

Frodsham *Life*

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April 2016

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Jewel in the crown

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Editor's Comment



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IT'S often described as the jewel in Frodsham's crown – and it's a description we will not argue with – and it's been in the news a lot recently. So it is appropriate to have Castle Park House on our front cover this month.

Why is it in the news? Well, Frodsham Town Council, who moved into the building last year without, apparently, realising they would have to pay rates as well as rent, are deliberating on whether they can afford to stay there. In the words of their former chairman they are now "skint" so are currently seeking to negotiate a better deal with their landlords, Cheshire West and Chester Council (CW&C).

Separately they are interested in getting more involved with the Castle Park Trust Executive, which

effectively looks after Castle Park House on behalf of CW&C, which holds the park and house in trust on behalf of the local community.

Most people seem agreed that there should be more local control of Castle Park and most members of the Town Council seem to want to stay in Castle Park House. It is just a question of whether they can afford to. We can only hope that the ongoing discussions will lead to agreements that will enable both of these aspirations to come to pass.

But the Town Council needs to take great care. Although it is true that Castle Park has the potential to provide financial rewards, it could also bring a financial burden.

According to Cllr Andrew Dawson, chairman of the Castle Park Trust Executive, Castle Park's budget equals that of the Town Council.

He also asserts that when CW&C were responsible for letting the main conference room in Castle Park House they could achieve an annual income of £10,000 but that since the Town Council have taken over it has slumped to around £2,400. Hardly a recommendation for the council's stewardship.

However, as we said in this column last month, the Town Council may now be emerging from what has been a difficult period in its history. Most of its current membership seem to be aware of the need for caution and if there is one thing we are certain of it is that they all have the best interests of Frodsham at heart.



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Council to seek new deal over Castle Park House

FRODSHAM Town Council is to try and re-negotiate the terms under which it rents the ground floor of Castle Park House for offices.

A two-hour extraordinary general meeting of the council decided unanimously that it would like to remain in the prestigious former stately home in Castle Park.

But they are to hold talks with Cheshire West and Chester Council (CW&C) and the Castle Park Trust in a bid to get a better deal.

It was only last year the council made the decision to move into Castle Park House after spending years in cramped conditions in the adjoining Footman's Cottage.

But this meant an increase in rent from £7,500 to £30,000-a-year and also a staffing increase.

Currently the council have use of the whole of the ground floor at Castle Park House – which gives them the opportunity for an income from sub-letting. But so far, this income has proved disappointing.

Members had a number of options to consider – including reducing the amount of space they rent at Castle Park House or moving out of the building altogether.

One possibility was moving to Frodsham Community Centre – another moving into a vacant shop in Main Street.

Some members have visited the shop to assess its suitability.

But veteran councillor Frank Pennington said: "I would be

completely opposed to us moving into a shop.

"What sort of an impression would it give if the Mayor, on an official engagement, had to set out

from a shop?"

Cllr Pennington has previously warned the council to "tread very carefully" in any negotiations over continuing use of Castle Park House. He said he believed CW&C might be trying to unload responsibility for the whole of Castle Park onto the Town Council.

But after the meeting he said: "I am in favour of staying at Castle Park House – provided we can get the right terms."

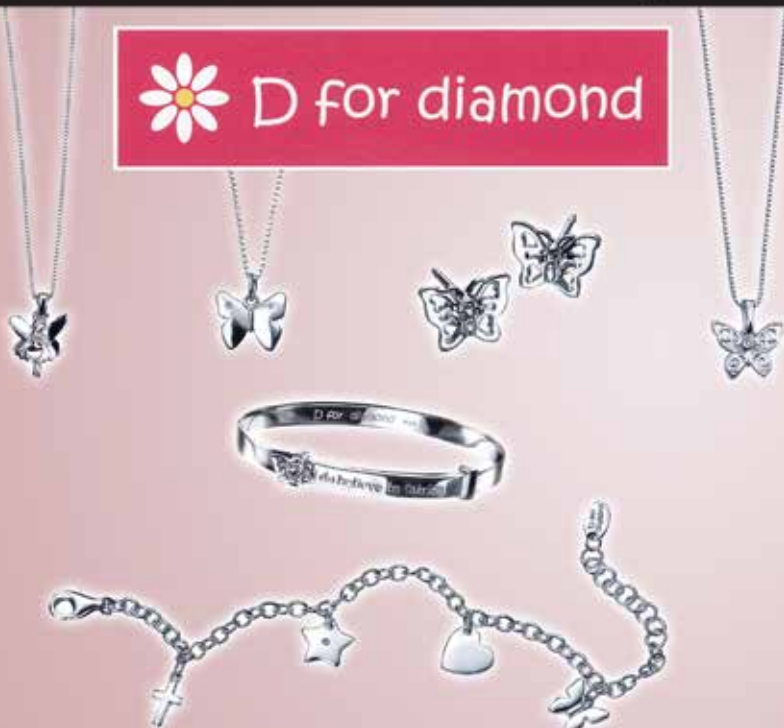
A number of councillors have expressed the view that the house – "the jewel in Frodsham's crown" – is the natural home for the Town Council.



