

# Frodsham Life

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Issue No. 166  
January 2019

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# Editor's Comment



**FORGIVE us, please, if we again return in this column to the topic of the Goods Shed and parking provision at Frodsham Station.**

Elsewhere in this issue you will read that Cheshire West and Chester Council (CW&C) is looking into the possibility of constructing a two-deck car park at the station, providing 56 parking spaces, which could be built in the event of local businessman Paddy Bleakley coming up with a viable proposal for the re-use of a refurbished Goods Shed.

## Demolished

That's only four less than the 60 spaces which, according to CW&C's questionable calculations, would become available if the Goods Shed was demolished. And don't forget the very persuasive argument put forward by Frodsham resident Professor Andrew Basden last summer, that in fact the figure

of 60 is spurious anyway.

He pointed out that getting rid of the Goods Shed would provide only 17 extra spaces because the other 43 could be provided with demolishing the historic old building.

Whether or not the council's two-deck car park will require any of the 43 spaces we can't pretend to know, but even if it does, it would appear the capacity for providing extra parking at the station without demolishing the Goods Shed is significantly greater than CW&C was prepared to admit.

Of course, the two-deck car park plan has only emerged since Mr Bleakley came up with his

proposals, which suggests it has not even been thought of.

Could CW&C really have been prepared to demolish a building that Frodsham clearly wanted to keep without first studying all possibilities? Don't forget, the proposal was already before the planning committee and was only withdrawn at the last minute.

We have repeatedly said it was not our place to take sides in the debate over the future of the Goods Shed. But we are finding it increasingly difficult not to support the 73 per cent of Frodsham people who want to keep it.

**Deadline for the  
February  
issue of  
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is January 29**

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# Decked car park scheme for Frodsham station

**A DECKED car park, on two levels and capable of holding 56 cars, is being considered for Frodsham railway station.**

Cheshire West and Chester Council (CW&C) planning bosses are studying the idea following the decision to put on hold the application for planning consent to demolish the Goods Shed to make way for parking spaces.

This is to allow local businessman Paddy Bleakley time to develop his proposals to convert the Goods Shed into a unique destination venue for local organisations, complete with bar and café.

But CW&C chiefs stress that no firm decisions have been made yet.

The proposal to demolish the Goods Shed (below) to make way

for additional parking at the railway station was strongly opposed by Frodsham people, 73 per cent of who have indicated they would be opposed to the scheme.

The Town Council has also opposed the scheme.

Mr Bleakley – the man behind the successful transformation of Kash 22, in Church Street, Frodsham – believes the Goods Shed is an important landmark from a bygone age that has gone unused for too long.

He has a proven track record of creating a thriving hospitality business, organising events, promoting local musicians and

supporting the local community and believes the old building presents an opportunity to stimulate the local economy as a strong, creative hub rather than simply a parking lot for

commuters.

The Goods Shed would need extensive refurbishment and adaptation – and this would require private funding.




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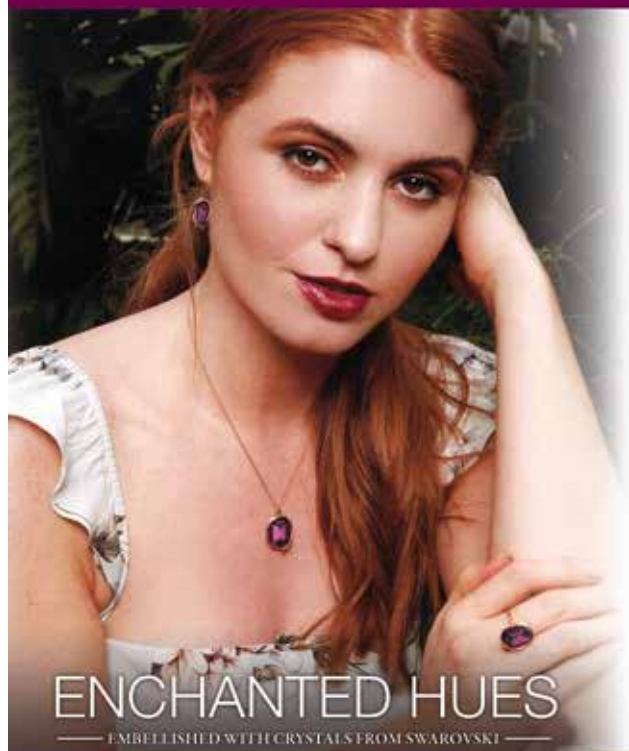
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# Families left homeless after gritter crash

