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Life

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**July 2016
Issue: 208**



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Downpour at May Queen

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THOSE taking part in the annual Lymm May Queen parade should be applauded for showing true "Dunkirk spirit" as they battled the elements.

It was certainly the worst rainfall in my living memory of covering local events and was such a shame after all the hard work and planning which went into the event.

The deluge was so extreme Whitbarrow Road was almost turned into a stream.

But it was a case of on with the show as Town Crier Peter Powell led the parade through the village and on to the May Queen Field where the crownings took place.

Sadly many then vacated the field to dry off but still quite a few hardy souls remained to make the best of the occasion.

The rain was so heavy one of our

photographer's cameras packed in. Fortunately it dried out in the airing cupboard so no lasting damage.

We did capture many images and video of the occasion which can be viewed on our website or via our facebook group page.

Now the village will be gearing up for the annual Lymm Festival and hopefully the outdoor events, including the Food Fest will be blessed with better weather.

It doesn't matter how much planning goes into organising event the one thing we can never guarantee in this country is the weather!

But one thing we are blessed with, especially in Lymm, is the large number of volunteers who give up their time to help ensure we can enjoy so many different events throughout the year – many of them

involved in several different events. Thank you to all of you for helping make Lymm such a special community.

Deadline for the August issue of Lymm Life is July 5

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Record numbers expected for Lymm Transport Day

RECORD numbers of vehicles are expected at the Lymm Historic Transport Day on Sunday June 26, which will also mark the 300th birthday celebration of James Brindley, the canal's designer.

Bookings have been flooding in since the online booking system opened in January.

Car organiser Shaun Willacy said: "I guess it's a tribute to how the reputation of the event has grown in such a short time. Next year I will be checking at the end of the first day."

There was a similar response from the traction engine and historic boat fraternities too with the village set to receive a record number of both.

With seven event venues plus two park and rides, as well as the morning drive-in which this year will be coming in along Cherry Lane from Poplar Services, more volunteers were needed.

Members of a number of local groups have stepped in to fill the void, including Lymm Classic Car Club, the revitalised ATC squadron at Agden, Lymm Festival and Lymm Festivities Group.

One of the biggest offers came from the Lymm Hotel who are providing eight volunteers for the whole day.

Hotel manager, Jamie

McDonald, said: "To me community involvement is about much more than just writing a sponsor cheque. It's about getting stuck in."

"I grew up in Lymm and I am proud to be able to participate in this way whilst also giving some of the younger members of staff a valuable new experience."

This year's event features all the usual attractions PLUS a Spitfire plane on the May Queen field and a LEGO Transport exhibition that all kids and plenty of adults will



enjoy Event director, Alan Williams, added: "We are enormously grateful to all the village's volunteers."

"Without them events like May Queen Festival, Dickensian and Transport Day simply couldn't happen."

"As someone who has only been involved in Transport Day for a fourth year I take my hat off

to the teams of people who have been keeping all the great Lymm traditions going successfully for so many years.

"It's enormously hard work but the benefits reach far beyond the one day of each event."

Advance discounted tickets are available from Lymm Festival Box Office. More information at lymmtransport.org.uk

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What's On

in conjunction with **Lymm Parish Council**



July 12th
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 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,
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every Wednesday, Live Music every
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

4LYMM VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION
Meet every 2nd Monday at 7.30pm in the
Bridgewater Club, Whitbarrow Road.
All welcome. Tel 01925 756378 for details.

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Church. Contact 01925 601664.
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**LYMM
PARISH
COUNCIL**

Next meeting is
Tuesday, July 12th
Lymm Parish Hall 7.30pm

Meera and friends play for the food bank

FOR the third year running flautist and former Lymm High School pupil Meera Maharaj has organised a concert in aid of Warrington Foodbank.

Last year, more than £1,500 was raised along with 18 crates of grocery donations.

This year's event takes place at 8pm on Monday, June 20, again at St Wilfrid's in Grappenhall village. Tickets include a glass of wine/soft drink are £8 plus a donation of groceries. There is no charge for children.

Tickets can be reserved on 07976 106434.
Once again, Meera, from Grappenhall, will be joined by friends from the Royal Northern College of Music. They will perform an exciting programme to include the Piano Quintet in A major by Dvorak as well as Bartok's "Romanian Dances" and Chick Corea's "Children's Songs" arranged for flute and guitar.

