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Magazine

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ISSUE 311 | JUNE 2025
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Popular Vaudeville show returns

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Editor's Comment



FIRSTLY I would like to congratulate everyone involved in the recent 80th anniversary commemorations of VE Day - Lymm certainly led the way in the Warrington area, with a whole host of events.

The red, white and blue was certainly a great way to build up to festival season here in the village, with a whole host of activities taking place for the annual Lymm Festival and Lymm Historic Transport Day - the annual events which bring so much joy to the village.

Over the years it has been getting harder and harder to find volunteers to help run these important community events.

With this in mind, one of the oldest community organisations in the village, Lymm Rotary club is seeking new members to help keep local traditions going like the annual Santa Float which helps raise thousands of pounds for good causes.

The group is seeking people who like to help make a difference in our community. It's not that long ago that the club nearly folded, so it is important they recruit new blood.

The group is united in a desire to put something back into the local community and do so, in the main, by fundraising for local causes and in doing so they are also able to enjoy the friendship, fellowship and social aspects of being part of the Rotary family.

They meet twice a month - for approximately an hour - in Warburton Parish Rooms at 8.00pm. If they choose to do so, members can enjoy a social meal out together at a local pub beforehand.

Over the last 12 months : the Scouts and Brownies, the Memory Clinic, Sanctuary Café, our local Schools, the Rugby Club, Gend'ai, The Cricket Club, Lymm Clothing Charity, St. Rocco's Hospice, The Christie, our local care homes and many more besides have benefitted from the Santa Float fundraising.

So, if you'd like to help them to continue to 'make that difference', and to uphold their long tradition of bringing smiles and enjoyment to residents at Christmas time and you are able to spare an hour a fortnight, then please do contact Mike Hall mikehall13@icloud.com or Jill Dobson at jillsmixinghouse@gmail.com and help keep this group going.



Tracey Turton

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Popular Vaudeville show returns to rugby club

TICKETS are now available for the Vaudeville show 2025, performed by the infamous Lymm Panto troupe, in Lymm Rugby Club's summer marquee, based on the theme 'A Night at the Movies!'

The show includes exciting song and dance routines and laugh-out-loud comedy sketches. Launched over ten years ago, the Vaudeville Show guarantees you a superb night of entertainment on Friday 20th June 2025.

Lizzie Roberts, Sara Worton, Brian Hope, Paul Rigby, Adam Halford and ventriloquist Simon Plumb are just a few of the regular cast members and known to many as excellent performers.

All are busy putting a unique show together after an outstanding, hilarious and successful run of 'Scrooge', the Lymm Panto, last December.

'It has been a few years since

we performed the Vaudeville show in a summer marquee but we are delighted to be back,' commented show producer Simon Plumb. 'We are planning for it to be bigger and better than ever, and also delighted to be part of the Lymm Festival!'

Launched over ten years ago, and with a considerable reputation to uphold, regular audience members of this, and the Lymm Panto, will know the Vaudeville Show guarantees you a superb night of exciting and, at times, raucous entertainment.

Buy tickets online, at £25 each, by visiting: Vaudeville 2025 in the Marquee or lymmrugby.co.uk/club/future-ticketing



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What's On in conjunction with Lymm Parish Council



LYMM PARISH COUNCIL

Next meeting Tuesday June 10th, 7:30pm
Lymm Parish Hall
Check www.lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk for details.

LYMM MAY QUEEN

May/Rose Queen selection May 17th
May Queen Festival July 5th

LYMM THURSDAY EVENING BRIDGE CLUB

Lymm Village Hall every Thursday 7pm
Details: 07708 172015

MAPLE LODGE ART GROUP

Meet each Wednesday 9.30am - 11.30pm
Oughtrington Community Centre, Lymm
Details: 01925 755926

ROTARY CLUB OF LYMM

Meets at Warburtons Parish Rooms on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month at 8pm
Contact 01925 919053

LOVING HEARTS & HANDS

Knitting for charity at Lymm Methodist Church, 2nd and 4th Thursday each month.
1.30pm - 3pm. Details: 01925 753298

