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Issue No. 119
February 2015

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**GRAHAM
EVANS
MP**

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Editor's Comment



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IT is not 12 months since we were giving ourselves a pat on the back in this column for helping to bring about what appeared to be a welcome change of heart on the part of those responsible for car parking arrangements at Eddisbury Square.

There were, of course, others who played a bigger part, including the Town Council, individual councillors and members of the public who had expressed their anger at what was undoubtedly a heavy-handed approach.

However, we spoke too soon. All of us who thought we had won some kind of victory. Complaints continue to pour in about aggressive enforcement of parking regulations which, if they were handled reasonably, would be as fair as you can ever expect parking regulations to be.

Two hours free, with a no return for two hours condition, is not unreasonable and achieves what it is intended to achieve - regular turnover of vehicles.

But it would appear the CCTV technology is not up to the job. The cameras cannot differentiate between drivers who are trying to cheat the system and those who genuinely need to return later in the day. Both are likely to receive a strongly worded letter demanding what many people think is a fine.

This could be a deliberate policy, designed to maximise profits, for there will be people who simply pay up, particularly when offered a "discount" for prompt payment.

There seems to be some doubt

about the legality of these demands and whether or not a motorist who receives one need take any notice of it all. We would advise any recipient to look into it carefully before paying.

Part of the problem is that in addition to the landlord - the owner of the Eddisbury Square car park - there are two other agencies involved. A property management company and a car park operator.

Cllr Andrew Dawson, who has done more than most to try and resolve the difficulties, says one agency is fair and reasonable but the other is "unreasonable and outrageous." Our own experience

is that they try to blame each other.

The problem for Frodsham is that it cannot afford for even a few car-borne shoppers to be driven away by aggressive and unfair enforcement of rules which one needs extremely good eyesight to read.

The Town Council is to approach the car park operator and also enlist the support of the local MP and we hope this will result in an improved situation.

But we are not holding our breath.

Deadline for the March issue of Frodsham Life is February 24

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MP'S ADVICE SURGERIES February

Friday 6th February

Northwich Constituency Office 4pm - 5pm

Friday 13th February

Beechwood Community Centre 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Helsby Community Centre 4pm - 5pm

Friday 20th February

Halton Direct Link 4pm - 5pm

Friday 27th February

Asda Supermarket, Halton Lea 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Knoll Surgery Frodsham 4pm - 5pm



Culture minister visits art centre

THE work of local artists came under the spotlight when Culture Minister Sajid Javid dropped into Castle Park, Frodsham.

Mr Javid was the guest of Weaver Vale MP Graham Evans, who showed him around the park's popular arts centre.

The park was gifted to the people of Frodsham and Runcorn by the Wright family in 1933 and is commemorated by the black iron gates on the courtyard of the arts centre, which was originally the stables for the house, before being converted in the 1980's.

It is a self-funding charity, housing three galleries, craft units, a coffee shop and workshop rooms.

After the visit, Mr Evans said: "I was very proud to show Mr Javid the excellent facilities at the Castle Park Art Centre that benefit the whole community.

"For a facility that was gifted to the people in Frodsham and Runcorn more than 80 years ago, it is fantastic how it has grown and is still so popular today.

Mr Javid said: "I was delighted that Graham showed me around the bustling arts centre at Castle Park. It's fantastic to see a centre with such a great community-vibe. I was particularly interested in the art exhibition. It's always great to see the work of local artists being showcased."



Mr Javid and Mr Evans with users of the art centre.

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Three one act comedies to banish the winter blues!

BANISH the winter blues with a visit to Kingsley Players' new February stage production, A Pack of Three one act comedies.

The Players promise to deal their audience a winning hand in this new performance slot with a trio of rib-tickling comedic plays, staged for four nights at Kingsley Community Centre, Wednesday 25th to Saturday 28th February, 7.30pm.

The evening will open with *Two Wits to Woo* by John Kelly, directed by Sandra Capper. *Widowed Lady Winsome* is being hoodwinked by her chauffeur who runs a taxi business and gardener who profits from her produce. She wants to sell her ailing estate and the pair are having none of it. But she is not

quite as naïve as they think....

