



HELSEBY NEWS

www.helsbynews.net

ISSUE 98 • AUTUMN 2021

Buzzing Bank Holiday

A warm Bank Holiday Saturday brought hundreds of residents out to enjoy long awaited events. The village was buzzing.

The Open Day at the Community Sports Club provided fun opportunities to try new sports and the sections showcased their different activities. The whole club

filled up with chatter, and music and smiling faces. It was good to see and feel the freedom after these days of lockdown and self-isolation.

The oldest and lifetime member, John Evans, cuts the Open Day red ribbon to the cheers of the happy crowd.



Meanwhile at the other end of the village St Paul's Fete was in full swing with the vicarage garden full of stalls, people and a brass band! Not just a fundraising event but a chance to reconnect with old friends and emerge out of isolation into the sunshine.

Helsby was ready to celebrate as our pictures show.

Marj Thoburn

IS HELSEBY BEING IGNORED?

It's difficult for most of us to feel heard when there is no response to enquiries, when queuing on the phone becomes the norm and you end up speaking to a mailbox! We can be forgiven for thinking we just might be being ignored!

So how is our Cheshire West and Chester Council measuring up?

Not well it seems, when our Parish Councillors despair at getting through to CWAC to discuss the latest planning application for land at Cable Drive (Honeywell site) and bridging the brook into Hapsford, despite having submitted objections to the proposal

way back in February 2020. Lane End Developers propose to build 205 houses and 42 flats on the last remaining Brownfield site. There have not been to date any meaningful consultations with parish councillors, residents and other stakeholders about the impact on our already overloaded infrastructures, schools, health centre.

A close look at the Planning application on the Education aspect of the proposed development reveals some curious thinking. CWAC's planning department is apparently recommending to the CWAC Planning Committee, (no date as yet set) acceptance of the developer's notion of what they might contribute to the S106 requirement for provision of education services.

Based on their own calculations, CWAC could ask for £634,000, however inexplicably they are only asking the developer for £253,000, the primary part with nothing included for the secondary school sector. Needless to say, the developers must be delighted.

It's a complex picture with three councils involved, Helsby, Dunham on the Hill and Hapsford and Ellesmere Port. There can be no doubt that Helsby will face the most demand on its infrastructure and will continue to press for discussions with CWAC.

If this development goes ahead and Helsby is ignored can we expect our schools, health centre and other facilities to be even more stretched and overloaded?

Marj Thoburn

Parish Council News

Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2nd to 6th June 2022

Remember the Diamond Jubilee? We all pulled together and what a time we had.

Groups, Societies, Clubs, Schools, Businesses, Sports and Individuals can make it happen again.

The Parish Council Clerk, Claire, is looking forward to hearing of your interest. Log it with her on 01928 726433 or parishclerk@helsbyparish.org

Parish Council New Address

Helsby Parish Council,
Helsby Community Sports Club,
Callender Way, Helsby, Cheshire WA6 0FX
Tel: 01928 726433
Email: parishclerk@helsbyparish.org



2021 marks the Centenary of the Royal British Legion and the Poppy Appeal. Anyone requiring wreaths or crosses, please get in touch and I will organise these for you.

Likewise, I would be delighted to hear from anyone willing to help with this year's appeal and assist with our stands at Tesco and Hapsford Service Station.

Ruth Jones, Community Fund Raiser for West Cheshire, will be giving a talk on the History of the Royal British Legion and the Poppy Appeal on Thursday 30 September at 7.30pm in Helsby Community Centre. Admission £3. Everyone will be most welcome.

*Fiona Purcell (01928 724412)
Helsby Poppy Appeal Organiser*



STRICTLY COME HELSBY!

Just in time for the Autumn viewing of BBC's Strictly Come Dancing Helsby's talented dancers have already been on the floor at the new Helsby Community Sports Club!

Local resident and well known Alderman of Helsby, Alan McKie who is 80 later this year, launched his hugely popular 'Alan's Afternoon Socials' in July 2021. The Afternoon Socials which are hosted by Alan and fellow dance enthusiast, Kathryn Evans, include live music from organist, John Kyffin, playing popular tunes from over the years.

