

# Lymm Life

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Issue: 119  
February 2009

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**Pupils  
celebrate  
at the  
double**

Pages 3



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Council as the official  
magazine for Lymm

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# Editor's Comment



JUDGING by recent feedback from local residents the proposed pay and display car parking on the three village centre sites is not welcomed by everyone!

The vast majority of residents who have contacted Lymm Life are opposed to it on all three sites, fearing it will result in more on street parking in residential areas close to the village centre.

From my own experiences the

residential streets are already fairly jam packed during office hours, so I don't see how pay and display parking can make it any worse - and the proposal is for the first two hours to be free any way!

Looking at things from the retailers' point of view it is essential that visitors to the village centre can park with ease.

A similar play and display set up on the main Forge car park at near by Stockton Heath has proved successful, so I don't see why a similar set up in Lymm should not prove equally successful.

But fear not - I am told the limited consultation which has taken place will not result a final decision being taken just yet, with further meetings involving the borough council's highways department and local councillors still set to take place.

## Churches to launch litter blitz

THE Churches in Lymm are staging a one hour litter pick on Sunday, March 1 at 2pm - the first of a series of monthly tidy-up sessions to help keep Lymm looking at its best.

This follows a series of litter picks organised by the churches last year when members turned out to remove litter from the village centre, car parks, bus stops, the canal towpaths and Ridgway Grundy Park.

The litter pickers will meet at the Lower Dam. Further information can be obtained from Brian Turner on 01925 753059.

### Encouragement

Members of the public offered such encouragement that the churches are repeating the exercise this year.

The March 1 event will be followed by others on the first Sunday of each month, up to and including November. All equipment will be provided.

Last year, the venture was supported by Lymm Parish Council, which provided equipment and large sacks.

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# Pupils celebrate at the double

**PUPILS and staff at Ravenbank Primary School are celebrating after their second 'Outstanding in every category' OFSTED report in just over three years.**

Head teacher Avril Topping said: "After the last OFSTED report, we knew we would have to work very hard to maintain the standard and improve on it – and this is what we had done to prove we had done."

"The inspectors listened to the children, more than anything else, they had lunch with them, met them on the playground, talked with a group of them for an hour in the afternoon and talked to them in the classrooms."

"The report's findings are an accolade to a dedicated, hard working staff and governing body, and amazing children, who not only work to the very best of their ability, but are responsible, kind and caring young citizens."

Chair of Governors Liz Green said: "The Inspectors commented on the 'exemplary leadership' of our current Head, Mrs Avril Topping, and the 'excellent teaching and learning complemented by an outstanding curriculum' provided by the staff. It is a just reward for the commitment and



skills which all the staff bring to our children throughout the year.

"It was also lovely that the inspectors thanked the children for giving them such an enjoyable day."

"On behalf of all the parents and Governors-well done and thankyou!"

## Playgroup's home under threat

THE future of the Lymm Village Hall Playgroup could hang in the balance after a request for an outdoor play area was turned down by the parish council.

Playgroup organisers told members of the council that it was a requirement of Ofsted for playgroups to have a suitable outdoor play area.

Without suitable facilities they could be forced to find alternative premises. Parish council Chairman Coun Sheila Woodyatt said: "While we have every sympathy with the playgroup we have to take into account other users of the village hall. We simply could not accommodate having an area fenced off outside a public building."

Coun Woodyatt said she was hopeful that proposals for a young persons play area on the nearby May Queen Field could still happen later in the year, although she realised it was not entirely suitable having youngsters crossing a road to access it.

"It would be helpful if organisations like Ofsted could be a little more flexible in their requirements," she added.

Lymm Village Playgroup has operated successfully from the village hall for more than twenty years.

## Lunch time

LYMM Baptist Church, on Higher Lane, is serving light lunches for older people and young mothers with children every Monday between 12 noon and 1.15pm during school term time.

The meal consists of soup and a roll, a pudding and a cup of tea or coffee and costs £2.50.

