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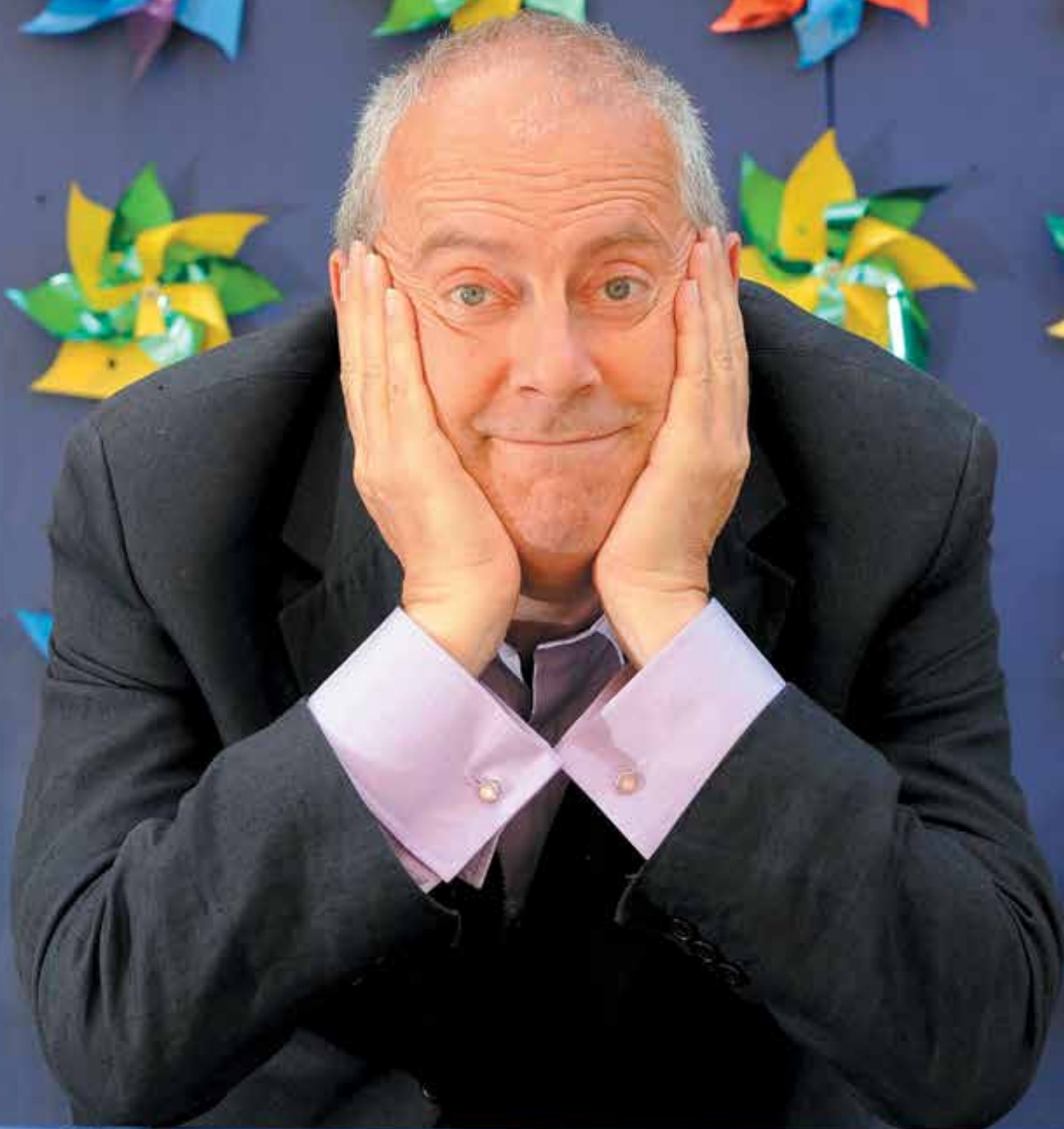
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February 2018

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**Return of
Weaver Words**

Page 8

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Editor's Comment



DOWN Waterside way, they've always known that Frank Pennington is something special. Well, ever since he became a councillor 43 years ago.

So they may not be too surprised to learn that a group of his friends got together to give him a special birthday present – a Lordship!

Frank himself WAS surprised – but also delighted. And it is no surprise to us to learn that the new Lord Pennington intends to use his new, honorary title, in any way he can if it helps promote Frodsham.

