

# Lymm Life

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September 2015  
Issue: 198

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## Rushbearing

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# Editor's Comment



LYMM Rushbearing took place recently - but only after Lymm Parish Council stepped in to help fund the costs of road closures and other formalities.

But there have been warnings that future events may be at risk as clearly the parish council can not afford to keep picking up the tab and it is a bit much expecting those who give up their time to organise the events to foot the bill.

Local resident and 20s Plenty campaigner Rod King may have a solution having observed the many ways in which local authorities are able to enhance the value of their streets for community gain.

He says that with regard to the closure of roads for community events, including processions, play streets, marches, street parties, then there is an alternative to the

administrative overhead (and cost) of a formal road closure with associated Traffic Regulation Order and police presence.

Some authorities such as Bristol have passed a permanent blanket order for their streets which then allows approved events to have a road closed on a temporary basis without overbearing formality. Some events, such as a walking procession (ie Rushbearing) are not deemed to require road closure due to their moving nature, their shortness in duration and the ability to control with appropriate marshalling.

He believes that with a little objective collaboration then the various parties and authorities concerned would be able to resolve this in a "practical, pragmatic and cost effective manner".

Well Rod, it also calls for a little bit of common sense, which doesn't always prevail in the corridors of power - but here's hoping something can be sorted so our fantastic community events can carry on for future generations to enjoy.

Finally congratulations to everyone involved in the campaign to bring a heritage centre to Lymm Village.

It would appear the dream is set to become a reality, with the centre being situated in the former Royal British Legion building.

See full report elsewhere in this issue.

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# Angry residents fight housing plan

ANGRY residents are fighting plans to build seven family homes on waste land at the rear of the Farmer's Arms pub, off Rushgreen Road, Lymm.

Residents of Cedarfield Road, Ashfield Close and Birchfield Road say the development, if allowed to go ahead, would cause chaos in an area already gridlocked by traffic.

They also fear for the future as the Farmer's Arms has been closed for some time and, although it is up for sale, they believe it likely that it will never open again, making an even larger area of land available for housing.

## Heavily congested

One resident, Mrs Margaret Sharp, said: "The access to this site would be via Sandy Lane, which is already heavily congested day and night with parked cars.

"Cedarfield Road and the adjoining roads are quiet, residential roads but if these houses are built all the traffic visiting them – delivery vehicles as well as residents – will be channelled along Cedarfield Road.

"This site does need to be used for something – but not for housing. What is needed is a proper health centre."

Mrs Sharp also pointed out that Oughtington Primary School was already over-subscribed and could not take any more pupils.

Residents held a meeting at Oughtington Community Centre to

consider an action plan to fight the proposals.

A protest petition is being organised and individual letters of objection are being written.

Cllr Ian Marks said he understood residents' concerns – particularly with regard to traffic.

"It is essential that planners and highways officers listen carefully to what the residents are saying when they consider this application."

He said the parish council had been expecting to hear of a planning application for the Farmer's Arms site for some time.

"If one comes, I would hope it is for affordable housing – that is what we need in Lymm, not larger family homes."

The development is planned by Planetree Homes of Rostherne. Objections must be received by the borough council by August 20.



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# What's On

in conjunction with Lymm Parish Council



September 8th

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 LUNCHES

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

3rd Wednesday of the month, 8pm  
The Spread Eagle Hotel  
Details: 01925 604400

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

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Youth and Community Centre. Visitors  
welcome.

LYMM BOOK CLUB

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

LOW CARBON LYMM

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event on this page  
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team on  
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LYMM  
PARISH  
COUNCIL

No meeting in August, next meeting  
Tuesday, September 8th  
Lymm Parish Hall 7.30pm

# Sparkling Ladies Lunch

EIGHTY women attended a sparkling "Ladies lunch" in the beautiful surroundings of Mere Court Hotel in High Legh to raise funds for Brainwave.

The event, sponsored by Clogau Jewellery, was a great success raising over £2,500 for the Charity.

Guests enjoyed a welcome drink on arrival followed by a delicious two course meal.

Guest speaker, Susan Sellars, a former High Sheriff of Cheshire, regaled the guests with tales of her year during office and the historical duties attached to being High Sheriff. Later in the afternoon there was a fashion show by Suka Pop Up Boutique.

Joanne Freeman, Community Manager said: "I would like to thank our ladies for supporting the event and all of the very kind and generous people who donated raffle prizes. A big thank you, too, to Clogau jewellery and also to the management and staff at Mere Court who made the event so very special for everybody."