**TWO families at Helsby were left homeless just eight days before Christmas after a gritter lorry plunged off the A56 Chester Road and caused serious damage to two houses.**

The recently-built houses – on the site of the old Robin Hood pub – were thought to be structurally unsafe after the crash, which occurred at 1am.

One house was left with a gaping hole in its front wall while the other suffered serious cracking of the front wall.

The two families were evacuated immediately and went to stay with family and friends.

Fortunately, no-one was injured – including the driver of the council gritter lorry who was initially trapped in his crushed cab but eventually released by firefighters. He was taken to hospital but was discharged shortly afterwards.

Building control officers from Cheshire West and Chester Council were swiftly on the scene to advise on safety and security.

An early inspection of the properties suggested that one at least might have to be partially demolished to enable repairs to be carried out.

But it was clear the families would not be spending Christmas at home and it is likely to be some time before the properties can be repaired.

The incident resulted in the A56 being closed for most of the following day. Bus services were disrupted and motorists faced diversions.



## COMMUNITY GRITTING SCHEME WINTER 2018/19



**Frodsham  
TOWN COUNCIL**

As Cheshire West and Chester Council do not grit our public pavements and footpaths, Frodsham Town Council (FTC) have decided to run a Community Gritting Scheme again this winter and are seeking volunteers to grit pavements and footpaths near their homes.

FTC will arrange for bags of grit to be delivered to volunteers homes, probably four times through the winter, depending on the severity of the weather. The grit is for use on public pavements and footpaths only, not roads or private drives.

FTC's Liability only extends to the supply and delivery of the grit to volunteers registered addresses. Thereafter volunteers will spread the grit having regard to the Community Gritting Scheme guidelines and without the involvement of the Council.

FTC will have no responsibility for when the grit is spread; accidents or incidents that occur through failure to spread the grit; or accidents or incidents that occur during the spreading of grit by volunteers.

Volunteers from previous years will need to re-register with FTC for the new scheme. Application forms are included here and also available from the Council Office.

### VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*FTC will use the information supplied solely for efficiently managing the community gritting scheme. Information will be stored in accordance with FTC's General Privacy Notice (available at [www.frodsham.gov.uk](http://www.frodsham.gov.uk) or from the FTC Office) and not passed to any other organisation or individual*

I confirm I have read and agree to the terms of the Scheme, Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: Frodsham Town Council, Castle Park, Frodsham, WA6 6SB.

**For further information please contact the Town Clerk on 01928 735150  
or email [townclerk@frodsham.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@frodsham.gov.uk)  
Frodsham Town Council, Castle Park, Frodsham, WA6 6SB**



# Magical market opens new Forest School

**FRODSHAM Weaver Vale Primary School celebrated the official opening of their new Forest School with a magical Christmas market.**

Visitors were led to the Forest School along a newly installed pathway, lit with fairy lights and professional lighting.

As guests walked along the path, the sun was setting in the distance and the smell of the campfire became stronger. Mulled punch was warming and the children were able to roast their own marshmallows on the open fire pit.



The school welcomed many faces from the community, including the Mayor of Frodsham, Cllr Lord Frank Pennington and his wife.

Before cutting the ribbon to open the Forest School, Lord Pennington told how, when he was the first Mayor of Frodsham, he purchased the land that Frodsham Weaver Vale is sited on, 22 acres for £10!

He then sold it to the council who developed the school. The children loved learning about the history of their school.

The New Year will be the school's 50th anniversary and they will be hosting a celebration event in the summer term.

As night fell, the pupils sang carols around the roaring fire. There was food, stalls, games a tuck shop and raffles. The Rotary Club of Frodsham and Helsby joined in, selling crocus bulbs that had been packaged by the school's 'Rota Kids Club.'

