

# Frodsham Life

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March 2017

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## Grimm tales

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# Editor's Comment



IT seems ironic that in these days when sustainability is the new buzz word, a group set up to champion that cause should fold-up through apathy.

Yet, as we report elsewhere in this issue, that has been the fate of Kingsley Transition Initiative – or KTI as it became popularly known.

Formed in 2009 by a small group of local people with the aim of making Kingsley and surrounding area more resilient to the challenges we face today, KTI made a big impression quickly. It organised quarterly local produce markets, initiated the installation of solar panels at Kingsley Community Centre, were responsible for a successful campaign to provide allotments in the village, and much, much more.

We reported the birth of KTI and we regret having to report its demise. Yet it has not all been a waste of time. KTI created much of value in Kingsley that is still there and will remain. We understand activities such as the produce markets, for instance may continue. And of course KTI led to the creation of FTI – Frodsham Transition Initiative – which continues to thrive and only a month ago won an award in the

Mayor's Community Pride Awards.

Kingsley is a better place as a result of KTI and we are sure the same applies to Frodsham.

It is not easy to sustain interest in organisations such as these. People will sign petitions about fracking, wind farms, incinerators, etc - and we do n't suggest for one minute that they should not do so. But when the threat is less immediate, less clear, it is difficult to persuade people to put in time and effort over long periods of time. We hope FTI is here to stay but even if it should one day share the fate of KTI its efforts will not have been in vain.

We salute them both.

ONE of the more surprising things to emerge from Frodsham's submission to Cheshire West and Chester Council on parking, is the apparent willingness of many people to accept paying to park.

It contrasts sharply with other similar communities where the imposition of parking fees has aroused considerable wrath. To be fair, it is not usually the parking fee itself that angers motorists. It is the size of the penalties demanded of those who arrive back at their car a few minutes late. People who will quite happily pay a 50p or £1 fee for the convenience of parking are far from happy if they are then asked to pay anything from £30-£70 if they are delayed while shopping.

There has already been considerable disquiet in Frodsham over this kind of thing happening in Eddisbury Square, with people threatening to shop elsewhere after receiving a demand.

How much worse will it be if the problem spreads over the whole town?

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April issue of  
Frodsham Life is  
March 21**

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# Photographic Society exchange images

AN exchange of photographs with a Belgian Club in Lichivast started the second half of the season at Frodsham & District Photographic Society.

The images of the heathland with frogs and flowers, together with those of the architecture of crooked gables and beautifully atmospheric cobbles in lamplight, made for a much enjoyed evening.

It is hoped the Belgian Club found just as interesting the impressions of Cheshire and neighbouring Liverpool and Llandudno which were sent to them.

The idea of such exchanges started when a Member relocated to Virginia and joined his local Society – it seems an excellent venture – where next for Frodsham?

As Celebration of the work of 'Capability' Brown was very much in mind last year the Competition 'Parks and Parkland' drew in some beautiful shots of tranquillity and grandeur. In particular 'Shinto Shrine Tatton' by Brian Lunt and 'Mad Hatter's Tea Party' by Miriam Manners were much acclaimed, both shown here.

A highlight on March 13 will be a Presentation by Janice Alamanou 'From the Shoreline – Creative

Photography through Experience'.

Visitors are welcome at Castle Park Arts Centre at £3 on Monday evenings.

[www.frodshamphoto.org.uk](http://www.frodshamphoto.org.uk)



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# Volunteers to the rescue at pony sanctuary

A BAND of local volunteers at Frodsham came together to walk nine rescue ponies more than two miles to a new location after winter weather left their home a muddy bog.

The Spirit of the Herd Sanctuary is home to 20-plus unwanted and uncared for ponies and horses. Wholly reliant on volunteers, the sanctuary provides rehabilitation so that they can find new loving homes.

The sanctuary put out a plea for urgent supplies needed to maintain the land used for the sanctuary and develop more suitable shelters. Equipment and materials needed include gravel, wooden planks, girders and sleepers as well as plywood and plasterboard, roofing felt, fencing panels and posts.

Val Kear, who first opened a sanctuary 20 years ago, dedicates everything she has to protecting and nurturing the horses.

She said: "The volunteers showed incredible community spirit with many lovely people rallying together to move our miniature ponies to more suitable grazing fields.

