



HELSEBY NEWS

www.helsbynews.org.uk

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ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL HO HO HELSEBY

Once again, the Ho Ho Working Group, made up of volunteers, worked their magic and organised a super All Day Festival to kick off Christmas Celebrations in Helsby. There were masses of things to see and do as our photos show.



The weather was kind, crisp and dry for the most part, and the record number of stalls brought crafts, arts, food and drink to an enthusiastic audience of customers. Entertainment was provided throughout the day by our school choirs and other songsters and Father Christmas greeted the children in the Grotto in the Old Bank Tea Rooms.



The Methodist Church was converted into an amazing Polar Express with more than 500 folk, young and old, thoroughly caught up in the experience.



The excitement, amongst the spectators along the A56, rose as the road was closed to traffic at 5.45pm and the highlight that everyone had been waiting for, the Festival Parade, began its journey through the village to the delight and cheers of everyone.

Dianne Walker, Chair of Ho Ho, gave a huge thanks to all who contributed: the businesses, the fundraisers, the individuals, the entertainers and of course the Ho Ho Working Group.



The hundreds of hours of effort by the Group, over the year, produced another Festival Triumph and made the grateful folk of Helsby proud and offering praise and a **BIG THANK YOU**.

All Ho Ho Helsby photography credit: Chris Ellams and Paul Downey. More photos from the day can be found at www.hohohelsby.co.uk

FROM THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE COMMUNITY

Readers will remember that in the last edition we highlighted the various new initiatives and resources becoming available, particularly in Helsby. We thought you would welcome hearing about how they are getting on!

In October **St Paul's Church** started offering a **free soup and sandwich lunch** on Wednesday's in the church hall, 12-2pm. The take up has been significant with 20 or more individuals enjoying the simple food and the good company every week.

Rev Noel McGarrigle told Helsby News he is very pleased with the response to this outreach initiative and encouraged

by the generosity of local people who have been making donations to ensure its continuation.

A new **Tots Worship** service has begun on Tuesdays at 9.15am-10.30am with lots of creative play inside St Paul's.

Nicola, who organises the **Community Link Hub (11.30am-1.30 pm)** in the **Methodist Church Hall**, is buoyant about the success of the Hub. *"It's certainly meeting a need" she says. "The Hub has already had well over 70 visits from local people who have valued finding support through talking to the volunteers. There's always a welcoming cup of tea and help to find local resources as well as the community food pantry. We are also able to offer direct access via phone and online to the local Citizens Advice."*

"Don't be worried or anxious alone" says Nicola, "Come for a cuppa and a chat in the Community Hub and meet our volunteers who are ready to help in confidence."

The Hub meets after the well-established **Stay and Play** group for mums and tots, 9.30-11.30am every Monday.

At the same venue there is already the very successful **Friday Drop In**. Open every Friday, 10-12 noon, a warm place for conversation, free hot drinks and cheese toasties.

If that's not from the Community to the Community I don't know what is??

Marj Thoburn

DIANNE WALKER, CHAIR OF HO HO WORKING GROUP SAYS THANKS

Once more The Ho Ho Working Group volunteers were delighted to present the village's Ho Ho Helsby Christmas Community Festival in its seventh year.

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, including the coronation event in May, and especially in these challenging times. Everyone has been really generous in donating their time, money, prizes of all shapes and sizes.

Thanks too to the Ormrods and Rotary for the Christmas Grotto at The Old Bank Tea Rooms, it remains the best in class.

Huge thanks must also go to St Paul's, Helsby Methodist and King's Churches, RSK, Mark Avis, Helsby MOT & Service, Sam

Sterling, Lisa Smith, CWAC and HPC, as well as all of the local shops and many more, who continue to generously support us.

We were also able to help support some very worthy local charities as part of the day.

As we head into Christmas and Winter, let's all hold on to the happy memories and community spirit of Ho Ho Helsby. See you next year on 7 December 2024, please save the date!

Dianne Walker, Chair, Ho Ho Helsby Working Group



Annual Grant Show

Save the Date! Tuesday 27th February 2024 starting 6.30pm, Community Sports Club.

For 2024 the HPC has allocated £10,000 (10 Grants of £1000) for applications from local groups and charitable organisations seeking funds for their projects.

