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Issue No. 136
July 2016

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Editor's Comment



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IT was a fantastic experience visiting the Frodsham Festival in the Park event seeing the great work going on in the local community.

It was also good to see so many people taking part in the downhill run with the added fun element of seeing the team from Land of Beds running with a mattress – rather than me!

We are certainly blessed with a fantastic facility at Castle Park which provided a fitting venue and back drop for a whole host of activities which attracted some great community entertainment – and fun for all the family.

Congratulations to the Frodsham & Helsby Rotary Club for their hard work in helping organise the event and the Town Council for their

support – not forgetting all those who helped sponsor it – without them we wouldn't have the festival.

It was good to catch up with some old faces as well.

It shows what can be achieved when the community pulls together and works for the good of Frodsham.

Others who play an active role in local community life should take note. Working together in a positive way can deliver great results for the local community.

As we were going to press Frodsham was gearing up for a weekend of more activity at the Frodsham Summer Festival which we will be reporting on next month.

In the meantime you can always keep up to date with local news by visiting the www.frodshamlife.co.uk website or by following us on twitter @FrodshamLifeMag or by joining our Facebook page.

If you have any local news for us please email us at info@frodshamlife.co.uk

Deadline for the August issue of Frodsham Life is July 26

Taxi parking complaints

POLICE are still receiving complaints from the public about irresponsible parking by taxis in Main Street, Frodsham.

PCSO Neil Flanagan told the monthly meeting of the Town Council that a letter had been sent to the taxi companies and he would be monitoring the situation. If things did not improve, police would start enforcement.

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Cheshire's primary school of the year!

FRODSHAM Manor House has been named Cheshire Primary School of the year.

Head teacher Ian Devereux-Roberts said: "To receive the award of Cheshire Primary School of the Year was truly humbling.

"It is however a testament to everyone who is associated with our school, from the dedicated staff, to the wonderful children, to the support of the parental and wider community, we dearly love our school.

"This award celebrates the wealth and breadth of our curriculum on offer here and we are very proud that we promote academic standards but also important enrichment opportunities which encourage our pupils to grow into super individuals."

Manor House had to submit a 1,500-word application to the organisers of the competition.

It discussed the opportunities which the school offers beyond the national curriculum. Including community links, Religious Education and global learning support for other schools, our international links, school productions, residentials, forest schools, the Ghanaian fundraising and visits, links with Claire House, Healthy Schools, range of extra curricular clubs, performing in regional musical events, invites to present at national conferences and work with organisations including Stonewall.



Guides recognised as role models

TWO Girlguides from Frodsham have been recognised as inspirational "Guiding Idols."

Chandani Patel and Charlotte Barker, both aged 17, were recognised for their volunteering efforts after being nominated by Girlguiding North West.

Both Chandani and Charlotte had been nominated by Girlguiding North West England members who saw them as role models and were among 64 Guiding Idols to receive their awards at a ceremony at Girlguiding's regional headquarters.

Regional chief commissioner Julie Bell said: "Once again, we've had a fantastic response to the Guiding Idols campaign and we're looking forward to doing it all over again next year.

"We wanted to thank our volunteers for all the hard work and effort they put into Girlguiding and with the support of our young members, we've been able to celebrate our amazing volunteers in a really memorable way."

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Frank Pennington - Frodsham's first Freeman!

VETERAN councillor Frank Pennington has been officially installed as Frodsham's first Freeman.

He was installed at a special meeting of the Town Council at Frodsham Community Centre.

Cllr Pennington, who represents the Waterside ward, has been a member of the council for 40 years and was the town's first Mayor.

The current Mayor, Cllr Mallie Poulton, presented him with his Freeman's badge and also a badge recognising the fact that he had also been the town's first Mayor, in 1992, when the former

parish became a town.

A special cake was cut to mark the occasion and Cllr Pennington's wife was presented with a bouquet.

Cllr Pennington is the longest serving member of the council and, at 81, the oldest.

The Freedom of Frodsham has only been bestowed once previously – and that was to the Frodsham branch of the Royal British Legion.



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Where reputation matters

Open air production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

FRODSHAM Players are to present Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' in the open air in the grounds of St Laurence Church.

The play – widely regarded as Shakespeare's finest comedy – will be presented from Thursday to Saturday, July 14-16 at 7.30pm and on Sunday July 17 at 3pm.

Seating is not provided for the event and patrons are asked to bring their own chairs or picnic blanket and picnic.

Tickets, at £5, are available from the Frodsham Players box office (07754 455809) www.frodshamplayers.com or from Dandelion, in Church Street.

