

# Lymm Life

Magazine

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## Town Crier launches Bird & Bay

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# Editor's Comment



**AFTER a very testing 18 months for many during the pandemic, it is fantastic to see some kind of return to normality, although we are still not out of the woods with winter approaching and our NHS under severe pressures.**

At time of writing COVID-19 rates remain relatively high in the Warrington area, although hospital rates remain low in comparison, which means the vaccine is clearly having a positive impact.

Already we have witnessed the return of Lymm Rushbearing, while Lymm May Queen is set to return on Saturday, September 25, as community events start to reappear.

Several new businesses have also opened up in the village which is also an encouraging sign and good luck to them all.

Research has shown that more people than ever now realise the importance of supporting local businesses and it has always been

our message to shop local whenever possible, ever since we launched Lymm Life way back in April 1999, before the devastating impact of online shopping on the high street.

While online became hugely important during the pandemic, we mustn't ignore our local high street.

Not many village centres can boast gift shops, a butchers, a bakery, a jewellers, clothing shops, opticians, soft furnishings to name but a few, alongside a fine selection of bars and restaurants, all complimented by a wide range of other businesses in the wider community.

Is it any wonder that Lymm is one of the most desirable places to live in the country?

Having worked with many businesses in the Lymm area over the past 22 years, it always gives me great pleasure to see them grow from small acorns into fine Oak trees – like Adam Halford from Beechwood Industries and Primrose Hill Nurseries.

I first met Adam when he was a teenage landscape gardener starting his new business adventure with a small classified advert in the back of Lymm Life.

It has been amazing to see his passion and enthusiasm develop into a local business now employing more than 50 people, including taking on four new apprentices who are now setting off on their new career pathways.

An amazing success story involving a local business that invests in the local community.

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# Town Crier launches Bird & Bay

**TOWN Crier Peter Powell was on hand to officially launch the opening of a new home and garden décor shop in Lymm village.**

The Bird & Bay shop opening event, at the former Welsh's Florists, was attended by local residents and business people as the ribbon was cut to reveal 'something exciting' and new to the village, in the form of a quirky and stylish decorative living store.

Owner, Anji Owens, is proud to offer something different to help the footfall in the village. Bird & Bay is a new venture in response to the pandemic, which radically changed many people's outlook and direction in life. Anji had a successful career of 25 years but the impact of lockdown meant ramped up working hours of homeworking, coupled with home-schooling three children, which ultimately led Anji to reconsider her lifelong career.

She says the pandemic has driven the need for local businesses to get more creative in how they engage with customers and Anji, a Lymm resident, was conscious of the number of empty shops emerging in the last 12 months and worried for the impact on the local community and footfall in the village.

"Lockdown brought more and more people to visit the beauty of the area, but also decimated local business. Empty shops were popping up everywhere in the village and local restaurateurs were just about holding on tight," said Anji, a former senior leader in social care.

The pressure of lockdown gave Anji that final push to do something different; "I'd never felt more determined to do something different; something new that I'm passionate about and something that could work for the village."

The result is Bird & Bay, with its secret garden at the rear of the shop which many have already compared to the former 'Willowpool', fondly remembered locally as a quirky, vintage garden retail destination.

Anji is passionate about putting Lymm high street on the map, through collaborating with other businesses, local artists and the wider community.

"We are incredibly lucky to live in such a beautiful village, but it can only thrive with enough relevant and exciting businesses,

coupled with local support from everyone in the community. It is everybody's responsibility to invest in the village, to proactively shop local and enthusiastically support local business. It will take everybody's collective effort to ensure the vibrancy and the buzz that the village deserves.

Bird and Bay is open 7 days a week



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Whether you're looking for a gift, something for your home or outdoor space, or just to explore the secret garden at Bird & Bay, come and see us soon.

