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Life

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August 2009

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New uniform update

Page 3

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WELL the Lymm High School uniform article last month certainly generated plenty of feedback – probably more than any single issue since *Lymm Life* was launched 10 years ago!

It is clear there are those for and against the introduction of a new uniform – and now that the school has decided to phase the new uniforms in over the next three years it is hopefully an area of compromise and now everyone can move forward and concentrate on the important issues at stake – the education of our young people.

For those youngsters who orchestrated the anti-new uniform campaign congratulations on the way you got your message across and to ensure a balanced view we have reported the view of the Head Teacher and school governors this month, giving equal prominence.

To the few of you who accused me of unbalanced reporting you clearly didn't read my Editor's Comment properly – and any way hopefully the channels of communication between the school and the local media is now working loud and clear.

Meanwhile the next hot topic is the new pay and display facility on the Pepper Street car park, which already appears to have improved the situation for shoppers visiting the village centre.

This month we have teamed up with the local Traders Association to help promote the new facility, which allows free parking for up to two hours – but don't forget you still need to get a ticket from the machine or you will end up

with a parking ticket!

To help market the free parking facility *Lymm Life* is being delivered door to door in outlying areas and on new housing estates – so if this is your first experience of the magazine we hope you enjoy it.

Feedback positive or negative is welcome and you can email me directly at [garys@warrington-](mailto:garys@warrington-worldwide.co.uk)

worldwide.co.uk

If you want to ensure you pick up next month's edition it is available from most village shops, local newsagents, High Legh Garden Centre, Lymm Leisure Centre and Rushgreen Service Station to name but a few.

So make sure you support your local businesses and you get a free magazine as part of the bargain!

Open garden

MORE than £492 was raised by an Open Garden Evening organised by Cancer Research UK Lymm Committee.

Members and guests enjoyed visiting the garden of Janet Bashforth, of Lymm, during a warm evening. She was thanked for the event by the committee.

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New uniforms to be phased in

CONTROVERSIAL new school uniforms are to be phased in at Lymm High School over the next three years.

Despite threats by some pupils and parents to boycott new uniforms head teacher Angela Walsh (pictured right) and the school governors are pressing ahead with the proposals, starting with new Year 7s this September. Following a poll of the 2,000 pupils at the school, of which 1,151 voted, the vast majority (911) voted in favour of a black blazer and tartan skirt.

The decision to introduce the new uniforms sparked much debate, with many parents and pupils opposed to any changes – claiming lack of consultation and poor timing in the middle of a recession.

Dozens of comments were left on the *Lymm Life* website.

Explaining the decision to introduce new uniforms Miss Walsh said: "There have been many concerns about the standard and presentation of our uniform for many years. As a school we have decided to do something about it. At the same time this also gives us an opportunity to review our public identity to ensure that it reflects our position as a successful school."

In a joint statement, chairman of governors David Jones and Miss Walsh said the topic of

school uniform had been discussed for several years.

On taking up her post last September, Miss Walsh was asked to review uniform as one of the concerns that governors felt needed action. A questionnaire was sent to all parents and carers asking them what areas of the school they felt were of concern; the vast majority mentioned uniform as an area that needed reviewing.

The five Heads of Hall responsible for the implementation of school uniform policy were united in their views that there was too much choice allowed to pupils.

Consultation regarding uniform had been ongoing in various forms for at least seven years. On starting a full review last September a variety of solutions were sought and research was carried out into sourcing a bespoke skirt to go with the current blazer. From this research it became clear that an ideal solution would need to be designed from scratch.

Once a detailed proposal had been identified the full process of consultation began with opinions sought via letter, a meeting for parents and a blog site.

The new school uniform will be phased in over three years. The new Year 7s will be the first to wear the uniform this September, with all other pupils retaining the current one. During the next academic year, Year 11 will be involved in designing a Sixth Form uniform to be brought in for Year 12 in September 2010. In



September 2010 Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will all wear the new uniform and in September 2011 all students will be wearing the same. This phasing process will ensure that replacement costs are kept as low as possible and allow current students to get a reasonable amount of wear from their uniforms.

The new uniform will be a black and red blazer with black and white skirt. Alongside this change the school is also reviewing, at the request of parents, school policy on jewellery, make up and shoes.