LUNCH AT THE BROW

Eagle Brow Methodist Church
2nd Friday in the month
Light lunches 12 noon till 1.30pm.
All proceeds to The Y Project Room at The Inn

GARDENING CLUB

Meet Third Wednesday of the month
Lymm Baptist Church, Higher Lane. 7.30pm
Visitors welcome. £2 includes tea and cake

LYMM FLORAL ART GROUP

Lymm Village Hall
Third Monday of the month (except August and December) at 7.30pm. Visitors most welcome. Contact: 07876 176501
lymmfloralart.org.uk

LYMM PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday
(ex Aug), 7.30pm
Spread Eagle pub, Eagle Brow.
See our rolling display in Lymm Library
Details: www.lymmphotosoc.org.uk

LYMM WINE AND BEER CIRCLE

3rd Wednesday of the month, 8pm
The Spread Eagle Hotel
Details: 01925 756444

LYMM CONCERT BAND

Rehearsals every Thursday evening
United Reformed Church, 8pm.
Details: 01925 752934

LYMM WI

Every second Wednesday, 2-4pm at Lymm Youth and Community Centre. Visitors welcome.

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Every Wednesday 7.30 Lymm Methodist Church. Contact 01925 601664.
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

LYMM DINGLE PROBUS CLUB

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

FRIENDS OF LYMM LIBRARY CRAFT GROUP

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

HEATLEY WI

Meets the second Thursday of each month at Oughtrington Junior School, 7pm
Visitors welcome. Details: 01925 752014

LYMM & THELWALL U3A

Speaker meeting 3rd Thursday of the month (excluding August & December) at Thelwall Parish Hall 10.00am. Prospective members welcome.
www.u3asites.org.uk/lymm-thelwall/home
Contact: enquiries@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk



LYMM PARISH COUNCIL

Tuesday June 10th, 7:30pm
See parish council website for details.

The day the farm came to Cheshire Grange

Cheshire Grange care home, in Lymm, played host to Kimzy and her gorgeous animals from Cheshire Mobile Farm.

Residents at Cheshire Grange were intrigued as a pen was set up in the grounds and some saw a pair of Valais Blacknose sheep walk past their windows!

The ladies and gents were able to stroke the animals including three-week-old silkie chicks, Dave & Sidney the baby goats and Flopsy the French Lop Eared rabbit.

General Manager Dawn Holsgrove-Smith said: "Our residents, staff, visitors and myself have really enjoyed today's farm visit. We knew that having the farm here would be a bit of fun for all our residents, especially as some find it difficult to go on many outings in our minibus. The therapeutic value of animals visits is so beneficial to

so many of our residents, I think today's smiles said it all."

Resident Sandra Will looks forward to the visits from the therapy dogs but was so overjoyed to see the farm animals especially Flopsy as she sat on her lap she declared 'He's heavy but so soft and cuddly'

Cheshire Grange care home is run by Barchester Healthcare, one of the UK's largest care providers, which is committed to delivering personalised care across its care homes and hospitals. Cheshire Grange provides residential care, nursing care and dementia care for a number of bed residents from respite care to long term stays.



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Quacking weather for ducks at Lymm Duck Race

Pictures: John Hopkins

WITH grey skies and rain, it was the perfect weather for ducks at the annual Lymm Duck Race.

Organised by Lymm Roundtable and sponsored by Kids Planet, with numerous other local businesses and members of the public sponsoring ducks, the event helps raise thousands of pounds for good causes.

Despite grey skies and rain, it didn't deter large crowds from turning out to support the event.

Roundtable members poured hundreds of plastic ducks into the

lower dam in the village centre and then waited to see which duck went over the finish line first!

After the event, all ducks are collected and recycled for future events, including the Latchford Duck Race, later in the year.

The winning numbers were:

First 180

Second 5

Third 489



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Lymm Historic Transport Day returns with vintage flair and family fun

Lymm Historic Transport Day, one of Cheshire's most popular summer events, is back for its twelfth year on Sunday, June 22nd, 2025.

