

Seventy six**FRODSHAM –VILLAGE.**

Frodsham deserves a visit. It is an attractive old village with many lovely buildings, traditional shops, coffee bars, and a good number of real ale pubs. The parish church is uphill in a tiny village called Overton.

Catch the stopping train to Newton-Le-Willows and change there to catch the Chester/North Wales train soon after on the same platform. Alight at Frodsham Station. *This feels as if it should be on a model railway –it has a quaint old station building, goods shed, and the line emerges from a little tunnel in a sandstone cliff, the same red sandstone as found at Eccles.*

Leave the platform and turn right immediately. A narrow path takes you to the top of some steps.

Descend the steps to Church Street and turn left. *Over on the right is a National School building of MDCCXXXV (1835), the village hall and the small set of modern shops.*

On the left is The Helter Skelter (*There used to be a large helter skelter at the top of Frodsham Hill – sells various real ales on hand pumps. The pub sells bar meals and also has a restaurant. Open every day. Tel: 01928 733361. Website: www.helterskelter-frodsham.co.uk*)

Walk further along Church Street out of the centre. Pass a bus stop and where a street sign says Red Lane look across the road. There is a set of steps.

Go up these and follow the path to the top.

Opposite is The Ring o Bells -*an ancient pub with tiny rooms, sells real ales on hand pump. 12.00 to 14.00 with food then 17.30 onwards. Tel:01928 732068.*

You are now in the village of Overton. On your left is the Parish Church of St Laurence –*take a look, it's an attractive building dating from 1180.*

Walk beyond the church to see Church House Farm, then the unusual Glebe House, and the fine Overton Hall on School Lane. Return direct to the Church (*but note up Belle Monte Road behind The Ring o Bells is The Bull's Head – real ales on hand pump, food 12.00 to 14.00 & 17.30-19.30 Tues – Saturday. Sunday 12.00-17.00.*

Go back down the path alongside the churchyard and take the first path on the left across a playing field. *There is an open view over the Mersey. Follow this path until you come out on Fountains Road which curves slightly to the right as it goes downhill. Notice the attractive brickwork of the unusual building on the left (was it a dairy?).*

Just beyond this building go left to look in Castle Park.

There is a cafe and art gallery in the impressive stable area; Castle House has a grand Edwardian appearance, there are gardens and also a popular children's play area.

Leave Castle Park and go under the railway to the main road. This is Frodsham Main Street. *The Pheasant which sells real ale is a hundred yards or so left. Notice the old cottages opposite. Many of the cottages were fishermen's cottages - the Mersey used to lap at the edge of this village!*

Turn right along Main Street. *There are many attractive buildings on this stretch (there are blue plaques on some and the town trail notices are worth looking at).*

You pass the entrance to a Cheshire Volunteer Regiment barracks.

On the right The Queens Head Hotel *has real ale, and so does The Cheshire Cheese.*

Then you come to The Golden Lion. *This is an old fashioned pub selling Samuel Smiths on hand pumps. Outside the Golden Lion is a town trail board.*

Opposite is The Bears Paw - *a lovely sandstone building (1632) with up to six real ales on hand pump (cask marque) -and good food 12.00 to 18.00 daily. Tel: 01928 731404.*

Further on is the Red Lion and on the right is Morrison's Supermarket.

Further along the pavement is high above the road (*There are more fishermen's cottages here and beyond that a church converted to apartments*).

Return to the Golden Lion and turn left up Church Street. On the right is The Cholmondeley Arms (*eccentric and real ale*). Outside it is a listed telephone box! *This is 'a vermillion giant K4 style' of 1927.*

Cross Church Street and go up the street opposite. The railway station is on your right. Go on to the near platform to catch a train to Newton le Willows. Change at Newton le Willows for an Eccles train..

CATEGORY:	SHORT EASY.
	ARCHITECTURE, VIEWS, MANY PUBS, CAFES,
	SHOPS, PARK,
RAIL FARE:	category three.