

Lymm

Life

FREE EVERY MONTH

February 2012
Issue: 155



**Busy
year
ahead
for
Ellie !**

Page 3



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Printed by TwentyFourSeven

Editor's Comment



READING through the pages of Lymm Life this month shows the generosity of the people of Lymm and surrounding areas knows no bounds.

The Rotary Club have been particularly busy, raising the best part of £6,000 from their annual float collection, while club stalwart Syd Johnson has been presented with the organisation's top honour in recognition of his 40 years of voluntary community work. The club also helped brighten up one poorly youngster's Christmas with a special visit. Well done to all involved.

Elsewhere the Lady Captain at High Legh Park Golf Club has helped raise over £4,500 for the Adventure

Farm Trust at Little Bollington - yet another fantastic achievement.

I would like to congratulate all those who have given up their time to help raise funds for the many good causes in the Lymm area - but most importantly I would like to say thank you to those of you who are reading this column who have donated your hard earned cash during these tough economic times.

Hardly a day passes without reports of people losing their jobs or businesses facing administration,

including well known high street retailers.

But rather than focusing on the doom and gloom lets concentrate on all the good things still going on and look to the future with renewed optimism.

We have a busy year ahead in Lymm with the annual Lymm Festival, May Queen and Dickensian and the Diamond Jubilee celebrations - not forgetting the Olympic Games which I am sure will have some impact in our village.

To all those hard working community volunteers and fund-raisers - keep up the good work!

Meanwhile don't forget to support your local businesses to ensure we can retain a vibrant community during these difficult times.

Concern over garages sell-off plan

MEMBERS of Lymm Parish Council have expressed concern about a planned sell-off of borough-owned garage sites.

One site is in Racefield Close, off Pepper Street, Lymm - and local councillors think if the site is to be cleared it should be retained as open space.

However there has been an objection from a local resident who claims the site already attracts nuisance youths.

The borough council is carrying out a consultation exercise with a view to selling-off up to 840 garages and garage sites across the borough which could raise more than £2 million if sold. The borough currently receives about £27,000-a-year in rent for the garages but this barely covers the cost of repairs and management.

Many garages are, in fact, in a poor condition and unused. Among possible alternative uses for the sites are allotments and affordable housing.

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Busy year ahead for Ellie



Ellie, rehearsing with PJ Proby

LYMM'S teenage singing star, Ellie Dibben, has been invited to appear at two major music festivals in the coming year.

Ellie, aged 13, has been booked to perform on the main stage at Americana 2012 after making her debut at Americana last year and also at the Underage festival, 2012.

The Lymm High School pupil was just 11 when she first sang on BBC radio and since then has made many guest appearances at celebrity charity dinners, both as a soloist and in duets with the legendary PJ Proby. She features on PJ's Album 60s Gold.

In 2010 she was selected from hundreds of hopefuls, to record a single and music video in Hollywood.

She recorded her debut album earlier this year and in recent months has been asked to sing at a blue plaque unveiling at Pinewood Studios and also at the home of Robin Gibb.

Ellie has a voice and style to rival Taylor Swift but also covers the songs of contemporary artists Miley Cyrus, Adele and Leona Lewis.

Hall hire rises two per cent

THE cost of hiring rooms at Lymm Village Hall is to be increased by two per cent, members of the parish council have decided.

Allotment rental charges will also rise two per cent.

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What's On

in conjunction with **Lymm Parish Council**



February 13

LYMM & DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY
'Great Cheshire Families' - Doug Haynes.
Lymm Village Hall, 8pm.
Visitors always welcome
More info Lynne Smith 01925 756776

February 14

LYMM PARISH COUNCIL
Lymm Parish Hall 7.30pm

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 755126

ROTARY CLUB OF LYMM

Every Wednesday at Statham Lodge Hotel
7.15pm for 7.30pm
Contact the secretary 01925 650189

LOVING HANDS

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

MARKET LUNCHEES

Eagle Brow Methodist Church
3rd Thursday in the month
Light lunches 12 noon till 2pm. All proceeds to
Age UK and YMCA Room at The Inn

LYMM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

St Mary's Church Hall
Second and fourth Fridays (Sept - May)
7.30pm. Details: 753853

LYMM BAPTIST CHURCH FOYER LUNCHEES

Higher Lane. Mondays (during term time).
12 noon to 1.15pm. £2.50

LYMM JUBILEE GARDENING CLUB

Meet Third Wednesday of the month
Lymm Baptist Church, Higher Lane. 7.30pm
Visitors welcome. £2 includes tea and cake

LYMM FLORAL ART GROUP

Lymm Village Hall
Third Monday of the month (except August)
at 7.30pm

LYMM ORNITHOLOGY GROUP

Lymm Village Hall, 7.45pm for 8pm,
Last Friday in the month (ex June & July).
Guest speaker, Slide Show, Refreshments.
Visitors welcome. First visit FREE.
Also field trips. Details: lymmog.co.uk

LYMM WINE AND BEER CIRCLE

Every 4th Wednesday, 8pm
Lymm Royal British Legion Club.
Details: 01925 756085

Teddy Bears are back!