In the event of wet weather, performances will be moved inside.

A Midsummer Night's Dream was written in the late 16th Century and has endured ever since.

The play comprises three intertwined sub-plots: the wedding of Theseus and Hyppolyta; the turbulent lovers Demetrius, Hermia, Lysander and Helena and the mechanicals, who perform a play within a play. Added to this are

the tormenting fairies Oberon and Titania, who perform mayhem by charming various characters to fall in love with each other and transform one of the mechanicals into an ass!

The cast is as follows:
 Theseus: David Varley; Egeus: David Leslie; Lysander: Michelle Cowell; Demetrius: Julia Burgess; Philostrate: Daniel Thompson; Mistress Quince: Derinda Watson; Snug: Joseph Cowell; Nick Bottom: Jake Powell; Francis Flute: James Hutchinson; Tom Snout: David Leslie; Robin Starveling: Kiran Dobson; Hippolyta: Tara Jennings; Hermia: Catrin Jones; Helena: Amelia Pendlebury; Oberon: Iain Bennett; Titania: Carrie Bennett; Puck: Andrea Jones; Peaseblossom: Eleanor Roberts; Mustardseed: Kiran Dobson.

The play is directed by Michael Mills.



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All the fun of the fair at Frodsham Festival and Downhill Run



The team from Land of Beds

THERE was all the fun of the fair at the annual Frodsham Festival as 16-year-old Chris Larkin won the Downhill Run for a 4th consecutive year.

The Halton & Frodsham Running Club youngster was first over the line ahead of Graham MacNeil aged 53, of Wilmslow Running Club and third placed Nathan Vurgest, aged 24.

The team from Land of Beds, who sponsored the finish line, brought the novelty factor to the Downhill Run as they completed the course with a mattress carrying young George!

The "Festival in the Park" was once again be staged by Frodsham and Helsby Rotary Club, working with Castle Park Arts Centre, Frodsham Town Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council.

The event was officially opened by Frodsham Mayor, Cllr Mallie

Poulton.

The galleries and shops in Castle Park Arts Centre were open with arts and craft displays, and there was plenty of live entertainment from those performing on the main stage. There were also stalls and displays from some 40 organisations, societies, clubs directly in front of Castle Park House.

As usual, children and the young were entertained throughout the day with rides and attractions in the fun fair along with shows and features designed for older children.

Former Town Mayor and Rotarian Allen Wales gave a talk on the Battle of the Somme in Castle Park House.



Members of Frodsham & Helsby Rotary Club man the burger stand



Fairground fun



(L-R Nathan Vurgest (3rd) Chris Larkin (1st) and Graham MacNeil (2nd) in the Downhill Run

Frodsham Downhill Run fun!



Land of Beds sponsor finish line

A LOCAL sleep retailer became the first ever Frodsham Downhill Run competitors to race with a mattress round Castle Park.

Team Land of Beds, who opened their Church Street showroom in March, crossed the finish line they had sponsored with seven-year-old George Murray riding in style on top of one of their best-selling single mattresses.

"Team work, healthy lifestyles and community giving are values we're proud to support," says Mike Murray, Managing Director of the third-generation family business. "We donated to Frodsham Community Association and volunteered a marshal for the race, which we competed in as a team for the first time this year.

"We love a challenge and to include our family in everything that we do, which is why our expert delivery team helped me carry my son George down the home

straight!"

A total of 250 people registered for the fun run – now in its eleventh year – which started at the memorial on Frodsham Hill. The winner was once again Christopher Larkin of Halton & Frodsham Harriers who beat his own personal best to complete the 1.3 mile course in just five minutes, 20 seconds.

"We had a fantastic day supporting Frodsham Community Association, meeting customers and soaking up the sunshine and family atmosphere," added Mike. "I would especially like to congratulate the winners of each of the competitive categories. I hope they'll get comfortable and sleep well on the Fine Bedding Company pillows we were delighted to donate and present them with!"