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# What's On

in Lymm  
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LYMM PARISH COUNCIL



## February 9, 2009

LYMM & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
"Whatever happened to the School Board?" - Brian Field  
Village Hall, Pepper Street, 8pm  
Visitors £2 - including tea/coffee & biscuits  
Further information from the secretary on 753309

## February 10, 2009

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

## February 13, 2009

LYMM GROUP OF CONTACT THE ELDERLY  
Grappenhall Community Centre, 7.30pm-11pm  
£10 - including buffet  
Contact Colin Melrose: 01925 756742

## 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

## MARKET LUNCHES

Eagle Brow Methodist Church  
3rd Thursday in the month  
Light lunches 12 noon till 2pm  
All proceeds to Opening Doors Charity, Warrington

## LYMM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

St Mary's Church Hall  
Alternate Saturdays (Sept to May) 7.30pm  
Details: 753853

## LYMM YC

Bridgewater Street, Monday 7 - 9.30pm  
Details: 754114

## LYMM BAPTIST CHURCH DROP LUNCH

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

## LYMM SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

St Mary's Church Hall  
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Details: 753853.

Non-profit making community organisations who  
would like to feature in the  
What's On Column

should contact Lymm Life on

01925 631592

# Top award for guides

TWO Lymm girls received the highest award possible in Guiding after completing a series of activities.

Lymm High School pupils Heather Jones, 15, and Jennifer Bates, 13, both passed the Baden-Powell Challenge.

The girls, members of the 4th Lymm Guides, received their awards from Alison Pennycook, Lymm District Commissioner.

To gain the awards the girls completed a variety of tasks including arranging a mini-Olympics, comparing Fair Trade products and

looking at the issues involved, and arranging evenings focussing on Switzerland and the Jewish New Year.

They also continued to pursue an interest in music and gave presentations - Heather plays the flute and Jennifer plays the tenor horn. They also looked at current fashion trends and how clothes make people feel.



Heather (right) and Jennifer.

## Probus festivities



MEMBERS of Lymm Dingle Probus Club held their annual Christmas dinner at the Lymm Hotel.

Left to right: Mr Peter Latham, Vice President; Mrs Pauline Tod, Mr George Tod - President; Mr Mike Wood, President of the Rotary Club of Lymm and his wife Mrs Pam Wood.

## Prom models wanted

GIRLS from Lymm High School have the opportunity to ensure their Prom dress is exclusive.

Karen Taylor, of Biba Boutique, Heatley Mere, Lymm, is hosting a Prom Dress Fashion Show at the School at 7pm on Wednesday February 18.

She is looking for Year 11 and 13 pupils to model at the event. Those who buy a dress will receive a special 15 per cent discount and can be re-assured it will be exclusive to them on the night.

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# Teenager dives with sharks for charity

**A teenager took the plunge to dive with sharks raising nearly £1,500 for a Lymm-based charity.**

Jade Lawrence-Howard, 17, from Appleton took part in sponsored dive with sharks at Blue Planet Aquarium to raise funds for research into the rare genetic condition Kabuki Syndrome.

Her mother Joanne is a classroom assistant at Little Bollington Primary School, near Lymm, where Hannah Scales, who died from meningitis following complications caused by Kabuki syndrome, was a popular pupil.

Hannah's family and friends have worked hard to raise funds for research.

Commenting on her dive experience Jade said: "After looking round and viewing the sharks I would be diving with, nerves set in. I didn't realise they would be so big and how big the

teeth were; I was also told the stingrays still had the barbs on.

"After I met with the Dive master and instructor and received a briefing I felt more at ease.

"It was then time to get kitted up and for the dive to begin. This was my first time diving in salt water, and even though I had more weight than normal, I needed an extra couple of kilos to keep me on the bottom.

"The whole experience was amazing, I couldn't believe how close the sharks and other fish came. One fish took a fancy to me

and wouldn't stop nibbling at my wetsuit, thankfully the sharks didn't feel the same way!"

"I would highly recommend anyone to do this, as it is an experience I will never forget."

Jade added she would like to thank all the people who supported

her and is now contemplating her next charity event - possibly a skydive!

