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August 2017

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Pages 6 & 7

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**Editor**  
Gary Skentelbery

**Production**  
Paul Walker

**Advertising**  
James Balme

**Freephone**  
0800 955 5247

**Editorial**  
01925 623631

**Email**  
info@frodshamlife.co.uk

**Websites**  
www.culchethlife.com  
www.frodshamlife.co.uk  
www.lymmlife.co.uk  
www.warrington.tv  
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**Address**  
New Media Centre  
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# Editor's Comment



**ONE could almost feel sorry for Cheshire West and Chester councillor Karen Shore when she attended a meeting of Frodsham Town Council in her capacity as lead member for environment. Almost, but not quite.**

She clearly did not expect the barrage of criticism she got from local councillors. Indeed, she had not come prepared to deal with some of the complaints she received.

Cllr Shore brought along a CWAC officer for support – but members of the Town Council made it clear they wanted to hear from her, as the elected portfolio holder, not from a paid council officer.

We heard Frodsham described as a "grot spot" and compared with a Third World country – descriptions we admit we found it difficult to accept.

But when so many disparate voices, all belonging to local councillors well placed to know what they are talking about, sing a similar song, they have to be taken seriously.

In essence, they were saying that Frodsham, until recently regarded by most as a picture postcard town and winner of many awards in the annual Civic Pride competitions, was going down the spout.

We heard of rising piles of litter, fly-tipping, neglected trees, overgrown ponds, reduced opening hours at the recycling centre, parking issues, etc., etc.

And blame for everything was laid fairly and squarely at CWAC's

door.

Cllr Shore refuted some claims, denied knowledge of others, promised to look into some and, importantly, to visit the overgrown ponds at Saltworks fields which, it was claimed, posed a threat to children's lives.

But her assertion that it was better to have reduced hours at the recycling centre than to have it closed altogether did not go down well at all.

CWAC attempts to blame it all on government austerity cuts were so predictable as to be laughable. Every council in the country can make the same claim – and with

some justification. But they are not all subjected to the level of criticism that CWAC received at this meeting – and we all know that some councils, like some people, can make a pound go further than others.

That is one way of explaining the level of criticism CWAC received at the meeting. Another way would be to accept that those who argue that Frodsham comes at the back of the queue as far as CWAC is concerned, are right.

**Deadline for the  
September issue of  
Frodsham Life is August 22**

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# School fair raised £1,150

**FRODSHAM CE Primary School's annual Summer Fair raised an amazing total of more than £1,150!**

Luckily the rain held off and those attending the event were treated to live music, an inflatable assault course, stalls from local businesses and some great activities for children including hook-a-duck, soak the teacher and a coconut shy.

A "Bake Off" event was held for pupils and parents and the winners of the three categories were presented with their winning prizes by Frodsham Mayor Cllr Alan Oulton.

A Scarecrow Trail took place in the local area and entries included

Take That's "Gary Barcrow."

Some of the funds raised were used to pay for an end of year treat for the pupils – Circus School!

Pupils got to try out different circus skills and the activity was well received.

A quiet area is going to be created within the school grounds in the autumn using the remainder of the funds raised.

It was a fun event and the Frodsham CE PTA would like to thank school families and the local community for attending.



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# Is Frodsham beginning to look like a Third World country?

**FRODSHAM has been labelled a "grot spot" that is beginning to look like a Third World country.**

Litter is not being picked up, fly-tipping is taking place and trees are being allowed to become overgrown.

And the blame lies with Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC) according to members of Frodsham Town Council.

Cllr Mallie Poulton said: "We used to win awards in the Community Pride competition. Now we get slated. The judges called us a grot spot."

Target for the complaints was Cllr Karen Shore, CWAC's lead member for environment, who was attending a meeting of the Town Council.

Chairman Cllr Judith Critchley welcome Cllr Shore to the meeting but then told her: "We all have our little niggles about the way Frodsham is looking at present."

She referred to CWAC's decision to close the Frodsham recycling centre two days a week. People who brought waste to the centre and found it closed would be unlikely to take it back home and this led to fly tipping.

