

Frodsham *Life*

Issue No. 127
October 2015

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A photograph of three young boys playing on a playground slide. One boy is at the top of the slide, another is in the middle, and the third is at the bottom, sliding down. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The slide is made of wood and metal, with a green archway at the top. The background shows a wooden fence and some trees.

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Page 8

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Editor's Comment



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A GOOD deal of space in this month's issue of Frodsham Life is devoted to shale gas extraction, fracking or seismic testing – and we are not surprised.

It seems that over the last few years, Frodsham, Helsby and surrounding areas have had more than their fair share of controversial developments.

Wind farms, incinerators – dress them up in fancy clothes and give them fancy names, that's what they are – and now seismic testing with the possibility of fracking to follow. All in an area regarded as having

great natural beauty and a walker's paradise.

We know there are arguments for and against all these developments. But so far, the arguments against seem to have fallen on deaf ears. We are getting the incinerators and wind farm whether we like it or not.

A decision still has to be made on fracking, but it seems even the seismic testing already going on is causing considerable concern.

In Helsby, houses have been shaken, residents have been alarmed by loud explosions underground – as far away as a quarter of a mile from the site where the seismic testing is taking place.

We have heard from local residents

that Tesla, the multi-national company involved in the work, has expressed surprise about the issues raised and say it shouldn't be happening.

They have promised to investigate – but at the time of writing do not appear to have done so. A telephone call from Frodsham Life to the company has not been answered – so the signs are not good. The views of the local community may again be ignored.

There is, however, one hope. We hear on the grapevine that those in the know doubt whether shale gas will be present in the Frodsham and Helsby areas in sufficient quantity for extracting it to be a viable operation.

Let us hope this is the case. There may be areas in Britain that are suitable for fracking but we don't believe this is one of them.

Annual open art exhibition

THE 30th annual open art exhibition at Frodsham's Castle Park Arts Centre will take place on November 13, when there will be an open evening from 7pm-9pm.

Artists from across the region are invited to enter paintings, textiles, photographs, ceramics and glass. There will be cash prizes for the judges' choice and the people's choice.

Last year, 348 pieces of art work were entered.

Entry forms can be picked up at the information desk or by emailing artscentreincastlepark@btinternet.com by October 23.



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Police chief hits back over Frodsham policing claims

CHESHIRE Police and Crime Commissioner John Dwyer has refuted claims made by councillors at Frodsham following the controversial changes made to policing arrangements for the town.

He says both he and the Chief Constable Simon Byrne are "fully committed" to neighbourhood policing in contrast to some police forces nationally who have been unable to balance the requirement to reduce policing budgets and maintain a visible local presence.

At a meeting of the Town Council last month, a number of members were fiercely critical of the changes in Frodsham and claimed the town's PCSO was now based in Helsby, that the PCSO had had his car taken away from him and that he was forced to travel to Blacon and back twice daily and did not arrive in Frodsham until 10.30am.

But Mr Dwyer says the claims were incorrect.

He said PCSO Neil Flanagan still worked from Frodsham police station during his shift and had a number of drop-in points across Frodsham in the course of his day. He did have a drop-in point at Helsby High School, alongside Helsby PCSO John Finchett, where they could work occasionally when they needed to. As many children from both Frodsham and Helsby

went to the school, this ensured both PCSOs got to know the young people from their areas.

PCSOs continued to have access to police vehicles as previously, although they were encouraged to use bikes or walk when possible, so they were visible to residents.

The time PCSOs were on patrol depended on their shift pattern and PCSO Flanagan would often be in Frodsham by 7.30-7.45am. If on a later shift, it might not be until after 10.30am or even early afternoon.

As part of the changes, all officers now met and were briefed from a main base – in this case at Blacon.

This had the benefit that all frontline officers heard the same briefing, shared intelligence and felt part of a bigger team.

"This has real advantages for the way we work and delivers better services to the people we serve," said Mr Dwyer.

He pointed out that PCSO Flanagan had told town councillors during the summer that the changes had caused "very little disruption to my daily duties."

