



# HELSEBY NEWS

www.helsbynews.net

ISSUE 99 • WINTER 2021

## Ho Ho was Go Go!

After an enforced break in 2019 as a result of pandemic restrictions, the Ho Ho Helsby team of volunteers made tentative plans in the summer for the December 2021 community event.

Thankfully, the support by local businesses and residents was unflinching and the group was, once more, able to provide the village with the Christmas festival that it has come to expect.

The village Christmas tree seemed to gleam even brighter than ever this year, as a beacon of hope for all. Horn's Mill Pre-School provided beautiful decorations for the Ho Ho star.

As usual, the event attracted an array of talent both on stage, with singing and music from local groups, and on the stalls, which reached record levels this year, providing a huge range of crafts, food & drink for everyone to enjoy.

Many took novel ways of getting all around the village, ensuring they saw the decorations, stalls, animals (ponies and reindeer) and of course, Helsby Hill, which stood guard, as usual, over the day's events, although even that couldn't hold off the wind & rain!



Photography credit:  
Duncan Cowley, Paul Downey  
and Dianne Walker



Undeterred by the weather, the twilight parade didn't disappoint with a glittering array of vehicles, decorations and music, safely carried through the village generously provided by Mark Avis and team, along with the Warburtons family too.

The working group from Ho Ho Helsby would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported the event in any way, by donations, gifts, support at fundraising events and of course their time and energy. We all look forward to planning for 3 December 2022 but for now though, the volunteers are hibernating until the Spring! Merry Christmas Helsby!

*Dianne Walker, Chair*

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## SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE CHURCHES OF HELSBY

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

### Helsby Methodist Church warmly invites you to our Christmas Celebrations

**Saturday 18th December**  
10.30am, Messy Christmas.

**Sunday 19th December**  
10.30am, Carol Service.

**Friday 24th December – Christmas Eve**  
4.00pm, Christingle Service - The story of the first Christmas with sweets, candles, oranges! Start Christmas with this festive fun event.

**Saturday 25th December – Christmas Day**  
10.00am, Christmas Family Celebration led by Rev'd David Bintliff

**Sunday 26th December – Boxing Day**  
No Service

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

Rev. David Bintliff

01928 727217

[admin@helsbymethodist.org.uk](mailto:admin@helsbymethodist.org.uk)

### St Paul's Church warmly invites you to our Christmas Celebrations

**Sunday 19th December**  
6.30pm, Carol Service

**Friday 24th December – Christmas Eve**  
4.30pm, Christingle Service  
11.30pm, Midnight Service

**Saturday 25th December - Christmas Day**  
10.00am, Holy Communion

**Sunday 26th December – Boxing Day**  
No Service

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



## DIANNE WALKER STEPS DOWN

The Chair of MCBF, Dianne Walker, gave notice in September of her intention to step down from the role after nearly six years' service.

The Panel members and Belltown Power, who represent the owners of Frodsham Windfarm Limited, Foresight Capital, thanked Dianne for her significant input to the formation of the Fund and particularly for putting in place strong governance and controls. During Dianne's tenure the Fund has distributed over £500,000 to local projects, with substantial investments in the new

Helsby Sports Club and the new football and tennis pitches at Helsby High School.

Applications were invited for the Chair vacancy and Andrew Jones was appointed on 1 December with the full support of the MCBF Panel Members and Belltown Power.

Andrew is a Helsby resident and has a fiancée and young daughter. He is a Chartered Accountant and is Finance Director of WS Transportation Ltd, based in Sutton Weaver.

## HONEYWELL SITE GETS PLANNING PERMISSION

Despite vigorous opposition from Borough Cllr Paul Bowen and Parish Councillor Peter Duffy, CWAC Planning Committee voted to award full planning permission to Lane End Developers for the building of 241 houses and apartments on land at Cable Drive.

Pleas for local consultation had gone unheard and there had been no meaningful consultation with parish councillors, residents and other stakeholders about the impact on already overloaded infrastructures, schools and health centre.

