



HELSEBY NEWS

www.helsbynews.org.uk

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HELSEBY STAYS GREEN IN MAY ELECTION

After an extensive pre-election campaign which saw green party candidate, Chris Copeman, canvassing widely in the village, his efforts were rewarded when Helsby voted to stay green. Chris was elected to serve a four-year term as Borough Councillor for Helsby on Cheshire West and Cheshire Council.

When Helsby News met up with Cllr Copeman he had already attended his first CWAC Council meeting and contacted staff in council departments who hold key positions in relation to issues that particularly affect Helsby residents.

Chris is a local vet who grew up in Helsby. He wants to be seen as approachable and helpful and is committed to responding to people's concerns and keeping folk informed.

He intends to be a very visible councillor, out and about on the streets of Helsby, getting about on his bike and walking the parish. He has a lot to offer on the subject of green energy and active travel and has already made observations at our May local parish council meeting.

There is no doubt about Chris's energy for getting on with the tough job of representing Helsby at CWAC but he



does already seem to be determined to seize the moment. The folk of Helsby look forward to having more of their voices and views listened to and represented at County Hall.

Marj Thoburn

BEHIND THE PURPLE FENCE

A sad tale behind that purple fence which dominates the entrance to the village and which still proclaims the arrival of Orchard Green Estate. Sadly, Lane End Developments have entered into administration and will no longer be able to work for L and Q, the main company.

L and Q in their latest communication declares that there is a "commitment to finalise the developments and complete the outstanding works"

L and Q have now taken possession of the sites and are assessing options for remobilization of the works. Helsby site is one of a number of sites affected in the North West. Unfortunately, we are told,



“ *it will take some time to fully assess all the options for moving this forward and it is not possible to provide accurate time frames for the next steps.”*

So, I guess more delays for Helsby, Nothing New there then!

Marj Thoburn

Chairman of the Parish Council 2023/2024

Cllr Mike Branigan took over as Chairman of the Parish Council at the May meeting and will serve until May 2024.



Pat Retires

Retiring Parish Councillor, Pat Holden has been representing Helsby Central ward residents for more than 20 years serving on many committees and particularly as long-standing rep (2008-2020) to the Community Centre Association, the Greenwood Centre (2012-2017) which later became part of the OPAL Initiative.

Pat was a diligent council meeting attendee, interested in a wide range of village issues and quietly but firmly having her say.

She will be missed by her colleagues who wish her well and thank her for her long supportive service to the parish council.

Helsby News Editorial Team

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

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HARMERS WOOD NEW BENCH

We now have a new, custom-made bench, situated near the middle of the wood.

We would like to thank PROTOS for the grant, which gave us the means to acquire and site the bench, in addition to tools that our volunteers will use in the year round maintenance of the wood and seating.

We are also most grateful to TESP. The Earth Skills Project, a Community Interest Company based in North Wales, for the amazing job they have done in making and installing the bench.



Also, many thanks to our volunteers who have worked hard this year, behind the scenes, to keep Harmers Wood the pleasant and tranquil place it is.

Community Outreach at Helsby Methodist Church

> Friday Drop-In/Warm space

Why not come along and drop in for a warm welcome. This is on every Friday between 10.00am and 12.00. We provide tea, coffee, cheese toasties and cake and there is no charge for this session which is open to all age groups. Accompanied children are very welcome and toys are available too. We hope to see you soon.

> Friendly and Informative Monthly Ladies Evening Group

This friendly and welcoming group meet during March to December on the first Wednesday of each month in the Church Link building from 7.30 – 9.00pm. There is always an interesting guest speaker and all are welcome and tea and biscuits are served. No need to book just come along.

> New Link Community Hub

This is a new initiative that we are currently exploring. The aim is to create an all age, safe and quiet space that provides listening, signposting, bereavement support and additional food support alongside the existing West Cheshire Foodbank Offering.

We are currently working on the details and are looking for volunteers who could give two hours once a month to help run this. These activities are not easy to fund or maintain but you might be able to help us with just a little time now and again.

To discuss volunteering or any community outreach issues, please contact the Community and Family Worker Nicola Brown on 07526 365138 or email nicolabrown@northcheshiremethodists.org.uk.

For more information, please visit www.helsbymethodist.org.uk or follow Helsby Methodist Church on Facebook.


Helsby Methodist Church

Two New Faces

Robert Foreman



Recruitment to the Parish Council hasn't been easy lately but two new faces have stepped forward and are ready to contribute to the future of Helsby. Both have roots firmly established in the village.

First up and the youngest by far, at 19, is Robert Foreman. Schooled in Helsby and now a student at Oxford University reading Ancient and Modern History. He is committed to attending the required council meetings in person and by Zoom. He told Helsby News that he very much looks forward to representing North Ward and its residents and he hopes to bring a fresh pair of eyes to council business. His particular interest is in the creative use of the precept. Robert will sign the formal declaration in July when he returns from Oxford.

