



HELSEBY NEWS

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www.helsbynews.org.uk



WILL WE NEED A FOODBANK IN HELSEBY?

Most of us will have heard of "Foodbanks". Hardly a day passes without some mention on the television or the radio. But dare we take a closer look, closer to home in Helsby?

West Cheshire Foodbank, based in Ellesmere Port, and founded in 2012 by local churches and community groups, is a charity in its own right, affiliated to the Trussell Foodbank.

Last year it provided 3 days of emergency food to the equivalent of 13,500 people in this area.

A shocking statistic, representing as it does an awful lot of hungry families facing food poverty. Many of the 100+ people who volunteer to run the 16 centres in West Cheshire say it feels like the tip of the iceberg.

Getting to a Foodbank isn't straight forward. A referral by a trained professional, be it a social worker,

housing officer, school teacher or local authority staff is essential and an assessment of need is made before issuing access to a food session, and then you have to get there.

The closest session to Helsby is provided in Elton Community Centre. Many schools and businesses in the village donate regularly as do both Churches. The donations made in Helsby's Tesco Store are sent to the 'sister' Trussell Foodbank in Runcorn to support their work.

They are under no illusion that a tsunami of need is on its way as the cost of living increases and energy prices are set to rise on April 1st. Already 80% of Foodbank users are in work.

Many more working families are likely to find themselves having to choose between food or heat. The charity

is already getting requests to supply food that doesn't require cooking as some cannot afford to put money in the meter!

How has this been allowed to happen in our affluent country? What can we in Helsby do? Can we form a Helsby Hub like Elton to provide a weekly foodbank session? Can the many helping hands and good neighbours we saw emerge during the lockdown come together and make this happen?

Contact details:
info@westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk
Tel: 0151 355 7730

Marj Thoburn



In 1997 a computer club set up for local youngsters produced the very first copy of a village newsletter and so it was that Helsby News was born. 25 years on and here we are with the 100th edition.

Still proud to be standing when other village newspapers have folded. Still happily produced and delivered by a volunteer army of editors, contributors, and distributors.

We thank everyone involved and are glad to be able to celebrate this milestone in the life of Helsby News.

Marj Thoburn

Parish Council News

Parish Precept 2022/23

Helsby Parish Council has issued a precept request to Cheshire West and Chester Council for £102,615. A Band D property will pay £49.32 (collected through your Council Tax payments) which is the same as in 2021-22.

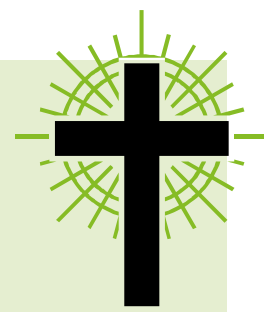
For the full explanation of the precept amount and budget for 2022/23, go to the Council's website at www.helsbyparish.org.uk and find the report called 'Justification for Precept 2022/23' under the Council Documents tab. Alternatively, you can request a copy directly from the Parish Clerk at parishclerk@helsbyparish.org.uk

New Handrail on Rake Lane

The Parish Council is pleased to report that the broken handrail on the footpath on Rake Lane has been fixed. Helsby Parish Council worked in partnership with CWAC to improve this area following complaints from local residents. Views were expressed that the handrail should be replaced on a like for like basis rather than with the wooden replacement originally planned. CWAC took these views into account and used a specialist welding company to repair the handrail. As part of the project, the Parish Council agreed to clear the area of any overgrown vegetation. Helsby Parish Council Chairman, Terry O'Neill, said "We are really pleased that CW&C listened to the views of the local community and we hope you'll agree that this area now looks much better".



