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**All set for
Puss in Boots!**

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Editor's Comment



AFTER more than 10 years of publishing Frodsham Life we were delighted and honoured to receive a special award from Mayor Mallie Poulton for "best free publication."

The award was especially rewarding as it was presented, not just by the Mayor, but also one of our previous "critics."

Up until taking on the task of helping produce Frodsham Town Council's own newsletter Cllr Poulton, who has previously had a career in marketing, didn't realise just how hard it is to sustain a free publication covering the area.

We are now delighted to be working closely with the town council, who have also had their fair share of critics over the years. Having worked with many local councils and councillors we know, they have

a thankless task representing their communities, particularly during these days of austerity.

It is always easy to criticise and point the finger of blame, but not so easy to please all of the people, all of the time – in fact it is near impossible.

Here at Frodsham Life, just like our other publications, we are politically independent and always try to help promote those who are working hard in the community to make it a better place to work, rest and play.

Judging by the many emails we receive Frodsham Life is well received and we are always keen to help promote local news and events.

We recently joined forces with

Frodsham Photographic Society, who are now helping us cover the various community events taking place throughout the year – this is a great example of a community partnership.

We are keen to work in partnership with other organisations and businesses, so if you have a message you want to get out to the local community get in touch and we will do our best to help.

For any business out there looking to get more business in the new year we will do our best to provide a service to suit your budget.

Finally can I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Year of the Wind Farm

WILL 2017 go down in Frodsham as the "Year of the Wind Farm"?

The visual impact of the farm is already apparent and many people have been surprised so much of it can be seen from so many parts of Frodsham. But will those who predicted it would also have a noise impact be proved right? At the time of writing, we still wait to find out.

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All set for Puss in Boots!

JANUARY sees the return of Frodsham Panto for the group's latest production of 'Puss in Boots'.

Rehearsals have been underway for some time and the storyline is exciting as always.

Over in the great red castle lives a terribly ferocious ogre called 'Olaf' who frightens everyone who lives nearby. He steals a magic wand from 'Fairy Poppins' and everyone is very fearful even though he doesn't know the magic words which will give him the

power to use it against them.

Hickory, Dickory and Jack are three brothers who live nearby and they fear that he will force them out of their home eventually, as he has already taken over most of the farmland, all except the mill in which they live. The mill had been owned by their father and when he died he left them something each in his will. To his eldest son he left the mill, to his middle son he left his donkey and to his youngest son he left his cat.

The only magic the fairy has is a small bottle of a potion which would give when taken the power of speech to animals, brave enough to use it against 'Olaf'.

Let us see what happens. Who will be brave enough to take the potion?

All performances are being held at the Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Lane, Frodsham from Sunday, January 8 to Saturday, January 14.



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
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Rebel councillor told to apologise – or resign

FRODSHAM Town Council wants rebel councillor Tom Reynolds to apologise for the upset he has caused – and undertake training on the duties and responsibilities of being a councillor.

If he is unable or unwilling to do so, the council believes he should consider his position and resign for the benefit of his constituents.

The council voted to impose the sanctions at their monthly meeting – with just one member abstaining.

This follows an independent investigation by Cheshire West and Chester Council's Standards Panel which decided Cllr Reynolds had failed to comply with Frodsham Town Council's member code of conduct.

Complaints by Cheshire West and Chester Council's two Frodsham members – Cllr Andrew Dawson and Cllr Lynn Riley – that Cllr Reynolds had shown a lack of respect in an email in November last year, were upheld by the panel.

The Town Council says it acknowledges the seriousness of the matters and the impact which such findings have on the

reputation of the council and Cllr Reynolds himself. It considers his behaviour to be inappropriate and unacceptable and censures him in the expectation it will not reoccur and that his behaviour towards others will improve.

The council considers Cllr Reynolds is failing in his role as a councillor in every respect and is not representing the views of his constituents as he is not taking part in council meetings.

Members voted to impose the following sanctions: That Cllr Reynolds should

1. Publically apologise to Cllrs Dawson and Riley for the distress and upset caused by his behaviour.

2. Undertake training to understand the roles, duties and responsibilities of being a councillor.

3. Undertake training to understand the correct procedure for raising issues and concerns through Frodsham Town Council and its committees.

