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Issue No. 168
March 2019

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Editor's Comment



ARE you interested in becoming a councillor?

The question is asked in an article on Frodsham Town Council's website and it is timely as local council elections are to be held on May 2 for both Frodsham Town Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC).

In the article, Andrew Lewis, CWaC's chief executive, who is also returning officer for the elections, says: "Becoming a councillor is a great way to make a direct and positive impact on the daily lives of people in your community."

Meaningful

He is right, of course, and here in Frodsham we hope there will be plenty of people coming forward to seek election.

The Town Council consists of 16 councillors, so if we are to have a meaningful election we require at least 32 people seeking office.

Mr Lewis, in his article, points out that election candidates do not need to be members of political parties and we think at town and parish council level, this is an important point. Frodsham Town Council does, currently, have members representing political parties, but to their credit it is seldom that party politics play any part in debate or decisions.

The word on the street is that a

number of the existing members of council will not be seeking election – possibly as many as seven or eight. If this turns out to be the case, it is inevitable that the new council will be very different to the present and may well include a significant number of members with little or no experience of local government.

This being so, it is good to know the council has not only filled the vacant post of town clerk, but filled it with a very experienced officer.

Jo Donoghue has been acting

as locum town clerk since January, has been a parish clerk for 13 years and is fully qualified with the Certificate in Local Council Administration.

We welcome her. She sounds like just the person the council needs at a time of change.

Nominations for the elections close at 4pm on April 3.

**Deadline for the April
issue of Frodsham Life
is March 26**

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New group offers emotional wellbeing support

A NEW group for people needing emotional wellbeing support has launched in Frodsham.

Bounce Back now meets every second Monday each month at Frodsham Community Church on Main Street, from 1.30 to 2.30pm.

Volunteers

It is organised by Tracey Hewitt and volunteers from Mid Cheshire Mind.

The group is for anyone needing support with anything affecting their emotional wellbeing. This could be stress and anxiety, depression, loneliness or some other condition or problem they would like support with.

The first meeting was attended by six people, three volunteers and Tracey Hewitt from Mind.

The group helped each other as well as having advice from Tracey.

She also gave a demonstration of a way to calm down when stressed or having a panic attack. Several coping strategies for stress and anxiety were also shared by other members of the group.

The group decided that it would be useful to learn more about Mindfulness at the next meeting on Monday, March 11.



Gypsy jazz at Castle Park

LEGENDARY Dutch guitarist Lollo Meier brings his quartet to Frodsham's Castle Park Arts Centre on March 22.

The group, led by Lollo on guitar, with Andre Doni on clarinet, Filippo Dali'Asta on rhythm guitar and Umberton Calentini on double bass, plays gypsy-style swing music in the style of the late Django Reinhardt.

In fact, Lollo's professed goal is to keep the music of Django alive with a style and technique that's traditional, melodious, lyrical, sensitive and joyful...

The concert starts at 8pm and tickets are £15 in advance or £18 on the night. They are available from the Arts Centre on 01928 735832.



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Photo by: Peter Edwards

Photographic society delighted to win annual competition

EACH year Frodsham & District Photographic Society takes part in a 3-Way Competition with Northwich and Mid-Cheshire Photographic clubs.

It requires 10 Prints and 10 Projected Digital Images from each society to compete in the battle for a trophy. It was very pleasing indeed that this year Frodsham was the winner.

An image from the event, 'Portia' by Peter Edwards, is shown here.

Meanwhile The Photographic Alliance of Great Britain has an Exhibition on show at Wilkinson Cameras, 4 Bold Street, Liverpool, from 4th March for 4 weeks. This is a prestigious Exhibition showing 60 quality prints from top UK amateur photographers. The Society's Lynda Haney had an image selected for display - 'Elephant Family' – and if you are in the city have a look.

Mark Reeves recently presented 'Messing Around with the Landscape' while on the 18th there is Stephen Lewis with 'Timeshift' – highlighting the increasingly popular genre of timelapse photography meeting at Castle Park Arts Centre at 7.30pm.

Images from LichtVast Foto, the Society's exchange club in Belgium, will be shown on the 25th. It is interesting to see the variety of work from another country and the link is very much appreciated.