Details including a suggested list of the Foodbank's shortage items can be found on the Facebook event page "Warrington Foodbank Concert 2016".

Meera said: "Having raised £2700, as well as the grocery donations as a result of the last two concerts, I hope that we can raise even more this year. We very much enjoyed the opportunity to play in such a beautiful church for a large and appreciative audience.

"It deeply saddens me that the Foodbank is now needed more than ever, however, I hope my community will help me to make a difference whilst enjoying an evening of wonderful music."

For those who can't attend the concert but wish to make a donation, there is a my donate page on the Warrington Foodbank website: <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/warringtonfoodbank>



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Helping to save a life - 'an amazing feeling'

A NEW Community First Responder scheme at Lymm is looking for volunteers - because at the moment it has only got one!

Graham Gowland is currently the only member who has completed training with the North West Ambulance Service and been issued with the basic life support kit necessary for him to respond to emergencies in the area.

Another volunteer has come forward but has yet to be trained... so Graham is on his own.

He works four-hour shifts and can be sent out to life threatening situations where it is believed he may be able to get there before an ambulance.

The Lymm Community First

Responder (CFR) scheme evolved from the Defibrillator and Heartstart projects in the village.

First Responders are kitted out by the ambulance service with defibrillators, oxygen and other essentials and linked to the 999 service with a pager, that works in exactly the same way as the communication systems in an ambulance.

Graham said: "I am sent to calls within a four mile radius. Nothing dangerous, not road traffic incidents, stabbings, or anything like that.

But life threatening situations

will see me setting off as quickly as possible, with the ambulance dispatched at the same time - we don't slow the paramedics down but in a crisis, seconds count.

"It would be great if we had more responders locally - I can't be on call 24/7 and the idea is to have a number of people who do a few hours, a day - whatever they can do - on a regular basis."

Graham's training included going

out with ambulance crews.

"It's a bit scary - but I've had good training and been out a few times as part of an ambulance crew - and knowing you helped keep someone alive is an amazing feeling."

Anyone interested in getting involved can either call Graham on 01925 751599 or visit the Nवास website www.nwas-responders.info/application.php where there is an application form.



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Triple honours for Lymm crime writer

LYMM-based crime writer Martin Edwards has received two major American awards for his latest book, The Golden Age of Murder.

At their annual awards ceremony in New York City, the Mystery Writers of America voted Martin's book the best critical/biographical book of the year.

Two days later, at the Malice Domestic Convention in Washington DC, the book won an Agatha award after being voted best non-fiction book of the year.

He is the first British writer to receive both awards in the same year.

Martin made it a hat-trick of honours when the board of directors of Malice Domestic announced that next year, he will receive the Poirot award to recognise his outstanding contribution to the crime genre. In

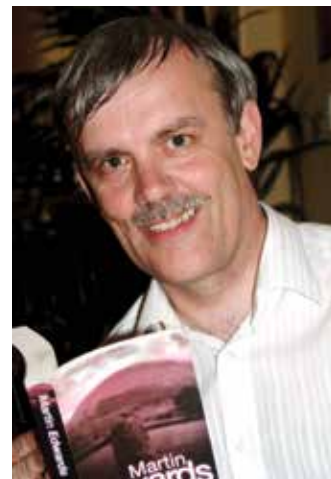
addition, The Golden Age of Murder has been shortlisted for an Anthony award, to be announced at the world mystery convention in New Orleans in September, and for Britain's H.R.F. Keating award for the best non-fiction book of the year.

Martin said: "I was lucky enough to attend both awards ceremonies, and to win both times was a dream come true, especially given the quality of the other authors in the shortlist, including the legendary Frederick Forsyth."

The Golden Age of Murder earned rave reviews on both sides of the Atlantic. In The Times, Marcel Berlins said: "Few, if any, books about crime fiction have provided so much

information and insight and, for the reader, so enjoyably."

Martin Edwards is the author of 18 novels, and is Series Consultant to the British Library's bestselling series of Crime Classics. He is Vice Chair of the Crime Writers' Association, and last November he was elected eighth President of the Detection Club, following in the illustrious footsteps of such crime writers as G.K. Chesterton, Dorothy L. Sayers, and Agatha Christie.



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Does buy-to-let still add up?

THE lettings sector has certainly been in the press this year – ranging from issues such as tax changes to increased legislation!

Anna Rowe from Arrow Lettings highlights some of the changes, together with her expert view on the impact to your investment.