Easter Church Services



GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 15TH

Joint Service at St Paul's Church at 10am
Worship followed by Walk of Witness & Hot Cross Buns

HELMSBY METHODIST CHURCH

Palm Sunday April 10th
10.30am – Sunday Worship

Maundy Thursday April 14th
Joint Service at Kingsley, Blakelees Methodist Church 7.30pm with Communion

Easter Day April 17th
10.30 am Easter Day Worship and Holy Communion with Breakfast @ 9.45am

ST PAUL'S CHURCH

Palm Sunday April 10th
Special Service 11am

Maundy Thursday April 14th
Holy Communion 7.30pm

Easter Day April 17th
Sung Communion 11am

A Tree for the Jubilee

Parish Council Chairman, Cllr. Terry O'Neill, recently took part in NACO's (National Association of Civic Officers) Tree Planting Day to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Terry planted a lovely blossoming Amelanchier tree outside their new Parish Council offices at Helsby Community Sports Club.

This national event saw many civic leaders across the country planting a tree to honour her majesty's long service. The day chosen, Friday 11 March 2022, marked the seventieth day of the year in which The Queen marks the seventieth anniversary of her accession. The National Association of Civic Officers will now prepare a bound book naming all the Councils taking part and this will be sent to The Queen for her Platinum Jubilee weekend in June.



Photo courtesy of Cllr. Chris Ellams

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STOP PRESS!

Don't hold your breath but word from CWAC is that the geological drilling work to ensure the safe restoration of Old Chester Road outside Heathercliffe will start at the end of March and is expected to be completed by summer end!

Meanwhile the Rake Lane/ Rake Cottage collapse of Old Chester Road is being addressed at the planning level and action is expected shortly.

RSK LITTERPICK

We had a great turn out for the RSK lunchtime litterpick, we joined forces with Helsby Wombles and local residents. The focus was to do a tidy up in central Helsby and some of the surrounding streets. We managed to get it done just before it started raining which was great, and this time of year is perfect for it as the vegetation hasn't started growing yet. If anyone wants to join in with the next one please get in touch. Contact details : LASmith@rsk.co.uk

Lisa Ann Smith

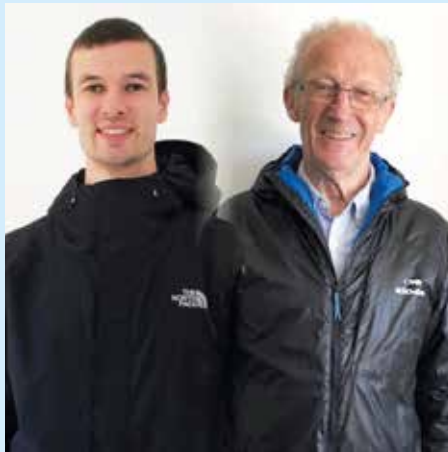


EVEREST FUNDRAISER

After Covid put paid to Alan McKie's 2020 fund raising attempt to climb on Mount Everest Alan and Matt Galley, his grandson, were delighted to be able to revisit their ambition to climb the mountain in 2022. They set off on March 12th and hoped to at least make it to the base camp, located at 18,000 feet.

Alan told Helsby News *"I will be in my 80th year on the climb and will be joined by my Grandson, Matt, who is a more sensible 28 years old and as a personal trainer will hopefully get me to the top!"*

"Our hope is to raise as much money as we can for the Claire House



Children's Hospice, which did so much for my niece, Izzy McEgan, who tragically lost her life in May 2020, to a very rare form of cancer."

Alan and Matt have raised more than £15,000 for the Hospice.



Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Parish Council will again be lighting Helsby's Beacon as part of the chain of 1500 beacons to be lit on Thursday 2nd June, the 70th anniversary of the Coronation in 1952.

Plan's are afoot at St Paul's Church to hold a civic service for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Sunday June 5th followed by an invitation to picnic in the Vicarage Garden. All Welcome.