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Boat party to raise funds for orphanage

ONE of the newest members of Frodsham Town Council is organising a boat party on the River Dee at Chester to raise money for an orphanage in Sri Lanka.

Clr Clare Collins-Doyle volunteered at the orphanage in 1997 and is now aiming to raise £2,000 for it.

The Lakes ward councillor said: "I held a similar party last year as part of a competition to prove I am Britain's 'Funnest' Travel Agent - I know there's no such superlative, but it was the competition name!

"Part of my prize following my pitch was to hold the party again and raise money for charity. You can see video highlights of last year's event here: <https://vimeo.com/123719452>"

Clare is selling tickets at £20 per person and all the money will go to the charity.

The price will include a return

coach from Frodsham, wine, entertainment and the opportunity to win some great prizes.

Anyone who can't make the boat trip but who would like to support a good cause is invited to make a donation.

Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.123contactform.com/form-1479281/Boat-Party-Charity-Form> or Clare can be emailed at clarecollins1978@hotmail.com



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Northern artists celebrate second exhibition

NORTHERN Artists recently celebrated the opening of their second exhibition - "Eclectic Mix II" - at Castle Park Arts Centre.

The exhibition involves a diverse selection of exciting artwork, featuring around 40 members of the group from the northern regions of England and Wales.

The exhibition runs throughout October, ending on November 5 and admission is free.



Some of the artwork from the 2014 Eclectic Mix exhibition.

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Anti-fracking demo after homes shaken by explosions

ANTI-fracking protesters staged a demonstration outside a meeting of Helsby Parish Council, amid increasing concerns over seismic tests being carried out in the area.

A number of residents of Helsby residents have complained of their homes being shaken by underground explosions and hearing loud booms since tests carried out by Tesla Exploration started in the area.

Adrienne Baines, who organised the demonstration, said: "The testing is going on about a quarter of-a-mile from my house, but I have heard loud bangs and booms and have felt the force of the explosions under my feet.

"I have been in touch with Tesla and they say I shouldn't be experiencing such things and have promised to send someone down with measuring equipment.

"Since then I have heard from

a number of other residents who have had similar experiences but not complained.

"I would urge people to complain - Tesla cannot do anything about it if they don't know it is happening."

She said residents were anxious to get more information about the possibility of fracking taking place in Helsby and Frodsham.

Up to 50 banner-carrying demonstrators were present outside the meeting at Helsby Hillside Primary School.

Some attended the meeting – but councillors said they were not the statutory consultees and would not be debating the issue. It was a matter for Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Two public meetings have been organised to enable members of the public to learn more about the issue.

On October 28 a meeting is

being held at The Eccies, Mountain View, Helsby while on November 4 there will be a meeting at Frodsham Community Centre.

Both meetings start at 7.30pm.

Shakespeare Cabaret on stage

A BITE-sized version of some of Shakespeare's famous and favourite scenes will be woven together with music into an explosive, hilarious production staged by Kingsley Players for four nights, Wednesday 21- Saturday 24 October.

Specially adapted for the Players, Bite-size Shakespeare – A Cabaret features the Bard's best-loved characters from *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

The production will be on stage at Kingsley Community Centre and feature a cast of more than 20 talented actors and musicians. Ed Green, an experienced director and actor with the Tin Shed Theatre Company and Physical Folk, is joining Kingsley Players for the first time and has been responsible for creating this modern, fast-paced comedic version of many of the Bard's 'best bits'.

Ed explained: "Kingsley Players wanted to do Shakespeare and to ensure that their first venture is a

success I chose scenes that matched the talents and personalities of the actors who came along to workshops. Many scenes are from the comedies. They will be staged in a way that both Shakespeare fans and newcomers to the Bard can enjoy."

Tickets cost £7/£8, with £5 concessions available on Wednesday and Thursday. They may be booked in advance through the website www.kingsleyplayers.co.uk or by ringing the box office on 07925 516760.



(left) Jacob Powell as Bottom (*Midsummer Night's Dream*), (right) Chris Mapp as Malvolio (*Twelfth Night*) and Andrea Jones as a witch (*Macbeth*).



