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Magazine

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ISSUE 317 | DECEMBER 2025
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King's Award for rugby club

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monthly by Orbit News Ltd.

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Printed by TwentyFourSeven

Editor's Opinion



A huge congratulations to everyone involved at Lymm Rugby Union Club on receiving the King's Award for Voluntary Services – the highest award a voluntary organisation can receive.

Having reported on the endeavours of the rugby club for many years, I know this recognition is fully deserved, in particular for the club's community work at a grassroots level, which extends much further than playing rugby.

Having recently enjoyed match day hospitality at the club, I can also confirm this is a great community asset and well worth a visit.

I hope the club can continue to go from strength to strength, while proudly retaining its amateur status.

The work they do on and off the pitch is truly outstanding. The King's Award is a fantastic endorsement of the great work they do and truly

something to celebrate. Keep up the good work!

We are truly blessed with voluntary organisations in Lymm, including the Lymm Dickensian festival, which is celebrating 40 years this year!

Where did all those years go? I can recall the very first event, started by the late Monica Spence.

Again, this event would not be possible without the hard work of volunteers.

I would urge everyone to turn out in force this year and dress to impress as we once again support a fantastic community event.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all our

advertisers and readers a Happy Christmas and prosperous, healthy new year.

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January 2026 issue
is December 2**

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Mum seeks charitable donations as she takes on 100km trek for Girls Out Loud

A LYMM Mum is calling for charitable donations as she gets ready to take on a self-funded, five-day 100km trek to Petra for the Girls Out Loud social enterprise.

Clare Roberts, CEO of national nursery group Kids Planet Nurseries, has organised a group of 18 people to support the organisation and has raised over £1,700 so far for the charity that works with young teenage girls to build confidence, resilience and leadership.

The Girls Out Loud Foundation is dedicated to empowering young women to find their voice. The charity dreams of giving girls the confidence to ask for help, seek motivation, or stop damaging patterns of behaviour. It creates professional programmes to help young ladies flourish.

Clare said, "I'm doing this self-funded hike because I understand how important these skills are to

young girls. As a female CEO, I understand I'm in a privileged position and want to see more young women rise up to the rewarding challenge. I've done lots of things for children over the years with Kids Planet, but as my children are getting older, I'm recognising more that there's a real gap for young people in society."

Just last year, Clare took on the gruelling challenge of trekking across Cambodia for charity. This time, the charity trek will take place over five days in Jordan, starting next month.

Clare is expected to walk through varying desert trails and sandstone canyons and commented, "These views will be stunning for sure, but I

will not lose sight of the challenge at hand and why I am doing it."

Kids Planet's head office team has also been raising money for the charity. The central team, based in Lymm, headed out on a 5km walk along the countryside and canal to back their CEO.

Clare explains "I've seen the impact this charity can have on the women of our future. As a mum of three teenage girls, this is something very dear to my heart. These challenges have become something I look forward to year after year. I can't wait to see what November brings."

Jane Kenyon, entrepreneur and CEO at Girls Out Loud, commented, "Our fundraisers are such a critical part to achieving our charity's mission. I am so grateful to Clare,

who is not only fundraising to support our charity and young people, but is also taking time out of her busy schedule and challenging themselves to trek through the hills and heat in Jordan. Thank you, to you and your donors for your support!"

Clare added, "Anything that can be done to support groups of people who are more disadvantaged and give them equal opportunities is vital. I am excited to get my walking boots on and be a part of an amazing team raising money for what is a brilliant charity."

Every penny raised could give a young girl courage and inspiration for their future.

Donations can be made safely online via <https://girlsoutloudtrektopetra.enthouse.com/pf/clare-roberts>



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What's On

LYMM PARISH COUNCIL

Next meeting Tuesday December 9th, 7:30pm
Lymm Parish Hall
Check www.lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk for details.

