



HELSEBY NEWS

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Peter Duffy returns as Chair of the Helsby Parish Council

Once more Peter returns to take the Chair of the Parish Council. He joined the Parish Council in 2013, having retired from Cheshire Constabulary having completed 30 years' service, ending as a Detective Superintendent and then doing a further 10 years as a civilian.

His first term of office was in 2015 and again in 2019 when he stepped in to take the Chair, when the then Chair moved to Yorkshire and his deputy was unable to take on the role.

And then the Covid Pandemic struck and the regular tasks of administering Helsby PC business suddenly became a challenge, with meetings conducted on line and the need to show flexibility in everything was essential.

The Government decreed that no local elections should take place and Peter was faced with completing another term of office. Having had a year out, Peter, undaunted, returns to be

chairman for 2022/2023 taking over from Terry O'Neill.

A big family man, Peter has lived in Helsby for over 30 years. He has two sons and 6 grandchildren and is well aware of the issues residents have about school places and the need for increased infrastructure to match the affordable housing being built in the village.

He spoke out against the planning permission granted for 241 houses on the Honeywell site, when it appeared that increasing infrastructure had been overlooked to the detriment of the village. He is determined, along with the other parish councillors, to keep pressing this matter with CWAC.

Cllr Duffy told Helsby News "it's both an honour and a privilege to serve as Chair of Helsby Parish Council and, although we are reduced in the numbers of councillors at the moment, I am always pleasantly surprised at the

support my colleagues give me and



grateful for the tireless efforts of the Parish Clerk, Claire Jones.

Hopefully more folk will feel able to consider putting themselves forward to fill the vacancies and contribute something to the community"

Marj Thoburn

Rugby Club Fire

On Saturday 21st May, Helsby Community Sports Club's Rugby pavilion was destroyed in an arson attack. The venue was used to cater for spectators for Helsby Rugby Club's Senior and Junior teams and also served as an equipment and grounds maintenance store for both Helsby Rugby Club and Helsby Running Club.

The fire occurred less than 24 hours after the Rugby Club's Junior Awards evening - a celebration of the season that saw many youngsters rewarded for demonstrating the RFU core values that run through the club - Respect, Teamwork, Discipline, Sportsmanship and Enjoyment. The pavilion being destroyed in a wanton act of senseless

vandalism has hit the club hard - the building itself being razed to the ground and thousands of pounds worth of equipment being destroyed in the process. The club is calling on public support to help finance a rebuild

project so that it can continue its good work in the local community.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer contact:-
info@helsbysports.co.uk



Parish Council News

Cllr Paul Standing has had to resign from the Parish Council due to pressure of work. There is now a vacancy in Central Ward.

Hon Alderman Alan McKie and Cllr Terry O'Neill have been continuing to seek meetings with CWAC Staff over the shortage of school places in Helsby.

Horns Mill Primary school hosted a celebration to mark the end of the Art of Here project. The final artwork from the project took the form of a book which is available free at Helsby Library and JTO Vintage Café.



Helsby Welcomes Ukrainian Families.

As Helsby residents already know, our village is a warm, friendly and welcoming community. This is why it's no surprise that many families in Helsby have opened their homes – and their hearts – to people fleeing the horrific conflict in Ukraine.

I spoke to one generous host, Donna Jackson, who is hosting a family of three. Having experienced the horrors of Greek refugee camps filled with Syrian, Iraqi and Kurdish refugees, Donna says when the homes for Ukraine scheme was announced, there was no doubt in her mind that she wanted to help.

"My own father and grandmother had been evacuated from London during the last war when their house was hit by a bomb, so it felt like paying it forward," Donna told me.

The process of applying to host a family isn't necessarily a simple, straight-forward one. Firstly, potential host families must apply via the government website

A New Face on the Parish Council

Recently Co-opted to Helsby Parish Council, Stephen Garrity, is thought to be one of the youngest Parish councillors to sit on the Parish Council.

At 31 Stephen brings energy and experience of the workings of local government having served for some years as an Elton Parish Councillor.

Originally from Ireland Stephen came to England as a teenager in 2008 settling in Liverpool. It was whilst he was at Liverpool University that he met fellow student Inga from Lithuania, later to become his wife. Together they have 3 children, and another one "on the way" Stephen told Helsby News.

Stephen feels he wants to give something back to the community, wants to focus on helping young families. He is particularly concerned about the cost of living increases and



their impact and very motivated to address the issue of the shortage of school places in Helsby for Helsby children.

He looks forward to representing North Ward and to actively joining his fellow councillors in parish affairs.

