

# Frodsham *Life*

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# Editor's Comment



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**A WEEK is a long time in politics, they say. Well things may move a little slower in Frodsham, but a few months can certainly be a long time.**

It was only last year, that long-serving town councillor Frank Pennington was "banned" from membership of any of Frodsham Town Council's committees for comparing the council with Hitler.

But if his throw-away remark upset fellow councillors, it didn't worry voters in Waterside. He was returned to the council with 470 votes in

the May elections and is now re-established as a fully active member of the council.

If that were not enough, fellow councillors enthusiastically sang "Happy Birthday" on the occasion of his 81st birthday – and at the most recent council meeting it was agreed that he should be honoured with the "Freedom of Frodsham" in recognition of his 40 years' service to the community.

And that when, only about an hour earlier, he had been lambasting the council for over-spending and increasing the precept to a level which he feels many residents will find unaffordable.

Frank's response was typical. He thanked members – and then

told them they needed their heads knocking together.

He admitted to having had "ups and downs" and being banned from committees. But, he said, his heart was in Frodsham and he wanted the council, "which seems to be struggling a bit at the moment" to work well.

"I will stick it out" he said.

We are delighted. Frank Pennington may sometimes call a spade a shovel. But he is a walking encyclopaedia on Frodsham. His knowledge and experience is invaluable and the council would miss his counsel on many occasions.

**Deadline for the March issue of Frodsham Life is February 23**

## Helsby's Sport Relief Mile

HELSEBY is set to host its third Sports Relief Mile on Sunday, March 20.

Local heroes from Helsby and surrounding areas will be walking and running to raise life-changing money for Sport Relief.

The event will be hosted by Helsby Community Sports Club, on Chester Road and the route will be carefully planned by Helsby Running Club who, every January, manage the Four Villages Half Marathon.

It will include circuits of both the rugby and football pitches.

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# Council divided over £58.16 precept

**AFTER three years of zero increases in the local Council Tax, Frodsham Town Council has reluctantly approved a precept for the coming year of £58.16 – an increase of more than 50 per cent.**

It took two meetings of the full council, following on from a meeting of the policy and process committee which had originally recommended a figure of £40.18, and it triggered a row which spilled over into a third full council meeting.

The increase over last year's figure is £19.76 – and it would have been more if the council had not agreed to take £63,000 from reserves.

An extraordinary general meeting of the council – called after the budget-setting meeting failed to reach a decision – split 5-4 on the issue.

Afterwards, chairman Mike Pusey said: "In an ideal world we would never increase the precept to our residents, but after subsidising increases in recent years by using money from the council's cash reserves, it was felt an increase was now unavoidable.

"Part of the increase has been due to ensuring the council continues to comply with the minimum wage payment and new pension schemes.

"Councillors have worked tirelessly over the last few weeks to minimise any rise and it is hoped the increase for 2016 will help Frodsham Town Council keep any rise in future years to a minimum."

Cllr Frank Pennington – one of

four councillors who opposed the increase – was furious.

After the meeting he said: "I am very unhappy about this. I think it is unnecessary and will be unaffordable for many people living in Frodsham.

"There are many senior citizens who have to exist on £86-a-week, or even £79-a-week. They will be badly hit by this."

Cllr Pennington said he would be having a lot more to say about the increase – and at the next council meeting he did.

He told the council he had opposed what he thought was an increase of £17 only to find it was actually £19.

Where had the extra £2 come from, he wanted to know.

Cllr Tom Reynolds and Cllr Mallie Poulton, who had also opposed the increase, said they had also thought the increase was £17.

Cllr Pusey explained that the increase of £19.76 included £2 originally recommended by the policy and process committee to cover the cost of an increased minimum wage and new pension schemes.

Cllr Pennington said he was astounded.

"This has got to stop," he said. "In the last three months we have spent £250,000 and it can't go on.

"It is no wonder the people

out there don't like us. There will be a storm at the annual general meeting and we will be whacked. People feel they have had this inflicted upon them."

Cllr Pusey said the council's committees had done a good job in cutting back their original spending proposals by £50,000.

At an earlier meeting, on January 11, and immediately after being elected chairman, Cllr Pusey had warned that the council had only £127,340 in reserve and if this was used to keep the precept down, the council would be "skint".

