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Life

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August 2016

Issue: 209



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Printed by TwentyFourSeven

WELL I must say I was a little surprised when it was announced that Lymm's Netto store was closing down, just eight months after opening.

In the days leading up to the announcement special offer leaflets were being delivered to properties in the village and Netto's marketing agency were in dialogue regarding an advertising campaign in Lymm Life in the lead up to Christmas.

Then suddenly out of the blue came the announcement that the Joint Venture with Sainsbury's was to be terminated – and that it was a joint decision that all sixteen pilot stores would be closed down.

The reasons given for the closure are reported opposite – but clearly it was decided that it was never going to be a profitable enterprise – although if the store had been as busy as when the 50 per cent off

closing down sale was announced, there may have been a different outcome.

Bargain hunters flocked to the store causing so much traffic chaos the police had to issue a traffic warning!

Now we are left with a purpose built Netto store and a big question mark over what the future holds for the building. Also more than 20 local people will be looking for employment.

Once again the village has faced ridicule in the national tabloid press over the closure – with one red top proclaiming that “posh locals who wanted a Waitrose refused to shop there.”

My footballing allegiances prevent me from revealing the name of the red top national newspaper – but it just goes to show you can't believe a word they write!

Hopefully the future for the building can be resolved quickly and help create employment opportunities for those who are losing their jobs.

An online petition has been launched in Doncaster urging Sainsbury's, who own the leases on the buildings to have a change of heart – but I wouldn't hold your breath on that one.

If they are prepared to write off millions of pounds on the joint venture they are hardly likely to change their minds to keep it going.

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What now for Netto store?

THE Netto supermarket in Lymm, which opened only eight months ago, is to close in August – along with all 16 other Netto stores in the UK – leaving a question mark of the future use of the purpose built building.

The store was surrounded in controversy, even before it opened in Rushgreen Road, with many local people saying they would prefer an upmarket store, such as Waitrose or Marks and Spencer.

But although the Lymm store has appeared to be doing well, the closure is obviously more to do with the national situation than anything to do with a boycott by Lymm people.

The question now being asked is – what is to happen to the smart, modern building when Netto move out?

Could an upmarket store yet be tempted to open in the area?

Netto opened in the UK through a partnership between the Danish firm and Sainsbury's.

Mike Coupe, Sainsbury's chief executive, said: "Netto is an excellent retailer with talented leaders and colleagues and we have learnt a great deal about the discount grocery retail market from this trial venture."

"Since we first envisaged the trial, almost three years ago, the grocery sector has evolved significantly and we launched our strategy 18 months ago to address these changing dynamics."

"Against this backdrop, as planned, we carried out a detailed review with DSG on the future of Netto. To be successful over the long term, Netto would need to

grow at pace and scale, requiring significant investment and the rapid expansion of the store estate in a challenging property market.

"Consequently, we have made the difficult decision not to pursue the opportunity further and instead focus on our core business and on the opportunities we will have following our proposed acquisition of Home Retail Group. Our learnings from the trial will undoubtedly benefit the rest of our business as we move forward."

Netto was originally introduced in the UK in 1990 but left in 2010 after it sold its 198 stores to Asda.

Its second attempt at gaining a foothold involved 16 stores in the north of England, in partnership with Sainsbury's.

About 400 jobs will be lost nationally as a result of the closure.

Local councillor Ian Marks has expressed his disappointment at the impending closure and is now questioning the future use of the purpose built building.

He said, "This is very disappointing because the store has only been open for such a short period of time. During the planning and development phase, our Netto certainly hit the national headlines and Lymm came over in a rather unflattering light."

"I believe the developers were talking to Waitrose and M & S at the time of the consultation but talks fell through and Netto arrived on the scene."

"Some of their products were excellent and good value but people could not do their full weekly shop there which may have been part of the problem."

"The big question now is what will happen to the site. The building was custom-built for Netto so how adaptable it would be if another store is interested remains to be seen."



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What's On in conjunction with Lymm Parish Council



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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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
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Every Wednesday 7.30 Lymm Methodist
Church. Contact 01925 601664.
cath@stones.co.uk



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No meeting in August
Lymm Parish Hall 7.30pm

Let's start Lymm Retrievers!

