

# Frodsham *Life*

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Issue No. 148  
July 2017

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# Editor's Comment



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**WE doubt if there are too many people in Frodsham, where parking is currently free, who would like to see charges introduced.**

Indeed, Cheshire West and Chester Council's "Let's Talk" consultation concluded that there is "significant concern" about the possibility of introducing parking charges in all areas where it is currently free.

Yet apparently the council is considering introducing charges, not just in Frodsham but in all areas where it is free.

We do not believe parking should be a party political issue but it seems to have become one locally – if only because charging has only been on the agenda since political control of the council changed at the last local election. Our view is that most Frodsham residents, whatever their political leanings, would prefer to be able to park for free – and that there is good reason for them to think thus.

There are really only two reasons for a council to charge for parking. One, as a traffic management measure and two, to make a profit.

There are those who will disagree, but we don't think the current free parking policy

in Frodsham causes too many problems most of the time. So we don't need charging as a traffic management tool.

We are left, then, with the profit motive. Well the experience of other authorities suggests that far from putting money into the council's coffers, most charging schemes actually lose money. Some make a thumping great loss.

Our advice to CW&C would be to forget charging for parking in Frodsham. It will only drive shoppers away and lead to more empty shops.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mike Amesbury on winning the Weaver Vale seat in the General Election

– and commiserations to Graham Evans, who lost it.

We at Frodsham Life strive to be politically neutral, so we are less concerned about what party colours our MP wears and more about the amount of attention he, or she, gives to Frodsham and district.

Mr Evans did, in fact, devote considerable time to Frodsham, bearing in mind the size of the Weaver Vale constituency, and undoubtedly fell victim to the political tide which swept the country and caught more than a few people by surprise. We wish him well in the future.

We welcome Mr Amesbury and hope to see him just as active in our local communities.

**Deadline for the August issue of Frodsham Life is July 25**

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# Solicitors join forces for charity

**A group of solicitors in Frodsham have joined forces to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society.**

Linda Hunter of Rowlinsons Solicitors, Ruth Hetherington of FDR Law and Helen Oakes of Butcher and Barlow took part in this year's Cupcake Day, raising a fantastic £320 for the society.

The trio, who have been working together in a unique partnership promoting collaborative law and the benefits for separating families, decided to take part in the event to pledge their joint support to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society.

Linda Hunter said: "We have been working together to develop and promote collaborative law in Cheshire, offering separating families a non-confrontational way of reaching resolutions. We wanted to support the Alzheimer's Society Cupcake Day, and felt it would be a good way for us all to work together to promote this fantastic charity"

Ruth Hetherington added "We were thrilled last year to each train to become Dementia Friends, and pledged to continue to support the Alzheimer's Society by taking part in this years Cupcake Day, which we did on the 15th June."

Dementia is the number one cause of death in England and Wales. The Alzheimer's Society are the only UK charity investing in research into dementia care, cause, cure and prevention. As well as offering advice and support, the society campaign for the rights of those affected by dementia. Last year, their Cupcake Day raised a fantastic £330,000, and this year the society want to raise even more.

Helen Oakes said: "We had a fantastic day, and the support from the local community has been brilliant. It was great for the three firms to come together in this way, raising money for the Alzheimer's Society, and having a bit of fun making and eating cupcakes! "



Left to right: Linda Hunter, Suzanne Scriven and Helen Oakes.

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## School's special 'surprise' for long serving teacher



**FRODSHAM CE Primary School held a special assembly in recognition of Sylvia Clayton - a member of staff who has worked at the school for 25 years.**

The surprise event included a presentation by pupils giving their special thanks to Mrs Clayton for all her support.

There were also gifts and flowers from staff and governors – and a special cake made by catering supervisor Mrs Weedon.

Mrs Clayton started at Frodsham CE in 1992, and has worked as a Teaching Assistant in various classes over the years. But the majority of her time has been spent as an invaluable member of staff in the Reception class. There are several children at the school whose parents were also taught by Mrs Clayton!

Mrs Clayton, who was joined by her family, was completely surprised and overwhelmed by the thanks and recognition from everyone!