THE ever-popular Chicago Teddy Bears jazz band play a charity concert at Grappenhall Community Centre on Friday, February 10.

In aid of the Lymm and Thelwall branch of Contact the Elderly, the concert will feature a wide range of jazz, taking in New Orleans, Dixieland and Mainstream.

The line-up is usually Ken Doran, trumpet, Frank Slater, trombone, John Hallam, reeds, Neville Goodwin, piano, Tony Ormesher, guitar and banjo, Ray Owens, bass and Brian Singleton, drums. Formed in the early 1970s, the band's line-up has remained unchanged for some years.

Their annual concert in aid of Contact the Elderly has become something of a tradition at Grappenhall - with the band admitting to be rather elderly themselves!

The evening includes a two course supper. Further details from Colin Melrose on 01925 756742.

Chinese Pianist comes to Lymm

CHINESE pianist Yuan Sheng, is to give a recital at Lymm.

He will play at Lymm United Reformed Church on Sunday, February 5 at 3pm.

Mr Sheng, who has gained

international recognition through his extensive performances in more than 20 countries, will play pieces by JS Bach, Brahms and Chopin.

The recital is being organised in collaboration with the Royal Northern College of Music.

Tickets will be available on the door and from Lymm Electric on Bridgewater St.

The recital is part of a series of Sunday afternoon concerts over the next few months organised by Music in Lymm at Lymm United Reformed Church, which has recently been refurbished with new seating to provide more comfortable and flexible space. For more details email info@musicinlymm.org.uk or visit www.musicinlymm.org.uk



LYMM PARISH COUNCIL
Tuesday, February 13
Lymm Parish Hall
7.30pm

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Residents win another round in planning battle

RESIDENTS have won another round in the ongoing battle with a recycling firm which wants to extend its operating hours.

Planning chiefs have refused an application by ADS Recycling, of Camsley Lane, Lymm, to vary conditions on its existing planning consent to allow it to operate from 7am

Twenty nearby residents and Lymm Parish Council and Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council opposed the application.

The company is allowed to start operations at 8am, although heavy lorries are allowed to leave the site from 7.30am, providing no loading or unloading is involved.

They claim noise from vehicles is "below the level of marginal significance". They claim their customers require skips to be on site by 7-7.30am which means drivers need to leave the site earlier.

ADS also claimed that their lorries have, in fact, been working the

proposed times as normal working hours since 1993 without any impact on the environment or amenity of nearby residents.

The two parish councils objected on the grounds of early morning noise while residents argued that 7am is a time when households should be able to sleep and rest without disturbance.

They claimed noise from the site, and from lorries using the A56 Stockport Road, Thelwall, to reach the

site, forced people to keep windows shut and impacted on the use of gardens.

Residents argued that ADS has outgrown the site and should relocate to larger, more assessable premises in an industrial area.

Two previous unsuccessful bids to extend operating hours have been made by ADS during the last 12 months, on the grounds that planning conditions have been breached continuously for more than 10 years and are therefore unenforceable.

Footpaths survey

FOOTPATH warden John Read visited 46 different public footpaths across the parish last year.

In his annual report to the council he said he had visited the paths at different times of the year, reporting any problems to the borough council's rights-of-way officers.

But overall, he said, there were only minor problems to report.

Lions distribute food parcels

LYMM Lions were able to distribute more than 150 food parcels within the local community as a result of the annual 'tinning appeal'.

In addition, they were also able to donate about 300 tins of food to WODAC, a charity which provides hotel meals to the homeless at Christmas.

A spokesman for the Lions said: "We would like to thank the many volunteers of all ages who helped collect, sort and deliver the parcels.

"Without their help and hard work we would not have been able to succeed with our event."

Lymm Lions can be contacted on 0845 833 5729

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Village prepares for 'once in a lifetime event'

LYMM Parish Council is planning a series of events to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Details are to be worked up by a special council sub-committee, but ideas already being considered include a "street party" on the May Queen Field, memorial trees and a floodlit, floating fountain in the Lower Dam.