Key Stage 2 children surprised everyone with a 'flash mob' dance routine and Santa Claus flew by to hand out gifts and sweets. The event raised valuable funds to support the development of the school grounds.

Local businesses who would like to get involved in Frodsham Weaver Vale's 50th birthday in the summer, should get in touch via [admin@weavervale.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@weavervale.cheshire.sch.uk)



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# Special service to start Advent

**PUPILS and staff at Frodsham CE Primary School welcomed parents, governors, the PTA and representatives from the local parish, to their Advent Spiral Service.**

The service is a favourite for many - a lovely, special service to start the season of Advent. This year it gave the school time to stop and think about the theme of hope and the children shared their amazing hopes for the world.

Members of the school family took turns to light the candles within the spiral which by the end looked magical. During the service they learnt about the symbolism of

the Christingle.

It was a service which focused everyone at the beginning of the very busy festive season, on the true meaning of Christmas and reminded all that God sent Jesus to bring hope to the world.

Everyone who attended commented on what a beautiful service it was, preparing all for the excitement of Christmas, a time of hope, love, joy and peace.



## Lawyer campaigns for blame-free divorces

A FRODSHAM family lawyer is campaigning for a change in the law to reduce the fallout from divorce on children, after new figures revealed the impact of conflict between separating parents.

In a new poll, 79 per cent of the population agreed conflict from divorce or separation can negatively affect children's mental health, a figure rising to 87 per cent among those who experienced their parents' divorce as children.

Seventy seven per cent said conflict could affect children's academic performance and a further two-thirds felt social interactions and the ability to form healthy romantic relationships were also jeopardised.

Linda Hunter from Frodsham based Rowlinsons Solicitors is lobbying for change as part of a national "Good Divorce Week" that is being led by Resolution, who

campaign for a fairer family justice system and commissioned the new YouGov poll.

Good Divorce Week aims to provide practical help, highlighting ways for separating parents to put their children's needs first, as well as calling on government to urgently remove blame from the divorce process.

As 200,000 people divorce each year in England and Wales, an overwhelming 79 per cent of the public support measures that would remove blame from the divorce process, with 71 per cent believing change is urgently needed to reduce the negative impact on children.

Miss Hunter, who is a Collaboratively trained lawyer and mediator, specialising in family law, explained that while most parents she works with want to keep a child's best interest at the forefront, the current fault-based

divorce system can make this a challenge.

She said: "Each day I work with separating parents to help them resolve their own issues in a way that provides a fair outcome to everyone in the family, especially any children. But often, even with the most amicable break up, the requirement to apportion blame for the breakdown of the marriage can create unnecessary conflict that can often threaten the entire process."

"Currently, unless a couple can prove that they have been separated for two years with each of them providing their consent or five years without the consent of one party, the only way to get a divorce is to attribute blame. Around 60 per cent of divorces in England and Wales are based on fault, compared with only 6-7 per cent in Scotland, where the law is different."

"Many couples are surprised that

they cannot just cite 'irreconcilable differences' or say they've grown apart."

"With 90 per cent of professionals saying the current law makes it harder to reduce conflict between exes, Resolution has been campaigning for decades to remove blame from the divorce process. Evidence shows the impact of conflict stemming from the requirement to blame can have a detrimental effect on the couple and any children they may have."

Resolution has made resources available, both to the public but also local practitioners, to help them campaign to change the system and raise awareness of the long-term impact this conflict can have on children. These are available at [www.resolution.org.uk/GoodDivorceWeek](http://www.resolution.org.uk/GoodDivorceWeek)

# Happy New Year

By Councillors Andrew Dawson and Lynn Riley



## The famous 'F Word'

Ask anyone at Cheshire West and Chester Council about the "F" word and they will tell you it's fabulous Frodsham. We have a long-standing reputation at the Council for making sure that Frodsham's needs and aspirations are constantly being raised within the council generally and in the Council chamber in particular. Of all the council's 75 councillors we are both amongst the top contributors to debates and in raising questions and challenges – the fuss we created over the state of our roads recently being a case in point.

