



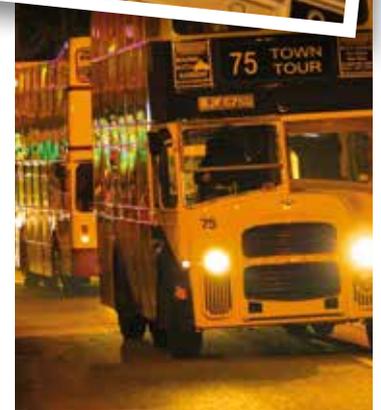
HELSEBY NEWS

www.helsbynews.net

ISSUE 79 • WINTER 2016

A Very Happy HoHoHo! Helsby Celebrates with its Own Christmas Festival

Photography: Duncan Cowley. For more event photos visit www.hohohelsby.co.uk



Helsby News is supported by Helsby Parish Council

News in Brief

Your Helsby News has been awarded "Highly Commended" in the Cheshire Community Pride Awards 2016.

Have your Say on Parking

CWac is developing a parking policy! Have your say at the consultation event taking place at Tesco's on Tuesday 12 January 2017 3pm-7pm.

Book Group

Do you enjoy reading? We get together once a month to discuss a book we have read. We meet at Helsby Community Centre from 2pm to 3pm. Our next meeting is on 14th December and our book is "The Great Gatsby" by F.Scott Fitzgerald. The library provides free copies of all our chosen books. If you would like to find out more contact Bidy Mason on 01928 724710 or e-mail biddyone@talktalk.net

Parish Councillor's Surgery Dates, Jan- April 2017

07 Jan 2017 04 Feb 2017
04 March 2017 01 April 2017

Meet your Parish Councillor, 10am until 12 noon, Committee room, Helsby Community Centre

Progress being made on the Halton Curve scheme

Helsby Residents will be interested to hear that the plan to re-open the Halton Curve remains on-course for construction to begin during Summer 2017, with completion of the new infrastructure in Spring 2018 and all being well the new passenger services to Liverpool starting up in December 2018.

Merseytravel is continuing the process of securing an operator for the initial services over the Curve between Liverpool and Chester and the future extension into Wales.

Halton Curve is part of a £340m investment in the area's rail network over the next three years, funded by Network Rail and the Liverpool City Region through the government's Growth Deal.

Barbara Ginty

Christmas Church Services



HELSEBY METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 4th December
4.00pm Community Carol Service.
Led by Revd Ashley Cooper

Sunday 18th December
10.30am Carol Service

Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve
4.00pm Christingle Service

Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day
10.30am Family Celebration - Bring a present - share the fun.

ST PAUL'S CHURCH

Sunday 18th December
6.30pm Carol Service

Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve
4.30pm to 5.00pm Crib and Christingle Service

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day
10.00am Holy Communion with Carols

A New Parish Councillor for Central Ward

A warm Helsby welcome to 35 year old Tim Thorne, who recently joined Helsby Parish Council to represent residents of Central Ward. Tim and his wife Kelly, both probation officers, settled in Helsby a couple of years ago and want to play an active part in village life. A warm welcome too to the latest addition to the Thorne family, baby son, Max, born on 15th November 2016.

New dad, Tim, put himself forward as a parish councillor because he believes if you want to make a difference you have to get involved. He is taking his time to get to know the village and how it all works and hopes folks will find him approachable. Certainly you can't miss him. Many will already have spotted this 6ft 7 inch giant of a young man walking Boo, his dog, on Helsby Hill.

Tim told Helsby News of a couple of his pet hates: Litter and Dog Mess! We can all agree with him on that.



"There's lots of Parish business to get your head around and I am enjoying finding my feet on the important issues for the village."

More of Tim Thorne to come.

Marj Thoburn

Helsby News Editorial Team

Marj Thoburn, Barbara Ginty,
Betty Grieve, Vicky Mohring

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Ho Ho Helsby – A Christmas Community Event for everybody

Out of a 'mixed' exchange of views on the Helsby Facebook page about the Christmas celebrations in a nearby village, there came a suggestion from local Duncan Cowley, 'Well why can't Helsby have a celebration of its own?!'. A number of people thought that was a very good question and, in the cold, dark days of January 2016, 'HoHo Helsby' was born.

