

# Lymm Life Magazine

ISSUE 250 | JANUARY 2020  
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## Crowds flock to Dickensian festival

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# Editor's Comment



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## CONGRATULATIONS to Lymm based Andy Carter on his success in the recent General Election

It was nip and tuck throughout the night in a closely fought election where the Brexit issue, which has divided our country - and town, played a key part.

I look forward to working with Andy promoting everything good about our great town while working hard for our local communities.

There has been too much division in national and local politics for far too long and everyone needs to start working together for the good of our town and the people who live here.

Just prior to the election Andy welcomed Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government Robert Jenrick to the town where he pledged support for Warrington's Peace Centre

and to help protect the green belt, saying it was clearly stated in the government's manifesto to protect our green belt.

So one of Andy's first big challenges is to ensure our precious green belt is protected and hopefully we can put a stop to any impending huge logistic centres on fields near Lymm Truck Stop.

This area has already become blighted by the new Wheel Washing facility which is often causing traffic chaos in the area.

Our local infrastructure simply can't take any more development which will increase HGV traffic movements on our roads.

Meanwhile congratulations to Steve Harper and all the volunteers who helped put on another fantastic

Dickensian event.

Finally I would like to take the opportunity of wishing all our readers and advertisers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Let's hope we can look forward to more certainty in 2020.

**Deadline for  
the February  
issue of  
Lymm Life is  
January 7**

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# Lymm reaps benefits of Solar Energy and Energy Efficiency

**SOLAR PV panels installed by Lymm Community Energy (LCE) on the four primary schools in Lymm have generated 335,000kWh of clean electricity since they were installed in 2015 and 2016.**

This is enough to power about 80 homes for a year and has saved 25 tonnes/year of CO2 emissions which is equivalent to the CO2 absorbed per year by 1,160 mature trees.

The money raised for the PV systems also enabled LCE to fund the installation of low energy LED lighting at three of the schools.

Bob Barr, LCE Chair, says "The financial savings to the four schools are running at around £7,500 per year. The PV panels also provide a superb educational resource for the children with a wealth of data available from the on-line monitoring systems which can be used for educational purposes; Over the 20-year period of the projects, this will benefit thousands of school children in Lymm."

LCE has established a Community Benefit Fund to help finance energy efficiency/carbon reduction projects in Lymm. In its first round of funding, £2,500 was allocated to two projects: Lymm Youth & Community Centre for energy efficiency improvements to its building and Low Carbon Lymm for its Declaration of Climate Emergency initiative.

LCE also provides free,

impartial information and advice to householders on how to reduce their energy bills and will be running a drop-in session in the Lymm Sanctuary Hub, Lymm Library Annexe, Davies Way, Lymm WA13 on Wednesday January 22 from 10am to 1pm.

For more details visit [www.lowcarbonlymm.org.uk](http://www.lowcarbonlymm.org.uk) or email LCE at [info@lowcarbonlymm.org.uk](mailto:info@lowcarbonlymm.org.uk)

*LCE's first solar PV installation at Oughtrington Community Primary School in September 2015*



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## What's On in conjunction with Lymm Parish Council



**January 13**  
**LYMM HISTORY SOCIETY**  
Old Lymm - Part 5  
The Village Hall, Pepper Street, Lymm, 8pm  
Members £1, Non-members £3  
All Welcome

**January 14**  
**LYMM PARISH COUNCIL**  
7.30pm Lymm Village Hall

### 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 to 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

### 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  
and December) at 7.30pm. Visitors most  
welcome. Contact: 07876 176501  
lymmfloralart.org.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 756444

### LYMM CONCERT BAND

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

### LYMM WI

Every second Wednesday, 2-4pm at Lymm  
Youth and Community Centre. Visitors  
welcome.

### LYMM BOOK CLUB

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

### 4LYMM VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION

Meet every 2nd Monday at 7.30pm in the  
Bridgewater Club, Whitbarrow Road.  
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### LYMM AND DISTRICT MIXED VOICE CHOIR

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### HEARTSTART LYMM

Tuesday monthly sessions.  
Tuesday 14th January. 7pm.  
Tour of Safety Central, 7.30pm Heartstart  
'Essentials First Aid' course.  
Free tickets to be booked on the link www.  
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### PROBUS CLUB OF LYMM

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**LYMM  
PARISH  
COUNCIL**

**Next meeting  
January 14, 7.30pm  
at Lymm Village Hall**

# New health and wellness support group

**A New health and wellness support group has been set up in Lymm offering free advice.**

The group has been set up by Farah Jones and Tony Grimes to provide wellness and mental health support.

