

Frodsham *Life*

FREE EVERY MONTH

Issue No. 145
April 2017

Peers.



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Spring is blooming

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Picture: Andy Findlay

Editor's Comment



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Frodsham Life is published monthly by Orbit News Ltd.

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Printed by TwentyFourSeven

FRODSHAM Town Council is considering reducing the number of meetings it holds – simply by holding meetings of the full council every other month instead of every month.

Committee meetings would be held during the month when there was no council meeting.

We understand the reasons for the proposal. Members of the council are not paid. They have families, full-time jobs and lives to live outside the council. They cannot always attend meetings – in fact the number of full council meetings which are attended by all members are few and far between. Committee meetings sometimes have to be cancelled because they are not quorate.

Having fewer meetings will also save the council money -

But we are not convinced it is a good idea. The present chairman, Cllr Judith Critchley, has shown considerable skill in getting meetings over in good time, but even she may find it difficult to squeeze two month's council business into a couple of hours. Few councillors would want to see meetings dragging on beyond 10pm as, until recently, they once regularly did.

The decision could well have been

taken at the meeting of March 27 but veteran councillor Frank Pennington persuade members to refer the matter to the Policy and Process Committee for further discussion. When wise heads like Frank have their doubts it is clearly time for caution.

We do not oppose the idea. It is certainly worth trying, particularly as the council could always call additional, special meetings if urgent business cropped up. But we feel if the change is to be made it should be made clear it is on a trial basis.

THE Frodsham branch of the NatWest Bank is to close on October 10.

It is less than a year since the bank announced it was to close

on Thursdays, so we should not be surprised.

NatWest say it was a difficult decision, but it can't have been that difficult as similar closures are being announced all over the country. The reason? The usual – more people are banking online and transactions at the Frodsham branch have fallen by 40 per cent.

Nearest NatWest bank now is more than six miles away, at Runcorn and we can always use the Post Office – there are seven within three miles of the branch.

NatWest put it more diplomatically, but if we don't like the various alternatives it is, apparently, our own fault, because we didn't use the branch enough.

Deadline for the May issue of Frodsham Life is April 18

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Timmy enjoys a wonderful new life in Frodsham

TIMMY, a 16-year-old collie crossbred, is enjoying life to the full in Frodsham after being rescued from a life that wasn't worth living.

He was discovered by the police and RSPCA in squalid conditions, uncared for and with a tumour the size of an orange on his face.

After successful surgery to remove the tumour he was being kept safely at an RSPCA centre – but was very subdued and seemed to have lost the spark of life.

It was then that Frodsham vet Jo Ultram heard about him- and things began to look up.

She said: "A veterinary colleague was working on another case and heard about him and the need to

foster him into a home away from the kennels, where he might be happier - especially given his advanced age.

"We agreed to have him as a foster dog with a view to becoming his 'fur-ever' home.

"He has settled in brilliantly with us, is as lively as a cricket, running and jumping, enjoying his walks and the company of the entire family and loving his new life in the country."

On top of all that he has become a TV star after his story led to him and Jo appearing on BBC North West.



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Spring put in the picture

Pictures: Andy Findlay

SPRING is certainly blooming in Frodsham as captured by Frodsham Photographic Society's chairman Andy Findlay.

The daffodils were blooming at the entrance to the town, while the blossom was in full bloom at St Laurence Church.

There was also plenty of colour at Steve's Flower Stall at Frodsham's Thursday Street Market.

Meanwhile Andrew Brooks was the latest guest speaker at the photographic society and gave an inspiring presentation 'The Constructed Image'. He is an artist and photographer.

Taking inspiration from paintings within the Romantic era, he uses small photographed details to build and create imagined scenes and secret cities, some of them surreal, which allow him to interpret a location.

He has been part of the 'Art & Algorithms Digital Arts Festival' in Florida and was privileged to work with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra taking photographs of the musicians but also creating work for programme frontispieces – the Wagner interpretation particularly emotive. Have a look! For more details visit www.andrewbrooksphotography.com.

The Club Competition was 'Postcard from an Event' – printed unusually to PC size. Events chosen included dog shows, well-dressing, a steam rally, Frodsham Christmas Festival and the TT races on the Isle of Man by Andy Findlay, shown here.