Are you a golden retriever owner? Would you like to meet other owners for a joint walk, or just a chat.

Bobby is a 16 month old retriever and his owner Mary Clarke, would welcome any advice/discussion on food, behaviour, recommended walks – anything dog-related.

If you are interested, Mary meet up say on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 11am. at the May Queen Field. So the next 'meeting' would be on August 13.

Any one interested should contact Mary Clarke mary.clarke@clarkeandassociates.co.uk



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"Having moved away for university, I always felt a natural desire to return to the area where I grew up. With its variety of local restaurants, shops and events, Lymm has a vibrant and strong community atmosphere which gives me everything I need on my doorstep."

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Online estate agency goes from strength to strength

IN September last year two former Lymm High School students, Mike Chung and Charlie Green, set up Admove Online Estate Agents working from home in a back room office.

Since then, the business has grown from strength to strength, with the two entrepreneurs now based in Lymm Village Centre. The business can be recognised in Lymm and the surrounding area by their bright orange 'for sale' boards.

Since starting, they have now been instructed on almost 100

properties ranging from £50,000 terrace homes up to million pound prestige properties across Cheshire. A recent new build development has recently been sold in Ashton-upon-Mersey and a new prestige development in Lymm will be coming to market soon.

Exceeding all expectations, the Admove website is currently

undergoing a refresh where clients will be able to instruct the company online from the comfort of their own homes. Admove still continue to beat any quote from existing 'high street' agents and also offer a completely free market valuation for both sales and lettings. This fantastic review below came from a property which they recently sold in Lymm and saved the client over £7500 in estate agent fees.

"We became aware of Admove through a feature in our local magazine. We found their knowledge of the local housing market to be second to none and their service and response times to be prompt and informed including, when required, out of hours contact.

"Our house was placed on the market very quickly from initial appraisal and sold within 10 days. Their advice regarding presentation was excellent and their accompanied viewings with potential buyers invaluable for our busy working lives.

"We would have no hesitation in recommending the professionalism of these emerging entrepreneurs for their insight and experience in a fast moving property market"

When asked how leaving the EU would affect the property market Admove responded by saying: "We don't anticipate any huge difference where the property market is concerned. Whether we

are in or out of the EU, people still need to buy and sell property for many different reasons."

If you are thinking of moving house in the near future or would simply appreciate some expert advice, give Admove a call on 0333 772 0818 (standard rates apply) or visit their website www.admove.co.uk



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Teeing off for Brainwave

TWENTY teams played in the first Brainwave North West Charity Golf Day at Lymm Golf Club.

They enjoyed a round of golf, followed by dinner and a presentation of prizes as well as refreshments along the way at Half Way House.

The winning team members each took away a golf shirt along with a round of golf for four at Mere Golf Club. The day raised £7,400 towards Brainwave's Milestone Appeal.

Brainwave, based in Birchwood, works with children who have significant developmental delay. Their therapists work with each individual child and their parents via very structured programmes to help the child reach his or her full potential.

Key sponsor for the day was Lymm-based Mark Poulton from Key Integration Services – who

later in the day was awarded the prestigious Business Of the Year Award at the Business Awards ceremony.

Ex-England rugby player Tim Stimpson compered the evening.

For more information about the work Brainwave does or forthcoming fundraising events please contact Joanne Freeman, the community fundraising manager at joannefreeman@brainwave.org.uk

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Historic Transport Day – biggest and best yet

CROWDS at this year's Lymm Historic Transport Day were said by many to be the biggest seen in Lymm in a generation and visitors were treated to a spectacular day of parades, sail-pasts, displays, trips and all round family fun.

The day kicked off with a bigger than ever drive-in parade featuring bicycles, motor-bikes, scooters, classic cars, ponies, traction engines, tractors, buses and even a tank with event organiser Alan Williams sat proudly on top.

Behind his smile was a huge sigh of relief that the event had managed to go ahead at all. The team had been working feverishly behind the scenes to cope with a main event field that had battered by rain for months. The field was eventually "rescued" with the help of local groundwork contractor Jimmy Slavin who repaired the entrance area free of charge, plus tonnes of chipping provided free by the Lymm branch of Travis Perkins and by over 300 metres of road trackway mats laid by a huge team of volunteers that enabled vehicles to move safely round the field.

