

Lymm Life

Magazine

ISSUE 296 | MARCH 2024
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Editor's Comment



I'M still completely baffled at the Boundary Commission decision to move Lymm out of Warrington into the neighbouring constituency of Tatton for the forthcoming General Election - whenever that might happen?

An election must take place by January next year - but so far, no date has been set and with the clock ticking down, the likelihood of a General Election in May, to coincide with the all-out elections in Warrington and the Police and Crime Commissioner election, seems increasingly less likely.

This would suggest an autumn election, with current Tory MP Andy Carter already declaring his intention not to seek re-election and the fact the Tories have still not announced a new candidate, a May election seems highly unlikely.

Meanwhile the Lib Dems locally have announced Lymm resident and local Cllr Graham Gowland

as their candidate, even though he will not be able to benefit from any local votes, while Labour announced borough Cllr Sarah Hall as their candidate last year.

Here at Lymm Life we are yet to hear any news via any candidates seeking election for the Tatton seat - which would again suggest the village is literally out on a limb.

While our MP will represent the village in parliament, services will still be provided by Warrington Borough Council, with locally elected Cllrs at parish and borough level.

This means the Tatton MP will have to build new relationships with Warrington Borough Council,

Lymm Parish Council, and local Cllrs, increasing their workload considerably.

We are told the reason for the changes is to make all parliamentary seats a similar size to help decrease workloads on those with larger seats.

In reality I believe MPS having to deal with two borough councils and many more local parish and borough Cllrs raising issues with them, will be a far greater workload than dealing with members of the public.

But as ever in politics, common sense often goes out the window.

We wait with bated breath to hear from those from Tatton who hope to be representing Lymm in parliament!

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Lymm Jubilee welcome new President

In addition to welcoming in the New Year, Lymm Jubilee WI were delighted to welcome their new president Linda Skett at the first meeting of the year in January and their new treasurer.

The meeting began with a brief overview from the President and committee, of forthcoming events that members can look forward to this year, as well as the interesting and varied speakers outlined in the 2024 programme.

Two spring wreath making workshops are scheduled to coincide with Easter and the annual spring lunch is due to take place in April. The rambling group is planning a series of local walks, each culminating in a pub lunch and the well-being group will resume meeting on a regular basis. The ever-popular Tuesday coffee mornings at The Crown in Lymm are also set to continue.

An array of activities hosted by National are due to take place in 2024, including The Federation Quiz and The Royal Cheshire Show, with further information made available to members.

St Mary's Church Garden were announced as the local charity for the year, with monies raised from the trading table and other activities, used to support the ongoing project. Two representatives from the church showed photographs

to members, whilst talking about plans to enhance the area as a community space.

After the break, members were treated to a musical meander around the UK with Kevin and Joy Siddall, who delightfully performed a selection of songs and anecdotes linked with some of the towns and villages of Britain.



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What's On in conjunction with Lymm Parish Council



LYMM PARISH COUNCIL

Next meeting Tuesday March 12th, 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.
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

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.

LYMM AND DISTRICT MIXED VOICE CHOIR

Every Wednesday 7.30 Lymm Methodist Church. Contact 01925 601664.
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

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, 7pm
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 March 12th, 7:30pm
See parish council website for details.

Plan to increase capacity at Cheshire Day Nursery rejected by planners



A bid to increase the capacity of the Cheshire Day Nursery at Thelwall has been rejected by Warrington planners due to excessive noise pollution.

The Bright Stars Nursery Group was seeking permission to increase the existing cap on the number of children and to utilise the remainder of the building as nursery space at The Cheshire Day Nursery, Thelwall New Road Industrial Estate, Thelwall New Road, Warrington.

The proposal involved unutilised space within the existing nursery being used to accommodate the demand for more nursery spaces and to remove the existing capacity caps on previous planning applications when the property was smaller.

Planning permission was sought to replace the existing permissions on the site with one new permission which would cover the use of the entire building and application site as a children's nursery. It is requested that permission is granted for up to 130 children to attend at any one time.

