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Issue No. 80  
November 2011

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## Players prepare for classic

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# Editor's Comment



**LAST month we correctly predicted that Frodsham Town Council would object to the Boundary Commission's proposals to include Frodsham in a new Parliamentary constituency to be called Mersey Banks.**

The name, of course, is irrelevant, but Frodsham has little in common with places such as Ditton and Hale, Bromborough and Eastham. As Cllr John Nield says: "We belong in rural Mid-Cheshire, not Widnes."

He says he has never known so many people "up in arms" about an issue before and we can well believe it. As Town Clerk Ian Hope said last

month, it appears the Boundary Commission had dealt with every other area and included Frodsham with what was left over.

But it is not just Parliamentary constituency boundaries that are causing concern. Ward boundaries within Frodsham itself are also in need of urgent review.

The North Ward, for instance, has 2,500 voters electing four councillors while the East Ward has 1,953 voters electing five councillors.

This situation may well have arisen because in recent years there has been more house building in the North, but that does not alter the fact

that a disparity exists. Everyone's vote is supposed to account equally and each councillor is supposed, roughly at least, to represent a similar number of electors.

As Mayor Andrew Dawson says, it would be an insult to democracy to do nothing about it.

So Cllr Graham Bondi, who was involved when the boundaries were last reviewed, is to lead a new study and hopes to come back with suggestions in February. We look forward to the outcome.

We would remind readers that for the Parliamentary boundary proposals, they still have a say by writing to the Boundary Commission for England, 35, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BQ or visiting the Boundary Commission website.

## Film society seeks members

FRODSHAM Film Society - 42-years-old this year and still bringing cinema to the town every month during the winter - is on the look out for new members.

The society screens a wide variety of films at the Community Centre in Fluin Lane and anyone interested in joining should contact membership secretary Mrs Jayn Johnson on 01928 711614.

Films to be screened during the coming season are: Nov 19: Made in Dagenham; Dec 10: SALT; Jan 21: True Grit; Feb 18: High Society; Mar 17: Tamara Drew; April 21: Robin Hood.

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# Players prepare to stage classic at ancient church

**FRODSHAM Players are busy preparing for their forthcoming production of the C.S Lewis classic "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, adapted for the stage by Adrian Mitchell.**

To add to the historic enchantment The Players are staging four performances of the show from November 30 to December 3, in the nave of St Laurence Church, Frodsham, beginning at 7.30 pm, except for Saturday evening, when the show will start at 6.30 pm.

The story involves four children evacuated during the London blitz to a rambling country house owned by a friendly professor. The youngest,

Lucy, is the first of the four to find that a large wardrobe in a remote upstairs room is an entrance to another world, the mysterious land of Narnia, which suffers from perpetual winter because of the malign power of Jadis, the White Queen.

An ancient prophecy foretells that four strangers will come to bring justice to Narnia. Aided by Mr and Mrs Beaver, and by the noble lion Aslan, the children are plunged into a life-and-death struggle to defeat the

forces of evil.

The original novel has been dramatised by the BBC and by Disney.

Frodsham Player's performance, "in the round" inside an ancient church, will bring the audience very close to Lewis's magical tale.

Furthermore, the four Pevensie children will be played by young people of the right ages.

There will be frightening moments as the conflict between Good and Evil reaches a climax, but this is a wonderful play for all the family.

Tickets are priced at £6. Early booking is advised, as space is limited.

Tickets are available by calling 01928 732 515 or from Frodsham Frames, Main Street, Frodsham, or by email: [playersboxoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:playersboxoffice@yahoo.com)




*Susan (Amelia Pendlebury) Peter (Tom Marquand) Edmund (Alex Taylor) and Lucy (Emily Woodward-Shaw)*



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# Vera looks back on 100 years

**IN 1911, Britain celebrated the coronation of King George V, the first airmail letter was sent from India - and Vera Butterwick was born.**

This year, people in Frodsham had something else to celebrate - Vera's 100th birthday.

Vera's daughter, Audrey Lowe and niece Ann Doreen Mercer were among those who joined the celebrations at Weaver Vale Housing Trust's Meadow Court Independent Living Scheme.

Vera said: "I've never had my photo taken so many times or had so many visitors in all my life as I have had today."

