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Life

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Issue: 121
April 2009

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Editor's Comment

**THIS month sees the 10th anniversary of Lymm Life and it is hard to believe it was the last century when we launched!**

Looking back at issue one, a whole 121 issues ago, it is fantastic to see so many businesses and organisations who promoted themselves in our launch issue, still supporting us today. These include Rushgreen Service Station, Cross Interiors, Noel Ogden Mowers, Lymm Parish Council, Banners Estate Agents, John Burrows and Sons and Barbara Williams at Stables Saddlery, who has run her classified advert consistently in every

issue since day one!

It is no big secret that the world economy is in recession but here at **Lymm Life** we always like to try and give a positive view of life in the village, while not ignoring serious issues which need tackling.

During these tough trading times it is more important than ever for local businesses to promote themselves - and here at **Lymm Life** we help to do that, with many of our advertisers still

paying the same rates they were doing 10 years ago.

For all of you out there who supported us all those years ago and all those who have supported us since, I would like to say a big thank you.

When we launched I said **Lymm Life** intended to be a high quality publication serving the needs of the local community - and I am confident we have delivered what we set out to achieve.

But we couldn't have done it without the support of the local community, especially the very many local business people who have supported us over the years.

Left are some well wishes we have received.

"Congratulations on the first ten years - I look forward to the next ten! **Lymm Life** is a great way of keeping up to date with what's going on in the village and we can always rely on Gary's editorial to generate discussion about a topic of local interest! You help keep the Lymm community vibrant and long may **Lymm Life** continue."

Regards, Councillor Ian Marks

Congratulations on 10 years of **Lymm Life**.

Rotary Club of Lymm

Happy 10th birthday **Lymm Life**. Here's to the next 10 and keep up the good work. Congratulations and best wishes.

Sheila and Nev Woodyatt

"Happy 10th birthday **Lymm Life**. You have provided the 'communication glue' for an important community which is small enough to care but big enough to cope. Congratulations.

Steven Broomhead,
Chief Executive, NWDA

Congratulations on 10yrs of hard work.

Su Williams, Lymm Festival

"Best wishes from Lymm Tennis Club - like you, keeping all the balls in the air!"

Congratulations on your 10th anniversary - it is ours in May as well!

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Holly rows her way to gold

JUST 12 months after she started rowing a Lymm teenager has achieved success and won two gold medals.

Holly McMullen, 13, of Orchard Avenue, won gold at the British Indoor Rowing Championships in Birmingham in October in the J13 section when she rowed 776 metres in a three minute time trial.

In February she completed 800 metres in the same time to secure gold at the English Indoor Rowing

Championship at Manchester Velodrome.

Her parents Shirley and Colin and brother Harry, 9, are all proud of her success. Colin enjoys sailing and is hoping to get Harry interested in the sport.

Shirley, who used to ride, said before Easter last year Holly spent all

her time riding and looking after her horse Molly at High Legh.

But she then took up rowing, at her school, Lymm High School, and with Warrington Rowing Club. She fits in her horse riding when she can but sees her horse every day.

Shirley said: "Holly trains really hard with the rowing group and has done really well. We are all pleased with her success."

Her training includes indoor rowing on machines, circuit training and rowing with the club on the River Mersey at Kingsway.



Six of the best

THE year two team from Ravenbank Community Primary School, Lymm, won the Manchester City Primary Schools Soccer Sixes competition, beating ten other Manchester area Schools to lift the trophy.



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What's On

in Lymm
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LYMM PARISH COUNCIL



April 6, 2009

LYMM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
David Frith Roman Roads in the North West
Village Hall, Pepper Street, 8pm
Visitors £2 – including tea/coffee & biscuits
Further information from the secretary on 753309

April 14, 2009

LYMM PARISH COUNCIL
Lymm Parish Hall, 7.30pm
Members of the public welcome

LYMM LIONS GROUP

Meet: Bridgewater Club, Lymm
1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. 8pm
Contact: 0845 833 3729

LYMM THURSDAY EVENING BRIDGE CLUB
Lymm Village Hall every Thursday 7pm

MAPLE LODGE ART GROUP
Meet each Wednesday 9.30am - 12.30pm
Maple Lodge Guide HQ, Pepper St, Lymm
Details: 01925 755126

