

Lymm

Life

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September 2016

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Editor's Comment



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IT was an absolute travesty that Lymm's unique mediaeval custom of rushbearing had to be cancelled this year due to the costs involved in closing a road for an hour or so. The fact that it costs more than a

£1,000 to do this is bad enough but the bureaucratic red tape involved in organising events these days is enough to send any reasonable person over the edge. My heart goes out to Chris Limb

who has given up time and effort for 40 years to ensure this event carried on.

As a community we now have to work together to ensure the show gets back on the road next year and that all other events are protected.

Maybe the parish council can help all groups pool their resources and create an event management fund to cover road closures and public liability insurance and whatever else is required to keep these community events alive for future generations to enjoy.

Dare I even say it, put an extra £1 on the parish precept to cover the cost!

Testimonial from the Lymm Hotel

Having returned to The Lymm Hotel a year ago, I have had the pleasure of dealing with LymmLife/Warrington Worldwide to organise the vast majority of my advertising needs.

With the varied publications I feel that I have reached out to the community and exceeded my expectation of the impact this has had.

I have found Gary to be extremely proactive in helping me with both my advertising in the various magazines and also online.

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Jamie McDonald
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Lymm Heritage Centre - from pipe dream to reality

It was in the September issue two years ago that Lymm Life first reported the idea of setting up a small local museum.

The project was originally the brain-child of ex-councillor Su Williams. At the time it looked like a huge challenge especially in a village where property is at a premium and commercial rents are high.

But now work is starting on a major transformation of the former Royal British Legion Club on Leigh Street. Featuring a new pitched slated roof with skylight windows and striking modern glass front, the building is set to become "Lymm Heritage Centre".

The building conversion itself is being funded by new owner Howard Platt who is a keen supporter of the concept of the Heritage Centre.

It will then be leased to the Heritage Centre group on very generous rental terms. In the meantime the group is seeking funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund as well as receiving welcome support from other local organisations and funding bodies.

"The project has developed amazingly" explained Su.

"The more that we went into it the more we began to realise and understand what was needed and how it could benefit the whole community," she said.

Central to the project will be opportunities for learning for all local schools from the very

youngest up to senior students at Lymm High School.

The centre will also provide a great new destination for visitors in a village centre that is coming to depend more and more on tourism for its continued prosperity.

The Lymm Heritage Centre Group – which is now a registered charity – is run entirely by a group of dedicated volunteers. Over the coming months the Centre will be looking to build an enthusiastic team of volunteers who will be trained to staff the Centre and welcome visitors. The Centre also needs more local financial support in order to become sustainable in the long term – preferably in the form of a regular "friends" subscription.

Find out more at www.lymmhc.co.uk or call Su on 01925-754080. Meanwhile local man Ted Owen took a trip down Memory Lane

recently. Born in 1932 he spent his first years living in what are now the offices of CB3 Design.

Keven Lester of CB3 (pictured below) was the designer for the new Heritage Centre on Leigh Street.

Later on the group, including Su Williams and Ray Banton who built the model of the new Centre, visited the site of the new Centre on Leigh Street where Ted described his life as a child in one of three cottages that used to occupy the area."



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What's On

in conjunction with **Lymm Parish Council**



September 13
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

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every Wednesday, Live Music every
Thursday and Saturday

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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.

LYMM AND DISTRICT MIXED VOICE CHOIR

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



**LYMM
PARISH
COUNCIL**

Next meeting September 13
Lymm Parish Hall 7.30pm

The beer festival is back – better than ever

THE sixth annual Lymm Beer Festival organised by Lymm and district Round Table will again by a two day event and will take place on Friday and Saturday, September 9-10.

Once again it will be sponsored by Warrington-based Urban Building Projects and will take place at Lymm Village Hall.

The Friday session will be from 6pm to 11pm and on Saturday it will be from 12 noon to 11pm.

More than 36 cask ales will be on offer plus a selection of ciders, perrys, lager and wine.

There will also be live music throughout both days, food and free soft drinks for non-drinkers.

The entry fee is £5 (£3 Saturday afternoon and discounts for CAMRA members) which includes a pint glass created specifically for the event. All cask ales, ciders and lager are at one price of £2.50 a pint.

The Round Table is also seeking organisations to sponsor a cask for £80 for which their names will appear in the programme, at the event and on the festival's Twitter and Facebook feeds.

Sponsors will also receive four tickets and £20 of beer tokens.

Round Table member and festival organiser Euan Macdonald said: "The beer festival has continued to go from strength to strength and raised thousands of pounds for local good causes. We will again be focusing on ales from local breweries, but draft lager and fizz will also be in plentiful supply after proving popular last year.

