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February 2010

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Editor's Comment



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OUR picture postcard village turned white when up to a foot of snow landed at the start of January and it seems everyone has their own view on when we last saw so much of it.

Many people captured their view on camera and we received countless photos showing both jaw-dropping landscapes and traffic scenes.

Excitement

We all know that snow brought chaos on our roads, schools were closed and people struggled to make it into work. But snow can also bring out the best in people and a real sense of community spirit. It brought shrieks of excitement from young voices who'd never built a snowman before. Spontaneous snowball fights broke out across the village and complete strangers helped push cars and dig stranded commuters out, just

because they happened to be walking past.

People took to the pavements in search of milk and swapped stories of which roads were worse than others. Spades were borrowed. Elderly neighbours were checked on.

With many people stranded at home the village centre was busier than ever and hopefully provided a welcome boost for local traders.

Lymm really proved itself to be a warm community during this cold snap.

Keep up the good work!

Four-year-old twins Freya and Jonas Jackson of Huntfield Close Lymm enjoying the snow.



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Centre friends need to raise the roof!

A LOCAL Community Centre has launched an appeal to find friends and raise £35k to safeguard its future after freezing weather damaged its roof beyond repair.

Unless it can raise enough cash for a new roof, Oughtrington Community Centre may have to close, leaving many of the clubs and facilities it provides under threat.

The Centre's management team wants to replace the roof and re-hang the original bell in the tower but quotes from local traders have come in at around £35k.

Andrew Wilson, chairman, said: "The roof has come to the end of its natural life and the recent frosty weather has done a lot of damage. Tiles are now falling off. It's going to be a big problem soon."

He said: "It's a common misconception that we're entirely funded by Lymm Parish Council. We're not. We receive a grant of around £5k a year, which just about covers the heating bill. Our running costs alone are over £18k a year.

"It's difficult to ask the local community for more money as they've already been very generous, helping us to raise £15,000 for urgent repairs last year.

"But if people don't mobilise now, there is a chance that this facility won't be here in the future. That will affect everyone in the community, from the older residents who meet at the lunch club twice a week to ladies who take dance classes there, as well as the Scouts and Beaver groups.

"This could also mean the end of the pre-school and Sure Start meetings. This not only impacts

parents and children who use the Centre now but those who may be relying on this facility in the future."

"Now they hope to set up a network of 'Friends' - a bank of willing volunteers who can help with the fundraising as well as tidying up and basic maintenance.

Andrew said: "We're looking for all levels of involvement - from those who can offer a couple of hours a month to someone who would like to take on a proactive role in coming up with ideas and leading the fundraising. We will also be arranging the first regular monthly Sunday morning "working party", for early Feb 09."

Around 50 people have already expressed an interest in joining and will meet on January 20 at a Burns Night-themed event to come up with ideas.

The event will also be an opportunity to say goodbye to Duncan Scott, one of the founder members of the group of locals who bought the centre and raised the money to extend the West End.

Anyone who would like to become a Friend of Oughtrington Community Centre and attend the event should email Andrew Wilson at wilsonlymm1961@btinternet.com

Oughtrington Community Centre vice chairman John Newell (left) and chairman Andrew Wilson with frost damaged tiles from the centre roof.



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February 9
 LYMM PARISH COUNCIL
 Lymm Parish Hall, 7.30pm
 Members of the public welcome

February 8
 LYMM HISTORY SOCIETY
 Lymm Village Hall, 8pm
 'The Crossing of Runcorn Gap' - Alex Cowan
 Visitors always welcome
 Enquiries: Sue Brooks, chairman 01925 758340

LYMM LIONS GROUP
 Meet: Bridgewater Club, Lymm
 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 753126

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.

MARKET LUNCHES
 Eagle Brow Methodist Church
 3rd Thursday in the month
 Light lunches 12 noon till 2pm
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LYMM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB
 St Mary's Church Hall
 Second and fourth Fridays (Sept - May) 7.30pm
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LYMM BAPTIST CHURCH DROPLUNCH
 Higher Lane, Mondays (during term time).
 12 noon to 1.15pm. £2.50

Nonprofit making community organisations who
 would like to feature in the
 What's On Column
 should contact Lymm Life on

01925 631592

Charity pioneer receives MBE

A LYMM mum has been awarded an MBE in the New Years Honours list in recognition of over 30 years of work for children born with lower limb conditions.

