

Frodsham Life

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June 2017

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Page 8

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Editor's Comment



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WHEN Cllr Alan Oulton was installed as Mayor of Frodsham at the annual meeting of the Town Council he announced that his Mayoress would be his wife, Lorraine.

"We are a double act," he said. "We always do everything together."

What he didn't tell the council, however, was just what that "double act" had achieved together.

He didn't, for instance, tell how, when driving through the Woodhead Pass, in the Peak District, on a bitterly cold winter's night, they saved the life of a young girl they saw lying by the roadside.

It was in January, 2004, and a blizzard was blowing. Snow lay on

the road and Alan had to concentrate on his driving. But Lorraine thought she saw someone lying by the road. Her husband suggested it could have been something that had fallen off a lorry, but she insisted they investigate.

The road was narrow so they had to drive on for about a mile before they could turn round and go back.

They found the 17-year-old girl dying of hypothermia.

Both were trained first-aiders and they had a foil survival blanket in the boot of their car. Lorraine tended to the girl while Alan parked his car to protect her, switched on his hazard warning lights and then 'phoned for the ambulance.

Paramedics confirmed later that

without their skill and equipment the girl may well have died.

This, then, is the calibre of the people who will be representing Frodsham at civic functions for the next 12 months. Some "double act!"

There will be people in Frodsham who have heard this story before. We had not – and we did not hear it from either Cllr or Mrs Oulton. We hope they are not annoyed we have chosen to repeat it.

Cllr Oulton has a hard act to follow as Mayor and will probably do the job in a very different way to Cllr Mallie Poulton – even if their surnames do rhyme! But we feel pretty sure the Mayoralty is in safe hands.

Town Council to meet every other month

FRODSHAM Town Council is to meet once every two months following the annual meeting of the council which took place on May 22.

This means scheduled meetings will be held on July 24, September 25, and November 27 this year and January 8 (budget meeting), January 22, March 26 and May 21 (annual meeting) next year.

However, the council has the option to call additional meetings if needed.

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Mallie's £8,000 boost for good causes



FORMER Mayor of Frodsham Mallie Poulton raised £8,000 for his charity fund during his year in office – and more money is still coming in.

He was handed another cheque at the annual meeting of the Town Council – just minutes before he handed over his chain of office to new Mayor Alan Oulton - and he won praise from councillors and members of the public for his efforts.

Father-of-the-council Frank Pennington told him: "You have lifted Frodsham 120 per cent – and we should not allow you to just drop off the perch just like that. I would like this council to consider over the next 12 months giving you the Freedom of Frodsham."

Money for the Mayor's Fund was raised in the following ways: Queen's Birthday Celebration at Castle Park: £850; The Mayor's Christmas in Castle Park: £740; Mayor's Ceilidh: £2,172; Mayor and Junior Mayor's St George's Weekend: £572.75; Big Bees Breakfast Club: £688.52; Other fund-raising events: £853.90;

Donations and Sponsorship: £1,659.83.

The two main recipients, chosen because they are important hubs for the whole community hosting many fund-raising events themselves, were St Laurence Parish Church (£2,250) and Frodsham Community Association (£1,500).

Other recipients were: Zodiac Amateur Operatic Society (£500), Weaver Vale School PSA (£500); Frodsham Youth Association LGBTY Group (£250), Helsby High School Arts Department (£250); Helsby High School Music Department (£250); Mersey Weaver District Scouts Norway Jamboree (£250); Spirit of the Herd pony sanctuary (£250), Ethan Mills-Winterburn Borneo Trip (£150); Sophie Gerrard-Hughes Borneo Trip (£50).

Junior Mayors Lily and Jack: Teenage Cancer Trust (£250); Against Breast Cancer (£250).

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Council votes to 'save' Townfield Lane play area



FRODSHAM Town Council has decided to keep the Townfield Lane play area following a major campaign by local residents.

Members of the council voted unanimously to open negotiations to renew its lease on the land.

A special working group will be set up to consider the matter.

The decision drew enthusiastic applause from residents who packed the public gallery – and spoke passionately about the need to retain the play facility.

Four pupils of Manor House Primary School gave a presentation which was applauded by councillors. Theme of their message was: "This is our park. We need it. We play there. Save our park!"

There was also a presentation from the Save Townfield Lane Park Action Group, who pointed out that 89 per cent of local people who had taken part in a consultation exercise mounted by the council wanted to keep the park.

They stressed that if the park was lost, Lakes Ward residents would be left without a park and local children would have to be driven to other parks in Frodsham.