Deputy Lieutenant of Cheshire Geoff Hawley - a local resident - has already given a presentation to the parish council about county-wide celebrations during the four-day period from Saturday June 2 to Tuesday, June 5.

A network of Beacons across the country are planned and Lymm Round Table, with parish council support, has agreed to organise one for Lymm.

"Big Lunch" and street parties may be organised.

Permanent memorials could include the planting of new woodlands or orchards and ring fencing land to ensure it can be protected from development in future and preserved for generations to come. One idea Mr Hawley put forward was for a permanent fountain in the Lower Dam.

A floating fountain with lights would cost less than £2,000, would have no adverse environmental impact on the ecology of the Dam and could be moved out of the way for events such as the annual Duck Race or for maintenance.

Mr Hawley said: "The only other such Jubilee in history was in 1897 and was marked in Lymm by

substantial restoration of Lymm Cross. "This has been of real value to our village over the last 114 years and will have brought in many visitors.

"Let us hope that in 2012 we can emulate our predecessors."

Cllr Sheila Woodyatt said: "The Diamond Jubilee is a once-in-a-life event and we want to do justice to the occasion."

Festival winter warmers

ONE of the great successes of the 2011 Lymm Festival - Ian McMillan - makes a welcome return as part of the Lymm Festival Winter Warmer series on February 3 at The Statham Lodge in Lymm.

"The Shirley Bassey of performance poetry" said one reviewer and that's quite a description to live up to. An initial look up and down at Ian McMillan makes it even harder to imagine. A little shorter than average and a no-nonsense Yorkshireman through and through you would hardly say that he exudes glamour.

But he grips an audience and holds it in the palm of his hand just like the Welsh diva. He does it with a combination of brilliant observational comedy, poetry and at times just plain silliness. He has the ability to tell you what you already know but makes you see it a completely new way.

His reputation has led to him holding a number of unique posts including Barnsley Football Club poet in residence and Humberside Police "Beat Poet".

If you tune in to Radio 4 or BBC TV you'll have a job to miss him these days between Just a Minute, Have I Got News For You, Quote Unquote and Desert Island Discs as well as hosting a number of documentaries.

In Summer Ian and cartoonist Tony Husband created a hilarious improvised and wholly inaccurate "History of Lymm". His new show Talking Myself Home is a dazzling combination of finely-honed poems and stand-up repartee that has the audience in fits from "the minute he walks in the joint".

"We are thrilled to have Ian McMillan back" says Festival Director Jacquie Davies. "We also have two other great events during that couple of weeks."

Not Exactly Rocket Salad is a great night of music at the Spread Eagle headed up by Alan Williams and Helen Monks on Jan 25 while Aiden Byrne will be giving a cookery demonstration at the Village Hall on Feb 6. Plans are already in progress too for the summer festival from June 28 to July 8 with Liverpool Legend Roger McGough already booked.

Tickets and info at www.lymmfestival.org.uk

What events would you like to see?

THE Lymm Festival Committee is busy planning for the 2012 Festival - scheduled for 28 June to 8 July - and is keen to find out what local people would like to see.

Traditionally it includes a popular mix of performance and visual arts, plus a range of community-based events, such as the Street Fun and Food Fest that gets the show going.

"Many of our traditional arts and community-based activities are very popular but we want to see if we can attract a wider range of interests," says new Festival Director Jacquie Davies. "We know that there is an amazing amount of untapped local talent just waiting to be seen and heard, to which we can add some national and international names if that's what people would like."

Keep a look out for the questionnaires that have been placed at key locations in and around the Village or follow the links at the Festival's website.

"If live bands, open air theatre, mud wrestling, cheese rolling or something completely different is what floats your boat, I would love to hear from you," says Jacquie.

Lymm Life readers can send their suggestions to Roger Hannam on 07815 788339 or by emailing thehannams@lymm117.fsnet.co.uk

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Safety hazard

WORRIED councillors at Lymm are pressing for urgent action to remove a safety hazard.

The old "Ironing Bored" building in Bridgewater Street has been removed, because it was in a dangerous condition. But its removal has created another hazard - a sheer drop into a stream at the rear of the site.

The parish council has approached site owners Peel Holdings asking for a fence to be erected to make the site safe. Councillors are also to ask Peel Holdings to install vandal resistant lighting along the Bridgewater Canal between Bridgewater Street and New Road.

Existing lights have been repeatedly smashed by vandals.

