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Issue No. 157
April 2018

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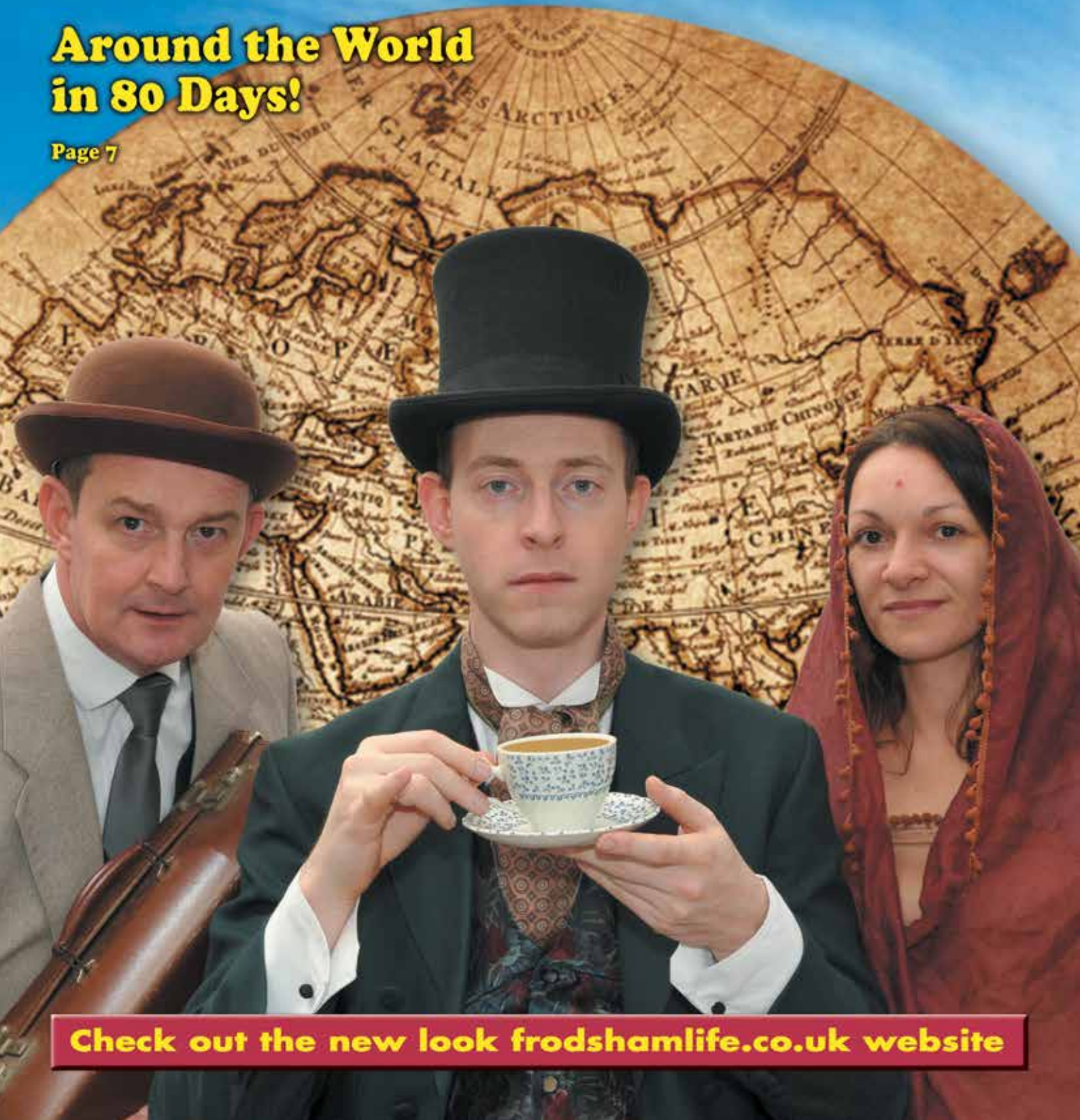
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Around the World in 80 Days!

Page 7



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Editor's Comment



IT was, by common consent, a success. The decision to hold the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) on the same night as the March meeting of Frodsham Town Council.

Attendance was up. The debate was reasoned and, in the case of an enthusiastic presentation by Sian Day, on behalf of Frodsham Youth Association, inspirational. The meeting did not overrun – in fact the final five minutes were available for urgent questions and no-one had any.

We should be saying "We told you so" because we suggested holding the ATM on the same night as a council meeting in this column two years ago.

In fact we have our reservations.

Housing plans opposed

PLANS to build six dwellings at Newton Hall Care Home, in Kingsley Road, Frodsham, are being opposed by Frodsham Town Council.

The council's planning committee decided to object because of the need to protect the Green Belt and concerns about access and egress onto an already busy road.

Plans for one dwelling at Iron Dish Farm, Godscroft Lane, Frodsham, are also being opposed, in support of objections lodged by Helsby Parish Council.

