

# Lymm Life

## Magazine

### 25th Anniversary Issue

ISSUE 297 | APRIL 2024  
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## Celebrating 25 Years of Lymm Life

Page 10



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*Printed by TwentyFourSeven*

# Editor's Comment



**THIS month we celebrate 25 years since we launched our first edition of Lymm Life magazine.**

It has certainly been a roller coaster journey and little could we envisage how much the world would change in quarter of a century.

As we printed our very first edition of the magazine, we also launched the first independent daily online newspaper in the UK, Warrington-Worldwide, which now includes all the local news from Lymm as it happens, with a round-up each month in print.

While others have come and gone, we have remained consistent, publishing every month over the past 25 years, other than an enforced three-month shutdown during the first COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. As you can imagine trying to run a free magazine

which depends on advertising from businesses forced to close and unable to distribute proved a very challenging time.

But thanks to our strong online presence we managed to survive.

We also bounced back in print and continue to deliver door-to-door. But with ever increasing challenges during another recession and the cost-of-living crisis, things never get any easier.

We will continue to strive to support the village with our free, independent community news source, brought to you by professional journalists and photographers.

We couldn't do this without the support of local businesses and community groups – without whom

Lymm Life would not be possible – so thank you all for your ongoing support.

Meanwhile, thank you to local photographer Heidi Flack for providing an inspirational image of Lymm at sunrise from a canal boat on the Bridgewater Canal.

We felt this was a fantastic image to illustrate our 25th anniversary issue.



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Adults Monthly			25
Country/Over 70 Annual	£10 credit on Membership Card	120	10
Under 23	£10 credit on Membership Card	84	7
Couple Annual	£40 credit on Membership Card	348	29
Junior Age 7- 17		66	5.5
Junior Under 7		FREE	FREE
Family Annual- 1 Adult + 1 U23	£20 credit on Membership Card	240	20
Family Annual- 1 Adult + 2 or more U23	£20 credit on Membership Card	288	24
Family Annual- 2 Adults + 1 U23	£40 credit on Membership Card	396	33
Family Annual- 2 Adults + 2 or more U23	£40 credit on Membership Card	444	37

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Stella Connor [Lmrtc.membership@gmail.com](mailto:Lmrtc.membership@gmail.com)

# Lymm Councillor announces retirement

**FORMER Tory group leader on Warrington Borough Council, Cllr. Kath Buckley has announced she will be retiring from the council ahead of the forthcoming elections on May 2.**

Having had cancer twice, Cllr Buckley, who at one time was the only Conservative member of the borough council, before becoming group leader, feels it is now time for retirement.

Reflecting on her career as a Cllr. and various voluntary roles in her home village of Lymm she said: "I started by being a scout leader when my son was young, then I became a Parish Councillor – I was Chair of the Parish – and on various committees, I then became a Borough Councillor in 2015.

"As a Parish Councillor, for example, I sorted out the parking in front of the Coop on Cherry Lane is only for one hour, instead of commuters using it. I have in my time as Borough Councillor – sorted out the lowering of the speed limit on Burford Lane, when the residents asked for help, I was the only councillor who turned up. This took nearly two years to sort. I worked with many organisations to sort out the flood defences for Reddish Lane after they were flooded twice in two years. I sorted out with WBC the crossing at Sainsbury's after elderly residents brought their issues to my attention. I have also been Chair and Secretary of Lymm May Queen, Governor and Trustee of Lymm High

School and a member of 4lymm."

Looking to the future she added: "I am still a member of LYCA board and I organised the competition for their successful Logo change. I am still Chair of Lymm Clothing Charity, Church Warden and Safeguarding officer, and member of the Christmas Tree Festival Committee for St Mary's Church. I am still Chair of Warrington CAB. Most recently I lead the writing group for Lymm and Thelwall U3A and I have just joined Bridgewater Players. I am also a volunteer for the Heritage Centre. I will still be on my committees in Lymm etc so hopefully will be still helping the residents of Lymm for some time yet.

"Finally, it has been an honour to serve the people of Lymm."



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## What's On

in conjunction with Lymm Parish Council



### LYMM ROUNDTABLE DUCK RACE

April 1st 12.30pm  
www.lymmduckrace.co.uk

### LYMM PARISH COUNCIL

Next meeting Tuesday April 9th, 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 Aug), 7.30pm  
Spread Eagle pub, Eagle Brow.  
See our rolling display in Lymm Library  
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 AND DISTRICT MIXED VOICE CHOIR

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

### PROBUS CLUB OF LYMM

A small, friendly social club for retired people. Meets on second and fourth Tuesdays at 2:15pm.  
Details: [www.LymmProbus.club](http://www.LymmProbus.club)

### LYMM DINGLE PROBUS CLUB

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

### 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](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/lymm-thelwall/home)  
Contact: [enquiries@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk)



**LYMM PARISH COUNCIL**

Tuesday April 9th, 7:30pm  
See parish council website for details.

# Body sadly found following canal barge fire

**A body was sadly found following a canal barge fire during the early hours of Friday, March 8, on the Bridgewater Canal at Lymm.**

At 03:25 fire crews from Stockton Heath and Lymm were called to tackle the fire on a canal barge near Brookfield Road. Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus used a hose reel jet to put out the fire. An investigation to establish the cause is taking place.

A Cheshire Police spokesperson said: "Shortly before 4.05am Friday 8 March, police were called to reports of a fire on a canal barge on the Bridgewater canal in Lymm.

