



HELSEBY NEWS

www.helsbynews.org.uk

ISSUE 108 • SPRING 2024

FROM THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE COMMUNITY



Chris Johnson, Community Sports Club - Setting up a Junior Darts Academy



Jacky Keating and Georgie Dickson, Helsby Concert Band - Uniforms for new members



Nicola Brown, Helsby Methodist Church - 2024 Christmas Experience



Derinda Watson, Helsby Players - Two new productions and new staging

£1000 Each for Grant Show Winners

This year's Parish Council Grant show on February 27th was a fine example of just how much effort and volunteering goes on in and around Helsby, often unseen by residents. A lot to be proud of!

In a bid to win Grant Show money 13 groups made presentations and every one of them reflected the energy, determination and commitment there is in the village to make Helsby the best that it can be for everyone. There were 10 winners, each group receiving £1000 for their projects.

Mike Branigan, Chairman of the Parish Council, hosted the event in the Community Sports Club. He is seen here presenting the awards to the deserving winners.

Marj Thoburn



Sharon Wyatt, Horn's Mill Primary School - Sensory support equipment



Adam Khan, Hillside Primary School - Outdoor shelter for musical performances



Roger Maher, Ho Ho Helsby - New Christmas lights for the festival



Julie Yeates, Sandra Worrall, Loryn Fortune and Alison Thornhill, Little Robins Baby and Toddler Group - New resources and toys



Reverend Noel McGarrigle, St Paul's Church - Funding for Wednesday Welcome free lunches



Alex Irving and Julie Mann, Spirit of the Herd - Free equine assisted therapy for children

SPEED CAMERAS ARE COMING TO HELSBY

Traffic speeds in Helsby are regularly monitored by an interactive speed sign on Chester Road (by Queens Drive) and by a handheld speed detection device used by the local Police Community Support Officer.

An average of 60% of traffic passing the speed sign exceeds 30mph. Given this data, and the fact that speeding traffic was highlighted by residents as an issue in the council's 2022 community consultation exercise, Helsby Parish Council (HPC) applied to Cheshire's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to take part in his average speed camera pilot programme.

Helsby and several other parishes were selected for the programme. HPC will cover the installation costs and the PCC has agreed to underwrite the maintenance costs for up to 15 years.

Average speed cameras monitor how long it takes to travel between two set points on a road, measured by two cameras at each point. They aim to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads by encouraging improved driver behaviour and speed limit compliance.

The cameras will be located on Chester Road, near the cemetery and near to Freshmeadow Lane.

Helsby News Editorial Team

Marj Thoburn, Vicky Mohring, Chris Ellams, Ian Oulton, Margaret Marsh and Gary O'Neill.

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The Editorial Team at Helsby News are sad to report the death in January of Barbara Ginty, one of their longest serving editors.

Barbara, had been actively involved in Helsby News since 2000 until this last Christmas Edition. She is sadly missed.

Marj Thoburn



FOOD COLLECTION VOLUNTEERS

We need your help! Please join our team of "uplifters" by volunteering, for an hour per week, on either Monday, Wednesday or Friday to collect the food donations from the Helsby Link Hub trolley in Helsby Tesco and delivering to the Link Hub based at the Methodist Church.

You will need to be a driver. Please contact Margaret on 07932 906739 or email mplusm87@btinternet.com.

A Decade of Friendship and Song

Frodsham Sings Community Choir are celebrating ten years of fun, friendship and singing, in 2024.

From humble beginnings, the group has grown to 80 members (quite a few from Helsby), who meet every Saturday to revel in the joy that singing together brings.

Since 2014, Frodsham Sings has not only grown in membership, but also in reputation; having been awarded the Mayor's Community Pride Award in 2017, the Big Bees Breakfast Club of the Year Award in 2019 and Highly Commended at the Cheshire West Voluntary Arts Network in 2022. The choir is also well known for its fundraising efforts for local charities, having raised an impressive £20,000 over its lifetime, including £4000 alone in 2023.

