

**Lymm**

# Life

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**May 2015  
Issue: 194**



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**LYMM  
PARISH  
COUNCIL**

Approved by Lymm Parish  
Council as the official  
magazine for Lymm

## Crowds flock to Duck Race!

Page 17

**Regular news updates at [www.lymmmlife.co.uk](http://www.lymmmlife.co.uk)**

# Editor's Comment



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WELL we all certainly know the name of the new supermarket brand coming in to Lymm now – and I am not sure our village came out too well from some of the national coverage.

I am sure Netto are delighted with all the publicity they secured from the media coverage which include national newspapers and TV news.

I'm certainly pleased I managed to dodge the TV crews who were keen to interview me, as from previous experience TV and radio interviews can be edited to suit the slant the producers want to take – and the angle on the story was definitely along the lines of "Posh people don't want a Netto store!"

So what a breath of fresh air it was when local residents Alan and Su Williams decided to actually

visit a Netto store and see first-hand what all the fuss was about. You can see their report elsewhere in this month's issue.

Initial feedback following the online publicity we gave on their visit is that most people in the village now think a cut-price store will be a good thing.

There are some concerns that being half owned by Sainsbury's it could result in the village centre "anchor store" eventually being lost – but personally I don't think this will happen. I would be more concerned for the Co-op up at Heatley Mere, where car parking can be a nightmare.

Any way as Alan and Su put it – the "proof will be in the pudding." If the people of Lymm decide a Netto is not for them it will not survive – but I am sure the owners will have

done their market research and are confident that this new version of the store will be a success in a village like Lymm.

Meanwhile reports are circulating that the part of HS2 rail network which could impact on Lymm and High Legh is now highly unlikely to happen.

This is good news for those who feared their homes would be impacted. I just hope the news being put out is of substance and not just because there is a General Election in the offing. There does certainly seem to be enough evidence out there to indicate that the spur impacting on Warrington and surrounding areas is not going to happen.



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# Search goes on for heritage centre venue



Su Williams with items which have been collected for the proposed heritage centre.

## LYMM Heritage and Information Centre group are still searching for a suitable venue in the village.

During an open meeting at the Boot Room of The Fleece, Treasurer Tim Askham reported that an application for charitable status was now in progress while fundraiser Carolyn Hassall has submitted the first step towards an application for a start-up grant from the heritage fund.

Chair Alan Williams reported that since the last meeting he had done two further presentations, to the Lymm and District History Society, and to the heads of all the local primary schools during a team meeting at Lymm High School.

"Working in partnership with other local groups will be vital to the success of the venture" explained Alan. "Each group brings something unique to the whole project".

Fundraising can only really start in earnest once the group is a registered charity when it can derive the extra benefits of gift aid but the group has already received indications of possible support.

There was a lengthy discussion and a number of suggestions for a venue, with general agreement that the village centre would be the aspiration for a centre as it would be most accessible to visitors.

In the meantime the centre continues to build up more material. Some of this was featured in a mock-up display of information panels and artefacts during the evening. The group are also planning to put together pop-up displays suitable for short-term display at various venues and events including Historic Transport Day.

If you would like to get involved or have something to contribute contact the group via the website [www.lymmihc.co.uk](http://www.lymmihc.co.uk)... (which will shortly be changing to [lymmihc.co.uk](http://lymmihc.co.uk)).

## Shelter for pupils

PUPILS at Ravenbank Primary School, Pepper Street, Lymm will be able to enjoy outdoor play during wet weather, following approval of plans for an external canopy.

The timber canopy will cover an area used for outdoor play by reception children when the weather is suitable.

It will mean the play area is available during wet weather and will assist with both outdoor play and educational facilities. It will not result in the loss of playing fields nor result in any noise disturbance over and above that associated with the existing school.

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## What's On in conjunction with Lymm Parish Council



**May 11**  
**LYMM HISTORY SOCIETY**  
The Suspicious Death of Elizabeth Brigham at Foxley Hall  
Chris Payne  
Lymm Village Hall, 8pm  
Visitors always welcome  
More info Lynne Smith 01925 756776

**May 12**  
**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**  
3rd Wednesday of the month, 8pm  
The Spread Eagle Hotel  
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  
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Thursday and Saturday

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

**LYMM 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, May 12  
Lymm Parish Hall 7.30pm

# Local children appear in professional musical

TWO girls from Lymm took parts in the musical "Her Benny" when it was performed by a professional touring company at The Brindley, Runcorn.

