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Editor's Comment

SO the world's local bank is no longer in Frodsham.

HSBC has closed its branch in Main Street – or, as they would have it, merged it with the Eastgate Street, Chester, branch, a mere 10.1 miles away, or to put it another way, 38 minutes away if we use one of the four buses which run every hour.

Alternatively, if we have a car, we can park one minute away and pay

£2 for two hours.

We shouldn't worry unduly, however, because HSBC never close a branch lightly. They carry out an impact assessment based on internal analysis and local community engagement and this seems to show that it is all our own fault anyway.

For a start, we in Frodsham are too

old. Average age is 44 compared with the England average of 39. Too many of us are retired – 21 per cent compared with the average of 14 per

Not enough of us are out-of-work - only three per cent compared with the average of 4.4 per cent. And only 16 per cent of our households

do not have a car, compared with England's average of 26 per cent.

We have access to superfast broadband with reported speeds of up to 76mbs and 90 per cent of customers who used the Frodsham branch were registered for internet

and/or telephone banking.
So it's their fault too.
It seems that HSBC's impact assessment shows that Frodsham is a great place to live and work.

A prosperous town with low unemployment, high car ownership

and great internet connections.

We all know it is a magnet for tourists because of its beauty spots, its walks and the proximity of Cheshire's famous Sandstone Ridge. So what's not to like about Frodsham?

Better ask HSBC. If they are the world's local bank we must be on a different planet.

Deadline for the October issue of Frodsham Life is September 27

Church flower festival

NORLEY Methodist Church is to hold a Flower Festival with the theme of "Church Life and Witness".

The three day festival will take place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 23, 24 and 25.

On the Friday, it will be open from 11am to 7pm, Saturday will be from 11am to 4pm and Sunday will be from 11am to 4pm and Sunday will be from 12 noon to 5pm.

Admission is free and refreshment

will be available.

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Busy year ahead as Mayor aims to raise £10,000 for good causes

FRODSHAM Mayor Mallie Poulton has set himself the challenge of raising £10,000 during his year in office for two local good

Cllr Poulton is aiming to raise the funds for the St Laurence's Church refurbishment Fund and Frodsham Community Centre, two organisations he sees as playing important roles in

the local community.

He will be launching his fundraising appeal at the Big Bees
Breakfast Club at Kash 22 on Church Street on Tuesday, September

6th at 8.30am. "The comm "The community centre and church are both hubs in the local community," said Cllr Poulton.
"Although I was brought up a Catholic, St Laurence's is my spiritual

home and to be honest I am sick of having to sit on hard seats there!

"On a serious note the church is

involved in numerous community events and is also home to various groups like the Mothers Union and

Frodsham Players."

Meanwhile Cllr Poulton has lots of other plans for the year ahead, including the first ever Disability Awareness Day for Frodsham, which he plans to organise at the community centre in October.

Next year he is planning a pedalling for pounds event and a grand mayoral ball.

Anyone who would like to support the Mayor's fund-raising efforts should call 01928 731817 or email driveashton@gmail.com

Watch this space for more details.



Community Association seeks new treasurer FRODSHAM Community Association is urgently searching for someone to take on the role of honorary treasurer. Chairman Roger Williams said: "We are unable to fill the position from within

our current ranks so we find it necessary to cast our net wider in the community and trust that a suitable candidate can be found."

The popular Frodsham Community Centre has served the town well for nearly 50 years and provides an excellent venue and facility for a wide area. But it cannot continue without a treasurer.

FCA finances are not overly complex but the position of treasure is an essential one which requires a degree of commitment and an understanding of

the necessary financial procedures.

Anyone who would like more information should contact Mr Williams on

07904 423 380 or email chairman@frodcomm.org.uk

M56 to close for viaduct repairs

THE M56 near Frodsham is set to close on four nights while essential maintenance work is carried out on the Weaver Viaduct.

Maintenance work is carried out on the Vedver Viaduct.

Highways England says bridge joints will be replaced and the motorway will be resurfaced with closures taking place on Friday, September 30, Monday October 3, Tuesday October 4, and Wednesday October 5.

All the closures will be between 8pm and 6am.

While the closure of the M56 is in place diversion routes will be implemented, with separate diversion routes for high sided vehicles due to the rejlycovy bridge in Fredeham.

the railway bridge in Frodsham.

