

# Lymm Life

Magazine

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## Dickens of a day

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# Editor's Comment



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**THIS year's Lymm Dickensian Day festival marked the end of an era as popular Town Crier Peter Powell, hung up his bell, retiring after 28 years dedicated service.**

But the tradition will carry on as the bell has now been passed to his grandson AJ Powell, who took part in this year's event which was made extra special as Peter was made an Honorary Freeman of the parish by Lymm Parish Council Chairman Cllr. Bob Barr.

If anyone was truly deserving of this honour, it is Peter – who has been a stalwart of the community for as long as I can remember.

In fact, Peter was very much instrumental in helping us launch Lymm Life, appearing on our very first issue front cover, proclaiming the launch of our community magazine way back in April 1999 – in the last century!

While many things have changed

since then, some things have never changed – and that includes Peter's dedication and commitment to the community.

Sadly, he has had to retire but it is heart warming to see his grandson AJ Powell take over the commitment.

I would like to take this opportunity to go on record to say a huge thank you to Peter for all his dedication, commitment and support over many years, which even included touring the village on an open top bus helping us celebrate our 20th anniversary – just one of hundreds of activities he has taken part in over many years.

He also served on the parish council as an independent voice for the village – again showing his

dedication to the village.

Thank you Peter – you are truly a community champion who will always be remembered for going above and beyond for Lymm – Oh Yeah! Oh Yeah!



*Ideal for Christmas!*

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**NAPA Award Winners 2017, 2018  
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# The gift of running

**LYMM Runners – widely acknowledged as one of the friendliest running clubs in the North West – have come up with a novel seasonal gift idea.**

Instead of socks, woolly jumpers or candles for that special person, how about the Gift of Running – a place on their 2023 Beginners Course?

Registration is now open for this very popular course which starts on Tuesday, January 10.

It lasts nine weeks, is open to runners and would-be runners of all abilities and consists of two one-hour sessions a week.

On Tuesdays there is a structured coaching session at Victoria Park running track, Latchford and on Thursday evenings there are confidence-building group run/walks, starting from Lymm High School.

There is plenty of encouragement as well as structured coaching by qualified leaders in separate

training groups – so no one gets left behind.

The course is free but participants are asked to join Lymm Runners for the start of the course.

Membership costs from just £20 a year but the club recommends joining England Athletics as well, for an extra £16.

This gives some great benefits including reduced race cost entry and discounts on various products. Another optional extra is entry to the High Leigh 10K on March 12 – which many beginners on the course work towards.

Alison Felstead, beginners lead and run co-ordinator, said: "I've been one of the leads for this course for the past four years and have loved seeing the runners progress and gain in confidence.



Many join with very little previous running experience and amaze themselves by what they achieve in such a short space of time."

One of last year's graduates said: "I apprehensively joined the Lymm Runners beginners' class I hadn't properly exercised since before lockdown and had done little running. The aim was to have fun, get fit, with a view to being able to complete the High Leigh 10k run in March."

"We were promised on day one we were going to love running, and I can honestly say, I had a smile on my face every time we went out. I got fitter quite quickly - the Tuesday

sessions were informative and fun and the Thursday night running sessions in and around Lymm were fantastic."

"I did the 10k run, thoroughly enjoyed it and have done two more since!"

Any questions should go to Alison or one of the other leads at [beginners@lymmrunners.org.uk](mailto:beginners@lymmrunners.org.uk) and further information can be found at:

<https://lymmrunners.org/running/beginners-course/> or <https://highlegh10k.org.uk/> But hurry – places are limited and fill up fast.

## A Christmas Gift of an Idea!



or



How about a place on the Lymm Runners Beginners/Returners Course as an inspired Christmas Gift? It's a lot of fun - and a simply brilliant way to start the New Year.

Places are still available on the High Leigh 10K run on 12th March @ 10.30am

This sell out race is organised by the High Leigh Community Association and Lymm Runners

The 9 week course offers:

- A great welcome!
- Encouragement and Support
- Realistic training plans
- A friendly group setting
- Safety of running with others

Your sure of a warm welcome from the High Leigh community and this flat and friendly 10K is popular with both beginners and more experienced runners looking for personal best times

The fun starts on Jan 10th Places are limited and must be booked in advance.