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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

Tuesday September 14th, 7:30pm  
Lymm Parish Hall  
Check [www.lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://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](http://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](http://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.  
[cah@cstones.co.uk](mailto:cah@cstones.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](http://www.lymmprobus.club)

### LYMM DINGLE PROBUS CLUB

A friendly busy social club for retired men. Meets on alternate Thursday afternoons at Lymm Baptist Church.  
Details: [www.lymmdingleprobus.club](http://www.lymmdingleprobus.club)  
Club secretary 01925 759995



**LYMM  
PARISH  
COUNCIL**

**Tuesday September 14th, 7:30pm**  
See parish council website for details.

# Heritage Open Days Lymm Hall tours fully booked!



Picture: Carol Sparkes

**A rare chance to see inside the Grade II Listed historic Lymm Hall as part of this year's Heritage Open Days Festival event is now fully booked!**

Within a matter of hours of being promoted via Lymm Life's online publication Warrington Worldwide the event was fully booked!

The new owners Lymm Hall teamed up with Lymm Heritage Centre offering free tours of the ancestral home of Lymm's founding family on September 17.

Every September thousands of volunteers across England organise events to celebrate a festival of this country's history and culture. It's a rare opportunity to see hidden places and try out new experiences – all of which are FREE to explore. It's called Heritage Open Days and this year Lymm Heritage Centre have partnered with the new owners of Lymm Hall to bring the festival to the village.

Lymm Hall, once the home of the village's founding family, is now the offices of Ecospheric – one of the UK's leading sustainability consultancies.

This Grade II\* listed building, which houses a number of ancient scheduled monuments, is being carefully retrofitted with the aim of achieving a zero energy renovation. Research shows listed buildings and

those in conservation areas have a significantly lower uptake of energy efficiency measures.

This project will bring together experts in heritage and the built environment to ensure this Elizabethan-era manor house, and other historic buildings, will play an important role in meeting the UK's targets for a sustainable and zero-carbon future.

Those lucky enough to have got on the tour will meet at the Heritage Centre where there will be a short presentation on the history of Lymm's most important surviving building. The group will then be led through the village with the chance to learn a little more about Lymm's fascinating history before being handed over at the hall to Ecospheric's director and principal sustainability consultant for a tour of the building and an explanation of the low-carbon transformation project that is underway there.

The event is free as are all activities nationally for Heritage Open Days but pre-booking is essential.

Visit [www.lymmhc.co.uk](http://www.lymmhc.co.uk) for more details on Lymm Heritage Centre.

## Parking ban near Lymm Dam

A parking ban is set to be introduced on Crouchley Lane near Lymm Dam due to highway safety concerns.

Warrington Borough Council is to implement a prohibition of waiting order between the car park on Crouchley Lane and Manor Road.

Particularly during the lockdown period as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and during the summer months motorists commonly park on Crouchley Lane and walk to Lymm Dam.

The existing car park is relatively small and overflow parking is common on Crouchley Lane.

The carriageway and footway (west side only) is already narrow

and vehicles park either wholly within the road or half on the footway/half within the carriageway. This presents a hazard for pedestrians trying to pass and potentially walking within the carriageway or results in vehicles meeting head-on and subsequently reversing to find a gap.

There is also a tight bend heading towards the Rugby Club which significantly reduces forward visibility.

Farm and agricultural vehicles are also common. It is therefore deemed necessary to prohibit waiting between the car park access and Manor Road.

## Probus Club to meet again

LYMM Dingle Probus Club is looking forward to renewing its usual activities, now that lockdown is gradually easing, and after an enforced 18 months when meetings could only be held monthly by Zoom.

Probus is an organisation for retired or semi-retired men, generally with a professional or business background, set up to promote fellowship and mutual support through regular meetings and social events, which include lunches, walks, bowls, occasional golf, days out, theatre trips, concerts and sometimes holidays.

The club meets on alternate Thursday afternoons at Lymm Baptist Church, and the first "normal" meeting with a speaker will be on September 2 at 2.15pm. Anyone interested in finding out more about the club may visit the website: [lymmdingleprobus.club](http://lymmdingleprobus.club), or contact the secretary 01925 759995, or president 01925 755286.

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*Andy*

**Contact Andy**

- 01925 231 267
- [andy.carter.org.uk](mailto:andy.carter.org.uk)
- [andy.carter.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:andy.carter.mp@parliament.uk)
- @MrAndy\_Carter
- Andy.Carter@WarringtonSouth

Warrington South Constituency Office  
1 Stafford Road, Warrington WA4 6RT





## Artwork reflects impact of COVID-19 on local community

**A large piece of artwork has gone on display at Lymm Heritage Centre to reflect the experiences of local residents, business owners, workers, and children of all ages during the Covid-19 pandemic.**

Organised by the Kids Planet nursery in Lymm, a variety of images have been used as a record for future generations in Lymm to understand how and why lives changed in 2020-21.