As the site is a Brownfield one there is apparently no need to have discussions and add to this the fact that the properties to be built are being described as 100% affordable houses and there you have it..... plans passed!

However that does not stop the residents asking questions.

**Where will all the children go to school when our primary schools are already full?**

**How is it that CWAC's Child Yield Calculations for 241 homes produces a result that states there will be only 27.8 additional children?**

**Isn't affordable housing meant for young families, meaning couples with children?**

**Does CWAC have special access to Family Planning Data that we don't know about?**

**Not to mention houses being allowed to be built on a potential flood plane?**

Lots of questions but not a lot of answers.

*Marj Thoburn*



# New Years Eve Party

A FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT  
DECEMBER 31ST - DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM

**ENTERTAINMENT**  
DISCO  
RAFFLE  
BINGO  
CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT  
LATE BAR  
HOT POT SUPPER  
PROVIDED BY YOUR FAIRY GODMOTHER

TICKETS  
MEMBERS 14+: £10 / CHILD MEMBER: £2  
NON-MEMBERS 14+: £15 / CHILD NON-MEMBER: £3

## Helsby Village Society

Helsby Village Society got off to a good start in September, our first meeting since we were all forced to shut down during Covid 19.

Our programme for 2022 is as follows:

### January 27th

Guide Dogs for the Blind by Francis Lang

### February 24th

More Anecdotes from a Registrar by Carole Dodd

### March 31st

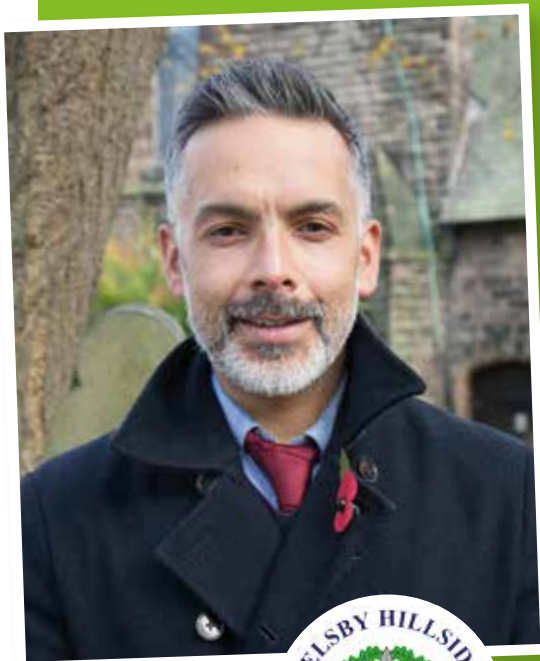
The History of Bank House by Sue Lorimer

### April 28th

Annual General Meeting followed by Garden Birds by Norman Sadler

We meet on the last Thursday of the month at 7pm in the Community Centre. Everyone welcome.

## CONGRATULATIONS, CONTINUITY AND CONFIDENCE AT HILLSIDE



Parents, children and staff were delighted to learn that Adam Khan, deputy head teacher at Hillside Primary school had been successful in gaining the headship of the school he has worked in for the last 5 years.

Louise Midwinter, Chair of School Governors wrote on the school's website that from a strong field of applicants, including existing headteachers, Adam shone during the rigorous interviewing process.

Needless to say he too was delighted and is ready for the challenges this new role brings. He feels fortunate in that he knows the school so well already and can build on its successes. Learn, Laugh and Play is the school motto and Adam told Helsby News that continuing to "create confident young citizens who go on to develop social awareness and think

for themselves is what motivates me. Several years teaching year 6 and helping them transition to Helsby High has convinced me that children need to find their pupil voices and share their views. We are establishing a culture in Helsby Hillside where children are proud of their progress and have a say in what happens in school"

Involvement in sport will continue to be a feature and we can expect to see him running regularly around the school track and the local area with the children.

Adam has been teaching in Cheshire and the Wirral for more than 15 years. He lives in Tarvin with his wife and 4 children and his dog, Eric. When he has spare time he likes cycling, swimming and socialising.