He was Frodsham's first Mayor, of course, and is due to become Mayor again in May, having spent the last year as Deputy Mayor. He was also the first person to be awarded the Freedom of Frodsham

and has been made Life Patron of Frodsham and District Stroke Club.

And with 43 years service, he is "Father of the Council" by a considerable margin. Has anyone else, in recent times, reached even 43 MONTHS? Certainly, no-one could match his encyclopaedic knowledge of local government in Frodsham.

It is not unusual for long serving councillors and other public figures to receive honours – usually at New Year or on the Queen's birthday. But one thing distinguishes Lord Pennington's awards from those that involve a trip to the Palace. They have all come from the people of Frodsham.

Somehow, we think Lord Frank probably prefers it that way.

SADLY, as the Town Council prepares to welcome its first "Lord Mayor" it also says farewell to another colourful councillor.

Mallie Poulton is the first to admit that not everyone in Frodsham approved of his style, particularly during his year as Mayor.

His length of service was nothing when compared with Lord Frank's, but during his short tenure he certainly kept Frodsham in the headlines and did much to champion the cause of local business.

He will be sorely missed at council meetings and it is very sad he has felt the need to go due to "bullies."

Parking problems near church

BADLY parked vehicles have been causing problems near St Luke's Church, in High Street, Frodsham.

PCSO Neil Flanagan told the Town Council he had carried out a survey of parked cars near the church and had spoken to a number of drivers, warning them of the possible consequences.

Cars would be ticketed in future if things did not improve – although he hoped this would not be necessary.

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Shock resignation of former Mayor Mallie Poulton



A VACANCY has occurred on Frodsham Town Council following the shock resignation of former Mayor Mallie Poulton.

The "broken-hearted" Waterside ward councillor has cited bullying as the reason posting on twitter "My heart of steel is broken. I have resigned from Frodsham Town Council. Sometimes bullies win."

He is the latest in a string of resignations which started less than three years ago when the then chairman Mark Warren quit alleging "a systemic culture of bullying."

Seven councillors resigned during one eight month period – and after losing his seat in a bitterly

fought election, former Mayor Allen Wales warned new councillors not to allow themselves to be "intimidated, bullied or shouted down."

An election will be called if 10 electors from within the ward submit a request for one in writing within 14 working days of the vacancy being declared on January 22.

If no such request is received, the council can fill the vacancy left by ex-councillor Poulton's departure by co-option.

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Brides can re-live their special day – and raise money for charity

IT all started as an excuse for brides to wear their wedding dress a second time – but now it's become a super annual event raising thousands for charity and providing a night of food, music, dancing and fun.

And those wedding dresses are being worn three, four or even five times – along with bridesmaid's dresses, wedding outfits, etc.

It's the Winter Wedding Ball at Frodsham's Best Western Forest Hills Hotel.

This year it is taking place on Saturday October 13 in aid of Target Ovarian Cancer charity and the mental health charity, Mind.

It was former bride Kym Lawson, from Runcorn, who had the idea to do a Winter Wedding Ball back in 2014.

Her idea was to organise an event where brides could wear their wedding dresses again, have a great night out and raise money for charity.

About 70 ladies attended the first ball, but after moving the event to

the Forest Hills numbers increased and last year 110 attended – mostly in their wedding dresses.

Each event has raised more than £1,000 for charity thanks to support from the hotel and numerous other local firms.

It's not just restricted to brides, of course. Bridesmaids can attend in their dresses, as well as bride's mothers and other guests – all in their wedding outfits

Kym and Helen Moss, sales

manager at Best Western Forest Hills Hotel, get together to organise the event.

The ticket price is £22 to include an arrival drink, wedding buffet and disco as well as entry into a prize draw.

Kym said: "Each year it seems to get better and the first thing that happens is that the ladies ask when the next one will be held. It's a chance for brides to re-live their special day."



Kim Lawson.

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Neighbourhood plan referendum next year?

FRODSHAM'S Neighbourhood Plan should be ready to go to a local referendum by the end of March next year.

That was the message from steering group chairman Peter Vickery at the January meeting of Frodsham Town Council.

Giving a progress report on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan, Mr Vickery said the draft plan should be ready to send to Cheshire West and Chester Council (CW&C) by October this year.

He said 84 people had attended the first meeting held to discuss the plan in 2015 – out of a population of 9,000. This was considered good.

Since then the steering group had

been raising awareness of the plan and gathering evidence, preparing maps highlighting key assets and securing Frodsham's housing needs analysis from Cheshire Community Action.

