



HELSEBY NEWS

www.helsbynews.org.uk

ISSUE 104 • SPRING 2023

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU

May 2023 brings local elections for Borough and Parish Councillors to Helsby.

If ever there was a time when new faces, fresh ideas and diverse voices needed to come forward to strengthen what is the first tier of local government it is now.

This first tier of councillors is the closest to the people who matter, US. This tier is instrumental in ensuring that Helsby can be the best village it can be. New Councillors are needed to help strengthen the parish council's determination to shape the future of the village and have its voice heard in higher authority places.

There are currently six vacancies which desperately need filling.

If you care about Helsby and want to contribute to the community now is your chance to step into those shoes. Now is your chance to make a difference.

The first step is to contact Claire, the parish clerk, to express your interest and find out more on 01928 746433 or parishclerk@helsbyparish.org.uk

Marj Thoburn

To the right are some personal reflections from Cllr Chris Ellams, a long serving member of the Council.



"You don't have to be a lifelong resident of Helsby to be a Parish Councillor, as long as you have lived in the village for at least 12 months you can apply to be a Parish Councillor.

We are a non-political organisation that has always endeavoured to make Helsby an environment people are proud to live in. We cannot change everything over night, but we do make every effort to improve life for the residents of Helsby. Could You Help Us Make a Difference?"

Cllr Chris Ellams



IT'S OPEN BUT IT'S TAKEN FIVE YEARS!

The People of Helsby and the Residents of Old Chester Road have had to have the patience of saints to put up with the interminable closure of Old Chester Road.

At last the road closed signs have gone from the Robin Hood Lane end and traffic can now reach the top of Crescent Drive.

It is hard to understand why it has taken so long? Why the wire mesh solution wasn't employed earlier?

We can be glad that that section seems to be completed but what of the closure of the other half, at the top of Rake Lane where the whole road has been undermined by reckless digging. Will it be another five years?

Marj Thoburn

Community Questionnaire Results

Helsby Parish Council distributed a short questionnaire as an insert to the Autumn 2022 edition of Helsby News. The questionnaire was delivered to 2750 households. Online versions were also available. A total of 202 questionnaires were returned, a return rate of around 7%.

Many interesting views were raised – with the most common being road closures in the village, particularly Old Chester Road, and ensuring that local services and infrastructure are expanded to cope with all the new houses being built in Helsby. Many respondents said that they liked the friendliness of the people and the community spirit in Helsby with 83% of respondents saying that Helsby was a village community that they wanted to be a part of.

We asked for views on a number of particular projects and the two most popular were: refurbishment of Helsby Community Centre (57%) and the provision of play equipment for wheelchair users (54%). We also received lots of great ideas for new projects which will be considered by our various committees over the coming months. All the comments and views expressed will also help us to draft our new business plan which will run from 2023 to 2028.

To see the full survey results, please visit our website: www.helsbyparish.org.uk.

Cllr Bowers Not Standing Again

Local Borough Councillor Paul Bowers has decided not to stand for re-election in May at the local elections.

Paul says *"being a councillor is an honour and a privilege. I've really enjoyed meeting so many people and doing my bit to help our area. But it's also time consuming. I am self-employed and have 3 children. I've reluctantly decided not to continue"*

Cllr Bowers has represented Helsby on Cheshire West and Chester Council since May 2019.



LOCAL FOOD HUB

Thank you to all who have donated to the Local Food Hub trolleys in the village. Despite the current economics, the amount of donations has been amazing.

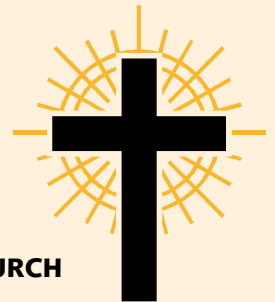
We still need volunteers to uplift from Tesco and deliver to the Methodist Church on Monday or Friday mornings 10.00 -12.00. For more details, please ring 01928 725562.