On arrival at the scene, officers found the barge which was well alight. Firefighters from Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service

extinguished the fire.

"During a search of the boat officers sadly discovered the body of a man who was pronounced dead at the scene. Formal identification has not yet taken place.

"A joint police and fire investigation is being carried out to establish the cause of the fire, although at this time the death is not believed to be suspicious."

Anyone with any information in relation to the incident is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting incident number IML 1773016.



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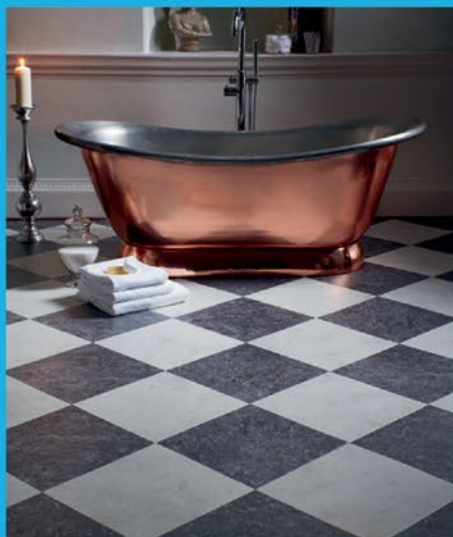
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# St Rocco's confirm Lymm book shop closure despite residents' fears it will be damaging to village

**WORRIED** Lymm residents have been raising concerns over the proposed closure of St Rocco's Book Shop at Lymm fearing it will damage trade in the village, with other shops also rumoured to be closing due to increased rents.

Although St Rocco's say keeping the shop open is not viable, some residents believe it is doing well and providing a valuable service to the village.

They say it attracts people into the village from outlying areas and that because of the range of books available at bargain prices is helping to encourage children to read.

Books were originally sold in the main St Rocco's charity shop in Lymm, and residents suspect that the books will go back to the other shop. But they argue that only a restricted range will be available because of restrictions on space.

It will also mean there will be less room for other items, such as toys and children's clothing.

One resident who contacted Lymm Life said: "Closure of this shop will be damaging to the viability of the whole village centre. Rumours are circulating that other shops are also going to close."

"The problem is that Lymm, historically, has had high rents for shops."

"Local landlords should realise they are already asking too much for

rent – they are killing the goose that lays the golden eggs."

Meanwhile, another resident who has worked as a volunteer said: "Bookshop users will be aware of the book sale held over the last few weeks. This has led to a massive increase in the shop's turnover, a factor that does not appear to be recognised by the St Rocco's decision-makers."

"The proposal seems to be a classic case of short-termism and will have a number of knock-on effects. The number of books on display will be drastically reduced, possibly by 50%, which will ultimately be self-defeating in terms of revenue. This reduction will also affect the number of children's books available, at a time when we should be encouraging our children to read!"

"We are well aware of the strong feeling about this news, not just from the inhabitants of Lymm, but from people who come from miles around purely to browse in the shop. They welcome the social contact provided by the shop. This will have an adverse impact, not just on St Rocco's but on Lymm commercial outlets

generally, as yet another quality retail outlet will be lost."

"While we appreciate that St Rocco's is a charity organisation whose role is to raise funds for the hospice, it is clear their actions will lose them the good will of the local people and will, ultimately, backfire."

Confirming the closure of the book shop a spokesperson for St Rocco's Hospice said: "As has been covered widely in the press recently, this is a very difficult time for hospice funding and our retail team at St Rocco's must make sure we are maximising the return on our efforts to maintain the valuable services that we offer to our patients and their families."

"We have been reviewing our

retail operations across the town and have developed a long-term plan to increase the contribution that we can deliver for St Rocco's."

"As part of this, as the lease for the Lymm Book Shop was at an end, we reviewed its viability as a standalone shop and concluded that we can return more by combining both operations in Lymm into one shop."

"Our fantastic volunteers in Lymm do a brilliant job to support the hospice and we are grateful for everything that they do. We hope many of those who have worked in our book shop will choose to continue to help us run the combined shop."



## Battle to block plans for electricity sub-station fails

A BATTLE to block plans for an electricity sub-station in a conservation area at Lymm has been lost.

Twenty three nearby residents, Lymm Parish Council and borough councillor Graham Gowland opposed the scheme, on land off Mayfield View, Lymm.

But Warrington's development management committee approved the scheme after planning officers said the development would not have any detrimental impact on residential amenity.

The site is off Mayfield View, Lymm, about 150 metres from Lymm Hall, which is Grade 2\* Listed and has a number of other heritage assets

within its grounds.

Objectors were concerned about noise issues for residents of Mayfield View and Rectory Lane, likely anti-social behaviour in an unlit access path leading to the sub-station and doubts about the need for the facility.

But planning officers said the sub-station was needed for five dwellings already being built near to Lymm Hall.

Any harm caused to the character of the area would be less than substantial. It was unlikely the sub-station would need to be accessed on a regular basis so there would be no unacceptable disturbance for existing residents from comings and goings.



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# Lymm Historic Transport Day 2024 calls for volunteers!

**Lymm Historic Transport Day, set to return on June 23, is not just an event, it's a journey back in time, a celebration of heritage, and a vibrant community gathering that has grown in popularity year after year.**

As they prepare for another spectacular day filled with vehicles, boats, and more, organisers need individuals who share a passion for history, community, and fun: volunteers are needed to help make this day unforgettable!