LYMM THURSDAY EVENING BRIDGE CLUB

Lymm Village Hall every Thursday 7pm
Details: 07708 172015

MAPLE LODGE ART GROUP

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

ROTARY CLUB OF LYMM

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

LOVING HEARTS & HANDS

Knitting for charity at Lymm Methodist Church, 1st and 4th Thursday each month.
1.30pm - 3pm. Details: 01925 753298

LUNCH AT THE BROW

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

GARDENING CLUB

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

LYMM FLORAL ART GROUP

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

LYMM PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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

LYMM WINE AND BEER CIRCLE

3rd Wednesday of the month, 8pm
The Spread Eagle Hotel
Details: 01925 756444
LYMM CONCERT BAND
Rehearsals every Thursday evening
United Reformed Church, 8pm.
Details: 01925 752934

LYMM WI

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

LYMM AND DISTRICT MIXED VOICE CHOIR

Every Wednesday 7.30 Lymm Methodist Church. Contact 01925 601664.
cah@cstones.co.uk

PROBUS CLUB OF LYMM

A small, friendly social club for retired men and women.
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

Care home residents enjoy "Butler in the buff" event!

RESIDENTS and family members at care home in Lymm recently enjoyed an unforgettable evening of laughter, fun, and good company during a special Cheese and Wine "Butler in the buff" event.

Everyone enjoyed delicious cheeses, fine wines, and plenty of entertainment, all served with a smile by a charming Will, Butler in the Buff. The event was filled with laughter, light-hearted moments, and lots of photo opportunities that residents and families will cherish.

The butler also had the honor of drawing the raffle, much to everyone's delight. The festivities concluded with a lively and humorous game of "Cheeky Bingo,"

which had everyone laughing.

Keate House Admin Manager Rachel Entwistle said: "It was a fantastic evening that brought everyone together for a good laugh. Our residents and families really enjoyed themselves, it's lovely to see so much joy and laughter in the home."

One 99-year-old resident, Jean, said it was a fantastic party which she would love weekly!



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Lymm Rugby Club receives King's Award for Voluntary Service

Lymm Rugby Club has been awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service for 2025 - the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE.

The club is a vibrant, community-based amateur multi-sports club, encompassing rugby union, hockey, squash and tennis, proudly run by a large team of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers.

The Club is one of only 232 charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups throughout the UK to receive this prestigious award this year.

The King's Award for Voluntary

Service aims to recognise outstanding work by local volunteer groups to support their communities. It was created in 2002 to celebrate Her Late Majesty the Queen's Golden Jubilee and was continued following the accession of His Majesty the King. 2025 marks the third year of the King's Award for Voluntary Service.

Recipients are announced annually on 14 November, the

King's Birthday, and representatives of Lymm Rugby Club will receive the award crystal and certificate from Lady Redmond, Cheshire's Lord-Lieutenant, in the coming months.

In addition two volunteers from Lymm Rugby Club will attend the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in the summer of 2026, along with other recipients of this year's award.

Chairman of Lymm Rugby Club, David Simpson, commented 'Receiving the King's Award for Voluntary Service in 2025 is a

tremendous honour for Lymm Rugby Club. We are immensely proud of this achievement, which will further inspire our members, volunteers and Lymm Panto performers to contribute to the ongoing success of our remarkable club.'

The KAVS scheme in Cheshire is supported and administered by the local Cheshire Lieutenancy with the final decision made by His Majesty the King, through the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

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The King's Award for Voluntary Service awarded to Lymm Rugby Club in 2025



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The King's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE.

The King's Award for Voluntary Service aims to recognise outstanding work by local volunteer groups to support their communities.

'Receiving the King's Award for Voluntary Service in 2025 is a tremendous honour for Lymm Rugby Club,' commented David Simpson, Chairman. 'We are immensely proud of this achievement, which will further inspire our members and volunteers to contribute to the ongoing success of our remarkable club.'

www.lymmrugby.co.uk



**For more information on Lymm Rugby Club
or for sponsorship opportunities please contact
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The Coffee House success story continues at new digital hub

HOME-GROWN business success story The Coffee House has signed a 10-year lease for its latest store at The Causeway digital hub on the busy Wilderspool Causeway, Warrington.

The new store will serve its popular blend of locally-roasted coffees, delicious breakfasts and freshly-baked home-made pastries, cakes and confectionery.

The outlet will be the 41st branch of the Lymm-based group, founded fourteen years ago by brothers Chris and Ste Sheldermine. It is scheduled to open in late January and will serve local residents and workers in The

Causeway business centre from 8 am to 3 pm each working day.

