

Lymm Life

Magazine

ISSUE 295 | FEBRUARY 2024
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**Panto in dreamland
after raising over £30k**

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Editor's Comment



WITH our 25th anniversary year underway lots of work has been going on behind the scenes to ensure we can continue to provide the best free community news service going well into the future online and in print.

Thousands of pounds have been invested in ensuring our online news service and website is bang up to date, so we can continue to provide the only free independent daily news service for Lymm and the surrounding area.

With the vast majority of people gathering their news online now, it is more important than ever that we continue to provide a reliable, trustworthy news source.

We also continue to recognise the importance of print for those who don't have access to online or prefer to see their news in hard print, which has a much longer lasting impact.

Items posted on social media disappear in the blink of an eye and can also easily be taken out of context leading to misinformation and scaremongering.

Things have certainly changed a lot since our first publication was launched in April 1999 – in the last century!!

Our early editions still included black and white pages and a full colour cover while our initial website was built in raw HTML code by my father!

We are proud to have been the first independent daily online newspaper in the UK and look forward to the year ahead with renewed optimism.

It's certainly never been an easy ride working in the media, dealing with various recessions, the COVID pandemic and now the cost-of-living crisis.

Over the past 25 years we have met and sadly lost many great characters in the village, many of whom will have featured on the front page.

We now look forward to the next 25 years with optimism and if I can manage to put in the same shift as my father David, who is still involved

in his 70th year as a journalist, I might still be around to celebrate our Golden anniversary, although I dread to think what challenges lie ahead in our troubled world.

So, let's stay positive and focus on what we can influence here in Lymm and as always, we love hearing your goods news stories as well as taking up issues and concerns on your behalf.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us in some way over the years - far too many to mention – but you know who you are!

**Deadline for the
March issue of
Lymm Life is February 6**



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Lymm Panto in dreamland after raising over £30k



Lymm Rugby Club's annual adult panto production, 'Alice in Wonderlymm', proved to be another sell-out success. Raising over £30k from eight shows over two weekends in December, the performances brought in fans from as far away as London and the North East.

"This was our 36th annual show and we have as much fun now as we ever did in the early days," commented Panto impresario Simon Plumb.

"The money we raise is important and will help towards the funding of a new clubhouse, but it also shows what a great place the rugby club is and why it's such a crucial hub for the community," he added.

"This year we had six new cast members including three first team players and three young ladies who are all longstanding club members.

"The lead, 'Alice' was taken by debutant Lizzie Roberts whose sons play in the Mini and Junior rugby section.

"To say she was thrown in at the deep end is understating it but what a performance! She was very impressive as an actor, dancer and singer - we felt very lucky to have her," concluded Simon.

Thoughts now turn to the 2024

Panto production and the summer Vaudeville Show in mid June.

"Plenty more to come from this troupe so please watch out for our summer spectacular," concluded Simon.



Paul Rigby, Lizzie Roberts and Keith Broadbent who all depicted Alice as she drank a potion and got larger and larger.

Pictures: John Cartwright

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What's On in conjunction with Lymm Parish Council



LYMM PARISH COUNCIL

Next meeting Tuesday February 13th, 7:30pm
Lymm Parish Hall
Check 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.
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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 Aug), 7.30pm
Spread Eagle pub, Eagle Brow.
See our rolling display in Lymm Library
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.

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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

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
Club secretary 01925 759995

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HEATLEY WI

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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
Contact: enquiries@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk



LYMM PARISH COUNCIL

Tuesday February 13th, 7:30pm
See parish council website for details.

Kids Planet raise £4,000 to support cancer charity



STAFF at Kids Planet Head Office in Lymm have helped raise £4,000 for cancer support charity, Mummy's Star.

It follows the Kids Planet's Awards ceremony held at Manchester Central at a Hollywood glam-themed event, where teams contributed towards the charity as their ticket price, and took part in a raffle, for all donations to go towards Mummy's Star.

Mummy's Star is a national charity dedicated to women and birthing people diagnosed with cancer during pregnancy or within 12 months of giving birth, and their

families.