ROTARY CLUB OF LYMM

Meet every Wednesday at Statham Lodge Hotel
7.15pm for 7.45pm
Contact the secretary 01925 75575

MARKET LUNCHES

Eagle Brow Methodist Church
3rd Thursday in the month
Light lunches 12 noon till 2pm
All proceeds to Opening Doors Charity, Warrington

LYMM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB
St Mary's Church Hall
Alternate Saturdays (Sept to May) 7.30pm
Details: 753853

LYMM YC
Bridgewater Street, Monday 7 - 9.30pm
Details: 754114

LYMM BAPTIST CHURCH DROP LUNCH
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LYMM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB
St Mary's Church Hall
First and fourth Saturday (Sept to May), 7.30pm
Details 753853.

Nonprofit making community organisations who
would like to feature in the
What's On Column

should contact Lymm Life on

01925 631592

Jess plans open air rock concert

AN up-and-coming rock band is to appear at an open air concert in Lymm – to raise money for charity.

Lymm High School pupil Jess Dibben, 14, has persuaded the band Elliot Minor to perform in Lymm after meeting them in Newquay last year.

Jess is hoping the concert will be staged on the May Queen field, although this has yet to be confirmed. But it will take place on May 16 – on another field if necessary.

A support band from Lymm High, Cheap Thrills, will also appear.

Jess is being helped by her mum, Carolyn, sister Ellie, aged 10 and friends Ryan Hood, 14 and Hayley



Billington, 14. Hayley was last year's Lymm May Queen.

Jess said: "The concert is aimed at 12-18 age group, as the band are a

rock band but not heavy – no swearing etc.

"The event will be from 4-7pm rather than a night event. It will also be fully insured against damage etc. We expect between 1,000 and 2,000 people to attend.

"Once costs are covered, we intend to make a donation to New Manchester Childrens Hospital.

"I had major spinal surgery for scoliosis at one of the old hospitals – Royal Manchester Childrens Hospital in Pendlebury – two years ago and the care I received there was just fantastic. However, they were desperately short of staff, facilities such as parents accommodation, and even things like MRI scanners.

"ITU and HDU beds were also in short supply and held up surgery due to high dependency beds not being available. I therefore feel the new hospital is a really good place to donate to.

"I'm 14 now and in good health, just having to go back for check ups and x-rays.

"Lymm is a great place to live and the festival is great, but doesn't really cater for our age group. I thought it would be really cool to hold an event that was aimed at teens but would also help me to raise money for a great cause."

Elliot Minor have appeared on MTV and Radio 1 and toured with McFly last year. They are currently working on a new album.

Jess is pictured with the group's bass guitarist, Ed Hetherton, at Newquay.

Will you open your garden for charity?

ORGANISERS of the annual 'Open Gardens' day which forms part of the Lymm Festival are looking for fresh blood.

They would like local garden enthusiasts to open their gardens for an afternoon to help raise money for St Rocco's Hospice.

This will be the fifth year the event has been held and usually about 10 gardens are open. But organisers would like some new gardens to offer this year.

The Open Gardens day will be Sunday, June 28 and the gardens will be open between 12.30 and 5.30pm.

Although the main charity to benefit will be St Rocco's, garden owners can hold their own 'mini appeals' in aid of their own favourite charities if they wish, raising extra money through selling tea, coffee, cakes, etc or holding a tombola.

Over the years, the event has raised some £15,000.

Anyone interested in opening their garden is asked to call Anne Hampson on 01925 758865.

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Guides help change the world!



GUIDES from Lymm took part in a 'Change the World' project by planting trees at their local guiding campsite at Pettypool in Sandiway.

Girls from the 2nd Lymm Guides (United Reformed Church) planted more than 50 holly bushes alongside a new rabbit-proof fence.

More than 1,000 trees had been donated by the Woodland Trust to GirlGuiding UK. The trees were to add to the woodland at Pettypool by forming a holly hedge around the outer boundary, with the other varieties for use as screening and to encourage wildlife.

Left to right Yasmine Dixon, Lucy Stanhope and Catherine FitzGerald. Others helping, but not in the picture were Caitlyn Lynch, Bethan Catchpole and Jessica Saunders.

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Rotary helping to end polio

WHILE The Houses of Parliament provided a dramatic backdrop for an equally dramatic Rotary message 'End Polio Now' members of Lymm Rotary Club collected more than £300 from members of the public with a collection on Lymm Cross.