Brainwave Northwest, which is based in Birchwood, is now five years old and currently has over 160 children on its programme.

The Centre provides specialist therapy and treatment for children with significant developmental delay.

For further information about the work of Brainwave please contact joanne.freeman@brainwave.org.uk



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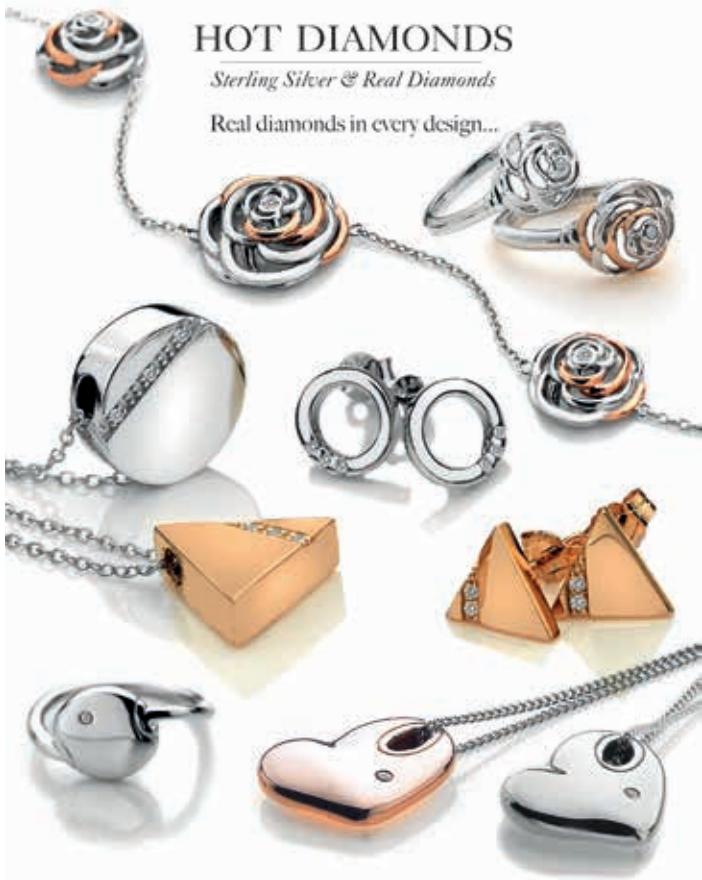
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## Lymm cyclist busy collecting medals

A FORMER Lymm High School pupil has been busy collecting medals as a member of the Great Britain cycling team taking part in the UEC European under-23 track cycling championships in Athens.

Matthew Gibson was a member of the Team Pursuit team which won a gold with a time of 3:58:96 and also won a gold in the 15km scratch race.

Earlier he came third in the under 23 category of the British National Cycling Championship Road Race in Lincoln.

The team performances in Athens drew praise from Olympic team pursuit gold medallist and Team Sky cyclist Geraint Thomas and from Chris Boardman, who tweeted: "Blimey – that's pretty quick."

He has raced for the GB Cycling Team in the Time Trials and Road Races at the UCI World Junior Road Racing Cycling Championships in 2013 and 2014 in Florence and Ponferrada, Spain which take place during the same week and on the same course as the Elite Men's and Women's World Championship races.

He has twice raced in the Junior Paris Roubaix 2013 and last year.



In January he was part of the GB Team that did the Team Pursuit track race at the UCI Track Cycling World Cup in Cali Columbia where they came third among teams of all ages, winning the bronze medal.

In February he was part of the Great Britain Track Cycling Team at the UCI Track Cycling World Championships in Paris for Elite Riders.

He won the British National Junior Championship Individual Pursuit Race at Manchester in August 2013 and again last year.

Matt is on the British Cycling Team Academy Programme based at the Manchester Velodrome.

## £1,000 boost for youth and community centre



LYMM Youth and Community Centre has received a £1,000 boost that will enable it to complete exterior redecoration of their building in Bridgewater Street.

The money has been presented by staff at Lymm's Sainsbury store, who chose the centre to be its charity of the year.

Store manager Alan Novak presented the cheque at a senior social at the centre.

He had organised a number of fund-raising events involving his staff, local youngsters and volunteers from the youth club.

Even at Christmas, Alan and his staff were at the senior social Christmas meal, helping serve the food.

Lymm Youth and Community Association chairman Steve Griffiths said:

"We have always valued our close association with Sainsbury's and their participation in community events, such as working with their staff at our senior socials and our Halloween events for Young People."