"We are keeping our fingers crossed for the weather again as there's nothing better than sipping a refreshing drink in the late summer sun."

For more information about this year's beer festival visit www.lymmbeerfest.co.uk, find it on Facebook or Twitter, or, if you're interested in sponsoring a cask email beerfestival@lymmroundtable.co.uk or call James on 07480 477970.



The Rosebank Centre
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Picture "Fun days at The Rosebank Centre in the early 1990's"

Rosebank prepares to celebrate 25 years of childcare

HUNDREDS of children from Lymm and surrounding areas think of The Rosebank Centre as their "home from home", the place where they first met new friends, developed a love of reading and music, found their feet in games and creative play as well as exploring nature in the extensive gardens.

On September 24th, The Rosebank Centre will be celebrating 25 years of childcare with a special day. Past children are invited to drop in with their families and hopefully some will be second generation Rosebank families.

The Rosebank Centre has, historically, been a place for children for 90 years from the date that it became a Holiday Home for Jewish Mothers and Children in 1926. They would travel out on the train from Manchester and enjoy the country life in Lymm with fields running from the back of Rosebank down to the canal.

From the 60's until 1990 Rosebank was a Children's Home for Cheshire County Council. It was in 1991 that Margaret and Rod King purchased the property with a view to providing educational and development sessions for 3 to 5 year old children.

As a trained teacher Margaret brought all of her child development skills to the centre and a reputation was established for being a great place for children to "grow".

Rod explained: "In 1997 our Garden Room extension was added and in 2009 the new Naturegarten log cabin was built in grounds adjacent to Ravenbank School for 3-5 year olds and after school children, whilst retaining The Rosebank Centre for under 3's."

"Our child centred professional approach is being continued with the involvement of daughter Sadie Hopley as Director."

Margaret added: "If you are a past or a present child we hope that you will drop in any time between 10am and 3pm when there will be refreshments along with a children's entertainer at 12:00."

"Please join in the fun and help us celebrate past memories."

To mark the occasion a new logo has been created for the business illustrating young people playing and learning in the outdoors.

For more details ring The Rosebank Centre on 756900 or Naturegarten on 758959 www.rngroup.co.uk

Historic Transport Day announces profit

THE money's all in and the bills are all paid from the annual Lymm Historic Transport Day.

As a result the Lymm Historic Transport Group has been able to announce a profit of £8,500 on this year's event.

The first £1,000 of that will go back to Lymm Festival. The remaining £7,500 will be split equally between Lymm Heritage Centre and building up the Transport Day Group's reserves.

"For an event that was hanging in the balance right up to the day this was a great result with record crowds especially as I think we offer such tremendous value for families" said Event director Alan Williams.

"And of course we were not the only ones to benefit with other local groups and traders doing well with their own fringe activities."

Planning for next year's event - on June 25, will start at the kick-off meeting to be held on September 20, 7.30pm at The Spreadeagle.

New faces are always welcome. Find out more at www.lymmhc.co.uk or call 01925 754080.

Disastrous floods – but the Twin Town visitors were still welcome

THE annual get-together by the people of Lymm and those from French twin town Meung-Sur-Loire was in France this year – and it could hardly have taken place at a worse time!

For the Lymm Twin Town Society party arrived in Meung to find it flooded. The Town Hall, where everyone was supposed to meet up on arrival was flooded – and so was the hall booked for the dinner on the last night of the visit.

Meung officials were busy organising defences against the waters of the rivers Mauves – which flows through the town – and Loire, which flows past the bottom of the town.

No-one had seen anything like it before – certainly not during the 48 years that Lymm and Meung have been twinned. The last recorded flood was in 1910.

All organised events were cancelled but fortunately the flooding was confined to the town centre and none of the families hosting the Lymm visitors were flooded.

The people of Meung rose to the occasion, organising impromptu events for their guests.

Everybody was well looked after and no-one was left out. Some people visited historic towns and castle in the area, others went to a zoo.

Fortunately the rain stopped and the Mauves subsided and an army of volunteer townspeople and firefighters started the big clean-up.

Michel Bret, the Meung Twin Town chairman managed to re-locate the final event to a nearby village hall and finally all the people from the two Twin Town societies managed to get together in one place – with plenty to talk about!

As far as is known, all the Lymm residents managed to return home safely!

Plans are now in motion for next year's return visit, April 18-22, when Lymm families will host visitors from Meung for five days.

