

Frodsham Life

Issue No. 124
July 2015

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Editor's Comment



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IT'S an indisputable fact that most people in Frodsham and Helsby, and indeed a much wider area, did not want the Frodsham Wind Farm built.

But the battle was lost, work has started on site and by this time next year the 19 turbines on Frodsham Marshes will be almost ready to start generating electricity. So there is no point in railing against the inevitable

– it makes much more sense to look for positives and take maximum advantage of them.

The big plus is, of course, the £3 million that will become available to the local community over the next 25 years. How should this money be spent – and who should decide?

Three public meetings are to be held this month - at Frodsham Community Centre on Monday July 13, 2-7pm, Helsby Community Centre on Friday, July 17, 2-7pm and Elton Community Centre, on Saturday July 18, 3-7pm. Anyone who cares for the future of not just Frodsham, Helsby and Elton but the whole of the Weaver Valley, should make the effort to attend one of them.

There will be plenty of information on offer about how and when the construction programme will affect local people. But Peel Energy, the company behind the project, will also be seeking information from local people – about how they would like the £3 million community benefit fund to be administered.

Elsewhere in this issue Frodsham Transition Initiative and Kingsley Transition Initiative appeal to local people to make their voices heard and we echo their call.

It is not too often that any community gets £3 million to spend and while it may seem a lot of money it is not so much that it doesn't matter how it is spent. It needs to be spent wisely – and that is where well-informed local people can make a difference.

So go to one of the meetings.

Non-stop singathon

A 12-HOUR non-stop community event to celebrate the joys of singing and music is planned for Frodsham next year.

The 'Singathon' is being organised by Frodsham Community Centretainments Group to be held on Saturday, February 27 at Frodsham Community Centre.

All age groups are being invited to take part, from school groups to senior choirs. All types of music will be included, from pop to jazz, classic to folk.

Organisers are already recruiting choirs, bands, groups and individuals who would like to entertain the people for an allocated time during the day.

In addition to singing, the group need skills in marketing and IT, experience in staging events and help with running a café.

Anyone who would like more information, or would like to sing or help, should email Jean on singathon@frodshamcc.co.uk

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MP welcomes pupils to Downing Street

WEAVER Vale MP Graham Evans welcomed the Year 6 group from Frodsham Manor House Primary School to 10 Downing Street which was followed by a lively Q&A session.

Commenting on the visit, Graham said: "It was fantastic to welcome Year 6 to London and to Downing Street, I hope they enjoyed it and who knows – one of these bright young minds could be walking through that

door as Prime Minister one day!

"After the visit I joined the group for a Q&A session and, forget question time or PMQs – Year 6 were the real deal and they really know their stuff."



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Christmas is coming...already!

PLANS are already well advanced for this year's Frodsham Christmas Festival and Market.

It will take place on Saturday, November 28 from 12 noon to 9pm - and organisers have 50 pitches available for the market.

The market will again be on the car park adjacent to Frodsham Station and accessible from Church Street, with a stage and performance area on the same site.

The market will be the hub of the many activities taking place throughout Frodsham and organisers are expecting a turn-out similar to last year's 5,000.

Taking into account feedback from last year, a limit will be placed on the number of food and drink stalls to avoid duplication of products and allow a balanced "menu" for the festival.

Traders supplying foods, including take-aways, beers, ciders, teas and coffees, sweets and cakes are all invited.

Organisers are looking to expand the number of craft/gift stalls and add as wide a range and variety of products as possible including gifts, crafts, seasonal goods and novelties.

Traders will be expected to provide their own gazebo, staff, etc.

Cost of each pitch will be £50, including electricity.

Anyone interested in getting involved should contact frodshamxmasmarket@btinternet.com or write to Castle Park House, Castle Park, Chester Road Frodsham WA6 6SB.

Weaver Words is back and needs volunteers now!

WEAVER Words, Frodsham Literature Festival, is set to return for another five day festival in April 2016 and organisers want to recruit new volunteers to help.

The festival is run by a small dedicated committee but they would like more volunteers to join them to assist with vital tasks such as publicity, the box office and liaising with schools to promote a children's writing competition.

This will be the third Weaver Words Festival and the plan is to incorporate the same popular

mix of speakers, performers and workshops as the previous two festivals. A children's story writing competition and an adult flash fiction competition are also set to make a comeback.

