

# Lymm Life

## Magazine

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# Editor's Comment



## THE national picture was reflected locally as the Tories failed to win a single seat in the borough elections in Lymm.

Locally it was the Lib Dems who benefitted and now provide the opposition on Warrington Borough Council.

What was noticeable this time round, more than ever, ALL parties struggled to find candidates to stand across the borough - which is largely due to how toxic politics has become, in particular on social media.

Also, the turn outs across Warrington, were low and while Lymm fared better than most areas, turnout was still below 40% - which means MOST people didn't bother voting.

Good luck to those who got elected and my advice would be - don't get involved in online battles

via social media! The online trolls can be relentless.

Meanwhile, to the local Lib Dems, it is more important than ever to hold the council to account, particularly when it comes to the forthcoming Government "Best Value" Inspection into the council's huge £1.85 bn debt which has yet again made national headlines.

### Lymm North & Thelwall

Farrington Susan Conservative Party 687  
Higginson Calum David Conservative Party 616

**Hignett Robert John Liberal Democrats 1,848**

**Johnson Wendy Liberal Democrats 1,817**

**Marks Ian George Liberal Democrats 2,014**

Milner Helen Charlotte Labour Party 819

Pemberton Carole Margaret Conservative Party 802

Turn out 36.53

### Lymm South

Ford Phillip Martin Conservative Party 532

Frith Sara Labour Party 432

**Gowland Graham Farrington Liberal Democrats 1,144**

Pemberton Ian Conservative Party 639

**Stuttard Luke William Liberal Democrats 816**

Turn out 38.62



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# Work underway to transform former bank building

**WORK is underway to transform a former empty bank building in Lymm village centre.**

The former Barclays Bank building in Lymm is undergoing remodelling, making it closer to the original building from the 1880s.

Welcoming the news, local Cllr. Graham Gowland commented: "It's great to see investment in the village. I understand the plans are to create three retail units and an upstairs unit that may be a Chinese restaurant. It's a really positive move for the village, and I'm pleased to see the new employment and visitor opportunities this will generate."

The building was sold last year to a local owner, who has worked hard to engage locally with how to develop the building.

A Heritage Statement prepared by local architects Randle White

says the nature of the proposal is internal and external alterations of this vacant former bank building at 4 Eagle Brow, Lymm. At the ground floor the existing open plan layout will be broken up to form three separate retail units whilst at the first floor an open plan bar/restaurant space will be formed. A modest 1st-floor extension has been proposed towards the rear of the property which will not be able to be viewed from either Eagle Brow or Bridgewater Street.

As the original building at 4 Eagle Brow was demolished in the mid-1970s and replaced with the existing building there is little to no historical interest in the building.



## Owners of missing Spaniel Ellie confirm devastating news

By Wendy Johnson

THE owners of Ellie, the five-year-old Spaniel that went missing from the Lymm Dam area in December last year, have confirmed they have received the saddest news their family has been dreading to hear for almost five months.

Ellie was discovered in a field by a local farmer, off Higher Lane, said grief-stricken Laura Drinkwater, of Fairfield Road in Lymm. It is believed she was found near a ditch in a secluded spot that is seldom worked on and added that she had been there 'for some time'. Ellie was identified by her black and white collar by Laura's husband Neil who was with family friend and local dog walker Ali Cooper.

Their beloved pet was located not too far from the point she went missing on December 5th, in an area close to what is known locally as 'The Bongos' and ironically, less than five minutes from the family home.

Ellie's disappearance sparked off a village campaign, and it expanded further afield, to try to find the missing Red/Golden Cocker and the Drinkwaters, who vowed they would never give up searching for her, were overwhelmed by the response from residents, family and friends, with Laura confessing that she was heartened by offers of help that came from people who she had never met before.

Ellie's story was circulated far and wide, including social media, the national dog search

and rescue network and tracking specialists. The Drinkwaters left no stone unturned, even putting up a substantial reward for her safe return and turning to high-tech, eye-in-the-sky drones to try to detect their missing 'fur sibling'.

Holding back her tears Laura explained: "We received the message from a local farmer as I was just about to go out and circulate posters around the area of Frodsham following reports of a sighting of a dog fitting Ellie's description. We are all devastated. At least we have closure, but this isn't the outcome we had hoped for. It would have extended our living nightmare if we were never to find her. I am so grateful to the farmer who found her and for contacting us."

Laura said she had reached out to everyone and anything that could help her find her missing pet, even going down the road of spiritualism in the hope that pet psychics could provide the tiniest chink of detail that would bring her faithful friend home.