A survey had been carried out of more than 40 local employers and ongoing talks were going on with CW&C planners.

Mr Vickery said the members of the steering group felt they were privileged to be preparing the plan on behalf of the people of Frodsham.

The plan, when finally completed and approved, will be used as a guide to development in Frodsham over the next 30 years.

Police to run schools soccer tournament

CHESHIRE Police are to organise a football tournament for primary schools in and around Frodsham in the spring.

The five-a-side tournament will take place on April 19 at Frodsham Leisure Centre, according to PCSO

Neil Flanagan

Twelve schools have been invited to take part and the tournament will be open to boys and girls from Years 5 and 6.

All youngsters who take part will receive a medal.

Woman stages exhibition of late husband's paintings

A FRODSHAM woman is to stage an exhibition of paintings by her late husband.

Christine Nolan is organising the exhibition of work by her husband David at Castle Park Art Centre, during February and March – with the opening night on February 23.

The couple moved to Frodsham in 1989 to run the Post Office on Main Street.

David had been born and grew up in Liverpool where he attended Liverpool Art School and then began working in the printing industry as a lithographic artist and re-toucher.

Christine said: "He painted for pleasure, but also worked to commissions. When we moved to Frodsham he became involved in local activities, becoming a member of Frodsham Town Council and working towards re-igniting the Frodsham Flower Show.

"He was a founder member of

the Eddisbury Artists, who used to meet at the Post Office prior to moving to Castle Park Art Centre when they had sufficient members.

"He displayed his paintings with the group in exhibitions which took place in various locations around Cheshire and the North West.

"Sadly he died in 2000 at the age of 58 years."

The exhibition will close on March 26.



David Nolan and two of his paintings.



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Question:

How can I avoid my Will being successfully challenged?

Answer:

Wills are challenged for many reasons; e.g. lack of capacity, 'undue influence', failure to provide for certain people or technical defects.

It is impossible to prevent a disgruntled person bringing a challenge, but you can make your Will as robust as possible.

1. **Pick your solicitor / Will Writer with care** - Choose a recognised specialist and check if they are a member of STEP (Society of Trust & Estate Practitioners). There are stringent membership criteria, so you can be confident that they will have the relevant knowledge and expertise.
2. **Give instructions directly in person** - avoid a beneficiary giving instructions on your behalf and attending the appointment with you if possible; this can excite suspicion of undue influence. If this is unavoidable ensure the reasons are recorded
3. **Letters of Wishes** - if disinheriting anyone who might expect to benefit, or treating children unequally then it is recommended that you have a Letter of Wishes written with objective legal advice. This should be clear, concise and not hostile or emotive.
4. **Medical Evidence** - if you suspect that your Will could be challenged owing to mental health issues or age, obtain medical evidence from a qualified practitioner. You should seek professional advice to instruct a suitable practitioner to provide a report. Where a Will is challenged on these grounds, the report and letter of instruction will be scrutinised. A short one-line letter from your doctor will not suffice.
5. **Gifts** - if you leave someone out of your Will who might ordinarily expect to benefit, consider leaving a small gift and include the justification of your position in a letter of wishes. This will demonstrate that you had given due consideration.

For more information contact Jennifer McGuinness on 01925 230000 or email Jennifer.mcguinness@fdrlaw.co.uk

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Frodsham Station's volunteers are on the right lines



FRODSHAM Station was the overall winner at the annual Cheshire Best Kept Station awards – and there was full praise for the volunteers who keep the station attractive and tidy.

Mark Warren, chairman of the North Cheshire Rail Users' Group (NCRUG) said: "Full credit must go to our station volunteers, especially the seemingly boundless Briggs team, who unfortunately couldn't

attend the awards evening to celebrate the result of their tireless efforts.

"I am sure anyone using the facility will see how attractive and tidy it is."

NCRUG is, as always, on the look out for additional volunteers to spend an hour every now and then to help keep the gardens tidy.

Mr Warren added: "Anyone who wants to support the group in general should check out our website, www.ncrug.org.uk for

membership details.

"This year, following the success of the Halton Curve campaign, in addition to our focus on local rail services, we're also lobbying for improved passenger facilities at our local stations and we need public support for that."

Councillor to run 10k for first aid charity

FRODSHAM Town Council's youngest member – Liam Jones – is to run the Chester 10k on Sunday, March 3 – to raise money for the St

John Ambulance.

