



HELSEBY NEWS

www.helsbynews.net

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HAPPY HO HO HELSEBY

Ho Ho Helsby Working Group were very happy to present the village's sixth Christmas community festival. Crowds were estimated at 2,500 people and it's been reported that there wasn't a single face without a beaming smile. The weather was kind (unlike the prior year!) allowing everyone to enjoy the day while staying warm and dry. Special welcome was given to our visiting Ukrainian friends.

It was really encouraging to see our residents, family and friends, including those from local towns and villages, join us in celebrating what is considered by many locally as the beginning of their festive season.

Record stalls attendance brought crafts, arts, food and drinks from a host of local people who were really grateful for the support of their customers. Everyone looking for a unique and reasonably priced gift did not leave disappointed! We have a great artisan talent hub in the village.



Special thanks are due to each of the Working Group Members and to all who supported the Group's fund-raising activities in the year, especially in these challenging times. Everyone has been really generous in donating their time, money, prizes of all shapes and sizes; huge thanks must go to RSK, Tesco, Laurus, Lane End, MadJakJoinery, JWElectrical, Rotary and The Old Bank Tea Rooms for their continuing help and financial support, without which several of the key lighting installations in the village, and the event itself, could not exist.

As we head into a hard Winter, let's all hold on to the happy memories and community spirit of Ho Ho Helsby. See you next year on 2 December 2023!

*Dianne Walker,
Chair, Ho Ho Helsby Working Group*

Turn to page 2 for more fantastic photos from the day.

Photography credit: Paul Downey



Parish Council News

Thanks to all of you who responded to the questionnaire sent out with the last edition of Helsby News. Analysis of the responses is currently underway and will inform council decisions in due course.

Four green planters have been replaced by black ones, outside the shops, these have been purchased as part of a trial. The original planters are available, free of charge, for a community project (contact Parish Clerk).

Thanks to Marj Thoburn, Eddie Bougan and all the planter volunteers who generously give their time to tend the village planters.

Councillor surgeries

Held on first Saturday of the month, 10-11am at the parish office in Community Sports Club. An opportunity to discuss issues with a parish councillor and CW&C ward councillor, Paul Bowers. Appointments not needed.

The next Community Grants show will take place in the Spring. If you are a local organisation and would like to apply for some community funding from the parish council, please contact our clerk so she can add you to our database.

Finally, parish council elections will be held in May 2023 – if you are interested in applying to be a councillor, please contact the parish clerk for more information.

Helsby Parish Council would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Claire Jones, Parish Clerk

Volunteers needed...

...to help collect the generous food donations for the local food hubs and deliver them either to the Methodist Church or the Foodbank Warehouse in Ellesmere Port.

If you can help, please call 01928 727217 or email: hmcadm1@gmail.com for more information.

Helsby News Editorial Team

Marj Thoburn, Barbara Ginty, Vicky Mohring, Chris Ellams, Ian Oulton and Margaret Marsh.

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THANK YOU HELSBY

£17,120.51 raised for 2022 Poppy appeal.

I am delighted to confirm that Helsby raised this magnificent total for the 2022 Poppy Appeal. A big 'thank you' to everyone who contributed; to the staff at Hapsford Service and Tesco (Helsby), particularly Lesley and Karen, for their unfailing help and support; to the local businesses and most importantly to the volunteers, who give their time so willingly. We couldn't do it without you all.

Every Poppy really counted!

*Fiona Purcell
Helsby Poppy Organiser*



MORE FROM HAPPY HO HO HELSBY



Photography credit: Paul Downey



Meet Rob Nicklin

Newly co-opted Parish Councillor Rob Nicklin told Helsby News that he had taken his time before applying for the role and had attended a number of Parish Council meetings as a resident.

Rob, who lives in Mountain View read Mathematics at Manchester and works for a software company in Runcorn. He is married to Joanne, who comes from Helsby and they have a young son of 4. He brings to his new role as councillor for Central Ward a keen interest in hearing what people think and developing solutions for problems. Something that is very much a part of his day job.

