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Issue No. 158
May 2018

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**Photographic
Society Awards**

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Editor
Gary Skentelbery

Production
Paul Walker

Advertising
James Balme

Telephone
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Sales: option 1
Editorial: option 2
Artwork: option 3
Accounts: option 4
General Enquiries: option 0

Email
info@frodshamlife.co.uk

Websites
www.culchethlife.com
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Address
New Media Centre
Old Road Warrington
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Editor's Comment



TEMPORARY road closures are not unusual in Frodsham's Howey Lane. January this year, August last, July in 2016. All for the same reason – road repairs.

Which makes the response of Cheshire West and Chester's lead member for environment, Cllr Karen Shaw, to a question from Frodsham's Cllr Andrew Dawson, quite surprising.

She said: "Based on the survey data we currently hold, Howey Lane has not been identified by our asset management software as requiring full resurfacing."

All we can say to that is that if there is one thing CW&C need to renew more urgently than the surface of Howey Lane it is their asset management software.

It is not very encouraging to hear from Cllr Shaw that "appropriate permanent repairs" will be made in Howey Lane in the financial year 2018-19. Not when the road should have been resurfaced at least two years ago.

CW&C has been given an extra £445,141 for pothole repairs but we accept that will not go very far when spread across the whole borough. That is not the issue.

Howey Lane is way passed pothole filling. Indeed, much of its present dangerous condition has been caused by poorly executed pothole repairs in the not-too-distant past. It needs full resurfacing and it needs it now – whatever CW&C

asset management software might say.

A combination of traffic calming and crumbling pothole repairs can be lethal, particularly for cyclists, as Frodsham-based Cycle North Cheshire reported in this publication last month.

They urged people to report every pothole they find because

if they are not reported they won't be repaired. We can't guarantee they will be repaired even if they are reported – or that they will be repaired properly. But we certainly echo Cycle North Cheshire's call.

Who do we report them to?
www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it/road-faults.aspx

Deadline for the June issue of Frodsham Life is May 29

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Ladies Circle's £1,000 donation to school



MEMBERS of Frodsham Ladies Circle visited Helsby High School to present them with a cheque for £1,000.

The donation arose from fundraising by the Ladies Circle over the last year.

Head teacher John Dowler and assistant head teacher Ms C Simmonds were present at the meeting.

Pupils explained the various ways in which Student Voice – the school council – operates at the school and discussed ideas that had been put forward, including establishing a stationary shop, purchasing book boxes for each form class, healthy eating/drinking vending machines and Helsby High School water bottles.

Pupils thanked the Ladies Circle for the donation – and said they looked forward to inviting them back to school so they could see how the money had been used.

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Animal artists help raise funds for hedgehog preservation

Report & pictures by: Lynda Hayney

THE Association of Animal Artists held their annual awards evening at Castle Park Arts Centre recently helping raise funds for the British Hedgehog Preservation Society.

Mayor of Frodsham Councillor Alan Oulton presented awards to the winners and runners up in each of four categories, plus a chairman's award and an inaugural chairman's award and a prize for the best artist's sketch book.

Jim Patterson, of the Two Rivers Paper Company based in Somerset, made the long journey to Frodsham to judge the category for artist's sketchbook and then presented the prize of some of his beautifully crafted hand made paper to the winner in this category, Julie Cross.

The exhibition is well worth a visit and open to the public at the Arts Centre until May 13. There are some beautiful animal artworks by very talented artists all members of the Association of Animal Artists.

AAA exhibitions openly support animal welfare and wildlife conservation charity partners by giving charitable donations; this year's charity to benefit from the association is the British Hedgehog Preservation Society.

The members also do more for the charities by giving a voice to the issues they promote, raising public awareness and helping to celebrate and also preserve the animal kingdom that inspires their art.



Paul Holmes - Category winner for his painting of Ida.



Julie Cross - Best in Show and Sketch Book prize for Ruffled Feathers.



Tony Evans - Category winner for his painting of Prowling Tiger.