*Pictures show Jade during her diving experience and presenting a cheque to Hannah's parents Ann and Paul Scales.*



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## Toilet troubles for your pet

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If you notice that your pet either needs to go to the toilet more frequently or is wetting in the house overnight or in abnormal places then this could mean one of many things.

By far the most common condition that causes more frequent or inappropriate urination is a water infection (cystitis). This condition can often be accompanied by strong smelling or even blood tinged urine. The condition can progress

quite quickly but is usually quickly treated with antibiotics.

Crystals or stones can form in the bladders of animals (like they do in humans) and these can also lead to signs mentioned above.

Often, bitches that are in season will urinate more frequently but this usually stops when the season ends.

Any animal which is drinking more and urinating more should be examined by the vet. There are some serious conditions which cause the above clinical signs; the conditions include: Kidney failure, liver problems, Cushings disease and diabetes. Thankfully, a simple blood test is available at



Lymm Veterinary Surgery who can help to differentiate between these conditions and treat the problem at hand.

So, if you notice your pet having 'toilet trouble' then don't hesitate to bring them to us so we can get the problem sorted.



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# Cruising friends raise £3,000

**FRIENDS of Bob Craig, a former member of Lymm Cruising Club, have raised £3,020 for the Huntington's Disease Association in recognition of the ongoing support given the Craig family over a number of years.**

A cheque was presented to Diane Lyes, regional representative of the HDA at the care home where 63-year-old Bob now lives.

Bob was a member of the cruising club for more than 10 years and moored his boat at the club's headquarters on the Bridgewater Canal in Lymm, using it most weekends.

After selling the boat, he and his wife, Diane, moved to North Wales to be near their daughter, Diane and son-in-law Les.

By that time Bob was unable to use his boat, or lead a normal life and found the help they received from the Huntington Disease Association invaluable – so his friends in Lymm decided to raise the money.



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## New year - new show home

CROSBY Lend Lease is set to launch its new show home and sales suite for Beechwood in Lymm on January 31 with luxurious high specification homes and apartments that are available to buy via the Company's new part exchange scheme; GO X.

Situated on Sandy Lane, Lymm, Beechwood is an exclusive development of just 35 homes with a selection of 2 bedroom apartments, 3 bedroom mews homes and 3 and 4 bedroom townhouses. In 2009, Crosby Lend Lease is opening its new show home and sales suite at Beechwood with a special 'New Year, New Home, New You', themed launch weekend when buyers can purchase a new Beechwood home by part exchanging their old property.

Commenting on the new part exchange scheme, Clare Noakes, Sales and Marketing Manager for Crosby Lend Lease said: "We're looking forward to welcoming visitors to experience our award-winning style for themselves. We have some exciting launch events lined up; we'll have a top local chef cooking up some tasty and health conscious treats and we'll be offering visitors the chance to win a brand new Wii Console and Wii Fit to keep fit for the New Year!"



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# Editor spills the beans!



**DURING a visit to Oughtrington Primary School Lymm Life editor Gary Skentelbery gave pupils a fascinating insight into the media including Lymm Life.**

After interviewing Gary pupils were set the task of writing up a report about his visit with the prize of some of the best ones being published in the magazine.

He also told pupils about his role as Chief Executive at Warrington Town Football Club and invited them to visit the club on a match day in the future.

The articles published by Aidan and Sally have been sub-edited to fit the space and to accommodate house style.

## Skentelbery spills the beans!

by Aidan Ferrie, aged 11

LYMM Life editor Gary Skentelbery loves his job and would not trade it for the world.

During a visit to Oughtrington Primary School he said his most favourite recent interview was with

Britain's Got Talent winner George Sampson from Warrington.

He told the class he loves taking pictures but hates visiting sad scenes.

"We never bend the truth and we are always honest," he said.

At the end of the interview he took a picture of Year Six and handed out copies of Lymm Life. He then said goodbye but the class will never forget the day they interviewed Gary as they "enjoyed it a lot!"

## Oughtrington Life!

by Sally Kilgour, aged 10

THE editor of Lymm Life Gary Skentelbery visited Oughtrington Primary School to tell children about his amazing job.

### Fascinating

He told the class many fascinating facts including that Lymm Life has been around for nearly 10 years.