Alan said "It's time now for people to get back out and socialise again. Here at the new Helsby Community Sports Club there's a great room where it's safe to come and socialise.

"These events are now every Friday afternoon in Helsby from 1:00 – 3:00pm and people can come along as couples, on their own or bring a friend, sit and chat and listen to the live music or take

to the floor and enjoy a dance. It's great to be able to meet new people too "

Alan went on to say "People who haven't danced before are giving it a try and others who haven't danced for many years are all just relishing getting on the floor and giving it a go"

There's no need to book, entrance is £5 each including live music, free tea/coffee and cake.

Roger Maher

Alan's Afternoon Socials

Fridays: 1:00-3:00pm
Helsby Community Sports Club,
Callender Way, Helsby. WA6 0FX

Contact for events:
Alan McKie, Tel: 07971 832467

Follow us on Facebook:
[facebook.com/alansafternoonsocials](https://www.facebook.com/alansafternoonsocials)
(videos available to view)



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Helsby Hillside WI Getting Back to Normal

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.

As most of our organisations are hoping to return to regular meetings, Helsby Hillside held a craft evening for its members. It was lovely to see so many returning and enjoying seeing each other after such a long time and having a good catch-up – as well as producing a woven plant pot cover.

The Sports Section will be resuming with ten-pin bowling, and the outdoor bowling season is now well under way. The monthly lunch club have been enjoying visits to local restaurants. Further outings are being planned for the future starting with our Birthday Party in November.

Our regular meetings will start again on 14th September. 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.

Pam Hinkley



ONE VOICE CHOIR RECOGNISED BY CHESHIRE LIFE

One Voice Community Choir was chosen by Cheshire Life Magazine to feature in their July issue, focusing on the community spirit of the village and surrounding area.

One Voice is a relatively new choir but are quickly growing in strength. It is an all-inclusive, no audition choir, with a big focus on health and well-being. Testimonials such as “I have never felt

so welcomed” and “what a fun group to be part of, it’s just what I was looking for”, support the ethos of what they want to achieve.

The Choir now meet for indoor rehearsals at Main Street Community Church in Frodsham. If you would like to know more about joining the choir, visit the website www.onevoicecommunitychoir.org or email onevoicewa6@gmail.com

Ann Johnson



HARMERS WOOD UPDATE FOR 2021

Have you realised how blessed we have been over the last 16 months to have the beautiful countryside all around us for walks? Harmers Wood has very much been part of that blessing as our photo shows.

It was a very busy year for us. We were fortunate to receive grants from Protos Community Fund and the Peak and Northern Footpaths Society. These funds have helped to pay for replacement fencing round the quarries, the felling of over 150 dead trees and the provision of a new bridge and steps at the top end of the wood which now provides safer access. We are grateful to farmer Graham Hillier who moved loads of wood chippings

across to the top of the wood via his field. The wood chippings were given to us by Frodsham Tree Surgery and were distributed over the paths to cover wet areas and exposed tree roots. Young trees have also been planted this year and bracken cleared to give them the best chance to thrive.

A further grant from Protos is being used to fund new information boards – one at each entrance to the wood and these are in process of being made.

Thank you to the members who made most of this possible and thank you also to the volunteers who came forward to help us with some of these jobs.

BACK TO NORMAL SCOUTING

1st Helsby Beavers, Cubs and Scouts did not stop Scouting throughout the pandemic they just could not meet 'face to face'. Now that restrictions have eased, they have been able to enjoy normal Scouting activities rather than meeting on Zoom!

Over the summer term, the youngsters have enjoyed cycling, orienteering, athletics, water fights, woodworking and visits to Aqua Chimp and Go Ape.

In July, the Group were notified that they have been granted a special award from the High Sheriff of Cheshire for their outstanding contribution to Scouting and the local community during the coronavirus pandemic. A fabulous recognition of the efforts of the team of volunteers, many of whom were Key workers and home schooling their own families at the same time.

