



HELSEBY NEWS

www.helsbynews.org.uk

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Ho Ho Helsby vs Storm Darragh

Despite the havoc of Storm Darragh Ho Ho Helsby was not daunted and although the Parade had to be cancelled the Christmas Festival went ahead.



It required some swift thinking by the Ho Ho Working Group Volunteers and what was normally an outdoor event was transformed into a safe indoor one using several local venues.

Residents and visitors found warm welcomes in the Scout Hut and the Community Centre where Santa could be found, and in St Paul's Church where the village children sang their hearts out glad not be on a float in the procession.



At the Methodist Church the sold-out performance of Frozen kept hundreds warm and dry.

Ho Ho Helsby's determination not to be beaten by whatever Storm Darragh did. The community celebration went on. **Congratulations and Well Done.**

Marj Thoburn



Helsby News is supported by Helsby Parish Council



The Ho Ho Helsby Working Group volunteers were delighted to present the village's Christmas community festival in its ninth year. Locals gave their usual fantastic support on the day and in the fundraising during the year. The weather was abysmal it is fair to say, as an extreme weather condition took a grip of the skies, with strong winds and heavy rains. Even this could not deter the Helsby Christmas spirit.

Around 50 local traders brought crafts, arts, food and drinks and there were over 1,000 customers who snapped up the wares. Everyone looking for a unique and reasonably priced gift did not leave disappointed!

It was heart-warming to still 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. We had some very popular attractions, including the new

amazing magician and very popular stilt walkers!

The grotto was relocated to the community centre where Santa had been diverted by air traffic control as a result of the storm and Helsby's Santa remains best in class thanks to Rotary. We were also able to help support some very worthy local fund raisers as part of the day.

A parade was not possible this year because of the conditions, but we will return next year with even more participants!

Special thanks are due to each of the Working Group Members and to all who supported the Group's activities through 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 also go to the family

of the late Bob and Phyllis Day, St Paul's, Helsby Methodist and King's Churches, RSK, Mark Avis, Helsby MOT & Service, Sam Sterling, Lisa Smith, MCBF, EET Fuels, CWAC and HPC, as well as all of the local shops, residents and many more, who continue to generously support us.

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 for the TENTH Ho Ho Helsby on 6 December 2025, please save the date!

Dianne Walker, Chair, Ho Ho Helsby



THE FROZEN EXPERIENCE

This year's Christmas Experience at Helsby Methodist church during Ho Ho Helsby was a Frozen Experience show with favourite songs to sing along with, amazing lighting, special effects, snow and a visit from OLAF the snowman. Mrs Christmas and her Elves put in lots of hard work and gave out selection boxes to all the children. Despite the horrible weather, it was warm and cosy inside the church with hot chocolate and other warm drinks and entertainment. This was a totally free event supported by a Helsby Parish Council Grant and lots of free time supplied by our amazing volunteers - thank you everyone.

Nicola Brown



Narnia at Helsby Library

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Come and Sing Choir sings Little Saint Nick

CAN HELSBY FORM A HELSBY HIGHWAYS ACTION GROUP?

Following a successful pilot scheme in Tarvin, Cheshire West and Chester Council has recently launched a Highways Volunteer Self-Help initiative.

Helsby Parish Council has expressed an interest in the scheme knowing that, like them, some residents have voiced concern about the state of the village.

We all know that many local authorities are struggling to meet the demands being made on them, some of the big ones are reported as being pretty well near bankrupt.

CWAC's highways team, due to restricted resources, recognise that they are no longer able to deliver or carry out maintenance to a standard that communities would like.

Can Helsby join this Highways Self-Help Initiative?

This scheme involves CWAC providing training, equipment and insurance whilst town and parish councils recruit teams of volunteers to help out.

The work to be carried out includes clearing overhanging vegetation, general tree and hedge trimming, removal of weeds, clearing pavements of moss and weeds, sign and bollard cleaning and small drainage works.

There will be a volunteer lead co-ordinator to see that any work is done safely.

Marj Thoburn

If you think you may be able to volunteer, even for only a few hours, or you'd like to suggest an area of Helsby that needs tidying up, please contact the parish clerk at clerk@helsbyparishcouncil.gov.uk or phone 01928 726433.

Success of All-Girls Tennis

Devoted tennis coach Carol Needham has dedicated her time to developing girls' participation at grassroots through the Prime Video LTA Youth Girls programme, running female-focused sessions at Helsby Tennis Club that have successfully drawn in newcomers over a two-year period.

Carol felt strongly about creating a safe environment for girls to engage, have fun, and to feel comfortable without any negativity or discrimination.

