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Issue No. 77  
August 2011

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## Panning for gold!

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### Frodsham Bee



Your new look  
Frodsham Town Council  
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# Editor's Comment



## **THERE will be those who regret the decision, by Frodsham Town Council, to scrap the traditional annual lunch for the town's Over 70s in favour of a gift voucher scheme.**

I indeed we must confess to feeling a little sorry ourselves that a tradition going back nearly 70 years and which obviously brought a great deal of pleasure to those who attended, should have to end.

But one cannot ignore the mathematics. There are more than 1,200 people aged over 70 in Frodsham and the number is rising. Yet only 153 attended last year's lunch - and a few of them were not actually Frodsham residents.

An informal consultation carried out by the council indicates that elderly people who would prefer a £5 voucher outnumber those who would prefer the lunch by more than two-to-one.

The council's critics suggest the consultation was inadequate, but attendances at the lunch in recent

years suggest that the Over 70s have been voting with their feet for some time.

Clearly some Over 70s enjoyed the companionship the lunch provided in the run-up to Christmas and it would be good if, in working out the details of the voucher scheme, provision could be made for small groups of people to club together and use their vouchers to pay for a meal out together at a place of their choosing. We understand the council has thought of this and will be giving the idea some consideration.

One thing seems clear. The decision to scrap the lunch was not

about cost-cutting. Providing more than 1,200 people with £5 vouchers could actually end up costing the council more.

## **ELSEWHERE in this issue, readers will find The Frodsham Bee, the Town Council's new monthly news bulletin.**

We are delighted to be able to assist the Town Council in ensuring its news and views are circulated as widely as possible in Frodsham.

Under our agreement, the editorial independence of both The Frodsham Bee and Frodsham Life are maintained. So if there are two sides to an argument, you will be able to hear them both here!

## Fewer meetings

FRODSHAM Town Council has approved a new committee structure which will reduce the number of committee and sub-committee meetings it holds.

Councillors agreed to adopt a structure that will reduce the number of meetings from 110 a year to 49 or 50.

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# Groundbreaking art project gives people the chance to make history

**A GROUND-breaking arts project is giving local people the chance to forge a uniquely personal link with the new Princeway Health Centre in Frodsham.**

To capture the individuality of people living in Frodsham, Helsby and surrounding areas who will use the new health centre, artist, Rob Vale, has joined forces with schools and community groups to produce a series of 50 unique artworks for the centre's waiting area, based on people's genetic code.

Rob has already worked with local people to produce 38 individual 'DNA portraits' featuring a photograph of a precious family heirloom or keepsake combined with a digital image of an individual's DNA sample - taken from a simple cheek swab.

The DNA artwork technique was developed by a pioneering company in Canada called DNA II.

Pupils from five local schools took part including Helsby High School, Frodsham Weaver Vale, Primary School, Frodsham Church of England Primary School and St Luke's Primary School.

Now Rob is inviting more local people to put their hat in the ring to be part of the art on Princeways walls. Anyone wishing to take part is asked to email [rob@limeart.org](mailto:rob@limeart.org) or phone 07891 500156 with their name, email address and contact telephone number. He will then draw

12 more names at random so people can take their place in the new health centre.

"It's an amazing process. I give participants a simple DNA sample kit so they can swab their cheek with a cotton bud to pick up some cells that are then sent off so their unique DNA can be extracted. This process produces an image that looks like a barcode," said Rob, who specialises in working with local people to create art in healthcare buildings.

"Because the image comes directly from the person's DNA, every single one is unique - representing that individual and genetic information passed down through succeeding generations. By combining this image with a photo of a precious object or heirloom, passed down from one generation to the next, we create an unusual and original portrait of that person."

"The process has been really fascinating. Everyone has loved using the DNA sample kit, creating artwork from their own genetic code and the objects that people have brought to be photographed have been amazing - from antique pocket watches and violins, to shoes, furniture and quilts. The variety of objects that matter to people is



amazing."

"I would really encourage people to put their names forward. This is your chance to be part of this unique

project, to see your own DNA transformed into artworks that truly represent the community that the health centre is designed to serve."

