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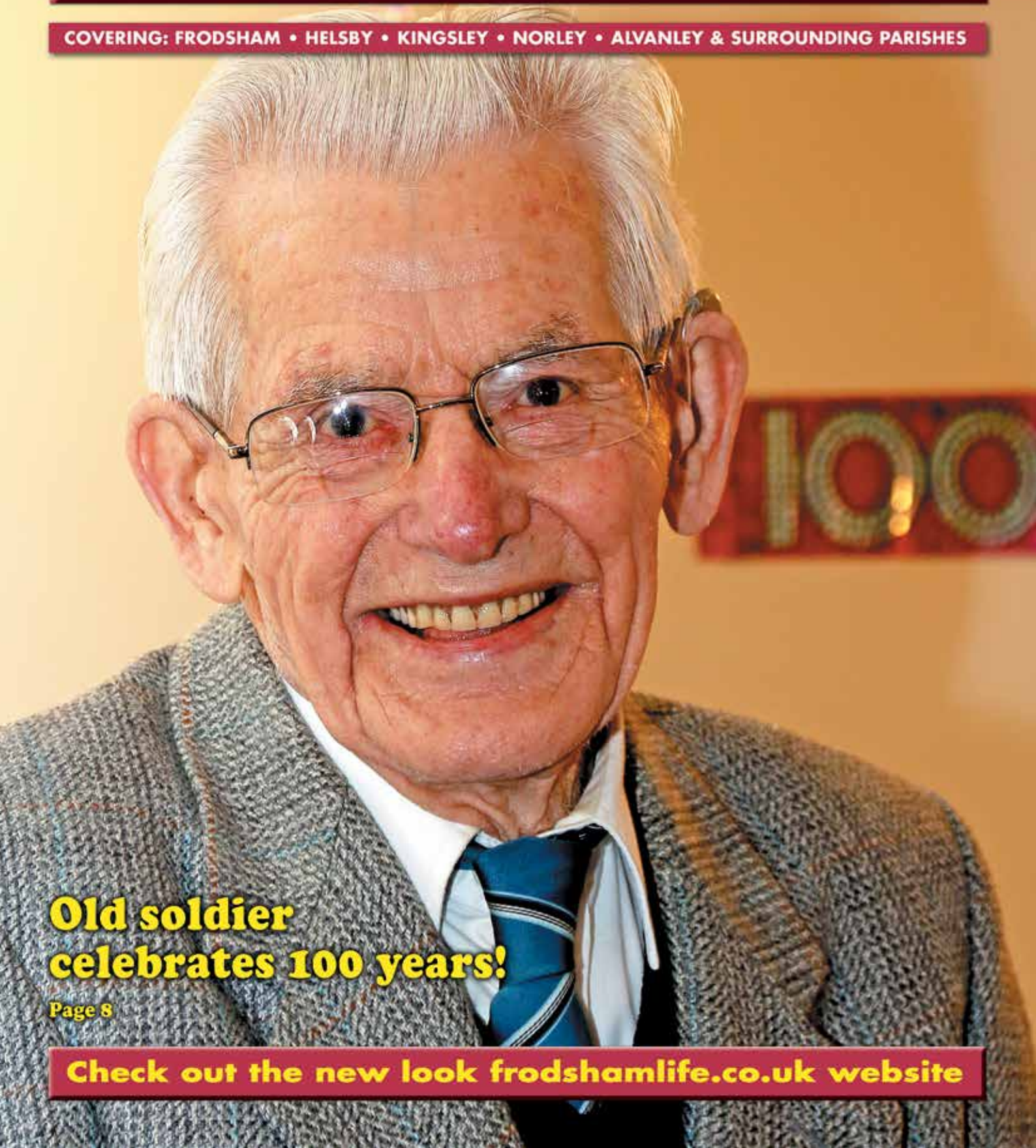
Issue No. 156
March 2018

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Editor's Comment



At first glance, the undertaking by car parking firm UKCPS to "more closely monitor" its own activities on the Eddisbury Square car park at Frodsham might appear to be good news. MP Mike Amesbury is to be congratulated on winning such a pledge.

But before we get too excited, we should remember that he is not the first to extract comforting noises from the firm. His predecessor, Graham Evans, Frodsham Town Council, individual members of Cheshire West and Chester Council, this publication and numerous individual motorists have all, over the years, communicated with UKCPS and been told matters would be looked into.

