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February 2012

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Editor's Comment



WHATEVER one thinks of former Frodsham town councillor Tom Reynolds - and he delights in reminding us that a member of the council once described him as a "difficult resident" - one has to admit he seems to have been ahead of the game recently.

Last month we reported his campaign to organise volunteers to paint the shabby, crumbling Sutton Weaver Swing Bridge and his idea

to appoint a "business manager" to offer advice and support to local business.

This month we report on the trip to London by senior representatives of Cheshire West and Chester Council and British Waterways to seek Government help towards the cost of restoring the bridge and the Frodsham Town Council initiative to appoint a town manager to help promote the town.

Did Mr Reynolds have prior knowledge of these proposals? Were they inspired by his suggestions? Or are we looking at two remarkable coincidences?

We cannot pretend to know. But, in the case of the bridge at least, the "difficult resident" has succeeded in putting the issue back in the headlines, and that cannot be a bad thing.

Our view is that £4 million seems a lot of money to spend on a swing bridge that apparently only swings once every six weeks. It also seems unthinkable that repair work should necessitate closing the A56 for six months, cutting Frodsham businesses off from many of their customers and cutting the town off from emergency services.

It should not be beyond the wit of man to provide an alternative river crossing while the bridge is renovated - particularly if we have £4 million to spend.

Musical festival will salute Queen's Jubilee

THE third Frodsham Charity Music Festival will take place on Monday June 4 to coincide with celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

It will be held at the Forest Hills Hotel, outside if the weather allows, and will feature local bands who are performing free.

All profits go to local charities and organisers hope to match last year's figure of nearly £15,000. Tickets cost £10 and will be available from mid-April.

Only those pre-purchasing tickets will be allowed into the event. Organisers are also looking for company sponsorship or donations to help cover printing, stage and lighting costs.


Further information is available from www.frodshamcharitymusicfestival.co.uk or from John Hodgson or Pat McLaren on 07855 562 594.

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New police chief arrives

A NEW police inspector has been appointed for Frodsham following the departure of Phil Hodgson.

Inspector Keith Curbishley has been appointed to the Western Rural Neighbourhood Policing Unit.

He has more than 25 years policing experience in a variety of frontline roles that include traffic duties and overseeing the management of detainees in custody suites.

He said: "I welcomed the opportunity to become part of - and indeed head up - such an effective and successfully established neighbourhood team. I want to continue to build on the success of the unit, particularly in relation to reducing anti-social behaviour and

violent crime.

"My main objective is to make sure the residents have confidence in their local policing service. I am keen to hear from local residents and business owners about their concerns and what is important to them."

Insp Curbishley attended the monthly meeting of Frodsham Town Council to introduce himself to members.

Also at the meeting was popular PCSO Kay Swindlehurst, saying "farewell."

Kay is leaving to start a career as a fully fledged police officer.

The Mayor, Cllr Andrew Dawson, presented her with a silver salver on behalf of the council.

Kay said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my five years in Frodsham and have been visiting all the people I have got to know, the schools, the organisations, etc to say goodbye. I will miss them all."



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Top level talks on swing bridge

A DEPUTATION of councillors and senior council officers travelled to London to brief Weaver Vale MP Graham Evans about the growing concern over the condition of the ageing Sutton Weaver Swing Bridge, near Frodsham.

Among its members were Frodsham Mayor Cllr Andrew Dawson and fellow Frodsham councillor Lynn Riley.

Senior representatives from Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWC) and British Waterways were also in the party.

The aim was to seek high level talks with Defra - which funds British Waterways - and the Department of Transport on the future of the bridge, which carries the A56 over the River Weaver.

British Waterways - owners of the 90-year-old structure - has said that while safe at the moment, the bridge will need major re-strengthening work in the foreseeable future.

But while CWC is prepared to meet its share of the refurbishment

costs, British Waterways is struggling to find the remainder of the estimated £4m needed.

Retired businessman and former Frodsham councillor Tom Reynolds is spearheading a campaign to get the bridge re-painted by volunteers. He says the appalling appearance of the rusting bridge is damaging Frodsham's image.

But he believes proposals put forward by British Waterways, which would involve closing the bridge for 6-9 months, are a non-starter because the damage this would cause to Frodsham's economy.

He also questions the £4 million estimated cost of repairs.

"The bridge's future is being decided by bureaucrats that just don't have a clue," he said.

The bridge is used by an average of 20,000 vehicle daily while one boat only uses the river every six weeks.

Apart from the M56 motorway, Sutton Weaver Bridge is the only road crossing over the river for miles in either direction. Motorway traffic, normally diverted through Frodsham and Helsby, when the M56 westbound is blocked, would be forced to travel many miles out of its way, with the only alternative routes via Northwich to the south or the Mersey Tunnels to the north.