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## Pupils and teachers dress as peasants

YEAR 7 pupils and 21 members of staff from Helsby High School dressed up as medieval peasants to enjoy a day of activities at Tatton Park.

Everyone in the party made a real effort with their costumes and prizes were awarded for the best boy and girl costumes and, also for the first time, the best teacher costume.

There was a range of activities to enjoy, from trying on armour and holding weapons to threshing corn, washing clothes, deer stalking and falconry.

Head of history Mrs Hunter said: "The pupils really enjoyed taking part in the activities and gained a good sense of how different life in medieval times was in comparison to today".

## Walkers wanted

FRODSHAM and Helsby women are being urged to get out their walking boots to take part in the Hospice of the Good Shepherd's Starlight Walk.

This year the event is being held at UCEA South Campus formerly known as Cheshire Oaks High School on Stanney Lane (next to David Lloyd).

Enter online at [www.starlightwalk.co.uk](http://www.starlightwalk.co.uk) or call the Fundraising Team on 01244 851811. Entry fee is £10 and includes a t-shirt, medal, halfway refreshments and a breakfast batch on returning to the school.



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## Funding problems for bowling green plan

FUNDING problems are holding-up progress on Frodsham Town Council's vision for an improved Town Bowling Green.

Town clerk Ian Hope told the council quotations for carrying out necessary work were coming back above budget.

The green is used by the Red Lion Bowling Club and the fact that it is not used by other community groups was making it difficult to get grant aid, said Mr Hope.

Councillors have been concerned about the green for some time. It has no toilets, other than an outdoor men's urinal. Women members have to use the toilets at the Red Lion. It urgently needs improved access and a replacement pavilion.

Mr Hope said the club may be able to provide volunteers to do some of the work and this would help with grant applications.

If new toilets were provided it would be necessary to negotiate with the club to provide future maintenance and cleaning.

Cllr Frank Pennington said the club wanted improved facilities and he believed they would be prepared to help keep them clean.

He added: "We created this facility and we should ensure it is something we can be proud of."

## Ron's fascination with gold

GOLD enthusiast Ron Callender is to stage an exhibition at Frodsham's Castle Park Arts Centre which will celebrate his life time's fascination with the yellow metal.

Ron is European editor of "Modern Gold Miner", has written and lectured extensively on the subject and in 1990 published the book "Gold in Britain".

Over a period of 60 years he has photographed gold specimens, gold mines, gold prospectors and has travelled to all the important gold mining centres of the world.

He has washed for samples of his own gold, retraced the steps of the Forty Niners in California and immersed himself in the gold rushes of Lapland, Australia and New Zealand, as well as competing in gold panning championships in Finland, France, Sweden, Italy, Austria, Scotland, Wales and the US.

With the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund, he persuaded three colleagues to co-operate with him in a research which documented the remaining traces of the Scottish Gold Rush of 1869.

The exhibition reveals the fascinating story of his interest in gold and will continue at Castle Park until September 19.



Local resident Alan Bladen panning for gold.



Ron Callender splitting rocks in search of gold.

## Free varicose vein information evening

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# Teacher's bronze medal



HELSEBY High School teacher Toby Shipley achieved four personal best times and won a bronze medal when he took part in the British Masters Swimming Championships at Leeds.

Mr Shipley, who swims with Ellesmere Port Swimming Club swam in seven events, the 50m, 100m and 200m freestyle, the 200m individual medley and his favourite events, the 50m, 100m and 200m breaststroke

He picked up the bronze medal in the 200m breaststroke in the 40-44 age group.

Mr Shipley said: "Even at 40 I am still doing personal best times. There is hope for all of us."

The championships take place every year and are open to anyone over 18 who is a member of a swimming club affiliated to the Amateur Swimming Association. The competition was held over a full weekend in a 50m pool.



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Now the firm boasts specialists in family law, personal injury, probate, conveyancing, commercial and criminal law, but that sense of serving the local community remains as strong as ever.