Leaving aside all our efforts in the debating chamber we've explained the local priorities to successive CWaC Chief Executives in 2015, again in 2016 and again to the newly appointed Chief Executive in 2018.

However, in spite of ensuring that the needs of Frodsham are constantly being raised – the Labour controlled council ignore us – other than to ensure that we have received the highest council tax rises anywhere in the Borough. We've received a particularly painful double whammy from them because, in addition to the 'maxed-out' council tax rises CWaC has given us each year, CWaC also took money from FTC forcing that council to put up its element of the council tax. Hence the double whammy which has contributed hugely to the 15% council tax rise we've all had to pay since Labour took power locally in 2015. Nowhere else in the Borough has faced higher increases.

## New Year's resolution

We want all this to change in 2019 and this is our New Year's Resolution.

We're ensuring that the pressure on the council is such that even though they have ignored us for the last 3½ years this won't be able to continue.

Did you know that CWaC Labour has ignored us even though each year there has been a surplus on the council tax collected, even though they created a £6m fund at the last

budget (February 2018) that hasn't even now been allocated, even though they continually report budget underspends and when the government is providing additional grant monies such as to repair our roads.

In 2010 CWaC's revenue budget was £244m with Council tax reduced in real terms by 14% to 2015; in 2018 its budget was £278m. In spite of these significant additional funds, not to mention the significant capital resources available (did you know the council is underspent on its budget to finance its borrowings) Labour has chosen not to invest in Frodsham. They did choose to spend much more money on consultants though – and have precious little to show for it.

## We want a fair deal for Frodsham

A fair deal for Frodsham would see:

- Our roads and footpaths repaired and properly maintained – getting our share of CWaC's resources and the extra money the government has provided specifically to repair the roads and potholes;
- Significant investment in Leisure facilities that we've always happily shared with our friends in Kingsley, Helsby and the other surrounding villages – we were next for investment in leisure in 2015 – but Labour has chosen not to invest in our leisure facilities;
- Investment in our public car parks – building capacity, encouraging people to come to Frodsham, making life easier for those who struggle with mobility, supporting our local shops and businesses, encouraging the use of public transport whilst protecting our residential roads – and doing away with unnecessary car parking charges;
- Action to protect our air quality – and to reduce traffic congestion – not yet more delays as we've endure so far;
- A real and effective CCTV system covering the centre of Frodsham, community assets such as Castle Park and Saltworks Farm and any residential area where it is needed to deter anti-social behaviour.



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 @clrandrewdawson

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 Vimeo: Frodsham Conservatives

Cheshire West and Chester Council, HQ Building, 58 Nicholas Street, Chester CH1 2NP



# Land of Beds announces 2019 recruitment drive

**A DATA scientist and digital marketing experts have been recruited by a Frodsham and Helsby bed retailer to futureproof the business for 2019 and beyond.**

Land of Beds were Highly Commended in the 'Large Online Bed Retailer of the Year' category at the 2018-19 Bed Industry Awards – coming second only to Argos.

To build on the success of this National Bed Federation (NBF) recognition, the family-run business is creating new jobs for local digital and online specialists at their Church Street headquarters.

"We feel fortunate to have two thriving stores at the heart of this local community, while also being officially recognised as the UK's leading independent online bed and mattress retailer," said Managing Director Mike Murray.

"I am proud that our Frodsham office is home to a truly talented ecommerce team, which has now been enhanced following the appointment of a data scientist and more digital marketers. We are also recruiting more software and web developers to ensure we remain a leading force when people are researching mattress and bed products online. The new recruits will begin work this month – ready to hit the ground running for 2019."

In addition to these specialist appointments, Land of Beds have also announced plans to recruit more administration and accounting staff to support the existing back office team.

"There's so much more to running a successful ecommerce business than simply creating a website," added Mike. "We have a customer call centre staffed by bed experts who have completed NBF-approved sales training; a

team of administrators who process all our orders; and a distribution hub at Astmoor, which is home to a network of delivery drivers who travel the length and breadth of the UK every day.