Cheshire West and Chester Council will work closely with Highways England during the programme of works.



Christmas comes early - with the Town Council's 2016 Gift Voucher scheme

CHRISTMAS starts early in Frodsham – with the launch of Frodsham Town Council's Gift Voucher scheme.

Following the success of previous years, the Council is delighted to announce that it is to be run again this year.

The hugely popular scheme enables Frodsham residents who will be 70 or over on or before January 31 next year, to claim a £10 voucher which can be spent at numerous shops, business, clubs

and societies in Frodsham. More people claimed vouchers last year than ever before and the Council is anxious to make sure everyone who is eligible joins in the scheme.

The vouchers will be delivered on or before Friday, November 26, in time for the Frodsham Christmas Festival.

Residents who will be 70 or over on or before January 31 should complete the application form on this page and return it to the Town Council office, or to any Town Councillor, on or before November

The council stresses that people who obtained a voucher last year

must reapply again this year.

A full list of businesses, clubs and societies where the vouchers can be exchanged will be published in November.

Businesses, clubs and societies who wish to take part in the scheme

must also reapply this year.
The Town Council will, subject to the detailed rules and conditions, to be found on the application form below, redeem each valid voucher it receives from a business or local group by February 28 next year for £'10.

The Town Council sees this initiative as being an excellent opportunity for local groups to put on events for Frodsham's older residents and potentially to raise money.

Some older residents may like to donate their vouchers to a local group or society - the Town Council will be prepared to accommodate this too, again subject to the detailed rules and conditions.

If any group would like to be an active participant_in this scheme please contact the Town Council by Friday November 4 with details of

their proposals.

All local groups and societies that are active within Frodsham to a significant degree will be eligible to exchange the valid vouchers for money with the Town

Council, providing the vouchers are submitted for exchange by February 28 next year. Vouchers must be

used by January 31 next year when they will expire, whether they have been used or not. They cannot be exchanged for money.





Daisy Proe aged 6 and Alfie Newman aged 5 meet Father Christmas and Elf at last year's festival.



Crowds flock to last year's festival.

FRODSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

The application deadline for the £10 Frodsham Gift Voucher is Friday 4 November. You can use this application form or forms are available at various locations in Frodsham and, of course, the Town Council Office between 9 and 1 every weekday.

Name:			
Address:			
Postcode:			
Date of Birth:			
Telephone No:			

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

Voucher Scheme rules

- 1 That at 31 January 2017 the applicant is 70 years of age or older and has only made this one application for a voucher.
- 2 That the applicant is a resident of Frodsham and is shown as a resident of Frodsham on the current electoral roll.
 3 That Frodsham Town Council (FTC) will make checks to confirm the validity of certain applications and reserves the right to require proof of age and residency to support any application
- FTC reserves the right to refuse to issue a voucher to anyone for any reason where they believe that is necessary to preserve the integrity of the scheme.
- 5 FTC's responsibility is to issue the voucher only it is a matter for the local business, groups and societies whether they will accept them. 6 Vouchers will be issued by 26 November 2016. All vouchers expire on 31 January 2017 whether or not they have been presented.
- 7 The vouchers cannot be exchanged for money by any applicant.
- 8 All businesses, groups and societies must present the vouchers for payment by FTC by 28 February 2017; payments by FTC will be made to those with valid claims on or before 31 March 2017.
- FTC reserves the right to limit the issue of vouchers so that its liability in terms of paying against valid vouchers does not exceed the budgeted figure of £10,000 and in applying such a limit FTC may either reduce the value of the voucher or choose to issue the vouchers on a first come first served basis up to the budgeted figure.

Two new members coopted to council



FRODSHAM Town Council is back to full-strength following the

co-option of two new members.

The council voted unanimously to co-opt Pat Williamson as a member for Castle Park Ward and Ginny Kirk as a member for Overton and Five Crosses Ward.

Crosses Ward.

This means the council is up to its full membership of 16 for the first time for several months following a series of resignations.

Cllr Williamson is associated with the action group, Friends of John Williamson, which was founded by her late husband to campaign against the controversial proposal to sell the Park Lane play area.

The group was re-named after Mr Williamson after his untimely death.

Cllr Kirk is a member of Frack Free Frodsham and Helsby, the action group campaigning against seismic surveys and fracking in the Frodsham and Helsby areas.

Farlier this summer she was one of two group members who made a well.