The three words 'End Polio Now' – Rotary's pledge to rid the world of this crippling childhood disease – were projected onto the exterior of the iconic landmark.

Unfortunately Lymm Rotary Club couldn't quite match projecting those three words on to the Lymm Cross but they did have a stand there and club members collected £330.

Rotary club members worldwide have contributed more than US \$800 million towards the eradication of Polio and are announcing to the world that their promise in the mid 1980's – together with the World

Health Organisation, UNICEF and the U.S. Centre for Disease and Prevention – to rid the world of the disease forever is now within reach.

There has been no Polio in the UK for many years but it is still a problem for children in the remote areas of Afghanistan, Nigeria, India and Pakistan and because of this, threatens children everywhere.

Polio is only an airplane ride away and, therefore, Rotarians, like those on The Cross, are determined to fulfil their commitment to eradicate this scourge.



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KENNEL cough – otherwise known as infectious bronchitis, is a contagious disease of the upper airway which affects dogs of all ages. The disease is caused by a mixture of viruses and bacteria which pass easily from dog to dog in boarding kennels, training classes, shows or on walks.

Dogs usually develop a harsh dry hacking cough which can often be so severe it sounds as if the dog is choking or retching. Other symptoms include

inappetence, fever and runny nose or eyes.

Untreated, kennel cough can last for 3-4 weeks and your pet will be contagious to other dogs even after the clinical signs have regressed.

The good news is that kennel cough can be prevented by a simple vaccination available at Lymm Veterinary Surgery. We generally recommend the vaccine is given 10 days before attending kennels or classes.



So don't take any chances with this condition, contact us now to ensure your dog is covered.

Lymm Veterinary Surgery would also like to wish Lymm Life a very happy 10th anniversary!



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After the marathon ...the music

AN orchestra which owes its existence to a Lymm man running the London Marathon is to give a charity concert on Saturday, March 28.

Lymm Symphonia will perform at the Hexagon Theatre at Lymm High School to raise money for the Arthritis Research Campaign.

TV presenter Jim Hancock will compere the evening.

In 2005, Lymm resident Peter Webb decided to run the London Marathon for Arthritis Research.

In 2001 he had undergone hip surgery and felt he wanted to 'give something back.'

Thousands

To help with fund raising, he and Roger Dowling decided to found the Lymm Symphonia and the orchestra has given a charity concert in the village every year since, raising thousands of pounds.

Tickets are available on-line at www.lymmsymphonia.org.uk or by calling 01925 755216 or on the door.



Peter Webb and Roger Dowling

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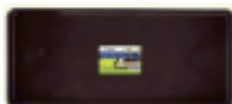
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Cotebrook House

We would like to thank 'The Venue', Lymm for the much appreciated fund-raising evening

Cotebrook wishes a Happy 10th Birthday to **Lymm Life**

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Professor's world class research

WORK by a professor from Lymm has helped the University of Salford gain national credit.

The Government's Research Assessment Exercise has rated its research in architecture and the built environment the best in the country, thanks in part to the work of Professor Peter Brandon.

The assessment, which rates every university in the UK to decide funding for the next seven years, found that 90 per cent of Salford's research in the two areas was of international standard. Twentyfive per cent was classed as world leading.

Professor Brandon, who has lived in Lymm for 20 years, has been a leader of the School of the Built

Environment as well as Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Research during his time at the university.

He is currently director of the university's ThinkLab which is exploring the way in which new information and communication technologies are changing the way we think and behave.

During the past few years Salford's research in this field has led to an agreement to revolutionise the Malaysian building sector, a game to teach children about building processes, and a plan to help countries rebuild after disasters such as a tsunami.

Allotment rents to rise

The new rents per year will be £18 at Elms Farm and Ashcroft Road, £24 at Star Lane and £30 at Sowbrook. There will be a registration fee of £15.

But allotment holders over 65 will qualify for a 50 per cent rent reduction.

The parish council agreed the increases after being told existing allotment rents in Lymm were much lower than those charged by Warrington Borough Council.

ALLOTMENT rents in Lymm are to rise from April 6 to bring them more into line with allotments in other parts of Warrington.

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Last year's duck race.