But still complaints have continued to come in from people wrongly accused of overstaying their welcome on the car park.

There is one thing new in the letters communication however. An admission that the problem could involve the software used by the ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) system employed on the car park. They hope to be able to extract more data, enabling them to correctly identify those motorists who have overstayed.

Again, at first it appears to be good news. Until you realise that this explanation could have been given before.

How many people, we wonder,

have paid the penalty charge rather than face the hassle of disputing the company's penalty charge notice? Would they have paid if they knew there was a flaw in the ANPR software?

It seems to us that the company's admission renders their penalty notices legally unenforceable.

But whether they are or not, it is time the issue was sorted out. With the possibility of parking charges being introduced across Frodsham

and the rest of the borough, a trustworthy system is needed urgently because when car-borne shoppers do not trust the system the impact on trade, and the town's prosperity, could be disastrous.

The answer, of course, is free parking. But if that is not possible, the best alternative is the old fashioned one – a little man who issues tickets, takes your money – and offers a degree of security for your vehicle.

**Deadline for the April issue of
Frodsham Life is
March 28**

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School team talk their way to the final

A TEAM from Helsby High School won their heat in the Rotary Club "Youth Speaks" competition.

Amie, Georgia and Emily from Year 9 won the heat, held in Lymm, to progress to the district final of the competition, on the topic of "Opinions."

There was an audience of more than 70 for the heat.

The team will now compete in the district final on home ground at Frodsham.

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Revealed – the proposals for Townfield Lane Park

A SPECIAL working group set up by Frodsham Town Council has revealed proposals for the renovations to Townfield Lane Park.

The plans include putting in two new swings and a basket swig, two toddler swings, a double racing slide next to the existing "wavy" slide, renovating the current equipment, a web climber, a snakes and ladders game with a dice spinner panel, a trim trail and grass lock safety netting.

It is almost a year since the

council agreed to renew their lease on the site and set up the working group – including members of the public – to come up with proposals and carried out a widespread consultation.

Pupils at Frodsham Manor House Primary School – who last April gave a presentation at a meeting of the Town Council – have expressed delight with the proposals.

Assistant head teacher Naomi Anstice said pupils had been discussing the options and colour



schemes for the renovations to the park.

She said: "This was a great real-life follow-up activity for the children and their classes who addressed the town council last summer about the importance of their local park. An

example of democracy in action, showing how making your voices heard can make a difference."

Our picture shows the park, as it will look when the renovations are completed.

Parking company to "more closely monitor" Eddisbury Square

THE parking company in charge of Eddisbury Square in Frodsham has pledged to "more closely monitor" its services after MP Mike Amesbury raised the issue of alleged unjust parking fines on behalf of constituents.

Frodsham Town Council and several constituents contacted the Weaver Vale MP over claims some drivers had been wrongly fined for overstaying their allotted time at the car park.

The complaints stemmed from parking firm UKCPS's use of number plate recognition (ANPR) technology which records the details of vehicles entering and leaving the car park.

Some drivers claimed they had parked for a short time, then left, but then returned later in the day to park for a second time, and that the ANPR camera had not recorded them leaving the first time, making it seem as though their vehicles had been parked there during the intervening period between when they left and later returned.

Twenty-four hour conditions including a maximum two-hour stay and no return within two hours were imposed in January 2014.

Mr Amesbury wrote to UKCPS and in response, the company says: "The ANPR does record all the separate ins and outs, but the software picks out the first in and

last out of the collected data.

"We are working with the software provider to be able to extract more of the data and therefore correctly identify those that have actually overstayed, and those that have been in and out of the car park more than once in the day."

Mr Amesbury said: "I'm glad that the company have listened because it's obviously caused a great deal of concern to people parking at Eddisbury Square."

"I look forward to them resolving any outstanding technical issues so people can park there in full confidence of not receiving an unjustified fine."



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Forest Hills – “making a difference locally”



FRODSHAM'S Best Western Forest Hills Hotel has won the "Making a Difference Locally" award sponsored at this year's Best Western Awards, which took place in Brighton.

The awards, sponsored by Brakes, now in their 40th year, celebrated the largest collection of independent hotels in Britain, and saw 14 hotels from across the country crowned as worthy winners.

