

Lymm

Life

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February 2014

Issue: 179



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'Super head' has positive impact

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Printed by TwentyFourSeven

Although this is our February edition it is our first of the year - so Happy New Year!

As I reported in the last issue - Lymm High School has received a "good" Ofsted report, with the school "outstanding in many areas" with the Executive Principal Tarun Kapur having a positive impact in all areas.

This is indeed good news for the school and those connected with it - which I suspect will include a large chunk of our readership.

Unfortunately there are still a lot of stories/rumours circulating on the "grapevine" about the suspension of Principal Angela Walsh.

I would suggest it is in the public interest for a public statement to be published on the suspension - as this will be the only way to stop the stories/rumours circulating.

There is obviously a lot of hard work going on at Lymm High School and it does no one any favours to have rumours flying around.

Let's have a line drawn under the whole sorry saga and move forward in a positive light.

One other issue which won't go away is the parking problems in and around the village caused by the double parking especially on the roads feeding the mini roundabout on Eagle Brow.

It is only going to be a matter of time before we are reporting a serious accident caused by this double parking.

Local residents have been campaigning for years for something to be done and yet

nothing appears to be happening.

Common sense would suggest the introduction of parking restrictions from 8am-6pm on one side of the road - but when relying on common sense and highway issues we could be left waiting a long time!

Finally congratulations to all those involved in the annual Dickensian Festival. Organising such events is never easy, time consuming and fraught with frustration.

Keep up the good work - it is appreciated.

**Deadline for
the March issue
of Lymm Life
is February 4**

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Super head has positive impact

THE appointment of a 'super head' with an outstanding track record of turning round problem schools is having a 'positive impact' in all areas at Lymm High School according to the latest Ofsted report.

Executive principal Tarun Kapur CBE was drafted in following the suspension of controversial Principal Angela Walsh last September.

Previously an outstanding school there were fears in the local community that it could be put in special measures following a large turnover of staff and poor morale.

But the latest Ofsted says the school is good with the recently appointed executive principal's vision for success and determination to drive the academy forward "having a positive impact in all areas."

The school converted to become an academy from September 2012.

The report says the school is a good school where the quality of teaching is good overall and much is outstanding, leading to students making good and outstanding progress in the majority of lessons.

Students' attainment is consistently well above the national average and achievement in mathematics is consistently outstanding.

The sixth form is good. The diverse curriculum and high-quality enrichment experiences in the sixth form results in students' good success rates. Students with specific needs are also supported extremely well.

Students also behave well in lessons and around the school. They have a positive attitude to learning and make the most of their experiences in the classroom and

in the wide range of extra-curricular activities. This contributes well to their good spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Attendance is above the national average and improving whilst exclusions are in line with or below the national average, and declining.

But the report highlights that staff turnover has been very high in recent months with 48 new teaching staff appointed to the academy in September 2013.

The academy also works closely with the Dean Trust which is a multi-academy trust and, although Lymm High School is a separate entity, it is part of the Dean Trust Teaching School Alliance.

The school is not yet considered outstanding because although much of the teaching is good or better, a significant minority requires improvement because the activities in lessons do not match the students' needs and abilities sufficiently well.

The marking of books is inconsistent. Not all teachers give students enough information about how they can improve their work.

The gap in achievement between pupils eligible for the pupil premium and their peers in English is not closing rapidly enough.

Inspectors observed 46 teachers in 48 part-lessons including three joint observations with members of the academy's senior team.

Inspectors also held meetings with approximately 50 students from all year groups.

Meetings were held with the executive principal, the chair of the Governing Body, a local authority representative, senior and middle leaders, teachers and other academy staff. Informal discussions also took place with staff and students.

Inspectors took account of the 343 responses to the on-line questionnaire (Parent View) and the 97 responses to the staff questionnaire.

Mr Kapur said: "It is five years since the school was inspected and the educational landscape has changed significantly during that time and to achieve a good outcome is a real credit to the school community, particularly the staff and students"

"We can return to the task of ensuring that we are consistently good as we look to further improve examination results and progress of students, as well as developing even

greater opportunities for students and staff."