Esme Nevitt, aged eight and Sadie Whitehurst, aged nine, both shared roles in the show which has performed to capacity audiences in Liverpool and elsewhere.

Nine-year-old Finn Richards (pictured), from Stockton Heath, shared the title role of Benny in the show, which tells the story of street children in Liverpool in Victorian times.

Because of their age and the licensing laws, the young performers had to share their parts with other youngsters.

Director Anne Dalton said the role of Benny was a challenging one and she was delighted to have found youngsters who were perfect for the role.

"The part is bigger than most juvenile lead roles in musicals," she said.

Esme played the part of Nell, Benny's little sister and Sadie took on the role of a rich merchant's



daughter, Eva.

The musical, which won The International Quest for New Musicals, is based on the original book "Her Benny" by Silas Hocking which was the first ever book to sell a million copies in its author's lifetime.

## We now offer FEYE 2 year old places at Rosebank & Naturegarten

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## So does the UK General Election matter to financial markets?

Well yes and no. Yes in as much as that whatever happens we will almost certainly see a little bit of short term volatility in the markets. But no, because in the medium to long term whichever party gets elected Labour or Tory the policies are not much different to one another. Now of course the politicians will berate me for saying that. However, both political parties are in fact similar, and have been for many years now. But for example look at the national deficit. One party will want to make cuts to reduce it, the other wants to borrow to get growth to reduce it. But, and this is the most important point, they both want to reduce it.

Have a look at the table below which demonstrates the performance of the FTSE ALL Share Index one month prior, one day after, and one month after to past general election results. I think some of these percentages will surprise quite a few people.

### Election results and FTSE All Share performance

Date	Incumbent	Winner	1m Pre %	Day After %	1m Post %
18/6/1970	Labour	Conservative	-2.4%	5.4%	3.2%
28/2/1974	Conservative	Labour	7.9%	-7.3%	-19%
10/10/1974	Labour	Labour	-11.3%	-2.6%	-1.0%
03/5/1979	Labour	Conservative	5.9%	1.3%	-6.5%
09/6/1983	Conservative	Conservative	3.7%	same	-1.5%
11/6/1987	Conservative	Conservative	3.7%	1.7%	7.7%
09/4/1992	Conservative	Conservative	-5%	5.9%	13.4%
01/5/1997	Conservative	Labour	3.5%	0.2%	2.9%
07/6/2001	Labour	Labour	1.3%	0.1%	-8%
05/5/2005	Labour	Labour	-1.5%	0.3%	2.5%
06/5/2010	Labour	Conservative	-8.3%	-2.9%	-2.7%



Don Wernham,  
Financial Planner

### Likely Outcomes

This election is really too close to call. The bookmakers at the time of writing this have co-favourites of 4/1 of the present Coalition, to 4/1 Labour with the largest party but no majority, and 4/1 with a pact of Labour and the SNP. I personally think that Mr Farage will not attain 5 seats, but we shall soon see. It promises to be good entertainment all the same. But don't let it concern you about investing and the financial markets. In this day and age markets are truly global, and as such elections are taking place every year and still do have a negative and sometimes positive impact at that event. But they tend to settle down after that fairly quickly.

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# Fact or fiction? A curious book

A NEW book by a Lymm author arrived at the Lymm Life office, appropriately enough on April 1 and in a publisher's note written, again appropriately enough, on April 1 last year, James Hadley admits it is a very curious book.

"The Olio of His Royal Highness the King of Bukuri" is, he believes, the first anthology published by a fictional character.

It may come as a disappointment to the reader that not only does the King not exist but also that his island nation in the south Pacific is also fictional. Indeed, research indicates that Bukuri, derived from an Albanian word meaning "beautiful" is actually a fashion house specialising in rather revealing dresses for women.

A disappointment, however, only because the King, who wrote the book during a 25-year period of exile in the UK, appears to be such an endearing character that it is a pity he does not exist. Or rather, that he has returned to Bukuri where he cannot be contacted.

Mr Hadley, fortunately, is not so difficult to contact. A 31-year-old accountant, he lives in Lymm with his wife and young daughter and has spent four years producing the book.

His first book "Happiness – a New Perspective" was about happiness but for his second he wanted to do something different. He ended up creating an anthology



compiled by the fictional king.