Rachel Frith, one of the pupils who helped organise a protest petition featured in last month's *Lymm Life* said: "I'm pleased to hear about the transition period. It's a shame it has taken so long for our views to have been taken into consideration. Perhaps now we can focus on the more positive aspects of the change and how it is going to help improve the school. I'm glad that Lymm High School has lived up to its old motto of 'working together to achieve success'.



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What's On

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1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. 8pm
Contact: 0845 833 5729

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 755757

LOVING HANDS
Knitting for charity at Lymm Methodist Church,
2nd and 4th Thursday each month.
1.30pm - 3pm. Details: 01925 823614.

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Details: 753853

LYMM YC
Bridgewater Street, Monday 7 - 9.30pm
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What's On Column
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Former council chairman to run for the blind

A FORMER chairman of Lymm Parish Council is to run in three races to raise money for charities supporting blind and partially sighted people.

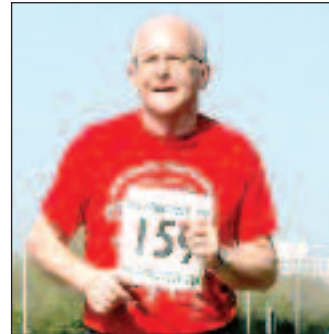
John Bamforth will run in the Birchwood 10K in August, the Warrington Half Marathon in October and the London Marathon next April.

The first two are to raise monies for the Warrington Society for the Blind, based in Museum Street, which is trying to raise enough to move to new and improved premises.

Money raised through sponsorship from the London Marathon will go to the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

Mr Bamforth said: "My mother became severely visually impaired very shortly after my father died, three years ago.

"The RNIB and the local team in Warrington have done a great job for her, providing companionship, visual



aids, social events and much more. She looks forward to her weekly visits to Museum Street to meet up with her friends, have a nice lunch, get entertainment and be driven home by one of the volunteers.

"My mother is coming up to 90 next birthday and I will be 60, so we thought this was a great way to celebrate these milestones in our lives."

Mr Bamforth's wife, Margaret, will do the Birchwood 10K with him, one of his sons, Joseph, will run the Warrington half marathon with him and his nephew Peter is coming over from San Francisco to run the London Marathon with him.

Mr Bamforth added: "I am hoping to raise over £2000 through sponsorship."

In addition to his work for the parish council, Mr Bamforth was chairman of 4th Lymm Scout Group, vice-chairman of Cherry Tree Primary Schools and organiser of the junior and youth sections at Lymm Oughtrington Park Cricket Club where he is still a vice president.

Donations to RNIB for the marathon can be made at www.justgiving.com/John-Bamforth and anyone wanting to support the Warrington Centre for the Blind can contact Mr Bamforth on 07795 831044 or johnbamforth@btinternet.com



Liam signs up for soccer

A LYMM teenager has achieved his dream by being signed by a professional football club.

Liam Shipton, 16, of Oughtrington Crescent, has a two year contract with Blue Square Conference side Wrexham. As part of the deal he will study for one and a half days a week at a college in Mold for a BTEC in Sport.

Liam, a former pupil of Lymm High School, previously played for the school and for Woolston Rovers.

His dad Dave, who teaches karate at the school, said: "It is fantastic news that he has been signed."

"We have been trailing round to the football academies, Liverpool, Everton, United etc, since he was seven. All his hard work has paid off and we are all pleased for him."

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High School leavers having a ball

LYMM High School year 11 leavers dressed to impress when they held a special Prom night ball at Warrington's Hailliwell Jones Stadium.

Many arrived in Stretch limos to celebrate at the end of year event. Youngsters are pictured arriving for the event.

Tony's in charge again

LOCAL Farmer Tony Cookson has been installed as the new President of the Rotary Club of Lymm.

It is the second time he has had the honour bestowed upon him.

Tony Cookson receiving his chain of office from retiring President Mike Wood.



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Weight loss in cats

You can hardly pick up a newspaper these days without reading a report about how pets are becoming fatter and fatter- but what about pets who are losing weight? This month we'll be concentrating on the possible causes of weight loss in the cat.

There are a multitude of factors that can contribute to weight loss in the older cat. By far the commonest is that the animal has a worm burden and they are simply not able to take in enough food to satisfy both the needs of the worms and the cat; therefore weight loss ensues.

Another common cause in the older cat is also an overactive thyroid gland. This causes the cat's metabolic rate to skyrocket and even though your puss is eating

enthusiastically, they just can't put weight on. An overactive thyroid can also be accompanied by the cat looking hyper-excitable and having a dull coat.