Christina Hopkinson - Inaugural Chairman's Award

Kingsley Players stage Ian Hislop's 'A Bunch of Amateurs'

AWARD-winning theatre group Kingsley Players will be back on stage for four night from Wednesday 16 – Saturday 19 May, with a royal comedy favourite about a village drama group, 'A Bunch of Amateurs'.

The play, directed by Malcolm Barker, is written by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman, and was originally conceived as a film, starring Burt Reynolds, Derek Jacobi, Samantha Bond and Imelda Staunton. It was selected for the Royal Film Performance in November 2008, when the Queen enjoyed it so much she had it shown at that year's Christmas celebrations in Sandringham.

Nick Newman said: "As a piece about the redemptive power of theatre, 'Amateurs' is perhaps more powerful and appropriate on the stage than on the screen. The plot runs on the mixture of simplicity and implausibility that fuels all farce. Facing the loss of their community theatre, an amateur dramatic group from the Suffolk village of Stratford St John decides that their only hope is to cast a celebrity in their final production."

"To their astonishment, ageing Hollywood action hero Jefferson Steel accepts the role of King Lear but when he arrives, it turns out that his agent had deceived him into thinking that the play is to be performed by The Royal Shakespeare Company at the home of the Bard. Instead Jefferson discovers he will be treading the boards in a farm barn alongside a bunch of amateurs. Tantrums, huffs and sexual embarrassments abound, complicated by the arrival of Jefferson's estranged daughter, Jessica, whose presence provides a Lear style sub-plot and a two-hanky finale."

Tickets cost £7/£8. Book in advance through the website www.kingsleyplayers.co.uk or by ringing the box office on 07724 892154.



Frodsham Panto Group Presents **Ali Baba & the 40 Thieves**

Written by Ben Crocker
(In association with Ben Crocker Pantomimes)

MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM

On Wednesday, 13th June 2018 at 7.30pm

PRINCIPAL AUDITIONS

On Friday 15th June 2018
Registrations from 6.00pm
Auditions at 6.30pm

CHORUS/DANCER AUDITIONS

on Sunday, 17th June 2018
Dancers register at 9.00am
followed by auditions at 9.30am
Chorus register at 1.00pm
followed by auditions at 1.30pm

All to be held at Frodsham Community Centre
For further details phone 07974 560 640

Wedding Open Evening

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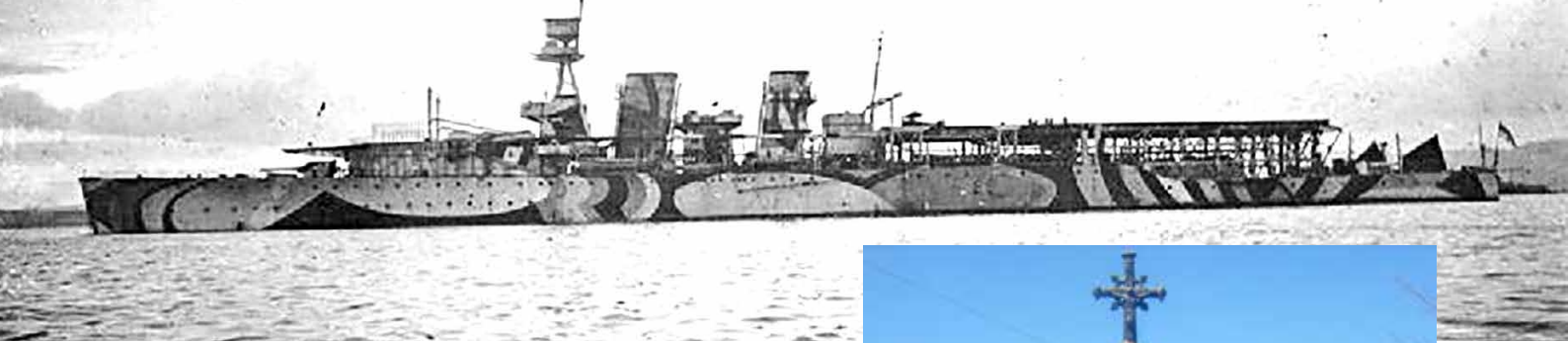


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World War 1 hero remembered at church service



A FRODSHAM hero who lost his life during one of the most famous actions of World War 1 was remembered at a special service at St Laurence Church.

