

Frodsham *Life*

Magazine

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Editor's Comment



NOMINATIONS for the local elections on May 2 had still not closed when this issue of Frodsham Life went to press, so we are not able to provide you with a list of candidates standing for election to either the Town Council or Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Nominations closed at 4pm on Wednesday April 3 and we would recommend readers anxious to find out who they will be able to vote for to visit our website, www.frodshamlife.co.uk for the very latest information.

In this column a month ago we expressed the hope that there would be plenty of people coming forward to seek election. That remains our hope and, indeed, we already know there will be some familiar faces among the election hopefuls.

The word on the street is that there will be a number of changes on the Town Council, if only because some existing councillors have decided to step down. But you never can tell. Many candidates like to keep their intentions a secret until the last possible minute, presumably in the hope of wrong-footing the opposition.

Holding public office in Frodsham, Helsby, Kingsley or anywhere else is clearly a very different brand of politics to that played-out on the national stage and it may be that local issues – parking, housing, The Goods Shed,

CCTV, the neighbourhood plan, etc – will, for a while, give local electors something other than Brexit to focus on.

Or it could be that dismay over the long-running Brexit shambles will have led to disillusionment among the electorate sweeping down to grassroots level and resulting in a low turnout.

We hope not. We would like to see meaningful contests in

every area, resulting in committed councillors representing every ward.

Frodsham is a great place to live, work and it deserves a committed team of councillors to ensure it continues to be so.

Deadline for the May issue of Frodsham Life is April 23

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Music and Arts club celebrates 75 years

FRODSHAM Music and Arts Club is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year with a special concert programme featuring top class professional performers.

Among high profile performers is the UK's hottest gypsy jazz violinist Billy Thompson and his band performing on April 12.

The club was founded in 1943, when it was difficult for people to travel to Liverpool and Manchester for quality entertainment. Its stated objectives at the outset were "to promote and provide public

concerts of a high standard during wartime" - and that has continued well beyond 1945!

First chairman was Dr Miles Wright Myers (pictured), vicar at St. Laurence Church. Concerts, lectures and illustrated talks were held in the former Frodsham Secondary Modern School and then the Manor School before the club moved to its current venue at Frodsham Community Centre when it opened in 1969. This well-equipped facility, itself celebrating 50 years this October,

enables the club to attract high calibre professional artists from an assortment of musical traditions. At least 450 Friday evening club events have taken place over the past 75 years encompassing a wide range of musical entertainment from classical - including soloists, orchestras, and choirs - to jazz, cabaret and art presentations, plus everything between. Initially, events were held six times a year but this has now increased and they take place monthly between September and May. Members can attend up to nine events per season. The club is unusually successful and a rare survivor in its field due to an annual membership fee of just £15 which allows free event entry and produces a buoyant membership which, along with guests, results in large audiences. Numbers have increased significantly in recent years.

A spokesperson said: "The



club receives no regular external funding and has recently become a registered charity.

Musical outings and cultural holidays at home and abroad are also organised in association with the club." Jane Mooney, membership secretary, (01928 731855) can provide further information.

IT support for Frodsham Foodbank



LOCAL CWaC Councillors Andrew Dawson and Lynn Riley have responded to the Frodsham Foodbank's request for a new laptop to help support the area.

The Foodbank operates thanks to the many local volunteers and the large number of people who regularly donate items from their shopping.

Cllr Dawson said: "The most important thing is the front end - but the Trussle Trust is a large operation that has need of a system to organise.

"We hope this laptop makes life a little easier for those who give so much to our community."

The Frodsham Foodbank is open each Friday from 1-3pm at the Guides HQ on Ship Street, just off Main St.

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Transport Secretary visits Frodsham and Helsby

SECRETARY of State for Transport Chris Grayling dropped in on Frodsham and Helsby, visiting both towns' railway station.

He met Cheshire West and Chester councillors Lynn Riley and Andrew Dawson and discussed the impending launch of new services on the Halton Curve – and the state of Frodsham's roads.