With more than 130 staff based in offices in Frodsham, Warrington and Stockton Heath, FDR offers the kind of specialist expertise you find in the big city firms, without city prices. Generations of families have appreciated this high quality, personal service and returned again and again.

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**Stephen Lawson**, a nationally-recognised personal injury lawyer, Child Support Agency and inheritance disputes specialist and chairman of the Cheshire Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners.

**Ruth Hetherington**, a leading family law specialist. She is a trained collaborative lawyer and Resolution solicitor, and a member of the Cheshire Family Justice Council.



Please ring Forshaws Davies Ridgway on **01928 739300** to secure your **FREE** appointment.



# Village fun day raised £3,000

**VILLAGERS from Alvanley turned out in force for a family fun day and beer festival.**

Their efforts raised more than £3,000 for the Alvanley Charity Fund, which goes towards good causes.

Attractions included the village stocks, scarecrows, a balloon race, live music and firework finale.

The fund was set up last year to promote village life and strengthen the community, while raising much needed support for deserving causes.

Founding member of the fund Darren Sayle, licensee of the White Lion public house, who organised the beer festival, said: "It's great to see so many local people and customers getting involved."

"Our headline charity this year is The Stroke Association who we will donate half of the money to, and the remainder will be used to support our own community groups. We have already received applications from the church, pre-school and village hall that will each benefit from the fund."

Darren and local councillors each took their turn in the village stocks to help raise money. More than 1,000 balloons were sold and released on the day.

He said: "This was the second of our three village charity events this year. In February we based a sell-out murder mystery on local characters to raise £1,344. We will follow this up in the Autumn and hope to generate a total of over £6,000 for charity this year."

"This is a great success for a small village and a welcome opportunity to be fully involved. The day brought everybody from all walks of life together which makes Alvanley such a great place to live."



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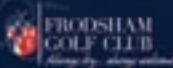
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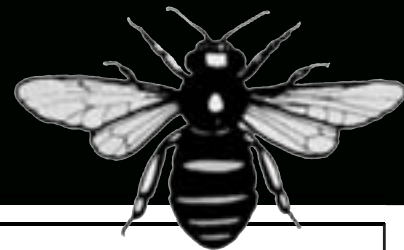


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# THE FRODSHAM BEE



## Welcome to the Frodsham Bee

Welcome to the Frodsham Bee the Town Council's new-look monthly news bulletin. We are in the course of finalising arrangements with Frodsham Life so this edition is something of an experiment but we do expect to agree terms to publish with the Life for a year. Our aim is to get more Frodsham Town Council news and views published than we've ever managed before. The proposed deal with the Life also secures our editorial independence - so you may end up reading about the same things twice once in the Life and once in the Bee!

## Frodsham Play Areas

Frodsham Town Council (FTC) owns or operates a number play areas spread across the town. These facilities have not been invested in for 20-30 years. In many cases, they are very rarely enjoyed by the majority of young people in our community. This is due to a combination of local and national, social issues.

The issues were presented to the full Town Council Meeting on Tuesday 19th July by Cllr Darren Kelly. As a parent of 3 young children growing up in Frodsham, he explained his concerns about the lack of decent localised play areas for children. "Having just one decent play area in Castle Park, and very little else across the rest of the town was not acceptable". He went on to say "we have four bowling greens in Frodsham and one decent play area, this unbalance in facilities for young people will only create problems for them and the wider community longer term".

These claims are backed up by national research. Experts say that modern day children are missing out on vital experiences because they do not spend enough time having fun in the open air and may become dysfunctional adults.

Cllr Kelly put the above issues and more local ones forward to FTC, together with a detailed brief to employ expert consultants to urgently review the Play Areas in detail and formulate a strategy to provide new Playscapes that would serve Frodsham for the next 20-30 years. The consultants will not only expedite the work that is needed, but will be able to draw in experience learned elsewhere. They should be able to access funding streams and be more successful in applying for them as FTC would if they took on the work themselves.

FTC voted resoundingly in favour of Cllr Kelly's proposal and is now aiming to directly employ a specialist Play and Landscape consultant early September, with the report and recommendations for the way forward for Frodsham being completed by December.



