

# Frodsham Life

Issue No. 134  
May 2016

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published monthly by  
Orbit News Ltd.

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Printed by TwentyFourSeven

# Editor's Comment



WHEN residents of Howey Lane appeared before Frodsham Town Council expressing concern over traffic issues there were some councillors who appeared to question why the matter was before them.

They didn't exactly say "We can't do anything about it so why are you wasting our time" but, briefly, that was the impression the residents were given.

Fortunately councillors went on to offer sympathy and support so no lasting harm was done so the residents went away reasonably satisfied that THEY had not been wasting their own time.

But the incident perhaps highlights the relative inexperience of some members of the present council.

It is true that Cheshire West and Chester (CW&C) is the highway authority – not Frodsham Town Council. It follows, therefore, that if anything major is to be done to solve the undoubted traffic problems of Howey Lane, it is CW&C that will have to do it.

But this does not mean that the Town Council is quite powerless. If nothing else, it can make a noise! It can apply pressure, not just on CW&C but on all sorts of organisations. Pressure which might eventually force them to act.

Perhaps even better, it can work in partnership to get jobs done which might not otherwise get

done.

There are numerous examples of partnership working in the recent past which have borne fruit. Not least, the pedestrian crossings at Netherton Hall and Weaver Vale Primary School which would probably not have been provided if residents had not raised concerns, initially with the Town Council.

It can work in reverse too. Unwelcome developments – such as an entirely inappropriate plan

to convert the former Frodsham Library into homes – can often be blocked if local councillors raise their voices

There have been so many changes at the Town Council recently that it is not surprising that some members have not yet realised just how much influence they have – if they choose to use it.

## 15 drivers caught speeding

A DRIVER engagement day held by police in Fluin Lane, Frodsham resulting in 15 vehicles being caught travelling at more than 34 mph.

Two drivers were found using mobile phones while driving and two were found not to wearing seat belts.

A further driver engagement day is to be held in the near future – but police have not revealed where and when it will be.

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# Council votes to move home again - but only just

A DEPLETED Frodsham Town Council has voted – by the narrowest of margins – not to stay in its present home on the ground floor of Castle Park House.

Two members were absent, the council currently has two vacant seats and the remaining 12 members voted 6-6 at their monthly meeting when asked if they wished to continue with the present arrangements – occupying the ground floor of Castle Park House, providing front office reception and dealing with event management in the building.

Chairman Cllr Judith Critchley used her casting vote to oppose continuing with the arrangement.

This leaves the council with three other options:

1. Moving out of the ground floor into first floor offices in Castle Park House when they become available.

2. Moving out of the building altogether and taking permanent accommodation elsewhere in Frodsham.

3. Moving into temporary accommodation elsewhere in Frodsham while new, purpose-built offices were built on Town Council land.

The council was told continuing with the present arrangement would involve them taking a 10-year lease and it was unlikely there would be a reduction in rent. There would need to be a full reorganisation of

the ground floor layout, investment in décor, furnishings, publicity, promotions, etc and employment of an events management company or their own events management team.

This would involve potentially costly initial outlay but this was likely to be recovered by future income.

Cllr Critchley said this option would only be viable if it had the full support and active engagement of the council – and she questioned whether there was enthusiasm for taking on an events management role.

A suggestion that events management could be done by volunteers was dismissed by Cllr Mallie Poulton.

“Events management for a house and grounds the size of this cannot be done by volunteers” he said

Cllr Tom Reynolds believed it was a “no brainer” – the council should continue with the present arrangement. There would be a net cost of £10,000 a year, plus rates, but there would be hidden benefits such as the free use of the main function room for meetings which, if they moved elsewhere they would have to pay for.

No decision was taken on the alternative options but it was agreed that Cllr Paul Martin would investigate the availability and cost of using an events management company.



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# KDE Director scoops prestigious business award

KDE are proud to announce that one of their directors Matthew Darlington has won a highly coveted Young Professionals Business Award.

