

Frodsham Life

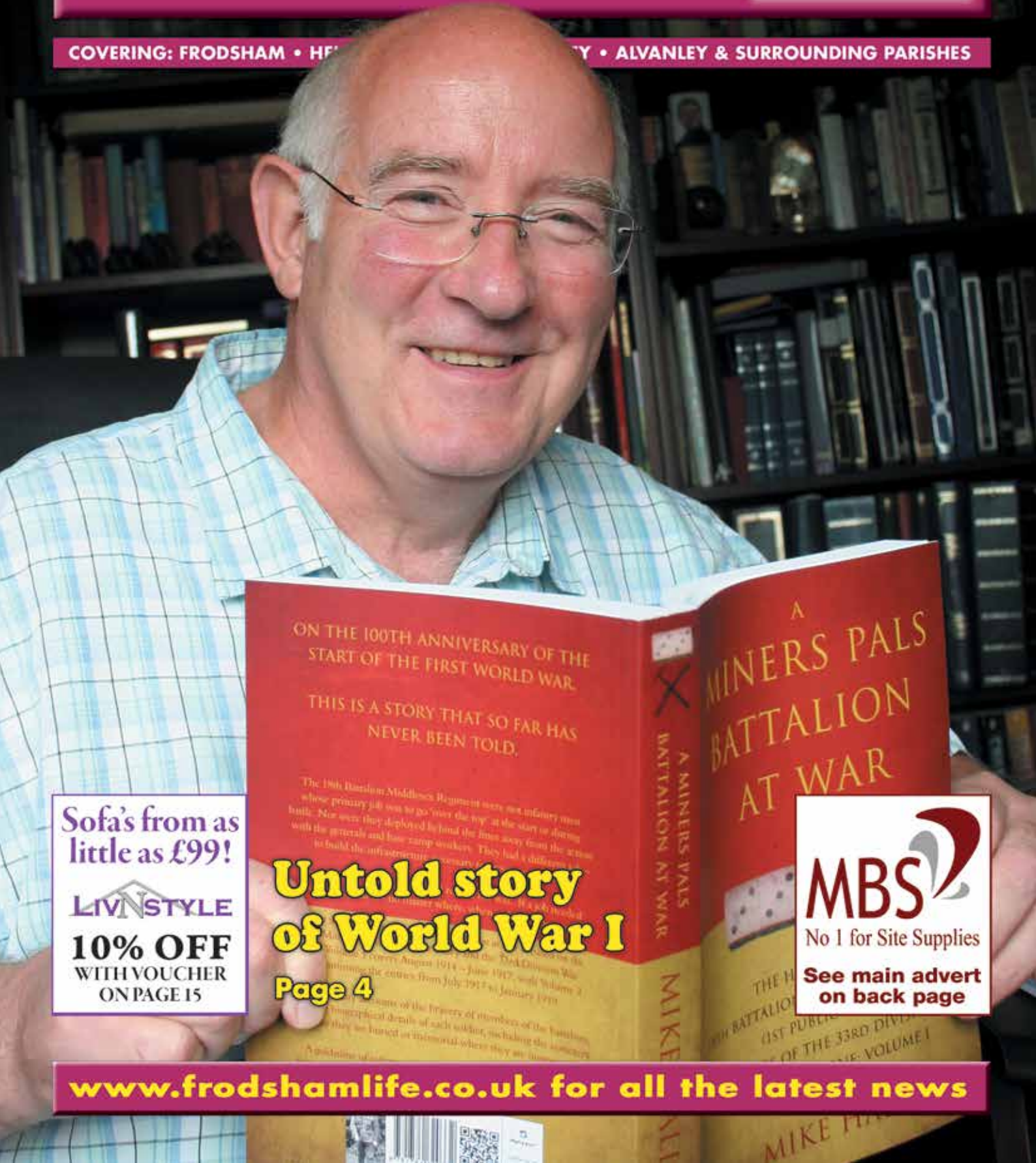
Issue No. 126
September 2015

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Page 4

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Editor's Comment



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FEELINGS ran high at the monthly meeting of Frodsham Town Council when members got around to discussing the local implications of the new policing system introduced by Cheshire Constabulary.

Gone was the, admittedly somewhat cautious, spirit of co-operation which prevailed the previous month when an Assistant Chief Constable and other senior officers had attended to reassure councillors that all would be well with policing in Frodsham.