The Lymm Twin Town Society organises regular social events to raise funds towards the exchange visit. Anyone interested in the society is welcome to take part and details of the society, membership and events, can be found by emailing lymmtowntown@gmail.com or visiting www.lymmtowntownsociety.co.uk



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Mediaeval Lymm Rushbearing cancelled due to road closure costs

LYMM village's historic Rushbearing parade was cancelled due to road closure and traffic management costs being imposed by Warrington Borough Council.

Local organiser Chris Limb says the costs of over £1,000 have effectively "killed" the event which dates back to mediaeval times, which he helped revive around 40 years ago.

Chris explained: "With the co-ordination and funding from Lymm Parish Council various local people involved with public events in Lymm

attended a traffic management course several weeks ago, which it was understood would enable us to man events without the involvement of commercial traffic management company.

"It now appears that that is not the case and the borough council still require road closures and still require a traffic management company to be engaged. Even with a reduced and in my view unsatisfactory route and with some reduction of standard fees, the total required is over £1,000 and

possibly notably more.

"It now appears to be the case, previously unknown to me, that various events, both in Lymm and elsewhere in Warrington, have fees waived and traffic management fees paid by the borough council.

"The only reason Rushbearing was not consulted, considered or even informed appears to be that despite its history, only the May Queen has been held for longer in Lymm, the borough council were unaware of it.

"Rushbearing is not an "organisation" in the sense of being a society or group with a committee. It is simply an event. A small but traditional event. Everyone involved gives their time without fee. It makes no charge – even the refreshments have been given for free. Even including the church service and the "post-procession" time at the Village Hall it lasts about 2 hours.

"The fees and costs do, I am afraid kill the event.

"There have been some suggestions made to me which have a chance of enabling the event in the future, but there is nothing which enables it this year. I make it plain that I was extremely grateful for the support of the Parish Council last year but would not expect it to make grants of similar amounts on an annual basis.

"I have arrived at a date beyond which it is not appropriate to delay a decision longer.

"I thank all who have supported and enjoyed the event over the last 40-plus years.

"With regret and great sadness I have decided to cancel this year's Rushbearing," added Chris.

Lymm Rushbearing was re-born in the early 1970's (having probably died out in the early years of the century, possibly during the First World War) and for the last several years has been held on the second Sunday in August, although it has over the years been held on other days. For many years in the twentieth century Rushbearing Monday was a local bank holiday.

Ormerod's late Victorian history of Cheshire refers to the festival taking place in many communities on or near to the feast of the parish's patron saint – hence Lymm's tradition of having the festival during the summer holiday period and close to the feast of the Assumption of Saint Mary.

Although the carrying of fresh rushes to church (normally on a horse-drawn cart) was a central feature, and the replacement of the old rushes upon the earthen church floor a very practical necessity in former days, this gathering of locals also involved festivities including not only the procession and Morris dancing but also sports, fairground stalls, and very full public houses!

Until 2015 the route started from Pepper Street and then processed via The Cross up Eagle Brow, left into Brookfield Road and left into Church Road to arrive at St Mary's Church. After a short service the procession returned via Rectory Lane to the Village Hall for light



refreshments, judging of the rushbearing garlands, and more Morris dancing.

The procession includes Morris men, people carrying Rushbearing garlands and rushes, the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Mayor of Warrington, the May Queen and various local groups. It is mediaeval in its origins and Lymm is one of a very small number of communities which have maintained the tradition.

Local councillor Ian Marks added: "The situation regarding road closures is totally unsatisfactory and must be urgently sorted out. It all came to a head last summer when there were major problems with Rushbearing.

"Very sadly this longstanding event has been cancelled for this year. For twelve months I have been urging that a proper round table discussion takes place between all the event organisers who need a road closure, the Borough and Parish Councils and the Police. This has never happened. We thought that the training that took place a few months ago would help but this was not the case due to a communication problem.

"Lymm is enormously fortunate in having such a number of popular community events. The problem is that they require road closures. The cost of a closure is huge and the paperwork required is complex so we just have to find a pragmatic solution. We cannot let these events die out. As Chairman of Lymm Festival I have a specific interest for our Foodfest and I am very familiar with the problems the Historic Transport Day had.

"The meeting must be organised as soon as possible so we have an agreed way forward well before the next road closure is needed. We know money is tight but with some creative thinking surely we can fix it."

A Warrington Borough Council spokesman said: "Due to budget pressures Warrington Borough Council pays for road closures for only a very limited number of major public events. Groups organising smaller events in Warrington have been made aware of this in previous years and the situation has not changed."

*Lymm Morris kept part of the tradition alive by performing on the Pepper Street car park, on the Cross



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Express Arts launch new creative project

LOCAL theatre company Express Arts are bringing their successful youth theatre to Lymm for a six week pilot project.