For more info on the society visit www.frodsham.photos

Green hearts #ShowTheLove

MORE than 250 individually made green hearts were distributed around Frodsham as part of the Climate Coalition's #ShowTheLove campaign.

Frodsham WI "bombed" the town with the hearts as their contribution to the campaign.

Residents were asked to search for them and then take them home to start a conversation about climate change.

The scheme was supported by Frodsham Town Council and by MP Mike Amesbury.

People were asked to send in photos of their favourite "finds".

Vivien Shaw, joint president of Frodsham WI, said: "It was a great success. People were really involved in it; asking where they could find a heart; and most importantly what the campaign was about. Our Facebook posts had over 1000 responses and we had lots of delightful pictures of local children and dogs sporting their green hearts."

"Lots of people wrote how it had cheered them up, but also made them think about the serious message of starting a conversation about climate change."

Solicitors name their "charity of the year"

FRODSHAM-based solicitors Rowlinsons have named Haemochromatosis UK as their charity of the year for 2019.

The charity supports people affected by genetic haemochromatosis (GH), which is a genetic disorder that causes the body to absorb an excessive amount of iron from their diet, building up to toxic levels. This "iron overload" is potentially very damaging and symptoms can include arthritis, liver disorders, diabetes and chronic fatigue.

Haemochromatosis UK provide support and information services to patients and their families and are the only organisation in the UK specifically working for this group. The charity works to raise awareness of GH with healthcare professionals, in an effort to improve the speed of diagnosis and support various research initiatives into the condition.

Donna Eland, director at Rowlinsons Solicitors said: "We have chosen to support Haemochromatosis UK this year because two of our members of staff have been diagnosed with the condition in the past 12 months, and we have all been surprised

at the apparent lack of public awareness of what is a relatively common condition.

"We put a shortlist of three charities to a staff vote to be our charity of the year for 2019 and Haemochromatosis UK received overwhelming support. We will be aiming to support the charity throughout 2019 not only by raising funds, but also helping to raise awareness of this condition."

David Head, chief executive of Haemochromatosis UK said: "When we heard that two staff members at Rowlinsons have GH, it just re-iterated how common the

condition is, yet just how little is known about it. We are pleased to have been chosen as the charity of the year for Rowlinsons, and are looking forward to working with them to raise awareness of genetic haemochromatosis.

"I'm sure we can have some fun along the way as I know there are some great events planned by the Rowlinsons team, including a hike up Snowdon, plenty of cake sales and a 5-a-side football tournament."

For more information on Haemochromatosis UK visit <http://haemochromatosis.org.uk/>



Left to right: Jonathan Gandy, Suzy Makin, David Head, Sarah Butt, Sophie Ost, Hannah Butterworth and Donna Eland



**Frodsham
TOWN COUNCIL**

NEW COUNCIL MANAGER

Ms Jo Donoghue has been appointed as Frodsham's new Town Clerk.

Jo has been acting as Locum Town Clerk at Frodsham since January. She has been a Parish Clerk for the past 13 years and qualified as Clerk with the Certificate in Local Council Administration in 2009.

Jo says: "During this time I have continued to keep up to date with the latest initiatives in government legislation affecting local town and parish councils which have been considerable. I am currently undergoing a programme of Continuing Professional Development through the Society of Local Council Clerks and am a Principle Member of the Society."



"I very much enjoy my job, which is always full of variety, from bus shelters to woodland, parks, pavements and hedges to dealing with day to day management to name just a few of the roles!"

"Meeting residents is always a pleasure and I consider it a privilege to be at the front line of local government, working with a dedicated group of elected and co-opted Councillors. In my spare time I enjoy reading, gardening and drag racing an American 1968 C10 Chevy truck."

FRODSHAM'S 16TH FESTIVAL OF WALKS

Whether you fancy a ramble up hills and across fields, a stroll along flat paths or just a bit of fun in the fresh air, there's something for you.

Most of the walks explore the countryside around Frodsham. Many have an interesting theme about the local history, geology or wildlife.

New for this year is the Police Community Support Officer's walk for young people and tours of the Frodsham Wind Farm. Old favourites return in the dog walks and the enjoyable buggy push. The hugely popular Family Treasure Trail moves to Castle Park.