The sessions, reserved for girls' exclusive use, charmed locals thanks to the success in ensuring a real sense of belonging whilst developing skills on court. They attracted a wide range of girls both in background and age, including an eight-year-old Ukrainian girl who fled to the UK with her mother after the outbreak of war. She found refuge at Helsby Tennis Club after

taking part in a taster session at her local primary school. Since joining the course last year and despite living three miles away from the tennis club and without a car, she and her mother have, without fail, made the round trip every week. Such is their enthusiasm for girl's tennis.

With a role model in Carol at the helm, the all-girls sessions have flourished, gaining popularity year-on-year. Carol has encouraged 40+ girls to sign up to the sessions following the inception of the programme last year – in addition to more than 20 others who attend the additional all-female groups readily available at the club. Carol is integral to the coaching team at Helsby tennis club.

For more details www.helsbytennis.co.uk

Jo Ellis



Helsby Hillside WI

Our photo shows members of Hillside WI enjoying an annual Birthday Party at Helsby Golf Club on 21st November following another successful year. The final meeting of the year will be on 10th December with a Christmas Party Night for members.

Pam Hinkley



If you would like to join you will find a warm welcome. 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.

AVERAGE SPEED CAMERAS

Since I became a Parish Councillor some 20 years ago, the one topic that always crops up at surgeries or meetings is the speed of traffic through the village. Residents regularly raise concerns and ask what the Parish Council can do about it. Over the years we have introduced several measures to combat the problem of excessive speed through the village but with little success.

The latest measure, the introduction of average speed cameras, has created quite a stir on social media and has prompted me to put the record straight by sharing the history.

The interactive sign in the centre of the village records the speed of each vehicle that passes it in an Easterly (Frodsham) direction. It regularly records that 60% of traffic exceeds the 30mph speed limit. Data is gathered and regularly sent to the Police but little progress in reducing the speed has been made.

The PCSO for the area is trained on and regularly deploys the Helsby Trucam, (handheld speed device) in hot spot areas of the village and these details are forwarded to the Police.

Recently the Parish Council was made aware of a pilot project regarding the

installation of average speed cameras and agreed that such a scheme on the A56 through the village could be just what was needed.

After initially being rejected for the pilot project, the Council was asked if it wished to take part as another candidate had withdrawn. After some discussion with the Police and Crime Commissioners Office (who are running the scheme) it was decided to go ahead with the project. The proposed installation was advertised in a previous issue of Helsby News, details were available in the Parish Minutes and on the Council's website.

There has been much discussion on social media as to the position of the cameras. Are they average speed cameras or are they stand alone speed cameras, are they supposed to be visible and so on? For the record they are average speed cameras that time a vehicle between the two cameras and work out the average speed, Data is sent directly to the Police. The installation cost of £54000 has been paid by Helsby Parish Council. Successful discussions about the ongoing yearly maintenance fee of £8000 took place and this is being covered by the Police and Crime



Commissioners office for a period of 15 years (£120,000).

I am sure the next debate will be "couldn't the Parish Council better spend the monies on something else.?"

Well the short answer is YES.. but if motorists continue to exceed the speed limit through the village, and residents bring it to our attention, then as a responsible council we must act on their concerns. Of course, there is one simple answer that's free and comes without risk of penalty points.

That simple answer is DON'T SPEED!

*Councillor Chris Ellams,
Helsby Parish Council*

HELBY VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

The VPA "Hut" opens again on Saturday January 4th 2025, 10am -12noon for all your gardening needs.

Join for £2 per annum and get cheaper supplies from the Village Association every Saturday morning until July 26th.

Further information and a price list is available from David Temple at HelsbyVPA@outlook.com or call 01928 722181



A GRANT FOR HO HO

Ho Ho Helsby were thrilled to receive a £5,000 grant from the MCBF this year. The money will be put towards the running costs of the event including some new lights in the village, the cost of the land train and the all-important health & safety and insurance. The costs of delivering the event runs at around £8,000 per year, so fund-raising and donations are really important to our independent working group of volunteers. Support from all local businesses & groups, the residents and charitable funds is a vital part of securing the activities of Ho Ho Helsby this year and into the future. The event has become a part of the village Christmas, kicking

off on the first Saturday of December every year, with other events during the year when time and resources allow.

Dianne Walker, Chair, Ho Ho Helsby

In addition, the Parish Council pays more than £2000 for the traffic management required throughout the event.





YOUNG GARDENERS CLUB AT HORN'S MILL

Horn's Mill school is really enjoying the work it is doing with Cheshire charity, Passion for Learning. An after-school enrichment club has been developed for a group of children in KS2 at the school. The children are learning how to look after their mental health through gardening and protecting the school environment.