Based in Frodsham KDE are a trusted regional firm that provides Electrical, Fire Alarm and Plumbing & Heating Services.

Matthew beat off stiff competition from other entrants working in "Blue Chip" companies to win the title of Young Business Development Professional in the prestigious Insider's Young Professionals Awards 2016. His win was announced at a black tie event on the evening of 21st April 2016 at the Lowry Hotel in Manchester.

KDE Managing Director; Keith Darlington said, "We are delighted that Matthew has won such a hotly contested award. This award recognises the talent within our company and our commitment to exceed customer expectations. When the judges announced that Matthew had won we were overjoyed".

Miri Thomas, the Insider's editorial director, praised the award winners for "standing out from the crowd" because of their hard work, endeavour and talent. She went onto say that "All of you are here because others recognise that you have something special", she also commented that "all the



winners were at the top of their game".

Matthew's entry, which outlined his rise from apprentice to director, struck a chord with the judges. They said, "His entry showed an enthusiasm for business and a maturity beyond his years". They also recognised his dedication and determination commenting: "He may have joined the family business, but he didn't choose the easy way in, he grafted and proved himself by identifying, creating and establishing new business opportunities".

Matthew aged 24, said

"Winning this award is fantastic, I am especially pleased that the judges recognised my hard work and dedication to the business. To be chosen as the winner from all the other high profile applicants makes me feel very honoured". He went onto say that "winning this accolade will spur me onto even higher levels of achievement".

Matthew's entry was supported by independent client testimonials, which acknowledged his commitment and determination to "be the best in their industry and to deliver outstanding customer service".

## In praise of the oboe

SPEAKER at the monthly meeting of Frodsham Recorded Music Group was Alf Pollard, lifelong enthusiast of the oboe.

He presented a number of recordings of works in which the oboe had pride of place, whether as soloist or accompanist to vocalists, and recounted the history of the modern oboe with its rival components, principally the French and German schools. He showed examples of the two, illustrating the differences between them.

Paris and Vienna were the main seats of this rivalry, and he admitted, apparently with personal reluctance, that the French style, richer and more luxuriant, had latterly prevailed in popularity.

However, with the repertoire for the instrument having expanded very fast with recent interest in "early" music, he thought the German sound was nearer the authentic clean quality required.

Dr Pollard made reference to the supreme skills of the recognised masters in the recording era, while acknowledging the evidence in the music written for earlier players that they had abundant skills, often despite the limitations of instruments of the period.

Eric Jennings thanked the speaker.

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# Residents want action over Howey Lane "rat run"

ANGRY residents of Howey Lane, Frodsham, are calling for urgent action to solve the problems caused by heavy lorries and speeding cars using the narrow road as a "rat run" to avoid the town centre.

They attended the monthly meeting of Frodsham Town Council to highlight their worries – and sounded a warning that sooner or later there would be a fatality if nothing was done.

Resident Debbie Albesson told the council: "I hate to have to say it, but something major is going to happen – some Mum or Dad is going to lose a child."

Mrs Albesson said traffic

problems had been in an issue in Howey Lane for many years. But the traffic had got worse in the last year and safety was critical.

In addition to speeding cars, there were heavy tankers and car transporters using the road. There was noise and pollution caused by diesel engines in low gear as well as the safety hazard.

In places there was no footpath. One cottage had been hit by vehicles at least five times. A sandstone wall had been damaged and overhanging trees had been damaged.

Children going to school used the road and there were too many gates to the Churchfields playing field which children could run out of into the path of traffic. Existing traffic calming measures were of little use as they did not slow down the traffic.

Mrs Albesson said possible solutions would be to have a 20mph speed limit on the road and another would be to make it one-way downhill.

Cllr Frank Pennington said the council were to blame for trees hanging over the road. They should be cut back. He agreed the traffic calming was useless.

"You could drive over those humps at 80mph" he said.

Cllr Alan Oulton said it was a serious problem. One solution would be to make Howey Lane a

cul-de-sac but the cost would be "phenomenal".