Firstly, the new Stamp Duty surcharge of 3% on the purchase of second homes and residential rental properties is certainly a financial hurdle.

Anna said: "We believe at Arrow Lettings that simply by owning properties for the longer term, this

impact on return-on-investment is minimised, making the decision of which property to buy, all the more important." Anna is happy to give free, no-obligation advice regarding any property which you may be considering purchasing.

Anna added: "Secondly, is the age old topic of property prices! Here at Arrow Lettings, we will not speculate on short-term property prices - as there can be fluctuations as with

any investment. However, if you are looking to balance capital growth with return-on-investment then it is wise to take a balanced view on the location and type of properties that you choose." Anna has extensive experience of letting residential and commercial properties across the North-West and is able to provide you with further knowledge in this area.

Thirdly, increased legislation to combat 'rogue landlords' has been introduced in a number of areas. Anna's view is that whilst this does give additional protection to tenants, it can also be very time-consuming for the part-time landlord to keep up with. Therefore, having a specialist agent to take away the stress and lost time becomes more appealing. Anna has over a decade of experience in the industry and uses her membership of all of the relevant professional bodies to ensure 100% compliance

with regulation.

So for any of your lettings needs or just an informal discussion, please feel free to contact Anna at Arrow Lettings on 01925 759192 / 07809876812 or via the website www.arrowlettings.com



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Round Table's record year

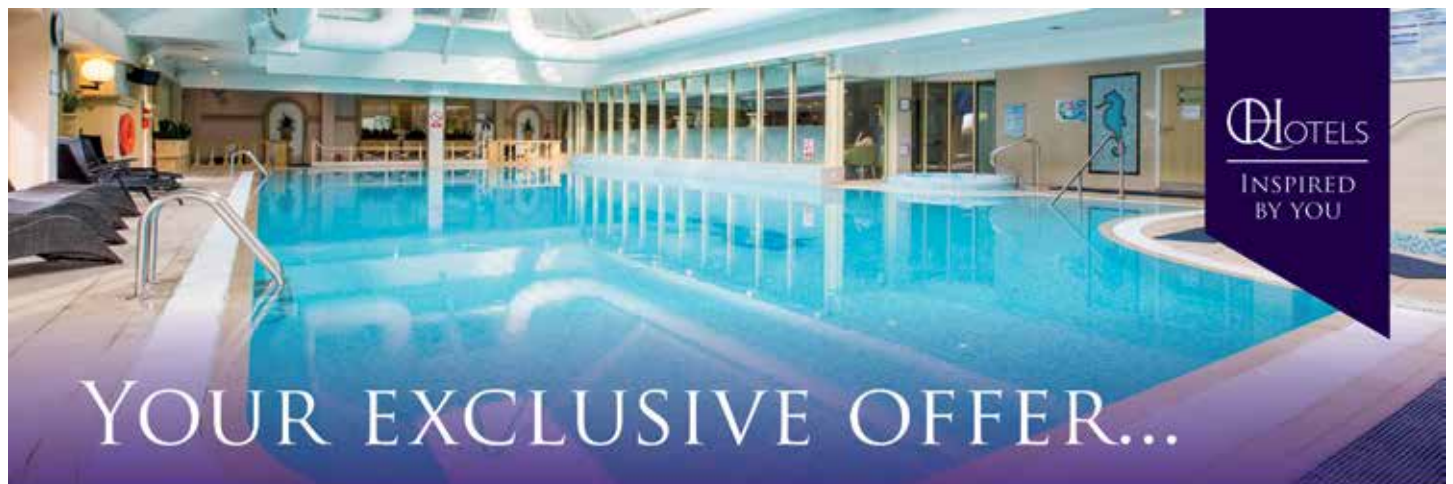
LYMM and District Round Table has donated a record amount for charity this year - almost £25,000 going to local good causes.

The money was raised from Round Table's three main events – the Easter Duck Race, Big Lymm Bonfire and Lymm Beer Fest.

Outgoing chairman Graham Gowland said: "It's been a great year – we've grown in numbers, with 26 active members helping to raise and donate such a vast amount to local good causes in the last year alone.

"We couldn't do this without the support of local businesses and of course the public coming to our fundraising events.

"I look forward to handing over the reins to our new chairman, Ian Newhouse, who I'm sure will continue to adopt, adapt and improve what we do."



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Schools unite in orange to promote food allergy awareness

TWO Lymm primary schools joined forces to promote awareness of the growing challenge presented by food allergies.