Rotarian honoured for 40 years dedicated service

LYMM Rotarian Sid Johnson's 40 years of dedicated service to Rotary and the community was rewarded at the Lymm Rotary club's Christmas Party when he was presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship, Rotary's highest accolade.

The award was presented by George Clark, who has known Sid for nearly 50 years, initially when he was his mentor and boss at the Atomic Energy Authority. They became friends and colleagues as they worked together on various projects and he soon recognised that Sid met all the objects of Rotary and what they stood for.

Sid was inducted into Lymm Rotary club by President Ron Horsley in 1971. After service on various club committees he became a Council member in 1974/5 and as

Vocational Chairman he and his committee encouraged excellence in youth - something that he had always shown in his professional life by encouraging apprentices and junior members of staff. His great success was the District schools Public Speaking competition.

He represented Rotary on the industrial liaison Committee in Warrington and was a keen supporter of Young Enterprise.

Sid became President of the Lymm club in 1984/85, the year Rotary celebrated its 80th birthday and he organised a social evening with their mother and daughter clubs - Warrington and Knutsford. He was instrumental in the formation of the Lymm Dingle Probus club, of which he is still a member, and famously once said, "I wanted something to do when I retired!"

Another award was also made at the club's party.

The Rotary club has been holding all its meetings and social events at Statham Lodge Hotel for exactly 45 years.

President, John Beard, said that he considered the club to be extremely lucky to have not only a venue with such great facilities as the Gainsborough Suite, but excellent food, helpful staff and hosts who were always receptive to the club's requests. He thought it fitting in view of this long association with the hotel to demonstrate the club's appreciation

in a more tangible way and presented Arthur Walker and his wife, Georgina, with a pair of large cut Waterford crystal wine glasses, each glass being individually engraved with their own initial, and a certificate for 45 years of excellent service.

In his response Arthur Walker accepted the gift and apologised for his wife's absence and concluded by saying, "So far as I am concerned the Rotary Club can continue to meet here for the next 45 years!"

Rotary float raises nearly £6,000

THE total of Lymm Rotary Club's Christmas float collections around the roads of Lymm and Thelwall was a near record of almost £6,000.

"I was astonished", said club President, John Beard, "especially considering the economic cloud under which everybody is currently suffering. Together with our collection for Children in Need, held just a few weeks earlier, the residents of Lymm and Thelwall have donated nearly £6,000 and the Rotary Club is extremely grateful and gives its thanks for their generosity and continued support. The money will help the club with its community, national and international projects".



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Golf club Lady Captain helps raise £4,500 for charity



A LADIES night and Auction of Promises was held at the High Legh Park Golf Club and raised a staggering £4548 for CAFT, The Children's Adventure Farm Trust, the chosen charity of this year's Lady Captain, Carol Robinson.

The charity provides holidays for disadvantaged; disabled and terminally ill children and is locally based in Millington, Cheshire not far from High Legh.

The event was attended by 92 ladies and started with a champagne reception followed by a three course meal and the ladies were entertained by After Dinner Speaker, Lilian King, Q.P.M., who served as Chief Superintendent of Greater Manchester Police until her retirement in March 2010.

This was followed by an Auction of Promises with 32 items ranging from Christmas cakes to Villas in Portugal.

Carol said she was overwhelmed by the support that she's been given during her year as Lady Captain and would like to thank everyone for their kind donations for this worthwhile local children's charity.



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New 'gateway' to Lymm village

THE new "gateway" to Lymm Village erected on the A56 Higher Lane, near Lymm Dam, will be officially opened as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

The archway, funded by the parish council, will be joined by a map

which will help guide visitors down the steps to The Dingle and on to shops, pubs, cafes and other features of the village.

A similar map will be placed on the railings at the Lower Dam.

Meanwhile, Lymm Parish Council is

to press the borough council to take action about the steps leading to The Dingle which, they say, are slippery, dirty and uneven.

They say handrails are also needed on both sides of the steps.

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9 Albany Road, Lymm

A well presented extended semi detached in quiet cul-de-sac location, entrance hall, lounge, L shaped living/family room, breakfast kitchen, utility room, downstairs w/c, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (master having a en-suite), GC Heating, off road parking, large rear garden, garage. Viewing Recommended.

£235,000

FOR SALE



1 Thirlmere Lodge, Lymm

A first floor apartment in the centre of Lymm. Comprises of a spacious entrance hall, living/dining room, fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, two bathrooms with the main bedroom having an en-suite, gas central heating, UPVC double glazed and allocated covered parking together with visitor parking. Viewing highly recommended.