Charity pioneer Sue Banton set up a helpline in her attic after her son Daniel was born with club feet. Seven years later STEPS became a national registered charity.

Now in its 30th year, the charity supports 2,000 families a year who are affected by a lower limb condition (including Developmental Dysplasia of the Hip (DDH) and Club Foot) and would otherwise have nowhere to turn.

The helpline has now grown to include a wealth of information, a family contacts register and doctor database, plus the website, www.steps-charity.org.uk, hosts an invaluable forum where stories are

swapped, fundraising events are organised and support is given.

Sue has been a driving force in ensuring children get the most appropriate treatment and continues to be the strategic mind behind the charity.

Sue said: "30 years ago I battled alone to support my son and challenge the accepted procedures and attitudes. Dan had his first operation when he was just seven weeks old and I felt very alone and decided I didn't want another parent to feel that way.

"I am honored to receive this MBE but I could not have done it without the dedication and hard work of everyone involved with STEPS. As we celebrate our 30th anniversary we



will continue to help families not only in the UK, but around the world, and ensure they are supported in their time of need."

Another Lymm woman Donna Marie Hough, also received an MBE for services to health care in her role as Dental Workforce Development lead for Dental Care Professionals.

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Lets dance!

A Lymm Festival Winter Warmer involving Latino dancing takes place on Friday January 29 at Lymm Golf Club.

Latino Dance night follows on from the success of the recent Strictly Come Dancing TV programme and will include taster lessons of Salsa and Argentinean Tango dancing.

A selection of Tapas will be served and tickets are £15 per person. Over 18's only.

Tickets are limited and are available by contacting Helen on 0790 3727750 or email tickets@lymmfestival.org.uk

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Girl Guides celebrate 100 years

FORMER Guides and Brownies in Lymm are asked to share photos, memorabilia and reminisce for posterity at a celebration event to mark the organisation's 100th birthday.

Anyone who has been a Guide or Brownie – aged 19 to 90 - is invited to take part in a short service at Lymm United Reform Church, Davies Way, Lymm at 2pm on Sunday February 21 followed by the chance to swap stories and get together in the church hall.

Mary Clark, one of the organisers, said: "Everyone is invited – even those who left only recently. Today's programme is very different from 10 years ago, so if you are only in your twenties, your memories will be of interest to today's guides.

"I'm sure you'll meet people you

haven't seen for a while and maybe have a smile at those gadgets you used to make or the way you used to polish your badge AND your shoes before every meeting. I still have my old guide hat and tie from the 1970s."

Some current Guides will be conducting 'interviews' during the afternoon with any volunteers who are happy to share their memories.

Former Guides or Brownies can just turn up and bring along their memorabilia if they have any, but for more info please call Mary Clarke on 752367 or Helen Hunter on 265640.

Parking ban proposed

WARRINGTON Borough Council proposes to make an order prohibiting parking on a stretch of the A56 at Lymm.

The order will affect the south side of Booths Hill Road from its junction with Highfield Road for a distance of 225 metres in an easterly direction.

Parking will also be prohibited in Highfield Road from its junction with Booths Hill Road for a distance of 13.7 metres in a southerly direction.

Details of the proposals, together with plans showing the restricted areas, can be seen at the council's legal services section at Quattro Building, New Town House, Buttermarket Street, Warrington.

Any representations, either in support or objecting to the proposals, must be made in writing to the legal services section by January 21 and objections must specify the grounds on which they are made.

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Taking your pet abroad - some notes

Now that Christmas is over, many of you will begin to start thinking about your summer holidays in order to banish the winter blues. Did you know that the pet travel scheme allows you to take your beloved pet on holiday with you?

Your pet must conform with all the conditions outlined below:

- A microchip must be implanted under the skin- this ensures your animal can be permanently identified.
- Vaccination against rabies is required with an approved vaccine.