Diabetes can also cause weight loss, as too can kidney failure, both of which are accompanied by an increase in thirst and the need to urinate more frequently. Other conditions causing weight loss include liver failure and digestive upsets.

If you notice that your cat has any of the signs or symptoms mentioned above, pop them along to Lymm Veterinary Surgery and we'll do our best to get to the bottom of the problem and treat it appropriately.



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Hospice awarded Rotary Fellowship



LYMM Rotary Club has awarded the prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship to St Rocco's Hospice.

Members and friends of the Rotary Club of Lymm and volunteers from St Rocco's Hospice enjoyed a buffet supper together to mark the special occasion.

The evening was held at the charity's newly opened day care centre in Lockton Lane, Warrington.

St Rocco's staff gave a talk on the planning, development and running of the new centre, followed by a tour of the building and facilities available for day patients.

After the tour, Rotary Club president Mike Wood presented John Szostek,

director of St Rocco's, with the Paul Harris Fellowship award in recognition of the support the hospice provides to the local community.

Mr Wood said: "One of the highest aims of Rotary International is of excellence and St Rocco's has demonstrated this excellence in their dedication, support and care of both patients and families alike, and they have now extended this to providing superb facilities for day care patients."

The Paul Harris Fellowship is presented in honour of the former Rotarian to deserving organisations and people.

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Rotary concert success

MORE than 100 members, family and friends of Lymm Rotary Club travelled to Manchester for a charity concert organised by the club.

Organisers said the concert, held at Bridgewater Hall, was "an enormous success." More than 800 people were entertained by both professional artists and the best young musicians from the region.

It started international tenor Martin Toal, who was joined by violinist Craig Owen and soprano Claire Ronan. They were supported by the Rochdale Schools Concert Orchestra, the Altrincham Grammar School Swing Band, the Bowdon Preparatory School Choir and the June Rendell Academy of Dance.

During the interval guests were entertained by Lymm High School – providing a string ensemble and a brass band. Donations will go to The Christie Hospital, The North West Air Ambulance and Rotary Foundation,

Slimline Sara is here to help

SARA Lord will walk down the aisle as a beautiful, slim bride at the end of August – after losing more than three stone in weight.

Mother of two Sara is taking over the Lymm Slimming World group – after completing her training as a consultant.

She can't wait for her wedding – but she also can't wait to start passing on the secrets of how to lose weight to members of the group which meets at Lymm Village Hall on Tuesdays at 4.30 and 6pm.

Sara put on 4 stone 10 lb when she had her first baby – and only lost one stone after the birth.

She was devastated because as a teenager she had always been able to eat and drink whatever she wanted and stay at an ideal 8 stone 7 lbs.

She hid herself away for months – but then joined Slimming World and nine months later was back to her normal weight.

Two years ago she had her second baby but this time, with the guidance

of Slimming World, did not put on any weight at all.

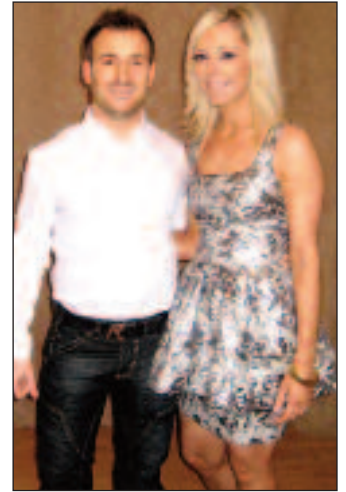
She has maintained her ideal weight for four years now.

"Healthy eating has changed my life," she said.

Sara loves helping others to follow her example and lose weight without going hungry.

She said: "I wouldn't have had the confidence to buy the wedding dress I have chosen had I not lost that weight."

Anyone who wants to consult Sara can call her on 07973 943 168.



Cream tea fun

COTEBOOK House organised a highly successful summer cream tea fundraiser for residents and visitors.

Pictured enjoying one of the cream teas are resident Norma Jackson who has been at the home for more than 40 years and senior care officer Joyce Hopkins.

The event was blessed with glorious sunshine and attracted a large number of visitors.



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Freemasons welcome new leader

CHESHIRE Freemason's welcomed their new Provincial Grand Master at the Investiture Ceremony at the Floral Pavilion, New Brighton.

The new leader of 7,500 Cheshire Masons is 53-year-old Lymm optician Steven Adcott.