"It has been a lovely day and I'm glad I've been able to spend it with so many friends and family and for

Meadow Court to throw a special party for me is just wonderful. All the staff and residents here are so friendly and really look after you."

## Congratulations

As well as a card from the Queen, other well wishers who sent messages of congratulations were Work and Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith and Rosemary Kempson, the World President of the Mothers' Union, a charity that Vera has supported for many years.

Vera was born in Whitby, North Yorkshire and moved to Frodsham in 1997 to be closer to her daughter Audrey who lives in Sutton Weaver.

She has many fond memories of growing up in Whitby, particularly of working at the family's tearoom.

But she has also enjoyed 14 years living in Frodsham. "The surrounding countryside is beautiful and I'm very much at home here," she said.

Vera still has things to look forward to - including becoming a great grandma for the fifth time when grandson Tony and his wife Nikki have their first child.

Crissy Watson, of Weaver Vale Housing Trust, said: "It's fantastic that so many customers living at Meadow Court joined Vera to celebrate this wonderful occasion with her."



Left to right: back row, Chris Rowbottom, from WVHT, Mark Palethorpe, from Cheshire West and Chester Council. Front Row: Alison Worrall, from WVHT, Vera, Audrey Low and Ann Doreen Mercer.



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# 631 apply for Christmas vouchers

**A TOTAL of 631 people have applied for Frodsham Town Council's Over 70s Christmas vouchers - and councillors have agreed to leave the door open for any latecomers.**

Mayor Andrew Dawson told the council: "This is a fantastic achievement. Never in my wildest dreams did I think we would get so many applications."

"More than half the Over 70s in Frodsham have applied."

Cllr Frank Pennington said there had been an excellent response.

"But this is the first time we have done this. I think there will be more next year."

Councillors will be distributing the vouchers to the Over 70s shortly.

Numerous local retailers, restaurants, etc have agreed to accept the vouchers, which will be distributed before the Frodsham Christmas Festival and will be redeemable up to the end of January.

The scheme replaces the former annual Christmas lunch for Over 70s which the council had run for nearly 70 years but which last year attracted only 153 people.

## Council opposes anti-alcohol plan

POLICE in Frodsham do not need extra powers to confiscate alcohol from troublemakers on the streets.

This is the view of the majority of members of the Town Council in response to a proposal from Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWC) to establish a "responsible drinking zone" covering the Northwich and Rural area of the borough.

Frodsham, Helsby, Alvanley and Crowton would all be included in the zone. Police would get additional powers, including the power to require adults to surrender any alcohol if, in their opinion, they were causing a nuisance. If they refused to surrender the alcohol, they would be arrested or issued with a £50 on-the-spot fine.

Similar powers already exist in respect of children. Cllr Lyn Riley supported the move. While Frodsham was not a "hot spot" the measure would be an additional tool in the police toolbox.

People having a peaceful drink outside a pub would not be affected. The Mayor, Cllr Andrew Dawson said he would not oppose a move to make the whole borough a responsible drinking zone.

But he did not believe Frodsham should be lumped together with Northwich, where there was a clear need for the extra powers.

The council voted to oppose the setting up of the zone.

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# Historic church faces £220,000 repair bill

**CHURCH** goes have been left shellshocked after a recent inspection revealed the need to spend an estimated £220,000 on repairs to the historic Grade I Listed building.

The congregation of the Parish Church of St Laurence in Frodsham received the shock when they read the results of their latest five yearly inspection.

St Lawrence's is a building of exceptional interest, being one of the ancient parish churches of Cheshire. It stands on Overton Hill and is a Grade I Listed Building.

The parish dates back to Anglo-Saxon times and is one of those mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. The current building retains significant parts of a large late Norman church and has many interesting historical features. It is open every day so that people can drop in for quiet moments and is used by local groups like Frodsham Players and The Choral Society. Civic services are also held there.

A long list of problems was catalogued in the inspection report, mainly relating to the roof and the stonework. Once over the initial shock, members of the St Laurence congregation set to addressing the problems and they invite the people of Frodsham and its surroundings to help them in whatever way possible.

It will cost an estimated £220,000 (with VAT and architect's fees) to complete the majority of the work needed within the next four years.

This will ensure the building is water-tight and safe although some longer term work is not included in this costing.