After a record-breaking turnout last year, the annual celebration of transport through the ages promises another unforgettable day filled with classic vehicles, community spirit, and family-friendly entertainment.

Held in the picturesque village of Lymm, this year's event will showcase a dazzling array of vintage cars, motorbikes, steam

engines, bicycles, military vehicles, and even boats.

Enthusiasts and collectors from across the UK will gather to display their pride and joy, offering visitors a rare chance to explore transport history up close.

Alongside the vehicles, visitors can expect a vibrant mix of live music, food and drink stalls, children's activities, and interactive

displays. The popular parade through the village will once again be a highlight, featuring vehicles of all eras rolling through Lymm's historic streets.

Organised entirely by local volunteers, Lymm Historic Transport Day not only celebrates engineering heritage but also supports community projects, with proceeds going toward local initiatives and charities.

Tickets will be available from the Lymm Festival Box Office and at the

gate on the day. A Park and Ride operates using vintage buses from the Lymm Rugby club.

Whether you're a petrolhead, history lover, or simply looking for a fun day out, Lymm Historic Transport Day 2025 is not to be missed. Mark your calendars and get ready for a journey through time, right in the heart of Cheshire.

For more details check out their Facebook page or website: www.lymmtransport.org.uk/



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Film to mark 80th anniversary of VE Day gives insight into wartime Lymm



A special film made locally to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day gives a fascinating insight into wartime Lymm.

The day war was declared, on September 3rd 1939 the film showing at the Lymm Cinema was, appropriately enough, "Stand Up and Fight", while down at the Lower Dam, at Holts Café, Wilf Rigby and his Palm Court Dance Band were providing the entertainment with late buses provided to Urmston and Warrington.

These are just a couple of the fascinating insights into the soon to be disrupted daily life that feature in a new film from Lymm Heritage Centre - "Half The Battle".

Heritage Centre curator Alan Williams said: "We all know something of that sense of disruption to our daily lives having lived through Covid lockdown but there is really no comparison: blackouts, gas mask drills, digging for victory and food rationing, not to mention the occasional stray bomb, all quickly became the norm in the early years of the war."

The whole experience is described vividly using remarkably preserved footage from the time in this new film "Half The Battle" - subtitled as "Stories from the home front in Lymm, World War Two".

The documentary, made especially to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day by the team at Lymm Heritage Centre, is being shown throughout May at the Centre. Visitors will be able to see displays from Lymm History Society and Lymm Library. Check out the Parish Council website for more details.

Running through the film is the story of ARP warden, Alec Grice. He was the only civilian fatality of the war in Lymm and ironically he was killed at the entrance to an air raid shelter as he was performing his duties.

Reporting restrictions at the time meant there was no news report of the tragedy but the Lymm Archive team have unearthed some fascinating new material including the wartime diary of Jesse Crowder

who lived at Laburnum Cottage on Higher Lane as well as previously unseen photos of the air raid shelter on Sandy Lane.

All in all the film is an unmissable experience, made all the more remarkable because it can be seen for free (donations welcome!) at Lymm Heritage Centre - Thursday to Sunday 12-4. And on the way in be sure to pause and admire the window display that captures something of the reality of life in Lymm in the first half of the 1940s.



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Barbara Dickson and Justin Moorhouse set to star at Lymm Festival

THE annual Lymm Festival is returning for 2025 with headline names, Barbara Dickson and Justin Moorhouse and, as ever, there is a packed programme of events for all the family.

The 11 day event will run across venues in and around Lymm from 19 to 29 June.

It will be kicking off, as always, with the FoodFest event on Thursday 19 June, when the village will be packed with food vendors,



along with music and entertainment for all the family. Lymm Historic Transport Day will be on Sunday 22 June – with a parade of all kinds of classic and amazing vehicles of all kinds, followed by a day of fun on the May Queen Field. The rest of the varied Festival programme includes over 50 events, covering music, comedy, talks, drama, arts, heritage and family-friendly activities.