There is no need to book for most walks, but a few require booking because places are limited.

Frodsham Town Council is grateful for the hard work of the voluntary organisers and walk leaders who make the Festival popular. Full details of the programme will be available from late March.

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Frodsham Town Council, Castle Park, Frodsham, WA6 6SB

FRODSHAM Festival of Walks

Saturday 27 April – Monday 6 May 2019



**Frodsham
TOWN COUNCIL**



SandstoneRidge

"Brush up your skills" session for older drivers at Frodsham

DRIVERS over 60 years of age will be offered a chance to brush up their driving skills at Frodsham on Friday, April 5.

The Town Council has joined forces with Cheshire West and Chester's road safety team to offer the "Drive Safely for Longer" seminar at Frodsham Golf Club, Simons Lane, from 10am to 2.30pm.

The course is designed to give reassurance, helping drivers aged 60 or over to continue to drive confidently, improve their driving skills, and provide advice on changes in road traffic law, road layouts and traffic signs.

The road safety team will also be promoting "Safely for Longer" driving assessments which mature drivers who reside in Cheshire West and Chester can access free of charge once they have attended the seminar. These are two-hour sessions out on the road with an approved driving instructor, helping them brush up on their skills

and learn some techniques for safer driving.

Requirements such as eyesight and insurance will be discussed with the driver before setting off on a drive and advice and tips are provided to enhance their driving skills along the way. The driving instructor will look at the how the driver deals with various traffic situations on familiar roads and make recommendations to help ensure continual safety.

The session will be arranged at a time and place convenient to participants who prefer to use their own vehicle. It will be an informal and confidential session which simply aims to enhance current skills. It is not a driving test, so there is no pass or fail.

Cheshire West and Chester's lead member for environment, Cllr Karen Shore said: "These free sessions will ensure that mature drivers are given additional skills to keep themselves independent for as long as possible. It is important that



people continue to drive and feel confident and safe whilst doing so."

Places at the seminar are limited, so booking is essential.

To book, or for more

information about the Drive Safely for Longer assessments, please email: Roadsafety@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or call 01244 976713.

Drop-in sessions organised for Kingsley Neighbourhood Plan

TWO drop-in events have been arranged to give residents an update on the work of the Kingsley Neighbourhood Plan steering group.

They will be held on Wednesday, March 20 between 6pm and 9pm at Kingsley Village Institute and on Saturday, March 23, between 10am and 1pm at Kingsley Community Centre.

Villagers will be able to hear about the progress the steering group has made over the last 12 months, the findings of the group's first public consultation, the results of an independently commissioned housing needs survey and, importantly, what a Neighbourhood Plan is and why Kingsley needs one to ensure local people have a say on the future development of the village.

Vision

A spokesperson for the steering group said: "We've drafted the vision and objectives for the Kingsley Neighbourhood Plan and now we

want to get feedback from the community so we can check that we have got it right. As they will set the direction for what we will be aiming to achieve with the Neighbourhood Plan."

Influence

A Neighbourhood Plan provides a way to help local communities influence planning in the area in which they live and work and can be used to develop a shared vision for the neighbourhood.

Once the plan has been prepared and checked by an independent examiner to make sure it meets the correct basic standards it will then be put to local residents in a referendum to ensure the community has the final say on whether it comes into force.

If more than 50 per cent of the people voting in the referendum support the plan, then the local planning authority – Cheshire West and Chester Council – must bring it into force.

Town council seeks CCTV meeting

FRODSHAM Town Council is seeking a meeting with Cheshire West and Chester officers to discuss CCTV provision in the town.

The town council's community committee wants to send a deputation of four councillors to a meeting with Vanessa Griffiths, CWaC's regulatory services manager to discuss progress.

They also want to visit the central monitoring centre in Chester where CWaC staff monitor a bank of 30 CCTV cameras.

Cllr Liam Jones said CCTV for Frodsham could not be completed without the support of CWaC and it was vital that any provision for Frodsham was monitored through the existing centre in Chester.

Cllr Lord Frank Pennington said he understood CWaC would be providing a temporary system which would cover High Street, Main Street and Church Street. However, the Town Council has not been informed of this officially.