Cllr Frank Pennington sounded a note of caution. Although he supported keeping the park there had been no report on the financial side of things. He did not want local people coming to the council

and complaining if the precept had to be increased.

Cllr Alan Oulton said he did not want to lose any of Frodsham's green spaces. Some people had wrongly gained the impression that the council did not want to keep the park. He would particularly like to see it developed for natural play.

The Mayor, Cllr Mallie Poulton, said he was sure residents realised keeping the park would entail a cost.

"We should not be putting a price on children's play space," he said.

Chairman Cllr Judith Critchley said the council's consultation had proved useful. "We now know we have the support of the whole town to renew the lease."

The consultation had spelled out what the council faced as a result of the current lease on the site coming to an end.

These were to give up the lease and remove the play equipment, to renew the lease and replace the equipment, which no longer met present day standards, or to create a new play area on land owned by the council at Frodsham Community Centre.



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Antiques Road Trip focus on Antiques Emporium

THE crowds turned up at Lady Heyes, Frodsham, when the BBC Antiques Road Trip arrived in town.

Cameramen and antiques expert James Braxton dropped in at Hampton Vintage and Antiques Emporium to see the wide range of antiques and collectibles on show, while filming for a new series of programmes to be screened in the Autumn.

Hampton Vintage is run by Michelle and Dave Campbell and opened its doors for business in October last year.

Since then it has quickly acquired a reputation among a discerning clientele looking for rare and unusual items.



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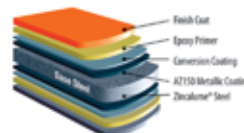
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New Mayor and Mayoress are a 'double act'

NEW Mayor of Frodsham Alan Oulton was installed in office at the annual meeting of the Town Council - and promptly appointed his wife, Lorraine, as Mayoress.

He said: "We are a double act - we have always done everything together."

The former firefighter - he told the meeting he had run Frodsham Fire Station for 15 years - and his family have lived in the town for many years.

"We brought up our family here and our children and grandchildren are here tonight," he said.

"I have a business to run, so there may be times when I am not available to attend functions. But I am sure Lorraine will be able to

stand in for me - and of course there is the Deputy Mayor."

Veteran councillor and Freeman of Frodsham Frank Pennington was installed as Deputy Mayor - 24 years after he became Frodsham's first-ever Mayor.

Cllr Oulton said he had not yet chosen a charity to support during his year of office. But he felt inclined to support numerous good causes, perhaps with smaller donations. He would announce who he would be supporting later.

Frodsham Panto Group presents

Cinderella

Written by James Barry

In association with Lazy Bee Scripts

MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM

On Wednesday, 14 June 2017 at 7.30pm

PRINCIPAL AUDITIONS

On Friday, 16 June 2017
Registration from 6.00pm
Auditions at 6.30pm

CHORUS/DANCER AUDITIONS

on Sunday, 18 June 2017
Dancers register at 9am.
followed by auditions at 9.30am
Chorus register at 1pm.

All to be held at Frodsham Community Centre

For further details phone 07974560640

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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:

I am separated from my wife and would like to take our children away this summer on holiday; do I need permission from her to travel?

Answer:

If there are no court orders in place relating to the arrangements of the children then it is best practice for parents to try and agree dates for holidays in advance, particularly if any holiday you want to arrange conflicts with the time that the children should be with the other parent. If there is disagreement then there are alternative dispute resolution methods you can try, but ultimately if there remains a dispute then the court can be used as a last resort, and orders obtained.

If there is already a child arrangements order in place stating that a child lives with a parent; this then provides permission to take the child abroad without needing to obtain consent of the other parent for a period of up to 28 days.

It is highly recommended that you do seek agreement from the other parent before you book, particularly a holiday abroad. We would also advise that you obtain the agreement from the other parent in writing, even though the law does not specifically require it, and take this with you so that you may show it to any relevant authorities should the need arise.

They are perfectly entitled to expect you to provide details of the holiday, including exact dates, flight numbers, and accommodation information. Clear communication about the itineraries, contact details and knowledge e.g. the children's swimming ability or what sun factor they will need, will help put both parents at ease. You should also aim to keep in regular contact during the holiday, even if it's just a quick call or a text.

For legal help and advice concerning arrangements for children contact Ruth Hetherington in our Frodsham office or by email ruth.hetherington@fdrlaw.co.uk

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Frodsham snappers put their best shots in the picture

THE final Competition of the season for Frodsham Photographic Society was the Annual Open – an opportunity for Members to present their best images, judged this year by Phil Mann, an old friend of the Society.