Laura said: "Since Ellie's disappearance we have struggled to function with everyday life. Ellie was our absolute world. From the day she went missing our household has been in limbo, but we brought her ashes home and we thank Eternal Paws in Lymm for being so supportive and kind." She also added that she was also grateful for the 'emotional support' currently being offered by some of

the specialist groups that had been involved in the search for Ellie.

"This news has rocked us all. It's reliving that nightmare over again. I would have still been searching for our Ellie in ten years' time if she hadn't been found. I would like to thank all those who have helped in our search for darling Ellie – the Drinkwaters really appreciate it."

Laura said she was now going

to turn the focus on her fundraising effort, in Ellie's name, to buy a state-of-the-art, all-weather, thermal drone to help locate missing dogs and cats in Lymm and the surrounding area. Already halfway towards its £10,000 target, anyone wishing to help the Drinkwaters can do so via 'GoFundMe' and donate to 'Ellie's Lymm Thermal Drone Fund' page.



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



### LYMM PARISH COUNCIL

Next meeting Tuesday June 11th, 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

Meets on second and fourth Tuesdays at 2:15pm.  
cath@stones.co.uk

### PROBUS CLUB OF LYMM

A small, friendly social club for retired people.  
Every Wednesday 7.30 Lymm Methodist Church. Contact 01925 601664.

### 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 June 11th, 7:30pm  
See parish council website for details.

# Chinese Language Day celebrated by care home residents

**STAFF and residents at Brookfield Care Home in Lymm marked Chinese Language Day with a variety of celebrations and activities.**

The United Nations has six official languages – Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Each of them have their own days when the UN and its affiliates use the occasion to promote multiculturalism and cross-cultural understanding by showcasing the rich history and literary culture of each language.

The United Nations observes the UN Chinese Language Day every year in April. The contribution of Chinese literature, poetry and language in world culture is highlighted on this day.

Sarah Nolan, general manager of Barchester's Brookfield Home said: "We had a brilliant day, residents have worked hard learning some basic sayings and

felt really proud with the outcomes. The residents also enjoyed the Chinese meals prepared by our hospitality team"

Peter a resident at Brookfield Care Home said: "I enjoyed learning the pronunciation of the phrases and sayings, I find it fascinating to learn all about different traditions and Rebecca was a very good teacher"

Brookfield Care Home is run by Barchester Healthcare, one of the UK's largest care providers and provides residential care and respite care.

For more information please contact Sarah Nolan General Manager at Brookfield Care Home on 01925 755363 or email [brookfield@barchester.com](mailto:brookfield@barchester.com)



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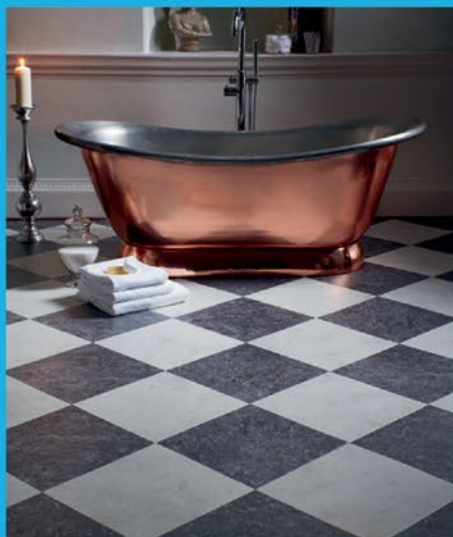
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# Members past and present celebrate 50 years of Lymm Parish Council

**THE 50th anniversary of Lymm Parish Council was celebrated recently by members past and present, with a drinks reception in Lymm's village hall.**

Over 20 former and current Councillors attended, including the first Chairman of Lymm Parish Council, David Moon.

Formed on 1st April 1974, many councils in England and Wales were created in 1974 as part of

a significant restructuring of local government. This restructuring was primarily driven by the Local Government Act 1972, which aimed to modernise and streamline local governance across the country. The Act led to the creation

of new administrative regions, counties, and districts, replacing the outdated and often fragmented system of local authorities that existed prior to 1974.

As a result, many new councils were established, merging existing authorities or creating entirely new ones to align with the new administrative boundaries.

This reshaping of local

government in 1974 represented a significant overhaul of the system and laid the groundwork for the modern structure of local governance in England and Wales.

The anniversary is also an opportunity to focus on the people – leaders, councillors and officers – who have served their local residents over the last half century.

## Lymm Sanctuary Hub expands projects and seeks community volunteers

LYMM Sanctuary Hub and Business Centre, fondly known as The Hub and based beside Lymm Library, is looking for more volunteers to support its community project expansion.

The drive coincides with the preparations in place to celebrate the 40th anniversary of 'Volunteers Week' which runs nationally 3-9 June.

The Sanctuary Hub is a Lymm

charity, established in 2019, comprising a community arm and a business centre. Chargeable services such as office and event room hire are delivered by the centre. Funds generated pay the Council to support the Library and also support several projects run by the community side of the charity.