Reinstatement of the Halton Curve, at a cost of £18.75 million, will provide new services connecting Liverpool to Chester through Runcorn in a bid to improve connectivity to North Wales, Liverpool John Lennon Airport and trains to London.

Cllr Riley said: "We know the Halton Curve will be a real boost for Frodsham.

"It opens up our options for catching trains for Liverpool and London directly from Frodsham rather than driving. The trains run in both directions so it's also a real opportunity for more people to visit Frodsham and all that it has to offer.

"The Curve was approved in 2014 and unfortunately we are still waiting for the local parking infrastructure. In spite of constant lobbying, Cheshire West is only now planning for the huge influx of passengers that will arrive when the trains do."

Cllr Dawson added: "What's more worrying is that the CWaC's own studies identify the need for at least 150 extra spaces but initial proposals are for only 50. Introducing parking charges to manage demand is madness; it's just going to encourage people not to come to Frodsham and is likely to squeeze traffic onto nearby residential roads."



The opening of the Halton Curve will coincide with the installation of the former railway signals in Castle Park.

When the rail project was confirmed, Cllrs Riley and Dawson worked with Network Rail to save and restore the old signals which

will be used to mark the way for new trails around Castle Park.

While in Frodsham, Mr Grayling toured local roads to see how the extra pothole allocation of £3.52 made to CWaC in October was being spent.

Cllr Dawson said it was

disappointing that so few roads in Frodsham had been marked up for repairs, despite being among the worst in the borough.

Reporting defects on the roads is easy and anyone can do it by going to www.westcheshireyourstreets.co.uk

Cycle campaign group fights the "pothole plague"

FRODSHAM-based Cycle North Cheshire (CNC) is actively fighting the pothole plague. They say potholes cause extensive injuries

to cyclists, damage to vehicles and create havoc for all road users swerving to avoid them.

As a measure to address

this scourge of the roads, the Government has provided £23m to fund research into improving highway infrastructure.



Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) has just received an extra £3.5m to help tackle the pothole problem.

A spokesman for CNC said "We have an ongoing dialogue with CWaC regarding pothole repair performance, innovative projects for road repairs and development of a pothole reporting app.

"CNC actively supports the CWaC 'Love Your Streets' initiative and we ask motorists and cyclists to report potholes and damaged highway to the council via: <https://cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/residents.aspx>. The mantra applies: if it is not reported, it will not be fixed.

CNC is a voluntary cycling group and is currently looking for someone to manage their website. If you are a cyclist who would like to help their campaign and are familiar with website management (only a few hours a month is needed), contact Steve Pemberton on cyclencheshire@mail.com"

Doing right by Frodsham

By Councillors Andrew Dawson and Lynn Riley



Car parking charges from 9 May 2019

With all the appearance of a cynical manipulation of the local government election timetable – Frodsham's unwanted car parking charges and restrictions will go-live on 9 May. This is one week after the elections on 2 May. They won't even install the payment machines until 6 May!

Don't forget these restrictions and charges are CWaC Labour's initiative. It is their explicit policy to reduce demand for car parking in Frodsham. They want to make it harder to park so that fewer people will use their cars to visit us and use our shops and businesses.

The Halton Curve railway line is set to open on 19 May so demand for car parking will be rising just as CWaC Labour are making it more difficult to park. They know that at least another 150 car parking spaces will be needed – but have not even confirmed that an extra deck of car parking for 50 cars will be built. We have been warning the council since 2014 that the re-opening of the railway line will require an expansion of car parking at the station and had two resolutions passed by the council calling for extra car parking at the station. Labour has simply ignored them.

Worse still they have no plans to protect residential streets from people either trying to avoid the charges or trying to find a space to park if the station car park is full. As demand for long stay car parking rises in Frodsham we are bound to see drivers looking to park on residential roads – especially those close to the station. Just look at the chaos around Runcorn Station – where the local roads are clogged up with drivers looking to avoid the parking charges. How long before people start parking on residential roads near the station such as London Road, Blue Hatch and Wityh Close?

The only way that issue can be managed is by the introduction of residents parking schemes. These schemes cost £60 per vehicle per year just to park outside your own house. They are already being introduced on Main Street and there are plans to introduce a scheme at Sandfields already.