Cllr Riley said: "The bridge plays a vital role in the local transport system - not least as a motorway release valve - and we are deeply concerned

about the current situation.

"We are working closely with British Waterways on the issue and hope that a joint approach to Government will provide the help needed to address what could well prove to be a major problem."

She added: "Sadly this is a problem which will not go away."

A spokesman for British Waterways: "The refurbishment of the bridge remains high on our agenda and we will continue to work with the council and local community to restore the landmark structure."

But British Waterways says the idea of using volunteers to paint the bridge is not feasible because of safety issues.



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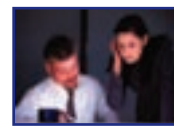


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Pupils cook up a winner!

TWO pupils from Helsby High School have qualified for the quarter finals of the national Rotary Young Chef competition.

Helsby hosted a round of the contest, competing against Whalley Range High School, Manchester.

Judge was Adam Senior, sous chef at Frodsham's Old Hall Hotel who praised all the competitors for the exceptionally high quality of the food. The task was to make and present a two course menu in 90 minutes, and all coped well.

Year 10 pupil Elysia Hardie, of Frodsham was winner and Sophie Parker, also Year 10 of Helsby, was runner up. They have now qualified for the quarter finals when they will have to cook a three course menu against seven other schools.

During the event, Year 8 Cook Club members made a range of delicious cakes to serve and received many compliments about them. Other competitors praised for their entries were Harry Stubbs, Year 9, Alex Weale, Year 9 and



Elysia Hardie and Rotary Club of Frodsham president Graham Reeves

Local law firms unite to help families

COUPLES in Frodsham are being offered a new way to separate thanks to two local solicitors from different firms teaming up to pioneer a revolutionary approach, which helps reduce the emotional costs on couples and their children when families split.

Local solicitors Linda Hunter of Rowlinsons and Ruth Hetherington of Forshaws Davies Ridgway (FDR) are working together to promote the collaborative approach.

The approach, called Collaborative Law, involves couples working with their solicitors, all together in the same room, to reach agreement without the need for costly and stressful Court battles. The approach is built upon mutual

problem solving, where both parties and their solicitors pledge to work together to negotiate an agreement without going to Court.

"Sadly, family breakdown is a fact of life," explains trained collaborative lawyer Ruth Hetherington, a partner at Forshaw Davies Ridgway's, Frodsham office. "As members of Resolution, a 5500-strong group of family lawyers, Linda and I commit to minimising the financial and emotional pain it causes. We do this by adopting a conciliatory approach

which puts the needs of any children involved first." Linda Hunter, of Frodsham based firm Rowlinsons adds, "Collaborative law is a natural extension of this idea. By all sitting together, we ensure that couples stay in control of their own futures, instead of leaving decisions to a judge in a courtroom."

"We are delighted to be working together to develop a collaborative approach within the Frodsham area. We are committed to promoting an alternative to the traditional, confrontational approach to family law disputes."

If you would like more information about collaborative law, or wish to speak to a specialist family lawyer, contact Ruth Hetherington of Forshaws Davies Ridgway (FDR) on 01928 739300 or Linda Hunter of Rowlinsons Solicitors on 01928 736679.



Ruth Hetherington (left) and Linda Hunter

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Council's bold gamble on council tax

FRODSHAM Town Council has taken the bold step of increasing its element of the Council Tax by £8.33 on an average Band D property - gambling that Cheshire West and Chester Council will reduce it by the same amount later this month.

If CWC decides at its meeting on February 23 NOT to reduce council tax for Frodsham, local people will have to pay the increasing, taking council tax for a Band D home in the town to £1,495.

But the Mayor, Cllr Andrew Dawson said: "Even if this happens, it seems likely that Frodsham people will still have the lowest Council Tax in Cheshire West."

The Town Council voted 11-4 in favour of taking the gamble - with councillors Graham Bondi, Pammi Taylor, Frank Pennington and Kyle McGregor opposing the move.

If CWC decides to reduce the tax it requires from Frodsham by £8.33, local people will not have to pay the increase, but the Town Council will still have extra money for its ambitious

plans for the future - one of which is the recruitment of a Town Manager whose sole role will be the promotion of Frodsham and boosting the local economy.

But the budget will also include money for other projects, including replacing the town's ageing Christmas lights with new, low energy lights, and providing CCTV in the town centre.

Cllr Bondi said he was not opposed to having a Town Manager but was opposed to increasing the Council Tax when the council had reserves of £150,000

"We have this large pot of money. We should use some of it before we increase the precept."

Cllr Frank Pennington said the council should find out what the

people of Frodsham wanted before they made a decision.