Instead we had strong words from various councillors, angry that Frodsham's popular PCSO was now based at Helsby, that he had had his car taken away from him and that he was having to spend time every day travelling to Blacon and back twice and was not arriving in Frodsham until around 10.30am.

In addition the police station, while officially still "open" was in fact unmanned most of the time.

Small wonder that we heard claims that the council had been "sold a pup" by the police, threats to vote against continuing to contribute to the cost of the PCSO and assertions that the police were not to be believed.

All this is very disappointing, for over the years relations between the police and the Town Council have been good - particularly in recent times since the arrival of a

PCSO who, by common consent, has provided a reassuring presence in the town. It would be a tragedy if Frodsham no longer had a PCSO.

The police have admitted that part of the reason for the new system is to save money but, as we said in this column last month, we cannot see how making police officers and PCSOs travel to Blacon to be "briefed" each day can save money. Surely technology exists to make such journeys unnecessary? Similarly, how does basing the Frodsham PCSO at Helsby save money?

We worry when we hear the police frankly say they faced the choice of either introducing the new system or making people redundant. We also worry when it appears the police may not have

been equally frank in describing the impact of the changes.

In fact, the only note of optimism we can detect in all this, is the statement by the Assistant Chief Constable who visited Frodsham that the new system is flexible enough to be changed if it falls below expectations.

So far, it certainly seems to be falling below the expectations of Frodsham Town Council.

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Frodsham Life is
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Kingsley Players win Theatre Guild awards

KINGSLEY Players' successful production of Alan Ayckbourn's *Time of My Life* in May has been recognised at the recent Cheshire Theatre Guild 'oscar' ceremony.

Phil Murray (pictured centre), who mesmerised audiences with his versatile acting skills playing five comedic waiters, was awarded Best Supporting Actor at the Guild's annual awards.

Malcolm Barker (standing left), a long-standing actor and director with the group, was nominated for Best Director and young actor Ellie Hamer, who also appeared in the play, received a nomination for Most Promising Youngster in a Senior Play for a production with the Ashton Heyes Theatre Club.

The adjudication praised Phil's contribution as a "funny and engaging performance of skill" and summed up: "This was a production that was poignant and sharp in its execution leaving the community of Kingsley feeling that they had indeed, if only for one night, had the time of their lives."

Kingsley Players chair Lynn Pegler said: "This was the first time we had entered a play in the Cheshire Theatre Guild awards. It's wonderful to receive this external recognition and a fantastic achievement for Phil, Malcolm and all the cast and crew involved in the production."

Dates for your diary: Coming soon are *Bite-sized Shakespeare - A Cabaret* (21-24 October) and the musical *Oliver* (27-30 January).

More details at www.kingsleyplayers.co.uk



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Former MP publishes untold story of World War One

FORMER MP Mike Hall has published an untold story of World War One which has been 14 years in the making and inspired by his "war hero" grandfather who miraculously survived the hostilities, including two postings at the Somme.

The former Weaver Vale MP, started researching the book, which comes in two volumes due to its sheer size, after being "sacked" by former Prime Minister Tony Blair as a junior whip in 2001.



Mike had always been intrigued how his Manchester born grandfather of Irish descent, who received the Military medal for bravery, had ended up doing active service with the "die hards" of the 18th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (1st Public Works) Pioneers of the 33rd Division.

Spending many long hours researching the national war archives Mike has now put together a detailed war diary of the day to day life of the battalion - a story which has not previously been told - and coincides with the 100th anniversary of his grandfather Thomas McBride, who died aged 52 in 1939, before Mike was born, going to war.

"My research soon told me that my grandfather, who had been working as a miner, enlisted with one of the special regiments which consisted mainly of miners and other tradesman," said Mike, who thanks the former Prime Minister in his book for helping him find the time to carry out the research.

The 18th Battalion Middlesex Regiment were not infantry men whose primary job was to go 'over the top' at the start or during battle.

They had a different job - to build the infrastructure necessary to prosecute the war.

These 'miners pals' played a vital role in the war. They dug

and drained trenches, wired No Man's Land, mined under enemy lines, made and repaired roads, filled in craters, constructed dug-outs, stock piled ammunition, built and improved billets, fetched and carried, kept open communications with the front, made and repaired railways, built and demolished bridges, gassed the enemy, picqueted roads and held the front line.

If a job needed doing, they did it - no matter where, when or how dangerous.

