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March 2017

Issue: 216

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Approved by Lymm Parish
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magazine for Lymm

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Editor's Comment



I HAVE to say the recent trader meetings in the village - one a social gathering at the Fleece and the other a business meeting with the parish council have left me with a feeling of great optimism.

While it is fair to say the various ongoing issues surrounding car parking charges have had a big impact on village trade, there now

seems a concerted effort by the parish council and traders to tackle these issues head on - and make Lymm a place people want to visit.

Already Sexton's Village Bakery, which has suffered a down turn in trade following the parking charges and the loss the Post Office, has taken the initiative to open on Sundays - a positive response.

The Parish council has pledged to work with local businesses and inject funding into helping make Lymm an even better visitor attraction, while other businesses have decided to start marketing themselves through the pages of Lymm Life.

We have plenty to be positive about in Lymm and if we all work together in a positive way we can make it even better.

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— LYMM VILLAGE —

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Care home residents visit their own exhibition

CARE home residents from Lymm who took part in an art project in Warrington were invited to visit the exhibition their work had created.

Residents of Keate House and the Cheshire Grange care homes visited the "Slippers in the Rain" exhibition staged by Culture Warrington at the Pyramid arts centre.

They had created art works drawing on their memories and life experiences, ranging from the hardship of life during World War 2 to the simple pleasures of dancing.

There was a wide range of exhibits produced by residents aged 60 to more than 90.

It is hoped the exhibition will be the first of many.



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What's On in conjunction with Lymm Parish Council



March 13
LYMM HISTORY SOCIETY
Mark Adams
Pattern, Blackburn & Dumbell Families
More info Lynn Smith 01925 756776

March 14
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,
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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
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**LYMM
PARISH
COUNCIL**

Next meeting March 14
Lymm Parish Hall 7.30pm

Lymm Festival event for Spring

THE last event in this season's
Lymm Festival Winter Warmers
programme is rapidly approaching.

Swing into Spring with Dr Jazz
and the Cheshire Cats features
this great local band making a
welcome return to the Lymm Festival
with an evening of swing, jazz and
big band music to get you moving
after the long winter.

The band will present familiar
classics and some forgotten gems
from the bands of Glenn Miller,
Count Basie, Benny Goodman and
more. The evening also features
songs made famous by the Rat
Pack, by jazz divas such as Ella
Fitzgerald and more recently by
Robbie Williams and Michael
Bubl .

So put on your dancing shoes
and get down to Thelwall Parish

Hall on Saturday, March 18 at
7:30 (doors open 7:00). Tickets
are just £12 and are now available
online at our website, lymmfestival.org.uk, and from Lymm Electric in
Bridgewater Street, Lymm. There
will be a licensed bar available
provided by 4Ts Brewery so some
great local ale to refresh you too.

The Summer Festival 2017 will
be here before you know it as
well! The Festival will be held all
around the village from June 22
to July 2 and the programme is
really taking shape now. Visit the
Festival website or follow us on
Facebook and Twitter for details as
they are announced – just search @
LymmFestival.

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LYMM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Much has happened since our last news letter. The usual festivities have taken place and as always were fantastic. More people than ever sang along to Carols Round The Cross and Dickensian was a great success yet again.

In the meanwhile the Parish Council has put up a stalwart fight to save Lymm Library and to campaign against the current parking fees. Both issues are still under review and hopefully by the time the next letter is published things will have been resolved in our favour. Many thanks to all those who have campaigned on behalf of Lymm's residents.

If you are on line you can read the Parish blog on Facebook. This is a user friendly version of the Parish meeting and reflects the main items discussed. If you are a local organisation or charity and are holding an event please let our Parish Clerk, Amanda Riley know so that it can go on our website/blog/twitter.

The Parish Council has agreed to buy a replacement bus shelter in the centre of the village. We will be looking for a suitable alternative that will also include seats. We are also looking to expand our Ground Maintenance Team and are hoping to have a few new faces by early Summer.

The Parish Council has supported the idea of a 'Green Gym' for Lymm and we are backing all funding streams so hopefully this will be built in the near future. Warrington Borough Council will be applying to WREN and are hoping to situate the equipment in Ridgeway Grundy Park.