But Cllr Lynn Riley urged the council to be bold and take advantage of the unique opportunity which presented itself.

She agreed that the council had, historically, had "shameful" reserves.

But if they spent most of them, they could regret it in 12 months' time.

*If CWC decides to reduce Frodsham's Council Tax it will be to take account of "special expenses" such as PCSOs, playgrounds and Christmas lights which Frodsham, unlike most other town and parish councils, pays for itself.

Glimpse of Army Cadet life

A GLIMPSE of Army Cadet life was given at an open evening at Frodsham Army Cadet Force.

Detachment commander, Sergeant Amanda Gregson, threw open the doors to members of the public, families of cadets and some senior officers for an informative look at Army Cadet life and achievement.

There were multiple stands where visitors could learn and get involved from cooking to camouflage.

There were also two presentations to cadets who had achieved their Army Proficiency Certificate and a prestigious Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award was presented by the Colonel of the Cheshire Army Cadet Force to Cadet Staff Sergeant Johnson.



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BEST Western Forest Hills Hotel, Frodsham, is holding a Wedding Fayre on Sunday, February 26, 12pm - 3.00pm, with free admission, a Goodie bag on arrival and £100 Thomas Cook Voucher and a chance to win a free honeymoon!

See Cheshire Bride's new range of bridal gowns on the catwalk with a fashion show at 1pm.

The event provides an excellent opportunity to view the hotel, and see all the people needed to plan a wedding, from beauty to chocolate fountains. The hotel's function rooms will be set up as they would be for a wedding breakfast, so couple's can really visualise their "Big Day."

Special discounts are available - anyone booking and taking a wedding between January and March 2013 or midweek (Sunday - Thursday inclusive) throughout the year, will receive a 10 per cent reduction from their total bill. (Minimum numbers apply). Plus a new

Easter wedding and festive wedding discount.

View past weddings on the hotel's website in the gallery and testimonials that speak for themselves. Plus all the forthcoming events, 80s nights, Katy Perry and Lady Ga Ga tribute night, dining offers, summer dinner dance and much more www.foresthills.com

Why not make an afternoon of it on the 26th? Stay for lunch in the Hilltops Restaurant, at a special rate of £12.50pp for a three course carvery lunch with coffee, or £10.50pp for a two course carvery lunch with coffee. Call the restaurant to make a reservation Tel 01928 735255.

Pre-school has 'outstanding features'

A PRE-school in Frodsham was rated 'Good with Outstanding Features' following an Ofsted report.

Little Overtons' Pre-School was also praised for the effectiveness of its partnerships with parents/carers and local schools, especially Frodsham CE Primary School, which it shares a site with.

The report said: "A welcoming and effective service is provided for children as the staff team work well together to provide a stimulating and enjoyable environment."

"Overall, children are making good progress in their learning and development as their needs are met through observations, planning and discussion."

Ofsted say the close partnerships with parents and carers and other professionals, enable staff to meet children's individual needs and successfully provide continuity of care. The staff team are also praised for making continual improvements through effective self-evaluation. The report added: "Overall, children feel safe and secure in their pre-school environment and develop a strong sense of belonging."



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MP backs plan to tackle rogue wheel clampers

MP Graham Evans welcomed Government plans to tackle rogue wheel clampers in the wake of a furious row over clamping in Frodsham last year. The Home Office has announced that rogue wheel clampers will be stopped under a new ban on clamping.

The ban, which is being brought in via the Protection of Freedoms Bill, will stop anyone in England and Wales from being able to clamp vehicles without lawful authority.

The Bill is currently at Committee Stage in the House of Lords and once the ban is in place, anyone contravening it will face tough penalties.

Last year, many Frodsham residents complained about wheel clamping in the town, with Mayor Andrew Dawson referring to clamping

operations as a "deplorable state of affairs".

The only bodies that will be able to clamp vehicles once the ban has been brought in will be those with statutory powers to do so.

These include local authorities (when enforcing road traffic contraventions on the public highway or local authority managed car parks), the police, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority in respect of vehicles that have no road tax and the Department for Transport where

vehicles are not roadworthy.

Mr Evans said: "I believe it is deplorable that many motorists have fallen victim to unscrupulous tactics by some clamping firms.

"Reports of motorists being marched to cash points or left stranded after their car has been towed away are simply unacceptable. Many clamping firms have been seemingly targeting the elderly and the vulnerable, which is completely unacceptable.

"Wheel clamping is illegal in Scotland and this has worked since 1992 with no serious problems. I hope that residents and shoppers in Frodsham who complained to the police and the council last year will welcome this new development".



Literature festival launches this year

A NEW 12-day literature festival, "Weaver Words", is to be launched in Frodsham this summer.