PROGRESS AT PROTOS

Helsby Residents may find taking a look at the latest information from Protos. The first film highlighting the construction progress on the Plot 8 ERF Project has been uploaded to the Covanta project website and Covanta YouTube channel. The links are as follows:

<https://info.covanta.com/protos#constructionprogress>

<https://youtu.be/KtEAFgl2PCU>

If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to contact Andy Smith at Covanta casmith5@covanta.com



News from Harmers Wood

If you walk through Harmers Wood, you will see that we have been busy laying wood chippings, (thanks to Frodsham Tree Solutions,) along the paths in an effort to make the paths less boggy. Storms over the last couple of years have made it necessary to fell over 150 old and dangerous trees in the wood and necessitated making log piles. Whilst these start rotting down, they make homes for various forms of life which in turn make food for other animals and birds so please do not remove any logs from the wood. Happily, 50 trees have been replaced so far.

Our new notice boards, shown here, are in situ at the top end of the wood and also by the carpark and our thanks go to Protos for their grant to make these possible and also to Peak and North Footpaths Society for their grant for the new steps at Hill Road North top entrance.

Mo Parker, Friends of Harmers Wood



BAND NIGHT

LIVE MUSIC FROM LOCAL TALENT

FRIDAY 22ND APRIL, 7.30PM
HELSEBY COMMUNITY SPORTS CLUB
CALLENDAR WAY, HELSEBY WA6 0FX

£5
PER TICKET

Fundraising for Ho Ho Helsby and
Claire House Children's Hospice
Tickets on sale at The Old Bank Tea Rooms
or email helsbyxmas@gmail.com

www.hohohelsby.co.uk

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carswellcreative.co.uk

HoHoHelsby   

Bringing the Drama to Helsby

Helsby hasn't had a drama group since the days of the BICC Rec, but that is about to change. It's been two years in the making, thanks to Covid, but the brand-new Helsby Players are busy rehearsing for their first ever production. The endearing children's classic *The Secret Garden* will be brought to life in June, in St Paul's Church Hall's very own secret garden, by a lively cast of Helsby youngsters. Spearheaded by Michael Mills, who brings plenty of experience from his days with Frodsham Players, and Lynn Portis, Helsby Players has been created from nothing, but has high hopes for the future.

Lynn tells me, "Groups such as Frodsham and Kingsley Players are so well established, and sometimes if you've always wanted to try something, walking into a long-standing group can be a bit nerve-racking. But we're starting from nothing and we're welcoming anyone who wants to join in."

Michael explains that they are literally building the group from the ground up, which poses its own challenges.

The group are actively recruiting, and you don't need to be an aspiring actor to get involved – they need front-of-house people, props and costume people and backstage people, to mention just a few. They are also looking at local funding as well; as Michael points out, you have to pay royalties on a script before you can even get started, and putting on a successful production doesn't come for free.

But started they have, and even on a chilly March afternoon, it's easy to see the charm and magic of the setting they've chosen. A little garden, tucked away down the side of the church hall, will play host to the production scheduled for June; audience are encouraged to bring their deck chairs and picnics and indulge in the childlike delight of Frances Hodgson Burnett's beloved story.

Helsby Players production of *The Secret Garden* features an energetic cast of young people; Lily Smith plays Martha, Toby Hall plays Dickon, Connah Watt plays Colin and Emilia Portis plays Mary; with adults Ian



Adams portraying Ben the Gardener and Peter Watt as Mr Craven, and Ben Smith brings life to the Dog.

If you are interested in joining the Helsby Players, whether on the stage or behind it, they can be found on Facebook, at their website www.helsbyplayers.simdif.com or they can be reached via email at helsbyplayers2022@outlook.com They have a box office phone number to reserve tickets: 07340 339499.

So get in line for your ticketsyou'll have to queue up behind me!

Lisa Ellams

MARTIN HORSLEY, OUR WONDERFUL CUB LEADER

In September 2021, 1st Helsby scout group's Cub leader sadly passed away after a short battle with cancer. He had joined the group as an Assistant Scout leader in 2011, but as numbers grew among the younger sections, he offered to lead a second Cub pack, and so he became 'Akela'.



