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FRODSHAM'S Neighbourhood Plan has the potential to be a hugely important document, helping to shape the future development of the town.

But unfortunately, Frodsham got off to a late start in drawing up its plan and even though the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is now working hard to make up for lost time, there still seems to be some confusion about what a Neighbourhood Plan actually is and what one has to do to get involved.

Things are not improved when we hear that, at a time when the Steering Group was short of members, a local resident who expressed an interest in joining was apparently told that he could not because he was too late. So much work had been done that there would be no point in him joining.

Another member of the public who joined, attended only one

meeting and then stepped down because he could not attend meetings called at short notice.

In fact, the situation is that any resident of Frodsham who wants to get involved in putting together a plan that could have a major impact on planning applications affecting the town in the future, is welcome to join.

It is important to stress that the Neighbourhood Plan is not a Town Council initiative, even though there are a couple of councillors on the Steering Group. It is supposed to be led by the people of Frodsham – and there are local residents already working hard to do just that.

But they would welcome more local people on board and, we are told, they really mean that.

It is true that a lot of work has already been done and newcomers will have to accept that. But this does not mean they cannot still play a useful role.

Frodsham needs to get its Neighbourhood Plan in place sooner rather than later because it can affect many local issues including housing, Green Belt, traffic, parking. Almost anything..

At the end of the day, everyone will get a chance to have a say through a local referendum. But the Steering Group will decide what questions the referendum will ask.

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Happy New Year
to all our readers
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Frodsham Remembers

MAYOR of Frodsham Cllr Mallie Poulton and his consort Mrs Pauline Sharp laid a wreath at the memorial on behalf of the people of Frodsham on Friday November 11.

They were joined by Junior Mayors Jack Dewhurst and Lily Nicholson who laid a wreath on behalf of the children of Frodsham.

This was followed a service of remembrance at St Laurence's on

Remembrance Sunday.

After the wreath laying the Mayor placed a cross of remembrance for all animals killed or abandoned in war and conflict.



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Rehearsals well underway for Frodsham Panto

REHEARSALS are well underway for Frodsham Panto group's latest production - 'Puss in Boots'.

All performances are being held at the Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Lane, Frodsham from Sunday 8th January to Saturday 14th January. The performances that are available are as follows;

Sunday 8th January 2017 (matinee) at 2.00 pm
 Monday 9th January 2017 (evening) at 7.00 pm
 Tuesday 10th January 2017 (evening) at 7.00 pm
 No performance on Wednesday 11th January 2017
 Thursday 12th January 2017 (evening) at 7.00 pm
 Friday 13th January 2017 (evening) at 7.00 pm
 Saturday 14th January 2017 (matinee) at 2.00 pm
 Saturday 14th January 2017 (evening) at 7.30 pm

Ticket prices are £9 Adults and £7 Children with reduced ticket prices on Monday and Tuesday of £6 and £4 respectively.
 Anyone who books 10 tickets or more will receive a 10% discount.
 For further ticket information or enquiries please call 07971 606409.



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Festive shopping raised £600

FRODSHAM and district Ladies Circle's annual Christmas shopping evening raised around £600 for Claire House Hospice.
 The event at Frodsham Methodist Church drew a large crowd – including Frodsham Mayor Cllr Mallie Poulton – and business was brisk at the various stalls. Shoppers were able to enter a free raffle and received a drink and mince pie for their £2 entrance fee.



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Pictured at the event are PCSO Neil Flanagan (Frodsham) PCSO John Kopczyk (Helsby) with John Lloyd – Speed Watch Co-ordinator Ray Watkinson, John Ashley, Chris Woodforde, Ken Tabron and John Crowther

More volunteers wanted for Speed Watch Group

Pictures: Lynda Haney Frodsham Photographic Society

MORE volunteers are wanted for the Frodsham and Helsby Speed Watch Group so it can be expanded across the area making the roads safer.

In the past five years Frodsham PCSO Neil Flanagan (below) says the main issues that have been reported to him have been traffic related.

As a result a community speed watch was set up for local volunteers to work together with the local police for the benefit of the community by making the roads safer.

A special training day to recruit and train more volunteers recently took place at Frodsham Police Station.

Neil is keen to get more volunteers involved so that community speed watch can be widened to surrounding areas. Anyone interested in finding out about, or joining the group, should contact either him or Helsby based PCSO John Kopczyk. Once they have sufficient people interested they will set up further training days.



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As a keen cyclist, what are my legal rights on the road?