"I'm sure many residents will be familiar with our branch in Stockton Heath, but now they can enjoy the convenience of us being on their doorstep," said Chris Sheldermine. "It's a busy road with a very visible frontage onto Wilderspool Causeway so we're expecting plenty of passing trade."

The company has signed a 10-year lease on the unit, next door to St James's Church, and its opening is in line with the completion of the multi-million-pound refurbishment of the business centre and its rebranding as The Causeway. Funding for the refurbishment has been provided by the government's Town Deal programme and is focused on attracting the next generation of digital businesses to the development. "We have carefully brought the business centre up to the very best modern standards, and so it was critical that we found a catering

partner who could meet the needs of our tenants as well as our neighbours," said Jayne Furnival of Langtree, which manages the site for Wire Regeneration, Langtree's joint venture with Warrington Council.

"The new outlet allows us to open a frontage onto Wilderspool Causeway and helps reinforce the changes within the building," added Jayne. "The investment has already yielded considerable lettings success, with six new tenants moving in since work progressed. I expect that to pick up further once people realise they

can get the best coffee in town."

The centre is adopting its new name to reflect the changes and improvements brought about by its multi-million pound refurbishment. It's old name – St James Business Centre – will be phased out in the coming months, with the public seeing new signage and tenants benefiting from a host of new internal features, such as refurbished public areas, space for start-ups and virtual tenants, super-fast broadband and wi-fi-enabled meeting rooms for hire.



Tributes following sudden death of former Parish Priest Father Michael

TRIBUTES were made following the sudden death of former Parish Priest Father Michael Burgess who sadly died shortly after announcing his retirement.

Ordained in 1973, he served as a curate in Beamish, then as a parish priest in two parishes in Cornwall. Between 1980-86 he was director of the South West Ministry Training Course. He became sub-warden at St Deiniol's Library in 1986 and was appointed to St Peter's Oughtrington in 1991. Two years later, a joint benefice with Warburton was formed.

For over 30 years, Fr. Michael served as a trustee governor at Lymm High School and was chair of governors at Oughtrington Primary for many years. He had been assistant chaplain at Chester University and a member of Warrington SACRE. He was also chaplain to the local ATC and from 2002 was diocesan chaplain to the

Mothers' Union. In 2010, Fr Michael was made an Honorary Canon of Chester Cathedral.

Fr Michael was very active in community life, taking part in Dickensian day, May Queen and "Carols at the Cross" where he led the singing for many years. He was involved with the Lymm Festival from its inception, serving on the committee, giving talks, organising and taking part in concerts and poetry readings. He has steadfastly supported the ecumenical work of Churches Together in Lymm. Many will remember Fr. Michael as an accomplished musician and organist who loved singing!

In recent years, St Peter's church hall project was interrupted by the pandemic and took far longer than anticipated, needing significant fund raising efforts owing to rising costs after Covid. The success of the hall project owes a great deal to Fr Michael's hard work in supporting

the entire process. The new church hall stands complete at the corner of Stage Lane and will be a tremendous asset to the local community and a lasting memorial to his endeavours.

As news of his sudden death circulated around the village tributes were made on social media.

*Father Michael's sudden death came after last month's edition of Lymm Life, which recognised his outstanding commitment to the local community, had gone to print.





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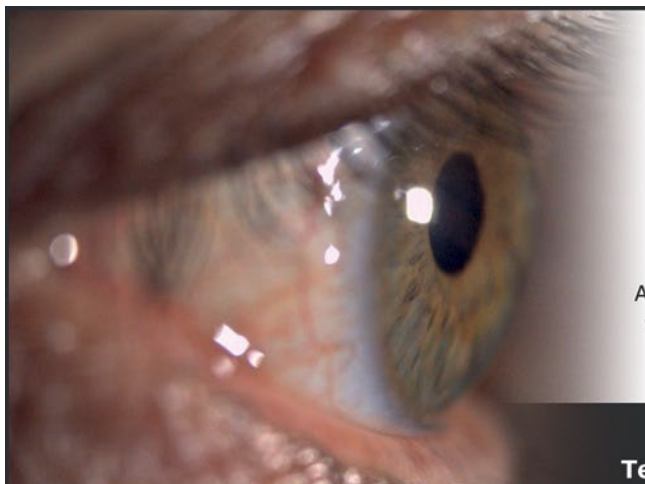
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Prostate Cancer – Why men need to start talking and testing

By Dr Stephen Coogan MBChB MRCGP, Founder and CEO, myGP Clinic

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in the UK. Around one in eight men will develop it during their lifetime, but for those with a family history or higher-risk background—such as Black African or Caribbean heritage—the risk rises to one in four.