Frodsham Station wins "best kept garden" award



FRODSHAM Station has won the "Best Kept Gardens" award in the annual Best Kept Stations

awards.

Cllr Liam Jones, deputy Mayor of Frodsham, who was at the award

ceremony, said: "This is fantastic and is recognition for the hard work the volunteers at the North

Cheshire Rail Users Group do."

Cllr Donna Critchley, of Frodsham Town Council,

added: "That's brilliant news. All the volunteers do a marvellous job."

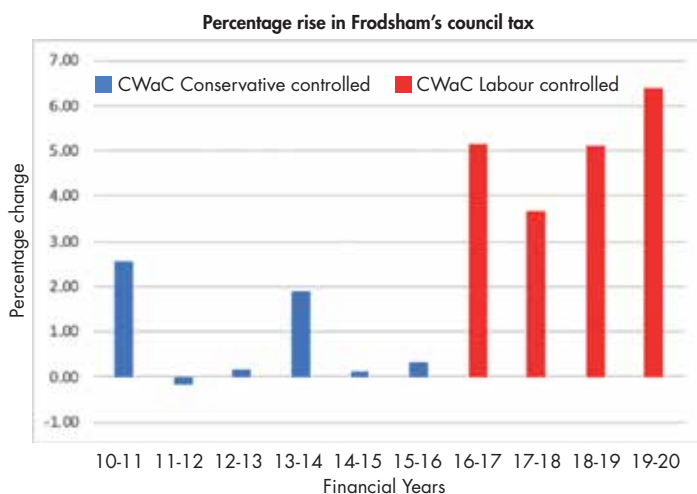
It didn't have to be this way

By Councillors Andrew Dawson and Lynn Riley



On Thursday, 21 February, Labour controlled CWaC set the council tax. For the fourth year running CWaC's element of the council tax has been increased by the maximum amount permitted - 4.99% - without triggering a referendum.

However, Frodsham residents will see their council tax rise by a staggering 6.4%. This is because our council tax bills also include contributions to the police, the fire service and Frodsham Town Council. The Police and Crime Commissioner increased his council tax by 13.6%, the Fire Authority increased theirs by 2.99%. Frodsham Town Council increased theirs by 23.1% - hence our council tax rising over all by an inflation busting 6.4%.



If you look back over the 4 years since Labour has been in control of CWaC our council tax has risen by a staggering 21.3%.

This year, yet again CWaC has collected significantly more in council tax than it had expected - more than £3m this year alone. It can't even spend the money it has, or spend what it has wisely. The unallocated £6m in last year's budget went unspent. It is now in a reserves account and may well be spent on financing 'early retirements'.

The money is there - it just isn't being spent or spent wisely

We all moan about the state of Frodsham's roads. Within CWaC we've been raising them at the highest levels. We've tabled questions at our council meetings and by giving the Chief Executive a personal tour.



Potholes on Ashton Drive.

We drove through the potholes with the Chief Executive including on both Ashton Drive and Howey Lane so he could see just how badly his council is failing.

Last Autumn the Government gave CWaC an additional

£3.52m specifically to address potholes. So far CWaC has only spent 1/10th of that money. It was all meant to be spent by the end of March 2019. If the money isn't spent soon it may have to be returned to the Government. Also we don't have any confidence that if CWaC 'dashes to spend the cash' we'll get the long term quality fixes that our roads so desperately need.

Can you believe it - even though the money is there, it's in CWaC's bank account there are no current plans to fix either Ashton Drive or Howey Lane - to name but two of our severely damaged and potholed roads!

Car parking charges and the station car park

CWaC Labour are to introduce car parking charges in Frodsham explicitly as a measure to reduce demand for spaces.

That's right their plan is deliberately to discourage people driving to Frodsham. There seems to have been no consideration for older people who need their cars more or the effect on reducing visitor numbers for our shops, pubs and restaurants.

CWaC's own figures show a need for between 300-360 car parking spaces at the Station Car Park to cater with the increased demand once the Halton Curve opens. There are only around 200 spaces at the station car park now. There are at least some plans from the council to build a small 'second deck' which will provide around 50 or so spaces.