**Congratulations Mr Khan.**

*Marj Thoburn*

# Helsby Scarecrow Trail 2021

Once again, the wonderful heroes of Helsby rose to this year's challenge for the annual Helsby Scarecrow Trail. Residents, businesses, and schools celebrated their own heroes with an array of scarecrows that ranged from our NHS heroes to fantasy Superheroes.

This year's winners included sports hero Tom Daley, complete with his knitting, diving into the hedge of resident Sonia Juby on Chester Road; another much loved scarecrow was hero Sir Captain Tom in the window of the Old Bank Tea Rooms; and in the community group category, Helsby's very own mini heroes were the children of Hillside School who celebrated all the hard work that the pupils put in

to continue learning in difficult circumstances throughout the pandemic. Runners up included a collection of Marvel and DC Superheroes.

We were also delighted to be joined for the presentations by a real Superhero. Spiderman who interrupted their very busy life saving the universe, to present the prizes to our delighted winners. Thanks Spiderman.

People were able to find the scarecrows by buying a trail map from our other Helsby heroes - all the businesses that helped and supported the trail. Ho Ho Scarecrow is indebted to the support of these local businesses and would like to particularly thank Helsby MOT, Thrifty's, The Old Bank Tea Rooms, The One Shop, Headlines, Fearn's Pharmacy, Oh My Cod, the Helsby Tap, the Railway Inn and @theBarbers for all their support.

The scarecrows are a wonderful way of bringing people together and



celebrating the fabulous community that we have in Helsby. It was lovely to see families walking around the village, maps in hand, in search of the scarecrows and to see the children's happy smiling faces.

*Kate Sillitoe, Organiser*



Photo credit: Duncan Cowley



## SEASONS GREETINGS FROM FRODSHAM'S FABULOUS COMMUNITY CHOIR!

Frodsham Sings Community Choir (with quite a few Helsby folk as members) finally returned to "real life" rehearsals in early summer and members were thrilled to be back!

"We're much more than a choir, we're a friendly family of over 70 folks – and we're so happy to be back singing together again!" said one member.

"I nearly cried with joy when we went back to proper rehearsals!" said another.

Following the success of their post-lockdown appearances at the Downhill Run in Castle Park on 29th August, and the Cheshire Motor Show on 19th September, members are excited for the festive season.

"We're always in demand over the Christmas period," explains Ian Oulton, "And thankfully 2021 is no different, with appearances at the Frodsham

Christmas Festival and Forest Hills planned, along with local supermarkets and our own Christmas Cracker showcase and visiting our friends at The Windings, not to forget rounding off the festive season at one of our favourite venues, Marks and Spencer Food Hall in Ellesmere Port, on Christmas Eve."

Publicity officer Lisa Ellams says "Christmas is such a great time of year to be in a choir, and after missing out on all the festivities last year due to Covid, we are so excited to be back performing this year. It's just a fantastic way to start Christmas, and we always manage to raise a really good amount for our charities!"

The choir are proud to support local charities, Cheshire Young Carers, Will to Work and B.I.R.D (Brain Injury Rehabilitation and Development) with their ventures throughout the year. Previous fundraising efforts have raised

thousands for local charities including a total of £4000 to West Cheshire Foodbank over the last year. The choir loves to know that, whilst they're having fun, they are helping to raise funds for excellent causes.

### Have you ever considered joining a choir?

Maybe you're deciding on new year's resolutions – make new friends, try a new hobby, or working on your self-care – Frodsham Sings Community Choir are a friendly, diverse and welcoming bunch, who meet on Saturdays between 9.30am and 11am, at Frodsham Community Centre.

If you are interested in joining or just want to find out more, check out their website at **[www.frodshamsings.org](http://www.frodshamsings.org)** or facebook/twitter.

Everyone is welcome to a night with...

# Helsby Concert Band

and  Community Choir

At St Pauls Church, Helsby on  
Wednesday 15th December.

