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Life

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**March 2015
Issue: 192**



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Rebekah is on song!

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Regular news updates at www.lymmmlife.co.uk

Editor's Comment



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I AM sure many readers can remember when Lymm High School was the top performing school in the area.

The latest GCSE performance tables now places Lymm below Bridgewater, Culcheth and Cardinal Newman in the Warrington area.

Lymm had a 65 per cent success rate of pupils obtaining five or more GCSEs at Grades A*-C compared to 68 per cent at the top performing school in the area, which is Bridgewater High at nearby Appleton.

But all schools were behind neighbouring Trafford, which still operates a selective education system, with nine schools out performing Warrington's best, with Altrincham Girls' Grammar School achieving 100 per cent and three achieving 99 per cent.

Another nearby authority

Cheshire West and Chester had seven schools with more than seventy per cent and Cheshire East had six schools with more than 70 per cent.

Mind you the performance tables have been dismissed by some as nonsense and Lymm was well above the national average of 56.6 for state schools.

A dramatic fall in grades nationally has been attributed to a series of reforms to toughen up the exam system.

Problems at Lymm High School have been well documented in the past and the school has come along way in the past year.

Hopefully with the continuing improvements it will not be too long before it is once again challenging to be the top performing school in the area.

Finally I have received a number

of complaints from people living in the Pepper Street area of the village concerning dog fouling problems.

There would appear to be at least one dog walker who is going out of their way to try and give all dog owners a bad name.

Please clear up after your pet as Pepper Street is a well walked route by many children - and your pet's mess is a health hazard!

Deadline for the April issue of Lymm Life is March 3

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Rebekah is on song



A YOUNG singer from Lymm has been selected for the National Youth Chamber Choir's inaugural fellowship programme.

Rebekah Jones, an alto, 22, will join seven other young singers from across the country who have been selected for the programme.

Since graduating from Kings College London, Rebekah has worked as a professional freelance singer.

She is a former member of Halle Youth Choir and Orchestra and is looking to develop high-level musicianship skills through the scheme.

The National Youth Chamber Choir is the senior ensemble of the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain. The Fellowship will run from September for 12 months and is a brand new professional development programme which aims to create the most highly-skilled and multi-talented young choral singers in the UK.

It offers a unique package of training and benefits to prepare

the singers for professional musicianship.

More than 50 singers applied for the programme and, following a rigorous three-round audition process which included solo performance, sight-reading of contemporary vocal scores, on-the-spot improvisation and ensemble work, eight of the UK's best young singers were appointed to the exclusive programme.

The mixed-voice octet will form the elite core of the 24-voice National Youth Chamber Choir and will perform throughout the UK and abroad, both with the choir and as a solo ensemble.

The singers will each receive an award of £4,000 for the 50 days of engagements and training including concerts, international events, educational projects, and recording weekends with the option to earn more through additional performances.

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What's On

in conjunction with Lymm Parish Council



February 9, 2015

LYMM HISTORY SOCIETY

History of the River Weaver –
Colin Edmondson
Lymm Village Hall, 8pm
Visitors always welcome
More info Lynne Smith 01925 756776

February 10

LYMM PARISH COUNCIL

Lymm Parish Hall 7.30pm

LYMM THURSDAY EVENING BRIDGE CLUB

Lymm Village Hall every Thursday 7pm

MAPLE LODGE ART GROUP

Meet each Wednesday 9.30am - 12.30pm
Oughtrington Community Centre, Lymm
Details: 01925 755126

ROTARY CLUB OF LYMM

Every Wednesday at Statham Lodge Hotel
7.15pm for 7.30pm
Contact the secretary 01925 650189

LOVING HEARTS & HANDS

Knitting for charity at Lymm Methodist Church,
2nd and 4th Thursday each month.
1.30pm - 3pm. Details: 01925 753298

MARKET LUNCHES

Eagle Brow Methodist Church
3rd Thursday in the month
Light lunches 12 noon till 2pm. All proceeds to
Youth For Christ and YMCA Room at The Inn

LYMM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

St Mary's Church Hall
Second and fourth Fridays (Sept - May)
7.30pm. Details: 753853