The road closure too was another major hurdle with the group eventually having to pay over £1,000 to Warrington Borough Council and a Traffic Management company for a thirty minute closure of the village centre.

Event director Alan commented: "We do appreciate the financial pressure the council are under. But we in turn would hope that Warrington will recognise the huge volunteer effort that is bringing in visitors to the borough from all over the region and beyond. It seems to us particularly unfair that ours is

the only community road closure in Lymm that is expected to pay simply because we are a new event."

New features of this year's show were the appearance of a replica Spitfire on the main event field with a supporting military contingent, a hugely popular LEGO Transport Exhibition in Maple Lodge put together by Northern Brickworks and the appearance of Mr and Mrs James Brindley to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the birth of the man who shaped Lymm's future when he designed the Bridgewater Canal. All of this was in addition to the biggest collections of traction engines, historic working boats and classic vehicles ever assembled in the village.

The team are still completing the accounts but the overall benefit to the community – including other church groups and community groups who participated – will certainly be a healthy five-figure sum even after all the extra costs incurred. Fifty percent of the core event's profits will be going into Lymm Heritage Centre. Watch this space for more details!

Participants and visitors are already asking about next year's Transport Day. The team are constantly on the lookout for new blood and new ideas. If you would like to find out more call Alan Williams on 01925-754080 or email lymmtransport@gmail.com



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Development of Lymm Rugby Club site and new clubhouse



Lymm Rugby Club is an important asset to the community, and acts to further the social wellbeing and sporting interests of the local community of Lymm and its surrounding environs. The club has a number of rugby teams

covering a variety of different age groups, with over 400 players in our mini and junior age groups, right through to youth and adult levels. The club is also host to Lymm Squash Club and Lymm Hockey Club.

The rugby activity attracts a large amount of support on training and match days and the club has grown over the years, with the demand for grass roots rugby growing along with its importance to the local community.

The clubhouse plays an important role for any modern day grass roots rugby club, and needs to provide changing facilities of an appropriate standard, medical facilities, meeting rooms and areas for continuing social interaction.

The existing clubhouse is severely outdated and does not meet modern day standards. It is also unsuitable for multi-gender use or by a range of age groups, and none of the facilities meet the current

standards required by the Rugby Football Union (RFU).

New clubhouse for rugby, squash, hockey and tennis

It is the intention of Lymm RFC to construct a new, fit-for-purpose clubhouse and to share this with the squash and hockey clubs and Manor Road Tennis Club, which is also looking to relocate. The new clubhouse would be located within the walled garden, adjacent to the existing facility, and would include outdoor tennis courts. The proposal would enhance the roles of Lymm RFC and Manor Road Tennis Club, both of which are already important assets for the local community.

In recognition of the substantial investment required to fund the construction of the new facilities, and in the absence of full funding from Sport England, the RFU and the Lawn Tennis Association, Lymm RFC and Manor Road

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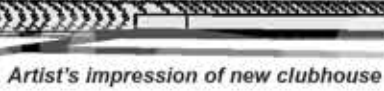
**For further information, or if you would like to offer help with funding, please contact Simon Plumb of Lymm RFC
Tel: 07799 403121 Email: simon@spa-group.co.uk**



comprise the conversion of the existing clubhouse into four residential properties and the construction of ten new build dwellings in two gated developments. The site plan and artists impression of the clubhouse are both illustrated here.

It is proposed the residential development will improve the environment along Crouchley Lane, screening the existing properties from the proposed club and its car park, to enhance the residential nature of the area. Whilst the contribution made from this development will not completely cover the funding gap, it will make the deficit manageable, which we believe the membership will be able to raise to allow the project to be completed.

Full planning permission for the scheme has been applied for, but we thought it appropriate to make everyone in Lymm and the surrounding area aware of our plans.