Projects offer support to local people, particularly the vulnerable

and elderly, and span topics such as: memory loss, digital skills, SEND, counselling, companionship and environmental awareness (via its partner LEAF).

Many of the projects are now well-established and expanding rapidly. Memory loss groups such as Singing for the Brain and the Memory Café run on alternate Wednesday afternoons and attract upwards of 20 and 45 participants respectively.

Feedback has been fantastic. For participants, sessions improve their quality of life by adding positivity, laughter, social time and fun activities in an environment that is safe and friendly. For carers, there is respite and support, with many saying that they get their loved one back again and that the support and empathy around the carers table is invaluable.

The impact of these projects, offered for free due to additional funding obtained from the National Lottery's Reaching Communities grant, is great news locally, and particularly timely with the advent of Dementia Action week 13-19

May. The Hub also signposts many enquiries to other fantastic projects in the area, including: <https://www.facebook.com/DementiaFriendly.Warrington>, <https://www.warrington.gov.uk/living-well-hub>, and [www.warringtonva.org.uk/good-neighbours](https://www.warringtonva.org.uk/good-neighbours).

Meanwhile, many of the other community projects run by the Hub are also receiving wonderful feedback but, being newer, they are in need of more volunteers to increase the number of people that can be supported.

Volunteering can be hugely rewarding, flexible and doesn't have to take up much of your time. Opportunities to become a local volunteer in a friendly community group exist across several projects and for people of all ages and skill-bases.

To find out more about volunteering or the projects and services offered by The Hub, email Ceri at [volunteer@lymmshub.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@lymmshub.co.uk), call 01925 737950 or find further contacts at: [www.lymmshub.co.uk](http://www.lymmshub.co.uk)

### Volunteers needed

**Fancy becoming a community volunteer at Lymm Hub?**

**Our friendly community support groups cover: memory loss, digital skills, companionship, SEND & more**

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[volunteer@lymmshub.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@lymmshub.co.uk)



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# 50th anniversary of Cherry Tree Primary School

**A SERIES of special events has been held to mark the 50th anniversary of Cherry Tree Primary School, Lymm.**

The events, which began over the Easter holiday period, involved not only the school community but the wider Lymm community – including former pupils who attended the school over the last 50 years.

Events included a free Easter hunt trail around the village which encouraged families to spend time together.

Head teacher Helen Graham had been in touch with former pupils and gathered a series of photographs which showed how the school has changed since it first opened.

There were also stories of where Cherry Tree pupils are now.

Mrs Graham said: "The school has evolved substantially since it first opened. Our children now enjoy a huge range of outdoor play equipment which wasn't available to begin with. We have extended the school building to accommodate our growing needs. What has been wonderful to see is where lots of our former pupils are now and how they have gone on to achieve happiness and success in their chosen careers."

"We have certainly seen them blossom and grow, which is our key aim!"

The celebrations continued with the PTA anniversary disco which saw 200 of the school community

enjoy an evening of dancing and games.

There was also a non-uniform day with pupils and staff wearing party clothes or 70s outfits.

On the day itself there was a whole school assembly, which many former staff members and pupils attended.

Mrs Graham said: "We are very lucky to have an amazing school which has been enthusiastic in celebrating this milestone with us. Cherry Tree has always had a focus on fostering a supportive environment and nurturing our pupils' talents. This is clearly evident in all the success stories

we hear from former pupils, some of who have children who now attend the school, which is lovely to see and testament of the school's appeal."

Victoria Kirkham, a Cherry Tree Governor and former pupil, said: "It is wonderful to still be a part of Cherry Tree. I really enjoyed my time at the school as a pupil and made some lifelong memories. It has been great to become involved as a governor to be able to give something back. I consider my children really fortunate to attend such a great school, which focuses on ensuring they are happy so that they are best able to learn effectively and have solid foundations on which to build their future."



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# Countdown to Lymm Festival

**LYMM Festival is back again and this year from June 20-30, kicking off as always with the hugely popular Food Fest.**

Last year Lymm Festival marked its 25th year with a programme of over 50 events, many of which were sold out long before they took place. This year's programme is sure to be just as successful!

Highlights this year include an evening focused on "The Music The Beatles Gave Away", with veteran BBC rock music presenter "Whispering" Bob Harris, ably assisted by music journalist Colin Hall.

One of last year's favourite acts is also making a return. Gerald Dickens – great, great grandson of the legendary Charles Dickens – will be back to deliver another of his brilliant one-man shows. Last year his "Great Expectations" show exceeded the expectations of the audience, and this year he'll be presenting "The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby".