At the start of the ATM, at 6.30pm, members of the public were told the Town Council meeting would start at 7.30pm. Councillors and officers would be moving into an adjoining room and if the public wanted the ATM to continue they would have to appoint their own chairman and take their own minutes.

But in any case, another Town Meeting would be held later in the year.

Hardly surprising the ATM finished on time.

The Town Council meeting, by contrast, dragged on a bit. It was enlivened by issues one might have expected at the ATM – potholes, traffic issues, parking, etc.

Importantly, however, the council agreed to increase its funding of Frodsham Youth Association from £8,000-a-year to £10,000 and to disband the Finance Scrutiny sub-committee as its work can be carried out by the Policy and Process committee.

Doubts were expressed about whether local people had been adequately consulted about the proposal to sell the Ship Street play area but chairman Cllr Judith Critchley gave an assurance that it is not "a done deal."

Deadline for the May issue of Frodsham Life is April 24

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“Slow down for Bobby” road safety campaign

PUPILS and staff at Frodsham CE Primary School welcomed author Jude Lennon into school to find out about her “Slow Down for Bobby” road safety campaign.

The Bobby Coleran Trust was launched by his family three years ago, following a fatal accident involving six-year-old Bobby outside his school.

Since then Bobby’s family has campaigned for safer roads outside all schools.

They have been supported by the people of Liverpool and all over England as all parents, teachers and people, in general, are aware of how dangerous school runs are and all fear for their children’s

safety.

Ms Lennon a former primary school teacher, is a children’s author and storyteller.

During the whole school assembly she shared her children’s book ‘SUPERBOB’ to raise awareness with pupils about keeping safe on the roads.

Afterwards, Lily, from Year Six, said: “We learnt to be more aware of our safety around school and when we are in the car.”



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Weave New Words at Frodsham Literature Festival!

CALLING all budding writers – get creative at the Weaver Words Literature Festival in April.

Join one of the three creative writing workshops with columnist David Charters, Gladys Mary Coles or Jean Atkin - or pop into Frodsham Community Centre with a short poem for the Pop-Up Poetry Wall!

During April, the centre will feature a large map of North Cheshire, especially created for the festival by Norley artist Ann Crawford. Everyone is invited to respond to the festival theme, 'A sense of place', by writing a short poem on a postcard, which will then be displayed by the map.

Festival manager Lynn Pegler said: "We want to inspire everyone to get writing! We welcome all poems on a postcard – whether it's a haiku on Helsby or some amusing lines celebrating your garden shed."

"Whether people are putting pen to paper for the first time or they're experienced writers, everyone has their own unique take on the area and we would love to read it."

The festival opens with an exciting preview event on Saturday 14 April – a Literary Cruise aboard the newly-restored, award-winning Daniel Adamson steam ship along the River Weaver Navigation. Tickets cost £25 and are available through the website www.thedanny.co.uk.

A festival fringe event with crime

author Martin Edwards is being hosted by Frodsham Library on Thursday 12 April, 7pm. Tickets are £5 from the library.

Tickets are flying out for the main Weaver Words Literature Festival, Wednesday 25 – Sunday 29 April, which offers five days of fabulous talks, events and workshops.

Particularly popular are TV broadcaster and writer Gyles Brandreth on Sunday 29 April and poet Ian McMillan on Thursday 26 April – both likely to be sell-out performances.

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

Award-winning Word Weavers poet Andrew Rudd and violinist Daniel Axworthy are joined by poet Rachel Mann for another inspirational opening night of music and poetry on Wednesday 25 April.

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 27 April.

Jungle Book author Rudyard Kipling takes centre stage on Saturday 28 April in a new play, *If Only: An Audience with Rudyard Kipling*, which comes fresh from a successful run at the Edinburgh Festival fringe.

And the whole festival comes to an explosive climax on Sunday 29 April with the announcement of the winners of the Flash Fiction prize and the Great Weaver Words children's poetry competition. Also on stage that night will be a rousing performance from comedy actor John Gorman, music from Frodsham Choral Society and an open mic slot for talented local writers and spoken word artists. To book a performance slot email: pm@weaverwords.co.uk

The Weaver Words Festival is supported by Arts Council England, the Marshes Community Benefit Fund and Frodsham Town Council. 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 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.



WEAVER WORDS
FRODSHAM LITERATURE FESTIVAL

Wednesday 25th April - Sunday 29th April 2018

Book tickets at www.weaverwords.org.uk
or Box Office 0333 666 33 66

Tickets may also be booked in person at Dandelion Gifts, Church Street, and Frodsham Community Centre.