Cllr Poulton said ponds at the Saltworks fields had become overgrown and could not be seen. A dog had run into one and drowned. It would only be a matter of time before a child was killed in

one.

He had seen litter left in the street for three weeks because the CWAC litter-pickers only emptied bins – they did not bother picking up litter.

The Mayor, Cllr Alan Oulton, said road side trees had been allowed to become overgrown. Cars had been scratched and delivery trucks had hit branches.

"Road side trees need to be managed," he said. "Frodsham is beginning to look like a Third World Country."

He said a CWAC officer had suggested residents could cut back trees themselves. But residents paid their council tax – they should not be expected to climb trees and cut them back themselves.

Cllr Oulton was also concerned about CWAC proposals to introduce fees for parking in Frodsham. He predicted that if people had to pay to park in Main Street, nearby residential roads would become "linear car parks."

Cllr Shore, who admitted she had come unprepared to deal with some of the issues raised, blamed funding cuts imposed by the government for many of the problems.

She said reducing opening hours at recycling centres was preferable to closing them altogether but

denied there had been any significant increase in fly-tipping. There was a problem with trade waste being taken to recycling centre when it shouldn't be, but the council was seeking to control this.

Cllr Shore said she had been unaware of the issues at the Saltworks fields but promised to

visit the area to see the situation for herself.

She said CWAC had new people working in areas they were not familiar with and new machinery that staff were being trained on. But she would look into all the complaints raised.

## Busy summer for Frodsham & District Photographic Society

MEMBERS of the Society have been busy over the summer taking photographs of family and friends but also storing in their digital albums memories of holidays to special places whether at home or abroad. In gardens young birds draw the eye. Macro-photography enables you to capture in detail the loveliness of butterflies, bees and dragonflies in the summer sun. Increasingly, with advances in sensor technology, a small-sensor digital camera can rival in results the macro capabilities of a DSLR with a 'true' macro lens at considerably lower cost.

The Society can assist Members to achieve excellent results and maybe inspire to enter one of the Open Competitions.

Presentations next season look exciting from the 'Underwater Photography – Art & Technique' to be given by Nick Robertson-Brown FRPS and Caroline, to the 'Coast Hugger, Island Lover' by Marianthi Lainas and 'Street View' with Matt Hart.

The society's 'Pop-Up' Gallery at the Festival in the Park attracted much interest and an image by Chairman Andy Findlay is shown here.

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



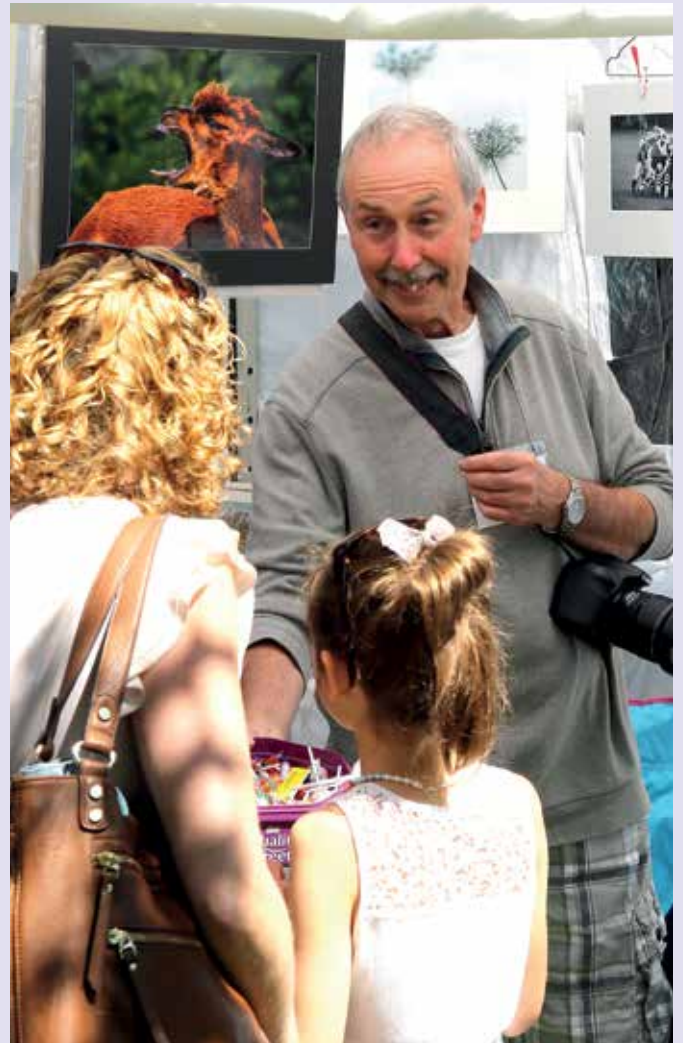
Former Mayor Mallie Poulton.