Completing the first half is a short comedy classic, made famous by the comedian Rowan Atkinson. *The Sneeze* by Anton Chekhov, (translated and adapted by Michael Frayn) is directed by Lynn Pegler.

She says: "Anyone who associates Chekhov purely with tearful tragedies will be surprised and delighted with this uproarious comic jewel. In a piece of sublime Russian slapstick, a minor government official sneezes on a very important government official during a trip to the theatre. Bring your hankies just to catch the laughter."

After the interval, *Caught on the Hop* by David Foxton, directed by Jo Oultram, completes the trio. This

hilarious French farce opens with society lady Sophie Fontaineau who returns home early after a rendezvous with her lover. She is surprised to watch her husband Etienne enter disguised as the hunchback of Notre Dame and the plot then sparkles with enough comic twists to send the audience

searching for their hankerchief again.

Tickets cost £7/£8, with £5 concessions available on Wednesday and Thursday. They may be booked in advance through the website www.kingsleyplayers.co.uk or by ringing the box office on 07925 516760.



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Each home features a light, spacious lounge complete with a wood burning stove. Plus there is the added benefit of a second reception room within each design, and all these ground floor spaces are complimented with under-floor heating. To the first floor there are five good-sized bedrooms, a large family bathroom and a further two well proportioned, en-suite bathrooms with high-quality fittings throughout.

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Homes still a good buy say property experts

HOMES in Frodsham, Helsby and surrounding areas of North Cheshire continue to be a good investment and prices are predicted to see a small increase over 2015, say conveyancing experts from local legal firm FDR Law.

The average price for a house in the North West is £138,436, compared to a UK average of £186,741. In the North West residents have seen their homes increase in value by an average of 5.8%, against a UK average of 9.6%, according to the Halifax house price survey.

Chris Illingworth (pictured right), a conveyancing solicitor with FDR Law, based in Frodsham, predicts that local slow growth in house prices will continue throughout 2015 and recent changes in stamp duty payments will have a positive effect of stimulating activity in the housing market.

Under the old system, anyone purchasing a property costing between £125,000 and £250,000 would pay 1%, and between £250,000 and £500,000, 3%. Even if the purchase price was only one pound over the threshold, the purchaser would pay the higher percentage rate on the entire amount.

"Recent changes in the rules will remove unpopular price pinch points and make the collection of stamp duty much fairer," he said.

"The new rules will help house buyers at all ends of the spectrum.

For someone purchasing a £300,000 house, the changes now mean a stamp duty bill of £5,000 instead of £9,000. And the new rules also mean big savings for first time buyers who just tip over the £125,000 limit.

"The number of people climbing onto the first rung of the housing ladder increased by 9% across the UK last year and we have every reason to believe this trend is set to continue. The Government's Help to Buy scheme and a new Starter Home initiative offering a 20% discount to first time buyers are both prompting people to take the plunge.

"This optimism is tempered by the continuing difficulty of securing a mortgage and the large deposits being demanded by banks and building societies. Many young people are still having to appeal to the 'Bank of Mum and Dad' to fund their down payments and that situation is unlikely to change any time soon.

"But overall, the local housing market is in a healthy condition, the economy buoyant and anyone considering moving house or investing in their first home, has no particular reason for delaying," he said.



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Talking Frodsham



Welcome

This is the latest news about what is happening in our busy community.
From your local Cheshire West and Chester Councillors, Andrew Dawson and Lynn Riley.

Bringing new investment into Frodsham was a key commitment we made to you when you first elected us to CWAC. We've worked hard with you and for you to make sure that Frodsham benefits from CWAC's investment programme. We can't get a thousand words on this page so we thought that pictures would help show some of the changes in Frodsham over the last 4 years.

Investing in places



Frodsham has welcomed small businesses to Castle Park House and a major refurbishment of the park and open spaces.



Grants to the Arts Centre for gallery refurb & toilets.