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- Report the accident to the police within 24 hours. If you're injured you're legally required to do this.
- Get medical treatment; call an ambulance or see your GP. Even if you only have minor injuries, get checked out.
- Obtain all the details of the other party involved in the accident and look for witnesses who are willing to comment.

An innocent injured victim would get compensation to reflect pain, injury and suffering and repayment of any financial losses that are incurred, such as loss of wages, damage to a bicycle and clothing, and other expenses.

Be fully aware of the situation under which the accident occurred as even small details. You have three years from the date of the accident to do so to make a claim, and it is recommended that you seek professional specialist legal advice as soon as possible, particularly if there were witnesses to the accident or if you are receiving medical attention.

For Litigation legal advice contact Stephen Lawson on 01928 739300 or stephen.lawson@fdrlaw.co.uk

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Festivities' sponsors debut 'Night Before Christmas' float

BED and mattress specialists Land of Beds debuted a 'Night Before Christmas' themed float during this year's Ho Ho Helsby parade.

The family-run business, which has traded for more than four decades, also sponsored the village Christmas tree and a busking spot at Frodsham Christmas Festival 2016.

"As a father of two young children, Christmas is a very special, exciting time in my household – just as it is for so many families across the communities we serve," says Mike Murray, Managing Director.

"We are delighted to have contributed to the festivities in both Helsby and Frodsham this year. Our

team worked hard to create a 'Night Before Christmas' themed float for the Ho Ho Helsby parade."

The winners of the High Sheriff of Cheshire's Family Business Award of Excellence 2016 also sponsored Frodsham Community Association's Christmas Quiz at Frodsham Community Centre.

"There's still time to wake up in a new bed on Christmas Day," adds Mike. "Our newly-launched 'Click and Collect' service means you can collect any bed that's in stock from

our distribution centre in Astmoor, Runcorn, one hour after you have placed your order in-store or online.

"We also offer free 7-day express delivery and affordable financing plans on many popular beds and mattresses manufactured here in Britain by top brands including Hypnos, Sealy, Slumberland and Dunlopillo.

"Get fitted for a new bed at 98 Chester Road in Helsby and at 14 Church Street in Frodsham or shop online 24/7 at www.landofbeds.co.uk to wake up rested, refreshed and ready to enjoy all the fun of Christmas Day!"



Left to right are Cayley Jardine and Hannah Rushton McGregor.

STEM Club in the driving seat

AFTER 26 weeks of hard work, the STEM club at Sandymoor School finally completed the construction of their own customised Off-Road Kart.

The team at HUSCO worked on a weekly basis with Louis Swift, Adam Hodgkinson, Archie Wilson, Sam Theis and Abbey Jowett to strip down an Off Road Kart and rebuild it from scratch.

The pupils had to learn all about the engineering behind the kart and they were set the task of rebuilding it within time and budget constraints.

HUSCO, M&R Hydraulics, HY-PRO filtration, MELO, Yuken and CM Kennedy Motors all contributed time, money and resources to help the STEM team achieve their aim of rebuilding the kart. Pupils then had to deliver a presentation to the businesses, explaining what they had learned and evaluating the projects success.

It is planned to display the kart in the School Forum at the Christmas Market so that pupils and parents will be able to see the result of everyone's efforts.



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Yet again – the Christmas

Pictures: Frodsham Photographic Society

THEY say it every year – and once again they were right. Frodsham’s Christmas Festival was the best ever!

Santa Claus, Reindeer, festive lights, fireworks, a funfair and the fabulous festival parade. It had everything.

It was all over town – Church Street, Main Street, the Station Car Park, Castle Park – and just about everywhere else. The festival made sure Frodsham’s Christmas got off to a great start, with fabulous food, craft markets, buskers, live music and plenty of fun for all the family.

Army cadets showcased military skills. Schools, clubs and other organisations played their part and St Laurence Church, Castle Park Arts Centre and Castle Park House

all got in on the act. Shops stayed open late and there was plenty of good cheer at local pubs and restaurants.

Mayor of Frodsham Cllr Mallie Poulton was about in his new robes and afterwards enthused about the day.

“It was brilliant,” he said. “I would like to thank everyone who helped to make sure the festival was a huge success.”

The festival certainly got Frodsham people in a festive mood and also drew in visitors from a wide area making sure it was the town’s busiest day of the year.



Festival was the best ever!



Councillor's conduct 'below that expected of those in public office'

AN independent investigation into the conduct of outspoken Frodsham councillor Tom Reynolds has concluded that it has fallen below that expected of those in public office.