Supported by an Arts Council start-up grant of £10,000, the festival will offer an exciting range of events, talks and workshops for adults and children, including a performance by the Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy.

Weaver Words is the brain child of the Frodsham Community Association and is being organised by a festival committee, chaired by Sue Thomson.

Sue said: "The literature festival is a fantastic new event for Frodsham which should be great for residents

and attract hundreds of people to the town. We hope lots of local schools, book groups and community organisations will want to join in. And we're delighted Frodsham CE Primary School has already pledged their support by planning to host an author-in-residence and publish their own book of stories."

Award-winning Frodsham writer Tim Firth, author of "Calendar Girls", has agreed to be the festival's patron and he will be sponsoring a new children's writing competition attached to the festival.

He said: "I'm really pleased that my Great Cheshire Story Prize will form

part of the new festival. Hopefully it will offer to younger children the three things any professional writer craves most - a first line, a deadline and a cash incentive."

Weaver Words will run from August 29 to September 9 and feature a science fiction weekend, poetry events with local poets Andrew Rudd and Gladys Mary Coles, a Daphne du Maurier afternoon tea, a Charles Dickens celebration with his descendant Gerald Dickens and a wide variety of workshops, from cartoons and creative writing to drama and book-making.

There will also be a special storytelling day for pre-school children and a lively Open Mic night for budding writers to present their work. The festival will end with the premier of a new drama, Daring To Be, presented by local churches.

Weaver Words is being co-ordinated by festival project manager, Lynn Pegler, and she would be delighted to hear from any community group or individual who would like to get involved. For more information, please contact her on 07783 686246 or email email@weaverwords.org.uk

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Weaver Words is launched at Frodsham's Old Hall Hotel, one of the literature festival venues. Festival patron Tim Firth (seated) with Frodsham CE Primary school pupils Ellie Fraser and Ben Wild, and (behind left to right) festival manager Lynn Pegler, Frodsham poet Dr Andrew Rudd and Professor Sue Zlosnik.

Retired priest's musical memories

TALES of celebrities including Laurel and Hardy, Carmen Miranda and Gracie Fields were told by the guest speaker at a meeting of Frodsham Recorded Music Society.

Retired Anglican priest the Rev David Leslie, who is actively involved with St Lawrence, Frodsham, and the Frodsham Players, was the speaker.

His presentation "Dabbling with Music - some reflections," was a detailed account of his life interspersed with the playing of music.

He circulated photographs of celebrities that he had been in contact with when a youngster with his father, who was connected with the theatre.

His early life was based in London where he was involved with the stage, church and studying. He tutored in piano and organ and his Christian conviction led to him being ordained.

Some years later he moved to Kirkby and took a range of appointments, with music always playing a part in his Anglican Church career.

His musical choices included parts of Brahms Piano Concerto Number Two, Beethoven's Seventh Symphony and Bach's Kreuzbergkirche Variation.

The vote of thanks was given by Bill Aukland

THE FRODSHAM BEE



Police Community Liaison Officer (PCSO)

At the last Town Council meeting Councillors said a fond farewell to PCSO Kay Swindlehurst who has been working in Frodsham for the past 5 years.

The Mayor, Councillor Andrew Dawson, presented Kay with an engraved silver salver in grateful recognition of her work within the community of Frodsham.

Kay is leaving Cheshire to take up a post with the British Transport Police and Councillors wished her well in her new career.

From 5 February PCSO James McLoughlin will be taking over Kay's duties in the short term.



2012-13 Budget

February is a busy time in local government with each local authority setting its budget and the council tax. In Frodsham our total Council Tax contributes to four authorities. The biggest share of the Council Tax goes to Cheshire West and Chester Council. The police authority and fire authorities also take their share. The smallest portion goes to Frodsham Town Council. At the time of writing this article only Frodsham Town Council has set its budget. We will know by 23 February what each of the other authorities has done.

This year Cheshire West and Chester Council is considering whether to adopt a 'special expenses regime.' If it is adopted (and assuming everything else remains the same) it will mean that Cheshire West and Chester's element of the total Council Tax will drop by 0.7%. For Frodsham this will mean a reduction of £8.33 on a Band D property. Then, depending on which part of the Borough you are in, and what services are paid for by Cheshire West, and what services are supplied by the Town or Parish Council, a special expenses amount may be added to reflect what Cheshire West pays for by way of support for the local PCSO, Christmas lights and play areas. This is being done to avoid parished areas paying twice for services they may at best only receive once! In Frodsham all of these things are paid for by the Town Council so our 'special expense' figure will be zero. In Helsby the figure is £1.59. In Northwich and Neston it is over £12 and in Chester it will be nearly £18.