Mr Hadley says: "The extracts come from many different genres, but focus on the beauty and wonder of the world. I wanted the book to be very attractive, so there are also many illustrations and typographic oddities included, with a real emphasis on beautiful design."

The book does indeed contain a wide variety of writings, from Shakespeare to Spike Milligan, from Lewis Carroll and Edward Lear to Churchill and Samuel Pepys.

It never ceases to entertain – but don't expect to be able to get a copy signed by The King.

## Sign Language course proves a big hit



MORE than 40 students from Lymm High School's Sixth Form have taken part in the DEAF Fellowship sign language programme over the last two terms.

They have been working with Esmail Patel, Director of the Deaf Education Advocacy Fellowship (DEAF).

Esmail is behind a special course which allows students to learn basic sign language.

As a result, the students have achieved a better understanding of how to effectively communicate with deaf people.

DEAF provides an advocacy service for deaf and disabled people and signposts them towards education and employment opportunities.

Lymm High School is extremely proud of all the students who have been involved in this and have achieved the Introductory Award in British Sign Language and the Deaf Awareness Certificate.

Mrs Ryles-Dean, Director of Sixth Form said "Enrichment opportunities like these are what make students at Lymm High School Sixth Form stand out from the crowd and we are looking forward to offering similar opportunities in the next academic year".

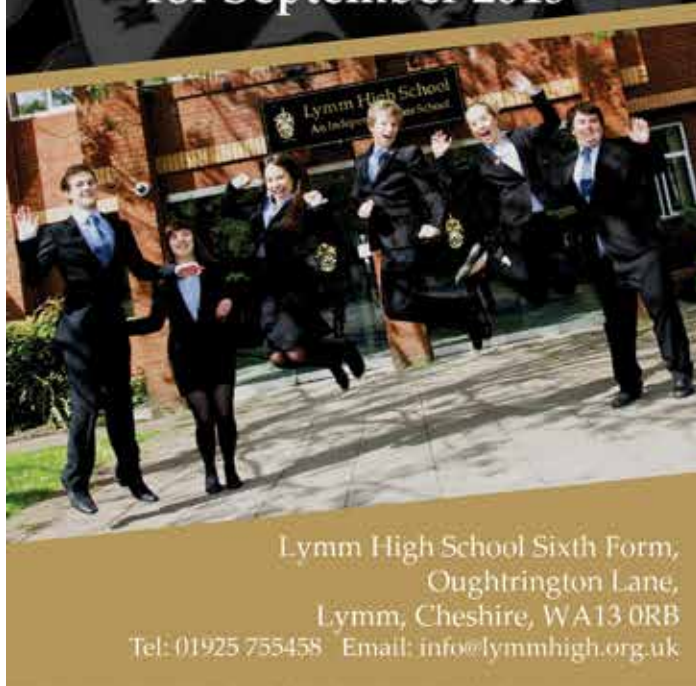
# LYMM HIGH SCHOOL SIXTH FORM SUMMER FUN

During the summer term Lymm High School Sixth Form will be hosting a number of events for prospective Sixth Form students. These will include: open afternoons for external applicants, induction/taster days to help you prepare for sixth form life and a summer fun festival including a "Battle of the Bands". Keep visiting our website and follow us on Twitter for regular updates.

Saturday 27th June 2015  
Lymm Out Loud 2-4pm  
Sixth Form Music Festival 4-7pm

If you are passionate about learning and aspire to high levels of achievement, why not apply to join Lymm High School Sixth Form? Lymm offers a highly successful and stimulating sixth form experience.

The Sixth Form Prospectus and application form is available online at:  
[www.lymmhigh6thform.org.uk](http://www.lymmhigh6thform.org.uk)  
Limited places still available for September 2015



Lymm High School Sixth Form,  
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# Former Beirut hostage is special guest at Lymm Festival

ORGANISERS of the annual Lymm festival are promising something "bigger and better" for this year's event which runs from June 18-18 and includes a variety of special guests including former Beirut hostage Terry Waite.

The former Archbishop's envoy will be joined by leading journalist Virginia Ironside and comedian Jo Caulfield on the list of personalities.

An estimated 12,000 people

attended the Festival and Historic Transport Day last year and a great time was had by all.

The village's beautiful surroundings will be the backdrop for canal cruises and Joe Griffiths' and John Parry's Lymm Walks.

The Festival will get off to a tasty start on June 18 with the FoodFest. The main street will be full of people anxious to sample dishes and drinks from the local restaurants and shops.