Organising a local fundraiser? Land of Beds welcome your enquiries about potential support - email michelle@landofbeds.co.uk



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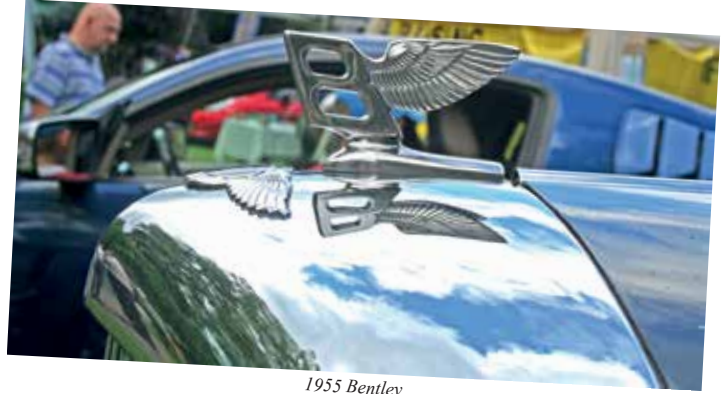


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Frodsham Festival in the Park picture special



Rotarian Hedley Greaves with his 1955 Bentley



1955 Bentley



Crowds enjoy the music



Mustang Sally!



The World War One exhibition



The Mayor Cllr Mallie Poulton with one of the performing choirs



Roaring success - one youngster meets Ellesmere Port & District Lions mascot



Council honours champion of outdoor life

A FORMER councillor who was a champion of the environment, outdoor life and walking at Frodsham is shortly to leave the town.

Twice Mayor of Frodsham Graham Bondi, a founder of the hugely popular Frodsham Festival of Walks and the man who was largely responsible for the council purchasing local beauty spot Hob Hey Wood, he has been honoured by the Town Council.

Mayor Cllr Mallie Poulton and chairman Cllr Judith Critchley presented him with past-Mayor and councillor badges before the start of a recent council meeting.

Mr Bondi moved to Frodsham in 1983. He was elected, unopposed, in 1987 and two years later became chairman of the then Footpaths Committee.

In 1991, together with others, he helped produce a book of walks

in the Frodsham area which sold thousands of copies and 20 years later had to be reprinted.

In 2004 he helped start the Festival of Walks which is now one of the highlights of the town's year.

Mr Bondi told the council: "I was always an independent councillor but I always tried to work with other members and tried to do my best for Frodsham."

He told members of the public: "Keep an eye on your council – pay more attention to what the council is doing."

Although he was shortly to leave Frodsham he was sure he would be back – probably for next year's Festival of Walks.

Charity group seek volunteers

MARIE Curie is appealing for people in the local community to lend a hand and join up with their successful Frodsham and Helsby fundraising Group.

The fundraising group which has been active in the area since 2013 are looking for some extra hands and fresh ideas to help out in lots of ways, including organising and taking part in supermarket collections, organising events and spreading the word about Marie Curie.

Anyone who feels they could help the charity will be welcomed.

Group chairman Lisa Smith said: "We're a friendly group of people who met through a common desire to help Marie Curie. We've raised over £20,000 since we first started through collections in supermarkets, tea parties, raffles etc. You don't need any special skills, just a bit of enthusiasm!"

Money raised by the group supports Marie Curie's home nursing service in Frodsham and Helsby which last year cared for almost 50 terminally ill people and provided support to their families.

Community fundraisers Holly Fraser 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."

For an informal chat about the group contact Holly Fraser on 0161 255 2800 or email Holly.Fraser@mariecurie.org.uk

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The next step would be presenting a petition for dissolution to the court. A solicitor can help with the drafting of the court papers and provide advice throughout. You will not need to go to court in relation to the dissolution process, so long as your partner does not defend the case.

Whatever process you decide upon to resolve your difficulties, both of you will need to discuss with your respective lawyers all issues that could arise, including decisions about your property and housing arrangements, financial support and possibly parenting arrangements.

If an agreement cannot be reached then you may want to consider the collaborative law process. Each person appoints their own collaboratively trained lawyer and you and your respective lawyers all meet together to work things out face to face. Only as a last resort should the courts be used to resolve any disputes.

The ending of a relationship can be a difficult time for most people, an experienced solicitor in these proceedings can help make the process quicker and smoother and ensure you get the legal support you need throughout.

If you need further advice concerning the legal process of dissolving your civil partnership contact Ruth Hetherington at ruth.hetherington@fdrlaw.co.uk

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Summer garden party for Queen's birthday

ST Luke's Catholic Primary School, Frodsham hosted a summer garden party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

Pupils dressed up in red, white and blue and a great afternoon was had by all with traditional summer fair stalls and games such as hook-a-duck, fombolas, and much more.

There were also some royal themed games such as name the corgi, pin the tail on the corgi and a photo booth complete with red carpet, a throne and royal family masks.

The children took part in a competition to decorate a piece of bunting in a royal theme and collectively they were strung together and used to brightly decorate the school.

Parish Priest Fr James Kenny, the Mayor, Cllr Mallie Poulton, families, friends and members of the St Luke's parish joined the celebrations too, enjoying tea and cake.