4. Undertake training on the correct use of email, Facebook and social media generally.

5. Attend Town Council and committee meetings – current leave of absence from council meetings and ban on attending committees being cancelled.

The council also agreed that if Cllr Reynolds was unable or unwilling to abide by these sanctions he should consider his position and resign for the benefit of his constituents.

Cllr Reynolds was not present at the meeting and sent his apologies.

Chairman Cllr Judith Critchley said he had been informed the matter was to be discussed but had declined to attend.

Previously Cllr Reynolds has indicated he wishes to appeal against what he considers to be "biased" decision by the panel.

But Cllr Critchley said no appeal against the panel's decision was possible. The only appeal Cllr Reynolds could make was against the way Cheshire West and Chester had handled the complaints and she had been assured it had been handled correctly.

After the meeting, Frodsham Life contacted Cllr Reynolds to give him an opportunity to respond to the council's decision but received no reply.



Cllr Tom Reynolds

Neighbourhood plan needs help from YOU!

FRODSHAM Neighbourhood Plan's steering group holds its next public engagement event at the Parish Hall, Church Street on Saturday, February 11, – and local residents are welcome to attend.

In fact, the group is appealing for people to attend the – because they need help.

The group is preparing the Neighbourhood plan, a document that will make sure local residents' views carry legal weight in future decisions associated with the development of land in the town.

One the plan is "made" all planning applications in Frodsham will have to reference it.

Neighbourhood Plans are a national initiative and focus on future land use. They must stay within the constraints set by national and borough council policies and plans, so they can't change decisions on issues such as windfarms, fracking or highways.

The steering group's vision is for a Frodsham that will, by 2030, be thriving and sustainable, value its community and heritage, encourage innovation, collaboration and social cohesion and promote access to services.

Chairman Peter Vickery said: "Our task now is to put flesh on this vision."

"What sort of development do you want to see in Frodsham?"

"Don't stay silent – make your views known!"

"Remember, it's your plan – everyone is welcome!"

The event starts at 10am and will continue until mid-afternoon.

Stroke club celebrations

FRODSHAM and district Stroke Club celebrated its second Christmas with an event at the Catholic Club at St Luke's Church.

The club – launched in memory of the late Alan Johnson, a Frodsham fireman – welcomed members including people recovering from stroke and their families, friends and carers.

After being greeted by chairman Ken Shaw they were entertained by local singer Dave Ross and then tucked into a sumptuous buffet.

The club made a donation to Weaver Vale Primary School's special needs unit to fund a visit to an autism friendly pantomime and

also presented tokens of gratitude to local organisations that had supported the club throughout the year.

A cash donation was also made to the Stroke Association whose representatives presented the club with its Certificate of Affiliation.

Highlight of the evening was the presentation to the club of a Community Pride Award for Community Initiative 2016 by Deputy Mayor of Frodsham Cllr Alan Oulton.

Stephen Johnson, Alan's son, accepted the award – a certificate and £25 boosted by a matching sum from the Deputy Mayor and his

consort, Lorraine Oulton, on behalf of the club.

Dennis Taylor, a recent stroke sufferer, said: "It was a wonderful evening. The club is extremely supportive and provides a lot of fun by way of trips to places of interest and arranging entertainment for stroke sufferers and their families. I am looking forward to the next meeting."

For information about the Frodsham and district Stroke Club, please contact Stephen Johnson via email at stephen.alan.johnson@hotmail.com



Deputy Mayor Cllr Alan Oulton presents the Community Pride Award to Stephen Johnson. Looking on are Jean Johnson, president and treasurer and Ken Shaw, chairman.



School's visit to partner school in Ghana

THREE members of staff from Frodsham Manor House Primary School visited partner school, Living Star, in Accra, Ghana.

They spent time with the pupils, teaching classes about how Christmas is celebrated in the UK and also made a few hundred festive decorations.

Head teacher Ian Devereux-Roberts was making his sixth visit to Ghana and he was accompanied by teachers Aoife Kelly and Harry Carmody.

While there they had a go at traditional wood carving and visited the Volta region.

They also had a chance to catch up with the 10 children who visited Frodsham in June.

The school's tree at the Christmas Tree festival at Frodsham Methodist Church had a Ghanaian theme.

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Question:

I recently started to commute on my bike and have become more aware of the poor road surfaces on my journey. As a cyclist do we have any legal rights if there is an accident as a result of the road condition?