Volunteering at the Lymm Historic Transport Day is an opportunity to be part of something truly special. It's not merely about assisting with the logistics of the event; it's about becoming part of a community that values heritage, education, and the joy of bringing history to life. Whether you're a transport fan, a history buff, or someone looking to give back to the community, your contribution will help ensure the success of an event that delights thousands of visitors from across the region, raising money for charity.

The day will be an eclectic display of historic transport: from classic cars, to majestic steam engines that hark back to the industrial revolution, and elegant canal boats. Alongside these, expect bicycle displays, model railways, and perhaps even a few surprises.

Volunteers are the backbone of this event, helping to create a seamless experience for all who attend and ensuring the day's

success. If you're inspired to be part of this remarkable event, please contact the organisers either through the web site at [www.lymmtransport.org.uk/contact](http://www.lymmtransport.org.uk/contact) Or email; [lymmhistoricttransport@gmail.com](mailto:lymmhistoricttransport@gmail.com)



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# Kids Planet boss becomes apprentice for the day

**KIDS Planet founder and CEO Clare Roberts stepped into the shoes of an apprentice to experience what it would be like on a first day at a Prep school.**

Clare was treated as an apprentice would on their very first day, undertaking a full induction and show round, training with tutor and risk assessments, plus time in the room both with the prep-school children including play and meal-time.

Clare donned a Kids Planet practitioner uniform and took the chance to hit the ground running as another team member within the nursery setting. Situated at the Knutsford site is the Kids Planet Training Academy, where Clare was able to have a one-on-one session with Tutor Nathalie Glaze and refresh her knowledge.

It proved to be a beneficial learning experience and a great reminder of the wonderful work the teams and apprentices do daily.

Clare said: "It was a wonderful

experience to walk in the shoes of one of our new colleagues to Kids Planet and to experience first-hand our induction process for an apprentice and to be part of the teaching and learning sessions delivered by the training academy. I had a wonderful day and really enjoyed spending time with the team and children at our Knutsford setting."

Becca Leigh, Nursery Manager at Kids Allowed Knutsford, said: "We've got six apprentices here at Knutsford. They've come from lots of different backgrounds, age-ranging from 16 all the way up to 40. Some have come straight from college, and others have done different job roles first."

One of those apprentices is Samii Johnson, who moved into the profession after being an estate

agent. Samii said: "If someone was thinking about joining as an apprentice, I would say to go for it. I've come in here at 29 and I'm not going to say I'm old by any means, but I did feel very conscious and I've been welcomed with open arms and I feel very comfortable. I think at any age or point in life, it's a great decision."

Clare also featured on BBC Radio 5 Live during Apprenticeship Week as a guest, discussing the benefits of a multi-generational workforce, with a focus on Generation Z's impact.

She said: "We are having more of Generation Z coming into the workforce, such as school leavers. Their perceptions and expectations of work have changed, and I think work in general has changed, but we now have a real blend of different generations who work across our nurseries, and I think there are real benefits to that."

For us particularly in an early years sector, the children benefit well from all those different generations as well and those experiences, and there are lot of positives that generation Z have brought to the workforce."

## Do Something Big Campaign

Kids Planet is proud to be supporting the Department for Education's new major campaign to boost recruitment across the early years sector, and highlighting the vast array of childcare career routes and progression opportunities available.

Clare Roberts, Kids Planet CEO said: "Many parents already recognise how amazing early years and childcare professionals are, but it's time that everyone else does too, and that the sector is given the recognition and importance it deserves in the valuable job it does to shape future generations."



**Warrington votes**  
Local elections  
Thursday 2 May



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and Cheshire PCC elections are coming**

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**16 April**



**By proxy**  
**Register by**  
**24 April**



**By post**  
**Register by**  
**17 April**

[warrington.gov.uk/elections-2024](http://warrington.gov.uk/elections-2024)



**WARRINGTON**  
Borough Council

# Statham Manor celebrates first birthday

Statham Manor, the beautiful care home on Statham Avenue in Lymm, recently celebrated its first birthday. Residents, their families and friends, and the care team marked the occasion with a great party including entertainment, a delicious buffet and birthday cake which was cut by longest staying resident Sylvia. Manager at Statham Manor, Farai Hanyane said: "This last year has passed so quickly and we now very much feel part of the fabulous community in Lymm. It was wonderful to celebrate with our residents, the care home team and wider family and friends."



## New dementia community opens at Grappenhall Manor

Since opening last year, Grappenhall Manor continues to welcome new residents and is expanding with the launch of a dedicated new dementia community on the first floor.

Designed especially for residents with dementia, the area is warm and welcoming. Each resident benefits from their own private bedroom with en suite and there is a large communal area for resting, relaxing and socialising. Luxuriously styled with beautiful finishing touches, it also boasts a large outside terrace with feature planting and garden furniture which allows residents to enjoy being outdoors. Manager at Grappenhall Manor, Charlotte Sherlocks, added: "Our dementia community now has its own dedicated space allowing us to deliver care to perfectly suit their needs while also allowing each resident space to safely move around as they choose."

*Staff and residents at both Statham Manor and Grappenhall Manor would like to congratulate the Warrington Worldwide and Lymm Life team on their 25th anniversary – a fantastic achievement!*

For more information or to arrange a viewing at either home please call the numbers shown, or email us at [enquiries@newcarehomes.com](mailto:enquiries@newcarehomes.com).