From images that symbolised how people felt, to those highlighting how the community pulled together as well as the challenges and joys of homeschooling, the final piece of artwork is currently on display at the Lymm Heritage Centre.

On visiting the artwork with a group of pre-schoolers from the nursery on Eagle Brow, Lymm, Nursery Manager Laura Kyriacou

said: "It was lovely to visit the centre with our children who enjoyed spotting some of their friends and family in the final display".

Heritage Centre Treasurer Patrick Knowles explained: "The Heritage Centre has been created entirely by volunteers from our local community for the benefit of all and it's great to be able to work with local groups and businesses to help encourage more people, young and old in to see us".

The COVID-19 artwork is currently on display at the Lymm Heritage Centre on Legh St and is open Thursday-Sundays 1-5pm.

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# Residents urged to use walk-in centres to ease pressures on A&E

**WARRINGTON & Halton Hospitals is appealing to residents to use local walk-in centres to ease pressures on the A&E department at Warrington Hospital which continues to be under "extreme pressures."**

With many people choosing to visit A&E with minor ailments the extreme pressures are causing lengthy waiting times.

Urgent treatment centres are a facility you can go to if you need urgent medical attention, but it's not a life-threatening situation. They're equipped to diagnose and treat many of the most common ailments people go to A&E for.

You may be referred to an urgent treatment centre by a GP or NHS 111 who can book time slots to attend at the centre. You can also just turn up and walk-in.

There is also an online facility whereby people can check the waiting times before turning up. <https://dashboard.whh.nhs.uk/ed/>

Dr Alex Crowe, Executive Medical Director, WHH said: "Our hospital Emergency Department is currently under extreme pressure and we need your help."

"We are seeing a rise in patients coming into the hospital which means much longer waiting times with increased pressure on staff who are working hard to ensure that they see and treat the sickest patients first."

"Please remember that Accident & Emergency is for life-threatening emergencies or accidents only. Lots

of patients that are coming to the department could be better treated or advised elsewhere.

"If you need urgent medical advice and are not sure where to go then please ring NHS 111 and the trained advisors will direct you to the right service."

"Your GP should be your first point of call, if it is NOT a life-threatening emergency or accident. Your GP is open and your practice can be contacted online, through an app or by phone so you can be assessed."

"If you need a face-to-face appointment you will be given one. Measures have been put in place to protect patients and staff from COVID-19, so it is safe to attend."

"High street Pharmacists are also qualified to give advice and dispense medicine for a range of illnesses including coughs, colds, stomach upsets and skin conditions. They can provide many treatments 'over the counter' to help you get better at home."

"We also have two excellent Urgent Treatment Centres which are open 8am – 9pm every day in Widnes and Runcorn. There is convenient parking and a free shuttle bus between Runcorn and Warrington hospitals."

"Our closest Urgent Care Centre is based at Halton Hospital in Entrance 2, Halton General Hospital, Hospital Way, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2DA."

Meanwhile, Dr Colin Wong says one of the significant Challenges is the number of children attending A&E/ED in Warrington hospital for minor ailments, and taking up precious time needed to care for poorly patients who need to be seen by a doctor or nurse, in an Emergency.

He says that with the easing of lockdown more children have been mixing and coming into contact with viruses usually seen in the winter months.

These include a range of respiratory infections, bronchiolitis, para flu and rhinovirus, all of which produce symptoms of cough, runny nose and fever. These can often be treated at home.

He said: If your child has a temperature then giving them medicine or tablets containing either ibuprofen or paracetamol, should help to bring their temperature down.

"However, if the child continues to deteriorate, then concerned parents should get medical advice and help. If in doubt call NHS 111 and they will be able to signpost you to the right treatment in the right place."

"Concerned parents can also take their children to the Runcorn Urgent Treatment Centre, at Halton, which is open every day between 8am and



9pm or if you live in Widnes – there is also the Widnes Urgent Treatment Centre.

"Also, local Walk-in Centres, GP practices or your local Pharmacist are fully trained to give expert advice on how to treat minor ailments."