After Cub leaders Vanessa Mallalue and Sue Pearson retired the two groups merged, and Martin led the new combined pack until his untimely death. As many sessions were delivered on Zoom during the pandemic, he was able to continue even while having treatment.

Martin's great sense of humour made him very popular with all of the Helsby leaders, and his generosity to help with other sections was always greatly appreciated. He assisted both the Beaver and Scout leaders on many occasions, and also joined the scouts on several camps in the last decade. He was a wonderful campfire leader, and a generation of Cubs and scouts benefitted from his repertoire of songs. He was very technically proficient in a

wide range of scouting skills, and could turn his hand to anything. Every time we tie a knot, we will think of Martin.

He trained for and took on the role of Master of Arms for Mersey Weaver District scouting, leading archery and indoor shooting activities, meeting a wider range of young people while he taught them how to use a bow or a pistol for the first time.

After some intersectional art workshops, a memorial wall to him has been created by the Beavers, Cubs and scouts in the scout hut and we have plans for something at Queen Charlotte's Wood too.

Everyone who met Martin was always richer for that contact. He will live on in our memories.

*Fiona Barry,
on behalf of the Helsby leaders.*



THE DANNY WINTER UPDATE

If you pass over the Sutton Weaver Swing Bridge, you may notice that the Daniel Adamson or the Danny as she is affectionately known has been absent for some time. She is currently at her winter berth in Sandon Dock in Liverpool undergoing her winter maintenance program. This maintenance is not only to keep the Danny looking as good as new, but also to make sure that she complies with all the requirements of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

This work is essential preparation for an annual boiler test that I am pleased to say she passed with flying colours. Painting is another task undertaken to keep the elements from the 118-year-old steel work, plus preparing and varnishing various wooden parts of the ship. All this is carried out by the engineering team, all of whom are volunteers.

The Danny should be back at her Sutton Weaver berth in early April.

An extensive list of cruises can be found and booked on the website www.thedanny.co.uk This year we have added a cruise from Canning Dock in the centre of Liverpool to Ellesmere Port and another one from Ellesmere Port to Garston.

Cruises are also planned to Acton Bridge and the Anderton Boat Lift. We are also open most weekends between 11:00am to 4:00pm for free tours of the ship including the wheelhouse and amazing Art Deco Saloons, all we ask is for a donation to keep this historic registered ship available for all to see and enjoy.

If you want to know the full history of this amazing little steamer, we have a presentation team that can visit your club, society or group to give a presentation of the Danny story, just drop an email to enquiries@danieladamson.co.uk. The crew of the Danny look forward to seeing you on board or static at Sutton Weaver and thank you for your continued support.

Chris Ellams
Daniel Adamson Preservation Society

FREE Donations Only to help support the event.

COME FOR COFFEE CAKE & A CHAT

MONDAY MARCH 14TH
10AM - 12 NOON

AND THEN THE FIRST
MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

HELSEBY COMMUNITY
SPORTS CLUB



Getting Down and Dirty

A massive thanks to the Helsby Rugby Team who got down and dirty clearing the route through from the Community Sports clubhouse to the Rugby pitches. No mean task needing all their Brawn and Determination.

Thanks to Everyone!

Adventurous Sleepover for Team Two from Horn's Mill

What a great start to 2022, Team Two have been on an adventurous residential to Burwardsley where they embarked on lots of exciting activities, such as nature walks, outdoor craft and a hike. The children really enjoyed their shared experience and learnt new skills varying from roasting marshmallows, printing with textures and building a map of the surrounding area.

The children have made memories that will last them a lifetime. It has made the Team Two children more eager to explore, with one of them saying "this hike is making me a little bit braver".

In turn this has enabled the children to develop a have a go attitude to try something new and to get enthusiastic about learning.



Hillside Say Thank You RSK!

You may have been aware of us having quite a significant badger problem at our school field on Proffits Lane.