Statham Manor Care Centre  
90 Statham Avenue, Lymm WA13 9AQ  
Tel 01925 596000



Grappenhall Manor Care Centre  
Stockport Road, Grappenhall WA4 2WA  
Tel 01925 596828

[newcarehomes.com](http://newcarehomes.com)

# Celebrating 25 years of free community news and promoting local businesses

**THIS month marks the 25th anniversary since the launch of Lymm Life magazine which has managed to survive the test of time, despite huge changes in the world of media.**

Back in April 1999, the internet was still in its infancy, although local news was being reported daily online by sister publication Warrington-worldwide - and social media like Facebook, didn't even exist.

Looking back at our launch issue sadly few of the local businesses

remain, although local undertaker John Burrows & Son and estate agency Banners, are both still going strong.

Below are some of the congratulatory messages we have received as we celebrate our 25th anniversary.

“Thanks to everyone working hard at Lymm Life magazine, which has provided us with a unique link to the community.”

**Ben Wakerley, MD Warrington's Own Buses**

“Congratulations on the 25th anniversary of Lymm Life. You have provided a medium of communication and celebration that has helped enormously with the strong community spirit that exists in Lymm.

You have promoted Lymm as a great place to live, learn, work and relax. You have never been afraid to be a fair and critical friend of the organisations that support the village including WBC. Here's to the next 25 years.”

**Professor Steven Broomhead MBE  
Chief Executive Warrington Borough Council**

“Lymm Life and Lymm Festival have both now celebrated 25 successful years - so we have grown together.

All of us involved in the Festival are very grateful to Lymm Life for the support given to us in promoting our events over a quarter of a century. The magazine has consistently supported all the events and festivals in the village and has been a major contributor to making Lymm such a great place in which to live.”

**Ian Marks, Chair of Lymm Festival**

“Wishing Gary and all the team at Lymm Life a very happy 25th anniversary.

Gary reminded me that we've had an advert since that very first edition and the number of events over those years that Lymm Life has been a part of, or marked in some way, is staggering.

It's always been a great way to get Lymm news, often uplifting with inspiring tales of our fellow villagers, occasionally giving us more difficult or sad information, but always a trusted and local friend.”

**James Tandy, John Burrows & Sons**

“It is almost 25 years now since my wife Su and I became involved in organising and promoting activities and events in the village: Art In The Garden, Historic Transport Day and, more recently, The Heritage Centre come to mind. In all that time the first place we have turned to for support and publicity has been Lymm Life Magazine. It has been a true village voice led and edited by someone who clearly cares deeply about our local community. Hard to believe it's 25 years. Well done Gary (and his father, David) and thank you from us both.”

**Alan & Su Williams**

“Congratulations to Lymm Life Magazine on your remarkable 25th anniversary! It's been an absolute pleasure advertising our business within the pages of your magazine throughout these years. Your platform has not only provided us with valuable exposure but has also connected us with the wonderful community of Lymm. Here's to many more years of fruitful collaboration and continued success for both Lymm Life Magazine and our business!”

**Adam Halford, Beechwood Industries/Primrose Hill Nurseries**

“Many congratulations to you and the team for reaching such a landmark: 25 years is quite something and you should all be very proud of what you have achieved. Lymm Life does so much to exemplify and support the wonderful community of Lymm, and long may that continue!”

**Gwyn Williams and everyone at Lymm High School**

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# Community Businesses

“Congratulations on 25 years as part of the community from all at another local institution.”

**Lymm Historic Transport Day**

“Congratulations to Lymm Life for 25 years of supporting local businesses.”

**Tracey Turton  
Cheshire Natural Health**

“Lymm Life has played an important role in the life of the village over the past twenty five years and is a key means of letting people know the important issues and good things that are going on in our local community. On behalf of Lymm Parish Council, congratulations on twenty-five years and we look forward to the next quarter of a century.”

**Ann Johnstone, Chair Lymm Parish Council**

## Celebrating 50th Anniversary of Lymm Parish Council

LYMM Parish Council celebrates its 50th anniversary on 1st April and is now reaching out to all former Parish Councillors to get in touch.

Cllr. Ann Johnstone, the current Chair, is hosting a drinks reception in the newly reopened village hall to celebrate the anniversary, with all current and former Parish Councillors invited.

The event will take place on Friday 12th April 2024 with short presentations from current and former Councillors as well as Cheshire's very own Jackie Weaver. If you are a former Councillor, please contact the Clerk for further details and to confirm your attendance.

For more information or to confirm attendance, contact the Clerk on clerk@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk or 07741 877 870.



**LYMM  
HIGH SCHOOL**

Lymm High School is proud to support **Lymm Life** on **25 years of publication**, and in supporting the local community.

[lymmhigh.org.uk](http://lymmhigh.org.uk)



# Lymm singer-songwriter releases album and prepares for fundraising concert

**HOT on the heels of releasing a new album, Lymm singer-songwriter Paul Thompson is set to perform a fundraising concert to help create accessible facilities at Lymm Methodist Church.**

For the past decade Paul has been performing sell-out shows at Lymm Festival, singing his own comic songs, as well as classic material by the likes of Tom Lehrer, Flanders and Swann, Victoria Wood and his particular musical hero, Jake Thackray.