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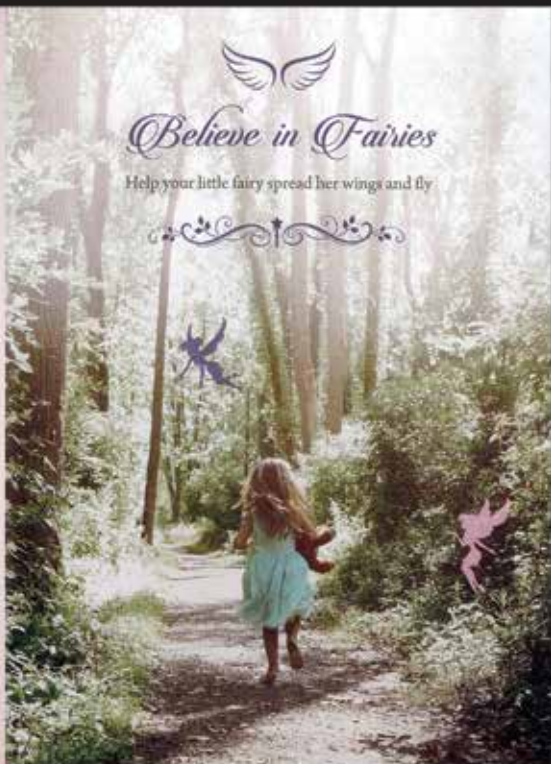


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Councillor ordered to pay £1,749 costs says it was worth it

CONTROVERSIAL councillor Tom Reynolds has been ordered to pay costs of £1,749.80 following an unsuccessful court action against Frodsham Town Council alleging defamation.

But the outspoken Castle Park ward councillor says it was worth it.

He said: "It is important to 'stand up' and be 'counted!'"

Cllr Reynolds took the Town Council to court alleging defamation and there was a hearing at Warrington County Court on March 11.

Another council resignation

ANOTHER member of Frodsham Town Council has resigned.

Lakes ward councillor Clare Collins-Doyle has handed in her resignation, because of work and family commitments, just short of a year on the council.

She has thanked fellow councillors for working with her and says she will continue to support the council where she can.

There will be an election to replace her if 10 electors request one by April 4.

Meanwhile, nominations close on Thursday April 7 for an election on Thursday May 5 to fill a vacancy in Castle Park ward caused by the resignation of former chairman and deputy Mayor Mike Pusey, who resigned for business reasons.

Earlier, former chairman Mark Warren and fellow Lakes ward councillor Jason Fraser both resigned and prior to that former Town Clerk Jon Wild also resigned.



This followed a long-running saga leading to the resignations of the former Town Clerk, Jon Wild, and council chairman Mark Warren, amid allegations of "systemic bullying" by Cllr Reynolds – allegations which Cllr Reynolds has always denied.

As a result, Cllr Reynolds was suspended from membership of all committees. Subsequently, the council agreed to lift the suspension, but Cllr Reynolds chose not to accept a place on any committee.

At the court hearing, solicitors acting for the council successfully applied for Cllr Reynolds's claim to be "struck out" on the basis the claimant had failed to provide proper particulars of his claim.

After the hearing, Cllr Reynolds said: "I took Frodsham Town Council to court because I really had no other option.