However, this will leave around 100 or so cars without places to park. This short sightedness and failure to make a proper investment will, in our view lead to cars being parked in residential streets. This we can see will lead to residents parking schemes being required throughout Frodsham. We don't fancy £60 per year per car - do you?

It's only the air we breathe

So even though CWaC's own Revenue Budget is close on £300m a year and its capital budget close on £100m, even though the government has given it another £3.53m and even though we have an Air Quality Management Area ('AQMA') on the A56 at the Fluin Lane junction CWaC still have no plans to bring about transport related air quality improvements in Frodsham. The council admits it is behind in addressing this issue. Shockingly CWaC Highways don't routinely factor in the pollution caused by standing traffic at road works. The road works at the Rock would have seen one-way traffic light-controlled traffic if we hadn't pointed out to CWaC that this would cause extended lines of traffic and would damage yet further the air quality in the AQMA. Sadly we have come to the view that this council does not care about air quality in Frodsham.

Labour promised us the cleanest, greenest and safest streets in Britain ahead of the last election. In our view Frodsham is being short changed. Frodsham is evidently not a sufficient priority for street cleaning, for CCTV or for improving our air quality. We've been calling for effective CCTV to support public safety and traffic management for years - but CWaC isn't listening. They're suggesting a CCTV system with only 2 cameras. Well with a bit of ingenuity and co-operation from our local businesses we can do so much better than this.

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Vimeo: Frodsham Conservatives

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

Would-be PC's discrimination victory over police

A FRODSHAM man who applied to join Cheshire Police but was turned down because he was a white heterosexual male without disability has successfully lodged a discrimination claim against the force.

In a landmark case, believed to be the first of its kind, an employment tribunal at Liverpool, ruled that Matthew Furlong's claim under Section 13 of the Equality Act 2010 on the grounds of sexual orientation, race and sex was "well founded" and successful.

The hearing lasted four days at the end of which the Tribunal concluded that Mr Furlong, 25, would have succeeded in his application and been appointed a police constable had Cheshire Police not applied "positive action" at the interview stage because they wanted to recruit more people from ethnic minorities or who were gay, transgender or disabled.

Mr Furlong's father, Detective Inspector Liam Furlong, is a member of the force and raised the complaint of discrimination on his son's behalf.

The tribunal was told that Matthew Furlong applied to become a police officer in September 2017 and was shortlisted the following month. He attended the Police Assessment Centre and was notified that he had passed and would be invited to an "in Force interview."

He was successful at the interview but was later told that despite his pass at interview stage he had been unsuccessful as there were not enough vacancies for all who had passed.

Judge Clare Grundy, in her judgement, said the then Acting Chief Constable, Janette McCormick, who gave evidence at the hearing, believed passionately about positive action and a diverse police force.

"She is clearly a trailblazer who feels strongly that the force requires some significant change," she said.

The judge found that the interview pass threshold had been set "artificially low" and candidates were awarded a simple pass or fail, which meant substantial numbers were "deemed equal" when in reality some were much better than others...

The force did this so it could appoint officers from minority groups ahead of the best scoring applicants.

Cheshire Police could be ordered to pay Mr Furlong damages at a remedy hearing yet to be held.

In a statement, Matthew Furlong said: "My dad has served more than 20 years with Cheshire Police and I had always wanted to follow in his footsteps, ever since school. Not just anywhere but in the place I grew up.

"The people who interviewed me said it was refreshing to meet someone so well-prepared and that I couldn't have done more. I was on cloud nine.

"When I found out what had



happened, I was shocked I really didn't know what to make of it because I automatically assumed a body like the police couldn't possibly have made that kind of mistake.

"It has completely shattered my confidence in the police force recruitment system.

"The irony of the whole thing is that throughout the whole process I was required to demonstrate my honesty and integrity and they have completely undermined that. Had I lied on my interview form and said I was bisexual, for instance, there's a strong possibility I would be working for Cheshire Police now based on a lie.

"I absolutely agree that a force should represent the equality and diversity of the community it serves but that must be



achieved legitimately and without discriminating against anyone. It felt to me like this was putting a sticky plaster over the problem rather than addressing the root cause. It was a step too far and ultimately was a disproportionate response to the underlying issues.