There were three objections from nearby residents, all occupiers of properties off Woodford Close and highlighted excessive noise from the existing operations of the nursery, which has an adverse impact on their amenity and the enjoyment of their properties and garden areas.

Concerns were also raised that the increase in traffic will have a detrimental impact on the wider

environment.

Warrington Borough Council planners said the proposed increase in the number of children to be accommodated on the site would result in excessive noise pollution arising from the increased use of the outdoor play areas associated with the nursery. This would have a harmful impact on the amenity and quality of life of existing neighbouring, residential occupiers. Insufficient information has been provided in relation to the operation of the outdoor play areas to demonstrate that the noise impacts can be mitigated or controlled.

They said the application also failed to demonstrate that the additional vehicle movements and parking requirements associated with the proposed increase in the number of children to be cared for on the site can be accommodated without detriment to the local highway network and the amenity of the surrounding local area and community. The existing number of parking spaces available on the site would fail to meet the requirements set out in the adopted SPD, Standards for Parking in New Development (2015), for a children's nursery of the proposed size.

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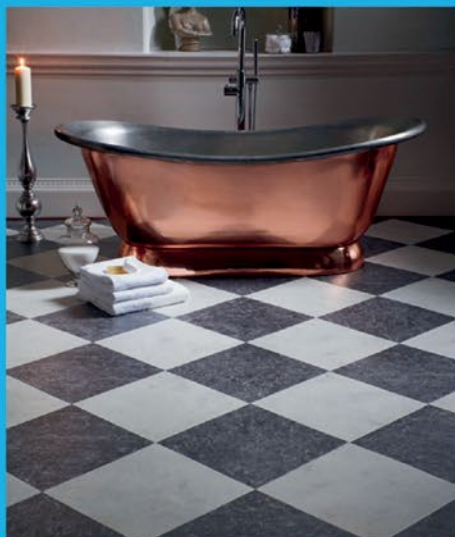
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Lib Dems select Lymm-based Graham Gowland to contest Warrington South at General Election

WARRINGTON Liberal Democrats have selected Lymm-based Cllr Graham Gowland, as their candidate to stand in Warrington South for the forthcoming General Election, even though the village has been removed from the constituency by the Boundary Commission.

Graham commented: "It's a real honour to be chosen – I've been a long-term Lymm Parish councillor, and have served on Warrington Borough Council since 2021, but the chance to represent Warrington South in Parliament will give me the opportunity to raise the issues I've seen in local government, with underfunding of local services, and often a lack of consistency that sees different parts of the country facing real problems.

"Representing Warrington South means I can give residents a real voice in the decision-making process, that impacts us all." Recent Electoral Boundary changes means that Lymm and Latchford no longer sit in Warrington South, and Graham added: "The recent boundary changes were needed to help balance numbers, but it will cause some confusion where parts of Warrington will no longer be represented by a Warrington MP. As a Warrington resident impacted

by this personally, I'll be working to make sure that all residents remain supported."

Graham has lived in Warrington since 2009, moving to Lymm in 2011 where he lives with his wife Tracy, two children who attend Lymm High, and two cocker spaniels. As well as serving as a councillor, he has been a Warrington School Governor, and currently sits as a Director on Warrington's Own Buses. His usual occupation is a 'Risk Manager', for a large hospitality company.

"I think my career has been the perfect training for the role of MP, as it's given me considerable involvement in how government impacts upon businesses. Over COVID, my role was focussed on ensuring we followed the rules set by government, and that was a great example of how everyone needs sensible decisions to be made, then clearly communicated by policy-makers, and one thing I am committed to do is to make sure

information for my constituents will always be clearly communicated, and challenged when needed."

Away from politics, Graham has been involved in many community projects, delivering regular community first-aid training sessions, acting as a volunteer ambulance responder, and has been a key member of many local initiatives, including the 'Leave No-One behind' group.

With Lymm now part of the Tatton Constituency for the General Election, which was opposed by the Lib Dems, Bowden based Jonathan Smith has been selected to be their

candidate for Tatton.