Leading Seaman Leonard Ellams, of Volunteer Street, Frodsham was just 21 when he was one of 583 men who died during the Zeebrugge Campaign.

On April 23, 1918 he was aboard the cruiser HMS Vindictive, which led the raid on the Bruges ship canal at its entrance into Zeebrugge harbour to prevent its continued use as a base for German U-boats.

Despite the casualties, the operation was hailed as a success and Leonard was balloted for the award of the Victoria Cross for his part in the action.

Full military honours were accorded to him at his funeral and he is buried in St Laurence churchyard.

On the Sunday nearest the 100th anniversary of the campaign, at the Eucharist Service at St Laurence Church, Geoff Abnett, of Frodsham Royal British Legion, paid tribute to the young seaman on behalf of the Frodsham WW1 Commemoration Group.

Father Michael Mills led the service, after which the congregation, including Town Mayor Alan Oulton and Junior Mayors Kay Thompson and Michael Morgan-Astle, and local Scouts, walked to Leonard's grave.

Royal British Legion branch chairman Len Rugen read the Exhortation and group member Heather Powling laid a wreath at the grave.

Group member Pammi Taylor said, "We have spent a lot of time and effort in researching the events of the Great War and the men of Frodsham involved in those events. Many young men gave their lives in the service of their country. We feel it is only fitting we do not forget their sacrifices. It's all very emotional".

The WW1 Commemoration Group has achieved another success in the completion of one of its "legacy" projects.

The war memorial at St Laurence Church has been renovated and the path leading up to it made safe. Approval for the works was given to both from English Heritage and the Parochial Church Council.

Pammi added: "We are grateful to Betty Rutter, church warden, for her help in progressing this. We were very keen to have the memorial refurbished in time for the national commemoration of the end of the war in November. We are also co-operating with Frodsham Town Council in its planning for this year's Remembrance Day services and beacon lighting to mark the end of the war".

The Group is now preparing for an exhibition at Castle Park Arts Centre in September when the Poppy Cascade, previously displayed at Frodsham Health Centre and Frodsham Community Centre, will be displayed for the last time.

At the end of the exhibition in November, the cascade will be dismantled and pieces of it will be framed for posterity. Poppies will also be made available to families of pupils who made the poppies and to others who want a memento.

The Commemoration group's final event will take place in July next year. Members are working with local primary schools to arrange inter-school sports to commemorate children's participation in the peace celebrations of July 1919. The event is intended to consist of games and sports of 100 years ago.

For further information about the work of the WW1 Commemoration Group, contact Pammi Taylor on 01928 731932.



Wind Farm "windfalls" total £71,451

SEVEN local organisations were awarded a total of £71,451 in the latest round of funding awarded by the Marshes Community Benefit Fund, which allocated payments made by Frodsham Windfarm Ltd.

A total of 17 organisations applied for grants totalling more than £216,000, competing for £72,000 available in this round.

The largest award, £35,000, went to Helsby High School towards the development of community netball courts, which will also be available for other uses.

An award of £20,000 went to Hornsmill Primary School, Helsby, for a footpath to improve pedestrian access from the A56 Chester Road to relieve parking issues at the school.

Alvanley Cricket Club received an award of £10,000 towards the cost of new practice nets.

An award of £2,100 went to Helsby Community Association for improvements to the disabled toilets at the community centre and library.

Amateur theatre group Frodsham Players received £1,953 for new LED lighting and Radiate Arts, a community interest company, received £1,269 for table top easels and an iPad for delivering their "Feel Great...Create" art projects involving primary school pupils and care home residents.

Frodsham Volleyball Club received £1,129 to develop a six-a-side team.

Community Benefit Fund panel chairman Dianne Walker said the standard of applications had been high and the panel had been forced to make difficult choices.

But it was felt the successful projects would significantly benefit the residents in the areas surrounding the Frodsham Wind Farm. The small remainder of the funds available in this round, but not allocated to projects, would be carried forward in reserves.