Things will be a little calmer two days later when people can dress up for an Edwardian Garden Party in the grounds of Lymm Hall. Introduced last year this event proved popular with families who brought a picnic, while the youngsters took part in the teddy bear trail.

The gardens at Lane End Cottage on Old Cherry Lane will be open throughout the festival showing Art In The Garden. The new venue for this festival favourite proved popular last year with surprising exhibits behind every tree.

Rehearsals are already under way for the Big Sing on June 23. The all amateur choir entertained people at the Dickensian Christmas in the village. They will be joined at the Statham Lodge Hotel by Beverley Craven. She enjoyed Top 5 success with "Promise Me" and the choir are delighted that she has agreed to sing at their concert. More information at [lymmbiging.co.uk](http://lymmbiging.co.uk) where you can also order



tickets.

The Festival will reach a great climax on June 28 with Historic Transport Day. In a couple of years it has become one of the highlights of the festival. Lymm Historic Transport Day takes on a new dimension this year by linking up with the Lancashire Traction Engine Club to bring over a dozen traction

engines to the village including the magnificent showman's engine - Supremacy. This new element of the show is being managed by local traction engine owner Chris Adamson of Heatley.

Tickets, when on sale, will be available from the Festival website [www.lymmfestival.org.uk](http://www.lymmfestival.org.uk) or Lymm Electric, Bridgewater St, Lymm.

## Visit Rosebank Naturegarten

ROSEBANK Naturegarten is delighted and excited to be able to welcome visitors to their garden in the Lymm Open Gardens event on June 21. Last year they had so many compliments from parents about the gardens and produce that they decided that this year they would share what they have. They will be sharing their Children's Forest, Kitchen Gardens, Bog Garden, Orchards and much more.

They will be offering refreshments, a relaxing area with papers and something for children to grow.



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# Lauren sets her sights on Paralympics



A YOUNG woman has set her sights on representing Great Britain at archery and competing at the Paralympics in Rio to inspire others. Lauren, Sanders, aged 28, was born with Spinabifida and Hydracephalus which has affected her everyday life.

Despite the challenges she has faced she is determined to never let her disability get the better of her and recently underwent serious surgery to stop her conditioning from deteriorating and to keep her dream alive.

Unfortunately due to the surgery she is now three months behind schedule and is now looking for support to get back on track to represent her country in Rio.

She is already holding down three jobs and recently took up the post of Marketing and Publicity Director at Lymm Festival. Now she is hoping to embark on a journey of victory and inspiration for others.

Lauren was lucky enough to land a place with Archery GB at their Paralympic Academy last year after attending an assessment day. However, her disability had deteriorated in the past couple of years so she decided to take action and opt for a life changing operation in January this year.

She underwent Spinal Untethering surgery to stop her disability getting any worse and to stop the pain she was in everyday which also affected her training. She has now come through this despite some setbacks, but has lost

18th - 28th June **Summer Festival 2015**  
lymmfestival.org.uk

**Family Fun Events**

- EDWARDIAN GARDEN PARTY
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three months' worth of training.

Lauren said: "Over the next 12 months I want to be able to train as much as I can and go to as many competitions as possible to get the most important scores to have a shot at getting to Rio. Unfortunately this comes with a cost which is why I am now asking for help. I have three jobs already but want to be able to donate more time to progressing in Archery. Ultimately I need to be able to fund further equipment and petrol costs to get to competitions!"

Lauren is looking to find companies who would be proud to sponsor her progression and help her to get the extra equipment and training she needs to progress over the next 12 months. She has set up a page at <http://www.gofundme.com/loz4victory>. Anyone interested in sponsoring Lauren please get in touch with her by emailing [lasanders@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lasanders@hotmail.co.uk).

Lauren added: "My vision is obviously to win at the Paralympics, World Championships etc. but I also want to inspire others living with disabilities to still chase their dreams because there is always possibilities. I will be aiming to go in and talk to groups to help them follow their own dreams just like I have the chance to.



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# New life for old station house

JUST a 15-minute drive from Lymm, a £2 million regeneration project has breathed new life into a ruined station house which has been standing derelict for almost a quarter of a century.

Community and partner organisations joined local charity Hamilton Davies Trust to celebrate the official opening by Ian Stewart, City Mayor of Salford and Cllr Christine Hudson, Ceremonial Mayor of Salford, of Irlam Station House.