Winners included 'Fallow Deer' by Lynda Haney and 'Threenager' from Peter Edwards, both shown here, along with 'Claret and Blue' and 'A Hard Stare' by Miriam Manners and Ann Gardiner respectively. The standard was high – have a look at the best by visiting the Society's website www.frodshamphoto.org.uk

It was then time for the AGM. This included a very positive end of season report and elections for next season's Committee – also suggestions for summer activities, some of which are being organised.

Chairman Andy Findlay thanked his Committee but made special mention of John Hughes for the

enthusiasm, hard work and expertise with which he has provided the Society over any number of years before presenting him with an expression of gratitude.

Award winners received their trophies from President Hazel Bell and the occasion turned from the rather business-like AGM to a celebration of members who had succeeded in competitions.

The Society will continue to support Frodsham Life throughout the summer.



Trophy winners in Frodsham and District Photographic Society with President Hazel Bell



FANTASTIC EVENTS FOR ALL THE FAMILY IN 2017

CHESHIRE STEAM FAIR

8th & 9th July

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Attractions include: Jason Smyth's Adrenaline Tour Show, Ridgeside Falconry, Ridgeside Lurcher Racing, Crazy Bears Live on Stage and a host of steam fair attractions.

WHITBY TRACTION ENGINE RALLY

4th 5th 6th August

Next to Whitby Abbey, Hawsker Lane, Whitby, YO22 4JR

Attractions include: Jason Smyth's Adrenaline Tour Show, Ridgeside Falconry and Lurcher Racing, Crazy Bears Live on Stage, Stage Show with Singers and Dancers, Tractor Pulling, Saturday Night Fireworks and a host of rally attractions.

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12th & 13th August

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Attractions include: Stannage International Stunt Show, Crazy Bears Live on Stage, Saturday Night Fireworks and a host of rally attractions.

THE STEAM FAIR AT HAREWOOD HOUSE

2nd & 3rd September

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Budding snappers await result of wind farm photo contest

YOUNG photographers in the Frodsham and Helsby area were waiting with baited breath as **Frodsham Life** went to press to find out who has won the top prize in a competition for the best photo of Frodsham Wind Farm.

The competition, open to over 16s, has been organised by Peel Energy and photographs can focus on any element of the Frodsham Marshes including its wildlife, the wind turbines and recreational uses of the site such as cycling and walking. Photos could be taken on either a camera or mobile phone.

The winning photograph was to be picked by Frodsham Wind Farm's managing director on May 30, with the winner due to receive a £250 Nikon voucher.

Aim of the competition was to mark the completion of the award-winning wind farm, which saw nineteen 125m-tall turbines being constructed, one by one, on the marshes site next to the M56.

Operations manager at Peel Energy Michael Humphreys said: "Since we started building the wind farm last year it has gained huge popularity with local photographers and we've seen some fantastic images submitted on our Facebook page.

"We felt the competition would be a nice way to mark the completion of this project and celebrate the creativity of the local community."

Local schools were also invited

to take part with an under 16s category with the winner receiving an iPad mini.

Peel say the Frodsham Wind Farm was the first construction site in the UK to receive a new award from the Wildlife Trust for its commitment to protecting and enhancing wildlife.

Special conservation measures taken at the wind farm include redesigning site infrastructure during the early stages of construction, in order to protect badger setts and other species on the site.

The 19 wind turbines generate over 50 megawatts of clean, renewable energy for the local region.

For more information visit www.peelenergy.co.uk/frodsham

Schools invited to take part in the competition were: Helsby High, Frodsham CE Primary, Frodsham Manor House Primary, Frodsham Weaver Vale Primary, Alvanley Primary, Helsby Hillside Primary, Horn's Mill Primary, Kingsley Primary and Nursery, Kingsley St John's CE Primary, St Luke's Catholic Primary, The Sarah Bartholomew School and Elton Primary.



Park Lane play area no longer for sale

FRODSHAM Town Council has voted unanimously to permanently remove the threat of Park Lane play area being sold.

It is hoped the move will make it easier to obtain grants towards the cost of a new adult, outdoor gym and children's play area on the site.

In February last year, the council decided to suspend the earlier, controversial proposal to sell the site for housing development. The idea was to give the campaign group, Friends of John Williamson, time to seek grants to finance the outdoor gym scheme. But the council was told the group had been unsuccessful in obtaining any grants.

There were several key issues, including the continuing threat of the land being sold at some time in the future and the lack of match funding.

Now it is hoped it may be possible to acquire a grant that covers both the Park Lane and Townfield Lane play areas.