She said: "What a wonderful surprise! I am really touched by all the things the children and everyone have said to me today."

## Pupils enjoy London in the heat

YEAR Six pupils from Frodsham Manor House Primary School enjoyed their annual three-day residential to London – during the June heatwave.

The children had an action packed trip including the whole class making it to the top of St Paul's Cathedral, visiting the Natural History Museum, and the London Eye, going on an Open Top Bus Tour, meeting new Weaver Vale MP Mike Amesbury as part of a tour of Parliament, going to the Rain Forest Cafe, visiting the theatre to see "Matilda" and finally having a speed boat trip on the Thames.





Picture: Andy Findlay

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# Mother and son to lead pilgrimage to Holy Land



Mavis with her granddaughter, daughter and son Daniel in Caesarea last year.



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**A FRODSHAM woman and her son are to lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in April next year – and would like to know if any local people are interested in joining them.**

Mavis Thompson has led many such groups in the past and her son, Daniel, has assisted her twice – renewing his Baptism vows in the River Jordan two years ago.

They both love the experience of a pilgrimage – and they both feel they learn something new each time they go.

Mavis said: "Each time I go I learn something new about the country and its people and also how well many of the people get on together.

"I have laughed in the market with Arabs and laughed with Jewish children as they played football with their tassels flying in the wind.

"People go for many reasons - history, archaeology, bird spotting,

flowers, choral singing, sunshine and warmth. To walk in places Jesu knew. The Bible definitely does become alive.

"It is beautiful country with dramatic landscapes from hills to desert and, of course, the oldest inhabited city, Jericho.

"Driving down the Jordan valley one can spot growing bananas, oranges, lemons, dates, vines, and pomegranates. I have picked and eaten dates."

Mavis and Daniel both attend St Laurence Church, Frodsham.

Anyone interested in joining them on the pilgrimage or who would like more details can call Mavis on 01928 732 745 or email [mavispuddy@talktalk.net](mailto:mavispuddy@talktalk.net)

## Baby goods market stall

ST Laurence Church events committee is to hold its annual stall on Frodsham Market on Thursday, July 20, selling good quality baby equipment and clothes and new, hand-knitted baby clothes.

Anyone with items to donate should email [frodshamevents@gmail.com](mailto:frodshamevents@gmail.com) or take them along on the day.

## Free IT sessions

FREE IT sessions for volunteers, carers and the Over 60s are being held at the Queen's Head, in Main Street, Frodsham,

GoOnline is a service which offers help to people needing help in using computers, tablets or mobile phones who would benefit from individual support in a relaxed environment.

There are sessions on July 3 and 17, August 14 and September 11 and 25, starting at 10.30am. Just turn up or call Jean on 07563 156 220 or Carol on 07851 253 587 for more information.



## Running to raise money for charity

**CHILDREN at Frodsham CE Primary School took advantage of a sunny day to run around their school field to raise money for charity.**

The whole school was involved in the event - even the youngest Reception children. The event was organised by the Parent Teacher Association to raise money for cancer research.

Their sponsorship money raised an amazing £1038 for Cancer Research UK and £46.79 was also raised for the Teenage Cancer Trust from a raffle and refreshments.

PTA spokesperson Kerry Taylor said: "We hope the children enjoyed the event and they should be incredibly proud of themselves as they raised an amazing amount for Cancer Research UK. Thanks to all our families for supporting this fantastic cause."

## Open meeting to discuss homes plan

KINGSLEY Parish Council has organised an open meeting on Wednesday, July 12, to discuss a planning application for 15 houses on land off Higher Heyes Drive, Kingsley.

Developer Land End Developments and planning consultants Barton Willmore have agreed to attend the meeting, which will be held in Kingsley Community Centre at 7.30pm.

It is hoped a member of the Cheshire West and Chester Council (CW&C) planning department will also be present.

Residents who wish to comment on or object to the proposals have until July 20 to do so.

## Annual Town Meeting

FRODSHAM'S annual Town Meeting will be held in the Parish Hall, Church Street on Saturday, July 1.