'Moving into 2019, this team of essential support staff has to grow, as our market share is only going to increase. We'd love to hear from

local people who want to belong to a fun and welcoming team, as well as becoming part of the Land of Beds success story."

To hear more about job opportunities at Land of Beds, or to submit a CV for consideration, email Operations Manager Vicky Lewis at [vicky@landofbeds.co.uk](mailto:vicky@landofbeds.co.uk)



Ecommerce team members Hannah Rushton McGregor and Sue Grady are pictured at the Land of Beds headquarters on Church Street, Frodsham



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## A trip out to animal park

CHILDREN from Frodsham CE Primary School enjoyed a trip out to Greenacres Animal Park, on Deeside, for their annual Christmas treat.

It was a fantastic day out for the youngsters, who saw all the animals, learned about reptiles, played in the playbarn and, of course, met Father Christmas himself.

Each Reception Class pupil was accompanied by their Year Six "Big

Buddy" who took very good care of them and demonstrated how kind and helpful they could be.

Reception teacher Mrs N. Evans said "This is such a lovely trip, and is a great opportunity for our new Reception class to build their confidence by having an exciting experience out of the classroom. It also helps their communication skills to spend the day with their Big Buddy. We all had such a wonderful day!"







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# Kingsley Players back on stage with magical musical 'Dr Dolittle'

**THE award-winning Kingsley Players are back on stage with an exciting journey to the magical world of Dr Dolittle at the end of January.**

Based on the much-loved stories of Hugh Lofting and the Twentieth Century Fox film starring Rex Harrison, this stage version features all the famous Broadway songs such as 'Talk to the Animals' and the Richard Attenborough classic 'I've Never Seen Anything Like It'.

The musical tells the story of the quirky but kind animal doctor who is wrongly accused of murder. Follow him on crazy adventures as he and his friends (human and animal) embark on a sea voyage to track down the Great Pink Sea Snail – the oldest, wisest creature on Earth.

Dylan White, who starred as Mr Tom in the recent award-winning production 'Goodnight Mr Tom', plays the title role of Dr Dolittle. He is joined on stage with a large talented cast which includes Matt Jones, Chloe Rigby, Andrea Jones, Joe Youds and Matthew Betteridge.

Director Lynn Pegler said: "This show is a treat for all ages and a joy to perform. We do, of course, have a dancing Pushmi Pullu, as well as a large menagerie of talking cows, pigs, horses, ducks and chimpanzees. What better way to banish the winter blues than by joining our enchanting visit to Puddleby-on-the-Marsh and the fantastic world of Dr Dolittle!"

Dr Dolittle will play for five performances at Kingsley Community Centre, Wednesday

23rd – Saturday 26th January, 2019, including a Saturday matinee. Dr Dolittle book, music and lyrics by Leslie Bricusse.

Tickets cost £7/£8, with £5 concessions available on

Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday matinee. Book in advance through the website [www.kingsleyplayers.co.uk](http://www.kingsleyplayers.co.uk) or by ringing the box office on 07724 892154.

<https://kingsleyplayers.co.uk/>



Kingsley Players cast in Dr Dolittle.

Dr Dolittle: Dylan White. Matthew Mugg: Matt Jones. Polynesia Parrot: Andrea Jones. Tommy: Matthew Betteridge. Gertie: Hazel Betteridge.

*Kingsley Players* present

**DOCTOR DOLITTLE**  
a magical musical  
directed by Lynn Pegler

**23-26 JANUARY 2019**  
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**KINGSLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
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Tickets available at [kingsleyplayers.co.uk](http://kingsleyplayers.co.uk)  
or telephone the box office on (07724) 892154

Book, music and lyrics by Leslie Bricusse based on the Dr Dolittle stories by Hugh Lofting and the 20th Century Fox film. This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe).

## Council support for Friends of Hob Hey Wood

FRODSHAM Town Council has thanked volunteers from the Friends Hob Hey Wood for work they have carried out in the woodland.

Members of the council's environment committee were told the impact of the work on the wood was clearly visible.

The work had been possible due to support given by the Mersey Forest, but there was concern that without further support the momentum would be lost.