"Local people will have noticed recent renovations at the centre but budget constraints meant the money might run out before the more noticeable improvements to the outside could be completed."

"This generous £1,000 donation will enable the exterior redecoration to be completed for the benefit of all."

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#### David Mowat

Member of Parliament for Warrington South  
[www.davidmowat.org](http://www.davidmowat.org)

Produced by David Mowat MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

# Heritage Centre plans take major step forward

PLANS for a heritage centre in Lymm village are a step closer - based in the former Royal British Legion Club which closed earlier this year due to falling numbers.

The vision of local residents Alan and Su Williams (pictured right) now looks set to become reality with the news that the working group has the chance of taking up a lease on the former Legion premises in the centre of the village - most recently known as the Boat Stage.

Club membership had been dwindling for years and in March the property department of the Royal British Legion decided it was time to dispose of the building.

"It appeared to be ideal for our needs - a good size and close to village centre and canal" said Su, "but as a newly formed group there was no way we could raise the money needed to purchase it".

It was at that point that local businessman Howard Platt stepped in. Howard, who was born and raised in the area explained, "I went along to one of the meetings and was impressed by the commitment of the group and the case they were making for a centre. I see it as an opportunity for me to put something back into my community as well as it being a sound financial investment."

The volunteer group who are called the "Lymm Heritage and Information Centre" are now working toward registered charity status before launching an appeal for funds to help set up and run the centre which will also act as



a tourist information point, an outlet for local artists, authors and craftspeople and an education centre for local schools.

"We can see so many positive uses for a centre like this" commented the group's chair Alan Williams "and we have had plenty of enthusiastic feedback

from members of the public and interested voluntary groups including our local primary schools. We can't wait to get started on what we believe will be a valuable asset for the community".

The other good news is that as part of the agreement the local British Legion Branch will continue to have access to the building for meetings and for the organisation of the annual Poppy Appeal.

The Roll of Honour which currently hangs in the centre will also be integrated into the heritage display. The group is now on the lookout for volunteer help in a variety of areas. For more details

Email: [lymmheritagecentre@gmail.com](mailto:lymmheritagecentre@gmail.com) Website: [www.lymmhic.co.uk](http://www.lymmhic.co.uk)

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# Cost of road closures putting events like Rushbearing at risk



May Queen Rebecca Chapman and Lady-in-Waiting Georgia Lennon.

NEW policies being imposed by the Police and Warrington Council are putting events and festivals in Lymm at risk.

Members of Lymm Parish council had to step in at the eleventh hour to help foot the bill for the ancient Rushbearing Festival, which stems from a local "wakes week" which took place in Lymm as early as 1817, with the origins dating back further to medieval times.

Organiser Chris Limb, who has been involved in organising the event for many years, was shocked to suddenly be told it would cost £1,500 to stage an event which lasts less than an hour.

But members of the Parish council agreed to help cover the costs but future events in the village are now under threat.

The costs cover road closures, traffic marshals and legal fees on event organisers.

Pictures show this year's Rushbearing event, which went ahead after the council footed a reduced bill.



Lymm Smith and Eileen Mundy from Lymm History Society.

For more pictures visit [www.lymmlife.co.uk](http://www.lymmlife.co.uk)

## Chernobyl children enjoy visit to Lymm Hotel



Manager Diane Williamson welcoming the group.

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TWENTY children and two interpreters from Belarus and five UK helpers all had the pleasure of staying over at Macdonald Lymm Hotel recently.

The children, all aged between 7-12, had been enjoying a month long recuperative visit, called a month of love and care, in the fresh air of Scotland.

Stopping off overnight at Lymm before flying home from Manchester, was a lovely experience for the children, who all live in areas contaminated by the Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster, in small wooden houses, with outside toilets and a well in the street for water.

They were made to feel very welcome by the manager and staff at the hotel, they enjoyed the comfortable rooms and surroundings and made the most of the all you can eat breakfast, maybe their last big meal for some time!

The children were also given

small gifts by the staff, which they were very appreciative of.

The children come for month long visits to Scotland each year for up to five years, coming back to the same host families, who they grow to love.

They arrive with a spare pair of pants and a toothbrush and go home with a full 25kg suitcase of warm clothes, medicines, vitamins, toys and things that we take for granted.

During the month they are treated to a full programme of interesting activities and also some visits to the dentist and optician.