At the initial meeting, a brainstorming session produced a very, very long list of ideas, but central to everyone's thinking was the desire to have a very large, very pretty, Christmas tree of our own! The group of around 14 members soon set about dividing up the responsibilities to produce a festive celebration which would be inclusive of all the residents of the village. The HoHo Helsby Working Group focused on providing 'something for everyone'; all ages and all abilities.

Fund-raising became a priority when the scale of the cost of a tree, its base, electrical supplies and lights, as well as traffic management charges, pushed the estimated cost over £8,000. It seemed a mountain of a task, but thanks to the support of the local businesses, on-line funding from local residents, grants from our County Councillor and Parish Councillors, advice from Clerks to Frodsham, Northwich and Helsby Councils, the event took shape and was viable.

Many hours were also spent by the Working Group volunteers at the Tea Rooms (many thanks to Diane & the team for sustenance!) drawing up plans and then going out and manning tombolas, providing bingo nights, raffles and sponsored endurance events, as well as designing promotional adverts as well as a website. It was very hard work with

many sleepless nights, many laughs and certainly many memorable moments!

The event took shape but kept true to its original values of having a true community Christmas festival by the residents for the residents. On the 3rd December 2016, HoHo Helsby will have delivered to Helsby its own majestic tree with beautiful donated star atop in the centre of the village. We will have had Santa in his grotto and his brand new sleigh (from Rotary), choirs singing and bands playing, Humbug the pony on hand to assist, over 30 craft stalls, Elvis and a funfair at Helsby Sports Club, as well as a procession of 6 floats with the local children, businesses and older residents all involved.

It is a testament to the Working Group that all of the original members are still in place and a number of new volunteers joined in just when we needed them in the run up to the event. The investment has been made in what is hopefully a lasting legacy for the village for years to come, so that Helsby can continue to say HoHoHo to everyone who calls it home for a very long time.

Thanks to everyone who has supported the event in many different ways, and here's hoping that the Working Group members don't sleep right through Christmas!

*Dianne Walker,
Chair, HoHo Helsby.*



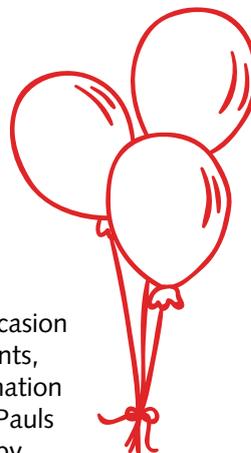
100 Years Young

On Wednesday 12th October 2016, Mrs Winifred Fletcher celebrated her 100th birthday with friends and family at Heathercliffe Residential Care Home Helsby, where she has lived since January 2013.

Winnie, as she affectionately known, married her husband Herbert in 1940 and lived for 73 years in Bates Lane before moving to Heathercliffe. On her birthday Winnie was presented with flowers from Helsby Parish Council Chairman, Terry O'Neill and a

commemorative certificate from Councillor Mallie Poulton, Mayor of Frodsham.

To celebrate the occasion and in lieu of presents, Winnie made a donation to the funds of St. Pauls Parish Church Helsby where she has been a life long parishioner.





Helsby High School raises over £800 for Poppy Appeal 2016

In the run-up to Armistice Day on the 11th November 2016, the 6th Form Prefect Team sold a variety of Poppy Appeal merchandise to raise funds for the Royal British Legion. This included items such as wristbands, pencils, key rings, 1916-2016 commemorative badges, and of course the standard paper poppies.

6th Form Prefect volunteers coordinated a series of assemblies where they talked about The Royal British Legion assisting in the rehabilitation of soldiers;

providing financial, social and emotional support to members and veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependents. They ran stalls in the breakout space during lunchtimes and at the 6th Form Open Evening and Year 11 Information Evening raising over £830.

The Poppy Appeal ended on Friday 11th November with a one minute silence in school to remember and honour those who paid the price for our freedom.

