

SPONSOR A PAGE!

With our increased circulation of free printed copies to meet demand, we are offering space for sponsors. Become a sponsor and you will receive an acknowledgement of your sponsorship, together with your logo and a short feature on your business/organisation. Various packages are available which we can tailor for you.

Please e-mail sponsor@frodshamnews.co.uk to express your interest and arrange a discussion with our team.

From Childhood Stage to Star Career: Emma Cunniffe Celebrates 50 Years of Frodsham Panto

Celebrating 50 years of Frodsham panto, well-known local actress Emma Cunniffe reflects on her childhood experiences in several shows, the impact it has had on her successful career and the fond memories she has of taking part alongside her dad, Frank, who was "so funny and got involved with all the panto spirit", and her TV director mum, June, who was "a wonderful singer".

"Frodsham Panto helped me so much", Emma reflects, "I learned how to follow a script, tell a story, portray a character and perform to an audience. My first professional job after college was panto at Salisbury Playhouse playing Sleeping Beauty, using all the skills that I had learned through my years of Frodsham Panto."

As Emma took the lead in Little Red Riding Hood in 1984, she was joined on stage by another Frodsham Panto success, Gary Barlow (see below).



Emma (far left) and Gary Barlow (far right) - credit Emma Cunniffe



Current headshot of Emma - credit Emma Cunniffe

Emma remembers Coward's Hotpot between shows, the fabulous costumes, wonderful hand painted sets, seven shows in a week, the community song, the boos and the cheers - all traditions that still happen today!

To celebrate their 50th anniversary of uniquely British entertainment, Frodsham Panto presented Peter Pan to lively audiences throughout January. As Emma says, panto relies on "the family connections, community feeling and experiences it creates for those who take part".

Supporting Young Carers - Frodsham Primary Academy Wins Silver Award

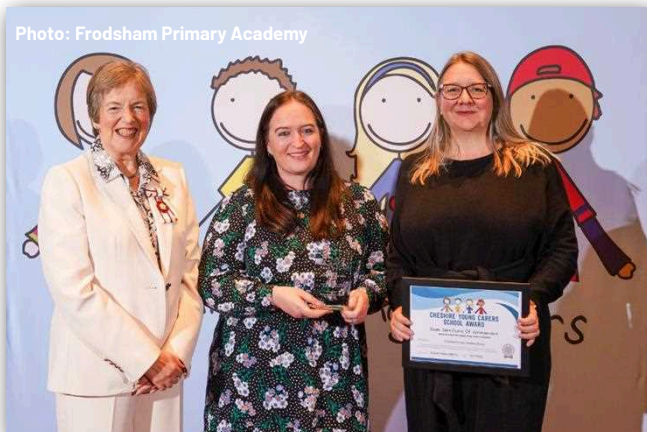


Photo: Frodsham Primary Academy

For the second year running, Frodsham Primary Academy has been recognised for its work in identifying and supporting often 'hidden' young carers who may benefit from the services of the Cheshire Young Carers organisation.

These young people may be supporting parents, grandparents or siblings with physical or emotional needs. The school currently has 10 identified young carers with a further six being referred.

Cheshire Young Carers has delivered training to staff and can help by working with the child in school and have a wide range of activities on offer including activity-based respite programmes and regular fun activities, as well as referrals to specialised services.

Headteacher Gemma Callaghan said "I am extremely proud of what this award represents. It highlights our commitment to ensuring that every young carer and every pupil is truly seen, understood and supported as a whole child".

'The Danny' Held Prisoner on the Weaver.