The point of these visits is to improve their shattered immune systems and hopefully add some time on to their life expectancies and give them hope for the future. They also have a huge amount of fun.

For more information go to [www.focwestlothian.com](http://www.focwestlothian.com)



# Lymm High School



## VACANCIES FOR COMMUNITY GOVERNORS

Lymm High School has two vacancies for community governors on its governing body. Being a school governor is an important way to contribute to the life of the school and our community – and can be interesting, rewarding and enjoyable. The governing body is responsible for setting the overall strategic direction for the school, holding school leadership to account for its performance and overseeing school finances.

The governing body has identified a particular need for governors who will bring skills and experience in some specific areas to the school:

- Financial planning and accounting, procurement and premises/buildings management particularly in education or other areas of the public sector
- Links with local business, connections to industry and knowledge of the local and regional economy
- Knowledge of or involvement in current and future directions in education policy

Further information about the role and responsibilities of governors and the governing body of the school are on our website at <http://www.lymmhigh.org.uk/governor-vacancies>. To arrange an informal discussion about the vacancies with either the Chair or Vice Chair of the governing body, please contact Mrs Ruth Warburton, Clerk to the Governors (email: [rwarburton@lymmhigh.org.uk](mailto:rwarburton@lymmhigh.org.uk), phone: [01925 750707](tel:01925750707)).

Applications should be made by completing the short application form provided, and sending it by email to Mrs Ruth Warburton, Clerk to the Governors, at [rwarburton@lymmhigh.org.uk](mailto:rwarburton@lymmhigh.org.uk). The closing date for applications is Friday 28th August 2015. Interviews with a panel of governors will be held in September, and we hope that appointments will be confirmed by the full governing body in September 2015.

*Pupils '...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.' Ofsted*

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TEENAGE songstress Ellie Dibben, from Lymm, enjoyed a massive gig in some big-name company at Millennium Square, Leeds.

The 17-year-old country singer opened the show with a half-hour set of original songs and covers and was literally mobbed by fans wanting photos and autographs.

Also on the bill were Union J,

Luke Friend, Only the Young, Bars and Melody.

The former Lymm High School pupil has a busy few months coming up with appearances at a number of country music festivals as well as working with Sam Bailey and The Beautiful South.

She has also been invited to perform for a celebrity audience at Robin Gibb's home – hosted by Robin's widow Dwina – as well as

an "Only Fools and Horses" blue plaque unveiling ceremony and celebrity dinner in London.

Despite her tender years, Ellie is rapidly becoming a veteran performer has recorded her first single when she was just 11 – and hearing it played on BBC radio.

She has attracted rave notices at concerts and festivals across the UK and has also sung in the US.



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## Founders' Day sponsored walk raises over £6,400



MORE than £6,400 was raised for two charities from Lymm High School's inaugural Sponsored Walk as part of the annual Founders' Day event.

The focus was on the local community and the history of the school, underpinned by the school's charitable work.

Two charities were nominated by staff and students; St Rocco's Hospice and Afritwin, Lymm High School's charity partnership with schools in South Africa.

Over 1500 students and staff completed a 5K walk through what is known locally as 'Spud Wood', with thanks going to local residents and the Woodland Trust.

The event culminated in the afternoon with a Hall Carnival and a challenge to the Deputy Head, Miss Finlay, to complete an ice bucket challenge.

This was graciously conducted the following day as part of the school's Sports Day.

Over £6,400 was raised for the charities, with 80% of the proceedings going to St Rocco's and 20% to Afritwin.

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## A caring guide to private health care

LYMM resident Zoe Lancaster has more than 20 years' experience in the jungle that is the private healthcare market – and she's ready to share her knowledge and understanding.

She believes everyone has the right to unbiased information and her recently formed company, Health Enrich, has been set up to offer help where it is needed.

Zoe, of Manor Road, Lymm, truly cares about what she does. She can offer advice on a range of financial products including private health insurance, pre-paid funeral plans, critical illness cover and life insurance.

Her focus is to deliver quality advice to individuals and to local businesses – advice that could be vital if health problems arise.

The rising cost of funeral expenses has become an area of increased interest and Zoe is able to advise on what is the more appropriate funeral plan for any individual.

For more information, contact Zoe on 01925 871842, mobile 07801 656919 or email zoe@health-enrich.co.uk



## Architects rise to a challenge



GAINING planning consent for new build houses is never straight forward and when the site is in a conservation area in Lymm Village, things are bound to get even more complicated.