Earlier this summer she was one of two group members who made a well



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Answer:

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However, there are different reasons for remortgaging and as such there will be varying levels of legal services required.

- Moving mortgage for a better rate whilst the interest rates are currently low, and the Bank of England are not showing signs of currently low, and the Bank of England are not showing signs of increasing the interest rate, we cannot predict the future. If you are currently on your lender's standard variable rate then it is highly likely that you could save money on their repayments by moving to a fixed or a discounted mortgage deal which will in most circumstances be significantly lower.

 Changing mortgage details – if you are considering remortgaging because you are adding or removing a partner from the mortgage, then you will need to consult a solicitor to ensure all the relevant
- then you will need to consult a solicitor to ensure all the relevant paperwork is completed accurately. Any changes of ownership should be carefully considered and we can provide expert advise on the remortgage and the transfer of equity that will also take
- Increasing the amount borrowed this may be for renovations on ncreasing the amount borrowed – this may be for renovations on your property, to release equity generally or you may be looking for an increase to buy out a partner in the house. Again it is highly recommended that you seek specialist legal advice so that all avenues are considered and the best way forward is found. Whilst taking money out of the property may seem like a good short term solution, over the longer term you will typically end up paying more in total than other lending solutions.

A Conveyancing lawyer would review your current mortgage contract and advise on the legal aspects and any early repayment charges. They would be able to provide you with details of independent financial advisors and handle the legal transfer including moving the title deeds to the new provider. They also act on behalf of the mortgage company in respect of registering the new mortgage and approving the legal title for the property. In most cases the lender will require you to pay for that service, though it will be included within the fee quoted to you.

For advice on Remortgaging, please contact Chris Illingworth in our Frodsham office on 01928 739300 or by email chris.illingworth@fdrlaw.co.uk

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Land of beds debuts exclusive Hilary Devey mattress collection

FRODSHAM and Helsby-based Land of Beds - one of Britain's leading premium independent bed retailers - has signed a deal to become the only company in the UK to offer an exclusive range of mattresses from the new Hilary Devey Collection.

Designed by entrepreneur Hilary Devey CBE and handmade by Duvalay, the collection is the result of Hilary's investment in the company during her time on BBC's Dragon's Den. With Hilary at the forefront of the design of the collection, personally selecting key features and materials, the collection brings a fresh take to a male-dominated

a tresh take to a male-dominated industry by providing affordable luxury married with unbeatable comfort.

"My collection of three premium mattresses – the Manderley, the Pemberley and the Thornfield – combine traditional handcrafted bad making traditional handcrafted combine traditional handcrafted bed-making techniques with the finest raw materials and innovation," says Hilary. "Each is produced by hand using customblends of the finest materials that Land of Beds' customers are going to love - silk, wool, cashmere and cotton. I am delighted that Duvalay are working with this award-winning family business who share my values around auality and value my values around quality and value for money.

All three mattresses are available in four sizes - single, double, king and super king - retailing from

"The more springs you have in your mattress, the more supported

you are going to feel," says Land of Beds' Caroline Murray, who was declared an Inspirational Woman in Business at this year's Cheshire Woman of the Year Awards. "Right at the top of the range is the pillow-topped Thornfield, which offers the ultimate in bedtime luxury with 2,600 individually nested pocket springs - each one tuned to react to your weight and shape so it can provide total body support and correct spinal alignment.

'The Manderley features a summer and winter side for all year-round comfort, while the Pemberley is only one in the range to also include a uniquely innovative, highly-breathable kind of memory foam that relieves uncomfortable pressure points. Whatever your budget or personal preference, there is something for you in this

gorgeous collection.

Last September, Lands of Beds was recognised for the third time in the past four years by the National Bed Federation (NBF) awards as a 'best in class' company for their continued investment within the industry, both from a business and product perspective. In March 2016, they won the High Sheriff of Cheshire's 'Family Business of Excellence Award'. In August they

were shortlisted in the 'Business of the Year' (11 to 50 employees) category in the Cheshire Business Awards 2016 – due to be announced on 7. Chester Cathedral. October

Chester Cathedral.