Get set for duck race

THE annual Lymm Duck Race organised by Lymm Roundtable takes place on Easter Monday April 13 with the full day event taking place in the village centre and the Dingle.

The village centre will be closed to traffic throughout the day until around 5pm.

Racing ducks will be available in the village centre from 10.30am with a £100 prize for the winning duck. Corporate ducks costing £30 are available for local businesses to sponsor while there will also be

around 15 super ducks costing £15.

Other activities on the day will be hook-a-duck, egg hunts and Easter bonnet competitions.

Tickets for ducks will be available on the Cross on the two Saturday mornings prior to the race.

To sponsor a duck or to donate a prize contact Rik Wilson on 751683.

'Affordable' homes that won't sell

PEOPLE who bought 'affordable' homes in Lymm are now finding they can't sell them.

Three people who bought new, one bedroom apartments at Heatley Mere, at 75 per cent of the open market value have been trying to sell them for a year, without success.

Now they have approached the borough council – which struck the original affordable homes deal with developers Countryside Properties – asking for help to make it easier to sell them.

Altogether there are 10 one-bed apartments and 29 three-bed houses at Heatley Mere which were sold as 'affordable homes.' The houses were sold at 50 per cent of open market value.

One owner is suggesting the lack of buyers shows there is no demand and no need to retain them as affordable homes. They have raised the matter with their MP – Helen Southworth.

To qualify for one of the properties, a prospective purchaser must work or have the offer of work in Warrington and

be unable to afford to buy a house on the open market.

But high house values in Lymm mean the council cannot nominate people from its list of potential buyers because they cannot obtain mortgages and, in any event, there are cheaper houses elsewhere in the borough.

Elsewhere, owners of affordable homes are allowed to sell them without the restrictions if no qualifying buyers come forward within a prescribed time limit, but this does not apply at Lymm.

Councillors are being asked to widen the eligibility criteria so that it covers people in housing need who live, work or have family connections with Warrington but cannot afford to buy or rent on the open market and to allow the owners to sell the properties on the open market after three months of trying to sell them as affordable homes.

But the council will claw back any profit above the 'affordable' price.

First anniversary celebrations

THE new owner of Xross Interiors in Lymm Village Centre Gill Hertzog is celebrating her first anniversary of taking over the business.

Gill has given the business a makeover and now sells gift ware for the home in a special show room downstairs.

She is now also exclusively stocking Sophie Conran by Arthouse wallpaper with Jane Churchill and other new big name designs following later in the year.

Gill said: "I would like to thank all my customers and local traders for making my first year in the village so special."

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Yellow lines 'may be illegal'

A REVIEW is to be carried out of the yellow lines on Lymm's streets to decide if any action is needed following claims that they are illegal and that motorists could be entitled to have parking fines reimbursed.

Village traders are urging the borough council to withdraw traffic wardens - who have caused considerable ill-feeling recently - until

the matter has been resolved.

Traders claim the yellow lines in the village centre - and particularly in Eagle Brow and Bridgewater Street -

are illegal because they are not the correct width, should be terminated by a "T" and should be accompanied by a plate showing the times waiting restrictions apply.

In an alleged incident, a local magistrate is said to have stopped a traffic warden from booking him by pointing out the discrepancies.

Karen Kellett, network management manager at the borough council said: "Statutory guidance has always permitted the use of thinner yellow lines in

environmentally sensitive areas.

"This same guidance has also recently removed the need for the time plates associated with double yellow lines and we are currently phasing out such time plates throughout the borough.

"A review of the lines in Lymm village will soon be carried out to determine whether or not any action should be taken to resolve any alleged discrepancies."

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Exam success

As part of their continuing investment in training and development for all their staff, Lymm based Dental Solutions are delighted to congratulate Heather Hutchinson and Danielle Cornelia on their recent exam successes.

Heather has recently passed her Intensive Radiology exams at Salford University as a result of 6 months hard study on legislation, regulation and patient care together with much practical case study experience. She is now fully qualified to take any type of dental x-ray at the Practice.

Danielle has now also completed her NVQ Level 3 in Dental Nursing. This has been the result of a year-long course which covers all aspects of the latest developments in dental and patient care including sterilisation procedures.



All smiles for Danielle Cornelia (pictured left) and Heather Hutchinson on hearing the news.