WEAVER WORDS FESTIVAL EVENT DIARY

Saturday 14th April

2.30-5.00pm Literary Cruise aboard 'The Danny' River Weaver Navigation

Wednesday 25th April

11am - 1pm Workshop: Writing poetry, Jean Atkin Frodsham Community Centre
3pm Talk: Re-inventing Jane Eyre Frodsham Community Centre
8pm Event: Word Weavers, Poetry/Music Frodsham Community Centre

Thursday 26th April

10.30am Talk: Andy Jurgis on Seamus Heaney Frodsham Community Centre
3pm Talk: Spencer Leigh, music biography Frodsham Community Centre
7.30pm Event: Ian McMillan & Luke Carver Goss Frodsham Community Centre

Friday 27th April

10.30am Event: Pre-school story fun Frodsham Community Centre
12.30pm Literary Lunch: David M. Barnett Forest Hills Hotel, Frodsham
7.30pm Event: *Larkin' About* Frodsham Community Centre

Saturday 28th April

11am-1pm Workshop: creative writing, G.M. Coles Frodsham Community Centre
3pm Talk: Zia Chaudhry, Islam in UK today Frodsham Community Centre
7.30pm Event: *An Audience with Rudyard Kipling* Frodsham Community Centre

Sunday 29th April

11am - 1pm Workshop: writing great blogs, D. Charters Frodsham Community Centre
2pm Event: Gyles Brandreth Frodsham Community Centre
6pm Great Weaver Words Prize Giving Frodsham Community Centre
7.30pm Gala Celebration Event Frodsham Community Centre



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WI celebrates its 70th birthday

FRODSHAM WI is 70 years old this year – and celebrated the event with a special event to mark the milestone birthday.

Members got together at Frodsham Community Centre for a three course dinner, live music by Ashton Folk, and special birthday cake.

They also were presented with a branded celebratory tote bag to mark the occasion.

Guest speaker was award winning hairdresser Andrew Collinge who gave an interesting talk about his hairdressing heritage together with highlights from a fascinating career.

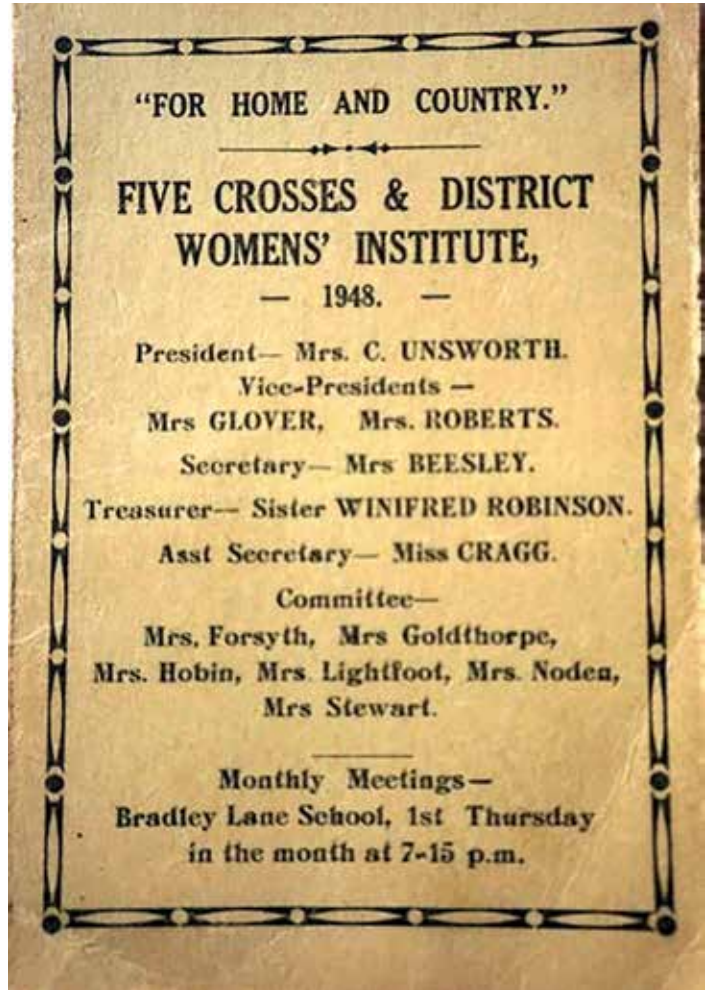
Frodsham WI started life in 1948 as Five Crosses WI but changed its name in 2007.

Currently, there are 55 members aged 40 to 97 and are a very active group.

Members organise the annual Frodsham "Make it, Bake It, Grow

it, Sew it" event, support local events such as The Picnic in the Park and Frodsham Community Centre quizzes, together with projects such as litter clean ups. Many support requests for local assistance such as making child friendly blankets and sheets and knitted octopus toys for premature babies in support of member, Sharon Greenwood, who works as a sister on the Pediatric intensive care unit at Alder Hey.

Members also belong to various groups including a book club, craft group, sports club and are launching a new walking group. Trips and outings are planned throughout the year and the group annually supports and takes part at WI events at the Cheshire Show.



Frodsham Players get set to go Around the World in 80 Days!



