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January 2015

Issue: 190



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THE recent work issues on Higher Lane involving the road being dug up again just three weeks after resurfacing seems indicative of the crazy world we live in.

At times of such austerity when we are constantly told by government and councils of the need for cut backs due to financial constraint and lack of funding, we see money literally poured down the drain!

I am beginning to lose count of the number of times something has been done to change or repair our highways, only for it to be done again, either due to incorrect markings or to re-instate something because it has been done wrong in the first place.

On this particular occasion the road was re-instated at BT's expense – which I am sure will

go down well with their paying customers!

A little bit of joined up thinking could have saved some money somewhere – is it too much to ask for people to actually communicate with each other properly before any works are undertaken.

Common sense?

I am sure the council's highway programmes and BT'S superfast broadband infrastructure are planned well in advance and one organisation can have an insight into the others proposed programme of works? Or does that sound like too much common sense?

Meanwhile congratulations to Su Williams and her team of volunteers at Lymm Junior Youth Club on their recent recognition by Warrington

Voluntary Action.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any successful community – and Lymm Youth Club has become an amazing success story thanks to all the volunteers who are now involved.

It has come a long way in the past few years thanks to all those people who have given up their free time to make it a success.

The many events which take place throughout Lymm, including May Queen, Dickensian Day and Lymm Festival rely on the hard work of volunteers. They are the lifeblood of our community and it is great when they are recognised for their endeavours.

Keep up the great work!

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Dinki Duck flies in

CHILDREN'S charity, The Children's Adventure Farm Trust, have worked with Ravenbank Primary School in Lymm on an exciting new project aimed at raising awareness whilst fundraising to provide holidays and day trips to local children in need.

Ravenbank pupils were the first to be involved in this scheme which the charity is hoping will help to raise vital funds in the future. It began with their Community Fundraiser, Julie Gray, leading an assembly during which she told the children all about the amazing work the charity does for children of their age who are ill, disabled or disadvantaged. She told them a tale of a cute duck called Dinki who visited CAFT to find out all about what happens there and the children were enthralled!

Julie then gave the children a book each which beautifully illustrates the story, along with an activity envelope for them to take home. Teachers were happy to use these activities as homework for the children – they were encouraged to write stories, create new animals and get artistic! Two weeks later the children returned their envelopes which contained donations kindly made by parents and one lucky child from each year group won a giant cuddly Dinki Duck to accompany their book!

An impressive £807 was collected for the Adventure Farm which will help to provide holidays for children who would otherwise never be given such an opportunity. The school has now gone on to adopt CAFT as their Charity of



the Year and are looking forward to working on future projects with them.

Head teacher, Helen Sweeney said: "The children loved watching the DVD about the amazing work that CAFT does, they were immediately inspired to get involved to help a charity which is both local and also has such a positive impact on children their own age. They enjoyed the Dinki Duck envelopes and the teachers were very impressed with the quality of colouring, animal designs

and story writing. Everyone at Ravenbank is looking forward to our next CAFT project."

CAFT are now looking for other schools to get involved in this fantastic project.

Julie added: "Ravenbank have been a pleasure to work with, they were so enthusiastic. It was wonderful to see the children wanting to help other children."

Schools wishing to hear more about the Dinki Duck project should contact Julie on 01565 830 053 or email jgray@caft.co.uk



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What's On in conjunction with Lymm Parish Council



January 12, 2015
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 Norton Priory — Kathy Williams
 Lymm Village Hall, 8pm
 Visitors always welcome
 More info Lynne Smith 01925 756776

January 13
LYMM PARISH COUNCIL
 Lymm Parish Hall 7.30pm

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

MAPLE LODGE ART GROUP
 Meet each Wednesday 9.30am - 12.30pm
 Oughtrington Community Centre, 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 LUNCHEAS
 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

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 2nd and 4th Wednesday
 (ex July & Aug), 7.30pm
 Spread Eagle pub, Eagle Brow.
 Details: www.lymmphotosoc.org.uk

LYMM WINE AND BEER CIRCLE
 2nd Thursday of the month, 8pm
 The Boat Stage (Royal British Legion)
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LYMM BOOK CLUB
 Second Thursday of the month 7.30pm,
 Spread Eagle, Eagle Brow. Details 01925
 752371

LOW CARBON LYMM
 Every second Monday of the month. 7.30pm,
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To feature your event on this page please call our team on 01925 631592



LYMM PARISH COUNCIL
 Tuesday, December 9
 Lymm Parish Hall 7.30pm

A56 dug up three weeks after being resurfaced

THREE weeks after a half-mile section of the A56 at Lymm, was closed to carry out a major re-surfacing project, BT engineers installing fibre broadband arrived on site and dug the road up again.