Festival chair, Sue Zlosnik, explained: "The last two literature festivals have been hugely popular with adults and children alike.

"We are now beginning to formulate plans for the next festival and we would really benefit from the injection of new, enthusiastic volunteers and fresh ideas."

If you would like to help promote books and literature in Frodsham and want to get involved in the organisation of the next festival, please contact Sue Zlosnik on 01928 730139 or email: sue.zlosnik@gmail.com



Summer Sparklers

If you've noticed how warm it has been lately and you're anything like us, you'll also have experienced an overwhelming thirst come over you that can only be sated by something ice cold and bubbly. Lemonade is always an option, but it's hardly going to set the world on fire! What you need is some sparkling wine to cool you down, loosen you up and help you through this summer weather!



We have two fabulous new sparklers in for you to make a start on. First up is the **2011 Bride Valley (£29.95)**, produced in Dorset by Steven and Bella Spurrier. Some of you may have heard of Steven Spurrier, one of the wine world's most prominent experts and wine writers. A riot of green apples and pears, we think their 2011 is an outstanding example of an English sparkling wine and an absolute

must for the summer - it was certainly very popular at our last wine tasting!

Also new in is the **Charles Smith Secco Italian Bubbles (£11.95)**. Those of you who have tried some of Charles Smith's wines like his Boom Boom Syrah or his Kung Fu Girl Riesling will know that his wines are quite extraordinary, and this is certainly that! Made in Italy with help from his Italian wife, this is a lovely fresh sparkling Chardonnay, perfect for an impromptu evening barbeque or a cooling accompaniment to a light lunch.

We recommend you serve this properly chilled, and frequently!

If you're planning a summer party, how about looking to Spain for a fantastic Cava? Think beyond what is on offer in the supermarkets - there are some superb Cava's available if you look off piste,

and we're pretty good at helping folk go off piste. Our **Vilarnau Cava (£10.95)** is a superb example of this Spanish fizz, and is fantastic value for money. Perfect for keeping guest's glasses brimming with bubbles!

We have a growing range of sparkling wine in the shop from all over the world, plus a fantastic champagne selection too, including smaller boutique producers such as Deutz and Billecart Salmon. You can have a browse through our range online, but whatever you need to help you through the summer, we're here to help and look forward to seeing you in store soon!



Jamie & Joe

Email frodsham@whitmoreandwhite.co.uk | Twitter: @whitmorewhite | Facebook: whitmoreandwhite

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Church sundial to be replaced

FRODSHAM Town Council's World War One commemoration working group is researching designs for a sundial to replace one stolen from St Laurence Church several years ago.



St Laurence Church – with the bare plinth.

Photographs do exist of the original sundial and will be studied as part of the research, with a view to replicating the original if possible.

It may prove possible to incorporate some reference to World War One – but the church authorities would be consulted before any decision was taken.

At present, the plinth which bore the sundial is standing bare.

The working group has a busy period ahead.

A contract has been awarded for the renovation of the Trinity Memorial at Frodsham Methodist Church.

The memorial has been moved off-site for repairs but will be re-installed when the work has been completed.

One of the names on the

memorial is undecipherable and an appeal for information from the public proved of no avail. A space will be left for the name to be added at some time in the future if it can be traced.

The council has acquired the publishing rights of the WWI book "From Battlefield to Blighty" by Arthur Smith and has awarded a contract for it to be reprinted.

The book will be available for purchase from the Town Council office shortly.

Working group member Pammi Taylor said: "We would like to thank members of the public who are contacting us with information about their ancestors who served in the Great War. The information we are gathering will form the basis of the commemorative book we plan to publish in 2018".

Enterprising pupils make a profit

PUPILS at Frodsham CE Primary School, from reception class through to Year 6, took part in a special "Enterprise Week."

The week started with a visit from a business studies teacher from Helsby High School who explained to the children all about the principles of good businesses and the skills they would need to be successful entrepreneurs.

Headteacher Mrs Kirby then gave each class £20 which they had to use to transform their ideas into as much profit as they could.

Excited youngsters worked hard to make their money grow!

The week ended with an Enterprise Fair at which each class had the opportunity to sell their products to the rest of the school.

Year 5 were declared winners after making a profit of £126.

Now the youngsters have to decide as a class how they wish to spend the profit they made.

Pupils enjoyed the challenge and developed a greater understanding of money and business.