We would like to give a huge thank you to RSK Habitat Management who have completed all the new fencing work required to humanely keep the badgers out!

We are so grateful to them for not only doing a fabulous job but also doing it at no cost to the school - **THANK YOU!!!**

POPPY APPEAL

I am grateful to everyone in Helsby and Alvanley who felt able to support the Poppy Appeal last year; to Tesco (Helsby) and Hapsford Service Station for allowing us to have our regular stands; to the schools and businesses who displayed our boxes but most importantly to the volunteers who gave up their time so willingly to collect. I am delighted to declare that the final village total for the 2021 Poppy Appeal was £15,780.27

Thank You to you all! 'Every Poppy Counted'

To mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the 40th Anniversary of the Falkland's War the Royal British Legion will be producing commemorative pins. If any 'pin collector' or Veteran would like them, please get in touch.

*Fiona Purcell,
tel: 01928 724412
Poppy Appeal Organizer
for Helsby*



HELSEBY GOLF CLUB WELCOMES A NEW PROFESSIONAL!

Helsby Golf Club is delighted to announce the appointment of Josh Hall as the new Head Professional at the Towers Lane club. Josh replaces the former Professional, John O'Neill who has moved to a new role at Mersey Valley Golf Club.

We welcome Josh, who has worked as the Assistant Professional at Helsby for the last 2 years, to his new role. He has 9 years' experience of working in the golf industry and was previously the Head Assistant Professional at Allerton Manor Golf Club in South Liverpool. He has been coaching for the last 5 years and has been involved in golf programmes for ladies and juniors in particular.

He continues to play competitively at professional level and looks forward to doing so whilst representing Helsby Golf Club. At Helsby, he will continue to focus on providing a quality retail experience through customer service and coaching and developing golf skills.

He is 29 years old, and during his childhood years, lived in various places in Asia and that is where his interest in golf started. He now lives in Warrington, is engaged and owns 2 dogs!

Josh will be delighted to help anyone interested in taking up golf or looking to develop their skills. He can be contacted on 01928 722021 option 2.

Kathryn Hoather





HELSEBY SPORTS

Growing Our Own – News from Helsby Tennis Club

We are delighted that Mike Herd our head tennis coach has been shortlisted for development coach of the year in the Cheshire LTA awards. This follows on from our tennis clubs fabulous 2021 success as winner of Club of the year for Cheshire, the North region and Runner up nationally – the best in England! Mike offers a comprehensive range of inclusive coaching for all ages and abilities with the support of his coaching team.

Recently Jack Brocklesby passed his level 1 coaching course and we are excited about Dan Nordman (pictured below) commencing his level 2 course which will enable him to deliver group session for beginners and intermediates.

It is great to develop our own coaches with full LTA accreditation.



On Sunday 16th January we saw the return of the Essar Four Villages Half Marathon to Helsby. For the first time the race started from the fantastic new Helsby Community Sports Club and over 850 runners then took to the country lanes taking in Helsby, Dunham-on-the-Hill, Mouldsworth and Manley before finishing at Horn's Mill School in Helsby.

Michael Kallenberg from Cardiff Athletic Club was the winner in an impressive time of 1:07:22 and first lady home was Anna Bracegirdle from Salford Harriers in a brilliant time of 1:15:19.

A big thank you goes to our sponsor Essar, who also sponsor our competition with local primary schools to design the race T-shirt. This year's winner was Esme Pratt from Alvanley Primary school, pictured here wearing her T-Shirt, with Laura Baynham-Hughes, Race Director.

from Helsby Running Club and we would like to thank the local community for supporting the race and all the voluntary and community groups who help out on race day, enabling us to put on such a popular and well-loved race. From this year's race we have donated £6,750 to local community groups and charities, including donations of £1,200 each to Halton Haven Hospice in Runcorn and Hospice of the Good Shepherd in Chester.

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

Laura Baynham-Hughes

The race is organised by volunteers

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