Margaret Marsh

Easter Church Services

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 7TH

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



HELSEBY METHODIST CHURCH

Palm Sunday April 2nd
10.30am - Sunday Worship

Easter Day April 9th
10.30am - Easter Day Worship and Holy Communion with a simple breakfast @ 9.45am

ST PAUL'S CHURCH

Palm Sunday April 2nd
11am - Holy Communion and giving out of Palms

Easter Sunday April 9th
8am - Holy Communion
11am - Family Service and Communion

Helsby News Editorial Team

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

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NEWS FROM HELSBY PLAYERS

Helsby Players next production will be "The Railway Children" and it will be performed in St Paul's Church Hall on 8th and 9th June at 7pm with matinees on 10th and 11th June, 2.30pm.

You can reserve tickets (£6pp) by contacting the box office on 07340 339499.



Latest from Ho Ho

The Ho Ho Helsby volunteer Working Group has announced that it is putting on a village Community Coronation Celebration on Bank Holiday, Monday, 8th May from midday.

Having missed out a celebration for the Queen's Jubilee, the Group decided to put something on for the Coronation and so 'HRHelsby' was born!

The Group will bring together, in the village centre, their usual popular mix of locals' artisan stalls, selling crafts, food & drinks, as well as children's attractions, face painting, performances and music, maypole dancing and of course the famous Giants!

They look forward to support from the villagers, as well as friends and relatives from further afield. All are welcome to celebrate at HRHelsby.

The Group will also be organising their popular Ho Ho Helsby Village Scarecrow Trail, from 1st May until 8th May. Participants are asked to join in the theme of 'Kings & Queens' by building scarecrows and getting their location on the map, more details to come on their website and Facebook group! Prizes will be awarded for the best efforts!

There will also be a village garage sale on the 29th May to raise funds for Ho Ho Helsby 2023, watch out for more information on the web and Facebook.

HRHelsby®
CELEBRATING THE CORONATION 2023
A HO HO HELSBY EVENT

SAVE THE DATE

MONDAY 8 MAY 2023

Giant King & Queen 👑 Food & Drink 🍷 Artisan Stalls
Beer & Cocktails 🍷 Music, Singing and Performances
Samba Band 🎵 Mini Fairground Rides 🎠 Face Painting
Family Entertainment 🎪 Maypole 🎪 Kids' Characters

Event content may change for reasons beyond our control

HRHelsby Scarecrow Trail, 1-8 May

www.hohohelsby.co.uk
Enquiries: helsbyxmas@gmail.com

ALL DESIGN WORK BY
carswellcreative.co.uk

HoHoHelsby   

Dianne Walker, Chair, of the Ho Ho Helsby Working Group asks that any enquiries and sponsorship interest should be emailed to: HelsbyXmas@gmail.com.

COMFY CORNER AT HELSBY GP PRACTICE

Described as a 'little oasis', this comfy corner (seen here) has been created by Helsby and Elton Patient Participation Group (PPG), with funding from the Marshes Community Benefit Fund.

It's an informal and friendly setting where patients can drop-in when organisations are visiting like Age UK,

OPAL (Older People Active Lives), Chapter, Mind and Snow Angels and local PCSO, Sean Parr.

Support is offered around issues such as social isolation, mental wellbeing but also anti-social behaviour and lots more. Check the noticeboard in the surgery for details of forthcoming events and for more information or to arrange an appointment, call Lesley Gardner, secretary of the PPG, on 07799 266380.



SOME GOOD NEWS...

No increase in Helsby Parish Precept 2023/24

Most of us will have received our Council Tax Bill for 2023/2024 and will have been delighted to see that unlike other local parish and town councils, Helsby Parish Council has been able to issue a precept request to Cheshire West and Chester Council which keeps the precept at the same level as 2022-23. Some parishes have seen as much as a 50% hike in their precept requests.

Helsby Councillors have been mindful of the recent increase in the cost of

living and have not wished to overburden the taxpayer further.

It is proposed to use some general reserves in 2023/24 should this be necessary. A full report can be found on the Council's website at www.helsbyparish.org.uk.

Alternatively, a copy can be requested directly from the Parish Clerk at parishclerk@helsbyparish.org.uk

Marj Thoburn

A New Face on the Parish Council

If there is one thing newly co-opted councillor, Graham Stothard, brings to Helsby Parish Council it seems to be experience. Although he has only recently settled in Helsby he has been involved in local affairs before having stood for Ellesmere Port and Neston for a number of years and was one of the youngest magistrates when appointed in his 20s, serving for 25 years. He was an economics teacher on the Wirral before going out to work in West Africa.

