

Lymm Life

Magazine

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Prestigious role for student chef

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Approved by Lymm Parish
Council as the official
magazine for Lymm



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Editor's Comment



WELL I am sure many of us will be glad to see the back of 2020 - a year none of us could have predicted and one which has certainly impacted on all our lives.

As we entered 2020 the hot topic was Brexit - and while it is looming large again, it was certainly out of the headlines for much of the year as we dealt with the consequences of a pandemic.

For the first time in more than twenty years of publishing, we had no choice but to suspend publishing **Lymm Life** and since our return in August, it has been pretty tough producing and distributing a free community magazine that relies on advertising.

With many of our clients and potential clients forced to close or operate with reduced capacity, it has been an uphill battle.

But thanks to a strong loyal client base and the support from local community organisations we have managed to return in print.

Meanwhile what 2021 will bring is still uncertain.

At the time of writing there is light at the end of the tunnel with the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines, although how successful these will prove is still an unknown quantity.

Add to that the complexities of Brexit and uncertain times lie ahead.

During these tough times, Lymm has shown a fantastic community spirit with the Leave No One Behind group doing some amazing

work ensuring those in need were not forgotten.

Lymm Rotary Club was saved from closing down and has now gone from strength to strength, with President Neville Davies also instrumental in ensuring a COVID secure Poppy collection still went ahead, raising more than £11k.

At the time of press, the annual Rotary Santa float was taking to the streets and while door-to-door collections have not been possible, it certainly helped lift community spirits.

It does show that even during times of adversity the human spirit can bounce back and these organisations and community volunteers should be congratulated on helping lift our spirits.

During the past year, we have reported on some remarkable people of all ages who have gone above and beyond.

We also love promoting positive news stories in our village so please keep them coming in the New Year.

Meanwhile, let's all hope that 2021 can be a year of promise as we can hopefully return to some kind of normality and the return of our fantastic community events like Lymm May Queen, Lymm Festival, Lymm Transport Day, the annual Lymm Roundtable duck race and

Lymm Dickensian.

All these fantastic events have been sadly missed as they are what make our community so special - so when they do eventually return let's truly show our appreciation.

Finally, I would like to wish all our readers and advertisers a Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year - and whatever it throws at us let's focus on what we can do and not what we can't do.

Take care and stay safe!

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February issue of
Lymm Life is
January 5**

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Student secures prestigious role at The French alongside celebrity chef Adam Reid

AMBITIOUS chef James Tomkins has secured a prestigious role at fine dining restaurant The French, after impressing during his work experience placement while studying at Warrington & Vale Royal College.

The former Lymm High School student, who is currently a student on a Hospitality & Culinary Arts Level 3 course, secured the coveted

position at the fine dining venue based in Manchester's landmark hotel The Midland, which boasts 4 AA Rosettes and been named one



of the top 15 restaurants in the UK, amongst a glittering track record of awards and accolades.

It is run by renowned and much-celebrated chef Adam Reid.

Adam personally hand-picked James to join their team after impressing the chef with his skills, and he was offered a permanent position three weeks into his work placement.

James said: "This opportunity is the best thing I have ever done. I'm constantly learning on the job."

The restaurant commands the highest standards and James is proud to deliver exceptional service, "It's an art form; it combines science and art. Everything has to be precise: ingredients weighed to the gram and we're always told consistency is key."

James looks after both hosting guests at their tables and working in the kitchen which he says is, "Great for building guest experience skills and I enjoy being able to interact with guests; I prefer being able to do that."

He says being at college has given him the necessary skills in food preparation essential to securing a job within this competitive industry. His experience at The French means he is able to share advice

and guidance with his peers.

James added, "Now I mentor the younger students using my experience and influences. I think the more influences you get, the better. You can see lots of different techniques and work to develop your own style." He achieved the top mark Distinction grade in his studies last year and hopes to repeat his success in his final year.

He is setting his sights on even bigger goals for the future, adding: "I'd like to work my way up, continue building up my knowledge and eventually run my own restaurant."

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What's On in conjunction with Lymm Parish Council



PLEASE CHECK ANY EVENTS BEFORE ATTENDING DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS.

LYMM PARISH COUNCIL

Online monthly meetings due to Covid-19
Check www.lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk for details.