Sharon Wyatt, headteacher, told Helsby News, "The club has been part funded by ENCIRC, and we are grateful for the funds they have offered in creating a new planting bed at the end of our playground. We have also been lucky enough to gain additional funds from the Cheshire Community Foundation Green Shoots 2024 programme to support the running of the club."

The group kick started the programme by attending a special visit to Norton Priory where they were inspired by the beautiful gardens there. www.passion-for-learning.com/



Graeme and Andrew Do It Again!

Illustrator Graeme Holding, who works at Loxley Hall, has produced another children's poetry book with author Andrew Abel. Signed copies are on sale in Helsby Tearooms.

Celebrating 30 Years

The bunting fluttered and the Union Jack filled the window so we knew that something was afoot.

Well now, it's not every day that you get to celebrate 30 years in the same business and on the same premises but for 'smart barbers' owner, Simon Worrell, it was a day to remember. Way back in 1994 he took over a paper shop called Lovatts, and opened the only barbers in the village.

Other businesses have come and gone but not this one.

Everyone recognizes Simon with his unique tied back hair and his love of reggae, Bob Marley and Lambrettas. But it is his talent as a hairdresser and the skills of his team, Helen and Shell,



that keep the customers coming back and have given the business its longevity. Our photo looks as if there are many more years to come for this smiling trio.

So Helsby News is pleased to recognize what is quite an achievement and offer our Congratulations and Best Wishes.

Marj Thoburn



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

You are warmly invited to our Christmas Celebrations

HELSEBY METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 22nd December 10.30am, Service with Holy Communion

Christmas Eve 4pm, Christingle Service - The story of the first Christmas- with sweets, candles, oranges!

Christmas Day 10am, Christmas Family Celebration

ST PAUL'S CHURCH

Sunday 22nd December 6:30pm, St Paul's Carol Service (Nine lessons)

Christmas Eve 4:30pm, Christingle Service. 11:30pm, Midnight Mass

Christmas Day 11am, Family Holy Communion

St Stephen's Day 11am, Holy Communion



RE-IMAGINING HELSBY PARK: CREATING A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Over the last 18 months, Helsby Parish Council has heard many wonderful ideas from residents about how we can improve the park in the centre of our village. This space, which includes the children's play area, the Parish Field (including the walking track) and the area outside of the community centre and library, is already a valuable asset, but we all agree there's potential to make it even better for everyone in our community.

Earlier this year, the council decided to create a masterplan for the park. Instead of adding new equipment bit by bit, we're working on a comprehensive plan to ensure that everything new that is added to the park fits together beautifully, creating a space that everyone - young or old - can enjoy.

To achieve this, we've been consulting with design experts who specialise in public parks and green spaces. In early



2025, we'll present the ideas shared by residents and councillors to these designers, who will help us create a plan. Once we have draft designs, we'll share them with you during public consultations, giving everyone the chance to provide feedback.

We will share updates on the project in the Spring and Summer 2025 editions of Helsby News, on our new website, and via social media. If you have any questions or further ideas in the meantime, please contact the Parish Clerk or myself at clerk@helsbyparishcouncil.gov.uk or robert.nicklin@helsbyparishcouncil.gov.uk. You can also join us at one of our monthly

drop-in sessions on the first Saturday of each month or attend the next Parks, Cemetery and Allotments Committee meeting.

Let's work together to make Helsby Park a space we can all enjoy and be proud of.

Cllr Rob Nicklin

P.S. As a note for those who use the current park regularly, the zipline in the children's play area will be temporarily out of action this winter for servicing and repairs. It will be back in time for the warmer months of the new year, ready for more fun.

Launch of The New Parish Website

On November 14th Helsby Parish Council launched its new website www.helsbyparishcouncil.gov.uk

It really is an enormous improvement with lots of new features that make it more accessible to all.

The council has taken the opportunity to upgrade the website with additional information about roles and services, links to borough council services and more community information.

The new, streamlined design should make it easier to find council meeting dates, minutes, agendas, financial information and policy and procedures. There is a local events and community

notice board where up and coming activities can be posted.

The website is also compliant with the latest legally required standards for accessibility, meaning that information should be accessible to everyone, including any users with visual and hearing impairments.

The domain name has changed too and is now helsbyparishcouncil.gov.uk

All town and parish councils have been encouraged by central government to

make this change so that communities can recognise that they are a key part of government. It will also improve general levels of security. These domains are strictly controlled and are consistently monitored for any cyber security threats and vulnerabilities. Good News.

