

# Lymm Life

## Magazine

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## The Show Must Go On!

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# Editor's Opinion

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the team at the Lymm Repair Café on welcoming their 1,000th visitor just a year after launching at the village hall.

As they say themselves, "an incredible achievement" for this community project which has had no source of funding, operating just one Saturday morning a month with volunteers repairing items for a "pay what you can" donation.

As you can read about the project elsewhere in this issue, over 30 volunteers have now been involved in the project, which will hopefully continue to go from strength to strength.

I have a feeling with the recent extra publicity online and coverage in this month's issue - the next workshop is going to be extremely busy!

On a personal level I would like to thank the Lymm Repair Café for

entrusting Lym Life and Warrington Worldwide with helping spread the word on a limited budget.

We truly appreciate the support we receive from the community to help maintain a FREE news service for the village.

Without the support of our advertisers, it would not be possible to provide a community news service, delivered door-to-door throughout much of the area.

We are aware that door-to-door distribution can be hit and miss in some outer areas of the village, so remember copies are available to pick up in the village centre at Sainsbury's, The Post Office, St Rocco's and the library to name but a

few of our regular outlets.

Don't forget it can also be read online in a digital format.

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is February 3**

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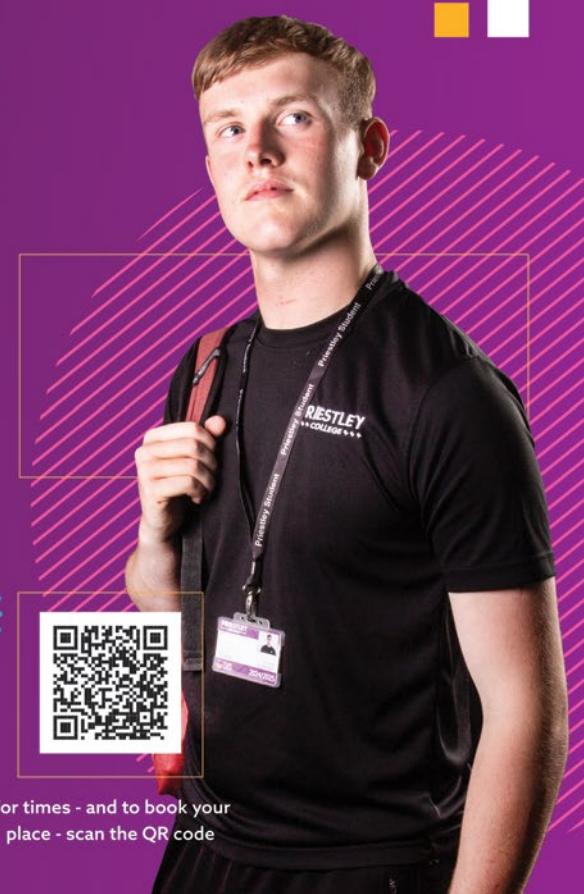
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# Sanctuary Hub shares in £25,000 donation

**LYMM SANCTUARY HUB IS ONE OF TWO CHARITIES TO SHARE A £25,000 DONATION FROM ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY WITH A SOCIAL PURPOSE Omaze' FOLLOWING A RECENT FUND-RAISING HOUSE DRAW IN THE AREA.**

The Sanctuary Hub will use its £12,500 share to sustain three core projects over the next year – the Memory Café, which supports people living with dementia, parents and carers of children with special educational needs and provides vital respite for their carers, the Digital Café, which helps older residents navigate technology with confidence and the Vantry Project, an affordable mobile food hub serving more than 150 local families.

The Hub's befriending project will also benefit from the donation, enabling it to meet growing local demand.

Omaze was introduced to the two charities by MP Esther McVey whose Tatton constituency includes both Lymm and Wilmslow.

She said: "I am delighted that once again Omaze is giving money to excellent charities in our area. I know the money will be gratefully

received and will be put to good use to benefit so many people.

"I've heard so many times from local residents about the work done at the Lymm Sanctuary Hub, which includes supporting people living with dementia, providing respite, as well as helping older people navigate technology – it is a very special place."

Richard Pearce, chair of Trustees, Lymm Sanctuary Hub said: "We are delighted to receive this generous donation from Omaze. It will benefit our projects and services, enabling us to support more local people through challenging times."