Looking ahead to the autumn term, Scouts nationally are starting an "early years" section of Scouting for 4 and 5 year olds – Squirrels – and 1st Helsby have been given the go ahead to be one of the first Groups in the county to start up a Squirrel Scout section. Exciting times ahead! We are still looking for volunteers to join our team of Squirrel Scout Leaders and get this new section up and running – if any readers are able to help us or would like to know more, please email gsl@1sthelsbyscouts.org.uk Judith Potts

Judith Potts

New Parish Councillor for South Ward

When Margaret Marsh read in the last Helsby News that Terry O'Neill had taken on the Chair of Parish Council for the 4th time she was moved to ring to congratulate him. Having lived in the village for best part of 34 years, and having recently moved across the village from north to south ward she found herself considering applying to become a councillor for the south ward, much encouraged by Terry.

Margaret is no stranger to voluntary community work having been involved with the local branch of Lions Club International since 2010 and supporting projects run by Lions in local schools. She was recently awarded the Lions' Melvin Jones Fellowship for services to the community.

Margaret volunteers with Cheshire Young Carers and thoroughly enjoys supporting a group of 6-11 year old carers who need time to be youngsters, once a week, for a few hours. Her major interests are her family and grandchildren, travelling, baking and quizzes.

Widowed some years ago and with some of her family nearby Margaret has always had a lot of energy and enthusiasm for life. She sees herself as a doer, getting on with things.



She is just about to publish her third book of poetry, having written verse since her first year in grammar school. She is determined to keep her brain going and feels she still has much to contribute and is not daunted by taking on challenges. She is particularly interested in social housing issues and ensuring the proper infrastructures are put in place. Moving into South Ward has highlighted this for her.

Margaret told Helsby News "I am looking forward to serving as a Helsby Parish Councillor and intend to do a good job. I know there's a lot to learn but I'm not afraid of hard work and will relish the challenges."

Marj Thoburn

OPAL CLUBS – Out and about once again...

As the country begins to get back to a 'new normal' OPAL is delighted that some of our clubs and sessions have recommenced – albeit with adjustments to protect our members, volunteers and staff.

Helsby OPAL Club held its first gentle restart session on 19th August at Alvanley Village Hall with members and volunteers very happy to be back. Members were delighted with the

welcome back gift of a knitted purse which our wonderful OPAL Knitting Group produced.

OPAL Branching Out offers a range of activities and social get-togethers to reconnect people with their local community and benefit from social connections. Members can attend as many or as few as they wish, enabling people who have fluctuating health or carer duties or regular diary commitments to participate. A new programme of events will start in Autumn 2021 with drop-in sessions



at Frodsham library resuming on a Thursday morning from mid September with the chance to find out more about all services OPAL offer and the opportunity to book a place on social sessions. The activity cafe is returning in October.

For more information or to contact OPAL please visit www.opalservices.org.uk

Helsby Methodist Church

Friday Drop-in is back open. Come join us from 10:30am through till 12, for a COVID secure drop in, table service, free drinks and biscuits (individually wrapped!) offering a safe space in the community for friends to chat and meet again.

(Nb. At this time we've had to put away all our toys while they're sanitised and sorted, we welcome all to join us but little people might wish to bring their own toy!) entry is through the front door up the long ramp.

www.helsbymethodist.org.uk

Email: admin@helsbymethodist.org.uk

FAREWELL TO GRAHAM AND PAULINE

Almost everyone, on hearing that Graham and Pauline were retiring and leaving the village, could be heard exclaiming, "What a loss to the village". And it's true.

Rev. Green and his wife arrived at St Paul's eight years ago, in that cold winter of 2013, much to the delight of the parishioners who had been without a vicar for almost a year.

In those eight years they have won the hearts of their parishioners and have touched the lives of many a Helsby resident.

The parishes of Helsby and Dunham



have touched them too and it has been a hard decision to retire and leave the places they have come to love.

They are returning to Kent much to the joy of their close family.

We say thank you, Graham and Pauline for your time here and wish you a long and happy retirement. You will be much missed.

Marj Thoburn



THE DANNY NEEDS YOU

The Daniel Adamson affectionately known as 'The Danny' finally returned to her berth in Sutton Weaver in March this year. Affected as everyone was by the Covid-19 pandemic, winter maintenance was halted, and when able to, a minimum of the engineering volunteers were allowed on board to prepare the ship for her return to cruising on the River Weaver.