It was 122 years to the day since it first opened its doors.

The building, originally dating from 1893, has undergone extensive restoration work and now provides lots of new facilities alongside original architectural features, offering visitors a taste of the present and a flavour of the past. The transformation is part of a wider project to regenerate the whole site which had been in a poor state of repair for some time.

Irlam is the busiest unmanned railway station in Greater Manchester with more than 240,000 users every year. Rail passengers can now enjoy the station house facilities including 1923 café bistro, waiting area, toilets and meeting facilities, a cycle hub and a 60 space car park providing a more comfortable atmosphere for commuters,

networking area for business and a leisure destination for the local community.

HDT founder and chairman Neil McArthur said: "The station house was derelict and in a sorry state of repair. We wanted to help regenerate the district and create a landmark, so much more than a station.

"I feel we have done this, by not only improving the environment and introducing great new facilities, but by restoring the old station house to its former glory. Irlam Station will hopefully become a must-visit location for residents from neighbouring communities, whether for leisure or their daily commute. I'm delighted to have been part of this partnership to make this regeneration happen and I think it can only benefit Irlam for the future."

A feature of the renovation is The 1923 coffee shop, taking inspiration from the grand age of steam and the year in which the LMS train company, which dominated this line was formed, which runs throughout this historic building.

This new addition to the station serves a selection of food and beverages to suit both commuters and locals alike. By day 1923 is a bustling coffee shop with a bistro feel serving great coffees,



smoothies, sandwiches, salads and snacks all produced onsite using local producers. Into the evening the venue adopts a bistro like feel with customers being able to grab that snack on the way home from work or enjoy a dining experience like no other in true 1920's themed surroundings.

From bespoke train carriage fittings to the relaxing mezzanine level complete with free wifi it's the perfect place to meet with friends or enjoy and relaxing half hour before or after the daily commute.

Stuart Wraith (pictured), operations manager said: "This project has been unique. We have looked into the historical aspects of the station building and matched it in keeping with the charm of the building to create a business which is different, welcoming and we hope a great addition to the local area.

We have sourced local suppliers such as Dunham Massey brewery to provide hearty and mouth-watering dishes and beverages, which can be enjoyed both in the comfort of our quirky new venue or can be taken out. After home and work we want 1923 to become the Irlam communities third place of residence, and are looking forward to welcoming you soon."

1923 will soon be launching its take away service online also to allow customers on the go to collect their orders at their convenience and enjoy a piece of the exciting new business on the go, though frankly once you step inside this enchanting new establishment you would be hard pushed to find its charm and unique appeal anywhere else.

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# Netto - The proof of the pudding is in the eating!

FOLLOWING all the controversy about a new Netto store opening in Lymm, husband and wife team Alan and Su Williams decided to check out the retailer first hand - taking the view "the proof of the pudding is in the eating!"

Alan and Su, who is a local parish councillor, visited Netto's new store at Heaton Park.

Alan said: "At the end of a crazy week when the media hasn't always painted the kindest picture of the village I realised I hadn't seen a single opinion expressed by anyone who had actually shopped at a Netto!

"So on our way to visit friends in Yorkshire we stopped off to see the Heaton Park store which opened at the end of last year.

"It is literally attached to a far larger Sainsbury's so clearly they think they can co-exist.

"Before arriving we were apprehensive - let's be honest Netto did not have the greatest brand image before they withdrew from UK in around 2011. But now they are back and it's not really recognisable as the same store.

"You are greeted at the door by a full aisle of fresh produce. We picked up a pineapple for 65p, a big bag of easy peel oranges for £1.09 plus a pack of 6 pink lady apples for £1.55.

"The store has a Premier Range (equivalent to the much praised Deluxe range at Lidl) Cold meats, smoked salmon, fish, mascarpone cheese-cakes and olive oil were among the lines I spotted. But there were plenty of recognised brands too, making it easy to stock up on all the basics.

"A loaf of Warburtons was 95p. The same loaf next door at Sainsbury's was £1.30 - figure that out!"

"Halfway round was a small area that puts one in mind of the IKEA "market hall," candles, cloths, napkins, small household goods.

"As a man I always make a point at IKEA of walking straight past but Su was definitely impressed.

"They were clearly pushing the in-store bakery - nothing like the smell of fresh bread for the feel-good factor but like Aldi and Lidl there was no deli counter.

"The total product range - 2,000 plus is apparently very similar to the other two big discounters."