Astonishingly he can work up to 70 hours a week! However he still loves the job.

Five thousand copies of Lymm Life are distributed each month and it likes to focus on positive aspects of life.

The experience was out of this world!

## Giant stink bomb

by Maddy Frost

THERE is a pond on my estate that is in a very bad state, despite the fact that many residents try to keep it in a good condition (a vast majority participate in helping), whereas some residents (and others who are not residents) do not try so hard.

Some people say that there is rat poisoning in the pond water. It smells like a giant stink bomb and nobody knows why.

A couple of months ago with my friends we decided to do a litter pick and the horrid things we found were unbelievable!

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# Cartwheeling to victory

by Luke McKay and Harry Downing, both aged 10

YOUNG athlete Louis Shipton (at the age of 10) flipped, turned and rolled to pride and joy to represent Lymm.

On a cold, rainy day he flooded a competition with his amazing talent and people saw his confidence and ability. Louis said he was pleased to be the fantastic gymnast that he is.

The competition was held at Great Sankey Leisure Centre where he demonstrated a floor routine and vault jump.

The standards were high but Louis stood out – firstly because he was completely outnumbered by girls and because he gave an exciting and concentrated performance. A thumbs up from all the

judges, and smiles all round.

Louis' favourite gymnastic movement is the handspring. He enjoys this because he does a flip in the air. Louis aspires to be a professional gymnast and Olympic athlete. Louis would like to thank his coach Sarah Mudd for her support.





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## Charity fun day

LYMM-based national charity STEPS – which campaigns on behalf of children with lower limb disorders – is holding a Fun Day at the Village Hall, Pepper Street, on Saturday, February 28.

There will be a toy sale, craft stalls, raffles, tea, coffee, soft drinks and home-made cakes as well as special guest appearances and surprise events.

The event is linked to STEPS' Baby Hip Health Week (February 23-28) which will launch a report into standards of screening and diagnosis in hospitals and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) regarding the baby hip examination.

Initial findings indicate that, alarmingly, many PCTs do not even have a hip examination policy which is an important part of the newborn and 6-8 week physical baby health check.

Every year, up to 2,000 babies and children are diagnosed with Developmental Dysplasia of the Hip (DDH) which describes a range of conditions from mild instability and immaturity to total dislocation of the hip.

Late diagnoses can lead to early hip replacement and osteoarthritis, for which there is no cure.

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## Good housekeeping

This month we take a look at how the self-employed can claim part of their household expenses against their annual tax bill.

The Revenue recently clarified the details of how self-employed workers may be able to offset some of their household expenses against their taxable income. Examples of what is allowable when using your home to run all or part of your business are given below.

If part of your home is set aside solely for business use for a specific period then a part of these costs is allowable and it will normally be appropriate to apportion these expenses by area and time.

- Insurance, Council Tax, Mortgage Interest (not capital) or Rent
- Repairs & Maintenance - general redecoration of the exterior or repairs to the roof, but NOT the decoration of a room not used for the business.
- Cleaning - only if the area used for operating your business is being cleaned!
- Heat, light & power - a photographer with a studio at home will have a much higher business expense for electricity than a trader writing up records once a week in the spare bedroom
- Telephone & Broadband - the cost of business calls may be allowable as well as a proportion of the line rental
- Metered water charges - in cases of heavy usage the business part of the property may be separately charged, however in the case of

writing up records there is no business use of water.

### Take Care!

There may be implications for Capital Gains Tax. Historically, there was a fear that if you took mortgage interest as an expense, it could put your house in jeopardy of not being free of CGT. Currently, taxpayers do not pay CGT on profits made on the sale of their primary residence, but if part of the residence was considered to be wholly used for business purposes, there was a risk that it could be deemed liable. This again has been clarified. A room which is used partly for business purposes and partly for residential purposes will qualify in full for relief from CGT.

Unfortunately, if you are an employee or company director, and undertake some of your work at home, the allowances are not as generous.

If you are self-employed and spend a portion of your time working from home, it is certainly worth reviewing your "Housekeeping" expenses to ensure you are maximising your income especially in these difficult times. For more information, please contact partner Les Styles, or any member of our tax team.