• Ship Street Play Area



• Example of a well designed Playscape - Jubilee Way, Kingston upon Thames

## Town Conversations and Consultations

A big thank you to everyone who filled in a consultation form. We've had over 100 replies which we think is a record for a Town Council consultation! Understanding what the community wants or thinks helps us make better decisions so we we'll be doing much more of it. Publishing the Bee monthly and having it delivered to all houses in Frodsham will help us ask questions. For those who haven't seen a form we asked questions about some budget proposals some of which were in our budgets, some weren't. So the results so far:

Proposal	Likely Cost	Yes	No	Action
Hire Planning Consultant to deal with Wind Farm Application	£15,000	41	41	We've resolved to assist RAW with some of its costs and are looking to work with them and CWaC in opposing the windfarm proposal at the forthcoming inquiry
One third of the cost for a Police Community Support Officer	£12,000	76	14	This is in our budgets and we are continuing to support our contribution.
Christmas Festival	£7,500	76	14	We are committed to continue to support the Festival and our Christmas Lights which we recognise are well loved. The costs this year will be higher than are in the budget as we have to install brackets on the lamp standards if we are to run strings of lights from them.
Provide grit for volunteers to spread during snowy and wintery conditions	£6,000	84	8	We've set up a working party to examine what is feasible - if you want to help or give us your opinions - contact the office.
Grants to local community groups	£5,000	78	7	We're still examining our budgets so we can't commit to providing £5,000 this year at the moment - but we've noted the strong desire shown.
Over 70s lunch. Last year served 153 out of c1000 over 70s	£5,000	31	77	When looking at these figures there were about 10 people who supported both the dinner and the voucher! Where people told us their age - the older people tended to support the vouchers over the lunch.
Alternative to over 70s - proposal to provide £5 voucher to all over 70s to spend in local shops	£5,000	69	34	
Town Newsletter	£5,000	78	7	We're committed to publishing as you can see!
Festival in the Park	£250	86	9	This is our contribution to the wonderful festival organised by Rotary. Looks like we'll be continuing our support!
New Year's Torchlight Procession and Fireworks	£1,500	56	33	No decisions taken on this one yet - we'll be pondering this one in the autumn.

## FRODSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN MAYOR: Cllr A W Dawson  
DEPUTY MAYOR: Cllr R Shearn

### NORTH WARD

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### TOWN CLERK

Ian Hope 01928 735150  
council@frodsham.gov.uk

## Frodsham Town Council's Bee



So what does the Frodsham Town Council bee look like? Well up until our last meeting the Town Council's bee seemed to look more like a wasp and was lying on a diagonal! We've just resolved to adopt the style of bee you see on the blue plaques, the heritage notice boards, the Mayoral chain and even on the litter bins in the Town for our everyday use. Everyone thought it was 'our bee' - so we've changed ours so that it is! For really special occasions we've agreed to use the bee on a purple background with a green surround. And the good news - this new design hasn't cost us anything - after all the design is all around us!

# Voucher scheme to provide festive cheer

**A NEW voucher scheme introduced by Frodsham Town Council will bring Christmas cheer to all residents aged over 70 this year - replacing the annual Over 70s lunch.**

Members of the council have agreed to introduce the new scheme which will mean some 1,200 over 70s receiving a £5 voucher which they can spend at local businesses in the town.

Cllr Frank Pennington and Cllr John Nield had campaigned for some time for a change because of declining numbers attending the Over 70s lunch.

The lunch has been held for many years and 20 years ago was attended by more than 500 people.

But last year only 153 attended - and according to Cllr Pennington, 29 of these were from Helsby, Kingsley or Sutton Weaver

When the council carried out a consultation exercise, only 31 people were in favour of the lunch continuing, while 77 people were against.

Cllr Pennington said: "The voucher scheme will benefit more people and encourage spending in the town."

Details of the scheme will be announced shortly but it is hoped that people may also be able to donate their voucher to clubs and societies in the town or organise their own events using their vouchers.

Cllr Nield said "There is no reason why a group can't come together to use their vouchers to organise their own lunches or events and more people will benefit than in the past"

The council has set up a working group to finalise details of the scheme and will be announcing how to apply for vouchers soon.