- A blood test must be taken 1 month after vaccination- this is to make sure your pet has responded to the vaccine. If the animal does not respond then it can be re vaccinated and tested again.
- Your pet can't enter the UK from abroad until six months after a successful blood test was taken.
- A PETS passport is required signed by a DEFRA appointed vet that confirms the conditions have been met.
- ALWAYS PLAN WELL AHEAD, it will take at least 8 months to comply with the requirements of the scheme.



Check carefully with the import requirements of your destination. The DEFRA website is useful: www.defra.gov.uk.

If you decide to take your pet abroad then bring them down to Lymm Veterinary Surgery where we can get them started on the scheme. Happy travelling!



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Major coup for Festival's first Winter Warmer

LYMM Festival has pulled off a major coup with internationally renowned storyteller Taffy Thomas MBE appearing at a special fund-raising Winter warmer event.



He will be performing the ancient custom of Wassailing as part of the event which is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to get together and drink to each other's good health, enjoy hearing a song or two and some seasonal stories.

"Wassail" comes from an old English word meaning "Be of good health" and traditionally, it often included a ceremony which would encourage the apple trees to bear plenty of fruit - very important if you wanted to maintain a good flow of cider!

Lymm Festival, in partnership with the Orchard Group and supported by an Arts Project Grant from Warrington Borough Council, is delighted to welcome the soon to be inaugurated first National Storytelling Laureate, to

host a Wassail celebration in the Oughtrington Community Orchard on Friday January 22 at 6.30pm. Children will be admitted free and adults will be charged £3.00, payable on the gate.

Taffy will spend the day with the children from Oughtrington Community Primary School, and they will later help him with the stories and songs during the Wassail ceremony. The children will also be making 'favours' to decorate the designated tree, including buttered toast to attract the robins, who bring good luck.

Father Michael Burgess will give a blessing, some hot spicy cider will be

poured over the roots, and more will be available to drink to the health of those present and the community, as well as the trees (there will also be apple juice available). The ceremony will finish with a bit of a bang - to frighten all the nasties away!

The Community Orchard is behind Oughtrington Community Centre on Oughtrington Crescent. It can also be accessed from the canal tow-path. If the weather is too wet, most of the event will take place indoors.

For further details, please contact Honor Giles on 01925 758856 or visit www.lymmfestival.org.uk or www.oughtrington.co.uk/orchard/

Cricket club looking for junior recruits

BUDDING bowlers, batsmen and fielders are all welcome at Lymm Oughtrington Park Cricket Club this winter.

The club's new under 11s manager, Phil Griffiths, is inviting boys and girls who were born between September 1998 and August 31, 2000, to come and enjoy the cricket experience.

The nets sessions take place at 7pm until 8pm on Tuesday nights in the sports hall at Lymm Leisure Centre, at Lymm High School.

If you are interested in giving it a go, then go along at 7pm on Tuesday nights or contact Phil at philip.griffiths@uk.pwc.com or on 07740 633485 for further information.

The club also has under 13s and under 15s age groups. For further information on these age groups please contact Pete Marshall (under-13s) on 01925753032 or peter.marshall@tiscali.co.uk and Neil Allen (under-15s).

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Shop staff share good luck with hospice

STAFF at Sexton's Village Bakery at Lymm shared their good luck with youngsters at Claire House Children's Hospice.

The shopworkers entered a raffle before Christmas - and won a giant, cuddly tiger!

They decided the toy should go to a good cause - and the hospice was the favourite choice.

A spokeswoman for Claire House said: "We were delighted to receive the tiger - which I believe has been named 'Tigger'."

"It will probably be used as a raffle prize again, to raise money for the hospice."



Our picture shows a member of staff at Sexton's with 'Tigger'

Rotary says thank you

THE Rotary Club of Lymm would like to thank all the residents of Lymm and Thelwall who have so kindly contributed to the collection for community charities when the Christmas float visited your area. The visit of Santa has again been most successful, visiting most areas of Lymm and getting some young people rather excited!

Rotary apologise to those who did not get a visit from Santa this year, due to their extended schedule, difficulty in Santa manoeuvring his sleigh in the extremely inclement weather and tricky underfoot conditions.

They hope to see you all again next Christmas.