Chairman Cllr Judith Critchley said the residents had the council's sympathy and support. But it was an issue for Cheshire West and Chester Council as the Town Council was not the highway authority.

But CW&C member Cllr Andrew

Dawson stressed the importance of partnership working between the Town Council and Cheshire West. The very fact that the issue came before the Town Council increased the amount of debate.

While the Town Council may feel it did not have any power, the very fact it was debated and reported upon could make a difference.



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# Gala awards night for Land of Beds after record-breaking year

VALUED Land of Beds staff and sub-contractors were treated to a gala awards evening in honour of what was a record-breaking turnover year for the sleep specialists.

End-of-year figures revealed colleagues from the Customer Service, Sales and Ecommerce teams had not only met their projected turnover target of £5million for 2015 but had smashed it by more than £400,000. The Logistics team were also credited with facilitating thousands of UK-wide deliveries.

"It's been an amazing year with the opening of our second Cheshire showroom in Frodsham, our new distribution centre in Runcorn and a major Family Business Award of Excellence win from the High Sheriff," said Mike Murray, addressing more than 30 employees at Kash 22 in Frodsham on 9 April.

"The potential we have is limitless and if we care about each other and work hard together then amazing things are possible; let's shoot for the stars and here's to another record-breaking financial year in 2016!"

After colleagues enjoyed a free bar and supper, Annual Staff Recognition Awards were presented in three hotly-contested categories.

Marcus Lightfoot from Helsby

won the Rising Star Award – presented to a recipient with a big future in the business. In the 12 months since he enrolled on the company's apprenticeship scheme he has worked in Logistics, Customer Service and Sales.

"Marcus has shown a great willingness to want to learn and has completed numerous training courses," said Mike. "He always goes out of his way to help and support his fellow colleagues, which is shown in the lovely comments I have received regarding his nature and personality. He always has a smile on his face."

The Outstanding Contribution of the Year Award went to Tony Coward from Liverpool, who was praised for being: "...a leading example to us all when it comes to giving great service to our customers", and going the extra mile to train the company's Sleep Experts with many early starts and late finishes.

For the first-time ever, the Employee of the Year Award went to joint winners Lauren Large and Hannah Rushton-McGregor, both from Frodsham. Voted for by every single company employee, including Directors and Team Leaders, the award acknowledges colleagues who have contributed to the business achieving its collective goals as well as their personal in-



Left to right are: Marcus Lightfoot, Hannah Rushton-McGregor, Lauren Large and Tony Coward

year achievements.

"This years' winners should be extremely proud to receive such an accolade as it goes to show that they make a positive impact on other people's lives," added Mike, who also praised the company's 'extended family' of sub-contractors who furnished the new showroom in Frodsham.

The night ended with karaoke and a disco... and ambitious targets being set for 2016.

"Saying 'thank you' and 'well done' is a massive part of our culture," says Caroline Murray – part of the family Director team who all attended.

"We believe in recognising and rewarding hard work, celebrating our successes and involving all colleagues in designing and implementing our business strategy so we can continue to grow Land of Beds as a team."

## Helsby baffled by gypsy site bombshell

HELBSBY has been hit by the bombshell news that a site in the village is on a shortlist of 26 potential locations for a new gypsy and traveller site.

The proposed traveller site would be on the former BICC site, in Chester Road, Helsby – although locals are baffled as to where it could be as most of the site is already earmarked for other developments.

A well-used rugby pitch is thought to be the only open land on the site – and that is part of the proposed new Helsby Sports and Social Club, which already has planning consent.

The list, drawn up by consultants retained by Cheshire West and Chester Council, was revealed at a meeting of the authority's local development plan working group – but only after an intervention by Frodsham's Cllr Andrew Dawson.

He argued that the list should be published in the interests of openness and transparency so it could be exposed to full democratic scrutiny and eventually won the day.

The consultants had rated the sites Red, Amber, Green according to what they judged to be the planning and physical constraints – and the Helsby site was judged to be "Amber".

After the meeting, Cllr Dawson said publication of the list could now be seen as the start of a lengthy consultation process.

