

# Lymm Life

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ISSUE 309 | APRIL 2025  
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## Ancient charity with modern outlook

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# Editor's Comment



**WITH the ongoing cost-of-living crisis and tough times for many – it never ceases to amaze me the amount of charitable work ongoing in the local community – and the generosity of people willing to help those in need.**

We regularly feature the charitable endeavours of local people within the pages of Lymm Life – and this month we have featured the work of the Lymm Clothing Charity – possibly the oldest charity in the village dating back to the 1600s.

I'm certainly not aware of an older active charity in the village – but if you know of one, please let me know as it would make an excellent feature!

Chair of the Lymm Clothing Charity is well known local figure Kath Buckley, a former local Cllr, who has had been strings to her bow in the village – and continues to do so. Her predecessor was another well known charter, the late Peter Powell, well known as the village town crier.

This charity has kept a relatively low profile over the years but in these difficult times, I am sure demand for help and support will be greater than ever.

Like local businesses, charities are going to suffer from cutbacks – so if you can continue to support them as and when you can, please do so.

Elsewhere in this issue you can read about Dunky's Day Nurseries and the incredible £20,000 they have raised over recent years for the Children's Adventure Farm Trust, just down the road in Little Bollington – this kind of money is life-changing for those in need.

For those charities and organisations looking for financial

support in the year ahead, please make sure you apply for the parish council grants (see page 5).

Finally, a huge congratulations to Alan Williams and the team at Lymm heritage Centre on welcoming their 40,000th visitors.

A truly remarkable achievement how the heritage centre has continued to go from strength to strength, thanks to the hard-working volunteers.

It is certainly a great asset to the village.

**Deadline for the  
May issue of  
Lymm Life is April 1**

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# Lymm Clothing Charity – an ancient charity with a modern outlook

**STARTING in the 1690s, Lymm Clothing Charity originally gave out clothes and money to the poor in Lymm.**

Over the years it benefited from various legacies, but has always tried to move with the times. Since the 1900s it has always just given money to those who need it in Lymm.

Kath Buckley Chair of the charity said: "It is an honour and great pleasure to be chair of such a worthwhile, focused charity. Since becoming chair two years ago I and the committee have tried to reach out to those in Lymm who need our charity. To this end I have given talks to many organisations in Lymm such as The Rotary, Lymm Youth and Community Centre; I have visited and spoken to Outrington Luncheon Club, The Sanctuary Café, distributing to them our application form etc. I have also been on Mix 56 – they also have our application form. I have also communicated with all the schools in Lymm both primary and secondary, explaining who we are and of course giving them our application form. As I am also Chair of The Citizen's Advice Bureau for Warrington, they also have our information.

"I have with the committee's permission, changed how we operate and we now tend to give out fewer but more substantial sums of money to those who apply to us. Currently in the last two years we

have given out nearly four thousand pounds to people in Lymm. This has been for: broken appliances and other household items, food, and other things as the need has arisen. Most of our applications have come from schools identifying families who need our help.

"The charity meets four times a year and we have a set amount that we can give out each year –

roughly one and a half thousand pounds. We have given out slightly more recently as the charity did not give out a lot during Covid.

"Application to benefit from our charity is simple, an easy one-sided form has to be filled in and the criteria are that the person/family has to live in Lymm and of course that they are a genuine case.

For more details email [kjbuckley@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kjbuckley@hotmail.co.uk)



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



### LYMM PARISH COUNCIL

Next meeting Tuesday April 8th, 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@stones.co.uk](mailto:cath@stones.co.uk)

### PROBUS CLUB OF LYMM

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

### LYMM DINGLE PROBUS CLUB

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

### FRIENDS OF LYMM LIBRARY CRAFT GROUP

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

### HEATLEY WI

Meets the second Thursday of each month at Oughtrington Junior School, 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 8th, 7:30pm  
See parish council website for details.

# Lymm starts to plan celebrations for the 80th anniversary of VE Day



**LYMM Parish Council is already starting to plan celebrations for the 80th anniversary of VE Day.**

Residents in the village know how to put on, and enjoy, an event. Lymm Parish Council is now inviting residents and members of local organisations to get involved and help plan a schedule of events to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

Those with ideas are being invited to attend a special meeting at the village hall meeting room (side door of the village hall) and get involved. The Events Committee is being held on March 17th at 6pm.

Bruno Peek, pageantmaster of VE Day 80 shares that "On 8 May 2025, we mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, our nation will unite to celebrate 80 years of peace since the end of World War II in Europe. VE Day 80 is not only a tribute to those who fought for freedom but also a powerful reminder of the resilience and unity

that have defined our country ever since."