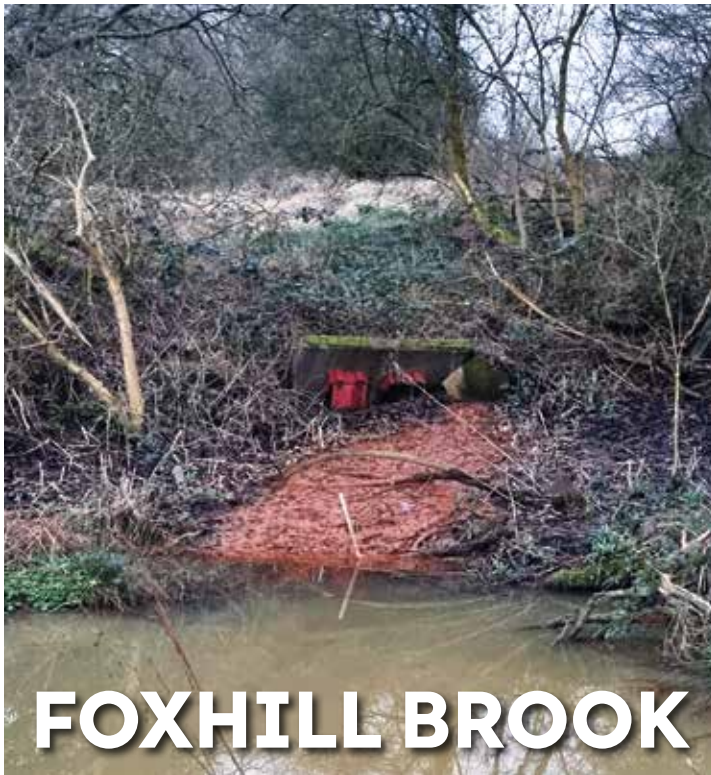
But the group isn't resting on its laurels for its anniversary year. After an audition process, they have been chosen to perform at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod outside stages in July.

Musical Director Ian Oulton said "It's incredibly exciting to have been chosen and we're really looking forward to the opportunity!"

The choir, that started with a small group of people who just enjoyed singing together, has gone from strength to strength and has become a big, welcoming, inclusive family, who love the benefits that singing brings.

Frodsham Sings Community Choir meets every Saturday at Frodsham Community Centre. For more information, visit their website: www.frodshamsings.org

Lisa Ellams



FOXHILL BROOK

Foxhill Brook originates in Commonsides, passes down the Ridgeway and then along Godscroft Lane. It has long been an area of concern for Helsby residents. Strange smells, colour and possible deaths of animals, after drinking the water, have been reported over the years. The stream is fed by a ditch that leads via drains from the outflow shown in this photo, taken at the beginning of March 24 in Helsby.

This outflow leads from a historic tip on Commonsides, a field used to dump tonnes of chemicals from industries including BICC and Stanlow in the 1960s. Two brothers bought the land and acquired planning permission from Runcorn Rural District Council to operate a waste disposal business on the site. Dumping continued at Commonsides for 16 years before closure in the 1970s. One brother was prosecuted in 1994. The land has no ownership at present.

Testing of Foxhill Brook over the years has shown fairly high levels of PCBs, a group of highly toxic and environmentally persistent chemicals used in the cable industry. When questioned about Foxhill Brook the Environment Agency has previously told me it wasn't considered a contaminated site. A national campaign to deal with PCB pollution believes this isn't true and has been pushing the council for further answers about Commonsides. This has led to the council recently testing the stream, the first time for 15 years. Hopefully we will soon have some answers and a pathway to deal with this local problem that has been ignored for too long.

Cllr Chris Copeman
chriscopemancheshiregreens@gmail.com

NB. The very low numbers of whales and dolphins off the UK coast has been linked to PCB contamination of their foodchain. In the U.S similar legacy sites have led to prosecutions of the companies responsible and 600 million dollars provided to rectify the affected areas.

80th Anniversary of D-Day

The Royal British Legion has produced a commemorative pin to recognise the 80th Anniversary of D-Day on June 6th 2024.

Please contact me if you would like one of these limited-edition mementos. All donations to the RBL.

Fiona Purcell (01928 724412)
Helsby Poppy Appeal Organiser



Parish Precept

Helsby Parish Council has calculated that, due to increased costs, it would need to increase the Band D precept charge by around 9% this year. However, mindful not to overburden already stretched taxpayers, the HPC have requested a much lower increase of 5.4% from Cheshire West and Chester Council.