Mrs Kirby said: "Well done to all the children who were very committed to this challenge from the outset and came up with some fantastic ideas."



PRO stands down after 20 years

TONY Jolly, public relations officer for Frodsham Recorded Music Society for more than 20 years stepped down at the end-of-season dinner at the Bull's Head.

Peter Hodgson is to take over his role.

Membership organiser Fizz Jennings, whose work had been "silently very successful" was handing over her job to Jean Knowles, the meeting was told.

Chairman Colin Walker paid tribute to the retiring officers and thanked Ralph Walker, his wife Jo and the staff at the Bull's Head for the excellent three-course meal.

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Why the Goods Shed project failed to get lottery funding

FRODSHAM Foundation's bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant to help develop the disused Goods Shed at Frodsham Station has been rejected.

A disappointed Kate Dodgson, the Foundation's executive director, made the announcement at the monthly meeting of Frodsham Town Council.

But she stressed that although the Foundation was disappointed, it was continuing to work with other funding bodies in relation to the development.

The Foundation has been offered a 25-year lease on the disused Goods Shed by its owners - Cheshire West and Chester Council - on condition they secure funding for a £1.3 million project to convert it for community and business use by April next year.

Although the building is in a state of disrepair, the main threat to it is a desire by some councillors and local businesses to see it demolished to make way for a multi-storey car park, according to Mrs Dodgson.

She said newly-elected town councillor Tom Reynolds wrote to the Heritage Lottery Fund just days after the May elections, asking them to suspend the Foundation's application for a grant because of his concerns over parking and making reference to a rumour that the development would result in the loss of up to 50 parking spaces.

Mrs Dodgson said: "We cannot know what damage Cllr Reynolds' letter did to the bid however we do

know that the bid was unsuccessful and in the opinion of HLF the building is sound.

"This is a clear challenge to the town that the building should not be knocked down and should be given a purpose."

In addition, a recent Town Council survey showed that 80 per cent of respondents wanted to see the building renovated for public use.

Cllr Reynolds said to clear his name he had asked HLF if his letter had influenced their decision.

In response, HLF referred to conversations it had had with Cllr Reynolds, mainly discussing the issue of parking.

This issue was not a material consideration in their decision, they said.

Cllr Reynolds said HLF had sent him a list of eight criteria on which they based their decisions.

There was no ninth criteria which said Cllr Reynolds caused any damage in the process.

He said he would like to see a meeting convened, involving all stakeholders, on the future of the Goods Shed.

Subsequent to the council meeting, the Heritage Lottery Fund made public five reasons why the Frodsham Foundation bid for lottery funding failed.

They were:

1. Project proposals were considered to be underdeveloped.
2. Submitted end value figures for the property were inconsistent across the application materials provided.
3. The £1m start value was not evidenced with supporting documentation.
4. HLF's Committee of the North West questioned whether

commercial opportunities for the building had been fully explored and therefore whether the project was a good overall fit with the Heritage Enterprise programme.

5. The fabric of the building did not appear to be under any imminent threat (notwithstanding the potential threat of demolition by Cheshire West and Chester Council).



Donkey Derby raises £1,000



FRODSHAM Cricket Club's annual Donkey Derby raised around £1,000 which will go towards upgrading the club's ageing ground maintenance equipment.

Hundreds of people turned out for the event at Frodsham Community Centre to enjoy eight exciting donkey races, donkey rides, beat-the-goalie and plenty of ice cream and burgers.

It's the club's main fundraising event of the year - and the only think that takes precedence over cricket on one Saturday of the summer!



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trader to pass the savings onto the customer.

All the quirky furniture is supplied and centre management also provide training in Customer Service.

The Box also offers free community exhibition space for schools and other groups to showcase.

The Box will also introduce local talent into the unit by allowing busking on the stage on certain days to help promote local talent as well as create a bespoke ambiance.

Currently The Box has traders selling handmade bespoke baby wear, handmade cupcakes and fudge plus birthday cakes, jams and chutneys, add to that delicious ice-cream made milkshakes, 1960s bespoke make-up, party planners, helium balloons, handmade cushions, glitter glasses, and vintage furniture for sale as well as children's shoes, The Box is on its way to offering the people of Runcorn and surrounding areas something very unique.