LYMM THURSDAY EVENING BRIDGE CLUB

Lymm Village Hall every Thursday 7pm

MAPLE LODGE ART GROUP

Meet each Wednesday 9.00am - 11.30pm
Oughtrington Community Centre, Lymm
Details: 01925 755126

ROTARY CLUB OF LYMM

Meets at Statham Lodge on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month for a Fellowship and a Business meeting respectively.
Contact the Secretary 01925 758398

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.
All welcome. Tel 01925 756378 for details.

LYMM AND DISTRICT MIXED VOICE CHOIR

Every Wednesday 7.30 Lymm Methodist Church. Contact 01925 601664.
cafh@stones.co.uk

PROBUS CLUB OF LYMM

A small, friendly social club for retired people.
Meets on second and fourth Tuesdays at 2.15pm.
Details: www.lymmprobus.club



**LYMM
PARISH
COUNCIL**

Online monthly meetings
due to Covid-19.
See parish council website
for details.

Transport Day organisers optimistic for 2021



WHEN Lymm Transport Day organisers met recently (by Zoom of course) to discuss a way forward for 2021 the feeling that emerged was of a will to make it happen if it possibly could.

"We are only too aware that Covid could still be an issue next Summer" said event director Alan Williams. "But we came to the conclusion that we should kick things off in a positive frame of mind and aim to reproduce the event we weren't able to hold this year. We all need something to look forward to."

The response from traders, exhibitors and attractions has been nothing short of incredible with the vast majority getting back in touch within hours to confirm their interest and enthusiasm for taking part in next year's event.

"We have our fingers firmly crossed for a clear run. The date is set for June 27th" said field manager, John Parry, "But of course we will be watching the developing situation closely to ensure we can go ahead with a viable, safe, fun event."

Keep up to date with plans or get in touch to get involved at lymmtransport.org.uk.

In the meantime you can enjoy the memory of Transport Day 2019 with a new 1000 piece jigsaw (see picture) It's on sale at Lymm Heritage Centre and online at lymmheritageshop.co.uk

ANDY CARTER MP

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Andy

Contact Andy

- 01925 231 267
- andy@andycarter.org.uk
- andy.carter@parliament.uk
- @MyAndy_Carter
- AndyCarterWarringtonSouth

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Pandemic hits village church finances



Picture shows a previous Christmas Tree Festival.

THE COVID-19 pandemic has hit finances at Lymm's St Mary's Church – leaving the church about £10,000 down on its usual income.

The Church Hall has been forced to close and the church has also been unable to hold events such as teas and the annual Christmas Tree Festival which are normally a source of income.

Income from the church hall alone was £18,847 last year but is down to £8,982 this year.

But gas and electric bills, insurances and repairs still have to be paid for the hall and the church and major repairs costing nearly £4,000 are necessary on the church hall.

The Rector, the Rev Beverley Jameson said: "Traditionally Christians remember the visit of the wise men bringing gifts to Jesus at Epiphany. It is also remembered as the 12 days of Christmas, from Christmas Day to Epiphany January 6.

"Could you possibly just give 10 per cent of what you may spend on presents, turkeys, tinsel, food and chocolate etc. as an Epiphany gift to St Mary's Church to help fund both the church and the church hall which is a wonderful community asset."

Details of how to make a donation and a gift aid form (so the church can claim an extra 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 donated) can be found on St Mary's Lymm website at www.stmaryslymm.org.

The Rector added: "Please give generously from now and January 6 to help us carry on in these COVID troubled times."

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First baby born at Hospital's new midwifery-led unit, The Nest is from Lymm!

THE first baby has been born at Warrington Hospital's brand new £1.2m state-of-the-art midwifery-led unit, The Nest.

Miles Edward Haslam was born on December 1 at 17:28, weighing 9lb. He was born into the water of the birthing pool, to parents Holly and Simon who are from Lymm.

Holly said: "It was such a calming experience, the pool was amazing. I definitely think it helped with a quicker labour. It was more relaxing and the whole team were lovely."

"I went from 4cm to delivery in

less than two hours and think it was because I was so relaxed with the water and calming music.

"The pool definitely helped, it was a really good experience and I'm feeling really good and think it is down to the water birth, which has aided not only in delivery, but in recovery."

Lead Midwife Sarah Fitzsimmons said: "This was a great first experience of birth in The Nest,

and exactly what we hoped to achieve with this new suite. We are so excited to welcome baby Miles, and it was a delight to help support his parents to bring him into the world. We wish them so much happiness and health for the future."