## Volunteer litter pickers wanted

VOLUNTEERS are being sought for Frodsham Town Council's next litter pick.

It will take place on Saturday, September 9 starting at 9.30am on the car park behind Costa Coffee where volunteers will split up to cover various town centre locations. Grabbers and bags will be supplied, but you should take your own gloves.

More information is available from Cllr Paul Martin on [Paul.Martin@Frodsham.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.Martin@Frodsham.gov.uk) who will be pleased to receive suggestions for future litter picking sites.



# A colourful run for charity

**FRODSHAM Manor House Primary School held a "Colour Run" which raised £500 for Claire House Children's Hospice.**

Pupils and staff ran a mile around the Daily Mile Path while parents and friends of the school were ready with bucket loads of special powder paint to create the paint clouds to run through.

Head teacher Ian Devereux-Roberts said: "There were lots

of laughs, smiles, screams and teamwork skills on show for the half hour run.

"Claire House is an outstanding organisation who provide excellent support for my family. It is wonderful that as a school the children wish to support this charity annually."



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# Fun in the sun at Festival in

Pictures: Frodsham and District Photographic Society

### THE 29th annual Festival in the Park attracted large numbers taking advantage of the lovely summer weather.

Hosted by Frodsham and Helsby Rotary the event, which also incorporated the annual Downhill Run, featured some 40 local organisations, societies and clubs.

The event, which was family orientated with funfair rides and Punch & Judy show was opened by the Mayor of Frodsham Alan Oulton.

Arts and crafts took place at Castle Park Arts Centre throughout the day.

On the main stage a programme of live music, choral groups, belly dancers and more kept the crowds entertained all afternoon.

The Festival also incorporated the finish of the 12th Frodsham Downhill Run.

Principally a fun run over a 1.3

mile downhill course beginning at the War Memorial on Frodsham Hill. A total of 275 runners were organised into seven age related groups.

The winners were;  
Adult Male 16-60 Christopher Larkin #57

Adult Female 16-60 Emma Woodhouse #275

Youth Male 11-15 Connor Ross #239

Youth Female 11-15 Sarah Coates  
Junior Male Under 11 Ben Hardwick #11

Junior Female Under 11 Erin Hardy #87

Veteran 60+ Peter Wakefield #271



# the Park and Downhill Run



# Land of Beds rewards star performers after year of record sales

**FRODSHAM and Helsby bed and mattress retailer Land of Beds has recognised employees who have contributed to another year of record-breaking sales.**

Land of Beds' Family Director Team hosted the celebrations at the Bears Paw, where staff were treated to a fun-packed evening in the Barn.

"The event was about celebrating how well we have done collectively as a team, as well as highlighting our individual star performers," said Managing Director Mike Murray.

"In 2016, we set a stretching sales target and I was very proud to announce that we absolutely smashed that!

"It's incredible as a business to see how far we have come and, as directors, we wanted to say a huge thank you to all of our staff."

The night's top award – 'Employee of the Year' – was voted for by every employee within the business, and it went to Sales Team member Marcus Lightfoot, who was praised for always being happy to help and coming to work with a smile. "Your positive attitude is infectious and you have become a great role model for your colleagues," added Mike.

'Outstanding Contribution' winner Cayley Jardine was applauded for 'stepping up to the plate when needed' and excelling in the multiple roles she has worked in across all departments.

The 'Professional Development' Award was presented to Logistics Team member David Lofthouse, who has volunteered to take part in every community event over the past 12 months, and who was cited as a great example of how 'hard work, dedication and a helpful attitude can make a massive difference'.