Half way through their visit Su and Alan bumped into one of the management team, Kenneth Luxhoi from Denmark, who was next to the lego display which is a feature of every store. He had been following the news stories about Lymm with some puzzlement.

Alan added: "I think he seemed pleased that we had come to see for ourselves. He was keen to distinguish between the old and new Netto and pointed proudly to the regularly changing spot deals. Then just as we were chatting who should walk in but Netto UK managing director Morten Nielsen, and Sainsbury's Business Development Director Helen Buck on a fact finding visit.

"They joined us and told us about Netto's plans to expand quickly to 15 stores and win customers



with attractive, wide aisled and uncluttered stores.

"Would I shop there? Yes - no problem. Would I buy everything there? - almost certainly not - They are similar in some ways to Lidl where I often shop now in that they offer great value and they do have spot deals but in the end you go elsewhere for a little more variety from time to time.

"Also one or two of the products like the flavoured crispbreads promised more on the pack than they delivered to the tastebuds.

"I definitely like the prices. Low and simple. One reason

I abandoned Sainsbury's in Warrington was the endless "buy one - pay over the odds, buy two at a reasonable price - end up wasting one" deals.

"The whole Netto concept is an experiment for Sainsbury's/ Netto that may or may not work as they have to break in to a now established and successful discount market.

"Will it work for Lymm? In the end it's the customers who will decide but personally I know more people who wanted a discount store than wanted a more upmarket name and there's not much wrong

with this one.

"In some ways I feel this kind of store could be more positive for the village centre too. An upmarket "end-to-end" store with a deli, counter and butchers would be far more likely to eat into some of our local village businesses.

"I have to say I find it hard to see how Lymm can support two Co-ops, a Sainsbury's local and another larger store - not to mention M&S Simply Food at Poplar but only time will tell. We are in the middle of a major shift in food retailing and this is just another example of it."

## Architect puts his stamp on a bridge

AN architect who was brought up in Lymm has had one of his bridge designs commemorated on a set of first class stamps depicting 10 of the UK's most dramatic bridges.

James Marks who is the son of local councillors, Ian and Pam Marks, was trained at Edinburgh University and designed the Peace Bridge in Northern Ireland when he worked for leading bridge design company, Wilkinson Eyre.

The Peace Bridge is a cycle and footbridge across the River Foyle in Derry and was opened in 2011 by the EU Commissioner for Regional Policy accompanied by senior Northern Irish and Irish politicians. It is intended to improve relations between the unionist and nationalist communities.

Royal Mail say the set of stamps demonstrate "leaps in engineering by progressive architects and engineers" starting with Tarr Steps on Exmoor which dates from before 1600. The series moves through the centuries and finishes with the Peace Bridge, the only one from this century. Royal Mail says "these new stamps celebrate ten beautiful and ground-breaking landmarks that span centuries of our history".

Another of James's designs is the Media City Footbridge over the Manchester Ship Canal between MediaCityUK and Trafford Wharf.

This bridge frequently features as a backdrop on TV screens.

He has now left Wilkinson Eyre and has set up his own company

along with an ex-colleague who designed the "Blinking Eye" bridge between Newcastle and Gateshead.



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# Community centre secured for 30 peppercorns

VOLUNTEERS at Lymm Youth and Community Centre are celebrating as a new 30 year lease was signed securing the centre for local people for just 1 peppercorn rent each year.

Warrington Borough Council has transferred management of the centre to the village as a Community Asset Transfer.

The centre is entirely run by volunteers from the local community and is self-sustaining without any regular income from the Local Authority, supporting itself by fundraising and DIY maintenance by its volunteers. Its monthly meetings at 7.30pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month are open to everyone.

The Centre organises several popular events staffed by its volunteers including monthly Artisan and Antiques Markets, Senior Socials, Film Shows, weekly Young Peoples Clubs, and Thursday Market Day Breakfasts. It provides a venue for outside groups such as, Street Dance, Theatre Arts School, Keep Fit, Budo and even private Birthday Parties to hire at competitive rates; and supports community groups such as Messy Church, Domville Lodge, Indoor Bowls and Table Tennis, as well as playing a full part in local events such as Lymm Duck Race, Lymm May Queen, Lymm Festival, International Women's Day, Lymm Historic Transport Festival Lymm Dickensian Christmas etc.

