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Approved by Lymm Parish Council as the official magazine for Lymm

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**Advertising** James Balme Freephone 0800 955 5247

**Editorial** 01925 623633

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#### Websites

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## Editor's Comment

I witnessed first hand the traffic congestion issues in the village recently following Warrington Borough Council's controversial decision to remove the free one hour car parking on the Pepper Street and Davies Way car parks.

While I have to say it was somewhat easier finding a parking space on the Pepper Street car park mid afternoon, it was almost like playing dodgems while driving through the village, with various vehicles parking illegally on the road sides, making it difficult to

road sides, making it aitticuit to negotiate the village centre. Then on Dane Bank Road, double parking was making it extremely difficult and dangerous for vehicles to pass.

The various car parking issues and concerns are highlighted alsowhere in this edition

elsewhere in this edition.

am aware local councillors and indeed myself, have been in dialogue with the powers that be at the town hall to try and come up with a solution to the problems.

One suggestion has been to reintroduce the free one hour during the day and implement charging in the evening – to balance the books, although I am sure this wouldn't go dimough I am sire IIIIs wouldn't go down too well with the business owners who rely on the evening economy in the village.

I suspect whatever the outcome it will be impossible to please all of the people all of the time.

But one thing is certain, with all the austerity and the extra sayings Warrington Borough Council have to make in the coming months, they will be looking to generate income at every opportunity.

Meanwhile I see the former Post

Office premises are now officially up for let.

up for let.

The sooner it is re-opened the better, as its closure has proved to be a double whammy for some retailers, who tell me they had a poor Christmas, blaming the car parking charges and the closure of the Post Office, which had a footfall of over 400 people a day!

That's a lot of people to lose from coming into the village!

Deadline for the March issue of Lymm Life is January 31



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## 'To let' sign goes up at post office

A "To Let" sign has gone up on the closed Lymm Post Office premises in the centre of Lymm – and Post Office chiefs have repeated that they are committed to restoring the service as soon as possible.

Retailers interested in running a post office for the village are being urged to come forward.

spokesman for the Post Office I: "We would like to apologise for the inconvenience caused the temporary closure of Lymm Post

#### Tree work

PLANNING chiefs have given the go-ahead for work to be carried out on trees in a conservation area off Domville Close, Lymm.

They have agreed that a Leyland Cypress and a Cedar can be felled and that an Ash and a Beech can be reduced by seven metres.

Office following the resignation of

the postmaster.
"We would like to reassure customers that we are working hard to restore the service as soon as possible and are committed to

maintaining services in the area." Lymm Post Office closed suddenly in November along with the long established stationery business in the same building which had changed hands some time previously.

Anyone intérested in taking over the site and incorporating the post office into their business is asked to call 0845 266 8790 or email NTquestions@postoffice.co.uk visit the website runapostoffice. co.uk



#### School extension

PROPOSALS to build a single-storey extension at Statham Primary School, Lymm, have been submitted to borough planning chiefs.

The scheme would give the hool a new entrance and school extra car parking would also be provided. An existing water tower would be demolished

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

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Rodger Burgess A Moment in Time More info Lynn Smith 01925 756776

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 - 12.30 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

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 & Augl, 7.30pm Spread Eagle pub, Eagle Brow. Details: www.lymmphotosoc.org.uk

#### LYMM WINE AND BEER CIRCLE

3rd Wednesday of the month, 8pm The Spread Eagle Hotel Details: 01925 604400

#### LYMM CONCERT BAND

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

#### THE VENUE, LYMM

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

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.

#### LYMM AND DISTRICT MIXED VOICE CHOIR

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



Next meeting February 14 Lymm Parish Hall 7.30pm

## Young dentist shortlisted for award

LOCAL dentist Gareth Elgan Rees is celebrating after reaching the finals of North West Young Dentist of the Year 2016.

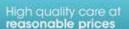
works who at Grappenhall Dental Practice, was shortlisted as one of eight finalists for the annual award.

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## **Meet your MP David Mowat**

David Mowat, MP for Warrington South, holds regular surgeries throughout the constituency. If you would like to arrange an appointment to discuss an issue of concern to you please

e-mail him at david.mowat.mp@parliament.uk or telephone 01925 231267.

#### **David Mowat**

Member of Parliament for Warrington South www.davidmowat.org.uk

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## Spirit of Dickensian Day winner



WINNER of Lymm Photographic Society's "Spirit of Dickensian Day" photo competition was Brian Colquitt, with his image "Dancing with joy."