It was in 1939 that the then Frodsham Parish Council purchased the Park Lane site for £50 for "recreational purposes." In 2014, the Town Council decided to sell the land but after an uproar from local residents agreed to "freeze" the exchange of contracts.

Subsequently they decided to "unfreeze" the deal but in the meantime the prospective purchaser had withdrawn. Since then the decision to sell has been suspended – and now dropped completely.

It is understood the estimated cost of the outdoor gym is more than £24,000, excluding VAT, fees and contingencies.

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The Mayor's Charity Page



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Neighbourhood Plan needs to list town's assets

FRODSHAM'S emerging Neighbourhood Plan needs to list those assets which are of most value to the local community.

That's the message from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, following a busy period of activity to help clarify what Frodsham people value and how they want to see the town develop.

Chairman Peter Vickery said the steering group has engaged with the business community, via the Big Bees Breakfast Club and with young people via Frodsham Youth Association and Helsby High School.

A public event was hosted at the Parish Rooms on Church Street

and a series of drop-in sessions has taken place at the library and health centre, to ensure engagement with the community continues.

But it was important the Neighbourhood Plan listed the most valued town assets.

Mr Vickery cited the recent case of the Townfield Lane play area as an example.

He said: "Thanks to a very visible demonstration of the value of this space to residents from a wide area of the town, the council was left in no doubt as to whether

this space is an 'asset of community value'.

"It is of no use local organisations just identifying their beloved asset and hoping that it will therefore be listed and included in the plan. Cheshire West and Chester will need to be furnished with evidence, such as the excellent video clip and other materials produced by the Townfield Lane group, to justify its inclusion.

"The steering group has been informed by CW&C and others that similarly clear evidence is needed in each case.

"So, this is a plea to all Frodsham organisations who rely

on a specific asset, for example the community and arts centres and the various open spaces around the town. We will be running some sessions on this topic in September and will be open to all those who wish to provide us with information. Without this there can be no guarantees that those places we all know and love will be protected in the future."

Mr Vickery thanked those who have already supplied the steering group with information and urged people to visit the www.frodshamplan.org.uk website and – if they have time – to join the group.

Helsby Fun Day returns with a Scouting twist

A fantastic family fun day is planned at the Helsby Community Sports Club on Saturday June 3.

The club has teamed up with Scouts from the Mersey Weaver District to jointly organise the

day. The Scouts are fundraising to participate in the trip of a life time to Bodo in the arctic circle.

Helsby Community Sports Club has a reputation for organising great family events, including fun days, Sport Relief runs, and the annual musical firework display, but this event is looking like being the biggest so far. A wide range of attractions will be on offer, including a family fun fair, climbing wall, dog show, birds of prey display, segway rides, face painting, traditional side show stalls, live music, interactive storytelling, a soft play area for the under sevens, sports taster sessions and a wide range of food and drink. Entry is just £1 per person on the gate.

Michelle Pickstock one of the event organisers said: "Every day more attractions are being added. There really is something for every one of every age. It is a great opportunity to bring many community groups together to showcase both the sports Club and Scouting".

Exciting times lay ahead for both the Scouts and the Club.

The 26 scouts who are due to leave for Norway on June 30 are within touching distance of their £35,000 fundraising target, whilst for the club their dream of a new clubhouse and facilities on the Mere's Edge site looks ever closer to becoming a reality.

Limited stalls are still available, anyone interested should contact Michelle on 07856 177571.



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Festival in the Park

FRODSHAM'S "Festival in the Park", organised by Frodsham and Helsby Rotary Club, will be held at Castle Park on Sunday, July 2.

As usual, the festival will incorporate the finish of the Frodsham Downhill Run, which will start from the War Memorial on Frodsham Hill at 12.30pm – just as the Mayor, Cllr Alan Oulton officially opens the festival.

More than 200 competitors are expected to take part in the run. Galleries and shops in the Castle Park Art Centre will be open with arts and craft displays, and live entertainment will also be featured in this area.

The main stage, along with stalls and displays from about 40 organisations, societies, clubs, and groups will be directly in front of Castle Park House.

There will be entertainment for children with fairground rides and other attractions.

Admission is free, but donations to Rotary charities and good causes will be welcomed.

"Dangerous men" at the Recorded Music Group

By Peter Hodgson

THE monthly meeting of Frodsham Recorded Music Group I heard a presentation by member Michael Jackson of mainly vocal recordings by artistes representing "dangerous" men - a sequel to an earlier programme about "dangerous women".

The first of the men, dating from 1643 in Venice, appears in Monteverdi's great opera L'incoronazione di Poppea" in the shape of Ottone, a failure as a murderer but exiled by Nero for his cheek.