"I am not the only person who has been affected by this. There are many other white heterosexual males who undoubtedly left the whole interview process with the impression that they weren't good enough when in fact many were. In addition, I worry for the candidates who have been appointed as they may question whether they were appointed based on merit or whether they simply has a particular protected characteristic.

"I am delighted that the tribunal found in my favour and I hope it

will prevent the same thing from happening again, but I don't know what I want to do now. If I applied again and did get in I would worry that the same issues could arise if I went for a promotion. It has certainly made it very difficult for me to continue down that path."

Jennifer Ainscough, an employment lawyer at Mr Furlong's solicitors, Slater and Gordon, said: "Matthew was denied his dream job simply because he was a white, heterosexual male.

"This is the first reported case of its kind in the UK where positive action has been used in a discriminatory way. Matthew's courage in pursuing this will hopefully ensure it is the last.

"Had he not been such an exceptional candidate he may not even have suspected anything was wrong and this unlawful and unacceptable selection process may have been allowed to continue.

"Positive action is an important tool to support a diverse workforce that reflects the community in which we live. However it must be applied lawfully to ensure the highest calibre of candidates are recruited regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation and to ensure standards in police forces are maintained to properly protect our society.

"This is an incredibly important ruling and something all employers need to be aware of in the future when using positive action.

"They must be prepared to show that their recruitment process is lawful or risk leaving themselves open to similar claims, in which this case would almost certainly be relied upon."

A spokesperson for Cheshire Police said: "We have been notified of the outcome of the tribunal and will review the findings."



Win a prize on World Book Day



FRODSHAM Library is celebrating World Book Day on Thursday March 7 by offering a special prize to quiz competition winners.

Youngsters' knowledge of children's books will be tested in a free World Book Day Quiz being given out at the libraries.

The lucky winners will receive copies of all the World Book Day books.

This year's World Book Day books are: Cruella And Cadpig by Peter Bently; Ten Little Bookworms by Mike Brownlow; Hubert Horatio: A Very Fishy Tale by Lauren Child; Lego Minifigure Mayhem; Bad Mermaids by Sibeal Pounder; Claude: Best In Show by Alex T Smith; Percy Jackson And The Singer Of Apollo by Rick Riordan; The Great Rocket Robbery by Frank Cottrell Boyce; Diary of Greg Heffley's Best Friend by Jeff Kinney; Ever Dark by Abi Elphinstone; Snap by Patrick Lawrence and Nought Forever by Malorie Blackman.

Cllr Louise Gittins (pictured), Cheshire West and Chester's lead member for Communities and Wellbeing, said: "On World Book Day, libraries up and down the borough are expecting lots of nursery and class visits to see what's on offer. The staff members enjoy seeing the children dressed up as book characters. Some of the staff have even been known to put on fancy dress themselves as well. The competition is an opportunity to win a great selection of books and support your local library."

Joining the library is free for everyone and only takes a couple of minutes. The children only need the permission of their parent or guardian. For more details, visit your library or see cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/libraries.

High school pupils spend a day at university



A GROUP of Year 9 pupils from Helsby High School spent a day at Liverpool University, taking part in Science, Engineering and Maths team building activities.

They took part in the "Dangerous Dragon Maths Quiz" in which they competed against each other for an hour to complete as many maths questions as they could.

Winners were Ben Semple, Tom Furlong, Betty Fisher and Emma Waby.

Other activities during the day included manufacturing a new hip replacement and studying multiple sea creatures including crabs, anemone and shrimps, in tanks in a laboratory.

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A play you'll love – even if you've never heard of it

FRODSHAM Players are to stage a play they admit you probably won't have heard of – but they are sure you'll like it.

"Three Days in the Country" by Patrick Marber is a play about people falling love with the wrong people.

It's a comedy that makes you laugh, but also wince. A comedy that moves hearts but also makes you wonder why you are laughing.

One of the reviewers wrote of the original version performed at the National Theatre - that it is the type of play that reminds you why going out to the theatre gives you an experience you can't get anywhere else.

Patrick Marber's condensed and reworked play is full of humour and yearning. Set on a grand Russian estate, it is full of characters aching for those they cannot have. Discontented Natalya is infatuated with her son's young tutor, an attraction she confesses to her long-time admirer Rakitin. Natalya's young ward Vera also has feelings for the tutor but he, of course, has eyes for another. And so the circle of love continues. Will it all end happily?