Solar panels at Helsby High



A new medical centre next door to the upgraded library.



Community Centre heating system.

Investing in spaces



New play facilities in Castle Park and Ship Street for children.



Investing in roads



Before and after the £4.5m upgrade at the Swing Bridge.



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To find out more contact:
Cllr Andrew Dawson
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Meeting Peter Andre was 'insania'

A SLIMMING World manager from Frodsham says meeting singer and TV presenter Peter Andre was the perfect way to get set for a super-slimming start to 2015.

Wendy Jones, was thrilled to get a chance to cuddle up to Peter when he co-hosted the Slimming World Awards with the organisation's chairman Margaret Miles-Bramwell.

She said meeting the singer was a wonderful way to round off a great 12 months as well as the perfect way to start another successful year: "I'm so proud of all of our members in Frodsham.

They've lost fantastic amounts of weight with many reaching their target weights and improving their health substantially.

"It's so rewarding to see people achieve things that they didn't think possible, whether it's wearing smaller-sized clothes, taking up new hobbies, reducing medication or being able to do more with their family and friends. Meeting Peter was a real treat - he was such a nice guy. Now I feel powered up and I can't wait to help those members hold on to all of the fabulous changes they've made and support even more people to become happier and healthier."

Two-time celebrity Peter, said he was delighted to meet Wendy at the event, at Birmingham's International Convention Centre.

He added: "Being in the public eye there's a lot of scrutiny and if you put on even a pound or two the magazines and newspapers are extremely quick to point it out, so I've always tried to take care of myself and watch my weight. However since becoming a dad I've realised it's about more than just looking good; it's much more important to me that I'm fit and healthy and setting a good example to my children. At the awards I met lots of people who've lost incredible amounts of weight and it has completely transformed their lives - and their families' lives too. They're eating more healthily."

Wendy hopes even more people will benefit from making healthy lifestyle changes.

"I truly believe that joining Slimming World is the best way for people to lose weight. Getting off to a great start is really important when embarking on a slimming plan; seeing results on the scales and feeling lighter and brighter will motivate people to keep going and achieve their goals. Even if people have struggled to stick to weight loss plans in the past, I know we can help them to make a change for life this time around - our members and their success are proof of that.

"Slimming World's Food Optimising plan isn't a 'diet', we simply help our members to discover

new healthy habits and a healthier way of eating that they can enjoy without ever feeling hungry or deprived. They make small easy changes to the way they shop, cook and eat, introduce activity to their daily routine, and get regular support to reward their successes and overcome the hurdles they face along the way. This helps them to stick to their personal goals and can make a big difference to the way members feel about themselves as well as their weight.

"On top of seeing success on the scales, our groups are great places to make friends. We've had a lot of fun throughout the year - we've held parties, raised money for charity and members have cheered each other on with every step of their weight loss journey."



Wendy Jones meets Peter.

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Seb to help build nursery school in South Africa

A 20-year-old university student from Frodsham has been given the opportunity to join a team designing a nursery school in one of the poorest parts of South Africa.

Seb Chambers, formerly a pupil of Overton CE Primary and Helsby High School, is trying to raise £1,000 to be spent on materials and tools needed for Project Kagiso, a charity run by the University of Nottingham, where he is studying architecture and engineering.

The nursery school will be built in the isolated village of Makke, in the Letsitele Valley, in Limpopo and the project's name, Kagiso, means "Let's Build Together" in the local Sotho language.

As well as designing the school, Seb and the rest of the team will be going to Limpopo in April to build it as well.

Seb said: "Our project will help provide a bright, clean and safe environment for teaching basic skills, play and music to village children from under one year to seven years old.

"It will also provide employment for the local women who teach in the crèche, cook meals, wipe noses and sing and play with the kids."

Seb is funding his trip himself, but is asking local business for support in raising the £1,000 towards building materials, etc.

"There is no limit to the amount you can give - large or small. Every penny counts. It will all help make the project a success."

Later in the year, the team will be releasing a short film about the project.