Mike Murray, Managing Director
at Land of Beds, says: "We're
committed to giving our customers
the largest selection of beds both
at our store on 98 Chester Road,
Helsby, and online at www.
landofbeds.co.uk and felt that
the new Hilary Devey Collection
would enhance our offering. The
mattresses have a great story

behind them, are of the highest quality and comfort, and have a sense of luxury that we don't often

They've not only thought about the fabrics and materials used, but are also handmade to order from their factory in Yorkshire. Handmade mattresses have Handmade features such as hand-side stitching and hand-tufting, which give a premium finish and extra comfort."

For more information on the new collection visit www.landofbeds. co.uk or telephone 0800 158 48





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10:30am - 12:30pm SAT 15 OCT

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Another classic Frodsham M

Report and picture

The tenth running of the Cheshire Motor Show, organised by Rotary was once again a great success.

Hundreds of vehicles were on display, including classic, American, and customised cars, motorcycles, vintage buses and

Many hours of hard work had been put into restoring and maintaining the vehicles, which looked in pristine condition in the glorious sunshine at Frodsham Community Centre.

Harley Davidson, Mustang, Chevrolet, MG and Rolls Royce were just some of the show stopping vehicles on display for the people who crowded to the event to enjoy. There were rides and a bouncy slide for the younger guests, and plenty of refreshments, burgers and ice cream available to ensure no one went hungry. For those wanting Many hours of hard work

one went hungry. For those wanting to stay a little cooler in the summer heat then @TheBarbers were on hand to give visitors a haircut.

The sound track for the day was provided by live performances on the stage by Bexi Owen and Northern Heist. Bexi is a jazz, blues

and swing performer who takes inspiration from the 1920s-1950s. Her songs complimented the day perfectly as they drifted over the vintage vehicles. While Northern Heists' set of Rock Blues was more befitting of the American mustangs

that were on display.

The Show is one of the main fundraising events for Frodsham and Helsby Rotary Club and enables them to raise funds for charities and other good causes in order to support those less fortunate locally, nationally, and internationally.









otor Show and Vintage Fair

s by Barrie Scholes



Outstanding A Level results from Frodsham and Helsby

STUDENTS from Frodsham and Helsby again turned in outstanding results in the A-Level examinations.

The exceptional results revealed at Helsby High School are a testament to the hard work of students and staff, who deserve congratulations for their outstanding performance, the school said.

Students of all abilities have made very good progress enabling many of them to take advantage of their first choice university places and modern apprenticeships.

Twenty seven students achieved two A*/A grades or better and, of those, there were 17 students who achieved three A*/A grades or better.

Exceptional performances include: Dan Burnett, who will be reading Physics at Durham with two A* and three A grades, Sylvia Hayes, who will be reading Geography at Exeter with three A* grades, Ellen Cropley, who will be reading History at Oxford with three A grades and Andrew Gillott, who will be reading Mechanical with Automotive Engineering at Bath, also with three A* grades.

Headteacher John Dowler paid tribute to the impressive

Headteacher John Dowler paid tribute to the impressive determination and phenomenal achievements of the students, He said: "I am proud that, yet

He said: "I am proud that, yet again, young people from Helsby High School have achieved an admirable set of A-Level exam results.. Students of all abilities have made excellent progress during their time in the Sixth Form.

"We are very pleased with the successes of all students, which

are a reflection of their hard work and commitment, as well as the dedication of our staff and the support of their families. Some students have achieved an exceptional set of grades and we are thrilled that so many Helsby students continue to achieve the top grades at A-Level.

"Our young people have

contributed so much to the school during their time with us and I am sure that they will use their wide range of skills and academic qualifications to achieve further success in the future."



Some of the 17 Helsby High School Sixth Form students who achieved three or more A*/A grades this summer

"Hot Flush" – the musical that promises lots of laughs

FRODSHAM-based Zodiac Amateur Operatic Society are promising plenty of laughs with their next production, "Hot Flush"... the musical

The show, with a cast of predominantly Frodsham and Kingsley residents, will run at Runcorn's Brindley Theatre from October 4-8 with tickets, £11, available online www.thebrindley.org.uk or by calling 0151 907-8360.

Theatregoers will meet Myra, Sylvia, Helen and Jessica in this hilarious show and share in the friendships, the secrets, the tears, the laughs and ups and downs of four ordinary women - and their men - living extraordinary lives.

four ordinary women - and their men - living extraordinary lives.