Marj Thoburn

You are invited to explore the new website and, if you have any feedback, please contact the council via the clerk's new email address: clerk@helsbyparishcouncil.gov.uk



MARSHES COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND AWARDS



Frodsham Volleyball Club	£5,894
Helsby Junior Football Club	£8,298
Frodsham and Halton Harriers	£1,122
Thornton le Moors Parish Council	£1,850
Mersey Weaver Scouts	£10,000
Ince Parish Council	£15,000
Frodsham Community Association	£2,650
Frodsham Methodist Church	£6,000
Ho Ho Helsby	£5,000
Frodsham Fishpond Restoration	£25,000

LOUD AND PROUD FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

Children at Horn's Mill Primary School dressed "LOUD and PROUD" in November. This was to raise money for Children in Need and to empower the children to be who they want to be; to celebrate their individuality.

We raised £224.95 for Children in Need and had a great day!



The Search for Answers: A follow up on PCBs

Helsby News has learnt that the small committee of Borough Councillors set up with the task of investigating concerns about PCBs in our area, has not yet been able to make progress and is unlikely to be able to report back in the agreed six-month period!

The task of investigating the PCB contamination seems to have been taken out of their hands and been taken over by CWAC Cabinet members.

At the November Parish Council meeting Borough Councillor, Chris Copeman reported that he was, however, continuing to work with others to find solutions to cleaning up the contaminated PCB sites in Helsby and Alvanley. It is understood that tests have continued to indicate

worrying levels of pollution. It was also noted that United Utilities has a drinking water pumping station above the Commons side tip.

Cllr Copeman invited an expert from the Clean Rivers Trust, Professor Harvey Wood, to help in the investigations. The Trust has experience in helping clean up contaminated sites in other areas.

Professor Wood has suggested that there may be workable strategies for reducing PCBs entering Foxhill Brook. Further testing is to be undertaken. He is in communication with Cllr Copeman and the CWAC Environmental team. More to come as the Saga Continues.

Marj Thoburn



Hillside Remembrance

On Monday 11th November, Helsby Hillside Primary School came together to enact their school values of respect and gratitude.

There was a moving assembly in the hall, explaining the importance of the poppy as a symbol. Each class lit a candle as a sign of respect for the lives lost by soldiers in all wars. The children then moved outside to complete the assembly by our remembrance garden.

Ex pupil, Rose Butchers played the last post to mark the two-minute silence and the names of fallen Helsby Soldiers were read aloud. A new poppy, made by our reception children, labelled with each soldier's name was added to the remembrance garden.

Finally, the school choir sang 'We will remember them'. Hillside didn't forget.



A record Poppy Appeal this year for Helsby and District Royal British Legion. An amazing £24,180.00. £4,500 up on 2023. **A big thank you to all, collectors and contributors alike.**

Fiona Purcell





HELSBY SPORTS

£8,298 awarded to Helsby Junior FC

The Marshes Community Benefit fund are delighted to award a grant of £8,298 to Helsby Junior FC

The grant will allow them to create an events package allowing the club to run tournaments, fun days and carry on supporting the local community, players and families with health benefits whether that be mentally or physically.

The events package will allow them to promote the football club and expand their football footprint. By having the events package they can make the surrounding area aware of who they are and what they do, developing and expanding the growth of the club and create a small income to allow the club to be self funding.



CAPTAINS' CHARITY DAYS AT HELSBY GOLF CLUB

The Captain and Lady Captain at Helsby Golf Club, recently hosted their respective golf fundraisers in aid of their chosen charities for the year.

Captain Mike Branigan held his fundraiser in aid of Claire House Hospice, Wirral. Lady Captain Pauline Branigan hosted her day in aid of the Alzheimer's Society.

Mike's day of golf was followed by a great meal and the winners on the day were a team of visitors from Alsager Golf Club.



Mike with the winning team

Helsby Ladies A Team win the West Cheshire Shield

From left to right: Di Bell, Janette Wark, Gill Sheppard, Captain Les Thornhill, Julie Grey, Pam Thompson and Gill Smith



The Ladies A team at Helsby Golf Club were delighted to win the prestigious 2024 West Cheshire Shield. It is an inter club league competition the Helsby ladies won a closely fought match against Delamere GC ladies in the final held at Vale Royal Abbey GC.

Congratulations to both teams with all the matches played in a good, friendly and competitive spirit. Well done!

The 41st EET Four Villages Half Marathon will take place on Sunday 19th January 2025, 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 and last year we proudly donated £12,000 to local charities.

We sincerely thank the local community for their support in putting on this annual event.

To find out more about the race including road closures and information about our new 'Couch to 5K' group please visit: www.helsbyrunningclub.org.uk/4vhmresidents/



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Vacancy
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