"The 'system' had failed me. There is no 'councillor' body to refer to. Frodsham Town Council were ignoring me.

"Cheshire Association of Local Councils refused to help, stating they

represented councils NOT individual councillors. The Cheshire West and Chester (CW&C) monitoring officer refused to help."

Cllr Reynolds said a court claim was always a "high risk"

"On my 'day' in court, I didn't even get to present my case...I'd filled in the wrong form.

This resulted in Frodsham Town Council's solicitor filing for a 'strike' which the judge granted. I've got £1,800 of costs, as a result.

"Was it worth it? Yes. It is important to 'stand up' and be 'counted!'"

Cllr Reynolds has argued throughout that the Town Council was in contravention of the Localism Act 2011 when it investigated the complaints against him and suspended him from committees.

He says the investigation should have been carried out by CW&C and that in November last year he was notified by CW&C that a formal investigation would be held and an independent investigator had been appointed.

But the results of the investigation have not yet been published.





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Community energy group proposed

FRODSHAM Transition Initiative (FTI) is exploring the potential for a Frodsham community energy group in view of the growing presence of energy sector businesses in the local area.

The role of the group would be to develop community understanding of energy developments in the area and to explore alternative strategies to fossil fuels, including energy saving and renewables.

FTI has already discussed energy conservation and alternative energy systems and its first project in the field is to provide thermal imaging surveys for local residents.

A community energy event is planned for Saturday, September 24 at Frodsham Community Centre.

In the meantime, FTI is pressing on with community tree planting proposals. They have already planted around 150 fruit trees in Churchfields, Hawthorne Road, the children's garden near the fire station and Hob Hey Wood – thanks to funding and encouragement from the Round Table and Rotary clubs.

Plans are being drawn up for more planting in the autumn and permission is being sought to plant community orchards on Cheshire West and Chester Council land in Frodsham.

Anyone with ideas for sites should contact FTI at frodshamtransition@gmail.com



Pupils celebrate World Book Day

PUPILS AT Frodsham CE Primary School celebrated World Book Day by attending school dressed as their favourite book character.

There was no limit to the imagination shown by the youngsters when it came to dressing for the occasion.

But there was also another reason to celebrate.

The school has recently purchased lots of new books for the school library – helped by a generous donation of £600 from Frodsham Round Table.



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Family business celebrates award of excellence



Mike Murray Sr, Caroline Murray, Maria Murray, Mike Murray Jr, the High Sheriff of Cheshire, Professor Phil Harris and a representative of the category sponsor, Roberts Bakery.

INDEPENDENT bed retailer Land of Beds is celebrating a major win at the High Sheriff of Cheshire's Awards for Enterprise and the opening of a new showroom in Frodsham.

Over an exciting 10-day period, the third-generation business - based in Helsby - won the Roberts Bakery Family Business Award of Excellence and moved into new premises at 14-16 Church Street.

Fittingly, their awards success came during National Bed Month, which is organised by The Sleep Council.

Managing director and father-of-two Mike Murray, who attended the awards with his wife Caroline and his parents Mike Sr and Maria - all fellow directors - said: "We are delighted with the judges' comments.

"They said ours was the most vivacious business in our category, which is testament to our staff of 24 employees, the support of the leading bed manufacturers we work with, and of course our wonderful customers. I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to our success over the past 40 years-plus, and especially the Helsby and Frodsham community.

"Our driving passion is unlocking the potential in our staff every day to

deliver a marketing-leading service. We want to become the best customer service company in the UK."

Land of Beds' achievements in the past 12 months include being commended in the National Bed Federation's Bed Industry Awards 2015-16 for the third time in the past four years and opening a new distribution centre at Astmoor Industrial Estate, Runcorn. A second showroom in Frodsham opened on March 18 as part of their strategic plan to open five more stores in five years.

Professor Phil Harris, chairman of the organising committee of the awards, which are presented in partnership with the University of Chester, said: "The strength, quality and depth of the companies this year is excellent. They represent some of the best and make a real difference to the quality of our life."

Bill Holroyd, the High Sheriff of Cheshire, said: "We are extraordinarily fortunate to have such a range of vibrant businesses."

A beacon for the Queen

A BEACON is to be lit on Frodsham Hill on Thursday, April 21 as part of the national celebrations for the Queen's 90th birthday.