Launch of Marshes Community Benefit Fund

A recent open evening, held in Helsby High, saw the launch of the Marshes Community Benefit Fund (MCBF) and the introduction of the panel who will administer the Fund.



The MCBF has been established by Frodsham Wind Farm Ltd and is expected to generate a fund of up to £3million over the 25 year life of the wind farm. Approximately £120,000 a year will be available for eligible community projects in Frodsham, Helsby, Elton and certain surrounding areas.

Dianne Walker, Chair of MCBF, outlined the application and awarding process and the availability of all the information needed to make an application being available on their website www.marshescbf.uk from the end of November.

National Heritage Recognition for Helsby War Memorial

To mark the centenary of WW I, Historic England embarked on a project to add 2,500 war memorials to the National Heritage List for England. Helsby's War Memorial has been granted Grade II listed status. Dedicated in April 1920, and paid for by public subscription, it commemorates the 20 local men who died during WW I and 17 who fell in WW II.

Four of the young men listed died in 1916, 100 years ago. Harry Whitby died on the 13th May, aged 26. Harry, born in Frodsham, moved to Helsby when his widowed mother married Charles Wooldridge in 1894. He is remembered on the Arras Memorial.

Walter Fairhurst, of Cable Terrace, went down with the H.M.S. "Indefatigable" during the Battle of Jutland in May. He was only 20 and had joined the navy as a stoker four years earlier. His name is on the Plymouth Naval Memorial. William H. Barlow was the son of

William Bentley Barlow of The Avenue, the Chief Officer of the Works Fire Brigade. William H. had attended Runcorn Grammar School and was a

choir boy and church organist. He was killed on the 1st July, the first day of the Battle of the Somme. He is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial together with Harry Hoose, also of the Avenue, who died on the 11th July. Harry had worked at the Cable Factory and in his spare time volunteered at the Red Cross Hospital.

Sue Lorimer

2016: And Helsby Remembered Them

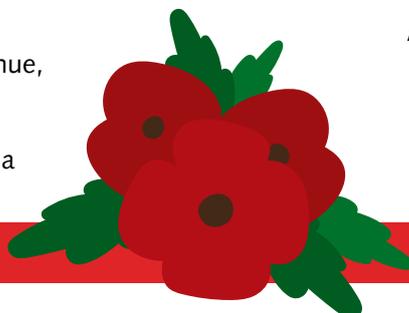
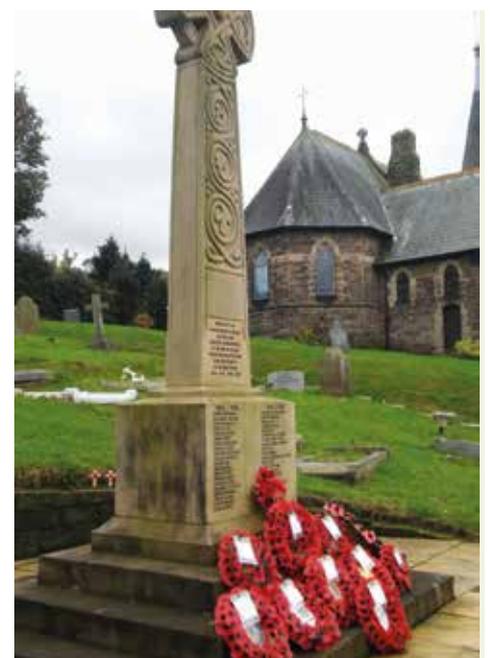
Remembrance Sunday 2016 saw the folk of Helsby once more remembering all those young men who gave their lives for their country. A packed congregation at St Paul's stood in silence in the churchyard as traffic was halted and the traditional 'last post' was sounded again for another year. The service, led by Rev. Graham Green, paid fitting tribute to their sacrifice. Lest We Forget, They were Remembered Here.

Marj Thoburn

There are to be two application windows each year - the first one starting now until 28 February 2017 and the next from March 1 to August 31 2017.

Help with applications is available too from Cheshire Community Action... so time to get inspired and think boldly. The Panel is looking forward to making awards!