Everyone would have an opportunity to have their say. But he pointed out that the detail provided to the working group was insufficient to identify precise locations.

Certainly, the news puzzled people in Helsby.

General view was that the consultants had gone back to an earlier shortlist, drawn up in the days of Vale Royal Council.

Former parish councillor Frank Thomas said: "This looks like an old list to me. One was drawn up by consultants for Vale Royal. It included the BICC site at Helsby and Saltworks Farm at Frodsham."

"But Tesco's has been built since then, plus about 50 retirement homes and other housing. Planning permission has also been granted for more housing and for the new Helsby Sports and Social Club."

"I just can't see there being any room left for a gypsy and traveller site."

Saltworks Farm is not on the new shortlist.

## Homes plan for old library is thrown out

PLANS to convert the former Frodsham Library building into 14 dwellings – with 14 car parking spaces – has been thrown out by Cheshire West and Chester planning chiefs.

The planning committee voted 6-5 to refuse permission after visiting the site.

Frodsham councillors Andrew Dawson and Lyn Riley opposed the proposals.

Afterwards, Cllr Dawson said: "The coach which took members of the committee to visit the site had the greatest difficulty in parking and I think this probably swayed the committee's decision."

"Councillors saw the traffic congestion for themselves."

"The developer suggested that car ownership is low in Frodsham but I would say that on average there are two cars per dwelling in the town so 14 parking space for 14 properties would have been totally inadequate."



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# Donkey Derby cancelled after 30 years

FRODSHAM Cricket Club's annual Donkey Derby – a popular event in the town's calendar since 1987 – will not be held this year.

The club has reluctantly taken the decision to take a break this year because of falling profits – with last year's being the worst ever.

But it is hoped to bring the event back – possibly in a slightly different form.

Club chairman Peter Bottome said: "We realise it is a much loved event in Frodsham and this will be a disappointment to many supporters, sponsors and Frodsham families.

"We would like to thank all those who have contributed sponsorship of donkeys and races, taken advertisements in the programme and the people of Frodsham who have attended the event since the first one was brought into being under the stewardship of the late Don Mellor in 1987.

"The event has generated many funds over the years, allowing us to build our own pavilion, maintain our playing facilities, field four senior teams at the weekend and provide cricket for the youngsters of Frodsham. All our cricketing activities will continue as usual but our fund-raising, this year at least, will have to take another form."

Falling profits are the main reason for the cancellation. Last year's were not thought to justify the effort involved in organising the day.

It has proved increasingly difficult to find sponsors and advertisers for the programme.

In addition, it has proved more difficult to find volunteers to sell programmes door-to-door – and it was also felt householders had become less willing to welcome people knocking on their doors of an evening.

Costs have risen over the years – particularly the cost of hiring donkeys, insurance, the venue, prizes, and programme production.

It was also harder to find volunteers on the day to ensure the event was run safely – an increasing concern these days.

Mr Bottome added: "Hopefully, a bigger and better Donkey Derby will return next year."

In the meantime the club is examining changes that could be made.

Door-to-door selling will cease, it is suggested, with the public paying on the gate.

One idea is to promote the event through schools and another to have more events on the field – with perhaps an "open mic" to showcase Frodsham talent.

The club would welcome ideas from the public, who can email the club at [Frodshamcricketclub@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Frodshamcricketclub@yahoo.co.uk)

In the meantime, other fund-raising ideas are being explored – including sponsoring the ball at home matches for £30.

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## Transition group reveals its objectives

KINGSLEY Transition Initiative (KTI) – the organisation which aims to make Kingsley more self-sufficient has unveiled its list of objectives for the coming year

Spokesman Simon Sherlock said: "We are always looking for people with new ideas on what else we can do, even if it's just help out or support our local markets, village events and the community in general.

"This year we will be looking to fill the posts of our retiring secretary and treasurer so if you think you can help in any small way then please come along and join us."