He succeeds Timothy Raymond Roper Richards owner of Gawsworth Hall near Macclesfield who held the

office for just under 13 Years.

Steven will build on the sterling work of his predecessor and as Masonry enters an era of change, will develop a culture of openness and transparency in everything the

Masons do.

Steven has used his professional skills to help disadvantaged people through the international charity 'Vision Aid Overseas' by bringing eye care to the remote areas of the World, especially Africa. Over the past five years he has treated people in Malawi, Ghana and Ethiopia.

The new leader is a keen sportsman, with a lifelong love of cricket and played lacrosse for Lancashire as a schoolboy. He enjoys playing golf and has a respectable handicap.

For further Information on Cheshire Freemasons contact: info.officer@cheshiremasons.co.uk enquiries@cheshiremasons.co.uk http://www.cheshiremasons.co.uk or call 0161 980 6090.



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New ladies circle

A NEW women's group forming in Lymm promises activities ranging from fundraising and socialising to skiing and canoeing.

Lesley Campbell is setting up a new Ladies Circle group in Lymm and is looking for members to join.

She said: "Ladies Circle is for women aged between 18 and 45 years who want to have fun, socialise, make new friends and do some fundraising!"

"Circles get up to all sorts of activities including wine tasting, BBQs, canoeing, bowling, Chill Factor (skiing), the races, Go Ape, theatre trips and nights out. As well as all this, they also have fun raising money for local charities and community groups."

Anyone interested in finding out more can email join@lymmladiescircle.co.uk or visit the new website at www.lymmladiescircle.co.uk

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A summer of fun in Lymm

IT'S going to be a fun summer for thousands of youngsters in Lymm and throughout Warrington.

Warrington Borough Council's Summer Fun initiative, which will run throughout the school holidays in July and August, will provide a whole host of entertaining and challenging activities for children and young people from the ages of 0 to 20.

With something to suit every taste and interest, ranging from outdoor activities and arts and crafts to playschemes, sports and lots of fun workshops, the children and young people of Warrington are assured of an action-packed summer break.

Free swimming will continue throughout the holidays at Select leisure centres, and why not try an evening bat walk at Lymm Dam. There will be a wide variety of activities throughout Warrington to keep everyone busy over the summer.

Highlights include a range of activities at Lymm Leisure Centre, such as Kids Clubs and gymnastics coaching or children can take part in the Quest Seekers challenge at Lymm Library.

There's also chance to train with Warrington Wolves and opportunities to try street dancing and cheerleading.

For the more community minded you can sign up for a volunteering course, first aid or coaching. The Museum and Art Gallery also features in the exciting creative programme

and youngsters can try their hand at kite building or creating their very own creepy crawl! And there is so much more.

Councillor Sheila Woodyatt Executive member for Children's Services said: "Summer holidays can be quite stressful for parents and leave young people with time on their hands. We are delighted to be launching a programme of educational, stimulating and entertaining activity to keep everyone happy over the summer months."

Full information on the Summer Fun programme, with times and venues will be published in the Summer Fun Brochure available from July at your local library, visit www.warrington.gov.uk/summerfun or call 01925 443131.




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Festival hailed great success



Sarah Sexton feeds Peter Powell at the Food Fest

THE 10th annual Lymm Festival has been hailed a great success by organisers.

Appropriately for the 10th Anniversary of the Lymm Festival, the sun shone for most of the week, enhancing the special atmosphere that seems to settle over the community and allowing all the outdoor activities to go on unhindered by rain.

The Street Fun and Food Fest started the 10-day programme, and the area in the centre of the village was packed with all ages, enjoying the food on offer from local traders, and the entertainment provided by the Lymm Samba Band, Ringheye and Earl of Stamford Morris Dancers and Artizani street theatre.

There were gasps of amazement as the Big Picture, painted in panels by a whole team of individuals, was unveiled revealing a copy of the bizarre portrait of The Emperor Rudolf 2nd of Sweden created out of fruit and vegetables!

The excellent start for the Festival was carried through the rest of the week with the majority of the 55 plus events being well attended by enthusiastic audiences. Several events were sold out, or near to capacity and the mixture of music, visual art, spoken word, comedy, dance, environmental and heritage events gave a broad choice for all tastes.