Conditions that can be treated at an urgent treatment centre include:

- sprains and strains
- suspected broken limbs
- minor head injuries
- cuts and grazes
- bites and stings
- minor scalds and burns
- ear and throat infections
- skin infections and rashes eye problems
- coughs and colds
- feverish illness in adults
- feverish illness in children
- abdominal pain
- vomiting and diarrhoea
- emergency contraception

For the latest information on waiting times visit <https://dashboard.whh.nhs.uk/ed/>

## When you think you need A&E, contact NHS 111 by phone or online.



NHS 111 is free and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Depending on the situation, we can:

- Book you in to be seen quickly and safely, at an Accident & Emergency (A&E) / Emergency Department.
- Direct you to an alternative, more appropriate local service, such as an urgent care centre
- Connect you to a nurse, emergency dentist, pharmacist or GP
- Arrange a face-to-face appointment, if required
- Tell you how to get any medicine you need
- Help you with self-care advice

Contacting 111 first will help us manage the number of people in A&E / Emergency Department waiting rooms and maintain social distancing. It will also ensure that you receive the right care in the right place, in a more timely way.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a life-threatening medical emergency, you should still attend A&E or call 999 immediately.

### JUST THINK 111 FIRST

Go to [111.nhs.uk](https://111.nhs.uk) or call 111

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# Disability Awareness Day

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# Green light for 30th anniversary Disability Awareness Day (DAD) 2021

**THE 30th anniversary of Warrington Disability Awareness Day is set to go ahead on Sunday September 12.**

After closely monitoring updates on guidance relating to the COVID-19 pandemic the organising team behind the UK's largest voluntary led pan-disability exhibition have announced that the event at Walton Hall & Gardens will go ahead.

Event co-ordinator Dave Thompson MBE DL said: "The health and safety of our visitors, exhibitors and our team is always our number one priority. This is particularly important given the communities that DAD involves. After consulting with Public Health and our Local Authorities Events Safety Team to ensure we can follow national and local guidance, and we are pleased to confirm that our 30th annual event will go ahead on Sunday September 12.

Dave added, "We are very pleased to announce that disability education specialists Expanse Learning Group and the North West's water supplier United Utilities, are leading our list of sponsors for #DAD2021".

The aim of this year's event is to promote independent living through the theme "It's what disabled people can do that matters". #DAD2021 exhibitors will showcase solutions supporting independent living and mobility, with equipment, products, transport, employment, education,

training, health and social care, leisure activities, alongside over 100 charities/support groups.

Most of this year's exhibitors will be housed in a huge tented village of marquees, which will be supported by a Sports Zone, a Centre Arena, a huge Performing Arts Marquee and a children's play area.

On the day, visitors can gain an insight into the help and support that is available locally, regionally and nationally. They can "have a go" at sports activities including basketball, fencing, boccia, football, rugby league, boxing, cricket, tennis and scuba diving in the on-site pool.

For those looking for a more relaxed day there will be a fantastic line-up of talent in the Arts Marquee with some of the UK's leading disabled artists, or they can sit alongside the Centre Arena watching dog display teams, birds of prey, bands and sports demonstrations. Children can visit the funfair rides or accessible onsite zoo, crazy golf, high ropes and pitch and putt.

#DAD2021 will be the finale of a week of complimentary events. For more details of these events, please contact the DAD Admin team or visit [www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk](http://www.disabilityawarenessday.org.uk)

Support services at #DAD2021 will include a free accessible Park and Ride service, free accessible busses from Warrington Town Centre, a free scooter and wheelchair loan service with trained enablers, British Sign Language interpreters, additional unisex wheelchair-accessible toilets and over 100 trained stewards and helper's eager to make it a day to remember for everyone.

DAD continues to capture the imaginations of organisations around the UK and worldwide

with events planned in Cameroon, India, Uganda and more. It is no wonder that DAD continues to be recognised as the world's largest voluntary led pan-disability independent living exhibition and family fun day covering physical, sensory and learning disabilities and mental health, and all ages.

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# LYMM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

The new Parish Council in Lymm, elected for three years in May 2021, is settling in well with Councillors getting used to new roles. With five new faces on the Parish Council, and two previously co-opted councillors getting elected, this is the biggest refresh of the Parish Council for a long time. We also have a better gender and age balance which is more representative of the village as a whole.