The group meet monthly for a pint, a natter and a discussion on what can be done to help Kingsley deal with everything from self-sufficiency, community and environment to projects and energy saving measures in a period of declining fossil fuels etc.

KTI's objectives for the year include: Energy: Facilitate public debate on alternative energy issues, encourage energy efficiency through home insulation and solar energy.

Economy: Hold local produce markets on June 11, September 17 and December 10. Support local provision of quality products and services. Promote upcycling and the concept of a circular economy.

Food: Continue the development of education gardens at Kingsley's two primary schools. Encourage people to grow their own vegetables and compost and recycle as much as possible.

Community: Encourage engagement of youth in the community; network with other local Transition Groups; lobby and liaise with Cheshire West and Chester Council and Kingsley Parish Council on sustainability issues.

## Ward walks

FRODSHAM Police Community Support Officer, Neil Flanagan is to hold his annual "Ward Walks" in July.

PCSO Flanagan invites councillors to join him on the walks which provide an opportunity to meet local residents and discuss policing and other issues.

The walks will take place on July 15, in Lakes Ward, July 16 in Waterside Ward and July 17, in Castle Park Ward and Overton and Five Crosses Ward.



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# Weaver Words Festival hailed great success

THE Weaver Words festival has been hailed a great success with events staged over five days.

Visitors enjoyed workshops in cartoons, comedy writing, writing for well-being and a nature ramble writing workshop.

Sports fans enjoyed a conversation with former Everton goalkeeper Neville Southall.

Festival co-ordinator Lynn Peglar said: "The literature festival resulted in a brilliant buzz in Frodsham.

"Nearly 1,500 people engaged with the festival in some way, either attending events, learning a new creative skill in one of the workshops or entering a writing competition.

"The standard of entries was very high in both the children's and adult competitions. We are lucky to have such a rich seam of talent in the area."

Youngsters are pictured (top right) at the cartoon workshop displaying their new cartoon faces with workshop leader Colin Shelbourn.

Meanwhile children from eight primary schools and two high schools took part in the Weaver Words story competition, judged by locally based playwright Tim Firth pictured with winners and runners-up below.

## Results:

### Y3/4

Winner – Bailey Fearn  
Runners up – Edward Berry, Ella Walton  
Highly commended –  
Josie Holland  
Jayden Willman  
Poppy Hadley  
Aarifah Ahmed  
Tori Bushell  
Dana Maree  
Poppy Eardley

### Y5/6

Winner Hannah Morley  
Runners up Heather Salmon,  
Francesca Forbes  
Highly commended  
Izzy Tresize  
Phoebe Phillips  
Maja Ann Pohlmeier  
Poppy Parker  
Jacob Lamb  
Ben Dobbie  
Lucy Stanway  
Grace Edwardson

### Y7,8,9

Winner – Finley McCallum  
Runners up Anna Holland, Isabella Lewis  
Highly Commended  
Luke Ravetto  
Robert Salmon  
Owen Jones  
Ryan Lennon  
Joanna Bentley



Cartoon workshop displaying their new cartoon faces with workshop leader Colin Shelbourn.



Sue Ziosnik, Weaver Words chairman, presents the award for Flash Fiction to winner Christopher Howard.



Children's writing, Y7,8,9 runners-up Anna Holland and Isabella Lewis with Tim Firth.





## Cycle club "nuts" will ride from dawn to dusk

FRODSHAM Wheelers Cycling Club is preparing for its biggest event of the year – the D2D (dawn till dusk) ride on June 25...the longest day of the year.

The ride is 220 miles long, starting from Frodsham at 3.30am,

and is expected to attract more than 25 riders.

Frodsham Wheelers were formed only three years ago and they describe themselves as "self-confessed cycling nuts."

They road race, time trial,

mountain bike and cycle cross.

Mainly though, they are a social riding club with a desire to promote cycling in the area. Members include race winners, newcomers, teenagers and pensioners.

Route for the D2D heads up to Liverpool and through the Birkenhead tunnel then through the Welsh lanes passing Flint, St Asaph then breakfast at Llanwrst at 9am.