Clare Roberts, CEO at Kids Planet, said: "We're delighted to say that as a group we've raised £4000 which will go towards supporting mums and birthing parents diagnosed with cancer in or around pregnancy."

Mummy's Star is a cause that as a company we are incredibly passionate about, for a charity that changes and supports the lives of so many."

Police seek witnesses following damage to Lymm Dam toilets

OFFICERS out on patrols in Lymm are seeking witnesses following ongoing vandalism at public toilets next to Lymm Dam.

Local officers have been out about on high visibility foot patrol around Lymm, including checking on the toilets at Lymm Dam which,

unfortunately, are starting to get regularly damaged.

They are appealing for anyone who witnesses any anti-social behaviour to report this via 101 or online or via private message on their Facebook page.



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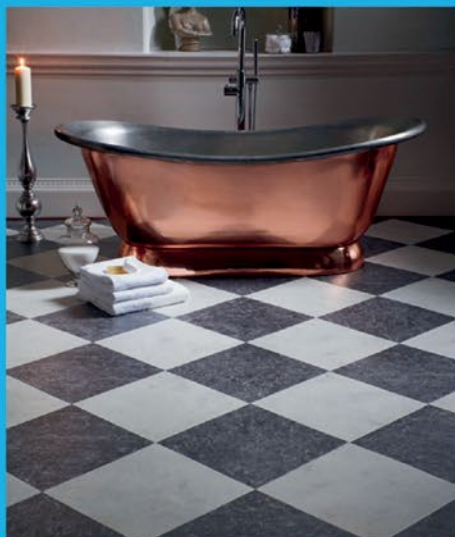
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Planning underway as Lymm Historic Transport Day set to return

BUILDING on the success of the fun-packed day last summer the fantastic Lymm Historic Transport Day planning is underway for the return of the popular event on June 23.

Raising money for local charities, supporting local businesses and with something for everyone Transport Day has established itself as one of the must-visit events of the summer.

This year will be bigger and better than ever with over 400 historic vehicles, among them exciting attractions including an authentic Roman Chariot, as well as famous cars from the movies, airplane cockpits, agricultural vehicles, motorbikes, bicycles, canal boats, steam engines, model trains and of course cars from all eras.

Interest is high for people to show their vehicles, but there is still time to apply if you would like to participate.

There is also the opportunity for traders to hire a plot, which with around 10,000 visitors it is an excellent opportunity to reach out to new and existing customers, we have many returning independent businesses who enjoy the friendly family atmosphere of the day.

If you are interested in taking part or having a plot for your business you can apply at, www.lymmtransport.org.uk/applications-live, but hurry as spaces are going fast!

All of this would not be possible without the support of their amazing volunteers, if you are interested in giving a helping hand and getting some free tickets in return please drop them a line at lymmhistoricttransport@gmail.com



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Kids Planet organise family fun at Dickensian Day

LYMM-based Kids Planet recently sponsored Lymm Dickensian Day, a Christmas tradition in the village that started in 1985!

Kids Planet Lymm held a family fun event as part of the festival, where families joined the nursery to take part in festive activities such as making reindeer food, decorating Christmas tree hangings and toasting marshmallows over the fire pit. Families enjoyed free mulled wine and hot chocolates, before heading to Lymm village to take

part in the Dickensian parade.

Elly Coombes, Nursery Manager at Kids Planet Lymm, said: "I'd like to thank all my team for putting on such a fantastic event and thank all the parents who came and got involved, it was lovely to all join in the festivities together and be a part of our wonderful Lymm community."



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Family make heartfelt plea to find missing Spaniel Ellie who "disappeared off face of earth"

MORE than one month on from when their missing beloved pet Spaniel Ellie 'just vanished off the face of the earth' a heartbroken family has put out a heartfelt plea in a desperate attempt to bring their faithful friend home.

Laura and Neil Drinkwater, and their two children, of Fairfield Road, Lymm, have not stopped searching for their 5-year-old Golden/Red Cocker Spaniel Ellie who unexpectedly ran off at 11 am from Crossfield Bridge on the outskirts of Lymm Dam on December 5th last year.