£189,950



PROPERTY OF THE MONTH

15 The Farthings, Lymm

Ridgeway Residential are pleased to be able to offer for sale this well presented modern mews property in a popular location, close to all local amenities. The accommodation briefly comprises, entrance hall, large living/dining room with bay window and a door opening into rear garden, fitted kitchen, downstairs w/c, two good sized bedrooms and family bathroom. Off road parking for two cars and well presented garden to the rear. NO CHAIN

£184,950



3 Waterbridge Court, Lymm

A ground floor apartment, within walking distance of Lymm village centre. Comprises of an entrance hall, open plan living/dining room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms and a family bathroom with electric shower above the bath. Gas central heating and UPVC double glazing. Allocated parking and delightful communal gardens to the rear.

£129,950



33 Church View, Lymm

A Very well presented modern mews in sought after location, entrance hall, downstairs W/C, Lounge with double doors opening to Garden, dining kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, family bathroom with separate shower cubicle, en-suite, office area, parking.

£299,950

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18 Crossland Mews £1100pcm - 3/4 bedroom three story town house. Unfurnished available immediately

26 Chaise Meadow £1650pcm - Spacious 5 bedroom town house. Unfurnished available immediately

28 Eagle Brow £1850pcm - 5 bedroom Period semi detached. Unfurnished available immediately

32 Grove Avenue £650pcm - 2 bedroom mid terraced. Off road parking. Furnished available immediately

Waterbridge Court £550pcm - 2 bedroom ground floor apartment. Unfurnished Available 06/02/2012

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TO LET

Rotary to the rescue

LYMM Rotary Club came to the rescue when a six-year-old girl was too ill to visit Father Christmas.

A message was sent to Santa and he arranged to make an early visit to Amber at her home on the Friday before Christmas. However, he had a problem. His sleigh was already loaded with presents ready for his long night on Christmas Eve.

Santa stroked his long white beard as he pondered and then telephoned his friends at Lymm Rotary club who were only too pleased to lend him their sleigh.

Amber was completely over-



whelmed when Father Christmas arrived at her house but he was able to leave a large sack of presents and as he left, Amber's Dad said, "Never mind, I can tell you now that she will never stop talking about your visit."

Land is 'surplus to requirements'

TWO sites at Lymm are included on a list of properties which borough council officers have identified as surplus to requirements and which could be sold to raise up to £2.5 million.

One is the Lymm Youth Club building and the other grazing land adjacent to Cherry Tree Primary School which, officers say, is a potential housing site of significant value.

The borough will go out to full public consultation and officers stress that at present they are not seeking approval to sell any of the properties.

The youth club site is subject to an application from Lymm Youth and Community Association for a Community Asset Transfer.

If successful, the property would be handed over to the association for 30 years at a rent of £1 a year. But the group will have to show they are competent to operate the facility, meet council objectives, manage the building and remain financially viable.

According to local councillor Sheila Woodyatt (right), council officers have got it wrong in suggesting the land next to Cherry Tree School is a potential housing site.

She said: "This land is subject to a covenant restricting its use to education purposes."

The borough council has raised more than £11 million over the last five years from selling off surplus land and property.

Cindy's mission to find her ancestors

CINDY Nicolle has ancestors who lived around Lymm. She knows their surnames, but is trying to find out if they, or any of their descendants, had sight problems - something not easily found out from census records!

She has contacted Lymm Life to find out if anyone in the village is related to any of the following families:

Shiers and Davies, from Agden, Atkinson and Stringer, from High Legh and Wilkinson, from Acton, near Northwich.

If so, do any members of these families have sight problems?

Cindy is trying to locate relatives who may be affected by the same genetic eye problem as some members of her family.

She said: "The eye problem is called Refinitis Pigmentosa (RP), and in can vary from having virtually no effect, through night blindness and tunnel vision, to almost complete blindness."

In her case RP can affect both sexes, and those with it have a 50/50 chance of passing it on to children. More details can be found on the website: www.rpfightingblindness.org.uk

Benefit

Cindy added: "There is advanced research which could lead to treatment in the near future, and it could be helpful to have names of others who may have the same defective gene and who thus could benefit from the same treatment."

Anyone who can help Cindy should contact her by email at wartling@hotmail.co.uk



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Lucky winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs Janet Leigh who is the December 2011 winner of the SEIKO monthly watch draw at Adcott Opticians.