FRODSHAM Players are taking to the stage again in April with a dazzling production of Around the World in 80 Days.

Adapted by Laura Eason from the original book by Jules Verne, the show tells the story of the fabulously wealthy Victorian gentleman Phileas Fogg, who wagers his life's fortune that he can circumnavigate the globe in just 80 days.

Along with his hapless valet, Passepartout, Fogg sets out on a dazzling journey that takes him through the misty back streets of London to the Indian subcontinent and the Wild West of America as they race against time on a dizzying succession of trains, boats, sleighs and elephants!!

Around the World in 80 Days had it's professional premiere in London in 2015 and recently completed a sell out tour of venues across the UK.

Iain Bennett makes his directorial debut and the show stars David Varley as Fogg, Ian Lancaster as Passepartout, Andy Bainbridge as Inspector Fix & Carrie Bennett-Brown as Mrs Aouda. The show promises to be a hit with young and old alike and will bring smiles and laughter to the whole family.

Around the World in 80 Days will be performed in St Laurence Church, Frodsham from Wednesday 18 - Saturday 21 April at 7:30pm.

Tickets are on sale now from Dandelion, Church Street, Frodsham, Box Office 07754 455809 or www.frodshamplayers.com priced £10 adult and £8 u-16/ FTE.



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Question:

What are the benefits of Collaborative Law, and why would I choose this route over going to Court?

Answer:

It's not easy going to court and being faced with your ex-partner and trying to understand the processes. It's easy for us to go to court as lawyers - we know what we're doing, and we know what we're supposed to be saying. For clients, it can be a very daunting experience, so I think going to court is hugely challenging.

Collaborative Law offers a different route. You must be trained to do Collaborative Law; you cannot just engage with any solicitor as they must be formally trained for you go down this route.

The process involves a series of meetings between clients and their solicitors. You can see solicitors working together, which is something that is hugely beneficial as it also means you don't have correspondence going back and forth.

Collaborative Law allows within your meeting to remove the misunderstandings and the animosity that correspondence can cause. You are able to sit down and work constructively with lawyers to come to a solution.

It can be a faster route which avoids the courts. You are more in control of the process as you are not having the judge deciding what should happen in your life, which is quite difficult. It is a process which I believe is usually beneficial for people.

For Collaborative Law advice and support, contact Ruth Hetherington at FDR Law on 01925 230000 or email ruth.hetherington@fdrlaw.co.uk

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Bed industry first set to improve sleep for one in five Brits

One fifth of Britons sleep poorly most nights, with an additional five percent saying they sleep 'very poorly'.

These shock findings from The Sleep Council's latest research have prompted Frodsham-based retailers Land of Beds to partner with British bedmakers Dunlopillo to offer the sleep-improving Signature Bed Collection.

In an industry first, the collection includes three mattresses that have all recently won a Which? magazine 'Best Buy' award.

"It's a feat that no other mattress manufacturer has ever achieved," explains Mike Murray, Managing Director at Land of Beds. "Which? is the largest consumer body in the

UK and known for testing household products to help their subscribers make informed purchasing decisions by recognising standout products with 'Best Buy' status.

"For Dunlopillo to win not one, but three 2018 'Best Buy' awards, is a truly remarkable achievement and a real testament to the premium quality of the products. The National Sleep Council's findings confirm poor sleep is a huge issue that affects nearly 30 percent of our local community; therefore, we see it as our duty to offer the most innovative products on the market today. We

are proud to be official stockists of all three award-winning mattresses at our Helsby store."

The Millennium and Orchid mattresses are first-time Which? award winners, while the Royal Sovereign retains its status for the third consecutive year.

The independent tests conducted by Which? focus on several areas that analyse the true quality of the mattress. Simulating 10 years of use, this test helps sleepers to find the most supportive and long-lasting mattresses.

A survey-based score for 'Best Overall Brand' – rated on comfort, value for money and satisfaction

– also saw Dunlopillo rated 'Best Pillow Brand' by Which? consumers.

"All our showroom staff have received training approved by the National Bed Federation, which is designed to drive up standards nationally in customer care," adds Mike.

"We're an award-winning family-run business working with the biggest and best award-winning bed brands – making us the ideal local retailer to speak to for help and advice if your sleep quality needs improving."

To view the Signature Bed Collection online, visit www.landofbeds.co.uk/Dunlopillo



Cyclists' warning on potholes

THIS pothole needs urgent attention because the grid is in danger of imminent collapse.

That's the message from Frodsham cycling forum Cycle North Cheshire (CNC) as part of a plea to all road users to report potholes to Cheshire West and Chester Council.

The current hole is at least 8cms deep, on the left side of the road going toward Kingsley village from Frodsham, immediately outside the entry to Westbrook Farm, and about 400 metres from the Kingsley entry sign.

A spokesman for CNC said: "The presence of many similarly dangerous potholes on Howey Lane, Frodsham, presents yet more potentially serious accidents waiting to happen.