Brian won a years free membership of the the photographic society as well as having his winning picture published in lymm Life.

The photographic Society meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Spread Eagle and visitors are always welcome.

For more details visit www.lymmphotosoc.org.uk

#### Home extensions

A HOUSEHOLDER in Bollin Close, Lymm has won planning consent for a two-storey side extension and another in Bucklow Gardens, Lymm has been granted permission for a single storey kitchen and dining room extension to the side of the property.



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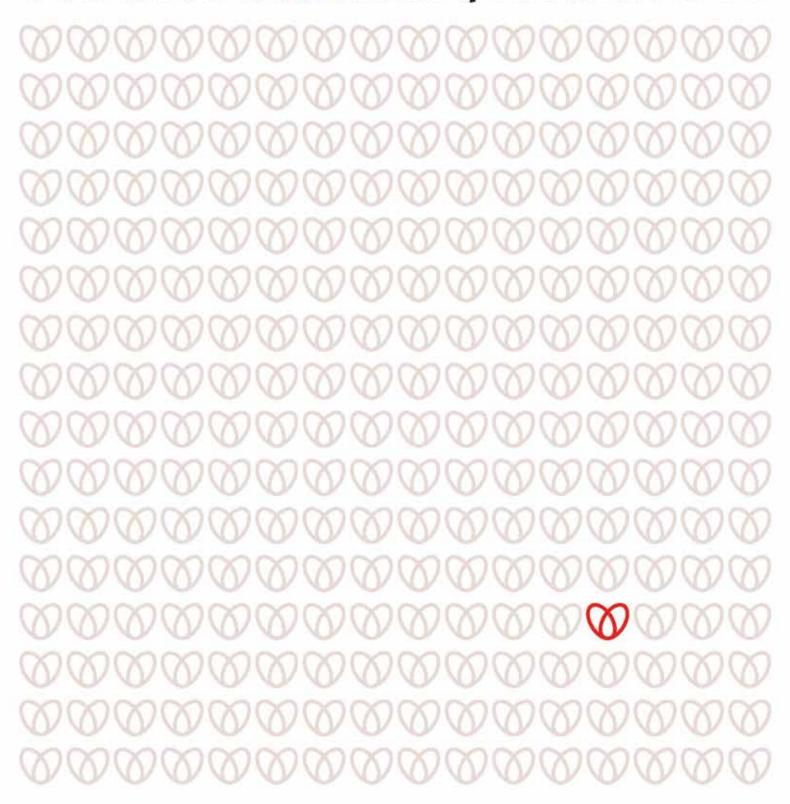






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## Kids Planet celebrate Nursery Group of the Year award

LYMM based Kids Planet Day Nurseries is celebrating after winning the NMT Nursery Group of the Year Award 2016.

The judges chose Kids Planet because they could translate their Ofsted rated 'Outstanding' nurseries into real, tangible examples. Their powerful exposition of education for parents, and community engagement across all socio-economic groups sincerely reflected their values.

The 14th consecutive National NMT Nursery Awards was held in London and once again celebrated the very best in the Under 5's childcare/early year's sector. NMT Nursery Awards 2016

is an annual event organised by Nursery Management Today, the leading business publication in the

leading business publication in the nursery sector and sponsored by key companies providing services in the sector. The Awards are designed to reward excellence in childcare and celebrate the very best people in the Nursery Sector.

Clare Roberts, CEO of Kids Planet said:" "We are thrilled we have won the Nursery Group on the Year Award for 2016, we couldn't do this without all of our amazing Nursery and Head Office teams. This award is down to all our amazing staff and the hard work and dedication they do within

Schuller - Next125 - Mackintosh

their roles each day.
"We are thrilled to add this latest accolade to our Nursery Group having just recently been recognised as number 1 for quality in the recent Nursery World Chains table.

Family run Kids Planet Day Nurseries provide over 1,700 nursery places across the North West, with the Head Office based in Lymm and it has nurseries in Crewe, Hale, Salford, Liverpool, Lymm, Prestwich, Sale, Salford, Southport, Urmston, Warrington and Widnes, as well as Jeffrey's Corner in Dukinfield and

Springhead.
Kids Planet has recently been recognised as number one in this year's Nursery World Ofsted table with 14 of its inspected nurseries graded Outstanding, three with Good grades and one awaiting inspection. Nursery World ranks the 20 biggest nursery groups in the UK by compiling the grades from the latest published Ofsted tenorts and analysing the findings. reports and analysing the findings using a points-based rating system.