The Town Council weighed these potential changes when setting the Council Tax. By a large majority the Town Council resolved to raise the Town Council's Council Tax figure by £8.33 on a Band D property – to a total of £38.55 for the year. The aim is to raise an additional £32,000 for the Council but without adding a single penny to the total Council Tax any Frodsham resident would have to pay – on the assumption Cheshire West and Chester Council does adopt the special expenses regime.

When setting the budget for this year the Town Council made provision, amongst other things, for:

- Renewing our Christmas lights with modern led lighting. Whilst the exact design has not yet been finalised – and we will be consulting you about this – it looks like we will be seeking something very similar to what we presently have;
- Making a significant contribution towards CCTV for the Town. We know the police have been asking for this for many years, our new Inspector Keith Curbishley has requested we look at this – now we are looking to see if we can secure funding both for its installation and operation; and
- Recruiting a Town Manager to work with the Town Council, our businesses through Love Frodsham and Cheshire West and Chester Council. CWaC have offered funding of £15,000 for each of the next 2 years. We are working on the details as each of the 3 partner organisations has a slightly different idea of what this person can or should do.

The Town Manager role in part follows the Mary Portas recommendations to help support retailers.

Cheshire West and Chester Governance Review

The Town Council has been asked for its views on whether its boundaries are still relevant or should be changed and the Council has asked CW&C to look at extending the boundary to the Sutton Weaver Swing Bridge and out to the Lady Heyes Craft Centre. CW&C is also looking at the number of electors in each of the Frodsham wards. Changing the boundaries particularly for North Ward will achieve a better Councillor / electorate ratio.

Dates for your New Year Diary

27 February

26 March

23 April

Saturday 28 April - Monday 7 May

14 May

28 May

Full Council meeting

Full Council meeting

Full Council meeting

Festival of Walks

Full Council Annual meeting

Annual Town Meeting / Full Council meeting

Town Clerk Vacancy

At its last meeting the Town Council also said farewell to the present Clerk, Ian Hope, who is leaving on 17 February. Interviews have been taking place for his replacement and it is hoped to make an appointment soon.

Jubilee Weekend

We have recently set up a working group to co-ordinate the celebrations over the Jubilee weekend of Friday 1 June to Tuesday 5 June 2012.

We would very much like to know if you or people you know have any thoughts or suggestions for what you would like to take place – if so please let us know – council@frodsham.gov.uk.

If you would be interested in joining the working group, or have plans of your own, we would love to hear from you.

Festival of Walks

The successful Festival of Walks programme will take place again this year from Saturday 28 April to Monday 7 May. Look out for more details in the next issue.

FRODSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN MAYOR: Cllr A W Dawson

DEPUTY MAYOR: Cllr R Shearn

NORTH WARD

Frank R Pennington 07752 297 188

Rita Shearn 01928 732906

Pammi Taylor 01928 731932

Allen Wales 01928 732115

SOUTH WARD

Carol Davis 07944 170 257

Lynn Riley 07800 869 350

Fran Sutton 07842 296 114

Sara Wakefield 07737 684 436

EAST WARD

Graham Bondi 01928 735503

Linda Brown 07984 043 058

Andrew Dawson 07970 635 629

Ruth Redhead 01928 735800

Mark Warren 07979 513 205

WEST WARD

Darren Kelly 07961 910 369

Kyle McGregor 07719 978 103

John Nield 01928 731386

TOWN CLERK

Ian Hope 01928 735150

To contact your Town councillor by e-mail please use council@frodsham.gov.uk and we will forward your message.

Investing in a whole new lifestyle

HOUSE hunters can invest in a whole new lifestyle by buying a home at Kingsley Park, near Frodsham.

The development by PJ Livesey offers a mix of period conversion properties and new-build houses - plus direct access to 30 acres of grounds and woodland which, in turn, lead into Delamere Forest'

It is just about as far removed from a traditional new build estate as is possible and it is the history and setting that has made residents like Peter and Kate feel right at home.

They found it by accident, spotting the restored Grade II listed tower of the main building from across the fields and following the country lanes to the gateway.

Kate said: "The minute we went

through the gates we fell in love with the place. It was the whole mix of the location, the history and the beautiful old buildings and the lovely feeling that it is somewhere very special."

The couple had lived in a large house by the sea for 25 years but were looking to downsize and wanted a country location without being remote.

They bought one of the houses and moved in last spring.