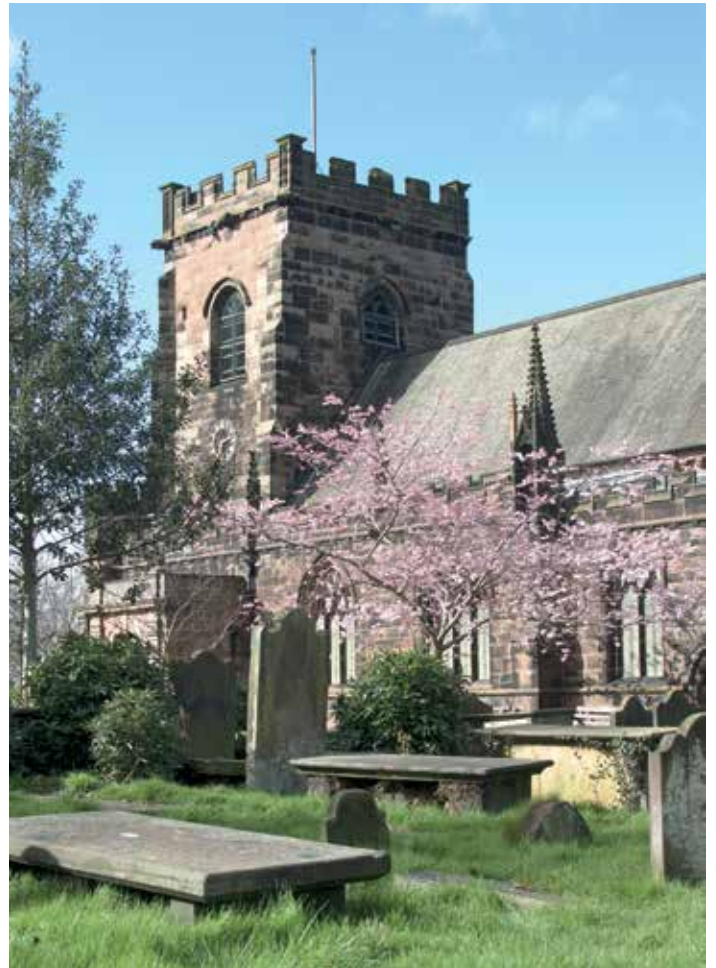
One of the most colourful and high scoring was 'Mr Punch in Danger' by Ann Gardiner, also shown here.

The season ends in the middle of April but the Club does not entirely 'shut up shop'. There will be a report in your May Frodsham Life and you can keep up to date on the website.

www.frodshamphoto.org.uk



Isle of Man TT Races 2017





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A safer and sustainable Frodsham? Have your say

By Councillors Andrew Dawson and Lynn Riley



Council Tax rises

CWac's budget and council tax setting meeting was delayed a week because of storm Doris. The budget was narrowly passed and most of us will now have received our council tax bills – showing an overall 3.7% rise in council tax in Frodsham. This means that since Labour took control of CWac two years ago our council tax has risen by nearly 9% in spite of low levels of inflation. In a cynical move, Labour Councillor Reggie Jones managed to delay his resignation in order to pass the budget.

There are no plans in the budget for any extension to the station car park ahead of the Halton Curve, or for any new leisure facilities for Frodsham and Helsby. We have raised these issues at Council, Cabinet and through Scrutiny and will continue to do so until Cllr Clarke recognises that our priority is new capacity not new charges.

In the entire council agenda of 312 pages 'Frodsham' was mentioned 20 times. All of these were in the context of paying council tax or in answering questions that we had raised. There are no plans for investment for us.

Patrick McLoughlin, Transport Minister visited Frodsham station in 2015 and stressed the need for spade ready plans to attract funding.

Air Quality

We've ensured that we have comprehensive arrangements for monitoring air quality in Frodsham. The monitoring has shown since 2015 that we have elevated levels of NO2 on the A56 – particularly around Bridge Lane and the Fluin Lane, St Hilda's Drive junction. The levels are high enough to by EU law require CWAC to create an Air Quality Management Area and within 12 months to produce a plan to improve air quality. The delay in declaring the AQMA meant the plan was promised for delivery in November 2016. The deadline was then extended to February 2017. We are still waiting. Andrew has raised the issue about this unacceptable

delay at our last two council meetings. We are still waiting for an explanation for the delay as well as sight of any proposed plan.