Kids Planet has been number two in





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## The day the shoppers stayed away from village car parks



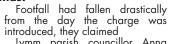
THIS was Lymm's Pepper Street car park mid-morning on what is generally accepted as the busiest shopping day of the year – the last Saturday before Christmas.

Normally at this time, shoppers struggle to find a space – on any Saturday.

The situation was the same on the Davies Way car park on the other side of the village.

It was a misty morning - but the weather was not enough to keep shoppers away.

The cause, according to a number of Lymm shopkeepers, was the new £1 minimum charge for parking on any of the village car parks for longer than 15 minutes.



introduced, they claimed

Lymm parish councillor Anna
Fradgley was out and about, even if the shoppers were not. She was carrying out a survey of people's opinions.

She said: overwhelming outcome is that people want their one hour free people want their one nour free parking back. But what did come as a surprise to me is that many people actually don't mind paying for parking, if they need to stay in the village for a longer period. It's just that they felt that the £1 entry point was too steep for 15 minutes.

"Some traders were already finding it tough, but the reduced footfall is making it worse."

Cllr Fradgley said she believed borough council could be contravening the Traffic Management Act 2004 by imposing parking charges in Lymm and Stockton Heath but not in other parts of the borough

This stated that parking charges and fines should not be used as a "local tax" and that all members of the community including residents, traders and the police should be consulted on traffic management needs, as well as economic needs.

She also drew attention to the increased problem of on-street parking in the village.

Areas like Danebank Road, Grove Rise, Rose Bank and Pepper Street were particularly badly affected but drivers were ignoring yellow lines all over the village.

Over the Christmas-New Year

period, there was a slight increase in the number of drivers paying to park compared to the first week after the changes came into effect. But shopkeepers believed footfall in the village was still below what would normally be expected.

One trader said: "It is difficult

One trader said: It is difficult to judge at present because of the aftermath of Christmas and New Year and also the fact that the Post Office has closed. But the introduction of the £1 minimum parking charge is certainly not

The borough council has said it will continue to review the effect of the car park charges up until March.

Any comments or concerns over the changes should be sent to Cllr Hans Mundry, the borough council's member for highways, transportation and public realm at hmundry@warrington.gov.uk or write to him at New Town House, Buttermarket Street, Warrington, WA1 2NH.



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caroline.swain@bpsFamilyLaw.co.uk

#### Caroline Swain, Partner

Caroline is widely renowned as one of the most sought after divorce and matrimonial finance lawyers in the UK and has become the 'solicitor of choice' for representing ultra-high net worth and complex disputes both in the North and South of the country.

Caroline's experience in highly complex cases means she has become the 'go to' Solicitor for clients seeking a robust and knowledgeable divorce lawyer. She has in depth knowledge of dealing with multi-national companies, Trusts, inheritance disputes, overseas properties and inter-family financial structures within a separation.

Alluding confidence in the law she has the essential foundations of knowledge which is a must within any strong lawyer. Clients are very quickly reassured on meeting Caroline that they are in the best possible hands.

#### Harry Lipson, Partner

Harry joined BPS in 1973 and became a partner three years later and Senior Partner in 2001.

Harry practises in Matrimonial Finance and has detailed knowledge of complex and high net financial settlements, including matters relating to businesses, pensions, trusts, the hiding and disposition of assets and money held overseas. Harry has represented many high profile clients and brings a commercial approach to achieving settlements.

Harry's experience of the law and practical knowledge of business and finance allows him to provide clear and concise advice and develop successful solutions for cases other lawyers would shy away from.



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### Drama group to stage 178th show - but still needs new members

A DRAMA group founded in Lymm 66 years ago is appealing for new members to ensure it keeps going.

The Bridgewater Players were formerly known as Lymm Dramatic Society but changed its name when it moved to Thelwall in 1969.

Many of its members and also its supporters still come from Lymm but its productions are now staged at Thelwall Parish Hall.

Chairman Andy Rushman said: "We are desperately short of members to both act or help backstage. We are appealing for new members.

The society was launched with six members in 1951 and its first production was "The Rotters" at the schoolroom in Eagle Brow.