Scout fundraiser

LYMM cubs, scouts and their parents lent a helping hand to Christmas shoppers and raised £1,250 towards a new headquarters in Pepper Street.

The bag-packing event took place at Morrisons supermarket in Stockton Health where the troop was also helped out by an employee of Barclays Bank.

They hope to build a purpose built Scout and Guide Community building and Barclays have offered to pay an

additional £750 towards their total.

Ray Banton, Group Scout Leader of 3rd Lymm Scout Group said: "This funding will help raise our total to the point where we can now apply to Warrington Borough Council for planning permission to replace our obsolete wartime buildings in Pepper Street with a new joint Scout and Guide purpose-built Community building.

This will serve Scouts and Guides and the local Community in Lymm village for many years to come."

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New Year New start?

Redundancy is often a difficult time and the impact on the individual and families concerned should not be underestimated.

Now, during what is arguably the worst job market for the last 20 years, opportunities are few, and well qualified people wonder what they are doing wrong when yet another rejection email lands in the inbox.

"It wasn't until I got some help that I realised how much I needed it" says Richard, "Not only to help with the process of job application and interviewing, but also to have someone knowledgeable to talk to".

GKI Candidate Support run by Lymm based George Wealthall, has been specifically established to work with people who are trying to get back into a job. With 15 years experience of head-hunting, GKI Candidate Support knows the hidden markets and how to make the best approaches to employers.

They know what to present to a potential employer and how to make the most of your achievements. GKI Candidate Support offers one to one mentoring and

group courses can be organised by employers.

"The trial interviews were challenging but really made me focus on the needs of the business and the job role and identify where my skills would fit. Ultimately, I feel more confident and better prepared for the job interview" say Aiden, whose role has recently been made redundant.

If you would like more information please call 0808 108 1337 and speak to George Wealthall BA, MBA, to arrange a free 30 minute confidential discussion. Courses are run for individuals and groups.



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Snow brought beauty – and chaos!

THE New Year did not take long in getting itself a reputation - for the coldest winter many people can remember.

The snowfall early in January was certainly the deepest of the last 30 years and while it made Lymm look even prettier than usual, it also brought chaos.

But it also brought out the public spirit in many local people - particularly teenagers enjoying a day off school - as they helped struggling motorists cope with the slippery roads.

For a time it was chaos in the village centre as drivers became trapped on

icy roads around The Cross and on Lymm Bridge.

Most shops managed to open, but some could not because staff could not get to work.

On the A56 there was more chaos, with traffic coming to a standstill for a time as a result of heavy lorries blocking the road.

Again, passersby helped out with a friendly push. But some drivers abandoned their vehicles and other turned round and went back home rather than risk the hazardous and lengthy journey to work.

But of course it was all great fun for children when schools closed. At times there seemed to be more sledges out and about than cars - and they were certainly moving a lot faster.

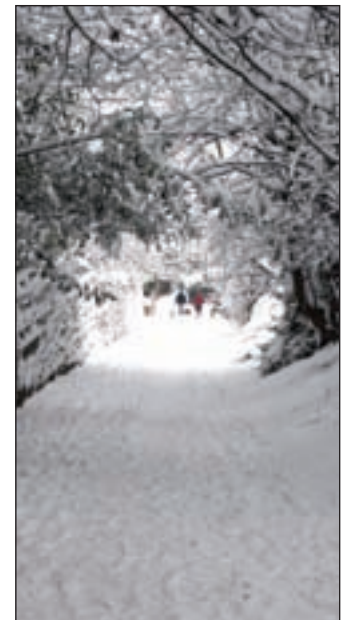
Lymm Dam was a popular place for enjoying the snow - and for photographers wanting to take pictures of Lymm in an unusual setting.



Oughtrington Church - Picture Graham Edgar



Lymm High School pupils enjoy the sledding at Lymm Dam



Walkers in the snow on Longbutt Lane, Lymm



Motorists have to push their cars up the A56 at Lymm near Warrington

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Lymm village centre



Traffic chaos on the A56 at Lymm near Warrington



Sledding at Lymm Dam



Bridgewater Canal at Oughtrington, Lymm, Picture Graham Edgar

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Lymm Village Hall, Pepper St
Saturday 23 January
 10am to 3pm

Are your New Year resolutions slipping?
 How about some new ones? Find out how easy it is to reduce your carbon footprint and **save up to £300 a year off your fuel bills.**

Information and advice on: saving energy, renewable energy, local food, reducing waste, recycling, smarter driving and alternative transport.