Seb, his father Colin and mother Jessica have for many years been heavily involved with the 4th Frodsham Scouts and while at Helsby High, Seb was a founder member of the school's folk band.

Anyone who wants to support Seb can do so through his Just Giving page www.justgiving.com/Sebastian-Chambers1



The most successful shopping centre

FRODSHAM is the most successful shopping centre in West Cheshire - judged on the number of vacant retail premises in the town.

Cllr Andrew Dawson told the Town Council that shop vacancies in Frodsham had fallen to 2.6 per cent from 3.95 per cent.

The next best centre in the borough was Neston, with 10.34 per cent while Chester had a vacancy rate of 14 per cent.

He said: "People complain about the number of vacant shops in Frodsham, but actually we have the most successful shopping centre in West Cheshire. We are doing very well as a retail centre."

Chairman Cllr Mark Warren said: "The Town Council is rigorously opposed to any reduction in retail floor space."



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New plan approved for Churchfields

FRODSHAM Town Council has approved a revised plan for the redevelopment of Churchfields - without the controversial "wheeled play area."

There will be a new children's play area, a kick-about area, footpaths and landscaping.

But the "wheeled play area" or skatepark, which caused a storm of protest from nearby residents when they were first put forward nearly two years ago, no longer figure in the proposals.

Council chairman Cllr Mark Warren said the proposals had

been scaled down generally when compared to the original plan because of a disappointing response to grant applications.

A footpath running through the middle of the play area had been removed, other footpaths had been altered and a drainage scheme for the kick-about area had been dropped.

Altogether, savings of about £56,000 had been achieved compared with the original scheme.

However, parts of the scheme which had been omitted to keep it within budget, such as the drainage, could be added easily at a later date, in consultation with nearby residents.

Cllr Warren said, interestingly, although the wheeled play area had been the most contentious part of the original scheme, the consultation exercise had shown that some 52 per cent of residents had actually been in favour of it.

He said the scheme should be completed within a year or two.

In May 2013, more than 50 people, mainly from Churchfields Road and Froda Avenue, attended

the annual town meeting to protest at what they claimed was a lack of consultation over the scheme.

Although they supported plans to upgrade the field, they were strongly opposed to the wheeled play area which they believed would cause a noise nuisance.

A major concern was that a skatepark would attract older youths, inevitably leading to more anti-social behaviour.

The council stressed at the time that no firm plan had been adopted and that the proposals were merely part of a consultation process.



Churchfields...waiting for redevelopment.

Anger over 'heavy-handed' parking enforcement

HEAVY-handed enforcement of parking regulations on Frodsham's Eddisbury Square came in for strong criticism at the monthly meeting of the Town Council.

Cllr Sara Wakefield told the council she had been approached by people who had received letters demanding payment of penalties which they believed to be unfair and in some cases unwarranted.

Some people were so angry they were saying they would not shop in Frodsham again.

Cllr Andrew Dawson said the problem was that parking on Eddisbury Square was dealt with by two agencies - one which was reasonable and one which was "outrageous and unreasonable."

People did not always know who they were dealing with.

Some retailers were apparently happy with the situation, because there was a constant turnover of vehicles. But many shoppers were not and if they were threatening not to shop in Frodsham it was clearly worrying.

Chairman Cllr Mark Warren said the car park operators should be asked to display signs with larger print because many shoppers did not know they could not return to the car park for two hours after leaving.

"We should write to the company and tell them we think they are operating unfairly and that we are opposed to heavy-handed enforcement of the regulations.

"Perhaps we should invite them to a meeting to explain themselves."

It was agreed the council should write to the company and also to Weaver Vale MP Graham Evans, asking him to take up the matter.

*Frodsham Life has received a number of letters and emails from shoppers angry at the parking regime at Eddisbury Square.

Stroke Association urges 'resoluters' to join charity run

THE Stroke Association is offering people the chance to make a pledge which counts and take part in a 5km, 10km or 15km Resolution Run on Sunday March 15 at Delamere Forest, Cheshire.