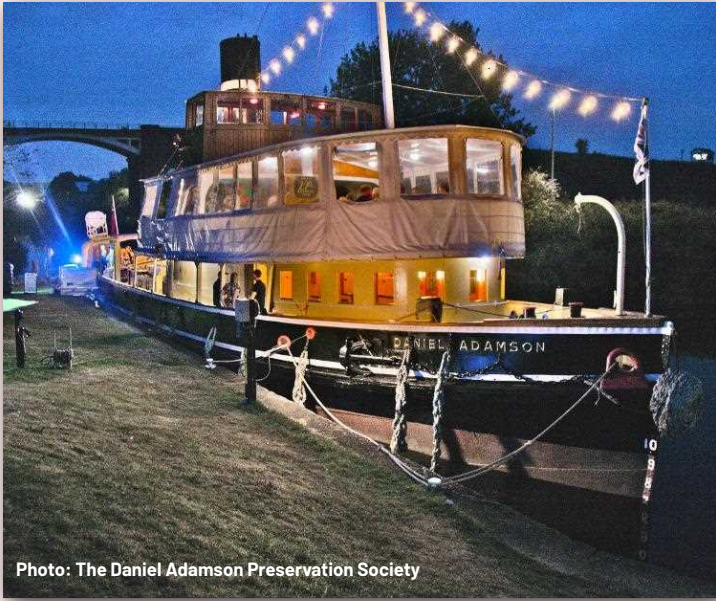


Photo: The Daniel Adamson Preservation Society

We are all used to seeing the spectacular 'Danny' steaming on the river between Sutton Weaver and Acton Bridge, but with the Marsh Lock closed downstream and the swing bridge's electrical repairs upstream, she is stuck at her moorings and missing her annual service in Liverpool.

Having started her life as the Sir Ralph Brocklebank in 1903, tugging Mersey flat barges from Ellesmere Port to Liverpool, she was sold to the Ship Canal Co. in 1922 and given a major refit in 1936; renamed the Daniel Adamson and fitted out with a magnificent Art Deco Saloon to host dignitaries and corporate events. By 1984, with steam no longer viable, she fell victim to disrepair, vandals and fire. She was to be sold for scrap until a Liverpool tug boat skipper put in a cheeky offer of £1.00 for the wreck.

It's taken many years and around 200 volunteers to rebuild with donations and £3.9m grant from the Heritage Lottery. She is now No. 15 on the Historic Ships Register and is unique in being fully operational – and she is right on our doorstep! Free tours are given on Sundays from March, corporate and social events are held, school groups come to learn about the boats and industrial history in the North West and follow a teddy trail learning about different jobs aboard.

This nautical treasure is in need of its 10 years major overhaul. To donate, visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/thedanny>

Runcorn Rowing Club - *Building for the Future*

You may have seen rowers under Sutton Weaver Swing Bridge from the boat houses towards Dutton locks. The original boat houses, which were built in the mid-1900's, were in need of refurbishment to secure them for another 10 years. The club is grateful to local companies and volunteers who have helped make the area smart and fit for purpose – at least for the short term. A bat survey was included so no bats were harmed in the work. A new car park has been constructed with funding from the Marshes Community Benefit fund and the Canoe Foundation.

Increasing numbers of people want to access the river, not only for their physical health but also for their mental and emotional wellbeing. All rowers and paddlers including local schools, adaptive rowers, Sea Cadets, Canoe Club, Liverpool Uni students, Merchant Taylors School as well as the rowing squads and members of the public who launch from the pontoon look forward to enjoying continued and growing success.

Planning consent has been secured for a new boathouse (see plan photo) and the project is shovel ready with funds needed for £2m hoped for over 2 phases.

For more information visit www.runcornrowing.com



Photos: Runcorn Rowing Club



Located on Kingsley Road, Frodsham, Lady Heyes is a 15 acre site with a host of activities, amenities and shops, café & bar, children's soft play barn, pilates studio, padel club and much more.

SUTTON WEAVER SWING BRIDGE CLOSURE

The Sutton Weaver Swing Bridge will be closed temporarily for the Canal and River Trust to finalise essential repairs. **The closure takes place from Sunday 15th February and will last for approximately 7 days.** Diversions will be in place and extra time and planning needs to be taken for your journeys.

Cheshire School of Glass Jen Barker stars on TV

When Johnny Vegas wanted to make a stained glass window for his glamping business, he was referred to renowned glass artist Jen Barker in her fabulous workshop loft in Bradley Lane. He then recommended her to Channel 5's "Britains most scenic counties" when it featured Cheshire in episode two. They followed her creating and presenting a fabulous piece for the 1st Anniversary of fine dining Restaurant Twenty Eight in Chester. She has also featured in Womans Weekly.

