



HELSTBY NEWS

www.helsbynews.org.uk

ISSUE 109 • SUMMER 2024

CHRIS TAKES THE CHAIR



Chris Ellams took over as Chairman of the Parish Council for the third time in May and declared that one of his primary ambitions, during his term of office, is to ensure that there is improved engagement with the residents.

with one major employer (BICC) to a commuter-based population, served as it is by improved rail and motorway links Chris is all for progress but aware that there may also be a cost and that cost can be the loss of Community Spirit. Rebuilding that Community Spirit is where Chris wants to focus and his first place to start is to make the Parish Council more user friendly and transparent He also intends to look at ways to bring the folk of Helsby together at family friendly events.

One of the longest serving Parish Counsellors, Chris has lived in Helsby all his life and has witnessed the transition from a community based small village

Many in the village will say a resounding YES to that!

Marj Thoburn

Are There Any Budding Editors Out There?

Helsby News, now at edition 109, is the longest running newsletter in Cheshire. It's been recording the ups and downs of village life for 27 years and over time has become a voice for local opinion..... all put together by volunteers.

The editorial team is looking to recruit new faces with fresh ideas to strengthen Helsby News. As well as that, a new editor will soon be needed when our current editor (having worked on Helsby News for 20 years) steps down at Christmas.

Have you an interest in giving the village a voice? Are you keen to keep people informed about the life of Helsby? Have you the skills that can help pull village news together?



Helsby News is published 4 times a year so it's not an onerous task, but it is an important one which contributes to the sense of village community and connection.

Interested? Please contact formadmin@helsbynews.org.uk or for an informal chat ring Marj Thoburn on 07710 357068.

PAVILION PARK. GOOD NEWS?

Construction company Onward Homes reports that it has entered into a contract with Countryside Homes to complete the development of 100% affordable houses on the newly named Pavilion Park. The original contractor, Lane End, went into administration and the development stalled.

Helsby News understands that construction work has started and will be in line with the original proposals for the site. The site is at the end of Cable Drive.

We are told that the first new homes will be completed next year and that over the coming years, Pavilion Park is expected to provide 85 new homes for affordable rent and 130 for shared ownership or rent to buy.

But what of the rest of the sites? How long will the Developer fences on the A56 continue to be a blight on the southern entrance to the village? Is it too much to hope that this small glimmer from Pavilion Park is the beginning of light at the end of the tunnel ?

Unfortunately it is. There is only a big fat silence from those who paid to put up the fence and Helsby is stuck with a continuing development nightmare.

Marj Thoburn

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.

Helsby Parish Council Monthly Meetings Move to a New Location

Starting in June, the Helsby Parish Council will hold their monthly meetings at a new venue. Instead of the Methodist Church, meetings are now taking place at the Parish Council Office on the ground floor of the Helsby Community Sports Club.

This new location offers several benefits, including secure wi-fi and more parking spaces for both councillors and residents.

We encourage everyone who's interested in local issues to come along and share their views.

You can find the agenda for upcoming meetings on the community noticeboards at the Sports Club and on our website at www.helsbyparish.org.uk.

Your input helps shape our community! We look forward to seeing you there!

Cllr Rob Niklin



RE-FURBISHED PLANTERS

All along the A56 in the village we have newly refurbished flower planters. If you take a look at the plaques on them you will see the names of the volunteers who look after them throughout the year.

If you would like to Adopt a planter get in touch with Parish clerk, Claire on 01928 726433.



THE MARKING OF D-DAY 2024



A quiet resting place to sit and reflect, provided by the Parish Council and Helsby's Beacon, lit on June 6th, joining hundreds of others across the Nation.

Helsby News Editorial Team

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

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Follow-Up from our Borough Councillor

Cllr Chris Copeman told Helsby News that the historic contaminated tip site at Commonsides, which drains into Foxhill Brook, is now receiving more attention. He and three other local councillors, recently had a meeting with senior council environmental officers at Cheshire West to ask what action is finally being taken. The council has now opened discussions with the Environment agency and the Government's Hazardous Substances Advisory Committee to decide on what measures need to be taken.

We understand that a local engineer has written an article about this site which can be read at the following <https://northwestbylines.co.uk/environment/pollution/still-leaching-after-all-these-years/>

Chris also reports that Protos, who are developing the Ince Resource Recovery Park, have recently put in a planning application to remove the obligation to develop a rail link to the site.

Protos originally obtained planning for this site at an appeal, decided by the Secretary of State. Under that agreement Protos is required to make use of the nearby rail and water links for transporting materials as well as road transport. Currently Protos has a licence for over 700 two-way lorry movements to the site which could really affect Helsby, especially if the motorway is closed.