Mrs. Leigh is now the proud owner of a SEIKO solar powered ladies watch. For a chance to win your very own SEIKO watch, ask for the superb SEIKO varifocal lenses at Adcott Opticians and go online to enter the draw now. Mrs Leigh (left) is pictured receiving her prize from Debbie Adcott.



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Uplifting story of cancer recovery

GUEST speaker at the monthly meeting of Heatley WI was Neil Cliffe, who told his uplifting story of cancer recovery and his show of gratitude to medical staff.

Members admired his courage and tenacity and were left with something to ponder on if ever they go to Wythenshaw Hospital.

The speaker was warmly thanked by the president and Ann Malcolm.

Liz Wellbelove and Ann Oakes welcomed two visitors and two new members and dealt with the business with humour and efficiency. Thanks were expressed to committee members for their dedication and the work so often done behind the scenes.

A plant was given to Irene Thomason, who was recovering from surgery and raffle prizes were distributed. Winner of the competition for a fancy purse was Elaine Keaveney.

After a show of hands it was decided to hold the birthday party on April 12 and there will also be a Diamond Jubilee celebration at St Peter's Hall in June.

Margaret Sharpe announced the date of the next Public Affairs meeting and will be accompanied by three other member on March 23.

Home grown fund-raiser!

LYMM Youth and Community Centre has received a timely boost to its fund-raising thanks to a donation from Lawlors of Lymm.

The hairdressers based on The Cross have been raising money for Cotebrook by selling home-made jam and home-grown produce to customers.

When Sean and Tracy heard from customers the good reports of work being down at the youth and community centre near their premises, they split their donation raising £160 for the youth and community centre.

All these donations from members of the community and community groups are helping the rapid progress of the Community Organisation.

Various functions are now taking place including monthly Senior Socials, Farmers Markets and Film Shows, weekly openings for three groups of Young People, Thursday Market Breakfasts and Sunday Afternoon Teas (in season), as well as occasional functions such as Craft Fairs.

Other local community organisations and local charities, such as Messy Church, the Lymm Lions Christmas Tin Collection and distribution, and the local branch of the British Heart Foundation, are encouraged to use the premises.

They also support and participate in local events such the Lymm Festival, the Dickensian Christmas Festival, and the May Queen Festival. Wherever possible they provide their facilities free of charge for all the above.



Sean and Tracy from Lawlors with Pat Bramwell and Su Williams, volunteers at Lymm Youth & Community Centre.

Ringling in the New

THE Bravura Bell Ringers provided entertainment at the monthly meeting of Lymm Women's Institute - and rang in the New Year in style.

They used concert hand bells, poems and anecdotes to entertain the well-attended meeting and their programme included one piece "Past Time with Good Company" which was written at the time of Henry VIII.

The group of four use 49 bells in concert pitch, with members using up to three or four bells at a time, all held in one hand.

The WI welcomed two new members and congratulations and a beautiful plant were presented to a member who had reached her 90th birthday.

Arrangements were made for an outing to dine at Warrington Collegiate's Buckley's Restaurant On February 23. Students will cook a three course meal for members.

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Dining Out with *Life*

at the Jolly Thresher

THE Jolly Thresher is something of a landmark in Lymm. If someone asks for directions and you respond: "Well, do you know the Jolly Thresher?" the answer is nearly always in the affirmative.

But it's not just because it's easy to find that makes "the Thresher" popular with people from far and wide, as well as locals. Good food and drink and friendly service have rather more to do with it - and never more so than at present.

We dropped in for an evening meal and found the restaurant buzzing with activity. The expansive menu was supplemented with a specials board so there was plenty to choose from.

For starters we opted for the soup of the day - carrot and coriander - and creamy garlic and Stilton mushrooms with garlic bread, both of which were delicious.

Other starters available included home made salmon and cod and prawn fishcake, aromatic Peking duck spring rolls and prawn and crab cocktail.

For our main courses were selected fillet of beef stroganoff with basmati rice and chicken and garlic mushrooms - seared chicken breast with mashed potatoes and creamy garlic mushrooms and vegetables.

These were nicely presented and tenderly cooked exactly to our taste.



There was an exceptionally large range of main courses including steak and ale pie, seared salmon fillet, baked beef lasagne and traditional fish and chips, as well as rib eye, sirloin and rump steaks and a range of salads.

Desserts were a problem thanks to the generous main courses, so we settled for ice creams. But there was a good range of alternatives including hot Bramley apple pie, raspberry and white chocolate cheesecake and sticky toffee pudding.