He said: "We were a very rich council but if we don't put the

precept up we will be a very poor council."

The precept is used to provide services and facilities for Frodsham including the allotments, cemetery, play areas, community orchards, Hob Hey Wood, Christmas Lights, the Christmas Festival, New Year's Eve fireworks, grants to support to Frodsham Youth Association and other community groups, part-fund the PCSO, some footpaths and the Festival of Walks.

\*The main part of the Council Tax is fixed by Cheshire West and Chester Council and the Town Council has no say on this.



Cllr Pusey



Cllr Pennington

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# Frodsham to get 20mph speed limits

**COUNCIL chiefs have voted to introduced 20mph speed limits on residential roads in Frodsham.**

Cheshire West and Chester Council's Cabinet has voted to roll out the limits in residential areas across the borough - with particular focus around schools.

The aim is to reduce road collisions, encourage more children to walk to school and reduce pollution.

It will take four years to introduce the new limits across the whole borough and no indication has yet been given as to when work will start in the Frodsham area.

The widespread introduction will

concentrate on roads where mean speeds are currently less than 24 mph and around schools where the mean speed is currently less than 30 mph.

As part of the preparation for the roll out, speed limit assessments will be undertaken to gather information about the priorities for the programme.

Cllr Brian Clarke, lead member for economic development and infrastructure said one of the biggest aims was to encourage more children to walk to school as

well as reduce the number of road traffic collisions

He said: "There are significant benefits with the introduction of 20 mph speed limits and these will improve community cohesion and individual mental wellbeing with people spending more time in their street rather than trying to get away from the traffic that is actually there. People will feel safer to walk, to jog, to cycle."

The former guidance for 20 mph limits will now be streamlined and proposed 20 mph speed limits will be advertised through the normal route of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO).

Cllr Clarke said: "The council will take reasonable steps to ensure there is awareness in the local community of the proposals and we will consult with all interested parties - Police, local councillors, Town and Parish Councils and all parties affected by the speed limit change. That is to ensure there is a clear understanding of any proposals within their area."

Leaflets may also be distributed to residents to inform them of the proposed changes and their ability to comment on the proposals as part of a TRO.

Cllr Stuart Parker said he fully appreciated the desire to introduce 20 mph speed limits but questioned how they could be enforced.

He said: "Although these 20 mph speed limits would be in the main self - policing due to the congestion of roadside traffic within the urban areas, the police and community officers do not have the resources to physically monitor the speed of vehicles in these areas."

Cabinet agreed to fund the 20mph schemes with a budget of £200,000 per year for four years. It also agreed to endorse the preparation and development of a report detailing which areas would benefit the most from the revised speed limit, how the schemes would be prioritised and a work programme formulated for consultation.



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## Deputy Mayor is new council chairman

COUNCILLOR Mike Pusey, the current Deputy Mayor, is the new chairman of Frodsham Town Council. He will serve until May, when he is due to become Mayor.

After being elected, Cllr Pusey said he had never thought it a good idea to split the role of Mayor and Chairman - a decision taken three years ago - and asked for a discussion at a future meeting with a view of combining the two roles again.

"I don't think it is healthy for the same person to be chairman year after year," he said.

Cllr Pusey, who is also a member of Sutton Weaver Parish Council, joined the Town Council in 2014.

But he had served on the council previously and is a former Mayor.

He succeeds Mark Warren, who resigned from the council in November.



## Councillor to stay "out in the cold"

MEMBERS of Frodsham Town Council have lifted the ban on controversial councillor Tom Reynolds being a member of any council committees or working groups.

But Cllr Reynolds - who was suspended from committees following allegations of bullying - is to stay "out in the cold" by his own decision.

He told the council at its meeting on January 25 that he felt able to represent his constituents by attending meetings of the full council only.

It was the second time the Castle Park ward councillor had stated he preferred not to serve on committees.

He pre-empted any discussion on the ban at a meeting on January 11 by voluntarily resigning from all committees.

His resignation was accepted by then newly-elected chairman Cllr Mike Pusey.

But it was Cllr Pusey who, at the January 25 meeting, urged members to consider lifting the ban.

He was not happy that an elected member should be suspended from committees indefinitely - and he had heard from members of the public who felt the same.