The parish clerk will be sending out further information and an application pack early in the new year. You might want to register your interest!

Helsby News Editorial Team

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

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1st Helsby Scouts Make South African Connections

Our local Scout group, 1st Helsby Scouts, have taken the first steps in connecting with Scouts and Cubs thousands of miles away in South Africa, specifically in the Pretoria area.

The Scout group, known for its commitment to fostering leadership skills, teamwork, and community engagement, initiated this project with a goal of broadening their horizons and creating a sense of global camaraderie. Through an exchange of letters, videos, and shared experiences, the Scouts from our region and South Africa look to find common ground and shared

values, despite the cultural and geographical separation.

This heartwarming initiative demonstrates that scouts from different corners of the globe can come together to learn, grow, and appreciate the beauty of our shared planet. The local Scout group's efforts serve as an inspiring example of how connections can be made, even in a



world where distance is no longer an obstacle to meaningful friendships and cooperation.

FREE CARDIAC ARREST TRAINING

A Cardiac Arrest Response Seminar has been booked on 17th January at Helsby Community Sports Club from 6-8pm.

The Community Heartbeat Trust will be demonstrating the use of defibrillators and explaining how the equipment works.

There are 60 free places and we need a good turnout – please book your place with Helsby Parish Council on 01928 726433 or at parishclerk@helsbyparish.org.uk.



Hillside Harvest for the Food Bank

Helsby Hillside families donated food weighing in at 151.8kg (last year 147.08kg).

Our class representatives also helped pack up the donations before being taken to the food bank.



A Bed Time Story

On Friday, December 1st, local business "Land of Beds" hosted a special event for local children; a bedtime story with Santa. And making the evening even more magical, was the performance of the Helsby Concert Band who delighted everyone by playing some festive songs.





100 AND STILL FLYING HIGH

A Helsby resident reached a major milestone this October when George Coulter celebrated his 100th birthday.

Born in Dublin October 5th 1923 George's parents were both teachers. He spent his early life, first in Carlow (on the East coast of Ireland) and then in Cork. He then volunteered to join the armed forces in 1942 in England joined the Fleet Air Arm in the rank of sub lieutenant as a maintenance engineer.

George met his wife to be Mabel, when she worked in the ATS processing intelligence information. They were married in 1945 and had two children, Hugh and Margaret, and later, two grandchildren David and Ruth and three great grandchildren, Daisy, Chloe and River were added.

George and Mabel moved to Helsby in 1951 to Hill View Ave and also lived for a time in Robin Hood Lane before settling at Primrose Lane. Work for George was at ICI Castner Kelner and Pilkington Sullivans. After retiring from ICI he spent time on a 3 year contract in Venezuela working for the state petroleum company. George finished his working career at the Nuclear Research Centre at Risley Warrington.

An active member of the Methodist Church, George, as a steward, was heavily involved with the planning and construction of the new Methodist Church in the centre of the village. Away from the church George enjoyed gardening and walking. After such an amazing and varied life we wish George all the best for the future.

Chris Ellams

Housing Development Collapse News!

No news from Laurus Homes, (behind the purple fence) but better news from Onward about the development land at Cable Drive. Onward report that they have severed ties with Lane End and are moving through the administration process. They are hoping to appoint a preferred contractor before Christmas and start again in March 2024.

Marj Thoburn

OFFER OF FREE THERMAL IMAGING SURVEYS

Borough Councillor, Chris Copeman has lots of experience in low energy home retrofitting and is happy to share this experience with Helsby Residents by offering free thermal imaging surveys of Helsby resident's homes with advice on how to reduce energy bills. An opportunity not to be missed?

Please contact Chris on chriscopemancheshiregreens@gmail.com if you would like a visit.



Marshes Community Benefit Fund – 6 Projects Awarded Grants of £33,242

- **Frodsham Festival of Walks: £5000**
- **Spirit of the Herd Sanctuary: £17,000**
- **One Voice Community Choir: £710**
- **Frodsham Volley Ball Club: £5563**
- **Weaver Sailing Club: £3969**
- **STAR Bereavement Support: £1000**

The MCBF Panel meets again early next year to consider all applications submitted by the 29th of February 2024 deadline.

Further details of the individual projects should be sought from the recipients of the funds.