Kate said: "Everything about the house is just right and we adore the setting. The kitchen is really well equipped and opens into a big dining area. The living room has

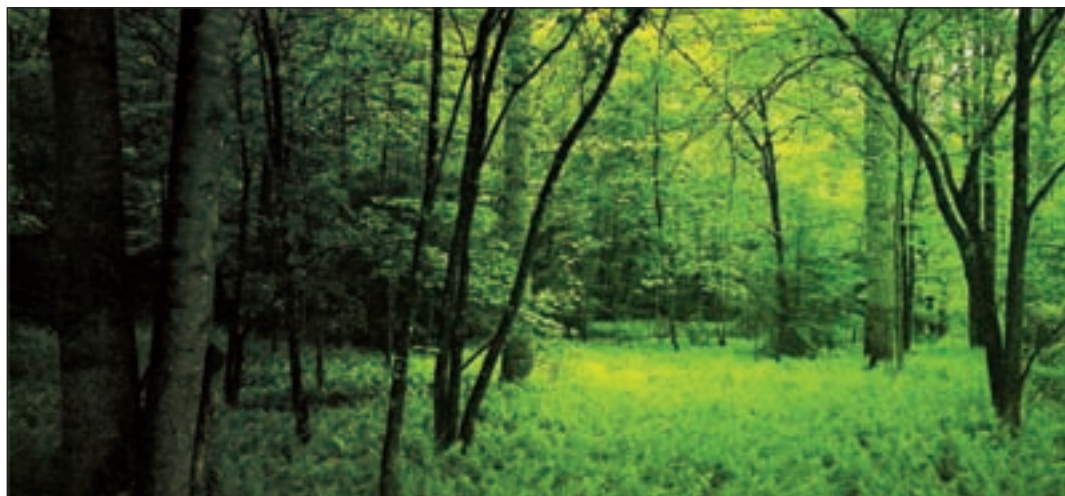
French doors out onto the garden.

"Upstairs there are three bedrooms but best of all is a balcony which overlooks trees and farmland. I love sitting there with a coffee or glass of wine just looking at the view.

"But we are only five miles from Frodsham and can get to our daughter in Chester in 20 minutes."

There are just nine properties left for sale at Kingsley Park now. One, three bedroom house backing onto the forest and eight spacious apartments in Rowan House, a restored former nurses' home. They start from £204,950.

For more images and details of the development and its history log onto www.pjlivesey-group.co.uk or call the sales office on 01928 740078.



A woodland view at Kingsley Park

MP drops in to see school's new unit

WEAVER Vale MP Graham Evans dropped in at Kingsley Primary and Nursery School to look around the new Foundation Stage unit.

The unit is a new addition to the school and brings Nursery and Reception into a new, purpose-built wing.

Mr Evans spent some time exploring and enjoying the new facilities with the children, including the performance area in the nursery and the indoor sand pit.

Ofsted, in its recent inspection of the school, said of the new unit: "This is a good setting, which continues to improve as a result of good leadership and management and the establishment of the new Early Years Foundation Stage unit, of which parents and carers speak positively."

"They are particularly pleased with the 'family' ethos of care, support and guidance in both nursery and reception."

Head teacher Fiona Rimmer said: "We are very proud of our new facility for 3-4 year-olds and were happy to show it off to Graham."



Three-storey travel lodge planned

A PLANNING application has been submitted for a 42-bedroom travel lodge near Frodsham railway station.

The three-storey building is planned for the former builder's yard in Collinson Court, off Church Street.

Cheshire West and Chester Council is consulting residents and other occupiers of nearby properties about the proposal.

Comments can be made online on the council website or sent to the planning office at Wyvern House, The Drumber, Winsford, WW7 1AH by February 13.

New 'green' group is formed

A FRODSHAM Transition Initiative has been born - out of the success of the Kingsley group which has just celebrated its third anniversary.

Fifteen people attended the first meeting at Frodsham, instigated by Allan Arthur, founder of the Kingsley Transition Initiative.