Concert starts at 7pm, tickets £2  
on the door. Info: [jackykeating@hotmail.com](mailto:jackykeating@hotmail.com)



## Return of the WI

Helsby Hillside WI is pleased to be back to our normal meetings. We have a full programme of events scheduled for 2022 and would like to welcome new members to our Group.

We will be holding our Christmas meeting on the 14th December when Ken Walker will be entertaining us with a musical evening.

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*

## HYDROGEN, HELSBY AND HIGH PLACES!

**Who would have thought that our village of Helsby would be caught up in High Places and have its carbon-free future decided by Secretary of State, Kwasi Kwanteng when he announces his decision on the Government's £1 billion investment in the UK's Carbon, Capture, Usage and Storage (CCUS) Project?**

Helsby News has been told by Helsby's Green Party CWAC Cllr Paul Bowers that Helsby has been shortlisted by Hynet North West as a potential site for its hydrogen power experiment (which could mean eventually replacing all household boilers).

You would think that this would make Paul jump for joy but not so? He has serious reservations on many fronts but principally that the proposals do not offer a pathway to carbon free hydrogen production. The proposed production of "blue" hydrogen by reforming natural gas will produce large amounts of Carbon Dioxide

which will then be pumped out to retired gas wells in Liverpool Bay.

Who will inherit the legacy of monitoring these wells for leakage in the future except coming generations?

"With subsidy and industry development, low-carbon green hydrogen can be produced from wind and solar" says Paul, "and should be developed independent of the fossil fuel industry."

He told CWAC council leaders that they were missing the point when they state that Hynet's fossil-fuel based project provides a "long term transition to renewable green energy".

"We do not have time for long-term transition energy services. We have declared a climate emergency and the time for real decarbonisation is now"

The Secretary of State's decision about CCUS is expected in December.

*Marj Thoburn*



**Lots of trees brought down on Helsby Hill by Storm Arwen**

# Scouting News...

## A Squirrel Drey For 1<sup>st</sup> Helsby



In November, 1st Helsby Scout Group opened up a brand new section - Squirrels! This is the Scout Association's "early years" branch of Scouting for 4 and 5 year olds and was launched nationally in September this year. 1st Helsby is the first Group in Mersey Weaver District, and one of the first Groups in Cheshire to have a Squirrel Drey.

The Squirrels, seen here, have had great fun so far and are looking forward to a Christmas celebration service with the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in December as well as a visit to Queen Charlotte's Wood Campsite to toast marshmallows over the fire and search for Santa.

If any readers would like to get involved as a leader in Squirrels or any of our sections, then do please get in touch with us [gsl@1sthelsbyscouts.org.uk](mailto:gsl@1sthelsbyscouts.org.uk)

*Judith Potts  
GSL, 1st Helsby Scout Group*

## MCBF Awards £80,000 to Local Projects

The Marshes Community Benefit Fund recently awarded over £80,000 to projects across Frodsham, Alvanley, Ince and Elton.

Applications are welcomed from Helsby groups who are looking to create legacy projects for the benefit of locals. Please apply to [applications@MarshesCBF.uk](mailto:applications@MarshesCBF.uk) before 28 February 2022. The details of eligibility criteria are provided on the website at [www.MarshesCBF.uk](http://www.MarshesCBF.uk).

The next round of applications will then be considered and awarded by the Panel in the Spring.



## Lest We Forget to Remember

Armistice Day, 11th November and Remembrance Sunday, 14th saw Helsby War Memorial surrounded by young and old at services held to remember those who had died in both World Wars.

**Pictured here are youngsters from Hillside Primary School taking part in the same historic act of remembrance on Armistice Day as the village did three days later when once more the last post was sounded, 2 minutes silence was observed before the laying of wreaths around the War Memorial.**

Now more than ever it seems fitting to be helping the young understand the tragedies of the past before we all forget the sacrifices made for our todays. The Poppies continue to help us remember them each year, Lest We Forget.