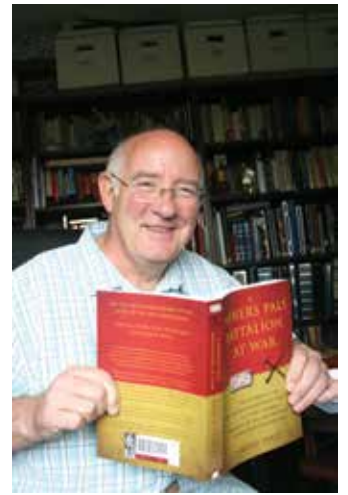
At times they fought back the Germans with only their picks and shovels, and in High Wood, at the height of the Battle of the Somme, they were deployed to fight the enemy at bayonet point.

By this, among other events, the 18th Battalion earned the right to use the Middlesex Regiment nickname 'die-hards'.

A Miner's Pals Battalion at War is written in diary form, based on the 18th Middlesex Battalion War Diary and the 33rd Division War Diary.

Volume 1 covers August 1914 - June 1917, with Volume 2 continuing the entries from July 1917 to January 1919.

There are many accounts of the bravery of members of the battalion, recording biographical details of each soldier, including



the cemetery where they are buried or memorial where they are honoured.

Mike's grandfather received the military medal for bravery after going into no man's land under fire with his commanding officer to bring back the fallen.

During the war he also survived being gassed and even returned to the front after being sent home injured.

The book is a goldmine of information, laden with incidents from the war and facts that have been cross-checked and verified.

Mike admits the book became an "obsession" and has been proof read by his wife Lesley nine times!!!

The book can be purchased online from Amazon or from Waterstones in Warrington.

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Make it, Bake it!

The Frodsham Show is back!



IT'S Frodsham's "Make it", "Bake it", "Grow it" "Show it" show – and it will take place at Frodsham Community Centre on Saturday, September 12.

The Frodsham Show is back and is open for anyone to enter – provided they meet the closing date of September 9.

There will be classes for produce, handicrafts, floral art, fruit and vegetables, photography and art – and a children's section.

A "Best in Show" contest will give the event a competitive edge.

Organiser Vivien Shaw said: "You've watched the 'Great British Bake Off', 'The Great Allotment Challenge' and the 'The Great British Sewing Bee' and thought 'I could do that.'"

"Well now you can - the Frodsham Show is back! Let's show all the great things Frodsham has to offer."

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Six new reasons for visiting Castle Park

SIX new benches have been installed at Frodsham's Castle Park to encourage more people to visit the park and stay a little longer to enjoy its ambiance. Frodsham councillors Lynn Riley and Andrew Dawson were among the first to try them out.

Clr Riley said: "The partnership that comprises Castle Park Trust, Frodsham Town Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council has worked together to install the benches and six new bins, which we hope will improve the visitor experience."

Clr Dawson, chairman of Castle Park Trust Executive, added: "I am delighted that these new benches have been installed at Castle Park and welcome the continued investment in the park by Cheshire West and Chester Council."

"The park is such a fantastic place to visit and I hope that people from Frodsham and the surrounding area continue to explore it."

The partnership will continue to work together to bring improvements to the park.

Cllrs Riley and Dawson, oversee the installation of the benches with council officer Chris Taylor.



A crash course in Sherry!

With our Sherry and Tapas tasting this week, we thought it was time to talk a little bit about this underappreciated star of the wine world. If we say "Sherry" to you what do you picture? The sticky bottle of Bristol Cream hidden at the back of the cupboard and only brought out for Granny at Christmas? Well the world of sherry goes far beyond this old staple. There are a plethora of styles ranging from bone dry to sickly sweet and there is a variety of sherry to go with almost every type of food. Here will give you a little introduction to the world of sherry and a few basic rules as to how to enjoy it to its fullest!

What is it and where does it come from?

Sherry is a fortified wine produced in the Jerez region of southern Spain, where temperatures regularly exceed 40°C in the summer, but are tempered by cooler Atlantic breezes. Soils in this region are chalky and lend themselves to the production of sherry. There are three types of grapes authorised for sherry production - Palomino (predominantly), Moscatel and Pedro Ximénez. The last two are primarily used for sweetness.

How should you drink it?