Finally, Customer Services member Hollie Smith was crowned

'Rising Star', and was credited for her professionalism and organisational skills in all aspects of the role.

"I want to say a personal thank you to everyone who has chosen to shop locally in Frodsham and Helsby, and to support our family business," said Mike.

"By way of thanks – and to celebrate our national 'Retail Family Business of the Year' Award win – we are offering up to 40 percent savings on beds and mattresses made by top British manufacturers such as Hypnos, Sealy and Silentnight throughout the summer."



*Land of Beds team: Hollie Smith, Marcus Lightfoot, Cayley Jardine and David Lofthouse.*

## Posters will tell the story of Frodsham

MEMBERS of Frodsham and District History Society are engaged in a "Heritage Shop Project" as a community awareness event for the week beginning September 4.

This will coincide with the nationally celebrated Heritage Open Days.

The society has selected 18 local properties in the town centre and will be placing outward-facing posters in the windows of these buildings. The posters will show historic images and advertisements, former site usage and details of previous owners and occupiers.

The information has come from past and present owners, local residents and various historical sources including photographs from the Cheshire Image Bank: [www.cheshireimagebank.org.uk](http://www.cheshireimagebank.org.uk).

Kath Gee, secretary of the society, said: "We are very grateful for all the help we have received and hope we can extend this project in the future." Further details about the society can be obtained from Kath Gee at [Kgee96@aol.com](mailto:Kgee96@aol.com)





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# Kingsley Players Triumph at Cheshire Theatre Guild Awards

**Kingsley Players have enjoyed a record-breaking year at the annual Cheshire Theatre Guild Awards this month. The group received nominations in six categories and walked away with three trophies.**

For the second year running, the Players have been awarded the James Tait Award for Best Musical – this time for *A Mouse's Tale*, written by musical director Arnold Ashbrook and directed by Lynn Pegler. Fifteen year-old Catrin Jones was named 'Most Promising Youngster in a Senior Production' for her roles in *The Grand Gesture* and *A Mouse's Tale* and a special 'Adjudicators'



*A scene from Fantastic Mr Fox*

Award' was presented to Kingsley Players for a "bold and innovative season of theatre". The judges said they were particularly impressed by the "buzz" of all the productions and the group's ability to convert Kingsley Community Centre into a welcoming and vibrant theatre.

Kingsley Players chairman Colin Smith said: "The adjudicators were very complimentary about all our nominees and our ability to put on such a variety of challenging productions in the community centre without a permanent stage. Everyone involved including costume, lighting and sound, set design as well as directing and acting got a mention and the evening culminated in Kingsley Players being awarded the Adjudicators' award for a bold and innovative season of theatre.

"Congratulations to everyone involved and a big thank you to all our loyal supporters."

Also nominated were Jake Powell for 'Best Director' of a youth production, *Fantastic Mr Fox* for 'Best Lighting and Sound', *Some of My Best Friends are Women* for Best Set and *A Mouse's Tale* for Best Costume.



*Cast of Some of My Best Friends are Women*



*Kingsley Players with three trophies after the Cheshire Theatre Guild awards in Macclesfield. (Seated L to R) are Colin Smith, Catrin Jones and Arnold Ashbrook. (Standing L to R) Jake Powell, Joan Barker, Malcolm Barker, Andrea Jones, Ann Crawford, Lynn Pegler.*



*Cast of The Grand Gesture*

## A hundred and four cheers for Annie!

Local resident Annie Davies has celebrated her 104th birthday with family and friends at the MHA Chapel Fields care home in Frodsham.

Born in 1913, Annie has lived through two world wars, seen more than twenty prime ministers come and go and lived in a time without the internet, transatlantic flights, traffic cones, the NHS or toasters. She has spent most of her life living in Chester, where she was born, and moved to Chapel Fields in April 2013 – just a few months before her 100th birthday.

This year, her birthday was marked by an afternoon tea with family and friends. Annie enjoyed a slice of cake and a non-alcoholic tippie along with lots of music and balloons.