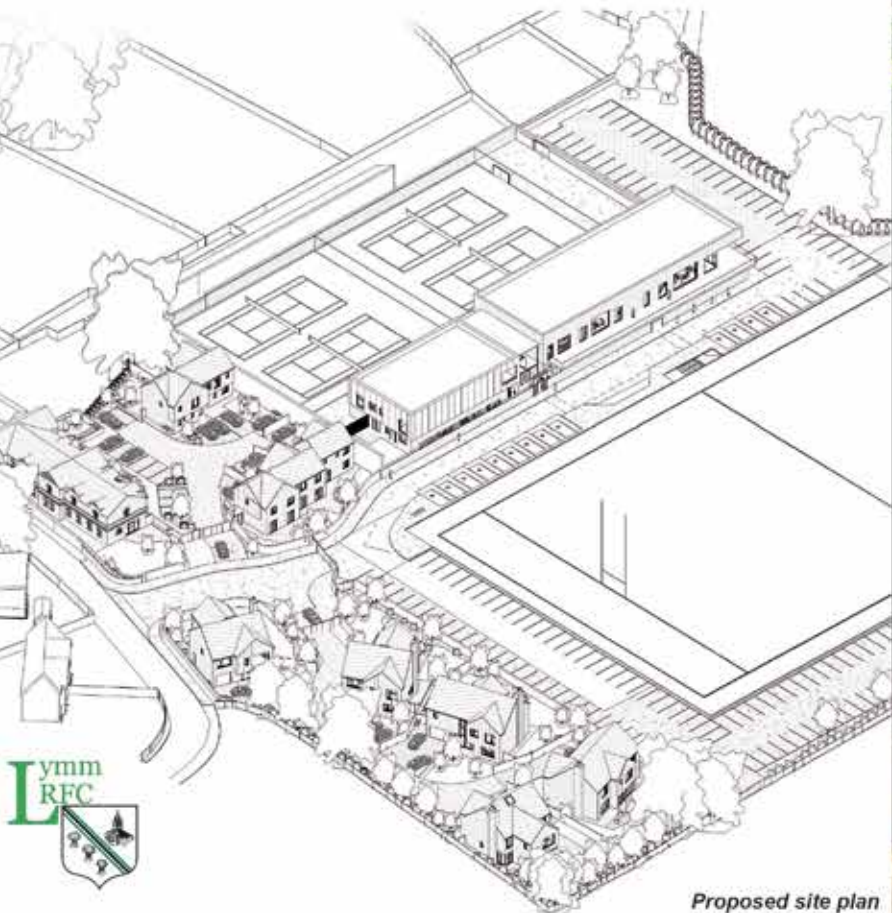


Artist's impression of new clubhouse

Tennis Club need to secure private funding to facilitate the development of the new purpose-built clubhouse.

Residential development will help fund project

An opportunity has been identified to generate capital to help fund the clubhouse facility through a residential development. The proposed residential development will



Proposed site plan



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Villagers brave the elements at Lymm Food Fest

Report and pictures Paul Jackson

VILLAGERS and traders braved the rain as Lymm was transformed into a huge street café to help kick start the annual Lymm Festival.

More than 50 events and activities took place over an 11 day period.

Local restaurants, bars and shops provided an amazing array of culinary delights from all over the world.

Lining the pavements of the picturesque village street was a hog roast, BBQ, Mediterranean, Portuguese, Thai, Chinese, Indian, Turkish, Italian and much more filling the air with the most wonderful aromas. There was even free chocolate.

There were also street entertainers providing fun, which even another downpour did little to dampen.

The children ignored the rain and joined in the madcap fun with the hugely popular Dinodisco.

Volunteers, Parish councillors and the local constabulary braved the weather to help make the event

go smoothly.

Those taking part in the Food Fest included:

- Bhajis Indian takeaway
- Chilli Club Thai restaurant
- Dunham Massey Farm ice cream
- Elmas Mediterranean Restaurant
- Flavours Turkish cuisine
- Jahan Indian Restaurant
- Low Carbon Lymm
- Lymm Lounge Chinese
- Lymm HQ cocktails and kitchen
- Nancys deli
- North West Game
- Riverford Organic Farms
- Rolandos Pizza and pasta
- Sahib Indian Restaurant
- Sextons Bakery
- The Terrace
- The Venue

More pictures can be viewed on line at www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk



Recipe for success.



Brolly good show from the team at Bajis.



Festival crew putting on a brave face.



It was a case of on with the show despite the rain.



The team from Rolandos.