"This is the time of year that sees the weather taking its toll; deteriorating road surface conditions and potholes proliferating. Cyclists notice these far more than any road user. According to Cycling UK it is estimated that, annually, around 6,500 cyclists are injured due to potholes.

"Currently all councils are performing badly at routine

maintenance but Cheshire West and Chester Council has secured an extra £445,141 of funding to help tackle the annoying problem of potholes."

"We are encouraging cyclists to speak up and to know that if potholes are not reported, they will not get repaired".

CNC have reported the pothole above to CWAC via: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it/road-faults.aspx

More information about CNC is available from their website www.cyclenorthcheshire.com





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Happy Beef Farmer not very happy about fracking survey!

HAPPY Beef farmer Alison Davies was not happy when she was approached about a geological study on land at her Kingsley Farm.

Now local MP Mike Amesbury has visited the farmer whose fracking case he recently raised during Prime Minister's Questions.

The MP for Weaver Vale pressed Theresa May in the Commons over the case of Ms Davies's Happy Beef farm in Kingsley near Frodsham, after she was approached by staff by INOES who wanted to conduct a geological survey on her land. He took flak from both Government ministers and INOES itself for his intervention.

Ms Davies alleged she had discovered them on her land and asked them to leave, but that INOES still posted documents to her promising financial recompense if any shale gas was found.

The Prime Minister hit back saying shale gas was "a very important part of ensuring energy security".

Mr Amesbury's question also prompted former DEFRA secretary Liz Truss to brand him a "nimby", while INOES Shale themselves Tweeted: "If Mike Amesbury wants to stand up in support of his constituents he might think about the thousands of people that work in manufacturing or live with central heating that depend on a secure supply of gas".

The highly controversial practice has been banned in countries including Scotland, the Republic of Ireland, France and Germany and claims about it bringing mass employment have been widely disputed.

Mr Amesbury - who has been campaigning against fracking since he was elected last year - recently visited Ms Davies at her farm to see first-hand the land that INOES had their eye on.

Ms Davis said: "I'd returned home and was very surprised to see them there taking pictures. They asked if they could do some exploratory work on my land but I said no and asked them to leave, but a few days later got paperwork through the door about how much they were going to pay me for anything they found.

"I found it very arrogant."

Mr Amesbury said: "Alison isn't the first farmer in this area to make allegations of this sort of practice to me.

"She's worried now that even if she rejects their advances they can drill underneath her land, and fears what impact that will have on the

land and the grass her cows are eating. She feels that if this happens she may be forced to leave - which would be a tragedy as opening this farm was her dream."

He added: "Ministers and INOES may not have much sympathy judging by their response, but I'm not bothered what they say about me - I will always stand with my constituents."



Mike raises the issue in Parliament with Prime Minister Theresa May.



Mike Amesbury meets Alison Davies at her Happy Beef farm.

Town councillor completes 10k race

FRODSHAM town councillor Liam Jones completed the inaugural Chester 10K race in a time of 57 minutes and 20 seconds - and raised more than £105

On a day when other races across the country were cancelled due to the bad weather, nearly 2,000 hardy runners lined up at the Northgate Arena before heading out to Mollington and then

returning to the finishing line in the Town Hall Square.

Cllr Jones, who represents the Overton and Five Crosses ward on the Town Council, has raised £105 so far for his chosen charity of St John Ambulance and it is not too late to add to that total, via his JustGiving page www.justgiving.com/fundraising/liam-jones36



Another year, another Council Tax rise - when will Frodsham be treated fairly?

By Councillors Andrew Dawson and Lynn Riley



Over each of the last 3 years, since Labour has been setting CWaC's budget and the council tax, Frodsham residents have seen their council tax bill rise by 15%. The latest rise is CWaC's largest ever, this year alone it is more than 5%. CWaC Labour sees Frodsham as a community from whom money can be raised but spent elsewhere.

Even though we can all recognise the capital investment that we need, such as to improve our leisure facilities, our car parks and our roads the latest CWaC budget has no allocations for our local priorities. And don't believe any 'fake news' about cuts and austerity. The council's revenue budget continues to rise. Over the last two years the council underspent it, under estimated the number of new homes and thus raised more in council tax than expected. The latest budget sees sizeable payments into the reserves and there is a further £6m unallocated in the bank.

Frodsham deserves the same opportunities as other parts of Cheshire West and we will continue to fight for a fair deal for Frodsham.

As Conservatives we have consistently opposed unnecessary council tax rises. Our proposals this year would have been for a smaller rise, whilst protecting extra funding for adults and children's services. The Chief Finance officer agreed that our proposals were prudent.

For the good of our health

With announcements last week that all of the £9m planned investment for leisure is heading to Chester and Neston, and with no new budget identified, it's clear that when it comes to Frodsham and Helsby, we need an effective Plan B.