Then there's a long section to Porthmadog and on to Barmouth – the furthest point on the ride.

From there it is a long ride back to Frodsham via Dolgellau, Bala and Corwen before reaching Frodsham at 10pm, although some riders will continue on to Liverpool as this was their starting point.

A club spokesman said: "We thought it would be a good idea

to raise money for a local charity at such a big event. We are passionate about the area and the people within community. The club wanted to reach out and help others.

"There were lots of charities to choose from but the chosen charity was Frodsham Rainbow Club, which provides social and leisure opportunities for people with learning difficulties in the surrounding area."

The club have set up a Just Giving page at <https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/daniel-emmett>

More details are available from the club's new website [www.frodshamwheelers.co.uk](http://www.frodshamwheelers.co.uk)

## Honour for woman golfer



JUNE Cuniffe, a long-standing member of Helsby Golf Club, has been appointed as the Captain of the Society of West Cheshire Golf Lady Captains.

She joined Helsby in 1978 and was Lady Captain in the 1991/1992 season.

The Society was set up in the 1960s and involves 18 West Cheshire clubs. During the year they will play home and away matches with the Liverpool Society and also at Bromborough.

Also, Helsby will host the Society Field day with approximately 160 entrants in May and socially, Helsby will be the venue for the Society Bridge event in October.

June is the third Captain of the Society chosen from Helsby. The previous two were Margaret McNaughton in 1984 and Shirley Hobday in 1999.

June lives in Frodsham and is part of the Cuniffe family which has strong associations with Helsby Golf Club - her son Steve is Captain this year, her husband Franc is a former Captain and President and her grandson Nick is a former Junior Captain.

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# Talking Heads on stage in Kingsley

THREE monologues from Alan Bennett's celebrated Talking Heads will be staged by Kingsley Players for four nights, Wednesday 18 - Saturday 21 May.

Darkly comic, tragically poignant and wonderfully uplifting, the dramatic masterpieces were first staged on BBC TV in the 1980s when they were considered groundbreaking and helped to confirm Bennett's reputation as one of Britain's finest modern dramatists.

Kingsley Players director Chris Mapp has chosen three of his best known works for the group's spring production - A Chip in the Sugar, originally performed by Alan Bennett himself, Her Big Chance, performed by Julie Walters, and A Cream Cracker Under the Settee, starring Thora Hird as Doris. Treading the boards for the Players' 2016 version will be Matt Jones, Keri Spellman and Kath Kerry.

Chris Mapp said: "As a writer, director and actor, I have long been an admirer of Alan Bennett, so I am relishing the chance to direct these works with Kingsley Players. The Talking Heads monologues can be described as romantic tragedies. Each of the characters is flawed and needing to overcome dramatic changes in their life.

"As each of the performers from Kingsley Players is discovering, none of the roles is simply about

learning the lines. It takes a lot of courage to be the only person on stage and tell a moving story. What is wonderful about these characters is they are also tragically comical.

"We hope everyone who comes to see Talking Heads will not only be emotionally moved but moved to laugh out loud too."

Tickets cost £7/£8. They may be booked in advance through the website [www.kingsleyplayers.co.uk](http://www.kingsleyplayers.co.uk) or by ringing the box office on 07925 516760.



## Councillor follows in his father's footsteps

NEW member of Frodsham Town Council Mark Nield is following in his father's footsteps.

Cllr Nield's father, John, was a member of the council for several years and was a long-time "council watcher" - attending meetings as a member of the public for many years before becoming a councillor.

The "new" Cllr Nield is a member of the Friends of John Williamson, the group which campaigned against the sale of the Park Lane Play Area.

He was co-opted on to the council after being the only person nominated to fill the vacancy in Castle Park Ward created by the resignation of former council chairman Mike Pusey.

Cllr Nield said: "I love Frodsham and really care about the town. I felt the council needed people who are passionate about the town."

There are still two vacant seats on the council, created by the resignations of Clare Collins-Doyle in Lakes Ward and Laura Watts in Waterside Ward.