Residents are invited to attend from 12.30pm for informal talks with councillors and other town groups prior to the formal meeting, which will start at 1.30pm. Light refreshments will be available.

Items under discussion will include the Neighbourhood Plan, play areas, crime, community development, planning and community activities.

The annual Town Meeting is not a meeting of the Town Council but is called by the council.

It gives Frodsham people an opportunity to raise issues with the Town Council and other organisations in the town.

Council chairman Cllr Judith Critchley will give a report on the council's work during the past 12 months.

Any resolution passed at the meeting must be considered at a subsequent meeting of the Town Council - although resolutions should be submitted in writing prior to the Town Meeting.

Members of the public can speak at the meeting, however.

## FDR Law Legal Clinic

Legal advice from

**Ruth Hetherington**

Partner at FDR Law's office in Frodsham relating to Children Arrangements during Summer Holidays

www.fdrlaw.co.uk



### Question:

My husband and I are divorcing and it's proving difficult to reach an agreement about a holiday abroad for the children this summer. What can I do?

### Answer:

In cases where parents are having difficulty co-operating or are in the middle of a court dispute, holidays abroad can be a significant issue, particularly if the parent asking permission is not the one who holds the passports.

In such circumstances, the court can be asked to grant an order known as a Specific Issue order - to ensure passports are produced by a certain date and to order that the holiday take place.

Hearings for such orders can take time to arrange, so early planning is essential. Ultimately, the test to be applied is the same as in any other matter affecting a child - the welfare of the children is the paramount consideration. Is it in their best interests to go on holiday? Is there any risk of abduction? Is the length of time suitable bearing in mind the ages of the children and the location of the proposed holiday?

Every case is completely different and therefore we would recommend you take legal advice on your individual situation.

**For legal help and advice concerning arrangements for children contact Ruth Hetherington on 01928 739300 (Frodsham), 01925 230000 (Warrington) or by email [ruth.hetherington@fdrlaw.co.uk](mailto:ruth.hetherington@fdrlaw.co.uk)**

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# Land of Beds crowned national 'Retail Family Business of the Year 2017'

**FRODSHAM and Helsby based retailer Land of Beds has been crowned 'Retail Family Business of the Year' at the national Family Business of the Year Awards 2017.**

Land of Beds took the top national retail prize at London's luxurious May Fair Hotel on a night that celebrated the best of British family business.

The winners, whose showrooms on Church Street, Frodsham and Chester Road, Helsby stock 80 different types of mattresses crafted by Britain's top manufacturers, overcame UK-wide competition in their sector.

Praising the "progressive family firm that impressed at many levels," the panel of expert judges from the world of business – advised by family business representatives – declared Land of Beds "worthy winners of this national accolade".

Impressed by their entrepreneurial insight and the way that family members have been instrumental in devising and implementing the strategic plan for the business, the judges added: "Rather than rely on the past and their family heritage, Land of Beds has evolved significantly since the early days and embraced new ways of doing business, as it has now become a multi-channel retailer."

Major investment and growth in recent years has seen the small, independent business emerge as a major national retailer – selling 1,000 mattresses every month UK-wide.

Founded in 1974, Land of Beds has been highly commended three times in the past five years at the National Bed Federation's Bed Industry Awards and won a prestigious 'High Sheriff Business Award for Enterprise' in 2016 – cementing its status as Britain's

leading independent bed retailer and reputation for all-round retail excellence.

Their 'Retail Family Business of the Year 2017' accolade comes after the company opened a new distribution centre in Runcorn; moved to new headquarters in Frodsham; and launched its brand-new e-commerce site – www.landofbeds.co.uk – (built entirely in-house) in the past 12 months.

"On behalf of our Family Director Team and all our colleagues at Land of Beds, we would like to thank all the Family Business United judges," said Mike Murray, Managing Director, who also paid tribute to the hard work and tenacity of all

the awards finalists.

"Our business has been passed down through three generations and we are thrilled that our granddad and founder, Harry Murray, can see today just how far we have come on our journey to become Britain's best family retailer – one that has invested in nationally accredited training to ensure that all of our staff are able to provide advice on sleep and wellbeing, as well as helping customers to make informed choices through their specialist product knowledge."