Jonathan said, "I fought the seat in 2019, and increased the Lib Dem vote by 74%. Since then I have been campaigning hard across the area.

"I have worked at a senior level in both social care as a Director of Social Services and in the NHS as a Chief Executive. My wife Alison and I have lived in Bowdon for thirty years and we have four children and five grandchildren.

"My experience is exactly what's needed in Westminster. It is clear we are the main challengers to the Tories."



Shelter plan for Alpacas approved

PLANS for a shelter to allow grazing for up to 24 alpacas in a field at Lymm have been approved by Warrington planners.

Permission has been granted for the erection of a single agricultural field shelter to hold up to 24 alpaca units, provision of new vehicular access from B5158 (Cherry Lane) and closure of existing access on land to the east of 140 Cherry Lane, Lymm.

The works will also consist of a new paddock fence and gate which benefit from permitted development rights.

The proposal by The Egerton Trust seeks consent for the erection of a 24-unit agricultural field shelter to support the use of the land for alpaca grazing. For clarity, the site will not be used for alpaca

trails or any commercial use but rather for agricultural grazing of alpacas. This will allow rotation of other grazing lands owned and controlled by The Egerton Trust and to allow the separation of the animals when required.

The proposal involves a modest timber-construction to the South East of the site.

The alpaca shelter will measure approximately 7.8 x 15.8m and will be a maximum height of 3.6m.

The British Alpaca Society recommends that sustainable acreage for alpaca farming is approximately one acre per five animals (however ten alpacas can be kept per acre if it is possible to supplement the grass with hay and clean up more often as well as rotate the pastures).

The paddock on site will be more than 3 acres, meaning the proposed number of animals are well within the recommended capacity. A new secure paddock fence line and gate will be erected

– these will be less than 2m in height and therefore benefit from permitted development rights.

Warrington Borough Council planners approved the application under delegated powers.



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Pizza takeaway approved despite opposition from villagers

PLANNING chiefs have given the go-ahead for a pizza takeaway in Lymm village – despite opposition from nearby residents and Lymm Parish Council.

Members of Warrington's development management committee approved the application by Domino's Pizza.

The scheme involves a change of use of the existing Lymm Indian restaurant on Pepper Street into a pizza takeaway.

Seven residents opposed the application on the grounds of increased noise, litter, anti-social behaviour and loss of parking spaces currently used by residents.

They also claimed the

appearance of the shop would be out of character with the area, which is in a conservation area and is only 25 metres from the historic Grade 1 Listed Lymm Cross.

Some objectors argued that the development should not be encouraged because of the obesity crisis in the UK.

But, Warrington Borough Council planning officers said the change of use was considered acceptable and should not have any adverse impact on the character and

appearance of the conservation area or Lymm Cross.

Local Cllr. Graham Gowland commented "It's good to see what was a vacant unit is going to be brought back into use, providing jobs and an additional offering on the high street. There are concerns over traffic on a fairly narrow street, and the potential for litter issues with the bulky boxes, which I'm sure the takeaway will manage. But there's also been a lot of people looking forwards to a fresh Pepperoni Passion pizza when it opens."



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We'll be back - Robotics team set sights on world championships in Dallas!

In a thrilling display of determination and innovation, Lymm High School's first robotics team embarked on a trip to Liverpool for a highly competitive robotics competition.

Although the victory eluded them this time, their unwavering spirit and invaluable experience mark a significant achievement.

The team, comprising brilliant minds from Years 8 and 9, showcased their dedication to the field of robotics throughout the event.

Their robot, named Kurt, meticulously crafted and programmed, navigated the challenges of the competition arena with precision and agility, earning admiration from both judges and fellow participants.

While the team did not clinch the top spot, their journey was filled

with moments of collaboration, problem-solving and learning. They honed their technical skills and worked as a cohesive unit.

Each setback was met with resilience, transforming disappointment into opportunities for growth.