GARDENING CLUB

Meet Third Wednesday of the month
Lymm Baptist Church, Higher Lane. 7.30pm
Visitors welcome. £2 includes tea and cake

LYMM FLORAL ART GROUP

Lymm Village Hall
Third Monday of the month (except August)
at 7.30pm

LYMM ORNITHOLOGY GROUP

Lymm Village Hall, 7.45pm for 8pm,
Last Friday in the month (ex June & July).
Guest speaker, Slide Show, Refreshments.
Visitors welcome. First visit FREE.
Also field trips. Details: lymmog.co.uk

LYMM PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday
(ex July & Aug), 7.30pm
Spread Eagle pub, Eagle Brow.
Details: www.lymmphotosoc.org.uk

LYMM WINE AND BEER CIRCLE

2nd Thursday of the month, 8pm
The Boat Stage (Royal British Legion)
Details: 01925 604400

LYMM CONCERT BAND

Rehearsals every Thursday evening
United Reformed Church, 8pm.
Details: 01925 752934

THE VENUE, LYMM

Chess Club every Monday from 6pm,
Open Mic Night every Tuesday from 9pm,
free chinese meal and 2-1 cocktails
every Wednesday, Live Music every
Thursday and Saturday

LYMM WI

Every second Wednesday, 2-4pm at Lymm
Youth and Community Centre. Visitors
welcome.

LYMM WINE BOOK CLUB

Second Thursday of the month 7.30pm,
Spread Eagle, Eagle Brow. Details 01925
752371

LOW CARBON LYMM

Every second Monday of the month. 7.30pm,
Spread Eagle. 07786 074741 all welcome

**To feature your
event on this page
please call our
team on
01925 631592**



**LYMM
PARISH
COUNCIL**

Tuesday, February 10
Lymm Parish Hall 7.30pm



Pyjama day fundraiser

YOUNGSTERS had a pyjama day at Lymm based Kids Planet Nursery to help raise funds for charity.

Nursery teacher Nicola Todd is pictured reading a book to youngsters at the event held in aid of the Patau Syndrome Charity which supports families whose children have been born without eyes or with underdeveloped eyes.

Pool plan

PLANNING chiefs are to visit a Green Belt house at Lymm before deciding whether to approve proposals for an indoor swimming pool.

The development at Corn Heyes, Crouchley Lane, would involve an extension to the existing house, Warrington's planning committee was told.

Neighbours have objected on the grounds of loss of outlook, dominant impact, overshadowing and noise from pumps.

Officers recommended the scheme should be approved. They argued that the development would not have any significant impact on neighbouring properties, nor conflict with the openness of the Green Belt. But the committee decided members should visit the site before reaching a decision.

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Town crier in the picture!

LYMM'S official Town Crier Peter Powell is pictured being presented with a painting of himself to mark the 20th anniversary of his role.

The picture was presented to Peter, who is also an independent councillor on the parish council, by local artist Sue King (left) and Lymm Parish Council Chairman Cllr Kath Buckley.

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Top Tips for Investing

1. Set a goal, or rather start with the end in mind which is one of my favourite expressions. Even if you don't know what you are saving for, think about how much you would want and over what period.
2. Always keep an emergency fund, this typically should be around 1 years' salary or income.
3. Keep It Simple, no pun intended here. But keeping your investments as simple as possible is the right thing to do. Don't get bogged down with complicated investments or schemes. Have a look on our website for more details.
4. Think of risk and return together. Investment risk is only one form of risk you have to consider. This does not mean that you will lose all of your money, but you have to consider the risk involved. The risk of sitting in cash at the bank can be far greater to you over time.
5. Consider charges. These can eat away at your investment over time. If you are paying charges, and if you hold any form of asset backed investment, then you are. But look at what you are being charged and what for.
6. Take the longer term view. This is imperative, you must consider any asset backed investment over at least 5 years. It is not to say you cannot get at your capital in an absolute emergency, but you should take the longer term view.
7. Consider making periodic investments say on a monthly basis. This will avoid 'lump sum shocks' if the markets do suffer a nasty fall in the early days.
8. Tax efficient investing. Always look at your Pension and ISA allowances at first. In addition the government have also given us all a generous £200000 allowance for Venture Capital Trusts. These as far as tax relief is concerned are a form of hybrid between pension and ISA's, but an excellent way of planning for retirement none the less.