Caitlin Bahrey-Neumark, of Omaze, said: "Everyone at Omaze is absolutely delighted we have been able to make a contribution to these two fantastic charities.

Omaze is a for-profit entertainment company, founded in the US in 2012, which partners with charities in fundraising events.



## MP welcomes change to inheritance tax threshold for farmers

A GOVERNMENT decision announced changing the inheritance tax threshold for farmers from £1m to £2.5m, has been welcomed by MP Esther McVey.

But the Tatton MP who represents Lymm in Warrington, says it still doesn't go far enough.

Responding Ms McVey said: "I am pleased the Government has finally acknowledged, after months and months of campaigning, that

this policy is a disaster, but it seems the only thing now getting in the way of scrapping it altogether is pride.

"This change will help smaller farmers who, after a huge amount of unnecessary worry and distress, will now be able to breathe a sigh of relief, but it doesn't go far enough to help those with larger farms who still face an uncertain future because of this government's anti-farming, anti-rural agenda."

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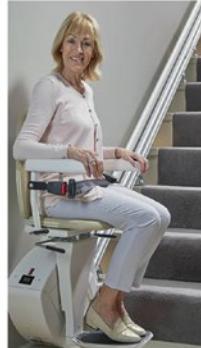
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# What's On



## LYMM PARISH COUNCIL

Next meeting Tuesday February 10th, 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 HISTORY SOCIETY

Second Monday each month  
September to May  
Lymm Village Hall - 8pm-9pm  
Variety of history talks  
Visitors most welcome  
[www.lymmhistory.club](http://www.lymmhistory.club)

## 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.  
[calth@csstones.co.uk](mailto:calth@csstones.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](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.lymmddingleprobus.club](http://www.lymmddingleprobus.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)



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# Lymm Historic Transport Day organisers seek new parking area

**ORGANISERS of the annual Lymm Historic Transport day are urgently seeking suitable land to accommodate between 400-500 vehicles on the day of the event.**

The event is scheduled to take place on Sunday, June 26th 2026.

Event co-ordinator Jack Levy said: "The current situation is that we've parked on the large field at Crouchley Lane for many years.

"That agreement has now come to an end and we're looking for somewhere else to serve as the event's primary car park.

"The space would need to be able to hold 400-500 vehicles and have decent road access.

"If anyone knows of somewhere that would be suitable then we'd love to hear from them. We're very keen to welcome as many people as possible to the event while at the same time keeping the impact on Lymm's roads and residents to a minimum. For that reason, we're working as hard as possible to try and find somewhere suitable."

If anyone has land suitable please contact Jack via

[lymmhistorictransport@gmail.com](mailto:lymmhistorictransport@gmail.com)

Lymm Historic Transport Day is one of Cheshire's best loved events, attracting thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds.

They show everything from classic cars and military vehicles, to vintage bicycles and steam traction engines, historic working boats to model railways.

Alongside these exhibits they have dozens of stalls selling all manner of food, clothing, toys and local produce etc. With live music, remote controlled cars and lots of lego, there's something for everyone!

Unlike other classic car shows, Lymm Historic Transport Day is entirely volunteer run, with all of our profits going to charity.

Applications for this year's event are now open [www.lymmtransport.org.uk/applications2025](http://www.lymmtransport.org.uk/applications2025)



# ESTHER MCVEY MP

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**Everyone at the farm would like to congratulate Gary and the team on 25 years of Lymm Life!**



# Local firm launches TaskEnergy to deliver sustainable energy solutions in social housing

Lymm-headquartered Key Integrated Services, a leading mechanical and electrical engineering company, has launched TaskEnergy.

The newly established company, led by industry specialists, will offer a range of sustainable energy solutions for local authorities and social housing providers.

"Given the nationwide focus on net zero, demand for the decarbonisation services will only grow as time goes by," says Mark Poulton, CEO at Key Integrated Services. "The team at TaskEnergy have a wealth of industry knowledge and contacts and I'm looking forward to supporting them as they expand operations."

TaskEnergy's core offer includes gas appliance installation, maintenance and servicing, as well as a range of decarbonisation services from the design and installation of low carbon systems through to long-term compliance assurance and maintenance. The business has the capability to scale to customer requirements, ranging from 24/7 callouts up to delivering complete turnkey energy solutions.