Fill the potholes – forget the meaningless traffic signs

I'm sure many of us have noted the irony – highways officers walking by potholes to install 20mph signs – many of which are on roads where it is impossible to reach that speed! Another example of this Labour Council getting its priorities all wrong... that is unless you see potholes as part of controlling traffic speed!

Taking control of Castle Park

We want local people to take control of Castle Park and Castle Park Trust as we see this as the only way to safeguard the park for future generations and to ensure the house and the park are properly managed. Two-thirds of the park land, the House and buildings are protected by a charitable trust. The council only holds these land and buildings as a charity trustee – it isn't free to do what it likes with them. **The top field isn't part of the charitable trust and is owned by the council specifically for housing purposes.**

We have asked repeatedly for the top field to be protected over the years – such as by a 'Village Green' designation or by being designated a Queen's Diamond Jubilee field. All of these requests were refused or frustrated. For the last three years we have asked for the top field to be transferred into the Castle Park Trust so that it can be managed and protected like the rest of the park. Incidentally declaring that some land is subject to the terms of a charitable trust is one of the easiest things to do in law – so really there is no excuse why this has not been done.

Our latest attempt was turned down by Labour in March 2019. This followed the Labour Cabinet confirming as recently as 2017 that the top field was owned by the council for housing purposes.

If this wasn't bad enough there is an increasing hole in Castle Park Trust's finances caused by the council's decision to leave the house (they did so without the permission of the trust) and their inability to let the ground floor – which has been void for 2 years. The council has even forgot to renew the wedding licence for the house. We've insisted that the officers apply for a new wedding's licence. What is even worse is that the council charges the trust for its professional services such as property and estates management! In the past they've even advertised vacancies at the house only in Winsford! You really couldn't make this stuff up!

The Trust can't sue the council at the moment as it would be like the left hand suing the right. It could if the Trust had its own legal personality such as being converted into a community interest company. All the careful financial stewardship of the trust – such as putting aside £25,000 a year to pay for repairs and maintenance is now being seriously threatened as the trust is now making serious losses.

We have pointed out to the council that we consider it to be in breach of charity law. The council as charity trustee has duties to act in the charity's best interests; to manage the charity's resources responsibly; and to act with reasonable skill and care – in the context of the council's own skills.

The last 4 years have shown us that we need to have local people managing and running the park and all its buildings. Keeping strong links with the council is our preferred way forward – however most importantly we want the top field protecting and brought within the charity. We also want efficient and effective property management.

CCTV in Frodsham

We have spoken with local business and contractors and we know we can implement an effective comprehensive high definition CCTV system covering all of the town centre in detail and areas affected by anti-social behaviour cost-effectively. The proposed system will site cameras on business and on council property – which could be a lamp stand. The CCTV recordings made would be kept for a month before being automatically over-written – unless they were required for a police investigation. The council has suggested a pathetically inadequate system of cameras in 2 locations. We can do so much better than this.

Air Quality

It is frankly scandalous that CWaC have not brought in any measures to protect air quality in Frodsham and in particular at the Air Quality Management Area at the Fluin Lane A56 junction and outside our schools. Our air quality issues are traffic related – so we need to reduce congestion and cars and lorries from idling. Through our efforts we have a comprehensive system of air quality monitors – so we have the data, we know we have a problem. The council has a legal duty to act – but has failed to do so.

If we are elected on 2 May with a Conservative majority we will:

- Stop the car parking charges
- Increase car parking capacity at the station to meet expected demand
- Protect the top field at Castle Park by bringing it into the charitable trust
- Bring a comprehensive system of CCTV to Frodsham
- Keep your council tax low
- Invest in improving sport and local leisure facilities including Saltworks and Castle Park

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 Vimeo: Frodsham Conservatives

Trust calls to protect 'Top Field'

FRODSHAM'S Castle Park Trust has made a formal request to Cheshire West and Chester Council to agree to moves that would protect Top Field – which forms about one third of the park – from housing development.