Each week they hold informal meetings with a guest speaker.

It takes place in the annex next to Lymm Village Hall every Monday from 7.15pm to 8.15pm tea and coffee available. All welcome.

The group can also be found on Facebook under Lymm Wellness and Mental Health group.

The aim of the not for profit

group is to support anyone who is interested in wellness and mental health.

Advice is available on wellness sessions, mindfulness information and learning techniques to keep well, coping with anxiety, stress and mental health support.

Farah said: "We are a volunteer and support group for anyone dealing with life's stress. We offer support and wellness within our group."



WE WISH YOU A VERY

Merry  
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# Councillor to stand down due to "toxic" political environment at town hall

**A LYMM councillor is standing down at the elections in May because of the "toxic" political environment at Warrington Town Hall.**

Cllr Anna Fradgley, who represents the Lymm South Ward as a Liberal Democrat on the borough council, has no issue with council officers, who she says do a "brilliant job."

But she said: "I have decided that I shall not be re-standing. The reason? Because of the awful politics at Warrington Borough Council. I find it a very toxic environment to be in and people need to know the truth."

"I stood so I could make a difference to people's lives and our community. But that is hard when you are faced with too much politics. At the last borough council meeting, Liberal Democrat councillors put

forward a motion on the need for more affordable housing and requested a cross-party group to look into how we could increase the number.

"The cabinet members presented their case against it and then one Labour councillor put their hand up in support, but voted against the motion! Against more affordable housing in Warrington!"

"I was shocked. It was obvious that they had turned it into a political weapon, just because we were in the middle of a general election."

"Everyone could see right through it – it was obvious! So, that side of the chamber put politics before

people!

"I even confronted three Labour councillors afterwards and was told: 'This is politics, Anna'."

"I am so sorry not to be re-standing, but I'll leave that to someone stronger than me, who can survive in that environment. More people need to go to these public meetings and hold their councillors to account."

Cllr Fradgley, who recently launched a new business venture, has also decided to stand down as a parish councillor at Lymm, to avoid "getting sucked back into politics."

Lib Dem group leader Cllr Bob Barr said: "I am very sorry Anna will not be standing for the borough council again. She has the passion and drive to serve her community and has been an outstanding councillor. She will leave a gap on the council because we need people with her

values, independent thought, and commitment to serve."

But borough council leader Cllr Russ Bowden, Labour, said: "Contrary to Cllr Fradgley's assertions, the council's Labour Group are strongly in favour of substantially increasing the amount of affordable housing. However the Liberal Democrat motion contained inaccuracies and failed to recognise the policies already in place. Far from voting against affordable housing, the Labour Group agreed to examine this matter further."

"We have clear policies on affordable housing already in place. We've also taken a strong stand against private developers' use of leasehold and exorbitant management fees which have had such a devastating effect on many owners of new-build homes."

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Lymm Runners all dressed as Santa.

# Crowds flock to

**DESPITE chilly conditions large crowds flocked to the annual Lymm Dickensian Festival.**

Bright sunshine greeted local school children and community groups as they gathered outside the site of the former Lymm Hotel on Statham Avenue for the annual event organised by Festival Chairman Steve Harper and a dedicated team of volunteers.

Although the hotel has been demolished to make way for a new mixed development of retirement apartments and a nursery, it was a case of on with the show as the festival parade set off through the village. For many years the hotel had provided free hospitality for organisers and their guests.

As in recent years Lymm Runners dressed as Santas and ran ahead

of the parade, which wound its way through the village, which was packed with local residents and visitors who turned out in force to support the event, which has been going for around three decades.

Various stalls lined the streets serving festive fayre as Town Crier Peter Powell led the parade with Parish Council Chairman Geoff Hawley, who was also joined by fellow parish Cllr. and new MP for Warrington South Andy Carter, who was attending his first public event since becoming MP for the area.

Also in attendance was Mayor of Warrington Cllr Wendy Johnson.

**Check out [www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk](http://www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk) for more pictures and video**



Statham Primary youngsters.