*Marj Thoburn*



## SAFER CYCLING ROUTE FROM HELSBY TO HHS

Cycle North Cheshire (CNC) has launched a campaign to raise £14,500 to pay for a professional study for a safe, segregated cycling & walking path from the Hornsmill end of Helsby via the station to the High School. The busy A56 is clearly unsafe and deters cycling. CNC wants to address this by commissioning a detailed study to be used to pitch for central government funding for the route's construction.

Having a detailed, costed study, generally results in projects being more favourably considered when government funding becomes available. So, this study is essential to achieve this goal of safer walking and cycling provision.

Financial support is required from businesses and individuals. Cheshire West and Helsby Parish Councils, Counsellor Paul Bowers, RSK and other small businesses and individuals have all generously contributed so far. This leaves £1,500 left to raise.

### **Cycle North Cheshire needs your help. Can you help with this final push?**

Crowd Funding Donations of any amounts (large or as small as £2) can be made via their website at [www.cyclenorthcheshire.com](http://www.cyclenorthcheshire.com).

Let's Get this Done!

DECEMBER 22ND  
TIME: 1PM

HELSBY COMMUNITY SPORTS CLUB  
Est. 1895

£5 PER TICKET  
(ADMITS 1 CHILD & 1 ADULT)  
PICK UP YOUR TICKETS AT THE BAR

THE POLAR EXPRESS

The Polar Express  
ROUND TRIP

SAVE THE DATE. GRAB A TICKET AND BRING THE KIDS & GRANDKIDS TO A SPECIAL SCREENING OF THIS MODERN CLASSIC FILM.

Wear your PJ's and slippers.  
Enjoy hot chocolate, popcorn and a small gift from the North Pole.

## Colour Run at Horn's Mill

**Well.... what a colourful way to start the year!**

Horn's Mill celebrated Hindu Day in style this year with arts and crafts, card making and learning about festivals celebrated as part of the Hindu religion. The school came together from Reception to Year six and participated in a fun colour run inspired by the Hindu festival of Holi.

Teachers and staff all came out in force to celebrate with the children, covering them from head to toe in the colours of the rainbow. Each year group ran around the daily mile track as proud parents looked on in 'real life' for first time in a very long time!!

The children were excited to come together again in a whole school experience and make unforgettable memories all together.

Sharon Wyatt





## DOUBLE VICTORY FOR DUNCAN AT HELSBY GOLF CLUB!

**It has been a memorable year of golfing success for 86 year old Duncan Goodall at Helsby Golf Club.**

Duncan, who lives in Helsby, has been a member of the Towers Lane club for 29 years and currently plays off a handicap of 29. His first success was in June when he won the Richmond Trophy (one of the club's major competitions) with a great score of 5 under par. Not content with that win, he then went on to win the major championship of the year for the gents, the Club Championship which was 2 rounds played on consecutive days in

July. He scored an overall 8 under par for the competition and was presented with the trophy by club Captain Chris Stubbs.

He was delighted to win both major trophies and credits much of his success to Chris Cousins (former professional at the club) who helped him remodel his swing and also to John O'Neill (current professional at the club) for coaching him recently with his chipping game. Whatever the reasons for the success, it has been a great year for Duncan with impressive scoring – well done!



Golf Club fundraises for two more powered wheelchairs, total so far... 408!!!



## 1000 runners for the Essar Half Marathon

The 38th Essar 4 Villages Half Marathon will be taking place on Sunday 16th January 2022 at 10.30am. The race is now full, with over 1000 runners signed up - but there is a waiting list for anyone hoping to take part which can be found at this website <https://helsbyrunningclub.niftyentries.com/Events/>. This year's race will be starting at the fantastic new Helsby Community Sports Club and as usual finishes at Horn's Mill Primary School, who will be serving refreshments on the day of the race. Local schools have taken part in a 'Design a T-shirt competition sponsored by Essar and the winner will see their design on the race T- shirt as well as receiving book vouchers for themselves and their school.

For more information on the race please visit <https://www.helsbyrunningclub.org.uk/four-villages-half/>

### 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