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£100,000 Churchfields play area officially opened

MAYOR of Frodsham Fran Sutton officially opened the long-awaited Churchfields play area following an investment of almost £100,000 from the Town Council.

The equipment installed includes a timber bridge with ramps, swings, a mound tunnel and standing seesaw.

Cllr Sutton was joined by one of Frodsham's junior mayor, Jess Capel from St Luke's Primary School, fellow councillors and about 50 members of the public, and was delighted to see so many children enjoying the new play area.

She said: "This is a fantastic new play area for the children of Frodsham to have fun at with their friends and families.

"The equipment is designed to last

for more than 20 years, so children playing here now could one day bring their own children to play on the equipment.

"There has been so much planning by Frodsham Town Council with this play area, including consultation with residents, schools and other local community organisations, but now it's all about children having fun and enjoying the equipment."

The new play area got a swift welcome from local residents.

Sarah O'Brien, from Frodsham, said: "My two youngsters really enjoy

the new facilities. It's an excellent addition to the park and it's great to see so many young children having fun on the equipment."

Neil Goodwin, from Helsby, said: "It's great to see Frodsham Town Council providing these types of facilities for local children. I'm sure I'll be coming here regularly now my son knows it's open."

The upgrade was first planned three years ago, with work beginning in July this year and taking almost eight weeks to complete.

It is part of the Town Council's "play strategy 2012" which is designed to include a similar level of investment to upgrade the facilities

at the Townfield Lane play area and ensure children in Frodsham have up-to-date play equipment and areas to have fun.

The project was designed and managed by Groundwork Cheshire, with Horticon Ltd the principal contractor.

The Mayor added: "Churchfields is just the first of many new projects that Frodsham Town Council would like to bring to the people of the town in the next few years.

"I hope councillors can work together and with the people of Frodsham, to help provide new facilities like this play area, to this wonderful area of Cheshire."



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Wines with Asian Dishes

Wine and food can be tricky to match at the best of times, but when you add in the extra factors of heat and aromatics it can make things just that little bit trickier. However, it is not impossible and in this column we hope to help you become more confident in your food matching abilities!

Let's begin with some Indian dishes. Flavours abound in Indian cuisine - from mild and creamy Korma through to aromatic Jalfrezi and onto hot and spicy Madras. Fortunately there are wines to match! New World Sauvignon Blanc such as **Riverby Estate Sauvignon Blanc (New Zealand, £13.95)** has the acidity to cut through the creaminess of a Korma, but is not too aromatic in itself to overwhelm the spices in the dish. Australian Pinot Noir (for example, **Rob Dolan True Colours Pinot Noir, Australia, £14.95**) matches really well



with lamb Jalfrezi or Beef Masala. Again, it has the acidity to work with the natural oils in the dishes without overpowering the whole dish. Finally the heat of a dish such as Madras can be tempered with a chilled Provence Rose such as **Chase Provence Rose (France, £13.95)** or enhanced with a spicy New World Shiraz like **Vinaceous Snake Charmer Shiraz (Australia, £14.95)**.



Thai green curries are perfect matches for Argentinian Torrontes or Australian Rieslings - the lemongrass and coconut flavours need dry, aromatic whites with crisp acidity. Try with **Tapiz Torrontes (Argentina, £12.95)** or **Claymore Joshua Tree Riesling (Australia, £13.95)**. Thai red curries can be hotter and work well with an off-dry Riesling such as **Charles Smith Kung Fu Girl Riesling (USA, £13.95)**. Pad Thai dishes are better suited to Sauvignon Blancs such as **Casa Silva Cool Coast Sauvignon Blanc (Chile, £14.95)** or rich and ripe New World reds, for example



Stonehedge Old Vines Zinfandel (USA, £15.95). A bit of a dichotomy in style, but give it a try and you'll see!