As one of over 20 Resolution Runs taking place across the UK, this fun event provides the perfect motivation to get back in shape after the Christmas excesses while supporting a vital cause.

Dr James Logan (pictured), a Senior Lecturer at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and presenter of the TV programme *Embarrassing Bodies*, is backing the runs. He supports the charity because his gran, Margaret Kerr had a stroke just before Christmas two years ago.

Dr James said: "It's easy to let work and other commitments take over our lives. But getting out in the evenings for half an hour's exercise can make a huge difference to our health and the way we feel about ourselves.

"Signing up to a Resolution Run is the perfect way of committing to doing something important for people whose lives have been turned upside down by stroke. It can really help you stay on track with your fitness plans. And remember, it can also be a lot of fun!"

Annie Moran, Events Officer at the Stroke Association, added: "Many of our New Year Resolutions focus on key personal improvements like quitting smoking, eating healthier or joining a gym. But too often these fail by the end of January. We're looking for 'resoluters' to join us for a 5, 10 or 15km Resolution Run in Cheshire. It's your chance to make a pledge which counts and helps us to conquer stroke."

At least half of strokes could be prevented if people made simple lifestyle changes, such as keeping

blood pressure under control and exercising more. The money raised will help the charity fund vital research, support people affected and prevent stroke.

Entry fee is just £12.50. For more information about entering or

volunteering, visit www.stroke.org.uk/resolution, email resolution@stroke.org.uk or call 0161 742 7485.

All runners receive a free t-shirt and medal. Running vests are also available for just £2.50 more.





A winning design for the Goods Shed

A MANCHESTER-based architectural practice has been named as the winners of Make Space – the competition to come up with a concept for the future of the derelict Goods Shed at Frodsham Station.

Lewis and Hickey were winners of the competition, launched by Frodsham Foundation last October.

Kate Dodgson, director of Frodsham Foundation said: "The quality of submissions and the level of background research and understanding of the aims of the project were exceptional and we would like to thank all entrants for their time and effort."

Architects from across the region were asked to come up with a design that would make the Goods Shed:

1. a vibrant, attractive and welcoming gateway to Frodsham and the surrounding area.

2. a creative impact hub comprising of affordable studio and retail space to support the growth of successful and sustainable creative

businesses.

3. flexible space that would support local producers, freelance knowledge workers, skills development and social activity.

4. flexible space to incorporate screening facilities for film nights, business presentations, workshops and events.

5. a central information point to promote local jobs, events and attractions and display/exhibition areas for small businesses to promote their products/services.

6. a music rehearsal, recording and filming studio to promote the development of a wide range of creative, technical and communication skills.

Three different concepts were then exhibited at Frodsham's library and

leisure centre and members of the public were invited to vote for their favourite.

Links to an online survey were also sent out to local residents and businesses via the Foundation's newsletter, Facebook, Twitter and via the project website www.cheshirehive.co.uk

There was overwhelming support for a very modern restoration of the currently derelict building, with 72 per cent of respondents voting for a modern two storey extension.

Comments included "Looks stunning", "A fantastic gateway for train visitors" and "I feel this adds a new modern look for the building with a nice look out onto the railway, allowing the visibility to the trains and platform - a perfect compliment to where it is and a reminder of the buildings past use as part of the railway!"

The responses to whether the single storey element of the building should be refurbished or knocked down and a new extension built were less definitive but respondents were clear that the music rehearsal and film recording facility should be self contained, leaving the main body of the building for community and small

business use.

Clive Panter, director of architecture at Lewis and Hickey and a local Frodsham resident, said: "The Goods Shed is a fantastic project and we're delighted that our ideas have been well received. We're looking forward to developing these concepts for the sustainable re-use of this historic building for commercial and community uses".

Artists impression of renovated building courtesy of Lewis and Hickey.

Frodsham Foundation has also been awarded a pre-feasibility grant of up to £10,000 by Social Investment Business Limited (SIB). The pre-feasibility grant will be used for the RIBA stage 1 Architectural fees, structural survey, valuation, development of governance and structure and preparation of the next stage of funding applications. An application will be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Heritage Enterprise Grant on 5 February 2015.