"As well as a safe home for our ponies, the sanctuary aims to provide opportunities for children, young people and adults to learn more about care and welfare of

horses in a calm and supportive environment.

"It is wonderful to see both people and horses from all walks of life to grow in confidence and strength. Our volunteers are an amazing group of people and I thank them and others who support us from the bottom of my heart."

Anyone who would like to support the sanctuary, or follow the antics of volunteers and horses, like them on Facebook "Spirit of the herd pony sanctuary" or email spiritoftheherd53@gmail.com



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## Helsby says "no" to fracking

ALMOST 80 per cent of people in Helsby are opposed to fracking in the parish.

A survey carried out by local residents group Frack Free Frodsham and Helsby has revealed that 79.7 per cent of residents believed fracking would not be a good thing for the area.

A mere nine per cent believed it would be a good thing and 11.3 per cent did not know or had no opinion.

The results almost mirror those obtained in Frodsham, reported in last month's Frodsham Life, when 77.7 per cent of people opposed fracking, 9.1 per cent thought it would be a good idea and 13.2 per cent either did not know or had no opinion.

Fracking surveys in neighbouring areas show similar results – 76 per cent against fracking in Guilden Sutton, 81.7 per cent against fracking in Mickle Trafford and 86 per cent against fracking in Upton.

A spokesperson for Frack Free Frodsham and Helsby said: "The Frodsham and Helsby survey highlights the growing concern of many residents regarding the threat of Unconventional Gas Extraction – 'fracking', in their area.

"The survey follows seismic testing, which was undertaken in Helsby and parts of Frodsham by TESLA, acting on behalf of IGas to determine the viability of 'fracking'. In March 2016, IGas signed a £30 million deal with INEOS, in a tie-up designed to expand IGas's exploration efforts. INEOS have also launched a series of private meetings with parish and town councils, to promote its interest in shale gas fracking.

"Ascertaining public opinion through a survey, and insisting on democratic representation through our local councillors and MP, is a critical step in opposing the development of fracking in our area.

"Residents have voiced a range of concerns, including climate change (fracking is incompatible with tackling global warming due to leakage of methane – an extremely potent greenhouse gas); potentially damaging health impacts due to increased exposure to chemicals; risk of land and water contamination; industrialisation of the countryside; high levels of heavy vehicle use; a decrease in property prices.

"The insistence that gas obtained through fracking is a 'transition fuel' is nonsensical. We need to act now to generate long term energy security and meet climate change targets. We need to resist further fossil fuel exploration and significantly reduce our energy consumption. Countries around the globe have already started – investing heavily in the renewable energy sector, building and insulating houses to a high standard, providing effective public transport and cycling infrastructure, encouraging carbon capture initiatives, switching to electric vehicles, and of course, banning fracking."



# 'Grimm Tales' to delight young and old

EVERYONE knows the stories of Red Riding Hood and Hansel and Gretel – but the Brothers Grimm collected many other less known folk tales 200 years ago.

Frodsham audiences have a chance to learn about some of the others when Frodsham Players present "Grimm Tales" at St Laurence Church from Tuesday March 28 to Friday March 31 at 7.30pm.

Philip Pullman, famed for the fantasy trilogy "His Dark Materials" has skilfully reworked the Grimm stories, including some of the less well known ones and Philip Wilson has adapted it for stage.

The result is a weird and wonderful collection of stories, including tales of magical cabbages that turn men into donkeys, a selfish girl rewarded by constantly coughing up slimy toads and Hans, a remarkable hedgehog who herds pigs in the dark Germanic forest while playing the bagpipes most beautifully.



Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Wolf will also be there and the result is a show to delight children and adults.

Tickets, priced at £8 for adults and £6 for under-16s or those in full-time education, may be booked online from [www.frodshamplayers.com](http://www.frodshamplayers.com) or by telephone at 07754 455809 or in person at Dandelion, Church Street, Frodsham.

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# Local bed retailer shortlisted for People's Choice Award 2017 – vote now!

FRODSHAM and Helsby residents are being called upon to vote for a local bed and mattress retailer, which has been shortlisted for a prestigious national award.

Land of Beds has reached the finals of The Family Business of the Year Awards 2017 in the North and Northern Ireland category. The public vote will determine the overall winner of the People's Choice Award.