Cheshire West and Chester Council's Standards Complaints Panel decided unanimously that in an email sent on November 2 last year, Cllr Reynolds failed to comply with Frodsham Town Council's Member Code of Conduct which requires that members treat others with respect.

Cllr Reynolds has responded by saying he wishes to appeal against what he calls the "biased" decision.

He said: "We are one step closer to a Judicial Review."

The investigation arises from a complaint made by Cllr Andrew Dawson and Cllr Lynn Riley, members of Cheshire West and Chester Council (CW&C) that in an email of November 2 last year, Cllr Reynolds made false accusations against them implying they had acted "inappropriately and heedless of conflict of interest" in relation to Frodsham Town Council's decision to move its office to the ground floor of Castle Park House.

They also alleged this was part of a "sustained pattern of unjustified, vitriolic abuse, harassment and disparagement."

As a result, CW&C arranged an investigation by an independent

investigator who concluded that Cllr Reynolds had failed to comply with the Town Council's code of conduct because he had failed to show others respect in his email.

The investigator, Alex Oram, added: "I would strongly encourage Cllr Reynolds to reflect on his use of email in general, in particular whether his approach is conducive to encouraging constructive communication."

The matter was then referred to CW&C's Standards Complaints Panel who heard representations from Mr Oram, Cllr Reynolds and Cllr Dawson.

Cllr Reynolds did not dispute sending the email which alleged the complainants had acted improperly and illegally. He did not provide any evidence to support the allegations and when asked if he would withdraw the email said he would not.

While Cllr Reynolds might consider his intentions good, the email content was hostile, unjustified, abusive and inaccurate.

The panel recommended that Cllr Reynolds' behaviour should be censured by the Town Council and that they arrange suitable training for him so that he has a clear understanding of the ways in

which queries and concerns could be raised, acceptable standards of behaviour as a town councillor and the Localism Act 2011.

The panel also recommended that Cllr Reynolds carefully consider the circulation list for emails and limit it to those involved in the

matter.

Members of the Town Council, at their monthly meeting, decided to defer consideration of the panel's report, pending receipt of further documents relating to other complaints made against Cllr Reynolds.



Cllr Tom Reynolds

Tom stars in West End musical

TOM Abisgold, a Year 8 pupil at Helsby High School, is currently playing an important role in the new West End production of "School of Rock."

He is one of three boys playing the part of Zack, lead guitarist in a newly formed rock band.

Tom has also appeared on BBC TV's "The One Show" promoting the show and performing live on national television.

Based on the hit movie with a rocking new score by Andrew Lloyd Webber, the musical tells the story of wannabe rock star Dewey Finn who poses as a substitute teacher at a prestigious prep school to make ends meet.

When he discovers the musical talents of pupils in his class he forms a rock group to take part in a "Battle of the Bands."

He also falls for the beautiful headmistress at the school!

Andrew Lloyd Webber said: "I'm delighted to be bringing School of Rock – The Musical to the West End following what has been a hugely exhilarating experience creating and opening the show on Broadway, where we'll soon celebrate our first birthday."

"As many people know I'm passionate about children engaging with music from an early age, and to that end I cannot wait for UK audiences to see the remarkably talented group of young actor musicians we have found for our production. They're currently blowing the roof off our rehearsal rooms working with our wonderful cast of grown-ups led by the hilarious David Fynn."



Andrew Lloyd Webber poses with young stars from the show. Helsby High's Tom Abisgold is sitting on the bus.

Guy Fawkes resounding success

Pictures: Frodsham Photographic Society

THE annual Roundtable Fireworks Display was once again a resounding success.

The Mayor Cllr Mallie Poulton with his Consort Ms Charlotte YD Hayes of @The Barbers fame and Junior Mayors Jack and Lily judged the Guy competition.

Winning School was Weavervale Primary who received £250, runners up were Overton C of E school who received £100 with two other runners up prizes of

£50 each.

Cllr Poluton said: "It was a fantastic turn out for this great charitable organisation who give so much to our community.

"If anyone can help Roundtable or want to join get in touch with Frodsham Town Council for contact details."



Library hosts poetry performance inspired by Manchester Ship Canal

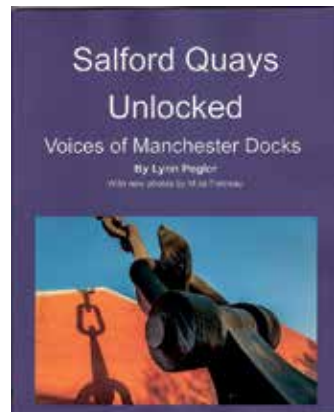
FRODSHAM Library hosts festive refreshments and a performance of lively poems and monologues inspired by the Manchester Ship Canal by Crowton poet Lynn Pegler on Thursday 8 December.