After two or three productions the group moved to the former Lymm Cinema, only to move back to Eagle Brow when productions at the cinema proved to be non-profitable.

In 1968 the society found itself homeless as the hall in Eagle Brow

was needed for other purposes. Their last play there was "The Captives.

The following year they moved to Thelwall and, once it became clear it was to become their permanent home, changed their name to The Bridgewater Players.

Their next show - Alan Ayckbourn's comedy "Relatively Speaking" - will be their 178th production.

It opens on Thursday, February

23 and will continue until Saturday, February 25. Tickets are available from Thelwall Post Office or by calling 01925 755846.

calling 01925 /55846.

Mr Rushman added: "Our main concern, of course, is to continue to entertain you, our audience. We hope that in the past we have managed to amuse you, perhaps frighten you and sometimes even to reduce you to tears, but always we hope we have managed to hold your interest and given you something to think about.



#### Parish council concern over increased traffic congestion

MEMBERS of Lymm Parish Council are growing increasingly concerned about increased traffic congestion since new charges were introduced on borough-run car parks in the

They are hoping to set up a meeting with the borough council to

meeting with the borough council to look at options.

Shoppers have seen the previous one hour free period cut to 15 minutes and, at the same time, the minimum charge increased from

As a result, many drivers are seeking on-street parking places to avoid having to pay.

Danebank Road, Pepper Street, Rosebank and other roads are all

suffering from parking problems.

Two parish councillors – deputy chairman John Bamforth and Clir Anna Fradgley carried out parking surveys on Thursday, January 5 and Saturday January 7 and have also carried out interviews with shoppers and traders. and traders.

and traders.

Cllr Fradgley said: "We are finding drivers are avoiding the car parks. On the Saturday morning, the busiest trading day in the village, Davies Way had an occupancy of 58 per cent and Pepper Street an

occupancy of 65 per cent.
"It is evident that cars are finding on-road parking spaces not used previously and walking into the

"Danebank Road is a concern. Many more cars are double parking which is causing major traffic congestion on a road used by large lorries and tractors to avoid the weight restricted village centre bridge. Residents are informing me

of near misses on that road.
"More cars are parking along
Rosebank and Pepper Street creating
a nuisance for residents."

Many people were calling for traffic calming measures – particularly since an accident on Higher Lane in which a motor cyclist was injured and had to be airlifted to hospital.

Cllr Bamforth said: "The opinions of residents remain unchanged. They want the one hour free parking

"Now the changes are in place there is more anger than before. People come into the village for the chemist and those on free prescriptions are finding they must pay for what should be a free visit. spoke to one mother of a diabetic child who regularly visits Lymm for his medication. She told me she always pays, as 15 minutes is never enough time in the chemist. This is

"Traders are finding that people are either not coming into Lymm at all or are just dashing in and out, not taking time to browse. Many commented on how much quieter the village is compared to previous Januarys. Takings were definitely down over Christmas."

"I don't think the borough council is taking this seriously enough. We need to restore the free one hour as soon as possible for damage

Cllr Fradgley claims the borough estimates it will receive income of £321.020 from the parking changes in Lymm and Stockton Heath – an increase of £22,000.



## Volunteers win prestigious award

VOLUNTEER group Friends of Spud Wood, from Lymm has won a prestigious Volunteer of the Year award from the Woodland Trust.

The group was recognised with the charity's Willow Award at the charity's annual awards ceremony and lunch.

Woodland Trust president Beccy Speight made the presentation and the group was nominated for the award by Neil Oxley.

The Friends were set up to support the Trust in Spud Wood, off Oughtrington Lane, in 2010. The group has helped with coppicing

along paths and carrying out visitor surveys. Over recent years they have delivered a bat walk and an ecological survey with local schoolchildren. In 2014 they started to thin the wood which helps let light in and promotes a diverse range of species.

In a statement, the Friends said:

"The FoSW are very pleased to have

the support and encouragement of The Woodland Trust as the work we do is very close to their hearts. We really appreciate the recognition of our efforts but would willingly keep on doing what we are doing regardless."

Neil Oxley said: "I am very pleased that the friends group have won this award. They are a great help to me in managing Spud Wood and it is nice that all their hard work has been recognised."
Each year the Woodland

Each year the Trust gives awards to the most outstanding volunteers for their talent and dedication. Winners are selected from over 2,000 volunteers all over the UK, who in 2016 dedicated over 205,000 hours of their time.