She fled towards farmers' fields known as 'The Bonges', and although initial searches spotted her in the locality shortly afterwards, she hasn't been seen since. Now the distraught couple and their children are hoping she may have been taken in by someone who may not know she's missing.

The Drinkwaters say they are 'living a nightmare' as Laura, 41, explained: "We are struggling to function with everyday life. Ellie is our absolute world and since she went missing our household is very much in limbo and struggling so very much. Our children Josh aged 12 and Saffy aged 10, have a special bond with Ellie and are extremely distraught and just want their fur sibling to return. This is the most excruciating pain we've ever

experienced."

To add to the family's anguish Ellie has an autoimmune condition and needs daily medication: "This is a huge worry" added Laura. "She may well be struggling by now as her condition affects her joints and this cold weather would be very problematic for her."

Laura says the support her family has received to date has been overwhelming with friends, residents and animal lovers taking part in the search. "People have offered to circulate flyers, posters and use drones, we have even had genuine offers to help out at home, even do our ironing while we continue the search!" she said.

Joining the search is local experienced dog tracker Heather Cake from pet charity Harvey's Army who was instrumental in setting up specialist feeding stations in the area where Ellie went missing. The last known sighting of Ellie was at 11 pm on December 5th outside one of the stations. Heather said: "We have no reason to believe she has been stolen, but she really has disappeared off

By Wendy Johnson



the face of the earth. Everything has been thrown at this search. Drones, ground searching, social media is saturated and posters are up. Laura has been loaned scoping equipment and we have had feeding stations and cameras up for over five weeks. Ellie has an auto-immune condition and if she has been taken in by someone, she will potentially need veterinary care. We have done everything humanely possible, but now we have to appeal further afield".

A tearful Laura added; "We are forever grateful for the support and love we have been given. All of this support has been overwhelming

and very much needed. We are appealing to everyone. We need to know where Ellie is, and we want her home. Ellie went missing wearing a collar with ID, she's chipped (up-to-date details registered) and spayed. Please, please if anyone sees her, or notices someone in the area that has suddenly acquired a dog that looks like Ellie, ring us asap, thank you."

Anyone who has seen Ellie, or has any information that may help the Drinkwaters is asked to contact Laura on 07967 185128 or Neil on 07813 201850.

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LYMM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Dear Residents of Lymm – Happy New Year

As we embark on a fresh and challenging chapter in 2024, the Lymm Parish Council extends its warmest wishes to each and every one of you. We hope you had a wonderful festive season and despite the rain we would like to express our gratitude for the tremendous turnout at Carols from the Cross on Christmas Eve.

Despite the challenges posed by the weather, the event was a resounding success, and we owe a massive thank you to our dedicated event team and volunteers. Special recognition goes to our local radio station, Cheshire Mix56, whose invaluable contribution made the evening truly special.

We are very pleased to inform you that the replacement work on the Village Hall roof is well underway and is expected to be completed by the end of February. This essential project will ensure the longevity of this community space and provide a secure environment for future events.

In December, we conducted a Parish Priorities Survey designed for residents of Lymm. Your participation helped the Parish Council determine priorities for the precept and projects in the upcoming year (2024-25). We appreciate your input, and the survey results will be published later this month.

Following a thorough selection process, interviews have been conducted, and we eagerly anticipate welcoming a new Assistant Clerk to our team. Their skills and dedication will undoubtedly contribute to the continued success of the Parish Council.

Our Environment Committee has been diligently working on a new Biodiversity Policy, meeting government deadlines to contribute to the conservation and enhancement of our local environment. Thank you to everyone involved in this crucial initiative.

Mark your calendars! The D Day celebrations on June 6, 2024, hold great significance this year. We invite all interested residents to get involved in commemorating this historic event. If you would like to participate or contribute in any way, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

As we embark on the challenges and opportunities that 2024 brings, Lymm Parish Council remains committed to serving the community and working together to make Lymm an even better place to live.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Cllr Ann Johnstone - Chair of Lymm Parish Council

Contact information:

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

Parish Council Website:

www.lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk

Lymm Parish Council 2023-24



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Email: stowndrow@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk

Your pet questions answered



By Dr Rachel Dean, Burford Lane Vets

Q: "Is it important to have a dental check-up for my pet this month, since February is Pet Dental Health Month?"