Cheerful and helpful service rounded-off an enjoyable evening and left us with the resolve to return to the Jolly Thresher again soon.



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Motorists are more prepared - but only just!

MOTORISTS are more prepared to cope with severe weather this winter - but only just.

More than one in three (38 per cent) say they have done nothing to prepare - and if that doesn't seem many it is better than last year when

the figure was 42 per cent.

The last two winters came early and were more severe than we have been accustomed to in recent years, which is probably why 39 per cent of drivers expect local authorities to do a better job with road gritting this year.

But according to an AA Populus survey, while individual drivers expect councils to do better, they are less prepared to do much themselves.

Only four per cent have bought winter tyres - one per cent more than last winter. Seven per cent have

bought all season tyres, compared with four per cent last year.

Four per cent have bought snow chains or snow socks and 42 per cent put a shovel, blankets, in the car. Twenty five per cent have purchased sturdy walking boots and 12 per cent have made plans with friends or colleagues in case the weather turns bad suddenly.

But in spite of the chaos of the last two or three years, 38 per cent have done nothing. However, the survey showed that in Scotland and the North East, motorists had done far more to prepare for the worst!

Seven-seat comfort with more fuel economy

AUDI Q7 drivers can now use fuel more sparingly and savour seven-seat comfort more completely in the new Q7 3.0 TDI 204PS S line Plus.

Taking the lower output V6 TDI engine first seen in the A6 on board the Q7 for the first time, and combining its 39mpg capability with an exceptional new specification, the lavishly appointed newcomer is

available to order now priced at £49,120 OTR.

At the same time, this punchy but remarkably efficient unit also appears in the most attainable lead-in Q7 model to date - the 3.0 TDI 204PS Standard priced at £39,995 OTR.

To strike its impressive balance between performance and economy the timing of the 3.0-litre engine's

camshafts, its turbocharger and its advanced common-rail system (with an injection pressure of 2,000 bar) have been optimized specifically with fuel efficiency in mind. As a result, up to 39.2mpg is possible according to the combined cycle test, equating to CO2 output of 189g/km.

With the help of a super-smooth eight-speed tiptronic transmission, the latest V6 TDI uses its 204PS and its 450Nm torque reserve to power the Q7 to 62mph from rest in 9.1 seconds, and enables it to reach a 127mph top speed where conditions allow.

In common with all Q7 models drive is channelled to all four wheels in a 40 per cent front to 60 per cent rear ratio by the quattro permanent four-wheel-drive system, and both on and off the tarmac the standard five-mode air suspension with its variable ground clearance of between 180mm and 240mm helps to iron out the most imperfect of surfaces.



£6,600 a year to run a car!

IT now costs the average motorist more than £6,600 a year to keep a car on the road, according to the RAC.

Over the past 12 months, the annual cost of owning and running a car has soared by 14 per cent to £6,689. This rise is almost three times the current rate of inflation.

Drivers now have to pay on average £128.64 per week, or 55.74 pence per mile, to own and run their vehicle.

This is £1,556 a year more than it was in 2007, before the financial crisis and subsequent recession.

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Care home named in memory of grandma

A NEW care home opening in Lymm has been named in memory of a local schoolgirl's grandma.

The new care home on Booths Hill Road, Lymm, was unveiled as part of a naming competition with the pupils at Cherry Tree Primary School.

Youngsters from the school, gathered as the winning name, Cheshire Grange and the winning pupil, Daisy Knowles, were announced to a hall full of school children that had taken part.

National care provider Barchester Healthcare, which will run the new 50-bed care home opening July 2012 launched the competition at the school last month. Pupils entered their suggestions in the hope of winning Cinema vouchers for their family and £100 book vouchers for their school. All those that proposed a name were rewarded with a £5 WH Smiths voucher. The Winner who was, Daisy Knowles who had such a touching story as to why she had chosen the name. She said: "I named the home Cheshire Grange because my Grandma was called Jean Cheshire – just like our county. She lived in Lymm for a while until she became too poorly. She spent her last six months at Westvale House another Barchester Home in Warrington until she went to be an Angel." By the end of the school assembly there wasn't a dry eye in the hall!

Mike Fisher Regional Operations Director for the newly named

Barchester run care home, said: "Congratulations to Daisy on winning the naming competition and well done to all those who put lots of thought into their entries. It is such a lovely tribute to Daisy's grandma Jean and we are all quite sure that she gave Daisy the inspiration for the name."