Steve Griffiths, Chairman, said; "We are absolutely delighted to have signed up for 30 years for just 30 Peppercorns (and quite a bit of hard work by our committed

volunteers who manage and operate the centre for the local community each and every day of the year). We are very conscious that Warrington Borough Council put its trust in us to manage this facility is not just for Lymm Youth and Community Association but for all local organisations and individuals. We hope everyone will be satisfied with our efforts both now and for the future"

Parish Councillor Joe Griffiths and volunteer at the centre commented: "This good news coincides with major renovations to the premises as the result of a substantial grant from WREN and additional grants from the Stronger Together Local Fund, Lymm Parish Council and Warrington Borough Council. These works will improve access and facilities for disabled and older people, as well as improving the external appearance of the premises. We look forward to showing our premises to the community at an Open Day in the Summer."

Parish Councillor Su Williams, Volunteer at the centre, said: "I am so pleased that we now know that this wonderful facility will be safe for 30 years and will continue provide support for the young, old, disabled and disadvantaged in our community who increasingly need it as a social provision for their welfare."

*Top: Chairman Steve Griffiths (left) looks on as long serving Volunteer Don Smith witnesses his signature and right: Parish Councillor Su Williams holds out 30 year's rent, while volunteers Jenny Kinder and Joe Griffiths look on.*



## Crowds flock to duck race

A LARGE crowd gathered in Lymm Village centre for the annual duck race organised by Lymm Roundtable.

Town Crier Peter Powell was on hand to launch proceedings which has now become one of the biggest events on the village calendar, helping raise thousands of pounds for local good causes.

Glorious sunshine ensured a huge turnout as people gathered at the lower dam to look out for the winning ducks.

The family event amassed over £7,500 which will go towards worthy causes, largely thanks to the main sponsor – the Co-operative Food at Cherry Lane – the support of local businesses and the general public.

Along with funds raised from the race itself, Lymm Ladies Circle's Easter Food Fest also added around £1000 to the charity kitty.

"Everything went according to plan and we couldn't have wished for a better event – the sun even came out for us!" said Nick Elliott, organiser and Round Table member.

"We're eternally grateful to the

Co-Op, the local businesses that stepped forward to sponsor us and those who bought a duck to enter the race. We now have the lovely task of donating lots of money to charity."

The winning ducks were numbers 25 (first), 636 (second) and 305 (third), with the super duck winner named as Clinic Equilibrium and corporate duck winner The Sweet Shop. Each business will now nominate a charity of their choice to donate money to (£1000 for the super duck, £250 for the corporate duck).

Lymm and District Round Table are seeking charities and community groups to donate to – please email [info@lymmroundtable.co.uk](mailto:info@lymmroundtable.co.uk) with your nominations.





Simon Plumb and Charlie set to perform at the Vaudeville Variety

# Lymm Panto's Big Brother – Vaudeville Variety Show!

LYMM Rugby Club proudly announces a superb night of entertainment for this year's Lymm Festival.

Impresario Simon Plumb, who describes himself as "world's worst ventriloquist," is staging a Vaudeville Variety show to launch the Lymm Festival weekend with a bang on June 19.

Following the hugely successful 'Best of Lymm Panto' show last year, the world famous cast are returning to the summer marquee at Lymm Rugby Club, to provide yet another night of extravagant entertainment including burlesque dancing, saucy adult humour and outrageous sketches.

All funds raised go to the Lymm Grass Roots Appeal to fund new

clubhouse development, and for Lymm RFC to become the heart of the local sporting community.

Acts include unique comedy sketches, talented singers and, of course, Lymm's favourite ventriloquist characters Charlie, Ken and little Jimmy. The Lymm Panto Band will be playing live music throughout the night and the bar will be open until late.

Simon, despite being the world's worst ventriloquist, is looking forward to the night. "This Variety Show promises to deliver the perfect mix of musical talent, a bevy of beauty and unrestrained hilarity that really will leave you amazed and bewildered."

'Vaudeville has never really died in my opinion and the variety style of songs and sketches really suits the summer marquee. I promise, if you enjoy our world famous Pantos, you will love this!'

This fabulous musical sketch show will be held on Friday 19th June. Doors open from 7pm and the show will run from 8pm to 10pm sharp. Adult content, strictly over 18.

To purchase tickets, at £17.50 each, please call Fiona Osborne on 01925 755590, or via email: Fiona@spa-group.co.uk, or alternatively, visit www.lymmfestival.org.uk.

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