We understand that Protos claim that they have had little response to 'marketing' the rail link to business despite Biffa, one of the companies at the site, having stated that they are planning to move fifty percent of waste by rail in the near future.

If you want to express your concern please make a comment on the Cheshire West and Chester Planning site and search for Protos or application number 24/O1322/S73

Marj Thoburn

Band Night for Ho Ho Helsby

As part of the fundraising efforts for this year's Ho Ho Helsby on 7th December the team organised their regular 'Band Night'.

The evening had a rousing opening from *Alyn and Pals*, a group of GSCE music students from Helsby High School. They were followed by regular supporters of the event *What's Up Doc*, then acts *Keith Fielding* and *Little Voice*.

The evening was well supported by the community. A thank you goes to Helsby Sports and Social Club for hosting the event and to generous local businesses.

Jacky Keating



INTREPID ALAN MCKIE DOES IT AGAIN AND REACHES FOR THE SKIES

Local Helsby Elder, Alan McKie, known to many for his local volunteering and general philanthropy in our village, reached for the skies recently at the grand age of 82, to perform a 'wing walk' standing on top of a plane at 3,000 feet in the air!

Alan told Helsby News: *"I really wanted to do something unique and challenging for Claire House and a wing walk seemed like the perfect thing to do. It was really important to raise money for the hospice as they provided such vital care for Izzy and her family."*

Here we see him pictured enjoying the



ride! An amazing feat which has raised £7000 so far.

Alan has been raising funds for Claire House in memory of his late niece, Izzy McEgan, for the past 4 years across a number of activities, including climbing up to Everest base camp, aged 80, in 2023.

If you would like to support the cause you can donate to Alan McKie at www.tinyurl.com/AlanMcKie or donate at the JTO Old Bank Tea Rooms where there is a collection box.

Marj Thoburn

Your Community Needs You

The front page of the Spring edition of Helsby News featured the successful applicants in the Parish Council grant show. It was so good to see so many clubs, groups and societies taking part. It got me thinking the one factor that makes these groups successful is its volunteers.

Now I know what you are thinking, with busy work and family life I haven't got time to volunteer. Well yes, we all have busy lives to lead but volunteering can enrich your social life as well as making new friends, learning new skills and above all helping to keep the wide

variety of activities within Helsby.

Those of you that know me will know I am a Parish Councillor for Helsby, a position I have held for twenty years. For the past five years I have volunteered as a steward on board the Danny at Sutton Weaver, and I also contribute articles and am part of the editorial team at Helsby News and help 1st Helsby Scouts with their I.T support.

Being retired gives me more time than someone who has a full-time job, but even when I was working I found time for my role on the Parish Council. My main

point I suppose is a message to anyone out there - if you would like Helsby to continue with the current activities or have a new one you would like to introduce then VOLUNTEER.

Since I had the idea of this article several groups have contacted Helsby News asking for volunteers for their groups. So, if you think you have a skill to offer, or just want to get involved, contact one of the groups listed here.

Chris Ellams

THE PARISH COUNCIL The Parish Council has several vacancies and continuing efforts to make Helsby a good place to live can only be achieved with a full Compliment of Councillors. If you feel you would like to become a Parish Councillor, please contact our Parish Clerk Claire Jones on 01928 726433 or email clerk@helsbyparishcouncil.gov.uk.

1ST HELSBY SCOUTS 1st Helsby Scouts are a thriving Scout Group in the village, and we offer a range of activities that develop skills for life. We are currently short handed in our younger sections Squirrels (aged 4 – 6) and Beavers (6 – 8). Full training will be given. Contact gsi@1sthelsbyscouts.org.uk

HORN'S MILL PRIMARY SCHOOL Horn's Mill Primary School are looking for someone positive and friendly to become a school governor. If this appeals to you contact head@hornsmill.cheshire.sch.uk or Chair of Governors ncash@hornsmill.cheshire.sch.uk

HELSEBY NEWS Helsby News the voice of Helsby needs the following to help it continue to provide the village with news views and information. We need a news editor to oversee the publication, people to help deliver the printed copies to each property in Helsby, and we always welcome new members to the editorial team.

HO HO HELSBY Ho Ho Helsby are always happy to hear from anyone who wants to help with the running of the Christmas celebrations. Visit www.hohohelsby.co.uk

HELSEBY HILLSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL Helsby Hillside School is looking for a school governor to join its existing governors' team. Contact admin@hillside.cheshire.sch.uk

HELSEBY COMMUNITY FOOD HUB If you would like to help, drop in at Helsby Methodist Church on Chester Road Mondays 11:45 until 13:00 or Friday 10:15 until 11:30 and speak to Nicola Brown.