Police and Crime Commissioner

The Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner has just appointed his Deputy on a salary of £50,000. Cllr or Commissioner Keane who earns £75,000 a year remains a Warrington Councillor for the ward of Penketh and Cuerdly. His new deputy is Cllr Saredra Dirir – a Salford Councillor. Cllr Dirir has refused to give up her role as a Salford Councillor where she receives more than £10,000 in allowances. Cllr Saredra Dirir is the daughter of Cllr Linda Dirir and Cllr Allin Dirir – who also happen to be Warrington Councillors and also represent the ward of Penketh and Cuerdly. Cllr and Commissioner Keane is also a Penketh Parish Councillor. Cllrs Linda Dirir and Allin Dirir also serve on that Parish Council.

This appointment is controversial not only because of the close links for over 20 years between Cllr Keane and the Dirir family – but also because it has become clear that Cllr Saredra Dirir has little or no real experience of the criminal justice system. A webcast of Cllr Dirir's confirmation hearing before the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel is available on the CWac and Cheshire East websites.

The Commissioner has now announced his intention to move the Commissioner's office to Warrington.

Schools funding

Both Graham Evans and Lynn have been to meet with Schools Minister Nick Gibb to make the case for local schools during the consultation on a new national funding formula. As historically we are in the lowest 40 funded education authorities in England, the announcement of an extra £9.4m in 2015/16 was a welcome step in the right direction. The Minister agreed to send a team to Cheshire to look at the reasons why the proposed formula reduces funding locally and our solutions will be considered. No changes will be made until 2019.

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 @clrandrewdawson

 Blog: frodshamtories.blogspot.com

Lynn Riley
07800 869350

lynn.riley@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

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 Vimeo: Frodsham Conservatives

Cheshire West and Chester Council, HQ Building, 58 Nicholas Street, Chester CH1 2NP

MP not aware of any local plans for fracking

WEAVER Vale MP Graham Evans has given an assurance that he would not agree to fracking – or anything else – that would affect the health, safety and wellbeing of his constituents.

But at present, he says, he is not aware of any plans for fracking in Frodsham or Helsby.

Mr Evans was responding to concerns expressed by campaign group Frack Free Frodsham and Helsby following the major survey they carried out in the two communities.

The survey showed that 78 per cent of people in Frodsham and 79 per cent of those in Helsby were against fracking taking place in their area.

The group was concerned that although they had supplied Mr Evans with the results of the survey he had not responded to it – and urged him to support constituents rather than a “short-sighted and potentially dangerous industry.”

Mr Evans told Frodsham Life: “I know fracking is an important issue for local residents in Frodsham and Helsby.

“I see the reasoning behind fracking as we need to ensure we secure our energy supplies. However, I could not and would not agree to anything which would affect the health, safety and wellbeing of my constituents as well as their homes, businesses or our natural environment.

“I have sought assurance from Ministers, the Environment Agency, Public Health England and INEOS, who have all subsequently informed me that if carried out properly, they believe fracking to be safe.”

Mr Evans added that he was not aware of any plans for fracking in Frodsham and Helsby coming before Cheshire West and Chester Council. But if they did come forward, he would make representations to the council on behalf of affected residents, as he would on any other issue.

Charity music festival is back again

THE seventh annual Frodsham Charity Music Festival is set to take place on Saturday, June 24.

Eight bands are lined up to appear at the event to be staged, as usual, at the top of Frodsham Hill, outside the Best Western Forest Hills Hotel.

The bands offered to give their time free, meaning that all proceeds will go to local causes. Organisers hope to match, or exceed, last year's figure of £14,078.

Tickets cost £10 and are available from April 1 at Dandelion, Church Street, Frodsham, the Ring o' Bells pub and from reception at the Forest Hills Hotel.

Further information about tickets or sponsorship is available at www.frodshamcharitymusicfestival.com or from 07855 562594.