"At Barchester we pride ourselves on building excellent relationships with our local community and our new home is no different! We hope to continue this happy association with the school who have done a fabulous job in helping us chose a name. Indeed the pupils have agreed to help us create a time capsule early next year, which we will bury in the grounds of the home."

Some of the other entries from pupils at the school included: Redcot Manor, Cherry Lodge and even Amazing Manor.

Lighten our darkness!

MEMBERS of Lymm Parish Council are concerned at the number of internally illuminated signs in the village centre Conservation Area.

Currently there are seven such signs – contrary to borough council policy, which favours externally illuminated signs. Members agreed to contact the borough's planning department about the need for a written statement of policy.



Beverley Macauley - Regional Marketing Manager, Barchester Healthcare, Helen Graham - Acting Head Teacher, Cherry Trees School Mrs Knowles, Mr Knowles Mike Fisher - Regional Operations Director, Barchester Healthcare.

Meet your MP

David Mowat

David Mowat, MP for Warrington South, holds regular surgeries throughout the constituency. If you would like to arrange an appointment to discuss an issue of concern to you please e-mail him at david.mowat.mp@parliament.uk or telephone 01925 231267.

David Mowat
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Families wanted for twin town exchange

LYMM Twin Town Society would like to hear from Lymm families interested in visiting the Loire Valley in France and staying with a French family.

There are a number of French families who would love to welcome an English family into their home for the exchange visit which takes place from June 6-10 (during school holidays).

Lymm has been twinned with Meung-Sur-Loire for over 40 years. Meung is a delightful small town about 10 miles west of Orleans in the Loire valley, an hour south of Paris. The Society organises various social events throughout the year to raise funds to help entertain our French visitors every other year.

Membership costs a mere £10 per family. Members receive newsletters, reduced prices at events and when hosting. Under 11s go free to social events; under 16s half-price. For membership enquiries or interest in taking part in the exchange, please contact Kirsty James on 01925 758361 or email lymmtowntown@btinternet.com.

Bungalow plan angers neighbours

A PLAN to convert a bungalow into a house at Lymm by raising the roof level and adding rooms in the roof space has triggered objections from neighbours.

The scheme would result in a "massive increase" in height, according to one objector.

Lymm Parish Council and Cllr Sheila Woodyatt also objected on the grounds of overdevelopment of the site in Whitbarrow Road. As a result, the borough council's planners decided to visit before reaching a decision.

The application by Liam Sammon is for a first floor extension to provide two extra bedrooms on a new first floor, a terrace and a Juliette balcony.

It would result in the roof being raised by about 1,500mm.

The plan was originally submitted last year but was withdrawn and reduced in scale following concern from neighbours and officers.

But officers now say the bungalow is not of significant architectural value and the changes are acceptable. One neighbour says the new, five bedroomed house will have no synergy with the traditional buildings in the road.

"The new design perpetuates indiscriminate architecture which blights parts of Lymm and was allowed in the past - it is totally out of keeping with the character of the surrounding conservation area," he says.

Membership boost

LYMM Golf Club is celebrating after attracting 70 new playing members in the year just passed - boosting playing membership including juniors to more than 700.

The increased popularity of the club follows a policy of holding special taster sessions and new member evenings designed to appeal to people wanting to take up the sport.

The club also picked up two major awards during the year - The 2011 Golf Environmental Water Management Award and the Golf Club of the Year for middle-sized golf clubs.

This was a result of the efforts of the greens team, led by master greenkeeper Stuart Yarwood, who built and installed three new ponds and carried out other environmental and recycling work, and the clubhouse team, led by catering manager Karen Fyfe. The club also has more than 100 social members who just enjoy the facilities provided by the club house.

A spokesman said: "Lymm Golf Club sees itself as an integral part of the village and a venue of choice for many outside functions including Lymm Festival events, as well as weddings and other private celebrations."

Further information can be obtained from Andrew Scully on 01925 755020 or emailing membership@lymm-golf-club.co.uk

Obituary

Jim Margison

THE funeral has taken place of Jim Margison, aged 93, of West Lane, High Legh, who died at home on November 21.

The service took place at St John's Church, High Legh and Mr Margison

was buried at St Mary's, Rostherne with his wife, Joyce, who died in 2007 and only daughter who died in a horse riding accident at the age of 17 in 1969. The Rev J Croft officiated.

Mr Margison was a former chairman of High Legh Bowls and Bridge Club, a sidesman and church warden at High Legh and a governor at High Legh Primary School.

A keen sportsman, he enjoyed cricket, tennis and football.

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

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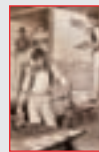
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