The new business will be led by Laurence Coatsworth and Gareth Whyte who have held senior roles at companies including H.E. Simm & Son and Sure Maintenance.

Laurence has over 25 years' experience in the social housing sector, and at TaskEnergy he oversees the installation, servicing and maintenance of gas appliances for local authorities and social housing landlords. Gareth heads up the company's renewables team, and his day-day-day focus involves supporting clients as they move to less carbon intensive heating solutions. These include air, ground and water heat pump systems, battery storage as well as solar PV and solar thermal systems.

"We understand the social housing sector, including the challenges facing both tenants and housing providers", comments Gareth Whyte. "Our mission is to become the number one partner to local authorities and social housing providers for the provision and maintenance of compliant high efficiency gas systems and renewable energy solutions. In the long term this will help to make energy bills more affordable and help to tackle fuel poverty."



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# Bridgewater Players – The Show Must Go On!

**Tickets are available for the Bridgewater Players performance of "The Show Must Go On!" written and directed by Anna Fradgley.**

The Bridgewater Players Drama Society, based in Thelwall, has been performing plays since 1952, initially formed by six people in 1951 in Lymm. In February, they will be performing their 200th production. And to celebrate, a play has been especially written by one of their members, Anna Fradgley, who lives in Lymm.

"Our society is going from strength to strength and I was privileged to have been asked to direct our 200th production. So I thought, why not write one, especially?" Anna Fradgley explains. "The play is inspired by Oscar Wilde's 'The Importance of Being Earnest' and is farce about Woolton Drama Society who decide to put on the play for their 200th Anniversary Show. But their Chairperson dies

suddenly, and things go from bad to worse. Without a budget to work with, because of financial embezzlement, they are having to provide Victorian costumes from charity shops, using the set of their last production because all their property has been seized! And what's more, the vice-chairperson wants to turn Oscar Wilde's masterpiece into a musical, using Abba songs! And the mishaps do not end there!"

"We want the audience to really enjoy themselves. They'll have a night of laughter, musical intervention and a chance to shake their boas at the end! Let's celebrate together!" Anna continues. "Complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits are provided in the interval and we now have a bar which sells wine, beer and soft drinks.



Our charity for this production is 'Ataloss', bereavement support, so we encourage our audience to bring cash for donations and the raffle."

Show dates are Thursday 19th to Saturday 21st February. Tickets for the show can be purchased online

at [www.bwplayers.co.uk/](http://www.bwplayers.co.uk/) Price is £9 plus booking fee online, and £10 on the door. Pre-booking is recommended as tickets are already selling. Performed at Thelwall Parish Hall, Bell Lane, WA4 2SX. Free parking is available.



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Tickets £9 online (+ booking fee) or £10 on the door  
Doors open 7.15 p.m.  
Curtains up 7.45 p.m.  
At Thelwall Parish Hall, Bell Lane, WA4 2SX  
Photography by Jorubé Portrait Photography

## Flood defence works road closure extended

FLOOD defence works taking place on Burford Lane, Lymm, Warrington, have been extended until March due to unforeseen circumstances.

The works originally started on November 10 for an estimated seven weeks, but this has now been extended until March 1st 2026.

Warrington Borough Council previously made an Order under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 on 16th October 2025. The effect of which is to introduce a prohibition of driving on Warrington Lane from its junction with Burford Lane to its

junction with Agden Lane.

The Order was effective from 10th November 2025 for 7 weeks, however due to unforeseen circumstances the closure is now required to remain in place until 1st March 2026, as and when signed on site.

Access will be under the control of the relevant Contractor for the duration of the works. The alternative route will be via Burford Lane, Higher Lane, Lymm Road and vice versa. The closure is required to allow for the construction of a flood defence wall and the installation of a HV cable.

# Menopause should not be something women simply have to endure

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

**Menopause is still widely misunderstood. For many women, it is thought to begin when periods stop and to be something they simply have to endure. In reality, the physical and emotional impact often starts years earlier, during perimenopause, while women are still working, raising families, and caring for others.**

When symptoms are dismissed as stress, ageing, or "just part of life", women are left struggling without proper support — not because help does not exist, but because menopause is too often treated as something to be endured rather than properly understood and supported.