"It takes a single click of the 'Vote Now' button to register your vote," says Mike Murray, Managing Director at Land of Beds. "Yet your support could make a huge difference to the outcome. We're asking for our local people

to support us as a win for Land of Beds is also great recognition for the Frodsham and Helsby High Street."

The awards were created to celebrate the UK family business sector, to recognise the diversity of family firms across the country and to celebrate the contribution that they make. Organisers Family Business United launched a national search for family firms that – irrespective of their size – use their family nature and values to build successful businesses and represent great ambassadors for the sector.

Land of Beds is one of just 15 finalists in their regional category.

## School commissions "One World" artwork

AN artwork commissioned by Frodsham Manor House Primary School has been unveiled.

The school commissioned the "One World" themed piece to commemorate their year as a Global Learning Expert Centre and the renewal of their International Award from the British Council.

As part of One World Week last October the children worked with artist Stephen Waterhouse, who has illustrated a range of books around the world, map books and the illustrator of the Divine Chocolate Advent Calendars.

Children in Years 1-6 worked with Stephen to create the final piece on themes of space, creatures and themselves.

"The World" will be located as an art installation on the junior playground.



Voting is open at [www.familybusinessunited.com/resources/family-business-of-the-year/until](http://www.familybusinessunited.com/resources/family-business-of-the-year/until) April 30.

"My granddad Harry Murray started our business over 40 years ago; it has been handed down through three generations so far," adds Mike who – together with the rest of the Director team – won the High Sheriff of Cheshire's Family Business Award of Excellence in 2016. "It's our mission to help families sleep comfortably and we employ people locally so that they can take care of their families too."

"Voting for Land of Beds to win The Family Business of the Year Award 2017 is a great way to

*Land of Beds were highly commended in the Independent Retailer category at the National Bed Federation Award 2015-16. Pictured left to right are the President of the NBF Ebrahim Patel, Maria Murray, Caroline Murray, Mike Murray Jnr and Gyles Brundreth.*

show your support for our family values and independent retailers as a whole. I'd like to thank everyone who has voted so far. It's been a fantastic start to our campaign but please keep those votes coming!"

The awards will be presented at The May Fair Hotel in London on 8 June. Last year's People's Choice Award winner was Heart of the Lakes – specialists in Lakeland holiday lets.

## Village transition initiative is dissolved

KINGSLEY Transition Initiative, the organisation launched nine years ago to help the village become more self-sufficient, has folded-up.

An extraordinary general meeting called to consider the group's future decided it should be dissolved due to lack of support.

Members decided the group had achieved as much as it could – and pointed to quarterly local produce markets, provision of solar panels on the community centre roof, new allotments and numerous small initiatives involving the local schools, Scouts, tennis club, etc.

Spokesman Simon Sherlock said KTI currently had funds of more than £2,000 and it was intended that when all liabilities had been met, the remaining funds would be passed to Kingsley Parish Council Community Fund. Anyone with any projects of a sustainable nature should contact the parish council via the village website [www.kingsleyvillage.co.uk](http://www.kingsleyvillage.co.uk)

Mr Sherlock said it was likely that individual members of KTI would continue to support local projects on a personal basis. Anyone with questions could contact him at [simon@sherlock.co.uk](mailto:simon@sherlock.co.uk)

Frodsham Transition Initiative, which grew out of the Kingsley group, is continuing and, indeed, won an award from Frodsham Town Council's environment committee in the recent Mayor of Frodsham's Community Pride Awards.

## Recorded music by numbers

Report by Peter Hodgson

THE monthly meeting of the Frodsham Recorded Music Group took place at Castle Park Arts Centre and heard a presentation by long-standing member Derek Bourne of "music by numbers" presented in order according to the number of participants.

He spared the gathering the number zero, although they could have experienced the many minutes of recorded total silence famously composed and "performed" by John Cage. But "one" was Murray Perahia's piano and Domenico Scarlatti. Then to "two" with a satirical sung version of a basic lesson in musical form by Jocelyn Swigger and accompanist. Still on "two", there followed the monumental performance of Schubert's Arpeggione Sonata by Rostropovich and Benjamin Britten. There followed "three" with excerpts from trios by Old Masters, and "four" with quartets by a varied range of composers from Haydn to Tippett. "Five", "six" and "seven" followed a predictable course but the group was stunned by "eight" with a magnificent 16th Century wind sonata by Gabrieli, "Pian'e Forte a 8".