HELSEBY COMMUNITY SPORTS CLUB If you feel you can help at the club please contact julie.mann@helsbysports.co.uk

HIGHEST YOUTH SCOUTING AWARD FOR CHARLOTTE

On Sunday 21st April, Charlotte, a Cub leader at 1st Helsby, was invited down to Windsor Castle to attend the Scouts Annual Day of Celebration in recognition of achieving her King's Scout Award, the highest youth award in Scouting.

Charlotte has been involved in Scouting from a young age, joining 1st Helsby as a Scout at the age of 10, and becoming a Young Leader whilst an Explorer Scout, before returning as a Cub leader again upon finding a job locally after university.

The King's Scout Award was the result of over five years of hard work for Charlotte, and involved completing the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, 18 nights away with the Scouts and completing six activities with international, community, and Scout values themes. Charlotte's award highlights included organising activities at Chamboree, Cheshire's international Jamboree for Scouts and Guides held every four years, and being part of the team that organised a sleepover for Cubs in Chester Cathedral during 2023, under the art installation GAIA.

The day itself at Windsor was a truly

special occasion where Charlotte was joined in the parade by 11 other Scouts from Cheshire, and had the privilege of meeting esteemed guests including Chief Scout Bear Grylls, as well as marching in the parade with other award holders from across the Country.

Charlotte hopes to inspire others at 1st Helsby and beyond by achieving the award and is looking forward to continuing to provide young people with opportunities for adventure and skills for life through Scouting.

Judith Potts, Lead Volunteer - 1st Helsby



Inspiration from Helsby Concert Band

Helsby Concert Band has inspired lots of young musicians by organising a mass band workshop with two local primary schools.

Thanks to the grant we received we were able to pay for a coach to transport the children taking part. Frodsham Manor House primary school hosted the event, with their Year 5 class who have been learning brass, woodwind and percussion instruments this year.

They were joined by Helsby Hillside Primary schools Year 4 who have been learning a brass instrument. Playing alongside the Helsby Concert Band they showed their skills in a performance to parents and friends.

In February we were awarded a parish council grant and have been able to buy some more uniform for our new members. We have also purchased

some pre-loved brass and woodwind instruments from a local school which are now being used and enjoyed by some of the younger members of our band. We have a few clarinets available if any clarinetists would like to join us?

March saw us awarded the Cheshire West and Voluntary Arts Music Award for our contribution to music in our community. We were thrilled and thank everyone who voted for us.

Please follow us on facebook at www.facebook.com/HelsbyConcertBand and catch us at our events over the summer!

Deb Waterson & Jacky Keating





THREE CAR BOOTS IN THE BAG AND THREE TO GO

The summer is not yet about to go down in Helsby as the 2024 heatwave legend, but, as the organiser of the new St Paul's Car Boot Sales I can say we have had a remarkably good start. These are not large-scale events but designed, once a month to provide a focus in the village on the second Saturday morning of the month to socialise, browse for a bargain, and grab a cup of tea and cake,

We have not done these before, and so are grateful for the support from the village. We learnt a lot from the first event back in April and one of the things we are better at now is directing traffic on Vicarage Lane so as to minimise disruption to residents, keep the traffic flowing and keep the bottom of the lane free of parked cars to make it safer for those entering and exiting the main road. If you live in the village, and are able, please walk to the sale or change the route of your normal morning walk to join us for a few minutes. Entry is free.

Three to go... 11 July, 10 August, 14 September.

Gary O'Neill



Lots going on at St Paul's Church

Rev McGarigle is delighted to report that the Church hall roof has been upgraded to help negate leaks and damage to the hall - funded by a grant from Cllr Chris Copeman.

An area of wild flowers has been planted to transform St Paul's meadow into a Garden of Remembrance for the people of Helsby to enjoy and use as a place of quiet and reflection. Thanks to Cllr Copeman and CWAC who facilitated this transformation and to Helsby Parish Council who kindly donated a rather fine bench to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day. There was an open-air remembrance service to mark the occasion on Thursday 6 June.

There is a now Car Boot Sale – on Saturdays 13 July, 10 August, 14

September; £5 per car. To book a space contact Gary O'Neil - 07976 729 449

The Wednesday Welcome free lunch is going from strength-to-strength with a new outside 'summer' dining area being created for folks to eat al fresco, weekly 12-2pm. The Tuesday Tots Service - 9:15-11am (including term time) is free and the children receive a free fruit breakfast whilst the adults get coffee (and cake)!

There will be a Summer Fete on Saturday 31 August, 12-3, in the Church hall and grounds. A variety of stalls selling children's clothes, toys and books, cakes along with craft activities, face painting and outdoor games. Free entry.