A place on the course is available with Lymm Runners membership costing £20 for the whole year (no further costs involved)

The event raises money for the local community and schools

Entry costs £22 and includes a medal and T-shirt (option to donate your t-shirt cost to Tees for Trees)

Visit [lymmrunners.org.uk/running/beginners-course](https://lymmrunners.org.uk/running/beginners-course) Or scan here



Visit [highlegh10k.org.uk](https://highlegh10k.org.uk)

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



### LYMM PARISH COUNCIL

Tuesday January 10th, 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  
Details: 07708 172015

### MAPLE LODGE ART GROUP

Meet each Wednesday 9.30am - 11.30pm  
Oughtrington Community Centre, Lymm  
Details: 01925 755926

### ROTARY CLUB OF LYMM

Meets at Warburtons Parish Rooms on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month at 8pm  
Contact 01925 919053

### LOVING HEARTS & HANDS

Knitting for charity at Lymm Methodist Church, 2nd and 4th Thursday each month.  
1.30pm - 3pm. Details: 01925 753298

### LUNCH AT THE BROW

Eagle Brow Methodist Church  
2nd Friday in the month  
Light lunches 12 noon till 1.30pm.  
All proceeds to The Y Project 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

### LYMM AND DISTRICT MIXED VOICE CHOIR

Every Wednesday 7.30 Lymm Methodist Church. Contact 01925 601664.  
[cath@stones.co.uk](mailto:cath@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](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

### FRIENDS OF LYMM LIBRARY CRAFT GROUP

Lymm Sanctuary Hub  
Fridays 1.30-3.00pm  
Details: 01925 754016

### HEATLEY WI

Meets the second Thursday of each month at Oughtrington Junior School, 7.30pm  
Visitors welcome. Details: 01925 752014

### LYMM & THELWALL U3A

Speaker meeting 3rd Thursday of the month (excluding August & December) at Thelwall Parish Hall 10.00am. Prospective members welcome.  
[www.u3asites.org.uk/lymm-thelwall/home](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/lymm-thelwall/home)  
Contact: [enquiries@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk)



**LYMM PARISH COUNCIL**

Tuesday January 10th, 7:30pm  
See parish council website for details.

# Care home wins top prize

**KEATE House Care Home, Lymm were winners in the Care Employer category at the Great British Care Awards, North West.**

The family-run home is a 54 bed care home specialising in dementia care and employ 75 staff across all departments.

They use a valued based approach to recruitment and feel that residents, integrity and compassion should be at the heart of their team.

A spokesperson said: "Keate House has a proactive approach to development and hold regular team building activities helping to bring camaraderie between the employees. Lots of support and events are held for the staff,

including team building days out, go karting and cocktail making.

"Staff enjoy the monthly training award prize and team member awards.

"Winning this award lets the Keate House team know how amazing they are, and we are looking forward to continuing to develop and grow, meeting new demands and exciting opportunities with constant focus on quality of care and employability in equal measures.

"A happy staff makes a happy home."



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# Poppy Appeal team raised £21,429

**A TEAM of more than 50 volunteers stepped up to help the Poppy Appeal in and around Lymm to raise a wonderful £21,429.62 in November.**

The money goes to help ex-service personnel and their families who are in need - and in 2021 alone, 37,341 requests for help and support were received by the Royal British Legion.

In a statement thanking the people of Lymm for their generosity, the Lymm Poppy Appeal fundraising team, said: "Service men and women make a choice to put Service above Self, but for some, the consequences can take a severe toll on their physical, mental, and emotional well-being. For those who are struggling to manage or to cope in their lives, the Royal British Legion, via the funds raised during the Poppy Appeal, are there to pick up the pieces."

"The money raised enabled the Legion to support 3,800 people through the Branch Community support service. It enabled the Battle Back Centre, which specialises in short term courses involving adaptive sports and adventure opportunities,



to get hundreds of ex-service personnel back into civilian life.