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# Lymm Dickensian Festival



Ravenbank Primary in the parade.



Parish Chairman Geoff Hawley, consort Mrs Hawley and Andy Carter MP in the parade.



Lymm Adivas parade.



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Morris Fiddler.



Festival Chairman Steve Harper.

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# FDR Law advise pub chain on £17.9m sale

**Warrington based pub group Bravo Inns has been acquired by the Hawthorn Leisure arm of property investment firm NewRiver REIT plc in a deal worth £17.9m, with FDR Law's Corporate team advising on the sale.**

Bravo Inns, which includes the local pubs Royal Oak Branch, Chapel House, Burtonwood and Black Horse in its portfolio, has grown from just 5 pubs when formed in 2007 to 44 outlets across the North West. The group specialise in wet-led, operator managed, community pubs that will be merged into the Hawthorn Leisure brand.

Hawthorn Leisure operates over 650 leased, tenanted and managed community pubs across England, Scotland and Wales. Chief Executive of Hawthorn Leisure, Mark Davies commented: "The UK pub sector has experienced a recent revival in transaction activity and, as an early investor into community pubs, we have been tracking the success of Bravo Inns for some time. The transaction will increase our portfolio weighting in community pubs and demonstrates the value of our Hawthorn Leisure platform in identifying acquisitions that can deliver higher yielding sustainable cashflows with scale driven synergies. A further attraction of this acquisition is the quality of the pub estate and the pub partners. We look forward to welcoming Bravo Inns and its pub

partners to Hawthorn Leisure."

FDR Law's Corporate team advised Bravo Inns management on the transaction with Head

of Corporate, Margaret Evans commenting: "We are delighted to have acted on this transaction for the sellers working alongside industry leaders in the pub sector and together with the wider advisory team to achieve a successful conclusion for all parties"



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# Former student wins an Emmy – again!

**FORMER** Lymm High School pupil Jason Arber has won an Emmy – an American award which recognises excellence in the television industry.

Jason was part of a five-strong team which won the "Outstanding Graphic Design and Art Direction" award at the 2019 News and Documentary Emmy awards.

They created all the animated graphic sequences for the four-part series "Inside North Korea's Dynasty" for the National Geographic Channel.

It was a ground-breaking documentary series which examined the extraordinary history of the world's only communist dynasty – the ultimate story of a family's power, and the relationship of a father, a son and a grandson.

The series provided a look at the Kim dynasty, more complex and comprehensive than ever attempted before, revealing the workings behind the formidable family dynamics at the heart of an extraordinary country.

It was screened in the US and in this country.

Jason did his O-Levels and A-Levels at Lymm High, graduating around 1987.

He credits his art teacher, Colin Grimes, for encouraging him and setting him on the path.

After Lymm, Jason did a one year art foundation course at Northwich before moving to London to study photography, film and video at the University of Westminster

From there, he became a graphic designer, starting his own company and designing record sleeves for

Janet Jackson and Oasis among others.

As the internet became more popular, he switched to web design, creating websites for the BBC and MTV.

He said: "After that I joined a bunch of friends to start a moving image company called Wyld Stallions, where I directed TV commercials and music videos, and directed a short film for Channel 4, called Mr Lincoln the Butcher.

"Currently, I have a new company that I run with my wife, Rina, also a designer, called Phantom Limb. I work with a handful of clients who use me for my design and animation skills.

"It was in this capacity that I came to animate the series for National Geographic.

"They put the graphics forward for a News and Documentary Emmy and we ended up being shortlisted.

"With no idea if we'd win, we all decided to take a punt and head to New York where the ceremony was to be held. That gamble paid off - we won our category."

It was the second Emmy Jason and the team had won – the first was for the PBS documentary "How We Got to Now" at the 2014-2015 Primetime Emmy Awards held in Los Angeles.

Jason is based in London now, but is a regular visitor to Lymm to see his proud Mum, Jean.





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# Round Table charity fireworks light up Lymm



**LYMM and District Round Table's annual fireworks in Warrington raised another fantastic amount for charity – some £2,500 in total.**

The popular event sponsored this year by MKM Building Supplies Warrington and hosted at a new venue, Cherry Tree Primary School and St Mary's Preschool, featured two fireworks displays, a range of food, refreshments and fairground rides.