Answer:

Poor road surfaces contribute to almost three times more crashes involving cyclists than cars, and according to British Cycling, 12% of accidents are the result of "a defective stretch of road or a spillage or obstruction in the cyclist's path".

If you have an accident because of the road conditions:

1. Take a photo with your mobile phone, or return later with a tape measure and include a sense of scale.
2. Report it to the local highways authority or to the National cycling charity CTC online or use the mobile app FillThatHole.
3. Take pictures of any damage to your bike and any injuries you may have suffered.

The Highway Authority is obliged to maintain the road properly and if this is breached the Council can be liable to pay compensation to an injured cyclist, though this is not as clear cut as you think and it is recommended to seek professional advice.

An innocent injured victim could 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. The Government now has a Portal system to make compensation claims easier to process for road traffic or public liability claims, these cases only apply to those claims to the value of £25,000 or less. Higher value claims follow the Personal Injury Protocol.

You can make claim up to three years from the accident date. It is recommended to seek professional specialist legal advice as soon as possible especially 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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New Year, new mattress: introducing Viva

LAND of Beds is welcoming in 2017 with the launch of their first ever own-label mattress, which you can try exclusively at their Church Street store.

The bed and mattress retailer has proudly sold British-made products from market-leading manufacturers such as Hypnos, Sealy and Silentnight for decades.

Now, the High Sheriff of Cheshire's Family Business Award of Excellence winners are set to introduce the Viva mattress, which comes vacuum-packed in a bag and fully expands in just two hours.

"In 2016, we opened our first

purpose-built distribution centre: won recognition in a number of high profile awards; and opened our new headquarters and flagship Frodsham showroom," says Mike Murray, Managing Director.

"We're starting 2017 with another major 'first' – the launch of Viva, which combines quality and comfort with convenience. No matter how many flights of stairs you need to climb or how tight the space is, you'll find it ultra-easy to get the Viva mattress into your bedroom thanks to its ingenious packaging. There's no bulky box to get rid of. Simply unwrap, unroll

and get ready to unwind!"

Retailing from £299, Viva has 2,000 pocket springs, a generous layer of memory foam and comes with a free 10-year guarantee and 100-night trial offer. It's handmade in the UK and suitable for front, side and back sleepers thanks to its medium tension.

"If you're one of the millions of Brits who made a New Year's resolution to 'average eight hours' sleep' or to 'sleep better', our sleep experts can help you do both," adds Mike.

"We enjoyed a record-breaking year of trade in 2016, so – as a

special thank you to all our valued Frodsham and Helsby customers – we wanted to offer local people the first opportunity to try the Viva mattress in store before it hits the mass market online. We will be happy to demonstrate it to you or to show you other beds and mattresses by leading manufacturers, which we have discounted in our much-anticipated January sale."

Land of Beds is located to the rear of Costa Coffee in Frodsham and at 98 Chester Road in Helsby. Shop 24/7 online at www.landofbeds.co.uk



Traders urged to enter Great British High Street contest

A FRODSHAM councillor is urging traders in the town to get together to enter this year's Great British High Street competition.

Cllr Liam Jones believes Frodsham could figure in the 2017 awards if shopkeepers and other businesses joined forces.

Some 900 cities, towns and villages entered the 2016 competition, there were 42 finalists and the eventual winner was Blackburn. But there were other winners in various categories including villages, market towns and even shopping parades.

The aim of the Great British High Street initiative is to encourage every high street to aspire to work together and increase jobs and growth. It's about creating a healthy daytime, evening and night-time economy. By actively engaging in town centres companies can

drive up footfall and improve the financial results of local outlets.

Traders can publicly show their commitment to community regeneration, providing leadership, sharing skills and delivering the resource needed to form successful local partnerships. These partnerships support joint working between public and private sectors, and involve representation from the broadest range of businesses for which the high street is important, including retail, leisure, office, banks and transport providers.

Cllr Jones – Frodsham's youngest councillor – wants businesses to register their interest by emailing him, with the name and address of the business, at liam5jones@mail.com or via Twitter at [FrodGBHighSt](https://twitter.com/FrodGBHighSt) or Facebook: Frodsham Great British High Street.





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Players return to stage with fantasy musical

'A Mouse's Tale'

Kingsley Players return to the stage at the end of January with a fantasy musical 'A Mouse's Tale'.