Audience feedback has now led him to record his first solo album, *Playing with Nadine*, a 26-song collection which mixes his own material with his versions of eight long-lost Jake Thackray songs which have never been released before.

"Jake has always been a great inspiration for my writing," says Paul. "My satirical songs deal with subjects including the shipping forecast, Trump, marriage, relationships with technology, and even the B word."

There are also one or two poignant songs in the mix, including one inspired by a moving war memoir.

Paul unearthed the lost Thackray songs in TV, radio and film archives while researching his acclaimed biography, *Beware of*

the Bull – *The Enigmatic Genius of Jake Thackray*. The book, which he wrote with his friend John Watterson, was included in the Daily Telegraph's pick of the best music books of 2022.

"These lost Thackray songs range from the amusing to the poignant and darkly cynical," added Paul. "They are all instantly recognisable as Jake's work, and some of them are right up there with his very best writing."

The album has another Thackray connection: Paul plays the songs on a guitar which Jake once owned and named *Nadine*. Jake bought her in the early seventies, but by the eighties she was in poor condition, and he gave her to a charity to auction off, along with a letter of authenticity which is hilarious because it contains so much fantasy. *Nadine's* colourful history is shared in the album's artwork.

Paul recently appeared on Radio Warrington's Culture Show, where the whole programme was devoted to the album. He is also holding a launch concert at The Spread

Eagle in Lymm on Saturday 27th April.

All the proceeds will be going to Lymm Methodist Church's £0.5 million redevelopment project, which aims to enhance the church's

facilities and make them accessible to all.

For more information, visit Paul's website, [www.paulthompsonmusic.co.uk](http://www.paulthompsonmusic.co.uk)



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# Your pet questions answered

By Dr Rachel Dean,  
Burford Lane Vets

## Is it safe for my pet to eat spring plants or flowers that start growing during spring?

It is lovely seeing all the spring bulbs coming through, but some bulbs are toxic if ingested by our dogs. Daffodils, bluebells and tulips fall into this category, as well as indoor plants such as lilies and amaryllis. Lilies, for example, are of high risk to cats, and even small ingestions can lead to severe kidney damage. Always check the toxicity of plants and flowers in your garden or home.

## Are there any specific parasites I should be concerned about as the weather gets warmer in April?

As temperatures rise in April, the risk of parasites like fleas and ticks increases. It is important to ensure that you check your pet regularly, and if you frequently walk your dog around woodland or parks a regular preventive treatment is a sensible idea. Consult with our team to choose the appropriate products and to discuss any concerns about parasites local to our area.

## My pet has seasonal allergies that seem to flare up in April. How can I help them?

Pets can suffer from seasonal allergies, often aggravated by increased pollen levels. Symptoms can include itchy or red skin, fur loss, anal gland irritation, itchy ears and watery eyes. Often allergies can settle down on their own and using a hypoallergenic shampoo may help, but many pets need medication to alleviate their discomfort. There are lots of different ways to help manage irritation. Please call our team to discuss the best options for your pet.

## As spring gardening begins to get under way, are there any fertilisers or garden products I should avoid



### using around my pets?

Many common gardening products, including fertilisers, insecticides and weed killers, can be harmful to pets if ingested. When choosing products for your garden, opt for pet-friendly alternatives. Always store garden chemicals out of your pet's reach and prevent access to treated areas for the recommended period on the product labels. If you suspect your pet has ingested a harmful substance, contact us immediately.

## How bad is it if my pet eats chocolate and how can I keep them safe at Easter?

Chocolate is not safe for pets to eat. It contains theobromine and caffeine, both of which can be toxic to dogs and cats. The level of toxicity depends on the type and amount of chocolate consumed and the weight of your pet. Darker and more concentrated chocolates are more dangerous. Symptoms of chocolate poisoning may include vomiting, diarrhoea, rapid breathing, increased heart rate and even seizures.

### To keep your pet safe during Easter:

- Store chocolate securely and keep all chocolate products well out of reach. This includes Easter eggs and chocolate decorations.
- Educate family members and ensure that everyone in the household understands the dangers of feeding chocolate to pets.
- Provide pet-safe treats so they can participate in the festivities without the risk.
- If you suspect your pet has eaten chocolate, contact us immediately. Prompt action can be crucial.

# March sees LymmPaC extend its support for parents and carers

**Have you heard about Lymm PaC? Are you aware of Lymm Sanctuary Hub & Business Centre, which operates the project? And do you know a local parent or carer of a child or young person with SEND that could benefit from more support?**

March has been significant for LymmPaC as an increase in demand for its support services has led to the set-up of a second (evening) group.

At a time when there are a number of awareness occasions related to SEND, including Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (1-31 March), Neurodiversity Celebration Week (18-24 March), and World Autism Awareness Day (2 April), we asked LymmPaC project lead, Jodi, a few questions about the group and how it can help local people.

### What is LymmPaC?

It is a friendly peer-support group for parents and carers of children and young people who have SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). The project is run by Lymm Sanctuary Hub and Business Centre, a Lymm charity partly funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

### Why was the group started?

It can be a very lonely place for parents and carers with a child on the SEND pathway. There are support groups across Warrington but attendance can be difficult as it involves travelling. The Lymm group offers a meet-up with other local people in a similar position.

### How does the group help?

The group is not led by experts

but by parents of young people with SEND. It is a place to share experiences and advice over a cup of tea with others who will listen and understand. It offers people an hour each week out of the hectic schedule of appointments and meetings to unwind and offload in a safe supportive space.