Cllr Jones is hoping local people will support him through his JustGiving page - www.justgiving.com/fundraising/liam-jones36

com/fundraising/liam-jones36

He said: "Please donate to this great charity so it can continue its good work."

St John Ambulance is the nation's leading first aid charity and every year trains more than 400,000 learn how to save a life through

its training programmes, including hundreds of thousands of young people.

They also provide volunteers who attend numerous events, such as sports matches, music festivals, etc, working alongside the NHS in response to 999 calls.

Singathon promises a day of fun and music

THE second Frodsham Singathon will take place at Frodsham Community Centre on Saturday, March 3 – and will include a "Sea Shanty workshop".

A fun day of singing and music is promised from 10.30am until late, with community choirs, choral groups, local school groups, ukulele bands and, in the evening, bands to dance to.

The event has been organised to highlight the range of local singing groups and other musical groups, as well as raising money for the Community Centre, which is a home and venue to several of the groups performing.

Anyone wanting to get involved should contact Jean at singathon@frodshamcc.co.uk for further details.

The half-hour Sea Shanty workshop will take place at 2.30pm, led by musician and choirmaster Martin Jones.

Those taking part will learn a Sea Shanty in four part harmony and perform it in the main hall at the end of the performance by the Fairweather Sailors.

Tickets for the workshop are £3 – in aid of the Community Centre – and are available from the Community Centre or singathon@frodshamcc.co.uk

Police distribute property marking kits

POLICE are distributing property marking kits to homes across Frodsham.

PCSO Neil Flanagan told the Town Council police were tackling a different street each month and would continue until the whole of Frodsham had been covered.

Property marking is seen as a deterrent to burglars and property stolen, can often be identified and returned to owners more quickly.



Liam Jones.

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TV broadcaster and poet head up Weaver Words festival

TV broadcaster and writer Gyles Brandreth and poet Ian McMillan head up an impressive programme of talks, events, workshops and competitions for Frodsham's fourth Weaver Words Literature Festival, Wednesday to Sunday, April 25-29.

The festival opens with an exciting preview event on Saturday April 14 – a Literary Cruise aboard the newly-restored, award-winning Daniel Adamson steam ship along the River Weaver Navigation.

Radio Four Archers star Sunny Ormonde and colleagues take a light-hearted journey into the world of poet Philip Larkin in the popular stage production 'Larkin' About on Friday April 27.

Jungle Book author Rudyard Kipling will also be centre stage on Saturday April 28 in a new play by local writer Lynn Pegler, *If Only: An Audience with Rudyard Kipling*, which comes fresh from a successful run at the Edinburgh Festival fringe.

The Weaver Words festival theme 'A sense of place' has inspired a wide range of events including three creative writing workshops, talks on Jane Eyre, Seamus Heaney, music biography and Islam in modern Britain, plus a Literary Lunch with guest speaker David Barnett, author of best-selling novel *Calling Major Tom*.

Award-winning Word Weavers poet Andrew Rudd and violinist Daniel Axworthy will be joined by poet Rachel Mann for another inspirational opening night of music and poetry.



Sue Zlosnik.

Supported by the Arts Council England, the Marshes Community Benefit Fund and Frodsham Town Council, the festival will again feature two writing competitions. £500 prize money is on offer for writers of the best adult flash fiction story (under 300 words) and for local children, patron Tim Firth will again be judging the Great Weaver Words Writing Prize.

Prize winners will be announced at a special Gala Celebration Evening on Sunday April 29, along with a rousing performance from comedy actor John Gorman and an open mic slot for talented local writers and spoken word artists.

Weaver Words chair, Prof Sue Zlosnik said: "We are proud to have assembled a great line-up for Frodsham's fourth literature festival. We are expecting that Gyles Brandreth, Ian McMillan and Sunny Ormonde will be very popular as well as some of the more unusual events like the Literary Cruise sailing along the River Weaver.

"We're very keen to engage with younger readers too. There is a special pre-school story and activity session for very young children taken by the wonderful Emi Lou Howe, who has written a new story especially for the festival.

"We are grateful to all our sponsors for their kind support. We are still looking for more volunteers to join us so if you could spare a few hours to help out during the festival, do get in touch." Email: pm@weaverwords.org.uk.

A free 28 page Weaver Words brochure is available to collect from Frodsham Community Centre, Dandelion Gifts, Castle Park and other publicity points around the town. Booking opens on Monday February 5.

For more details see the festival website www.weaverwords.org.uk. Tickets can be purchased online, through the box office 0333 666 3366 and in person at Frodsham Community Centre or Dandelion Gifts.