Helsby Hillside's 60th Year

2024 marks Helsby Hillside's 60th year as a primary school. This summer, the children are doing some research into what school life was like in the 60s and will be preparing some work to put on a small exhibition in September. They would love to hear from any former pupils and staff with memories, photos and memorabilia to share. Here are a couple of photos to jog memories.

If any Helsby New readers have information and memories, please do get in touch with us!
(admin@hillside.cheshire.sch.uk)

Judith Potts



Hillside Happenings

Some of Hillside Primary School children showed off their gardening skills by taking responsibility for planting their village planter.

They are seen here being helped by Miss Hughes and Miss Lee.



Meanwhile 6 Hillside girls, made staff and parents proud when they took part in Britain's Got Talent semi-finals as part of the 134 strong Amazing Choir.

Although they didn't make it to the finals it was a fabulous experience and one which the children will not forget.

Thanks to Mrs Fletcher-Curren, who took them to numerous rehearsals and performances and thanks to all who voted for them.



OUTSTANDING!

Horn's Mill Pre-school's staff, committee, parents and children are very proud to announce that following their Ofsted inspection in March 2024, they maintained their Outstanding rating.

aspirations for the children are at the heart of everything they do".

"Pre-school provides an 'outstanding' environment where children can thrive".

Ofsted quoted:- **"The attention to detail in this incredibly well-organised and purposeful Pre-school is second to none".**
"Strong teamwork and shared high

The staff would like to thank the parents and the community for their continued support in helping Horns Mill Pre-school to continue to be an Outstanding setting.

HORN'S MILL OFSTED NEWS

"The school encourages pupils to celebrate difference and to feel empowered to be who they want to be." Ofsted, March 2024

Horn's Mill Primary School has had a visit from OFSTED! Five years after their last inspection, Sharon Wyatt, head teacher, is extremely proud to be able to share the recent results. The school remains good overall, with outstanding judgements in three of the five areas inspected. The programme to support children's personal development, and Early Years



are described as exceptional and their behaviour as excellent.

She would like to thank all the children at Horn's Mill for showing off their best selves during the inspection, and their parents/carers and her team for making it possible for them to do so.

LOCAL LIONS SUPPORT "ROAR 2024"

Vale Royal Lions Club are supporting Hillside and Horn's Mill Primary Schools in a project called ROAR 2024.

This is an exciting, innovative ideas competition. It's an inspirational and fun learning experience for children aged 7 to 11, encouraging them to use their imagination to create 'world changing ideas', it helps them to 'think big and dream big'.

Lions Clubs in the UK are in partnership with 8billionideas, the award-winning education company. They supply the fully prepared teacher pack and Vale Royal Lions provide the financial sponsorship.



For more information about ROAR 2024 or Vale Royal Lions Club contact lionmargaret87@gmail.com



Ladies Charity Golf Open

Helsby Golf Club
Monday 12th August 2024

In support of the Lady Captain's Charity

- 18 Hole Stableford Competition
- Best 2 Scores
- Longest Drive
- Nearest the Pin
- Pros Challenge
- Raffle Prizes
- Entry Fee £80.00 for a 4-ball Team
- Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Bookings can be made through our website:
www.helsbygolfclub.org
or via **www.golfempire.co.uk**

For further information, please contact Kieran McCabe,
Club Secretary on 01928 722021 (option 1)
or email secretary@helsbygolfclub.org

Helsby Golf Club Officials Drive into office!

The new officials at Helsby Golf Club took part in the annual Club Drive In competition recently and they enjoyed sunny but chilly weather on the day.

This year we have a married couple as Captain and Lady Captain – Mike and Pauline Branigan who live in Helsby (Mike is also a parish councillor). Our President this year is Barbara Leigh from Great Barrow and our Junior Captain is George Huyton from Helsby. They were delighted to hit drives down the middle of the fairway in the traditional start to their year in office!

The chosen charities for the year are, for the Captain; Claire House Hospice and for the Lady Captain; Alzheimer's society. Both Mike and Pauline will be raising money for these very worthwhile charities with a variety of events planned throughout the year.

Photo show from left to right Junior Captain George Huyton, Lady Captain Pauline Branigan, President Barbara Leigh and Captain Mike Branigan at the annual Helsby GC Drive in.



Photo by Phil R Barker ARPS. CPAGB

Helsby Parish Council

North Ward

Robert Foreman 07483 851260
Sarah Temple 722181
Emma Foster
Vacancy
Vacancy

Central Ward

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

South Ward

Michael Branigan 607821
Margaret Marsh 725562
Graham Stothard
Vacancy
Vacancy

Clerk

Claire Jones 726433

Parish Office:

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