### When & Where does LymmPaC meet?

Drop-in sessions are run by the Hub every Wednesday from 10-11am in Lymm Library (the Library is closed to the public at this time).

For those who aren't free in the daytime, an evening group will begin on 2 April and run 7-8pm on the first Tuesday of each month in the Event Room of the Hub (within the Library building).

All parents and carers of children with SEND are welcome and sessions are free, for adults only, and run term-time only.

### How can I find out more?

For more information about LymmPaC, email: [pac@lymmsanctuaryhub.co.uk](mailto:pac@lymmsanctuaryhub.co.uk). There are also Hub open events featuring the projects and services offered from the site. Event dates as well as further details about groups and services are shown at: [www.lymmsanctuaryhub.co.uk](http://www.lymmsanctuaryhub.co.uk).

# All set for Lymm Duck Race 2024



Lymm Roundtable's annual Duck Race in the village will take place on the Easter Monday Bank Holiday, starting at 12.30pm at the lower dam.

People wanting tickets will need to purchase them from the website [lymmduckrace.co.uk](http://lymmduckrace.co.uk) by 12:15pm on Monday 1st April 2024.

How does it work? You buy a ticket for £2 and you'll get a duck number. The Roundtable launch 1,000 plastic ducks down the dingle in Lymm village (and catch all the ducks after the finish line).

If your duck number comes first, you get £150, second place gets £75, and third place gets £50.

All proceeds raised go towards supporting good causes in and around the village.

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## LymmPaC

Peer support for parents and carers of children and young people with SEND. Free drop-in groups for adults. 10-11am every Wednesday and 7-8pm first Tuesday of the month. Term-time only. Enquiries to: [pac@lymmsanctuaryhub.co.uk](mailto:pac@lymmsanctuaryhub.co.uk) or call 01925 737950



## Get involved

\* LEAF (Lymm Environment Action Forum)  
Give your opinion at: [www.linktr.ee/leaflylymm](http://www.linktr.ee/leaflylymm)  
\* Lymm Solar Farm  
Get the latest news at: [www.linktr.ee/lymmcommunityenergy](http://www.linktr.ee/lymmcommunityenergy)  
\* Lymm Hub  
View community events & groups at: [www.lymmsanctuaryhub.co.uk](http://www.lymmsanctuaryhub.co.uk)



Lymm Sanctuary Hub & Business Centre  
and community partner events, groups & services



# Grow your skills this spring!

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\*Terms & conditions apply.



#### Amanda Fryer

Level 4 Therapeutic Counselling

Amanda recently graduated and has already set up her own successful private practice. She says: "My journey was spectacular and the tutors were so supportive."

When asked to describe her Adult College experience in one word, Amanda chose 'life-changing'.



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# NEWS



**LYMM**  
PARISH COUNCIL

## MARCH - APRIL 2024

**Dear Residents of Lymm**  
**Happy Easter, as we look forward to the Duck Race!**

**As we bid farewell to the winter months, the promise of spring is upon us, bringing longer days and brighter moments. We hope this season fills your hearts with joy and rejuvenation.**

We are delighted to announce that the much-awaited roof works at the Village Hall have been successfully completed. This means that the Hall is once again open for hire, ready to host your events and gatherings. We look forward to welcoming you back to this cherished community space.

**The Open Day on March 16th will give everyone an opportunity to have a look inside and enquire about hiring the spaces.**



Your voices have been heard. The results of the Parish Priorities Survey are now available online. Your feedback is invaluable in guiding our efforts to serve the community. Details about the budget and expenditure for 2024-25 are available on the Parish Council website.

April marks a significant milestone in our community's history with the 50th Anniversary of Lymm Parish Council. The Parish Council will commemorate this special occasion by bringing together present and past Councillors to celebrate and reflect on our past achievements and look forward to a future filled with promise and progress.

**The grants programme is open**

Complete and return an application form before the March deadline for support for your project or organisation during the first half of the year.

June 6th sees the 80th anniversary of the D Day landings, an opportunity to honour the bravery and sacrifices of those who served during this pivotal moment in history. Discussions are under way for commemorative events for D-Day across the village. More details will follow soon.

Our dedicated Events Committee has started the process of organising the Parish Council run events for the coming year. With the imminent passing of Martyn's Law (Terrorist Bill) by Parliament, there will be significant implications for our venues and events. Local event organisers have started to look at how events can be tailored to prevent and prepare for terrorist attacks.

As we approach May, preparations for the Parish and Borough Council elections are underway.

Have you ever considered becoming a Parish Councillor? It's a rewarding opportunity and makes a difference to your community.

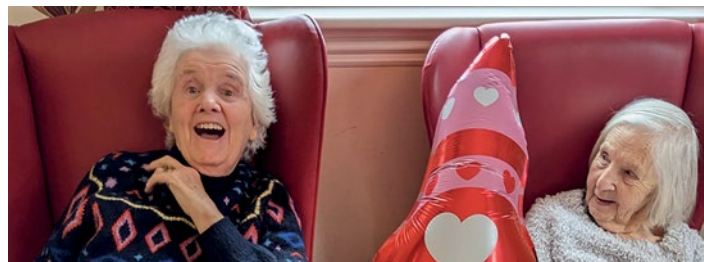
If you're interested in serving your fellow residents, we encourage you to attend meetings to see how the Parish Council operates, and step forward for candidacy.