Gyles Brandreth.



Andrew Rudd.



Emi Lou.



Ian McMillan and Luke Carver.



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May 19th: Royal Wedding Parties in each of our four wards

October 31st: It's a scary time in Frodsham
Hallowe'en Festival

November 24th: Christmas Festival

For further information please contact the Town Clerk on 01928 735150
or email townclerk@frodsham.gov.uk
Frodsham Town Council, Castle Park, Frodsham, WA6 6SB

Good Lord! Another honour for Frank

HE was Frodsham's first Mayor and the first individual to be awarded the Freedom of Frodsham.

After 43 year's service, he is Father of the Town Council and is currently Deputy Mayor – due to become Mayor again in May.

Now Frank Pennington has received another honour from the people of Frodsham – a Lordship title.

When the title was presented at a private meeting at Frodsham Conservative Club, Frank – now Cllr Lord Frank Pennington – was speechless.

He said: "I just didn't know what to say. I still don't really know what to say – and my wife, Vony, just doesn't believe it."

"But apparently it's legal – I am entitled to call myself Lord."

The title was presented to Lord Pennington as an 83rd birthday present by a group of friends who regularly meet up at the Conservative Club.

One was fellow councillor Mark Nield – another his father, former councillor John Nield.

Mark said: "We thought it would make a great 83rd birthday present for someone who has given so much public service to Frodsham. It's perfectly legal and Frank can now call himself Lord Frank."

The award also gives the new Lord Pennington five square feet of dedicated land on the 90-acre Hougum Manor Estate, overlooking the west shore of Coniston Water in the Lake District – an area

designated by Natural England as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Frank – that is, Lord Frank – knows the area well as he used to go there often when he worked as a lorry driver.

He said: "I intend to visit three or

four times a year – although I am entitled to go as often as I like. It's a beautiful place."

"I will use the title in any way I can to promote Frodsham – that is what I have always wanted to do."

"I've been on the council for 43 years and have enjoyed these last few years as much as any. I think the council is working well and making headway."

Lord Frank's title does not give him a seat in the House of Lords – perhaps fortunately for the House of Lords. But any doubts about the legality of his title were dispelled at the January meeting of the Town Council by his place name: "Cllr Lord F Pennington."

He joked: "When I become Mayor, no-one will be able to say I'm not a Lord Mayor!"



Precept to rise by £1

FRODSHAM Town Council has approved an increase in the precept – the local element of the Council Tax – of £1 on the average Band D property.

The council's budget for the coming year will be balanced by taking £78,428 from cash balances.

This increase is in addition to rises to be implemented by Cheshire West and Chester Council and the Police and Fire Services

MP steps into car park row

WEAVER Vale MP Mike Amesbury has stepped into the ongoing row over the operation of Frodsham's Eddisbury Square Car Park.

Following a request from Frodsham Town Council, he has written to the car park operator's trade association.

Most members of the council have received complaints from residents about the operation of the car park – mainly from people who have received demands for payment because of an alleged infringement of car park regulations.

Complaints about the car park have been ongoing for several years.

Two-year Mayors plan dropped

A PLAN to elect future Mayors of Frodsham for two year terms of office instead of the traditional 12 months has been dropped.

The proposals – which would have required revisions to the council's standing orders – originated from former councillor Mallie Poulton, who was Mayor in 2016-17.

They were withdrawn by the chairman, Cllr Judith Critchley, at the January meeting of the council after it became clear they did not have the support of most councillors.

Abolished

The proposals would have resulted in all Mayors from May next year being elected for two years – and the role of Deputy Mayor being abolished from May this year.

The chairman of the council would have deputised for the Mayor when necessary.

An argument was put forward that many former Mayors and Mayors from other areas felt they were half way through their term of office before they became accustomed to the role.

A two-year term would give them more time to "find their feet" and give the potential for greater service to the community.

All councillors would be eligible to stand for election as Mayor, regardless of length of service and previous appointments as Mayor. All nominations should be submitted to the Town Clerk by April 30 in good time for circulation to the May annual general meeting.

A vote would be taken as a paper ballot at the annual meeting.

But Cllr Caroline Ashton said the council should not commit future councils to such a course of action. She believed the Mayor's term of office should remain 12 months.

Cllr Fran Sutton – a former Mayor – pointed out that the Mayor should "find their feet" during the 12

months prior to becoming Mayor, when they were Deputy Mayor.