Peers hairdressing a cut above the rest



Frodsham has become the new home for Peers Hairdressing brought to Main Street by Trevor Peers. Following six successful years running a hair and beauty salon in the Midlands, Trevor wanted to return to his roots to realise his dream of owning a salon in the Frodsham area.

Trevor who is formerly of Denton & Hyde, Hoole, would be better known in the Chester area but he fell in love with Frodsham and indeed Merricks Hair Studio which he acquired when it became available recently due to the retirement of its owners who served the people of Frodsham for 25 years.

Trevor said 'I very much look forward to being able to welcome clients old and new and I would like to particularly thank Richard and Meryl the former owners of Merricks for their support and co-operation recently and for the opportunity they gave me to open Peers Hairdressing here in Frodsham. I look forward to seeing everyone very soon'.

Peers Hairdressing can be found at 42 Main Street, Frodsham.

FDR Law Legal Clinic

Legal advice from

Chris Illingworth

Conveyancing Associate
Solicitor at FDR Law Frodsham
discusses Noisy Neighbours

www.fdrlaw.co.uk



Question:

Do I have to reveal noisy neighbours if I sell my home?

Answer:

Yes. When selling, you have to complete a Property Information Form which asks for details of any disputes or complaints regarding your property or a property nearby. This includes any notices or correspondence received or sent from or to a neighbour, council or government department, or whether any negotiations or discussions have taken place which affects the property or a property nearby.

This form is part of the contract documentation and the buyer relies on the details provided. Providing incorrect or incomplete information is classed as a misrepresentation and the buyer can refuse to complete the purchase. This would entitle them, if contracts have been exchanged, to have a deposit returned and, if completion has taken place, in addition to the return of the deposit, they would also be eligible to make a compensation claim against you.

If the truth is revealed after contracts have been exchanged the consequences could be horrific. For example, if you are in a chain and your buyer pulls out because you have not told the truth then you may not be able to proceed with the purchase of your new property, as you will not have the money from your sale to enable you to do so.

This would not be your sellers fault and so, if you have exchanged contracts for your purchase, the seller is entitled to keep your ten per cent deposit, or sue you for this. In addition they can bring a claim against you for any other losses that they suffer as a result of your breach e.g. their ten per cent deposit on a related purchase. If your sellers decide to complete their purchase with the assistance of bridging finance, then you may be liable for the cost of this.

What constitutes 'noisy neighbours' could be a matter of opinion, and a one off incident rather than a regular or continuing occurrence. We would always advise that it is better to be safe than sorry and when completing your Property Information Form honesty is definitely the best policy.

To discuss further contact Chris Illingworth on 01928 739300 or email chris.illingworth@fdrlaw.co.uk

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Bedtime book donations wanted for World Book Night!

DO you have any unwanted bedtime stories you'd like to donate to a local charity?

Bed and mattress retailers Land of Beds welcome book donations at their stores in Frodsham and Helsby in the lead up to World Book Night – Sunday April 23.

The retailers – who last year donated hundreds of pounds-worth of new books to local primary schools – will be passing on all book donations to local good causes.

"We believe that everyone deserves to cosy up with a good book at bedtime," said Mike Murray, Managing Director at Land of Beds.

"Experts say a relaxing reading ritual prepares the body for sleep – helping you to put the day's stresses to bed, to fall asleep faster and even enjoy better sleep quality.

"We're thrilled to be supporting The Reading Agency's World Book Night celebrations, which are designed to help inspire others to become confident and enthusiastic readers!"

New and second-hand books can be dropped off at Land of Beds' donation points in-store at 98 Chester Road in Helsby or 14 Church Street in Frodsham (to the rear of Costa Coffee) prior to April 23.

"Our team will be voting on which local good cause to donate the books to so – if you have a suggestion or would like your charity to be considered – please email us at web@landofbeds.co.uk" added Mike.

Meanwhile voting is still open for the national Family Business of the Year Awards 2017. If you would like to register your vote for Land of Beds – finalists in the People's Choice category – please visit www.familybusinessunited.com/resources/family-business-of-the-year-regions/north-of-england-north-wales-and-northern-ireland/



World Book Day – a colourful occasion

WORLD Book Day was a colourful occasion at Frodsham CE Primary School.

Pupils and staff arrived dressed as characters from their favourite book – and the costumes on display were a clear indication of the wide variety of books currently in favour.