Popular singer Barbara Dickson and comedian Justin Moorhouse are two of the bigger names appearing this year. There will be the return of many popular favourites too, including the Open Gardens day on Sunday 29 June and the Scarecrow Trail all around the village, plus special nights of jazz, folk and pop/ rock music.

But the Festival always tries to bring new events alongside old favourites. This year these include a series of craft workshops, a "Spunch" (a bit like orienteering, but less strenuous and aimed at all the family) and a heritage walk around the village. Plus, there is a whole programme of events taking place throughout the Festival to mark "Tyndale 500" – the 500th anniversary of the printing of the New Testament. (We believe the events in Lymm are the most

extensive anywhere in Britain!).

The Festival website will be live with full details of all the events in mid-May, and the guide books listing the Festival activities will be dropping through letterboxes in

and around Lymm towards the end of that month.

Keep your eyes and ears open for full details, and let's look forward to another fantastic Lymm Festival.



Lymm Festival

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SCAN ME

Lymm woman recognised for voluntary services to Uganda

LYMM woman Helen Owen has had her work recognised with an invitation from the High Sherrif of Cheshire to a night of celebration and recognition where she was given an award for international voluntary services to Uganda.

Helen's story is nothing short of amazing. After Helen took early retirement in 2007 from 30 years in research and toxicology, she joined a mission to a Ugandan village.

She found an impoverished community, with no education for the children, many of whom were orphans from AIDs. There was also no electricity or running water in the village. Helen, determined to change things, spent her own money to buy land, build and set up a school and provide electricity and water. The school now has

some 200 children with another 100 in pre-school.

Helen said: "It has been a lot of work but it is very worthwhile to see the joy and optimism it has brought to the children and the community. The lovely people of Lymm have been very supportive."

Helen regularly holds local events which are well supported including coffee mornings in the Methodist Church Hall on Eagle Brow. The name of her registered charity's website is helenmargaretowenfoundation.org



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Divorce Column

By Peter Wilkinson

Divorce Lawyer at Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

Divorce – Some Common Mistakes

Divorce is widely recognised as highly stressful and emotionally challenging. Here are a few of the most common mistakes to avoid:

- 1. Failing to seek early legal advice:** Divorce is typically a multifaceted process often also encompassing separating finances and making child arrangements. There is much to consider and delaying seeking legal advice from an experienced divorce lawyer can lead to missed opportunities, misunderstandings, critical errors and substantial prejudice to your position.
- 2. Taking legal advice from friends and family:** This is worse than number 1 above. You may have friends or family who think they know it all, but they really don't. Even if they have been through divorce themselves their situation wasn't identical to yours. Each case is unique and must be decided on its own facts. Get your emotional support and a sympathetic ear from friends and family if you like but do yourself a favour and get your legal advice from a divorce lawyer only.
- 3. Letting emotions drive decisions:** It is normal and natural for a whole range of emotions to come into play in divorce but emotions can cloud sound judgement, which can lead to making poor decisions which can lead to suffering poor outcomes. It's important to stay focussed throughout.
- 4. Underestimating financial disclosure:** Both parties are obliged to provide disclosure of their financial circumstances. Some people say they would be willing to waive their entitlement to see 'the full ins and outs' of the other parties' finances but this can be a huge mistake. Disclosure is a legal obligation and entitlement and underestimating its significance can be a costly mistake leading to an unfair settlement.
- 5. Unwillingness to compromise:** Settling disputes inevitably involves an element of give and take on both sides. Rarely, if ever, does one party exit a marriage on all their own terms. A willingness to negotiate and compromise within reason is needed.

For expert advice and assistance regarding divorce and related matters please get in touch.

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Lymm Runners' Goggins Ultra Marathon raises nearly £17,000 for charity



Between 8 pm on Friday, April 4th and Sunday, 6th April at 4 pm, members of Lymm Runners raised almost £17,000 by completing a Goggins Ultra Marathon – that's a 4-mile run every 4 hours for 48 hours – a total of 48 miles in 48 hours.