Commented Gavin Laidlaw: "I'm delighted for Heather and Danielle, who have spent many hours burning the midnight oil to achieve these results. "Continuing to learn and develop is engrained in our team ethos, and their knowledge and qualifications will keep our team up to date with the latest developments in Nursing and Radiography."

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Tights for Africa Appeal

WHEN Su Williams read about the work being done at the Fistula hospital in Ethiopia she realised that she and other women in Lymm could help.

The hospital cares for women who have had very bad experiences in childbirth and subsequently have to wear incontinence pads for a long time after the birth of their child.

It is very sad that due to the long labour many of the women endure, they may not give birth to a live child.

The Fistula hospital looks after these women and has put out an appeal for old tights as these can be used to support the pads.

In February Dorothy Evans and Ling Lee, both from Lymm visited the Fistula Hospital and met many of the teenage mums and with their experience in urology and general practice, were able to gain a real insight into the special care that these women need.

The tights play a very useful role in maintaining good hygiene and

enable them to socialise normally, as prior to their contact with the hospital they had been treated as social outcasts.

The tights just need to be clean. The condition of the leg part does not matter as the legs are cut off and woven into rugs or used to stuff cushions made by the women. These are also then sold to raise funds for the hospital.

Local printers Twentyfourseven have generously printed labels (in the background of the photo) and these will be stuck on bags that will be placed around the village.

All schools are involved in the scheme together with local pubs and churches.

Su said: "Wherever you see one of the bags, this is the place to put your old tights instead of in the bin!"

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Advertiser's announcement

New base for clinic

THE Stockton Heath and Lymm Physiotherapy and Sports Injury Clinics have relocated to a new based in Dundonald Road, Stockton Heath after previously being located in two different locations.

Sheila Nesbitt, Chartered Physiotherapist who owns the practice said: "I had two practices, one in Stockton Heath and one in Grammar School Road, Lymm, but it made sense to put both under one roof and we are really pleased with our new premises and location."

"We have five Chartered Physiotherapists including myself, with Kay Fisher, who has a Masters degree in Sports Injury, Claire O'Neill and Canisius Dzapsi. We specialise in musculoskeletal conditions, like lower back pain and/or sciatica, shoulder, knee and foot problems, headaches, neck pain and whiplash along with sports injuries including muscle tears, ligament damage and tendon

conditions."

Various treatments include joint mobilisations, manipulation and massage, fitness testing, strengthening and stretching exercises along with postural control, core stability, balance and functional exercise programmes and advice on self care, ergonomics and prevention.

The fifth member of the team is Fiona Kellett a Chartered Physiotherapist in Respiratory Care who treats conditions including asthma, bronchiectasis, hyperventilation and panic attacks.

The practice is fully equipped with the latest electrotherapy machines.

For more information or to book an appointment call Sheila Nesbitt on 07745 870 442.

Advertiser's announcement

When the going gets tough, the tough go shopping

FOOTWEAR appears to be top of the list for retail therapy! What better way to cheer yourself up without breaking the bank, especially as this spring colours are brighter and styles are sassier.

Arches still have the classic favourites and wider fittings, too. They have built on the success of regular brands and added Holster jellies and sandals from Australia which are already causing a stir.

The Bourne collection wowed customers last season and the new range is just as stunning. You can finish off your outfit with a fascinator, and for extra chic wear Glamorous Bra Straps with party and summer wear. Unusual accessories and jewellery complete the look. A new range of bags by Bulaggi, Gigi & Bolla Bags provide fashionable, classic and casual styles. For little ones Ricosta shoes are 33% off, and the brand new range from Lelli Kelly. As an added ray of sunshine try the bargain corner with up to 50% off ladies footwear.

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Back row from left, Megan Yates, Devon Richardson, Vicky Toogood, Hannah Murray and Katie Ashcroft.
Front row from left, Megan Ashcroft, Rachel Boardman, Kiera Rowe and Rowena Buckley.

Champions of Cheshire

LYMM High School's Year 10 netball team are champions of Cheshire.

They earned the title when they won the U15 county tournament following a nail-biting finish in the final against Wilmslow High.

It was a particularly significant victory because Wilmslow had beaten them in an earlier stage of the competition.

Lymm won three out of four matches in the Round Robin stage of the contest, losing only to Wilmslow

who beat them 8-13.

In the semi-final they defeated Bishop Heber High 9-6.