Rather than focus on one big facility, our plan includes for a number of shared facilities along the A56 corridor to open up access and opportunity for everyone. Helsby Sport & Social Club is close to building their own new facility; Helsby High School is a key mid point and as its now home to Frodsham Junior Football Club, it has huge potential to improve facilities that can be shared by the school in the day and the community outside school hours; Frodsham is in need of upgraded facilities at its tired leisure centre and for Saltworks Farm. Smaller scale but targeted investment in this way would provide a wider range of facilities that are more accessible and more affordable. Combining the considerable community forces we already have in place with some public sector support could mean that together everyone achieves more.

But how can we fund this? The key, to how we can unlock much needed investment, if we are to avoid adding to local taxes, is to come up a creative use for the derelict and under utilised land around the medical centre.

It's clear that Frodsham could use this space to help meet the need for more homes; including starter homes and affordable rentals for younger people and the right type of homes for our older residents who could live closer to town and key facilities. There would be opportunities to better link this central area to the retail centre and reclaim the residential streets that are today so busy. Improving the look, feel and opportunities for safer walking and cycling, together with more car parking is a must as is an ambitious facelift for adding to our green and public spaces.

We would insist that all future value from any Frodsham assets be reinvested back in the facilities that matter to local people and not disappear into the central pot as our council taxes appear to do.



So what do you think and would you like to pitch in and help plan out what this future could look like? We are planning to hold a series of events to start this community conversation and this can feed into the Neighbourhood Plan that is being developed.

Incidentally we have rejected the initial scoping work performed by CWaC officers. They thought it would be acceptable to have the vast majority of our leisure facilities located at the far end of Helsby. They also suggested we should be satisfied with a small sized 3G pitch at Helsby High School. We want quality facilities in both Frodsham and Helsby.

For the good of our town centre

With parking charges heading to town for the first time ever, we continue to push for common sense and a fair deal like other towns in the borough.

We believe that our vibrant town centre needs to continue to offer an element of free parking and want to see "free-for-3 hours during the day so we can continue to pop into town for our daily errands and shopping. Labour is not listening. The limited economic risk assessment performed did not properly consider our older citizens' needs, nor the harmful effects of doing away with free parking is likely to have on the vibrancy of the town. And this is ever before you think of the avoidable costs of ticket machines, administration and enforcement. Although the official consultation has finished, we want to demonstrate the extent of local feeling here so tell us what you think by joining in our survey.

It has taken over 3 years but we now have an informal commitment from CWaC to improve and upgrade the station carpark before the arrival of the Halton Curve. However there are no specific plans, no planning applications submitted. There is the opportunity to add some extra spaces but this would involve removing the old goods shed. We have tried in the past to find a community use for this but funding was not available. Do you think this is a good idea?

You can contact us to tell us what you think or use the on-line survey at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ZSPPPVF

For the good of our roads

Labour is in denial over the state of the Borough's roads. They think they are in an acceptable state. We are continuing to challenge this - and have done so repeatedly at council meetings and by writing to the Acting Chief Executive. We are being ignored even after pointing out that the downhill run is under threat as the organisers consider Howey Lane is unsafe as do our local cyclists. The official CWaC position on Howey Lane is that it doesn't need resurfacing! Three short years of Labour mismanagement has brought what were our excellent roads in 2015 to this appalling condition. The Government has just given CWaC an extra £2m to help with road maintenance. Don't forget all that underspent and unallocated money that CWaC has!

For the good of our residents

With council tax now one of the largest monthly bills, many residents may be struggling. The Citizens advice service now operates each week from the medical centre and access to debt and benefit advice and funds from the West Cheshire Credit Union is available. Tel: 0344 57 66 111 Mon to Fri 10am-4pm

A new and wider range of services for children, young people and their families and carers is now available from Frodsham's Children Centre who now offer support for 0-19 years.

Following months of work by your Conservative team and former MP with visits to and from the Department for Education, schools funding has been protected with an extra £7m added to CWaC budgets to support some of our most vulnerable students. Further good news arrived only last week with CWaC secondary schools now recognised by Ofsted as the best in the North West. This is down to the hard work and commitment of students and their families and our dedicated teaching and support staff.

Thank you to all local volunteers who came out recently to help with a community clean-up around the community centre, the town centre and the station area. It was raining but not on our parade!

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Please note the exhibition closes at 2pm Sunday 13th May

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Remarkable photographs produced by Photographic Society members



FRODSHAM & District Photographic Society's latest competition featured 'Scapes' – a mix of sea, country and city images.

"Remarkable photographs" had been produced, as the Judge Andrew Brooks commented, and 'Can't see the Wood for the Trees', winner of the Projected Digital Image section, is shown here.

Nicky Higgins also presented the best print. As one of the newest members, the society is delighted with this success and congratulated her.

In April the Annual Open Competition is the last of the season with the AGM and Prize Giving following on the 16th and closing the first half of the year with a celebration. But the club is not asleep over the summer.