A real 'foodie', who ran a café selling homemade scones and also worked in her husband's fish and chip shop, Annie attributes her long life to eating chocolate, tomatoes and grapes. She also says that looking after everyone else before herself has contributed to her long and happy life – when she was younger she loved looking after her extended family's children.

Sandra Turnross, the home's social life co-ordinator, said: "We were so delighted to be able to celebrate Annie's 104th birthday with her. All birthdays are special but 104 deserves a true party – although we weren't quite able to squeeze a candle for every year on the cake! From all of us at Chapel Fields: happy birthday, Annie!"



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# Remembering Staff Nurse Ethel Saxon

**A SPECIAL service at Frodsham Methodist Church on Sunday, September 3 will not only mark the re-dedication of the Trinity War Memorial but also honour Staff Nurse Ethel Saxon – the only woman commemorated on the memorial.**

The story of how the “missing name” on the memorial turned out to be Ethel’s was told in Frodsham Life last month.

But her own story and her links with Frodsham will be told at the service, to be conducted by the Rev Andrew Emison, starting at 10.45am.

When Frodsham’s World War One Commemoration Group – with funding from the Town Council - undertook to renovate the memorial, one name could not be deciphered because of years of weathering.

A space was left in the hope the name could be deciphered – and eventually, after much research, it was found to be Ethel’s.

Very few women who served in the Great War are commemorated on War Memorials – but Ethel was honoured on the memorial, which was originally sited at Trinity Methodist Church in High Street.

She was a staff nurse in the

Territorial Force Nursing Service.

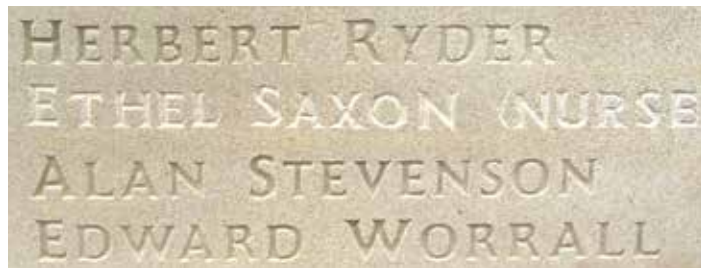
Born in 1891 in Abertillery, Wales, she served in Liverpool for a time and then in British India. She died in Karachi, now in Pakistan, in September 1917.

When the church closed in 2000, the memorial was relocated in the grounds of Frodsham Methodist Church, on Kingsley Road.

Years of weathering had left it in a poor condition and, as part of their brief, the WW1 Commemoration Working Group undertook to renovate the memorial.

Group member Pammi Taylor said: “Hoping for sunshine, we trust many people will join us, whatever the weather, and hear the story of Ethel and her connection with Frodsham.”

Further details about the service and other planned events are available from Pammi on 01928 731932.



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## Parking plans put borough progress at risk

FRODSHAM ward councillor and leader of the Conservative group on Cheshire West and Chester Council, Lynn Riley, has pledged to fight plans to introduce parking charges across the whole borough.

She says Labour claims to justify the proposals are “outrageous.”

Cllr Riley said: “Our focus from 2009-15 was to rescue an economy that was stalled and spiralling out of control after years of neglect and under investment by Labour in their 13 years in government.

“During our seven years in office, we first held car park charges and then progressively removed them.

“Now, two years into their term we see the return of the old Labour ways. They are not listening to local concerns including those of more than 7,000 people in Northwich who know what parking charges will do to their fragile recovery.

“There are some sensible parts of the strategy but these won’t appear until much later in their 15 year strategy. Parking charges will be introduced with no consideration of the impact on the local economies and the psychological effect will be devastating for some of our smaller economies like Frodsham, Helsby and rural communities.

“We want to see a key element of free parking retained for every community and remind Labour colleagues of their campaigning back in 2015 for free parking in Ellesmere Port and Weaver Vale. A year may be a long time in politics but this is yet another demonstration of a complete reversal of position by the ruling Labour administration.”

## When the fruit is ripe – pluck it!

FRODSHAM people are being invited to pick fruit from any of the town’s four community orchards – they won’t be accused of theft!