The team which created the award-winning production 'Oliver' last year are back in action with a heart-warming tale created by talented Norley writer/composer William Arnold Ashbrook.

The musical tells the story of a remarkable country mouse called Timothy (Matthew Betteridge). He has an amazing IQ and spends all his days reading and learning which makes him very unpopular with the other mice.

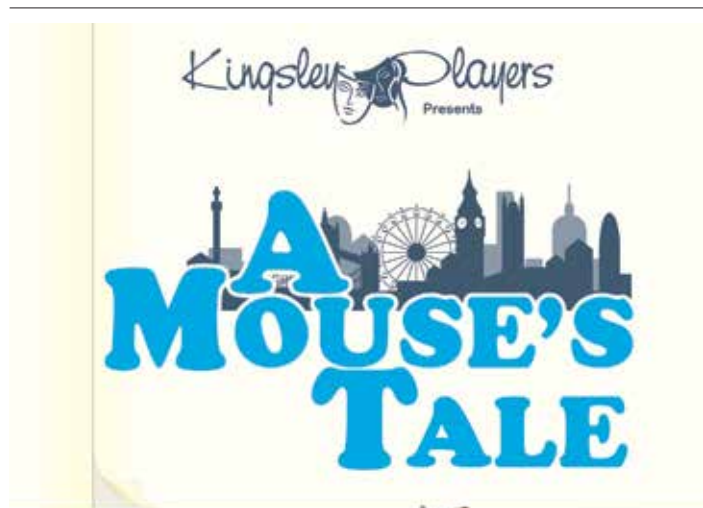
Forced to leave his country community, he heads for the city and invents an ingenious Early Warning Device to save his new friends from the evil cat Claudia (Catrin Jones). Money-grabbing entrepreneurs Charles (Jake Powell) and Amandapie (Ali Wheeler) spot the potential of this brilliant invention, set up the 'Catastrophic Corporation' and go into mass production. But can undercover reporter Rebecca Rat (Sue Elliott) expose their ruthless exploitation of the worker mice?

Director Lynn Pegler said: "This wonderful musical has catchy songs, a delightful story and an enthusiastic cast of more than 30 talented performers. The production promises to be a big hit with both adults and children – think Tom and Jerry meets Orwell's Animal Farm!"

A Mouse's Tale will play for five performances at Kingsley Community Centre, Wednesday 25th – Saturday 28th January, 2017, including a Saturday matinee.

Tickets cost £7/£8, with £5 concessions available on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday matinee. Book in advance through the website www.kingsleyplayers.co.uk or by ringing the box office on 07724 892154.

Group photo shows L to R front: Zoe Sherlock, Matthew Betteridge, Eleanor Goodridge. Back: Andrea Jones, David Snow, Ali Wheeler and Joe Youds.



Kingsley Community Centre
Wed 25th to Sat 28th January - 7.30pm
Matinee on Saturday 28th - 2.30pm

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A musical play by William Arnold Ashbrook. Directed by Lynn Pegler



Mayor of Frodsham's Charity Page

Big Bees Breakfast Club

Special Awards 2016

Big Bees Breakfast Club was the brainchild of Cllr Mallie Poulton when he was first elected to Frodsham Town Council.

It has grown considerably since and as Mayor and Founder with his consort Mrs Marjorie Rigby, The Mayor Cllr Mallie Poulton Presented the Clubs of the Year awards.



The Craft Box

Best Newcomer:

The Craft Box

Young person:

Nathan Morgan-Astel



Nathan Morgan-Astle

Unsung Hero:

Mr Andy Worrall

Best Window Displays

Dandelion

Best Take away

4 Seasons

Best free publication:

Frodsham Life

Best Independent Business:

Paws&Claws

Young Entrepreneur of The Year:

Mr Matthew Darlington KDE

Pub Music Venue of The Year:

KASH22



Dandelion



Frodsham Life



Cllr Judith Critchley



4 Seasons



Kash 22

Community Award for Outstanding Service to Frodsham and Charity

Cllr Judith Critchley FTC Chair

Army cadets 'homeless' after Drill Hall condemned

FRODSHAM'S historic Drill Hall has been condemned – and as a result Frodsham Army Cadets have found themselves homeless.