"It helped to support Recovery Centres across the country in their work helping wounded, injured and sick personnel. It also helped in the funding of the Complex Trauma Gym at Stansfield Hall near Loughborough. The Admiral Nurses were able to continue their invaluable support as were the specialist RBL Care Homes across the country.

"Your support also helped the RBL to provide financial support for the participants in the Invictus Games.

Through the money raised during the Poppy Appeal they were also able to fund BRAVO 22 to aid recovery through art and drama."

Significant funding helped the 1,780 beneficiaries who sought specialist debt and money advice and millions were spent on research into the nature of injuries and medical treatment."

The fundraising team also thanked the shops, businesses, pubs, restaurants, schools, churches, garden centres, nurseries and other organisations who had collecting tins and Poppy boxes, as well as Lymm Air Training Corps for putting up lamp post poppies.

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There are 66 fully furnished bedrooms, each benefitting from an en-suite wet room, plus several stylish communal lounges, dining rooms and quiet reading rooms, as well as beautifully landscaped gardens.

Statham Manor provides residents with a safe home-from-home environment. For more information, or to make an appointment to view Statham Manor contact us on **01925 596000** or email [enquiries@newcarehomes.com](mailto:enquiries@newcarehomes.com).

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**Statham Manor Care Centre**  
90 Statham Avenue  
Lymm, WA13 9AQ  
[newcarehomes.com](http://newcarehomes.com)





# Dickens of a day as Town Crier made Honorary Freeman of Lymm

**IT was a Dickens of a day at the annual Lymm Dickensian Festival as popular Town Crier Peter Powell was made an Honorary Freeman of Lymm.**

He was given the honour by Lymm Parish Council Chairman Cllr Bob Barr, as he led the parade for a final time as he retires to hand over his bell to grandson AJ Powell.

For the past 28 years, Peter has been the focal point of not just Lymm

Dickensian Day, but also many events in and around the borough, as well as representing Lymm in the World Town Crier championships. He also served on the parish council for many years as an independent voice for the village.

Pictures: John Hopkins

Meanwhile, Lymm Dickensian Day was given an extra festive feel as snow during the night and wintery showers added to the occasion, organised for the first time by new event Chair Colin Oakley.

Lymm Runners helped start

proceedings with their Santa Dash, despite tricky conditions underfoot.

Villagers and visitors turned out in their thousands to support the event which was launched 28 years ago to help boost trade in the village in the run-up to Christmas.

**More Pictures on [www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk](http://www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk) search Lymm Dickensian Day 2022**



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BACK TO THE GARDEN  
CHILDCARE



# Road closures planned at Lymm for new traffic calming features

**A number of phased road closures are being planned at Lymm in January for new traffic calming features.**

Warrington Borough Council has given notice it intends to make an Order under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

The effect of which will be to introduce a prohibition of driving and footway closure as follows: (1) Eagle Brow from its junction with the A56 Church Road/Booths Hill Road to its junction with Brookfield Road; (2) Brookfield Road from its junction with Eagle Brow to a point

approximately 55 metres south (at the access to Lymm Tennis Club); (3) Eagle Brow from its junction with Brookfield Road to a point approximately 70 metres east, outside No. 38.

The Order will be effective from 16th January 2023 for 6 weeks, as and when signed on site.

The works will be implemented in phases as follows: Phase 1 (Item 1) – Starting 16/01/23 for 3 weeks,

between 09:30 & 15:30; Phase 2 (Item 2) – Starting 06/02/23 for 1 week, between 09:30 & 15:30; Phase 3 (Item 3) – Starting 20/02/23 for 1 week, between 19:00 & 23:00. Access will be under the control of the relevant Contractor for the duration of the works. The alternative routes are: Phase 1 via A56 Church Road, Brookfield Road and vice versa; Phase 2 via Brookfield Road, A56

Church Road, Eagle Brow and vice versa; Phase 3 via Rectory Lane, (The Cross), Church Road, Eagle Brow and vice versa and via Brookfield Road, Dane Bank Road, Dane Bank Road East and vice versa.

The restrictions are required to facilitate highway improvement works relating to traffic calming features.

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## Sanctuary Café becomes a "Warm Space"

LYMM United Reformed Church's Sanctuary Café has joined the "Warm Space" initiative.