Jen, who once taught in university, has just achieved 10 years of her own business but was too busy with workshops and her own commissions to celebrate! She teaches groups and produces stained glass with leading, bead making over a flame and artworks with glass fusion in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. If you go on one of her courses, whether a complete beginner or with experience, this exceptional artist will ensure you WILL come out with something lovely to treasure!

For more information: www.cheshireschoolofglass.co.uk



Photos: Jen Barker

iRestored re-brand



Photo: G Harrison

With our dependence on technology, access to reliable and accurate advice for repair or replacement of mobile phones and computers is essential.

Owner Chris Hyland, who started the business in Widnes, opened Frodsham Fones several years ago to supply this service firstly in Collinson Court and now in Church Street. Chris is now expanding by opening another shop outside the town and has re-branded the business as 'iRestored'. The website and social media have already been changed and the shop in town is sporting a new look. Chris is keen to reassure people that, despite the change of name, the business remains under the same ownership and will offer the same high standard of service.

Chris is aware of the older demographic in Frodsham and is always happy to give help and advice, but despite many requests, is too busy to offer formal tuition. He is always ready though to offer extra support such as a back up before work is carried out, or other over-the-counter advice.

As part of the enhancement of the business, Chris has plans in the future to offer a mobile door-to-door service to make life easier for his customers.

Frodsham Padel Club Officially Open!

Around two hundred people attended the opening event for the new padel courts, based at Lady Heyes Holiday Park, on 22nd November.

Attendees included representatives from the padel industry, Lawn Tennis Association and David Lloyd, as well as the well-known comedian and TV personality, Jason Manford.

The fantastic new reformer Pilates studio, Levitate Pilates, was also launched on site on the same day.

The day was a huge success with the ribbon cutting at the official ceremony. There were speeches, live music, pizzas served at the Pod Kitchen and padel demo matches. The events programme went with a swing with many people trying out the new courts which are now open to all with flood lighting for evening playing.



Photos: Lady Heyes



Photo - Padel enthusiast Jason Manford with Director Mitch



Why experiment with travel? Get guaranteed results from **Travellab**

8a Church Street Frodsham WA6 7EB

holidays@travellab.co.uk 01928 246243

Christmas Festival 2025

The Festive season began with the Christmas Festival drawing crowds of around 9000 boosting business and bringing a warm community spirit to the town.

Frodsham Leisure Centre hosted an indoor Christmas market, face painting and outdoor food hall plus live music and the very busy Santa's Grotto. There was a giant snow globe and floor trains in the Parish Hall, wreath making in the Queens Head and the popular Artisans market on Main Street. Christmas songs from Frodsham Sings heralded the countdown to the lights switch on revealing the beautiful new candy canes! The parade had colourful floats and children walking with their lanterns and new to the parade were still walkers, a giant alien, and a fairy riding a giant snail, Karamba Samba and Global Grooves, our belly dancers with glowing robes and ended with Santa waving to the crowds.

Thanks go to the small band of volunteer organisers who in turn would like to thank their very generous sponsors, Elves and helpers on the day and marshals keeping everyone safe during and after the parade. It would be impossible to mount the Festival without them!

If you are interested in volunteering, even for an hour on the day, please contact: enquiries@christmasinfrodsham.com

Frodsham Festival of Walks

From Friday 24th April until Monday 4th May, enhance your wellbeing, meet new people and explore new walks around Frodsham and beyond.

To book, visit www.frodshamfestivalofwalks.com.

Booking opens early April 2026 and it is highly recommended to secure a place.



QUIZ!

Do you know where this iconic Frodsham place is? Answer on page 6



Yo Ho Ho on the Rotary's Santa Sleigh

Once again Santa visited the streets and supermarkets of Frodsham, Helsby and surrounding villages. If you didn't see him on his sleigh, you probably heard the Christmas music and his bell ringing to tell children that he had arrived on their street. He even visited again to appear magically at the Christmas Festival!