As usual, the first event is the Foodfest which takes place on Thursday 20 June. The village comes alive with stalls from local restaurants and street traders, together with street entertainment,

and gets everyone in the mood for what is to come. Organisers are hoping that the beautiful, sunny weather they had last year will return for this year's Foodfest!

Another favourite event is Lymm Historic Transport Day which will be on Sunday 23 June this year. The day opens with an eclectic vehicle parade (cars, vans, motorbikes, steam engines and more) through the village, followed by a full day of exhibits and activities on the May Queen Field. By the Canalside you'll find old working canal boats and a sail past in the afternoon. On the Henry Street Car Park will be a fantastic array of steam traction engines.

And there's a special visitor this year too. A flypast from a Lancaster bomber – one of only two of these legendary planes in the world which still takes to the air!

Lymm Library will be running a programme of events for kids all through the Festival – this year with a space theme. And there's more for younger residents – a Festival Family Fair on Saturday 29

June with a varied programme of activities and events (and free entry for all!) and a theatre performance for youngsters on Thursday 27 June – The Extraordinary Time-Travelling Adventures of Baron Munchausen, described as a cross between Jackanory and "Who's Line is it Anyway".

Music lovers will be pleased to know that the Festival Folk, Blues and Jazz nights are once again on the programme and the Festival Music Night features long-established covers band Touch the Pearl.

Sports lovers can enjoy open days for bowls and tennis – plus the newly-formed Lymm Chess Club have sessions too. And there are art and photographic exhibitions to enjoy as well!

And no Lymm Festival would be complete without the famous Scarecrow Trail – themed this year on Transport and Travellers!

Full details of all events are on the Festival website and in the guide which is delivered each year through every letter box in Lymm. Watch out for yours!



## Rain fails to stop play at Lymm May Queen

DESPITE the loss of the Lymm May Queen field due to poor drainage following heavy rain, organisers of the annual event are pressing ahead on Saturday May 18th.

Due to the unprecedented wet weather the May Queen field has experienced over the last six months, the grass field is not coping well with the raised water table.

Warrington Borough Council decided 4 weeks before the festival was due to take place that the May Queen field was not in a fit state to hold the event. The rain hasn't been the only concern; the drainage on the field has not operated effectively for quite some time, and last year's event had several large openings where the earth was washed away, with the largest opening measuring over 4 feet wide and several feet deep. The sinkholes pose a considerable risk to the safety of

residents and visitors.

The new May Queen Committee jumped into action with a full risk assessment to move the entirety of the event to the Davies Way and Henry Street car parks, in the centre of Lymm Village from 10 am until 5 pm. The main entrances will be at Bridgewater Street (WA13 0AD) and the entrance to Davies Way (WA13 0LP). This wasn't the first time the festival was moved, in 2018 the crowning ceremony was held at Lymm Hall when the 2017 May Queen was rained out. The committee intends to have the festival back on the field next year, but for now, this was the only option as other outdoor locations were in the same waterlogged condition.

The new committee has also organised the return of the fun fair with the historical provider, Silcocks. The Silcocks family in Lymm dates back to the 1980s, so organisers are excited to have them return with all-new rides to get the heart racing!

Lymm May Queen Chair Jenna Brown said: "The procession will have a new starting point from Pepper Street at 12 pm and make its way through the village on Eagle Brow, where it will turn down Brookfield Road and finish at the entrance of Davies Way. These changes meant that an entirely new Management Plan was created to include additional provisions for free parking, complete with a shuttle

service to and from the event. The Lymm Rugby Club (WA13 0AS) has graciously provided FREE parking and opened its Clubhouse to the public to serve food and drinks to those waiting for the next shuttle to arrive. The shuttle is expected to operate continuously around the village between 9:30 am and 5:30 pm.

She added: "The May Queen Event will have all the expected food and drink concessions, artisan stalls and a great entertainment line-up in the Main Arena starting with the Crowning of the Queens at 1:30 pm, followed by music and the award-winning A Class Dance Academy. The Fun Fair will have larger rides, including the Twister, Miami, and the classic Side Kick. Organisers haven't forgotten the little ones! There will be smaller versions of the funfair rides just for them, such as an animal farm, a circus, and The Savage Skills Stunt Show."



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# Rare chance to see Lancaster bomber



**ORGANISERS** of the popular Lymm Historic Transport Day have been "very lucky" to have secured a flypast from a Lancaster bomber in the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

Returning on the 23rd of June and now its eleventh year, Lymm Historic Transport Day has grown to become one of Cheshire's best-loved events, attracting people from across the country, with its profits going to local causes and this year has new and exciting attractions.

The day will begin at 10.30 am with a parade through the village of over 100 vehicles of all sorts, including cars, traction engines, cars, motorbikes and bicycles.