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Traditional Values



Mothers urge council to fight fracking

TWO mothers attended the monthly meeting of Frodsham Town Council to urge councillors to take a leading role in voicing the town's opposition to the unconventional extraction of gas and oil – more commonly known as "fracking."

And Ginny Kirk, a member of action group Frack Free Frodsham and Helsby, and neighbour Lisa Lovett made it quite clear they did not think the council had been doing enough.

Mrs Kirk said the council had discussed fracking on January 11 when it was agreed to discuss it again in February. But it was not – and had not been mentioned since.

Back in November last year, other residents had raised the subject and the then chairman said the council had taken a position on wind farms near small communities and was likely to do the same when a fracking application was submitted.

Mrs Kirk said: "Well, we have the wind turbines so it appears that the position taken by the council went unheard. We need to raise our voices as a community and take a

pro-active approach, something that was lacking previously."

She said she had written to the council in November but not received a reply.

"This is simply not acceptable for a Town Council," she said.

Seismic surveys were carried out in parts of Frodsham late last year and a licence had now been granted to cover the rest of the town. She fully expected that planning applications to drill for gas would be submitted soon.

"We must be ready to respond quickly and in a meaningful way and in a manner that reflects the views and opinions of our community."

Lisa Lovett told the meeting what happened when a seismic survey was carried out some 37 metres from her home.

The house shook. Pictures fell from

the walls and smashed on the floor. Cracks appeared in the ceiling.

Ornaments were smashed and her children went hysterical.

Her husband complained to IGas, the company responsible, but six months later nothing had been done.

Mrs Kirk accepted the Town Council had no decision-making role but said it had a key role in leading and reflecting local views. It could also make representations to Cheshire West and Chester Council, the mineral planning authority, and the Environment Agency. She also believed the council should object

to any proposal for fracking in Frodsham or immediately adjoining area and should refuse to allow seismic surveys on land owned by the Town Council.

The two mothers also asked for council support in carrying out a survey of residents to determine their views on fracking.

Council chairman Cllr Judith Critchley thanked the two women for their presentations and the council agreed to refer the matter to its environment committee to consider setting up a working group to consider the issue.



Frodsham Town Council opposed the Frodsham Wind Farm – and look what it got! This picture, showing how the as yet uncomplete wind turbines dominate the Frodsham skyline, was taken from the bridge at Frodsham Railway Station. Frack Free Frodsham and Helsby want to make sure opposition to fracking is more effective.

Former Mayor resigns from council

FORMER Mayor Sara Wakefield has resigned from Frodsham Town Council – the seventh member to step down in the last eight months.

The former Overton and Five Crosses ward councillor said: "It is with great regret that I am handing in my resignation. I really enjoyed my time as Mayor and councillor for the last five years and may well be back at some time in the future but after much thought and discussion feel that it is the right decision for me now."

Sara Wakefield has been an influential member of the council, twice being nominated for chairman but losing out to former councillor Mike Pusey and present chairman Cllr Judith Critchley.

Her resignation will mean either a by-election or the council co-opting a replacement.

Meanwhile the council has filled two vacant places by co-option.

In Lakes ward, Robert Holt was

selected, on the chairman's casting vote and in Waterside ward, Michelle Parker was co-opted.

There remains one other vacant seat, in Castle Park ward, caused by the resignation of the former chairman of the council's communications committee Richard Knowles.

It is understood there is likely to be a by-election to fill this seat.



Community centre to get £47,000 facelift

THE popular Frodsham Community Centre is to be given a facelift thanks to a £47,000 grant from funding body WREN.

Public areas in the building, off Fluin Lane, will be refurbished from the main front entrance to the emergency exits at the back – hence the scheme being dubbed the Door2Door project.

Community Association chairman Roger Williams believes the improvements will really enhance the building and appeal to the many visitors who go through the doors.

He said: "This project will provide a real boost to the people of Frodsham. It's fantastic that WREN has awarded us this money and we are really looking forward to the changes taking shape over

the next few months.

WREN is a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community, biodiversity and heritage projects from funds donated by FCC Environment through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Richard Smith, WREN's grant manager for Cheshire, said: "We're delighted to be supporting the Frodsham Community Centre project and pleased our funding will make such a difference to so many groups of people across Frodsham. WREN is always happy to consider grant applications for projects that benefit local communities and we're looking forward to this one having a positive impact very soon."

It is hoped the Door2Door project will be ready in September.