To get involved in the Good Shed project and receive regular updates visit www.cheshirehive.co.uk or email kate.dodgson@frodshamfoundation.net.

WI gamble on a casino night

IT was a sparkling casino night with a difference – the monthly meeting of Frodsham WI.

Members started the glamorous night at Frodsham Community Centre with £204 each in chips to gamble on the roulette wheel or blackjack tables.

The boldest gambler ended the evening with more than £800. The president's husband, Jeff Shaw and two of his friends, Kneale Kenyon and Chris Edwards were the black tie-attired croupiers. Members rose to the occasion, dressed up to the nines!

Pauline Bate, whose gold shrug was judged the best accessory by Kneale Kenyon.

Jan Moran won the competition for the best cocktail recipe... possibly because she brought hers in a glass ready to drink while the others just brought pieces of paper! Maggie Crimes was judged the most elegantly dressed lady in the casino.

Frodsham WI meets monthly on the first Thursday of the month at 7.30pm and welcomes new members.



Pauline Bate with Kneale Kenyon who judged her gold shrug the best accessory of the night.

Record producer dips into new releases

THE monthly meeting of Frodsham Recorded Music Society saw the welcome return of Brian Pidgeon in what has become an annual presentation of newly-released recordings over which Brian has presided as a record producer.

All the recordings played were from the Chandos label and were of the consistently high standard for which that company is renowned.

Four of the recordings were by the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, three of which were conducted by Neeme Jarvi; short extracts from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker ballet, two Norwegian songs by Delius, and the first movement of Sibelius's violin concerto (soloist Jennifer Pike.)

The fourth Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra recording was the fabulous brass opening fanfare of Janacek's Sinfonietta, conducted by Edward Gardner who took up the baton again, but this time with the BBC Symphony Orchestra in the second movement of Walton's 1st Symphony, which proved one of the most exciting and electrifying pieces of the evening.

Simon Keenlyside was the soloist in an aria from Verdi's "Macbeth", and he made a second appearance in much lighter vein in an item taken from his disc of Show Tunes - "Reviewing the Situation" (from "Oliver").

The final movement of Mendelssohn's 3rd. Symphony (City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra/ Gardner), two short items by Massenet, and a movement from one of the Swiss composer Joachim Raff's many symphonies were played by the Swiss Romande Orchestra, again, with Jarvi conducting.

More substantial fare was the inclusion of two extracts from Elgar's "Dream of Gerontius" in a superb recording from the BBC Symphony Orchestra and chorus, conducted by Andrew Davies.

Next month's programme will be presented by Paul Stockbridge, with the intriguing title of "Ecclesiastical Fantastical".



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Village school wins praise from education minister

MANLEY Village School has received a letter of congratulations from Minister of State for Schools David Laws after being one of only 149 schools in the country to achieve 100 per cent success in reading, writing and mathematics in the national key stage 2 tests.

A delighted headteacher, Mrs Kate Walker said: "I am tremendously proud of the achievement of our pupils in the 2014 National Tests.

This is the culmination of hard work and talented teaching throughout their time at Manley Village School."

Mrs Sandy Semple, mother of two boys attending the school added her own praise.

She wrote to Mrs Walker: "I just wanted to congratulate you and all the staff for hitting such a high standard. It must be very satisfying for all your hard work to be recognised by the Department of Education. It's testament to the dedication and enthusiasm of all the staff, from reception to Year 6, who contribute so much to lives of our children and give them such a great start in school life."

In his letter, the Minister said: "It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on the excellent performance of your pupils in the 2014 national keys stage 2 tests.

"Your results show that 100 per cent of your pupils gained level 4b or above in reading and mathematics and level 4 or above in writing. This makes you one of only 149 schools in the country to achieve this level of attainment.

"Master of reading, writing and mathematics is critical to success at secondary school and beyond so the school has helped give these pupils a really good start for secondary school.