Supported by Lymm and District Round Table young people aged 7-14 can explore all aspects of theatre and performance, ending with a small showcase to friends and family.

The workshops will start on Monday September 12 and aim to build confidence, teamwork and develop creativity.

The project will also give young

people the opportunity to gain a Discover Arts Award - unique qualifications which support young people to develop as artists and arts leaders.

Through working towards an award young people learn to work independently, helping them to prepare for further education and employment.

Discover Arts Award is the

introductory level, which enables young people to discover the arts around them, find out about artists and their work and share their experiences with others, gaining a certificate at the end.

Co-artistic director Hollie Wimpenny said: "We are very grateful for the support from Lymm and District Round Table. This will ensure our new project will get off to a strong start and will give us a firm foundation to hopefully continue this provision beyond the initial project."

The project costs £20 for the 6 weeks and starts on Monday,

September 12, 4.30pm-5.45pm at Lymm Village Hall for anyone aged 7-14.

Express Arts also runs two drama groups at the Pyramid Arts Centre in Warrington. Their Senior group for ages 12-16 meet on Wednesday evening and their Junior group for ages 7-11 meet on a Saturday morning during term time only.

For more information on Express Arts or to reserve a place on the course please visit www.expressarts.co.uk, through email info@expressarts.co.uk or on 07825234112.



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Former Lymm dentist feeling on top of the world

FORMER Lymm dentist turned intrepid explorer John Moorhouse is feeling on top of the world after becoming only the ninth Briton and 35th person in the world to complete the "grand slam."

Now aged 60, John may have created a new Guinness World Record as the oldest person in the world to complete the grand slam, although he still needs to investigate this as currently there are only world records for the youngest and fastest.

John, who still works part time three days a week, has recently returned from Alaska after summiting Denali (6,190m) at his third attempt after being beaten off by extreme weather in 2012 and 2015, completing the seven highest summits in each of the

seven continents and both Poles doing last degree on both.

He was inspired by Dick Bass, who in the 1980s set the task of climbing the highest peak on each continent.

As a businessman without climbing experience, Mr. Bass defined each continent according to the lay person's concept - hence Australia's highpoint, Mount Kosciuszko, was included in the Seven Summits.

Renowned mountaineer Reinhold Messner revised Dick's list by substituting the more difficult

Carstensz Pyramid (Puncak Jaya) of New Guinea at 4,884m. for Mount Kosciuszko (2,228m)

John said: "Most people only accept Carstensz these days and discount Kosciuszko as the continent is Australasia and not just Australia.

He is now 35th person to have done the Grand slam (third degree), 48th of all grand Slams and the 9th Briton.

John's track record is as follows.

- Aconcagua (6,962m) 2004 (bad weather), 2014
- North Pole 2006
- South Pole 2009
- Vinson (4,892m) 2009
- Carsten pyramid (4,884m) 2010
- Elbrus (5,642m) 2011
- Denali (6,190m) 2012, 2014

(both bad weather), 2016

- Everest (8,848m) 2013
- Kilimanjaro (5,895m) 2015

Commenting on why he decided to do the grand slam John said: "Having skied the last degree to both Poles and climbed Vinson, the most remote of the seven summits in 2006 and 2009, it seemed a logical progression to follow Dick Bass's example and also climb the highest mountain in each continent."

Not content with the Grand Slam John took part in IronMan Switzerland in July, the North Face Cappadocia race in Turkey in October and improving sea kayaking technique for Yukon 1000 mile race next year or 2018!

St Mary's Ringers respond to challenge 500!

CHURCHES and Cathedrals are being challenged to show people the ropes by bringing to life the 400 year old tradition of English style bell ringing.

The ringers of Lymm have responded and will open the ringing chamber on September 8 and 10 to explain the history of ringing, show off the ringing chamber and share the mysteries of change ringing!

Lymm parish church, situated by Lymm Dam, will be open with a special exhibition about

bellringing, the chance to hear the bells and to come up to the ringing chamber to learn about the art of change ringing. They have 8 bells cast in 1891 by John Taylor of Loughborough.

On Thursday September 8 they will join in the 'bellringing moment' between 1800 and 1900. This is part of the challenge! They are being asked to ring at the same time as others across the country. There will be also be an exhibition on ringing followed by open practice.

Members of the public are invited to come and learn the ropes! 7.15pm to 9.15pm

Then on Saturday September 10 people can hear them ring for a wedding (approx 13.15 to 13.45), from Lymm Dam.

It is a special wedding as they are ringing for their Ringing Master, Ian Daniels - who is to marry Maureen Lees.

Following the wedding people are invited to visit the exhibition from 1400-1700.