Cherry Tree Primary School already prohibited the inclusion of nuts in meals due to the presence of children with severe nut allergies. To protect them further, and in line with many other schools, Cherry Tree decided to increase awareness and implement an official nut-free environment with the help of a second Lymm school, Ravenbank primary, which already has a stringent nut-free policy.

Allergy awareness week was coordinated by Kirsty James, a parent of two pupils with allergies and the founder of Colony Community, an organisation that runs family wellbeing support events.

The week began with an assembly delivered by two Ravenbank pupils, Izzi Bloxson and Ben Rhind, who

both have anaphylaxis and have made a video now used by the Anaphylaxis Campaign and BBC (see www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zpdy6fr)

The week was organised to coincide with the Anaphylaxis Campaign's Orange Wig Day and involved a number of activities including talks, the sale of awareness wristbands and a competition to design school posters and a nut-free badge. Pupils wore orange and donated to the Anaphylaxis Campaign. The awareness project will be ongoing as parent resources and a support event on allergies are now planned.

Kirsty said: "The awareness week has been a great example of community spirit within our schools. With the support of both primaries, we've brought expertise from families in one school to another in a collaborative exercise I hope will spread into other subject areas and tie in with the parent information and support events Colony runs".

With allergies on the increase - 1 in 3 people now suffer an allergy and 1 in 10 a food allergy - the number of local families who may be seeking support is clearly an issue. Anaphylaxis in its own right can kill and allergies of all types impact the mental and physical wellbeing of many families.

To support the work done in school with the children, an event will be run for parents and carers interested in allergies. 'Think Family Allergies' will be a short workshop bringing together expert speakers from various organisations to deliver talks and videos on the three main types of allergy - skin, food and respiratory - plus there will be practical advice on allergy first aid.

Think Family Allergies will take place from 1.30pm to 3.00pm on Friday, June 24 and is hosted by Cherry Tree Primary School in Lymm. The event is a community event and not just for school parents. For more information and to register, visit www.colonynetworking.co.uk/events/think-family-allergies/ or contact Kirsty James on 0844 504 6627 or kirsty@colonynetworking.co.uk



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Colony COMMUNITY

Success in numbers

Information, workshops and events for the community held at Lymm primary schools

1.30-3.00pm, Friday 24 June

Think Family Allergies at Cherry Tree Primary (WA13 0NX)

Further events to include: **Mental Health, Disabilities, Female Health & more**

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THE annual Lymm May Queen Festival parade was hit by a torrential downpour just as it set off from the Lymm Hotel.

As Town Crier Peter Powell launched proceedings the heavens opened with a persistent downpour which caused localised flooding.

But it was a case of "on with the show" as Mayor of Warrington Cllr Faisal Rashid joined the parade which had a Star Wars theme.

The event was organised by Festival Chairman Steve Harper and set off from the Lymm Hotel and through the village.

The crowning took place on the May Queen field and after the downpour events continued, including a falconry display and fun fair.

This year's May Queen was Eva Cope, aged 10, a pupil at Cherry Tree Primary School, while Rose Queen was nine-year-old Eleanor Lawton from Ravenbank Primary School.

Reader Kate Harrison sent in a

photo of her five-year-old son Will (pictured far right), which captures the spirit of the occasion!

Kate said: "Here's an epic pic of my son Will Harrison aged 5yrs, who was walking in the Lymm May

Queen Parade with Cherry Tree School... He was a rather soggy Man in Black... It didn't dampen the atmosphere- what an amazing community atmosphere!"



Lymm Rose Queen float.



May Queen Eva Cope



Rose Queen Eleanor Lawton.

More pictures and video online at www.lymmlife.co.uk

May Queen treasure found in loft

A May queen crown dating back ninety years has been found in a loft.

The crown came to light after Lymm Heritage Centre was presented with a copy of the 1926 Lymm May Queen Programme which they have now shared in the on-line collection of the centre's website www.lymmhic.co.uk.

The programme was donated by Beryl Potts of Stockport who is the daughter of that year's May Queen - Winnie Yearsley.

But delight turned to amazement when Beryl got in touch again to say that she and her husband had unearthed Winnie's May Queen crown in their loft.

It had been carefully stored in a small wooden box wrapped in

tissue paper for ninety years, a treasured memory of a very special day in a young woman's life.