The Art in the Garden exhibition, opened by **Lymm Life** Editor Gary Skentelbery, attracted more visitors than ever, who wandered in the sunshine around the canal-side venue, admiring the art works produced by individuals, both professional and amateur, and also the many pieces which were the result of workshops and groups. The Tin Man was a star exhibit, having been made by Brownies from High Legh in a workshop led by Venture Arts from Manchester. After a stroll around most visitors then indulged in some delicious cakes and drinks provided by a team of volunteers from various charities.

As always, many of the events during the Festival raised money for various charities, including St Rocco's (the Open Gardens), SOS Children's Villages (The local history walks), Jessie's Fund (Young Music Makers) and several charities will benefit from



Lymm Life Editor Gary Skentelbery and Art in the Garden organiser Su Williams with the Tin Man.

donations from the entrance fees for Art in the Garden. Local scout troops, the Air Training Corps and St John's Ambulance will also benefit from donations as acknowledgement of their vital roles during the Festival.

The Festival were particularly proud of the specially commissioned piece of music for the Lymm High School brass band, and it was given a wonderfully lively world premiere in the presence of the composer Lucy Pankhurst at the school's summer concert, held for the first time during the festival. Lucy was most impressed by the standard of playing. "It is great to see such a large and enthusiastic group of brass players at a school, and their playing of 'Festival Special' was excellent!"

"A rough statistical calculation made before the formal figures are known shows that during the 10-day period of the Festival there were around 9000 attendances at, or participators in events," said Honor Giles, the Festival Director, "and as Lymm has a population of between 10 and 11 thousand people, that is a statistic to be very proud of! Because of the recession, it has been a tough year to mount a Festival of this size, but it has been extremely heartening to find that, generally speaking, the community support has made it all worth while."

Community centre celebrates 30th anniversary with new wing!



Enid Wrigley School of Dance presented a cheque to the centre. Pictured are back row centre, Enid and Margot, present the cheque to chairman Andrew Wilson.

CELEBRATIONS were held to mark the 30th birthday of Oughtrington Community Centre and the official opening of its newly-built West Wing.

Guests enjoyed a buffet lunch, entertainment and presentations. Later the public were invited to look around the refurbished building.

Town Crier Peter Powell started the formalities, chaired by founder member Duncan Scott.

Dr Scott talked about the centre's history and how the work was performed by volunteers. He thanked organisations and individuals who had given grants towards the project and helped raise funds.

Youngsters from Enid Wrigley's School of Dance performed, and a piece of commemorative art work by pre-school children was given to

the centre.

Enid Wrigley presented a cheque to the centre for £1,772 part of the proceeds raised from a show in March. A plaque to mark the official opening of the refurbished west end of the building, was unveiled by new chairman of the centre Andrew Wilson.

He was accompanied by members of user groups Mrs Sheldon (luncheon club), Sean Davenport (Scouts), Anna Simms and Ellen Thomas (Brownies), Megan Thomas (dance school) Sophie Hughes, Jamie Ross and Will Simms (pre-school) and Richard Pearce (orchard group).



New centre chairman Andrew Wilson unveils the plaque watched by user group members.



More pictures of the Food Fest can be seen on page 18

Lymm Village

Shopping just got easier!

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Lymm Traders – Working together 2009

Shopping just

SHOPPING in Lymm village centre has just got easier - thanks to the introduction of pay and display parking on the Pepper Street car park.

The new system was introduced at the beginning of July and so far the effects have been positive.

Traders have been campaigning for many years for improved car parking facilities - and it is hoped the new pay and display system, which allows two hours free parking for shoppers, will go a long way to improving trade for local businesses.

Lymm Traders Association has been formed and is now working to help promote the new parking facilities - including supporting this feature in *Lymm Life* which is being delivered door-to-door to homes throughout the area.

Phil Sexton, Chairman of the Lymm Trader's Association said: "The initial impression of the Pay and Display parking in the village centre is very positive.

"Many customers are commenting on the fact they can now come in to the village and find a parking space on the shoppers car park at any time of the day.

"There also appears to be more people around, especially in the afternoon and trade is also showing positive signs."

Gill Hertzog (pictured left), proprietor of Xross Interiors, situated on the corner of Pepper Street, is delighted with the new parking arrangements. "The parking situation has improved since



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the introduction of the pay and display.

"The two hours free parking is good because it means people can come and do their shopping and park more easily.

"Hopefully it will help boost trade in the village centre and attract more people."

Lymm Life editor Gary Skentelbery said: "It used to be a nightmare coming into the village to cover a local event or to see a client.