Part of the suggested national programme is the lighting of a beacon, as well as the lighting of lamplights of peace.

Ann Johnstone, Chair of the Parish Council added: "Lymm saw fantastic celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and is now looking forward to bringing the village together to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day. This will be a very special day and reminds us of the importance of freedom and peace. We are hoping that residents, volunteers and organisations will join us in planning another set of events and activities that the whole village can enjoy and celebrate VE Day."

For those unable to attend in person, please submit your ideas to the Clerk by 5pm on March 17, to [clerk@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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# Community meeting to address bus concerns at Lymm

**AN estimated 130 residents gathered at Lymm Village Hall to voice their concerns about the bus services between Lymm and Altrincham.**

The meeting, attended by officers from Warrington Borough Council and Transport for Greater Manchester, provided a valuable opportunity to collect feedback aimed at enhancing the new Bee Network and its cross-boundary operations.

The recent transition from the X5 service, which previously ran from Warrington to Altrincham, to the current service has prompted calls for extended operating hours and increased frequency. Currently, the service runs every two hours, and residents are advocating for more regular intervals.

Additionally, attendees highlighted the need for improvements to the service between Dunham, Warburton, and Lymm. The 280 service has faced challenges in recent years due to the reclassification of a canal bridge, which has disrupted rural connectivity.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Graham Gowland, with

contributions and support from local Borough and Parish Councillors representing the affected parishes. Councillor Ian Marks led a discussion towards the end of the meeting, focusing on the changes to the service in Statham.

Officers from both councils were receptive to the issues raised and committed to exploring potential service improvements to better meet the community's needs.

Officers will review the feedback collected during the meeting and document specific issues and suggestions. Progress will be communicated through meetings, newsletters, local media Community meeting, and social media to keep the community informed about upcoming changes.

## How Residents Can Stay Involved

Residents can stay involved by attending follow-up meetings, joining community groups, staying informed through council updates, and encouraging others

to participate. By staying active and engaged, residents can play a crucial role in shaping the future of local transportation services. Most importantly, residents are encouraged to use the local buses to support the service.

A spokesperson for Warrington's

Own Buses said: "The X5 was a popular service providing direct buses from Warrington and Lymm to Altrincham and Manchester Airport.

"Warrington's Own Buses are keen to work with TfGM to explore any new opportunities to reinstate the contract for this service."



## Up to eight weeks of road closures on A56 Higher Lane

UP to eight weeks of evening road closures are scheduled for the A56 Higher Lane at Lymm for carriageway resurfacing works.

The closures will take place between 7 pm-1 am in a bid to minimise disruption.

Warrington Borough Council has given notice it intends to make an Order under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The effect of which will be to introduce a prohibition of driving & clearway as follows: A56 Higher Lane from its junction with High Legh Road & Burford Lane to the Borough Boundary; High Legh Road from its junction with Higher Lane to Kay Lane.

The Order will be effective from 24th March 2025. The restrictions are for a period of 8 weeks, between 7pm to 1am, however,

will be in place as and when signed on site. Access will be under the control of the relevant Contractor for the duration of the works. The alternative routes will be as follows: A56 Higher Lane via B5159 High Legh Road, B5159 West Lane, A50 Warrington Road, A556 (north), A56 Lymm Road, A56 Agden Brow or via A56 Agden Brow, A56 Lymm Road, A556 (south) A5034 Chester Road, A50 Warrington Road, B5159 West Lane, B5159 High Legh Road; High Legh Road via B5159 West Lane, A50 Warrington Road, A50 Cliff Lane, A50 Knutsford Road, A56 Stockport Road, A56 Camsley Lane, A56 Booths Hill Road, A56 Higher Lane and vice versa. The restrictions are required for carriageway resurfacing.

## Parish council open applications for grant funding

LYMM Parish Council has opened applications for grant funding for local community projects.

Local community groups or organisations planning to run events in Lymm for Lymm residents could be eligible for grant funding from Lymm Parish Council.

Round 1 for 2025-26 is now open, with a funding pot of £8,000 to share amongst deserving causes.

The application deadline is March 28th, 2025, and project delivery must take place or start between April and September 2025.

Previous successful applicants include Lymm Festival who used their funding for hiring the

village hall, Lymm in Bloom who purchased tools, equipment and plants for the village, Lymm Repair Café for hall hire and setup costs, and May Queen Festival who used their funding for running costs for the community event.