The Family Business of the Year Awards are organised by Family Business United – the award-winning magazine and

resource centre that champions and celebrates the family business sector.

Paul Andrews, Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief at Family Business United, said: "We were delighted to pull together such a vibrant bunch of family businesses for the 2017 awards – some that have succeeded for numerous generations and continue to thrive, and others that are relatively young, but have great values at the heart of what they do. Open to family firms of all generations, sizes and sectors, these awards recognise some outstanding family firms and really help to put family businesses on the map."



## Arts awards for pupils

TWENTY pupils from Frodsham Manor House Primary School, who have been keeping journals of art experiences during the academic year, have learned that their work has passed the standard required by Trinity College.

They had to show how they have engaged with arts at school and in the community, developed their own skills, researched artists and showcased their own work.

Assistant head teacher Naomi Anstice said: "The project required dedication and commitment from the pupils, who have met together on a regular basis after school and completed the majority of work at home."

Four children attained the first level of arts award, Discover, while 16 were awarded the higher level of Explore.







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## Wayne finds inspiration in extreme watersport



A FORMER soldier from Frodsham who was injured in Afghanistan has found new inspiration in an extreme watersport which is challenging and highly competitive.

Wayne Cox, 32, has lived in Frodsham for almost four years with his wife, Kirsty and four children Aaron, 10, Marlie, 9, Esmé, 6, and Harper, 1.

He joined the Army at 17 and took part in operational tours to Iraq, in 2003 and 2007, Northern Ireland in 2004, Kosovo in 2005 and 2008 before being injured by an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) in Afghanistan in 2009.

He said: "Now, within the last few months I have found something which has completely inspired me. I have taken part in Thundercat Racing and, in particular, Team Endeavour Racing."

As part of the Royal Foundation, Team Endeavour Racing is supported financially by the Endeavour Fund.

Set up by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry, the Endeavour Fund is supporting wounded, injured and sick (WIS) servicemen and veterans.

Team Endeavour is now commencing its third year racing high octane powerboats around the UK in an open national championship.

Team Endeavour Racing is recruiting serving wounded in service and veterans who have been injured and medically discharged due to service in the UK Armed Forces.

Thundercat racing grew from an idea in the 1980s when a South African decided to strap outboard motors to small rubber boats, known as a pencil boats and race them down rapids.

Now it has developed into a regulated sports with purpose built 4m inflatable catamaran coupled



with a 50HP motor. A driver and co-driver work together

Team Endeavour Racing uses entry-level powerboats - Thundercat Racing - to create an enjoyable and stimulating environment to develop, inspire and challenge wounded ex-servicemen and women at a difficult time during the transition from the Armed Forces into a secure and rewarding civilian career.

The project is solely managed, raced and supported by its own WIS personnel and veterans who thrive in a challenging marine environment.

In 2015 The team competed in the Thundercat National Race series and the World Championship in Malta.

Unlike other smaller, expensive and often elitist classes of powerboat racing most teams have only one hull, one engine and two propellers making the racing simple, safe and affordable.

Skill and ability is the leveller in this highly competitive championship.

Open to Wounded, Injured and Sick personnel and veterans, Team Endeavour Racing provides a foundation as a transition vehicle to support and empower its members into future employment, training or education with the help of its network, partners and with the use of peer mentoring.

# All the fun of the steam fair!

**STEAM engines, fairground organs and hundreds of vintage vehicles will converge on Daresbury on Saturday and Sunday, July 8-9, for the annual Cheshire Steam Fair.**

More than 40 steam engines and several fairground organs, along with historic cars, buses, military vehicles, vintage tractors and lorries will arrive from all over the UK.

An action packed arena programme will commence at 11am and run until 5pm on both days.

Performing in the main arena will be the Adrenaline Tour featuring Jason Smyth. The display consists of motorcycle and quad street style stunts. It also features quad freestyle jumps over 70ft whilst catching items held 30ft in the air.

Also performing in the main arena will be the popular Ridgeside Falconry and the Ridgeside Lurchers Racing Team.