Despite this, too many men still delay getting checked. Early detection remains the key to survival, yet many only present once symptoms appear, when treatment options are more limited. Any man over 40, or with a family history, should feel confident in asking their GP for assessment and screening.

Initial assessment involves a thorough medical history and a simple blood test called PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen). While

PSA testing isn't perfect—it can be raised for benign reasons, and occasionally normal in men with cancer—it's still a vital first step. Examination of the prostate is no longer routinely required, as modern testing methods provide far more insight.

The real diagnostic challenge lies in men with PSA levels between 2.5 and 10—the so-called "grey zone". This is where newer tests such as Stockholm3 are proving invaluable. Stockholm3 combines PSA with

additional biomarkers and genetic data to better identify which men need further investigation, helping avoid unnecessary MRI scans or biopsies.

At myGP Clinic, we believe in proactive medicine. In 2024, through our screening programmes, we detected prostate cancer in 14 men—all of whom were able to receive treatment with curative intent. These are lives that could

have been lost without early testing.

As a GP—and as someone who lost my father to prostate cancer—I know first-hand how important it is to break the silence around men's health. Talk to your GP, get tested, and encourage others to do the same.

For further information, advice, and to support the campaign for national prostate cancer screening, visit Prostate Cancer UK



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Award winning photographer opens "Lymm In Living Memory"

AWARD-winning photographer Alan Taylor was on hand to officially open the "Lymm In Living Memory" photography exhibition in the village where he covered numerous events during his long career.

While most people who owned a camera in post-war England from the 50s to the 1980s saved their expensive film for holidays and special occasions, Alan was in a group of aspiring young photographers in the village, unknown to each other at the time, out there recording scenes of daily village life. Most notable among these was Alan who would go on to become the award winning chief photographer for the Cheshire Guardian newspaper group. Now the first time many of these

photographs are going on display in a new show at Lymm Heritage Centre called "Lymm In Living Memory".

The pictures capture among other things the rise of the motor-car, the passing of the railway, post-war demolition and rebuilding, the daily trip to the shops, leisurely Sundays and village events.

Alongside the pictures are reminiscences from local people while a big-screen memory-map allows visitors to explore over a hundred locations round the village.

The exhibition is being staged in a new space at the Centre which is being used for the first time.

"It seemed fitting that this new exhibition area should be used to display the work of local photographers," Heritage Centre Chair, Alan Williams said. "Especially as it includes many of the outstanding photographs taken during the 50s and 60s by one of our most active supporters Alan Taylor. His contribution toward recording the history of Lymm has been so important and is clearly evident in

this exhibition. We were delighted that Alan was able to cut the ribbon for us to open not just the exhibition but the new gallery which will be a valuable resource for the Centre and the village.

"Whether your interest is photography, social history or just plain, simple nostalgia we think you will love this unique exhibition that captures the kind of changes that were happening in towns and villages all over the country."

More details at www.lymmhic.co.uk



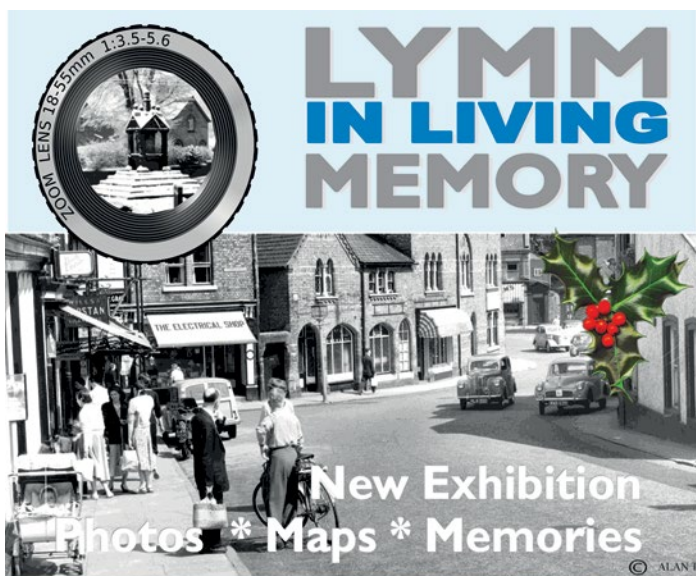
Plans approved for improved access to Lymm Heritage Centre