**The deadline for registering as a candidate is 4pm on April 5th.**

Thank you for your continued support and being an integral part of the Lymm Parish community. Together, we can continue to build a brighter future for all.

Warm regards,  
**Cllr Ann Johnstone, Chair**  
**Lymm Parish Council**

# Keate House residents celebrate Valentine's



**LOVE was in the air at Keate House Care Home in Lymm recently, as residents came together to celebrate Valentine's Day with a series of delightful activities and events.**

Everyone embraced the spirit of love with a variety of fun-filled activities aimed at spreading joy and fostering a sense of community. Among the highlights of the week were games like "Name the Gnome," a romantic-themed quiz. Residents enjoyed a delicious steak meal in the Ruby Red the Valentine themed dining area.

The festivities continued with a spectacular Valentine's Ball, where residents danced the afternoon away, swinging hips and laughter filled the air as everyone enjoyed glasses of fizz and a few nibbles, creating cherished memories that will last a lifetime.

"The Valentine's Week celebrations within the home were truly heartwarming," said Diane Clarkson Care Home Manager at Keate House Care Home. "It was a joy to see our residents come

together to share in the spirit of love and friendship. These activities not only provided entertainment but also created meaningful connections and strengthened our sense of community."

The staff at Keate House Care Home worked tirelessly to ensure that residents enjoyed a week filled with love, laughter, and happiness. The success of the Valentine's Week festivities is a testament to their dedication to enriching the lives of those in their care.

Keate House Care Home is a leading provider of dementia and residential care services in Lymm. Committed to providing exceptional care in a warm and welcoming environment, they offer personalised support to each resident, ensuring their comfort, well-being, and happiness.

## Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

### Divorce Column

By Peter Wilkinson  
Divorce Lawyer at Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

#### No fault divorce

Arguably the biggest reform of divorce law in England & Wales for 50 years came about 2 years ago yet to this day I meet such a lot of people who know nothing about it and are surprised when I make them aware of the change.

So called 'no-fault divorce' was officially introduced in England & Wales on 6th April 2022 under the Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020. That said, a previous version of no-fault divorce did in fact already exist under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 which set out 5 'Facts' for divorce – at least some of which most people are aware of – namely, adultery, unreasonable behaviour, desertion, 2 years separation and consent, and 5 years separation (with or without consent). Therefore, the two separation based Facts actually amounted to a no-fault divorce under what is now known as the old law.

But upon the DDSA 2020 coming into force the 5 Facts under the MCA 1973 were removed and so it came about that it is no longer necessary to establish any of the previous 5 Facts in order to apply for and obtain a divorce. The concept of fault has been completely removed and there is no longer any requirement to even allege, let alone prove, blame. All that is required now is for the divorce application to be accompanied by a statement made by the party applying (the applicant) that the marriage has broken down irretrievably and this will be taken by the court as conclusive evidence that the marriage has irretrievably broken down.

Further, there is little scope for the receiving party (the respondent) to defend the divorce because under the new law the only basis for disputing a divorce is (a) to dispute jurisdiction, (b) to dispute the validity of the marriage, or (c) to assert that the marriage has already been legally ended. In the absence of establishing one of these then the court must make a divorce order.

While the new law has simplified the actual divorce process, and there are equivalent provisions for dissolving a Civil Partnership, it is important to note that the new law has not in any way changed the way in which property, financial claims and child arrangements matters are dealt with and I will write further on these topics in future articles.

## Family Law & Divorce Residential Property Commercial Property Wills, Trusts & Probate



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# Treasure trove of memories of Lymm man who saved The Wire

**A treasure trove of memorabilia of former Warrington RLFC Chairman Sir Ossie Davies, the man who saved The Wire, has come to light, sparking memories of the club's Wembley triumph 50 years ago this year.**

It is now hoped the collection of memories of Sir Ossie, who helped save the Wire from going out of business in the early 1970s, can now help raise funds for the club's Squadbuilder, promoting homegrown talent and the club's Foundation.

Items in the collection, unearthed by his son Neville, include matchday programmes, including several in mint condition from the 1974 final as well as autographed items, including the Wembley Final banquet menu, signed by both clubs.

Reflecting on his memories of Warrington RLFC Neville said: "My first memories were as a child going to matches, which were usually on a Saturday afternoon. My mum would be dropped off in Warrington to do some shopping, whilst I went with my dad to the match.

"Bridgefoot was chaotic with hordes of supporters walking to the match. In the early fifties, the Wilderspool would be packed with over 30,000 attending matches.

It was usual for spectators to pass children above their heads to get to the front where they could see and then after the match, there would be a shout for everyone to stay in place until the children were reunited with their parents.

"There would always be shouts of 'give the ball to Bevan' a brilliant fast winger in his time. Harry Bath would kick goal, many times so powerful that it regularly ended up over the stand and in Fletcher Street.

"The main railway line ran at the corner of the pitch and the train drivers could often be seen watching the match from their appropriately positioned train for as long as they were able.

"It was in 1971 that my dad bought the rugby club. It had been losing £500 per week and this was not sustainable. At that time there were eighteen home matches a year, which could not finance the running of the club.

"Whilst the team had good players, they were all getting older and were not replaced by younger players due to financial shortfalls.

After the match, when Directors went into the boardroom, the regular drink was whisky and milk, which I have never heard of before or since.