## Lights will go on shining!

FRODSHAM'S famous Christmas lights are to go on shining.

The Town Council has approved safety measures that will allow the lights to be erected again this year - and in years to come.

Members were told it would be necessary to install new brackets on each lamp standard.

Cllr Linda Brown said: "We have got to do this work or we don't get the lights."

Cllr Graham Bondi said: "Nowhere else has got anything like our lights. They are an important attraction to the town."

Twenty four pairs of brackets will have to be installed to the lights which, in future, will have to be tested every three years.

## Suzanne gets the keys to a new home



*Kenton Barker, senior surveyor for Weaver Vale Housing Trust presents Suzanne Cross with some flowers as the first customer to move into Overton Close.*

A £4.3million housing project in Frodsham has helped a mother living with her two daughters in a small flat to find a brand new home.

Suzanne Cross, 43, and her teenage daughters Alice and Amy moved into a three-bedroom property at Overton Close - part of Weaver Vale Housing Trust's new 65-home new build project at St Lukes, off Ashton Drive.

The family had previously been living in a two-bedroom flat in Barnton, near Northwich.

Suzanne said: "Having two daughters aged 16 and 17 sharing a room caused a lot of bickering and at times there just wasn't enough space for us all."

A health care assistant at the Countess of Chester Hospital, Suzanne applied for a property at Overton Close through Weaver Vale Housing Trust's choice based lettings system - Trust HomeChoice.

She said: "When I was told my application has been successful I was so excited I almost cried. Both my daughters are in the middle of their A-levels so to have a home where they can have their own rooms and we can

all live together comfortably will make such a difference.

"Our new home also has a lovely garden and we are already so much more relaxed. We've also already met a couple of other new residents and I think the community spirit here will be really nice, in fact we're already thinking of organising a get together barbecue with our new neighbours."

The homes at Overton Close all include low energy and high efficiency heating systems and high quality insulation to roofs, windows and doors to keep heating bills as low as possible.

Solar panels on homes also directly heat the water supply, which can provide between 50 and 70 per cent of the hot water requirements of the property free of charge.

All of the properties have now been allocated and other new customers are due to move into their homes within the next few months. Work on the development is due to be completed in October.



## MP opens new village park

WEAVER Vale MP Graham Evans (pictured above) officially open the new Sutton Weaver Community Park.

The park has been created by villagers over a period of two years and opened with a day of games, stalls, refreshments and fund-raising activities for the future maintenance costs of the park.

## "Freedom of town" to be offered

PEOPLE or organisations who make exceptional contributions to the life of Frodsham may in future be offered the Freedom of the Town.

The Town Council has approved an appointment process and criteria for Honorary Freemen and granting of the Freedom of the Town.

Although the honour is the highest any town can bestow it carries no privileges other than the right to use the title of Freeman, receive invitations to major civic events and have their contribution to community life formally recognised.

Granting the Freedom of the Town to a military unit would allow the unit the historic privilege to march through the trees with colours flying, band playing and bayonets fixed.

A report to the council says candidates for the honour should have a strong and continuing connection with and commitment to Frodsham or have made a major contribution to national life and, in doing so, enhanced the reputation of the town.

Their contribution to the town can be in any area of activity including art and culture, business, charitable work, improvement to the built and natural environment, political activities, religious and spiritual life and sport.

Candidates can be from all walks of life and all parts of the town. The Local Government Act allows councils to spend "such reasonable sum as they see fit" on presenting an address to Honorary Freemen.

A scroll and commemorative gift would be needed and the reports suggests that a maximum of £1,000 could be spent on the scroll, gift and civic reception.

Members of the council are responsible for nominating candidates for the honour.

## Bridge club seeks members

VISITORS and new members are being invited to Frodsham and District Bridge Club.

Duplicate Bridge is played at Frodsham Community Centre on Tuesday evenings from 7pm. The club is a member of the English Bridge Union.

Membership is currently open and anyone interested should contact the secretary Pat Culbert 01928 732263.