Towards the end of April an outing to Oulton Park is planned to take shots of the speeding motorbikes and of course involvement with the community is not forgotten.

Party in the Park and the Downhill Race in early July are on the itinerary and the Society will be very pleased to be involved with the Heritage Days in early September – in particular at St Lawrence's Church on 6th-9th September.

Many of the images in Frodsham Life are taken by Members, a commitment but also good practice with a camera!

Have a good summer. Happy snapping! www.frodsham.photos

Biggest walking festival yet

THE 15th annual Frodsham Festival of Walks will take place between Saturday, April 28 and Monday, May 7.

The Town Council's festival working group has put together what is claimed to be the biggest ever selection of walks, designed to suit walkers of all ages, interest and levels of fitness.

There are 29 walks to choose from, many exploring the distinctive landscapes of the Sandstone Ridge and with some taking place in neighbouring parts of Cheshire and North Wales. Each walk is led by an experienced walker – most of them volunteers.

The full list of walks can be downloaded from the Town Council's website and printed leaflets are available from Castle Park House and Frodsham Library.

How children lived during the Holocaust

A TRAVELLING exhibition which opened a window onto the world of children caught up in the Holocaust visited Helsby High School for two days.

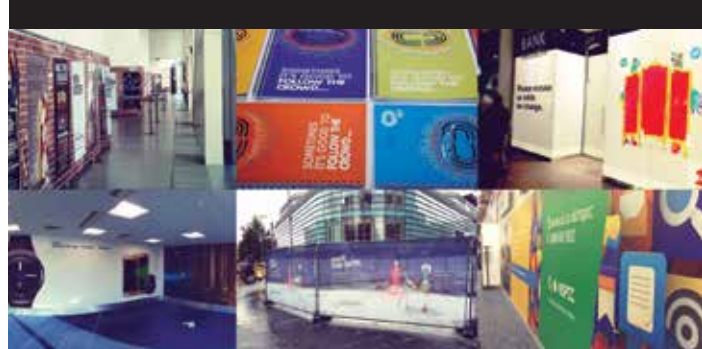
The exhibition, entitled "No Child's Play" was open to the public each day. It did not focus on history, statistics or descriptions of the physical violence and horror of the Holocaust.

Instead, images of toys, games, artwork, diaries and poems were displayed, highlighting some of the personal stories of the children and providing a glimpse into their lives during the Holocaust.


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Residents asked to give views on parking proposals

RESIDENTS of Frodsham and Helsby are being asked to give their views on Cheshire West and Chester Council's plans to introduce car parking charges across the borough.

The borough's proposals – which were fiercely opposed by opposition councillors including Frodsham's Cllr Lynn Riley and Cllr Andrew Dawson – CW&C say the charges are being introduced to manage the impact of rail-related parking by commuters who use the towns as "park and rail" locations.

Although this reduces the number of cars on the roads, it also results in a lack of short-stay shoppers' parking in both towns.

The survey, organised by councillors Riley and Dawson, asks respondents if they support:

- Demolishing the Goods Shed to allow for more car parking/cycle parking"
- Greater efforts to find a commercial or community use for the Goods Shed". They say the proposals may require the demolition of the Goods Shed.

CW&C's proposals recommend new parking tariffs and controls as follows:

- Frodsham**
- Moor Lane – multi-user tariff – a graduated tariff to control levels of long stay commuter parking and to release capacity to short-to-medium stay local users
 - Frodsham Station / Extension car park – multi-user tariff – a graduated tariff to control long stay commuter parking and free up capacity for short to medium stay local users
 - Health Centre – Free with maximum stay and user group restrictions to prevent long-stay commuter displacement to this car park and to protect parking for the Health Centre, Library and leisure centre users.
 - Will to Work Extension – multi-user tariff – to again protect short to medium stay capacity for local people.
 - Main Street – Free with maximum stay restrictions and exemptions for residents – to prioritise short stay users and encourage turnover in this core retail area and prevent all-day commuter parking.

- Helsby**
- Station Avenue (subject to a full

length of stay survey) – Long stay tariff – with the same long stay rates as for Frodsham car parks to prevent rail users moving to this car park as a result of Frodsham tariffs

- Chester Road (bays) – Maximum stay restrictions of one or two hours – to cater for short stay displacement from Station Avenue car park and to free up spaces from commuter parking.

- Britannia Road – a new blue badge on-street parking bay is recommended next to the shops to improve accessibility in this location.

Recommended tariffs are:

- Moor Lane, Frodsham Station/extension car park and Will to Work Extension: 20p for up to two hours, 50p for two to four hours, £1 for four to six hours and £1.50 six to eight hours.
 - Station Avenue Helsby: £1.50 for up to eight hours.
- CW&C say the impact of car

park users moving to surrounding residential areas will be monitored to determine whether residents' parking schemes or other restrictions are needed.