Kieran McCabe, director at the Forest Hills Hotel, said: "We're thrilled to be crowned this year's winner of the Making a Difference Locally Award. It's a testament to our incredible staff, who work hard every day to ensure guests have the best experience when visiting, so I'm proud to be recognised for our efforts on a national scale."

Les Asplen, managing director of Best Western Great Britain, commented on the winners: "It is important to take the time to recognise the excellent work going on across our hotels, particularly in recent times, which have been challenging for this industry. As independent properties, each and every one of our member hotels have unique stories to tell, so we like to highlight their brilliantly different qualities and acknowledge those that take the customer experience to the next level."

"I'm thrilled to see Best Western Forest Hills Hotel as the winner of the Making a Difference Locally Award this year. It is due to their continued hard work, commitment to their local community and outstanding customer service that they took home the award."

Four new exhibitions at Castle Park Arts Centre

FOUR new exhibitions are on show at Frodsham's Castle Park Arts Centre until March 26.

Gallery 1 is taken over by local art group, the Eddisbury Artists, with an exhibition entitled "Another Perspective."

Perspective appears throughout the world. A walk along any high street reveals the diminishing lines of architecture reaching for a vanishing point in the distance. Perspective can be shown using relative size, line, form, tone and colour management.

Another perspective may be an alternative view, viewpoint, point of view, perception or proportion. Abstract concepts are by their nature an exercise in representing another perspective.

And when visitors view the exhibition they will take their own interpretation to the artist's work – allowing them to engage with yet "Another Perspective."

Gallery 2 is showing "The Secret Life of Trees", an exhibition by Brigitte Watkinson in which she seeks to visualise the personalities, thoughts and feelings that trees suggest through their shapes and surroundings.

Having progressed through slightly different styles of visualisation, Brigitte is now attempting to strip back as much as possible and acrylic from her paintings, allowing her to focus more on the trees' stories by means of colour and shape within their composition in the landscape.

In Gallery 3, there is a retrospective exhibition of the work of David Nolan, a founder member of the Eddisbury Artists, who died at the age of 58 in 2000.

Formerly a lithographic artist and retoucher in the printing industry, he displayed his work widely across Cheshire and the North West.

The Link Gallery will host an exhibition by Tracy McKenna, entitled "Facing West" and consists of her works in oils and acrylic from the coastline of Anglesey, Dee Estuary, Wirral Peninsular, Cornwall, Brittany and the Vendée.

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Question:

What next, now that the Employment Tribunal Fees have been dropped?

Answer:

In July 2017 the Supreme Court ruled that the Employment Tribunal fees introduced in 2013 were unlawful and as a result were abolished immediately.

In the four years when a fee was required in order to put forward a claim, the numbers overall dropped by 80% and there was a 91% drop in sex discrimination claims.

It was felt that many people who would have normally made a claim were not able to, due to the costs involved and therefore this was considered a discrimination in itself.

Fees are being refunded by the Government to people who made a claim during the period and as a result of the fees being scrapped, there has already been an increase of 64% in the number of claims made, and that is expected to rise further, and many will likely be from the period when fees were in place.

We would recommend that businesses take a look back over the last 4 years to identify if there could be any potential issues.

Keep a dated paper trail of any current issues, even informally in an email to yourself can help you with remembering details and timings, which may or may not be needed in the future. It's worth noting that in Unfair Dismissal cases, the burden of proof is on the employer to prove that an employee wasn't unfairly dismissed. However, it is the other way around for Constructive Dismissal cases and it is the employee's responsibility to provide the evidence.

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Land of Beds backs local sports facility fundraiser

SLEEP specialists Land of Beds have pledged to be a sponsor at this year's Helsby Beer Festival.

The event – now in its ninth year – is expected to be a big success, with funds earmarked for community investment.

Punters paying a visit, which takes place over March 9-10 at Helsby Community Sports Club, will have the opportunity to indulge in a fine selection of 20 hand-picked real ales, as well as a range of craft ciders and new for this year, a bespoke gin bar.

Mike Murray, managing director at Land of Beds, said: "We are pleased to be sponsoring what I'm sure will be a very popular event. As a company that encourages an active lifestyle – a contributing factor to a better night's sleep – we were delighted to hear that the proceeds from this year's festival will be used to help build a new sports facility for the people of Helsby."