Pupils step back in time

YEAR five pupils from Statham School attending a "We Love Our Canal Heritage Project" in the run up to Lymm Transport Day had an extra chance to live in the past.

Thanks to Su Williams from the Lymm Heritage Centre project, who had been busy for weeks making waistcoats and aprons, they were able to dress the part as they learnt about what life was like for a working boat family 100 years ago.

The sessions were run by Ellesmere Port Boat Museum and the Saturn Education Project under the auspices of the Heritage Centre and have been a growing part of the Transport Day programme.

This year, for the first time, it stretched to four and a half days and brought in pupils from seven

local primary schools as well as local autism education centre "Bright Futures".

Su, who was helped by Karina

Middlehurst and by donations of cloth caps from local people and St Roccas shop said: "The kids loved dressing up on the day but even more important these outfits will become part of our collection of resources for all visitors to the

centre when it opens – hopefully by the end of this year."

Anyone who would like to get involved or just find out more about Lymm Heritage Centre visit to www.lymmhc.co.uk or give Su a call on 01925-754080.



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Lymm Runners trail blazing success



THE fifth annual Lymm Festival Trail Races, organised by Lymm Runners, attracted entries from several other local running clubs as well as individuals.

The day started with local children, many dressed as woodland animals, taking part in a mile-long pursuit of a Gingerbread

Man, cheered on by friends and family. There were lots of happy smiles at the end – except for the Gingerbread Man who needed remedial treatment from a therapist!

All the children were awarded specially designed bronze medals and there were extra prizes for the best costumes.

The 5k and 10k races followed, through Spud Wood and Helsdale

Wood, with runners receiving a medal and goody bag.

Male and female winners of the 5k race were Tom Spance and Georgiana Walker, while Paul Lancaster and Joanne Smith won the 10k.

Stephanie Acton won the grand draw prize of a year's off-peak membership at the Mere Resort.

Lymm Runners would like to thank all the marshalls, High School and Leisure Centre staff, and sponsors, including Harrington Robertson for sponsoring the fun run medals.

Snappers get up close with birds of prey

MEMBERS of Lymm Photographic Society were able to get up close with some of the fastest flying birds on earth when they arranged a special evening at a birds-of-prey park.

The evening enabled members to take photographs of various birds, in flight and statically.

At first, some members found the most fast-flying birds a challenge, but as the evening went on they picked up tips from each other and the photography got better.

Among the birds photographed were Sebastian (a Golden Eagle),

Lumpy (a Great Grey Owl), Wispa (a Kestrel) and Franklin (a Bald Eagle). Other birds that members were able to capture on film included American Black Vultures, African Hooded Vultures, a Tawny Owl, a Golden Eagle and a Peregrine/Lanner Falcon.

Lymm Photographic Society meets twice a month (except August) at 7.30pm Wednesday evenings at the Spread Eagle.

Visitors and members of all abilities are always welcome. See www.lymmphotosoc.org.uk/ for more information.



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Oh we do like to be beside the seaside

RESIDENTS at Keate House Care Home in Lymm were given a trip down memory lane with a special day by the sea side experience.

Visitors to the care home on Brookfield Road, Lymm, included a donkey, who proved popular with residents.

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Hive of activity at Lymm pre-school



LYMM Pre-school has been a hive of activity recently with a Bake Sale at the May Queen Festival, a Cake Pop Stall at Food Fest, a Staff Sponsored Walk and a Curry and Quiz Night!

The school would like to thank all all those who baked, bought or walked for them throughout the month of June!

The feedback and support the Pre-school received from the village was heartwarming and, as always, gratefully appreciated.

The School year is slowly winding down and whilst they are excited for their children that are moving on to pastures new and face such wonderful challenges and times ahead, it will be sad to

say goodbye.

The year has brought so many happy memories and great new friendships and the Preschool team are excited to meet all the new faces in September!

Don't forget to pop in or contact the Pre-school to enquire about your child's place for the new School year.

The pre-school is now also taking children from their second birthday and take two and three year FEYE grants.