Menopause itself is a single point in time, defined medically as twelve consecutive months without a period. Perimenopause, however, can last several years and is marked by fluctuating hormone levels. During this phase, periods may remain regular, become irregular, or change in flow. Because many women are still menstruating, the link between symptoms and hormonal change is often missed, leaving women uncertain about what is happening to their bodies.

The symptoms of perimenopause and menopause extend far beyond hot flushes. Many women experience poor sleep, anxiety, low mood, irritability, difficulty concentrating, memory lapses, joint and muscle pain, reduced

libido, vaginal dryness, worsening migraines, and changes in weight and energy levels. These symptoms can significantly affect daily life, work performance, and confidence, yet they are frequently minimised or normalised.

Much of the uncertainty around hormone replacement therapy stems from alarming headlines more than two decades old. Those early reports suggested links between HRT, breast cancer, and heart disease, and understandably created lasting concern. What is less well known is that our understanding has evolved. We now recognise that the balance of benefit and risk is different for each woman and depends on timing, duration of use, and individual health factors. Unfortunately, outdated messages still influence many conversations today.

For many women, particularly during perimenopause or the early years after menopause, HRT can be a helpful option. It remains the most effective way to relieve symptoms such as hot flushes, night sweats,

poor sleep, and mood changes. It can also support long-term health. Falling oestrogen levels are linked to weaker bones, increased cardiovascular risk, and changes in strength, energy, and metabolism. These changes are often dismissed as "just ageing", but they are closely tied to hormonal change.

At myGP Clinic, we increasingly

see women who have struggled to access clear advice and timely support during perimenopause and menopause. HRT is not right for everyone, but decisions should be based on good information and individual assessment, not fear or dismissal. Menopause is a natural transition, but women deserve to be properly supported through it.



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# Village steps back in time celebrating

Lymm truly stepped back in time as the village came together to celebrate another successful Lymm Dickensian Festival, which also marked the 40th anniversary of this much-loved event.

With festive cheer in the air and Victorian costumes lining the streets, it was a day to remember for residents and visitors alike.

A huge thank you goes to the fantastic sponsors — Lymm Parish Council, Kids Planet Lymm, and Lymm Veterinary Surgery, whose continued support helps make the festival possible year after year.

One of the highlights of the day was, once again, Santa's Grotto, which proved to be a massive

hit with families and children, spreading plenty of Christmas magic.

Throughout the village, visitors enjoyed a brilliant mix of catering and craft stalls, offering everything from delicious festive treats to unique handmade gifts.

The celebrations were brought to life by an amazing range of street entertainers and parade participants, adding colour, energy, and plenty of smiles to the crowds. Leading the parade were hundreds of Santas taking part in the much-

loved Santa Dash, a firm favourite and a spectacular sight that set the tone for the rest of the parade. A special mention goes to Cherry Tree Primary School, who were voted Best Dressed School, with more than 50 children dressing up and proudly walking in the parade — an absolutely fantastic effort.

Special thanks to Naz's Spice Lounge for donating a prize for the Best Dressed Person, which was deservedly won by Lizzie Greaves. The award for Best Dressed Window Display went to Watson and Wilde, whose festive creativity truly stood out.

Volunteer marshals played a vital role in keeping the event safe and enjoyable for everyone —

thank you for all your hard work. As a thank you for their efforts, The Spread Eagle kindly donated a voucher, which was awarded to one of the marshal volunteers selected at random. And of course, heartfelt thanks go to all the committee members. The effort, time, and passion that go into organising an event of this scale are enormous, and every single one of you is an absolute superstar.

Finally, thank you to everyone who came along, dressed up, joined in, and helped make this 40th anniversary celebration such a huge success. We hope you had an amazing time — and we can't wait to see you all again next year!

Pictures: John Hopkins



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# 40 years of Lymm Dickensian Festival



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# Lymm Repair Café welcomes its 1,000th visitor

Last December, the Lymm Repair Café which is supported by Lymm Parish Council, the Coffee House, and Warrington Borough Council, welcomed its 1,000th visitor.

Incredible when you consider that this community based project has been operating only one morning a month for just over a year with no formal source of funding.