As a general rule, the drier the sherry, the more important it is to have it with food. If you are trying sherry for the first time make sure you have something to snack on alongside it, even just some olives or nuts. Dry sherry goes well with anything salty whilst sweeter sherry will go better with sweeter dishes. The variety of styles makes sherry the perfect accompaniment to tapas as you can have a small glass to suit each of the different dishes. Drier sherries are best served chilled whilst sweeter sherries can be served at room temperatures (although we preferred them all slightly chilled).

What's dry and what's sweet?

The main varieties of sherry from dry to sweet are:

- Manzanilla
- Fino
- Amontillado
- Oloroso
- PX

Matching food with Sherry

Manzanilla sherry goes well with salty dishes such as boquerones (anchovies in vinegar and sunflower oil), shellfish, or even just some salted almonds. Fino is a good match for fish and tomato based dishes. Amontillado works well with chicken dishes and asparagus. With Oloroso you want something meatier, sobrasada (spreadable chorizo) goes really well with this sherry, or you could pair it with a nice juicy burger. PX sherry is very sweet so works well with blue cheese - we love it alongside our Perl las blue cheese with walnuts and honey. It can also be served poured over vanilla ice cream.

If you want a simple rule of thumb, if it swims pair it with Fino, if it flies pair it with Amontillado, and if it runs pair it with Oloroso!

We stock a variety of sherries in our stores and online, including all the varieties mentioned above. We also stock a fantastic range of Spanish food if you fancy a delicious sherry and tapas night of your own!

Jamie & Joe



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Councillors pledge to support community on fracking

FRODSHAM councillors Andrew Dawson and Lynn Riley (pictured) have pledged to support the local community view if proposals to carry out fracking in the local area ever come forward.

They have told oil and gas exploration company IGas that if plans are ever put forward to extract gas in the Frodsham and Helsby area, they will insist that nothing be permitted unless it is demonstrably safe and that the environment is protected.

IGas, via their consultants, Tesla, are to conduct further seismic studies in Ellesmere Port, Helsby and part of Frodsham.

They want to find out if there is coal bed methane and shale gas in sufficient quantities to make further exploration worthwhile.

IGas have held a public exhibition at the Holiday Inn in Ellesmere Port where they explained what they were intending to do.

Cllrs Riley and Dawson were present and were able to discuss the proposals with the company and learn more about their plans.

Cllr Dawson said: 'We have to thank IGas and Tesla for holding this public meeting and for sharing with us what their seismic study will

entail.

"I asked them for a commitment to publish a synopsis of their results in due course and I am delighted that they agreed to do so. I think it is very important that all of us know what lies beneath our feet."

Cllr Riley said: 'This meeting gave Andrew and I another opportunity to put forward our position on shale gas and fracking – this time directly to IGas.'

"We both reminded IGas that if they find gas reserves and they submit applications to extract the gas we will be insistent that nothing should be permitted unless it is demonstrably safe and that full protection of the environment is guaranteed."

Cllr Dawson added: "If any application is ever submitted to permit fracking we will make sure that the community is fully informed about the proposals and we want to make sure that it is the local community that has the decisive say as to whether they should proceed."

"This means that any developer will have to explain their proposals fully to the community. Both Lynn and I are committed to putting forward the community consensus view if we ever reach that point –



whatever that may prove to be."

Even if methane gas reserves are found it is far from certain that it would be economic to exploit them – especially with the price of oil being historically low.

IGas have the right to explore for shale gas and coal bed methane

reserves on Frodsham marshes, across the whole of Helsby as well as Ince, Elton and parts of Ellesmere Port.

Even though the area includes part of the Frodsham ward it does not include the main settlement area of Frodsham.

Christmas cheer from the council

FRODSHAM Town Council has agreed to increase the value of the Christmas vouchers offered to Over 70s in the town to £10 this year.

The vouchers can be spent at participating shops and other businesses in Frodsham – or can be given to charity.

In previous years, the vouchers have been worth £5.



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Liam – the youngest councillor in the borough!

LIAM Jones – at 19, the youngest-ever member of Frodsham Town Council – has discovered he is also the youngest councillor in Cheshire West and Chester.

But for the whims of the electorate, he could have been an even younger councillor – he was only 18 when he stood unsuccessfully in a by-election in March last year.

Ironically, that by-election was caused by the resignation of former councillor Kyle Rushton McGregor, who had previously held the "record" for the youngest member of the Town Council when he was elected at 21.

Now he is elected, Liam is attracting praise from fellow councillors for his enthusiasm and

dedication.

