

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 MDCCCXXXV (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](tel:01928732068).*

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 1200-17.00.*)

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 Cholmondley 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.

MAP OS 1:50 000 sheet 117

Phillip's Street Atlas Cheshire.