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Magazine

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ISSUE 326 | SEPTEMBER 2026
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**Brothers launch
new Dementia hub**

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Editor
Gary Skentelbery

Production
James Bryan

Advertising
James Balme
Telephone
01925 631592

Editorial
01925 623633

Email
info@lymmlife.co.uk

Websites
www.lymmlife.co.uk
www.culchethlife.com
www.frodshamlife.co.uk
www.warrington-worldwide.co.uk

Address
New Media Centre
Old Road Warrington
WA4 1AT

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Editor's Opinion



THERE can be little argument that Britain needs more affordable homes. Young families deserve the chance to get on the property ladder, older residents need suitable accommodation to downsize into, and businesses rely on a growing workforce.

But there comes a point where enough really is enough. For many people living in Lymm, that point has already been reached.

Over recent years, our village has found itself at the centre of what can only be described as a development tsunami. Time and again, proposals have emerged to build on precious Green Belt land, with ever-larger housing schemes threatening to chip away at the very landscape that makes Lymm such a special place to live.

Green Belt is not simply empty land waiting for development. It provides a vital buffer between communities, protects wildlife, supports farming, helps reduce flooding and offers residents access to open countryside. Once it is built on, it is lost forever.

What concerns many residents is not just the number of houses being proposed, but the cumulative impact. Every new estate brings more traffic onto already congested roads, greater pressure on schools, GP surgeries and other public services, while infrastructure improvements rarely seem to keep pace.

Anyone who has tried to negotiate Rushgreen Road, the A56 or the village centre during peak periods knows that congestion is already a daily frustration. Simply adding hundreds or even thousands more

homes without first addressing these issues is putting the cart before the horse.

Lymm has always embraced sensible change. It has evolved over generations while retaining its distinctive character, heritage and strong community spirit. That balance is what attracts people here in the first place.

The danger is that piecemeal development gradually erodes that identity until one day residents wake up to find the village they knew has become little more than another suburban housing estate.

Planning decisions should never be driven solely by housing targets or financial calculations. They must also consider quality of life, environmental sustainability and the wishes of local communities. Residents deserve confidence that their voices genuinely matter, rather than feeling consultations are simply a box-ticking exercise before decisions have effectively already been made.

This is not an argument against all development. There is room for carefully planned, genuinely sustainable growth that respects the Green Belt, delivers affordable homes for local people and is supported by investment in roads, schools, healthcare and public transport.

But development should enhance

communities, not overwhelm them.

Lymm's Green Belt has protected the village's unique identity for decades. Future generations deserve the opportunity to enjoy the same countryside, open spaces and sense of place that current residents value so highly.

Growth is inevitable. Losing what makes Lymm special is not.

As planning pressures continue to mount, those making the decisions must remember that once Green Belt disappears beneath bricks and concrete, there is no going back. The choices made today will shape Lymm for generations to come. Let us hope they are made with wisdom, restraint and a genuine commitment to preserving the character of one of Cheshire's most treasured villages.

Sadly I am not holding my breath!

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Brothers launch Lymm Dementia Hub inspired by Mum's early-onset diagnosis

A premium new dementia day care facility has officially opened at Statham Lodge Hotel in Lymm, launched by local brothers Brad and James Crompton in partnership with the award-winning The Rainbow Care Group.

The specialist hub, designed to deliver highly personalised, non-clinical care and available to use for families around the Warrington and Cheshire area, was officially opened during a community event

by the Mayor of Warrington, Cllr Sagheer Zaman.

The venture was deeply inspired by the brothers' personal journey with their mother, Claire, who was diagnosed with early-onset

Alzheimer's disease at the age of 54. After struggling to find localised, person-centred support that prioritised an individual's identity rather than just their medical condition, the Appleton-raised brothers chose to build the service themselves.

Reflecting on the shortage of tailored local support, Brad Crompton, Director of The Rainbow Care Group South Manchester and Cheshire, explained the emotional driving force behind the project: "There was not a single place we felt comfortable taking our Mum that felt right for her as a person, rather than a patient, so our only option was to build it ourselves."

The brothers hold every decision to a personal standard, asking:

"Would we feel happy and confident bringing our own mum here?"

Operating Tuesdays and Thursdays at Statham Lodge, the club offers small-group, non-clinical care featuring art, music, cooking, and tailored activities.

The launch included the Lymm Beat Team promoting the Herbert Protocol for safeguarding, along with a 1960s police "Panda" car. This new venue is part of a regional expansion, with other hubs at The Tytherington Club and Egerton Hall. Families can book free trial sessions via The Rainbow Care Group.