The Trust executive is also seeking greater independence from Cheshire West (CWaC) to remove anomalies it claims are detrimental to the Trust financially and have led to opportunities being missed which would have made more of the park available to the public.

Trust chairman Cllr Andrew Dawson said everyone in Frodsham regarded the area bounded by the A56, the Chester - Manchester Railway Line, Fountain Lane, Park Lane, Howey Lane and Netherton Drive as being Castle Park. Ordnance Survey maps described all the land as being "Castle Park."

In terms of managing the park, both CWaC and the Castle Park Trust Executive treat all the this land in the same way – but the legal position did not reflect this reality.

CWaC holds the legal title to all the land - but it does so on two different bases.

About two thirds of the land and all the buildings are held by the council as trustee, subject to the terms of the Castle Park charitable trust, which seeks to ensure the land held under the trust is kept available for use by the local residents as a public park.

The remaining third of the land – the Top Field – is owned by CWaC outright, free from these charitable obligations.

This land was bought by the former Runcorn Urban District Council for the purpose of building

houses.

This remains the situation – and at a recent CWaC cabinet meeting, Cllr David Armstrong, lead member for legal and finance, expressly confirmed that CWaC owned the Top field for housing purposes.

Cllr Dawson said: "So far as the Trust Executive is concerned, and we suspect everyone in Frodsham and the surrounding communities as well, the Top Field should be protected and managed in the same way as the rest of Castle Park.

"The time has come for the legal status of the Top Field to be regularised and the implicit and continuing threat of that land being taken and used for housing being permanently removed."

Cllr Dawson said Frodsham was short of public open space and the emerging Frodsham Neighbourhood Plan had identified Castle Park, including the Top Field, as the favourite green space in the town.

For generations it had been used as part of the park – and might well contain significant historic remains, as the old "castle" which gave the park its name.

"The Top Field is an integral part of the park and gives local people of all ages a safe, green environment, free from traffic.

"It lies within a conservation area and if it were lost to the park and given over to housing development, we believe it would diminish Castle

Park considerably.

"If the Top Field was lost to the park and was given over to housing development, we believe that this would diminish Castle Park considerably – not only in terms of a much-reduced size – but also in terms of reducing ready and immediate access to the park.

"In our view all of these features make the preservation of the Top Field essential."

Cllr Dawson said the changes would be simple and straight forward and would simply reflect the situation currently on the ground.

Castle Park is also seeking a legal identity, separate from CWaC.

This would end the "somewhat odd, if not artificial" situation which existed currently where talks about the park and the trust were really internal discussions within CWaC.

The Trust Executive believes the interests of CWaC, its residents, Castle Park Trust, the neighbouring Arts Centre and its charitable trust, as well as the wider park would best be served by the Trust being more independent from the council than is currently the position.



Past and Present Mayors raise much needed funds

BIG Bees Breakfast Club has been working with The Mayor of Frodsham Cllr Lord Frank Pennington for his chosen charities, Clatterbridge and the Air Ambulance.

It was with with great pleasure that Big Bees Treasurer Cllr Judith Critchley, handed to Past Mayor and founder of Big Bees Breakfast Club Mr Mallie Poulton, two Cheques to present To The Mayor Freeman Cllr Lord Frank Pennington totaling, £3500.

A Coffee Morning At The Parish Hall, an event in its self, raised

£350.

The Mayor then presented the cheques to Ms Jayne Moran. Cllr Critchley, Fundraising Manager For Clatterbridge, thanked everyone who had been part of the fund-raising efforts, without who they could not have raised this fantastic amount.

Mallie said: "Frodsham People we thank you for your continued support. Big Bees Breakfast Club goes on to it's next Project to raise funds to build a School in The Gambia supporting KASH22 and Paddy Bleakly."





Cheshire Relocation rocks!

FRODSHAM based letting agents Cheshire Relocation have embraced the latest painted rock craze.

Owner Helen Pass explained: "While out and about with my children, we are always finding decorated Rocks, for anyone who has never come across the rock craze, the idea is that you can paint rocks to hide in Parks and other public places for people to find or when you find a rock, you take a picture to share on facebook, then you re-hide or keep the rock."