The Crazy Bears – six singing, dancing bears performing magic tricks – will also be on stage.

The event is not only for the steam enthusiast but also provides a fantastic day out for the whole family with plenty to keep the children entertained all day long.

There will be old time and modern funfair rides, quad rides, puppet shows, a giant inflatable complete with slides and castles, climbing wall, face painting, parrot and owl displays, trampolines and much more.

Back by popular demand is Ken Fox's Wall of Death, the oldest surviving Wall of Death in the UK - synonymous with speed and

danger since its conception back in the early part of the 20th century. The original Wall of Death harks back to those early days, with the Wall being constructed in 1929 and the bikes, Indian Scouts, made in 1928. All those who see the show will remember it for the rest of their life. The noise, the speed, the smell, the proximity of the bikes ridden to the top of the vertical wall only inches from the audience is a truly unique experience and one not to be missed.

Trade stands, an indoor craft, gift and fine food marquee and an autojumble area where all kinds of obscure tools, spares and parts can be found are an added attraction and there will be a licensed bar and catering outlets for all tastes.



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# 'Missing name' added to memorial

**A "MISSING name" has been added to the Trinity Memorial at Frodsham Methodist Church, following research by members of the Town Council's World War One Working Group.**

When the working group arranged for the renovation of the memorial in 2015, the re-engraving of names on the Memorial could not be completed. Space for one name was left blank as the original name could not be deciphered.

But after in-depth research over a long period by two members of the group, it has been established that the missing name is that of Ethel Saxon who was a Staff Nurse in the Territorial Force Nursing Service. Her name has now been added to the list on the memorial.

Ethel was born in 1891 in

Abertillery, Wales. She served in Liverpool for a period and then in British India and died in Karachi (now in Pakistan) on September 3, 1917.

Her connection with Frodsham was through her maternal aunt who lived across the road from the Trinity Church and was the recipient of Ethel's effects.

The group, in partnership with Frodsham Methodist Church, has planned to hold a ceremony to honour Ethel on the 100th anniversary of her death.



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## Seven groups to share £60,000

SEVEN organisations will share the first £60,000 handout of community benefit awards to be made by Frodsham Windfarm Ltd arising from the construction of the windfarm on Frodsham Marshes.

The biggest grant, of £30,000, goes to the 1st Helsby Scout Group, towards refurbishment of the scout hall and the second largest, £12,000, goes to Elton Primary School and Nursery for a community garden.

Third is Frodsham Cricket Club, with £10,000 for a mower and storage.

The remaining awards are: Alvanley Village Hall, £5,000 for cladding and insulation of the hall, Girl Guiding Frodsham, £1,500 towards the cost of an accessible toilet, Frodsham Junior Volleyball Club, £1,000, for training and development of their coaches and Frodsham Women's Institute, £250,

towards the cost of Frodsham Show.

Seventeen applications, totalling more than £200,000 were put in for a share of the money and the successful seven were selected by the Marshes Community Benefit Fund Panel – an independent panel of local residents.

Applications for a share of the second half of the annual payout of £120,000 must be in by the end of August and eligible groups who missed out on the first payment are entitled to apply again.

Panel chairman Dianne Walker said members were looking forward to seeing the successful projects being developed and would be monitoring the projects as they developed to ensure they met the objectives set out.

Details of the fund and information on the application process can be obtained from the website [www.marshescbf.uk](http://www.marshescbf.uk)

# Former policeman living life in the fast lane at TT curtain raiser

**KINGSLEY'S Steven Elliott recently competed in the International Blackford's Pre TT Classic Race meeting in the Isle of Man.**

The former policeman raced his 500cc Honda to three top six finishes in the hotly contested event on the closed roads circuit near to Castletown.

The races are the curtain raiser to the famous TT races held every year during June. Steven faced former British motorcycle champions and the most prominent racers of classic motorcycles in his event.

Held over three days at the end of May the event attracts riders from all over the UK and Europe and sizeable crowds of fans visiting the Isle of Man ahead of the famous TT races.

Steven's passion for motorcycles

continues in his retirement after serving as a motorcycle patrolman during his Police service.