The congregation has already started the work, spending £12,000 on repairs to the North roof to protect the irreplaceable organ. Further immediate work is planned on some

windows and stonework. Frodsham people have already been to quizzes, concerts and other fund-raising efforts to help pay for this work.

Because of its status as a Grade I listed building, the church will hopefully qualify for grant money from English Heritage.

The congregation hopes that

English Heritage will supply up to their maximum 40% of the cost, and church funds will supply another substantial chunk.

However, it is likely that approximately £130,000 will need to be found from other sources over the next four years.

Plans are in hand for further fund-raising.



*Pictured (L-R) outside the historic church and supporting the fund-raising initiatives are local MP Graham Evans, Cllr Lynn Riley, Ann Parker - Church Warden of St Laurence and The Mayor of Frodsham, Cllr Andrew Dawson.*

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# THE FRODSHAM BEE



## Over 70s Voucher scheme

Vouchers are now being delivered by your Town Councillor. The following have agreed to accept the vouchers:

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Bloomsbury's - Main Street  
Les Harris - Main Street  
Frodsham Post Office - Main Street  
Frodsham Frames - Main Street  
Frodsham Foot Clinic - Main Street  
Devonshire Bakery - High Street  
Overton Village Stores - Hillside Road  
Top Shop - Langdale Way  
Coffee and Cakes - Eddisbury Square  
DRB Jewellers - Church Street  
Gates Garage - Bridge Lane

Mace Store - St Hilda's Drive  
Merricks Hairstudio - Main Street  
Travellers Rest - Kingsley Road  
Gleaves Garden Centre - Mill Lane  
Frodsham Country Market

### Charities:

Frodsham Community Association  
4th Frodsham Scouts  
Frodsham Junior Football Club  
Frodsham Youth Association  
Halton Haven  
Will to Work  
St Laurence Church restoration fund

*Others may have joined since we went to print so look out for the poster in shop and pub windows. If you want to use your voucher as a donation to a local group or society, check first that they have registered with the Town Council.*

## Volunteers for Winter Gritting Scheme

The Town Council is still looking for more volunteers for its winter gritting scheme. We are looking for people who live close to road junctions or in locations where the roadway and pavements are particularly steep.

Contact the Town Council office on 01928 735150 or [council@frodsham.gov.uk](mailto:council@frodsham.gov.uk) to register as a volunteer or for more information.

Thank you to those that have already put your names forward - we will be in touch regarding the first delivery very soon.

## Budget Consultation

The Town Council is consulting on its spending plans and budget. What should the priorities be for next year? Should the Town Council take on responsibility for more local services? Are there activities we shouldn't be spending money on? Would you like to see money spent on other facilities or events? We would like to know your views.

## Police Community Support Officer

At its next meeting the Town Council will be considering the agreement it has with the Police regarding the Police Community Support Officer. Please let us have your views on the role of the PCSO in Frodsham.

## Town Plan

Looking forward the Council feels that the town may benefit from a "Town Plan".

A Town Plan is a critical survey of a community carried out by the community itself. The aim of the survey would be to collect the views of the people who live and work in Frodsham and then look forward to how the town sees itself developing over the next 5 to 10 years. An action plan then identifies what steps the community needs to take to achieve the vision of the town in the future.

The Town Council would help to produce the plan but the driving force would be a Town Plan Group consisting of volunteers from the various organisations and interests in the town. If you feel Frodsham needs a Town Plan or would like to get involved please get in touch.

## Walk Leader Training

If you are interested in taking a fun activity a little further, would you be interested in becoming a Walk Leader? FTC has some training dates available in November, so give us a call for further details.

## Message in a Bottle

FTC has joined up with Helsby & Frodsham Lions Club to assist them with their Message in a Bottle Campaign. This is a voluntary scheme for anyone living at home, who might be reassured to know that essential information, such as relevant illnesses, allergies, medication etc, would be readily available to the Emergency Services should they suffer an accident or sudden illness. Further details and free bottles are available from the Town Council office.

## Consultation on 20mph speed limit

Is there a case for introducing 20mph speed limits in residential areas in Frodsham? Let us know your views before we talk to Cheshire West and Chester. The Town Council may have to make a contribution if these orders are to be introduced.