He told Helsby News he has always had an active interest in helping people and

joining the Parish Council is one of the ways he feels he can contribute to the community. He believes his experience of working overseas has helped him be open minded and fair and he is particularly keen to support young people in the village and develop some projects which will engage them.

Welcome to Helsby South Ward, Cllr Graham Stothard

Marj Thoburn



VPA HUT OPEN

Helsby Village Produce Association is now open from 10am to 12noon on Saturday mornings for all your garden sundries, composts and canes, fertilisers and pest controls.

Email HelsbyVPA@outlook.com for more details.

HELSEBY HILLSIDE W.I.

As we move into Spring and the nights are getting lighter, the W.I. is embarking on a programme of interesting meetings, and planned social events.

Our March meeting saw John Sterling talk to us about his journey from Toytown to Buckingham Palace.

In April, our local hero and fundraiser, Alan McKie, will be recounting his charity walk to Everest Base Camp, and in May Joe Hartley will be giving a talk on the Working Horses of Liverpool. This will be followed by a Plant Sale.

Our monthly Lunch Club is enjoying outings to local restaurants, and the bowling group are preparing for the forthcoming season. We have also started a darts team. The Committee are currently sourcing visits to places of interest.

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.

Jim Benn, 100 and still smiling

It was a real pleasure to meet Jim Benn and his lovely wife, Kathy shortly after his 100th birthday and to hear of his long life. They have lived in Helsby for 36 years moving here from Grappenhall with their family.

Jim was a Chartered Electrical Engineer and his career took him to many different places in the world including Holland, France, Norway, Algeria and Scotland. His last job before he retired was on the oil rigs in the North Sea.

Always a keen sailor he was a founder member of Chester Sailing and Canoeing Club and became Commodore of the Club. He is also a long-established member of Frodsham Foxhill Probus Group who gave Jim a fine Birthday Party.

Family and friends gathered together at the Goshawk to mark the occasion with a splendid lunch. Jim also had a visit from Chairman of the Parish Council, Peter Duffy who extended the best wishes of the parish and congratulated him on his long life.

When asked what was the benefit of a long life, Jim told his Probus colleagues "Curiosity, it's exciting to think what else can happen?"

His enthusiasm and positive attitude to life is reflected in his still enjoying Sunday afternoon Concerts at the Liverpool Philharmonic and loves the fact that at his great age he now gets free seats!

Here he is with Kathy and the famous card from King Charles and Camilla, Queen Consort.

Marj Thoburn



Photo Credit: Wynford Evans

1st May to 8th May 2023

HRHelsby Scarecrow Trail

Celebrating all things King and Queen, from Elizabeth and Charles to Elvis and Beyoncé!

Prizes for best residential, best commercial and best community scarecrows.
Trail maps available for £2 from The Old Bank Tea Rooms, One Stop and Thrifty's during the trail.

£3 ENTRY FEE

ALL PROCEEDS TO HO HO HELSBY

For more info or to enter your scarecrow visit www.hohoscarecrow.weebly.com



Deadline for scarecrow entries is Tuesday 21st April at 6pm

RSK for HRH

As part of King Charles coronation celebration employees of RSK and local residents are getting together for a lunchtime litter-pick on 5th May at 1pm. The aim is to do a tidy up around the village ready for the weekend celebrations. The volunteers will be using the parish council litter pickers & bin bags to get rid of any litter on the streets in central Helsby.

On the 8th May they will be helping with the village celebrations by keeping the streets clear of rubbish as it is sure to be a busy and fun event! If anyone would like to get involved on either the 5th May or the 8th May please get in touch with Lisa Smith lasmith@rsk.co.uk

Lisa Smith



The Return of the Grant Show

Village Clubs and Organisations were delighted to see the return of the Parish Council Grant Show at the end of February. It hadn't been possible to hold the event for some years due to the Covid pandemic and the Parish Council was pleased to be able to host what is hoped to be to a return to an annual event.