But Cllr Reynolds insisted he was able to represent constituents adequately without being on committees and was happy to do so "from the wings."

He did not know if members would regard it as "bullying" or simply determination, but he had made eight requests to see a file on the proposed sale of the Park Lane play area but was continually told by the former chairman and clerk that he could not do so. On the eighth occasion he was allowed to see the file. He found this astounding.

Cllr Mallie Poulson said it was time for the council to draw a line under the matter, although he was sure it would not be forgotten.

# Card comes home after 100 years



**A CHRISTMAS card posted in Frodsham about 100 years ago has "come back home" to the address it was sent from.**

Shortly before Christmas, Rosanne Greaves, of Brackendene, Manley Road, Frodsham received a package addressed to "the occupier".

It was clearly old and had been sent from a woman in Exeter who had found it in a second-hand book she had bought.

The original senders were a Mr and Mrs E Rhodes – and Mrs Greaves knew that an Edward and Jane Rhodes had lived at Brackendene between 1911 and 1923.

Mrs Greaves has lived at the house for almost 30 years and knows that the house was built in 1873.

"After possibly almost a hundred years it is fascinating that this card has found its way back to Brackendene" she said.

## Tribute to those who fell in the Battle of the Somme

FRODSHAM Town Council's World War 1 Commemoration working group is preparing to pay tribute to the 26 men of Frodsham who lost their lives in one of the biggest battles of the Great War.

To mark the centenary of the Battle of the Somme (July 1 - November 18), the group is planning to create a Cascade of Poppies in partnership with Princeway Medical Practice and local primary schools.

Schools are enthusiastic about the project and the pupils will be making the poppies that will be displayed in the reception area of Frodsham Health Centre.

Group member Pammi Taylor said: "People visiting Overton Hill Memorial Field will shortly see a new WW1 commemorative seat placed west of the Memorial, overlooking the river.

"We thank the Council's Community Committee for its support of this project that the group undertook to mark the Centenary of WW1 with a permanent feature.

Mrs Taylor said poppies under the beech tree in Castle Park were looking tired and it was believed the shade from the tree was preventing the poppies from flourishing.

"The group is grateful to Cheshire West and Chester Council for their offer of an alternative site in Top Field, Castle Park for planting poppies and other wildflowers. Fresh planting will take place later this year."



forthcoming events...





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# Could Frodsham station be 'moved' out of town?

**COULD Frodsham's railway station be "moved" to solve the problems caused by rail travellers who leave their cars in the town centre all day long?**

The idea came from chairman Mike Pusey when Frodsham Town Council was discussing ways to

tackle the town's parking problems. Cllr Pusey said there were many examples of stations closing and



being replaced by a new one further down the line.

A new station, perhaps near to Castle Park, would be on Green Belt land, but if this problem could be overcome it could be a cheaper solution than building a multi-storey car park on the existing station car park.

Cllr Alan Oulton said it was a really radical idea – but a good example of "out of the box" thinking. He warned that Frodsham could face a much bigger parking problem caused by rail travellers in five or 10 years' time when the Halton Curve line was re-opened.

He wondered whether a park and ride scheme could be introduced.

Cllr Fran Sutton said people came

from all over the place to Frodsham, leaving their cars parked free while they went elsewhere shopping.

"These people do nothing for Frodsham" she said.

The council was told the cost of carrying out a parking survey in Frodsham could be in the region of £2,000. But Cllr Mallie Poulton was against paying for a survey. "We all know the problems," he said.

What was needed as a round-table meeting with all stakeholders – and the council needed to move quickly or they could have a parking strategy imposed on them by Cheshire West and Chester.

It was agreed to organise an open meeting, inviting all interested parties, as soon as possible.

## £800,000 to spare – but footpath would cost too much!

HIGHWAYS chiefs say putting a footpath in Manley Road, Frodsham would be "prohibitively expensive" – but Cheshire West and Chester Council can find £800,000 to introduce 20mph speed limits across the borough.

The situation has angered Frodsham councillor Andrew Dawson who last year supported a campaign by mother-of-four Alison Briscoe to get action to solve serious road safety problems in Manley Road.