Present Mayor, Cllr Alan Oulton, said he would not vote for such a change, although he would prefer to see the Mayor's term of office aligned to the calendar year.

The chairman said she would withdraw the proposal.

Young Voices from Frodsham

MEMBERS of the Frodsham Manor House Primary School choir travelled to Manchester to take part in the annual Young Voices concert.

They joined about 8,000 youngsters from other schools in what is claimed to be the largest children's choir concert in the world.

Young Voices has been going for more than 20 years and this year, nationally, some 150,000 children were taking part at a variety of venues – although the one at the Manchester Arena is one of the biggest.

The idea is to inspire a love of music in children and give them memories that will last a life time.



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Putting Frodsham in the picture - latest news from Frodsham Photographic Society

January began with a Presentation by Adrian Lines - www.500px.com/adrianlines - on the theme of 'Altered Reality'. An excellent photographer with strong monochrome shots, he also works to create surreal and fantasy images with emotion and atmosphere. If you have never seen elephants racing on roller skates Adrian makes it happen!

Ian Stanley, the Programme Secretary, aims to offer diversity and to this end the Presentation, 'Embossed Holography', on

February 5th displays the Audio Visual work of Dave Robinson.

On the 19th Matt Hart presents 'Street View'. Matt - www.matthewhartphotography.com - is

a Fujifilm Ambassador and a street and event photographer who has developed the skill to observe and yet be virtually invisible, making the scene unaffected and photographer unobtrusive to his subjects. You can browse his black and white images on his website.

Nearer to home - In December

Members of the Society held a Group Photo-shoot in Liverpool - an evening event to take in the colours and animation of the city at night. The results were shown to the Club at the end of January and one of the images by Andy Findlay is included here.

www.frodsham.photos



School strengthens links with India

FRODSHAM Manor House Primary School has been strengthening its international links with a visit to a partner school in India.

Head teacher Ian Devereux-Roberts and assistant head Naomi

Anstice visited the Red Roses School, near Delhi - and are now in the process of inviting five pupils and a teacher from the Indian school to visit Frodsham.

The two schools have been

working together for the last four years on religious education projects but this was their first face-to-face meeting.

The visit was also part of a research project about global learning in religious education in association with the Farmington

Institute, Oxford University.

During their stay in India, the head and assistant head were also invited to a wedding and visited a number of sacred sites, including the Taj Mahal and Gandhi's cremation site.



Gold 'hat trick' for school

FOR the third year in succession, Frodsham CE Primary School's Sports Ambassadors were awarded the School Games Gold Award at a ceremony at Helsby High School.

The prestigious award is recognition of the hard work and dedication that all the children and adults at the school show towards Physical Education.

Head teacher Mr S Jones said "This week I was very proud to take some of our Year 6 children to Helsby High School to receive the School Games Gold award. This is the third year in a row that we have achieved the Gold Award and I would like to thank Miss J. Kinsey and Mr J. Curran for their brilliant leadership of Physical Education across the school."



Golf club presents wheelchairs to deserving youngsters

THREE more powered wheelchairs have been presented to deserving youngsters by Helsby Golf Club – bringing the total now presented to 368.

The presentations were made at the annual Black and White evening held by the Towers Lane club.

About 100 supporters of the club's long-running powered wheelchair appeal were present, following the dress code of black, white and a touch of red.

They enjoyed an event of food, drink and music – but the undoubted

highlight of the evening was the presentation of the wheelchairs.

The deserving youngsters were Alfie Richards, aged six, Jasmine Beadles, aged 15 and three-year-old Vance Parker.

Also present were members of their families, powered wheelchair chairman Steve Cuncliffe, lady captain Gill Smith, captain Neil Johnson, president Jim Potter and master of ceremonies Roddy Snedden.

A raffle on the night raised £700 for the appeal.



Fond farewell for popular PE teacher

by Andy Findlay



FAMILY, friends, colleagues and former pupils gathered at Kash 22 to celebrate the retirement of PE Teacher Martin Smiddy MBE.

He moved to Frodsham at aged 10 and has lived in the town ever since!

Martin started teaching at the former Frodsham High School in 1976 and upon its closure moved to Helsby High School.

The former Cheshire Student Champion weightlifter has taught over 8,000 children during his teaching career.

The father of three was awarded the MBE for services to education and younger persons in Frodsham

in 2009.

Martin says he would like his legacy to be "inspiring young people to enjoy sport and look after their physical health through sport and exercise."

After a well earned holiday he intends to catch up on all those jobs that he's put off over the years!



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