Chair of Governors Kieran Walshe added: "This report is really a tribute to the hard work and professionalism of the school staff, the whole leadership team, and of course the students. The school has made great progress under Mr Kapur's leadership over recent months, as OFSTED observed, though we all recognise there is still more to do."



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What's On in conjunction with Lymm Parish Council



February 10

LYMM HISTORY SOCIETY

The Clives, Cheshire to India & Powys
Mark Bevan.
Lymm Village Hall, 8pm
Visitors always welcome
More info Lynne Smith 01925 756776

February 11

LYMM PARISH COUNCIL

Lymm Parish Hall 7.30pm

LYMM LIONS GROUP

Meet: Bridgewater Club, Lymm
1st and 3rd Monday of the month. 7.30pm
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 HEARTS & HANDS

Knitting for charity at Lymm Methodist Church,
2nd and 4th Thursday each month.
1.30pm - 3pm. Details: 01925 753298

MARKET LUNCHESES

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

LYMM SCOTTISH COUNTRY

DANCE CLUB

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

LYMM BAPTIST CHURCH

FOYER LUNCHESES

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

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 PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Every 4th Wednesday, 8pm
(ex July & Aug), 7.30pm
Spread Eagle pub, Eagle Brow.
Details: www.lymmphotosoc.org.uk

LYMM WINE AND BEER CIRCLE

Every 4th Wednesday, 8pm
Lymm Royal British Legion Club.
Details: 01925 752934

LYMM CONCERT BAND

Rehearsals every Thursday evening
United Reformed Church, 8pm.
Details: 01925 752934

THE VENUE, LYMM

Chess Club every Monday from 6pm,
Open Mic Night every Tuesday from 9pm,
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LYMM WI

Every second Wednesday, 2-4pm at Lymm
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welcome.

LYMM BOOK CLUB

Last Thursday of the month 7.30pm, Spread
Eagle, Eagle Brow. Details 01925 752371



LYMM
PARISH
COUNCIL

Tuesday, February 11
Lymm Parish Hall 7.30pm

Last chance to discuss high speed rail project

LOW Carbon Lymm are giving local people a last chance to discuss the HS2 high speed rail link before the deadline for commenting on the project expires.

They are holding a public meeting at Lymm Village Hall, in Pepper Street, on Monday, January 27 at 7.30pm.

HS2 will have a major impact on Lymm if it goes ahead and the consultation exercise which allows local people to comment ends on January 31.

Low Carbon Lymm (LCL) chairman Zoe Cohen said: "There will only be days to go when the meeting takes place so we have invited the ABLE (Aghden, Broomeage, Lymm East) group to help you decide whether and how you want to respond and to inform our own LCL response.

"Come and hear and debate real issues planned to have a major impact for Lymm for decades ahead."

The meeting will be combined with a brief AGM for LCL when the group will give details of its achievements last year and look ahead to exciting plans for the coming year.

The meeting is open to the public and more details are available at www.lowcarbonlymm.org.uk or by contacting Zoe Cohen on info@lowcarbonlymm.org.uk

Head teacher was guest speaker

FORMER deputy head teacher of Statham Primary School Chris Moore – now head of a school in Walkden – was the guest speaker at the monthly meeting of Lymm Jubilee WI.

He gave two visual presentation on a day at Statham Primary and followed this up with a day at a school in Soweto, South Africa, where the daily challenge is to have clean water and staying safe means avoid HIV, Aids and even possible rape.

It was moving to hear the Soweto children chanting – showing how very happy they are.

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www.warringtonjobsfair.com



New community noticeboard

A New community noticeboard has been erected at the Heatley Co-op. Manager Mike Caston and parish councillor Su Williams are pictured admiring the new community noticeboard outside the premises

The noticeboard was paid for by the Parish Council and was erected with the permission of the Co-operative Society thanks to Mike's support.

Su said: "As a member of the Co-operative Party I am very pleased that they saw the value of a community notice board and hopefully we shall have more like this out of the village centre to inform people of events that are happening in the area. There is so much happening and not everyone can get into the centre of the village. Having a proper noticeboard will also hopefully mean less fly posting.