The celebrations will start at 7pm and the beacon will be officially lit by the Mayor, Cllr Fran Sutton and Frodsham's Junior Mayors at 7.30pm.

Frodsham Silver Band and local group Dead Pixels will provide music at the free event and a barbecue provided by Frodsham Rotary Club will be available.

The event is being sponsored by the Devonshire Bakery and Gleave's Garden Centre. Further details are available from Cllr Liam Jones at liam.jones@frodsham.gov.uk or on 07443 455220.

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School serves up new kitchen and dining room

WEAVER Vale MP Graham Evans was officially on hand to help launch a new kitchen and dining room facility at Manly Village School.

The new facilities have been many years in the planning and finally the children can have hot school meals cooked fresh on site every day!

In previous years hot school meals have been prepared off site and delivered to school.



Celebrating life in a multi-faith society

CHILDREN and staff from Manley and Alvanley Federated Schools got together for a special "Holy Holi" day at the Alvanley site to show how we live in a multi-faith society and to demonstrate the joy of celebration.

They celebrated not only Easter, with a church service, but also the Hindu festival of Holi which celebrates the arrival of Spring.

The children embraced the free-for-all carnival of colours by playing and chasing each other with dry powder and coloured water – and as the picture shows, really enjoyed themselves!



Lynn launches exciting new book of poems and images at Weaver Words festival

Well known for her work with Kingsley Players and the Weaver Words event Cheshire writer Lynn Pegler has turned the spot light on Salford Quays and the history of Manchester Docks in an exciting new collection of poems and images.

Lynn has teamed up with Salford photographer Mike Poloway to produce 'Salford Quays Unlocked – Voices of Manchester Docks' which takes the reader on a historical journey. It starts in 1887 with the construction of the Manchester Ship Canal through to the docks' closure a century later and finally its successful reincarnation as the Quays and MediaCity.

The book will be launched with a multi-media performance of selected poems at the Weaver Words Literature Festival in Frodsham on Sunday April 10.

Artist LS Lowry, canal navies, a Tornado pilot and a BBC producer are just a few of the characters who demand to be heard in this unusual and engaging collection of poetic reportage.

Lynn started writing the poems as part of her final portfolio for a masters degree in creative writing at Manchester Metropolitan University, headed up by Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy.

A former newspaper journalist, she runs PR consultancy Pegler Communications and combines a love of drama, geography and local history among the book's pages, which are packed with unusual

characters and surprising images.

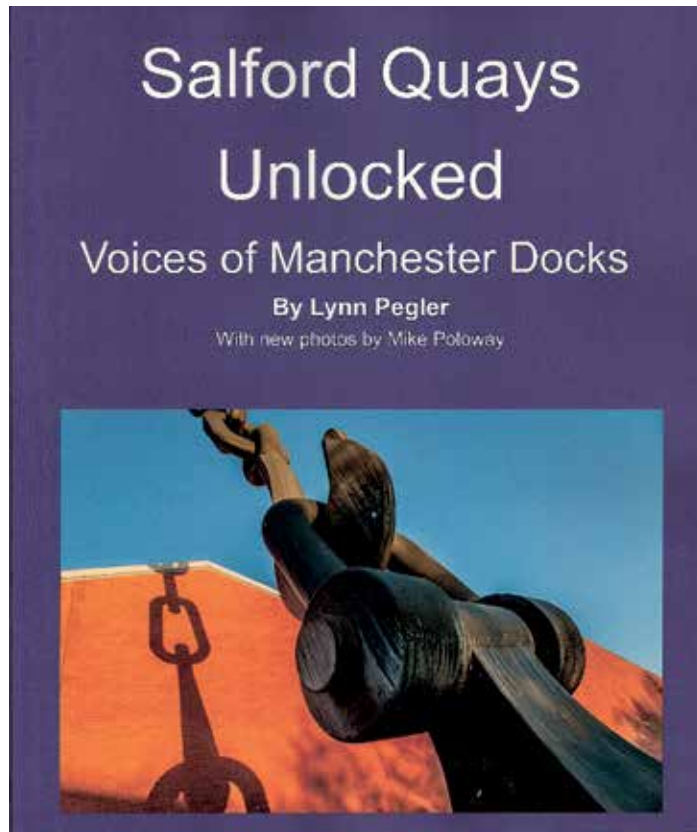
She said: "Salford Quays has an amazing story to tell. It's about entrepreneurship, vision, guts and determination. I hope I have managed to find authentic voices of real and imaginary characters who weave through my own personal interpretation of events.