He said: "Whilst I'm delighted that money has been found to make highway improvements I believe we

have other more pressing needs at the moment - such as pedestrian safety on the 'S bend' on Manley Road and vehicle pollution problems on the A56.

"I would like to see the council confirm that it will spend money on tackling these issues ahead of a 'blanket' approach to 20mph limits in Frodsham. If there is money to do everything - fine... but I fear we will be told, as I was by the highways department only a couple of weeks or so ago - that it is too expensive to put in a pavement on Manley Road."

Cllr Dawson added that he and Cllr Lyn Riley had looked into introducing

20mph limits in Frodsham some years ago – and found there was little appetite for the idea.

Mrs Briscoe has the support of residents of Hazlehurst Road and Newlands Close in her campaign to improve road safety in Manley Road – which is the only route for parents to take children to school but where there is no footpath.

Frodsham Town Council has also raised the issue with CW&C – only to be told provision of a footpath would be too costly.

They have told CW&C this is unacceptable and doesn't meet their obligations under the Highways Act.



Mrs Briscoe and neighbours negotiating the problem stretch of Manley Road.



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## 'Oliver!' is sell out success!

Lionel Bart's hit musical **Oliver!** was a sell-out for Kingsley Players when they staged it at Kingsley Community Centre at the end of January.

The run of five performances of the much-loved show from

Wednesday 27th – Saturday 30th January, 2016 were completely booked up more than a week in advance.

The packed audiences enjoyed humming along to old favourites like 'Food Glorious Food' and 'Consider Yourself', not to mention

dancing on the tables during 'Oom Pah Pah'.

A talented cast of 50 adults and children told Charles Dickens' popular tale of the little orphan Oliver (Matthew Betteridge) who runs away from Mr Bumble (Colin Smith) and the workhouse to start a new life picking pockets for the kindly old rascal Fagin (Neil Silcock).

Despite the evil intervention of baddy Bill Sykes (Phil Murray), he wins over the affections of the Artful Dodger (Catrin Jones), Nancy (Lorna McAvoy) and Bet (Shara Blanchard) who help him to find a new life with Mr Brownlow (Ian Baines).

Director Lynn Pegler said: "The film won six Academy Awards, including Best Score, and it's easy to see why Oliver remains one of the most popular of the shows in musical theatre.

"It was fantastic for Kingsley

Players to stage a sell-out production and I'm sorry some people who wanted tickets were disappointed. All the cast thoroughly enjoyed singing the wonderful songs and taking the audience on a journey into Victorian London each night.

"We are blessed to be supported by a huge number of talented people who produce wonderful music, costumes, scenery and props to support the fabulous cast on stage. It was a real community production and a great start to Kingsley Players' 40th anniversary season."

Coming up later this year will be performances of Alan Bennett's Talking Heads, 18th – 21st May, and Some of My Best Friends are Women, a great new play which will be on stage in October.

For more information about auditions and tickets, please check out the Kingsley Players website on [www.kingsleyplayers.co.uk](http://www.kingsleyplayers.co.uk).

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## Frodsham Fracking meeting

WEAVER VALE MP Graham Evans recently hosted the second of his two Fracking public information evenings.

The meeting was held at Helsby High School once again, and was open to all residents of Frodsham and immediately surrounding areas, to come and put their questions to a balanced panel of experts from the gas companies involved, the public regulatory bodies who will monitor any gas extraction activities and leading academic and professional commentators on the subject of shale gas and local communities.

## Music with a Latin American theme

TWENTIETH Century music of Latin American origination or connections was the theme of group member Rob Davies at the monthly meeting of Frodsham Recorded Music Group.

The opening item, El Salon Mexico, albeit by North American Aaron Copeland, nevertheless strongly indicated the brilliant and colourful nature of the evening's music.

Two works by Carlos Chavez followed, featuring the conducting of Enrique Batiz and then a sequence of works including well-known ones by Vila-Lobos and Ginastera and a surprising Stravinsky "tango" for piano.

Michael Jackson thanked Rob for a most enlightening evening covering a less-familiar genre of classical works.