We are also looking to reduce speeding through the centre by buying an additional speed awareness sign. Cllr R Barr and Cllr A Fradgley have also met with the Police to discuss the issue of HGVs travelling through restricted areas.

The Annexe in the Village hall is being brought into the twenty first century with extra ICT facilities which will make it more user friendly for meetings. Please enquire for booking with our Admin Assistant Wendy Booth – admin@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk

Contact information:

Clerk of the Council: Amanda Riley - 07585 952445
clerk@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Council Website:

www.lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk

Lymm Parish Council 2017-18



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Name: Cllr Peter Powell
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Email: ppowell215@btinternet.com



Name: Cllr Sheila Woodyatt MBE
Address: 16 Oughtrington Lane, Lymm WA13 0RD
Telephone: 01925 753850
Email: swoodyatt@warrington.gov.uk

Council "comfortable" with new parking charges

CLAIMS that Warrington Borough Council's decision to increase parking charges at Lymm and Stockton Heath was illegal have been refuted by the council's transport chief.

Cllr Hans Mundry, lead member for transport, said: "We are comfortable that we have followed all the correct procedures in introducing these charges.

"The pricing is appropriate and comparable with neighbouring authorities but we will continue to review the situation."

The claims came from Lymm parish councillor Anna Fradgley after the borough introduced a new charging system in Lymm and Stockton Heath shortly before Christmas.

She raised a number of Freedom of Information questions with the council and claimed that the borough's parking task group had received inadequate information before it reached its decision.

As a result, she argued, the new charges contravened the Traffic Management Act 2004.

She demanded a review of the situation by the borough's legal department and said if she did not receive a satisfactory response she would have no option but to raise the matter with the Local Government Ombudsman.

Cllr Fradgley said: "I certainly don't regard Cllr Mundry's response as being adequate. I am still awaiting a response from the council's legal department but I do not believe the council have followed correct procedures.

"Nor are the charges comparable with comparable authorities. You can park for 10p in Altrincham and for free in Northwich."

The changes at Lymm and Stockton Heath involved abolishing a free one hour parking period and replacing it with a 15-minute free period and increasing the minimum charge from 50p to £1.

Local shopkeepers claim the changes have resulted in a loss of trade.

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A message from a homeless man

It was just a handwritten note, pinned to the notice board near the Lower Dam in Lymm Village.

But it moved many local people – several of who contacted Lymm Life about it.

The note read as follows:

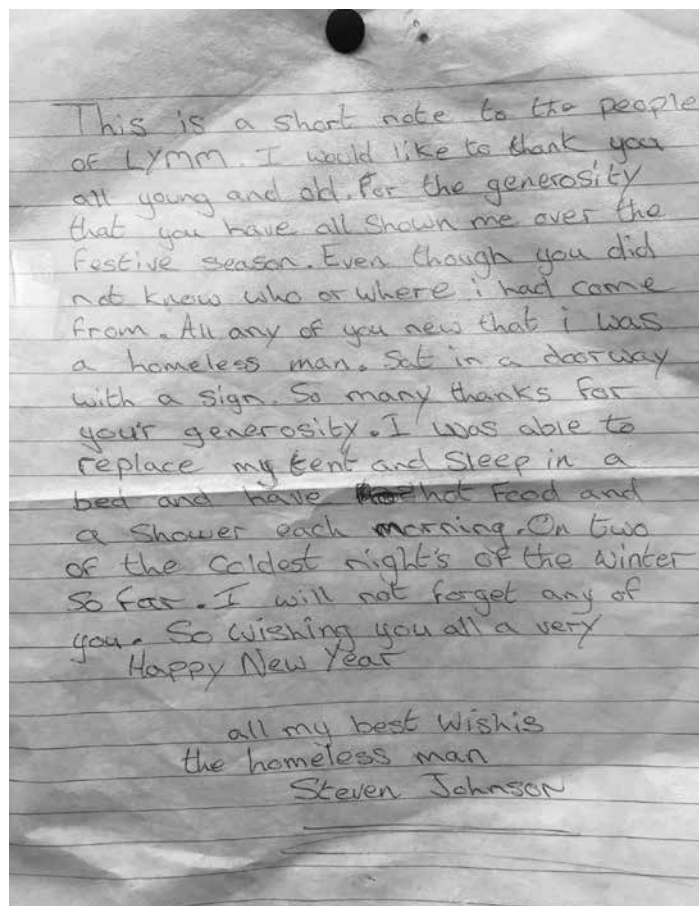
"This is a short note to the people of LYMM. I would like to thank you all, young and old, for the generosity that you have all shown me over the festive season. Even though you did not know who or where I had come from. All any of you knew that I was a homeless man. Sat in a doorway with a sign.