Teacher Miss Farmer said: "We commend our students for their outstanding efforts. Well done Lulu Horner, Jessica Wright, Evie Strangeways, Eloise Taylor, Emily Burnett, Sophie Lewis and Evie Kelly!"

"Although the VEX robotics competitions are over for us this year, the new competition season

starts in May across the world, and we can't wait to get started on a new robot.

"Our team will be back, more determined than ever and aiming high, with hopes of reaching the world championships in Dallas, Texas."



Lymm Hub springs into 2024 with an invitation to the community

As a partly National Lottery funded charity, Lymm Sanctuary Hub and Business Centre will be opening its doors this Spring for two Community Tea events, 11am-1pm on Saturday 16 March and 2-4pm on Sunday 17 March.

The local community is invited to visit the Hub, enjoy complimentary tea and cake, hear more about the projects and services offered from the site, and contribute ideas on what Lymm needs next in terms of

community support.

The Hub's open tea events will coincide with the Lottery's Open Week set up to say #ThanksToYou to the lottery players who fund amazing venues and projects around the UK.

Did you know that from 9 - 17 March, you can also grab free entry to National Trust, RSPB and English Heritage sites, tours at Wembley Stadium, or 2 for 1 tickets to the World Rugby Museum, just to name a few. Find exciting Open Week offers

at: www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/open-week/offers.

Meanwhile, Lymm Hub runs regular community projects and groups, hosts many local clubs and activities, and is home to Lymm Business Centre offering business space and services. If you're not familiar with your Hub, pop along to one of their free Community Tea events or get in touch. Full details at: www.lymmshub.co.uk

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Glimmer of hope from new sighting as heartbroken family offer substantial reward for return of missing Spaniel Ellie

by Wendy Johnson

A heartbroken family from Lymm, who have been searching for their missing Spaniel Ellie since December last year, have now put up a 'substantial reward' for the safe return of their beloved 'fur sibling' and have received news of a possible sighting.

Owners Laura and Neil Drinkwater, of Fairfield Road say recent publicity from Lymm Life and Warrington Worldwide, the social media network, and a slot on Lymm Radio, had 'got people talking and sending in more information'.

They say the latest glimmer of hope in the search for Ellie comes from a possible sighting. Laura explained: "Someone contacted us last week with a possible sighting of Ellie in Holmes Chapel. With the help of our supportive residents, we have widened our search to this area. Posters have been put up, leaflets distributed as well as knocking on doors and drones have flown over the sighting area. Holmes Chapel social media pages have also been made aware."

She added: "The support from Lymm residents in our new search in Holmes Chapel has been amazing, especially from two local men who have given their free time to fly drones, leaflet drop and generally

spread the word about missing Spaniel Ellie."

Ellie, a Red Cocker Spaniel went missing from Lymm Dam on December 5th. She ran off towards farmers' fields known locally as 'The Bongs' and was last seen that same evening near a special feeding station set up by a specialist trapping team. Since then, the Drinkwaters have not stopped searching for their beloved pet who, they say has 'vanished from the face of the earth'. The whole community has rallied round to help the couple find their five-year-old pet, and despite exhausting every avenue available to them, including specialist ground searches, drones and thermal scoping, the disappearance of Ellie remains a mystery.

Now the Drinkwaters are hoping their offer of a 'substantial' undisclosed reward will either help bring their beloved pet home or generate new information that could assist their search in finding their faithful friend, who is described as



'nervous' in character. Laura said: "A substantial reward is being offered for the return of Ellie or information that will lead to the return of our gorgeous girl".

Laura added that Ellie needs regular medication and that she may already be feeling unwell. She said: "Ellie needs her daily medication for an autoimmune condition, this a huge worry for us and our young children Josh and Saffy are desperately missing their best friend. We are all heartbroken and trying to function but not doing that very well."

"Even though we haven't found her yet, I'm forever hopeful." Added Laura. "Ellie could have been taken in by someone who doesn't realise she is missing. We are urging

everyone to keep a look out for Ellie". She appealed: "If you know someone who has recently acquired an adult Cocker Spaniel that looks like Ellie then please, please get in touch with us." Laura also pleaded for everyone to continue to check outbuildings, garden hedges and sheds.