As a volunteer Steward it was so good to be back on board and to welcome visitors at the weekend and passengers as the reduced cruising season finally got underway.

Covid-19 precautions were put in place and reduced passenger numbers were

introduced to enable us to sail.

Passengers have welcomed the opportunity to experience the sight and sounds of the 1903 restored vessel, and to have the chance to relax and enjoy the beautiful scenery of the River Weaver.

This is only possible due to the dedicated group of Danny volunteers, from the Engineering department, the Galley team, Deck and shore team and the steward's team and the wheelhouse skippers. Without them we simply could not operate, and they are all volunteers. I joined the Danny about 3 years ago, and have enjoyed every minute, making new friendships, and learning of the amazing and unique history of the Danny.

So could you do this? Of course, you could. We are always looking for local volunteers to keep this heritage shipping registered vessel available for the public. You don't need any experience as full training in both the safety aspects of running the ship, and the history of the ship are all part of the induction programme we have. We also have a presentation team that I am part of, that takes presentations on the history of the Daniel Adamson, and the history of the Manchester Ship Canal to clubs, societies, and groups. We have an education officer and have an extensive programme to encourage local schools and colleges to visit the Danny and learn about her fascinating past and how she came close to being scrapped but was saved and restored to the first-class condition she is in now.

So, I hope I have given you an insight into the amazing experience of being a volunteer on the Daniel Adamson the 1903 Steam Ship with a unique history and what's more is on your doorstep.

So why not contact us at volunteering@danieladamson.co.uk for further details.

Remember The Danny runs on two things: Coal at £300 per ton and the volunteers who are Priceless.

Chris Ellams
Daniel Adamson Appreciation Society.

RETURN OF HELSBY VILLAGE SOCIETY

Our Autumn programme is ready and so are we. Helsby Village Society starts again after this awful year on Thursday 30th September 2021 with a brand-new programme of speakers, slide shows and films to cheer us up and help us get back to "normal."

Speakers for 2021 are as follows: -

30th September
The History of the poppy appeal by Ruth Jones

28th October
Peloponnes4, spring and summer

25th November
My journey to the 2012 London Olympics

December
Social to be arranged

Its only £10 for 8 months of entertainment plus a cup of tea and biscuit, friendly company and all Covid precautions in place so why don't you come and join us?

We hold meetings on the last Thursday of the month unless otherwise stated, from September through to April. Fees are payable yearly in advance unless you just wish to come to one or two evenings which will be £3 per evening. You will get a membership card with all the talks shown for the year and we hold a social for members at Christmas and an outing usually in May. Doors open 7.00pm and we finish at 9pm.

For any further information, please contact Mary Moss on 01928 722997.



WELL DONE YEAR 13 2021

It was wonderful to see the smiles on faces at Helsby High School as Year 13 students collected their A-Level and Vocational Qualification results. Despite all the challenges they have faced over the past 18 months, the students have consistently faced up to them with determination and resilience and were rewarded with very well-deserved success when they opened their envelopes to discover their results.

Headteacher, Martin Hill said: "Throughout all the changing challenges of the pandemic, including school closures, remote learning and examination cancellations, one thing that has been constant has been the calm and mature way in which this special group of young people have

responded at every stage. They have been an example to all and hence it has been so special to see all their hard work rewarded. They have completed all of their courses, thoroughly deserve their results are in a very strong position to move on from our Sixth Form. We wish them all the very best for the future as they do so."

Director of Sixth Form, Ian Duffell commented: "Nobody could pretend that the students have had the full Sixth Form experience over the last year or so, but as a group they have supported each other at every stage and should be very proud of all their achievements. We are certainly very proud of them and I know that all their teachers would want to join me in wishing them the very best for the future."

To our Summer 2021 Year 13 students: Thank you for all you have contributed to the school, many congratulations on your results and very best wishes for whatever now lies ahead - from everybody connected with Helsby High School.