From 11.00 am the May Queen Field will be open with over 400 historic vehicles to see including cars from the movies, emergency vehicles, commercial vehicles as well as food and drink, market stalls and activities for all of the family.

By the Canalside there are old working canal boats and with a sail past at 4.00 pm. On the Henry Street Car Park will be a fantastic array of steam traction engines.

This year organisers are very lucky to have secured a flypast from a Lancaster bomber in the Battle of

Britain Memorial Flight, a very rare chance to see! one of only two of these legendary planes in the world which still takes to the air!

In the Village Hall, will be an eye-popping model railway set up as well as model tanks, whilst in Maple Lodge there'll be Lego displays and the chance for kids to have fun with some bricks.

There will be a park and ride from Crouchley Lane in a fleet of historic buses, all part of the experience. They have worked incredibly hard to keep costs down so that the prices are the same as last year (£6 for an adult, £3 for a child and £15 for a family ticket), which is incredible value for a full-day out. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time from the Lymm Festival box office or on the day.

The event is entirely organised and run by volunteers and there is still an opportunity to help out, in return for two free tickets to the day, if interested please contact them via their Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/lymmtransport](http://www.facebook.com/lymmtransport)



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# RNLI scroll visits Lymm for 200th anniversary

**A scroll celebrating 200 years of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) visited Lymm recently, on a journey to 300 sites around the UK.**

The visit of the 'Connecting our Communities' scroll is the latest event in the RNLI programme to celebrate 200 years of the lifeboat service.

The scroll was signed by Lymm District RNLI Fundraising Branch Chair, Rosemary Irons, who was joined by long-serving committee member and volunteer Libby Whittle. Rosemary said signing the scroll was an "honour and a privilege".

The scroll is made from bamboo paper and inscribed with the RNLI's One Crew pledge, with all participating lifeboat stations promising to continue saving lives at sea for the next 200 years and

beyond.

It began its journey on the RNLI's official 200 anniversary on March 4, at Westminster Abbey where it was signed by the RNLI's president, HRH The Duke of Kent, as well as the Archbishop of Canterbury and other dignitaries.

The scroll has a wooden spindle at each end made from a 19th Century flag pole from a lifeboat station on the Isle of Man and the case the scroll is travelling in has been made from recycled boat materials and includes a speaker that plays the pledge out loud for blind and partially-sighted people.

The Lymm Fundraising Branch, although not on the coast where

Pictures: John Hopkins

most of the RNLI branches are, has been going for over 70 years and provides vital fundraising for the charity.

The enthusiastic branch consists of six committee members and over 15 volunteers, who hold annual collections throughout Lymm including the upcoming Lymm

Transport Day on June 23, where there will be a scale replica model of a lifeboat on show.

If you would like to volunteer and help fundraise at local events, contact branch secretary Gaye Fletcher at [gayefletcher@talktalk.net](mailto:gayefletcher@talktalk.net)



Rosemary Irons and Libby Whittle.



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# London Marathon success for friends who raised over £8000 for Muscular Dystrophy UK

**THREE friends from Lymm – Jon Sheehy, Stuart James and Thanh Cawley – completed the London Marathon in aid of Muscular Dystrophy UK, raising over £8,000 in support of local twin boys with a rare form of the condition.**

Their charitable campaign saw many months of training and several fundraising events. The trio of runners ran in support of local twin boys, Oscar and Seb Spink, who were diagnosed at the age of 8 in July 2019 with Facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD).

Muscular Dystrophy UK is the charity for the 110,000 children and adults living with muscle-wasting conditions in the UK. There's currently no cure, and in many cases, it limits lives. MDUK do vital work in funding pioneering research into treatments and cures as well as providing vital information, advice, resources and support for individuals and families living with these conditions.

Many locals will know the Spink family and have seen the boys navigating the streets of Lymm in their wheelchairs, often on their way to and from Lymm High School. They are also well known in the Powerchair football league in the Man City wheelchair football team.

For the boys and their family,

everyday life presents enormous challenge. Despite the courage, tenacity and good humour they all display, the reality of life with Muscular Dystrophy involves specialist equipment, tests and appointments with spinal disorder, neuromuscular, orthopaedic, cardiovascular and audiology specialists. And then there is school SEND meetings, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, hydrotherapy and daily physiotherapy.

The boys miss a lot of school time and can't join in the majority of fun activities that their school friends can. Despite that, they work hard and are currently on course to take the same number of GCSEs as everyone else. Seb is a keen scientist, hoping to do something with chemistry and the natural world. Oscar loves design tech and wants to help create a more accessible world for wheelchair users.

The boys are kind and empathetic young men, proud to be disabled and advocate for those with muscle wasting conditions like

themselves who endure chronic fatigue and daily pain. There is currently no treatment available to halt the progression of their condition, which makes fundraising for research on FSHD so important.