Mozart was parachuted in with the "Serenade for thirteen wind instruments" ending a very enjoyable and surprising evening's entertainment. Thanks to Derek were expressed by Barbara Price.

Chairman Colin Walker announced that the next meeting on March 7 would be in the form of an interview by Tim Arden with a distinguished guest, Dame Anne Murray (Mezzo Soprano).



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# Exceptional year for Sandymoor



LAST year proved to be an exceptional year for Sandymoor School as their Business Students/Community Engagement groups staged a Christmas Fair with over 40 stallholders and 2000 visitors helping raise more than £1600.

Head of Business Studies and Community Engagement Miss Wilkinson was delighted with the students' achievement and all the hard work they put into making the event such a success.

Following on from the success of the Christmas Fair, the spring term will see the students producing a Fashion Show in conjunction with Cheshire-based fashion company White Ribbons, due to take place in March.

Sandymoor has also gained sponsorship from Morris Homes seeing them support the Music Department in January 2017 by donating 16 electronic keyboards and an amplifier.

Rachel MacCutchan, Sales Director at Morris said: "Sandymoor is a fantastic school in the local area and we're delighted to be partnering with them in order to sponsor the education of its pupils."

"Our Sandymoor development, The Meadows, is home to many families whose young children may one day attend the school and it's important to us to be able to contribute to the local community in this way."



## High school receives £800 donation

STUDENTS and staff at Helsby High School are being consulted about how best to use an £800 donation made to the school by Frodsham and district Ladies Circle.

The money was raised by the Ladies Circle at the highly successful Frodsham Festival of Football last year.

Head teacher John Dowler joined Year 10 and Year 7 pupils to receive the donation from Ladies Circle chairman Sue Daley and deputy chairman Dorothy Whitehill.

The school has expressed thanks for the donation – which follows an earlier one last year which the school used towards a subscription for First News, the national newspaper for young people.

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For further information please contact the school to arrange a visit.

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# **FRODSHAM'S ST GEORGE'S WEEKEND**

**Presented by The Mayor & Junior Mayors and Silcocks Fairs  
in aid of the Mayor's and Junior Mayors Charities**

**Friday 21st April**  
**on The Community Centre Field, Fluin Lane**

**6.00pm Open of The Fair By Junior Mayors Lily and Jack**

**7.00pm Junior Mayors Bash, in The Parish Hall**  
**Lily and Jack will host other Junior Mayors from the Cheshire area**

**Saturday 22nd April**  
**Fair, Car Boot, Kid Activities and Fun Day with Fancy Dress**

**Sunday 23rd April - The Main Event**

**The Mayor's Civic Parade and Service of Thanksgiving**  
**Invited guests will help celebrate service in public, civic  
and volunteering life**

**Starts 2pm from the Community Centre, parades on foot to  
St Laurence's Church for service at 3pm**

**Finishing our weekend for High Tea back at the  
Community Centre with entertainment by Helsby High Jazz Band  
and Frodsham Sings.**



**For anyone or groups who want to get involved contact  
The Mayor's Office at Castle Park House on 01928 735150**



# 250 attend prayer for Christian Unity

Pictures: Frodsham Photographic Society

THE Bishops of Chester and Shrewsbury came with leaders from all the Christian denominations as 250 people attended a special Frodsham Churches Together service at Saint Laurence's Church.

The theme was 'Breaking down Barriers' that divide people and was dramatically expressed by twelve people building a wall of stones across the church. After words of reconciliation they were rebuilt into a cross on which children from the churches then placed lighted candles.

The speaker was the Rev Dr Roger Walton, President of the Methodist Conference who vividly illustrated the theme with reference to the Berlin Wall and the projected wall between Mexico and the United States.

Aelison Wilson, Chair of Churches Together in Frodsham presented an outline of the work undertaken in our parishes. High profile was given to highlight the evils of modern slavery and a cheque was presented to the Salvation Army for their anti-slavery work in the UK.

It was a memorable occasion for all those who attended.







## Storm Doris leaves a trail of destruction

STORM Doris left its mark on Frodsham, with scores of trees blown down, roads blocked, roofs damaged – and serious damage to the roof of Frodsham Community Centre.