Applications for the next round of funding will open on June 1 and close on August 31.

Two 'MPs' meet at Westminster

It was the day Frodsham Town Council's very own "MP" – Cllr Michelle Parker – met Weaver Vale MP Mike Amesbury at the House of Commons.

The Waterside councillor was in Westminster for a roundtable discussion about children and young people.

Mr Amesbury took time out of a busy schedule to give the councillor a personal tour of Parliament.

Cllr Parker said: "It was amazing to hear about the history while standing right in the middle of Westminster Hall and to see the House of Lords. I am very grateful."

She added that she got an opportunity to talk with the MP about "lots of important things that are Frodsham."



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- Similarly, they may have in-house conveyancing companies that they are personally incentivised on referring clients to. Again this may result in additional charges for you as they may include a referral fee

We would recommend that if you are being advised that the costs are incorporated into a package with your finances, estate agent fees or the property you are buying, then do ask for a full written detailed quote, including any possible extras before you make a commitment.

It is worth noting that you shouldn't choose a solicitor based on price alone, their experience and service is important and it is vital that you are confident that they are fully able to represent you effectively and efficiently.

For more information, contact Chris Illingworth on 01925 739300 or email chris.illingworth@fdrlaw.co.uk

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The Royal Wedding is set to take place at St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle on Saturday, 19 May. Around 600 guests are expected to attend the private ceremony, while a further 1,200 members of the public have received invitations to enter the grounds.

Hypnos is the only bed maker to actively supply all the Royal residences – including Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and Kensington Palace (home to Prince William and Kate Middleton, who married in 2011).

To view the Hypnos Collection, visit www.landofbeds.co.uk/hypnos



The Hypnos Collection – proud bearers of the Royal Warrant – is available to view at 98 Chester Road, Helsby and 14 Church Street, Frodsham.

Get ready for the 13th Downhill Run

ENTRIES are being invited for this year's Frodsham Downhill Run, which will take place on Sunday, July 1 – coinciding as usual with the Festival in the Park.

This year the run is being sponsored by H&L Self Storage, engineering and environmental consultancy RSK and Frodsham Town Council.

The run will start at the Best Western Forest Hills Hotel car park, in Bellemonte Road and finish in

Castle Park House.

Forest Hills leisure club trainers will lead a warm up session at 12 noon and entries close at noon on Saturday June 23 – although it is likely all 250 places will have been taken before then. In the first couple of days 100 people registered.

Entry forms can be obtained by emailing centre.frodcomm.org.uk or paper forms can be picked up at Frodsham Community Centre.

As usual it will be an international

field with one runner coming from Australia.

This year's run is the 13th and at least three runners have taken part in all of them so far – father and son Matthew and Chris Larkin – Chris has won it the last couple of years – and Dilys O'Neill, who is 85 and completed last year's run only months after having a new hip!

Pics from previous years





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Photographic Society end of season awards

FRODSHAM & District photographic Society held their final Annual Open Competition of the season recently when the Judge was Diana Magor.

The Print section was won by Lynda Haney's beautiful 'Swan' while Vince Scriven headed the Projected Digital Images with an eye catching 'Red Squirrel Jumping' – shown here.

All other images can be seen on the society website with Competition Results in the 'Menu' section.

The club has also held it's AGM when committee officers and members were elected together with a Chairman's review of 2017/18 and other business – but in the second half of the evening trophies were presented.

Winners were duly applauded for their hard work, skill and imagination. These included Bill Griffiths, Wynford Evans, Lynda Haney, Jane Cumming, Jenny Julian, Vince Scriven and Nicky Higgins.

This was followed by a celebration of the past winter months of the season and a convivial evening ensued.

But the Society is not asleep over the summer – outings are organised, attendance at Party in the Park assured and preparations made for an Exhibition in September at St Lawrences Church.

For more info visit www.frodsham.photos



Stars in their eyes



THE annual "Stars in their Eyes" show at Frodsham Manor House Primary School featured 21 acts competing for the winner's trophy.