The Friends were having difficulties getting a bank account so were unable to apply for grants to support their future work.

Council chairman Cllr Alan Oulton said he keen to support the group and proposed additional funding to enable Mersey Forest to continue to support them with a grant of £1,050.

The group would be free to ask for further support once their bank account had been opened and there were able to operate more independently.

## Local plan modifications open for consultation

MODIFICATIONS to the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies are open for public consultation until Sunday February 3.

They can be viewed online or as hard copies at Frodsham Library.

Examination hearings were held in September and after they closed, the inspector, Ms Roisin Barrett, identified main modifications that are considered necessary to make the plan sound and/or legally compliant and it is these modifications that are now open for consultation.

All interested parties may make comments on the modifications and the inspector will take account of all comments received before finalising her report to Cheshire West and Chester Council.

But comments must only be made in relation to the main modifications. The consultation is not an opportunity to repeat or raise further representations about the published plan or to seek further changes to it.

The schedule of main modifications and the supporting sustainability appraisal and habitats Regulations Assessment is available to view online at: [https://consult.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/portal/cwc\\_ldf/cw\\_lp\\_part\\_two/sub/mm](https://consult.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/portal/cwc_ldf/cw_lp_part_two/sub/mm).

A statement of representations procedure can also be found there.

Comments must be sent directly to the Planning Policy team and received by Sunday February 3.

\* By email to: [planningpolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicy@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

\* By post to: Planning Policy, Cheshire West and Chester Council, 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE.



# New hope for the kids not picked for the school choir!

**KIDS who were never picked to be in the school choir can take hope from the story of Frodsham Sings member Jackie Pooler.**

Like many adults she thought singing was for soloists only until she "found her voice" by joining the community choir founded by Frodsham Transition Initiative in 2013.

"When I first saw the choir performing I was so impressed I thought I'd give it a go."

She did just that and now extols the benefits of singing in a choir.

Choir members report that singing:

"Lifts my mood and keeps me well."

"Takes me 'out of myself', and is a reason to get out".

"Gives me a sense of 'belonging' by having the communal goal of making a piece of music together."

"Makes me 'Feel as though I've done a workout.'"

The British Lung Foundation has developed a 'Singing for Lung Health' programme ([www.blf.org.uk/support-for-you/singing-for-lung-health](http://www.blf.org.uk/support-for-you/singing-for-lung-health)), and the Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust, the largest specialist heart and lung centre in the UK, has the 'Singing for Breathing' programme. Both of these, teach patients an understanding of breath control through the use of the voice, which helps them to feel more in control of their breath and so manage their symptoms better.

There are many other lesser-known charities that run choirs as a

means of improving health.

Frodsham Sings has about 70 members and is an inclusive choir, so everyone, able or disabled, is welcome. There are no auditions, nor a requirement to read music. Free taster sessions are offered.

Jackie said: "I joined the choir last year. We sing a wide range of songs from Abba, George Ezra,

Carol King, the Everley Brothers, Barry Manilow and many others – we cater for all tastes!"

'Frodsham Sings perform at local events such as the Festival in the Park', as well as at Christmas events and in local nursing homes. They were selected to open the annual Frodsham Singathon, a yearly event in which choirs and musicians contribute to a full day of sharing fantastic music and

song. The choir also takes part in workshops and has a vibrant social life which includes theatre trips and attendance at special choir events such as the Eisteddfod at Llangollen.

Anyone interested in joining should check notice boards in local shops, surgeries, library or community centre or do as Jacqueline did – Google 'Frodsham Sings', or "community choir Frodsham."





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# Winter Wonderland helps raise £2,000 for Sled Dog Rescue charity

**DESPITE bad weather the Winter Wonderland event at Castle Park raised £2,000 for the Saints Sled Dog Rescue charity.**

The voluntary run, non-profit charity aims to help as many unwanted and stray Siberian Huskies and Alaskan Malamutes as possible through the process of fostering and rehoming, or simply supports their owners with help and advice.

While there were some issues concerning the artificial skating rink, which didn't match expectations event organiser Kelly Lee said she was "overwhelmed" with many positive aspects.