Year Six pupils added a new dimension to the day by sharing a book with their "buddies" in Reception.





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Experienced Estate Agent celebrating 20 years of Frodsham office

YOUR Move's Andrew Hayes is celebrating 20 years since the opening of the Frodsham office.

Whilst the current office opened as Halifax Estate Agents in January 1997, Andrew started his estate agency career in Frodsham in 1983.

He is a lifetime resident of the Helsby and Frodsham area and knows the local housing market as well as anyone.

A member of The National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA), since 1991 and a fellow of The Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA), since 2016, you can be assured of a professional, high quality personal service.

Andrew and the team in Frodsham have over 100 years combined local estate agency experience and an in depth local knowledge to help you in the sale of your home or your search for a new one.

The business operates independently but is part of the national Your Move network. This combination brings all the advantages of dealing with a local, independent and highly experienced estate agent with the back up of one of the biggest names in UK estate agency.

Andrew and the team also offer a comprehensive lettings agency service to both landlords and tenants throughout the Frodsham area.

Whether you are looking to buy, sell or rent a home in the Frodsham area, Your Move's Andrew Hayes is a good place to begin.

Please call Andrew or any member of the experienced team on 01928 739777 or call in to their office at Pollard Buildings, Church Street, Frodsham.



Sixty years of community work – and having fun!

IT'S almost 60 years since Frodsham and District Ladies Circle was founded – and in that time they have supported numerous community events, raised money for charity...and had a good time.

Now they are looking for new members, aged 18 to 45, to help them carry on the good work in and around Frodsham.

It is actually more than 80 years since the Ladies Circle was founded, in Bournemouth, by the wives of members of the Round Table. Back in 1958 it became an international organization and today it describes itself as a "thoroughly modern women's organization with hundreds of members."

Cirlers first join because they want to make new friends, have fun, do things they've never done before, and put something back into the community at the same time. They stay because what they find is a ready-made group of friends from all walks of life, who allow them to just be themselves.

Frodsham and District Ladies Circle supports numerous community events during the course of a year. These include Frodsham Junior Football Club's annual Football Festival Round Table's annual firework display, Santa's Float and the Ladies Circle annual Christmas Shopping evening.

Member Dorothy Whitehill said: "Aside from this, we find time to do fun stuff too, where you can just switch off from the stresses and strains of the everyday and just have a giggle."

"Activities over the years have included Clue HQ, 'Talks and More' events at the Ringers, theatre trips, ghost tours, wine tasting, Art Evenings and Shopping Evenings. We also like to meet for dinner once a month, taking in various eateries in the area."

Frodsham and District Ladies Circle can be contacted at frodshamladiescircle@hotmail.co.uk





The Mayor's Charity Page



Let me introduce to you a fantastic community group choir FRODSHAM SINGS, under the direction of Mr. Ian Oulton. I will let him tell you a little more:

“The choir was established in 2013 by Frodsham Transition Initiative. After a fabulous growth spurt we are now at a total of 70 members which is a testament to our reputation for being a friendly, inclusive and fun choir to join. Our performances have included Frodsham Singathon, the Windings Helsby, Morrisons (in aid of Halton Haven), and Frodsham Christmas Festival. In 2016 we donated to charity funds raised from our annual coffee morning and our Christmas Concert totalling £950. Our chosen charities for 2017 are Halton Haven and the Will to Work Workshop. We are delighted to have received the Mayor's Community Award and to have been asked to take part in the Mayor's Parade and Service on 23rd April.



We are currently working hard to prepare for our Musical Theatre show at the Brindley Theatre in Runcorn on 5th June 2017 which is an exciting collaboration with Victoria Music Ltd (see poster below). With songs from Evita, South Pacific and My Fair Lady, this will be a night to remember. Tickets are selling fast!”

www.frodshamsings.org

 Frodsham Sings Community Choir

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FRODSHAM SINGS will be playing a central part in the Mayor and Junior Mayors Festival of Youth – Public Service and Volunteering on 23rd April, being in both the Parade that starts at the Community Centre at 2pm, and the Service at St. Laurence's Church at 3pm. After the service there will be Afternoon Tea by way of Donation to the Mayor's Local Charity Appeal.