Residents simply turn up on the day with their household items and the volunteers work on repairing these for a "pay what you can" donation whilst residents can purchase a low priced a selection of homemade cakes made by volunteers, hot drinks and soup as well as coffee kindly donated by The Coffee House.

Over 30 volunteers across the borough give their time and experience to the Repair Café –over 800 items have been presented to the team, 75% of these have been repaired. The team has sharpened over 220 tools, repaired over 220 electrical items, sewed 175 items of clothing, fixed 77 items of jewellery and repaired over 50 bikes. Items as varied as antique dolls, hoovers, childrens' toys, guitars, 70s lamps and even an accordion are amongst the many things which have been repaired.

Where items are not repaired, this is generally because a part is needed. Volunteers help residents locate the part online, which can

then be purchased and brought back the following month to be fitted.

The Repair Café also welcomes residents who have nothing to repair but like to come and chat with others on the day.

Ben Tolhurst, a local resident who helps to run the Repair Café said;

"This is a great example of a multi-stakeholder community project providing a much needed local service for residents of Lymm and surrounding areas - and we have lots of ideas for how to build on this project.

"In this time of the cost of living crisis, the opportunity for household items to be repaired for free or low cost is a vital public service and it is also good for the environment as most items would probably have ended up in land fill if they were not repaired. And all of this is delivered in a culture and ethos which promotes positive mental health and community resilience."

The Lymm repair café runs on the second Saturday of every month 10am-1pm at Lymm Village Hall, Pepper Street, Lymm, WA13 0JB. For more information see Facebook – repaircafelymm or contact the team at repaircafelymm@icloud.com



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# Lymm teen recognised in young photography comp with striking snaps

**A Lymm teenager has been recognised for their outstanding image in this year's prestigious RSPCA Young Photographer Awards.**

Winners were announced at a ceremony at the Tower of London held on Thursday 18 December – with Sam Morris, 15, from Lymm, being commended in both the Small World and age 12-15 categories.

In Small World, Sam's image of a spider on a dew-laden web, titled 'An architect in the rain', impressed judges.

Sam said: "On a rainy Saturday in August, as the downpour finally eased, I grabbed my camera gear and ventured outside – after some patient searching, I found a tiny spider clinging to the tattered, water-soaked strands of its web, silently repairing the damage left by the heavy rain."

"I set up my tripod and watched in awe as it wove fresh silk, mending each delicate thread of its fragile home."

Meanwhile, his entry in the 12-15 category was of a colourful spring snap of a red-breasted robin perching on a flowering blossom tree.

Sam added: "I was stopped in my tracks by the robin's unmistakable song. Nestled among the soft petals, it perched perfectly in the branches."

"I used the surrounding blooms to naturally frame the moment – capturing the beautiful contrast between the bright vivid orange of the robin with the vibrant pinks of the blossoms to showcase the serene beauty of spring."

Every year, the RSPCA Young Photographer Awards invites young people aged 18 years and under to capture the animal kingdom on a camera or a mobile device. This supports the RSPCA's mission of inspiring everyone to create a better world for every animal.

This year's awards were judged anonymously by a panel of photography experts, including professional wildlife photographer and photographic guide Ellie Rothnie; former competition winner-

turned-professional photographer Catriona Parfitt; wildlife photographer, tour leader and owner of Natures Images, Danny Green; and RSPCA photographers Andrew Forsyth and Brett Harkness.

RSPCA photographer and judge Andrew Forsyth said: "This year's entries have been of an incredibly high standard that made it very difficult for us as judges."

"It's been lovely to see so many creative photos of both pets and wildlife and see how the youngsters have interpreted each category in what has been an incredibly strong competition."

"This competition is a great way to encourage young people to go out and connect with animals, and the fantastic images we've seen this year have been very inspiring. There are some beautiful pictures in this year's winners gallery, with real talent shining through."

Presenter and broadcaster Radzi Chinyanganya, a former Blue Peter presenter, hosted this year's awards.

He said: "Young people are the future and that's why I know the future is in safe hands – because I'm constantly blown away at the talent and the ability and the creativity of many young people around the country. This is epitomised by the entries in these incredible awards."