The Mayor, Cllr Fran Sutton, said: "I have, from day one, been very impressed by this young man's enthusiasm and willingness to learn and be a constructive, helpful and hands-on councillor. He's extremely approachable and is an asset to FTC."

Cllr Mallie Poulton said: "I would just like to say how great it is to work with a young man who has such passion for his community.

"His involvement and public duty when others his age would be pursuing other interests just says what this man is all about and his work on committee again speaks volumes.

"Frodsham is proud that we can boast the youngest councillor in Cheshire West and Chester and we look forward to seeing how far this



young man can go."

The former Helsby High School student is a computer aided design engineer apprentice with Heat-Trace at Helsby.

He has lived in Frodsham since

1998 and believes Frodsham is a town of opportunity.

Liam said: "I am proud of where I'm from and immensely privileged to have become a councillor, as that has been my ambition. I'll hopefully contribute new ideas and ways of thinking."

His aims include keeping Council Tax low, promoting Frodsham locally and further afield, pressing for more affordable housing – a "massive concern" for him.

He is concerned that housing plans for Frodsham are for only 250 over 10 years while at Helsby – with a population only about half of Frodsham's – there are plans for 300 homes over the same period.

Young people in Frodsham will be unable to live in the town they know and love – and he believes this is wrong.

Council "sold a pup" over policing changes

FRODSHAM Town Council is to voice its concerns over new policing arrangements for the town – amid claims they have been "sold a pup."

They are writing to Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner John Dwyer seeking clarification about the arrangements – and asking for CCTV cameras to cover a number of "hot spots" where there are problems of drug taking and anti-social behaviour.

Councillors are particularly angry over the decision to base Frodsham's Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) at Helsby – meaning that it would be 10.30am or 11am before he was about to get to Frodsham.

Cllr Mallie Poulton told the monthly meeting of the council there was a long standing drug problem in the Ashton Drive area which was getting worse. He wondered if CCTV cameras might help solve the problem.

There were a number of "hot

spots" in Frodsham that needed CCTV – including near the police station which, when there were lots of cars and vans parked outside provided something of a deterrent. Now it was an unmanned station.

He told of his own experience of calling the police non-emergency number 101. He waited 23 minutes for his call to be answered and a further 30 minutes to be told he would be called back. Then he waited three and-a-half hours to be called back and was then "fed the wrong information."

He said it was "horrific" that Frodsham's PCSO was based in Helsby and if that was to be the case next year he, for one, would not be voting to pay for him.

Cllr Frank Pennington said there was no way Frodsham would get CCTV because of the cost – which he put at £930,000.

They had been promised cameras 10 years ago, but it had gone to Northwich instead.

He found it annoying that

Frodsham was paying £11,800 towards the cost of a PCSO only to find he was now based in Helsby.

Cllr Poulton there was a process by which Frodsham could get CCTV – but they would not get it if they didn't ask.

Chairman Cllr Mark Warren said the cost of CCTV had fallen in recent years. But he said when the police attended the previous month's meeting to give assurances on future policing the council had been "sold something of a pup."

He had understood the PCSO's "commuting time" would not come out of his time in Frodsham and there would be locations around Frodsham where he could base himself. But this now seemed not to be the case.

The PCSO had also had his car taken off him – something else the council had not been told about.

"We need some clarification of what we were told," he said.



Bingo sessions

FRODSHAM branch of the Royal British Legion is holding a monthly, fund-raising bingo evening at the Conservative Club, in Main Street, Frodsham.

Bingo starts at 8pm and finishes about 9.45pm on the first Wednesday of each month and there is also a raffle. All are welcome.

Allotment rentals to rise

THE cost of renting an allotment from Frodsham Town Council is to be increased to £35 a year from next April – inclusive of £5 collected on behalf of Frodsham Allotments Association.

Allotment holders at the Ashton Drive site – the only allotments with a water supply – will pay an additional amount for water.

Cllr Linda Brown, chairman of the community committee, said the council's allotments still represented good value for money as the national average was £60 and the cost at private allotments in Frodsham was £250.

After the carnival... it's the Mayor's Parade!

FRODSHAM'S Town Carnival is to be revived – as the Mayor's Parade.

A steering group, led by Cllr Mallie Poulton is to meet towards the end of September and the date for the event has been fixed for the weekend of July 11-12 next year to coincide with the Queen's Birthday celebrations.