It may seem like magic, but it's magic brought about by the men and women of Rotary in Frodsham and Helsby together with other local community groups and businesses, without whose help the month-long programme would not be possible. Santa needs local elves to guide him through the towns and villages and collect donations that go to local, national and international causes.

The Santa sleigh is one of the highlights of the Rotary year, but they also organise Frodsham Festival in the Park on the first Sunday in July and the annual North Cheshire Motor Show each summer.

In addition, the Rotary Barbeque is in action at Frodsham Fireworks display every November as well as the summer Barbeque to support some of our local primary school fundraisers.

Rotary would love to do more for the community - with more members they could!

Those over 18 who are interested in getting involved with their local community are all welcome.

For more info contact Jim Pooler at membership@fhrotary.org.uk



Photo: Allan Wales

TravelLab

Why should we use an independent Travel Agency when it is so easy to book holidays online?

One satisfied customer says about TravelLab in Church Street, "Nothing is too much trouble for them".

Jai, the founder of TravelLab, with shops in Frodsham and Stockton Heath, wants his business to be part of the community where people can "shop local" and receive better value than from an anonymous, giant organisation. Canadian Jai has extensive knowledge of aviation and of Canada and the Maldives and the TravelLab team have visited over 120 countries between them and use this experience to provide tailor-made holidays often at a lower cost than can be obtained online.

TravelLab use only reputable operators for their customers ensuring the final package is exactly what that customer wants.

As Jai says, 'we love what we do', and this translates into making sure the customer receives the special service they deserve.

**A BETTER BUSINESS TOMORROW STARTS WITH YOU TODAY
BUSINESS MENTOR, COACH AND SPEAKER**

MOBILE: 07432515624

WWW.CHESHIREBUSINESSCOACHING.COM

DAVE@CHESHIREBUSINESSCOACHING.COM

**Cheshire
Business Coaching**



A new vibe in town at No.13

After careers in hospitality, business partners and friends of 25 years Mark Gaskell and Jeremy Peel wanted to go independent. When a former Indian restaurant became available on Frodsham High Street, they could see possibilities and rolled their sleeves up to renovate the space into a unique, shabby-chic bar.

Undertaking the work themselves, they turned the entrance into an inviting lounge bar, transformed the derelict garden into the Garden of Eden with bar and a function room and bar upstairs. They used saved furniture, ladders, benches, sheets of metal and wood to create an innovative and quirky décor and opened their doors on 16th April 2025.

As independent traders, they source craft beers from local brewers with their own branded No.13 craft ale as a favourite. A donation of 30p from every pint sold of No.13 ale is made to the local Round Table. They taste wines from Hammonds of Knutsford to ensure excellent varieties and will try recommendations from customers. Pizzas and charcuterie boards are served and cocktails shaken. Live entertainment is popular every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening, and Mondays offer great prizes with fun speed quizzes. Bookings can be taken for private parties and events.

For more information, see Facebook and Instagram, or call 01928761892. **See voucher to be used up to 1st May 2026.**



Photos: No.13



Duck when you visit Cheeky Ice Cream in Castle Park

An unexpected boost to a local cause has resulted from installing some new sheds with low doorways for extra customer seating.

Martin Owen installed little ducks on strings hanging from the door frame as a visual aid to DUCK so you don't bang your head when going in. When the ducks started to take wing and disappear, Martin had the idea to sell them as a theft deterrent and then to donate the money to local causes. With great customer support, in only a few months, Martin was able to donate £533.00 to Frodsham Youth Club. The ducks are now permanently on sale and Cheeky Ice Cream are looking forward to donating to local causes on an annual basis.



Photo: Martin Owen

Frodsham Welcomes the First Cheshire Crime Writers Festival

Calling all bibliophiles! The first ever Cheshire Crime Writers Festival will take place on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th February 2026 at the Best Western Forest Hills Hotel in Frodsham.

The two-day festival covers all things crime, murder mystery, police procedure and cosy crime, and is filled with author talks, discussions, keynotes and book signings, with 38 well-known, award-winning crime writers and debut novelists on the event line-up.