TOWN planners have voted unanimously to approve plans for a new approach to Lymm Heritage Centre from Bridgewater St that will offer much improved access for pushchairs, wheelchairs and those unable to tackle steps.

Heritage Centre trustee, Peter Graham who spoke for the plan at the meeting commented: "This is an important step forward for the Centre. It has always been an unfortunate anomaly that

somewhere that tells the story of Lymm's history is inaccessible to some of the people who may get the most enjoyment from it. School groups too have had to be turned away in some cases and hopefully now it will be accessible to all."

Lymm Heritage Centre, a wholly volunteer-run charity, first opened its doors in June 2017 since when it has welcomed over 40,000 visitors and become a key village attraction.



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Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

Divorce Column

By Peter Wilkinson
Divorce Lawyer at Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

Surviving Christmas after Divorce

For many separated parents Christmas brings mixed emotions. What is traditionally regarded as a family-centred celebration can instead become a source of stress, uncertainty, conflict and possibly resentment. However, with a little planning and a focus on what is best for the children Christmas can still run smoothly.

The starting point is preparation. Clear arrangements agreed well in advance help avoid misunderstandings. If there is a child arrangements order in place then it is worth revisiting the wording to ensure that the terms are clearly understood, including where the children should be on specific days and how any handovers will work. Where no formal order exists, written confirmation by text or email of what has been agreed can help prevent misunderstandings and disputes.

Communication between parties should be kept brief, polite and respectful. Christmas is not the time to revisit historic grievances or raise new issues. Keeping discussions brief, polite and limited to essential information reduces the scope for conflict. Christmas naturally requires compromise and children cope best when both parents remain calm, flexible and work together. They should not feel caught between warring households or worried about upsetting either parent.

Financial pressure can also be a concern, particularly when budgets are stretched across two homes. There is no requirement to match spending or compete over presents and any temptation to do so should be resisted. Whilst children will naturally be excited to receive presents they will also value time, attention, stability and routine.

Despite best efforts conflict may unfortunately arise. If you are concerned that arrangements may not be followed then early legal advice can be helpful. Whilst urgent legal remedies are available if necessary court proceedings should remain a last resort and where possible mediation or solicitor-assisted negotiation may offer a faster and more cost-effective solution.

Christmas after a separation is bound to feel different but that does not mean it cannot be positive. With clear arrangements, a calm approach and a focus on the children's wellbeing families can create new traditions and new happy memories.

For expert advice and assistance on any aspect of family law please get in touch.

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What a night for Lymm Runners!



Lymm Runners Carolyn Smith, Lynn Moseley, Sarah Daly, Katy O'Connor, Andy Holland, Kieran Walshe, Chris Lees (Chair) and George Bainton

IT was a rewarding night for Lymm Runners as they scooped two volunteer awards at Leigh Sports Stadium!

The Club came away with two awards from the England Athletics NW Regional Volunteer Awards 2025, achieving 3rd Place Club of the Year and a terrific Runner Up for Community Event of the Year.

The prizewinning Community Event was the 48 Mile Goggins Ultra Marathon: a weekend of 12 runs of 48 miles over 48 hours initiated by Lymm Runner Rich Waggit, which raised over £18,000 for the Walton Centre in Liverpool. It was the biggest fundraising event the Club had ever done and involved around 100 runners and a huge support crew

of club members plus their friends and families.

For the Podium place for Club of the Year, England Athletics commented that the Club 'exemplifies community spirit through an all-year-round commitment to local causes.'