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# Impressive line up for Weaver Words

By Lynn Pegler

**Poet Roger McGough and TV historian Dan Cruickshank head up an impressive programme of talks, events, workshops and competitions for Frodsham's third Weaver Words Literature Festival (Wednesday 6th April – Sunday 10th April).**

Actor Gerald Dickens will be performing a double bill of Victorian stories written by his famous great grandfather Charles Dickens and former Canal Poet Laureate Jo Bell will be reading her waterway-inspired poetry on a special cruise along the River Weaver.

The 'good life', the festival theme of happiness and well-being, have inspired a number of events including creative workshops on cartoons, comedy writing, Words for Well-being and even a creative writing workshop incorporating a nature ramble led by Frodsham writer Katharine Norbury.

Popular Word Weavers poet Andrew Rudd and violinist Daniel Axworthy will be joined by award-winning poet Gill McEvoy for another inspirational opening night of music and poetry.

Supported by the Arts Council, Peel Group and FDR Law, the festival will again feature two writing competitions. £500 prize money is on offer for the writers of the best adult flash fiction story (under 300 words) and for local children, patron Tim Firth will again be judging the Great Weaver Words Story Prize.

Prize winners will be announced at a special Gala Celebration Evening on Sunday 10th April, along with a rousing performance from three piece band Jaywalkers, comedy actor John Gorman and the launch of a new book of poetry and monologues inspired by Manchester Docks, Salford Quays

Unlocked, performed by local writer Lynn Pegler.

Weaver Words chair, Prof Sue Zlosnik said: "We are proud to have assembled a tremendous line-up for Frodsham's third literature festival. We are expecting Roger McGough, Dan Cruickshank and Gerald Dickens will be very popular as well as some of the more unusual events like sailing along the river being entertained by a Canal Poet Laureate.

"We are very keen to engage with younger readers too. There is a special pre-school story and activity session for very young children and a cartoon workshop for older children to set their creative juices flowing during the Easter holidays.

"We are grateful to all our sponsors for their kind support. We are still looking for more volunteers to join us so if you could spare a few hours to help out during the festival, do get in touch." Email: pm@weaverwords.org.uk.

A free 28 page Weaver Words brochure is available to collect from Frodsham Community Centre, Dandelion Gifts, Castle Park and other publicity points around the town. Booking opens on Monday 8th February.

For more details see the festival website [www.weaverwords.org.uk](http://www.weaverwords.org.uk). Tickets can be purchased online, through the box office 0845 557 7469 and in person at Frodsham Community Centre or Dandelion Gifts.



Roger McGough



Dan Cruickshank



Katharine Norbury

## Fundraising group seeks volunteers

THE Marie Curie fundraising group in Frodsham and Helsby is looking for volunteers to join them.

Volunteers with a few hours to spare each week are needed to help with local fundraising in various ways.

Holly Fraser, Marie Curie's community fundraiser for Cheshire said: "We are looking for individuals who are organised, with great communication skills, to join our fantastic fundraising group covering the Frodsham and Helsby area.

"All money raised by the group is to provide high quality nursing care to terminally ill patients, totally free, in the local area".

The group is also looking for two key members – a chairman and treasurer.

Anyone interested should contact Holly on 0161 255 2800 or email [Holly.Fraser@mariecurie.org.uk](mailto:Holly.Fraser@mariecurie.org.uk)

Marie Curie is one of the UK's largest charities. Employing more than 2,700 nurses, doctors and other healthcare professionals, it provides care to more than 35,000 terminally ill patients in the community and in its nine hospices last year and is the largest provider of hospice beds outside the NHS.



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# Public warned after spate of burglaries

**MEMBERS of the public in Frodsham have been warned to secure sheds, garages and outbuildings following an outbreak of burglaries.**

PCSO Neil Flanagan said there had been 16 burglaries involving sheds and garages in a month, mainly involving the theft of high value bikes and power tools.

Most were on the Lakes estate and in the Hillside area. Police were investigating and were examining CCTV images.

As a result, the police had stepped up their presence in the area with both uniformed and plain clothes officers.

PCSO Flanagan urged residents to improve security.

He said there had been a similar increase in shed and garage burglaries in Helsby and Kingsley.

## Choral concert

FRODSHAM and District Choral Society are to perform Faure's Requiem and Dvorak's Te Deum, with guest soloists Helen Massey and Terence Ayebare on Saturday, March 19.

The performance will be at 7.30pm at St Laurence's Church, Frodsham.