He has offered to serve on the finance and environment committees.

A warm welcome to Cllr Nicklin.



JUNOON NOMINATED FOR THE CURRY OSCARS!

Following its success in this year's 'Best Restaurant Awards' Junoon, Helsby's modern Indian restaurant, now finds itself nominated for Britain's highest award, known fondly in the business as The Curry Oscars! The biggest competition in the UK, held on 28th November, with more than 10,000 restaurants eligible to take part.

"We are so grateful for the support of our wonderful customers and neighbours" restaurant owner,

Mohammed Shaek Ahmed told Helsby News. Mohammed runs the business with members of his family, (seen here) and is delighted that he came to Helsby having had a similar establishment in Northwich. He took over Junoon 18 months ago and since then it has gone from strength to strength. **Best of Luck at the Oscars!**

Marj Thoburn

Photography credit: Chris Ellams



Once again the folk of Helsby made an impressive turnout on Remembrance Sunday at St Paul's Church.

The young people from the scouts, cubs, beavers and squirrels, were joined by Draco Explorer scouts and provided the best church parade for many a year.

Representatives from the village associations and parish council laid wreaths and kept the two minutes respectful silence.

Rev Michael Mills' sermon, with its theme of "Lest We Forget" left no one in any doubt about the importance of remembering, reminding the congregation that "The Fallen" named on the War Memorial may well have sat on St Paul's pews, in their day, but their sacrifice meant they did not return. Helsby Remembered Them.

Marj Thoburn



PLEASED TO BE HERE

If you haven't already seen Helsby's new PCSO, Sean Parry, out and about in the village let us introduce you to him.

Sean took up the role of Police Community Support Officer in September having been a prison officer in Berwyn Prison, Wrexham. Born and bred in Connah's Quay Sean got married in May to his long-time girlfriend, Domi. They met at school. They are Rock and Roll fans and enjoy gigs and festivals, particular fans of the band Metallica. Sean is keen on Rugby and is an Evertonian. Not a bad mix for this village!

Sean's first impressions of the village have left him with the clear idea that Helsby is a close-knit community, friendly and looking out for each other. He is knocked out by what a lovely setting we live in and keen to get to know more about his patch.

His email contact details are sean.parry@cheshire.police.uk and he is more than happy to be contacted with your reports of incidents or concerns.

WE ALL NEED TO KNOW THIS

Often heard in the village is the notion that it's not worth reporting incidents or concerns to the police because "nothing seems to get done".

What isn't realised by most of us is that it is in all of our best interests to make sure we report in the most effective way.

AND THAT WAY IS:

Formal logging through the police website or by email, of incidents like speeding, unruly behaviour or vandalism. It is the accumulation of written reports that is most likely to prompt follow up action.

Hearsay doesn't do it. Take the time to write it down and send it off.

Marj Thoburn



Dr Martin Retires

After nearly 30 years at the Helsby and Elton Practice we are saying a fond farewell to Dr Branwen Martin who retires this year. Dr Martin started working as a GP at the practice in 1994 and has enjoyed getting to know so many patients and developing her interest in skin disorders.

She has led the practice as Senior GP Partner since 2011 and guided us through some very challenging times, notably the COVID-19 Pandemic. **We thank Dr Martin for her enormous contribution to the practice and wish her well for the future, we will all miss her.**

Brian Yorke



Helsby Christmas Services

St Paul's Church
Sunday 18th December
 6.30pm Christmas Carol Service with the Come and Sing Choir and Helsby Hillside Primary School Choir.

Christmas Eve Saturday 24th December
 4.30pm The Christingle, 11.30pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day Sunday 25th December
 NO BCP COMMUNION at 08.00
 10.00am Family Communion for Christmas (Please note 10am NOT 11am)

Helsby Methodist Church
Sunday 18th December
 10.30am Carol Service

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

Christmas Day Sunday 25th December
 10.00am Christmas Family Celebration.