This set them up for a tense final against Wilmslow which ended 8-7 in Lymm's favour, with Rowena Buckley scoring the winning goal with only four seconds remaining.

It was the first time Lymm have become county netball champions at any age group below U19.

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Local dentist is real m



MARATHON man John Moorhouse certainly likes tackling extreme challenges.

Having previously conquered the North Pole the Lymm dentist recently returned from an expedition to the South Pole where temperatures dropped to minus 49.

Considering last year he completed the Marathon Des Sables

covering 150 miles across desert terrain in heat of 51 degrees, it was "a bit chilly" crossing Antarctica, where he bumped into TV presenter Ben Fogle and Olympic rower James Cracknell, who were taking part in a similar challenge.

While the extreme low temperatures were pretty challenging they didn't compare with the "no frills" Russian flight. "The plane was just a shell with some seats and our luggage. It was a real bone shaker!" said John who runs the Eagle Brow implant centre in the village.

Not content with that on his return he jumped off the plane and took part in an 80 mile "Ultra Marathon" in London, covering 40 miles a day over two days and now he is already planning his next adventure to cycle the Iberian Peninsula across Portugal and Spain as well as competing in the "Spartathlon", running from Athens to Sparta.

He also has plans to tackle one of the "Seven Summits" the Carstenz Pyramid in Indonesia in November, followed by the Lands End to John O'Groats two week run next April, covering 50 miles a day.

But his most intrepid trip was probably to the Amazon jungle last October, when he had to carry all his own food and belongings through sweltering heat while out running Jaguars and other wild animals.

"That was probably the most scary adventure of them all," said John.

Beware of rogue traders

ROGUE traders may try to take advantage of confusion arising from changes affecting work carried out under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Act.

The Health and Safety Executive has appointed a new company, Capita, to ensure gas engineers are competent to carry out the work, replacing Corgi, who have operated the scheme for some years.

Capita will use the brand 'Gas Safe Register' to identify those engineers who are working within the Act.

Steve McAsey of SMC Heating and Plumbing, of High Legh commented: "Clearly, there is going to be a period of adjustment, where householders will need to become familiar with the change. Capita have launched a publicity campaign and many people may have already seen some material.

"But there is some concern within the industry that there may be some confusion, and that 'rogue traders' may take advantage of people's ignorance. Corgi will still exist, but anyone carrying out gas work must be able to show they are on the 'Gas Safe Register'.

"I made sure I was registered on the new 'Gas Safe Register' earlier in the year and will be able to prove compliance. If an engineer can't show their 'Gas Safe Register' card, householders should assume they are not competent to do the work.

"Unfortunately, the credit crunch is likely to make gas safety less of an issue for some. I hope these changes give a new focus on the safety of a utility many of us take for granted."

Further information can be obtained from the website www.gassaferegister.co.uk or call 0800 408 5500



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Marathon man!



"Running through the Amazon carrying all year own food and equipment while dodging wild animals that could kill you was pretty scary."

John can not really explain his passion for adventure but believes looking inside peoples' mouths during his working day may play some part.

But he certainly enjoys extremes as Antarctica is probably the driest coldest place on the planet while the Amazon is one of the hottest and wettest.

Pictures show John Moorhouse on his various adventures



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Helen is in her 'special' place

AN artist who spent her childhood wishing for rain so that she could stay indoors and paint, is planning an exhibition in Lymm.

Helen Parsley, who has worked as a professional artist for more than 20 years, and sees Lymm as a 'special place' because of the number of village scenes she has been inspired

to paint.

She also illustrates books and has worked for the BBC on 'Last of the Summer Wine'.

She trained in illustration at Manchester University and soon earned a reputation for her work. She paints landscapes and cityscapes, including Paris and Venice, and is making her mark in the world of fine art.

Helen has held more than 70 exhibitions including Alexandra Palace, London and Urbis and G-Mex in Manchester. Her work will be on show at Lymm Parish Hall on Saturday March 28 from 10am to 5pm.

Sheffield-born Helen wanted to be an artist from childhood and used every spare minute to draw and paint. Now her childhood ambition has been realised.

She said: "For years I've had art directors telling me what to paint . . . now I can paint exactly what I want!"

Helen works mainly in acrylic paints onto canvas, using vibrant colours to their full potential. She gains her inspiration from people such as American artist Norman Rockwell and the French impressionists.

