like Terry? Who have come to value the community in this

time of pandemic and who want to give something back. Let's hope so.

Marj Thoburn



After 33 years in teaching, 12 of them at Hillside Primary School. Headteacher Craig Richardson has decided to make a career change.

He will leave Hillside in July and join a team of consultants who specialise in partnering with schools to work for school improvements and in advising local authorities, including CWAC.

THE LEAVING OF HILLSIDE

Mr Richardson has thoroughly enjoyed his time at Hillside and has seen many changes and initiatives. He was responsible for building a proper entrance to the school and getting a new roof on the old school. Creatively colourful playgrounds and running tracks have emerged during his time as head and every space, both inside and out, has maximised opportunities, to "Learn, Laugh and Play" the school motto.

He feels the school has become a centre of excellence with lots of new award winning initiatives in sport, health and community. He knows just how much he will miss contact with the children and the staff and

how proud he is of how everyone has managed during the Covid lockdown, participating in 2 live lessons every day.

At 55 Craig Richardson wants to work a bit less, be less tied to school terms, enjoy travelling and walking with his wife, who also plans to do less. He will continue to run his 30/40 miles each week, play more golf and bowls and get fully acquainted with a shiny new road bike.

The school will miss Mr Richardson and thank him for all that he has done to maintain Hillside as that "Good School with Outstanding Features" mentioned in Ofstead's last report.

Marj Thoburn

Helsby Parish Council move to Helsby Community Sports Club

Helsby Parish Council is delighted to be moving from their existing premises on Chester Road to a new office at Helsby Community Sports Club. The transition is expected to take a couple of weeks but they hope to be fully installed by the middle of July.

Parish Clerk, Claire Jones, said *"We are really excited to be moving into the new sports facility which is a fantastic asset for the local community. After a long period in lockdown, it will be great to meet councillors and members of the public face to face again in such a lovely venue. I'd like to say a big thank you to the members of the club for their hard work in seeing this project to fruition and for welcoming the parish council as a new tenant."*

If you have any issues you'd like to raise with the council, Claire will be available at the front office at HCSC from Mon-Thurs 10am to 2pm and Friday 10am to midday (by appointment only please).

New Picnic Tables and CCTV at Helsby Play Area

In April, Council members, along with many people from the local community, were shocked and saddened when the two picnic tables in the play area were destroyed by vandals.

The picnic tables had only been installed in recent years but sadly the levels of brute force used to break the concrete meant that they were both damaged beyond repair. The police investigation is ongoing.

Councillors are keen to replace the tables before the summer. New galvanised metal tables will be installed and it is hoped that these will be more resilient to any anti-social behaviour.

The council is also looking at installing CCTV in the play area and a lighting project at the parish field, and it is hoped that funds will be available through Police and Crime Commissioner funding, as well as through other grant sources, in due course.

HARMERS WOOD FOOTPATH IMPROVEMENTS

Bob Hughes, Alvanley Footpaths Officer seen here inspecting the recent improvements in Harmers Wood.



Helsby News Editorial Team

Marj Thoburn, Barbara Ginty,
Vicky Mohring, Chris Ellams

Web: www.helsbynews.net
Email: editor@helsbynews.net
Tel: 01928 724848 / 722304

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100 Years of the Royal British Legion

The Royal British Legion celebrated its centenary on 15 May 2021. Founded in Birkenhead, after a meeting between Earl Haig and representatives of the Army, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and the Royal Marines, events were held across the world to recognise the occasion.

Across West Cheshire, to mark the occasion, it was decided that Branches would each contribute towards a combined event to 'Walk 100 miles for 100 years'.

The walk started in Birkenhead Park at 9am, with other groups joining in throughout the day. Here in Helsby,

poppies appeared along the A56 and a small group set off in the afternoon to lay wreaths at the War Memorials at St. Paul's Church and St John's Church in Alvanley, contributing 4.5 miles to the 100 mile target.

The Royal British Legion has produced a limited edition pin badge to mark their centenary and these are available at a cost of £4 for collectors and supporters. Thanks to everyone who has supported the Royal British Legion on this memorable occasion.

Fiona Purcell
Poppy Appeal Organiser (Helsby)
Tel: 724412



Helping To Close The Digital Divide

OPAL's GoOnline service has been running since 2013 and aims to inspire people to do more online. It helps older people in the rural areas of west Cheshire to increase their confidence in using digital devices, attend online events and social groups, find out what's available in their local area and perhaps acquire a new hobby or interest. Most importantly, it can help

people keep in touch with family and friends.

It has continued to help individuals throughout the pandemic, offering remote support to anyone over the age of 60. The group of experienced volunteers phone clients and assist with IT issues - be it a problem with a laptop, a tablet or their phone.