"So many thanks for your

generosity. I was able to replace my tent and sleep in a bed and have hot food and a shower each morning on two of the coldest nights of the winter so far. I will not forget any of you. So wishing you all a very Happy New Year.

"All my best wishes. The homeless man. Steven Johnson."

We do not know Steven Johnson, nor where he went after leaving his note. But we think it says something about Lymm and its people. Something perhaps not widely appreciated by our near neighbours.



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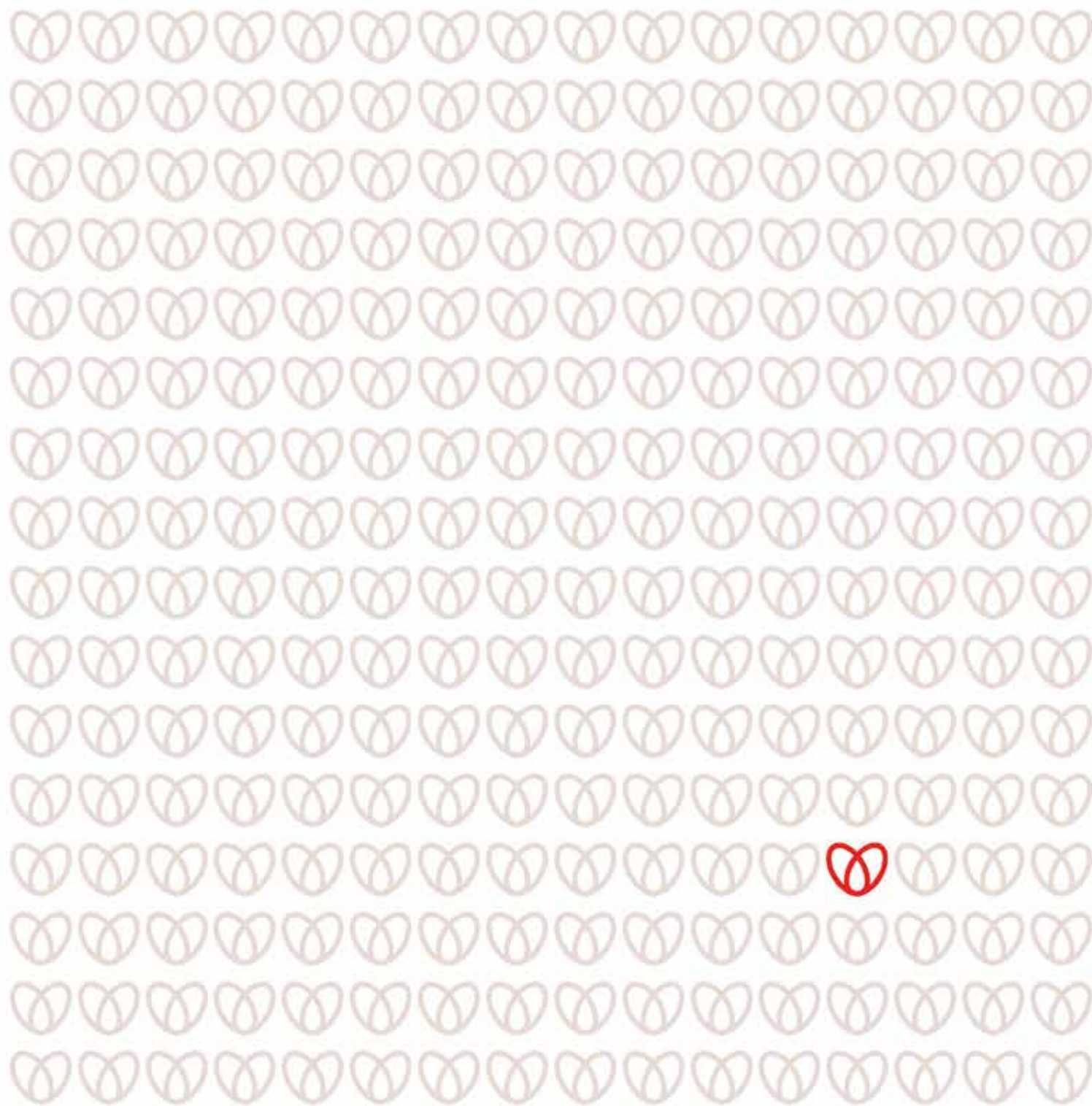
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Heritage Group seek lottery funding to k