The Council's agreed priorities are those that the public in Lymm have been pressing for. Protection of the green belt and positive involvement in the Local Plan for Warrington, the final draft of which is expected in September with public consultation in October and November. Lymm has joined other parishes in South Warrington to coordinate a response to the draft plan from the councils.

Lymm's own Neighbourhood Plan is pressing ahead but cannot be finalised until we know what the Local Plan will contain. The Neighbourhood Plan must not contradict it. The Neighbourhood Plan Group has been working hard on consulting the public, preparing potential policies and background material.

The roads, which were quieter during the Covid crisis, are filling up again. Speeding, HGVs, parking issues, road repairs and safety remain, and are growing, as concerns in the village. The Parish Council will continue to press Warrington Highways Department and the police to act on these concerns and propose improvements. These are never easy in a village that wasn't designed, nor have the capacity for, the traffic we now have.

We welcome the proposal to form LEAF, The Lymm Environmental Action Forum, as an umbrella group for environmental action and climate change concerns in the village. The relationship between the Parish Council, its own Environment Working Group, and LEAF is yet to be worked out. The aim is to create synergy between the Council and volunteers so that we all receive the greatest benefit from everyone's efforts.

The Village Hall roof has reached the end of its repairable life and will need major work to secure the hall for the future. This project has now started and will take up council officers time over the next year or so. We are also pleased that the long running saga of the Lymm Dam toilet is approaching an end and the facility being open.

Please feel free to contact your Councillors or the Parish Clerk with any concerns you have about issues in the village.

*Cllr Bob Barr.*



## Contact information:

Clerk to the Council: Kerry Duffin - 07741 877870  
clerk@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Council Website:

**www.lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk**

## Lymm Parish Council 2021-22



Name: Cllr Bob Barr OBE (Chairman)  
Address: 2A Danebank Road, Lymm WA13 9DH  
Telephone: 01925 750910  
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Name: Cllr Graham Gowland (Deputy Chairman)  
Address: 32 Wychwood Avenue, Lymm, WA13 0NE  
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Name: Cllr Chris East  
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Telephone: 07743 489329  
Email: ceast@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk



Name: Cllr Ann Johnstone  
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Email: ajohnstone@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk



Name: Cllr Selina Kirkham  
Address: 2 Hardy Road, Lymm WA13 0NX  
Telephone: 07971 109635  
Email: skirkham@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk



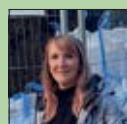
Name: Cllr Ian Marks MBE  
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Telephone: 01925 753051  
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Name: Cllr Tim Martland  
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Email: tmartland@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk



Name: Cllr Ben Selwood  
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Telephone: 01925 752624  
Email: bselwood@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk



Name: Cllr Sally Sharma  
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Email: ssharma@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk



Name: Cllr Julia Stansfield  
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Email: jstansfield@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk



Name: Cllr Stephen Towndrow  
Telephone: 01925 757560  
Email: stowndrow@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk



# Warrington & Vale Royal College celebrates outstanding results



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Warrington & Vale Royal College is celebrating an incredible 100% pass rate, with 75% of Level 3 BTEC students achieving Distinction grades and 98% achieving Merit grades.

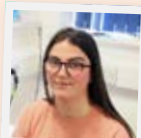
We are delighted with this year's vocational results and extremely proud of how hard all of our students have worked to achieve such impressive grades. The students are looking forward to taking their next steps, with record numbers progressing onto their first-choice university for further study.

## Congratulations class of 2021!

### Emilija Taneska

#### Level 3 Business

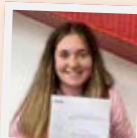
Level 3 Business student Emilija has achieved an outstanding Triple Distinction\*, the highest vocational grade possible. This September she will be progressing onto The University of Manchester to study Modern Language and Business & Management (French), combining her passion for business and language.



### Rhianna Gregory

#### Level 3 Health & Social Care

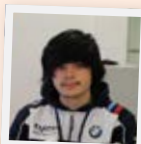
Level 3 Health & Social Care student Rhianna will be progressing onto University of Salford to study Learning Disabilities Nursing, after achieving a brilliant A\* grade. Rhianna is delighted with her results and looking forward to this exciting next step.