"Thousands of people have entered, so to even make the shortlist is testament to their skill, dedication and patience. It's been a special day with special people."

Jo Rowland, RSPCA CEO, added: "Taking pictures of animals helps us sit up and take notice of how they live and their unique personalities – as well as being able to spot things we might not have seen with the naked eye. It can make us appreciate the challenges that wildlife face or see our pets in a whole new light – and sharing those beautiful images can help others to appreciate animals

more, too."

"The RSPCA Young Photographer Awards is a fantastic event celebrating exceptional young talent and the amazing and wonderfully diverse animal kingdom each year. It really embodies what we are about as a charity – encouraging people to connect with animals and inspiring everyone to create a better world for every animal."

Sponsors of the competition are Natures Images (wildlife photography holidays), Camtraptions (camera traps for wildlife photography) and multichannel communications provider MBA Group. Winners

in each category were awarded trophies and a selection of prizes at the Tower of London ceremony and as the overall winner, Thomas Durrant received a weekend photography break with Natures Images. This fabulous prize – the Deer Rut Special – includes two nights' accommodation for the winner and a parent/guardian.

The RSPCA Young Photographer Awards 2026 opens for entries on Tuesday 5 May 2026. For more information visit the RSPCA website for all the latest news, galleries and photo tips.

Email: [ypa26@rspca.org.uk](mailto:ypa26@rspca.org.uk) to join the mailing list and be notified when the competition opens.



# Lymm named Cheshire Tennis Club of the Year



**LYMM has been named Cheshire Tennis' Club of the Year in recognition of its achievements in inclusivity, community engagement, and player development.**

The club has built a vibrant environment where teamwork, inclusivity, and development are central, fostering a welcoming atmosphere for players of all ages and abilities.

"We've always prided ourselves on being a welcoming club that has a court for players of all abilities, whether they are just beginning or ready for match play," said President Jannette Harris.

"To be recognised for these efforts by the Cheshire LTA means a lot and gives us the confidence we are doing things right."

In the past year, Lymm introduced three new league teams and now hosts 105 adult players in the Warrington League and 30 in the North East Cheshire League.

Winter training attracts over 100 players every week, coordinated by 16 dedicated team captains.

Social tennis participation has also surged, rising 80% over five years, with coach-led sessions on Astro and grass courts providing a relaxed,

friendly environment.

The clubhouse, managed by dedicated staff and members, enhances the community feel with homemade cakes, a book swap, and table tennis.

"Lymm is a wonderful place to live and to play tennis, and we really do consider ourselves one of the key centres of the village," said Club Chairman Gary Bolton.

Crucial to the club's success is its coaching setup, led by Head Coach Allan Morton, who has twice been named Coach of the Year.

The club has hosted more than 150 LTA tournaments this year and supports around 200 junior players, including county-level competitors.

"We really do believe that Lymm is the embodiment of the modern tennis club, where everyone feels welcome," said Gary.

"All that said, we are not a committee that rests on its laurels. We are already looking to the future and considering what more we can do to improve the club even further."

## Outrage over plan for 55 new homes on green belt

RESIDENTS and local councillors are outraged at proposals to build 55 new houses on green belt land off Rushgreen Road in Lymm.

A planning application (2025/01668) has been submitted and local Cllr Ian Marks is asking for it to be called-in and determined by the Development Management Committee.

Cllr. Marks said, "There is enough new building taking place in our village on land allocated for development in the approved Local Plan. This application is premature, and we will do everything we can to oppose it."

My letter of objection to the planners is:

"I am writing in my capacity as a Borough Councillor for the ward to request that it is 'called in' to be determined by the Development Management Committee. However, I hope that you will reject this application, in which case it will not be necessary to be taken to the committee."

My reasons for this request are as follows:

- This is Green Belt land and not

allocated for development in the approved Local Plan

- If permission was granted it would make a mockery of the Local Plan and bring the planning process into disrepute

- There are no very special circumstances to justify approval

- On 25 September 2025 I received this email from the Planning Policy and Programmes Manager, Michael Bell - "Warrington's housing need figure has increased under the Government's revised standard method. The new figure is 1,064 homes per annum, compared to our Local Plan's housing requirement of 816 homes per annum."