George Randles, the beer festival's sponsorship co-ordinator, said: "We are very much looking

forward to this year's festival, which we anticipate will be well supported not only by the local community, but also beer enthusiasts from across the North West."

With an impressive array of liquid refreshment to savour – as well as hot and cold food and top-notch entertainment from 2Bob Suit, the Helsby Mountain String Band and Acoustic Juice – festivalgoers are in for an unmissable event which prides itself on giving back to Helsby and Frodsham.

Mike added: "I wish everyone who attends the festival an absolutely brilliant time; keep a lookout for thirst-quenching barrel of beer: Flying Monk Birdman!"

Tickets are priced at £6 per day, which includes a commemorative beer glass and an event programme upon entry, and are available to purchase in advance either at the club bar; online at www.skiddle.com; Helter-Skelter in Frodsham; and the Shell Garage in Helsby, or on the door on both Friday and Saturday evening.



Marcus Lightfoot and Nicola Shingler-Jolley.

Starting Well – a new service for youngsters in Frodsham

CHILDREN and young people from Frodsham are among those set to benefit from a new health and wellbeing service that is being rolled out across West Cheshire.

The Starting Well 0-19 service, delivered locally by Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP) has been commissioned by Cheshire West and Chester Council.

It brings together early years services, health visiting, family nurse partnership and 5-19

health and wellbeing services including public health nurses and immunisations and vaccinations for the first time.

Through joined up working, the service aims to use its extensive range of skills and experience to deliver an integrated service for local children, families and young people, all delivered locally from eight main children's centres – including Frodsham.

Val Sturgess, clinical service manager for Starting Well, said:

"CWP cares for thousands of children and young people across Cheshire West and Chester with various levels of need. I am passionate that every child receives the best possible start in life and believe that the new Starting Well service will give us the opportunity to make a real difference to the lives of our local children and young people."

"The vision for our service is to deliver a high quality preventative service to improve the health and

wellbeing of children, young people and their families. We want to ensure that our children get the best start in life and are safe, happy, healthy, resilient and reaching their potential."

"The children's centres have a full activity programme including adult and family learning courses, breastfeeding support groups, lets play sessions and more which are further enhanced by having on site duty health visitors in each main centre and an online platform in www.startingwell.org.uk. Combined with the services we deliver into schools, homes and other settings, this is our most comprehensive offer ever."

For more information, log on to www.startingwell.org.uk or call into Frodsham children's centre and pick up an information leaflet.



Objection to house plan

FRODSHAM Town Council's planning committee has lodged an objection to a plan for a new, four-bedroom detached house on land next to Church House Farm, Church Road, Frodsham.

Members decided to object on the grounds the house would be too large for the site and would lead to over-development. They also believed the development was inappropriate for a conservation area.

Final decision will be made by Cheshire West and Chester Council.



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Old soldier 'Bill' celebrates 100 years

Pictures: Andy Findley, Frodsham and District Photographic Society

FAMILY came from as far away as Canada when old soldier William "Bill" Wharton celebrated his 100th birthday at the Old Hall hotel in Frodsham.

A lively Bill enjoyed the party and re-lived many of his memories from over the last century.

Bill moved to Frodsham in 1984 having been born in Swinton.

During World War 2 he served in the Royal Corps of Signals, seeing service in Africa, Italy, Austria and

Germany.

He got a mention in the London Gazette and received a certificate from the King in recognition of his service.

After the war he returned to his previous trade as a builder and made many friends. He was keen on steam trains but was also keen on gardening, winning Frodsham's best kept small garden prize one year, together with his late wife, Gladys, who died in 2009.

Bill was still driving until last year and retains an inquisitive mind, having just completed reading a book on Oliver Cromwell.

He said: "The older I get, the more I seem to want to know."

Another saying of his is: "I would give away anything, but I would not give away a friend."

Among those at his party were his sons, a grandson and a daughter-in-law.



Praise for high school after taster days

HELSEBY High School has been inundated with praise after delivering a series of taster lessons to 90 Year 5 pupils from 11 different primary schools.

The taster days were delivered in a cross curricular format and the lessons planned and delivered by trainee teachers from Liverpool John Moors University.

The following subjects were offered:

Art and History – Theme "Industrial Revolution";
Geography and MFL – Theme "Europe – Culture & Languages";
Maths and Drama – Theme "Puzzle Solving & Free Movement".