They have found temporary accommodation at Frodsham Leisure Centre but need to find a permanent home as soon as possible.

Nick Carpenter, cadet executive officer for Army Cadets in Cheshire said: "We are desperate to find a new home – and I am determined not to lose the Army Cadets in Frodsham."

"But the Drill Hall is in a terrible conditions. The roof is leaking and the heating doesn't work. It just isn't suitable for young people to use. It would probably cost half a million to put it right and we just haven't got that kind of money."

"If we were able to sell the building we would be able to build a new place. But there are not too many places where you can build in Frodsham"

The Drill Hall dates from 1901 and the impressive frontage onto Main Street is a Grade 2 listed building. It is the structure behind it that is deteriorating.

About 20-30 youngsters are members of Frodsham Army Cadets, one of 24 detachments in Cheshire.

Anyone who can offer a temporary or permanent home to the cadets is asked to contact Mr Carpenter by email at nw-che-ceo@rfca.org.uk or call him on 01244 390252



Sam ploughs his own furrow

A 13-year-old schoolboy with no background in farming took on the county's top ploughmen at the annual Cheshire Ploughing Match – and came away with a trophy.

Helsby High School pupil Sam Gittins was the youngest competitor in the field – and used a plough he and his dad, Paul, had put together in the garage, using parts from three other ploughs.

He said: "I was a little nervous prior to the match."

"We got up at 6am to ensure our kit was sound and we left home at 7am to be certain we got there in plenty of time."

"It was precision ploughing and I had to constantly measure depth and width. I had to adjust here and there to ensure that I could finish off evenly."

The match was held at Ashley Hall near Altrincham and it was the first time Sam had entered it. Last year, when it was in Frodsham, he was too young to enter!

He was entered in a class for classic tractors from between 1960 and 1976.

Competitors had to plough their plot to the Society of Ploughman Rules, followed by making a 'crown', within the time limit. This was then assessed by the judging panel.

Sam scored 92 overall, close to the average of 104 from some of the county's best ploughmen.

His award was for being the best

junior ploughman in the Cheshire Vintage Tractor and Engine Club

Proud Mum Helen said: "We don't come from a farming background, although his dad worked on a farm some 30 years ago. But now Sam's really keen to take it further."

"Sam really, really enjoyed it and we all had a great day."

Sam added: "I am really looking forward to next year and plan to practice to improve on my score."



Sam receives his trophy from match official Heather Clawson.



Vicar of 21 years honoured with Freedom of Frodsham

Pictures: Lynda Haney, Frodsham Photographic Society

THE Rev Michael Mills, Vicar of St Laurence's Church, Frodsham since 1995 has been granted the Honorary Freedom of the Town of Frodsham.

He is only the third entry on the Frodsham Town Roll of Honour – and only the second individual to receive the honour.

The award recognises his long and much valued service to the town and also his forthcoming retirement, when he will be leaving Frodsham.

It was presented at a ceremony at a special meeting of the Town Council at the Parish Hall attended by councillors and friends of the vicar.

Rev Mills, who was ordained as a priest more than 40 years ago, came to Frodsham 21 years ago from the Cinnamon Brow area of Warrington.

He said: "I never thought at the time that I would still be here 21 years later. The average time for a Church of England minister to stay in a parish is around eight or nine years.

"But it is a wonderful community,

a great place to live and work in. It has a very strong sense of community and is a wonderful place to bring up children.

"People love being part of Frodsham. There are so many people prepared to serve – as councillors and in other ways – to make sure it remains a wonderful place.

"There is no doubt I will miss Frodsham very much – particularly the Christmas Festival and all the other festivals and events which make it a special place."

In addition to his work as a much loved spiritual leader, the Rev Mills is very interested in the theatre and has been a long standing member of Frodsham Players, directing many plays for the group.

The other entries on Frodsham's Roll of Honour are the Royal British Legion and long-standing councillor Frank Pennington.



Father Michael with Mayor Mallie Poulton.



A special cake created by Devonshire Bakery.



Father Michael with the Junior Mayors Jack and Lilly.

Pensioners festive fun at school

SENIOR citizens from Frodsham, Helsby and Kingsley attended the annual OAP Christmas Party at Helsby High School.

Teaching staff and Year 11 prefects decorated the room, staff drove around collecting the guests and Upper Sixth health and social care students manned the car park and welcomed guests as they arrived.