It has been agreed to cover any shortfalls in 2024/25 from general reserves. Based on a precept amount of £109,040, a Band D property will pay £52.00 (a cost of £1 per week), an increase of £2.68 a year when compared with 2023/24.

ROB NICKLIN REPORTS BACK



In the Christmas edition of the Helsby News I wrote an article describing some additional services that Helsby Parish Council were considering delivering

to improve the state of the village. I'm happy to be able to start this article with a very tangible example of some of the work done so far around the village.

Helsby Residents who have visited the community centre or library may have noticed the landscaping work that has taken place on the land in front of the building. After identifying several areas for improvement last year the Parish Council organized and funded the works to improve the general appeal of the area whilst addressing several health and safety issues. Visitors to



Sherwood Court today will find newly leveled paving stones as well as new planters, benches and barriers between the roadway and the public space, enhancing the look of the area for everyone.

So, what does the rest of 2024 have in store?

Parish councillors have been gathering ideas and feedback from residents and will meet in the coming months to discuss and decide on other projects that need pursuing over the course of the year. Current front runners include the trimming of hedges on disputed land, cleaning street signs and organising more regular grass cuttings on the open spaces around Helsby.

The council are also starting two projects to plan how funds may be invested in future years. The first project centres on extending the available space in our existing cemetery while the second focuses on the park, playground, and open spaces in the centre of the village.

If you'd be interested in hearing more about any of the above, come along to future Parish Council meetings, or see us at the next Parish Council drop-in session at Tesco on 13th April, 10-11am.

Cllr Rob Nicklin

Pre-School Play Time

Mums and Dads across Helsby are pleased to take their children to playgroups where the tots can learn to mix with others, share and socialise. Something many of them have not been able to do during the covid lockdown.

What's available?

There is the well established **Stay and Play** at the Methodist Church, Mondays at 9.30-11.30am, a new **Tots Service** on Tuesdays, 9.15-10.15 am in St Paul's Church whilst in the Community Centre on Fridays, 9 -10.45am in term time, there is the **Little Robins Baby and Toddler Group**.

The Library too plays its part with their Friday morning. **Rhyme Time** session, 11-11.30 am in term time.

But it's not only the tots who benefit, the parents too get to meet and chat with others about the joys and challenges of raising a family. All are welcome!

Marj Thoburn



COME AND SING CHOIR RETURNS

Come and Sing, Helsby's very own Community Choir has begun rehearsals for its summer concert on Friday 5 July.

After a fallow year in 2023 and the inevitable closure in 2020-1 due to the pandemic, the choir is preparing for its 19th concert in the village.

What a Wonderful World celebrates aspects of the creation and the environment. The second half of the concert sees a return to a piece the choir sang at its very first concert in 2011, Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo, a 30 minute piece in a pop / jazz style.

Tickets are £7.50 on the door (children free when accompanied by an adult).

Come and Sing Community Choir
What a Wonderful World
Friday 5 July 2024

7:30pm St Paul's Helsby



Admission
£7.50
on the door

Children are free when
accompanied by an adult

Songs of beauty and wonder from
Louis Armstrong, Joni Mitchell,
Simon & Garfunkel, John Rutter,
Oklahoma! plus Flanders & Horowitz,
Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo!

BRIGHTER NEWS?

Borough Councillor, Chris Copeman, reports that recent correspondence with CWAC's legal department indicates that CWAC has accepted that the Quarry Tunnel, which has been closed for some time, is their responsibility and will move forward to re-open the tunnel in due course.

Old Chester Road however remains closed at the junction with Rake Lane.

Clr Copeman told Helsby News that he now has monthly meetings with CWAC's Head of Bridges and a plan has been put in place which gives the owner of the derelict, half demolished Rake Cottage until September to provide a work plan for the site. If the owner fails to do so CWAC will take legal action to access the site.

Marj Thoburn

STOP PRESS

St Paul's Summer Fayre

A date for diaries: Sat 31st August '24

New members wanted to join a recently formed **Helsby Climate Change Working Group**.