### Joseph Redmond

#### Level 3 Science

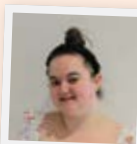
Level 3 Science student Joseph has completed his course and achieved an amazing Double Distinction\* & Distinction. He has secured an impressive role as an Apprentice Service Engineer with Thermo Fisher Scientific, the leading company for developing and manufacturing scientific products.



### Molly Horrocks

#### Level 3 Art & Design

Level 3 Art & Design student Molly is delighted with her excellent Distinction grade and excited to be progressing onto Manchester Metropolitan University this September to study Photography. Molly loves being creative and is looking forward to developing her skills further.



## Not enrolled yet for September 2021?

Don't worry if you haven't enrolled yet. You can call in, speak to our tutors and enrol all on the same day. We are open **Monday - Friday, 9.00AM - 4.00PM**, with late opening until **7.00PM every Thursday**.

To enrol, remember to bring your photo ID and GCSE results!

For enquiries, please contact our friendly Admissions Team on **01925 494 400** or [learner.services@wvr.ac.uk](mailto:learner.services@wvr.ac.uk).

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# Former funeral director's to become house-in-multiple occupation

**PLANNING chiefs have given the go-ahead for the conversion of two adjoining properties at Lymm to a house-in-multiple occupation (HMO) – despite an objection from Lymm Parish Council.**

The two properties are in Church Road and were previously used for residential purposes and as a funeral directors.

But historically, one was previously a post office. Both properties are currently disused.

The parish council objected, claiming the proposed windows "looked very odd", querying the entrance layout and alleging the submission was "vague."

A neighbour opposed the scheme because of a lack of parking and suggested a condition be imposed banning the use of Church Road for parking.

Planning officers agreed the

development had the potential to increase parking demand but said any increase was likely to be minimal.

The property was within a conservation area but the original shopfront would be retained so that it would still look like a commercial property. As such it would retain and improve the existing character and appearance of the conservation area.

A currently vacant property would be brought back into use with no significant impact on the character of the conservation area.

The HMO will be occupied by up to six people.



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# Lymm mum on Dreamland Mission to complete x-ray project while leading fight against COVID

**LYMM mum Dr Becky Nightingale is on a mission, to complete her latest project, building and equipping a brand new X-ray building at Dreamland Mission Hospital in Kimilili, rural Kenya.**

Becky and Mike Nightingale moved to Lymm in 2017 just in time for the birth of their first child Esther. Becky continued to volunteer as the Health Programme Manager remotely and they travelled back to Kenya as much as possible before COVID hit.

Becky has a PhD in Tropical Medicine with a focus on respiratory disease and is a Consultant Respiratory Physio at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and has therefore been on the frontline of the COVID response.

Lesley Achim Fundraising Manager – IcFEM Europe who met Becky at Lymm Baptist Church where they both attend said: "Becky is an inspiration with a huge heart for the poor and disadvantaged in Kenya. Having spent large parts of her adult life in sub-Saharan Africa and living and volunteering at Dreamland Mission Hospital since 2010 she is all too aware of the poverty and deprivation suffered

by many rural Kenyans."

Dreamland Mission Hospital is based in rural western Kenya on the Uganda border, it started as small health centre employing 14 Kenyan staff and now has over 140 Kenyan staff, an operating theatre and 80 beds.

Lesley added: "The past 15 months coping with COVID have been especially difficult in rural Kenya where there is limited testing and treatment available. Becky has worked tirelessly to support the team in Kenya, among many other things arranging the supply of oxygen machines and COVID tests. Now she is seeking help to fund the remaining £38,000 required to complete the X-Ray building.

"The new X-ray building project has been desperately needed for a long time, the current machine is old and unreliable, the X-Ray room is small and impractical, the doorway is even too small to push a hospital bed or wheelchair through so patients have to be carried.

However, the need for a new x-ray unit is now extremely urgent, the disposable films required are no longer being made and in less than four months the remaining stocks will have run out. All X-Ray services at the hospital will have to be cancelled unless this project can be completed in time.

"The building is well on its way to completion, we have employed 40 local workmen and women to build the unit who are all being paid above average wage which means they can feed and support

their families. A little market has also sprung up where other locals come and sell their produce such as mangos to the workmen. The impact is far-reaching, making a huge difference to the lives of those in Kimilili.