This led to the centre being closed completely for two days, with numerous groups who use the centre having to call off scheduled events, including a blood donor session.

After that the centre was able to partially re-open with only the main hall still closed.

As Frodsham Life went to press, workmen were erecting a temporary roof and it was hoped the main hall also would soon be able to re-open.

But Frodsham Community Association chairman Roger Williams said: "I cannot be sure how long it will be before the main hall can re-open.

"We have had to isolate electricity supplies from the hall and there are obviously health and safety implications about restoring the power.

"In the long term, we will have to

negotiate with our insurers over a permanent repair to the roof."

The storm ripped a large area of felting from the roof and left it hanging down the side of the building.

Subsequent rain got into the building causing damage to internal fittings and décor.

The building had only undergone a £70,000 re-fit last year.

Elsewhere, trees were blown down all over Frodsham. Slates were blown from numerous roofs.

Firefighters were called out to make safe the roof of a three storey building in Bridgewater Close where ridge tiles were hanging dangerously over a walkway.

Manley Road was blocked by fallen trees – but in the town council's Manley Road copse, the storm did the council a favour by blowing down two trees which were scheduled to be removed anyway.

There were also blocked roads in several other parts of the town.

But thankfully, there were no reports of injuries.





**Play dates:**

5th March: Large & Giant Breeds  
 11th March: Small Breeds  
 12th March: Medium Breeds  
 19th March: Puppy Play  
 2nd April: Large & Giant Breeds

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# A unique Valentine's anniversary



FOUR couples celebrated what surely must be a unique anniversary – 40 years of celebrating Valentine's Day with a dinner together.

The four husbands have cooked a four course dinner for the four wives in one of their four houses every year for 40 years!

Over the years the menu has included Oxtail, Venison, Spaghetti ragu, a Chinese banquet, strawberry galettes, Coq au vin., etc

This year's menu included a perfect fish course of turbot. But these days, the couples admit, the courses are smaller and even alcohol consumption has reduced!

The happy diners (back row) left to right are John Hilton, Sarah Bassett and Peter Bassett and front row Helen Hilton, Ann Arthur, Franc Cunliffe, June Cunliffe and Allan Arthur.

The Cunliffe's and the Bassett's are from Frodsham, the Arthur's from Kingsley and the Hilton's from Mickle Trafford.

## Early Paws doggy day care to transform former golf driving range

The former Sutton Field's golf driving range is being transformed into a new doggy day care facility.

Early Paws is an established dog grooming business originally based in Kingsley but it outgrew its original premises. Offering dog grooming and soon to offer boarding facilities and day care Early Paws is now established at Sutton Fields.

Sutton Fields was once a golf driving range that became redundant. Set in 60 acres with good access for visitors the area has no nearby neighbours. Naomi and Mike decided that it would be an excellent place to re-home Early Paws and expand it into doggy day care and boarding.

Mike said: "With the recent closure of Birchdale Kennels we realised there would be a gap in the community for a local place to check in people's pooches for pampering, exercise and residential visits. We also have two one acre paddocks available that can be hired in 30 minute or 1 hour + slots for private off the lead fun, with the owner confident of no escape due to the 6 ft boundary fences.

"We also organise play days for all ages, sizes and breeds. This means people can turn up and exercise their dog allowing it to socialise with other dogs of a similar size."

"The grooming and event field is currently open. The Doggy Day Care and Boarding facilities will be opening in the next few weeks. For more information on dates for forthcoming 'Play Days' please see our advert."

For more information about the services offered by Early Paws at Sutton Fields including Dog Grooming, Day Care and Boarding please contact Naomi on 07825 545567 or Mike on 07901 557300.



# Town Council ditches webcasting



FRODSHAM Town Council has decided to end webcasting of its monthly meetings.

Councillors decided to ditch filming the meetings after hearing they did not represent value for money.

No details were given of exactly how many people viewed the webcasts – but it was revealed that fewer than 30 per cent of those that did view watched for more than one minute. There was also no guarantee that the viewer was a Frodsham resident.

The council is to replace the webcasts by making audio recordings of all council and committee meetings which will be available on the council website. Digital audio equipment costing £695, plus VAT will be purchased and will be used from the start of the new council year in May.

*Picture shows Frodsham's first-ever webcast meeting, at Frodsham Community Centre, in December 2013.*

Councillors will be asked to identify themselves when they speak.