Marj Thoburn

but a lot of the leg work, matching families with suitable hosts, is done via social media. Facebook has hundreds of local groups for host families to find someone they can host.

Thanks to the internet and social media, communicating with people hundreds of miles away has become a lot easier, with Skype and Facebook Messenger being the primary way to get to know your guests, not always an easy process when you're dealing with people who may have limited knowledge of English.

Donna told me that she has experienced a lot of kindness and help from friends and neighbours, and her guests appreciate the peace and quiet of Helsby and the surrounding area and are keen to be able to settle in, start school and go to work. "However, ultimately, their hearts are in the Ukraine, and I'm sure we all hope they can return soon." she said.

Lisa Ellams

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TWISTED TALES

Congratulations to all our students who will have their creative writing published by Young Writers! A fantastic and thoroughly deserved achievement.

Students Isobel H, Sophie C, Sophie B, Sydney M, Sophie W, Olivia T-P, Darcy D, Evie M and Gemma S all had entries organised by Miss Harrison and the English department submitted to the 'Twisted Tales' writing competition to great acclaim.

Selected students work :

I'll be back. I still haven't forgotten how it all felt. The flames licking against my skin, the sinful scorch marks left across me. Ropes restricting me, hugging my lungs like an old friend. They called it a suitable punishment, an eye for an eye, a villain for a hero. I remember the cheering as the executioner lifted the blazing torch. Revenge is complicated, they are just as human as I am and yet my death is justified in their eyes. If that was how I was going to go out, then so be it. I made sure to come back ten times harder.

Gemma S (Year 12)



Bittersweet

The putrid stench of withered souls hung in the air. Candles lit the hallway with the dim blue glow of night. A young woman stared at ancient bones that were perched on an iron throne, its head tilted, staring at her. In black cloth with golden thread, it spoke in a shivering whisper. Her response fell from sugary sweet lips. Her golden eyes glimmered with tears that rolled from her soft skin. But her words left a bitter taste. For she was no girl, but a monstrous killer, feared by death itself.

Darcy D (Year 10)

Death

It's hard you know. When I, an eternal entity, signed up for the role of Death, I thought it would be easy. Just turn up, reap some souls and be on your way. But no. They don't remove your emotion, they just let you deal with it on your own. I'm not afraid to admit, so many times I have wished I could reap my own soul, take my own life. No-one mentions having to take a granddaughter's life whilst their grandma watches. Having to listen to a child calling, concerned, for the dog it doesn't yet know is dead.

Isobel H (Year 9)

High School Dancing

When I saw there was a dance club at Helsby High School, I knew I had to join as I love dancing. I turned up and there were only around seven of us, so everyone knew we had to spread the word to get a few more to join. By the next dance class there were ten of us. Miss Weaver entered us into a dance competition, The Great Big Dance Off. We were all so excited! We decided we needed a well-known song, so we came together and settled on Arabian Nights from Aladdin. We then needed to search for outfits. When we saw our outfits, we fell in love with them and knew they were the best choice. Also, Miss Whomes brought us the flags that we could use in the competition.

The competition day had arrived! We rocked up in our Helsby High School minibus at Parr Hall in Warrington. When we arrived most of us were extremely excited but also anxious. As soon as we stepped into the theatre, we lit up with joy. Our practice on the stage came round and we were worried, but the practice went well. Before we went on stage for the real dance, we were nervous, but we did our best. Miss Weaver and the audience enjoyed our dance. We all had a blast.

Sadly, the dance competition was over but when we were leaving some of the

audience were still talking about how good our dance was - this felt great. Even though some of us have never entered a dance competition we came fifth and we were all so proud of ourselves!



Helsby's Beacon Beams Out



At precisely 9.45pm on June 2 the Helsby Beacon was lit at the top of our hill to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen., simultaneously joining more than 3500 other beacons across the UK and the Commonwealth.

Platinum Celebrations at St Pauls

To mark the Platinum Jubilee of her Majesty the Queen the congregation and community of St Paul's Church celebrated with a service of Thanksgiving for her Majesty and also in thanksgiving for the Community of Helsby.

The packed service itself was attended by more than 200 people and included scouts and brownies, choirs from the primary schools, the community brass band and some members of the newly formed Helsby Players.

Students from the High School provided rock plaques and members of the congregation had been invited to illustrate a representation of their work, business, community, club on the individual stones to form a Community Rock Wall Mural to show how the community of Helsby is bound together. 49 people took part in the building of the wall. It is hoped to find a permanent home for the Mural. After the service many enjoyed a 'Bring a Picnic' lunch in the church hall and were treated to music spanning the 70 years of her Majesty's reign bringing back memories from other jubilees and celebrations.