She said: "I feel so fortunate to be able to earn a living doing exactly what I love to do."



ART Exhibition

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Mark celebrates England call up

LYMM High School student Mark Jennings is celebrating after being selected to play for the under 16 England Rugby Squad.

Mark is pictured limbering up for the occasion.

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Dismount strategies for dead horses part 2

Do you remember the North American Dakota Indians and their 'dead horses' from last month? Just how do you recognise a 'dead horse' and know when to dismount it?

Perhaps by asking yourself the following questions, you will discover areas of your business that need 'dismounting'?

- **Processes** – are your internal and external processes so inefficient or restrictive that you make it difficult for your staff to provide effective customer service?
- **Products** – are you relying on under-performing products or services that may have come to the end of their natural life cycle?
- **Prices** – are you relying on pricing and discounting alone as your main point of competitiveness and differentiation, rather than building value for the customer by other means?
- **Policies** – are your staff disempowered because your internal policies do not allow the authority and responsibility to resolve customer issues immediately?
- **Personnel** – do you have underperforming staff who you don't 'get it' and cause you ongoing frustration?
- **Plans** – do you develop business plans without spending time to develop strategies specifically related to ongoing innovation?

• **Promotions** – do you restrict your marketing effort to advertising and promotions without having a measurable return for your investment?

• **Positioning** – have market circumstances and / or your service offering changed over time to render your current positioning strategy (how you want to be perceived by your customers) obsolete?

• **Problems** – Are there issues having a negative impact on your business but you have too much on your plate that you don't have time to address them?

• **Potential** – Can you see the potential for improvement, but you are too busy working in the business to take time out to work on the business?

If the answer is YES to one or more of these questions then you may have a 'dead horse' on your hands and you may well be in need of a rethink as to your means of achieving future success - essential in today's current climate.

If you missed part one of this article or would like more information on how we can help you to assess your business strategies, please call Les Styles or Ian Lloyd on 01925 761600.

Please note that these ideas are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action.

**The Styles Files are provided by Styles & Co
473 Warrington Road, Culcheth, Warrington WA3 5QU**

**For further details please telephone 01925 761600
or visit our website at www.stylesandco.co.uk**



If you would like more information on this or any of the previous subjects we have featured, please contact Les Styles or Ian Lloyd on 01925 761600.

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Left to right: Max Walker, Jamie Plumb and Ben Sherlock win their Cheshire County rugby caps against Lancashire.

Hat-trick of county caps for Lymm

LYMM Rugby Club continued a long tradition by having three players selected to play for Cheshire Under 15's against a strong Lancashire team at Liverpool St Helens Rugby Club.

Max Walker, Jamie Plumb and Ben Sherlock all had excellent games against really tough opposition with Lancashire eventually coming out on top, 12 - 5 in an exciting, end-to-end encounter.

This follows Cheshire's comprehensive 29-5 win against Staffordshire in February with April fixtures lined up against North Wales and Yorkshire.

This is testament to their outstanding ability and all the great coaching they receive from the club, at school and at county level.



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You qualify for Individual Membership if you belong to specific employment groups – please call for details of qualifying categories. You need to provide relevant ID, such as your payslip, ID card or professional qualification, plus a current utility bill (electricity, gas, water) from your home address. The annual Individual Membership fee is £25 plus VAT which includes a free spouse card.

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The emphasis in the restaurant is on locally sourced, home cooked British food and there is a wide choice of dishes. We started with pressed terrine of chicken and baby leek and truffle mayonnaise but only after being sorely tempted by other delicious sounding starters including wild mushroom and cheese tart, deep fried brie wedges with red currant jelly and pan fried sardines with tomato chutney. And of course there was a home made soup of the day.

When it came to the main course we were similarly torn and went our separate ways.

This enables us to report that both the grilled lemon sole with courgette gratin and sautéed potatoes and the free range chicken breast with wild mushroom and potato cake, roast leeks and mushroom sauce were beautifully cooked and presented.

The menu offered many other choices, including sirloin steak, with chips and mixed leaf salad, salmon fillet poached in white wine, lemon and thyme with crushed potatoes and vegetables and pork chop with mashed potato, black pudding, braised cabbage and a whole grain mustard sauce.