Marj Thoburn



POLICE NEWS



First of all I want to introduce myself, as PCSO John Kopczyk. I am the new Police Community Support Officer for Helsby, replacing Phil Brandreth who has moved on to start a

new career. I have been working closely with Phil over the past few weeks, and have been given a detailed and smooth handover, with all the local issues and concerns in the area.

My main focuses as the new PCSO for Helsby will be to continue Phil's work, looking at the priorities that residents inform us are the main issues. These will be speeding, parking and

youth Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). I have already done some work with local residents in tackling an issue of drug taking and anti-social behaviour near the community centre and have confronted and dealt with offenders backed up by CCTV footage.

It has been good to meet a number of residents already and I am keen to meet as many as possible in the near future.

Helsby Community Speed Watch
Community Speed Watch is designed to increase awareness about the dangers of speeding.

Speeding is one of the factors that most affects the quality of life within the village, which in turn makes it one of the biggest community priorities.

Two Training Days on the use and handling of the speed gun have already taken place for local volunteers and they should be out and about gathering data shortly.

Driver Engagement Day in Helsby

On 22nd October 2016 local officers held a Driver Engagement Day on Primrose Lane, Helsby. Officers were out in force stop checking vehicles and looking for driving offences such as speeding, seatbelt offences and mobile phone offences. In total 30 vehicles were stopped over a two hour period for various offences.

One vehicle was caught speeding at 53mph in the 30mph zone!

Another Driver Engagement Day is planned in December.

If you have any suggestions please email PCSO John Kopczyk on john.kopczyk@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Ladies Circle Spark Engagement in Current Affairs at Helsby High School

Earlier this year Helsby High School was delighted to receive a cheque for £800 from Frodsham & District Ladies Circle. The donation was a very welcome surprise and this was made possible by fund raising opportunities at Frodsham Festival of Football. Mr Dowler, Headteacher and several year 7 & 8 students, who had helped out at the event, were pleased to receive the cheque at a presentation made by Chair of the Ladies Circle Sue Daly and member Karen Prescott.

The students themselves decided to use the money for an annual subscription to First News. First News is an award winning newspaper especially for youngsters between the ages of 7 to 14. It is the perfect tool to spark early engagement in current affairs with students. Thanks to the Frodsham and District Ladies Circle, the subscription makes news and issues of today accessible to all our students. The donation has allowed us to purchase sixteen paper copies for form classes in Year 7 to 8 and a digital version with unlimited use across all other year groups.

Abigail's Hard Won Triumph

Congratulations to Helsby resident Abigail Draper, Finance Director of local company RSK, who was a double winner in the prestigious 2016 'Finance Director of the Year Awards' presented on 9th November at the Hilton Liverpool Hotel.



Abigail joined Helsby-based RSK Group in September 2011 at a crucial time for the company, helping it refinance for international expansion.

Abigail said; "I was up against some very strong and worthy competition, so it is an absolute privilege to have won through, both in my individual category, and of course to take the top prize, Finance Director of the Year 2016. I'm proud that I've done it for RSK, a North-West company at a time it has been truly going global.

RSK, whose offices are in the middle of the village on Chester Road, provides independent environmental consultancy and technical services. Earlier this year, in recognition of its ground-breaking environmental operations in Iraq, RSK was awarded a prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise in International Trade, the UK's highest accolade for business success.

Barbara Ginty

BOROUGH WIDE 20MPH SPEED LIMIT?

CWaC have proposed a 20 mile an hour speed limit for most of Helsby. Do we need it? Well not according to a lot of residents who are baffled by the map on the website which shows amongst other things 20 mph restrictions on 30 yard long cul-de-sacs and private roads.

Helsby Parish Council has sent a robust response to CWaC objecting strongly to the proposal on the grounds of unnecessary cost (up to £1,000,000 across the Borough) and the unenforceability of the speed limit.

In September Team 6 children at Horn's Mill began a project which found them travelling on a train to the Conwy Centre, Anglesey dressed as evacuees and learning what people had to cope with during World War 2.

Then in October they were invited to take part in "The Hope Journey" at Helsby Methodist Church. The children were allocated to 'evacuee families' and throughout the morning took part in The Hope Journey Remembering, run by church volunteers.