Joint car boot sales

LYMM Rotary Club and Lymm Rugby Club are jointly holding Car Boot sales at Lymm Rugby club, Crouchley Lane, Lymm, on Saturdays the 16th July and the 20th of August. Gates open 8a.m. - 1 p.m. Pre-booked spaces £8/£10 on the day; vans £13. To book Tel.07860 114207 or 01925 75 3212

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Reader's Letters

Please send Reader's Letters to: Lymm Life, New Media Centre, Old Road, Warrington WA4 1AT or email: info@frodshamlife.co.uk

Wonderful bees!

Carol and Rob Sparkes

WHAT a wonderful things bees are! We live off Rushgreen Road and we recently returned from a holiday to find that our terrace had been adopted by a colony of bees – they had moved into one of our bird boxes! Pondering what to do about this (they had chosen a somewhat inconvenient location as far we were concerned) we checked the Warrington Borough Council website to see how they could help us. However having determined that they would probably destroy rather than move the bees we looked for a Plan B.

Recognising how important bees are to the environment we did not want to destroy them. So we took a look at the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) website and tracked down their Lymm-based bee keeper, Frank Hilton.

Frank reassured us that he would happily assist with bumble bees (not just honey bees) and especially if they were in bird boxes or could pose a danger to children or elderly relations. Frank visited us twice very quickly after we got in touch and relocated the bees for us away from the terrace, all free of charge, as beekeeping is his hobby.

We just wanted to share our experience with other residents of Lymm and to let them know not to worry if they have any bee issues... they just need to get in touch with Frank, who we understand will be delighted to help. We will of course be making a small donation to the BBKA as a "thank you".

Frank also mentioned that he is keen to engage with any local clubs who might be interested in learning more about bees.

Frank's contact details are: 01925 551839, 07801 632832, frankqesl@yahoo.co.uk

Wake up Lymm!

Alan Williams

One of the stars of this year's Transport Day as always was the village itself. The reaction of first time visitors over and over again was "Wow!" at the discovery of this hidden gem.

The combination of the walks, the canal, the dam, the amenities – including an unrivalled selection of restaurants - make Lymm a compelling attraction. But are we really we doing all we can and should as a community to help promote it?

Try "Visit Lymm" in google. The Parish Council website Events page is promoting the 2015 Lymm Festival and Transport Day with no mention of this year while the tourism page seems to consist entirely of a rather complicated footpath diagram.

There is lymmvillage.co.uk which when it started was an excellent, independently run resource. But there seems to be less and less new material. Perhaps the author has become disillusioned by the lack of support from other local bodies and businesses.

Our packed, chaotic, unmanaged noticeboards show that there are a huge range of activities and events taking place across all the village all year. You wouldn't guess that if you looked on-line.

Where are the informative brown signs to help pull visitors off the A56 into the village centre? And please, defenders of the status quo, let's not fall back on the easy excuse of the lack of parking. Our car parks are rarely full during the day and

our charges for extended stays are similar to, or lower than many other places. Last weekend we managed to accommodate around 8,000 visitors. And if you "like the village just the way it is" then please don't complain as empty shops start to appear more and more frequently.

Where is the punchy colour brochure that sells the village to potential visitors, widely distributed outside Lymm to bring visitors in?

Where are the B&Bs? Some-one is definitely missing a trick there. We had countless queries over transport weekend for affordable non-hotel accommodation. With innovations like AirBnB it is not that difficult to dip your toe in the water and discover a new business opportunity. With festivals and events all year not to mention all the folk who come into the village for a big night out and don't always want to drive home there are plenty of reasons to stay over.

There is an exciting new attraction on the horizon – Lymm Heritage Centre - yet another reason to visit the village. There are plenty more ideas that could contribute to the village's economic vibrancy. I am pleased to see that the "Butty & Sweet" Café boat seems to be here to stay but there is a bigger opening for a regular trip boat running heritage and pleasure trips. The one that came for Festival sold out for the whole week. We have a Heritage Trail and a free set of walk handouts put together by our footpath wardens but maybe we need to bring that up to date with a visitor app that will take people round the village centre and give them an insight into our fascinating past using modern technology.

In the end it is not important whether it is Warrington Borough Council, The Parish Council or a new Tourism Group that picks up this challenge but I do believe that it is time for us to "shake ourselves" to help ensure a healthy economic future for the village.

What do you think?
Alan Williams alanlymm@gmail.com

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