Centre Manager, Karl Clawley (pictured below), said, "The Box is supporting our commitment

to recapturing the heart of the community and supporting small businesses to break into the world of retail on the high street by absorbing a lot of the overheads usually occurred in setting up a shop. The idea was to engage local community groups, shoppers and independent traders to come along and have both fun and enjoy a unique shopping experience. We hope people will come from around the area and show their support to our local traders and think when looking for something a little unique then to pop along to The Box in Runcorn Shopping Centre"

Summer fun at Runcorn Shopping Centre

RUNCORN Shopping Centre is preparing for the school holidays and running Super Six Saturdays to help entertain the youngsters.

July 25 Frozen & Super hero day.

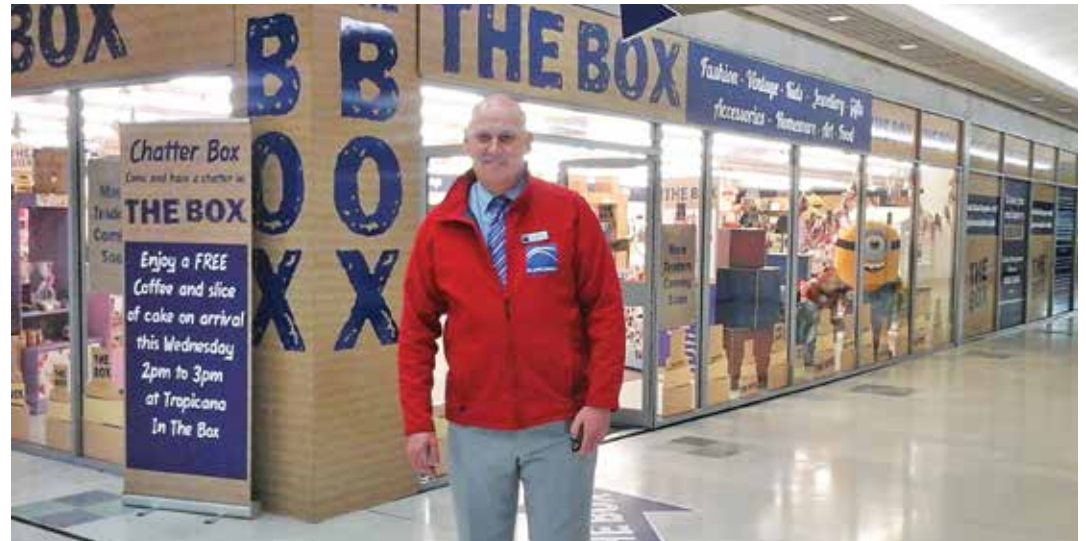
August 1 Titan the Robot - show times 12noon 1.30pm 3pm.

August 8 Three Bears and Goldilocks.

August 15 Granny Grand Prix - show times 12noon 1.30pm 3pm.

August 22 Star Wars Day

August 29 Sid and Andy Grand Finale show times 11.30am and 2.30pm.



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The shopping centre will be responsible for all the general marketing of the promotion of The Box.

As the retailer your part of the bargain is to look after your designated area including merchandising, stock inventory management and be able to provide all relevant health & safety documents to trade.

As a customer to The Box we will take you on a fun retail journey that you will want to experience and talk about. You will come across unique collections of quirky products, vintage wear, food and drink and homeware – in fact a mini emporium of retail delights at affordable prices.

To register your interest or for further information in opening a retail concession within The Box please Contact Management Office on

01928 716363 or email

thebox@runcornshoppingcentre.co.uk



Have a say on spending £3 million in and around Frodsham



FRODSHAM Transition Initiative and Kingsley Transition Initiative have joined forces to urge local people to get involved in the debate on how to spend £3 million that will become available to the local community arising from construction of the wind farm built on Frodsham Marshes.

Work has started on the project and Peel Energy report that good progress is being made with access tracks to the site of the 19-turbine

wind farm.

A "wildlife" area has been created and contractors are operating a local employment

scheme.

Delivery of the turbines is expected in February with the wind farm completed in September next year.

Allan Arthur, spokesman for Frodsham Transition Initiative (FTI) and Kingsley Transition Initiative (KTI) said: "Significantly local Cheshire West and Chester councillors Lynn Riley, Andrew Dawson and Ralph Oultram, who support FTI and KTI, want the people of Frodsham and surrounding communities to be involved in how the Community Benefit Fund (CBF) money should be spent.

"Following the FTI Energy debate in March the interest of FTI and KTI in being included in plans to establish a community panel for the purpose of discussing, governing and administering the CBF has been registered with Peel Energy.