The school band and choir performed and there was a drama production, bingo, mince pies and sandwiches, cakes and nibbles and there was also a raffle.

Helsby's young hosts enjoyed the day almost as much as the pensioners and learned much about how isolated some pensioners can be.

The guests departed with smiles on their faces – and wonderful Christmas hampers.



Stroke club wins award for Frodsham

FRODSHAM and district Stroke Club was voted the best Community Initiative in the annual Cheshire Community Pride awards.

Mayor of Frodsham Cllr Mallie Poulton, who is also chairman of the Stroke Club, was at the awards ceremony at Sandbach to receive the award from Cheshire Community Action chairman Kathy Benn.

In the Best Kept Village section of the awards, Frodsham came 5th in the 5,001-10,000 population category while Helsby came eighth in the 2,501-5,000 population category.



Cllr Poulton receives the award from Kathy Benn.

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High school's festive concert



EIGHTY pupils of Helsby High School took part in the school's annual Christmas concert.

The event was voted a fantastic success, with all the groups performing superbly.

The senior choir began the concert with a candlelit procession into the hall and sang a beautiful rendition of the Coventry Carol.

The string, flute and saxophone ensembles impressed the audience with how versatile they are at different styles.

Then the flute and string ensembles joined together with the folk group and performed a wonderful medley of traditional Christmas tunes in their own unique way.

The jazz band showed off their advanced technical skills in a programme of varied styles and genres of music including a fast paced "Fascinating Rhythm"

arrangement. The senior band performed brilliantly in the popular film music piece "Nightmare before Christmas" and the junior band did a super job with their "Frosty the Snowman".

The junior choir were lively and energetic in their version of "For the First time in Forever" from the "Frozen", and both senior and chamber choirs sang some wonderful harmonies in well known songs such as "Danny Boy" and "God Rest ye Merry Gentlemen".

Throughout the evening the band played several traditional Christmas carols which were enthusiastically sung by the audience as well as all the students.

Mince pies and refreshments at the interval raised money for charity and the PTA ran a raffle which was very popular.



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(left to right): Back: Claudia Dickens, Lucy Meacock, Emma Cunliffe, Daniel Brocklebank, Keith O'Neil. Front: Jacob Cannell, George Blakely, Laura Hunt and Hazel Simpson.
Photo by Martin Pawlett Photography

Golf club's appeal donates its 350th wheelchair

THE Powered Wheelchair Appeal at Helsby Golf Club celebrated the donation of four more wheelchairs to local, deserving youngsters – including the 350th wheelchair the appeal has provided.

The celebration took place at Chester Racecourse, organised by professional event organiser Claudia Dickens and long-time supporter of the appeal Keith O'Neil.

About 200 supporters attended the event which included champagne reception, three course dinner, fireworks display, live music, casino tables, raffles and a

grand charity auction.

Highlight of the evening however was the presentation of four powered wheelchairs to Jacob Cannell, aged 13, George Blakely, aged 11, Laura Hunt, aged 20 and Hazel Simpson, aged 12.

TV presenter Lucy Meacock and actors Daniel Brocklebank and Emma Cunliffe were there to assist with the presentations.

The excited youngsters were accompanied by their families and friends and are all now very much looking forward to enjoying the independence their new powered wheelchairs will give them.

The appeal, which is run by volunteers who are members at

Helsby Golf Club, is a registered charity and has been raising funds for the last 33 years. Over that time 351 wheelchairs have been

provided to local children with special needs.

A total of £7,000 was raised on the night.

High School raises £831 for Poppy Appeal

THE Sixth Form Prefect Team at Helsby High School raised a total of £831.35 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

In the run-up to Armistice Day on November 11, the team sold a variety of Poppy Appeal merchandise to raise funds for the Royal British Legion. This included items such as wristbands, pencils, key rings, 1916-2016 commemorative badges, and of course the standard paper poppies.

Sixth Form Prefect volunteers co-ordinated a series of assemblies to all year groups where they talked about The Royal British Legion assisting in the rehabilitation of soldiers, providing financial, social and emotional support to members and veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependents.

They visited form classes and ran a stall in the breakout space during lunchtimes from October 24 to November 11. They also volunteered during the recent Sixth Form Open Evening and Year 11 Information Evening where visitors were offered the opportunity of donating also.