The choir will be conducted by Howard Kane and accompanied by Robert Wood.

Tickets are available from Dandelion, Church Street or from June Ross (01928 890736) or Morag Bragger (07845 730061).

## Talk by the Allotment Doctor

TERRY Walton, the Allotment Doctor and Radio 2 "Allotmenteer" on the Jeremy Vine show is to give a talk at Kingsley Gardening Club on April 11th.

He will be talking about organic gardening, life on his hillside allotment and the challenges that presents, as well as taking and answering questions.

The meeting will be at Kingsley Community Centre and will start at 8pm.



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## New councillor takes her place

JUDITH Critchley has taken her place as a member of Frodsham Town Council following an uncontested election.

She was the only person nominated for the two vacant seats in Lakes Ward following the resignations of former council chairman Mark Warren and former councillor Jason Fraser.

Mr Warren resigned after four and-a-half years on the council alleging a "systemic culture of bullying." Mr Fraser resigned after eight months on the council citing an increased workload which meant he no longer had sufficient time to dedicate to the role of a councillor.

The council now has to decide whether to co-opt someone to fill the remaining Lakes Ward seat and also the Waterside Ward seat of former councillor David Clarke, who has resigned on health grounds.

Any request for an election for the Waterside ward seat must be made to the Returning Officer at Cheshire West and Chester Council by February 10

# Freeman of Cheshire West honour for Kathy

**A HELSBY woman has been made a Freeman of Cheshire West and Chester at a ceremony at Chester Town Hall.**

Kathy Benn – who was awarded the MBE for public and political services in 1987 – was nominated for the new honour by Cllr Lyn Riley for her services to the community in Cheshire.

She has been a Trustee of Cheshire Community Action since 2001 and chairman since 2009. She is also chairman of the Community Pride Competition which celebrates community spirit across the county.

Kathy served as a parish councillor and as a borough councillor in Warrington for many years – once earning the nickname "a political dynamo."

For many years she was House of Commons Secretary for the Warrington South Member of Parliament, and was Agent for Mark Carlisle for 23 years in the Runcorn Constituency.

She has also been Clerk to

Alvanley and Manley Parish Councils.

Away from politics, Kathy worked for the Women's Royal Voluntary Service Meals on Wheels and Library on Wheels and founded a Coffee Morning for the elderly in

Grappenhall where she formerly lived, helping the housebound enjoy the company of other people.

She has worked in the voluntary sector for five decades.

Kathy is married to Jim, with four grown-up children and five grandchildren and has lived in Helsby for 29 years.



Advertiser's announcement

## The Box - Local shopping with a unique twist

If you're looking for a different kind of shopping experience and are hoping to discover some unique and beautiful items then head to The Box, you won't be disappointed.

The team behind Runcorn Shopping Centre wanted to create a place where you can buy handcrafted, quality items from local skilled craftspeople – and so set aside a section of the shopping centre, thus The Box was born.

The Box is an area that offers something a little bit different to the regular chains that you see in all the other shopping centres. Here you can discover a variety of unique shops and stalls that capture the heart of the community, and give a nod to the traditional style of shopping that so many have left behind.

The Box is a special place, that allows the small businesses within the local community to thrive, and have given people the chance to start their own business and become a staple part of the town.

The Box offers a variety of unique shops and stalls that cater to lots of tastes and styles.

If you would like to find a gift for a loved one then you will be sure to find the perfect item there, with lots of personalised items available.

### WHAT'S ON OFFER?

You'll be spoilt for choice at The Box, with items and products ranging from jewellery to baby clothes. There's so much on offer, you're bound to find what you're looking



for.

If you're looking to put your feet up and enjoy an evening of relaxation and luxury after your shopping trip then take a look inside the Sanctuary. Discover deliciously smelling soaps, bath bombs and delightful bathroom accessories that will take your pamper evening to another level.

Expecting a new addition to the family this year? Then take a visit to Carol's bespoke Cot Bedding, where you will find some made-to-order Moses baskets, cot tidies, gorgeous pram sets and nappy stackers – perfect for the little bundle of joy that will be joining you soon!

There are also stunning handmade dresses for the little ones and christening dresses.