There are family activities too including junk art workshops, badge making, a pledge tree, a raffle for a local food hamper and other gifts and prizes for the best carbon saving ideas.

www.LowCarbonLymm.org.uk

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Members of Low Carbon Lymm taking part in Dickensian Day Parade.

Celebrate the New Year with Low Carbon Lymm

LOW Carbon Lymm are holding a special meeting at Lymm Village Hall, Pepper Street, on Saturday January 23 from 10am to 3pm.

Residents will have the opportunity to start 2010 on the right foot with information and help to cut carbon emissions and save money.

The event will include information and advice stalls on a wide range of themes including energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste reduction and recycling, local food, smarter driving, cycling and walking and much more.

There will be fun things for all the family including junk art workshops, badge making and prizes for the best carbon cutting ideas and a raffle for a local food hamper and other gifts.

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Twin Town society hopes for 'renaissance'

LYMM Twin Town Society's annual festive event, Noel Arrive, offered a double helping of activities for young families and existing members.

Despite treacherous weather conditions, many new faces - both French and English - attended the event at the Village Hall.

Several new events were heralded which, it is hoped, will act as a

"renaissance" for the long-established society.

There were freshly made crepes, vin chaud and kids punch and face painting for the children. Jingle Bells was sung in French and English to

welcome Pere Noel.

The goal of promoting the society to a new audience and offering informal and affordable fun for local families interested in France, French culture and language has earned great feedback, so the organisers will definitely be working hard to offer further events and hope to involve the local schools, pre-schools and language providers in various initiatives where possible.

Lymm has been twinned for more than 40 years with Meung-sur-Loire which is a delightful small town about 10 miles west of Orléans in the Loire valley, an hour south of Paris. The

society organises various social events throughout the year to raise funds to help entertain the French visitors every other year and planning is underway to introduce new events to appeal to young families. The highlight of the calendar is the annual exchange visit. The next exchange is currently being planned for June 2-6 during school holidays.

Lymm members are invited to visit Meung to stay with a French host family. For membership and exchange enquiries, contact Kirsty James on 01925 758361 or email lymmtwintown@btinternet.com



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Local councillor embraces new technology



A LYMM councillor is engaging with the latest technology to keep local people informed.

Local councillor Bob Barr has set up a blog and a twitter to keep people up to date with things going on in the local community.

He said: "It has been a long standing tradition in Lymm for local councillors to make themselves available by phone and email, rather than holding a regular surgery in a public building."

Bob is now offering some more options for those in the community who feel more comfortable with the new computerised social media. He has a blog at www.cllrbobbarr.net and can be followed on Twitter at www.twitter.com/cllrbobbarr.

Bob also promised, when he was Chairman, that Lymm Parish Council would set up a web site. It has been a long time coming but, with a lot of help from Yvonne Cook, the Clerk and Joe Griffiths, the current Chairman of Lymm Parish Council, the Parish Council has a web site.

Bob added: "This is intended to deal with 'official' business and Parish Council related news and is not a substitute for the excellent services provided by Lymm Life."

The Parish Council's web site is at www.lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Thank you for shopping locally

John and Ann at Rushgreen Service Station would like to say 'Thank you' to Ray Broadsmith Dairyman, Lymm, Sarah, Sextons Bakery, Lymm, Janet Stanhope, Broomedge Farm Eggs, Lymm and Andrew Geary, Builders Merchant, Lymm, for "Keeping us well stocked up to keep our customers supplied with the basics throughout the ice and snow."

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Lymm go eight points clear

New Brighton.....7 Lymm.....20

WITH this the only game to survive the weather in North 1 West Lymm went eight points clear, albeit with second place Northwich now having two games in hand.

New Brighton seemed keen to play in the borderline conditions. Perhaps thinking a wet pitch may nullify Lymm's backs and even the contest. In fact both sides struggled with the conditions with endless handling errors creating a bitty contest without much to warm the brave fans.