The work infuriated local people who demanded to know why the work could not have been completed prior to the resurfacing.

They pointed out the project in Higher Lane, had been delayed for months while United Utilities carried out major sewer repairs – and questioned why the broadband work could not also have been done.

Resident Stuart Hodgson said: "Someone should be named and shamed over this.

"It's not the disruption because that was minimal on the second occasion. "But the fact is they've already start to introduce pot holes into a road surface that's only been there for about three weeks.

"The excavations went right across the road. "But conflicting statements from Warrington Borough Council and BT left the issue unresolved.

A spokesperson for the council said: "The additional work at Lymm was carried out by BT and the council has contacted them to understand why it was undertaken after the road re-surfacing."

But a spokesman for BT said: "This work was part of the BDUK (Broadband Delivery UK) multi-million pound programme to bring fibre broadband to Cheshire people.

"The special roadside green cabinets need to be connected up to exchanges and then to people's houses. We were granted permission by the council and we have reinstated the road to a good standard."



The scene in Higher Lane as the work was carried out.

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Pictured at a maths lesson from left, exchange teacher Jennie Liu, Jake aged 7, head teacher Sue Hall, George aged 8, exchange teacher Sophia Chen and Constance aged 7.

School welcome's Chinese visitors

PUPILS and staff at Statham Primary School gave a warm welcome to visitors for the partner school in Xi'an, China.

The head teacher, Ms Chen and English teacher, Ms Lowe were shown around the Lymm school, met the children and staff and spent time observing the local education system in action.

Statham Primary head Mrs Sue Hall said: "We have set up links with our partner school and hope this will be the beginning of a long-lasting partnership allowing all our children to make links and learn from each other's cultures."



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We would like to thank our partner primaries for providing an outstanding chorus for our production of 'Oh What a Lovely War'.

Lymm High School

wishes all our partner primary schools and the wider community a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year in 2015.

www.lymmhigh.org.uk

Bonfire shatters all previous records

LYMM and District Round Table's annual bonfire smashed its previous fundraising record after raising a staggering £13,500 for charity.

This dwarfs last year's record total of £7,500 and represents the most successful event in the Table's 50-year history.

The popular event – sponsored by Kids Planet Nursery and held at Lymm Rugby Club – wowed the crowd with two firework displays, a range of food, refreshments and fairground rides.

Lymm Ladies Circle, who served up some warming beverages, also raised more than £700 for charity.

Bonfire organiser and Round Table member Rob Spurr said: "We are absolutely over the moon at the amount we have raised this year. We knew it was a busy night but never dreamed that we'd better last year by so much.

"A big thank you must go to everyone who came along, our main sponsors Kids Planet, the rugby club for hosting and the traders who also provide a welcome contribution to

the kitty."

This year's chairman, Chris Gorman, added: "To raise such a huge total in what is our 50th year is absolutely amazing. We have a great group of hard-working lads who have given up their free time to help out. Their commitment to the cause means a lot of charities and community groups will be getting a much-needed boost this Christmas."

Anyone who would like to nominate a charity to be considered for a donation should email info@lymmroundtable.co.uk



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New group aims to save lives

A NEW group has been launched in Lymm – aiming to save the lives of local people.

The fledgling Lymm Community First Responders group aims to work with the Ambulance Service to help cut the time it takes to give a local resident medical treatment in the event of a life-threatening situation.

On average, it takes an ambulance 10-and-a-half minutes to reach Lymm in the event of an emergency.

Every minute that help is delayed following a cardiac arrest reduces the chance of survival by about 10 per cent.

Last year, 410 people in Lymm called for an ambulance in a crisis, so the problem is not a small one.

The idea behind the First Responders group is to set up a team of local people who would be able to get to the scene of an incident quickly, stabilise the patient and keep them alive until the ambulance arrives.

The responders would be ordinary people who have received full training and then do a few hours "on call" each week.

If a call comes in, they drive to the incident and start medical treatment.

This can half the response time and double the chance of a casualty surviving.

Local first-aider Graham Gowland said: "It's really simple stuff, but it can make the difference between someone living or dying."

"I've applied to become a responder and I work for a brewery. If I can do it, anyone can!"

More information is available at the website www.nwas-responders.info and interested people are asked to email janet.graham@nwas.nhs.uk with their address, stating they are interested in the Lymm CFR scheme. Applicants will be sent an application form, and interview and training will follow.

All equipment and training is provided by the ambulance service, but Lymm & District Round Table has pledged £3,000 to support the scheme.

The First Responders scheme supports the existing Heartstart project, that has seen the placing of more than 15 community defibrillators throughout the village, and has trained more than 200 locals over the last year in emergency first aid.

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A warning for buy-to-let landlords

MANY local residents have buy-to-let properties but are not aware of their tax obligations – nor that HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is currently mounting a two pronged attack on landlords.