Mum to the boys, Kerry Spink, said of the recent marathon fundraising: "We're so incredibly grateful when our amazing friends and family tackle challenges to raise funds for MDUK. Stuart, Jon and Thanh, all smashed the London Marathon with amazing times and made their muscles matter. I know that when they hit that wall with tired muscles, they pushed through remembering that the boys legs feel like that every day."

A huge thank you is extended by the three runners to the many

local people and businesses who supported their fundraising events.

One final fundraising competition remains open to the public with a fantastic prize draw of bridal accessories. If you know of a bride-to-be, please direct them to the competition offered by Thanh at: <https://www.facebook.com/daintytailor>

To read the team's story or make a donation to Muscular Dystrophy UK before the campaign page closes end of May, please visit [www.justgiving.com/page/js2london24](http://www.justgiving.com/page/js2london24). All donations, big or small, are greatly appreciated and will go towards critical research work and important support and resources.



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## New bid to open dog day-care centre

A NEW bid is being made to set up a day care centre for dogs on a Green Belt farm site at Lymm.

Planning chiefs threw out similar proposals by Bruce's Doggy Day Care last year on the grounds that the development would be inappropriate in the Green Belt.

They also argued that the proposal would have a detrimental impact on the wider landscape character at Wet Gate Farm, Wet Gate Lane, Lymm and that the presence of dogs on the site would have the potential to cause a noise nuisance.

The original scheme was for 70 dogs and the new application by Bruce's Doggy Day Care is for 50 dogs. The company says it operates like a children's nursery but for dogs.

It believes the centre – which would use existing buildings on

the site – would have a catchment area including Lymm, Warrington, Altrincham and Wilmslow.

It would provide a safe, controlled and purpose-built environment for the enjoyment, exercising and care of dogs.

The majority of dogs would be taken to the centre by a "dog bus" and it was estimated that less than 20 per cent would be brought by owners by car.

The site would not be open on Saturdays and Sunday and would operate between 7.30am and 6pm on weekdays. There would be no overnight stay for dogs on the site.

Dog buses would be air-conditioned vehicles fitted with vet-approved carriers.

When operating at full capacity there would be about five members of staff on site.

# Rugby club's Vaudeville Show tickets now on sale



**TICKETS are now on sale for Lymm Rugby Club's annual and renowned 'Vaudeville Show 2024'.**

Running for two nights, on Friday and Saturday 14 and 15 June in the clubhouse, the Lymm Panto troupe will be performing a show based on the theme of 'A Night at the Movies!'.

The variety-style show will feature a series of song and dance routines, and comedy sketches, which all follow the 'Movie' theme.

Running for over ten years, the Vaudeville Show is an annual fundraiser for the Lymm Grass Roots Clubhouse Appeal and guarantees audiences a superb night of entertainment.

'We are planning yet another spectacular showcase of fun and frolics, having successfully recruited even more first-team players,'

commented show producer Simon Plumb.

'If you have enjoyed past shows such as the infamous Lymm Panto and any of our previous summer shows, you will thoroughly enjoy this performance – it is not to be missed!'

Last year's Lymm Panto raised £30,000 for the Grassroots Appeal from eight shows over two weekends in December, with the performances bringing in fans from as far away as London and the North East.

Tickets are £25 each and are available by either emailing: [lymmrfclubmanager@outlook.com](mailto:lymmrfclubmanager@outlook.com) or by purchasing over the bar at the Rugby Club, or calling 01925 753212.

## Celebrity chef announces "bittersweet" decision to leave pub

CELEBRITY TV chef Aiden Byrne has announced a "bittersweet" decision to leave the popular Church Green Pub at Lymm.

Announcing the decision on Facebook Aiden and his wife Sarah posted: "After 16 incredible years, Sarah and I have reached the bittersweet decision to step away from The Church Green on the 19th of May. This journey has been filled with countless memories, laughter, and shared moments that we will forever cherish.

"We want to extend our deepest gratitude to each one of you—our amazing customers, dedicated suppliers, and invaluable team members—for your unwavering support and commitment to TCG and the vibrant community of Lymm Village. Your patronage and friendship have been the heart and soul of this establishment, and we are endlessly grateful for the relationships we've built over the years.

"As we embark on this new chapter to pursue other opportunities, we leave knowing that The Church Green will continue to thrive under the care of another independent operator, who will undoubtedly bring their own passion and vision to this beloved space. We have every confidence that you will be in excellent hands, and we eagerly anticipate the exciting journey ahead for all involved.

"With a couple more weeks before we bid farewell, we hope to see as many of you in person as possible. Let's share a toast to



the memories we've made and the friendships we've forged.