For further information call the Mayor's Office, FTC 01928 735150

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Festival of Walks offers something for everyone

FRODSHAM'S famous annual Festival of Walks will start on Saturday April 22 and continue, daily, until Monday, May 1.

This year's festival will feature old favourites, new challenges and, as usual, something for everyone. Experienced walkers will lead each walk.

In all, there will be 24 walks including several all-day rambles. New this year will be a photography walk, Nordic Walking taster sessions and a family orienteering challenge.

Saltscape, the Weaver Valley landscape partnership, is sponsoring a "First Steps to Navigation" walk for those wishing to develop their map reading and basic compass skills.

The walks in date order are:

April 22: Chester by Longster – a 13-mile all-day walk led by Tony Hinkins and starting from Helsby Post Office at 9.30am. Morning Marshes Bird Walk - 3-4 miles, led by Bill Morton, starting from the motorway bridge, Brook Furlong Lane, at 10am. Kemp's Castle Park - a two hour walk led by Kath Gee, Sheila Holroyd and Barbara Moth, starting from Castle Park House main entrance at 2pm.

April 23: Alvanley Treasure Trail – a two mile family walk led by Steve Allen, starting from Alvanley Village Hall at 2pm. Frodsham Thro' the Lens – a one and-a-half hour stroll for amateur photographers led by John Hughes and accompanied by members of Frodsham Photographic Society, starting from the Walled Garden, Castle Park at 2.30pm.

April 24: Delamere Delights – a 10-mile all-day walk led by Joyce Porter, starting from Barnsbridge car park, Delamere Forest at 10am. Snickets of Frodsham – a two hour evening stroll led by Kathleen Povall, starting from Castle Park car park at 6.30pm.

April 25: Dog walk – a two hour stroll for dogs and owners led by Cllr Mallie Poulton, starting from Paws and Claws pet shop at 10am. Hills and Mosses around Burwardsley - an 11-mile all-day walk led by Barbara Penlington starting at the Candle Workshop, Burwardsley at 10am.

April 26: Buggy Push,- a two mile walk along country lanes to Helsby and back for parents and grandparents and children who like buggies. Led by Pat Hinkins from Neitherton Hall car park at 10am. Health Walk – a three mile

walk led by Lesley Mitchell starting at Frodsham Community Centre, starting at 10.30am. Evening Marshes bird walk – a 3-4 mile walk led by Bill Morton, starting from the motorway bridge, Brook Furlong Lane, at 6.30pm.

April 27: Urchin's Kitchen to Kelsborrow – an easy four-mile walk led by Peter Winn starting from the King's Gate car park, Waste Lane, Kelsall at 10.30am. Helsby Dog Walk – a one-and-a-half hour walk led by Vicky Fraser starting from Vets Helsby, Chester Road, Helsby at 6.15pm. Nordic Walking Taster Sessions – a 45-minute session led by Elizabeth Kerley at Castle Park car park starting at 10am and 11am. Exploring Hope Mountain – all day walk of 8-9 miles including 1200 ft ascent, led by Peter Webley, starting from Caergwrie High Street car park at 10am.

April 28: Pub lunch at Leigh Arms – choice of four or eight mile walk, with lunch at the Leigh Arms, Acton Bridge, led by Anne Shaw and starting from the Leigh Arms at 10am. Delamere's Lost Mosses – two hour walk led by Katie Piercey, starting from Barnsbridge Car park, Delamere Forest at 2pm.

April 29: Historical Ince – a gentle two hour walk led by Sue Lorimer and David George starting from the Duke of Wellington Inn at 10am. Weaver, Woodlands and Bluebells – an all-day 12-mile walk, led by Sue Kellest, starting at Stone Bridge, Frodsham at 10am. Family Xplorer Challenge – up to two miles led by Michaelle Shuker, starting from Espositos Deli, Runcorn Hill Park, Highlands Road, Runcorn, between 1-2pm.

April 30: First steps to Navigation – 4-5 mile walk, led by Jak Radice, starting from the Forest Hills Hotel Car Park, Frodsham, at 10.30am. Norley – a Tale of Two Manors – a gentle two walk led by Kath Gee and Suje Lorimer, starting from St John's Church car park, Norley, at 2pm.