Confirmed authors include the multi-award winning novelist Claire Mackintosh, the critically acclaimed Kelly Mullen, internationally bestselling author Louise Candlish and hugely successful novelist Tom Hindle, to name but a few.

Tickets are still available and can be purchased through the Curious Cat Bookshop, v organised this exciting new event.

For ticket information, visit the bookshop or their website.



Frodsham Civic Pride

Frodsham Civic Pride is a new initiative from Frodsham Town Council that aims to improve areas of our community with help from willing volunteers. Whether it is litter picking, gardening or general tidying up, there is always something that can be done by a team of enthusiastic helpers.

Several areas have already benefitted and the team is always happy to hear suggestions for future attention. The hope for the new year is that the Civic Pride team will get together once a month at the weekend.

If you are interested in helping with future activities, or for more information, please visit the Frodsham Town Council website, or email: council@frodsham.gov.uk



Photo: C Burrows

Citizens Advice

Citizens Advice is now available in Frodsham with weekly sessions at Main Street Community Church on Thursdays from 10am to 1.00pm.

From its start in 1939, volunteers from Citizens Advice, under all its various titles, have been helping individuals deal with problems that affect day to day life. From wartime problems of ration books and missing persons, modern day problems may be about debt, benefits, consumer issues or housing.

If, for example, you are worried about changing your utility company, wondering about how to claim Universal Credit, are struggling with debt or have received notice to leave your property, call in and speak to one of the team. Information is impartial and complex queries dealt with by specialist advisers, either by phone or face to face.

The information you receive will be tailored to your needs, be it a telephone advice line number, website guidance, debt advice from an expert or a food bank voucher.

No query is too small if it causes worry, so please call in and speak to someone who can help.

<https://www.citizensadvicecw.org.uk>

Frodsham Market Charter

The Charter was offered for sale recently by auction. Frodsham Town Council registered to bid in the auction 25th-26th November in order to bring the market under local stewardship. However, the auction house informed them on the 24th November that the current owners would not allow the council to take part in the bidding. The Charter was sold to an as-yet unidentified purchaser. See the Frodsham Town Council website for more information.

Retirement at DRB Jewellers

Shoppers in Church Street will notice a change this month as the long established business DRB Jewellers closed on 17th January. David Buckley has been trading here since 2003 and with his wife Viv is now taking well deserved retirement. As well as selling beautiful jewellery, David has provided a workshop where watches and pieces of jewellery have been remodelled or repaired. This service will be sorely missed.

David will not be resting on his laurels after retirement but using the freedom to pursue his passion for outdoor sports which include riding his trusty motor cycle across Europe with a friend. Whilst David has given up the lease of the shop, some of the fixtures and fittings will be going on to a new life. The wall cabinets have been gifted to Apedale Heritage Centre in Newcastle under Lyme, and the wooden cabinets in the front window, which David made himself, are going to a start up business to help a new entrepreneur.

David and Viv would like to thank all the lovely customers they have met during the past 22 years who surely would return the compliment.



Photo: Iona Anstice



Great vibe in a homely atmosphere at No.13, High Street, offering local craft beer, fine wines and cocktails and a bite to eat at competitive prices. Come to a quiz night or for live entertainment or book a room for your special occasion- we will be happy to see you.



15 Church Street Frodsham WA6 6PN 01928 734440 support@irestored.co.uk

iRestored Frodsham specialise in the repair of handheld devices, personal and gaming computers and also sell a wide range of new and refurbished devices and a range of accessories



Answer to the Quiz

The picture shows part of one of the 'A Bee's Story' sculptures, located in Castle Park. The sculpture is part of a series of interactive wooden carvings by sculptor Simon O'Rourke, telling the story of 'Matilda and the Bee'.



We would love to hear your thoughts on this newsletter. Please scan the QR code to provide feedback

Frodsham News Forum gratefully acknowledges the financial support of sponsors **Cheshire Business Coaching, Lady Heyes Holiday Park, No.13, iRestored Frodsham and TravelLab**

To visit the Frodsham News website, please scan the QR code