The Nest provides a home-away-from-home birth experience. It is a relaxed, less clinical environment to create a truly special labour and birth experience for all women. Warrington and Halton Teaching

Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (WHH) invested in this new facility to provide more choice for women and their families.

Evidence highlights that Midwifery-led units (MLU) have proven to be beneficial to women and their families. Labour is often shorter and there is less intervention required when birthing in the MLU.

For more information on The Nest, contact 01925 662043 or visit <https://whh.nhs.uk/services/maternity>



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Midwife-led Centre offers even more choice for mums-to-be with four state-of-the-art birthing suites and pools, aromatherapy, acupuncture and massage all promoting a calm, peaceful and a completely personalised birth experience



Pregnant? You can self-refer to our Maternity Service of the Year using this link:

www.whh.nhs.uk/services/maternity or call our Community Midwives on 01925 662092 between Monday - Friday, 9:00am and 5:00pm

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Residents fear truckwash expansion onto green belt will cause even more traffic chaos

CONCERNED residents and councillors are protesting against controversial plans by Lymm Truckwash to expand its business on to Green Belt land.

Planning permission is being sought to increase the area used, add a fuelling facility and to operate 24 hours a day, all week long.

Residents of the Lane End community at the top of Cherry Lane in Lymm have complained about the noise, air pollution and blocked main roads from the current site and are convinced this will be made much worse by the planned expansion.

Parish councillor Tim Martland said: "The Truckwash started operating in 2018 following a controversial planning decision to approve development despite an identical facility operating at Poplar services. The new proposal is to build a truck waiting area on Green Belt land and a fuel bunker to allow greater use of the site. Lorries queuing to enter the site regularly extend back onto the A50 causing a dangerous traffic situation."

"The neighbouring Fire Station has complained about HGVs doing three-point turns on its access road. Lymm Truckwash is currently open 7am to 5pm weekdays but the expansion would see it operating

24 hours all week. The nearest house separated only by a wooden fence, experiences the worst of the noise, fumes and light pollution and has had flooding in their garden on several occasions.

"The Inland Border Facility on the Shearings coach site at Appleton Thorn has been approved with an extra 750 HGVs expected to use Junction 20 each day for Brexit custom checks. This will add to local traffic congestion and worsen conditions for Lane End residents especially if the vehicles use the Truckwash."

"Cllr Anna Fradgley and I are supporting the residents' campaign. There are major problems with the current Truckwash which need addressing as they impact on the health and lives of families nearby. The new plan to build on Green Belt make this dreadful situation significantly worse. We urge Warrington Borough Council to reject it. "But the truckwash operators claim their proposals have been put forward to alleviate the very problems the objectors are complaining about."

They want to double the onsite



Cllr Anna Fradgley and Cllr Tim Martland with residents.

HGV queuing capacity and to introduce a 24-hour HGV fuelling facility on the site.

Truckwash spokesman Matt Marsden said: "We have experienced occasional queuing on to the A50, which is why we are proposing to double the onsite queuing capacity."

"The plan is to use a small piece of redundant wasteland which we own at the rear of the site which means queuing lorries will actually be further away from the nearest homes than they are at present."

"This will help to ease congestion on the A50."

"The fuel facility will enable lorry drivers to wash and re-fuel in one go, reducing unnecessary road journeys. Only the fuel facility will be open 24 hours – there is no intention to extend the current operating hours of the truckwash."

"As part of the current planning application, we are proposing to

build a 4m high acoustic barrier within our site between us and the nearest house. There will also be a further 4m high acoustic barrier next to the fuel facility. There will be no additional fumes or light pollution and any additional noise will go unnoticed because of the constant background noise from the motorway."

"There are no major problems with the current truckwash. The business is performing well and taking on new staff. We would simply like to double the onsite queuing capacity to alleviate the occasional problems when we are excessively busy."

"Extending onsite queuing solves the problem – it doesn't make it worse."

Lymm Truckwash opened on its present site last year. Previously it operated for some 25 years within the Moto Lymm truckstop on the opposite side of the A50.



Big Energy Saving Winter - Save £££ on your energy bills

Big Energy Saving Winter is a national campaign to help you cut your energy bills and get all the financial support you're entitled to.