But local architects' practice Dove Architecture rose to the challenge when they were commissioned to convert and extend a small outhouse at Lymm Hall into a new family home.

The building had long since fallen out of use and was in need of rescuing from dereliction.

As Lymm Hall and the adjoining Moat House are both listed buildings and the site is an Ancient Scheduled Monument, Listed Building consent and change of use consent was required.

It was not an easy site to develop and required a sensitive design approach.

But Dove Architecture's approach won the support of English Heritage and Warrington's planning officer and the application was approved.

The original building is to be sympathetically restored and converted to provide a sitting room and master suite while a large two storey extension will provide the main living accommodation.

A contemporary design was chosen for the new element of the property, mirroring the simplicity and form of the original buildings, yet standing out as an addition through its modernity.

The clients are thrilled they are able to realise their dreams and build their new home - something they feared might not be possible on such a historic site. The project is due to start on site later this year.

# Rugby Club builds platform for even greater success

AS the Rugby World Cup 2015 approaches Lymm Rugby Club is hoping to build momentum for the future.

Lymm has had its fair share of success since Jonny Wilkinson kicked that famous drop goal in 2003 but the club is positioned for even greater things.

Back in 2000, recognising the facilities at Crouchley Lane were inadequate for sustainable development, with just one pitch to play and train on, the spirited club members launched the Lymm Grass Roots Sports Appeal.

As a community amateur sports club, but with a great sense of purpose and ambition, funds of over £1 million were raised through various, volunteer-led activities.

A further 10 acres of farmland were subsequently bought and developed into four pitches, with the help of the RFU, which the four senior teams and the Mini, Junior and Colts section in particular, now benefit from.

Membership grew significantly and the club now boasts over 1,500 members, with over 450 aged between 5 and 18 years old. It is perhaps this area where the club is having most success as the players move up and through the Lymm Colts Academy, with many going on to play first team rugby.

The Colts Academy is now one of the most successful in the country with an incredible track record of success. Over this period the Under 19 and Under 17 teams have won the North West Colts League A division 5 times; the League Cup 5 times and the Cheshire Cup 7 times.

The Under 19 team has won the 'Cock of the North' Cup in four of the last five seasons, making them the best team in the North of England.

All this has not gone unnoticed by England RFU, Sale Sharks and other Premiership clubs who regularly reward Lymm players with England age group caps and professional contracts.

They used to talk about the Welsh Fly Half conveyor belt but many are now looking closely at how and why Lymm Rugby Club is now also producing future England players.

Success on the rugby pitch can only be maintained if the base club is sustainable and remains true to



its grass roots heritage. All funds raised are invested directly back into the facilities at Lymm RFC, developing it as a community sports club.

Leading the way has been the world famous annual Lymm Panto, now in its 30th consecutive year. However, the club also took the initiative by erecting a huge summer marquee for the last five years, hosting corporate events for accountancy firm Deloitte and, in 2015, the Warrington Business Awards. It also hosted fundraising Sportsman's Evenings, Ladies Lunches, Gala Dinners and Vaudeville and Panto shows, all to great acclaim.

The objective now is to build a new, state-of-the-art clubhouse and the re-named Lymm Grass Roots Clubhouse Appeal is steadily building momentum and funds.

President of Lymm RFC, John Hopkinson said. 'We are looking at all avenues to raise a further £500k in the next six months. If you can help, or know someone who wants to help Lymm Rugby Club succeed please contact me at jhopkinson@live.com.'

## Obituary

### Harry Smith

THE funeral has taken place of Harry Smith, aged 84, of Renshers Place, High Legh, who died at St Rocco's Hospice on July 2.

The funeral service was at St John's Church, High Legh followed by committal at Dunham Crematorium. The Rev Trish Cope officiated.

Harry enjoyed gardening, doing jigsaws and watching his favourite football team, Manchester United.

He is survived by his wife, Norma, four sons, two daughters and grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons of Lymm.

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### FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENT

**ARNOLD SMITH (ARNIE).** Margaret and family would sincerely like to thank all relatives and friends for all their kind messages cards and donations received for St Rocco's. A big thank you to all of you who attended the funeral. I would like to say a special thank you to Anne, Martin and Tracey, Dawn and Mickey and Adam and Chloe for all their help and support. Thank you to Rev Keith Maudsley for a lovely service and a special thanks to Mike Tandy and James for all their care and compassion. Also Karl Welsh for the beautiful flowers and thank you to Statham Lodge for the arrangements to celebrate Arnie's life.

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