PROTOS RECRUITING

Take a look at this website if interested
<https://protoserf.com/>



Final Show from Team 6

Team 6 at Horn's Mill finished off the year with a fantastic performance of Annie. The stage was set for all our children to show off their talents from incredible dancing to inspiring singing and even eye-catching acrobatics.

The commitment and talent they showed in bringing this performance together was brilliant to see. They worked hard on their costumes, props and backdrops to make the story of Annie come to life. **Well done Team 6 of 2021 and Good Luck in Year 7 at Helsby High.**

Helsby High's Year 11 Results Day

It was very fitting that bright sunshine accompanied the smiles of students and parents as Helsby's Summer 2021 Year 11 cohort collected their results. After all that the students have been through during their GCSE and Vocational Qualification studies over the last 18 months, it was wonderful to see students' hard work and perseverance rewarded with results which allow them to now look ahead to the next stage of their lives with both confidence and optimism.

Their Year 11 Progress and Pastoral Leader, Dr Ravetz said: "After an incredibly challenging 18 months, the maturity and determination shown by the students has been truly outstanding. It has ensured that all their efforts during their 12 years of compulsory education have been reflected and rewarded in their GCSE attainment. I am very, very proud of each and every one of them."

Headteacher, Martin Hill added: "Each time a challenge has appeared - whether remote learning, exam cancellation or the demanding alternative assessments undertaken - their character and resilience has come to the fore and allowed them to overcome the challenge and achieve the deserved success which they have received. They have done this individually and as a group, always helping each other and becoming wonderful role models for younger students at a time of difficulty for everybody. They are a fabulous group of young people and I know that my colleagues are really looking forward to continuing to work with many of them when they return to our Sixth Form in September.

To our Year 11 'Class of 2021': Thank you for all you have contributed to the school over your 5 years with us, many congratulations on the results you have received today and very best wishes for the future, whatever and wherever that may be - from everybody connected with Helsby High School."





NEW NORMAN LITTLER TROPHY AT HELSBY GOLF CLUB!

Helsby resident Norman Littler last year celebrated 70 years as a member of Helsby Golf Club.

In recognition of Norman and his outstanding service to the Towers Lane club, the Past Captains donated a new "Norman Littler Trophy" for an annual competition and the first competition took place recently. Around 75 golfers took part and the winner on the day was Daniel Kimber.

After the presentation, Norman and his wife Audrey (a past lady captain) enjoyed chatting to members and it was also an opportunity to catch up with some golfers he had coached as Juniors – the photo shows from left to right – Steve Cunniffe, Norman Littler, Marc Stoneley and Julia Wilkinson. They are all now single figure handicappers – a great coach Norman!

Kathryn Hoather



Tennis Club Celebrates a Year of Achievement

This 'OPEN DAY' photo shows just how much enthusiasm there is at the Helsby Tennis Club. There is a lot to celebrate and be proud of not least of which is special recognition by the Lawn Tennis Association for the club's community focus and excellence.

Spokesperson, Jo Ellis, told Helsby News, "We offer a friendly welcome whether you are new to the game or an experienced player"

Membership of the club is great value and there is club social tennis as well as league matches and free court use. Coach Mike Herd and his team offer year round quality coaching for all ages and abilities. Coaching is Monday Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

All details can be found on the website www.helsbytennis.co.uk

Return of the Half Marathon

The 38th Essar 4 Villages Half Marathon will be taking place on Sunday 16th January 2022. The race opens for entries online on the 1st October at www.helsbyrunningclub.niftyentries.com/Events/. This year's race will be starting at the fantastic new Helsby Community Sports Club and Helsby Running club can't wait to welcome runners back to the race. The race will have reduced capacity for 2022 as the race team test the new start location and manage any COVID restrictions which may still be in place. For more information please join the race Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/FourVillagesHalfMarathon.



Helsby Parish Council

North Ward

Alan Gardner	722360
Sarah Temple	722181
Vacancy	
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
Margaret Marsh	725562
Vacancy	
Vacancy	

Clerk

Claire Jones	726433
Parish Office: Helsby Community Sports Club, Callender Way, Helsby, Cheshire WA6 0FX	