"Our next step is to have some way of reporting to Lymm residents the issues that have been discussed at the Parish Council meeting. The boards will be just one more way of helping us achieve this.

The boards are for local notices and not business advertising.



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Volunteers needed to help tackle loneliness

THE Lymm branch of national charity Contact the Elderly is searching for local people who would like to attend their monthly afternoon tea parties designed to help tackle the problem of loneliness.

It is estimated that in England alone, there are 800,000 people who are chronically lonely – and Contact the Elderly is the only national charity dedicated solely to tackling loneliness and social isolation among older people.

They do this through their tea parties for people aged 75 or more who live alone.

Each older person is picked up from their home by a volunteer driver and taken to the home of a volunteer host for the afternoon, where they meet other members of the group.

They are welcomed warmly by a different host each month, but regular attendance means that over the months and years, acquaintances become friends and loneliness is replaced by companionship.

Colin Melrose, chairman of the Lymm branch, said: "Our tea parties are a real lifeline of friendship for our older members, who have little regular contact with family or friends. They bring together people of all ages, develop fulfilling friendships, and give everyone involved something to look forward to each month.

"We would be pleased to hear from any elderly Lymm resident who would like to attend one of our monthly tea parties, to find out if they would like to become a regular participant. The invitation applies mainly to those who live alone but also to couples who have problems of restricted mobility."

Anyone interested, or who knows of somebody who may be, should contact Mr Melrose on 01925 756742.

Meanwhile, the annual concert by the Chicago Teddy Bears Society Jazz Band at Grappenhall Community Centre, which is Contact the Elderly's main fund-raising event of the year, takes place on Friday, February 14 at 8pm.

The event includes a two course supper and tickets are available from Mr Melrose on 01925 756742.

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Advertiser's announcement

Reproductive Health Group plan Open Evenings

REPRODUCTIVE Health Group, a leading, innovative and comprehensive healthcare service for women and couples, committed to the highest quality care in gynaecology, fertility, IVF, reproductive medicine and surgery are planning to hold regular Open Evenings.

Their clinics are conveniently located throughout the North West including Manchester, Nantwich and their brand new facility at Daresbury Park, the Centre for Reproductive Health.

They are strongly committed to keeping patients up to date with the latest treatments and techniques available and offer regular opportunities to meet with members of their specialist team before deciding on a course of treatment.

For couples and individuals contemplating fertility treatment,

they offer free mini-consultations with their fertility specialists. Simply call 0845 600 9997 to book or alternatively book online at www.reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk.

They also hold regular Open Evenings for patients to come along and meet their team in an informal atmosphere, with question and answer sessions and informal discussion.

The first Open Evening of 2014 will take place on Wednesday March 19, from 6.30pm – 8.30pm, at the Centre for Reproductive Health, Daresbury Park.

The Open Evening will be held in conjunction with Cheshire Natural Health who share the philosophy of combining conventional care with complementary therapy to achieve optimum outcomes. All are welcome to come along and meet the team of

clinicians, embryologists and nurses along with therapists from Cheshire Natural Health including nutritionists, acupuncturists and reflexologists.

The programme will be as follows:
6.30pm – 7.30pm General Gynaecology,
7.30pm – 8.30pm Fertility.

Light refreshments will be provided and there is ample free parking. The evening is free to attend however as places are limited these should be reserved. To book your place please contact Annette Eckersley at aekersley@reproductivehealthgroup.co.uk



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Lymm 2014 Festival
lymmfestival.org.uk
Winter Warmers

More fabulous events for you

Stephen Hough
International concert pianist
Sunday 16 February at 3.00pm
St. Peter's Church, Oughtrington
Tickets ONLY £15
(or £5 for students 21 and under)

Film Night
Thursday 20 February
United Reform Church, Lymm

Philomena (12A) at 8.00pm
Tickets £6; £5 for over 60's and under 12's, who must be accompanied by an adult

Frozen (PG) at 5.30pm
Tickets £3 for children and £3 for accompanying adults. Children under 8 should be accompanied by an adult

Information on all events and how to buy tickets can be found at www.lymmfestival.org.uk or you can buy them direct from Lymm Electric, Bridgewater Street or Rushgreen Garage, Rushgreen Road

 

Lymm Summer Festival 19-29 June 2014
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School celebrates "outs

PUPILS, parents, staff and governors of Oughtrington Primary School, Lymm are celebrating the results of their recent Ofsted inspection as inspectors judged the school to be outstanding in all areas.