The performance, accompanied by old photographs and stunning new images, will feature work from Lynn's new book 'Salford Quays Unlocked - Voices of Manchester Docks'.

The poetry collection takes the

reader on a historical journey. It starts in 1887 with the construction of the Manchester Ship Canal through to the docks' closure a century later and finally its successful reincarnation as the Quays and MediaCity. Artist LS Lowry, canal navies, a Tornado pilot and BBC producer are just a few of the characters who engage with the audience to tell the intriguing story.

The event starts at 6pm with refreshments, followed by the reading at 6.30pm. Free entry on the door.



We're in Frodsham to support independent shops this Small Business Saturday

Hi, I'm Lorna from bira and I'll be in Kash 22 from 11am-5pm. Pop by to find out how we're supporting independent retailers in your town. See you on 3 Dec!

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Year 4 pupils with the Bishop of Birkenhead.

Pupils admitted to Communion

ELEVEN pupils from Frodsham CE Primary School were admitted to Communion at a service at St Laurence Church.

The children led the service, reading beautifully and the occasion was made all the more special by the presence of the Bishop of Birkenhead, the Right Rev Keith Sinclair.

When pupils are in Year 4 at Frodsham CE Primary, their religious education lessons incorporate a six week course which explores the basics of the Christian faith and what Christians believe about Communion.

The course begins by looking at life as a journey and the children share their own "life journeys". They each make a special memory box and after

each lesson complete an activity with their family to add to the box.

The programme culminates with a visit to the Noddffa centre, run by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary at Penmaenmawr, North Wales, with Father Michael Mills.

This trip enables the youngsters to reflect on what they have learnt about the Christian faith and also explore the surrounding area.

During this time, the children being admitted to Communion baked bread with the Sisters, which was then shared with the congregation during Holy Communion.

Advent box trail through Frodsham

FRODSHAM Manor House School has organised a community Advent Box trail to help bring the spirit of Christmas to local shoppers.

The boxes can be found in shops and other businesses around Frodsham and free trail entry forms can be obtained from Paws and Claws and Dandelion.

A number of local groups and schools, including the 4th Frodsham Guides, Happy Bunnies Nursery and Frodsham Methodist Toddler Group have created the Advent boxes.



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Photographic Society put Frodsham Life in the picture

FRODSHAM Life magazine has teamed up with Frodsham Photographic Society to help provide coverage of events in and around the area.

Last Year Frodsham & District Photographic Society celebrated 50 years of clicking the shutter.

The event was celebrated with a party and of course a cake, cut by president Hazel Bell.

Society chairman Andy Findlay says the society is delighted to be involved with a new venture of collaboration with Frodsham Life who are this year, sponsoring the society in return for some images highlighting occasions in the village.

The Society meet on Mondays from September to April with a varied programme of presentations, competitions and instruction and of course enter external competitions with neighbouring clubs.

In April the society was invited by Ellesmere Port Photographic Society to compete with eight others for the Marsden Cup.

Andy said: "I am delighted to say we came first with a group of

images in 'Triptych'. Lynda Haney's 'Great, Long Tailed and Blue' was one of those presented and illustrated here.

"Recently they were in Chester Photographic Society's inter-club battle with 14 others. This time we were 5th but Andrew William's print 'Wensleydale Portrait' was first overall in the colour category, also shown here.

"Further afield we have set up an exchange programme with a group in the USA and are now exploring a similar exchange with a club in Belgium," added Andy.

This month there was a talk by two members - 'Fire & Ice' - which was illustrated with images of their adventures in Iceland while this month's Club Competition was 'Monochrome'.

For more details visit the society's website www.frodshamphoto.org.uk and they always welcome visitors.



Church's tree festival

FRODSHAM Methodist Church is to host a Christmas Tree Festival on Friday and Saturday, December 9-10.

More than 20 trees will be display, decorated by local schools, businesses and community groups.

The event will be officially opened at 3.30pm on the Friday by Frodsham Mayor Mallie Poulton, followed by singing by the Manor House School Choir.

Over the weekend there will be a number of musical performances, together with stalls and refreshments available in the church hall. Proceeds from the event will be divided between church funds and the church charity the Boaz Trust, which provides accommodation for destitute asylum seekers and refugees in Greater Manchester.