The first meeting was held on March 14, the next meeting is September 14 2024. Contact Claire: clerk@helsbyparishcouncil.gov.uk for more information.

Don't let the opportunity for a **Free Thermal Imaging Survey** pass by because the weather's warming up. Contact Chris on chriscopemancheshiregreens@gmail.com



St Paul's Helsby every Second Saturday in the Summer

Car Boot Sale

10.00am- 1.00pm

Cars £5.00 each
Shoppers and browsers free

Saturday 13 April	Saturday 11 May
Saturday 8 June	Saturday 13 July
Saturday 10 August	Saturday 14 Sept

Vicarage Lane Helsby WA6 9AB

Prebook
07976
729 449

An illustration of an orange car with its boot open. The car has a sign on the back that says 'Prebook 07976 729 449'. There are clouds in the background.

MARATHON EFFORT TO REPAY HOSPICE

Local runner Cora Kendrick is repaying a hospice for the support they gave her and her family during the final days of her father's life. Cora a member of Helsby Running Club told Helsby News I am running The London Marathon on 21st April raising money for The Hospice of The Good Shepherd in Backford, Chester.

"My Dad received the most amazing care during the last 10 days of his life at The Hospice. They supported all of us and we honestly couldn't have wished for any better care during an extremely hard time in our lives. Since that time, I decided to raise money each year for the hospice to try and give something back. In May 2022 I ran the Chester half marathon and in August 2023 I faced my fear with a tandem skydive!"

Her challenge in 2024 is to run the London Marathon for the hospice. Cora has set herself a target of running in a sub 3-hour 30 mins time...7 minutes faster than her first marathon in October 23!. That's an awful lot of training.



The Hospice, which is not part of the NHS, receives only 20% of its income from government funding and has to raise just over £5.1 million each year from donations, fundraising events and charity shops.

If you would like to help by sponsoring Cora, she has a Just Giving page and the above QR code will link you directly to it or use the following link www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cora-kendrick3.

Helsby news wish Cora every success in achieving her target and hope the residents of Helsby will support her in this worthy cause.

Chris Ellams



Calling All Gardeners

Time to Join the Helsby Village Produce Association

The Fertiliser Building, known locally as “the Hut”, is now open every Saturday Morning, 10am to 12 noon, until 27th July. Closed during August but open again 7th to 28th Sept 2024.

The annual subscription is £2 and you will be able to buy all of your gardening supplies in the village.

If you would like a free price list or further information contact: David Temple (HelsbyVPA@outlook.com) or phone 01928 722181.

Why not drop by?

“The Hut” is at the back left corner of RSK car park, off Mountain View, WA6 OBE

Helsby Community LINK Hub

Are you feeling Sad, Overwhelmed, Lonely or Hungry?

Do you have Money Worries?

Our volunteers are here to provide a caring, listening ear to your concerns, a warm safe space, offer practical support and signpost other organisations that could help.

We also have access to the Citizens Advice, a free phone, and web access.

Find us at The Link, Helsby Methodist Church, Chester Road, Helsby, Monday 11.30am- 1.30pm.

Listening - Signposting - Pantry

The Methodist Church
A Community Project in Partnership with Helsby Methodist Church

Helsby Community LINK Hub
Caring for our Community

HELSEBY HILLSIDE W.I.

As in every year, the W.I. embarks on a lively programme of monthly meetings, and planned social events.

In April, Graham and Naomi will tell us about the Cheshire Adventure Farm Trust and in May Ruth Allen and Iker, her dog, will visit to tell us about Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. This will be followed by a Plant Sale.

Our monthly Lunch Club is enjoying outings to local restaurants, and the bowling group have been preparing for the forthcoming season. We have also started a darts team and are sourcing visits to places of interest. The Craft Section have been busy making beautiful flower arrangements and producing lovely cards with tea-bag folding (pictured).



We would like to welcome new members to our Group. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month in 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.

Diamond Jubilee for Hillside Primary

2024 sees the 60th anniversary of Helsby Hillside as a primary school. The school is beginning to plan their "diamond jubilee" celebrations and would love to find out as much as they can about the history of the school, past events and special days.