*Ian Adams
Church Warden
St Pauls, Helsby*

Helsby High Creates the Jubilee Wall

High School students were very proud to be part of the community jubilee celebrations at St Paul's Church last Sunday. They were so pleased to take the community wall, created by Year 10 student Ruby C, to the service in St Paul's on June 5th.

They were delighted to see how the community came together to add their decorated stone to the wall. Each stone showed a drawing interpretation of the many organisations and businesses that make up the community of Helsby. and to see the wall come alive.

Helsby Hillside's Jubilee Celebrations

The children at Helsby Hillside certainly enjoyed finding out about Her Majesty the Queen and celebrating her Platinum Jubilee.

Each class did research Her Majesty's life and reign and represented their findings through writing and artwork which went on display to parents and friends on June 7th and 8th. There was a "portrait gallery" where every child had drawn a portrait of the Queen.



The school held a week of celebration the highlight of which was their celebratory "Street Party lunch" in the playground followed by a "children's afternoon" with some pocket money stalls, a bouncy castle and a surprise visit from the ice cream van!



Some of the children in Key Stage Two performed over the Bank Holiday weekend at the service of celebration at St Paul's Helsby and also in Chester where they performed a medley of songs alongside other schools from the CWAC area.

The children decided to mark the end of their Jubilee celebrations with a very special event.

cont'd



Over two days, the school hall was converted into a 'Jubilee Celebration of Children's Work' including artwork, sculpture, writing and even an appearance from Paddington Bear!



1st Helsby Scout Group Celebrates the Jubilee



Hornsmill News

Wow what an amazing way to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee! The children looked forward to their picnic lunch with their families and it was a hive of activity and fun! Our jubilee bonnet competition was enjoyed by all as the children showed off their creative ideas.

A colourful marching parade around the field took place as all visitors and classes cheered and encouraged their friends along. It ended with a whole school performance in red, white and blue. All the classes and their teaching staff had been busy rehearsing a big performance of a medley of songs from each decade of Queen Elizabeth's reign. Despite the rain making our picnics an indoor version, a fun afternoon was had by all.



1st Helsby held a Platinum Jubilee camp for all their sections (aged from 4 to 14) over the weekend of 11/12 June. It's was a very special camp, the first time that all sections had been away together for many years and the very first time that we had our new little Squirrel Scouts joining with the other sections.

Just before the first Lockdown, we had been awarded a grant from the MCBF to spend on camping equipment and then of course we could not camp. Group Scout Leader, Judith Potts told Helsby News "This was the first time we have been able to use our new purchases so an exciting event all round"

The Jubilee Camp took place at Forest Camp, Sandiway. All of the sections took part in a variety of activities including a Jubilee Treasure Hunt, den building, climbing, raft building and a campfire. The Squirrels departed at the end of the first day but Beavers, Cubs and Scouts camped overnight.

To take such a large number of young people away for a weekend like this was no mean feat, Judith offered a huge thank you to all the volunteer leaders and parent helpers who gave their time to make this happen.

*Judith Potts
Group Scout Leader,
1st Helsby Scout Group*

Was this the biggest Street Party?

Helsby had its share of street parties over the Jubilee Bank Holiday and one of the biggest was in Vicarage Lane where 43 residents and 10 children celebrated with a massive lunch time BBQ which then led to a Hot Chilli supper until late in the evening.



WI back in full swing!

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Helsby WI arranged a charity coffee morning which raised £700 pounds for the work of Halton Haven in Runcorn.

Regular meetings are now in full swing with meetings and speakers on the 2nd Tuesday of every month in the Community Centre, 7.30pm. There is always a warm welcome to new members and visitors.

Contact Pam Hinkley on 01928 722161



STOP PRESS

Latest news from CWAC on the Old Chester Road is that the drilling survey done on the wall outside Heathercliffe has indicated that a strong netting solution is viable and, once given the go ahead, should take about 2 weeks to install.

Let's not hold our breath but hope that normal service on that part of Old Chester Road will return as soon as possible!!

SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY 27TH AUGUST

**OPEN
DAY**



**A FULL DAY EVENT
SPORTING TASTER SESSIONS / FOOD
PONIES / INFLATABLES / LIVE MUSIC
FACE PAINTING/ TONS MORE!!!**



Grow your Own

Nothing like the start of the Strawberry season when the first fruits are ripening.... raspberries next, and lots of other fresh things throughout the year. Helsby has two allotment sites, one at the bottom of Queens Drive, the other behind the cemetery, opposite the High School. Allotments are a source of great fresh fruit and veg, exercise and fresh air. The community spirit and welcome you receive from plot holders is something the sites can be proud of.