# Police warning over drink driving

## A SHARP increase in the numbers of people driving after using drink and drugs has been recorded by Cheshire Police.

During a month-long campaign to combat drink and drug driving 153 people were arrested after failing a breath test, compared with 119 arrested for the same period last year.

More than three quarters of those arrested were men. The total figure includes 48 people from the Western Area, which includes the Frodsham and Helsby area.

Figures for those driving while unfit due to drugs has more than doubled - with nine arrests during June this year, compared with four in the same period last year. These were all men.

caught and will be prosecuted. Choosing to drink and drive poses a great threat to yourself and others. The message is very clear, if you are going to have a drink, don't get behind the wheel, don't take the risk."

He said the number of arrests is the highest for the past three years, and that six per cent more arrests have been made compared with the same time last year. The number of arrests for drug driving is also at its highest compared with the previous two years.

In a bid to combat the increased numbers, Cheshire Police is re-

launching last Christmas's The Good, The Bad and The Ugly campaign during the summer. It will illustrate the dangers of drink driving as well as generally the risks of excessive alcohol consumption.

It will also focus on various aspects of alcohol-related problems such as summer barbecues, underage drinking, vulnerability, together with drink driving.

People who are aware of persistent drink-drivers are urged to report them on the Cheshire Police Information line; 0845 458 0000, or anonymously on the Cheshire Police website www.cheshire.police.uk

## Nine mile walk in North Wales

FRODSHAM Town Council is organising a nine mile walk in North Wales on Saturday, August 20.

Walkers will travel to Carrog by the 11am steam train from Llangollen Station and should meet there at 10.40am to allow time to park at the pay and display car park. After the train journey the party will walk back to Llangollen.

Further details can be obtained from the council's office manager, Anne Pitt, on 01928 735150 or Cllr Graham Bondi on 01928 735503.

### Heavy fine

Assistant Chief Constable Phil Thompson said: "These people will face the prospect of losing their license, incurring a criminal record and even a prison sentence. At the very least they will be looking at largely increased insurance costs and a heavy fine.

"People are simply not getting the message that drink drivers will get

## Skipping for money!

MORE than 70 Guides, Brownies and Rainbows from Frodsham, Helsby, Kingsley and other areas took part in a sponsored "Skip-a-thon" to raise money to the Girl Guide's outdoor centre at Sandiway.

They set themselves a target of collectively skipping 50km on the field at Helsby Guide headquarters - but in fact more than quadrupled it.

On the night the girls - and the odd leader! - skipped a massive 221 km between them at the same time as having plenty of fun and keeping fit.

The effort was part of Girlguiding Cheshire Forest's appeal to raise £1.4 million for Pettypool - its outdoor centre at Sandiway.

As part of the fundraising effort, every member of Girlguiding UK in Cheshire has been challenged to raise £10.

Trefoil Guild members - former Guides and/or Leaders - provided the

administrative and catering support, taking registration forms and sponsor money, tallying distances skipped and providing the well-needed juice and hotdogs at the end of the night.

Nikki Barker, Weaver Division Commissioner and 3rd Frodsham Brownie Leader, was delighted with the effort made by everyone from the youngest Rainbow to the oldest TG member.

She said: "Almost £500 was collected on the night and with some sponsorship money still outstanding, we hope to have achieved the £10 per person target."

## Two will contest council by-election

A TOWN Council by-election is to take place in Frodsham South ward on August 11.

Two candidates are contesting the seat - former Mayor Geoff Bath, Independent, of Kingsway, who lost his seat at the May elections as a result of a mix-up over his nomination papers, and Conservative Carol Davis, of Kingsley Road.

Polling will be at Five Crosses Methodist Church between 8am and 9pm.

The by-election arises from the resignation of John Salinas, of the UK Independence Party, who was successful in the May elections but has never attended a council meeting.

Another new councillor, Sam Harmer, Independent, also resigned after winning a seat in North ward in May. He also never attended a meeting.

No candidates have come forward for North Ward so, at its September meeting, the Town Council will be looking to co-opt a member to fill the vacancy. Anyone interested in being considered for this vacancy should contact Town Clerk Ian Hope.