Along with the crown which the Potts family have donated to the centre came Winnie's life story in her own handwriting where she tells of starting work on a farm in Broomedge at age 14 in 1925. Her first morning task was to deliver the milk. No bottles in those days. Winnie writes how she would measure out milk from two large cans on the handle-bars of a bike.

Winnie goes on to describe her time as May Queen as clearly one of the highlights of her life, being taken all round the village in a coach drawn by six horses and with eight little girls as maids of honour.

"It's finds like these, and the stories that go with them that show how important it is to create a home for the village's heritage," explained the Centre's founder Su Williams. "You can't help but wonder what would have happened to both the crown and the story if there had not been a centre that would value it."

The crown arrived in time to go on display at this year's May Queen and will be on permanent show

at the new centre when it opens, hopefully by the end of 2016. The centre always welcomes new contributions as well as offers of help and financial support www.lymmhic.co.uk

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Lymm May Queen float.



Star Wars cast.



Will Harrison, pictured by his mum Kate.



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Dining delight – with a sense of local history

IT is an indispensable part of the history of Lymm, yet also an essential part of village life today.

It was once a coaching inn and was in the distant past called The Plough Hotel.

But the Lymm Hotel is now one of a handful of buildings in the village to which a stranger, stopping to ask a local for directions, could be assured of being sent directly to the right place, so well is it known.

It has earned its place in local affections not just because of its history but also because of its cuisine.

When we dined there recently we soon found that its reputation for excellence was more than justified.

We chose a roast tomato and basil soup to start our meal but we could have opted for a white onion and Rosemary soup and there was wide range of other tempting starters too, including chicken and leek terrine, Blue Swimmer crab and crayfish cocktail.

When it came to the main course, there was again a wide choice. Slow roast shoulder of Highland lamb, Scottish rib eye steak and sirloin steak and Gressingham duck leg jostled for attention with free range chicken Balti curry and beer battered cod and hand cut chips with mushy peas. And as

we quickly learned, the chef was more than ready to tailor a dish to individual requirements.

The curry was superb and our request for plain, grilled chicken was met without demur and presented appealingly.

The portions were generous so afterwards we could only manage ice cream, but those with heartier appetites had a wide choice of desserts including sticky toffee pudding, lemon posset and white chocolate and raspberry cheesecake.

All in all, a thoroughly enjoyable dining experience with excellent service in the comfortably warm atmosphere of the attractive new Inn at the Lymm restaurant.

Add to all this the fact that the full menu is also available at lunchtime and the spacious car park ensures there is unlikely to ever be a problem parking and it becomes hard to think of a reason for not returning for more!

The fact the hotel is currently running a promotion via Lymm Life offering two people dining a FREE bottle of wine until the end of July is the icing on the cake! (see voucher below)



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Canal creator James Brindley set to appear at Lymm Historic Transport Day

JAMES Brindley – the man who pioneered the design and building of Britain’s canal network is set to make a rare guest appearance at Lymm’s Historic Transport Day to celebrate the 300th anniversary of his birth!

His first major project was on the Duke of Bridgewater’s canal so it is particularly fitting that on his 300th birthday Mr Brindley has chosen Lymm Historic Transport Day on Sunday June 26 to make a rare public appearance along with his wife.

Mr Brindley will no doubt regale visitors with stories of how he would take to his bed for days to solve difficult engineering problems such as the Whitbarrow Aqueduct.

He may also recall how he and the builders were forced to pay a high price to drive their canal through the very heart of Lymm village in order to be able to follow the natural contours of the land and so keep the canal lock-free.

There are even rumours that Mr Brindley will take visitors on a short tour to show off some of his personal achievements such as the Whitbarrow Aqueduct.

At the end of the afternoon

(4.30pm) Mr Brindley will be celebrating his achievements by boarding one of nearly thirty historic working boats to take part in a cavalcade through the village as the climax to this year’s Lymm Historic Transport Day.

The day will feature everything from a Spitfire to vintage sit-on mowers and traction engines to tricycles as well as nearly 400 classic cars.

For more details visit www.lymmtransport.org.uk

Mr & Mrs Brindley will be performed by Paul and Agnes Bidston.



Busy first year for Lymm Hotel’s local manager

THE Lymm Hotel’s General manager Jamie McDonald is celebrating his first year back at the hotel - and what a year it has been!

Jamie, a 5th generation “Lymm Grey” started his working life at the Lymm Hotel at just 14, in 1988 returning with many years’ experience in the hospitality industry having previously managed the Park House Hotel in Shifnal, Shropshire and Newbury Manor Hotel in West Berkshire.