"But now with the pay and display parking I can park easily without the fear of a parking ticket, although it is clearly important to remember to get your free ticket for the two hour period, or the chances are you will get a parking ticket!"



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Taking a trip down memory lane at the Sweet Shop



Sarah & Anthony, owners of The Sweet Shop on Eagle Brow hope that stepping in their shop will be like stepping back into the nineteenth century.

From the old fashioned frontage to the black and white tiled floor, mahogany counter and of course the shelves upon shelves of confectionary filled jars, it is everything a sweet shop should be. Name any of your old favourite sweet treats and chances are they will stock them or if not they will do their best to find them.

Perhaps your favourites are the in The Sweet Shop's Top 3 - No3: Uncle Joe's Mint Balls, the undisputed king of the sweet world, No2: Pear Drops, another boiled sweet favourite with a smell very similar to the modern day marker pen! - and at No1: The humble Strawberry Bonbon, dusted, pink and very morerish.

For more information visit their website at www.thesweetshopinlymm.co.uk

Fifth generation family business

Sexton's

Sextons of Lymm was established in 1969 and is now owned and run by Philip Sexton, the fifth generation to continue in the bakery trade, and his wife Sara Sexton.

Philip has tried to maintain the high standards set by his father Sydney, and has always believed in moving with the times, innovating whilst maintaining traditional values in product and service.

As well as calling in at the premises in the village centre for freshly made sandwiches, morning coffees, afternoon teas you can order your food online at the bakery's website

www.sextonsbakery.co.uk

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Bespoke picture framing at Edgar Art



Edgar Art & Framing is a small art gallery and bespoke picture framing workshop located in the Cross Courtyard (near The Terrace bistro, underneath Ridgeway Residential). They also sell greetings cards, locally hand-made and specialist jewellery from around the world, a range of affordable gifts and pottery.

Graham Edgar is also a professional artist who recently had an exhibition of unique paintings of Lymm (as featured in *Lymm Life*). They have been in business for almost 2 years and are becoming increasingly well known to more and more local people.



Lymm Electric and Hardware now has a full range of hardware supplies, electrical goods and small electrical repairs/vac repairs and servicing and also NIC/EIC resistered electricians for domestic/commercial and industrial jobs.

New opticians opens in village

adcottopticians



Town Crier Peter Powell was on hand to officially open Adcott Opticians in Lymm village centre in a prime location next door to Spar.

Owned by Optometrists Debbie and Steven Adcott, the family business brings a wealth of eye examination experience to the village.

They are joined by their daughter Jennifer and the team is completed by Sylvia who is well known by most Lymm residents from her days as receptionist at Bastows Opticians.

There are frames to suit everyone from the high fashion top brands to budget and NHS. Adcott Opticians are Varilux specialists and are using latest technology lenses.

10% off to Lymm Life readers

Xross Interiors

To celebrate the launch of free parking in the village Xross Interiors is offering 10 per cent off all stock.

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Barbecuing burgers and sausage for the Lymm Food Fest from left, Sophie Hopkinson, Will Meldrum and Steve Derry at the Hopkinson's Butchers stall.



Eliza Cripps aged 4 (left) and Rebecca Whitehead aged 3 enjoy ice cream cones.



Lymm Lounge

Kiera Rowe (left) and Rowena Buckley enjoying some Oriental Cuisine.



Lymm Food Festival



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Village prepares to turn back the clock

LYMM's annual Rushbearing Festival which dates back to medieval times is set to take place on Sunday August 9, leaving Pepper Street at 4pm.

The festival, which originates from medieval times when carts of rushes made their way to the church for use as floor covering, is still proving a huge local attraction.

Bullrushes and garlands were paraded through the village as part of the festival. Lymm town crier Peter Powell will start the proceedings.

Rushbearing symbolised a procedure of changing rushes used on the church

floors just before harvest to symbolise a healthy crop.

At one time, Rushbearing Day was virtually a Bank Holiday in Lymm, with shops and offices closing.

But in more recent years it has always been held on a Sunday.

Any one who requires more information on the event or would like to get involved can contact event organiser Chris Limb on 755649

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Diamond couple met in Germany



A LYMM couple who celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary were pleased to receive a congratulations card from The Queen.

Johanne Parry, 85, and her husband Richard, 95, were married 60 years ago at the former Lymm Congregational Church, now the United Reformed Church.