The meal was complemented by a good choice of wines and, for those with hearty appetites, there was a good range of desserts. Service was excellent from a friendly and helpful staff and the evening was one to remember.









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Cats start with derby Clash

THE new Lymm based Cheshire Cats under 12s will start their inaugural Summer campaign in the Kukri Midlands Rugby League with a county clash against near neighbours Chester Gladiators on May 10.

The 10 strong division – which includes Birmingham, North Derbyshire, Northampton, Nottingham and Redditch – will also see the Cats face Telford, Coventry and Derby and will culminate in the Grand Final on August 16.

David Butler – the Midlands Regional Development Manager for the RFL – is delighted with developments and is very positive that the new season will be a great success.

He said: "The Midlands is very much a development area of Rugby League and all of the clubs in the region recognise the need to support new clubs joining the Rugby League family."

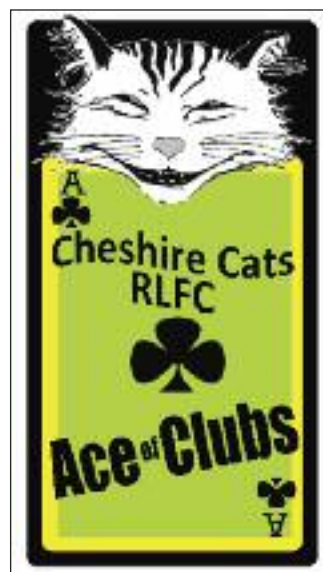
"Cheshire Cats (and indeed Chester Gladiators) are very welcome additions to the Under 12s Kukri

Midlands Rugby League, I am sure that they will make a very positive contribution to the competition.

"The ethos of the Kukri Midlands Rugby League is very much about getting games played and introducing young people to the sport of Rugby League and in my opinion, if every club in the league succeeds in making Rugby League a positive experience for these young people, then every club in the competition can consider themselves to be a champion."

Training will commence at Crouchley Lane, Lymm on Wednesday April 8 at 6.30pm.

For further information contact Chairman Neil Waters 07980 136 869 neil.waters@cheshirecatsrl.co.uk or visit the club website www.cheshirecatsrl.co.uk



Statue seeking a home

A PERMANENT home is being sought for a statue presented to Lymm on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the twinning arrangement with the French town of Meung-sur-Loire.

The statue is of the famous French poet, Jean le Meung (1240-1305) who was born in Meung.

One possibility is that the statue could be displayed in a special cabinet to be provided in the village hall.

A party of visitors from Meung will visit Lymm in May - the 41st year of the association with the French town.

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Hockey girls' success



LYMM High School has reached the last 16 in the country in the school's Under 16 girls' hockey competition.

The team is pictured, left to right. Back row: Tess Dorman, Megan Ashcroft, Hannah Jones and Alison Bailey. Front row: Phoebe Hanull, Rosie Froggart, Rosie Doyle, Nicky Jones and Jenny Mogeys.

Readers' Letter

Please send your correspondence to:
Lymm Life, New Media Centre, Old Road, Warrington WA4 1AT
or email: info@lymmlife.co.uk

A warning to dog walkers

Marion Burke, Lymm

AT the end of October, my husband took Emma, our spaniel dog, for a walk. He heard yelping in the distance and met a man with a German Shepherd dog, tightly on the lead, who asked if my husband was looking for a spaniel, saying he thought they had disturbed her. He then walked off quickly.

Later, while towelling Emma down, my husband found blood and, after closer inspection found three nasty bite marks.

Subsequently the vet stitched her wounds under anaesthetic, advising us that the other dog had nearly severed the muscle on one of her back legs.

When I later took Emma to be groomed I was amazed to find this was not the first time this had happened with a German Shepherd dog at Lymm Dam. We spent £200 veterinary fees and would like the owner to contact us with regard to repayment.

Obituaries

Brian Edward Smith



THE funeral has taken place of Brian Edward Smith, aged 56, of Yew Cottage, Pheasant Walk, High Legh who died in Warrington Hospital on February 6.

Brian was interested in cars, especially kit cars. He also enjoyed watching Rugby league and holidaying in Cornwall.

He leaves a widow, Lynn, mother and father and sisters Jackie and Kim. The funeral service was at St John's

Church, High Legh, followed by cremation at Dunham Massey.

Funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons of Lymm.

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