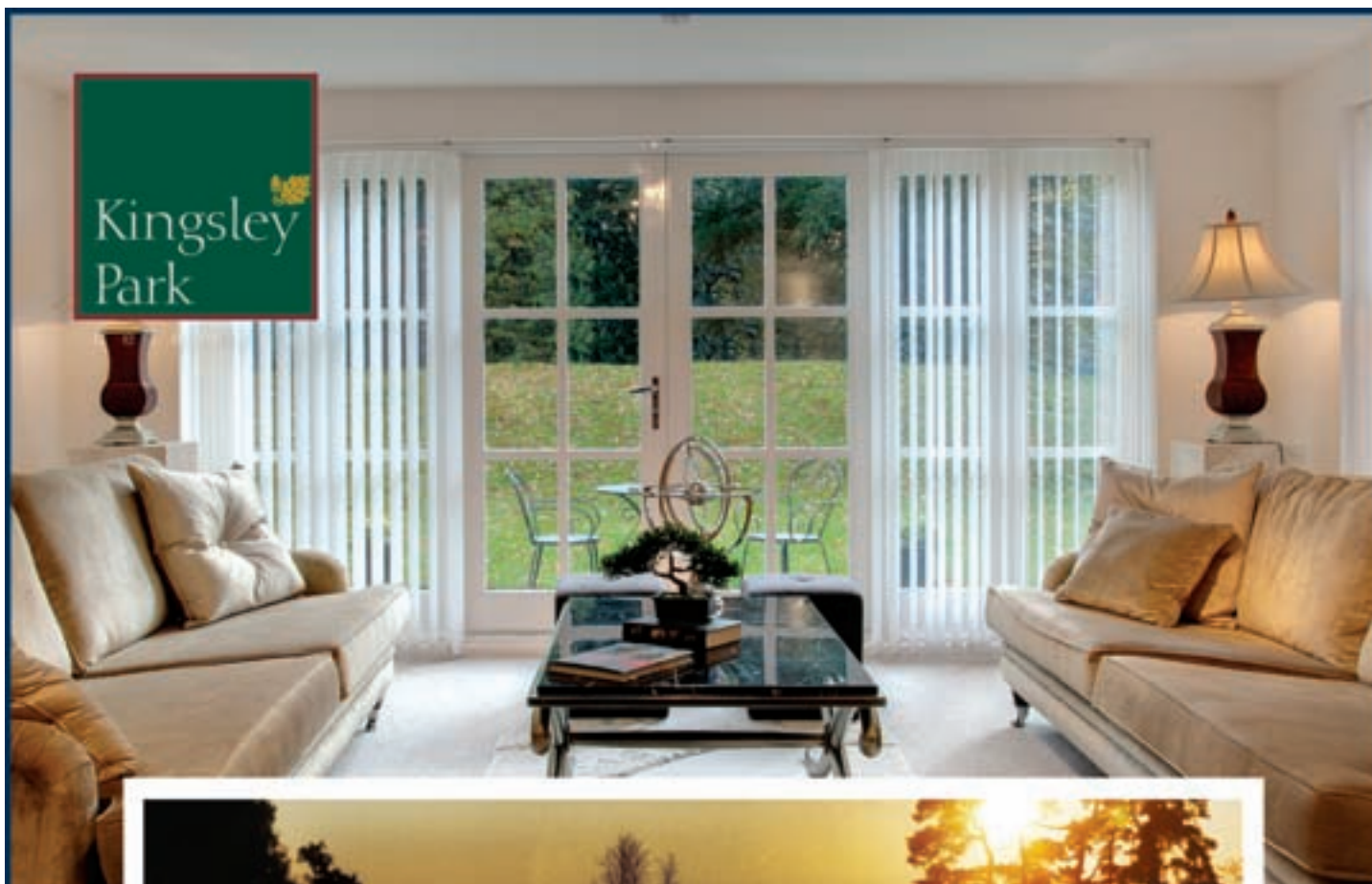
They represented a wide range of local people, businesses, organisations, Cheshire West and Chester Council and Reaseheath College.

After the meeting, Mr Arthur said: "It was a really good spread of folk - and that was just for starters!"

The meeting decided to work actively with Frodsham Community Centre, establish links between Frodsham retailers and Reaseheath College, encourage the sale of local goods, support youth projects, undertake a waste/recycling project involving Frodsham's "Will to Work" workshop, encourage development of "written" and "electronic" communication with Frodsham residents and link with other local groups, such as "Love Frodsham."

Kingsley Transition Initiative's third birthday was celebrated at Kingsley Community Centre.

In its first three years, KTI has been successful with a number of initiatives designed to make the local community self-sufficient, including providing 17 allotments, giving a £100 gift to the local schools for eco projects, initiating solar energy panels on the roof of the Community Centre, setting up local trades and energy groups, running quarterly markets, etc.



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Fund-raising Guild concert

MEMBERS of Frodsham Townswomen's Guild Drama Group are pictured during their recent concert.

With support from the group's choir, the event raised £1,300 for members' charity of the year SANDS (stillbirth and neonatal death society). Each year during the past six years the guild has raised £1,000 for charity. Members are grateful to Frodsham folk for their support.



Pupil poets could win £1,000



Eight of the budding poets.

NINE Year 9 pupils from Helsby High School have been successful in a national poetry competition - and could now be selected for individual and school competitions with the chance of winning up to £1,000.

The nine were from 30 pupils from Helsby who submitted entries for the "Express Yourself" competition.

They were Megan McEveley, Faye Wetherall, Nathan Cartwright, Katherine Vickery, Alex Fletcher, Olivia Kidd, Emily Ross, Hayley Nixon and Anastasia Kunaj.

Their poems will be published in "Express Yourself - the North West."

Want to go back to badminton?

BADMINTON enthusiasts - experienced or not - can take advantage of a series of four week courses run by a Badminton England coach at Frodsham Leisure Centre.