They celebrated with family and friends at Oughttrington Luncheon Club with a meal, party and singing from locally nursery school children.

Mrs Parry was born and lived in a small village in the county of Hanover in Germany. Her husband was serving nearby as a Quartermaster Sergeant in the Army.

They met in a nearby town in 1946, and he asked her out to a dance. When he returned to England they continued to write to each other, and he proposed in 1949 and the

couple were soon married.

She said: "We got to know each other really well by writing letters."

Mr Parry was cashier at Thames Board and Mrs Parry was a seamstress at Chigley School in Thelwall.

The couple have one daughter Marie Louise and two grandchildren Helen and Colin. Mrs Parry said Colin went to visit her brother in her home town in Germany, and decided to live there as he liked the area.

Mrs Parry said: "We have been very happy. My husband has not changed since we met."

"We are always nice to each other, and that is important."

Building society expands into village

LYMM has been included in an expansion programme aimed at a return to traditional investment values by one of the country's truly independent mutuals.

The Manchester Building Society has teamed up with Banner & Co, a firm of independent estate and letting agents to provide ISAs and traditional saving accounts – in a new wave of satellite offices in a one- to two-hour travel time from Manchester.

Graham Alexander, business relationship manager for the Manchester Building Society feels that during the credit crunch is just the right time to make this move with the "official" launch of the agency at the estate agent's Eagle Brow offices.

Due to the economic climate, building societies can play a very important part in regaining people's trust in financial institutions and savers historically have faith in building societies and because of the financial situation, a number have regrettably merged.

Deposits and withdrawals can only be made by cheque as the agency does not handle cash, and eventually the Manchester Building Society would like to see some of that investment returned to the area in the form of mortgages for firsttime buyers.

Linda Garrido, a director of Banner

& Co advised that it will be a very happy mix as Banner & Co's business model is based around providing professional, friendly independent estate and letting agency services, which coupled with an excellent reputation fits in nicely with the traditional values of the Manchester Building Society.

For more details of the new service, contact Linda, Jon, Hazel or Pauline at Banner & Co on 01925 753636.



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L to R Mark Durden-Smith, Chris Naylor, Kate Naylor, Gina Naylor, Martin Lee and Tony Naylor.

Local family win small hotel of the year award

LYMM family the Naylor's and current owners of Peckforton Castle were extremely pleased and proud of their recent award at the Visit Chester and Cheshire presentation evening when they were announced winners of the Small Hotel of the Year category.

Up against some very serious competition in a highly contested category, the success made the win even sweeter for them.

As presenter Mark Durden-Smith said: "Excellence in all areas is essential for a business not only to survive but to thrive in these trying economic times."

The family recognise the contribution and commitment made by their staff over the past year, helping to build Peckforton Castle's reputation to such a standard to win such a prestigious award.

Peckforton will automatically qualify for the England's Northwest Tourism Awards, organised by the NWDA later this year and if successful at the regional level, could take their place in the Enjoy England Awards for Excellence.

Visit Chester & Cheshire Chairman Mike Cooksley said: "Standards have been higher than ever this year and judging proved extremely difficult! There's clearly a growing awareness throughout our visitor economy of the importance of quality and innovation, and that has been reflected by all this year's winners."


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Ken and Joyce say farewell

STAFF and customers said a fond farewell to Ken Deakin and his wife, Joyce, when they retired from Burnett's Premier store in Higher Lane, Lymm.

Ken had worked at the busy shop for 13 years and Joyce - who had previously worked at Dobson's newsagents in the village centre - had worked alongside him for the last couple of years.

The couple have retired to North Wales.

Ken, who previously worked in the chemical industry in Warrington, has lived all his life in Lymm and was extremely well known.

It was his proud boast that almost every month he knew whoever was featured on the cover of **Lymm Life!**

Proprietors Jim and Cheryl Burnett make a farewell presentation



**September deadline
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Painting has new Venue!

RESIDENTS from Cotebrook Home presented a special painting with a musical theme to The Venue owners Alley Clarke and Paul Lockett, AKA 2's Company.

Alley, who is also Chairman of Cotebrook Committee, was delighted to receive the painting which fits in with the theme of The Venue which provides an 'open mic' night on Tuesdays where local residents can perform.

Meanwhile 2's Company have regularly played their guitars for the Cotebrook residents on various social occasions, inspiring them to create the painting which now hangs in pride of place. As well as providing a venue for music the wine bar also caters for private functions including christenings and birthday parties.