Christmas Concert

Helsby Concert Band



Wednesday 14th December
7.00pm

St Pauls Church
Helsby, WA6 0PX

Tickets £5 on the door

Info: jackykeating@hotmail.com

Beautiful Noise Choir
Creating Adventures



WELCOME TO REV. ALISON CROOKES

Hello! Thank you for this opportunity to introduce myself.

My name is Rev. Alison Crookes. I came to the area in 2019, having pastoral charge for the Methodist churches in Runcorn. I became pastor of Helsby in September and I am enjoying working with the team at HMC.

I am particularly excited about a new and exciting outreach into the community through the appointment of a Community and Families Worker. This role will be very

hands on in the village, building relationships and enabling community-church links to hopefully grow and deepen and so make a difference to the lives of Helsby people.

Meantime, take care and God bless,
Rev. Alison Crookes



Methodist Community and Family Worker



Nicola Brown lives locally having previously worked in local industry specialising in marketing and communications while also studying mission and ministry at Chester University.

Based at Helsby Methodist Church, Nicola has a passion for sharing her faith with others by serving the local community through pastoral care and community activities and is also a licenced Anglican Lay Minister. Having now graduated, Nicola is excited to start this new role serving the Helsby community covering all age groups meaning regular contact with key community spaces such as schools, care homes, independent living, scouts, guides, local businesses, and the library.

Nicola can be contacted on email at nicolabrown@northcheshiremethodists.org.uk or at the Church most Monday and Friday mornings.



SOCIAL AFTERNOON
OUR BRAND NEW INITIATIVE

EVERY TUESDAY FROM 2-4PM

Tea / coffee making facilities provided for a small donation, also be access to our friendly bar! Using the snooker room and the bar area, we hope to make the following available:

*Snooker / Billiards/ Darts / Dominoes
Chess / Draughts/ Card Games / Backgammon
Music Corner, I.T. Corner or
just use the space to chat, read
or use the Wi-Fi!*

Get out of the house and spend some time in a warm and welcoming place, meeting old and new friends!




Allo Allo at the Café Rene

A hilarious fun night was had at the Community Sports Club on Friday 11th November, as this photo shows. Members of the Kingsley Players enacted the TV show Allo Allo to a delighted audience, many of whom had dressed up for the occasion, determined to enjoy the full Café Rene experience. The wine flowed, the buffet was sensational and the company tres, tres chic! **Tout le monde demandez encore!**

Marj Thoburn

Marshes Community Benefit Fund – 5 Projects Awarded Grants of £28,212



Weaver Words

£2,000 creative writing sessions in local schools with leading local poets. The theme of “New Beginnings” hopes to promote creative writing about life after lockdown.

Association of Frodsham Townfield Allotments (AFTA)

£3,050 to purchase a ride- on lawn mower. This help will reduce the need to increase rental costs for tenants as there will no longer be a need to use contract grass cutters.

The Good Shed

£2,611.92 towards providing resources for the latest project, Main Street Memory Café in Frodsham. This volunteer led café will provide support, a listening ear and signposting to relevant services for people living with memory loss or dementia and carers and loved ones.

OPAL

£19,000 to fund a new service called OPAL Choices, building on existing and developing welcoming social hubs for older people, aged 60 and over,

who are at risk of social isolation and loneliness.

Dunham Hill and Hapsford Parish Council

£1,550 towards their project, ‘Improving the area of Hapsford’. This support will be used to improve the green space within the rural hamlet. The parish council, with community involvement, will extend the planting of wild flowers over the next two years between Helsby and Hapsford and the M56 junction.

A Word from the Chair

The MCBF continues to support community-based projects across the region. What has been especially pleasing in the last 2 rounds of funding is the variety of services we have been able to support with the grants that have been issued.

The launch of the new Golden Grant award for grants up to £1,000 has generated a significant amount of social media interest and there will be a further press release relating to these grant awards shortly.

As always, I would like to thank all of the panel members who volunteer to give their time generously to support the fund.