Responding to these comments, Chris Lees, Chair of Lymm Runners said: "I am delighted that Lymm Runners has been recognised for the club's impact within the community and the hard work and commitment by its members and volunteers. Though the Goggins event in the Spring was rightly commended, it

was just one example of the club's deep commitment to our community. We were the only road running club recognised in The Club of the Year Award, identifying the inclusive and safe environment for all standards of runners and power walkers. A tribute to the welcoming ethos from all members."

Lymm Runners will be holding other runs and events with both the local and regional running community. Check out the website for the traditional Santa Dash which opens Lymm Dickensian Festival and also raises funds for sports equipment for local primary schools.

Lymm Runners meet four times

a week. There are runs of various distances, including a Power Walking Group, on Thursdays at 7pm, leaving from Lymm Leisure Centre, Sundays at 08.30am from outside Lymm Library and Wednesdays at 9.15am for a coffee run also from the library.

On Tuesdays there is a choice of meeting at the Leisure Centre at 7.00pm for the 4 mile Social Whistle Run or 7.00pm at the Track at Victoria Park, Warrington in the Winter and Lymm High School playing fields in summer for the Track Training Session

The Club was formed in 2010 and now has more than 450 members.

Lymm Dickensian celebrates 40 Years!

This year, on Saturday 13th December, the Lymm Dickensian Festival proudly celebrates its 40th anniversary.

As always, the village will come alive with festive cheer and a wonderful array of stalls — from delicious food and drink to beautiful arts and crafts.

The highlight of the day remains the Grand Parade, which begins with the ever-popular Lymm Runners' Santa Dash — a three-mile fun run through the village and out into the (hopefully) crisp Cheshire countryside.

The parade itself features colourful entries from local schools and nurseries, vintage and classic vehicles, Morris troupes, horses, donkeys, and of course, Father Christmas himself, waving from his festive float.

The very first Lymm Dickensian, held forty years ago, was created by a dedicated group of volunteers — including the late Monica Spence, Nikki Anderson, and Jennie Fallows — with the goal of boosting trade and community spirit within the village.

The original event featured bustling street stalls and traditional Victorian fayre attractions. This year, organisers have worked hard to bring back some of that original Dickensian charm while

celebrating all that the event has grown to become.

Lymm Dickensian co-ordinator Colin Oakley said: "To help mark this special 40th anniversary, we're inviting everyone to join in the fun by dressing up in Dickensian or Victorian-style attire. Think top hats, bonnets, shawls, waistcoats, and mufflers — the more creative, the better! Dressing up adds to the wonderful atmosphere and truly brings the spirit of Dickens' England to life in the heart of Lymm."

"As ever, prizes will be awarded for the best-dressed person and the best Dickensian-themed window display. So whether you're donning your finest Victorian outfit or decorating your shop window, join us in making the village look truly spectacular!"

"A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone, past and present, who has helped make this beloved community celebration possible — and to the many volunteers and marshals who give their time each year to ensure the day runs smoothly."

Call for Volunteers

The Lymm Dickensian simply wouldn't happen without the incredible support of their volunteers. If you'd like to get involved — whether it's helping

with setup, marshalling the parade, or lending a hand on the day — they'd love to hear from you! It's a great way to be part of one of Lymm's most cherished traditions and to experience the festive spirit up close.

As a thank you there are refreshments provided for every

volunteer and this year organisers will be randomly selecting one lucky volunteer for a special gift of a meal for 2 at one of the lovely eateries in the village centre!

To volunteer, please email lymmdickensian@gmail.com. Every pair of hands makes a difference!



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Obituaries

Alexander Henderson

The funeral has taken place of Alex Henderson who passed away aged 97 at Keate House on October 6.

Alex was a well loved Lymm resident, who moved to Lymm to be with family following the death of his wife Josephine.

Alex enjoyed services at Thelwall Parish Church and was a keen organist.

He will be greatly missed by his friends and family, Michelle, Josette, Graham, Remy, Joelle and Arabella.



Edmund Hulme

The funeral has taken place of Edmund Hulme, known as Eddie by his family and friends, who passed away aged 87 on October 20.

Eddie was a very funny and loving man. One of the best.

He is survived by his wife Norma, son Mark, grandson Leigh, granddaughter Morgan and great grandchildren Jacob and Lily.

Funeral arrangements by John Burrows and Sons of Lymm.



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