In Three Days in the Country, the backdrop of life in the country serves as the perfect canvas for playwright Patrick Marber to explore love and all of its complexities at virtually every part of its boundless spectrum. Marber's version is a sharp, new take on Ivan Turgenev's classic comedy, A Month in the Country.

The play goes on at St Laurence Church, Frodsham, from Tuesday April 2 to Friday April 5 at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £9.00 from www.frodshamplayers.com or Box Office 07754 455809 or from Dandelion, Church Street Frodsham



Cheers to Frodsham bar which came runner up in Parliamentary Pub of the year



A Frodsham bar finished runner up in the Parliamentary Pub of the Year competition.

Weaver Vale MP Mike Amesbury asked for nominations via Facebook for a pub in the constituency which he could put forward for the competition, which is a celebration of everything that's great about the British pub trade.

Kash 22 in Frodsham won the Facebook vote and was put forward by the MP.

They then had to produce a video for the judges to view.

This won them the regional heat which meant they went on to represent the North West in the grand final in London.

At the event they finished a hugely respectable second place.

Mr Amesbury said: "This is a fantastic achievement and I was proud that they could join me in the Commons to pick up their award.

"The overall winner was a pub in Wales, so you could say Kash 22 is the best in England!"

"A huge well done to everyone!"



Donation to Stroke Club

Frodsham & District Stroke Club's chairman Ken Shaw is pictured receiving a cheque for £225.00 from Mark Nield, a donation from his late father's estate - ex Frodsham councillor John Nield.

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Frodsham pupils enjoy performing arts course

PUPILS from Frodsham CE Primary School are back after a wonderful four day residential at the Conway Centre in Anglesey.

The Year 5 children took part in an "Arts in Education in a Multicultural Society" performing arts course.

They celebrated diversity by participating in various workshops including Indian Dancing, Beatboxing, African Drumming, Caribbean Art and Storytelling.

On their return, they then entertained parents and friends of the school with an excellent class assembly when they showed everyone what amazing new arts they had experienced on their residential.



Belated Big Bees Breakfast Award



UNIVERSITY of Chester Vice Chancellor/Principal Professor Tim Wheeler, who lives in Frodsham, is pictured belatedly receiving a Big Bees Breakfast Award from former mayor Mallie Polunin and local Cllr Judith Critchley.

Presenting the award to a "great university" Mallie said: "This is richly deserved. Without the volunteer students Frodsham could not run its Christmas Festival."

Professor Wheeler retires from the university this december after 22 years service.



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Green Gates Park project gains momentum

THE campaign to save the land off Ship Street, Frodsham, affectionately known as Green Gates Park, is gaining momentum.

Local group, Green Gates Community Project, are seeking support in their fight to save the land from housing development.

The group have been given 12 months to canvass local opinion and develop a plan for the future use of the land, known as Green Gates Park or "the backie" by generations who have played there.

Later this year, their findings will be presented to Frodsham Town Council who will decide the future of the land, which is currently under a covenant preserving it for use by the children of Frodsham.

Members of the group have been knocking on doors to talk to local people about their ideas and concerns about proposals for development, and posting leaflets - capturing responses in a survey.

So far, the responses collected have shown that local people are overwhelmingly in favour of the land being kept as a green space to be developed as a community asset with young children in mind.

A massive 82 per cent of respondents to the survey strongly agree that Green Gates Park should be used as a public space that benefits the community, and 81 per cent strongly agree that housing should not be built on the land.

Group chairman, Mrs Melanie Halsall said: "We are currently working on developing a second draft of our proposal that encompasses the responses of the local community, to show FTC the will of the people."

A community walk around the Green Gates area is also in the pipeline to which Mike Amesbury MP, councillors from FTC and Cheshire West and Chester will be invited, accompanied by residents, so those who aren't familiar with the area can see how many houses are already in a part of Frodsham served by just two access points to the main road, and how few recreational facilities are available for local people.

The campaign group has already suggested the land could be used for a play area, sensory garden, allotments, tree-lined walkway, open area with seating and car park with notice board and charity/foodbank drop-off points.