Frodsham became the first town or parish council in Cheshire West – possibly the country – to webcast its meetings in December 2013. It is still the only town or parish council in Cheshire West to do so.

Initially, members were pleased with the reported viewing figures but it is understood they have declined. A number of meetings were not webcast because of last minute technical faults. As recently as January a meeting was delayed by 25 minutes because of problems with the webcast equipment.

Cheshire West and Chester Council continue to webcast meetings and some meetings of the Castle Park Trust are webcast informally by Trust chairman Cllr Andrew Dawson.

## Frodsham has its say on parking



*Parking in Main Street*

FRODSHAM'S views on the vexed question of parking have been spelled out in a submission by the Town Council to a borough-wide parking strategy consultation held by Cheshire West and Chester Council (CW&C).

The issues were raised at a series of three public meetings organised by the Mayor, Cllr Mallie Poulton in March and April last year and attended by more than 100 people, including business owners, residents and commuters.

There was also input from Weaver Vale and St Luke's primary schools and a number of councillors and residents of Helsby and other surrounding villages also attended.

It is hoped the findings will be taken into account by CW&C in analysing the findings of the borough-wide consultation.

It was clear from the Frodsham meetings that there are significant off-street parking pressures in both Frodsham and Helsby.

The CW&C-owned Station Car Park at Frodsham is seen as a town centre asset and not for the exclusive use of rail commuters. But the small Network Rail car park on the other side of the station is inadequate for commuter needs.

There was evidence of commuter parking displacing visitor and customer parking on the station car parks in Frodsham and Helsby, with a detrimental effect on local businesses. Some cars were parked for nine hours or longer and commuters were driving in from far afield to take advantage of free parking.

It was anticipated the problem would worsen once the Halton Curve opened, providing a direct rail link to Liverpool Airport.

There were also concerns about the poor quality of the Station Car Park at Frodsham, which was said to be poorly laid out and poorly lit.

A fair amount of support for introducing "reasonable" parking charges was revealed, with many people suggesting a free period of two to four hours followed by a small charge for exceeding the free period. A charge of not more than £5 for a full day was suggested.

There was support for initiatives to support local businesses, including a special four hour offer for those arriving at 10am and a "spend and save" offer in which charges were refunded or part-paid by participating retailers.

Strong support for time restrictions on Main Street were noted – along with marking of parking bays to encourage drivers to park properly. There was also support for restrictions to prevent people parking in residential streets such as Sandfields, Ship Street and Marsh Lane.

Many other issues were raised including setting up a park and ride service, building a new railway station between Frodsham and Helsby, enforcement of existing restrictions, cycle parking places that are not being used and short stay parking on Main Street.

## Council won't be buying badges

FRODSHAM Town Council voted 6-4, with two abstentions, not to reverse a decision made in January to purchase 10 badges for councillors and former councillors – after hearing they wouldn't be buying any badges anyway!

The council was told a number councillors did not want badges – and three badges still remained from 2014 when the original decision to buy badges for councillors was made.

Chairman Cllr Judith Critchley told the meeting: "We will not be needing any more badges in the foreseeable future."

It was agreed to review the whole question of badges and civic regalia after members were told there had been complaints from the public about the proposed purchase.

Cllr Tom Reynolds said: "Frodsham people regard it as an extravagance."

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## Traditional Values



# Frodsham writer to premiere life and work of Rudyard Kipling

A NEW play 'If Only' about the life and work of famous author Rudyard Kipling by Frodsham writer Lynn Pegler (pictured right) is to be premiered at Liverpool St George's Hall on Friday, March 17.

The one act play is part of a new literary promotion the WRITE EVENT, which is being held in Liverpool in mid-March. This promises to bring "the best new writing" to the area and includes productions focusing on much-loved authors Kipling, James Joyce, Sylvia Plath and Wilfred Owen.

The event has been initiated by comedy writer and performer John Gorman, founder of the Wirral Festival of Firsts, veteran of TV's Tiswas programme and the hugely successful Scaffold band.

The WRITE EVENT features two literary double bills, both staged at St George's Hall Concert Room. On Thursday 16 March, 7.30pm, there will be chance to see 'A Dream of Wilfred Owen', written and performed by Wirral writer and Liverpool Echo columnist David Charters, with songs performed by Lucia Novosadova.