"I would like to congratulate your staff, governors and pupils for their hard work and success and thank you for your leadership in continuing the drive towards high standards of education achievement."

Leisure centre likely to get facelift

FRODSHAM Leisure Centre is one of a number likely to benefit from major refurbishment as a result of the decision to award a long-term contract to Cheshire West and Chester Council's leisure provider.

Brio Leisure – a wholly-owned subsidiary of the council which has run its leisure and recreation facilities since 2011 has been awarded a 15-year contract, starting from April.

Cllr Stuart Parker, the council's lead member for culture and economy, said that Brio had established themselves as a competent organisation with a track record of delivery against the Council's key objectives.

He said: "We have undertaken extensive consultation regarding Brio's existing performance and two thirds of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the activities on offer.

"Brio will be subject to a performance management framework under the new contract and they must provide services to improve outcomes for targeted communities."

Cll Parker said the new contract would enable Brio to secure investment in the borough's leisure centres.

"Granting this 15-year contract will enable Brio to go out to the market place and bring forward a major refurbishment to enhance the facilities," he said.

Former Frodsham schoolboy takes next step up business ladder

A FORMER Frodsham schoolboy is ensuring builders' merchants, MBS Site Supplies Ltd, is moving up the ladder in the firm's ambitious expansion and growth plans.

Barely one year old, the MBS business model has proved incredibly successful in Liverpool, from its Anfield base, and is now set to open its doors to a second base in Warrington.

Supplying site consumables ranging from ironmongery, nails, adhesives, ladders and plaster to health and safety equipment such as dust masks and high-vis vests. MBS counts small, medium and large contractors and tradesmen as repeat business clients.

Former Frodsham High School schoolboy Carl Oates, managing director of MBS said: "We've really managed to carve a niche in Liverpool where we can offer a product range to match those available from the national merchants at equal or in some instances, less cost to the smaller contractors. It is our service levels that lets us stand apart and we are seeing that contractors of all shapes and sizes are keen to buy or procure local and do business with independent stores such as ours where possible."

The MBS Site Supplies Warrington branch will be housed on Kingsland Grange and initially will be run by a team of three with plans take on a further two staff in the coming 12 months. MBS aim to replicate the Liverpool business model in Warrington servicing the contractors who are part of the town's construction and housing boom.

Carl added: "We already do business in Warrington and as a Warrington based man myself, I have strong ties with the area – for us this was the next natural step. We were finding that customers in this area were really tuned into the local ethos and what better way to take it a step further than to open a branch."

MBS Site Supplies is currently supplying a huge range of products to Liverpool based building contractor Frank Rogers, an ongoing provider to Warrington



Golden Gates Housing Trust. Frank Rogers has recently secured further work with the growing, award winning Housing Trust. Other

local clients in Warrington for MBS include Dante Group, Urban Building Projects & Richardson Smith.

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Athletics legend George enters the 'hall of fame'

FRODSHAM running legend George Bunner has been inducted into the British Athletics "Hall of Fame".

The founder of Frodsham Harriers Club and the international Sportshall Athletics movement was one of nine people given the honour for 2014.

Only 70 have been inducted to the Hall of Fame since it was established in 2008.

They include internationally famous names such as Roger Bannister, Chris Brasher, Chris Chataway, Sebastian Coe, Linford Christie, Ann Packer, Tessa Sanderson, Fatima Whitbread, Daley Thompson and Kelly Holmes.

New members are only admitted to the Hall of Fame after they have been retired from athletics for five

years or more.

George Bunner – now aged 82 – was a promising athlete and was the English AAA junior 880 yards champion in 1950.

He suffered the tragic loss of his wife in a car crash in 1968. It left him severely injured and a single parent to their two infant sons.

He married his second wife, Sheila in 1971 and the couple had a baby daughter.

Fighting back from his injuries, he rekindled his interest in athletics and, with friends, formed Frodsham Athletics Club.

Realising that traditional track and field would not suit primary

school aged children he set about creating what has now become "Sportshall Athletics – an enjoyable way for young people to get into running, jumping and throwing activities as their first steps into athletic.