"When my dad became Chairman of the Wire, with Brian Pitchford as Director and Philip

Worthington as Secretary, they set about big changes to the Club, including the building of the new Wilderspool Centre which would cater for other sports and leisure facilities with restaurants, bars, banqueting suites and conference facilities at a cost of £300,000. This would ensure that the club could continue without total reliance on the game alone.

"In addition to this, there had been alterations to the area beneath the main stand to provide a bar and accommodation for the supporter's club.

"One Christmas, there was a very keen frost forecast and I was asked to take a tractor and trailer load of straw from our friend Chas. Williamson's farm at Warburton to the stadium to spread on the pitch to avoid having to cancel the customary Boxing Day match between the Wire and Wigan. On the morning of the match, the straw had done its job and I joined a large team of volunteers and staff and went to Wilderspool to take the straw off the pitch. Later that week, Chas took his bailing machine and we removed everything from the touchline.

"I used to travel on the team coach to away matches quite often and as I was a similar age to many of the players, children used to come to the coach and ask for autographs, including me. I always said I was not a player, but some insisted they had seen me play. Rather than argue and upset them, I used to sign my own name for them and they went away happy.

One season, Mike Nicholas had dyed his hair what could only be described as almost yellow and Murphy told him he was like a flashing light running around the pitch.

"I remember well the Cup Final in 1974. I travelled on the team coach and soon after we arrived at Kensington Palace Hotel, Alex Murphy took all the squad into Kensington Palace Gardens opposite the Hotel for a short training session. We had not been there long when the Park Keeper came and told us we could not play ball games in the Park. Murph replied that he had permission, to which the Park Keeper went away to check. Murph then told us he did not have permission, but by the time the parkkeeper returned, the training session would have finished.

We visited Wembley Stadium in the afternoon, which was an experience in itself. On the day of the match, we were greeted outside the Hotel by Police outriders who were going to escort us to Wembley. The police officer in charge came and had a talk with the Barry Cooper Coach driver who had taken us and asked how fast the coach would go. He then told the driver to keep tight up to his motorbike and not to stop for anything. His team of police officers would stop all the adjoining traffic and we were to keep going close behind this rider. Police Motor



Cyclists kept 'leapfrogging' past us to get in front and stop traffic, as we moved forward regardless. At one stage, the Policeman in charge came alongside our coach and asked the driver if he had still got his handbrake on. Our poor driver was already wet through with sweat, as this was a journey to be remembered.

"Needless to say, Murph not being one to miss an opportunity gave a team talk all the way to Wembley, breaking in now and then to tell the players to wave at their loyal fans who lined the latter part of the route.

"As we approached 'Wembley Way', there was no visible way through crowds, but appearing from nowhere were five Mounted Police. They came alongside and instructed our already stressed driver to keep the coach in between the back two horses. We set off with one horse at the front, two behind him and the two behind him we had to keep in between. What an experience, as we started to move forward, the front horse started to do a big bouncy step forward, which it had obviously been trained to do. The crowds parted when they saw this horse coming and we went through like a snowplough to the entrance. On arrival at the entrance, all five horses formed a line around our coach to allow us to get off.

"There were 13 players and two substitutes allowed for each game in those days.

"When we had won the cup in 1974, the security guards insisted that they kept close to the cup, but Ocker was having none of it and convinced the guards that he would take good care of it and it was said he even slept with it in his room. He proudly displayed it in the coach all the way home and for those who remember Ocker, they would know that no one would have taken that cup from him.

"It seems strange now to look back on the 1970s when the programme for the 1974 final announced that tickets were available for the 1975 Rugby League Cup Final at Wembley and were priced at £3.50; £2.50; £2.00; £1.75 and £1.00 standing.

"There are so many memories, but it always sticks in my mind how my mum, who did not really

understand the rules of rugby always contradicted the referees' decisions if they dared to give a penalty against the Wire. The best was Billy Thompson who would come into the Boardroom after a match, go straight to my mum and say 'haven't I had a wonderful game today, were you pleased with my decisions?' My mum fell for this every time and you could imagine the answer she gave, even though Billy was a top referee and rarely got his decisions wrong.

"Kevin Ashcroft even made mention of this in his book, as one of his memories of the Club.

"I worked with several of the players at Fairclough's when we were building an extension to the Fibreglass Factory in St Helens. In the 1970s players all had jobs and would be working up until lunchtime on a Friday and finish early and go straight to Wilderspool ready for an evening match. This was due to the fact that players only received £8 for playing and £30 for a win. "Dave Chisnall worked with me at Pilkingtons on their Fibreglass extension and was having a discussion with one of the engineers on site and the engineer who did a lot of running asked Dave how someone his size could run. He had obviously not seen Dave play and so Dave challenged him to a race. We set up a one-hundred-yard track on a concrete section of the contract and the race was on. Dave left the engineer way behind, and Dave's ability to run was never questioned again.

"My wife, Kath and I on occasions used to host prospective signings when they came up with their families to see the area before finally signing. I well remember the time when Frank Reynolds, his wife Susan and children Kerry, Paul and Louise came to our house and we took them to Chester Zoo for the day to keep them out of the way of other club scouts. Frank was signed from Aberavon RU Club and worked as a rigger at Shell at Ellesmere Port."

It is now hoped the treasure trove of memories can help raise funds for the club's Squadbuilder to help support the talent of the future and the work of the Warrington Wolves Foundation.

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