Markets

As I write this article we await the European Central Banks meeting outcome to see if they will sanction a bout of Quantitative Easing. You may recall I predicted this in my last article. This will hopefully give the Eurozone economy a great boost, and how does it need it? With unemployment across the continent at over 11%, and inflation almost turning into deflation.

That said, you would think that Europe is a place to avoid when it comes to investment wouldn't you? A chap told me in November that because he had heard David Cameron voice his views on the Eurozone economy that he wanted to delay investment. There is a distinct difference between what is happening in the economy of any country or region and what is happening on the financial markets. Our own European funds in our model portfolios are performing very nicely despite all the doom and gloom that Mr Cameron talks about.

Don Wernham,
Financial Planner

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Dave builds his future in bespoke kitchens

Fourteen years ago Dave Charlton decided to quit the corporate world and went into business with his father in law to set up a bespoke kitchen design company – JD Kitchens.

Sadly after a few years his father-in-law John, The J in the business name, passed away but Dave decided to carry on.

What started off as a project from his back bedroom selling relatively basic kitchens and work tops has now blossomed into mid to high end kitchens, from a showroom on Gorsey Lane, Warrington.

Dave, who also sits as a director on the Kitchen,

Bedroom Specialist Association (KBSA), which helps regulate the industry, is the only outlet in the local area to supply modern and contemporary style German manufactured kitchens, whilst also offering a more traditional style kitchen from UK manufacturer, Mackintosh. He is also the local Neff Master Partner, supplying ovens as featured on "The Great British Bake Off!"

Explaining his decision to leave the corporate world of selling oil and lubricants in the engineering industry, Warrington born Dave said: "My son had been in three schools by the age of seven, so I decided it was time to settle down back in my home town."

He gave up his job and company car and took the plunge of working for himself with his father-in-law. Since then the business has flourished, supplying kitchens large and small in and around the Warrington area. One of his biggest jobs however was fitting a bespoke kitchen in St

Tropez for £80,000, a job that came about having been recommended by a happy customer from Lymm.

Closer to home the average spend is £15-£20,000 for a top quality bespoke kitchen

In his spare time Dave backs his son Joe's karting ambitions and was proud to see him come 5th in the national championships last year, while daughter Emily is currently studying her A levels.

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House in garden plan approved

OUTLINE plans have been approved for a detached house in the garden of an existing house in Barsbank Lane, Lymm.

Members of the borough council's planning committee gave the go-ahead after officers said the applicant had demonstrated that a detached dwelling could be accommodated on the site without detrimental impact to residential amenity or important trees.

A similar application was refused by the council and dismissed at appeal in 2003 and another application was withdrawn last year.

The committee was told the site was an attractive feature with a lawn and trees to the perimeter. Some of the trees were protected.

Officers said the proposals had been amended since last year by repositioning the proposed dwelling by moving it closer to Statham Avenue and reducing the size of its footprint to increase the distance between the property and a large oak tree.

Cllr Sheila Woodyatt opposed the scheme on the grounds it would be inappropriate in the garden of an existing house. But the committee voted to approve it.

Ellie to

SIXTEEN-year-old country singer Ellie Dibben, from Lymm, has been chosen to perform at the big Country2Country Festival at the O2 on March 8.

The two-day festival is headlined by Lady Antebellum and Luke Bryan with a host of other international

Busy month at Che

THERE is always something going on at Cheshire Grange Care Home on Booths Hill Road, Lymm.

During the month of March there is a busy schedule of arts and crafts and live entertainment.

Anyone interested in attending any of the *live entertainment events should call 01925 750670.

Events on in March

Monday 2nd

Glass Painting
(Ground floor lounge)

Tuesday 3rd

Layering of organza fabrics
(Bridgewater terrace)

Thursday 5th

*Music therapy with Helen
2-3pm

Ground floor lounge

Monday 9th

Moodling with print blocks
(Ground floor lounge)

Tuesday 10th

Applique flower squares
(Bridgewater Terrace)

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Thank you, Barchester!



Why not call us or drop in for a chat over a cup of tea?

www.barchester.com



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Cheshire Grange Care Home

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o sing at top festival

stars. Ellie, a former Lymm High School pupil, is having a busy year which started with a performance at an Eastenders Awards Dinner at The Marriott Hotel in London.