Once again, thank you from the depths of our hearts for being a part of our story. Your support has been the foundation of our success, and we will forever cherish the memories we've created together. Here's to the future and the enduring spirit of community that binds us all.

"With heartfelt gratitude", Aiden & Sarah x

The celebrity chef is best known for opening The Collingwood pub in West Kirby a number of years ago. He also runs the British Grill in the Macdonald Hotel at Craxton Wood, near Chester.

In 2002, he earned a Michelin star for his cooking in The Commons Restaurant in Dublin, Ireland.

In 2013/14, Byrne opened a new restaurant in the city of Manchester called Manchester House, which cost around £3 million to create. Byrne's journey to opening this restaurant was featured in a three-part series for BBC Two called Restaurant Wars: The Battle for Manchester which was aired on the channel throughout April 2014.



## Divorce Column

By Peter Wilkinson  
Divorce Lawyer at Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

### Child arrangements

There is no doubt that when a relationship breaks down it can be a very difficult and distressing experience for all those involved. There can be a lot to deal with and emotions tend to run high. Whilst this is not a piece about the psychological impact of divorce on children, it is important to understand that when parents separate it can have a profound impact on the children and they too will likely feel a whole range of emotions, perhaps shock, upset, anger, confusion, worry, rejection, insecurity and so on.

Separating parents may have several questions concerning their children, such as: Who will they live with? How often will I see them? What happens if we don't agree? The list goes on. The broad answer is that parents are free to try to agree between themselves whatever they like regarding arrangements concerning their children and in my experience many parents do reach their own agreement. But in cases where for whatever reason the parents don't agree then the court can make orders to determine the arrangements.

A Child Arrangements Order (CAO) is an order which may state whom a child shall live with and when they shall spend time with the other parent, or another person, and which may also address different types of contact such as phone calls and video calls for example. Child Arrangements Orders replace 'residence orders' and 'contact orders' but if you have one of these older types of order there is no need to reapply for a CAO as your existing order is still valid.

The court can also make other types of orders concerning children such as a 'specific issue order' and a 'prohibited steps order'. A specific issue order is an order which deals with a particular (specific) issue, such as for example, which school a child should attend, or an issue concerning religion or medical treatment. A prohibited steps order, as the name suggests, is an order which is used to prevent a parent from doing something such as relocating with a child or changing the child's surname.

If you are in need of advice and assistance regarding a matter of child arrangements then feel free to get in touch – we have a lot of experience advising, guiding and supporting clients in this area of law.

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# Club launch Walking Tennis

**MANOR Road Tennis Club based at Lymm Rugby Club is launching Walking Tennis which is safe, fun and inclusive and a fantastic way to stay active!**

It's a game that is open to anyone – whether you're a lifelong tennis player, a complete beginner or just need a bit more time to get into the swing of things, you can give the game a go in a supportive setting.

Lymm Manor Road Tennis Club, in the walled garden of Lymm Rugby Club, invites people of all ages to play Walking Tennis and offers an easy way for older people to keep their body and mind active – while also enjoying the social side of being part of a

tennis community.

Coming back from injury or a complete beginner – Walking Tennis is for you, any age and any ability.

This is open to all ages and abilities, members and non-members welcome (Non-members £4).

Spread the word, bring a chum – it'll be fun!

For more details call 07786 879324



## Lymm in frantic season end finale

by Neil Allen

THE curtain came down on a highly successful frantic finale first season at level 4 as Lymm travelled to the beautiful Yorkshire Dales to face Wharfedale in the last match of season.

Having already secured their place in the league for next season, this game always had a feel of, 'after the Lord Mayors Show' with multiple retirements also signalled pre-match, the game itself had a secondary feel.

With the majority of Lymm having travelled to sample the Yorkshire hospitality the centre of Grassington resembled Lymdale on Saturday morning, as spectators travelled in great numbers to celebrate the teams achievements and enjoy the local hostilities and some retail therapy.

In terms of the Lymm line-up, the notable change came in the shape of Jack Reynolds, who came in for Tom Shard at stand-off, who was

unavailable due to the arrival of his second baby. Congratulations Tom on this and a great season. Jack Stride was also given a start at centre, in place of Steve Pilkington, who was not fully fit and only made the bench.

The entertaining Wharfedale tannoy announcer started proceedings with a wonderful tribute to the retiring Gav Woods and the game got underway in slight drizzle and with Lymm playing with the benefit of a slight breeze. The pattern for the day was set from the off, with Wharfedale looking to run the ball at every opportunity, and Lymm, Josh Hadland apart, being rather laissez faire in the art of defending and tackling.