However, transitional arrangements mean that our housing requirement will remain as per our adopted Local Plan until the Plan is 5-years-old.

This is subject to the Council being able to demonstrate a 5-year housing land supply – which we are currently able to demonstrate. As such, any application on Green Belt land will need to demonstrate very special circumstances in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework."

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## Divorce Column

By Peter Wilkinson  
Divorce Lawyer at Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

### An Amicable Divorce - is there any such thing?

Sometimes people ask whether there is any such thing as an amicable divorce? The short answer is yes — but it's important to be realistic about what it looks like.

Divorce is rarely easy. It's an inherently divisive process. Even where both parties agree that the relationship has come to an end there are often strong emotions involved - sadness, hurt feelings, anger, blame, anxiety about the future, worries about money, housing and arrangements for children. An amicable divorce should not be understood as a process without these emotions or without difficulty, but rather one in which difficulties are addressed respectfully, sensibly and constructively rather than combatively. In practice, being amicable is less about how people feel and more about their mindset and behaviour. It involves communicating openly, providing full and honest financial disclosure and focussing on realistic resolution rather than revisiting past grievances.

Some suggest that involving solicitors might inflame matters, but in practice taking early legal advice can help manage expectations, clear up misunderstandings and provide a clear framework for negotiations. This can help people in making informed decisions. When people understand their legal position discussions can often be more realistic, more focussed and this can assist in reaching a fair resolution more efficiently and cost effectively.

Where children are involved, an amicable approach becomes especially important. While the adult relationship may be ending the role of parenting continues. Keeping conflict to a minimum and prioritising the welfare of the children can help promote stability and support healthier co-parenting in the long term.

It's also important to note that 'amicable' doesn't mean requiring one party to be a pushover and accept an unfair outcome. It's not about being soft. Pursuing a fair outcome can be done robustly while remaining respectful and constructive, provided the focus remains on reasonableness and resolution rather than recrimination.

So, is an amicable divorce possible? Yes — with the right mindset and the right guidance, on both sides.

For expert advice and assistance regarding divorce and related matters please get in touch — whatever your circumstances we have the experience and expertise to advise, guide and support you.

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# Lymm Panto breaks all records

**IN an unprecedented nine-show run to sell-out houses, the Lymm Panto at Lymm Rugby Club raised over £45k for club funds, breaking all records.**

'In a year when the club, a registered charity, has to pay for the first team squad to travel and play in Devon and Cornwall, the extra effort put in by all our volunteer members has been extraordinary,' commented Club Chairman David Simpson.

'Not only that but our audiences dug deep and we collected record amounts donated to the charity raffle every night,' he added. 'I just want to say a huge thank you to all involved!'

The themed panto, 'Jack and His Giant Beanstalk', was also considered one of the best ever.

'We had lots of new faces in the

cast and they performed superbly,' commented show producer Simon Plumb.

'The laughter and enjoyment levels were exceptionally high,' he added. 'Jack, performed by Adam Halford, was hilarious and he made a great leading man.'

The world-famous show is now in its 39th year. 'Groups travel from all over the UK to watch the Lymm Panto and it's true when we say it has fame worldwide,' added Simon.

'Next year will be our 40th year so we are planning a celebratory show, not to be missed,' he concluded.



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## Obituary

## Marth Jane Birks

The funeral has taken place of Marth Jane Birks who passed away at home aged 86 on November 14.

Known as Margaret, she was a keen gardener with a special interest in orchids and she belonged to the North of England Orchid Society for over 40 years. Before the birth of her first child she was a keen fisherwoman.

Margaret leaves behind her husband and two sons. Her family would like to thank all relatives and friends for their kindness and sympathy at this time. The service was held at Altrincham Crematorium followed by interment at Lymm Church on December 9.

Funeral arrangements by John Burrows and Sons, lead by Jacqueline Taylor of A Life Remembered.

## Obituary Notices

While Obituary notices are published free of charge, due to pressures on space, we can never guarantee they will be used and there can also be a delay of several months.

If you would like to guarantee a notice to appear in the next available issue, these can be purchased for £75 plus VAT which helps towards the running costs of your free community magazine.

To place an obituary notice or any other public/family notice please email [info@lymmlife.co.uk](mailto:info@lymmlife.co.uk)

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