As part of this campaign, Lymm Community Energy (LCE) will be running a series of free on-line sessions in the evenings on 12th, 18th and 27th January 2021 to provide lots of useful tools and advice to help you save money while keeping your home warm this winter. Help with applying for the Green Homes Grant scheme will also be available.

You can see the leaflet for the events by visiting www.lowcarbonlymm.org.uk. Please contact LCE at info@lowcarbonlymm.org.uk for details how to register for the on-line sessions.

Last year, LCE helped many Lymm residents to save between £150 and £500 each on their energy bills and also signposted them to support programmes such as LEAP which provides free home energy advice visits to qualifying households.

BESW is a partnership campaign between Citizens Advice, the Energy Savings Trust and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). For more details see:

<https://bigenergysavingwinter.org.uk/>

Big Energy Saving Winter

**Worried about energy bills?
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- Applying for the Green Homes Grant Scheme.

Join one of our FREE online advice sessions on:

Tuesday 12th January 2021 at 7.30pm

Monday 18th January 2021 at 7.30pm

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Poppy Appeal team raised £11,500 – despite Covid

THE Lymm Poppy Appeal team raised more than £11,500 for this year's appeal – despite the local and national restrictions necessary because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Team members could not go into supermarkets to collect and it was not possible to hold a concert to launch the appeal. They were not able to cover as many outlets as usual.

But they set out to achieve the best results possible for the Royal British Legion to continue their work supporting forces veterans and their families.

Neville Davies built a Covid safe kiosk which was used at Lymm Dam, the Lymm truck stop and a farmer's market at Abbey Leys Farm.

Because of a ban on street and face-to-face collections, the team were not able to be in the villager centre on the day before Remembrance Sunday. But they had 96 collecting tins out at 46 outlets and received huge support

from schools, local shops, pubs and restaurants.

Special thanks were due to High Legh Garden Centre where more than £1,000 was raised and to Poppy Day veteran Albert Priestner and his family who were able to raise more than £1,000 through his online giving page.

The team are now hoping things will be back to normal for next year's Poppy Day so they can resume their many fund-raising activities.



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DISCOVER YOU IN 2021



As we head into the new year, full of hope for what the next 12 months will bring after a challenging 2020, you may find yourself pondering your future and what that looks like.

Perhaps you want to aim for a promotion, but need to improve your management skills? Perhaps you are considering a change of direction and would like to study something new to help move towards that change? Or perhaps you would just like to learn some new skills? Whatever your thinking, take some time to **discover** what's on offer at your local college.

With courses due to start in the **first two weeks of January** be sure to **apply online** as soon as possible to secure your place and start your studies in 2021. We have courses planned across a variety of subject areas including: accountancy,

counselling, digital, education & training, hair, beauty, leadership and management, marketing and sport. One of which might perfectly compliment your existing skills and qualifications.

We also offer a selection of **FREE distance learning qualifications** which can be studied independently and at your own pace at home or within the workplace. Alternatively, you may find that one of our **online learning** courses is a better fit for you. These courses offer the ability to study via our online portal and include areas such as business, leadership & management and marketing.

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David Weir opening Lymm High's 3G Pitch surrounded by Kirsty James, Gwyn Williams and Kate Harrison. Gavin Laidlaw from Lymm Rovers and Julia Johnson from Lymm Piranhas are holding the ribbon.

Footballers help launch Lymm High School's new FIFA-standard 3G pitch

A FIFA-standard third-generation (3G) pitch has been officially opened at Lymm High School by ex-Everton and Scotland international David Weir and ex-student Ellie Fletcher who currently plays for Blackburn Rovers.

The professional footballers were joined at the socially-distanced event by local football team representatives: Gavin Laidlaw from Lymm Rovers and Julia Johnson from Lymm Piranhas. Other invited attendees that also contributed towards the project included Kate Harrison from The Lane End Group, Kirsty James from Lymm High PTA, and Liz Green, Chair of Governors.

The Premier League, the FA and the Government's Football Foundation awarded Lymm High a grant of over £500,000 to help it install the full-sized, floodlit pitch. The school and its supporters raised over £100,000.

Thanking all the fundraisers and the overwhelming community support, Headteacher Gwyn Williams, said he was delighted to be finally opening the state-of-the-art sports facility, which will be used by Lymm High students during the school day and the community of Lymm and its surrounding area during evenings and weekends. Lymm Rovers and Piranhas have already been using it for training and matches, and both organisations were thanked for their professionalism and kind donations towards reaching the £100,000 total.