This will be followed by the premier of 'The Belfry' by Dean Johnson and John Gorman – a one act play, with music, focusing on the final tragic days of poet Sylvia Plath. The action takes place in the freezing winter of 1963, after Ted Hughes abandons her and their children for another woman.

On Friday 17 March, 7.30pm, a second literary double bill promises to bring fresh insight into the lives and works of Nobel Literature Prize winner Rudyard Kipling and Ireland's most famous novelist, James Joyce.

Lynn Pegler and Matt Jones, both director/actors with Kingsley Players, will be performing the new play 'If Only' about Jungle Book author Rudyard Kipling. Once Britain's most popular writer, this production explores Kipling's extraordinary life and the devastating personal consequences of World War One.

The evening concludes with 'Nora and Jim' by Gerry Smyth,



a writer and folk musician who teaches English at Liverpool John Moores University. In the autumn of 1909, the Irish writer James Joyce was, for two months, temporarily separated from his partner, Nora Barnacle. He promised to write everyday .... Jade Thomson plays Nora and Tom Galashan is James Joyce.

Lynn said: "I was tremendously honoured to be asked to write a new play for the WRITE EVENT. I met John Gorman at Frodsham's Weaver Words Festival and after hearing the launch of my poetry collection 'Salford Quays Unlocked, Voices of Manchester Docks', he got in touch with the invitation.

"Rudyard Kipling wrote the nation's favourite poem 'If' and the more I delved into his fascinating itinerant life, the more it became apparent that he had suffered a series of major regrets, hence the title.

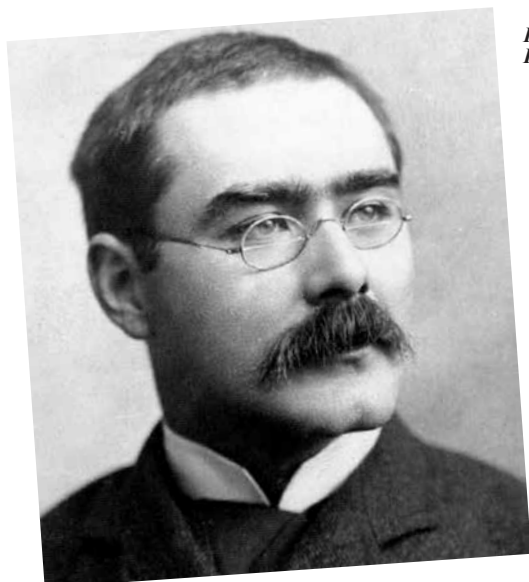
"It is awe-inspiring to perform on the same stage as Charles Dickens in the wonderful Victorian, Grade I - listed concert room in St George's Hall – a treat we are all looking forward to."

Tickets £12 each or £20 for both shows (plus booking fee) available through Ticket Quarter. [www.ticketquarter.co.uk](http://www.ticketquarter.co.uk). Booking line 0844 8000410.

More information: [www.liverpoolcityhalls.co.uk/st-georges-hall](http://www.liverpoolcityhalls.co.uk/st-georges-hall)



*Sylvia Plath.*



*Rudyard Kipling.*



*Wilfred Owen.*



# "Kid who sat at the back and said nothing" leads university team

A FORMER Frodsham student who was always "the kid who sat at the back and said nothing" is leading a university team taking part in this year's Hult Prize – a prestigious competition to win \$1 million to help solve the global refugee crisis.

Former Helsby High pupil Daniel Griffiths, 20, is now at Staffordshire University leading a team of students in the competition, backed by former US President Bill Clinton.

The Hult Prize aims to aims create and launch social businesses tackling major world-wide issues, with the winning idea receiving \$1 million in start-up funding.

Daniel's team have won through to the London continental finals of the competition, pitching their business idea aimed at transforming the lives of women refugees in Colombia to representatives of The Hult Foundation and Clinton Global Initiative.

Daniel said: "This is the first time Staffordshire University has entered the competition and teams have been asked to come up with a business idea to help refugees and offer them sustainable training and employment opportunities. Our idea involves setting up an ethical fashion upcycling business which will help Colombian female refugees who are fleeing sexual exploitation and violence.

"The aim of our project is to raise awareness of the often overlooked – but extremely vulnerable – female refugees in Colombia and South America – who have escaped violence and unrest in their own country to be forced into prostitution by gangs in their new homeland.