Each Taster Day was supported by Helsby's Year 7 Buddy Team who delivered their own question and answer session with Year 5 after lunchtime. Year 7 shared with Year 5 their own experiences of transition and answered questions that Year 5 had about life at Secondary School.

Inundated

Afterwards, the school was inundated with positive feedback from parents, students and primary schools.

The Taster Days provided Year 5 with a valuable opportunity to experience life as a Helsby High School student. It also aimed to encourage students to look forward to the transition to Secondary school and the exciting opportunities the next phase of their education will bring.



School recognised as being in top one per cent

NORLEY CE Primary School has been recognised as one of the top one per cent of schools in the country for reading.

The accolade came from Education Minister Nick Gibb in a letter to head teacher Helen Kelly.

He wrote: "Your school's results show that 100 per cent of your pupils reached or exceeded the expected standard in reading at the end of key stage 2. This means that your school is in the top one per cent of primary schools in England for achievement in reading."

Mrs Kelly said: "We are proud of the achievements of our children. The staff are committed to giving each and every child the best foundations to build upon throughout their educational journey. As our vision states, we provide 'Educational Excellence in a happy supportive environment.'"

"We believe that children learn best when they are happy and inspired so we make sure our curriculum is interesting and includes a chance for children to practice their English and maths skills across the full range of subjects. We recognise that children consolidate their learning when it is put in context and therefore provide experiences out of the classroom, where we can."

"Visitors into school also enrich the children's learning experiences. Our families are invited into school, as often as possible, to celebrate our work. This includes inviting mums for lunch, Dad's to read and play games with us and our



grandparents to see what goes on in school. They also enrich our learning by teaching us about their jobs or culture, we have learnt about Chinese New Year from one

of our mum's today! The local and wider community is important to us and we like to join with local groups, sharing our talents such as acting, singing, playing sport and

supporting charities.

"As you can see a lot goes into being in the top 1% of schools in the country and it is nice to know we are one of the best!"



Pupils enjoy "arts in education" trip

YEAR Five pupils from Frodsham CE Primary School took part in an "Arts in Education in a Multicultural Society" course (AEMS) on a four-day trip to Menai, Anglesey.

Celebrating diversity, the performing arts course enabled children to take part in various workshops, including Indian Dancing, Beatboxing, Caribbean Art and Storytelling.

The experience drew various comments from pupils, including

"I really enjoyed beatboxing - it was cool and we got to use a loop station. I won the battle!"

"I enjoyed Indian dancing with Vina and I loved spinning my partner!"

"I loved the Ceiliah, it was fun."

When the pupils got back to school, they entertained parents and friends with a Class Assembly showing the amazing learning opportunities they had experienced.

Kingsley Players' Youth Theatre present 'Arabian Nights'

JUMP aboard Kingsley Players' magic carpet for a journey to the 'Arabian Nights', performed by youngsters from the Youth Theatre on Saturday, March 24.

The play, by Dominic Cooke, starts with a young girl Deena choosing a bedtime story for her sister Shara to read to her. She selects 'Arabian Nights' and as Shara reads, the stories come to life in her bedroom.

They meet Shahrazad who marries King Shahrayar, but he vows to kill his new queen the next day. However, Shahrazad has an extraordinary gift for storytelling and weaves an exotic array of tales and characters.

On her side are Ali Baba, Es-Sindibad the Sailor and Princess Parizade - adventurers in strange and magical worlds populated by giant beasts, talking birds, devilish ghouls and crafty thieves.

But will her silver-tongued stories be enough to enchant her husband and save her life?

Youth leader and production director, Jake Powell, said: "We have an enthusiastic cast of over 20 children and young people, aged seven to 18, who bring this enchanting story to life.

"We have several new members joining us for this production. The Youth Theatre group has been operating for less than two years but it's very encouraging we are going from strength to strength."

'Arabian Nights' will be performed twice on Saturday 24th March at Kingsley Community Centre, at 2pm and 7pm.

Tickets cost £5 and can be booked in advance through the website www.kingsleyplayers.co.uk or by ringing the box office on 07724 892154.

Photos show (L to R): Penny White and Madison Withey as sisters Deena and Shara. Plus (seated): Roby Taylor and Matt Lemmy, (standing) Eleanor Roberts and Max Houghton



Shadows and Reflections competition produces remarkable images

FRODSHAM & District Photographic Society's recent competition 'Shadows and Reflections' saw some remarkable images produced.