When the fruit is ripe, it’s ready for plucking – and that’s what it is there for.

The community orchards are in Ship Street, Hawthorne Road, Churchfields and Hob Hey Wood.

Cllr Paul Martin, a member of Frodsham Town Council’s environment committee, said: “People seem a bit nervous about picking the fruit. But it is there for everyone to enjoy.”

Anyone who wants further information can email Cllr Martin at Paul.Martin@frodsham.gov.uk

## Traditional Values MODERN IDEAS



# Celebrating a new life for Park Lane play area



**IT was a party to celebrate the new life now ahead of Frodsham's Park Lane Play Area - but it also highlighted the community spirit that exists among local people.**

More than 100 people turned up for the event, organised by campaign group The Friends of John Williamson, and enjoyed a bouncy castle, barbecue, party games, musical chairs, egg and spoon and sack races, a disco and much more. There were "goody bags" for children to take home.

They all had plenty to celebrate. Frodsham Town Council, which at one time planned to sell the play area for housing, has now agreed to fund new toddlers' play equipment costing around £30,000, which will include provision for disabled children.

There is also every reason to hope further grant funding will be available later to create an outdoor "adult gym.". The Park Lane Play Area's future now seems secure.

The campaign group received plenty of help from the local community in organising the celebration. Frodsham Community Centre loaned folding tables and chairs. Local residents helped run the games, made cakes and ran the barbecue.

Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr Alan Oulton - himself a long time campaigner for the play area - and his wife, Lorraine, were there.

Cllr Mark Nield said: "It was brilliant. It brought back memories of the Seventies."

He said work should start on installing the new play equipment in about three weeks.

Cllr Pat Williamson said: "It was wonderful to see the community spirit, which is so important. It was just like it used to be when I was growing up. Let's hope it helps revive community spirit all over Frodsham because that is what we need."

It was a particularly moving occasion for Cllr Williamson. Her late husband John was a founder member of the campaign group, which adopted his name after his tragic death.

"John would have been over the moon about it," she said. "He desperately wanted to save the play area and that is what has happened. He really would have been pleased."

## Two days of fun for pupils

CHILDREN from Frodsham Manor House Primary School's Lewis Carroll class - Year 2 - enjoyed their first residential with a two-day visit to Llandudno.

They stayed at the Llandudno Hostel, went on a tram ride, enjoyed the playground on the Great Orme and went on a £4 shopping spree on the pier.

There was a sand castle competition on the beach and a trip to the local children's farm, where they heard a talk about owls and were able to feed the deer.





# Cheshire Steam Fair success

Pictures: Frodsham and District Photographic Society

**Large crowds attended the Cheshire Steam Fair over the weekend of 8/9th July. Now considered to be one of the finest events of its kind the fine summer weather ensured that the visitors would be treated to an excellent show.**

A full programme of top steam fair attractions including: Big Wheel, Wall of Death, Steam Engines, Vintage Tractors, Motorcycles, Commercial Vehicles, Static Engines, Miniature Engines and a woodland Steam Railway.

The event also included dozens

of trade stands, auto jumble, fine food marquee, modern funfair and catering and licensed bar.

The main arena saw parades of steam and vintage vehicles as well as the motorcycle and quad bike stunt show featuring Jason Smyth of Adrenaline Tour.

The main car park on both days soon began to fill up as the enthusiastic crowds made their way to the show ground to enjoy the attractions and the glorious weather. Whilst fans of the steam era were very much in attendance there were large numbers of families and children too. Judging by the brisk business across the trade stands and fairground it was obvious how popular the show has become.



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of  
Frodsham, Cheshire

## L.G.B.T. Friendship Group

We are a full inclusive group open to all adults in the L.G.B.T. Community and their families, friends and supporters.

Our aim is to provide:-

- ★ Friendship
- ★ Support
- ★ Social Events
- ★ A Listening Ear
- ★ Or Just a Chat over a cup of tea



We are a Local Group (based in Frodsham, Cheshire).  
Although we welcome friends from all areas.  
We meet on a regular basis.

For further information please contact

**Lorraine: 07731641752    Michael: 07989684007**



**Proud Bees LGBT Friendship Group**