Attendance Allowance may also be utilised by eligible individuals to help fund care costs.



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What's On

LYMM PARISH COUNCIL

No meeting in August
Lymm Parish Hall
Check www.lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk for details.

LYMM THURSDAY EVENING BRIDGE CLUB

Lymm Village Hall every Thursday 7pm
Details: 01925 919053

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 HISTORY SOCIETY

Second Monday each month
September to May
Lymm Village Hall - 8pm-9pm
Variety of history talks
Visitors most welcome
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.
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 St Peters Church Hall, Sandy Ln, Lymm, 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

Primrose Hill voted Best Café or Tearoom of the Year

Primrose Hill Nurseries has been crowned Best Café or Tearoom of the Year at the Cheshire Food & Drink Awards 2026!

MD Adam Halford said: "This award is a huge honour and one that belongs to every single member of our incredible café and nursery team. Their passion, hard work, dedication and commitment to creating a warm welcome and exceptional experience for every customer is what makes Primrose so special."

"A heartfelt thank you to our amazing customers for your continued support, loyalty and kind words. We couldn't have achieved this without you."

"Here's to celebrating together – and to many more delicious breakfasts, homemade lunches, cakes, coffees and memorable moments at Primrose!"





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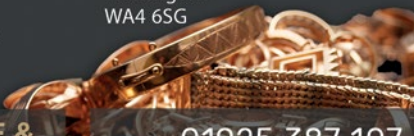
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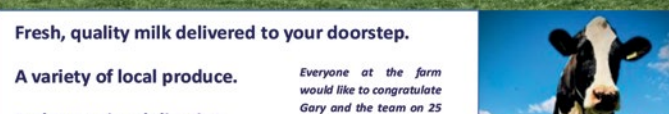
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Everyone at the farm would like to congratulate Gary and the team on 25 years of Lymm Life!



Local home care provider donates to Memorial Garden

A local home care provider, Right at Home Lymm and Warrington South, has made a heartfelt donation to the Lymm Memorial Garden in memory of much-loved former client Peter Powell, helping to fund additional planting in the heart of the village he served so passionately.

The donation was made possible after the company won the Super Duck at the Lymm Duck Race in April 2025, receiving a £1,000 prize to donate to local charities. In honour of two late clients, the home care provider chose to split the prize money, with the second £500 donation dedicated to Peter's memory.

Peter was widely known throughout Lymm as the town crier and devoted countless hours to supporting the local community. He played a leading role in many of the village's best-loved events, including Lymm Dickensian, Lymm May Queen, Lymm Transport Day and the Lymm Duck Race, while also working tirelessly behind the scenes on numerous community projects.

"We wanted to remember Peter in a way that reflected the incredible contribution he made to the community," said Clare Coke, Care Director at Right at Home Lymm and Warrington South. "Peter gave so much of his time to making Lymm such a special place, and it was a privilege for our team to care for him. We hope these additional plants in the memorial

garden provide a lasting tribute to someone who meant so much to so many people."

The donation has enabled additional planting within the memorial garden, creating an even more beautiful space for residents and visitors to enjoy while celebrating Peter's enduring legacy.

"Peter was one of those people who quietly made a difference to countless lives," added Clare. "Supporting a project that keeps his memory alive felt like a fitting way to honour both the wonderful man we knew and his lifelong dedication to Lymm."

This donation follows Right at Home Lymm and Warrington South's earlier £500 contribution to the Oughtrington Luncheon Club in memory of another much-loved client, Morag Smith, with both donations made possible through the company's success at the 2025 Lymm Duck Race.

To learn more about Right at Home Lymm and Warrington South's services, call 01925 202 576 or visit www.rightathome.co.uk/lymm-and-warrington-south.



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Call for clarity over developer tsunami of Green Belt

CONCERNED councillors at Lymm are calling on Warrington Borough Council planners to explain to the public why there is a "tsunami" of developers putting forward more and more planning applications to build on the Green Belt.

At last week's Development Management Committee, final permission was given for 167 homes in Statham in Lymm and a further 55 homes on Green Belt off Rushgreen Road in Lymm. The Statham proposal was on land freed from Green Belt status in the approved Local Plan, but the second one was not. In addition, Peel has put forward a proposal for around 60 homes off Bucklow Gardens in Lymm and now there is yet another proposal in the pipeline for up to 200 homes off Lakeside Road in Lymm.

The Richborough project is promoting a 31-acre (12 hectares) site to the south west of Lymm. The northern parcel is being promoted for residential development, which is capable of accommodating up to 200 homes.

For the remainder of the site, we are proposing a country park and additional parking for Lymm Dam, to relieve congestion in the centre of the village.