"The project will train women to 'upcycle' clothing to create a commercially-viable ready to wear range of clothing. We will work with retailers to take factory seconds, unsold garments and second hand clothing as the raw materials for our product range."

The former Sir John Deane's College student added: "I am honoured to represent Staffordshire University, and the team are working hard and hoping we'll win through to the overall final in New York later this year.

"I remember spending time in high school believing that I was never academic enough to do anything on this scale, so I hope our achievements will motivate others to push themselves to go out of their comfort zone and realise their potential."

Daniel says he had a turbulent time at Helsby High with other class members often knocking his confidence.

"One of my main motivators for doing this project, was to show other students that they are capable



of anything they put their mind to. I was always the kid who sat at the back of the classroom and never said a word - little did I know I'd be leading a project of this size."

## Crosslight – a passion play which asks questions of the audience

RIDING Lights Theatre Company is performing its passion play, Crosslight, at St Laurence Church, Frodsham on Sunday, April 2 as part of a regional tour.

Crosslight is a communal experience of theatre and worship which draws its audience into the Easter narrative. It tells the events of Christ's Passion through the eyes of one disciple who failed, despite everything he believed so passionately.

Caught in the crosslight of the flickering candles at the last supper, the torches of Gethsemane, the firelight in the courtyard, by the searching gaze of his Lord, Simon 'the rock' is shattered. The disciple chosen to lead, is in pieces.

As he hangs from the cross, Jesus is surrounded by a jeering crowd, laughing at his claim to be the Son of God. A small group of family and friends stands by until the agony ends. But the great friend who, more than any other, has stood by Jesus throughout the story is conspicuous by his absence.

Riding Lights has a long history of producing passion plays including Inheritance, The Narrow Road and The Passion (adapted from Murray Watts' award winning screenplay for The Miracle Maker).

Ticket prices and a full list of tour dates can be found online at: [www.ridinglights.org/crosslight](http://www.ridinglights.org/crosslight)



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# Frodsham TOWN COUNCIL

## TOWNFIELD LANE CONSULTATION

FROSDHAM Town Council have leased land at Townfield Lane from the Free Grammar School charitable trust for many years and use the land as a play area consisting of swings, climbing frame, a couple of slides and a kick-about area. The trust deed specifies that the income from the lease must be used to support Frodsham CE Primary School.

This is the only play area to the east of Fluin Lane. The existing play equipment doesn't meet current standards for play areas and needs replacing on Health and Safety grounds.

The current lease came to an end in December 2016 and the Town Council has been offered a new 20-year lease at £1,500 a year with regular rent reviews (£30,000 at least in total), an increase of £400 per year.

In 2012 Frodsham Town Council adopted a Play Strategy that found most of the town's play areas needed bringing up to current standards. Townfield Lane Play Area was identified as second priority after Churchfields, which received a new play area in 2015.

The much larger Churchfield play area cost £100k, but the Town Council received significant grant aid towards the cost. They will seek grant assistance to replace the Townfield Lane equipment, but will need to supplement the grant from Town Council funds.

Councillors are considering whether it would be better to commit the £30,000 (cost of lease) towards new play equipment on land that they own behind the Community Centre, which would more accessible to residents from all parts of Frodsham, rather than renewing the lease and equipment at Townfield Lane. Previous consultation has suggested that a fenced toddler play area is needed.

Frodsham Town Council would like to gauge the opinions of its residents so invites you to indicate which of the three options below you would prefer.



**Please complete the form below and return to FTC or go to [www.frodsham.gov.uk](http://www.frodsham.gov.uk) to complete on-line by 31 March 2017. This information will be collated into a report to inform Councillors in their decision making:**



**Tick one box only**

<b>Option 1</b>	<b>Remove play equipment and return the land at Townfield Lane to the Trust, without replacing the play facility</b>	
<b>Option 2</b>	<b>Renew the lease at Townfield Lane and replace the equipment</b>	
<b>Option 3</b>	<b>Use £30,000 on new play area at Frodsham Community Centre</b>	

**Postcode ..... (not valid without this)**

**House number or name ..... (not valid without this)**

**Please send to FTC, Castle Park House, Frodsham, WA6 0BL by 31 March 2017.**