May 1: Grand finale: Overton's Heritage – a two hour walk led by Kath Gee and Caroline Ashton, starting at St Laurence Church car park at 3pm.



Traditional Values



Distinguished musical visitor

Report by Peter Hodgson

The monthly meeting of Frodsham Recorded Music Group was an exceptional one due to the visit of Dame Ann Murray, world-famous from a distinguished career on the international operatic and concert stages. In conjunction with Tim Ardern who arranged her visit, she shared with the group many experiences, some stressful, some amusing, arising from many encounters with the great and good of the operatic world, including such notables as Herbert von Karajan, Montserrat Caballe, Charles Mackerras, Fritz Wunderlich, Nicholas Harnoncourt, Jose van Damm and many others. Always mindful of her Irish origins and training, she later studied at the Royal Northern College of Music (where she was a fellow student of Tim Ardern's) but was then swept to fame and international recognition thanks to prodigious talent combined with a capacity for hard work and personal development.

Her leading roles as a mezzo-soprano, from Handel and the Baroque through Haydn and Mozart, to Puccini and Strauss took her right across the world's pre-eminent venues and into collaboration with many of the world's finest performers. It was fascinating for the group, seeing past Dame Ann's somewhat self-deprecatory style with the help of some of her magnificent recordings, to construct a picture of a glittering career and personality.

The vote of thanks was given by member Michael Jackson.

When the circus came to town – with mud, mud and more mud

IT was the week the circus came to Frodsham – promising: “All you need is fun.”

In fact, all Circus Vladimir brought to the Top Field at Frodsham Community Centre, was mud, mud and more mud.

They camped out on the field for

five days, did not erect the Big Top and did not put on a single show. Then they left. Leaving the field a quagmire.

Residents who use the field for



dog walking and recreation are furious.

David Tidmarsh said: “It is absolutely terrible. The field is now not fit to walk on. It is just mud and water.”

The circus, which puts on shows all over the country, paid a £100 deposit to Frodsham Town Council and was due to pay £500 for their five day stay.

Town clerk Hazel Catt said: “We had calls from members of the public so I went down to see what had happened.

“I gather they decided the field was too wet for them to put on any performances.

“If they had looked at the field first, or even if they had driven on and then come off again straight

away, I would probably have refunded their deposit. They did arrive soon after Storm Doris!

“But they went on and stayed for five days. In the circumstances I shall require them to pay the full £500 and also pay for restoration of the field in accordance with the terms of our agreement with them.

“So far I have not been able to contact them. If they remain in breach of the terms of the agreement I shall be informing other councils in Cheshire of what has happened.”

The Town Council arranged for the field to be levelled and re-seeded – which has been done.

Frodsham Life has attempted to contact Circus Vladimir but could only reach an answering service.



Helsby Golf Club captains drive into office

THE new officials at Helsby Golf Club started their year in office in the traditional way – with the annual Drive In competition.

New captain Neil Johnson from Frodsham, lady captain Gill Smith from Delamere, president Jim Potter from Helsby and junior captain Imogen Lightfoot from Kingsley were all delighted to hit drives down the middle of the fairway!

The chosen charities for the

year are, for the captain, Claire House Hospice and the Powered Wheelchair Appeal based at Helsby, for the lady captain, Dogs for Good, who provide assistance dogs for those with disabilities and children with autism.

Both Neil and Gill will be raising money for these charities with a variety of events throughout the year.



Pictures: Phil Barker

Apprenticeship fair

WEAVER Vale MP Graham Evans is holding an apprenticeship Fair on May 18th.

The event will take place at Mid Cheshire College, Northwich between 3pm-7pm.

Mr Evans said: “As a former businessman I know how hard and complicated it can be to recruit the right candidates for apprenticeships.

“I want to bring leading local employers to this event to help people into apprenticeships.

“I am delighted that major employers such as Barclays and Capita have already signed up to take part. There is no charge for businesses to take part.”

Any business signing up can expect:

Your own promotional stand, including room to advertise vacancies.

The opportunity to meet local people looking for apprenticeships face to face.

Advertising space on a promotional leaflet, social media and the local press.

A chance to support the local community.