School's record cake sale

YEAR Nine pupils at Helsby High School raised £160 for Cancer Research UK with a cake sale.

The amount raised was a record for a cake sale at the school. Pupils, parents and staff baked the cakes and also helped run the stall.

In the end, they ran out of cakes! Cancer Research UK is the world's leading charity dedicated to beating cancer through research and was chosen by pupils as the school's charity for the year.

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In-house coaching course was huge success

MORE than 30 soccer coaches attended an in-house FA Level One coaching course held by Frodsham Junior Football Club over several weekends and evenings at Frodsham Community Centre.

Cheshire FA tutors Gary Banister and Carl Wild delivered the course – the first to be held by a junior football club in the Cheshire FA.

The FA's Level One is the entry-level qualification for anyone looking to pursue a career in football coaching or simply improve his or her coaching abilities. The qualification provides an introduction to the organisation and delivery of safe and enjoyable coaching sessions, includes modules on safeguarding and emergency first aid, and is ideally suited to those working with groups of young players.

Frodsham JFC chose to run the course with the aim of ensuring high standards of coaching across the club.

More than half the club's 70-plus

coaches already hold the FA Level One qualification with five coaches qualified to FA Level Two.

Seventeen of the club's current coaches attended the course and were joined by 16 coaches from other local clubs.

Frodsham JFC's head of coach and player development Joe Bell, who arranged the course, said: "Our aim is to have competent and confident coaches across the board and the FA Level One qualification moves us towards that, as a club."

"As a grassroots club, Frodsham JFC is committed to values of teamwork, respect and resilience. Our coaches have an enormous impact on the lives of our young players – beyond footballing ability – and we fully understand that. The Level One is a benchmark for all of

our new coaches from now on".

The club was extremely grateful to receive a donation of £500 from Frodsham Mayor, Cllr Mallie Poulton, presented on behalf of Frodsham Town Council's grant scheme. These funds contributed towards the cost of the venue hire and were donated on the understanding that three of the FJFC coaches participating would be under the age of 21.

Overall the course was a resounding success with all the coaches passing their individual assessments and achieving the FA Level One qualification. The new skills they have gained will now be used to benefit many of the 400-plus local children who play football for Frodsham Juniors FC.

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

Manor House soccer heroes

PUPILS at Frodsham Manor House Primary School are celebrating after the school's football team won a tournament organised by Liverpool Football Club.

The contest, part of the Premier League school's community programme, involved 12 schools playing across two leagues - with the winners of each league progressing to a regional tournament.

The teams were from all over Merseyside and the Wirral.

Manor House drew a tough first game 0-0 against a school from Prescot but went on to win their next three games - all by the margin of 3-1.

This proved to be vital as they finished joint top with the Prescot team but went through on goal difference.

School football coach Stu Winterburn said: "The lads were

over the moon and couldn't stop singing and laughing. Now they have a chance to play winning

teams from all over the North West.

Then...who knows? Win that and it's on to the national tournament."



Give the Greatest Gift this Christmas...

Did you know...?

1 If you die without making a will the 'Intestacy rules' will dictate where your money and property will go after your death.

2 The intestacy rules do not always do what you would expect:

- married couples or civil partners do not automatically inherit the whole of each other's estate if one dies.
- unmarried couples have no automatic rights to inherit from each other if one dies.

3 It is **ESSENTIAL** to make a will to ensure that your wishes are carried out.

4 Making a will gives you control of:

- Who benefits from your money and property after your death.
- Who will deal with your estate for you (your 'Executors').
- Who will be legal guardians for your children if you die whilst they are young.
- At what age your children will inherit from you. The law states that money or assets passing to children must remain in trust until the age of 18 but many people choose to increase this in their wills.

And much more besides...

GIVE THE GREATEST GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS... **PEACE OF MIND**

Make a will to ensure that your loved ones are provided for in the way you want after your death.



Making a will needn't be a lengthy or expensive process – so don't put it off – call us today on **01928 735333** for a no-obligation chat. And as our Christmas gift to you we are offering a **10% discount** on wills until the end of December 2016 – just quote code **FL12** when you call.

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Seasonal Greetings from the Mayor

The Mayor of Frodsham Cllr Mallie Poulton and the Junior Mayors Jack and Lily, together with our Council Chair Cllr Judith Critchley, send Seasonal Greetings to all Frodsham residents and businesses.



We hope you all enjoy the festivities and we wish you
all a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year