OPAL is now extending the service with an exciting new project - OPAL in Touch. This will support people who have no experience at all of communication technology- a much needed service which will be made available to residents of the rural communities in west Cheshire. Equipment, resources and support will be provided.

Think about me, not my age

For more information visit www.opalservices.org.uk/go-online or call 07923 425239

It's finally happening....

After almost 12 years of planning twists and turns, construction of the incinerator on Ince Marsh has finally started – hence the faint sound of piling permeating Helsby these days. Covanta are leading a consortium to develop the Energy from Waste facility at Protos which will process 400,000 tons a year of non-recyclable waste to provide up to 49MW of electricity; that's roughly equivalent to the demand of 90,000 homes. Construction is scheduled to run until mid 2022 and the facility should become operational in early 2024. Sisk

building contractors are undertaking the infrastructure work needed to support the Energy from Waste plant and other parts of the Protos site.

The Protos Community Forum recently heard presentations from both companies which are available to view at www.protos.co.uk/community under the Community Forum section. The April 2021 community newsletter is also posted there with info on what's happening across the wider Protos site. Covanta seem keen to be "a good

neighbour" and engage with the local community as much or little as the community wants.

If you want to hear more, or have ideas about how you want to hear more, come along to the AGM of the Community Forum which is open to the public and planned for 14th July. For more details, contact Helsby Parish Council's rep on the Forum at sarah.temple@helsbyparish.org.uk

Sarah Temple

Marshes Community Benefit Fund – As lockdown lifts, 6 Projects Awarded Grants of £44,000



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

Six community-based projects have been awarded £44,000 in the latest, the ninth, round of awards since the Marshes Community Benefit Fund was established in 2016.

Helsby Community Sports Club HCSC was successfully awarded a grant of **£9,200** towards the purchase of 2 pitch side dugouts and 4 foldable football mini goals. The dugouts will provide shelter from the elements for local teams who train and compete at the facility. The mini goals will allow tournaments to take place for juniors and school holidays.

Alvanley Cricket Club The Panel awarded **£3,862** towards providing two new bowling machines, one for the juniors and one for the seniors, this will make an immeasurable difference to the development of the batters throughout the club.

Association of Frodsham Townfield Allotments was awarded **£2,000**. The funds will go towards upgrading the grass tracks to an all-weather gravel surface for wheelbarrows, wheelchairs and buggies which will enable more users easier access throughout the year.

4th Frodsham Scouts will receive a sum of **£15,000** towards a further phase of their planned works to improve storage space and access as the club's use grows. This includes replacing the current canoe shed.

Helsby Hillside Primary School has been granted a sum of **£6,650** towards a key stage two (KS2) 'outdoor gym'. With over 130 pupils in their KS2 year group, the school currently has no outdoor equipment for the year group to use for physical health and mental wellbeing within the playground area.

OPAL services have been awarded **£7,000** towards an ongoing project 'developing digital inclusion' services for local older people and their carers. The project will support providing access to services such as online banking, shopping, and to health-and well-being related services. The project will also give people a chance to increase their

day-to-day social interaction with family and friends via platforms such as Facetime, Skype, Zoom etc. Participants in the MCBF area will receive 1-2-1 mentoring support, tailored to their needs.

Are you part of a not-for-profit school, charity, business, community group or club considering a project which will benefit the local community? Have you considered that your project might meet the criteria for funding from the MCBF? If so we would love to hear from you, please consider applying, even if you have applied in the past and not been successful, you can re-apply. Guidelines for applications and details of the award process are available on the MCBF website.

The MCBF Panel meets again in the Autumn to consider all applications submitted by the 31st August 2021 deadline"

*Joycey Bammeke-Bailey,
MCBF Panel Member, PR*

Funding Boost from National Lottery

Ready to sing again, the Frodsham based, One Voice Community Choir has been awarded a £3,000 grant from The National Lottery Community Fund to help with its relaunch.

One Voice now hopes to return to weekly rehearsals from the 23rd June at Main Street Community Church, Main Street, Frodsham at 7.15pm. The choir will be led by their new highly

experienced Musical Director, Joe Mann, who is known for his involvement in the Chester Mystery Plays and fringe productions.



The choir is open to everyone and all singing abilities. There are no auditions required and anyone interested in joining One Voice should either go along to rehearsal or get in touch via the choir's website www.onevoicecommunitychoir.org or email: onevoicewa6@gmail.com

INCOMING POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER VISITS HELSBY ON FIRST OFFICIAL ENGAGEMENT

Newly-elected Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, John Dwyer, visited Helsby on his first official engagement since being elected to the role earlier this month. Mr Dwyer was invited to the village by local campaigner Adam Wordsworth, following reports of antisocial behaviour and vandalism over recent months.