"When I was writing the poems, I always envisioned them sitting side by side with illustrations. Mike Poloway's wonderful new images, along with evocative old black and white dock photos, embellish the words with enhanced emotion."

The book launch will take place at the Gala Celebration Evening, which starts at 7.30pm, includes appearances from comedian John Gorman and modern folk band Jaywalkers.

Salford Quays Unlocked is published by Blurb, priced £11.99. It is available online, at the Lowry Centre shop and other selected bookstores and gift shops. ISBN 978-1-36-422586-5. www.blurb.com/b/6958995-salford-quays-unlocked

Tickets for the Gala Celebration Evening and other Weaver Words events are available online www.weaverwords.org.uk or box office 0845 557 7469.



Bits of Bach workshop

FRODSHAM and district Choral Society is inviting local people to attend a singing workshop entitled "Bach in Bits."

The event takes place at Frodsham Methodist Church on Saturday, April 23 from 10.30am to 5pm.

Director Howard Kane says there are three good reasons why

the workshop is being called "Bach in Bits."

He said: "Firstly, the magnitude of his choral output is so large that we can only select a few grains of sand from the Gobi Desert of his

genius! I know that this may not be the most appropriate metaphor to use, as there are those who claim Bach's output is like a desert, miles of arid counterpoint and music made mathematics. I rather take William Blake's view, and "see a world in a grain of sand".

"Secondly, we will be spending the day, singing and exploring a few works in close detail, by taking them to bits to understand and appreciate them more fully.

"Finally, 'in bits' is how Bach's music leaves me, as I begin to grasp how it manages to combine the highest pinnacles of human intellectual achievement with the profoundest depths of human emotion, faith and doubt. So, I hope that you will gain intellectual, spiritual and (because of the fabulous cakes on offer) complete nourishment from our feast of Bach.

"Come and join us as we investigate what makes Johann Sebastian Bach - Baroque an' Roll!

"We shall focus on the choruses from his "Magnificat" as well as sing choruses and chorales from his Passions and cantatas."

Advance registration fee is £15 or you can pay £18 on the door.

Details are available from Margaret Rogerson on 0750 1149638 or Morag Bragger: 07845 730061.



A chance to speak out on parking issues

ANYONE with an interest in parking in Frodsham – and that means residents and visitors – is invited to an "open night" at Castle

Park House on Monday, April 11 between 5pm and 7.30pm.

It will be the second of a series of three consultation events organised by Frodsham Town Council amid fears that Cheshire West and Chester Council may decide to introduce parking charges in the town.

The first event – aimed at local traders – was seen as a great success with around 40 traders attending and the vast majority showing a positive attitude.

Cllr Mallie Poulton, chairman of the council's parking working group, said: "This is a very important issue – we must have a say before potential charges are imposed on us."

"We hope people will come and

share their thoughts and ideas on the subject."

Cllr Poulton said the council had for a long time recognised the difficulties caused by parking in Frodsham.

The council needed to find ways to alleviate the problem and, most importantly, have a voice with Cheshire West and Chester Council.



New row over Eddisbury Square parking

A NEW storm is brewing over parking in Frodsham's Eddisbury Square – more than a year after the last one.

Cllr Tom Reynolds raised the issue at the monthly meeting of the Town Council when he warned that the town was in danger of gaining a reputation of being a place where you did not go to shop because of parking issues.

He said a woman who lived outside Frodsham had received a "fine" for overstaying the two-hour free parking period on Eddisbury Square when she had not, in fact, done so.

She had parked once and then left and her husband had returned to Frodsham later the same day and parked for 10 minutes on Eddisbury Square. But they had not stayed two hours between them.

She was appealing against the "fine" but had been caused inconvenience and anxiety.

Councillors asked to think again over email policy

FRODSHAM Town Council has asked its own Policy and Process Committee to think again about a proposal that could exclude members who are not on email from communicating with other councillors.