The Sportshall programme has evolved over the years and now forms a major part of the athletics component of the National School Competition framework.

George is now recognised worldwide as a leading authority on the development of children's athletics.

In 2002 he was awarded the MBE for his services to athletics and today he remains an inspirational driving force within the sport.

New captains' drive in

ON a cold and frosty morning the new captains at Frodsham Golf Club, Jim Speedy, Kath Belt and junior captain Chris Vaughan held their traditional Drive In.

There was a very good turnout of members to welcome their new captains onto the 1st tee where as tradition dictates each captain drove off using a "specially" modified golf club manufactured and provided by Frodsham Golf Club professional Graham Tonge, following which members played in a Betterball Matchplay competition

over 11 holes with a "shotgun start". In a very closely fought match the winners by a narrow margin were the New Captains' Team beating the Past Captains' Team by 9.5 points to 8.5. Afterwards a two course carvery was served in the clubhouse.

The Captains' Charity this year is The Children's Adventure Farm Trust Millington, which has Sir Bobby Charlton as its president. More information about the charity can be found by going to their website at <http://www.caft.co.uk>

The captains managed to raise £135 on the day from a raffle which was conducted during the meal and from members predicting where the captains' drive off the 1st tee would end and where their tee shot on the short par 3 9th hole would finish. In addition any member or visitor whose golf ball was unfortunate enough to go into the pond in front of the green on the 18th hole was asked to place a contribution into the captains' nominated charity box on the bar in the clubhouse.

Reader's Letters

Please send your correspondence to: Frodsham Life, New Media Centre, Old Road, Warrington WA4 1AT
or email: info@lymmlife.co.uk

Traffic speeds

YOUR editorial comment in the January edition of Frodsham Life regarding traffic speeds verges on the alarmist rather than providing a balanced picture.

For instance you reported that the speed sign in our village clocked 40 per cent of motorists doing more than 30mph. That is correct but you then mention the eight occasions in a two month period at which a speed of 60 mph was noted, without pointing out that this was possibly police cars attending some emergency or other. They regularly pass through our village with their alarms going. I have not observed anything like this sort of speed from domestic vehicles proceeding through our

village in 40 years.

The 40 per cent speeding at the recording point in Helsby can also be inverted. Sixty per cent were below the speed limit and many of the rest were probably doing under 35 mph and hopefully reduced their speed on seeing the flashing signal. The very reason that it was put there.

The PCSO's speed checks in the village have rarely caught more than 16 vehicles in a two hour period exceeding 33 mph which since at peak times we have over 1000 vehicles an hour passing through represents 0.8 per cent of the traffic. Hardly a major issue.

Even the 48 the Community Speed Watch detected, if they

Les Ford, High View, Helsby

were on the High Street represents only 4.8 per cent of the hourly traffic flow which in turn means that 95.2 per cent were keeping to the speed limit. Which is pretty good behaviour on the part of the motorists and should not give rise to overdue concerns.

As to the speed limit changes on the A56 which you refer to. I have noted that my journey time to Frodsham has been extended by one minute. This may not seem much but when experienced by all 10800 vehicles which use this road each day, this equates to 65700 lost hours which charged at £6.5 an hour equates to a cost of £427000 per annum to the wider community.

Car parking

I READ with interest the reader's letter re parking in Frodsham in the January issue of Frodsham Life and would like to add that my husband has suffered a similar experience.

He received a parking penalty notice from UKPCS on December 23 (Merry Xmas!), stating he arrived

on Eddisbury Square, Frodsham car park at 14:45 on Monday December 15 and did not leave until 18:10.

He suffered the same issues as your reader, Mr Burgess, having left the car park at around 15:00 to collect our grandsons from Weaver Vale School, he did return later that

Diane Mercer, Runcorn

evening to pick up something from a shop on his way home.

We have appealed but have not yet received a response. I think it is unlikely that we will.

What can be done about this company? Can Frodsham Council not do anything?

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