"We can't wait to have the new unit up and running, if you would like to support this exciting project and help us reach our target you can pay for a stone to be laid for £10 or make a donation of any amount by visiting [www.icfem-mission.org/x-ray/](http://www.icfem-mission.org/x-ray/)"



## Lymm Rushbearing beats the showers

WHILE heavy showers brought traffic to a standstill with flooding in some parts of the village earlier in the day, Lymm Rushbearing managed to dodge the showers.

Organiser Chris Limb, who helped resurrect the medieval tradition, said: "Putting up a few last-minute posters on Sunday morning was a very wet affair but the rain went and the sun almost shone by 4pm when Rushbearing started.

"The walk up the Dingle was delightful – for those walking it is probably more enjoyable than being on the roads. Both Lymm Morris and Bollin Morris were present and as well as dancing en route they both danced in the car park of St Mary's before and after the service. As well as local councillors our MP Andy Carter came along."

For many years in the twentieth-century Rushbearing Monday was a local bank holiday.

Ormerod's late Victorian history of Cheshire refers to Lymm Rushbearing taking place in many communities on or near to the feast of the parish's patron saint – hence Lymm's tradition of having the festival during the summer holiday period and close to the feast of the Assumption of Saint Mary.

Although the carrying of fresh rushes to church (normally on a horse-drawn cart) was a central feature, and the replacement of the old rushes upon the earthen church floor a very practical necessity in former days, this gathering of locals also involved festivities including not only the procession and Morris dancing but also sports, fairground stalls, and very full public houses!

Lymm's grey horses were well-known and a Lymm Grey is a person of an established local family, normally at least third generation born in Lymm.

The procession includes Morris men, people carrying Rushbearing

garlands and rushes, the Chairman of the Parish Council and councillors, the May Queen and various local groups.

It is medieval in its origins and Lymm is one of a very small

number of communities that have maintained this tradition.

Following the traditional walk with rushes through the village, a special service took place at St Mary's church.

Pictures: John Hopkins





# Lockdown gave Lymm journalist time to write a book

**LOCKDOWN** meant different things for different people but for Lymm resident David Skentelbery it gave him time to write the book he had been threatening to write for years.

"The No Hoper" tells the hilarious story of his rather unusual school days at an independent boarding school for boys at Knutsford.

David, a long-standing member of the Lymm Life team, believes his parents chose to send him to Knutsford College because he was extremely shy as a youngster and they thought he would have an easier time there than at the local secondary school.

They didn't realise they were sending him to a school that had been compared to Dotheboys Hall, the infamous boarding school described by Charles Dickens in Nicholas Nickleby.

His introduction to the school was to be thrown head first into a holly bush. He was ridiculed because of his unusual surname. He was driven to the verge of a nervous breakdown by a maths teacher.

And he lived in fear of a horse-riding headmaster who used a riding crop to beat boys who misbehaved.

Knutsford College was described as a school for the sons of gentlemen. Its motto was "Hope is the anchor of Life", which sounds pretty impressive until you learn the school was run by a man named Hope.

It closed in 1954 after a history

of 27 years. David arrived when it was still in its pomp and was still there when it closed. He then embarked on a career in journalism, most of it in Warrington, where in 1968 he founded Orbit News Ltd, publishers of Lymm Life and Warrington-Worldwide.co.uk, now run by his son, Gary.

A number of students at the college were from the Lymm area and if any are still around, David would like to hear from them.