During the inspection which took place in October, inspectors observed and assessed lessons, examined a diverse range of work produced by pupils, reviewed documentation, conducted a parents' survey and spoke to children, staff and governors before reaching their verdict.

The final report found that "pupils' achievement has been consistently outstanding for several

years" and that "work is exactly matched to the needs and interests of pupils" with much teaching being described as "outstanding over time and in all key stages". The report also concluded that "the creative and skills-based curriculum is outstanding. It promotes pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development exceptionally well."

Inspectors spent time talking to pupils and reported that "Pupils say they feel safe and they are proud of their school", with a typical pupil comment being quoted in the report: "I love this school. Teachers are fair and kind and always help us to do our best".

Winter Warmers

LYMM Festival is drawing an extraordinary calibre of performer, and this season is no exception with distinguished international pianist, Stephen Hough, performing a recital at St Peter's Church on Sunday, February 16.

Stephen, who recently received a CBE in the New Year's Honours List, is one of the most distinctive artists of his generation and combines distinguished careers as a concert pianist, composer and writer.

Growing up in Thelwall, Hough leapt to fame at the age of 16 when he won the piano category of the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition. He has gone on to play with many of the most eminent orchestras and appeared on the world's most prestigious stages including Carnegie Hall, Chicago's Symphony Hall and London's Royal Festival Hall and at many festivals worldwide including Verbier, Salzburg, Tanglewood, Aspen and The Proms.

For the second year, Lymm is also creating its very own cinema to host a Films for You night. The first film, Frozen (PG), is a Disney animation and tells the story of a fearless princess who sets off on an epic journey to find her estranged sister, in a kingdom trapped in eternal winter. The second, Philomena (12A), is a 2013 hit British comedy-drama based on the book 'The Lost Child of Philomena Lee' by Appleton's Martin Sixsmith, which tells the true story of Philomena Lee's 50-year long search for her son, starring Judi Dench and Steve Coogan. Both films will be shown on Thursday, February 20 at the United Reformed Church - Frozen at 5.30pm and Philomena at 8pm.

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- Nursing Care
 - Residential Care
 - Dementia Care
 - Respite Care

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Thank you, Barchester!



Why not call us or drop in for a chat over a cup of tea?

www.barchester.com



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Cheshire Grange Care Home

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standing" Ofsted report



One parent compared the school's results as equivalent to getting four 10s on Strictly Come Dancing or four Olympic gold medals – a rare achievement, especially when you consider the few schools that have been awarded "outstanding in all areas".

Headteacher Gill Marsland praised the hard-working and committed team of staff saying: "We are thrilled that Ofsted have

judged our school as outstanding in all areas, recognising all the hard work and effort that staff have put in over the years, along with our drive for continual improvement. Additionally, we are proud that Ofsted specifically mentioned the enthusiasm for learning that we instil in our pupils. We feel that the report perfectly encapsulates our school motto of "Aspiring to Greater Heights".

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Lady golfers help raise over £5,000 for Hearing Dogs for the Deaf

LYMM Golf Club's Lady Captain Sheila Byrne helped raise over £5,000 for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People as her chosen charity during her year in office.

Nicola Litchfield, North West Organiser of the charity, received a cheque for £5217.28 from her at the club. The money will sponsor the training of a puppy into a hearing dog which will then be paired with a deaf person.

The money was raised by members doing a sponsored walk across Morecambe Bay, raffles and Lymm GC's Ladies' Charity Day.