Andrew Jones, MCBF Panel Chair



HO HO HILLSIDE

Helsby Hillside have been busy decorating the Ho Ho star for 2022.

As our school colours are the same as those of Ukraine's flag, we decorated the star accordingly to welcome Ukrainian visitors to our village and to send wishes for a safe Christmas all around the world.

Judith Potts



Helsby Community Sports Club - The Next Stage.

We can hardly believe it has been 18 months since the new sports club (behind Tesco) has been operating.

During this time we have seen many members of our community using the club's sporting and hospitality facilities. Having established our basic operating protocols; ensuring that the club is financially viable and a safe place to have fun; both sporting and social, we now look forward to the next stage of our development.

Up until now, all the sporting sections (tennis, rugby, football, running, snooker and bowls) have operated as separate organisations, with each section carrying out their own administration. We now feel we are at the stage where the club is in a position to better support the individual sports and are in the process of bringing all these sports together into "one club working within our community", allowing the individual sports to concentrate on what they do best – coaching and playing sport. This development also gives us the advantage of securing our status as a CASC (Community Amateur Sports Club), allowing us to take advantage of the financial benefits afforded by HMRC for this status. As part of this initiative, we have invested in a new Sports Development Officer – Kate Merrick.

ROCKING AT HORN'S MILL

Horn's Mill Primary School started the new school year with a bang! The whole school celebrated with a wellbeing day lead by Rock Kidz!

Children and staff dressed up in funky, cool rock star costumes and the entire day was filled with high energy and enthusiastic workshops encouraged the children to embrace their individuality.

We played air guitars, rocking out to songs such as the Rock Kidz version of "This is me". We ended the day with the children's favourite "The chicken

dance," and a 'rock-off' competition between staff and pupils. It is fair to say that the children won!

The important message the children and staff took away from the day was **"You're Awesome So Be Awesome!"** This is something that we believe that everybody should think and feel - and by the end of our rocking day we really did.

#YASBA





GOLF CLUB'S CHARITY DAY

Martin Edmunds, the Captain at Helsby Golf Club, recently held his fundraising day in aid of the Prostate Cancer UK charity.

It was a great day with 72 golfers playing in teams of four, a meal in the clubhouse and a raffle and an auction. The weather was bright and sunny and the winners on the day were "The Gin and Tonics" team which included Lady Captain Pauline Ford, Chris Marsden, Gin Ewing and Mo Burns.

Martin thanked everyone who supported him and gave special thanks to Alastair McCarey and helpers on the day.

The event was timed to coincide with the national Prostate Cancer awareness month. All the funds went to this very worthwhile charity and he was delighted to announce that the funds raised amounted to an amazing £4,098.00 for the Prostate Cancer UK charity!



Essar Four Villages Half Marathon Sunday 15th January 2023

Entries are still open and close on the day. You can find out more about the race including how to enter at www.helsbyrunningclub.niftyentries.com/Four-Villages-Half-Marathon

If you are interested in volunteering at this event, please email fitzpatrick_chris@hotmail.com

The 39th Essar Four Villages Half Marathon will take place on Sunday 15th January 2023, through the local parishes of Helsby, Dunham on the Hill, Barrow, Ashton Hayes, Mouldsworth, Manley and Alvanley.

The race is organised by Helsby Running Club with the support of local community groups. We rely on the goodwill of everyone living and working nearby to help us put on a successful race of which the local community can be proud. Cheshire West & Chester Council require full road closures on the route.

View the route on below website.
www.helsbyrunningclub.org.uk/four-villages-half/four-villages-course/

Helsby Parish Council

North Ward

Alan Gardner 722360
Sarah Temple 722181
Stephen Garrity 07712 222377
Vacancy
Vacancy

Central Ward

Chris Ellams 724409
Patricia Holder 727384
Terry O'Neill 723205
Rob Nicklin 07891 078097
Vacancy

South Ward

Peter Duffy (Chair) 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