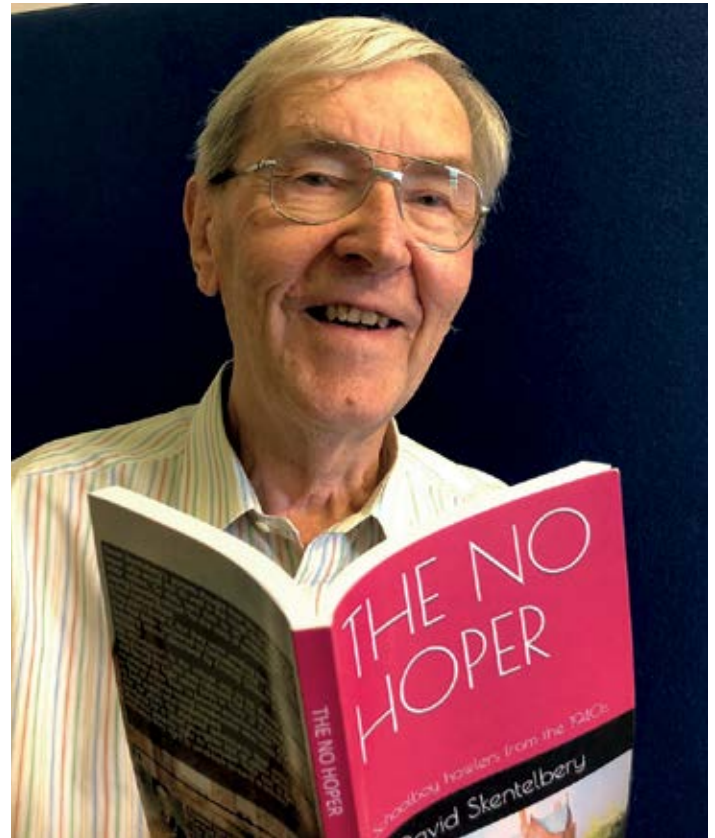
Were David's parents right to consider their shy son a "No Hoper" and were they right to send him to Knutsford College?

David says: "If you had asked me that on the day I started there I would probably have been too terrified to answer. But, looking back, it was probably the best thing that could have happened to me."

The school soon knocked the shyness out of me and I thoroughly enjoyed my school days. I have tried to tell the story in an amusing, "laugh-out-loud" way.

"There are still quite few of my classmates around and you'll be hard-pressed to find any who are not proud to be Old Boys of Knutsford College.

The book is available from Amazon for £5.99.



## Warburton Toll Bridge investment plan sparks calls for Public Inquiry

PLANS to invest £6.5m on the historic Warburton Toll Bridge and increase tolls by more than 700 percent has sparked calls for a public inquiry to examine the proposals.

The Conservative Group on Warrington Borough Council has called for a public inquiry following Peel Ports' proposal that some tolls need to increase by over 700 percent on the Warburton-Rixton Bridge over the Manchester Ship Canal.

Peel Ports have launched a month-long consultation on a so-called Sustainable Investment Plan for the Bridge.

A total of £6.5m is to be invested in the Toll Bridge between Rixton and Warburton by The Manchester Ship Canal Company, which owns and operates the bridge, who have published an outline of upgrades to the approach roads, footpaths and tolling system.

While welcoming Peel Ports' belated proposals to bring the bridge into the 21st Century by introducing a free flow tolling system and upgrading approach roads, the Conservative Group has also welcomed the proposed long-term investment in the structure of the bridge and automated measures to help control vehicle weights, heights, widths and speed.

But given Peel Ports' unacceptable proposal that many motorists should bear toll increases of over 700 percent, the Conservative Group has called for a Public Inquiry to look at the long term future of the bridge, potentially without any tolls for motorists. For instance, an Inquiry could look at future funding coming from canal users rather than motorists.

Conservative Group Leader and Lymm Councillor, Kath Buckley, said "We welcome Peel Ports' proposals for upgrades to the bridge and its approach roads. They will improve traffic flow, restrict unsuitable

vehicles and ensure the structure of the bridge is maintained for the long term.

"However, we strongly oppose Peel Ports' suggestion that motorists should bear toll increases of over 700 percent.

"A Public Inquiry should look at other options for funding including

from Peel Ports themselves from their Ship Canal business.

"After long delays, I also urge Peel Ports to progress the long-awaited maintenance of the three swing bridges at Latchford, Stockton Heath and on Chester Road," added Cllr Buckley.



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## Obituary

### William Billing

THE funeral has taken place of William Herbert Billing, of Cyril Bell Close, Lymm, who died suddenly on July 15, aged 82. The service was at Altrincham Crematorium on July 27.

Mr Billing was a retired

estate agent and, latterly, a hypnotherapist. He was a member of the Lymm U3A scribblers club, being an accomplished writer and was a charismatic helper at Lymm Youth and Community Centre, in the café at the monthly market and

at the film club, as well as getting involved in various charity events in the village

He is survived by three children, Jane, Nathan and Leon and four grandchildren. Bill will be sorely missed by all his family and friends.



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