A successful barrister, specialising in divorce, Myra had always considered herself a together sort of person. That is, until she began to develop the symptoms of "you know what" ...and her rat of a husband left her for a big blonde bimbo from his office.

blonde bimbo from his office.
Jessica's husband has worked hard and made lots of money and they both enjoy the finer things in life. Her life seemed perfect until

her mid-life crisis began but she's coping with the help of her friends and the vicar.

She just wishes the vicar could explain why when God made man he didn't try a little harder?

Sylvia has been married to Joe since she was 20...and has been bored with him since she was 21. She's now decided that life is for living and she's making up for lost

Helen, a widow, whose only daughter has left for university, is feeling a bit lonely. She tries to take one day at a time - it's just that sometimes, several days attack her at once.





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Trip to South Africa bags new business opportunity

A TRIP to South Africa has resulted in a Helsby couple launching their own import business specialising in bags to protect personal technology.

Now a chance meeting with Frodsham's Mayor Mallie Poulton at the Cheshire Show has also identified how the bags can help people with disabilities.

Cllr Poulton, who is a stroke ambassador and has suffered a stroke himself, is now endorsing the products which he will help launch at the national stroke conference in October. The design of the bags are

perfect for people who are only able to use one arm.

Helsby couple Roger and Jill Maher launched their family business at the Gadget Show last

Jill stumbled upon the business opportunity while searching for a bag for her own lap top. She was struggling to find the perfect bag and mentioned it to a friend in South Africa, who held up her own bag - which was the perfect solutuion

"It was called a buddy back pack and I realised there was a gap in the market over here," said Jill.

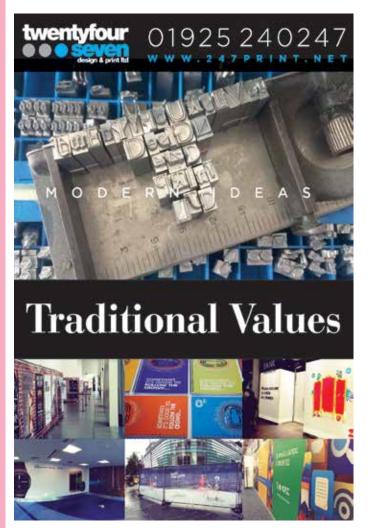
"These bags have amazing

versatility and as well as protecting lap tops and other IT gadgets, they are perfect for people who have had a stroke and can't use one

Jill travelled over to South Africa, met the bag's creator Vivienne Black and is now an official distributor in the UK.

The bags can be bought online at www.bagsbyblack.com





A safer and sustainable Frodsham? Have your say

By Councillors Andrew Dawson and Lynn Riley



CCTV and Matrix signs

We've had another spate of armed robberies and some cases of antisocial behaviour in Frodsham and we think the time has come for us to have good quality CCTV coverage in Frodsham – so that everyone who thinks they may be able to get away with it knows they could be seen on camera.

We're calling on the Police and Crime Commissioner, Cheshire Police and the Borough Council finally to fund an effective system for us. If you support our initiative please either sign the petition in the Post Office – or drop either of us an email, confirming your support. Please quote your name and address in the email. You can also tweet or retweet about this. Please use #CCTV4Frodsham. Previous attempts at bringing



CCTV have foundered through cost and, frankly because we are a low crime area – however we think we need more action if we are to keep it that way.

We also want to see matrix traffic signs brought to Frodsham and the surrounding area to alert people to problems on the roads and motorway and where the diversion routes are and our petition covers that too.

You may have seen signs on local lamp posts or even had a knock at your door about Operation Shield. This unique liquid DNA scheme helps you mark items in

your home, garage or shed with a unique code that can be traced back to you. It's a key tool in deterring burglaries, helps detection and recovery of stolen property. Frodsham's low rates of crime meant we were not on the map for Operation Shield but using our CWaC councillor grants we were able to encourage other partners to join us in funding a roll-out. As Frodsham boast a healthy number of cycling families, please look out for the regular bike marking events, the most recent of which was at Helsby High School during the school holidays.



The Station Car Park Tip

Our 'temporary' household waste recycling centre more affectionately known as 'the tip' is staying put for at the station for another few years. Whilst many agree its not in the best location, it's a well used and popular facility and we don't want to loose it. CWaC has agreed to keep it going but with some changes to the days it will operate. No decisions have yet been reached as to which 2 week days will see closures. We think Thursday – market day - makes sense along with either Monday or Tuesday. There will be changes made to the site layout to improve pedestrian and vehicle access and to handle more material. New technology will be introduced to scan number plates of cars using the site.