"My children love it, it is so exciting to find a rock and to see a rock that we have painted and hidden, appear found on a local rocks facebook page. Then one day our staff in Cheshire Relocation found a rock that someone had hidden by a tree outside our office. It really made our day so we decided to get some Cheshire Relocation Rocks made."

Helen added: "Back in October 2018 half term we hid the rocks in different places around Frodsham and Helsby where children could find them. The lucky finders brought the rock in to our office and claimed a goody bag."

"We got some great feedback from the children and local residents of all ages so we are doing it again during the April spring break. So if parents are looking for something to do with their children, head over to the local parks and landmarks in Frodsham and Helsby and hunt for rocks. We will share clues of where they are hidden on our facebook page. Anyone who finds one of our Cheshire Relocation Rocks should bring the rock in to our office at 15 High Street, Frodsham to get a goody bag. Happy Rock Hunting!"



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Kingsley Players premiere new play 'Peterloo'

THE Award-winning Kingsley Players return with their popular theatre and supper shows this April and the premiere of an exciting new one act play 'Peterloo'.

Written and directed by Lynn Pegler, the show tells the story of real and imaginary people caught up in one of England's greatest political events staged in Manchester 200 years ago.

On a sunny August day in 1819, a peaceful rally at St Petersfield (near the present day Bridgewater Hall) turned into a bloody massacre after troops were ordered to attack a crowd of around 60,000 men, women and children. 17 people died and over 600 were injured.

A talented cast of 14 actors, who are drawn from as far afield as Stockport, Wirral and North Wales, will perform a dramatic stage representation of this tumultuous event.

Lynn said: "This year marks the bicentenary of an important milestone in our history, which

took place just down the road in Manchester. I was fascinated by the story and I have tried to answer the big question 'why' by portraying the intriguing stories of a range of characters, rich and poor."

The evening will start at 7pm with a two course meal, a tasty Lancashire hotpot supper and dessert (vegetarian option available), followed by the Peterloo play.

There will be three performances at Kingsley Community Centre, Thursday 11 - Saturday 13 April, 2019, 7pm.

Tickets cost £12 (including meal and show) and should be reserved in advance through the website www.kingsleyplayers.co.uk or by ringing the box office on 07724 892154.





BIG BEES BREAKFAST CLUB



We are a business networking club for Frodsham and surrounding villages. We meet regularly for breakfast at Kash 22 on Church Street Frodsham. Meetings are open to all, even if you don't have a business yet.

Our aim is to support each other, promoting local businesses and encouraging people to shop local.

Along side promoting businesses we fund raise for local charities and good causes.

The Club was founded in 2015 by Mallie Poulton, his vision was

to encourage local businesses to support each other and promote the Local area as a place to work, live, visit, rest and play. The club has gone from strength to strength and is supported by local councillors and businesses, particularly our host Paddy Bleakley.

The next meeting is on Monday 15th April for Mid-Cheshire Mind. A support group for people with mental health issues.

Tickets available at Kash 22.

We also have a Facebook page Big Bees Breakfast Club - Frodsham



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School says thank you to all who helped building projects

NORLEY CE Primary School has said a big thankyou to parents, teachers and friends, the National Lottery and local builders who have helped transform the school in recent months.

The school library has been updated and made into a bright, welcoming and inspiring area.

A gazebo is due to be installed on the school field, with seating and tables for up to 30 children or adults.

And an outdoor teaching room, with electricity and heating has been built on the bank overlooking

the school – with a view over the school field.

Head teacher Helen Kelly said: "Our Parents, Teachers and Friends Association work tirelessly to put on a good variety of social events. While the prime intention for these events is for everyone to have fun together, they also manage to raise money to spend on our children.

"Updating the library, has been important for us in promoting reading and has indeed inspired our children to enjoy books once again - something we nearly lost sight of in this digital age!"

Mrs Kelly said the school applied for a lottery grant for the gazebo to enable community groups to share the school's beautiful space whatever the weather.

An afterschool club based in the building daily and Norley 0-5 group, who meet in the school hall every Wednesday, would be able to use the gazebo to enjoy the outdoors more often.