A: "Absolutely! Just like humans, pets need regular dental checkups, which we typically conduct during their annual booster vaccinations. Dental issues in pets often stem from bacteria and food particles accumulating along the gum line, leading to plaque and tartar. This can cause gingivitis, evident through symptoms like bleeding gums, bad breath, drooling, reduced appetite, or reluctance to chew. If you notice these signs, it's wise to get them checked. We're offering a free dental check-up for your pet this February with our veterinary nurse."

Q: "Can pets develop allergies in early spring? What symptoms should I look out for?"

A: "Yes, many pets develop seasonal allergies in the spring, triggered by

pollen, dust mites, mold, flea bites, and grass. Signs include excessive scratching, sneezing, paw licking, and abnormal shedding. For mild reactions, over-the-counter products may help. However, for severe allergies, it's crucial to visit us for effective treatments. Your pet doesn't have to suffer."

Q: "What can I do to ensure my pet's heart is healthy?"

A: "Maintaining a healthy diet and regular exercise is crucial for your pet's heart health. We check their heart and lungs during annual boosters. While you can't prevent congenital heart disease, heart-screening programs for certain breeds can help reduce the risk of hereditary conditions. The Kennel Club website offers information on breed-specific health tests. Responsible breeders will screen adult dogs before breeding to ensure the health of puppies."

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Rotary float collection raises over £8,500 for good causes



CHRISTMAS really wouldn't have been Christmas without The Rotary Club of Lymm's Santa Float visiting houses in and around Lymm and Thelwall, raising over £8,500 to donate back to good causes.

With the help of his faithful reindeer Santa covered a lot of miles, actually about 56 miles in total over three weeks in the build-up to Christmas. He was also busy at Abbey Leys Farmers Market and at Sainsbury's in Warrington at the weekends, with Rotary very grateful to both for allowing them to collect there.

It's a busy time not just for our Rotarians and Santa but also for their 8 drivers, too, who tow the sleigh and of course, none of it would be possible if it wasn't for 114 volunteers from 24 local organisations who walk with the float each evening. Their amazing stamina and enthusiasm enabled Rotary to raise over £8,500 to donate back to their organisations as well as to other local groups.

Santa went very high-tech this year and many of you will be aware that not only did he have his nightly routes promoted in the media but he also had a tracker on board which allowed people

to find out just how far Santa was away from them. A radio on the float with Santa, another one with the driver and one with the Marshall also helped to ensure that not only was everybody kept safe, but also it enabled Santa to make sure he didn't miss a single person who was on their way to see him on the float.

A lot of hard work goes into getting Santa on his rounds, but Rotary members, drivers and walkers were rewarded by the smiles which lit up the faces of young and old when Santa came to call on their road.

As always, the generosity of those in our communities is amazing and Rotary would like to than thank everyone very sincerely for their kindness and support and wish everyone all the very best for 2024.

For more information about your local Rotary Club of Lymm please contact Mike Hall at mikehall13@icloud.com



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To find out more, please call 01925 494 400 or call into our Warrington campus.



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Six56 public inquiry adjourned due to third-party challenge to Local Plan

THE ongoing public inquiry into the controversial Six56 logistics development on Green Belt land near Lymm has again been adjourned – following news of a “third-party” challenge to the council’s Local Plan.

After resuming the inquiry at The Base, the Inspector has adjourned it until at least June 11 and this date could go back if the third-party challenge to the Local Plan extends beyond that date.

The Inquiry was told that the third-party challenge to the Local Plan is apparently going to relate to the Fiddler’s Ferry allocation.

No details were given on who the third party was challenging the Local Plan which was recently adopted by the borough council.

The Applicant Langtree PP & Panattoni said they had been informed that another Party (not disclosed) is planning to seek leave to challenge the recently approved

Local Plan. The deadline for a challenge is 16 January (6 weeks after Full Council approval).