The New Chief Executive comes to town

Cheshire West's new Chief Executive has come to town! We gave Gerald Meehan a tour of the town centre and the long list of priorities we have. Top of the list is the need for now urgent investment in car parking if the Town is to be ready for the arrival of the Halton Curve in 2017/18 given our already over stretched parking situation. He got the message from us loud and clear! Highways and transportation featured strongly with many problem areas around town, our ongoing air quality situation that needs an action plan and the problems brought to town by the M56. Other issues include the need for a plan for the council owned land around the medical centre, serious investment in the poor state of leisure facilities, Castle Park, jobs, skills and health.

Many of these things on the list need to feature in a Neighbourhood Plan which sets out what Frodsham needs and wants up to 2030. This is becoming increasingly important as CWaC is asking for your views on very specific plans for Frodsham in the current Local Plan2 consultation which is open to 23rd September. We have pushed hard for specific plans for the tip and for detailed policy around fracking

Frodsham, Fracking and the Local Plan

It is looking highly likely that Ineos and Peel will be putting in applications for shale gas extraction in the near future. CWaC Labour promised a moratorium (a halt) in 2015 but haven't delivered this. They were told, and they should have known, that it would have been unlawful for a council to do this. Labour's current policies planning policies will permit fracking are out for consultation at the moment. They have chosen to consult over the summer – we can only guess why www.cheshirewestandchester/localplan.

They did listen to some of our arguments seeking to strengthen the protections for the environment and local communities – however we don't think they have gone far enough.

Since 2014 we have been proposing strong protective policies and most importantly policies that give the decisive say over these applications to the local community. The Conservative commitment to holding referenda should be beyond all doubt by now. Labour has chosen to ignore this fundamental democratic point. If a planning application is made for extraction we will call for a Parish poll so as to make sure that everyone has their say.

Do make sure you have your say about all of the draft local plan – you have until 23 September to get your responses in.

Andrew Dawson 07970 635629 andrew.dawson@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

@clrandrewdawson

Blog: frodshamtories.blogspot.com

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Memories of the Cub Scouts in Frodsham

CELEBRATIONS have been going on all over the country to mark the centenary of the Cub Scouts – and this has prompted a local stalwart of the movement to look back 72 years to when it started in Frodsham.

Joan Powell, of Norley is 85, now, but in 1944 she was Joan Green, of Frodsham – and but for

Green, of Frodsham – and but for her there might never have been any Cubs in Frodsham. She recalls how, in 1944, the Minister's wife at the Union Church, in Bridge Lane, Frodsham, started up a Cub Pack, with Joan to help

When the Minister and his wife left Frodsham, Joan was left with a

pack of 36 boys.
Although Frodsham had Scouts there seemed to be little enthusiasm for Cubs at that time and the pack had to leave the church and move to the Guide Hut off Church Street roughly where the Eddisbury

Square shopping precinct now is.
Joan says: "I was not old enough
to lead the pack, to be the Akela,
but I kept the pack going for some
time on my own. Later, Janet
Turnock, who had been a Ranger became Akele as she was older than me. Joan Horton, now Mrs Gilgrist, of Helsby, joined us to help

Mrs Powell can remember the names of many of the 36 boys in the Cub pack and wonders whether any of them still live in Frodsham.

Names she can recall include Duncan Miller, David Savage,

Williams, Williams, Barry Jones, Ronald Jones, Robert Bradbury, Michael Ripley, Philip Sproston, Brian Lloyd, two Horton boys and two Shore boys – one of who later became a Scout leader.

Former Mayor of Frodsham Brian Lloyd - one of the names on Mrs Powell's list – remembers her well and says many of the former Cubs are still around in the Frodsham area, although some have sadly passed on.

He said: "Miss Green was a very lively, vivacious person and very attractive. I think we all had a bit of a crush on her.

"The Cub Scouts and, of course, the Scouts were and still are a very good movement and played a big part in forming people's character. Most of us did well in later life and I think we can thank the Cubs and the Scouts for that.'

Brian moved on to the Scouts and has many happy memories of

both.

He said: "When we got around 16 or so, a group of us used to go to Blackpool for days out.

"Believe it or not we used to sit on the seafront drinking Horlicks. I fancy things are a bit different



Mrs Powell now and below (right) when the Cubs had a crush on her.