"Back2Badminton" is a series of sessions for those wanting to take up or improve their skills in the sport.

It will be followed by a "No Strings Badminton" programme.

The courses are for people aged over 16 and will be informal, social sessions aimed at encouraging people to continue with the sport.

Alison Lysons, Badminton England regional officer for Cheshire, said: "No Strings badminton has been created to help overcome barriers to participation and enable more people to get involved and enjoy playing. If you don't want to commit to a club membership or you don't have a playing partner, it is just the thing to get you playing the great game of badminton."

Sessions are on Fridays, from 8pm to 9pm and start this month. Details from Alison Lysons on 07901 005314 or at alisonlysons@badmintonengland.co.uk. Alison is also looking for volunteers to help co-ordinate the No Strings sessions.

Motoring

Motorists are more prepared - but only just!

MOTORISTS are more prepared to cope with severe weather this winter - but only just.

More than one in three (38 per cent) say they have done nothing to prepare - and if that doesn't seem many it is better than last year when

the figure was 42 per cent.

The last two winters came early and were more severe than we have been accustomed to in recent years, which is probably why 39 per cent of drivers expect local authorities to do a better job with road gritting this year.

But according to an AA Populus survey, while individual drivers expect councils to do better, they are less prepared to do much themselves.

Only four per cent have bought winter tyres - one per cent more than last winter. Seven per cent have

bought all season tyres, compared with four per cent last year.

Four per cent have bought snow chains or snow socks and 42 per cent put a shovel, blankets, in the car. Twenty five per cent have purchased sturdy walking boots and 12 per cent have made plans with friends or colleagues in case the weather turns bad suddenly.

But in spite of the chaos of the last two or three years, 38 per cent have done nothing. However, the survey showed that in Scotland and the North East, motorists had done far more to prepare for the worst!

Seven-seat comfort with more fuel economy

AUDI Q7 drivers can now use fuel more sparingly and savour seven-seat comfort more completely in the new Q7 3.0 TDI 204PS S line Plus.

Taking the lower output V6 TDI engine first seen in the A6 on board the Q7 for the first time, and combining its 39mpg capability with an exceptional new specification, the lavishly appointed newcomer is

available to order now priced at £49,120 OTR.

At the same time, this punchy but remarkably efficient unit also appears in the most attainable lead-in Q7 model to date - the 3.0 TDI 204PS Standard priced at £39,995 OTR.

To strike its impressive balance between performance and economy the timing of the 3.0-litre engine's

camshafts, its turbocharger and its advanced common-rail system (with an injection pressure of 2,000 bar) have been optimized specifically with fuel efficiency in mind. As a result, up to 39.2mpg is possible according to the combined cycle test, equating to CO2 output of 189g/km.

With the help of a super-smooth eight-speed tiptronic transmission, the latest V6 TDI uses its 204PS and its 450Nm torque reserve to power the Q7 to 62mph from rest in 9.1 seconds, and enables it to reach a 127mph top speed where conditions allow.

In common with all Q7 models drive is channelled to all four wheels in a 40 per cent front to 60 per cent rear ratio by the quattro permanent four-wheel-drive system, and both on and off the tarmac the standard five-mode air suspension with its variable ground clearance of between 180mm and 240mm helps to iron out the most imperfect of surfaces.



£6,600 a year to run a car!

IT now costs the average motorist more than £6,600 a year to keep a car on the road, according to the RAC.

Over the past 12 months, the annual cost of owning and running a car has soared by 14 per cent to £6,689. This rise is almost three times the current rate of inflation.

Drivers now have to pay on average £128.64 per week, or 55.74 pence per mile, to own and run their vehicle.

This is £1,556 a year more than it was in 2007, before the financial crisis and subsequent recession.

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School workshops offer new skills

SCHOOLCHILDREN from Frodsham have the chance to learn skills such as rugby or working with animals as part of a special project.

Frodsham Weaver Vale Primary is offering Years One to Six the chance to join its second annual University Project.

For three days they can take part in a session that is not normally part of the school curriculum, in the project introduced by deputy head teacher Sally Baker.

It aims to widen the children's experiences and give them the opportunity to develop new skills. At the end of the project children attend a graduation celebration where they receive a certificate to acknowledge their achievements.

Workshops are run by teachers and also reach out into the community and involve parents, grandparents, governors, local people and clubs as well as a number of businesses.

Workshops this year include working with animals, rugby, cake decoration, Irish dancing and bushcraft skills.

Ms Baker said: "The project is now in its second year and the children are so excited about the workshop that they have chosen. We rely on the enthusiasm, skills and generosity of the workshop leaders and are amazed at the progress made and the items produced, in just three sessions."

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