The theme will be "Let's Party in Frodsham in Red, White and Blue."

Cllr Poulton told the monthly meeting of the Town Council there was considerable enthusiasm for reviving the Town Carnival and also the Frodsham Horse Show, which had caused massive excitement and already pulled in some sponsorship.

He stressed that the event did not want to take anything away from other events in Frodsham.

He hoped the school's would get engaged in the event

"I want to make the Mayor's role as first citizen even more important than it is to show young people the cultural and heritage side of it, bring back the pomp and circumstance of the role of Mayor and give Frodsham a happy weekend we can be really proud of."

Cllr Poulton said one suggestion was for a children's card competition – making a birthday card fit for the Queen. The winning card would be printed and sent to the Queen and displayed on the wall of the winning school.

The event would put the capital "F" back in Frodsham, he said.

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Sunday trading threat to town's traders

GOVERNMENT proposals to relax Sunday Trading hours could be "another nail in the coffin" of independent shops in Frodsham, a well-known local businesswoman has warned.

Gill Ballam, of Overton Village Stores, sounded the warning at a meeting of the Town Council.

She said the government's proposals could devolve decisions down to local councils but she was not sure if, in Frodsham's case, this would mean the Town Council or Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Whichever, she hoped the small businesses of Frodsham could count on their support in opposing the proposed changes which could have a disastrous effect on independent traders in the town.

The arrival of multiple chain stores with extended opening hours had already had a negative impact on her own business and many other independent businesses in the town.

Chairman Cllr Mark Warren stressed that the Town Council was not the responsible authority. It would be Cheshire West and Chester Council that made any decision.

However, the Town Council could support the town's traders through lobbying.

Cllr Tom Reynolds said independent traders were the life blood of the community and it was a shame the Town Council did not have a town centre manager to help support them.

"We have to start looking at small businesses in the same way as farmers are looked at these days."

"Small businesses are also the stewards of the community. They know a lot of people and are probably the first line of contact,

especially for the elderly and people who are ill."

It would be a tragedy if Frodsham lost Overton Village Stores and other similar shops.

"We cannot afford to lose small businesses like this because of the unique nature they bring to the community"

Cllr Warren agreed that Mrs Ballam's business was extremely valuable to the community. He said the council would bear her comments in mind.

"It is no small thing to lose a small business," he added.



Where have the summer holidays gone?

RUNCORN Shopping Centre has just completed a five week, six day Summer Camp that has seen community singers, quizzes, giveaways, Titan the Robot, Darth Vader, Afternoon Tea Parties Superhero & Princesses, plus Children's TV Presenters all coming together to "recapture the heart of the community".

It has proven to be this summer's

biggest free attraction in Runcorn, Widnes and Warrington.

More than 200 over 60s were welcomed to Afternoon Tea Dances as well as in excess of 300,000 people visiting the Summer Camp over the entire period.

Karl Clawley, Centre Manager, commented: "To see children getting up on our bandstand to entertain visitors to Summer Camp has been a great achievement seeing them grow in both confidence and talent."

"To have seen the smiles on the faces of our Over 60s community members enjoying music from the 1940s and getting involved dancing and remembering the good old days as well as drinking enough tea to fill a swimming pool!

"Runcorn Shopping Centre has been serving the local community for almost 45 years and has gone through some big changes. Our objective is to recapture the heart of the community and put people at the heart of our events. It has been a pleasure hosting this mammoth event and to be able to offer it for free is again a positive move forward in that engagement. We listened to what people wanted and delivered something for the Mums & Daughters, Dads & Lads as well as the Grandparents...our last day of Summer Camp saw children's Presenters, Sid & Andy join forces with our community acts and close it for this year...."

Two new businesses team up at Castle Park

TWO new Frodsham businesses, Little Cotton Frocks and Ana Clara Lingerie have joined together to share a workshop space at Castle Park House.

They found out about the premises through Cllr Lynne Riley whilst at "Big Bees", a monthly breakfast networking group run by Cllr Mallie Poulson at the Queens Head pub Frodsham.

Kathryn Shingler owns 'Little Cotton Frocks', handmade childrens dresses for 0-5 yrs, whose appeal lies in their simple design and nostalgic theme.

They are available to buy in Dandelion Gifts in Frodsham, JTO Vintage Tearooms Helsby, and Foxytrox in Hoole.