Tempted? Please contact - parishclerk@helsbyparish.org.uk if you are interested in taking on an allotment.



When Will It All Stop? A point of View

From the comments on the local social media, residents of Helsby, like me, are becoming ever more frustrated with the continuing and increasing number of roadworks throughout the village.

We have the ongoing cycle way works between Helsby and Frodsham. Is the disruption and cost going to be worth while in the long run? Only time will tell. Whilst the funding is coming from central government, could it have been better spent being diverted towards the plan to open the old Helsby to Mouldsworth railway line? This would make an excellent walkway, cycle track, bridle path for the area.

I have lived in Helsby since birth 68 years ago and have seen many changes in the village. The closure of the BICC factory, the closure of two of our local pubs, the Robin Hood and the Horse and Jockey, the demolition of the Sandstone school I used to attend as a child, all in the name of development.

Progress you will say is inevitable, and I agree, but the expansion of Helsby brings with it its own set of problems. The ageing infrastructure must now be creaking under the strain of the new and proposed housing developments. Whilst house building carries on a pace, where is the investment in the electricity supply, the gas supply, the sewage and drainage. We have had major disruption to The Rock and Robin Hood Lane due to the gas main requiring replacing, how much more in the village is in a similar condition? Could it be that work to combat our failing services means that temporary traffic lights may become a common site in Helsby?

All these problems cause even more chaos on the roads when the M56 suffers yet another accident between junctions 12 and 14. So with proposed planning for a large housing development on the last brown field site in Helsby on the old Honeywell site, how will Helsby face the future as a Village?

With the continued expansion of the village Helsby has become, over the years, a commuter village not a

community village, As the village grows due to the good road and rail links to Liverpool, Manchester and North Wales the sense of pride and community spirit seems to have taken a back seat. As a lifelong resident of Helsby I feel Helsby is losing its historical identity, it's becoming just another Cheshire village.

We all lead very busy lives, but whose job is it to protect and promote the history and future wellbeing of Helsby? Well, you may say its down to the Parish Council, and you may be right, but the Parish Council can only represent the village if it gets the commitment of the residents.

I have been a Parish Councillor for some 16 years and we have always had a full compliment of 15 Councillors to cover the three wards. Now due to retirements and resignations we have 6 vacancies for councillors. High time new faces and voices joined the Parish Council to help combat the problems expansion brings and to see Helsby thrive. Helsby Needs You!

Chris Ellams



HELSEBY SPORTS

Helsby RUFC's U9s

They took part in the re-scheduled Cheshire Festival at Chester RUFC and gave a fantastic account of themselves, with superb victories against Chester, Birkenhead Park, Crewe & Nantwich and Sandbach before drawing their final game against Knutsford. The team were duly rewarded for their efforts, claiming one of the tournament Spirit of Rugby Awards

Chris Johnson



Helsby FC 3rds secure promotion to the Chester Prem

Superb win for Helsby FC 3rds in May, 4-2 v Winsford Saxons. Secures second place in the @CWFL_Info Championship Division.

Great season for the team, well done to Chris, Scott, Mac and all the lads

Junior Golf at Helsby Golf Club

Josh Hall, the recently appointed qualified PGA professional at Helsby Golf Club, and his team have introduced a junior coaching programme dedicated to growing the game. The programme is perfect for juniors looking to take up golf and for existing pupils to develop their skills to be ready to take onto the course. They currently coach pupils between the ages of 6 & 14.

Helsby GC have a 350-yard driving range which is kept private for the junior sessions, and they have recently built a junior course tailored to test skills in a competitive environment. They give not

only technical tuition, but also teach the rules of the game, discipline & etiquette. It's not all golf coaching however, and the main goal is to get the pupils to enjoy coming to golf every week including playing many fun games! There are 2 class times every Saturday, 2:30pm for our younger 6 to 10 age group and 3:45pm for our older 10 to 14 age group.

The cost of the programme is £80 for 10 weeks of tuition plus when accompanied by a parent the full use of our practice facility at no extra cost. Spaces are limited in the programme, if you are interested in getting your child/children started on the programme please get in touch with our professional Josh, as soon as possible on 07429112871.



Helsby Parish Council

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Vacancy
Vacancy

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