Many Chinese dishes match well with wines such as Pinot Gris (**Riposte "The Stiletto" Pinot Gris, Australia, £15.95**) and Gewurztraminers (**Kuehn Gewurztraminer, Alsace, £12.95**), which go particularly well with dishes containing ginger and satay dishes. Chablis, such as **Le Domaine d'Henri Chablis (France, £21.95)** is also a wine which it well matched to Cantonese style dishes. Mandarin cuisine is better suited to Rieslings of all styles - dry to sweet. Try with **Leitz "Eins Zwei Dry" Riesling**



(**Germany, £12.95**) or **Dr Loosen Erdener Treppchen Riesling Kabinett (Germany, £15.95)** for something on the sweeter side.

Sushi dishes from Japan are traditionally served with Sake. And that's fine - let's not mess with thousands of years of history! However, crisp dry whites such as Pinot Grigio (**I Fiori Lamberti Pinot Grigio, Italy, £8.95**) will counteract the wasabi heat of some sushi, but, for me, the perfect all-round match for sushi is Australian Riesling (**Claymore Joshua Tree Riesling (Australia, £13.95)**).

We shouldn't forget the aromatic and sensual cuisine from Malaysia, the hot and spicy dishes often seen from Indonesia, or the sweetness, spice and heat encountered in Vietnamese dishes. All of these styles are wine-friendly - best to stick with white wines such as Sauvignon Blanc (**Greywacke Sauvignon Blanc, New Zealand, £16.95**), dry Rieslings (**Lamont Riesling, New Zealand, £18.95**) or Torrontes (**Tapiz Torrontes Argentina, £12.95**).

Remember! If you are not sure, your friendly local wine merchant or wine waiter will be on hand to help!

Jamie & Joe

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Once Upon A Halloween

24th - 31st October 2015



With Halloween coming we can assure you a real spooky time at the shopping centre this month....we have discovered and uncovered a "Halloween Graveyard" for the kids to explore and have pictures taken as well as enjoy some spooky craft making.....but be aware it will only appear between October 24th and 31st October then it will disappear!

If you're looking a "trick or treat" then The Box will be open and we can assure you will find some bespoke things that will both please and surprise, tease and tantalise you.

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More memories of Frodsham during the Great War

MEMBERS of Frodsham Town Council's World War 1 Working Group have completed two more of their projects to commemorate the centenary of the "Great War."

Firstly, "From Battlefield to Blighty" - the out-of-print book about Frodsham's Auxiliary Military Hospital by local historian Arthur Smith - has been reprinted by the Town Council and is now available to purchase from the council office.

The book gives a fascinating view of the town's history and its role during the war in words and

pictures. It costs £10.99 and will make a worthy addition to any book-collection.

Secondly, the War Memorial at Frodsham Methodist Church on Kingsley Road, removed for refurbishment, has been re-installed on its original plinth. Inscriptions and names, previously rendered unreadable by age and weathering, are now clearly and

easily readable.

Re-dedication of the Memorial is being planned and details of arrangements will be published soon.

Members are now preparing to take part in the "Harvest of Memories" event being organised by Frodsham Methodist Church on Saturday, September 26 and are looking forward to replacing the lost sundial at St Laurence Church in the near future.

Group member Pammi Taylor said: "I believe we are justifiably proud of our achievements to-date in fulfilling our brief from the Town Council. At our next meeting we'll be planning activities and events for 2016 and trust that the people of Frodsham will be as supportive of our efforts as they have been up to now.

"We have left a space for the 'undecipherable name' on the Memorial and are continuing our efforts to trace the correct name that we hope to get engraved in due course.

"Any help anyone can give in this respect will be very welcome."

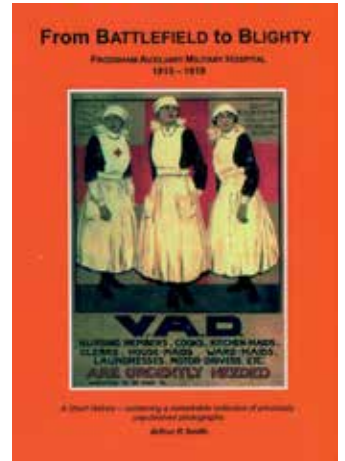
For information on the group's work and meetings, contact the Town Council Office on 01928 735150 or Pammi Taylor on 01928 731932.