Both sides struggled with unavailability's. Lymm were forced to make five changes with Butler, Miksys, Broadbent and the seasoned Kinsey all starting.

Pickles returned from absence and there were positional changes for Williamson, Higginson and Griffiths.

Lymm started brightly, bossing most areas of the set piece and the visitors were first on the score board. Joe Knowles scything through the defence after great work from Dave Williamson at 13. A missed conversion and missed penalty on 38 mins, from great distance, seemed to suggest the enigmatic 15 was struggling to kick in the conditions but he had no problem, in front of the posts, on 39 mins converting his own sensational try, scampering 50 metres to make the score 12-0 to Lymm at half time.

New Brighton needed to start the second half well and a perfect cross kick from their fly half, Birley, allowed winger Simpson to score on 47 mins. Birley notched the conversion to make

it 7-12. However that was their only real chance of scoring as the Lymm defence held firm, especially in the back row.

Knowles was successful with a penalty on 71 mins to make it 15-7 and an excellent try from man of the match Higginson on 78 mins gave the score some respectability at 20-7.

Lymm may thank the referee for allowing the game to be played. At this time of the season points on the "board" are always better than games in hand and an eight point advantage is significant with 11 games remaining. Lymm will look at their remaining fixtures, with seven at home, and feel the decision to play was correct.

The next game at home to 2nd place Northwich now looks immense for both teams.

Battle scarred coach Kinsey was mindful of the coming game saying: "A 2 point away win against tough opposition was invaluable particularly with no one else playing."

"The victory is a great warm up for next weeks biggest game of the season at home to Northwich."

Lymm will now look to replace scrum half Chris Griffiths who is now off on his travels until the summer. Griffiths has been in outstanding form and will be missed.

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Obituary

George Colin Rees

Mr George Colin Rees, of Lymmington Avenue, Lymm, died at St Rocco's Hospice on November 11, aged 84.

Mr Rees served in the RAF in the USA, where he trained as a pilot, and India, Burma and Pakistan, where he was commanding officer involved in dropping food supplies to a starving local population at the end of the war with Japan.

He married his first wife, Betty, in 1952, who died in 1989.

In 1993 he married Kathleen

Todd, of Lymm, where he became a member of the Lymm Dingle Probus Club, enjoying their walking and bowls groups and serving as a chairman of the club.

Mr Rees was a keen sportsman, playing rugby, badminton and squash.

He leaves behind his second wife, Kath, sons David and John, grandson Stuart and two great grand daughters Alex and Tasha.

Funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons, of Lymm.



Reader's Letter

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

Many thanks!

Yvonne Fairbrother, Lymm

May I use your columns to express my thanks to the kind gentleman in the 4x4 who went out of his way to take my partner and I from Oughtrington to Statham on the 7th January during the Big Freeze.

The one hour walk would have been exhausting for two OAPs, as we only found that no buses were running along the Rushgreen Road after we had made the trip one way on foot.

It is so comforting to know that there are still some Good Samaritans around in the Lymm area.

Many thanks, Yvonne Fairbrother.

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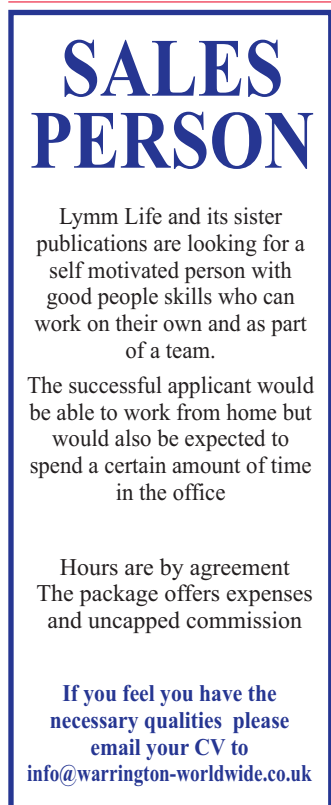
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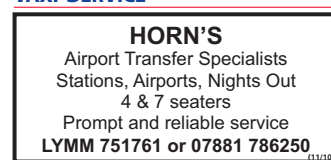


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