Langtree’s Counsel argued that this could have a material impact on consideration of the major planning issues to be examined at the Inquiry. He therefore sought an adjournment until the application to challenge the Local Plan had been heard in the High Court.

The Council told the Inquiry that they would defend the regularity of the newly adopted Local Plan.

Appleton Borough Cllr Mark Jervis, a member of the South Warrington Parishes Group opposing the application said: “This last-minute development, which

was sprung on us as the Inquiry reopened, is very disappointing and frustrating.

“After the newly adopted Local Plan emphatically abandoned the proposed Employment Area on which this application would sit, we were hopeful that the Inquiry would end the uncertainty for local residents on an early timescale. This is because the new Local Plan protected this area of valuable Green Belt and concluded that this area of new Employment Land was not needed in Warrington. However, this uncertainty is now set to continue for many more months.”

Meanwhile Lymm Cllr. Ian Marks said, “I was frustrated to find out when I attended the adjourned Public Inquiry that there had been yet another twist to this saga. At the same time I was not that surprised, because I know how keen Langtree is develop this site for logistics. I wondered if a rabbit would be pulled out of the hat at the last minute and it was.

“I voted against adopting the Local Plan when it came before Council on 4 December. I totally accept we need a Local Plan to stop a developers’ free-for-all, but I believe a more acceptable plan could have been prepared for approval. But I was delighted when the Local Plan Inspectors reaffirmed their determination that the site proposed for Six/56 should not be removed from the Green Belt and the Council, albeit reluctantly, agreed.

“We have been fighting against this development for years and hoped that Langtree would back down. We realised this was not going to happen because all arrangements for the second adjournment to the Inquiry were in place when we turned up. The bombshell came at the start of proceedings when Langtree’s barrister announced there was to be a challenge in the High Court to quash the Plan approved by the

Council.

“We don’t yet know who has made the challenge or how long the legal process will take. The third adjournment will take place in June. What we do know, is that it brings uncertainty into the whole planning process. This is most disappointing and the twists and turns will be difficult for most people to understand.”

The inquiry relates to land to the west of Junction 20 of the M6 Motorway, and Junction 9 of the M56 Motorway and to the south of, Grappenhall Lane/Cliff Lane (known as Six:56 Warrington) Grappenhall, Warrington.

Langtree PP & Panattoni are seeking Outline Planning (Major) – Outline application (all matters reserved except for access) comprising construction of up to 287,909m² (gross internal) of employment floorspace (Use Class B8 & ancillary B1(a) offices), demolition of existing agricultural outbuildings & associated servicing & infrastructure including car parking & vehicle & pedestrian circulation, alteration of the existing access road into site including works to M6 J20 dumbbell roundabouts & realignment of existing A50 junction, noise mitigation, earthworks to create development platforms & bunds, landscaping including buffers, creation of drainage features, electrical substation, pumping station, & ecological works, accompanied by an environmental statement.

A Warrington Borough Council spokesperson said: “We are aware of a potential challenge that may be made to our newly adopted Local Plan. The Council is confident that the adopted Local Plan is fully legally compliant, but if a challenge is made ahead of the 16th January deadline, we will be rigorously contesting it.”



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Plan to convert barn in Green Belt into dwelling house refused

A bid to convert an existing brick-built barn on Green Belt land at New House Farm, Reddish Lane in Lymm has been refused by Warrington planners.

The barn was previously in agricultural use, where the first floor was a hay loft and the ground floor was divided into smaller spaces for animal housing and workshop/agricultural storage and was last used for agricultural purposes in the 1950s/60s.

In addition, it is stated that: “The previous owners had repaired and maintained the barn, including re-roofing a section of the building, but had not put it to any active use”.

The application proposed to convert the barn to residential use

and supporting information states that: “The building is structurally sound and retains visually attractive features that the applicant proposes to retain.

The conversion would require works to the building to install windows and doors and the replacement of the roof in order to ensure the creation of a dwelling that is efficient and functions well for the intended purpose.

But Warrington Borough Council planners rejected the application stating it had not been proven that the building and land within its curtilage was part of an agricultural unit. The proposals did not therefore constitute permitted development.