Cubs, Scouts and Beavers and a local football club use the

school field for sports training and competitions and the school pond for activities such as pond dipping and habitat exploring. Again, the gazebo would give them another space in which to work or shelter.

The new outside room would be used for teaching a year group of up to 15 children for one day a week, one term of the year.

Mrs Kelly added: "We are proud that all local builders, electricians and tilers have been involved in construction of this building and we owe them a huge 'Thank you' because they have gone above and beyond and a lot of their time has been given for free."



New head teacher made to feel welcome



HELSEBY High School's new head teacher Martin Hill says he has been made to feel "very welcome" since his appointment last summer.

Although he was new to the school when he was appointed last July, he is familiar with the local area having grown up just outside Chester and having taught in Cheshire for his entire career to date.

Mr Hill said: "I am very aware of the existing strengths of the school and its well-deserved reputation and I feel privileged to have the exciting opportunity of leading the school forward in the coming months and years.

"Since my appointment back in July I have been made to feel very welcome by the entire school community."

Mr Hill paid tribute to his predecessor, Mr Dowler, who over the last 8 years helped establish the current strong position of the school, culminating in 2018 with

an exceptionally positive Ofsted report, very successful GCSE and A-Level results and highest-ever levels of interest in joining Year 7 in September 2019.

He added: "I have already seen first-hand the potential for the above successes to be repeated and built upon further in the future. Students are once again working hard both in lessons and their independent studies and also maintaining the high standards of attendance, uniform and behaviour that we expect.

"More than ever in a complex world and education system in particular, strong home-school partnerships are the foundations upon which students build their successes."

Mr Hill and Frodsham Life Editor Gary Skentelbery recently met up to discuss ways of working more closely in the local community.

Pupils enjoyed dressing up on World Book Day

PUPILS and staff at Frodsham CE Primary School thoroughly enjoyed celebrating "World Book Day" - dressed up as their favourite book character.

It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to show their love of reading—and they all looked fantastic!

Comments made by individual pupils summed it all up.

"You can dress up as whichever character you want."

"World Book Day is so cool."

"I liked seeing all the different characters."

"My favourite bit was dressing up as Mary Poppins."

"I liked hunting for characters in books."

"I loved the book swap!"



Care home company expands into Frodsham and surrounding areas

Care At Home Group who are based in Warrington and have been delivering home care to the local community for the past 26 years, are now offering Private Home Care packages in the Frodsham, Helsby, Norley, Kingsley, Runcorn and surrounding areas.

The business has recently rebranded and is now under new ownership and with a new management team and new investment.

Managing Director Karl Jacobie said: "At Care At Home we work with clients so that they can remain in their home for as long as possible by offering bespoke and tailored solutions based on their individual needs. We look to grow and develop a strong bond between our clients and our carers, a bond based on trust, dignity, respect and reliability. Being at home is where we all feel happiest and most comfortable. Our homes are not just bricks and mortar, they are memories and feelings. Having to sell and leave your home can be a traumatic experience for many people. And the older we become the more difficult it gets. Our plan is to use our decades of experience in providing home care to the community and to then roll this out across Cheshire".

As part of its growth plans, the company has appointed a new Private Business Manager - Jane Stanton, who commented "How we care for our elderly and those in need is a measure of any society

and is crucial to the success of the local community. We are committed to our employees and to our community and we believe that we can make a difference to people's lives through the care we offer." We put our clients at the heart of everything we do, and believe they benefit immensely from our flexible and responsive approach, which in turn allows them to remain living as independently as possible in their own homes, our motto is Our Care, Your Independence. As an example, we are one of the few Home Care Providers who offer a 30-minute call as well as an hour call, we realise that each client will have different requirements and our approach is based on a philosophy of person-centred care".