To find out how to become a volunteer for the Woodland Trust, visit www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/

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## Reunion of footballers from 40 years ago



A REUNION of footballers who formerly played for the Bull's Head FC, the Star FC and, latterly, The Dingle FC, Lymm, was held at the Bull's Head.

Around 50 former players and their partners attended the event hosted by current landlard and landlady John and Gloria.

The reunion was based on photographs on the tap room wall at The Bull's Head and it took several months to track down the people in the pictures.

Although many are still in Lymm or Warrington, others came from as far afield as Nuneaton, York, Wales and Ipswich.

The evening was voted a huge success, with team-mates from up to 40 years ago meeting up to exchange memories and stories of events on and off the field.

#### "Granny flat"

PLANNING chiefs have put off a decision on an application to convert a double garage into a "granny flat" at Lymm – despite having approved an earlier version

of the scheme. The proposal involves a property in Oughtrington Lane – close to Lymm High School.

Members of the borough

council's development management committee were told the applicant was a registered disabled person and the plan was for her daughter to move into the property to care

It was intended the applicant

plan is deferred

would move into the converted garage while her daughter would live in the main house.

The scheme had been approved at an earlier meeting, but an amended version had now been submitted. Officers recommended the new scheme be refused because it would have a detrimental effect on the openness of the Green Belt and the applicant's needs could be met by the earlier, approved, scheme.

But councillors deferred decision to enable more information to be provided.



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#### **Obituary**

#### **Margaret Boon**

THE funeral has taken place of Margaret Boon, aged 88, formerly of Cyril Bell Close, Lymm, who died at Keate House Care Home on September 15.

Margaret was the widow of William Louis Boon and enjoyed a busy social life in Lymm, as a member of Inner Wheel and Lymm

and High Legh bridge clubs.

For the last nine months of her life she had lived happily at Keate House Care Home.

She is survived by her sister, daughter, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The funeral service took place at Lymm Methodist Church, followed by committal at Walton Lea by committed Crematorium.

Afterwards, friends and family joined together at the Church Green to continue the celebration of her life.

Funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons of Lymm.



#### **Bridie Boardman**

THE funeral has taken place, at St Winifride's Church, Lymm, of Bridie Josephine Boardman, nee Dolan, formerly of Cyril Bell Close, Lymm, who died on November 14, aged

Mrs Boardman was the widow of the late Leslie Boardman and had spent her last four years at a care home in Penketh.

She was born in Ireland and

moved to England when she was 14 and lived in Lymm for more than 20 years. She survived her husband by 10 years and is survived by her sons, Philip and Kevin and sister Greta.

After the funeral service, compility took places at Altrinoham

committal took place at Altrincham Crematorium.

Funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons of Lymm.

#### **Jean Moores**

THE funeral has taken place of Jean Moores, aged 84, formerly of lymm, who died on November 24. Jean originated from Blackpool and moved to Lymm 60 years ago

when she married the late Charles

She leaves a daughter and sonin-law and a son and will be missed by her friends at the Lymm churches she regularly attended.

Funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons of Lymm.



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#### Florence Betts

THE funeral took place on December 6 of Florence Betts, nee Footitt, aged 88, of Howard Avenue, Lymm, who died at Summerville Care Home on November 24. Mrs Betts, known as "Babs",

was for many years a member of Oughtrington WI, enjoying crafts and trips to the theatre. In later life, she attended Oughtrington Luncheon Club.

The funeral took place at Dunham Crematorium and arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons of

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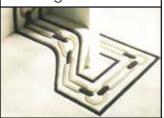
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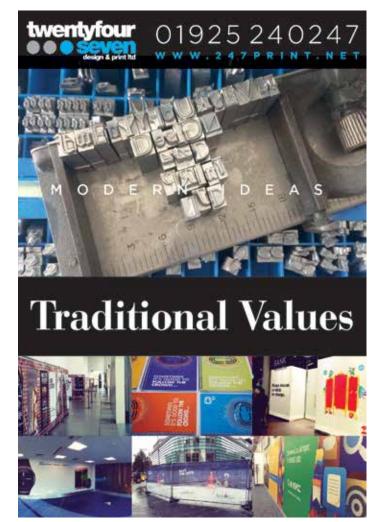
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