If you have an event, a project or a group that would like to receive funding, all the updated guidelines and application forms can be found on the Parish Council website – [www.lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk). If you would like to chat about your idea, contact the clerk on 07741 877870 or email [clerk@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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# Councillor vacancy for Lymm North ward

**LYMM Parish Council currently has a Parish Councillor vacancy which will be filled at the Full Council meeting in April, and will be voted for by the current 11 Councillors.**

The meeting will take place on April 8th, at 7.30pm in the village hall (Pepper Street) and the vacancy follows the resignation of Emma Langman.

Councillors have three main components to their work.

1. Decision making – Through attending meetings and committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented.

2. Monitoring – Councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.

3. Getting involved locally – As local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. These responsibilities and duties often depend on what the councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has lots of free, useful information including "The Good Councillor's Guide" which are a worthwhile read to help you make your decision. See [www.nalc.gov.uk](http://www.nalc.gov.uk)

Quite often councillors say that their duties occupy them for a few hours a week. There are some councillors who spend more time

than this – and some less. You would need to attend the monthly Full Council meetings as well as joining at least one committee and working group.

As a councillor representing your community you will:

1. Help keep Lymm a great place to live, visit and work
2. Have a positive outlook and can-do attitude
3. Be willing to work as part of a

team, supporting decisions of the Council

4. Have excellent communication skills
5. Be supported in your role by officers and fellow Councillors
6. Need to undertake training (the Parish Council has legal limitations)
7. Feel a sense of reward, accomplishment and 'giving back'.

If you think you would like to become a Parish Councillor you need to complete and return an

application form. You must meet certain other criteria to be eligible to apply. Check out the Become a Councillor page of the website or feel free to contact the Clerk if you would like to talk about becoming a Parish Councillor. Application forms are available on the Parish Council website.

[www.lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk/become-a-councillor](http://www.lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk/become-a-councillor)

The closing date for applications is 5pm, 31st March 2025.



## Care home residents celebrate World Spa Day

RESIDENTS at Keate House Care Home in Lymm indulged in a day of relaxation and self-care as they celebrated World Spa Day.

The care home's beauty salon was transformed into a serene sanctuary, offering an array of pampering treatments to enhance well-being and rejuvenation.

Residents were treated to soothing facials, gentle hand massages, and elegant manicures, all while enjoying the calming scent of lavender oil wafting through the air. Soft, tranquil music played in the background, creating the perfect atmosphere for relaxation and indulgence.

The event brought smiles and

serenity to everyone involved, offering not just physical pampering but also a sense of peace and connection. Staff ensured that each resident felt cherished and cared for, making the spa experience truly special.

One resident said: "It was such a lovely treat! The hand massage was so relaxing, and the whole experience made me feel refreshed and happy."

The team at Keate House Care Home frequently organises special activities to promote residents' well-being, and World Spa Day was another example of their dedication to providing enriching and enjoyable experiences.





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# Local councillor plays out of his skin at Warrington Blues Club

**LOCAL Cllr Bob Hignett played out of his skin at the Warrington Blues Club venue the Bellhouse Olde Barn in Grappenhall to a packed house.**

The Lymm and Thelwall North Cllr. is a member of the blues band

the Oil Chickens and has been performing with various groups

over many years.

Former Mayor Geoff Settle had bought his ticket before Christmas and had been looking forward to seeing Bob on his drums since he

worked with him at Fraser Williams Consultants back in the 1980s.

Geoff said, "I met Bob when he joined me at Frasers. He arrived as a fresh-faced Math graduate and impressed me then with his IT skills. The former mayoress also knew him at Liverpool University because she was the secretary for the math's department and said that he was a nice bloke who would go far, and he has."

"In fact, I was on the mayor's table at the event and current Mayor Wendy Johnson echoed the same sentiment."

Geoff added, "The venue is a great place for bands to play and is very welcoming. I will be back for more at a bargain price of £13. Maybe Bob will feature one day on Radio Warrington, perhaps as a guest of The Rock God?"

"The Oil Chickens play cool blues and smooth tunes from the likes of Steely Dan, Kansas, Albert King, Walter Wolfman Washington, lots of stuff you'll know. The Oil Chickens have been performing together for 20 years, and it shows. Until recently, one of the members, Dave Goldberg (keyboards and vocals) played in the group Rumours of Fleetwood Mac. They also do a Rod Stewart and Faces tribute. So, something for all tastes."