The committee had agreed that if councillors wanted to communicate with each other by email, the originator of the email should ensure that any councillor who did not have email receive a hard copy.

They should not expect council officers to accept responsibility for this.

But a number of councillors protested that because of the number of emails sent, and the complex email trails which ensued, it would be difficult and costly to provide hard copies.

Chairman Cllr Judith Critchley said: "If you get an email trail with many people taking part, it would be impossible."

Cllr Mallie Poulton said: "With the amount of emails we get it would be impossible."

Currently, the council only has one member not on email – veteran Cllr Frank Pennington.

Cllr Poulton said it should be possible for members to make sure any message they believed Cllr Pennington would find relevant could be sent to him by hard copy.

But Cllr Tom Reynolds said this would be setting a dangerous precedent in which any member not on email could be excluded.

"You are excluding Frank – it's a disgrace," he said.

The council agreed to refer the matter back to the Policy and Process Committee for further consideration.

Signs on the car park were not at all clear, he said and it appeared that the CCTV cameras did not always record cars entering or leaving the car park.

Cllr Mallie Poulton said the council had protested to the car park operators last year but had never received a decent response.

He was concerned that similar parking issues were now arising on the Morrison's car park.

Cllr Caroline Ashton suggested that free parking areas in Frodsham should be signposted to try and show motorists where they could park without using Eddisbury Square.

It was agreed the matter be referred to the next open meeting of the council's parking working group at Castle Park House on Monday April 11 between 5-7.30pm

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Paul and Helen wax lyrical about candles

HUSBAND-and-wife Paul and Helen Walker had long held an ambition to run their own business but just couldn't find one to suit them - until they found Candles Plus at the Lady Heyes Craft Centre, Frodsham.

The business was on the market, it was in an idyllic spot - and the couple had always had an interest in candles.

Former laboratory manager Paul soon discovered there was more to candles than meets the eye and adapted his skills to be able to offer help and advice to customers. Now, six months after taking over the business they are enjoying their new lives.

Candles Plus has one of the largest displays of the popular Yankee Candles and Accessories in the North West and Paul and Helen have expanded the range of products they sell, including a wide range of Ashleigh & Burwood Fragrance products, the popular Lily-Flame Candles and Willow Tree and More than Words figurines.

Exciting changes are going on at Lady Heyes which will make their shop even more attractive and - moving with the times - they are developing a website which will become an online shop, enabling them to sell their goods over a wide area.

Paul said: "We look forward to the challenges of growing the business over the next six months and we are really enjoying ourselves, meeting customers old and new and providing a high level of service.. We are in a lovely location - it's even a joy driving to work!"



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Junior soccer club wins top FA award

FRODSHAM Junior Football Club (FJFC) has won a top FA award and is now officially an FA Charter Standard Community Football Club – one of only 30 to achieve this accolade across Cheshire's 653 affiliated football clubs.

Established in 1979, the club currently runs 26 junior football teams for local boys and girls from under 7s to under 18s. These teams, combined with the club's weekly academy sessions for under 5s and 6s, provide more than 400

local children with the opportunity to play regular organised football.

Club chairman John Heath said: "A lot of hard work and dedication has gone into achieving this status and I would like to thank all of those who helped with the submission.

"We could not have achieved this award without the support of all our managers, coaches, parents and of course our fantastic players."

The award presents the club with many opportunities to grow and develop with additional support for both coaches and players provided by the Cheshire FA.

In addition, the club has restructured its executive committee,

electing five new members and establishing the club's first Coach and Player Development Committee.

Given its new status the club can seek funding to expand its teams and provide improved facilities for both club and the local community.

Anyone interested in finding out more about Frodsham Juniors should visit www.frodshamjfc.org



Sharon is an inspiration to women

"Part of our job is to make a positive memory, especially for those whose children who sadly do not live."

Sharon Greenwood joined Frodsham WI in Cheshire because she wanted to meet other women who liked what she liked; baking, cooking, sewing and shopping. She hoped she would learn new skills and be part of an organisation which had a similar "can do" attitude to life which she had.