Judge Phil Mann chose 'Skyfall' by Bill Griffiths as winner of the Print section, which is shown here. The PDI section was won by Wynford Evans.

It was pleasing that some of this season's new members had entered and were rewarded with excellent results.

On March 12th the Competition is 'Scapes' – Land, Sea and City – excellent photographs again expected!

The following week Chris Widdall MPAGB, FBPE, EFIAP presents 'In my View'. Chris is Judges and Lecturers Secretary of the Lancashire and Cheshire Photographic Union and an old friend of the Club. Her talk will be full of interest.

Towards the end of the Month

there is another fascinating event.

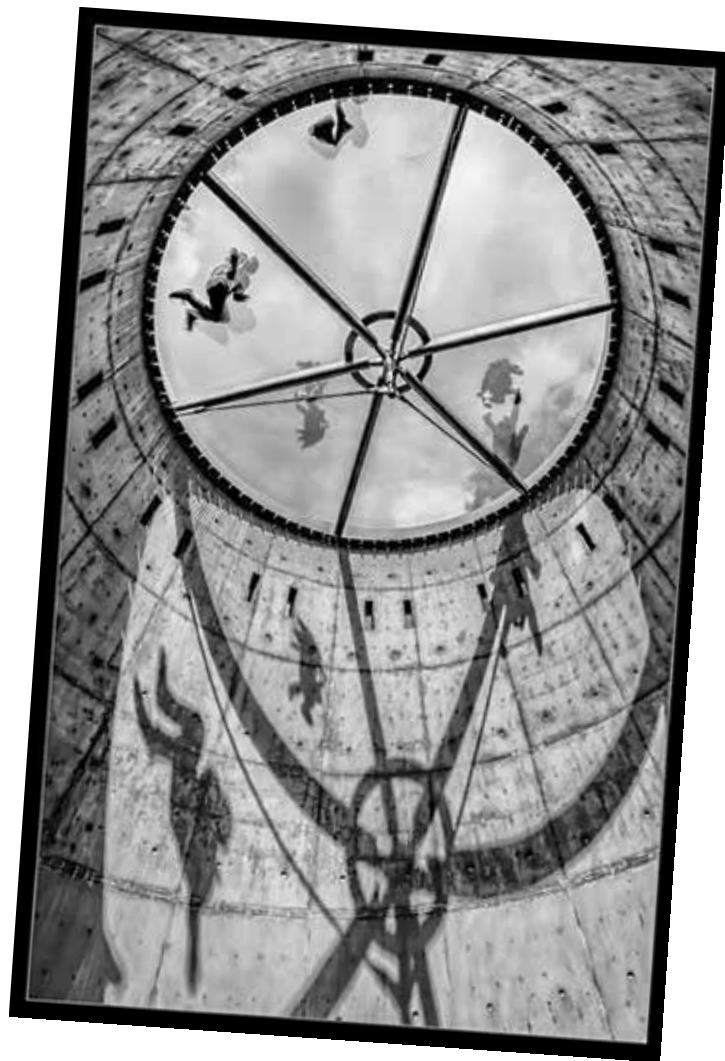
For the past three years the Society has pursued an intention to make exchanges with other clubs in the wider world - first of all with friends in the USA and recently with LichtVast in Belgium.

On 26th March you can see how their workers approach their subject matter and view their submission. Ian Stanley, Programme Secretary, has already sent Frodsham's images – 'Monochrome' and a Liverpool slideshow.

Please take a look at the website where images can be viewed from all the Competitions so far this season.

Remember visitors are always welcome on Monday evenings – 7.30pm at Castle Park Arts Centre.

www.frodsham.photos



Banquet boost for wheelchair appeal



ABOUT 95 members of Helsby Golf Club attended a Chinese Banquet to raise funds for the club's highly successful Powered Wheelchair Appeal.

Two children – Matthew Beautyman, aged 11, from Warrington and Dillon Healey, from Northwich, aged 13, were presented with wheelchairs – bringing the total number now raised by the appeal to 370.

Matthew, who attends Bewsey Lodge Primary School, where he enjoys playing wheelchair basketball and singing in the choir, was accompanied on the night by his foster mum, Michelle.

Away from school he enjoys watching rugby at Warrington Wolves and supports Liverpool FC.