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# Stanley Gibbons to host free valuation day at Statham Lodge

**STANLEY Gibbons is hosting a free valuation day for coins, stamps, medals, gold and silver, bullion and gold jewellery at Statham Lodge, Lymm on March 25th.**

With over 300 years of combined heritage in stamps, coins and collectibles, Stanley Gibbons Baldwin's offer honest, reliable guidance on the value of your collection. If you choose to sell, we can also guide you through the process!

The event at Statham Lodge

Hotel, Warrington Rd, Lymm WA13 9BP takes place from 9.30am - 2.00pm

To book your FREE appointment please email [valuationday@stanleygibbons.com](mailto:valuationday@stanleygibbons.com) or visit <https://sgbaldwins.com/en-GB/valuationday> to learn more and book online.




## Run for #TeamRoccos in 2025



We are looking for runners of all abilities to join #TeamRoccos to help raise funds for patient care.

We are returning to the streets of Manchester for the **Great Manchester Run on Sunday 18th May 2025** and in celebration of our 40th anniversary we are once again the official **Charity Partner** for the **2025 Warrington Running Festival on Sunday 21st September**.

Through Run for Charity we have a number of **free places** available for both local and regional running events so there's something for everyone!

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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.

# Day nurseries raise £20,000 for Children's Adventure Farm Trust



## A FAMILY-run group of day nurseries and forest schools in Cheshire and Warrington has raised more than £20,000 for The Children's Adventure Farm Trust, near Lymm.

Dunky's runs seven day nurseries in the area and has been fundraising for the charity for five years.

Each children's nursery carries out a series of fundraising events throughout the year to contribute to the group's total.

The Children's Adventure Farm Trust (CAFT) makes a big difference to children who are living challenging lives due to illness, disability and disadvantage.

The charity provides day trips, short breaks and respite activities for thousands of children from all over the North West who may have complex medical needs, special educational needs and disability or are socially disadvantaged. Last year, it supported 16,800 visits for children aged 0-17 who needed it most.

Dunky's Day Nursery was founded by Siobhan McCarroll to provide high standards of early years care and education for children.

Siobhan said: "Wherever we have a nursery, we like to build strong links to support our local community."

"We have fundraised for a number of charities over the years and one that is particularly special to us is CAFT."

"We started supporting CAFT five years ago after a group of our managers went to visit the farm and saw first-hand all the amazing work they do there for local children and families."

"We've been fundraising for them ever since and all our nurseries get involved to lend their support, coming up with events and activities throughout the year."

"Last year we raised £6,430 for CAFT between all seven of

our nurseries in Cheshire and Warrington, and over the last five years we're proud to have raised a total of £20,844.90 for the charity."

"It is a whole company effort and our teams come up with lots of inspiring ways to fund raise. We've done company hikes up Snowdon, the parents from our day nursery in Runcorn put on bingo nights, and our Culcheth Day Nursery team cycled for 10 hours on exercise bikes in our entrance."

"We've also done sponsored dog and children and families walks at weekends around the nature reserve Pennington Flash."

"Dunky's Day Nursery Sankey has put on Christmas craft nights, while our Hapsford nursery did sponsored walks around the village and took cards and gifts to local residents."

"Our Farnworth nursery hosted summer fayre events, an Easter Bonanza and did summer barbecues. It's a huge team effort. "We're looking forward to carrying on supporting them throughout 2025."

Hannah Grahame, Fundraising Lead for CAFT, said: "More than anything, I'd like to thank Dunky's for all they do to support our work, helping children across the North West who are living with chronic illness, disability, and social disadvantage."

"This year we aim to provide 21,000 free visits to CAFT and to do that we need to raise over £1 million. The kind support we receive from many community groups and individuals makes this possible and we are so grateful for the last five years of fundraising from Dunky's, who have helped us make a positive difference for so many."

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# Lymm Heritage Centre welcomes 40,000th visitors

**A couple from Gloucestershire got more than they bargained for when they visited Lymm Heritage Centre recently.**

Sally and Graham de Meurs were making a special visit to the Heritage Centre as their family research showed they had several ancestors from the area and they were keen to understand more about them and their lives. The team on duty at the Centre were able to answer many of their questions before revealing that Sally and Graham were the 40,000th visitors since the Centre opened in June 2017. They are pictured below with Centre trustee and volunteer Glynis Allen who presented them with a copy of "Lymm - A Journey Through Time" as a memento of their visit. The Centre received this message from Sally the following day ...

"Your help guided us on our next discovery about our family. We can't thank you enough for the generous time you spent with us, so welcoming and enthusiastic. Thanks for a great visit. It was great to meet you all and to think that our heritage is being looked after so well.