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(09/16)

Mayor hosts civic service

NEWLY-elected Mayor of Frodsham, Cllr Mallie Poulton, embarked on his new role with a Civic Service at St Laurence church with his Mayoress, Mrs Jean Johnson.

The regular church congregation was joined by a large contingent of his supporters, including the Lord Mayor of Chester and her Consort and the Mayors and Consorts of Winsford, Neston and Ellesmere Port.

Councillors from local councils,

church dignitaries and a large number of family and friends.

The service was followed by receptions at the Ring'o'Bells and Frodsham Golf Club.

Among the good wishes received was a beautiful hand-made card from the children of Weaver Vale

Primary School in Cllr Poulton's Waterside Ward.

The Mayor and Mayoress kick-started their fundraising with a spectacular Queen's Birthday weekend in Castle Park their charities are Frodsham Community Centre, St Laurence's Church and the Cheshire Asbestos Victim Support Group.



Action packed visit to London

PUPILS from Frodsham Manor House Primary and Kingsley Primary enjoyed an action packed three-day visit to London.

They enjoyed an open top bus tour, a river cruise, a meal in the Rainforest Café and a hands-on investigation workshop at The Natural History Museum.

There was a tour of the Palace of Westminster shopping in Hamley's, a walking tour of various sights, a climb to the very top of St Paul's Cathedral and a visit to see The Lion King.

Frodsham's Junior Mayors, Josh Chow and Lily Brook laid flowers in memory of MP Jo Cox and pledged Manor House to Jo's Wall of Love.

Manor House assistant head teacher Naomi Anstice said: "It was a busy and tiring few days for all involved but an exciting and emotional time to be visiting London. Many of our children were experiencing London and Tube Life for the first time but they soon settled into the hustle and bustle of city life."



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Is Employment Law at the Top of your Agenda?

By Paul McCord, Solicitor of Rowlinsons Solicitors

For the small business Employment Law can appear to be a quagmire of statutes and regulations dealing with all areas of the relationship between employer and employee. The list of areas to consider seems endless, including disability discrimination, working time, health and safety and part-time workers rights to name but a few.

Despite the complexity of this legislation business owners are often left to navigate this minefield themselves. However, when taking on employees certain factors must be at the top of your agenda to avoid receiving hefty financial penalties.

Know the Minimum Requirements

All employees have minimum Statutory rights imposed by law and these include the right to written terms of employment, an itemised pay slip, to be paid at least the national minimum wage, the right to at least 28 days

paid holidays (including bank holidays) and paid maternity leave. Failure to adhere to the requirements can leave employers with a significant financial penalty.

Workers may be engaged who are not classed as employees, such as agency workers or freelance workers. Most workers are still however entitled to a number of rights, such as to be paid at least the minimum wage and limits on working time for example.

The Benefits of Employment Contracts

The Contracts of Employment defines the relationship between the employer and the employee. Apart from meeting its legal requirements to include a statement of employment the contract should set out the employee's duties, responsibilities and rights.

It is also worthwhile producing along with the contract of employment an employee handbook. This

can provide guidelines, policies and procedures for new employees and also be a standard reference point to help resolve any disputes that may occur within the business.

Other Factors to Consider

The entitlement to statutory sick pay for employees commencing the fourth consecutive day they do not attend work due to illness.

The automatic enrollment of an employee into a workplace pension scheme if the employee is aged between 22 and pension age, if they earn more than £10,000 per year and if they work in the UK. This is currently being rolled out in stages with the requirement that all employers meet the obligation by 2018.

Health and safety responsibilities and compliance which can cover many issues, not only risk assessing manual work but also hazardous substances in the workplace,



no smoking policies, bullying, and maternity leave.

Employees are also entitled to time off for a number of different reasons and on the occasion of certain events. For example emergency leave and maternity leave are available in addition to standard holiday entitlements.

If Employment Law is on your agenda contact **Paul McCord** on **01928 735333** for a **FREE** 30 minute consultation to understand your legal requirements and put contracts in place to protect your business.

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Ask yourself this...

- Do you have a Shareholder Agreement or Business Partnership Agreement?
- Does your business have a roof over its head? For how long, at what cost and under what obligations on your part?
- Are your employment contracts and policies up to date?
- Do you have any protection in place in the event that an employee brings a claim against you?
- What if you became too ill to work and what would happen to your business if you died?
- Do you have terms and conditions of business? If you do, when were they last reviewed?
- Do you have commercial contracts with your customers and suppliers? Are these up to date and do they adequately protect you?
- Are your credit management procedures working? Is unrecovered debt affecting your cash-flow?

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