Now eighteen months on Sharon, who has a husband and family and various pets, has put some of her new skills to a very special use, and is inspiring women do be involved with something very special. The January meeting was called Digital You, and was, amongst other things, about using social media for best effect. Sharon admitted that because of having two young sons she was a bit wary of social media, so she rarely used it. However, she did have a problem that she thought she could do with some help with.

Sharon is a sister on the paediatric intensive care unit at Alderhey, the famous Children's Hospital in Liverpool. She has worked there since she started her training in

1998 aged nineteen, and she has been on ICU for 23 years. The unit now has 45 beds, both intensive care and high dependency. It treats all children from birth to sixteen. Sharon speciality is cardiac, and the hospital performs around ten open heart operations a week. They also have patients who have been in car accidents, have serious infections, such as meningitis, and those who need assistance with breathing or circulation. Their care is one to one, or if they are very sick, two nurses to one child.

So what was Sharon's problem?

Last year Alderhey moved to a brand new, purpose designed bright, modern building, where everything is centred around the child and their family. Unfortunately in the move all the special children's sheets and blankets were lost. For the last twelve years Sharon had bought fabric from a local store and staff and their families have made bright colourful sheets and blankets for the children cots and beds. But with all of the bedding disappearing at once, and the new unit being larger, they could not get enough bedding together quickly enough.

As Sharon says, "The sheets are not essential, but they make all the difference to our families. It makes the unit more homely and less daunting. It can make the child look less sick and help with the obvious anxiety of the parents. A child covered in tubes and wires lying on a white sheet somehow how looks worse. Part of our job is to make a positive memory for those families, especially for those whose children who sadly do not live."

The unit uses 4 to 6 sheets a day for every child, so with a unit that size it needed almost 300 sheets a day. Since it takes a number of days for the sheets to go to the laundry and come, it can use over 2000 sheets a week.

Sharon knew how much the families appreciated the touch of having children's sheets and blankets, and sometimes they wrap them up in one of them to take them home.

So Sharon decided to put a little local appeal out on the Frodsham and Helsby facebook community pages, asking for cotton sheets made from child friendly pattern and possible a few blankets.

Sharon said, "The reaction to

the appeal has been phenomenal. I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of people. I have responses from not just local people, but all over the country and abroad too. From one appeal it spread like wild fire."

All sorts of people have responded; local charities; ex patients and their families; sewing groups, craft groups; girl guides; sewing businesses; fabric companies, and of course WIs.

Sharon's own Frodsham WI is now busy making sheets and knitting blankets. So if you would like to contribute please get knitting or sewing. The unit needs coloured patterned sheets 40"by 40" for the beds, or 20"by 20" for the cots in cotton, brushed cotton, flannelette or jersey, simply hemmed. The blankets could be just slightly larger, knitted or crocheted, but not wool, which would not withstand the high temperature washing needed.

If you want to help the bedding should be sent straight to: Alderhey Children's Hospital, Critical Care Department, East Prescott Road, Liverpool. L 14 5 AB

Come on Ladies, get inspired; this is just what the WI is all about!

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Soccer starlets canter for cancer

YOUNG soccer stars from Frodsham joined hundreds of other runners at Aintree Racecourse to help raise money for vital cancer research.

Ten players from Frodsham Juniors Football Club and their families took part in North West Cancer Research's Canter for Cancer fundraiser, helping to raise thousands of pounds for the charity. Ten players from Frodsham Juniors Football Club and their families took part in North West Cancer Research's Canter for Cancer fundraiser, helping to raise thousands of pounds for the charity. Many of the players, aged 5-9 took on the main 5k course, while others tackled a shorter 500m "Only Fools and Horses" course, wearing novelty horse heads as they did.

One young player Jake Davies, who plays in the Under 8s team, raised a huge £425 all by himself after being inspired by his mum, Claire's brave battle with breast cancer.

The 42 year old was diagnosed

in April last year after finding a lump on her breast. Following treatment, which ended in January, she is now in remission.

Claire said: "I am so proud of Jake for taking part in Canter for Cancer - he even took on the big 5K course as an extra challenge. It was wonderful to see so many of the players and their families come together and help raise as much money as possible for cancer research."

Jake added: "It was lots of fun! I got to wear a horse head and I was on the radio. I love my mum so much and wanted to do something to help her."