Dillon was joined by his parents Gail and Dave. He attends Hebden Green Special School in Winsford where his favourite subject is science. Out of school Dillon enjoys playing games on his Wii and playing with Lego and anything to do with animals and pets.

Both boys and their families are looking forward to the independence their new chairs will allow.

After the banquet at the Fortune Palace, Delamere, there was a quiz and raffle which resulted in more than £1,000, including a donation from the Fortune Palace team.

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Poet Mandy Coe with Year 5 pupils from St Lukes RC primary school in Frodsham.

Weaver Words – inspiring the next generation

HUNDREDS of local school children are benefiting from an inspirational series of creative writing workshops as part of the Weaver Words Literature Festival.

Thanks to funding from the Marshes Community Benefit Fund and Arts Council England, the Frodsham festival organisers have arranged for award-winning poet Mandy Coe to visit nine schools giving free poetry workshops.

Over two weeks in February she worked with classes at Helsby High School and Manor House, Hillside, Ashton Hayes, St Lukes, Aston, Weavervale, Hornsmill and Kingsley CP primary schools.

Each school looked at a different poetry form and children were encouraged to write their own poems, responding to the festival theme of 'A sense of place'. Many of these poems will be entered into the festival's Great Weaver Words Writing Prize for children, which will be judged by festival patron Tim Firth.

The main Weaver Words Literature Festival will take place on Wednesday 25 – Sunday 29 April, 2018, offering five days of talks, events and workshops, including headline acts from TV writer/broadcaster Gyles Brandreth and poet Ian McMillan.

Festival manager Lynn Pegler said: "This will be the fourth literature festival we have staged in Frodsham and each year we go from strength to strength. We are delighted the extra funding has enabled us to organise the fabulous

poet Mandy Coe to visit and inspire a new generation of local writers.

"Visits by experts like Mandy can be life-changing for pupils. Sometimes they can open doors in the mind which lead children to explore completely new pathways. Being introduced to poetry by an expert, perhaps winning a competition, is just the boost youngsters need to start them on a life-long journey into literature, perhaps even later writing a best-seller themselves."

Mandy Coe said she had thoroughly enjoyed her visits. She explained: "Through a series of poetry workshops we looked at identity, community and global issues and the pupils' enthusiasm shows us how welcome this initiative was. It has been a privilege to work alongside such talented and creative young writers and meet so many supportive teachers. Well done Weaver Words."

For adult writers, there are three creative writing workshops on offer during the festival as well as a flash fiction competition, offering £500 worth of prizes for the best 300 word stories.

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.

For more details, visit 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.



Poet Mandy Coe and Weaver Words school liaison manager Steven Capstick with Year 7 pupils from Helsby High School.

Zodiac wins top award in its 50th year

FRODSHAM-based Zodiac musical theatre society has won a top award for a concert it produced at Frodsham Community Centre last October.

The show, "A Montage of Musicals", directed and choreographed by mother-and-daughter duo Valerie Ball and Jennifer Deakin, with musical direction by Tim Walker won the North West District 8 regional award of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA).

The society will now go forward to the regional finals in May.

Months of hard work went into the production, which had a cast of up to 21 local children and 24 adults. It told the story of musicals from the 1930s to the present day.

The show was filled with some of the most popular songs from the most well known musicals ever performed, from such musical giants as Rogers and Hammerstein and Andrew Lloyd Webber to songs from the juke-box musical, Mama Mia and the mega musical Les Miserables. There was also

a heart-warming rendition of "Electricity", from the more modern musical of Billy Elliot, which was performed by the younger members of the cast.

Valerie Ball said: "I am so proud to be a member of The Zodiac, and even more proud that I was given the opportunity to direct such a talented group of children and adults. I would like to thank each and every one of them for their hard work in the months leading up to the show. We had a fantastic turn out and it was great to see such local support in Frodsham, and the surrounding areas. The Zodiac is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, but this award proves what a talented and relevant society it still is and I am just happy that it is being recognised."

Currently, the Zodiac are hard at work rehearsing for their next show "Legally Blonde The Musical", which is being performed at The Brindley Theatre, Runcorn, on April 24-28. Tickets on sale now at www.thebrindley.org.uk



Another 12 trees for community orchard

TWELVE fruit trees donated by the Mersey Forest have been planted in the community orchard in Ship Street, Frodsham. This has extended the original orchard planted in 2015.