They completed their topic with an assembly which explained their learning to their parents, the whole school and some of the Hope Journey volunteers.



Bringing History Alive at Horn's Mill School



Rucksacks For Refugees

November saw Helsby High School students working together with families and friends to fill 151 rucksacks to be sent to refugee children living in camps in Syria and Europe by a Flintshire based Charity called SHARE.

The rucksacks, which were filled with colouring books, pens, puzzles, warm

clothing, toiletries, and sweet treats, also included heart warming messages of support for the child refugees from some of the students.

Year 11 and Sixth Formers gave up their free time to sort and label the rucksacks and Ms McGovern and Mrs Edwards made it all happen.

Countdown to Christmas

Helsby Opal Club, (Greenwood to its friends) tries to organise a varied programme of activities for the members. Naturally Christmas is extra special and this year there seems to be more happening due to generous offers by various organisations who give their time and talents freely.

Helsby Hillside School Choir, seen below, got us off to a good start.

Usually our volunteer cooks provide Christmas lunch but this year we are "eating out" and members are off to Forest Hills for a festive buffet lunch. Ellesmere Port Lions provided a Christmas Lunch with all the trimmings on Dec. 8th at Springfield for the Opal Club and all the residents. Our final meeting in 2016 will be our Christmas party on 15th Dec. with a visit from Father Christmas and plenty of carol singing. We then close for two weeks and reopen in 2017 to plan our 18th birthday party. It's all happening!! Everyone at Greenwood would like to send seasonal greetings and thanks to everyone locally who helps in any way to make the club so successful.



HELSEBY HORN'S MILL PRE-SCHOOL CELEBRATES THE OPENING OF ITS NEW LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

October saw the opening of Horn's Mill Pre-School's new classroom and outdoor play area. These new facilities replace the previous classroom which had come to the end of its life. Cheshire West and Chester have funded the project and have recognised the important

contribution the pre-school makes to Horn's Mill families.

Here we can see just how much more room the children and staff have in this new building.



SCOUTING IN THE MIDNIGHT SUN

Thirty Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Network Scouts from Mersey Weaver Scout District have been selected to attend the world's northernmost Jamboree in Bodø, Norway.

The group - made up of 12 to 18 year olds from Runcorn, Widnes, Frodsham, Helsby, Norley, Ince and Elton - underwent a tough selection process, including a challenging selection day where they were assessed on team working capabilities, personal skill tests, group and individual presentations and also interviewed individually.



A key aspect of the expedition is that they have to raise all of the funds to get there themselves. The challenge is now on to raise £33,000 in just eight months.

A variety of fundraising efforts are already underway, but the group is also seeking sponsorship and donations. Several fantastic sponsorship opportunities are available including t-shirt and kit sponsor. Michelle Pickstock is waiting to hear from you on 07856 177517.

The End of an Era for Tuesday Club

Helsby's Tuesday Club, which has been part of village life for more than 54 years, will close its doors for the last time on December 13th with a final meeting and Carol Service.

The Club was started way back in 1962 by Angela Green and Betty Higson, now 95 and 101, and through generations has provided a much appreciated weekly social group for its members. Always run by a small team, drawn from the members, it has had great success in bringing folk together and now and then celebrating everything from local birthdays and events to Royal Weddings, Anniversaries, and Jubilees.

Despite best and sustained efforts to recruit new members the Tuesday Club team has had to face the fact that the time has come to end the Club and recognise that times have changed. It seems not possible to attract younger members whose busy lives leave little time for a day time social life. The diminished numbers have often meant that of late they have been running at a loss and that it is just not viable to continue.

December 6th will mark the last Annual Birthday Party. It will mark the end of an era of a wonderful club, full of camaraderie and happy memories and will be much missed by members.

West End Fame for Tom

Helsby High School are very proud to share the recent success of one of it's Year 8 pupils, Tom Abisgold, who is currently performing as part of the new West End production of "School of Rock". Tom will be one of three boys playing the part of Zack, lead guitarist in the show school's newly formed band.