The Group has recently recruited over 40 new staff as part of their expansion plans and have launched a new recruitment campaign to recruit a further 40. HR & Recruitment Manager Jenny Hughes explains, "we want to show people that being a Carer in the community is a rewarding role and can also be a fulfilling career for those who are looking for one. We are recruiting both experienced carers and also those who are

new to care who are looking for a rewarding career. We believe that the more people we can bring to the care industry, the more people we can then care for. We offer guaranteed hours, a highly competitive rate of pay which includes travel time and mileage and a comprehensive training program of both classroom training and on the job training. We also


offer all staff the ability to gain an NVQ qualification in health & Social Care."

If you are thinking about home care for yourself or a loved one and would like to understand more or if you are interested in working in the Care sector then why not call us now on 01925 652 800 or email us at care@careathomegroup.com



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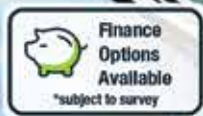
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MP welcomes 3G pitch investment

LOCAL MP MIKE Amesbury has welcomed new investment in Frodsham Juniors Football Club's ambitious plans for a next generation 3G playing pitch, saying it will revolutionise sport in the surrounding community for 'many years to come'.

The Weaver Vale MP has been working hard with the club, Cheshire West and Chester Council, the FA, Helsby High School and Cheshire FA on the long-awaited project, and the authority has now announced the money will be injected into the scheme as part of CWAC's £4 million investment in projects across the borough over the next three years.

The Frodsham part of the scheme will feature investment into a 3G pitch at Helsby High School for use by the club and the wider community.

Mike said: "Huge credit to Louise Gittins at Cheshire West and Chester Council for moving this forward and to everyone involved, it's been a long process but a collaborative one and something I'm delighted to see it has come to fruition.

"This will be a huge boost for the community and sport in the town and wider area for many years to come."

Councillor Louise Gittins, Cabinet Member for Communities and Wellbeing, said: "We are delighted that we have been able to contribute to such an important cause and help to meet our priorities



around Health and Wellbeing by making sport accessible for all.

"The funding is part of an ambitious plan to increase the number of people accessing grassroots football. It will also support The FA's aim to double the number of women and girls

who play football. We hope that the funding will help to benefit all of the residents in our borough at some point."

Joe Bell, 3G Project Lead at Frodsham Juniors Football Club, said: "We are extremely pleased to be working in collaboration

with the Council as part of such an important project.

"The potential plans to bring new and improved facilities to Helsby High School will benefit both Frodsham Juniors Football Club and the wider community."

Kingsley Players present

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Frodsham take on the challenge of an unexpected promotion

THE local cricket season gets under way on April 20 - with Frodsham hoping to be able to step up one gear and take on the challenge of an unexpected promotion.

When the UKFast Cheshire Cricket League finished last year, Frodsham found they had just missed out on promotion to division three.

But re-organisation of the league meant they went up anyway.

Last season they won 13 games and lost seven and could justifiably claim that had not two games been abandoned when most of their rivals only had to abandon one at the most - they easily would have gone up.

Their first game will be at home at Wirral while the 2nd XI travel to Old Parkonians.

In division one, ambitious Kingsley will travel to Runcorn for their first match.

Promotion for them would take them up into the top tier of Cheshire cricket - the Vivio County League.

Kingsley 2nd will travel to the Wirral to take on The Groves.

Alvanley will be anxious to cement their position of the top club in the Frodsham area by moving up the county league.

They came a commendable fifth in division two last term.

They will travel to Hale Barns for their first game while the 2nd XI entertain the Hale Barns second string.

Plan for Junior Park Run

PLANS are afoot to launch a regular Sunday morning Junior Park Run in Frodsham's Castle Park.

Castle Park Trust is looking for volunteers to help organise and run regular 9am Sunday morning Junior Park Runs and has agreed to provide the £3,000 start-up costs, which the Park Run organisation will match.

Junior Park Runs are for youngsters aged between 4-14 and are run over a 2km course.

The Trust has arranged for a number of measured routes to be laid out in the park to encourage people to walk, jog or run a distance of their choosing - it will also make it easy to establish a 2km course within the park.

Anyone who would like to volunteer is asked to email Pam Bradley at Cheshire West and Chester Council with their details: pam.bradley@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

New life for school's wildlife pond

A FULLY-refurbished pond area has been formally opened at Frodsham CE Primary School.