LYMM Heritage Group is looking forward to an exciting year after submitting a lottery bid to establish a core exhibition at the new heritage centre which is taking shape in the village.

The Group submitted a bid to the Heritage Lottery fund at the end of January which if successful will not only help establish a core exhibition in the new centre on Legh Street but would also equip it as a base for learning, research and archive building.

The centre would tell the story of the village's rich heritage

particularly through the periods of the transport and industrial revolution based on the themes of Trades, Transport and Tradition.

The group's chair, Alan Williams said: "We have learnt a lot over the two years since our formation and put in an enormous amount of work to understand what makes a successful centre. We have talked to potential local users and key contributors like the local History Society, schools and clubs as well as visiting many other centres and listening to industry experts."

The outcome of all the research

is a project with three areas. There will be a core exhibition, telling the story of Lymm's history through storyboards, artefacts, images, video and models. A second important area will be a set of learning resources and activities that will help local schools introduce children to a better understanding and appreciation of the history of the area where they live. Finally the group aim to launch a digitisation project that will ensure that as much as possible that is still available today, like documents, photographs and film

is carefully scanned, categorised and stored to ensure it is still there for future generations."

Ray Banton who is the group's secretary explained: "We are aiming to create a space that has an interesting and engaging main exhibition but also to be able to adapt that space to welcome in groups for talks and school classes as well as having a series of smaller temporary exhibitions perhaps mounted by schools."

Volunteer Recruitment is the responsibility of Trish Cockayne and Scott Smith. Scott, who is still in his twenties has only lived in the village a couple of years but soon became fascinated by its history. He said: "I am really enjoying being part of such a dynamic team and I am picking up more knowledge of Lymm history as I go along. The response from people on social media and through our volunteer campaigns has been terrific. We have over 1,700 people following us on facebook from all over the world, many of whom grew up in Lymm and moved away. It really feels like we are building a worldwide community."

People using the village have already commented of how much the appearance of the building is being improved and the final step will be replacement of the front of the building, the former Royal British Legion in Legh St, with a striking modern look, mainly glass, that will offer a welcoming façade for visitors to the village. All the



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Kickstart new centre



building work is being funded by its owner Howard Platt before handing it over to the centre on very generous lease terms. "I think we, and the whole village owe Howard a huge debt of thanks for his vision and generosity in making the building available to us," added Alan Williams.

"We also appreciate other local groups and organisations that have given us financial support including the Parish Council, Round Table and Freemasons. Once we are absolutely certain we can go ahead we will also be launching a friends and supporters scheme."

Alan concluded: "In a year which has given Lymm a number

of challenges: threat of Library closure, loss of the village post office and loss of free parking it is heartening to see the prospect of such a positive new addition to the Lymm village scene on the horizon. Now its fingers crossed while the Heritage lottery bid is considered. If all goes to plan the centre will be open to the public in the second half of the year.

In the meantime if anyone would like to get involved they can volunteer via the website www.lymmhc.co.uk, the facebook page facebook.com/lymmheritage or call Trish Cockayne on 751646.



Swing into Spring with Dr Jazz and the Cheshire Cats

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Saturday 18th March 2017

7:30pm (Doors 7:00pm)

Thelwall Parish Hall, Bell Lane, Thelwall

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Summer 2017 Festival

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look out for details coming soon!