She added: "We are so grateful for the support we have received, and we remain forever hopeful that our fur baby will return very soon. Someone out there knows where she is. We will never give up looking for her. Ellie, please come home, we need you."

Anyone with any information about Ellie is urged to contact Laura on 07967 185128 or Neil on 07813 201850.

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Your pet questions answered

By Dr Rachel Dean,
Burford Lane Vets

Q: Does my pet need more frequent grooming as the seasons change?

A: All dogs shed fur, even those with short coats, but you may find that this increases during the spring as the weather gets warmer and they begin to lose their winter coats. Regular brushing will help to remove loose fur and reduce matting as well as fur shed around your home. Brushing will also help you to spot any skin issues hidden under their fur. Regular grooming is still necessary during the winter months and it is a common misconception that a long coat alone will protect pets during colder weather. Coats still need to be maintained, especially when using coats or jumpers as matting can occur from their fur being compressed. Paw care is also important. Keep them clean and wash off any irritants after walks such as mud, salt or grit.

Q: How can I tell if my pet is at a healthy weight after the winter?

A: Regular weight checks are a good idea, especially if your pet has been less active over the winter period due to the cold and wet. A healthy pet should have a visible waist when viewed from above and an abdominal tuck when viewed from the side. You should also be able to easily feel their ribs without excess fat coverage, but they shouldn't protrude. Watch for changes in activity levels – a decrease in energy may be a sign of weight gain. Overweight pets might show reduced mobility or altered behaviour. If you suspect your pet is overweight, we recommend a check-up with your vet or nurse. We offer weight clinics where a tailored diet plan can be devised to ensure your pet is as healthy as possible.



Q: My pet seems more restless lately. Could this be due to the change in season?

A: Seasonal changes can indeed affect your pet's behaviour. As daylight hours increase, pets may become more energetic and restless. This restlessness can also be a response to environmental changes, like temperature fluctuations or increased outdoor activity. To help your pet adjust, provide extra exercise and mental stimulation. Toys, playtime and longer walks can help channel their energy positively. If the restlessness seems excessive or is accompanied by other symptoms, consult your vet to rule out any underlying health issues.

Q: What precautions should I take as my pet spends more time outdoors?

A: As pets start spending more time outdoors, you can take precautions to keep them safe and healthy. It's crucial that their vaccinations are up to date to protect against preventable diseases that unvaccinated pets can contract from other pets or wildlife. Regular flea and tick prevention is important, as these pests are more common outdoors. Always provide access to clean water and shade to prevent overheating. Check your pet's coat and paws for ticks, burrs or injuries after outdoor activities. If your pet is going out for the first time, isn't very confident or isn't used to being outside, it's a good idea to slowly introduce them to new things.

Three day road closure to allow United Utilities to repair defective reinstatements

A road closure of up to three days will be required at Lymm next month (March) to allow United Utilities to repair defective reinstatement works.

Bridgewater Street will be closed from its junction with Legh Street from March 5th for up to three days while the work is carried out.

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 on Bridgewater Street from its junction with Eagle Brow to its

junction with Legh Street.

The Order will be effective from 5th March 2024 for 3 days, as and when signed on site. Access will be under the control of the relevant Contractor for the duration of the works. The alternative route will be via Eagle Brow, Brookfield Road, Whitbarrow Road and vice versa.

The closure is required to allow United Utilities to carry out remedial works to defective reinstatements.

Baroness Newlove to speak at Heatley WI



HEATEY WI had a good turnout for our January meeting and members heard Baroness Newlove will be guest speaker in April.

It was announced that there would be an outing for afternoon tea at Bents Centre in April. This was to celebrate the group's birthday.

Baroness Newlove is to be the speaker for next group meeting to be held at Thelwall Village Hall on 22 April. It was suggested to get a ticket sooner rather than later as they will go quickly.

Resolutions were voted on and Improvement on Dental Health

came out a clear winner.