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Season of goodwill continues at Lymm Hub



Jo Cope, Ceri Chamberlain, Marzena Lewis, Sally Mbousia, Jan Vale, Kirsty James.

CHRISTMAS may be back in its box for another year, but the community Feel-Good Factor at Lymm Sanctuary Hub and Business Centre is certainly still on display.

The New Year has begun reflecting on their 2023 achievements and enjoying some wonderful feedback regarding their Christmas campaign and supportive staff.

The Hub's 'Santa to a Senior' campaign saw an amazing amount of beautiful gifts generously donated by the community. Hub staff wrapped these gifts and delivered to nominated beneficiaries, which were double in number this year.

Recipients were often unaware they had been nominated but delighted to receive a surprise present.

LymmPaC (Lymm Parents and Carers) is one of several community projects offering a free support group. It runs 10-11am every Wednesday in term-time and provides a safe space for peer-support amongst parents and carers of children and young people with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). New attendees are always welcome.

Though the group may still be relatively new and small, its impact on members has been huge based on this recent feedback.

"To receive such a warm and welcoming greeting, be offered a cup of tea and asked how I am, and talk to other people who understand, really does mean a lot and makes such a difference!"

"I've gained invaluable information regarding SEND needs with a lovely group who are all in a similar boat – it's something I am very grateful for."

"When you are a parent/carer of a child with special educational needs, it can be very hard to navigate your way through all the red tape. I have found the group very informative. Hearing about other member's experiences of SEND and what they have found useful has been very empowering."

"An A-star team supporting business and community services."

2023 saw the recruitment of several new staff thanks to National Lottery Community Funding. Christmas offered a chance for them to meet socially and receive a little gift – a plant in star pot as a small gesture of thanks for being the "A-star team" that supports the Hub's charitable community projects and the space and services in the Business Centre.

Hub projects and services have now resumed, with regular groups including the Digital Café, Memory Café, Singing for the Brain and LymmPaC. If you're not yet familiar with the groups, events and services offered by the Hub (and further partners using the Lymm Library building), please get in touch or visit www.lymmshelterhub.co.uk



Christmas gifts donated by the Lymm community and the Hub Staff

Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

Divorce Column

By Peter Wilkinson
Divorce Lawyer at Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

Q: My husband is controlling and coercive. I've had enough and need to get away from him. I'm thinking of moving with the children to the South of England to be nearer my parents and other relatives. My husband says I can go whenever I like but not the children. Where do I stand on this?

A: You can go whenever you like. But if your husband doesn't agree to the children relocating with you then you will need the court's permission for them to move with you. For this you will need to apply for a specific issue order. But if your husband is concerned that you may just go with the children without either his consent or a court order then you may find that he applies for a prohibited steps order to prohibit you from doing so. This is quite a complex area which involves giving consideration to several factors so you should make sure that you engage a solicitor well versed in this type of scenario.

Q: Me and my girlfriend are thinking of buying a house together. I have quite a lot of money in savings which I can use to pay the deposit but by girlfriend doesn't have any money and I'm a bit concerned that if our relationship breaks down she might be entitled to half of what I put in. Is there anything I can do to protect my investment?

A: Yes, in short. You and your girlfriend can agree to hold the property in unequal shares. You can have a legal document drawn up by solicitors which recites your respective contributions towards the purchase of the property and which declares the proportions in which you shall each hold what's known as the beneficial interest, having regard to how the purchase is being funded. This is actually quite common with unmarried couples purchasing together.

Q: My husband and I are on the verge of having a divorce. We have reached an agreement between ourselves over the finances but how can I be sure he won't change his mind and go back on his word?

A: Any agreement reached needs to be embodied into a court order to make it legally binding. Where the terms are agreed the order would be a consent order. This is separate from the divorce itself but cannot be applied for until the divorce process has reached the conditional order stage (decree nisi).

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Curtain comes down on an outstanding 2023 for champions Lymm

THE curtain has come down on what has been an outstanding 2023 for Lymm Rugby Club's first team squad.