"Therefore, at forthcoming meetings, it will be proposed that both FTI and KTI encourage Frodsham Community Association

and Kingsley Community Association to link with other local community associations to offer themselves as a key partner in helping to decide how the CBF should be managed. Frodsham Foundation is also considering the role it wishes to adopt in this process."

Mr Arthur said anyone who wanted to support FTI or KTI in this activity should email allanarthur@btinternet.com or text 07785 341361 to have their say.

A series of consultation meetings have been arranged by Peel Energy to provide information to the public on the construction programme, the project team, employment opportunities and the community benefit fund and how it should operate.

The meetings will be at Frodsham Community Centre on Monday July 13, 2-7pm, Helsby Community Centre on Friday, July 17, 2-7pm and Elton Community Centre, on Saturday July 18, 3-7pm.

Play area sale frozen

FRODSHAM Town Council has "frozen" any new move on the controversial proposal to sell the Park Lane play area.

The decision was made at an extraordinary meeting of the council attended by 28 members of the public.

Chairman Cllr Mark Warren announced at the outset that he would not be voting but the rest of the council voted unanimously in favour of a resolution put by Cllr Mike Pusey that the council freeze the future sale of the play area pending a decision on the council's approach to all land it held that might be sold or developed under its Play Strategy.

Such a decision would be made after a meeting when all available information was to hand, on all sites.

Cllr Warren said although he did not intend to vote on the issue, he would give some background information.

The proposal to sell Park Lane had arisen initially from the Frodsham Play Strategy which had identified, based on research on population and demographics data, Churchfields and Townfield Lane as the first play areas requiring and deserving investment.

The council had money in its reserves for play area refurbishment and grants had been sought to supplement this sum. But the sale of Park Lane, and eventually Ship Street as well, would be needed to finance the Play Strategy proposals.

In the event, the council had not been successful in obtaining funding for Churchfields although some funding was obtained which would allow the scheme to progress in a scaled down way.

There were other ways of raising funds, such as selling Ship Street, but these would take time. The council could only fund the work itself by raiding other budgets, which was not good financial management.

The question of loss of green space might arise, but the council had purchased a further section of Hob Hey Wood that was much larger than Park Lane.

The town wide consultation carried out last year indicated that 63 per cent of people who responded supported the sale of Park Lane in order to invest in play and recreation.

Members of the public spoke for and against the proposed sale.

Cllr Warren said without additional funding, there was insufficient money for the council's Play Strategy to go beyond Churchfields.

A wheeled play area – skateboard facility – was not included in the current proposals for Churchfields. There was insufficient funding available and also local opposition to it.

Cllr Pusey said there should be a special meeting where all options for land the council might wish to sell or develop under its Play Strategy could be considered.

This should only happen when all information about all sites was available.

High School's athletics triumph

HELSEBY High School's junior boys athletics team has qualified for the English Schools Athletic Association track and field Cup Final.

A great team effort saw the Year 7 and 8 boys win the North West regional title at Wigan's Robin Park arena.

Twelve schools were competing but the 15 boys from Helsby – who each to do a track and field event or relay – were leading at the half-way stage, after the track events, averaging an impressive 19 points in each event.

However, they still had to score highly in the field events to go through to the national finals.

After some great throwing, running and jumping Helsby came out on top to hit the targets they had set themselves and qualify for the national finals at Bedford Stadium.



Discover more about Frodsham Wind Farm

Construction of the 19-turbine wind farm on Frodsham Marshes has started. To find out more about what is involved and when things will be happening we are hosting a number of open exhibitions.

Join us to find out more about:

- The Construction Programme
- The Project Team
- Local Employment Opportunities
- The Community Benefit Fund - We would like your views on how this might operate

Venue: Frodsham Community Centre, Fluin Lane,
Frodsham WA6 7QN

Date: Monday 13th July 2015

Time: 2pm - 7pm

Venue: Helsby Community Centre, Lower Robin Hood Lane,
Helsby WA6 0BQ

Date: Friday 17th July 2015

Time: 2pm - 7pm

Venue: Elton Community Centre, School Lane,
Elton CH2 4PU

Date: Saturday 18th July 2015

Time: 3pm - 7pm

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Townfield Lane Allotment Open Day

FRODSHAM Townfield Lane Allotments held an open day to attract new gardeners.