There was a very large response which saw 17 community groups make enthusiastic applications for a share of the funding. Each group had to make a 3-minute presentation to a packed Sports Club audience and the winners were selected by the groups themselves through what is called 'a participatory budgeting process'. To be absolutely fair no group could vote for themselves and the winners were those with the most votes. There was one award of £2000 and seven of £1000. The eight worthwhile community projects to win through were as follows:

GRANT AWARDED	APPLICANT	PROJECT
£2000	Ho Ho Helsby	'HRHelsby' King's Coronation event
£1000	Helsby Players	Future performances (The Railway Children)
£1000	1st Helsby Scouts	Audio-visual equipment
£1000	Helsby Concert Band	Band uniform
£1000	Helsby RUFC	Girls coach development
£1000	Frodsham and Helsby Rotary Club	Upkeep of Christmas Sleigh
£1000	Helsby Methodist Church	Helsby events (Coronation and Polar Express)
£1000	Helsby Hillside Primary School	Outdoor learning project



Helsby Hillside Primary School



Helsby Players



Ho Ho Helsby



Frodsham and Helsby Rotary Club



Helsby RUFC



Helsby Methodist Church



1st Helsby Scouts



Helsby Concert Band



Singing at the AO Arena

Back in February, Helsby Hillside school choir were lucky enough to have been a part of the 8,700 strong children's choir, performing alongside professional artists at the AO Arena in Manchester.

Our children worked hard learning a wide range of songs from a collection of Spike Milligan silly poems put to music, as well as a medley of Nile Rodger's Rock songs and Trolls inspired pop songs.

We sang along with Heather Small from M People, danced with Andy Ince and Urban Strides, beatboxed with Beatbox Collective and were truly inspired by the coolest of violin players - Anna Phoebe.

It was truly an unforgettable experience to inspire and remember for years to come!

'Wellbeing' with Lambs

To kick off the Spring term at Hillside Oliver, from Year 2, brought in his lambs, Oliver and Alex. They visited all KS1 classes and fun was had by all.

Next term, we are planning to invite some of the Shetland Ponies from 'Spirit of the Herd' to visit us as part of our termly 'Wellbeing Day'.



Spring at Hornsmill

Horns Mill have had a busy start to 2023! Here is a little insight into what we do at Horns Mill to support the children in flourishing...

We started mental health week with a bang, our expert dancer Jeni taught the children, staff and parents to 'Wake up and Shake up' first thing every morning. We all loved our boogieing so much, it now happens every Monday!



Team 2 went on a very exciting residential to Burwardsley, where they took part on many team building activities, such as jungle survival and a hike which must have felt like a huge mountain. They all had so much fun roasting marshmallows and reading stories at bed time.



Horn's Mill went for gold singing at young voices! They sung their hearts out and joined in with many other schools from around the North West.

Finally, Team 5 joined Reception on a jolly walk to the local library, where they looked after their buddies and read them lots of beautiful stories. Both teams really enjoyed the conversations they had and their story telling came alive.



HELSEBY HIGH NAMED AS ONE OF THE TOP SPORTING SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY

School Sport Magazine has recently published its list of the top sporting schools in the country and Helsby High was placed at number 72. The list includes both independent and state schools.

The list reflects competitive achievement in a range of sports in national competitions throughout 2022 and honours those schools that take competition seriously. Schools must take part in a number of sports and do well in different national competitions.

All of the results are inputted in to a special computer programme which produces the list.

There are some big names on the list and Helsby should be proud to have topped schools like Manchester Grammar and Kings School in the rankings.

Here is a photo of one of the teams that took part, Year 9 Girls Football Team.

All the students involved in extra-curricular sport, parents/carers and PE staff are to be congratulated for their hard work and for making 2022 such a successful year.

Marj Thoburn



HELSEBY SPORTS



Helsby Golf Club JUNIOR OPEN DAY

May 2023 – date to be confirmed

- Do you know of any youngsters (6–14 years old) interested in getting into golf?
- Why not join us for what promises to be a fun day at Helsby Golf Club on a date to be confirmed in May
- We will have bouncy castles, multiple games stations and the opportunity to learn about our very popular Saturday Junior Academy
- Our great coaching staff ensure learning how to play golf is fun!
- If you are interested, please contact our pro Josh on 01928 722021 option 2



Helsby Golf Club
Towers Lane
Helsby
WA6 0JB

Helsby Parish Council

North Ward

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

Central Ward

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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
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