He has fond memories of collecting glasses from famous footballers like former England star Paul Gascoigne and Nottingham

Forest manager Brian Clough, to name but a few.

Jamie said: “It is hard to believe a year has already flown by. It has been fantastic being part of the local community.

“One of my favourite highlights was the Brazilymm event - it was a fantastic event, brought back many great memories and attracted a huge amount of interest.”

Jamie has also been busy engaging with the local community by being actively involved with the Lymm Heritage Group, has introduced a new Inn at the Lymm theme to the bar and restaurant

area as well as introducing bespoke weddings, which has seen a big increase in bookings.

He has also been active getting the hotel engaged on social media!

The hotel is a historic coaching inn with 62 bedrooms, 4 well-appointed meeting and event suites and is an exceptional wedding venue.

Over the years it has hosted many prestigious events and famous guests including Pele and the Brazilian World Cup football team in 1966.



Out of School Club is ‘outstanding’ – again

LYMM’S Cherry Tree Out of School Club has been assessed as an “outstanding” provider of childcare – for the second time.

Following a visit earlier this year, Ofsted inspectors said:

- The managers are passionate about providing the best possible provision for children and lead an extremely enthusiastic and dedicated team of staff.
- Children succeed in this high quality club. Their emotional well-being is exceptionally well supported and staff are calm, kind, caring and sensitive in supporting their individual needs. Children have a clear sense of belonging.
- Children flourish in the warm, welcoming, safe environment and they play exceptionally well together. Children enjoy exceptionally positive relationships with each other and respect each other’s differences.

The school opened its doors in 1996 with places for 20 children.

Now there are places for up to 40 children each day.

Managers Sue Bolger and Yvonne Hopewell said: “we are delighted with this outcome. Staff and children alike are very proud of our Out of School Club”





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Lymm AFC start training for new season

LYMM AFC will be starting training in late June in preparation for the upcoming season in the Lancashire Amateur League.

The Sandy Lane outfit - Lymm's only Saturday senior soccer team - has just been awarded the Charter Standard by the FA.

This acknowledges that the club is well run, sustainable and places child protection, quality coaching and safety paramount.

The club runs two teams and the reserve team had a very successful season, won promotion and were invited to Blackburn Rovers' Ewood

Park to receive their trophy and medals.

Manager Paul Lockett said: "We are a growing club and would like to spread the word about what we are doing."

"We are always on the lookout for fresh talent."

The club was founded more than 100 years ago, originally as Lymm Old Boys.



'Park Homes' approved for garden centre site

A CONTROVERSIAL plan to build 14 "park homes" on a former garden centre site in the Green Belt at Lymm has been given the go-ahead by borough planners.

The scheme involves the former Willow Pool Nursery site in Burford Lane which has stood empty for several years.

The borough's development management committee approved the scheme, despite opposition from nearby residents, Lymm Parish Council and borough councillors Sheila Woodyatt and Bob Barr.

The three bedroomed "park homes" are intended for people aged over 55 and are of timber construction.

Cllr Woodyatt said: "What we need in Lymm is affordable homes - not homes for people aged over 55."

"The immediate neighbours objected to the scheme and so did the local councillors and the parish council. But it went through, after officers recommended it for approval. We were not happy about it."

The scheme involves restoring a former wildflower meadow previously used for overflow parking by the garden centre.

Objectors claimed a nearby kennels creates a noise problem that will affect residents of the new properties.

They said the development would do little for the local economic, environmental or social environment.

And they pointed out that a previous application for housing on the site had been refused and then lost on appeal - clear evidence that it was an inappropriate development in the Green Belt.

PLAYERS REQUIRED

After a Trophy winning season, Lymm AFC are looking to recruit new adult players for the 2016/17 campaign in the Lancashire Amateur League.

Players of any standard welcome.

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Bespoke jewellery at the heart of Lymm

LOCAL jeweller Antony Bean is celebrating 35 years in business and is now in his third year with Orb Jewellery in the village centre.

After starting his career "purely by accident" Antony now specialises in creating bespoke jewellery - a career he fears may be dying out with very few youngsters learning the trade.

"There aren't that many workshops around now and certainly not many youngsters learning the trade," said Antony who has a workshop on site at his premises in Lymm.

Utilising state of the art jewellery design technology, he can create a virtual reality design during a personal consultation, enabling clients to realise and view high quality colour fully detailed 3D images, incorporating all their design requirements.