Poppy Appeal activities at the school ended on Friday November 11 with a one minute silence in school to remember and honour those who had paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

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100 youngsters in schools football tournament



MORE than 100 youngsters, in 20 teams from 13 local primary schools took part in the second annual inter-school football tournament organised by Frodsham Juniors FC.

Organised and run by the club's volunteer coaches in partnership with Cheshire Oaks School Sports Partnership, the tournament was divided into two sections.

In the morning year 3-4 boys and girls from Ashton Hayes, Frodsham CE, Frodsham Manor House, Frodsham Weaver Vale, Horn's Mill and St Luke's RC primary schools

competed in a series of group games from which Frodsham CE emerged as champions.

In the afternoon year 5-6 boys and girls from Elton CP, Frodsham CE, Frodsham Manor House, Frodsham Weaver Vale, Horn's Mill, Kingsley CP, Little Sutton CE, Meadow CP, Our Lady Star of the Sea RC, Parklands CP and St Luke's



RC primary schools had their turn. The tournament was progressing well into the group stages, but ultimately the weather was victorious as torrential rain brought the tournament to a premature end.

Frodsham JFC's schools liaison officer Graham Veal, who helped to set up and run the event said: "As a club we are dedicated to providing footballing opportunities for as many local children as possible. Hosting events such as the inter-schools tournament gives children not currently playing for Frodsham JFC the chance to enjoy football in an organised and safe environment."

"We would like to thank Cheshire Oaks School Sports Partnership and all the schools who took part for their support. We would also like to congratulate all the players whose efforts, enthusiasm and sportsmanship made the tournament such a great event. We can only hope for better weather next year."

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

Is it time for a change?

By Linda Hunter from Rowlinsons Solicitors

The Family Justice System has seen some major changes in recent years, including cuts to legal aid, and a single family court. But is the current system fit for purpose, or do we still need more radical changes?

Our Head of Family Law, Linda Hunter, together with a group of lawyers recently went to London to lobby Parliament for change. The group met with local MP's and the Chair of the Justice Select Committee to argue that the Government needs to support the raft of changes being proposed.

Lobbying for a No Fault Divorce

One of the key points we are seeking to promote is for the divorce process between couples to be as amicable as possible. The current system requires couples to lay blame for the breakdown of the marriage, unless they have lived separate and apart for more than 2 years. This can often increase conflict. Under the proposals which we are lobbying for, a new no fault ground for divorce would be introduced. This will allow couples to end their relationship without pointing the finger.

Rights for Cohabitants

Cohabiting couples represent the fastest growing type of family in the UK. Yet current law does not always protect these individuals in the event of a family breakdown. We are asking the Government to consider new laws which will provide some basic legal rights to cohabitants. Although they will not go as far as the rights given to a married couple, they will go some way to protect the most vulnerable individuals.

Fair Access to the Legal System

The legal aid reforms in 2013 had a significant impact on the ability of vulnerable people to access justice. The number of individuals representing themselves at Court for family disputes has risen dramatically and there have also been 86 court closures across England and Wales. This often means people having to travel, sometimes long distances, to attend Court. We are lobbying



the Government to carry out a full review of the changes and make a commitment to ensuring fair access to the legal system.

We will keep you updated on progress regarding the above through both our website and newsletter and if you need advice on family disputes or are considering separation, divorce or dissolution of a civil partnership, then contact our Family Law team on **01928 735333**. Remember we offer an initial no obligation **FREE 30 Minute Consultation**.



Divorce can be difficult for everyone involved

Don't know where to go for **honest, professional expert** advice?

At Rowlinsons, we understand this can be a difficult and confusing time.

Our dedicated team of family law experts not only offer the full range of family law services but have the added advantage of being trained in **collaborative law** and **mediation** and will give you the support and professional advice that you need.

The benefits of using **collaborative law** and **mediation** are that they provide the opportunity to achieve a non-confrontational and amicable solution without going to court and are often more cost effective.

If you have questions regarding separation or divorce matters including the option of using **collaborative law** or **mediation**, then why not give our friendly and understanding **specialist family law** team a call to help you make the right decisions for your future.



For an informal chat and to arrange your **FREE 30 minute consultation** call Linda Hunter on **01928 735333** or email linda.hunter@rowlinsons.co.uk

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