## Get your weekends back

OVEN valeting specialist Paul Clark is offering his professional oven cleaning solution to hard working professionals who want their weekends back.

Paul is the Ovenu franchisee for Warrington and is providing oven cleaning services to those who are looking to save their leisure time during the summer.

Paul says: "The working days are so much longer with many people not returning home from work 12 hours after leaving the house.

I understand most people want to spend quality time with family and friends at the weekend and not worry about how long it will take to clean and tidy the house.

"Oven cleaning is a dirty, time-consuming job and not the way to spend a sunny Sunday."

Paul is also reminding local residents of the health and safety issues of leaving an oven dirty for too long.

"If grease and grime is left to fester for months it can potentially result in an oven fire which can lead to serious injury or even death. Giving your oven a thorough clean can eliminate the risk of a potential fire and your oven will also run more efficiently.

The Ovenu valeting process involves dismantling key components of an oven such as the door, interior panels, fan and shelves and placing them into design-registered equipment, which uses non-caustic products to clean the oven parts.

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## Solar power for local schools

A NUMBER of primary schools in the Frodsham area are among 32 to soon be benefiting from solar power under a new £1.2 million scheme.

Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWC) is to install photovoltaic panels on the schools, as well as its own Wyvern House offices in Winsford.

The move is expected to reduce the authority's annual carbon dioxide emissions by 462 tonnes and save £79,000 in electricity costs each year.

Furthermore, it will generate a yearly income of £113,800 through the Government's 'feed-in tariffs' incentive, which provides cash payments to organisations and individuals who generate renewable energy.

The system is expected to pay for itself within six and a half years, after which time savings will continue to accrue for its 25-year life expectancy.

Installation work at primary schools is expected to be completed by the end of next March.

The schools were selected following a detailed analysis of factors including planning issues, strength of roofs, and if they were south facing with no overhanging trees or buildings which would cause

shade.

Each school will be encouraged to use the project as a learning tool, complemented by an educational programme exploring further ways to improve energy efficiency and performance of the schools.

Cllr Lynn Riley, CWC's executive member for Community and Environment, said: "Introducing solar power technology is an exciting, forward-looking move which will bring enormous benefits for the Council and its taxpayers."

"It will reduce the authority's carbon footprint and cut energy bills, while generating a regular income stream and protecting against future energy price rises."

"In our schools it will also have a real educational benefit as pupils learn about the science behind the system, the weather and the environment."

"We will be monitoring the success of the project carefully, and we hope to expand the technology to more of our buildings in the future."

Local primary schools expected to be included in the scheme are Frodsham Manor House, St Luke's RC, Frodsham, Kingsley, Antrobus St Marks, Elton and Norley CE.

# Camera company moves into town

**ONE of the country's top suppliers of vehicle camera systems has moved into new premises in Frodsham.**

Vision UK - which produces reversing, rear-view and CCTV cameras for vehicles - is moving from Chester to take three offices and a warehouse at Frodsham Business Centre.

Managing director Rick Trehearne said: "Our business has grown massively in the last two years because transport firms and other businesses with vehicles realise the importance of protecting drivers with evidence against fraudulent road accident insurance claims."

"There is also currently a big drive for improved health and safety on the roads and our technology provides greatly increased visibility and special awareness to help drivers complete their journey safely."

Vision UK has supplied systems for the vehicles used in the construction of the Olympic Park in London, and has doubled its annual turnover since 2009.

Rick said the facilities at the centre were "fantastic" and praised centre staff for being helpful in making the move possible.

Robert Longden, of Frodsham



Business Centre, said: "We're delighted to welcome Vision UK to Frodsham Business Centre."

"We have seen an influx of new companies move into the centre over the last 12 months which is great for the local economy and shows that Frodsham is a great place to do business."

## Golf club reach last 16



FRODSHAM Golf Club has reached the last 16 of a national club knock-out competition.

The competition started back in February with 1,400 clubs from all over the UK entering.