She is appearing at a number of other festivals during the summer. Ellie is currently working on

original material for her first album and is starting to record the new tracks at Orchard Studios in Cheshire.

Last year she was the support act for Luke Friend and hopes to be working with him again later this year.



Cheshire Grange

- Friday 13th**
*Sandra Currie Irish Show
2-3pm
Ground floor lounge
- Monday 16th**
Paper bird Hanging
(Ground floor lounge)
- Tuesday 17th**
St Patricks Day – Clover leaf designs
(Bridgewater Terrace)
- Friday 20th**
*Musical Memories
2-3pm
Ground floor lounge
- Monday 23rd**
Painted Birdhouses
- Tuesday 24th**
Ribbon art
- Thursday 26th**
*Richard Millington
2-3pm Bridgewater Terrace
3-4pm Ground floor lounge
- Monday 30th**
Beaded Bracelets
- Tuesday 31st**
Pressed Flower cards

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Oxbridge Success for Lymm High School



(L-R): Joe McGrail, Mr Williams (Gateway Programme Leader), Matthew Pyman, Emma Catlow, Mr Fitzpatrick (Principal) and Joe McManus

ALTHOUGH Oxbridge places are becoming increasingly competitive, four students at Lymm High School Sixth Form have been celebrating after receiving offers from the universities of Cambridge and Oxford.

As two of the best universities in the country, these institutions call for outstanding UCAS application forms, additional examinations for some subjects, and operate a stringent interview process. However, the sixth form provides

additional support to all Oxbridge applicants, and this year four Sixth Form pupils have been successful.

Emma Catlow and Matt Pyman have both been offered places at Cambridge University to study Natural Sciences, while Oxford

applicants, Joe McManus and Joe McGrail, have been offered places on Chemistry and Biochemistry courses.

Mrs Ryles-Dean, Director of Sixth Form said "Our Congratulations go to these students for their richly deserved success. At Lymm High Sixth Form, we strive to prepare young people for the exciting challenges of university and life

beyond. We are now waiting for all our students' university offers to come through and we look forward to hearing of their successes. As a Sixth Form, we are already starting to prepare our next cohort of students in this process and are extremely excited that they will be taking part in our Gateway programme."

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New manager at the helm at Lymm Hotel

THE Lymm Hotel has a new General Manager at the helm.

Diane Williamson started just before Christmas and says she is fortunate enough to have the support of a talented and dedicated team who made her feel so welcome and who help bring the Hotel, once a Coaching Inn, to life everyday!

She said "The staff share a passion and affections for the Hotel like so many of our returning guests and are always on hand to make your stay even more enjoyable!

"I am so excited at being part of such a wonderful team, working in such a beautiful location and looking forward to working closely with the community of Lymm,

supporting all the wonderful events that take place, including the Food Festival.

"Following my studies at College, I have worked in numerous hotels around the country from my beginnings as a trainee manager with Trust House Forte to hotel manager.

"I have worked in the hospitality industry for over 25 years, mainly with Intercontinental Hotels and am very passionate about customer service and developing my team to deliver exceptional service."

Diane is married with two children, Kim and Daniel, now teenagers, and her husband is also in the industry as a Senior Chef at Chester Race Course.



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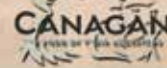


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Fussy eater leads to launch of Tilly's Choice

TILLY the Yorkshire Terrier helped inspire a Lymm based business provide healthy foods for pets.

In typical dog food the meat content is low, there are fillers added to the food which makes a dog feel full but actually has no nutritional benefit to the dog. They also often contain ingredients which cause allergies. There has been increasing media recently into the poor quality of dog food.

The products supplied by Tilly's Choice are natural, have a clear list of ingredients so owners know exactly what's in the product, they contain a higher meat content and they don't contain ingredients which cause allergies.

They offer grain free products as well as gluten and dairy free so different diets can be catered for. It's not just for animals with allergies, the food helps to improve coats and skin as well as being extremely nutritional in general. Natural food and high quality nutritious food can improve animals health and even prolong their lives.

Tilly's choice are independent and have chosen food which they consider to be the best and which they feed to their own animals.