It was rather like a red carpet event as an array of "guests" appeared in the school hall, including Ed Sheeran, Little Mix, Spice Girls, Rita Ora, Carly Rose, Ariana Grande, Kelly Clarkson, Big Shaq, Taylor Swift, Kristen Chenoweth, Pink, Cyndi Lauper, Charlie Puth, Shawn Mendes, AJ Mitchell and Rhianna.

The Stars in their Eyes dance crew performed a piece from Hairspray.

The judges had a hard task but in the event award first place to Sara, second to Olivia and joint third to Maddy and Keira. Sara was also winner of the children's vote.

The best newcomer award went to Imogen.

Community association annual meeting

FRODSHAM Community Association – which operates and manages the Community Centre on Fluin Lane – is to hold its annual general meeting on June 27 when new officers will be elected.

Anyone interested in taking a more active role in the centre, and taking it into its 50th year, is asked to get in touch by emailing chairman@frodcomm.org.uk

Neighbourhood Plan "well on the road" to completion

THE Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is now well on the road to completing a draft plan in October.

Once completed, the draft will go to Cheshire West and Chester Council (CW&C) for examination before the final document is put to a local referendum.

Influence

The Neighbourhood Plan aims to help the local community influence the planning and future land use of the area, ensuring development is suitable, sustainable and meets the needs of the community by identifying the facilities, services and infrastructure needed.

Since the start of the year, the steering group has met regularly and has extended its ongoing consultation with residents.

Group chairman Peter Fillery said: "A focus has been on meeting the youngsters of Frodsham as the main beneficiaries of a successful plan. The Scouts, Guides and Brownies have given plenty of lively and constructive input.

Protected

"We have also held sessions at the Library and other local meeting places to identify those green spaces in Frodsham which are dear to the hearts of many and ensure they are protected into the future. It is heartening to report that the Town Council now plans to register

its own green spaces as Assets of Community Value.

"The team is currently working hard on the policy statements that form the heart of the plan alongside a 'Call for Sites' – an informal way for land owners, agents, individuals and organisations to propose sites in Frodsham."

Mr Fillery said the proposed land use could be for commercial, community facilities, employment, housing (including self-build and affordable housing), leisure, play or activity areas, retail, or tourism.

Consult

Putting a site forward did not commit the Neighbourhood Plan in any way, but enabled the steering group to consult with the community about possible future development in Frodsham.

Suggesting a development site did not mean it would be automatically included in the plan, or that planning permission will be granted. Planning permission would have to be sought in the normal way.

In fact, the deadline for suggesting a site was May 4.

But steering group meetings are held regularly and residents who would like to learn more about the plan are invited to attend. Details are available on the website www.frodshamplan.org.uk



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Plenty of fun on World Book Day

WORLD Book Day was celebrated at Frodsham CE Primary School with pupils and staff joining in the fun.

They arrived at school dressed up as their favourite book characters – and the range of costumes clearly showed everyone's love of reading.

Headteacher Mr S Jones said: "The children had so much fun dressing up and sharing their favourite books."



Sporty youngsters raised £2,721 for Sport Relief



PUPILS, parents and staff at Frodsham CE Primary School raised an incredible £2,721 for Sport Relief – and thoroughly enjoyed themselves doing it.

Sports coach Mr Joe Curran said: "I am so proud of the fantastic sporting attitude all the children have at our school and it showed in their effort and commitment to challenge themselves to change lives for this worthwhile cause."

The school was approached by the BBC to take part in their Sport Relief programme following the success of the Sport Relief fundraising effort last year, when £1,100 was raised.

Fifteen children from Years 1 and 2 spent the day at Media City in Salford, meeting lots of well-known presenters, including Blue Peter's Lindsey Russell and Gary Lineker.

They were filmed – and everyone at the school was thrilled to see their classmates feature on the BBC Sport Relief show the same night.

Spurred on by their exciting day at the BBC, and undeterred by the wet weather, the whole school then held a Sports Endurance Challenge. Children chose one of seven activities, from obstacles to hula hoops to dancing. Sponsored by their family and friends they smashed their fundraising target and raised an incredible £2721.