In the process, they smashed their original target of £10,000, thanks to the generosity of friends, family and Cuppello's Coffee House, who also sponsored the distinctive blue t-shirts that became a familiar sight in the village at the weekend. And what's more, donations are still coming in!

The Run was the idea of Lymm

Runner Rich Waggitt, who wished to raise funds for The Walton Centre Charity in Liverpool, in grateful recognition of the life-changing Neurosurgery work they have done for him. Rich commented: "Chatting with my friends at the Club after my surgery, it turns out I am not alone in having had interaction with The Walton Centre, I know of at least

6 other Club members who have had life-changing involvement with this sector-leading specialist neuro-surgery centre."

While twenty of the more seasoned club members did the whole thing, catching naps where they could, many others opted to run just one or more of the 4-mile distances. They were able to enjoy the food, drink and general party atmosphere at the hut in between, thanks to the Club volunteers who helped throughout the 48 hours.

The final Sunday run ended in a (sweaty) celebration as over 100 runners, friends, family and Lymm locals cheered as the runners and walkers finished up the slope of Maple Lodge before the total was revealed.

The page is still open for donations and for anyone interested, here's the link <https://www.thewaltoncentrecharity.org/fundraisers/lymm-runners-charity-goggins>

104-year-old veteran Peggy reveals wartime images for first time

World War Two veteran Peggy Bentley, 104 from Lymm, has revealed her war time photographs and memories for the first time as the nation celebrated the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

The RBL was leading the celebrations with an 80th Anniversary Tea Party and Service of Remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum, bringing together the largest gathering of Second World War veterans on VE Day, Thursday 8 May.

Speaking to the RBL, Peggy, who lives at a care home in Lymm, said: "I have never told my story, or shown my pictures, I didn't think anyone would be that interested!"

Peggy was an officer in the WAAF (Women's Auxiliary Air Force) in charge of catering at Driffield air base in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Peggy said: "My role was to source food supplies, prepare food packages for the pilots setting off on bombing raids, and ensure meals were prepared for ground staff and prisoners of war."



Peggy found love on the home front during World War Two, as she met her husband Ben, a rear gunner, on the air base. She said: "I remember asking Ben, 'Were you never afraid?' and he said, 'We were all frightened. Anyone who says they were not was telling lies'."

Peggy and her catering team produced a giant cake to mark VE Day in 1945. She said: "I remember we had a dance that night. As part of the celebrations, my cooks were asked to bake a huge cake with lights around it."

"The hangars had been emptied so we made a cake that was so heavy we had to strengthen the tables to put the cake on it. We had ingredients, because we had been keeping a little bit back each week. I can't remember what it tasted like, but it looked incredible!"

After the War, Peggy and Ben moved to Wiltshire where Ben worked for Clark's Shoes.

Great-niece Frances Veltkamp from Grappenhall, who visits Peggy several times a week, said: "I am immensely proud of Peggy, she is so modest about her contribution during the War, but thanks to the RBL, people can now share in her memories."

Peggy added: "The 80th anniversary of VE Day is a special moment for the country and should remind us all of what we owe those who fought and those who lost their lives. I hope everyone joins in the spirit of the celebrations the Royal British Legion is laying on for the country."



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Obituary

Joan Parr

THE funeral has taken place of Joan Parr, nee Cooper, who sadly passed away at home on April 2 aged 82.

Joan was widowed and leaves son Robert, daughter Julia, daughter-in-law Elaine, son-in-law Stuart and grandchildren James and Liam.

Joan was involved in Lymm WI, attending the craft club, walking club and gardening club. She enjoyed painting, gardening, walking and playing the piano, as well as being a good cook/baker. Before retirement she worked as a dinner lady at Ravenbank Primary School in Lymm and as a cook at a nursing home in Grappenhall.

A celebration of her life was held at St. Peter's Church, Newton-le-Willows on April 30.

Funeral arrangements by John Burrows and Sons.

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