Firstly, they are compelling letting agents to supply the names and addresses of landlords on their books and, secondly, running a "let property campaign" which encourages landlords to come forward and disclose their income.

Jane Swain, chartered accountant and director of Lymm Tax Services says:

"It doesn't occur to many landlords that they have to pay tax on their rental income. But this is something that HMRC is very hot on and it is in landlord's interests to come clean before HMRC comes knocking on their door.

"The incentive to disclose voluntarily, through the let property campaign, is that the penalties will be a lot lower than if you do nothing until HMRC catches up with you.

"Don't be under the illusion that HMRC won't catch up with you: they will. The government needs all the money it can get at the moment and landlords are a relatively easy target."

Jane says landlords should start making tax returns as soon as they begin letting a property even if they don't think they have made a profit.

"It is possible to have made no

money but still to have a profit for tax purposes.

"One particular problem which crops up regularly is with those who have spent a lot of money refurbishing a property before they let it. In their mind they haven't made a profit, so there is nothing to tax. But refurbishment costs are not the sort of thing which can be deducted from rental income in arriving at the amount on which you pay tax. You can only deduct costs which arise directly as a result of the letting. Refurbishment is different: it puts a property in a condition to enable it to be let in the



first place or enhances its value. As such it is what HMRC call a capital cost and you get no tax relief for it until you sell the property.

Useful contacts for landlords are:
 * HMRC to register to file a tax return for 2013/14 onwards - www.gov.uk/register-for-self-assessment

* HMRC to disclose income from 2012/13 or before – call 03000 514479 (you don't have to give the details of the income when you call this is just a notification that you have some income. You will then be given time to come up with the figures.

* Lymm Tax Services – 01925 754786 – www.lymmtax.co.uk – jane@lymmtax.co.uk

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Santa dash kick starts Lymm

LOCAL schools and community groups took to the streets of Lymm for the annual Dickensian Festival, which included a Santa Dash for the first time organised by Lymm Runners.

Town crier Peter Powell led the parade through the village with local school children dressed in festive costumes.

Villagers and shop keepers entered into the spirit of the occasion, with some wearing Victorian costumes.

The weather stayed fine as the Santa dash kicked off proceedings from the Lymm Hotel, followed by a parade through the village.

Pictures by John King



Lymm Adivas Morris Dancing Troupe.

More pictures available online at lymmlife.co.uk



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Dickensian Day



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Dentist's signs upset neighbours

PLANNING chiefs have thrown out a retrospective application for permission to erect three signs outside a Lymm dental practice.

They heard complaints had been received from nearby residents that the signs outside the Higher Lane Dental Practice were too large, disproportionate and "could be fairly described as ridiculous."

They were offensive in scale and detracted from an area which included many well-kept period

properties and Lymm Baptist Church.

Planning officers recommended the application be approved, but the borough council's planning committee unanimously decided to refuse permission.

Cllr Sheila Woodyatt said: "The signs are huge and ostentatious. The applicant was given an opportunity to submit amended proposals but came back with plans that were very little different."



Theatre school enjoying success

A new theatre school which launched in Lymm last September is already experiencing success.

Latimer Hulse Theatre Arts is run by teachers, Laura Hulse and Sarah Latimer and offers theatre arts and LAMDA exam preparation for youngsters aged between 8 and 18.

Two of their existing LAMDA pupils Charlotte Dowson and Adam Bennett are enjoying success.

Adam is currently a reserve for the West End production of Billy Elliott and Charlotte has just completed filming with the BBC for a new drama called Ordinary Lies, with TV star Jason Manford, which is due to be screened in the New Year.

Charlotte also played Polly in Cat on a Hot Tin Roof at The Royal Exchange in Manchester.

The theatre school also took part in the Lymm Dickensian Festival with a performance based on the characters from Dickens.

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New £4.3m juniors' building work well under way

CONSTRUCTION work is well underway on a new, purpose-built Junior School building and central 'Hub' at Withington Girls' School costing £4.3m (inclusive of fees and VAT).

The leading independent school for girls aged 7 to 18 has commissioned a state-of-the-art Junior School to be built within the grounds of Withington's existing site in Fallowfield, Manchester.

The project will deliver a new suite of classrooms for younger pupils, enabling two-form rather than single-form entry in both Years 5 and 6, and enhancing accommodation and facilities available for the whole School. There will also be a light and airy social 'Hub' with a new roofed courtyard area linking the Junior and Senior departments.

Withington's new Junior School building will be capped by an eco-friendly wildflower grass roof, and much of the preparatory work is being carried out off site to reduce disruption.