Frodsham's Mail on Sunday Classic team have seen off competition from Chester, Sutton Hall, Upton-by-Chester, High Legh, Bramhall, Wrexham and Conwy and now face Shirley Golf Club, from Solihull for a place in the quarter finals at the Marriott Hotel, Worsley Park, Manchester.

The semi-finals and final will be played in November in Spain. Frodsham's team is led by Keith Murray with Peter Ford, Carl Massey, Alan Paynter, Paul Van De Waal-Smith (not in photograph) and Peter Walker.

They are closing in on the success of the club's women's team in 2006 when they were runners up in the equivalent women's event.

## Save Money!

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## Motoring

# Sold out before it's available!

**THE days of being able to walk into a car showroom and buy a new car of a particular model and colour without having to wait some considerable time for delivery appear to have gone.**

Even so, the news that the first year's output of the Evoque - the new baby Range Rover - had sold out before the first one rolled off the Halewood production lines, is pretty startling.

Apparently, some 18,000 orders had already been placed for the stylish new SUV.

Land Rover have invested £2 billion in the vehicle and 1,500 new workers have been taken on to build it so the Evoque has provided a major boost to the economy.

Prices start at £27,995 for the two-wheel drive version, with a diesel engine and a manual gearbox which

delivers more than 50mpg.

But there are five engine and transmission combinations available, three trim levels and two body styles - 5-door and coupe.

A top of the range model will cost £44,320.

Who got the first one? Well it was a white, five-door model with Dynamic trim and it went to the Heritage Motor Museum at Gaydon, in Warwickshire.

The Evoque is expected to appear in showrooms in September but would-be purchasers can expect to join a queue.



## Fuel sales plummet

FILLING stations sold one billion litres less petrol and diesel in the first three months of this year compared to the same period in pre-credit crunch 2008, according to the AA.

Milder weather, including the ninth warmest February on record, means that snow disruption was barely a factor so soaring prices at the pumps and elsewhere get the blame.

Retail sales of petrol from January to March were 835.654 million litres lower than during the same period in 2008. For diesel, retail sales

dropped by 246.994 million litres over the same period.

This 15.2 per cent collapse in petrol sales and 6.0 per cent fall in diesel sales is largely explained by record prices which saw petrol rise 7.94p a litre and diesel 10.51p during the first three months.

Comparing this year to last, UK petrol retail sales from January to March this year were down 3.7 per cent on the same period last year. Diesel sales on forecourts were up 0.5 per cent. The AA say motorists

cut back on car use and other spending to compensate for the higher fuel costs.

For the Government, the fall in fuel sales has deprived the Treasury of £637.8 million in tax.

Supermarkets appear to have suffered less than non-supermarket rivals. Government figures show that, year on year, supermarket petrol sales fell by 1.2 per cent from January to March this year while their competitors lost 5.3 per cent.

Petrol and diesel prices continued to set new records up until the second week of May, adding a further 4.3p a litre of petrol and 3.3p to diesel.

But oil prices have been falling, so the next quarter's figures should be interesting.

AA president Edmund King said: "The full impact of higher VAT, unbridled stock market speculation and a weaker pound on fuel prices and drivers' ability to afford them have been laid bare.

"The first three months of this year saw the equivalent of 13.5 days of UK petrol sales wiped out - good for the environment but appalling for families, business, rural communities and the Treasury."

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## Forest Hill goes global

FRODSHAM'S Forest Hills Hotel has become a Best Western Hotel - the largest group of independently owned and managed hotels in the world.

After rigorous inspections to make sure the hotel met the quality standards required by Best Western, it passed with flying colours.

Hotel managers Kieran and Tamsin McCabe were delighted with the achievement.

Mr McCabe said: "Becoming part of the 'the world's biggest hotel family' we are still independently owned and managed, but now part of a global brand.

"The hotel will continue to provide the same expected service and high quality standards we are known for."

The hotel was built in 1988 and swiftly became part of the Frodsham community, hosting hundreds of weddings, Christenings and even Golden Wedding anniversaries of people who originally had their wedding receptions at the former Merseyview.

The management team and staff were all part of the assessment procedure and shared the hotel's success in joining Best Western.

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