## Proposed Parliamentary Constituency of Mersey Banks

The Town Council is to object to the new Parliamentary constituency which has been proposed by the Boundary Commission for England. Frodsham would be located in "Mersey Banks" which would extend from Weaverham in the east to Bromborough in the west. In addition to Frodsham it would include Helsby and Ellesmere Port and extend across the Mersey to Hale and Ditton. If you have any views on this proposal please send them to us and we will forward them to the Boundary Commission.

## 2011 Community Pride Competition

Frodsham was runner up in its class in this year's competition so a big thank you to those that helped to keep the town clean and tidy. The Frodsham Post was highly commended in the newsletter category.

Congratulations to two "Little Gems" who also received awards for their floral displays - 59 Ship Street and the Bears Paw.

## St Laurence Church Restoration Fund

Major repairs are required to the fabric of St Laurence Church over the next few years. The Town Council is looking for ways to support the Church and help in raising the money to fund these works. Contact the Church or the Town Council if you would like to become involved in fund raising activities for this valuable local asset.

## FTC is now on Twitter

To catch up on all the latest news and events in Frodsham Town Council, follow us on Twitter @frodshamtc - you need never miss a meeting again.

## Christmas Festival 25 November

The Town Council will have a stall at the Christmas Festival in Main Street on 25 November. Come along and meet your Councillors to discuss gritting, speed limits, the budget, St Laurence Church or anything else of concern in the town.

## 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
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To contact your Town councillor by e-mail please use [council@frodsham.gov.uk](mailto:council@frodsham.gov.uk) and we will forward your message.

## Christmas Tree Festival

FRODSHAM Methodist Church is holding its Christmas Tree Festival on the weekend of December 9.

The church is inviting people to see the trees in church, all decorated with individual themes by local community organisations. Admission is free, but there is a £2 charge for a programme.

There will be hot turkey balms, home-made cakes and various stalls, games and quizzes for children.

The Festival will be open on Friday, December 9 from 6 - 8pm, Saturday December 10 from 10am - 4 pm and Sunday, December 11 from 12 noon - 4pm.

On Monday, December 12 at 2.30pm there will be a special Carol Service "Around the Trees" for those who may find it difficult to get out and about, with time for tea and fellowship afterwards.

Profits from the festival will be shared equally between Emmaus (charity for the homeless - [www.emmaus.org.uk](http://www.emmaus.org.uk)), and Frodsham Methodist Church.

# Wind farm campaigners seek cash aid

**MEMBERS of RAW - the residents' group fighting the Frodsham Wind Farm project - have appealed for help after being forced to dig deep into their own pockets to prepare evidence for the upcoming public inquiry.**

Visuals prepared by members of the group to show the impact of the wind farm's 19 giant turbines on Frodsham and Helsby were found to contain inaccuracies and have had to be done again by a professional firm.

As a result, an extra £920 has had to be found on top of money already paid out - and members have had to find it from their own pockets.

Chairman Roger Young attended a meeting of Frodsham Town Council to ask if the council could help.

He said: "The original visuals would not have been accepted by the inspector. The position of the turbines

was correct and the size was correct. But the size of the blades was not and we had shown them with one of the blades at the top, to show the maximum height.

"Apparently this is not acceptable so we had to do them again."

Mr Young showed councillors the new visuals which will be submitted at the inquiry and which are accurate.

He criticised visuals produced by developers Peel Energy which are on show at libraries and have been distributed locally.

"They are horribly flawed," he said.

"If you read the small print you learn that they should be bent and held 12 inches in front of your eyes. But most people won't even see the small print and will get a misleading impression."

After learning that RAW had not approached any of the parish councils also affected by the wind farm, councillors decided to defer consideration of RAW's application for financial aid until other councils had been contacted.

Mr Young said members of RAW had all paid "hundreds of pounds" of their own money to fight the wind farm plan.

## Solicitors support charity with new Conveyancing and Wills Service

A NEW conveyancing and will-writing service has been launched in Frodsham by local solicitors, Forshaws Davies Ridgway (FDR) who are planning to offer a free "Make a Will" service in November in return for a donation to help raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Meanwhile the firm, which also has offices in Warrington and Stockton Heath, has been joined by 31-year-old solicitor Joanna Wilde, who will be based in the FDR Frodsham office on High Street.

She will be offering a full conveyancing legal service to people

buying and selling residential property and also expert advice on all probate matters, will writing, living wills, power of attorney, trusts and estates.