Staff and pupils welcomed governors, members of the Parent Teacher Association and special visitors to the opening ceremony.

The area has been recently refurbished thanks to a donation from Mr Denis Simmonds, a former long-term governor of the school, and funds raised by the PTA.

It will now be used to enhance the curriculum and for the children to enjoy outside learning and discover more about nature and the environment. Pupils from the reception class have already found frogspawn and are excited to be able to watch them grow into tadpoles!

Reception teacher and project lead Nicky Evans, said: "We are thrilled to open our new pond area. Thank you to our PTA and the Simmonds family for their generous donations. My class already love it!"



Tribute extravaganza, bigger than ever!

FRODSHAM'S annual "tribute extravaganza" – Tribute on the Hill Live – promises a bigger show than ever this year.

As well as a host of the UK's premier tribute acts, performing all the classic, there will be some "very serious local talent" to make the event a more diverse musical experience, according to spokesman Mark Rowland.

The show will be staged on Friday and Saturday, July 5-6 on a stunning site with views of Frodsham, the Welsh mountains and the Cheshire Hills.

The tribute acts will include the prize winning Supreme Queen, The Kopycat Killers, Aladdinsane as David Bowie, Oaces as Oasis, JK as Robbie Williams, Charlie Reader as George Ezra, Manchester Ska Foundation as Madness, Skinny Lizard as Thin Lizzy and AC/DC, Radio Active as 80's New Romantics and some extremely talented regional performers blasting out great covers as well as some of their own original music which may well become the hits of the future.

The farm provides on-site parking, camping for motor homes, caravans and tents, as well as a VW camper village.

Mark said: "We will be providing an outstanding bar service with

an excellent selection of drinks at reasonable prices.

"There will be funfair rides, face painting and much more for the kids to create a great family festival experience. An amazing selection of food vendors including the best Vegan, Chinese, Indian, wood fired pizza and British festival culinary will

be available on site throughout the festival."

Motorhomes, caravans and tents will be welcome.

Mark added: "As last year, we will employ a single use plastic policy for the duration of the festival including reusable drinking vessels, paper straws and plates."

Celebrating Railway Heritage

AFTER a request from Cllr Andrew Dawson Network Rail has donated the historic semaphore signals that used to be on the railway embankment near the Frodsham Junction signal box and three of the signal box levers to Castle Park.

Network Rail volunteers will erect the signals and levers in the park in the next few weeks – in good time to celebrate the re-opening of the Halton Curve later in May.

The signals and levers will become centre pieces in measured trails that will be laid out in the park.

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Mallie Poulton

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We are two people who genuinely care about Frodsham. We love living here and care very much about our community - our residents, our schools and our businesses.

We are thoroughly disheartened that the people we elected to represent us in 2015 have persistently put party politics before the well-being of our community.

We believe the community is better served by independent candidates who will always put the welfare of this community first.

We are not standing on a single ticket issue, we are not making false promises to secure any one particular cause.

About Judith and Mallie:

Judith: I grew up in Frodsham. After a career with the civil service, latterly Working on Health and Safety legislation, I have spent the last 3 years of my retirement serving Frodsham as a Town Councillor, and more recently was asked to join Kingsley Parish Council. I am also an Executive Board Member of the Cheshire Association on Local Councils.

Mallie: I fell in love with Frodsham 15 years ago when I became a resident. Having campaigned for improvements for my neighbours I was encouraged to stand for election to Frodsham Town Council in 2015. I have been instrumental in securing changes for the community. I have strong links with Weaver Vale Housing Trust, our local Police and CWaC.

Outside of the Council I have engaged with the community, supporting local charities and groups, and am proud to be a co-founder of the Frodsham Stroke Club, Proud Bees LGBT Groups and Big Bees Breakfast Club.

What we DO promise is:

To represent the interests of Frodsham and our local rural villages

To attend CWaC meetings and Frodsham Town Council meetings

To speak up for Frodsham and our local rural villages

To give our full consideration before voting on anything that affects Frodsham and our local rural villages

To treat all fellow Councillors with respect and courtesy



VOTE

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