Instead of a Speaker members had a Taste the Difference event. This was where plates of various foods ie crisps, cheese and biscuits were put out and numbered.

After tasting them each table could decide which were Marks and Spencer/Waitrose and which were from Lidl or similar stores. The top makes came out on top!

Meetings are held at Oughtrington Primary School, Howard Avenue, Oughtrington, Lymm. For further information Tel, 752014.

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Change of use of land refused

PLANNING chiefs have turned down an application for permission to change the use of land off Statham Drive, Lymm from public amenity to private residential use.

The proposal also included gates and fencing.

Lymm Parish Council opposed the scheme and there were objections from a number of neighbours on various grounds, including being

out of keeping with the existing street scene and likely difficulties in delivery vehicles, refuse collection vehicles and, in particular, emergency service vehicles gaining access.

Borough council highway officers expressed concern that the proposals involved works on the adopted highway that would not be in the public interest.

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Best selling author inspires budding writers of the future

LYMM High School's English department were delighted to welcome best-selling author Sophie Anderson into school to give a talk to Year 7 students.

Sophie wrote the Year 7 novel, *The House with Chicken Legs*, which students have been studying since October and this offered them the chance to hear first-hand from the writer.

It was a real privilege to get to hear from the author herself about what inspired her to write the novel

and her journey with creative writing.

Year 7 represented the school brilliantly and listened attentively to Sophie's talk, which also included some information about how the publishing process works.

At the end of the session, students were able to ask any burning questions that they had about the

novel or becoming a writer. Sophie provided advice to aspiring authors, and gave her own opinions on the characters in *The House With Chicken Legs*.

"The students came up with some fascinating questions and clearly gained a lot of insight from the answers provided", said Miss Melia.

Students were then invited to bring their own copies of the book into school to be signed by Sophie.

"During the book signing it was wonderful to see our students sharing their love of reading with one another, as well as hearing them discuss their hopes to pursue writing as a career", said Miss Melia.

She certainly has inspired some of students to keep following their creative writing passions, and the school hope to welcome her back to Lymm at some point in the near future.



Get Involved in 2024!



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Every year St. Rocco's host and support a variety of events, with the target of raising **£270,000** towards the **£5.2million** our hospice needs each year.

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Sanctuary Café to be modernised and extended

PLANNING chiefs have given the go-ahead for the reconstruction, extension and modernisation of the popular Sanctuary Café attached to Lymm United Reformed Church.

The scheme will include a Juliet balcony overlooking the picturesque Bridgewater Canal.

But it will also aim to make people more aware of the café's existence.

Currently it is partially hidden between the church and Lymm Library – both of which are locally listed buildings.

Lymm United Reform Church dates from 1863 but the building to be modernised, which also serves as a church hall and bookshop, was added in the 1960s.

The proposals will slightly increase the footprint of the building and reconfigure its layout – described by planners as having some undesirable internal layouts, dark internal spaces and unusual proportioned rooms which make the functioning of the café and the

church awkward.

"Kitchen space is small and storage space is not sufficient, as all the equipment essential for keeping the café running is allocated in almost every single room, which is very inconvenient and somewhat disorganised."

The modernised building will have a larger kitchen and also improve the current entrance to the church.

A number of poor quality trees will have to be removed from the site but the existing car park will remain unchanged.

Planning officers say the proposals will result in an improvement of the built form of the hall, enhance the appearance of the church and the library and bring benefits to users of both the church and the café.



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Divorce Column

By Peter Wilkinson
Divorce Lawyer at Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

Q: My husband is refusing to provide his financial disclosure. What can I do to make him?

A: Financial disclosure is crucial in divorce proceedings because (1) it promotes openness and transparency ensuring that both parties have a complete understanding of the financial picture; and (2) it enables both parties to make fully informed settlement decisions regarding the division of the assets. Disclosure is a duty, and therefore an obligation, and so if your husband is refusing and cannot be persuaded by your solicitor, or his for that matter, to comply with this duty then your remedy would be to issue an application with the court for a financial order because this will trigger a court managed process and within which the court will order him, at an early stage, to comply and provide his disclosure. If he still refuses even when ordered by the court then he will run the risk of being penalised in costs and for contempt of court and in my experience most people, no matter how stubborn they are, are not so foolish as to put themselves in this position.