*Joyce Bammeke-Bailey,
PR MCBF*



Poppies in Remembrance from Hillside

Helsby Hillside's children used recycled plastic bottles to make poppies, pictured here, for their display on the bank side of the school at Chester Road. This display was ready for their Service of Remembrance on Friday 9th November where they sang songs and remembered those who gave their lives for our freedom.

Hillside's hope is for peace in the world and the school's guiding value of gratitude to others seen as particularly important at this time.



Photo by Chris Ellams

HELSDY ALWAYS REMEMBERS

Once again, the folk of Helsby made an impressive turnout, despite the rain, on Remembrance Sunday at the village Memorial. Our photograph tells the story.

The names on the memorial, of the fallen in two world wars, were read out, the last post sounded, a respectful two minutes silence held and flags lowered by young scouts, cubs, beavers and squirrels. Wreaths were laid by representatives of the parish council and village associations and prayers said by Rev McGarrigle before processing into St Paul's Church.

A very familiar ceremony wrought all the more poignant by the current situation in Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

Helsby Never Forgets

Marj Thoburn



Poppy Collection a Record

Amongst the volunteers who came forward this year were three veterans who served their country and who continue to raise funds for the Armed Forces community.

At Tesco customers will have met Norman Evans, a Royal Navy veteran with 14 years' service on battleships, mine-sweepers, and destroyers, and Alan Jones, another Royal Navy veteran with 13 years' service on frigates and submarines, later joining the Merchant Navy.

At Hapsford service station, a familiar face was Des Dodd, an Army veteran with 21 years' service of which eighteen were with the Queen's Royal Lancers. (All three seen here)

Poppy Organiser, Fiona Purcell says

"It has been my privilege to meet and get to know these three remarkable gentlemen and all of the volunteers who give their time so willingly. As always, I am grateful to Lesley and Karen at Tesco and Steve at Hapsford for their support; to the schools and businesses who promote the Appeal; and to the people of Helsby for your generosity. Helsby Poppy Appeal really is a team effort. On behalf of the Royal British Legion – very many thanks."

Helsby Raised £19,575 in 2023

Marj Thoburn





Cllr Rob Nicklin

Reflecting on a year with the Parish Council

the HPC Grant Show, which provides thousands of pounds to community and charitable organisations in and around Helsby.

Through being part of all this I've seen the frustration experienced by residents and the Parish Council alike in dealing with CWAC, our County unitary authority. I'm sure that everyone reading this would be able to conjure up images of overgrown hedges, non-maintained verges, extended road closures and the poor state of some roads in the village. So, what can we do about this?



Whilst HPC continues to contact our local representatives to highlight the poor performance of CWAC with little if any response (Chris Copeman notwithstanding), we've been asking ourselves exactly the same question.

Within the next 12 months we plan to pilot various additional services, using council reserves, to see how and where we could improve things – it would be nice, for example, if one could walk to Tesco without having to step into the road (or a hedge) when someone else comes the other way!

But these services, if taken forward by HPC permanently, would need to be funded somehow, and this is where we'll need to hear from residents to decide how we proceed. For the past six years HPC has opted to keep the precept (the small portion of residents council tax that funds the Parish Council) the same. If residents appreciate the additional services HPC offer and the improvements made to the village, this will not be something that can be maintained. Watch this space for more news and information as we progress through the year and, if you'd like to hear more, please feel free to reach out to me or any of the other Parish Councillors.

As a final word before concluding this article, I thought it worthwhile stressing the need we have for additional councillors, without whom we may face difficulties in executing our duty of village upkeep in the future. If you live or work locally and have an interest in taking part or in influencing decisions moving forwards, I'd encourage you to come along to a future meeting to hear about the work the Parish Council does and consider volunteering. The minimum commitment for a councillor isn't much, just a couple of hours a month to attend a meeting or two, and with a full council we'd be able to generate so many more ideas and do even more for the betterment of the village.

Merry Christmas to all from myself and the rest of Helsby Parish Council.
Cllr Rob Nicklin, Central Ward.

In October 2022, I joined Helsby Parish Council (HPC) after becoming aware of the need for additional councillors and deciding I wanted to make a difference to the community in which I live. Having served on the council now for just over a year, I was asked to put together some reflections for Helsby News. Over the last year I've had the chance to learn about the different responsibilities of the Parish Council and all the work they do around the village – none of which I had really heard about before taking part.