It could have all been so different if he had followed his first calling to be an electrician.

But when his parents moved from Oxfordshire to Wales he ended up working on a youth opportunities scheme in a jewellers.

He was kept on after six months and then spent five years learning his craft on an apprenticeship.

He later gained valuable experience working with Master Goldsmith David Miller in Altincham, before taking over a local Warrington based business.

He has had many varied requests including creating a Batman wedding ring to one including Roman numerals (pictured).

Engagement, wedding and eternity rings are most popular but Antony can turn his hand to anything.

On completion of a jewellery design, Antony provides a full quotation which will include the cost of the precious metals, diamonds and manufacture including setting and hallmarking.

Items can be made from scratch or old items of jewellery can be crafted into bespoke new designs.

As well as providing bespoke jewellery services Orb Jewellery also has items for sale and if they haven't got something in stock they can order it.

For more information visit orbjewellery.com or visit 1 The Grove in Lymm Village centre.



Jenny follows her dream of working with dogs

MORE than 30 years after looking after thousands of company employees in a HR role Jane Kelly is now following her dream of working with dogs.

Whilst always loving dogs she never had the opportunity to have one because of her HR business commitments.

Jane has taken care of the PetStay Cheshire branch since January 2016.

Jenny said: "I decided to switch caring for people and follow my dream to work with dogs and now I spend my whole day meeting lovely carers, hearing all about customer's fab pooches and matching them together. I have never been happier!

"I believe the carer/customer relationship sets us apart putting that relationship at the heart of the business. After taking as much information about your dog as possible I will arrange for you to meet with the carer I

have handpicked to provide the best home from home match. This meeting will involve visiting the carer's home and spending time talking to the carer and their family and can even include going for a walk. I will then follow up with both customer and carer and when both are 100% happy I will confirm the booking.

"Petstay Cheshire covers every WA and CW postcode and my aim is to grow the number of carers right across my region providing a local service for all my customers with carers available for every type of dog and their very individual requirements."

Anyone interested in joining the PetStay Cheshire team or if you're a dog owner planning their holidays Jenny would love to hear from you.

Please feel free to contact her on janeKelly@petstay.net or call 07724 190107 or visit www.petstay.net and Facebook PetStay Cheshire.



Antony and partner Debbie.

Blooming marvellous – a Gold Medal for Janet!



A LYMM flower arranger won a Gold Medal at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show – adding to the success of winning a Silver Medal last year!

Janet Schofield, a member of Lymm Floral Group, has been a keen flower arranger for 15 years and competes regularly at local and national shows.

Having gained a Silver at Chelsea last year, she was delighted to be invited back to compete in the Floral Design Studio this year alongside fellow members of the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies from across the UK and beyond.

As there are only 64 places available in four classes over the two sessions, being asked to compete is

an achievement in itself.

In the class entitled Dimensional, Janet created a design suspended from a 2.3m tall garden arch, working overnight and finishing around 5am.

She said: "I was absolutely thrilled to get a Gold. The support encouragement and friendship of the flower club members has been very much appreciated."

Lymm Floral Art Group meets at 7.30pm every third Monday in Lymm Village Hall and visitors are always warmly welcomed.

WI donate picnic table to Spud Wood

MEMBERS of Lymm Jubilee Women's Institute have donated a picnic table to Spud Wood – and were among the first to use it!

The president and some members are pictured enjoying the sunshine on the banks of the Bridgewater Canal in the wood.

The table complements another one donated earlier by Lymm Jubilee Gardening Club.

Friends of Spud Wood have been hard at work supporting the Woodland Trust in their efforts to improve the area and its surrounds, and to make it an attractive place for recreation.

The table has already been used by families for picnics and by members of the boating community using the canal.

A spokeswoman for Lymm

Jubilee WI said: "We hope that this handcrafted oak table will be enjoyed by all visiting the area in the future."



Obituary

Monica Summers

THE funeral has taken place of Monica Summers (nee Stell) of Cherry Tree Avenue, Lymm, who died in Warrington Hospital on April 22.

Mrs Summers died peacefully after a short illness, aged 85.

The wife of the late Bob Summers, she enjoyed life to the full, swimming, exploring and wildlife and was an avid toy maker. She is sadly missed by Lesley, Glen and Graham and grandchildren Samantha and Nicola.

The funeral took place at Altrincham Crematorium and funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons of Lymm.

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