For further information and to sign up to participate, please email helen.weltman@parliament.uk or call 01606 606500.

A public plea to keep the Townfield Lane play area

MEMBERS of the public turned up in force at the monthly meeting of Frodsham Town Council to make a plea to keep the Townfield Lane play area.

They were responding to a consultation exercise being carried out by the council, who are faced with a decision of what to do as a result of the current lease coming to an end.

Three options have been suggested – giving up the lease and removing the play equipment, renewing the lease and replacing the equipment or creating a new play area on land owned by the council at Frodsham Community Centre.

Former councillor Clare Collins-Doyle attended the meeting to put in a plea for keeping the Townfield Lane play area.

She said local people wanted to keep the park which was the only community space in Lakes Ward.

If the play area was closed more people would use Castle Park, but it was too far for little legs which would mean many parents would drive their children.

If they went to a new play area at the Community Centre it would mean children crossing a busy main road.

Townfield Lane was a well used play area. She had grown up in the area and remembered using it as a child. It was not just used by children, but also by the elderly. Carrying on leasing the site would cost the council less than £100 – a month.

Another resident, Amit Thakkar, described the park as “unique”. Most people walked to it and very few cars passed it. It was “a great

place to be” and children who used it could see horses grazing nearby and people growing organic vegetables.

“It is part of our culture” he said.

Both speakers received rounds of applause from the public gallery.

Cllr Alan Oulton criticised “keyboard warriors” who were claiming on social media that the council had decided to close the play area. No decision had been made but he did not think anyone wanted to lose a green space.

The Mayor, Cllr Mallie Poulton, said the council would have to spend £30,000 on new play equipment to meet health and safety standards. But the decision was one for the people of Frodsham and he would support whatever they wanted.

The public consultation ended on March 31.



Choral society will be ‘In Paradise’

MEZZO-soprano Hanna-Lusa Kirchin and baritone Terence Ayebare will join Frodsham and District Choral Society for a concert at St Laurence’s Church on Saturday, April 8.

“In Paradise” will feature music by Durufle, Vaughan Williams, Brahms and Bruckner.

Hannah-Lusa Kirchin will be taking time out from a busy schedule of singing a season with the Dutch National Opera and performing with English National Opera and Longborough Festival Opera, to visit Frodsham.

The choir will be directed by Howard Kane and accompanied by Robert Woods on the organ and Claire Babington, ‘cello.

All set for Mayor’s Civic Ball

Frodsham Town Mayor Cllr Mallie Poulton will host his Mayor’s Ball – a Ceilidh – at Frodsham Golf Club on Friday, April 7 at 6.45pm.

The event will be attended by a host of VIPs, the like of which has rarely, if ever, been seen before in Frodsham, in support of the Mayor who represents Waterside ward.

The guest list reflects the breadth of civic contacts the Mayor has made during his year of office, and his connections in Ireland. The Mayor’s Irish roots led him to the unusual choice of a Ceilidh for his Mayor’s Ball – and the whole evening will have an Irish theme.

Guests will eat, drink and be merry, with musical accompaniment during the meal from of a Celtic harpist and afterwards from the ceilidh band The Irish Crew.

A spectacular raffle, auction and other fundraising events will take place during the night to raise funds for the Mayor’s charities: St Laurence Church and Frodsham Community Centre.

Guests of honour will include the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire and Vice Chancellor of the University of Chester Professor Tim Wheeler and Mrs Wheeler, the Irish Ambassador to the Court of St James’s representative Ms Ann O’Donogue, the Lord Mayors of Liverpool and Chester, seven Mayors, two Deputy Mayors and two council chairmen.

The Mayor is also lining up a festival of youth, public service and volunteering for the St George’s Day weekend, April 21-23.

On the Friday, the Junior Mayors will open a funfair and host their own ball in the Parish Hall.

Saturday will see a car boot sale, jamboree, football and fancy dress, fairground and music.

On St George’s Day itself there will be a 2pm parade from the Community Centre to St Laurence Church where there will be a service of celebration which will include a special poem by Andrew Rudd, commissioned by the Mayor.

A large mosaic given to the town by the Mayor’s family will be dedicated and the Mayor’s anthem will be performed by Frodsham Singers, with soloists from Helsby High School.

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