Heading across to Handmade With Love offering a variety of haberdashery with intricate buttons and stitched goods that will make the perfect gift for someone special.

All of the items that are sold here are bespoke, so you know that your gift will be a total one-off.

If you are crafty yourself then Handmade Creations will really suit your needs. This shop sells a variety of craft items such as fabrics, wools and buttons of all sizes. And, the friendly and experienced staff are on hand to answer any craft-related questions you may have.

You can get the kids' school uniforms sorted and much more at Angels Boutique. There are also some unique and stylish ladies fashions for sale here – if you're looking for something that is a little bit special and sure to turn heads.

Over at Serendipity there are numerous handcrafted and bespoke items, including jewellery and scarfs.

To complete your new outfit check out Charmed. Charmed is a jewellery stall that offers a great selection of necklaces, bracelets, bangles, and earrings at fantastic prices.

For any clothes alterations you

may need go to Daylilly Alternations, who are open Monday, Tuesday and Saturday and perform vital amends or can create made to order dresses.

Looking for a quirky gift? Then visit Stokeys, you will be able to buy some alternative printed T-shirts – you can even have a personalised t-shirt made. You can also buy ornamental pipes and cigarette papers.

### TRY SOMETHING NEW

As well as a fantastic array of shops and stalls you can also enjoy something a bit different on your visit to The Box.

Barbara, who runs The Angel Gateway, can give angel card readings and advise you on a number of topics, including family, career and relationships.

Alternatively, Chillax with Leslie where you can indulge and have a number of treatments, including reflexology, aromatherapy and Hopi ear candles.

### FEELING PECKISH?

And, don't worry if you get hungry, Tropicana Café will have you feeling refuelled in no time. With a delicious range of lunch foods to choose from including hearty soups, freshly made sandwiches and Scouse with a bread roll for just £3.50.

Or satisfy your sweet tooth at Beccy's Cakes and Bakes, which sells a variety of different cakes, fudges of all flavours and flapjacks.

So, if you're looking for a vibrant and fun shopping experience without the huge price tag, then The Box is the place to be.

The Box is open Monday to Saturday 9.30am until 5.30pm and Sunday 10am to 4pm. Visit Runcorn Shopping Centre, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2EU. For more information call 01928 716363 or visit [www.runcornshopping.co.uk](http://www.runcornshopping.co.uk)



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# £50,000 grant for village playing fields

## KINGSLEY Playing Field Enhancements have secured £50,000 funding towards improvements to playing fields in the village.

The money – awarded by WREN's FCC Community Action Fund – will provide a new pathway, access improvements and the provision of an outdoor gym.

Similar grants were made to three other communities across Cheshire West and Chester.

The grants will assist in helping to support and deliver community projects, making a huge difference to neighbourhoods.

A not-for-profit organisation, WREN awards grants to community, environmental and heritage projects across the UK from funds donated by FCC Environment to the Landfill Communities Fund.

Cllr Louise Gittins, Cheshire West and Chester Council's lead member for Culture, Leisure and Wellbeing, said: "It is fantastic that WREN has awarded four of our communities grant funding to assist in delivering local projects. I am really looking forward to see how these projects are taking shape over the next few months."

Richard Smith, senior grant manager for WREN said: "WREN is always happy to consider grant applications for projects that benefit local communities and these are great examples of projects that

can be undertaken."

WREN offer funding opportunities to communities to apply for both FCC Community Action Funds and FCC Biodiversity Action Fund, more information about this can be found by visiting: [www.wren.org.uk/apply](http://www.wren.org.uk/apply)



Members of Kingsley Parish Council, Poulton and Pulford Parish Council, Tarvin Community Centre Committee and Chester Quakers are joined by Cllr Mark Williams, Cllr Louise Gittins, Richard Smith of WREN, Cllr John Leather and Cllr Ralph Oultram

## Singathon will brighten a 'miserable month'

MORE than 20 choirs, bands and instrumentalists will take part in the Frodsham Singathon on Saturday, February 27.

The event at Frodsham Community Centre will be just the thing to brighten the "miserable month" of February, according to organiser Jean Williams.

The 12-hour musical celebration will have something for everyone, aged five to 105, whatever their taste music.

There will be "Open Mic" times and a photographic exhibition and competition and the café and bars will be open.