Every Tuesday during the winter months, between 11am and 3pm, the popular café is serving free soup and bread and cups of tea or coffee to people struggling to keep warm during the cold weather.

There is room for up to 30 people in addition to the regular customers, many of who make donations towards the cost of providing the service.

Anything else on the menu can be ordered at the normal price.

The church's "Crafty Chat" group also meet in the café from 1.30pm to 3pm so there is an opportunity to take along a project and join them and make new friends.



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# Lymm Village Future Vision winners revealed

**THE winners of Lymm Parish Council's Lymm Village Future Vision Exhibition have been announced.**

Winner was Sebastian Cowley, a student at Lymm High School, with his imaginative Sunken Water Garden, while pupils from Cherry Tree Primary School came runners-up with their fantastic model. Third was Lymm High student Danny Cornwall with his 3-D CAD design of the Sunken Garden Rejuvenation.

This summer, Lymm Parish Council invited young people across the village schools to submit entries to Lymm Village Future Vision Exhibition. The concept was to generate fresh ideas for how Lymm's young people imagine a village of the future. The exhibition was hosted at Lymm Heritage Centre during November.

More than 20 entries were submitted and the quality of the work was exemplary. The ideas ranged from transforming the sunken garden into a play area, a community garden complete with water features and lighting driven by the Lower Dam, amphitheatre with performing arts platform and sculpture, sails overhead for shelter, to better village signage, electric charge points, cycle lock-ups, wider pavements for safer pedestrian access whilst facilitating an outdoor cafe society lifestyle. Entries were submitted in a wide range of art mediums.

Local experts, Keven Lester from Architects CB3, Paul Beckmann, from Landscape Architects Agathoclis Beckmann Ltd and Michael Taylor, owner of 18 The Cross and The Wine Kitchen, representing Lymm Traders Association, were the three judges.

The winning entries in order were:

First: Sebastian Cowley, Lymm High, shown holding his winning entry, the highly imaginative Sunken Water Garden.

Second: Jess Howcroft, Anna Davies, Mimi Denton, Summer-Bleu Taylor, Freya Antondlii, Lauren Caton, Year 6 pupils from Cherry Tree School who submitted a fantastic model.

Third: Danny Cornwall, Lymm High for his 3-D CAD drawing entitled Sunken Garden Rejuvenation.

All entrants received a signed Participation Certificate from one of the three judges.

Keven commented "It was great to be involved in this event. The number and variety of submissions was really impressive and the students all produced interesting and thought-provoking designs. It was obvious that a lot of effort went into producing the work and it is very encouraging that so many wanted to be involved in the future of the village. The approaches varied from highly analytical studies to free-form creative/emotive responses and there was plenty to discuss which made it very difficult to judge."

The public was also welcomed to make comments in the Bright Ideas Book. Lymm Parish Council will now start the process of cataloguing the work and will consider how these ideas might be capitalised on.

Cllr Steve Towndrow, who helped organise the event, thanked the schools, pupils, judges and Lymm Heritage Centre for contributing to an outstanding event that will help shape the future of Lymm as we move forward into the 21st century.



# Your pet questions answered

By Dr Diane Wilshaw  
Lymm Veterinary Surgery

**Q: My dog had developed a number of warts along her back. She is 9 years old. What should I treat them with?**

A: You need to check with your vet that they are just warts. There is no treatment to stop them growing. If they are just warts or cysts, they are fine just as long as they are not irritating your dog. If they become too large or start to irritate her, they can be surgically removed.

**Q: I have a 3-year-old, neutered, male cat, who sprays inside the house, I thought neutering may have stopped this.**

A: Spraying is a normal behaviour in cats, and neutering doesn't always stop this behaviour – in both male and female cats. Spraying (after neutering) is often the result of certain stresses i.e. other cats, changes in environment etc. but could also be medically related. Your vet will be able to rule out any medical problems and provide you with advice to stop this anxious behaviour.

**Q: I have a 7-year-old Netherland Dwarf Rabbit who has started to look thin although he seems to be eating well. What could be causing this?**

A: It is difficult to diagnose this without examining your rabbit so I would suggest that you take him to see a vet. It could be that he is not eating as much as you think because of teeth or digestive troubles, or he could have an underlying illness.