Residents can make sure that their opinion is counted by having a say in the Green Gates Survey. If you have had a leaflet through the door, submission instructions can be found on there, or you can respond online at yourgreengates.com/survey.

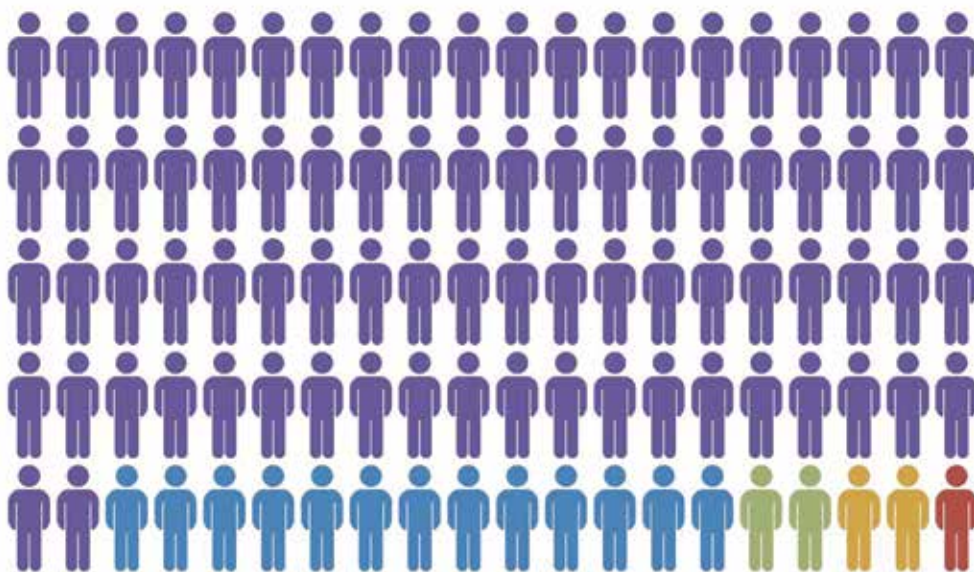
Keep up to date with all of the action by joining the Green Gates Community Project Frodsham Facebook group, or following @yourgreengates on Twitter.

*Frodsham Life reported the formation of the Green Gates Community Project last August when the Town Council agreed to give them time to draw up plans.



82%

STRONGLY AGREE that
Green Gates Park should be used as a public space
that benefits the community.



Strongly agree
 Agree
 Neutral
 Disagree
 Strongly disagree

MP calls for more Premiership money to filter down to grassroots football



LOCAL MP Mike Amesbury has called for more Premiership money to filter down to grassroots football.

Speaking in a Commons debate on Sport in the UK, the Weaver Vale MP highlighted the recent fundraising efforts of a club in his constituency, but said he was concerned the vast profits being made at the top of the game were not being filtered down.

He told the chamber: "Frodsham junior football club in my constituency has done a remarkable job in fundraising for a needed 3G facility. My concern is that the Premiership is not doing its bit. What is the Minister doing to ensure that those vast funds—those

vast profits—are used for grassroots football?

Replying, Sports Minister Mims Davies, said: "I thank the honourable gentleman for raising that issue. It is something we have heard across the House, and in my first three months in this job, it has been raised time and again. I looked into the eyes of the Premiership leadership last week and spoke about many issues with them, such as how the Football Foundation is doing and how that £100 million that the league gives actually works. I am hot on their heels on this one and it is absolutely right that we continue to work together for all our grassroots sport."

MP on the ball with former footballer at arts exhibition



LOCAL MP Mike Amesbury popped by to visit an exhibition by Frodsham artist Eddie Bishop.

Eddie, a former Chester City footballer and brother of stand-up comic John Bishop, staged an exhibition called Any Old Iron at Castle Park Arts Centre in the town.

The work features steel sculptures that have been skilfully manipulated into a range of artistic designs.

Mike said: "It was great to pop along and see some

of the work being done by a local artist.

"They're great pieces of work where the artist has been using steel to create some really striking and eye-catching pieces.

"It's also always worth visiting Castle Park arts centre which is a terrific venue and has some great exhibitions."

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