However, the irony of opening the sporting facility the day before it is closed to the community because of the second Lockdown was not lost on Mr Williams.

"We are thrilled to be officially opening the pitch after what seems like years of planning", he said, "but it seems rather poignant to be closing it to the community from

tomorrow as a result of the latest lockdown. On the other hand, perhaps this just serves to underline the fact that this is a facility that will serve the community for many years to come – long after any lockdown has passed."

The date was also significant as it marked three years to the day since Lymm High staff took part in a sponsored climb of Mount Snowdon to help raise funds for the school's 'Pitch In' initiative. Other activities included summer fairs, PTA events, school balls, whole-school Santa dashes and the annual Founders' Day activities. Students also held and organised a number of events in school, competing within their Halls to raise funds. There were also a number of dinners, raffles and prize draws, and Mr Williams thanked local businesses for all their support in donating items. Local contracting developers The Lane End Group were the initiative's major corporate sponsor.

"Today is all about thanking those organisations, businesses and individuals that helped us reach our goal. Obviously, we are very grateful to the Premier League, the FA and the Government's Football Foundation for the grant, without which this wouldn't have been possible, but we could not have achieved this without the generous and continued support of parents and the wider Lymm community either", said Mr Williams. "We always knew the bid was a very strong one, built as it was on the strong reputation of our own PE department but also that of Lymm Rovers and Lymm Piranhas junior

football clubs – both very well-run clubs with large numbers of boys and girls taking part on a regular basis. Lots of people in school have done lots of work to make this happen but I particularly want to thank Patrick Hendrie and Helena

Headon. It's still been a long, and sometimes difficult, process, but we are so pleased to be opening our 3G pitch at last and are incredibly grateful to everyone for their support."



Lymm Roundtable's virtual Lands End to John O'Groats fundraiser

MEMBERS of Lymm Roundtable took part in a virtual Lands End to John O'Groats in under eight hours after seeing their usual fund-raising events wiped out by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the absence of the Lymm Duck Race, Lymm Beer Fest and Fireworks Night, members decided to get on their bikes and in their trainers and get exercising, running and riding the equivalent of Lands End to John O'Groats in under eight hours between sunrise and sunset. That's 874 miles according to Wikipedia!

Iain, one of the club's members sadly passed away recently and they will be donating funds raised towards Bowel Research UK and Warrington Food Bank.

The Lymm and District Round Table is one of the most buoyant in the country with a large and

enthusiastic membership and they're hoping to bring back the popular Duck Race, Beer Festival and Fireworks for 2021 if COVID restrictions permit.

Roundtable member Steve Liput said "Not being able to run our normal fundraisers we decided to set ourselves a group fundraiser challenge. After a few ideas over a beer we eventually settled on trying to cover Lands End to John O'Groats, virtually, in a day."

The challenge was subject to all local COVID restrictions at the time.

Donations can be made online via <https://www.lymmroundtable.co.uk/2020/lands-end-to-john-ogroats-in-a-day/>



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Obituaries

Elizabeth Bennett

Girls in Manchester. She formerly lived at the Stamford Arms, Little Bollington, which was the family business for 20 years. She then moved to Lymm for 35 years.

She worked in market research for many years and enjoyed visiting National Trust properties. She is survived by her grown up family, David, Rebecca and Charlotte.

The funeral took place on December 11 at Little Bollington Church.

Funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons, of Lymm.



Stephen Donald Smith

THE funeral took place at Altrincham Crematorium on November 20 of Stephen Donald Smith, aged 63, of Mill Lane, Lymm, who died in Wythenshawe Hospital on November 1.

Steve died peacefully with his son Stevie and daughter Hayley by his side.

He leaves his two children and a grandson, Charlie James, who he loved very much.

Funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons, of Lymm.



Douglas Hamilton

THE funeral took place on November 2 of Douglas Hamilton, aged 82, of Lodge Close, Lymm and formerly of Durham.

Douglas, a retired chartered civil engineer, died in Warrington Hospital after a long illness.

He had a life-long interest in family history, railways and shipping and his memory is cherished by his daughter, Rachel, her husband, Gary, grandchildren Lizzie and Theo and all his friends and family.

Funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons of Lymm.



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