The event gets under way at

10am and will continue until 10pm. Admission will be just £1 – and once you've been in you can return for free.

Details of the performers and how to sign up for the Open Mic or enter the photographic competition are on the website [www.frodshamsingathon.co.uk](http://www.frodshamsingathon.co.uk)

## Reader's Letters

### Windfarm

Ian Fletcher, Plovers Lane, Helsby.

I WOULD like to take exception to the article "Windfarm liaison panel an affront to democracy" (Frodsham Life, January). I think the councillors are being disingenuous in their anger at the composition of the panel which will oversee the Community Benefit Fund (CBF). While they express outrage at the fact that other communities other than Frodsham are represented the argument they give hardly bears out the facts.

They argue that the windfarm is totally in Frodsham. While this may be technically correct, the practical reality is somewhat different. The bulk of the turbines (13 out of 19), are closer to Helsby, Ince and Elton, than to Frodsham. I see no reason why all the communities affected should not have the same representation. The article seems to be a pathetic attempt by these two councillors to influence the way the CBF is managed. Democracy means that all have their say, not just those with the loudest voices.

I hope that the people of Frodsham have the sense to see through this blatant attempt to divide and rule by those who think they know better, and who seem not to want the CBF to work for the good of all the affected communities.

### Mayoral robes

Susan Ford, Frodsham.

On reading Frodsham Life Issue 130, I was appalled at the pomposity of Cllr Mallie Poulton regards the purchases of Mayoral robes.

The fact there are such robes to be had for free from the former Vale Royal Borough beggars belief that he suggests new robes should be bought at a cost of up to £15,000.

Her may not be aware that many people in Frodsham get by on the minimum wage and also rely on the food bank run from the church hall that aside from pensioners who receive the basic pension to pay for food and household bills.

I am sure the hard working people of Frodsham can think of many more needy projects to spend public money on than these robes.

**Editor's note:** In fairness to Cllr Poulton, he did not suggest purchasing robes for up to £15,000 but only that robes were available that could cost from £1,500 to £15,000.

Please send Reader's Letters to:  
Frodsham Life, New Media Centre, Old Road, Warrington WA4 1AT  
or email: [info@frodshamlife.co.uk](mailto:info@frodshamlife.co.uk)

# Lasting Powers of Attorney - Not just about the money...

By Donna Eland, Wills and Probate Solicitor and Director from Rowlinsons Solicitors

There has been a great deal of press coverage lately about the benefits of having a Lasting Power of Attorney ('LPA'), and many people are now aware of these as a way of enabling your family to help you to manage your money and pay your bills for you if you ever lose mental capacity in the future.

But did you know that there is a second type of Lasting Power of Attorney which could be equally important?

This is known as a 'Health and Welfare' Lasting Power of Attorney and setting up such a document allows you to appoint one or more people to make health and welfare decisions for you if you become unable to make your own decisions in the future.

The scope of this LPA is very broad – decisions can range from minor healthcare decisions such as visiting the dentist, through to decisions about whether you should

receive life sustaining treatment. It also covers matters such as where you should live, including whether it is in your best interests to move to a care home.

## Do I need a Health and Welfare LPA?

Without a Health and Welfare LPA in place, these decisions would get made anyway. But not necessarily by the person you would want to make them. Decisions over your daily care, and where you should live, could be made by Social Services if your family do not have the authority

granted by an LPA to make them for you. Medical decisions may be made by medical professionals, who may not know your personal views on care. Is that what you would want?

If there are any members of your family whom you would not want to be involved in such decisions then a Health and Welfare LPA is equally important – in making clear who does have this authority to make decisions for you.

At Rowlinsons we are keen to help you to ensure that all future eventualities are covered. That's why for a limited time only if you instruct us before the end of February 2016 to prepare your Will you will receive a 10% discount off your Will and a further 10% off a Lasting Power of Attorney. Simply quote 'FL01' to redeem.

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Donna Eland

## Do you know the answers to these questions?

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The shopping centre will be responsible for all the general marketing of the promotion of The Box.

As the retailer your part of the bargain is to look after your designated area including merchandising, stock inventory management and be able to provide all relevant health & safety documents to trade.

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To register your interest or for further information in opening a retail concession within The Box please Contact Management Office on

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