Cllr Liam Jones, of Frodsham Town Council, said: "Personally, I'd like to see the retention of the goods shed and for it to be used as an business incubator, supporting small start-up businesses. I think it should also provide something different too, such as a food hall - a different shopping experience that could compliment Frodsham."



The Goods Shed.

Rebel councillor resigns from committees

CONTROVERSIAL councillor Tom Reynolds has resigned from all committees of Frodsham Town Council of which he was a member.

He took the decision after promising a "radical re-thinking of how Frodsham should be managed" which he said he would be presenting to residents via social media.

In a letter to the town clerk he said: "As such, I think it is best that I resign from the Policy and Process committee, the Finance sub-committee and the Communities committee."

Cllr Reynolds said he would be making the point to Frodsham residents that members of the Town Council had the opportunity to force a review of

the precept – set at £59 for a Band D home – but decided not to.

He said: "I support cost-cutting change. This is a democracy. If my thinking is not what Frodsham residents want, I can be voted out at next year's elections."

Cllr Reynolds said the cornerstones of his thinking were:

1. Reduce the number of council committees to four
2. Separate the town clerk's role from an administrative role.
3. To consider setting a £5,000 administration budget for each committee that they could not exceed.
4. Limiting council activity.
5. And to limit council reserves to £50,000

His target, he said, was to reduce the precept for a Band D property

to £30 for 2019-20

Reducing the number of committees was, he said, just a reversal of the bureaucracy that had been created by the council and which had grown in recent years.

Last year's St George's Day parade, for instance, had cost Frodsham residents an estimated £5,000.

Cllr Reynolds knows what it is like to be a member of the council but not on any committees because he has twice been suspended from committee membership following council rows.

*The council has decided not to hold at St George's Day parade this year.



Campaign launched for 3G football pitch

FRODSHAM Junior Football Club, in partnership with Helsby High School and Cheshire West and Chester Council, has launched a fundraising campaign to build a 3G football facility at the school.

It is hoped enough money can be raised to enable to facility to open next year – when the club celebrates its 40th anniversary.

The project will provide the club with a state-of-the-art, safe and secure all-weather pitch for training and match days and also provide the high school and local primary schools with exclusive use of the facility during school hours.

The wider Frodsham and Helsby community would also benefit from access to the pitch for social uses.

Frodsham JFC already has its "home" at the school as a result of a partnership set up last year which gives them use of the school playing fields.

The club currently runs 30 junior football teams for boys and girls from Under-7s to under 18s. More than 500 youngsters are able to play regular, organised football.

Joe Bell, the club's coach and player development officer said: "The development of a 3G facility will bring huge benefits not only to the club, but also to Helsby High and surrounding primary schools. There is no such facility locally, while the towns of Hartford, Winsford and Northwich have all recently opened 3G pitches.

"It will ensure sporting provision for both the High School and the Football Club especially during the winter months when grass pitches are regularly closed due to poor weather."

Helsby High head teacher John Dowler said: "The opportunity to build this state-of-the-art facility is one not to be missed. It would be wonderful for young people to have access to a 3G pitch at school and for the potential of our site to be further utilised for the benefit of the wider community. This development will further strengthen the great partnership we have with Frodsham Junior FC".

Andy Loyden, Frodsham JFC's fundraising officer added: "We know as a club we have set ourselves a challenging target, but we have great confidence in the support and generosity of the local community, and local businesses, many of whom have had an association with Frodsham Juniors during its near 40-year history.

"We will of course be pursuing as many options for funding as possible and we will look to work with bodies such as the Marshes Community Benefit Fund and the Football Foundation. This project

is the perfect way to celebrate the club's 40th birthday; it will create a legacy not only for Frodsham Junior Football Club but also for our whole community."

Anyone wishing to support the 3G at 40 campaign can donate by visiting www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/3gat40

Anyone interested in finding out more about Frodsham Juniors should visit www.frodshamjfc.org.uk



Frodsham Junior FC on the Helsby High School playing fields.

Girls' football centre for Frodsham and Helsby

GIRLS aged 5-11 will be able to play football at a new centre to be set up by Frodsham Junior Football Club.

The club – established in 1979 – have been awarded the rights by the FA to launch an SSE Wildcats Girls' Football Centre.

It is to start at Helsby High School on Friday, April 13.

The centre will enable girls from Frodsham, Helsby and surrounding villages to regularly play football at organised sessions in a safe

environment and in a fun and engaging way.

More than 200 SSE Wildcats Girls' Football Centres have already been established by the FA across the country and another 800 are expected to launch this year.

At Helsby there will be weekly sessions for at least 12 weeks.

There will also be opportunities for parents, carers and siblings to engage in the sport at the same time, through "Family Sessions"

including Walking Football.

Tara Jennings, a current player for Frodsham JFC Girls Under-18s said: "I started playing football at a similar age to a lot of the girls that will be taking part in these sessions and that's when my love of football began. It's so important to encourage them to enjoy the game from a young age and SSE Wildcats provide a great resource for that."

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