To conclude their Sport Relief campaign, on Sport Relief Day, all children went to school kitted out for their favourite sporting activity and the PTA held a sporting themed disco after school.

Council orders demolition of farm cottage

CHESHIRE West and Chester Council has ordered the demolition of Lower Farm Cottage in Frodsham.

The property was originally a dilapidated agricultural building that had been substantially re-built and used as a house without any planning permission.

It is on Green Belt land that would require very special circumstances to be presented before permission could be granted. No application was received and the council's planning team confirmed there were no special circumstances that outweighed the harm to the Green Belt.

Two Enforcement Notices were served in 2015, one for the unauthorised development and one for material change of use. An appeal for material change of use was dismissed and there was no appeal for the unauthorised development.

Lisa Harris, director place strategy, at the council said: "We only consider demolition of a building as a last resort. This is the first time that the council has taken direct action to demolish a dwelling for a breach of planning control since 2011."

"Our planning team is there to help, provide advice and ensure high quality and sustainable building takes place across the borough."

The building to be demolished is to the rear of Lower House Farm, Kingsley Road, Frodsham.

Road closure

THE Ridgeway, Frodsham, between Tarvin Road and Burrows Lane, will be temporarily closed to traffic from June 18 for up to five days while work is carried out by BT to restore customer service. Access will be maintained to premises on the stretch of road affected but a through route will not always be available and drivers should use alternative routes which will be signposted.

Housing plan not opposed

FRODSHAM Town Council's planning committee has decided not to object to proposals to demolish agricultural buildings at Netherton Farm, Matty's Lane, Frodsham to make way for four new houses – subject to the provision of at least two and preferably four additional visitor parking places.

A night at the opera

FRODSHAM and district Choral Society are to present "A Night at the Opera" at St Laurence's Church, Frodsham on Saturday, July 7 at 7.30pm.

The programme will consist of Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* and opera choruses with Nicolas Sales, tenor and Thomas Eaglen, baritone. Conductor will be Howard Kane and accompanist Robert Woods.

Death of a former Frodsham teacher

A FORMER Frodsham teacher has died, aged 90, in Canada where he has lived for more than 40 years.

Douglas Ernest Arthurson taught for many years at the Manor School in Frodsham, guiding hundreds of children through the 11-plus examination to enable them to progress to grammar school.

He died peacefully in hospital with his wife, Ira and immediate family at his side.

Douglas was born in Halton and began his education at a church school where his father was principal.

By chance, he and Ira attended this school together, and years later their lives would converge and they married.

While training as a teacher Doug was called up for National Service with the RAF.

Afterwards he taught at the Manor School and shared his love of soccer by coaching school teams.

It was during his time teaching in Frodsham that Doug again met Ira, a widow with two children, who was also a teacher. They married in 1970 and emigrated to Canada five years later, with Doug continuing to teach for 10 years before retiring at the age of 59.

Having enjoyed tennis all his life, he was now able to successfully compete in Canadian masters' tournaments.

In his later years he suffered from Parkinson's Disease.



Weaver Words Festival a "huge success"

THE Fourth Weaver Words Literature festival has been described as a "huge success."

Festival President, screenwriter Tim Firth, of Calendar Girls fame, was on hand to help launch the three day event at Frodsham Community Centre as 15 events took place over three days.

Lynn Pegler, festival manager said: "The fourth Weaver Words literature festival has been a huge success. Hundreds of people have either attended events and talks, or entered the writing competitions."

"Our Pop-Up Poetry Wall Map proved to be particularly popular. Lots of have-a-go-poets penned some brilliant short verses inspired by the festival theme – a sense of place. It was fantastic to see so much creative energy concentrated in Frodsham."

"Our thanks go to our sponsors, the Arts Council, Frodsham Town Council and the Marshes Community Benefit Fund for making the festival possible and to the many volunteers who worked so hard to give everyone a wonderful time."

There were over 300 entries for the Adult flash fiction competition and children's Great Weaver Words poetry prize.

An estimated 1,000 tickets were sold for 15 events over three days. Most popular were Gyles Brandreth and Poet Ian McMillan.



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