Mark Atkinson, the most recently co-opted member, has lived in Helsby all his life. He lives in Latham Avenue with his wife, Michelle and their two adult daughters. Mark told Helsby News that he had reached a time in his life when we wanted to give something back to the village he loves. He has been involved with the railways since he left school and now works in driver management. Understandably he is keenly interested in transport integration and sees the benefit it could bring to the village. Mark hopes the folk of South Ward will allow him time to settle in, get to know the ropes and do then justice

Helsby welcomes you both.

Marj Thoburn

Mark Atkinson



A Date for your Diary...
FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT!
Saturday August 19th
A Fun Family Day at Community Sports Club

Thank you to Volunteers

Thank you to all the volunteers who now uplift the donations in the Food hub trolley in Tesco and deliver them to the Methodist Church on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. We now have a reserve list too.

Margaret Marsh

A Village Creaking Beneath Our Feet

A resident who has only been in Helsby for just over twelve months, commented that "there always seems to be roadworks and traffic lights on the main road" Now this got me thinking, growing up all my life in Helsby it was an unusual sight to see traffic lights and road works as I recall. But of late these inconveniences to road users seem to be a common site. A water leak here, a gas leak there, a collapsed drain just down the road.

Now, as a grumpy old resident, I could put it all down to my age, or could it be down to the continuing housing expansion (albeit at a standstill at the moment) putting extra strain on already old and creaking utility infrastructure? As we know the village has expanded dramatically over the past few years, but have the services kept pace with it? I personally cannot remember any expansion to the main sewage and

drains system or upgrading of any gas or electricity supplies to cope with the extra demand these new developments bring.

When first installed most utilities were installed by the side of the roads but as the number and size of vehicles grew road widening took place, so now these utilities are in the main carriageway, so have extra pressure put on them by the ever-increasing number of vehicles through the village. So does expansion in the village equal more disruption, as repair work to keep the aging overworked utilities continues? I hope not... but don't bet on it, and as for the potholes well...!!!

Chris Ellams



Coronation



HRHelsby Coronation Festival, 8th May

HRHelsby Coronation Festival drew large crowds, despite the weather, as many locals joined in with the village celebrations on May 8th. The event was arranged by the Ho Ho Helsby volunteer group who threw away their tinsel (well most of it!) in favour of bunting!

Over the course of the day there were fabulous performances by local bands, groups and schools hosted kindly by the Methodist church, thanks to all who gave their time and talent. We were also treated to the rousing beats of Samba Mundo, the foot tapping Ukes and the Mersey Morris Men who raised smiles all round.

The village centre piece was an impressive crown hoisted aloft the tea rooms, thanks to Hillside School who decorated it.

The famous Ho Ho Helsby Scarecrow Trail was also a big success, with some stunning and hilarious creations all around the village, attracting many visitors. It was lovely to see the huge effort everyone went to.

Special thanks to 1st Helsby Scout Group, Georgina Ridehalgh, Sam Sterling, Jonny Williams, Dave Faulkner, Helsby Garage & MOT and each of the local shops for contributing to the Ho Ho Helsby arrangements.

Thanks also to CWACC, Marshes Community Benefit Fund and Helsby Parish Council for donations to the group in support of the event. **We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to the next Ho Ho Helsby on Saturday, 2 December, please save the date for the usual extravaganza.**

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



HRHelsby®

CELEBRATING THE CORONATION 2023
A HO HO HELSBY EVENT



Memories



A Crowning Glory

The children of Hillside Primary created a giant crown which has adorned the roof of the teashop over the last few weeks.



HORN'S MILL CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

Horns Mill Primary School geared up to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III with the children participating in many different activities such as a crown parade and a 50-year tradition at the school, the May Pole.

The School community busied themselves making cakes for the school's cake competition and our guest judges, from Helsby Methodist Church, found it very challenging to pick a winner.

During the Crown parade, the children showed off their fantastic hat creations to the other year groups and parents who had come along to watch the May Pole.

The May Pole is an activity steeped in tradition at Horns Mill School. This year Team 5 gave it their all and performed 5 incredible dances. There was an added delight when past pupils from the last 50 years were invited to join in which brought back happy memories for them.



HILLSIDE PRIMARY LAID DOWN CORONATION MEMORIES

Helsby Hillside enjoyed their coronation celebrations this term. All classes enjoyed the treats of a bouncy castle and a visit from the ice cream van as well as enjoying a street party style lunch in the playground. We also took part in the village scarecrow trail with our scene based on the children's book, *The King's Pants* by Nicholas Allan.

Judith Potts



HELSEBY HILLSIDE W.I.

Summer sees the W.I. embarking on a programme of interesting meetings, and social events.

We celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla at our regular meeting on the 9th May. All members were asked to wear red, white or blue and everyone was presented with a gold crown to wear. There was a buffet with decorated cakes and a toast to the King and Queen.

Forthcoming events. On the 13th June Brian Cullen will be telling us all about Radio Caroline. The July meeting will see Margaret MacCarding relating the history of the River Weaver and in August we will be having a Social Evening with Entertainment, and a Tombola.

Our monthly Lunch Club is enjoying outings to local restaurants, and the bowling group are enjoying playing in the sunshine. We have also started a darts team. The Committee are 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.