**Q: My dog suffers from arthritis. Can I give him 'human' pain killers?**

A: No. Many painkillers that are formulated for humans are extremely toxic to dogs. For instance, Ibuprofen can be fatal for a dog. There are licenced veterinary painkillers that have been extensively trialled on dogs and are proven to be safe to use.

**Q: What is the rabbit disease VHD?**

A: VHD is a highly infectious and often fatal virus that first appeared in the UK in 1992. Because it is transmitted by direct contact between rabbits or from surfaces contaminated by other rabbits, many owners of solitary rabbits did not want the vaccination. There is a vaccine to cover against VHD and myxomatosis, another disease that can prove fatal to rabbits.

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# Speedway legend Peter Collins releases his long-awaited autobiography

**LOCAL speedway legend Peter Collins has just released his long-awaited autobiography.**

The former Belle Vue and England racer recently signed copies of 'Keeping it on the Tyres' at the Lymm Heritage Centre.

Collins, 68, is a familiar figure in the area where he grew up on the family farm in Partington before conquering the world on two wheels.

His 506-page, full-colour book, including more than 400 photos, covers his illustrious 17-year racing career that brought him every major honour in the shale sport's history: one individual World Championship (1976), five World Team Cups and four World Pairs titles.

With 10 FIM gold medals, he remains the most decorated British rider of all-time. Honoured in 2001 with the MBE, the all-action racer

known as 'PC' is also England's most capped international with 154 appearances for his country.

After a debut season in grasstrack, Collins – the eldest of five racing brothers, speedway's greatest dynasty – rode for Belle Vue from 1971 until the end of 1986. In the winter of 1987-88, he became a co-promoter of the famous Manchester club, leading the rescue mission that saved them from near extinction.

"I've waited a long while to tell my story and, as none of us is getting any younger, now is the right time," says Collins, now retired and living with his wife Angela at High Legh.

Father of two Collins became a speedway superstar during the sport's last golden era of the 1970s, when it regularly attracted five-figure crowds and he earned more per week than the top footballers at Manchester United and Man City. When Collins won his individual world crown in Poland in 1976, he was cheered to victory by a capacity 120,000 crowd.

"I was very lucky to reach my peak during a very special time for speedway, when all the big meetings were shown by ITV, the national daily papers gave it massive coverage, and we had international sponsors."

"I was born and bred in Partington and the farm where my brothers and I grew up set us on the path to

speedway fame. My dad made my first bike – a 98cc James – when I was eight-years-old, and that's when I began learning to slide round corners."

"We built our own racetrack at Homestead Farm and on adjacent marshland. Most of the other local kids who had bikes and came to race with us also ended up having good careers in speedway or grasstrack racing. The Lymm area has a proud history of producing successful sporting motorcyclists."

If you didn't make it to the signing at Lymm Heritage Centre in Legh Street, WA13 0DA, copies of the book – priced £20 inc P&P (£5 off

RRP) – personally signed by Collins are available from his publisher, Retro Speedway, at [www.retro-speedway.com](http://www.retro-speedway.com). Or phone 01708 734 502.



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## Obituary

## Elizabeth 'Betty' Shaw

THE funeral has taken place of Elizabeth Shaw, known locally as Betty. Betty passed away in Warrington Hospital aged 82 on October 27 2022.

She is survived by her daughter Laura Toseland and her 3 grandchildren, Adam, Luke and Natasha.

The funeral took place on November 18 2022 at St. Winefride's Church, Lymm prior to the committal at Altrincham Crematorium. Father Tony Elder led the service.

Funeral arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons of Lymm.

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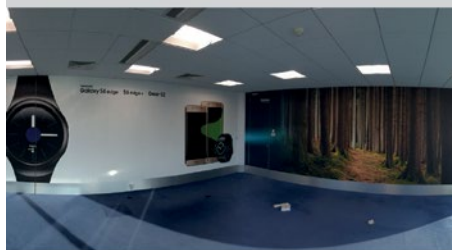
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