Speaking at Helsby Parish Play Area, which was vandalised last month, Mr Dwyer said: "Low level antisocial behaviour and vandalism such as this don't often get coverage in the press

because they are not seen as high crimes, but these are the things that blight people's everyday lives."

Helsby Parish Play Area became the focal point for local residents in April, when benches were broken and bottles smashed, shortly after a bus stop was vandalised on Chester Road. Mr Wordsworth commented "A lot of it was kids being bored during lockdown but there is no excuse for it going this far. We now need everyone to work together to make sure this doesn't happen again. That means parents



PCC John Dwyer, local campaigner Adam Wordsworth, and Helsby Parish Council Chairman Terry O'Neill at Helsby Parish Play Area

taking responsibility for their kids, youths taking responsibility for their actions, and Cheshire West Council ensuring there are things for young people to do other than hang out on street corners."



Benches were broken at Helsby Parish Play Area last month

Helsby Parish Council Chairman Terry O'Neill added: "Helsby Parish Council is extremely concerned about the rise of antisocial behaviour in the village. We have a good working relationship with the local police, who know the local people and work hard to keep us safe but they can't be everywhere at once. Residents have been doing the right thing and reporting things as and when they occur and I'm really pleased to have had such a swift response from the PCC to the concerns we have raised."

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE M56 MOTORWAY

In the early 1960s traffic on the A56 through Helsby and Frodsham was very heavy: one third of all vehicles were heavy lorries, and 10% were tankers. There were numerous accidents, and one often had to wait 10 minutes to cross the road. By 1964 things were so bad that a number of individuals came together to form the Helsby and Frodsham Road Action Committee (HAFRAC) in order to campaign for a Helsby and Frodsham by-pass (which was first mooted in 1947!) HAFRAC's chairman was Geoff Harrison and I was secretary. We carried out censuses of the A56 and a number of other roads and motorways, and lobbied the County Council and the Government.

Our big break came when the then Prime Minister, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, was due to pass through Helsby on his way from Chester to Warrington on

the 25th July 1964. We arranged for a group of schoolchildren to stand on the grassy area at the top of Queen's Drive, holding placards that read: "BY-PASS A56 NOW!". As luck would have it, just as the Prime Minister's cavalcade passed the children there was a minor car accident at the bottom of Crescent Drive, and the ministerial car had to stop by the placards. People jokingly accused us of staging the accident, but it was purely coincidental (and fortuitous). Sir Alec inquired what the placard display was about, and our then M.P., Mark Carlisle, explained, and gave Sir Alec one of our leaflets. Sir Alec read it and said: "I'll give this to Ernie Marples on Monday morning". (Ernie Marples was the then Minister of Transport.) He was as good as his word, and within six weeks the A56 by-pass was in the roads programme.

Work was started on what was to become the first section of the M56 (between what are now junctions 12 and 14) in 1968. Most of its length was across Ince, Helsby and Frodsham Marshes, and about two million tons of peat had to be excavated. Some of it was rumoured to have found its way to Helsby gardens! That excavation, together with the huge viaduct carrying the motorway over the Weaver Navigation, meant that the first section of the M56 was very expensive.

The road was opened at 11am on Sunday, 20th February, 1971. After the ribbon-cutting ceremony Geoff Harrison and I (representing HAFRAC) and Mark Carlisle were in the first car to drive along the new motorway.

John Dearden



Dear NHS, Love from Horn's Mill

Team 3 at Horn's Mill have been considering the effects that COVID has had on staff and patients in the NHS. They have shown great empathy and enthusiasm, and each member of the class has written a heartfelt letter to the staff at the one of the largest COVID wards in the UK.

We are very proud to say that the staff at the hospital were so pleased to receive our letters that they created a display on the ward!

The staff at the hospital very kindly sent some photographs too, causing great excitement in Team 3! These pictures led to a discussion between the children and staff about their roles and the equipment they had to wear on the ward.

Overall, Team 3 really enjoyed making contact with our wonderful NHS workers on the COVID ward, and hopefully we may have inspired the next generation of doctors and nurses!



FAMOUS PUPIL RETURNS TO HILLSIDE

Helsby Hillside pupils and staff were delighted to welcome Sophie Ecclestone, England cricket star, to school. Since leaving Hillside 11 years ago, Sophie has gone on to become the number one T20 bowler in the world. Sophie read a letter

to the children and shared her memories of school. She was in school to promote junior cricket and this summer's 'Hundred' competition where she will compete for 'Manchester Originals'. Parents interested in getting their child into

cricket can visit a number of local cricket clubs including Alvanley Cricket Club.