Before



After



New road name stays in the family

AN unnamed lane that connects Manley Road to Dobers Lane in Frodsham has finally been given a name – Sutton's Lane.

It has been named after the Sutton family who have lived at Crowmere Cottage for nearly 100 years.

Cheshire West and Chester Council agreed to the name after receiving a request from a member of the family.

John Sutton moved into the cottage with his wife Elsie and three very young children, Alf, Ken and Ron in the 1920's, after serving in the Artillery Tank Core in Boulogne France in World War 1.

He worked for Frodsham Town Council as a road maintenance worker. In those days, all the lanes were just cinder tracks and in need of constant repair.

After John's death in the 1950s his middle son, Ken, bought the cottage from his mother who went to live on Fluin Lane.

Then in 1982 his son, Roger bought it from him, although Ken

still remains with the family and now Roger's children – the great grandchildren of John – have become the fourth generation of the family to have lived there.



The "new" Sutton's Lane (below) and Great Grandfather John Sutton.



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'Jekyll and Hyde' storm over fracking

TWO former members of Frodsham Town Council have clashed on the controversial issue of fracking.

Former Labour councillor and Deputy Mayor Kyle Rushton McGregor has accused former Mayor Andrew Dawson – who is still a Conservative member of Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) but not of the Town Council – of making contradictory comments about fracking.

Cllr Dawson has replied by accusing Mr McGregor of resorting to personal abuse and "selective and inaccurate reporting" instead of reasoned debate.

Mr McGregor noted that Cllr Dawson had recently said he would not support fracking unless it was shown to be safe and if the local community approved.

But, he claimed, this contradicted what he had said at a shale gas conference in 2013 when he had told fracking companies: "We want you, we want Frodsham to become Shale Gas Capital of the North West..."

"We will welcome you with open arms if you don't take us for mugs. Stop mugging us...you guys need people like me who are very much on your side."

Mr McGregor said: "When a councillor says different things to different groups, honesty has taken a step back."

"He is acting like a Jekyll and Hyde councillor – appeasing the

local community but appealing to the fracking community."

Cllr Dawson said Mr McGregor had chosen to ignore a pledge that he and Cllr Lynn Riley had made to support the community consensus view if they ever had to deal with an application for shale gas extraction, or fracking, locally.

He noted Mr McGregor had not attended any of the energy debates held in Frodsham over the last two years nor watched the representations he and Cllr Riley had made to CWaC in January this year, which anyone could watch on the council's website.

He also appeared to have forgotten that it was Gordon Brown's Labour government which had initiated shale gas exploration – in particular by their grant of exploration licences for the Frodsham and Helsby area.

Cllr Dawson said energy security was vital for the country and in Frodsham and Helsby many wage packets and pensions came from the petro-chemical industry. The local community had a stake in making sure those industries continued to thrive.

But this did not mean shale gas extraction or fracking was the answer.

"If fracking can't be done safely, or without harm to the environment or risk to health, then it must not be

done," he said.

"This is why Lynn and I are pledging to represent the consensus view of the community should we ever have to face an application for shale gas extraction."

Cllr Dawson said the area had already had the Ince Resource Recovery Park – with two large incinerators – a massive wind farm and a massive incinerator burning Greater Manchester's waste foisted on it. The local community had not wanted any of them.

"Something is very wrong with our system in my view if all these controversial developments can be done to us."

But he wanted the local community to be really engaged in any debate on the issue and fully understand all the pros and cons and all the community benefits that could accrue.

"I think local planning policies can be written so as to give communities the decisive say – and certainly that is what I will be seeking to bring about"

Cllr Dawson agreed he had addressed a shale gas conference in 2013.

But he said his message to the industry then was the same as now – to be open, honest and accountable to local communities and be good neighbours.

"Don't mug us and don't take us for fools."