Stephen Lawson, FDR partner, said: "The recession has been a challenging time for many legal practices.

"While others are being forced to close or make redundancies, we are delighted to be in a position to employ Joanna to enhance our services to communities around Frodsham.

"The existing local team includes experts in personal injury, litigation and family law, but in the recent past any conveyancing matters have been provided by our Warrington-based lawyers. It's fantastic we now have a dedicated solicitor in place in Frodsham on call to help people when they're buying a home or need to make a will."

Joanna is a graduate of the University of Chester and Chester's College of Law and was inspired to enter the legal profession after working as a paralegal in her father's family law practice, Wilde and Co, in Neston, on the Wirral.

She said: "I'm delighted to be joining such a well-established firm

and expanding FDR's community services in Frodsham. I'm looking forward to building up a great working relationship with the firm's existing clients and developing new contacts, particularly with local estate agents."

Forshaws Davies Ridgway will be hosting a Charity Make a Will Week in November (21-25) in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

This will operate in all of FDR's offices. Clients will be able to draw up a will free of charge but will be invited to make a minimum donation of £70 to Macmillan Cancer Support.



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## Reader's Letters

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Warrington WA4 1AT  
or email: [info@frodshamlife.co.uk](mailto:info@frodshamlife.co.uk)

Brian Lloyd, chairman, Frodsham and Helsby Labour Party

### Protect our NHS

ON behalf of the Frodsham and Helsby branch Labour Party, I would like to thank local residents who have responded so eagerly to our 'Protect our NHS' Campaign. We launched our campaign in June with a street stall in Frodsham, and from that day and over the summer months, people have been keen to add their names to a petition asking David Cameron and the Tory-led Government to think again about their ill-conceived plans which threaten the future of our NHS - the best loved public service in the UK - founded by Labour in 1948.

On doorsteps in Frodsham and Helsby, Labour members have found overwhelming support for the preservation of the NHS ideals, - a service free to all at the point of need. Through similar campaigns right across the country, people have made it clear that UK voters do not wish to see an American style health care system in Britain. Patients groups and health care professionals alike are alarmed at the threat to the service, and are making their voices heard.

Thank you again to everyone who has taken the time to add his or her voice to our campaign.

# People power forces superstore to back down

## PEOPLE power has forced a supermarket giant to drop plans for a new in-store pharmacy.

Almost 2,000 residents of Helsby, Frodsham, Alvanley and Kingsley signed a petition opposing plans for the pharmacy at the giant Tesco store at

Helsby.

Now the store giant has announced that it is not going ahead with the scheme.

Opposition to the project arose from fears that a pharmacy at the supermarket could damage long-standing locally-owned Fearn's Pharmacy - just across the road from Tesco in Britannia Road.

Some people feared it could put Fearn's out of business.

Helsby Parish Council and Weaver Vale MP Graham Evans backed the campaign.

Mr Evans said: "I think it is really important that we support our local independent traders in Helsby. Fearn's is right at the heart of our community."

Work has already started on building an extension to the store and the plan was originally to include a pharmacy in the new part of the building.

Tesco had applied to the Primary Care Trust for the necessary consent - and the PCT had no grounds on which to refuse the application.

But then the store informed the parish council and the PCT they had withdrawn the application.

Cllr Frank Thomas (pictured), of Helsby Parish Council, said: "This really is a case of people power. Everyone is delighted because Fearn's Pharmacy is a very long-established local business which has served the community well."

"We would not want to lose it.

"When Tesco first applied for permission for a supermarket here they

undertook not to have either a pharmacy or a post office in the store so we were very disappointed when they decided to go ahead with the pharmacy. But we are delighted with the way things have turned out.

Pharmacy owners Joe Fearn's and his son, Michael, have been staggered by the support they have received from the local community.

Joe said: "We would like to say thanks to our customers, the community in general and anyone else who supported us. It is very unusual for a company the size of Tesco to change its mind on something like this. We are obviously delighted."

Tesco originally claimed they had decided to include a pharmacy in the store because of customer demand.



## Shop window contest axed

FRODISHAM Town Council has decided to discontinue the annual Christmas 'best dressed shop window' competition - despite a warning from a councillor that it could lead to the council being seen as a 'Scrooge.'

Members of the community committee had recommended the competition be discontinued - and the full council agreed.