On a lighter note, we came to Handel, and the famous aria "Oh Ruddier than the Cherry" sung by Owen Branigan in the evil character Polyphemus in "Acis and Galatea", seemingly a very cheery villain. Not so the next dangerous man, or rather dwarf, Schubert's Der Zwerg, in a gloomy but strangely moving masterpiece of the Lieder genre.

We then progressed through a variously alarming catalogue of villains, including Osmin, Mozart's slave keeper, Baron Scarpia, "Tosca"), miscellaneous devils from Liszt and Berlioz, Scarbo (Ravel), Stalin (Shostakovich) and Wotan (Wagner's ambiguous man/god).

The day Frodsham celebrated St George

IT was an event which most people thought was a huge success – the first-ever Frodsham St George’s Day Weekend – a three day event organised by Mayor Mallie Poulton with assistance from Frodsham’s Junior Mayors.

Cheshire West and Chester councillor Lynn Riley described it as a “wonderful” occasion.

The police said from their point of view there were “no issues”.

And the weekend raised £572.75 for the Mayor’s charity fund.

But there were complaints too – mainly from people who claimed their weekend had been ruined by noise and parking chaos and that inadequate notice had been given that the event was to take place

Most of the complaints were about noise from the funfair on the car park at Frodsham Leisure Centre – and the lack of alternative parking for users of the leisure centre. But many of those complaining said they were not opposed to the aims of the weekend.

The Town Council received two formal complaints and eight further complaints and other complaints were made on social media.

The weekend started with the

Junior Mayors opening the fun fair and holding their own ball – described as a “bash” at the Parish Hall.

On the Saturday there was a car boot sale, jamboree, football, and fancy dress and music at the Mayor’s local, KASH22

St George’s Day itself saw a parade from the Community Centre to St Laurence for a service of celebration conducted by Father Michael Mills.

A special poem by Andrew Rudd, commissioned for the occasion by the Mayor, was read and a large mosaic given to the town by the Mayor’s family was dedicated. The Mayor’s anthem was performed by Frodsham Sings Community Choir.

Afterwards, Cllr Poulton apologised to anyone who had suffered inconvenience as a result of the weekend and said lessons had been learned about organising such an event. He hoped it would not be “the first and last.”





NWAFA celebrates its fourth birthday

FRODSHAM'S North West Amateur Football Association is celebrating its fourth birthday – and still going from strength to strength.

From an idea by local man Ryan Edghill, which grew out of indoor six-a-side games, NWAFA now has more than 150 players, eight games a week and – remarkably – the average age of the players is 42.

The age range is from 24 to 72! Idea behind the organisation was to promote the concept of commitment free social football.

All games are organised by text

so that people with work or family commitments can join in without the fear of letting people down if they are unable to turn up.

"Reserves" can always be called up!

The NWAFA model has certainly worked, over the last 4 years more and more games have been set up, additional players have joined and it is an asset to Frodsham today.

Ryan said: "Over the next 12

months we are looking to add a couple more games, specifically another early morning weekend game and a walking football game. This will be to add a different dynamic to the games we already run throughout the week"

NWAFA are currently organising a fundraising evening to raise money to purchase winter jackets for all their players as well as making a donation to Frodsham Stroke Club. This will be at the Forest Hills Hotel with guest speaker Paul Merson on Friday November 10.

Graham Evans finishes 6th consecutive London Marathon

GRAHAM Evans crossed the line to finish his sixth consecutive London Marathon raising over two thousand pounds for charity.

Graham ran alongside thousands of runners on the gruelling 26.2-mile course, running in support of Muscular Dystrophy UK and the Army Benevolent Fund – The Soldiers' Charity.

Graham said: "I'm really pleased to have finished the marathon again. It's a terrific event which raises millions for good causes and there is no greater feeling than running up the mall to the finish line hearing all the spectators cheering you on – a rarity for a politician!"

"But it truly is an honour to help raise money for these very special causes."

"I am also very proud of Mrs Evans who finished with a Personal Best for her second marathon – next year I am sure she will be hot on my heels."

He added: "Muscular Dystrophy UK, is a charity that brings together individuals, families and professionals to beat muscle-wasting conditions. I am supporting them in memory of my cousin who died of this dreadful disease on his 21st birthday."

The Army Benevolent Fund - The Soldiers' Charity, meanwhile, supports soldiers and veterans from the British Army, and their

immediate families, in times of need. It makes grants to individuals through Regiments and Corps, and supports a wide range of specialist

charities that sustain the British Army 'family', both at home and around the world in memory of a family friend killed in Afghanistan.



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