The Parish Council maintains our parks, cemetery, and allotments and works to improve the environment of the village through local efforts and through representation on various organizations operating in our area. I've also seen the money that's made available to fund local events, including the purchase of the village Christmas tree, the funding of the traffic management that makes the Ho Ho Helsby parade possible and

HELSDY HILLSIDE WI

Helsby Hillside has held a series of craft groups from September to December making greeting cards, boxes, and Christmas decorations. Our members were impressed with their own creative crafting skills (see photo).

Our Programme Secretary is working very hard to book interesting speakers for 2024, and 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.



A SPORTY START TO THE SCHOOL YEAR



Horn's Mill Primary have had a very sporty start to the year! Children in Team 4 took part in a tag-rugby competition at Helsby High and were truly amazing. Our team of Millers showed great enthusiasm and, not surprisingly, won 4 out of their 5 matches!

Children in Team 5 and 6 showed brilliant sportsmanship in a football tournament at Helsby High School, led by their fantastic team captain, Nick.

We were joined by two Helsby High sports leaders, who just so happen to be ex-Millers! Despite the torrencial rain and being rather soggy, Horn's Mill demonstrated brilliant resilience and teamwork. To top this off, we celebrated coming in 4th place after making it to the semi-finals!

We are very proud of the achievements of our young athletes, who have been such a credit at representing our school.

Chloe's Brilliant Achievement

Helsby High School and Sixth Form are so proud of Chloe W, Year 13, who headed to London to the awards ceremony for the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award.

Chloe's poem was judged against more than 15,800 poems written worldwide, and Chloe was placed amongst the top 100 young poets in the competition, out of more than 6,600 poets! Chloe's poem will be published in an online anthology and available to read in early Spring next year.

What an achievement and one you can be very proud of Chloe. Congratulations and well done.



Season's Greetings from St Paul's Church & Helsby Methodist Church

You are warmly invited to our Christmas Celebrations

HELSEBY METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 17th December 10.30am Carol Service

Sunday 24th December 4pm Christingle Service

Monday 25th December 10am Family Celebration

ST PAUL'S CHURCH

Sunday 17th December 6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 24th December 4.30pm Christingle Service,
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Monday 25th December 11am Holy Communion





HELSEBY SPORTS

HELSEBY GC POWERED WHEELCHAIR APPEAL CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF FUNDRAISING!

The Powered Wheelchair Appeal charity based at Helsby Golf Club recently celebrated 40 years of fundraising with a fantastic Ruby Ball.

The celebration was held at Chester Racecourse and was organised by the Powered Wheelchair Committee. Around 165 guests attended a fun filled evening including a champagne reception, three course dinner, and live music from the fantastic band "The Singles Table".

The highlight of the evening however was the presentation of 4 powered

wheelchairs to local deserving youngsters, Isabella Jones, aged 11 from Little Sutton, 14 yr old Jessica Hughes from Winsford, Olivia Cadman - Frost aged 11 from Northwich and Ariella Byrne aged 20 from Bebington.

The excited youngsters, seen here, were accompanied on the night by their families and friends and very much look forward to enjoying the independence their new powered wheelchairs will give them!

The Appeal, which is run by volunteers who are members at Helsby Golf Club,



is a registered charity. They would like to pass on huge thanks to all the sponsors and supporters for being so generous with their time, donations and money, and a fantastic sum of £13,500 was raised on the night - Many thanks to all.

Kathryn Hoether



Girls Football Sessions Reception, Year 1 & Year 2



FA - qualified coaches plus an optional, no pressure pathway through to teams.

Have Fun

Make Friends

Play Football

When : Saturdays 9:00 – 10:00 am

Where : Helsby Community Sports Club, Callender Way, Helsby WA6 0FX

How: Book on by texting **07973470456**

Bring your trainers/football boots, shin pads and a drink and join us on the pitch



£4 Per session
Payable on the day
First session free



Helsby Parish Council

North Ward

Robert Foreman 07483 851260
Sarah Temple 722181
Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy

Central Ward

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

South Ward

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

Clerk

Claire Jones 726433

Parish Office:

Helsby Community Sports Club, Callender Way, Helsby, Cheshire WA6 0FX