Kelly said: "I'd like to thank everybody that braved the weather and visited our first Winter Wonderland event held in Castle Park. It's has been an incredibly over whelming weekend in regards to so many aspects.

"From the moment we were granted use of the park to host this event around 10 weeks ago we knew there would be hurdles given the lead time but I have put my heart and soul into organising this event and I have truly enjoyed every minute. Cheshire West & Chester council, their parks development officer Andy James and Councillor Lynne Riley and senior localities manager Pam Bradley have gone above and beyond to ensure I was supported on this build up and I can't thank you all enough.

"It's been so lovely to see all of the amazing photos, videos and reviews sent to our Facebook page. As with every event there are lessons to be learnt and room for improvement and I completely empathise with the handful of visitors that have suggested they were expecting more from Winter Wonderland. Unfortunately we were drastically let down with our synthetic ice skating rink and this is not what we were expecting but that aside it was great to see so many people enjoying it. Those that have raised concerns have been issued with 100% refunds.

"Unfortunately the weather

wasn't on our side on Friday evening and all day Saturday, this combined with over 5000 visitors arriving on Sunday created a lot of mud within the park, we're working really hard with Cheshire West & Chester council to get the ground back to its original condition as quickly as possible.

"A large proportion of our visitors came from outside of Frodsham with the prominent towns being Winsford, Chester and St Helens. We have been able to gather this information from the location of pre purchased skating tickets. We received a lot of lovely comments about how beautiful it was driving through Frodsham

"Due to strong winds and heavy rain on Saturday a number of artisan craft traders had to pack up and leave due to risk of damages and financial loss. We're extremely grateful to those that came back on Sunday morning to brave the cold and wow what a day it was.

"We've had some lovely feedback from all of our catering traders that came along over the weekend and again, we'd like to thank them for sticking with us and supporting the event.

"The highlight for us was receiving the news that Saints Sled Dog Rescue we're able to raise over £2000 from the event with which is just amazing.

"Huge thanks to Chris and Matt and the rest of the team at Frodsham Round Table for hosting our Grotto and you're overall support for myself and the event. This is greatly appreciated.

"This support is what got us through the weekend and I also owe thanks to JW electrical solutions for your dedication to ensuring this event ran smoothly and going out of your way to help.

"I look forward to taking all of your feedback on board and putting on Winter Wonderland for you again next year."

Pictures: Frodsham & District Photographic Society



More pictures on page 14...



# Helsby company helps keep ice at bay at the Kremlin

**KEEPING the ice at bay outside the Kremlin and providing hot water to the world's elite athletes is all in a day's work to a successful Helsby company.**

Weaver Vale MP Mike Amesbury was invited to visit Heat Trace recently, where he was given an insight into the work they do.

Established in 1974, Heat Trace Limited is now one of the world's leading suppliers of electric heat tracing equipment and has doubled its workforce in the last five years.

The company provides the tech which heats the sloped entrance to the Kremlin, keeping it free of ice and snow even during the fierce Moscow winters.

During the London Olympics in 2012, their tech also made it possible for the athletes to enjoy instant hot running water.

They were one of the sponsors for HoHoHelsby Christmas community event where they had their own parade float. They have also actively funded philanthropic endeavours in the community in the past.

Shadow Employment Minister Mike met with managing director Dan Berrisford where they discussed a range of topics such as Brexit, future plans and staff recruitment.

Mike said: "This company is a real success story and they're going from strength to strength."

"They're committed to their

community and are one of only a handful of companies in the world doing what they do, and one of very few that are involved in

research and development in their field.

"As a Labour politician I was also delighted to hear that they pay more than the real living wage and that they're also currently hiring, so anyone currently looking for a role

should get in touch."

He added: "They have some exciting plans in the pipeline and I've pledged to do whatever I can to help them achieve their goals and continue providing high quality jobs for my constituents."



...Winter Wonderland pictures continued from page 13





# Productive meeting over new 3G pitch plan

**LOCAL MP Mike Amesbury has met with council chiefs to discuss plans for a major sporting infrastructure project in his constituency.**

The Weaver Vale MP has been working with Frodsham Junior Football Club, local campaigners and Cheshire FA over the past year on plans for a new 3G pitch at Helsby High School for use by the club and community, as well as the school itself.