Organiser and Round Table member James Cross said: "We had a great turnout and we're grateful to everyone who came along to support the event. Our new venue Cherry Tree Primary School gave a more family feel to the evening and our new online ticketing system meant people spent less time queuing on the door."

"We have a great group of hard-working volunteers who give up their free time to help out, boosted by generous help from Lymm RAF Air Cadets. Their commitment to the cause means a lot of charities and community groups will be getting a much-needed boost this Christmas."

Recent good causes to benefit from funding include Little Princess Trust, St Mary's Playgroup, Gendai Martial Arts and the Multiple Sclerosis Society. If you would like to nominate a charity or good cause to be considered for a donation email [charity@lymmroundtable.co.uk](mailto:charity@lymmroundtable.co.uk)

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# 300 runners, lots of mud and a new record!

**THE fifth annual Warrington Way 40 mile Ultra Race – which as usual started and finished at Lymm Village Hall, provided a new pairs course record, a dip in temperature and lots of mud.**

More than 300 runners took part and the race was judged another great success.

The new course record for the pairs was set by Mat Rushbrook and Neil Macnicol who came in just under the five hour mark at 4 hrs 50 mins taking a good 20 mins off last year's previous record of 5 hrs 14 mins, which was previously held by Jack Pilkington and Pete Murphy of Lymm Runners. Charlie Sharpe came first in the solos for the second year running and Helsby took the relays crown again.

Mat and Neil who are regulars to the yearly race commented "This year was particularly hard going due to a lot of heavy rain pre-race. But this in no way dampened the spirits of the brilliant Lymm Runners who organise the event.

"As a club they have made

improvements to the race each year and it has now become a highlight in our running calendar.

"It's an event that gets fantastic local support. Each checkpoint has everything you could possibly need, and race HQ exceeds any event I have experienced with more hot food and homemade cake than any runner could dream of."

Out on the course another highlight was a colourful group of Oompa Loompas from Warrington Triathlon Club who moved around the 40 mile route surprising and motivating runners with a combination of disco music, dancing and energising high fives.

The race remains as popular as ever, with over 300 runners competing either solo, in pairs or in relay teams of four. They were supported at Maple Lodge and checkpoints on the route by over 40 volunteers as well as RTC Medical Solutions who provided medical cover for the event.

As in previous years, the mood of the day was one of cheerful excitement and while some nerves were apparent at the start of the race, by the finish these had changed into a terrific party atmosphere in the hall, where muddy, wet and hungry runners could tuck into homemade chilli and cake while being reunited with their friends and families.

Race director Andrew Holland said: "The Warrington Way just

gets more popular as the years go on. The race is now in its fifth year and fills up extremely quickly with a good mix of runners from all different walks of life. There is always lots of support from the volunteers who in previous years have participated and understand what the athletes are

going through. It is great to see the event, organised by Lymm Runners, getting so many people into ultra running."

The next Warrington Way Ultra will take place on Saturday November 14 next year and entries will open on May 1. Details will be on the Lymm Runners website.



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## Obituaries

### John Paterson

THE funeral has taken place of John Paterson, aged 97, of Booths Hill Close, Lymm, who died in Warrington Hospital on October 23.

Mr Paterson had been a keen angler and also enjoyed gardening and socialising.

He is survived by his sister Grace, son Stuart, daughter-in-law Joyce and grandchildren Ben and Laura.

Funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons of Lymm.



### Greta Jackson

THE funeral has taken place of Greta Jackson, aged 96, of Smith Drive, Orford but formerly of Lymm, who died at home on November 3.

The service was at Lymm Methodist Church, followed by burial at St Mary's Church, Lymm.

Greta is survived by two sons and a daughter and was a grandmother, great grandmother and great great grandmother. She is sadly missed.

Funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons of Lymm.

### Mary Ashworth

THE funeral has taken place of Mary Jacqueline Ashworth, nee Tagg, aged 94 who died after a short illness on October 31 at Keate House Residential Home, Lymm.

Mary, widow of Bert, had lived in Crossfield Avenue, Lymm since the 1980s. She was at one time, secretary of Lymm Royal British Legion and also worked as a volunteer at the St Rocco's Hospice shop in Lymm.

She will be much missed by her daughter, Marilyn, relatives and friends. The funeral took place at Dunham Massey Crematorium.

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