With construction due for completion in summer 2015 - Withington's 125th anniversary year - this latest investment follows a decade of improvements at the school including a new £2m Sixth Form Centre and Bistro in 2009 and a £1.2m Science development just a few years earlier. The new Junior School and 'Hub' will be the largest single development in the School's history.

The project has been designed by Manchester and London-based architects Levitt Bernstein, who have created a master plan to meet Withington's long term development strategy. Builder and developer Seddon, which delivered a £1.2 million science block for the school in 2004, has been appointed as lead contractor on the project.

Withington's Headmistress Mrs Sue Marks said: "Withington Girls' School has a heritage of vision stretching back to its foundation by a group of leading Manchester families in 1890. The new Junior School and Hub will help to ensure that Withington remains at the forefront of girls' education nationally in the way our founders intended, offering exceptional opportunities for personal development - academic, cultural, sporting and social - and encouraging independence of mind and high aspirations".

"I am delighted to announce that, from September 2015 onwards, our means-tested bursary scheme will be extended to include junior girls coming into Years 5 and 6. This will be in addition to the senior school bursary programme which currently helps around one-in-six senior girls with the fees, according to each family's needs."



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Volunteers recognised

PARISH Councillor and leader of Lymm Junior Youth Club Su Williams was delighted when she heard that Warrington Voluntary Action were holding an awards evening to recognise the volunteer work done by members of the community.

Su said: "We do rely so much on volunteers to help us make all our activities happen and these people are normally the unsung heroes so it was great that Warrington gave us the opportunity to nominate them for awards for their hard work." In all four members of the Lymm club's volunteer team, George Hussey, Matt Taylor, Lauren O'Shea and Joe Downing were awarded with certificates by the Mayor Cllr Ted Finnegan at a presentation evening held recently at Orford Hub.

After the event George said: "I do this work because I enjoy it. I love working with the kids and it makes me feel like I am giving something back to the community. I never expected an award but I was very proud to accept it."

Anyone who would like to get involved in activities at either the Junior or Senior Youth club in Lymm should call Su on 754080.



Matt Taylor (left) and George Hussey receiving their awards from the Mayor Cllr Ted Finnegan.

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Future of Interest Rates

June 5 this year was the day the financial market backdrop changed for the income investor in Europe.

It was on this day that Mario Draghi, president of the European Central Bank (ECB), announced it had cut its deposit rate to -0.1 per cent. In other words, the ECB has become the first big central bank to charge banks for parking their money with it.

There is a school of thought which says you should not get paid 'interest' for having your cash in a UK bank. Why? Because you are not taking any risk. Think about it, if you have £85,000 sat in the bank, and the government is guaranteeing your investment if the bank fails, then why should you get interest as well. One day in the future, the banks will 'cotton on' to this and stop paying interest on deposits.

In the short term I don't expect rates to do anything. Here in the UK the Bank of England has inflation under control, unemployment is hardly out of control. And if you also look around the world most of the developed economies have similar interest rates to us in the UK, and some lower. So expect much of the same. Great news for borrowers though!

Warrington Town FC

What a great night we had recently with Warrington Town beating Exeter in FA Cup. I watched the match on TV and thought it was like a throwback to watching football in the 1980's with proper tackles being made, and a referee that was prepared to let things go. How the Premiership could learn from this!



Finally

As if to add to TESCO's current woes I saw a brilliant bit of marketing the other day on Twitter by one of TESCO's rivals Lidl. It showed the Lidl trademark and the caption was 'Every Lidl helps.'

Don Wernham,
Financial Planner

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Obituaries

Bernard Hough

THE funeral has taken place of Bernard Rodney Hough, aged 98, who resided at Keate House, Lymm for the final 18 months of his life.

Bernard was born in Stockport, and qualified as a dental surgeon at Manchester University.

He then volunteered to join the RAF at the outbreak of World War 2. He was posted to Algiers and Cairo during the war and promoted to flight lieutenant.

After the war, Bernard became the resident dentist to the Burton's Tailors group, where he remained for many years.

He enjoyed reading, walking (especially with a border collie) and the great outdoors.

He was good natured, very active to the end of his long life and a true gentleman.

He leaves his son Philip, granddaughters Ellie and Clare and great granddaughter Ava.



Ken Deakin

THE funeral has taken place at Altrincham Crematorium of Ken Deakin, aged 72, of Bollin Drive, Lymm, who died in hospital at Liverpool on October 5.

Ken, who had lived in Lymm all his life, worked for Laporte Chemicals in Warrington and, after taking early retirement, managed Burnett's convenience store in Higher Lane, Lymm for some years.

A keen DIY enthusiast, he loved spending time with his family and his dogs and enjoying happy times at his caravan in Wales.

Ken is survived by his wife, Joyce and daughter Debbie

Funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons of Lymm.



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