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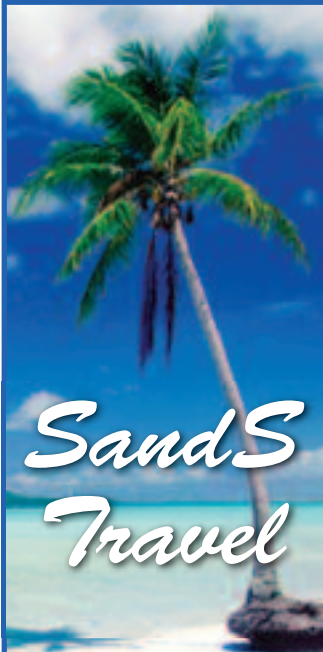
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Obituaries

Michael Johnson



THE funeral has taken place of Michael Bernard Johnson at St Peter's Church, Lymm.

Mr Johnson, aged 49, of Rushes Meadow, Lymm, died tragically from a heart attack while jogging in Lymm on June 7.

He leaves a wife Sylvia, five children Charlotte, Amelia, Nathan, Ryan and Timothy, and five grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons of Lymm.

Stephen Paul Sproats

THE funeral has taken place of Stephen Paul (Sam) Sproats, aged 46, of Northway, Satham, who died in Warrington Hospital on June 2.

Mr Sproats, son of Jean and the late Patrick Sproats, was a keen Manchester United fan and enjoyed his garden.

He worked for Rail Track until he had his first stroke at the age of 32.

He leaves many relatives including his mother, brother, sister, two nephews and two nieces.

Funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons of Lymm.

Doreen Moorcroft

THE funeral has taken place of Mrs Doreen Moorcroft (nee Shaw), of Albany Road, Lymm, who died on May 31, aged 80, in Warrington Hospital after a long illness.

Mrs Moorcroft worked at Hodgkinsons, Warrington, during the Second World War. She had many friends in Australia and the USA and enjoyed nature and the countryside.

She is survived by a son David. The funeral was at Grappenhall Church.

Funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons of Lymm.

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Cricket club is 125 not out!

LYMM Oughtrington Park Cricket Club, celebrating its 125th anniversary this year, invited former players to return to play a present-day XI at the annual 'President's Day' which rounded off a week-long cricket festival.

The 'Old Boys XI' put up a spirited performance against their younger counterparts, restricting them to 198-9, Chris Ray 48 and with veterans Norman Jackson taking 3-24, Julian Knowles 1-14 and Mike Cullen 3-33.

The Old Boys replied with 167-9, with Martin Boffey hitting a swift 60 not out to be named man-of-the-match.

During, President's Day, a specially commissioned watercolour was unveiled in the pavilion to mark the occasion.

The club has also published a new history entitled '125 not out' which gives a fascinating glimpse of cricket at Oughtrington Park from 1884 to the present day. It has been edited by former chairman Bob Dougall, with

statistics and photographs by president John Pye and former player Chris Bone.

Lymm Oughtrington Park started as St Peter's Oughtrington and was founded by the then vicar, the appropriately named Rev WG Knocker! It was largely under the influence of the Dewhurst family, who lived at Oughtrington Hall.

Over the years a number of famous cricketers have played on the ground, including the Lancashire and England batsman J.T. Tyldesley, who scored 73 centuries in his career but could only manage 11 against LOP!

The Pakistani Test player Hanif Mohammed did rather better when he visited in 1958 and scored 105 and took five wickets for 22 runs.



Life member and former groundsman David Jackson unveiling the painting, watched by chairman Paul Henbrey.

The club history – which includes comprehensive statistics – is available from Bob on 01925 753003 or email bobrdougall@talktalk.net

Reader's letter

Re Gas main 'farce' angers traders in June Lymm Life

THE article on the above and the re-excavating of the setts should perhaps coincide with the third anniversary of the opening of the Lower Dam project - and that was a long job.

I was there on September 15,

2006, when Paul Crone from Granada Reports gathered with kids at The Cross for the re-opening honours.

If, as a spokeswoman from the National Grid states, the work should have been done years ago, why

couldn't it have been done in 2006 when the same area was dug up?

I also agree with the traders that the WINTER would have been more suitable for them.

Whenever it is, disruptive it will be, and probably never the same again.

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

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