Pictured below weeding one of the allotments from left, Dave Halliwell, Tatjana Yardley and Mike Blackburn.

Meanwhile Jody Lamb, Tracy Mason and Bob Yardley are pictured at the cake and refreshment stall while Susan Cundall is pictured taking a rest from work at her "sanctuary."





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Frodsham Summer Festival to be 'bigger and better'

THE annual Frodsham Summer Festival takes place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 10-12 on the Saltworks Fields off Ship Street, Frodsham.

This year the event has been given a send-off with a specially made Hollywood-style sign,

pictured here with Sonia Thomson and Flo Fozzard.

There will be live music, with a

great line-up of bands opening with China Crisis on the Friday.

There will be a walking football tournament and a veterans tournament on the Saturday.

A funfair, barbecue, climbing

wall, bungee jumping and plenty of other attractions means there will be something for everyone.

Spokesman Mark Rowlands said: "The event will be bigger and better than ever this year."



Engine problems deny Jamie after flying start

Picture: Eddie Whitham

FRODSHAM driver Jamie Jardine was unlucky in his Avon Tyres Formula Ford 1600 National and Northern Championship- Pre 90 race at Oulton Park.

After qualifying in pole position for the race Jamie made a great start in his Reynard 84FF and lead

for most of the race and then engine problems struck and he could only finish in 17th place.

Following a difficult start to the season his problems seemed to have been ironed out having taken first place at Donnington a couple of weeks earlier.

Going into the Oulton Park race Jamie was leading the National Championship but his bad luck meant that he would lose valuable points to drivers who were close behind.

Jamie is pictured in his blue Reynard 84FF number 28.



Reader's Letter

Thank you for voting

Bill Moores, chairman, Frodsham & district Labour Party.

CAN I as the chairman of Frodsham and District Labour Party thank all of the people who voted Labour at the election on May 7th.

It was heartening to see the numbers of votes we received, and though we did not win any of the seats we are proud of the campaign we ran. While we did not win our seats, overall Labour took control of Cheshire West and Chester Council.

The new council has promised any changes will be done in an open, fair and transparent manner, and we will try to help the council fulfil this promise in any way that we can. Over the next four years, we aim to be more involved in the local community so if we can help any of you in any way please do not hesitate to contact us.

Again thank you for the support you gave us.

Please send Reader's Letters to:
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Festival of Football success

FRODSHAM Junior Football Club organised a two day Mini Festival of Football with 159 teams taking part in the event held at Helsby High School.

Soccer star Michael Owen made a special guest appearance to help present some of the trophies.



Celebrating the event are Frodsham Town One under 8s and Frodsham Park under 7s with organisers and referees.

Frodsham CE Primary School has won a great footballing 'double'

Frodsham CE Primary School's Year 5/6 team won the local schools football league and received the trophy from Mayor of Frodsham Cllr Fran Sutton.

Then the school's Year 3 team attended the Everton Mini-Kickers Schools Festival finals at Goodison Park, after winning their semi-final match at Finch Farm after a penalty shoot out.

They beat Elwoe 2-1 in a nail-biting final to win the tournament, entered by school teams from across the North West.

Headteacher Mrs Lucy Kirby said: "I am so proud of the children. They have played some brilliant football and their excellent behaviour and positive attitude has also been much commented upon."

"To play football at a Premiership Club such as Everton at this young age, is an absolutely amazing achievement for these children and a dream come true for these football fans!"

PE co-ordinator Mike Walters said: "I'm really proud of the teams' performances throughout their matches this season."

"We steadily improved and played some great football along the way!"



Furniture clearance store set to celebrate 1st anniversary

Livnstyle Ltd is the northwest's number one furniture clearance store and is set to celebrate their first anniversary at Runcorn Shopping Centre.

The family run business sells Quality Furniture at the Lowest Prices, dealing with high street brands such as Harveys, Sofaworks, DFS, Tesco and Keter.

They have a 6,000 square foot store in Runcorn shopping centre which is serviced from their 10,000 square foot warehouse / showroom in Liverpool and they are soon to be opening a third store in Pyramids shopping centre Birkenhead.

Due to the unique way they do business their mix of stock can sometimes contain no core products i.e recently they had stock of hopper electric cycles which were cleared at half the high street price,

so it is always worth calling in and chatting to one of their friendly team just to see exactly what they have.

Due to the constraints of space they can't always display what they have in stock.



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