*Julie Ellis,
Hillside School Business Manager*



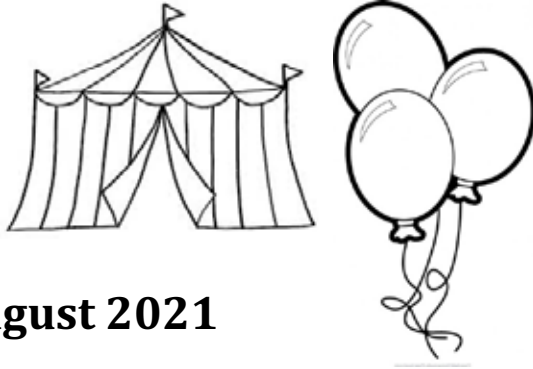
RAISING FUNDS FOR A NEW KIT

Frodsham Juniors FC Under 9 Girls and their coaches, seen here, did a sponsored walk on Saturday 8th May. They started at Moss farm, Northwich, where they sometimes play, and walked to the home ground at Helsby High School. The girls took it in turns to join in the 12 mile walk. All in aid of funds for a new kit. The weather was very wet but they all had smiles on their faces.

Rob Garner

Summer Fete

Summer Fete in the Vicarage Garden on



**Saturday 28th August 2021
12 noon till 4pm.**

Lots of Stalls, Plants, Tombola, Toys, Books, Hot Dogs and Burgers, Teas and Cake, Games Bric a Brac and many more. Music.

The Vicar Retires

The last service of the Rev Graham Green will be on **Sunday 26th September at 11am**, everyone welcome. Pauline and I have had 8 very happy years here in Helsby at St Paul's and St Luke's Dunham on the Hill, but retirement has caught up with us, hope to see you. Graham and Pauline

Highest Award for Rotarian George Randles

Rotarian George Randles was recently recognised for his outstanding service to the community by Frodsham and Helsby Rotary Club when he received the highest award a Rotarian can achieve, the Paul Harris Fellowship.

In 2002 George became the Parish Council's representative on the executive of the old Helsby Sport and Social Club and was appointed voluntary Development Officer in 2007. Since then, through 12 years of determined effort, he has been instrumental in the development, construction and completion of the new Helsby Community Sports Club at Mere's Edge seeing the project through endless negotiations and planning meetings.

He is seen here receiving the award from Rotary Club President Colin Abbott.





HELSEBY SPORTS

ANY ONE FOR TENNIS?

Helsby's Tennis Club has been chosen by the Lawn Tennis Association as Club of the Year for the whole north Region. They have been chosen for their community focussed work during the covid pandemic where they encouraged as many people as possible to play during the first lockdown.

Courts were opened and court booking fees removed to ensure there was no barrier to access one of only 2 sports that could still be played, the other being golf.

Spokesperson, Jo Ellis, told Helsby News "Not only have we built a fantastic

coaching and social programme but we have run many events and offered tennis for free in Castle Park. We are delighted to have completed the move to our fabulous new facilities in the HCSC complex having sourced grant funding for the tennis section and the whole club. We are enormously proud to have been chosen for our community focus and excellence."

The club will host an Open Day of fun tennis activities on 27th June by way of celebration and will formally receive the LTA Award.

Marj Thoburn



Helsby is clearly the club to join and for those of you who would like to try tennis here is the website for this outstanding club - www.helsbytennis.co.uk

STOP PRESS

Seeing is Believing... Helsby Community Sport's Club is holding an open day on 10 July, 10.30am and invites residents to an informal viewing of Helsby's great new sports facilities.



Junior Golf Academy at Helsby

As a way of introducing youngsters to golf, the professional team at Helsby Golf Club have recently embarked on a training set-up to encourage the youngsters in our local area to get into the game of golf.

The youngsters play in groups



of 6 and they learn and build on the fundamentals of the golf swing. The sessions are fun, interactive and are based around developing motor skills. So far, they have played variations of baseball, cricket and even dodgeball as a way to provide fun whilst teaching some of the key movement patterns required for golf.

The end goal is to get the youngsters ready to play the game of golf and become golfers, and so far the interest and application has been superb - probably aided by the amount of forced time indoors due to lockdowns!

The PGA professionals along with the greenkeepers have designed ad set up a suitably sized practice ground to give the kids a feel of a real game of golf.

The sessions have been really popular with great feedback from the youngsters and parents. The sessions are on a Saturday afternoon from 2 pm with the ages varying from 6 to 14. If anyone is interested in more details please contact Josh Hall, the Assistant Professional at Helsby Golf Club – josh92hall@yahoo.com or phone him on 01928 722021 (option 2).

Helsby Parish Council

North Ward

Alan Gardner 722360
Sarah Temple 722181
Allan Fincham 890334
Vacancy
Vacancy

Central Ward

Chris Ellams 724409
Patricia Holder 727384
Terry O'Neill (Chair) 723205
Paul Standing

South Ward

Peter Duffy 722908
Michael Branigan 607821
George Randles 724775
Vacancy
Vacancy

Clerk

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