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Traders and councillors join forces to boost village trade

TRADERS and parish councillors at Lymm got together to thrash out a marketing strategy to encourage shoppers and tourists back into the village.

The meeting, organised by parish councillor Graham Gowland, took place against a background of falling footfall in the village since the local post office closed and parking charges were increased.

Owners of shops, cafes, restaurants and independent sole trading businesses met in the council chambers to pull together the plan.

This was preceded by pre-meeting refreshments at The Golden Fleece pub organised by Lymm Business Social run by

Colony Networking and Lymm Life magazine.

Cllr Gowland said "With all the negativity surrounding the car parking charges, we felt now is the time we need to work together to improve the local economy. Many traders are feeling the pinch and we need to reverse that."

"Tonight is all about asking the traders what they need and where they see this going."

Mandi Foley from The Café Boat in Lymm told the meeting: "All the traders that turned up tonight have asked for the same thing. More vibrancy, more local people, more tourists."

Philip Sexton from Sexton's

Village Bakery said: "We need to tackle the daily trade and encourage more visits to the village during the week".

Barbara Ogden from newly opened Laurel House Interiors requested some market research both specific to her business and for the village as a whole.

Karen Taylor from Jessobel Boutique said: "We need to know what our customers want and I'll also do some research with my customers to find out".

Alan Williams, chairman of the Lymm Historic Transport Day and co-developer of the Lymm Heritage Centre, said: "Lymm is brimming with heritage and we have a whole calendar of events throughout the

year. We need to be promoting this to people outside the village, which in turn will bring in trade. The Heritage Centre, which is due to open this year, will provide a focal point for residents and visitors keen to explore and learn more about Lymm's rich heritage."

It was agreed to set out to "Market Lymm" to local residents and to visitors.

Parish councillor Anna Fradgley said: "I am so excited to be part of this working group. Lymm is a great place, full of exciting, energetic people and we need to build on this to really help boost the local economy."





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HS2 at "high risk" due to historic mining

SECTIONS of the controversial HS2 rail line near Lymm will be at "high risk" of collapse because of historic mining activities.

This is claimed in a new report by HS2 Ltd, the company overseeing the project.

It identifies five former salt mining or brine extraction sites near Lymm which it classifies as "red" – the highest risk – and 14 others that are classified as "amber" – the next highest risk.

Lymm experienced a "salt rush" around 1900 after a large area of high quality brine was discovered at Heatley.

Eventually there were salt mines at Lymm, Heatley and Agden – with the last of them closing as recently as 1959.

Lymm councillor Ian Marks said: "This is frightening. The route through Cheshire has already been changed to avoid salt mines but why has it taken until now to find out about the risk in Lymm?"

"The Parish Council has just sent off its response to the HS2 consultation. We welcomed the move of the rolling stock depot from Golborne to near Crewe. This removed one of the reasons for having the link/spur to the east of Warrington. People have differing views about the merits of HS2, but most people object to this link. We think it is a waste of money and will have a detrimental effect on the environment in our village."

The new report also reveals that the current suggested line for HS2 would cross Britain's biggest active salt mine, at Winsford, where there are plans to extend its workings.

Salt mining has gone on in Cheshire for 400 years and the £56 million rail line would cross areas notorious for subsidence.

The report warns of "the potential for the rapid development of significant movement" due to the weight and vibration of trains, "with a consequent risk rating as high".

Salt mining involves hollowing out vast caves, many not far below the surface, often leading to subsidence and damage to property.

The route for the 225mph trains has already been changed once to avoid running over underground caverns that could cause a "catastrophic ground loss", the report says.

The new route will require the closure and rebuilding of the A556, as well as miles of new embankments and viaducts, adding up to £750million to the cost.

HS2 Ltd said: "Development of HS2 is a detailed process ... We are now consulting on the route through Cheshire."



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LYMM Foodbank continues vital lifeline

LYMM Foodbank is celebrating its third anniversary of providing a vital lifeline for those in desperate need in the Warrington area.