Sheila and her committee Lottie Makin, Jeanie Donald-Jones and Jackie Booth, said that they were overwhelmed by the kindness, generosity and support they received whilst raising this money.

They said it is a fantastic sum and look forward to being kept up-to-date about their new four-legged 'member'.

Festive fun for luncheon club



MEMBERS of the Oughtlington Luncheon Club are pictured enjoying themselves at their Christmas Dinner at Oughtlington Community Centre organised by Joyce Penlington and other volunteers.

Reader's letter

Send your correspondence to:
The Editor, Lymm Life
New Media Centre, Old Road, Warrington WA4 1AT
or email: info@lymm.life.co.uk

Thank you for your generosity

Ian Bunday, Rotary Club of Lymm

The Rotary Club of Lymm would like to thank the good people of Lymm and Thelwall for your generous response to our Christmas Float charity collection. A big thank you also to our friends and supporters who came out with the float, sometimes getting very wet and cold, without whose help the Rotary Club would be unable to tour the district on the three weeks and three Saturdays before Christmas.

The money raised this year was over £6,500, a record, which is all given away to local charities, and our first donations will be made to the charitable organisations represented by our float collectors.

We believe that our Christmas Float has been a valued service to the community over many years, as well as being our major fund-raising event, and we hope that residents and visitors appreciate our efforts to bring festive cheer and fun just before Christmas.

Thank you all very much, and a Happy New Year to everyone.

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Lymm Runners celebrate first silverware

LYMM Runners – established in 2010 – are celebrating picking up their first piece of silverware after coming top of the teams at the Tatton Yule Yomp 10k.

More than 25 members of the club took part in the race – many in festive fancy dress.

Lymm Christmas Crackers were top out of 18 teams, and the club also had teams ranked at fifth, ninth and 10th.

As well as coming first in the teams competition, Lymm Runners also came second out of 34 teams in the running club contest – although they scored the same

number of points as the first placed team, they were ranked second based on time and position.

They also had teams ranked in eighth, 17th, 21st, 27th and 29th place in the running club contest.

The club is co-organising the High Legh 10k on Sunday, March 9 - which is now open for entries at www.fabian4.co.uk

More information is available at <http://lymmrunners.org.uk>



The Lymm Christmas Crackers team. From left, Jim Allen, John Croall, Georgina Walker and Lynn Moseley.

Cross country runners achieve national success



NEW records were set for Lymm High School girls' intermediate Cross Country team as they achieved national success.

The girls confidently secured second place in the 2013 National England Schools' Cross Country Cup held in Southend on Sea, cumulating initial entries of circa 1000 across England.

Victoria Ramsbottom, Melissa Boyer and Lauren Ferris continued to build upon their season's successes to secure 14th, 15th and 19th positions.

Sarah McGrail (returning from injury), Beth Simms and Megan Thomas supported them with more inspired running to achieve this amazing success.

They were presented with their certificates in the presence of Sue Garvey, Chairperson of ASAA, and Under 25 Current England Cross Country runner Adam Hickey who said "it has been a truly inspirational day".

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Obituaries

John Warburton

THE funeral has taken place at St Peter's Church, Oughttrington, of John Anthony Warburton (pictured), aged 71, of Birchfield Road, Lymm, who died in hospital at Liverpool on December 10.

Father Michael Burgess officiated and cremation followed at Altrincham Crematorium.

John was well known in Lymm and enjoyed walking his black Labradors. He could often be seen around the village on his bicycle with the dogs. John was married to Hazel, with two children, Steven and Judith and four grandchildren, Emilee and Grace Warburton and Tom and Evie Saitch.

Funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons of Lymm.



Firth Parkin

THE funeral has taken place of Firth Parkin, aged 87, of Whitesands Road, Lymm, who died on December 1.

Mr Parkin had lived in Lymm for 58 years. After serving in the Royal Navy in the latter years of World War 2, he commenced work at Crosfield's, in Warrington, from where he took early retirement in 1984. He is survived by his wife, Irene and daughter Valerie.

The funeral service took place at Walton Lea Crematorium on December 17, the Rev Douglas Black officiating. Donations were in aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

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