The planting was organised by Frodsham Transition Initiative (FTI) and was carried out by volunteers from TSB, 4th Frodsham Scouts and members of the public. They enjoyed the dig - despite it being a rainy day - and planted pears, plums and cherries.

The Community Orchard project, initiated by Tom Blundell, was started in 2012, to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee when fruit trees were planted in Churchfields. Further planting took place in Hob Hey Wood, Ship Street and Hawthorne Road.

The planting is a joint exercise between Frodsham Town Council and FTI in which the council keep the tree bases free from weeds for at least the first five years and FTI carry out the winter and summer

pruning as and when necessary.

Pruning was carried out by volunteers in February at Hob Hey Woods and will be carried out in Ship Street in the next few weeks.



Village to fight Green Belt housing scheme

KINGSLEY Parish Council is to seek legal advice over the controversial decision by planning bosses to grant outline planning consent for 15 "affordable" houses on Green Belt land.

The council and the Kingsley Green Belt Action Group have set up a crowd-funding webpage to pay for legal representation.

They stress that the final decision on the application for the houses on land off Higher Heyes Drive has not yet been taken so there is still time to act.

The plans have been changed three times from those originally submitted and shown at an "open" meeting in the village last July.

Villagers claimed the need for further affordable housing in the village was not proven and that last minute changes were not published in time for public discussion.

They believe there are serious doubts about the way Cheshire West and Chester Council (CW&C) has dealt with the developer and that a Housing Needs Survey is fundamental to overcome the fact that the proposed development is in the Green Belt.

The parish council is severely limited in the amount of funding it has to finance for legal representation which is why the Crowd Funding page has been set up at

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/kingsleygreenbeltactiongroup

The action group believes the decision already taken should be a "wake-up call" to all residents, not only in Kingsley, but in other surrounding rural areas that no Green Belt land is safe under current CW&C policies.



Golf club's annual "Drive In"

NEW officials at Helsby Golf Club took part in the annual Club "Drive In" on a crisp, wintery day.

Captain Graham Poland, Lady Captain Barbara Prince, President Peter Duffy and Junior Captain Harry Tilston were delighted to hit drives more or less down the middle of the fairway in the traditional start to their

year in office

The captain's chosen charity for the year is Claire House Hospice while the lady captain has chosen St Luke's Hospice, Winsford and they will be raising money for these worthwhile causes during the year with a variety of different events.

Fireworks enjoyed across town – and in Runcorn!

FRODSHAM'S New Year's Eve firework display was enjoyed by people all over the town – and in some parts of Runcorn.

Attendance at Churchfields was slightly below the previous year but there was a great atmosphere and a round of applause at the end of the display, the Town Council's Events Committee was told.

A number of people had tried to access the site where the fireworks were being set off but had been turned away.

The committee agreed that the display should be put on again next year, with the fireworks being set off away from the public and advanced warning being given as widely as possible.

The fireworks company is to be asked to attend a meeting to discuss the potential for "quiet fireworks" in future.



New play equipment being installed

THREE new items of play equipment are being installed at Kingsley Playing Field.

Work was due to start on February 26 and was expected to continue over a period of 2-3 weeks.

During this time, there would be some disruption to the current play area and a number of items would be out of use.

However, the parish council expects the enclosed toddlers' play area, outdoor gym and large multi-play unit to remain open for use.

The new equipment will consist of a 30m all-steel zip wire, a 2.4 m rota web climber and a 2.45m Viking swing along with safety matting. The existing springer unit is also to be relocated as part of the project. A parish council spokesperson apologised for any disruption caused.

New councillor elected unopposed

A NEW councillor has been elected unopposed to Frodsham Town Council, to replace former Mayor Mallie Poulton, whose resignation was reported last month.

She is Leander Wilson, who lives in the Waterside ward she will represent.

Meanwhile, two vacancies have arisen on Kingsley Parish Council.

Anyone wishing to be considered for co-option to the council should send a written application giving brief biographical details and qualifications to the clerk to the

council.

It is anticipated that the vacancies will be filled by co-option at a meeting of the council on April 17.

A vacancy has also arisen for a new clerk and responsible financial officer at Kingsley, due to the retirement of the current clerk.

The part-time post, is for eight hours a week and involves mainly working from home.

Hours are flexible but the post holder must be about to attend monthly council meetings.

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