Q: My husband controls our finances, he always has. Now we're divorcing he is threatening that if I don't agree to settle on his terms he will spend all the money so that there is nothing left and he says that I cannot have what we haven't got. What can I do?

A: Such conduct on his part could be considered to be financial misconduct and taken into account in the eventual division of the matrimonial pot but once the money has gone then it's gone (unless it can be traced into another asset) and depending on the size of the disposal and the size of the pot then it may be that your best bet would be to apply for a freezing injunction to prevent your husband from disposing of the money in the first place. However, court orders don't come out of cereal packets so you will need to provide strong evidence in support so as to satisfy the court that a freezing injunction is necessary. In the first instance such applications are made 'without notice' so that your spouse doesn't have an opportunity to dispose of the money in the period between being notified of the application and the court hearing.

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Year nine student becomes Lymm High School's first Chess Champion

YEAR nine student Ambrose Lam is celebrating after becoming Lymm High School's first Chess champion.

Ambrose battled through several rounds to reach the grand final just before Christmas.

Both staff and students took part in the tournament, which was held at lunchtimes in the Main Hall so that all students could watch the competition unfold. The final match was between

Ambrose and Jayden Chan.

Mr Soykir, who runs the Lymm High Chess Club, and organised the tournament, said: "The goal was not just to win but to enjoy the game and create lasting memories. Before each match, students put in extra effort to practice and improve

their chess moves. Ultimately, Ambrose, our chess champion emerged demonstrating skill and determination. This victory added another proud moment to our school's chess history.

"The 2023 chess tournament not only brought students together but also emphasised the importance of strategy, resilience and friendly competition."

"Looking ahead this competition has set a positive tone for the new year. It's a reminder of the fun and camaraderie that come from engaging in friendly games and celebrating each other's successes."

"Cheers to the joy of chess and the wonderful spirit of our school community!"

Chess Club runs every lunchtime (apart from Tuesday) in A113.

Bowling club to start season with Open Day

OUGHTRINGTON Bowling Club, based at Stage Lane, is to follow up on last year's Great British Bowling Weekend with another Open Day for the start of the 2024 season.

Last year's Open Day was a huge success adding 20 new members.

The green will be open to visitors between 10.00 and 4.00 on Saturday April 20 for a go at bowls and enjoy a cup of tea.

The club which has 100 members has enjoyed its idyllic location for 100 years but always welcomes new members to carry on the legacy and to share the joy of the sport.

Chairman Fred Taylor said: "This is a fantastic sport where grandparents can participate alongside their grandchildren. Mums and dads don't stand on the side lines watching but join in and play together"

"The club has teams in competitive leagues playing across Cheshire, but also welcomes those who enjoy a social game on a sunny afternoon"

Club secretary John Groves said: "The health benefits of bowling are

recognised nationally – whether from the benefits of being outside, physical activity – not necessarily too strenuous, meeting other people – a good stretch of the limbs and a great way to de-stress after a busy day"

The club can provide instruction and bowls for new starters to try things out and would be delighted to meet anyone interested on the open day, or they can be contacted via email at oughtringtonbc@outlook.com



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We are looking for someone flexible and willing to deal with the day to day needs of the family. Hours will include:

Wednesday: 4pm-8pm - Friday: 10am-4pm

Alternate Saturdays: 12-4pm.

Totalling 12 hours a week per month

An NVQ Level 2 in Health and Social Care or equivalent is desirable.

Post is subject to an DBS Disclosure. Full training in the home will be provided. A full driving licence is essential.

Gender is considered to be a genuine occupational requirement in accordance with paragraph 1 of Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010 for a Female worker to work with this individual

Salary: £13.95 per hour
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Home care experience: 1 year (preferred)
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