In addition to numerous artisan market stalls, she will be exhibiting the dresses in a fashion show and stall at 'The Ultimate Christmas Fair', a huge four day event at the new exhibition centre in Liverpool this November.

Ana Gasparini owns 'Ana Clara Lingerie', which specialises in bespoke lingerie for bridal wear, swimwear, maternity, loungewear etc, but also the very specialised post-surgery market.

She has a 'by appointment only' service so each customer is given individual attention and can choose from a huge range of beautiful fabrics and trimmings.



Kathryn (left) and Ana with Mayor Fran Sutton.



Further expansion for LivnStyle

JUST three years after opening their first store with the intention of supplying the best VALUE furniture available on the market, Livnstyle have opened a third store in Birkenhead.

Their concept involves dealing directly with the leading high street retailers with a view to clearing their overstocks and discontinued models and graded customer returns.

MD David Murray said: "As we sit here in our new store in Birkenhead offering the people of the Wirral the same outstanding value as we offer to our customers in Liverpool and Runcorn we can only surmise that the original concept was sound."

"Having been trading for three years now we have expanded our contact list and we continue to do so ensuring that our customers consistently get offered the best deals out there and we have never been asked to price match any of our competitors."

"We also interact with our followers on twitter and instagram and our friends on facebook by posting updates across our social media. This means that as and when new stock is available our followers and friends are the first to know!"

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Death of community champion Geoff Prince

THE death has occurred of Geoff Prince, founder of Frodsham's Will to Work Workshop and one of the town's best known voluntary workers.

Geoff, who set up the occupational therapy workshop for disabled people about 14 years ago, died in hospital after a short illness. He was 65.

He was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the New Year Honours list in January 2013 for his voluntary work for the community.

Geoff started Will to Work after he suffered encephalitis, an acute inflammation of the brain, which left him unable to continue his former trade as a builder.

After finding the occupational therapy sessions he attended at Liverpool's Walton Centre beneficial to his recovery, he decided to set up a charity to continue this type of support for when people leave hospital care.

He also underwent a kidney transplant after four years on dialysis.

The workshop - near Frodsham Leisure Centre - specialises in making and repairing items such as benches, garden and household furniture, dolls houses and bird tables.

But members have also refurbished bar stools and tables for local pubs. Other activities



Members of the Will to Work workshop with one of their rocking horses with Geoff Prince second from the right.

include pottery, wood turning and refurbishing old bicycles.

But they also produce replica rocking horses based on those made by the Collinson Rocking Horse Company, of Liverpool, who supplied rocking horses to Queen Victoria and the princesses Elizabeth and Margaret.

The workshop has about 40

members, men and women, and is run entirely by volunteers.

Brian Lloyd, a close friend of Geoff's and a former chairman of Frodsham Town Council, said: "Geoff was a wonderful man and will be a hard act to follow."

The funeral took place at St Laurence Church, Frodsham.

Helsby High celebrates outstanding exam results

STAFF and students at Helsby High School are celebrating another year of exceptional A-Level and GCSE results.

The A Level results show outstanding performances from students, the majority of who are all set to take up their place at their first choice university. Provisional analysis shows 51 per cent of all grades being at A* to B and 80 per cent of grades being at A* to C.

Overall 98 per cent of grades were at A* to E. Fifteen students achieve three or more A* and A grades.

Head teacher John Dowler praised students and staff for all their hard work and commitment,

He said: "The school is very proud of the continuing success of our sixth form students, which is not only a tribute to their talents and dedication, but also reflects the commitment of staff and the strong home school partnerships that we enjoy.

"We are delighted to note that many students have achieved outstanding individual results. We wish all our young people well in the future."

Provisional analysis of the GCSE results indicated that 79 per cent of all students have achieved at least 5 A*-C grades, with 99 per cent achieving at least 5 A*-G grades. In addition 66 per cent of students achieved 5 A*-C including Maths and English.

Mr Dowler praised students and recognised the contribution made by Helsby's staff and the students' families,

He said: "We are delighted that the hard work of our students has been reflected in the results that they deserve. There have been many outstanding performances. I would like to thank our staff for their commitment and dedication, and the students' families for their support and help. We would like to wish the class of 2015 well for the future."

Particular congratulations were sent to the 62 students who achieved at least five A* or A grades, and 27 students who achieved eight or more A* or A grades, in their examinations.



A-Level students celebrate.



GCSE students celebrate.

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