*Please note that these ideas are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action*

**If you would like more information on this or any of the previous subjects we have featured, please contact Les Styles or Ian Lloyd on 01925 761600.**

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# Tag rugby success for school



PUPILS from Lymm are celebrating coming third in a Cheshire-wide primary schools Tag Rugby Festival.

The team, from Oughtrington Primary School, have played in three rounds in the competition.

The team of 10 boys and girls, competing in the seven-a-side non-contact game, won the first round for Lymm schools held at Lymm High School.

They then went on to the second round for Warrington primary schools hosted by Warrington Rugby Union Club at Warrington Sports Club.

They won their group, so went on to the Cheshire final at Macclesfield RU Club where teams from all over Cheshire competed.

The Oughtrington team came third and won a shield which is now displayed in the school. All team members were presented with certificates in assembly.

Teaching assistant Shelagh Dolan said; "They have done really well and we are very proud of them."

Back row from left, Alex Clouser, Joshua Wadsworth, Jack Merrill and Olivia Lofthouse. Front row, Maddy Horner, Toby Phillips, Callum Morris and Rachael Ward.



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## Lawyers support local rugby team

SOLICITORS Forshaws Davies Ridgway LLP (FDR) have donated a portable shelter to Lymm Rugby Club's Under 12s team. The shelter was required by the Club in order to shelter the children between and before matches, as well as the parents who regularly attend.

Tim Jordan, Member of FDR presented the new shelter to the team and parents on a typically wintery Sunday morning. Tim said, "I've been involved with Lymm Rugby Club since I was a boy myself and remember the cold and wet mornings all too well. I'm delighted that FDR has been able to help the team and the parents by providing this shelter which will offer everyone a place to hide from the elements on those particularly inclement Sunday mornings!"

Steve Downes, coach of the Under 12s team, added, "We're delighted with the shelter. As with most things, we've wanted a shelter for a long time but not found something suitably easy to construct or had the money. We're hugely grateful to FDR for their continued support of the club and for providing this shelter. I know the parents are particularly grateful!"

Tim added, "Although FDR is one of the largest legal practices in the Northwest, we are always keen to support our local community and hope that the parents and teams at



Lymm can appreciate the shelter for years to come."

Lymm Rugby Club has teams of all ages from Under 7s up to seniors, as well as hosting Hockey teams, squash, tennis and netball.

## Jake has the golfing X-Factor



A 12-year-old Lymm boy won an X-Factor style search for young golf stars.

Jake Williams, from Booths Hill Road, a pupil at Lymm High School won the title jointly with nine-year-old Katie-Jane Stanley, from Oldham, at the Playgolf Manchester driving range at Trafford Quays.

More than 600 youngsters took part in the competition to draw up a shortlist of 60 - and Jake and Katie-Jane emerged triumphant.

Jake has been playing golf for just two years and excels at sport generally, being very keen on squash, soccer and gymnastics in addition to golf.

His prize was a golf scholarship which earns him new clubs and clothing and tuition.

Needless to say, his ambition is to be a golf pro!

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Lymm members with chief examiner Chen Xiaowang.

# Martial arts students Czech out Grades!

TAI Chi students from Lymm travelled to the Czech Republic for a grading assessment.

Lymm Tai Chi School took part in the assessment held by the Chinese Wushu Association, the official martial arts governing body in Luhacovice, China.

The grading system Duan Wei, similar to the Dan grades in Japanese martial arts, has recently become available to practitioners in the West.

Successful Lymm students were Andrew Hesketh, who achieved a third Duan, and Clive Howells, Lee Davis-Concie, Mary McGregor and Danuse Gelatova, who all passed second level.

Lymm school instructors David Gaffney and Davidine Sim have travelled throughout the East to develop their skills and both have competed internationally and hold the 5th Duan.

David said: "The grading was a major international event with participants from as far away as Argentina, Russia, German and Poland. The student's success is a major milestone for the development of Tai Chi in the UK."