Based on the iconic hit movie and with a rocking new score by Andrew Lloyd Webber, School of Rock – The Musical follows slacker and wannabe rock star Dewey Finn turn a class of straight-A students into an ear popping, riff scorching, all conquering rock band!

Andrew Lloyd Webber said: "I'm delighted to be bringing School of Rock – The Musical to the West

End. I'm passionate about children engaging with music and cannot wait for UK audiences to see the remarkably talented group of young actor musicians we have found for our production. They're currently blowing the roof off our rehearsal rooms working with our wonderful cast of grown-ups led by the hilarious David Fynn."

Tom, seen here on the top of the bus, recently appeared on 'The One Show' promoting the musical and performing live on national television. The opening night was 14th November 2016 – Helsby High School wished good luck to Tom and the rest of the cast and crew.

Helsby Village Society

New Year, new programme for Helsby Village Society.

Come and join our friendly and interesting talks, the last Thursday in the month, September through to April. 7.30pm in the Community Centre. Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and talks on a wide range of subjects all for just £2.00 if you wish to come just as a visitor.

Our programme for 2017 is as follows:
January 28th - Miscellany of Films by James Walton

February 23rd - The Third Planet from the Sun by Brian Hallworth

March 30th - Heraldry by Tony Bostock

April 27th - Norton Priory Gardens by Keith and Kathy Williams – following the AGM.

May - For members only, a visit to Norton Priory Gardens

For further information please phone Mary Moss on 722997

WI News

Helsby Hillside WI has continued with a varied programme since the last issue of Helsby News.

We have a new programme of events starting in January and 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, please go to our webpage on www.helsbyparishcouncil.org.uk and go to useful links and click on WI or contact Pam Hinkley on 01928 722161.





HELSEBY SPORTS



£1000 to Powered Wheelchair Appeal in memory of Judy Stewart

The Ellesmere Port and District Lions recently presented a cheque for £1,000 to the Powered Wheelchair Appeal at Helsby Golf Club in memory of Judy Stewart who had suddenly passed away at the end of April.

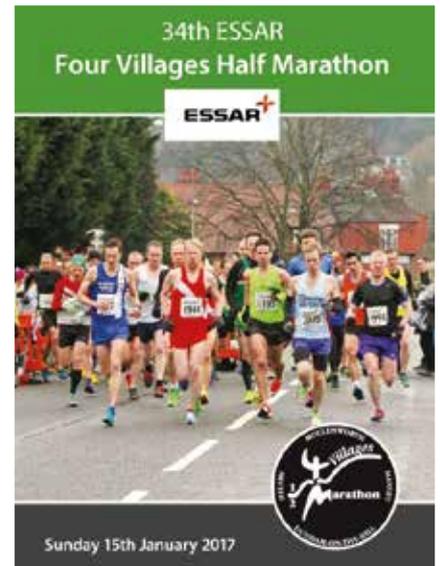
Judy's family had asked that donations, following the funeral, should go to the Lions Club. It was decided that the monies should be given to the Powered Wheelchair Appeal as Judy had served on the committee for many years.

Have you Tried it Yet?

Time to get active Helsby! The new Adult Gym is up and running and waiting for you outside the Community Centre. Here we can see some of our local enthusiasts at the opening ceremony when the Manager of Tesco's, Khoslow Sofla, cut the ribbon and Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Terry O'Neill, (on the left) saw the

project he had been behind since 2014 come to fruition.

Great when a Plan comes together!!!



Helsby Parish Council

North Ward

Sylvia Crossley-Jones 723115
 Alan Gardner 722360
 John Kimpton 724236
 Sarah Temple 722181
 Lance Yates 722832

Central Ward

Tim Thorne 726433
 Chris Ellams 724409
 Patricia Holder 727384
 Sam Johnson 722297
 Terry O'Neill (Chair) 723205

South Ward

Peter Duffy 722908
 Stuart Hulse 724272
 Andy MacPherson 722168
 Alan McKie 724960
 George Randles 724775

Clerk

Jeanette Hughes 726433
 Parish Office:
 200 Chester Road,
 Helsby, WA6 0AP