## Will to Work welcomes the summer



Some of the First Aiders sharing a joke with Will to Work members around the bench made in memory of Geoff Prince.

WITH the summer approaching, Frodsham's Will to Work Workshop is concentrating on items for the garden.

Garden benches in both soft and hardwood, planters, bird tables and nesting boxes can be quickly made to order.

Anyone who simply needs renovation of existing wooden furniture can also be catered for at very reasonable prices.

Will to Work Workshop, founded by the late Geoff Prince, is open from 12 noon to 3pm Monday to Thursday and offers work based therapy and rehabilitation for people left disabled by illness or accident. The group continues to flourish and new members and volunteers are always welcome.

Items that have been made for sale can be seen at a Will to Work coffee morning at the Parish Hall, Church Street, on Thursday morning, May 12.

Five members and volunteers have recently successfully completed training for Level 2 Emergency First Aid at Work qualifications.

A bench, made in memory of Geoff Prince is to be placed in a Memorial Garden, created by Bike Project and Brio Leisure Centre staff near the centre entrance.



Kingsley Community Centre

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016 until  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2016 at 7:30pm

Ticket prices £7/8 (£5 concession.)

Tickets available at [www.kingsleyplayers.co.uk](http://www.kingsleyplayers.co.uk)  
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# Winning start for Jamie



FRODSHAM Formula Ford Driver Jamie Jardine opened his season in style winning the first Avon Tyres FF1600 National and Northern Championship-Pre90 race of the season at Oulton Park.

Jamie produced a winning time of 20:26.533 mins at an average speed of 84.93 mph for the Oulton Park Island Circuit.

A delighted Jamie said: "We have done nothing to the car over the closed season only making sure it was in tip top condition and it ran well for the first outing of the season."

He was driving his Reynard 84FF car number 28 and his fastest lap was 1:33.424 at a speed of 85.90 mph.





# Busting the Myths for Co-Habitees

## Part One

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

### Common Law Marriage

Cohabiting couple families are the fastest growing family type in the UK, with over 3.1 million opposite sex cohabiting couple families and 90,000 same sex cohabiting couple families in the UK in 2015\*.

Many people think that unmarried couples who live together for some time or perhaps have children together have a "common law marriage" which gives them the same legal rights as married couples. This is not legally the case. There is currently no such thing as "common law marriage" in UK law.

### So what happens if an unmarried partner dies without a will?

Unmarried partners have no automatic legal rights

to each other's estates on death.

If one of them dies without leaving a will then the intestacy rules would apply, dictating where their estate should pass. If they own assets jointly with their partner (such as a house or a joint bank account) then these would pass to the partner as the surviving owner, but otherwise the assets would pass to the deceased's children if they have any or to other family members if they don't.

The surviving partner may have to make a claim on the deceased's estate for financial provision – which can mean a very stressful not to mention costly application to Court at an already difficult time.

This means that it is essential for unmarried couples to have up to date wills, to ensure that if one of them dies the other will not lose out.

### What about Inheritance Tax?

Married couples enjoy the benefit of certain inheritance tax advantages – not least the ability to pass the unused tax-free nil rate band from one to the other on the first death.

Unmarried couples potentially face higher inheritance tax after their deaths unless they carry out some careful estate planning. There are steps that unmarried couples can take, such as the use of trusts in their wills, to ensure that their estates are not subject to significantly more



inheritance tax than they would have faced if they had been married.

**Speak to Rowlinsons Solicitors today – our specialists can help with all aspects of setting up wills and estate planning for unmarried couples. For more information call us on 01928 735333 for a FREE 30 minute consultation.**

**Look out for part 2 next month!**

\*Office for National Statistics - Statistical bulletin: Families and Households, 2015

## Don't Have a Will? Your Partner Could Live to Regret It

### Don't Put it Off...Make a Will for Peace of Mind

**Did you know that** unmarried partners **have no automatic legal rights to each other's estates on death?**

**Did you know** unmarried couples **could potentially face higher inheritance tax?**

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