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## Obituaries

### Ken Buckley

FORMER Lymm resident Ken Buckley, who was awarded an OBE for his flood defence work, has died aged 77 after a short illness.

Mr Buckley, a civil engineer, moved to Norfolk in 1974 and was made an OBE in 1991 for his services to flood defences in Broadlands and as chairman of the Coypu (a small rodent) Control Eradication Group.

His family lived at Pool Bank Farm, Statham and he attended Lymm Grammar School from 1941 to 1948. He graduated from Manchester College of Technology (now UMIST) and later worked on the Manchester Ship Canal.

He was involved in a major flood alleviation project in Bath from 1964, and then moved to Ipswich five years later with Anglia Water. He later moved to Norfolk as a chief engineer with responsibilities for rivers and defences, after taking early retirement in 1986 from Anglian Water. He continued his work with local internal drainage boards.

Mr Buckley and his wife Trishia were members of the Methodist Church in Norwich and were involved in youth and church work.

He leaves a widow, three children, Sue, Jill and Paul, and five grandchildren.

### Hilda Morton

THE funeral has taken place of Mrs Hilda Irene Morton, nee Thompson, of Bent Lane, Warburton, who died at Warrington Hospital, aged 89.

Mrs Morton, wife of the late Stanley Morton and mother of the late Geoffrey Morton, died peacefully after a long illness.

She is survived by son Roland, daughter Valerie, grandchildren, great grandchildren and her sister Dorothy.

Mrs Morton was born in Wallasey, Wirrall, and moved to Warburton 69 years ago. She enjoyed holidaying in Scotland and Devon.

Funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons, Lymm.

## Boost for organ fund



Church organist Martin Thacker at the console of St Peter's organ.

A TOTAL of £680.40 was raised for St Peter's organ restoration fund by Lymm and District Chorus.

The choir, directed by Robin Mundy, gave an exhilarating performance of Handel's Messiah, with fine individual contributions from soloists.

It inspired an enthusiastic audience to give generously to the fund. The organ, consecrated in 1872, has not been rebuilt since 1891; but work is now in hand to restore and update the pedal department, which was becoming unusable.

Anyone who would like to donate to the fund contact Fr Michael Burgess (Rector) on 752388. For details of Lymm and District Chorus contact Robin on 752569.

## Soulers on song for Cotebrook

THE Warburton Soulers came up trumps for Cotebrook by donating £900 to the Residents Fund.

Money was collected by the soulers who performed their traditional 'Souling play' in pubs around the area.

The proceeds will go towards purchasing much needed equipment and comforts for the residents.

Souler Lawrence Armstrong with resident Mrs Gertrude Bull and Janet Caldcleugh, senior care manager.





**Obituaries**

**Edward Lees**

THE funeral has taken place of Mr Edward Alfred (Ted) Lees, who died suddenly, aged 76.

Mr Lees, husband of the late Mrs Dorothy Lees, had lived in Lymm

for 45 years and previously in Hatton.

He leaves a son, two daughters, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Mr Lees was a quantity surveyor until retirement in 1997. In his spare time he enjoyed playing golf and was a member of Lymm Golf Club. He enjoyed spending time with his family, gardening, sport and holidays abroad.

A service was held at St Mary's

Church, Lymm, followed by interment in the church yard. The Rev Keith Maudsley officiated.

Funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons, Lymm.

**Capt Geoffrey Clayton**

THE funeral has taken place of Captain Geoffrey Reginald Clayton, of Old Smithy Lane, Lymm, who died in Thelwall Grange Nursing Home, aged 77.



Captain Clayton was a member of St Peter's Church, Oughtrington, since 1934. He was a Master Mariner with Manchester Liners spending his early career at sea. He became superintendent of Salford Docks in 1965. In 1981 he became northern regional director of the Mission to Seamen and retired in 1994.

He was a member of two branches of Probus in Lymm, was a trustee and chairman of Lymm Clothing Charity and was church warden at St Peter's for 17 years.

He is survived by his wife Jean, and his children Penny and Mark.

The funeral was at St Peter's Church conducted by Rev Michael Burgess.

Funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons, Lymm.

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