After 2 minutes the Wharfedale prop picked up from a ruck on the half-way line and managed to go over under the posts unopposed. Lymm responded with a penalty from Jack Reynolds who enjoyed

a 100% record from the kicking tee. Lymm then crafted a try of their own, a deft grubber kick by Reynolds was gathered by Alfie Simpson who dotted down to give Lymm the lead 10-7 after 10 minutes.

This was to be the last time Lymm would manage to get their noses in front, as Wharfedale upped the ante, led by the half-backs who were a constant menace all day, Wharfedale ran in 3 tries before the break, the last a penalty try which culminated in a yellow card for Matty Hand. To avoid uncontested scrums, the yellow card for Hand saw Jordan Widdrington enter the fray for his last game. This proved to be an entertaining final bow, culminating in a yellow card of his own, and a streak round the pitch at the final whistle, punishment due as he was try-less all season, to both the amusement and horror of the bumper crowd.

At 28-10 down Lymm were looking at a long afternoon ahead, but on the stroke of half time managed a score for themselves through the final retiree James Kimber, to make the score 28-17 at the break and give Lymm a glimmer of hope.

The second half started more quietly with both sides making mistakes. Despite Lymm enjoying more possession the Wharfedale defence, which was excellent all day, proved a tough nut to crack. After soaking up all Lymm had to offer, Wharfedale went on the offensive and crossed the line twice to make it 42-17 after 55 minutes.

Lymm then finally got some reward for their probing as No 8 Oli Higginson (Pictured top) went over to take the score to 42-24. With fifteen minutes to go the game was now wide open with both sides throwing the ball about in full end-

of-season mode. Lymm more than matched Wharfedale, with Callum Morris and the ever-present Paddy Jennings to the fore, but every Lymm mistake was pounced on by Wharfedale who were rather more clinical than Lymm. Lymm added one more score to at least record a bonus point, with Kimber going over for his second, a fitting end to a great career, to make the final score 59-31.

Final score: Wharfedale 59 – Lymm 31

This was not the end to the season Lymm would have wanted, but the day was less about the result and far more about what had gone before. The players, coaches and retirees should be enormously proud of all they have achieved and the pleasure they have given to the spectators as witnessed by the travelling Lymm posse.

Following this frantic season end, it was time for everyone to take a deep breath and look forward to doing it all again in September. Afterwards, when all league results were in, Lymm achieved 10th place above Preston, thereby retaining their position next season at this level, due to having one more, aforementioned bonus try point.

Director of Rugby Adam Fletcher commented on the match and the season as a whole: "We desperately wanted to put in a good performance for all the travelling support, unfortunately, we ran into a pretty hot Wharfedale side.

"Defensively we were poor and Wharfedale took advantage of this. I was pleased with the tries we scored and how we tried to attack.

"The support was brilliant and much appreciated and has been all season. The boys are looking forward to a well-deserved rest," he concluded.

## Success on the pitch poses revenue challenges for rugby club

SUCCESS on the pitch is causing revenue challenges for Lymm Rugby Club – and has resulted in another planning application for permission to store caravans at the club's Crouchley Lane ground.

The application – for permission to store up to 75 caravans for a temporary period of 18 months – has been submitted to Warrington Borough Council's planning department.

It follows earlier similar applications in 2020 and 2022.

Documents submitted to Warrington Borough Council planners set out how the original application was granted in recognition of a threat posed to the future of the club through to lost revenues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The club is now back in full operation but continues to face revenue problems due to inflation and increased costs following the successful 2022-23 season when the first team was promoted to Liven 4 National League 2 North – the highest level the club had ever

played at.

Temporary caravan storage had generated an income stream that had proved to be critical in supporting and sustaining the rugby club and its future development.

The caravans were stored on existing hardstanding not required for car parking.

Upon expiry of the temporary consent, the land would revert to its previous approved use – the future development of new rugby club facilities

The granting of the additional temporary consent would not change any of the sporting facilities or activities at the rugby club. Existing pitches and clubhouse facilities would remain unchanged. Planning officers will now consider the application.

Lymm Rugby Club was established in 1960 and has grown to become a substantial community enterprise with more than 1,000 members. It promotes an active calendar of events throughout the year in addition to its core sporting activities.



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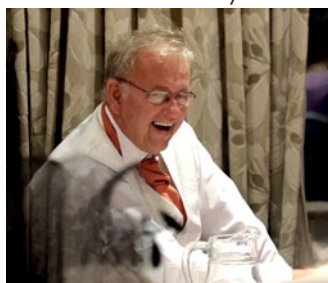
## David Owen Meehan

THE funeral has taken place of David Meehan of Albany Road, Lymm, who passed away at home aged 71 following a period of illness.

The service took place at Dunham Crematorium on May 16. David is survived by his wife

Elaine, daughter Suzanne and son David.

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