OPAL Club Members enjoy celebrating the Coronation - and reminiscing about Coronations past



Helsby members enjoyed a delicious celebratory lunch out at the Ring O'Bells in Frodsham. They also made some lovely keepsake craft plaques and enjoyed reminiscing about the Queen's Coronation.

Helsby OPAL Club is based in Alvanley Village Hall and takes place on Thursday mornings from 10am-12pm. Members are usually over 70 and may have difficulty getting out and socialising on their own. The Club is run by a dedicated team of volunteers and various activities are planned including musical entertainment, speakers, craft, seated exercise, games and quizzes. Transport can be provided if needed, the session charge is £5.



**For more information please contact
Zoe Blocksidge on 07562 619 275
zoe.blocksidge@opalservices.org.uk**

Places available for Reception 2023!

Helsby Hillside is a happy school that cares about the personal development of every child. We offer a range of experiences that develop confident, active and ambitious children. In addition to the wide range of free pastoral, sporting and creative after school clubs, we offer wrap around care from 7.30am till 6pm.



We currently still have places available for our Reception 2023 intake in September. If you are interested please get in touch with the school office on 01928 722 991 or email admin@hillside.cheshire.sch.uk. You will be very welcome to have a tour and see some of the fantastic work we do here at Helsby Hillside Primary School.

We also have a few places in other year groups!

'With kindness, respect and gratitude, together we aim high in all we do.'

A Bevy of Talent at the High

Year 13 student **Boe Kilshaw** from Helsby High School has won the prestigious award of Young Geographer of the Year! Competition was extremely fierce with over 10,000 young people taking part. Boe has continued her love of Geography by completing her Extended Project Qualification on natural disasters and is looking to go on to study Geography at University.

Another Year 13 student **Grace W** has had her dedication and leadership to Scouts rewarded through the receiving of an invitation to celebrate at the King's coronation garden party in London. Here she is thoroughly enjoying the experience. Grace was also honoured to be part of the guard for Her Majesty The Queen's funeral arrangements as well as taking part in the parade at Windsor castle in the lead up the coronation.

Whilst Year 13 student, **Sally Wilson** went to Buckingham Palace with her family to collect her well earned Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.



The Youngest of Fundraisers!

Horn's Mill Pre-School has been doing a lot of fundraising recently in order to refurbish their outdoor environment.

One little boy Noah (4 years old) who lives 9 miles away from the pre-school and his parents, decided to get involved and raise funds for the pre-school in the half term. Noah was to walk 9 miles over the weeks holiday.

He successfully did it! And presented pre-school with a cheque for £800. Pre-school have since had an additional donation of £25 bringing the total to £825.

What a fantastic achievement. Horn's Mill Pre-School wish to thank the family and friends for all of their donations, very much appreciated!!



A BRILLIANT SEASON

Helsby FC's First Team closed out the 2022/23 season with a fantastic double trophy haul, achieving promotion to West Cheshire League Division One and retaining the Runcorn & District FA Cup.

The team was promoted as WCL2 champions after an outstanding run of form saw them win 10 and draw 1 of their last 11 league games. This enabled them to overtake Poulton Victoria and Ashville, both from Wallasey, on the last day of the campaign.

The Runcorn & District FA Cup success came after a thrilling 2-1 win over rivals Runcorn Sports; this was the 10th time Helsby's name has been engraved on the trophy.

Helsby FC Club Secretary Paul Nicholls commented: "It's been a brilliant season, full credit to the players and coaches for their hard work and determination over the past 9 months. What is particularly pleasing is that the nucleus of the team is made up of young, local lads who we believe will continue to improve. I'm delighted to see us back in the top division of the West Cheshire League for the first time since 2017. There are some excellent teams competing in there, and we're excited to be amongst them."

Helsby FC is keen to recruit volunteers to help out in a number of roles. If you'd like to get involved, please email helsbyfc@gmail.com or message @HelsbyFC on Twitter or Instagram.



L to R: President Ray Feldwick, Captain Christian Lindley and Lady Captain Carolyn Clothier at the annual Helsby GC Drive in.
Photo Credit: Phil R Barker ARPS. CPAGB

Helsby Golf Club Officials Drive into Office!

The new officials at Helsby Golf Club took part in the annual Club Drive In competition recently.

Captain Christian Lindley, Lady Captain Carolyn Clothier both from Alvanley and President Ray Feldwick from Utkinton were delighted to hit drives down the middle of the fairway in the traditional start to their year in office! Unfortunately Junior Captain, Josh

Carter from Helsby, was unable to be there.

Christian has been a member at Helsby since 1986 (starting his golf at Helsby as a junior), Carolyn since 2010 and Ray (a past Captain) since 1999.

Their chosen charities for the year are Claire House Hospice and the Macular Society.

Helsby Parish Council

North Ward

Alan Gardner 722360
Sarah Temple 722181
Vacancy
Vacancy

Central Ward

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

South Ward

Michael Branigan (Chair) 607821
Peter Duffy 722908
Margaret Marsh 725562
Mark Atkinson 07731 835087
Vacancy

Clerk

Claire Jones 726433

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