On Saturday the Church will

also be open for Ride and Stride, another part of the Heritage Open Days weekend which encourages walkers or riders to visit local churches, with refreshments available.

There is full wheelchair access to the Church. The exhibition will be at ground floor level where the bells can also be heard. Access to the ringing chamber is however up a stone spiral staircase.

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elling on top of the world



John's recent Denali trip (above) and pictures from his Carstenz Pyramid adventure (left) which involved a six day trek through forest with local tribes.



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Blooming hard work

VOLUNTEERS at the Lymm in Bloom group are hoping for more success following a visit from the North West in bloom judges.

The judges toured the village and were interested not just in the planting and general tidiness of the village itself but also evidence of community participation, heritage related activity and other environmental initiatives.

Judges saw the work that had been done by the group at various locations in the village centre including the sunken garden, the beds near the zebra crossing and lower dam as well as window boxes displayed by local traders and community groups. They were also shown the site of the proposed Heritage Centre and how that area of Leigh St will be "lifted" by a planting scheme outside the Centre.

The group is co-ordinated by Ben Selwood supported by a core team of around six people who also benefit from input from other groups such as WI and Lymm Gardening club and many of the team were on hand during the tour to answer questions and point out some of the features.

One new destination this year in the category of "neighbourhood project" was Statham School – site of the "Boot Garden" where rows of plants grow from discarded wellington boots – and an ongoing project led by Su Williams and her team to involve youngsters at the school in appreciating and enjoying the outdoors through a weekly lunchtime gardening club. Ben commented afterwards

"We have been working hard all year to improve the appearance of the village and I think we are really making a positive difference. We just have fingers crossed now that the judges like what they have seen."

Last year representatives from the village travelled to Southport

for the annual presentation event where they received a silver-gilt award and they will be hoping for more success this year.

Anyone who would like to get involved, have a say on what projects should be undertaken and are able to get involved in weekend work groups to make it all happen contact Ben Selwood on b.selwood@hotmail.co.uk or 07714 455816.



Car booters defy the weather

IT rained before, during and after – but that did not deter determined shoppers and sellers at Lymm Rugby Club's car boot sale.

Umbrellas were the order of the day and the better prepared sellers came equipped with gazebos.

Business was brisk – although it would undoubtedly have been more brisk if the weather had been kinder.

There was table-top selling as well – inside the clubhouse – where refreshments were on sale.

One trader admitted that his sales had barely covered the cost of his bacon butty – but still declared the day a great success.



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Top primary school for PE and sport

PUPILS and staff at Oughttrington Primary School in Lymm are celebrating after being crowned Warrington Primary School of the Year for PE and Sport.

The school received the accolade in recognition of its dedication and commitment to every child within the school.

PE co-ordinator Val Forest said "We are extremely proud of our sporting achievements this year."

Val is pictured celebrating with pupils and PE TAs Sarah Impey and Sally Jones.



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Heritage Centre-Lymm Hotel partnership goes from strength to strength

FOLLOWING on the success of Brazilymm 66 earlier this year plans are now being put in a place for another very special one-off event which will take place at the Lymm Hotel on Friday October 7.

Every year the MacDonald Hotel Group stage a series of fundraising evenings across the whole country to benefit the Muir Maxwell Trust which supports the needs of children with epilepsy.

Local hotel managers are also able to nominate their own charity to receive part of the money raised and this year Jamie McDonald at the Lymm has chosen Lymm Heritage Centre as the beneficiary. The finishing touches are still being put to the programme for the evening but will feature celebrity guests as well as live entertainment and dinner.

Jamie explained "We are really looking forward to another great evening. Having grown up in Lymm and with a family history in the village that goes back several generations I am delighted to have the opportunity to support a project that I think will make a real positive contribution to the village."

Jamie has also donated the

family scrapbooks to the Heritage Centre containing clippings and village stories going back over one hundred years.

The scrapbooks were put together over a period of thirty years in the early part of the last century by the Mort family who were very involved with Lymm Urban District Council as well as being prominent members of the Cherry Lane Independent Methodist Church.

The team at the Heritage Centre are busy digitising the "highlights" of the scrapbooks to create an on-line book which the public will be able to leaf through via the Heritage Centre website.

For more information about the Fundraising Dinner contact the hotel on 01925 863550.

There will also be news of the event on the Heritage Centre website www.lymmhlc.co.uk and at [facebook.com/lymmheritage](https://www.facebook.com/lymmheritage)



A glimpse at just one page of the Mort Family Scrapbooks donated recently to Lymm Heritage Centre. Plans are in place to create an on-line version of the books for all to share.

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