Speaking after the event the father of two confessed that he spends most of his time around motorcycles either preparing them for himself or others.

"I'm never in the house," he joked, "in fact I'm off to Chimay in Belgium soon to compete in the classic races over there."

Steven has competed at race tracks throughout the land and overseas for a number of years and given his successes on his trusty Honda he seems set to continue for many years to come.

*Our pictures of Steven were taken by Andy Findlay, chairman of Frodsham Photographic Society.*



## Photographers keen to support the community

FRODSHAM and District Photographic Society is always keen to support the local community.

Society members took part in this year's Frodsham Festival of Walks, organised by the Town Council, and put on a photographic tour of the town.

They were also present at the Festival in the Park staged by Frodsham and Helsby Rotary Club in Castle Park.

This year the society was housed in a new gazebo - bought with a donation from Frodsham Life.

Interesting presentations and friendly competitions are the bread and butter of the society's programme but assistance in

using a camera, for example in an excellent studio session, is also available.

Summer days are providing great opportunities for taking photographs, ideally with beautiful dawns and sunsets.

The society also organises outings - including one to Llandudno in June and another to Manchester's Victoria Baths in July.

Friendship in is one of the club's assets and there are always opportunities for trips to local cycling events, steam fairs and re-enactments, etc.

Further details about the society can be found at [www.frodshamphoto.org.uk](http://www.frodshamphoto.org.uk)

# Junior football club has new home



## THE award-winning Frodsham Junior Football Club has a new home - at Helsby High School.

After several months of negotiations, the club's executive committee has reached an agreement with the school for all club home matches and summer training to take place at the school for the next 12 months, with a view to a longer-term partnership.

An FA Charter Standard Community Club - the highest standard for a grassroots club within the FA structure - Frodsham JFC is one of the most established and well-respected clubs in the region.

It has been nominated - for the second year running - in the Cheshire FA Annual Awards category of "FA Charter Standard Community Club of the Year".

Helsby High, rated "good" by Ofsted, has partner primary schools in the surrounding villages of Alvanley, Ashton Hayes, Aston, Dunham-on-the-Hill, Frodsham, Helsby, Kingsley, Manley and Norley with an annual intake of more than 200 year seven pupils, many of who are already players at Frodsham Juniors.

The club and school have a strong track record of working in partnership through the hugely successful Frodsham Juniors FC Festival of Football.

In addition, the club has developed links with local primary schools through its annual inter-schools' tournament involving 14 schools and more than 100 children.

Frodsham JFC's head of coach and player development Joe Bell said: "The move to Helsby High School is a huge step in our club's development and we believe that this new partnership will be extremely beneficial for both our club and Helsby High School. Alongside providing the school with an additional income and the football club with a fantastic facility it provides many opportunities for both parties to share costs, equipment, and potentially invest in joint ventures in the future."

Helsby High head teacher John Dowler said: "We are delighted to be working in partnership with a forward looking and

successful junior football club. We are confident that through working together with community organisations we can make best use of the existing school site, as well as working together to further improve the facilities in future years"

Frodsham JFC is one of the largest junior football clubs within the Cheshire FA and continues to grow year on year with 473 boys and girls playing across 38 teams. The club also boasts more than 75 volunteers, 40 FA Level One qualified coaches and 10 FA Level Two Qualified coaches.

Frodsham JFC chairman John Heath added: "Finding a 'home' has been a club priority for many years; bringing the Frodsham JFC family to a single location on match days will generate a fantastic atmosphere for our players and

visiting teams and a sense of community for our own supporters. The integration between the different age groups, coaches and teams can only benefit our growth as a club.

"In addition, having access to both changing and toilet facilities on match days will enhance the experience of our visitors, players and spectators and in turn, our standing as a club. Our aim is to be the best junior football club in the region. The lack of a dedicated base for the whole club has held us back when compared with our peers, at a time when all other aspects of our club have grown and improved."

Anyone interested in finding out more about Frodsham Juniors should visit [www.frodshamjfc.org.uk](http://www.frodshamjfc.org.uk)



Head teacher John Dowler greets club chairman John Heath at the school

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