Fracking survey to go to 1,500 homes

CAMPAIGN group Frack Free Frodsham and Helsby are to carry out a major survey across the two communities during September to find out residents' attitudes to

Leaflets are to be delivered to 1,500 households, selected for their demographics, with questionnaires for residents to fill in – anonymously if they wish to do so.

Last year seismic testing was undertaken in Helsby and parts of Frodsham by TESLA, acting on behalf of IGas Energy, in order to help determine the viability of unconventional gas extraction, including shale gas "fracking".

The group believes seismic testing in the rest of Frodsham is likely to the process.

to take place soon on behalf of INEOS.

A group spokesperson said: "The community survey will enable a better understanding of the views of local residents, which can be brought to the attention of relevant authorities.

will "Questionnaires distributed to a representative number of households selected at random from across the entire parish area.

The sample has been taken in conjunction with best practice guidelines and will be checked against data held by the Office of National Statistics, after completion, to ensure that it represents the demographic profile of the parishes as a whole.

"Recipients of the

survey urged to complete the questionnaire. All individual responses will be kept confidential, individual and all views will be reported as a statistical summary.

The survey is supported by Frodsham Town Council, who have agreed to set up a working group to consider fracking.

The council has already agreed that no seismic testing will be allowed on any land owned by Frodsham Town Council

But it is believed it is possible that seismic testing could be carried out in the Frodsham area in September and October.

School's summer scarecrow trail

PUPILS and parents from Frodsham CE Primary School created their own Scarecrow Trail as part of the school's Summer Fair.

The trail wandered around the school, local businesses and nearby houses and there were some very imaginative entries.

These included "Father Michael" outside St Laurence's Church, a



cyclist propped up outside the Ring O' Bells, football star Gareth Bale, the Queen and Prince Philip outside local houses and "Wimbledon" outside the Scout Hut.

In the end it was decided there was no clear winner - so all the children involved were given a chocolate treat instead.



Property Searches - Are You Getting Your Money's Worth?

By Paul Butt, Residential Property Consultant at Rowlinsons Solicitors

If you are looking for someone to handle your conveyancing, you may find the quote so long and complex that you skip to the bottom line rather than worrying about the separate amounts for Fees, Stamp Duty Land Tax and Searches. However, it is important to check what searches are being commissioned on your behalf to get the most value for your money.

'Searches' are a lawyer's way of describing the research of various databases which may contain information affecting the property. Every quote should include the cost of a 'Local Search' as an absolute minimum. Information from the Local Authority will, for example, tell you whether the road on which the house is situated is maintained by the Local Authority and whether there is Planning Permission and Building Regulation Approval for any works carried out to the property.

Just as important however is what it does not tell you. One reason that people sell their house is because there is going to be some kind of development in the area - a new housing estate or whatever. You want to know about this before you buy, not when you have moved in. However, the Local Search won't reveal this. You may therefore wish to consider a 'Plan Search' - at an extra cost - that will tell you about any planning applications made within a 250 metres radius

Most quotes should include a 'Drainage and Water Authority Search'. This will tell you whether the house has mains drainage and water but as this can be ascertained without spending money on a search, is sometimes omitted. On the other hand, it will also tell you whether there are any water mains or sewers within the boundaries of the property – essential information if

you might wish to extend the house or erect a garage.

And then we have the risk of flooding. The Environment Agency estimates that one in six homes are at risk from flooding. Don't think that flooding just affects houses near the sea, rivers or on low lying land. Over 3 million houses are at risk from surface water or sewer flooding. A flood search can be commissioned to check and see whether the property is at risk.

There are a whole host of other searches that are available. For example, an 'Environmental Search' which will tell you whether the land on which the house is situated might be contaminated by harmful matters, or whether the area is affected by natural ground subsidence – and a multitude of other risks as well!

So do identify which searches are included in



the cost, and if you have any concerns consider paying for extra searches to ensure complete peace of mind.

For expert advice on the best searches for your property make an appointment with our Property Department on 01928 735333 for a FREE 30 minute consultation.

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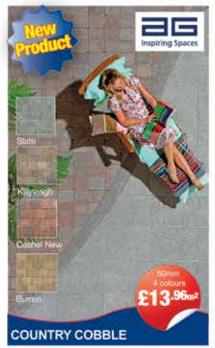




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