Cllr John Nield said the council was already spending £6,000 on the Christmas festival.

Cllr Lynn Riley said shopkeepers decorated their windows to increase business, not to win the competition. There would still be a window competition organised by Cheshire West and Chester Council which would cover the whole borough and winning this would help promote local businesses across a wide area.

Cllr Graham Bondi said he was worried that by cancelling the competition and other events such as the best kept garden competition, the council could be seen as a Scrooge. But he was alone in opposing the move to end the contest.

## Mayor is blindfolded to help charity

HELSDY and Frodsham Lions marked World Sight Day by persuading the Mayor of Frodsham to walk blindfolded along Main Street.

Cllr Andrew Dawson was assisted



by Guide Dog mobility instructor Damien Riley and Guide Dog Inca - and managed to survive the experience!

Members of the local Guide Dogs for the Blind Association were present with a number of Guide Dogs, which attracted plenty of attention and generous support from shoppers.

Weaver Vale MP Graham Evans also turned up to meet the Guide Dogs and their owners.

The Lions presented a cheque to the Guide Dogs association.

The event ended with a parade by the stars of the day - the Guide Dogs.

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# 'Hobby job' just keeps on growing

**WHEN Cheryl Harris took over equestrian laundry service Top Turnout four years ago she had no idea how much her "ideal hobby job" would grow and expand.**

Her company provides a service to horse owners across Cheshire, Merseyside and Greater Manchester and has expanded so much that it has moved from its original home in a converted stable to bigger and better premises at Lady Heyes Craft Centre, Frodsham.

Top Turnout's little silver van has become a familiar sight on local roads as it provides a free collection and delivery service to horse owners, livery yards and riding schools.

All items are washed and re-proofed and repaired as necessary in modern computer controlled laundry machines using industry standard cleaning and proofing products.

Cheryl prides herself on her ability

to repair trashed and unsightly rugs and will always do her best to get them back in action as soon as possible.

Horse rugs and riding equipment represent a significant financial outlay for owners and regular maintenance and repair not only extend the life of the equipment but also help to maintain standards of hygiene for horse and rider alike.

Moving to larger premises means that Top Turnout's small team of dedicated workers now have the facilities to offer an even better service to its many loyal customers, and can expand the business even further in the years to come.

## Helsby High runners - fifth in the world!

A TEAM of 36 boys and girls from Helsby High School took part in the World Marathon Challenge - and came third in England and fifth overall in the world.

The Year 7 and Year 8 youngsters were competing against teams from across England and also from France, Canada, Spain, Norway, China, Kenya, Mali, Mexico and New Zealand.

Helsby's team completed the 26.2 miles at Manchester in two hours, two minutes and nine seconds.

The annual World Marathon Challenge is supported by Save the Children to highlight the challenges faced by children less fortunate than others.

Children aged 11-13 run to send a powerful message to the world - that No Child is Born to Die.

The aim is for a school team to beat the marathon world record time of two hours, three minutes and 38 seconds set earlier this year by Patrick Makau from Manyanzwani, Kenya - which Helsby did by one minute and 29 seconds!

The idea of the World Marathon Challenge was the brain child of Frodsham Harrier, George Bunner and the programme was first tested by Helsby High School where its success drew attention from the governing bodies both at home and overseas. It has now been adopted by Save the Children to develop health initiatives and friendships through partnerships.

Each child in the Helsby team ran six or seven times over 200 metre section in a continuous marathon relay at Sportcity, in Manchester.

Times for each team were transmitted via Twitter as the relays progress to allow the runners to monitor the performance against their competitors running simultaneously in other venues around the world.

## Festival will launch the festive season

FRODSHAM'S Christmas Festival starts on Friday November 25 with a parade through the town and food and craft market.

The town's famous Christmas lights will be switched on at 6.30pm and the "Reindeer Parade" starts at 7pm. There will also be fireworks, stalls, fairground rides, Santa's Grotto and a range of attractions.

The food and craft market takes place between 2pm and 9pm at Gleave's site, Station Car Park, behind the Helter Skelter Pub.

Santa will be there on the Round Table sleigh and children can visit him, with all proceeds going to charity. Local school choirs and dance groups will perform.

The food and craft market will move to Lady Heyes the following day from 10am to 5pm.