Promotion to Level 4 – National League 2 North, after being crowned champions, the highest level the club has ever played at, and 14 matches in, leaves the team sitting in 8th place in the 14-team league – a very commendable performance.

"Thanks so much to the hard work and dedication of our playing squad and coaching team," commented David Simpson, the Club Chairman. "As spectators and supporters we want to thank the players and coaches for the entertainment and enjoyment they have dished out in large, generous helpings this year."

It is worth reflecting though

that Rugby Union's Premiership, Championship and National League set up is the equivalent of football's Premiership, Championship, League One and League 2 structure.

For a small village such as Lymm to be competing at Level 4 is an incredible achievement – not least when you consider that the club is matched against teams from cities such as Sheffield, Hull, Leeds and Preston and large conurbations such as Rotherham, Billingham and Huddersfield.

Lymm Rugby Club Director of Rugby Adam Fletcher commented, "There is still a big job to be done – but so far, it's been a very

encouraging start at this level. This is a community-based, family-oriented club and the encouragement we receive from the supporters, volunteers and officials at the club has been outstanding.

"We're looking forward to the break but can't wait until the league season restarts in the New Year, and continue with our exciting brand of rugby," concluded Adam.



Tennis club stalwart receives Volunteer of the Year award

LONG term member of Lymm-based Manor Road Tennis Club, Pete Radcliffe, has received the Lawn Tennis Association's 'Cheshire Volunteer of the Year Award 2023' for his work in helping create and develop four new, artificial 'Tiger Turf' courts in the walled garden of Lymm Rugby Club.

Pete, who has been a member for over 25 years, first attempted to move the club from the old site in Manor Road back in 2006. However, he stuck to his guns and, following two more attempts, eventually teamed up with Lymm Rugby Club and started the successful project in 2019, completing in the summer of 2023.

Pete takes up the story: 'Manor Road Tennis Club is now part of what is recognised as a thriving Lymm Sports Hub and this is transformational.'

'The reaction of existing and many new members has been superb, with regular tennis now possible throughout the winter, including entering the Winter League for the first time and having our Christmas social event on our own courts was very special.'

'Our main project collaborators are David Simpson and Andy Leach, Lymm RFC's Chair and Treasurer respectively, but all members of the Rugby Board were hugely supportive. Within MRTC, Chair Keith Moss played a vital role directing and encouraging throughout.'

'Roy Kettle, as Secretary, has been my right-hand man for the past year and since the project was

completed has taken over running 'operations' in the Walled Garden, attracting new members and organising events, such as regular social tennis.

'All the other members of the MRTC Committee deserve credit too for their support, input and time in helping make it all happen.'

The LTA Award in Cheshire was made in recognition of Pete's project management role and is part of a national scheme involving a total of 22 awards throughout the UK.

'On behalf of all my colleagues I am enormously delighted and proud to receive this award. It was a complex project, technically and culturally, involving many stakeholders, and it provides such a legacy.'

'It required significant perseverance and project management skills, particularly communication, to cope with the setbacks, delays and other issues,

whilst retaining the end vision.

'Our ambition is to build on the new foundation provided to realise the original aims and grow the membership, becoming a

significantly larger tennis section within the Lymm Sports Hub. Exciting times ahead!' concluded Pete.



Two additional bedsits proposed at house-in-multiple-occupation

PLANS have been submitted for two additional bedsits at the Lymm Living house-in-multiple-occupation in Church Road, Lymm.

The proposals have been put to Warrington planning chiefs only about two years since the original development was controversially approved.

In 2021, Lymm Parish Council and nearby residents opposed the plan which involved the change-of-use of two adjoining properties, one of which had previously used by a funeral director but which, historically, had been a post office.

Both properties were unused at the time. The parish council objected, claiming the proposed windows "looked very odd", querying the entrance layout and alleging the submission was "vague."

Neighbours 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.

Although the property was within a conservation area, 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.

The new proposals involve a dormer window and would enable an additional two bedsit-studios to be created, increasing the viability of the building, which was now fully tenanted.

Planning officers are now considering the new proposals.



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