Volunteers from the Lymm Foodbank group collect donations on the first Saturday of every month at the Cross in Lymm from 10 till 12.

During the past three years the foodbank table, manned by members of Lymm Labour, has collected literally tonnes of food and other essential products for those in need.

Everything collected goes to the Warrington Foodbank warehouse, run in association with Trussell Trust,

which works with a wide range of care professionals such as doctors, health visitors, social workers and police to identify people in crisis and issue them with a foodbank voucher. Foodbank clients bring their voucher to a foodbank centre where it can be redeemed for three days' emergency food.

Trish Cockayne, local Labour branch secretary, delivers the donations to the Foodbank every month as well as being a part-time volunteer at their distribution warehouse.

Her husband David, who is also part of the Lymm team commented: "It's a sad commentary on our times

and our society that the need for such a foodbank seems to be ever growing rather than diminishing."

Su Williams, who started the monthly collection added, "What is terrific is to see the genuine concern from so many people of all age groups who show that they care by making a contribution. Some people bring surplus items from their pantry or bathroom cabinet too, while others make cash donations which we pass on to the Trust. As well as the food we donate we believe that the table continues to raise awareness of the issue and has helped spark other fundraising activities at local schools and by local musicians such as flautist Meera Maharaj and her fellow students at Royal North College of Music."

A representative of the Foodbank said: "Lymm's contribution is truly a tremendous effort and it helps maintain the Foodbank which is a lifeline to many."

Anyone who would like to be involved or donate is welcome to join the group in the village on Saturday March 4th from 10-12 or contact the local Trussell Trust direct via warrington.foodbank.org.uk

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Library's future in doubt until November

THE future of Lymm Library will not be settled before at least November.

This has emerged from a report to the borough council's executive board following the controversial consultation exercise carried out by library operator LiveWire during September and October.

New proposals have been drawn up as a result of the consultation – and the council is to now set up a working party to consider them which will report back in November.

Now the proposal is to continue discussions to develop a mixed economy within the library site in partnership with local organisations and the parish council. This has been given a cautious welcome by campaigners who are to hold a meeting at the village hall on February 27 at 7.30pm to set up a "Friends of Lymm Library" group.

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Josephine Carter carries out many home visits for clients who are housebound or have difficulty getting out.

Please contact Hill and Company Solicitors to arrange an appointment with Josephine Carter for her to visit you or to come into the office if you need any legal advice or support in dealing with your legal matters.



Exceptional year for Sandymoor



LAST year proved to be an exceptional year for Sandymoor School as their Business Students/Community Engagement groups staged a Christmas Fair with over 40 stallholders and 2000 visitors helping raise more than £1600.

Head of Business Studies and Community Engagement Miss Wilkinson was delighted with the students' achievement and all the hard work they put into making the event such a success.

Following on from the success of the Christmas Fair, the spring term will see the students producing a Fashion Show in conjunction with Cheshire-based fashion company White Ribbons, due to take place in March.

Sandymoor has also gained sponsorship from Morris Homes seeing them support the Music Department in January 2017 by donating 16 electronic keyboards and an amplifier.

Rachel MacCutchan, Sales Director at Morris said: "Sandymoor is a fantastic school in the local area and we're delighted to be partnering with them in order to sponsor the education of its pupils."

"Our Sandymoor development, The Meadows, is home to many families whose young children may one day attend the school and it's important to us to be able to contribute to the local community in this way."

New 'A Level' for dog grooming



A NEW national dog grooming qualification – equivalent to an A Level – has been developed by a Lymm-based business, working alongside the Open College Network West Midlands.

The Level Three Diploma in Dog Grooming is regulated by Ofqual and recognised in the UK's national education system.

It has been developed by Four Paws Groom School, which has three branches in Cheshire, alongside the Open College Network.

Four Paws director Fern Gresty started the business eight years ago and launched the Groom School after failing to find a dog groomer who matched her expectations.

Sarah Mackay joined her in 2015, focussing on quality assurance and developing the existing course alongside the Open College Network West Midlands.

Her success led to her becoming a partner and director at Four Paws.

Together, Fern and Sarah hope to inspire students into following their dreams to work with animals while raising industry standards.