"Thank you so much for the book you kindly gave to us as we were your 40,000th visitors, most unexpected but we know we will enjoy reading it"

The visit from Sally and Graham came at the end of what had already been a record breaking month. Centre treasurer Patrick Knowles said: "We welcomed over 650 visitors during February, a month when many Centres like ours are closed for the winter season. People have been coming mainly to see the film produced by Alan Williams that tells the story of the Dunham Embankment and looks at the breach, its likely causes and its potential impact on places like Lymm."

Lymm Heritage Centre is open 12-4 Thursday to Sunday at 1 Lehigh St WA13 0DA. Much more information at [lymmhlc.co.uk](http://lymmhlc.co.uk) including details of the current exhibition - BREACH! detailing the story behind the New Year's Day breach of the Bridgewater Canal and its consequences.



## Divorce Column

By Peter Wilkinson

Divorce Lawyer at Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

### Quick fire questions

#### 1. How long does a divorce take?

It will take at least 26 weeks from start to finish. There will be a 20 week holding period (sometimes referred to as a cooling off period) between the date of the divorce application and the making of a conditional order and there must be a period of at least 6 weeks from conditional order to applying for a final order.

#### 2. Do I need consent to divorce?

No, consent is not required. We live in an era of no-fault divorce so all that's required is for you to state in your application that the marriage has irretrievably broken down and whether or not your spouse agrees with this or consents to a divorce is irrelevant.

#### 3. Does it matter who starts the divorce?

No, in the sense that it will make no difference to the outcome of sorting out the finances ancillary to divorce or to resolving any dispute concerning child arrangements. But in sole applicant cases (as opposed to joint) the sole applicant will be in the driving seat and so have more control over the timing of some aspects of the divorce process and there may be a benefit in being in this position.

#### 4. How much does a divorce cost?

It can and does vary. Many solicitors will deal with the divorce on a fixed fee basis. The fixed fee can of course vary from one firm to another but typically you should expect to have to pay a few hundred pounds plus the court fee. There will be vat on the solicitors' charges but there is no vat on the court fee. The costs of sorting out finances and child arrangements are separate from the costs of the divorce.

#### 5. How long do I have to be married before I can divorce?

You must be married for at least 12 months before you can apply for a divorce. You can of course enter into negotiations over finances and child arrangements from the moment you separate even if you cannot straightaway apply for a divorce.

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# Lymm and Great Sankey high schools named winners in "Youth Speaks" competition



**LYMM High School and Great Sankey High School were named winners of the Warrington heat of the annual "Youth Speaks" public speaking competition.**

The event, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Warrington, was held at Stockton Heath Methodist Church.

Cardinal Newman RC High School, Great Sankey High School and Lymm High School entered six teams across the Intermediate and senior categories.

Topics chosen for debate included: "Slang – does it create communities or destroy young minds?", "Protecting the oceans", "Women in science" and "We as women" and other topics.

The eventual winners were Lymm High School (intermediate category) who spoke on "The

impact of advertising on young people" and Great Sankey High School (senior category) who spoke on "The impact sport has on mental health".

All the students presented their subjects with enthusiasm and commitment to their chosen subjects.

This year 45 schools entered 89 teams sponsored by Rotary clubs, giving a voice to young people,

across the North West to speak about what matters to them.

The winners from Warrington along with other district final winners will progress to the next stage aiming to eventually reach the North of England Youth Speaks Final.

Special guest at the event was the Mayor of Warrington Cllr Wendy Johnson, pictured with some of the students.



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## Oughtrington Bowling Club joining the Great British Bowling Weekend



Oughtrington Bowling Club based at Stage Lane, is following up on last year's Great British Bowling Weekend with another open day for the start of the 2025 season.

The club now boasts more than 100 members with an age range across 70 years.

The green will be open to visitors between 10am and 3pm on Saturday 19th April for a go at bowls and a cup of tea.

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

The Club has teams in competitive leagues playing across

Cheshire, but also welcomes those who enjoy a social game on a sunny afternoon"

Club Secretary Mike Smith Groves said: "The health benefits of bowling are recognised nationally – whether from the benefits of being outside, physical activity – not necessarily too strenuous, meeting other people – a good stretch of the limbs and a great way to de-stress after a busy day"

The Club can provide instruction and bowls for new starters to try things out and would be delighted to meet anyone interested on the open day or they can be contacted via email at [oughtringtonbc@outlook.com](mailto:oughtringtonbc@outlook.com)

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