Mike met with Cheshire West and Chester Council leaders, where top of the agenda was discussing progress for the scheme.

The club has raised £100,000 through fundraising to put into the project, with the Football Foundation set to invest £650,000.

Mike said: "I have been pleased to work closely with Frodsham Juniors FC, Cheshire West and Chester Council, the Football

Foundation and Cheshire County FA to give them all the support I can to make this project a reality.

"The fundraising efforts they have undertaken have been spectacular, and I know from my meetings with colleagues including local campaigners Mike Garvey and Michelle Parker that the proposal has significant local support, as Frodsham Juniors is a fantastic local community club.

Following the meeting Mike said: "My discussions with the council were hugely productive and I'm now more confident than ever that they're going to get the ball over the line with this extremely valuable project."

## Inspector throws out plan for "incongruous dwelling"

A PLANNING inspector has thrown out an appeal against the refusal of planning permission for a new dwelling in the grounds of Simons Delf, a large detached house in Simons Lane, Frodsham.

The scheme, which involved refurbishing an existing single-storey garage to create an additional dwelling on land next to Simons Delf, was originally turned down by Cheshire West and Chester Council (CW&C).

An appeal was lodged and subsequently heard by Mr S.J. Lee, an inspector appointed by the Secretary of State.

Mr Lee said the appeal related to a domestic garage in the grounds of a large detached house in a quiet country lane.

He concluded the development would result in an extremely small dwelling wholly out of character with the scale and nature of Simons Delf.

"I saw nothing of a similar scale or design in the area and I also see nothing innovative in converting a domestic garage into a dwelling and it would not result in a well designed and complementary house.

"I consider the creation of a small and incongruous dwelling such as this would be out of place in its context."

Mr Lee said the development would be in an unsustainable location, that there would be no need for the development to be in the open countryside and there would be harm to the character and appearance of the area.

## Another busy month for photographic society

FRODSHAM & District Photographic Society had another busy month in December.

The photo-shoot in Liverpool captured Christmas lights, decorations and a street market which satisfied most keen photographers.

But happily another chance presented with the Frost Fair and decorated floats in the Frodsham Christmas Festival.

The monthly Competition 'People' was won in the Print Category by Lynda Haney with a very pleasing monochrome photograph of her mother reflecting on her younger days while in the Projected Digital Images Peter Edward's delightful image of 'Julia' was judged best - shown here.

All the entries can be viewed on the Society's website [www.frodshamphoto.org.uk](http://www.frodshamphoto.org.uk)

On January 21 there is a Presentation by Colin Bell - Landscape Photography in Delamere Forest and the Lake District - which

will be worth seeing.

Visitors can attend for a small fee and would be made very welcome. And if you are interested in joining

## 200 complete Neighbourhood Plan quiz

NEARLY 200 households completed a questionnaire in connection with the Kingsley Neighbourhood Plan.

Next step for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is to analyse the comments received and develop a draft vision for the Neighbourhood Plan itself.

Once this has been done, it is hoped to hold a couple of "drop in" events to discuss the proposals early in the New Year.

Aim of the plan is to give local people more say about future development of the village.

Anyone interested in getting involved in the Steering Group can attend one of their meetings on the first Monday of every month at the Hurst Methodist Church at 7.30pm or email [kingsley.nps@gmail.com](mailto:kingsley.nps@gmail.com)

## Appeal against bungalows plan

AN appeal has been lodged against the refusal by Cheshire West and Chester Council to grant planning permission for two bungalows on land adjoining 34, Top Road, Kingsley.

Last date for representations from members of the public is January 8.

A number of planning applications have been made for development in the Kingsley area.

These include a proposal to convert and extend an existing barn at Old Far, Roddy Lane, to create one dwelling, demolition of an existing building at the rear of The Homestead, Norley Road, to make way for a single storey dwelling, and a retrospective applications for a new 1.2 metres high boundary fence at Kinsbrook, Dark Lane.



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