Cllr Andrew Dawson



Cllr Kyle Rushton McGregor

FRODSHAM TOWN COUNCIL GIFT VOUCHER SCHEME

The application deadline for the £10 Frodsham Gift Voucher is Friday 6 November. You can use the application form below or forms are available at various locations in Frodsham and, of course, the Town Council Office in Castle Park between 9 and 5 every weekday.

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Telephone No: _____

I confirm I have read and agree to the rules, signed: _____

Voucher Scheme rules

- 1 - That at 31 January 2016 the applicant is 70 years of age or older and has only made this one application for a voucher.
- 2 - That the applicant is a resident of Frodsham and is shown as a resident of Frodsham on the current electoral roll.
- 3 - That Frodsham Town Council (FTC) will make checks to confirm the validity of certain applications and reserves the right to require proof of age and residency to support any application
- 4 - FTC reserves the right to refuse to issue a voucher to anyone for any reason where they believe that is necessary to preserve the integrity of the scheme.
- 5 - FTC's responsibility is to issue the voucher only - it is a matter for the local business, groups and societies whether they will accept them.
- 6 - Vouchers will be issued by 28 November 2015. All vouchers expire on 31 January 2016 whether or not they have been presented.
- 7 - The vouchers cannot be exchanged for money by any applicant.
- 8 - All businesses, groups and societies must present the vouchers for payment by FTC by 29 February 2016; payments by FTC will be made to those with valid claims on or before 31 March 2016.
- 9 - FTC reserves the right to limit the issue of vouchers so that its liability in terms of paying against valid vouchers does not exceed the budgeted figure of £8,000 - and in applying such a limit FTC may either reduce the value of the voucher or choose to issue the vouchers on a first come first served basis up to the budgeted figure.

Please return to: Frodsham Town Council, Castle Park, Frodsham WA6 6SB, any Councillor, selected shops or Frodsham Post Offices by Friday 6 November 2015 Tel: 01925 735150 Email: council@frodsham.gov.uk

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Cheers – despite being pipped at the post!

KINGSLEY Cricket Club missed out on promotion to division one of the TACS Partnership Cheshire League by just six points – but that didn't deter celebrations at the club's annual end-of-season two-day beer festival.

There were more than 20 hand-pulled ales on offer, food, live music and free camping for those that wanted to enjoy both days.

The family-friendly event raised money for the club's development, including its hugely successful junior cricket programme.

Kingsley finished third in division two, winning 12 of their 22 games but being pipped at the post in the final game.

The 2nd XI finished in a respectable mid-table position in their division, winning seven games.

The beer festival is the club's main fund-raising event of the year – and it was voted a huge success.



Pupils salute to the Queen

PUPILS and staff at Frodsham CE Primary School raised the flag to the sound of "God Save the Queen" in honour of Queen Elizabeth II becoming the longest serving British monarch.

They welcomed Geoff Abnett, of Frodsham Royal British Legion, who raised the flag with Alex Atkinson, representing the 4th Frodsham (Overton) Scout Group.

The children waved their Union Jacks and cheered in tribute to the Queen's remarkable achievement.



Zodiacs come back to their roots – with Scrooge

THE Zodiac Amateur Operatic Society is returning to the stage at Frodsham Community Centre next month after a two-year break.

They will be performing "The Amazing Mr Scrooge" a heart-warming family story based on Charles Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol" between November 10-14.

Told entirely in song and dance it tells the traditional tale of "A Christmas Carol," complete with Scrooge, Ghosts, Tiny Tim and dancing spirits. It was written by local Norley composer Arnold Ashbrook and his late father Peter and has received critical acclaim after previous sell-out performances.

The show's director, Frodsham resident Valarie Ball said: "We are excited to be returning to the Community Centre, which was home to the Zodiac for many years.

"The local community have always been very supportive of our society so we are delighted to be taking this fantastic production back to our roots."

The show will run for four night - there is no performance on

Wednesday, November 11 - but there is a 2pm Saturday matinee,

All tickets cost £8 and are available by visiting www.zaos.org.

or by calling the box office on 07928 807632. Group discounts are available for parties of 10 or more.



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