So a call is going out to any former pupils or staff to root around in draws, cupboards, old suitcases, etc, to dig out photographs and memories, and contribute to the archive and help the celebrations.

Please do get in touch with the school on 01928 722991 or admin@hillside.cheshire.sch.uk

Marj Thoburn



Horn's Mill Pre-School Say Thanks!

The children of Horn's Mill Pre-School were thrilled to receive these lovely Easter chicks, presented by Alan McKie on behalf of his wife Marjorie.

Marjorie, despite having Alzheimers, has knitted dozens of these little chicks, each filled with a chocolate egg, and delights in being able to do something creative for Helsby. The children made a special card and sent flowers to say 'Thank You' to Alan and Marjorie.

The knitted chicks are available to buy from The Old Bank Tea Rooms for £2 and all proceeds go to Claire House Children's Hospice.



HEAPS OF HOOPS FOR HELSBY HILLSIDE!

Helsby Hillside Basketball team soared to victory with an unbeaten run at the FAVSP Basketball tournament on Wednesday 7th February.

Showing outstanding sportsmanship from start to finish, they proudly returned to school with Gold medals from that tournament.

After this success the next stop was the Ellesmere Port SSP final on 13th February. The team were consistent, qualifying for the final against Childer Thornton.

What a final it was.....Neck and neck throughout the game with level scores into extra time. After an outstanding performance Hillside finally conceded and returned to school with silver medals but not before they mingled with the pros from the Cheshire Phoenix Basketball Team and the head coach, Ben Thomas (pictured above).

They were also lucky enough too to get their hands on the British Basketball trophy recently won by Cheshire Phoenix.

Adam Khan



Junior Golf at Helsby

Our professional Josh Hall runs a very popular Junior Academy for 6-14 year olds. There is technical tuition, learning rules of golf, use of the driving range and junior academy course as well as coaching sessions on Saturday afternoons. £80 for a 10 week course. If you are interested, please contact our pro Josh on 01928 722021, option 2.

In June the club will be hosting a "Festival of Golf" for juniors from local primary schools. This will be coordinated by the School Sports Partnerships and

more information will be available via the schools nearer the time.

We are delighted to introduce our new Junior Captain – George Huyton. He is a former Helsby High School student who is now undertaking an apprenticeship at INEOS.



Congratulations to George and we all hope he enjoys his year as Junior Captain!

DONATION TO MENCAP FROM THE BOWLS CLUB

HCSC Bowls section have come up trumps again and have been able to donate £500 to Runcorn Mencap following their annual trophied event. Happily, this donation was doubled to £1000 by an anonymous donation from a Helsby bowler.

Graham White

THE CHALLENGE OF COLD-WATER SWIMMINGBRRR!

Many of us can imagine the joy of swimming in a warm, sunlit sea off a Caribbean island but plunging into ice cold water might just be a stretch too far!

But not for Helsby Resident Lyn Broadbent who relishes as much cold-water swimming as she can get. Lyn took up Cold Water swimming properly 3 years ago and last November, having turned 60, decided, as a challenge, to enter the Winter Swimming World Championships in Tallin, Estonia.

Months of training followed with daily dips in her ice filled garden cold pod and weekly swims in local lakes, whatever the weather, always closely supported by husband Jim (despite his hatred of cold water).

She joined the Wirral Bluetits

and became part of a 60 strong Global Bluetits team at the Tallin Championships. There were 40 countries represented and the 200 strong team from Great Britain came fourth in the medal tables. Lyn found herself 25th in the world in her age group for the 25metre breast stroke.

She took part in an evening record attempt, a 25m relay where 807 swimmers smashed the world record. The water temperature was 1.4 degrees.

So many memories for Lyn to remember and celebrate. Lyn told Helsby News "It's not every day you get invited for tea at the British Embassy and have the Ambassador take part in a leg of a relay in Union Jack swimming trunks! Or swim in a Baltic sea at 0.6 degrees and have your swimsuit freeze solid whilst you



get changed! It was a great adventure and although I sometimes felt totally out of my comfort zone I am so glad I did it."

A successful challenge indeed. Next One... 2026 in Finland!

Marj Thoburn

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

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