Race ambassadors, Liverpool soccer legend Alan Kennedy and actress Suzanne Collins also took part in the 5k course.

Andy Loyden, Manager of Town Under 8s at Frodsham Juniors, said: "A brilliant time was had by all - Frodsham Junior colours were everywhere on the day and some of our youngsters completed the course in great times."

"We urge as many people as possible to get involved in next year's event and help say 'neigh' to cancer once and for all!"

The final amount raised collectively by the team is still to be counted and anyone wishing to make a donation can do so via Jake's fundraising page: www.justgiving.com/Claire-murphy25/?utm_id=25

Charity badminton tournament raises £300

A CHARITY badminton tournament at Frodsham Leisure Centre raised more than £300 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The mixed doubles tournament was hosted by sports massage therapist Nathan Davies to raise money and raise awareness of Macmillan Cancer Support following the death of his Nan to cancer last year.

The event saw players of all abilities battling while, at the same time, having a great time and raising money.

Each of the 32 players taking part paid £5 to play, and some paid more for the charity. There was also a raffle, which raised more than £100.

Spectators were treated to two gripping, close final matches.

Winners of plate competition were Richard and Sam Cowel and the trophy winners were Andrew Perry and Phil Hadley.

Nathan said: "All had a great day and it was fantastic to see so many smiles and laughter around the room as people were coming together for a great cause. Every person contributed money to Macmillan and were so happy to do so. I'm proud to say that, up to now, we have raised just over £300. I hope that amount will continue to rise as I take on my next event for Macmillan - the Manchester 10K on May 22. You can donate via my Just Giving page - www.justgiving.com/Nathan-Davies24



Probate and Estate Administration – Have You Thought of Everything?

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

Being responsible for dealing with the estate of a person who has died can be a daunting prospect.

Whether you are named as an **Executor** in a will, or you are the **next of kin** of a person who had died without a will ('intestate'), administering an estate is a big responsibility and can be legally difficult. This is quite apart from the fact that having lost someone close to you, dealing with these matters may prove personally distressing.

Whilst you can apply for probate without legal advice, a solicitor can access many benefits and protections for executors, and share the load with you at what can be a difficult time.

We can help you to search for a missing will using the **Certainty National Wills Register**

An executor is obliged to take reasonable steps to

locate the latest will before distributing an estate, and this can be a challenge. A will search can be carried out which accesses around 5 million will registrations via a national database. It also searches UK-wide for wills that have not been registered by solicitors and will writers.

We can help you to search for missing assets using the **Landmark Financial Asset Search**

It can also be difficult to track down all of the financial assets of the person who has died, particularly if you are relying on paperwork found at their home. It is another responsibility of the executor to make thorough searches to identify all of the assets, particularly where inheritance tax may be payable. An

asset search can be carried out using an online financial asset tracing system which will help to find assets that may otherwise be lost or forgotten over the course of an individual's life.

We have specialist solicitors who can guide you through the process of probate

Rowlinsons are experienced in the administration of large and small estates, offering a wide range of probate services tailored to you. This includes preparation of estate accounts, completion of estate forms including Tax Inheritance returns and help with trusts. We are sensitive to the needs of bereaved families and offer home or hospital visits. In addition, the legal costs can be met by the estate.

At Rowlinsons we want to share the burden of estate

management and probate with you. If you need advice and support administering an estate, arrange your **FREE 30 minute consultation** by contacting **Nikki Barnes** on **01928 736637** or **Hannah Butterworth** on **01928 736719**.



Donna Eland

GOT THE WORLD ON YOUR SHOULDERS?

If you have been named **Executor** in a Will or are **next of kin of a person without a Will** the responsibility of probate can weigh heavy at what is already a distressing time.

Administering an estate is a big responsibility. Let Rowlinsons Solicitors share the burden.

- We can help you to find a missing Will
- We can help you to track down financial assets
- We can complete probate and tax forms and prepare estate accounts
- We can handle the whole estate for you or provide expert advice every step of the way

Rowlinsons Solicitors offer probate services tailored to your specific needs. Legal costs can be met by the estate.

To arrange your **FREE 30 minute consultation** contact **Nikki Barnes** on **01928 736637** or **Hannah Butterworth** on **01928 736719**



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