It will have an assortment of foods, a hog roast and craft stalls and a small fun fair for children. Christmas lunches and mince pies will be served in the cafe and the shops will have a festive theme. Local school children will be carol singing.

The food and craft market will also run from 6pm to 9pm on the Saturday at Castle Park.

The Enchanted Park event will feature an illuminated display of The Snow Queen. Visitors can enjoy a magical night time stroll, medieval entertainment and much more.

It is a free event and all children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. People are advised to wear suitable clothing and footwear for the weather conditions and to have a torch.

## Motoring

# Sporty - but 'sensible'



EARLIER this year, the 100,000th Audi A1 rolled off the assembly line - a considerable achievement for a model only introduced in the middle of last year.

The A1 is Audi's most compact model at 3.95 metres (just under 13ft) in length but it packs a lot into the space and with its powerful engines and agile chassis is one of the sportiest cars in its sector. Yet, at the same time, among a clutch of awards it has won are two for "the most sensible car."

There's a choice of six four-cylinder engines, three TFSI engines and three TDI units. All impress with exemplary fuel economy, ranging from 39.87 to 61.90mpg.

## Out of the blue – a new colour for a new car!

BLUE is the colour most drivers would choose for their car if they had a choice, closely followed by silver and black, according to a poll of nearly 16,000 AA members.

Brown, gold and yellow were the least popular colours – but these days, quite a few drivers end up with a colour that would not have been their first choice anyway.

Perhaps surprisingly, younger drivers seem to have a preference for black. One in three 18-34 year olds would pick a black car if they had a choice but only one in six actually has a black car.

Just 13 per cent of 18-34 year olds would pick a silver car, yet 22 per cent have one.

Overall, a desire for silver can be satisfied, with 22 per cent of the entire sample wanting a silver car and 25 per cent having one. The same goes for red, blue and white, although the 208 brown car owners (1 per cent) must be the most frustrated as almost no-one wants one (0.27 per cent).

Silver is the favourite of the grey-haired driver, being the number one choice of AA members aged 55-64 (23 per cent) and 65 and over (30 per cent). It is a desire they satisfy, with the highest proportion of 55-64 year olds having one (25 per cent) and also those aged 65 or more (31 per cent).

One of the attractions of silver is the

feeling that it is by far the easiest to keep clean. Some 27 per cent of survey respondents believe it is the colour that shows dirt the least. Gold, yellow, green and white cars were voted the least easy to keep clean.

When it comes to selling a car, AA members consider that there are only two clear contenders for most saleable colours: silver (28 per cent) and black (15 per cent). Once again, the youngest drivers favour black (21 per cent) but AA members aged 25 or more increasingly bet on silver to sell first.

AA president Edmund King said: "Brighter coloured cars, which have been popular in the past when the economy was more buoyant, seem to have slipped way down the league. The results show a discrepancy between desired colour of choice and actual colour of car as often the owner may not have a choice.

"For younger drivers that hanker after black cars but end up with lighter-coloured ones, there is a silver lining in that if they hang on to them they will grow to prefer them.

"Whilst blue was the colour more drivers wanted to own, silver clearly tops the league when it comes to the car colour most likely to sell quickly, most fashionable and easiest to keep clean."

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# Bowlers wanted by Scouts!

THE 4th Frodsham Scouts are on the look out for bowlers - old and new, to test out some new equipment they have available to hire.

Earlier this year the scout troop was successful in gaining a small community grant to fund the purchase of two indoor short-mat bowling mats and associated equipment, which are now available for use by local residents at the 4th Frodsham Scouts HQ.

The intention is to provide both experienced and new bowlers with a local venue at which to enjoy this popular all year round sport.

4th Frodsham Scouts have been able to assemble two sets of all the kit needed to enjoy the sport and are looking for anybody interested in "having a go" to get in touch be it existing players or new, bowling clubs, individuals or groups of friends etc.

Andy Gibson, Chairman of the Group commented: "We are delighted to be able to offer local residents the opportunity to enjoy this highly sociable and skilful game at our recently refurbished headquarters on Overton Road and would ask that anybody interested gets in touch with me as soon as possible.

"We would be delighted to show people around our new venue and to allow them to test out the equipment and have a couple of ends!

"There will be a minimal charge made which will go directly into Scout Funds to enhance the Scouting experience provided to local boys and girls."

Andy can be contacted on 01928 726854

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