Sarah said: "Before this there

was only one other UK qualification relating to dog grooming which required students to complete exams and a level 2 qualification first.

"We wanted to be mindful of the cost to students and so our course does not require a pre-entry qualification and may appeal to more adult learners who have been out of education for some time."

More details can be found at www.fourpawsgroomschool.co.uk or <http://www.opencollnet.org.uk/qualifications/all-qualifications/dog-grooming>.

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Expansion plans get the go-ahead

BOROUGH planning chiefs have given the go-ahead for Lymm Rugby Club's ambitious plans for the redevelopment of their ground and clubhouse in Crouchley Lane.

But they had added additional conditions to try and accommodate the concerns of local people worried about parking problems, including coach parking.

Fifteen nearby residents had objected to the proposals which include construction of a new purpose built clubhouse, multi-sports facility, four tennis courts, a 3G playing pitch, conversion of the existing clubhouse into four residential dwellings and construction of 10 new houses, together with landscaping, infrastructure and engineering works.

The objectors were mainly from people living in Manor Road and Crouchley Lane and there was also an objection from Lymm Parish Council.

The main objections related to parking issues in Crouchley Lane where, objectors claim there are existing problems which would be worsened by further residential development.

There were also concerns about late night social activities, the scale of buildings having a harmful impact on the Green Belt, loss of privacy, noise, dust, glare from floodlights, etc.

The club had more than 60 letters of support – but residents claimed these were mostly from people outside the local area.

Lymm Parish Council said it appreciated the club needs improves facilities but objected in line with its policy of opposing all building within the Green Belt.

Planning officers acknowledged that the development was inappropriate in the Green Belt – but recommended approval because of "special circumstances".

Obituary

Geoffrey Tilling

THE funeral has taken place of Geoffrey Tilling, aged 91, of Knutsford but formerly of Lymm, who died in Macclesfield District Hospital on January 12.

Mr Tilling was formerly of Tilling Gray Ltd, woodware manufacturers of Lymm and of the old Anchor Inn, in Booths Hill Road, Lymm.

The family wish to thank all relatives and friends for their kindness and sympathy and donations to the Echo Hospital and Community Health Care charity.

Funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons of Lymm.

Olive Gwenyth Taylor

THE funeral has taken place of Olive Gwenyth Taylor, age 90, of Brookfield Care Home, Lymm, a teacher for 31 years who served at seven different infant schools and was head teacher at two of them.

She lived in Lymm between the 1960s and 1980s during which time she attended St Mary's Church and was a member of the choir there. She retired in 1980 and had lived at Brookfield since 2015.

Olive was born into a farming family at Glazebury in 1926 and although she spent some of her early life at her mother's home in Shropshire, she returned to Glazebury in the 1930s. During the war she served at the Ministry of Supply depot at Risley.

But she will be best remembered for her 31 years of dedicated teaching, which began at Beament

in Warrington in 1949 and ended at Irwell Road Infants, where she was head, in 1980. Previously she had been head at Dallam Infants.

Her main passion was English folk dance and song and she was a long term member of the English Folk Dance and Song Society and a founder member and one time president of Stockton Heath Dance Club. She also ran workshops, courses and parties at venues across the North West, employing her talents as both teacher and musician. She raised thousands of pounds for charity performing at local schools and community groups and by selling second hand books.

A life-long practising Christian, she was a long-standing member of Christ Church, Padgate, rejoining in 1988 when she moved to Fearnhead, singing in the choir and choral society and assisting at the church children's group.

She loved literature and the theatre and travelled abroad, including a trip to Tennessee.

A lifelong spinster, Olive leaves a nephew, Rob and his wife, Joanna, and a great nephew and great niece, Nathan and Lucy. Her funeral was at Christ Church, Padgate, on January 12 followed by committal at Walton Lea Crematorium.

Funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons of Lymm.

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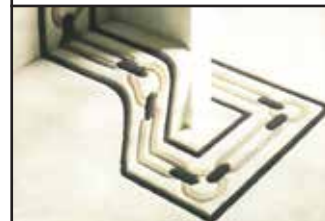
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