The food they supply can't be bought in the supermarket, therefore their service is designed to enable people to easily access this food which is delivered direct to them. Customers don't have to wait in all day for a delivery, as they can agree a date and specific time for delivery. It also saves people having to go to a specialist pet store and carry heavy food themselves.

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Lymm prepares for its French visitors

LYMM Twin Town Society is preparing to welcome their friends from Meung-sur-Loire in April – and are always on the look out for new members to join their group.

Lymm has been twinned with Meung-sur-Loire for over 40 years now. The association sprang from a chance meeting in the Spread Eagle in 1967 and has continued ever since.

Both societies are voluntary associations of friends who live in the area of each small town. In Lymm social events take place during the year to keep in touch with each other and raise money for the visit of their counterparts from France.

This year it is Lymm's turn and preparations are well underway to host and entertain their visitors during their short but sweet stay between April 25-19. Next year it will be Lymm's turn to visit Meung, a delightful small town about 10 miles west of Orléans in the Loire valley, an hour south of Paris.

New members are always welcome. For more details about the society, membership and events, contact lymmtwintown@gmail.com or visit www.lymmtwintownsociety.co.uk

Reader's letter

Send your correspondence to: The Editor, Lymm Life, New Media Centre, Old Road, Warrington WA4 1AT or email: info@lymmlife.co.uk



No grit!

Lymm walker

THE snow and ice which arrived on Boxing Day was pretty to look at and I was quick to get out and about on foot. It was the nearest we've had to a White Christmas for a long time.

But were the borough council caught on the hop? I saw no sign of any road gritters in Lymm and precious little sign of them anywhere else.

A council officer tells me that the primary routes were gritted but it was decided not to grit secondary routes.

Well, if the A56 through Lymm is not a primary route I don't know what is and I saw no sign of grit anywhere along its length.

I appreciate that the council is under financial constraints at present but there are some areas of service that should not suffer from cuts. Surely gritting the roads is one of them – or doesn't road safety matter any more?

Obituaries

John Le Page

The funeral has taken place of John Le Page aged 88, formally of The Crescent, Lymm who resided at Brampton Lodge for the final months of his life.

John was born in Guernsey and was evacuated to Lymm in 1940 – only days before the Germans invaded the island. He joined the Royal Scots Fusiliers in 1944 and then 1st Battalion The Royal Norfolk Regiment. At the end of WW2, John stayed in service for a further three years, stationed in Germany. He made Lymm his home after he met his wife Mary, living for six years in Broomeedge, until they moved to The Crescent where he lived for 60 years.

John was employed as a hand tool maker, first at Plumpton at Barsbank, then Wilkinson Tools, Kerfoot Street, Warrington until he retired. He was then employed at Lymm Golf Club until he was 77.

He enjoyed spending time with his family and holidays in Guernsey to see his brother Derek. John enjoyed all sport especially horse racing and football, playing for Lymm Rovers in the 1950's. In the 1960's he played Crown Green Bowling, winning many trophies. He also enjoyed playing dominos and was one of the founder members of Lymm British Legion domino school. He was a keen cyclist and is fondly remembered by Lymm residents riding his bike around the village, which he did until he was 85.

He leaves three daughters, Jenny, Denise and Jill, grandchildren, Jackie, Mike, Hannah, Alice, Charlotte and Tom and great grandchildren Andy, Charlie, Bella, Faith and Destiny and sons-in-law, Pete, Gregory and Alan.

Funeral arrangements were by P J Lundy, Thelwall.



Eileen Blinston

THE funeral has taken place of Eileen Blinston, of Wychwood Avenue, Lymm, who died at home on November 30.

Eileen was born in North Wales and served in the ATS – the women's branch of the Army – during World War 2, servicing anti-aircraft guns.

She met Jack Blinston – a Lymm Grey – when he was stationed at Colwyn Bay during the war.

When they first married they lived at Cheadle Hulme but returned to

Lymm around 1951, when they had a farm at Statham. Jack died in 1970.

Eileen volunteered for some years at Lymm Citizen's Advice Bureau and at the Help the Aged shop in Hale.

She is survived by her daughter, Linda and son, Michael.

Funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons of Lymm.



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