

Frodsham Festival of Walks Planning Group

Meeting 1 – 5 October 2020

Held by Zoom

Present:

Cllr Caroline Ashton
Kath Gee
Sue Kellett

Martin Maris
Ross McNicol
Peter Webley

Admin: Liz Kenny

1. Information Sharing

The team members shared relevant information since they last met, including:

- Caroline reported on the activities of the Frodsham Open Hands Support Group and her meeting with the Inland Waterways Association Chester & Merseyside Branch¹. She told members about the Unlock Runcorn campaign of the Runcorn Locks Restoration Society².
- Caroline also reported that the Christmas Gift Voucher Scheme for residents aged over 70 is open for applications.
- Martin spoke about the successful recent Frodsham Players production In the courtyard of Castle Park Arts Centre and the 'Elevenses' entertainment programme in the Courtyard Tearooms.
- Ross explained he continued to volunteer with Opal's GoOnline project, delivering help over the phone.
- Peter gave an update on the advice received from the Ramblers by the Walking for Health project. They have been told they may legally restart with up to 30 people per walk including two leaders, and specifically COVID planned and risk-assessed. As yet, however, the walks have not restarted.
- Kath described a project she had undertaken with Sue Lorimer to re-tracing the steps of a walk from Frodsham which was published in April 1867 in the Ashton Weekly Reporter, and Stalybridge and Duckinfield Chronicle³
- Sue has not been on any walks with the Ramblers, but is walking locally alone or with one or two friends.
- Liz mentioned that the Frodsham Town Council Grant Scheme⁴ is open for applications from local community groups until 1 November 2020.

¹ www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/branches/iwa-chester-merseyside-branch

² <https://unlockruncorn.org/>

³ www.sandstoneridge.org.uk/news/then-and-now-a-day-in-cheshire.html

⁴ <https://frodsham.gov.uk/2020/09/frodsham-town-council-2020-grants-scheme-2/>

2. West Cheshire Walks Festival

Liz completed a questionnaire from WCWF in July. Some of the questions explored exploring options for next year “how we are going to go about adapting it to current times to make sure parts of it can still go ahead if we ever have a situation like we did this year with Covid-19.”

She had not managed to contact them for feedback on the responses but would aim to speak to them before the next meeting.

Action: Liz to contact Active Cheshire and report back to next meeting.

3. 2021 Festival of Walks

After much discussion, the following points were agreed.

a. Date

A Festival of Walks will take place in 2021 – dates to be Saturday 24 April – Monday 3 May.

b. Theme

“Rediscover where you live” – in other words to introduce people to aspects of the locality and its heritage they may be unaware of.

c. Location

Walks will largely start from within the old Borough of Frodsham which comprised the townships of Alvanley, Frodsham, Frodsham Lordship, Helsby, Kingsley, Manley, Newton by Frodsham and Norley.

d. Format

The aim will be to have a modest number of volunteer-led walks, probably pre-booked to control numbers, all subject to the COVID situation at the time and with all necessary safety precautions in place for volunteers and walkers.

The led walks will be supplemented with several self-led walks of varying length, based on walks documented in the three walks booklets previously published by Frodsham Town Council and walks researched by Frodsham History Society. The aim would be to publish these in separate leaflets which could be made available free of charge online and, potentially, printed.

e. Self-led walks

It was agreed that a sub-group comprised of Martin Maris, Kath Gee and Peter Webley would meet before the next Planning Group Meeting to look through the walks booklets and propose routes suitable for the Festival self-led walks.

Action: Liz to locate copies of the books and notify members when they are available for collection from Castle Park House.

Action: Martin to convene a Zoom meeting of the self-led walks sub-group.

f. Led walks

Action:

Members to circulate by emails any ideas they have for led walks in advance of the next Planning Group meeting.

4. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 4 November at 9.30am by Zoom.