The site is in walking distance of a range of local facilities and services in the village, and has good links to further afield. Developers say the site will be promoted for Green Belt release

within the Warrington Local Plan.

Local Councillor Ian Marks said, "The public are asking what is going on. They thought the Local Plan gave them protection against more homes until it was refreshed. Committee Councillors may have had briefings and explanations in long reports, but this is not sufficient communication and transparency for the public at large or other members of the Council. Confidence in the planning process is being undermined and people are wondering what the point of refreshing the Local Plan is."

"As Liberal Democrats we believe our residents should be aware of the impact of the Labour Government's changes to planning. The new Guidance, known as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), has been strongly opposed by Liberal Democrats nationally and locally. We believe these changes undermine democracy and ride roughshod over Local Plans. They give carte blanche to developers to do more or less what they want to do, declaring Green Belt land to be Grey Belt. We know that the greatest profit comes from building upmarket houses on Green Belt land. Under the new guidance,



there now have to be extremely strong reasons to deny planning permission, demonstrating that the impact of building would outweigh the alleged benefits of the development. Just because land is protected by being defined as Green Belt is no longer sufficient. In our view, brownfield land should be a top priority, with much more emphasis on genuine affordability, social housing and environmental concerns.

"Secondly, the Government has changed the rules on housing targets by increasing the required number of houses that have to be built in Warrington each year, which has overtaken the buffer of 5% built into the current Local Plan. The Council has a history of proving far too optimistic in its forecasts. Housing delivery is no exception to this, and most of the bigger developments have fallen behind schedule. Nationally, the Labour Government is way behind

its objective to build 1.5 million new homes in five years. This is partly due to labour shortages after Brexit, higher construction costs and a shortage of Planning Officers to process planning applications.

Lymm South Councillor Luke Stutard added: "The application for 200 homes and a country park on 31 acres is in my ward. It is open season here in Lymm, and I dread to think what other areas of land will be put forward in the 'Strategic Housing Land Allocation Assessment' to be published in the autumn. Both Councillors and Officers are effectively impotent in opposing these applications. How does this fit with Andy Burnham saying that there should be more power in local communities? I want to assure residents that your Councillors will do everything that they can to work with you to oppose unwanted developments. But I must be honest and say it will not be easy."

Developer wins permission for 167 new homes

PLANNING permission has been secured for 167 new, one-five bedroomed homes at Lymm, including 50 "affordable" properties and around £3m Section 106 monies.

Miller Homes North West secured planning approval for its new residential development in Lymm, with the scheme set to be known as Cobblestone Wood.

Located off Warrington Road, the 18-acre development will deliver 167 one-to-five-bedroom homes, creating a thoughtfully designed new neighbourhood in one of Cheshire's most sought-after villages.

While Lymm Parish Council didn't object to the development, they flagged some concerns, while 17 local residents opposed the scheme.

Cobblestone Wood will offer a mix of homes to suit a range of buyers, from first-time purchasers through to growing families, while 30 per cent of the homes will be delivered as affordable housing as part of an agreement with Warrington Borough Council.

The development will also bring significant investment into the local area, with Miller Homes contributing approximately £3 million towards education, healthcare and sports facilities, alongside improvements to the Trans Pennine Trail, which

runs along the southern boundary of the site.

John Hardy, Land Director at Miller Homes North West, said: "Securing planning approval for Cobblestone Wood is a significant milestone and allows us to move forward with bringing much-needed new homes to Lymm."

"The scheme will provide substantial community benefits and enhancements to local infrastructure, ensuring a positive legacy for both new and existing residents."

Situated close to Lymm village centre, Cobblestone Wood will benefit from excellent access to local amenities, highly regarded schools and convenient transport links to Warrington, Manchester and the wider North West region.

Miller Homes expects to launch an early-bird release of homes at Cobblestone Wood in October 2026, giving prospective buyers the opportunity to register their interest and secure one of the first plots available at the development.

The approval follows Miller Homes' continued investment across Cheshire, where the housebuilder currently has homes available at Lunts Heath Rise in Widnes and is preparing to launch further new communities including Aspen Row in Warrington.

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Private Scanning with Proper Clinical Assessment

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

In general practice, a scan is rarely the whole answer. It is one part of a careful process: listening to the patient, understanding the symptoms, considering risk and choosing the right investigation.

At our Antrobus clinic, we now have a private MRI scanner and ultrasound facilities. These are available to existing myGP Clinic members, but they are also open to people who do not use our GP service.

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scan combined with a one-off "faster" appointment. This gives someone the opportunity to meet a clinician, discuss why they are considering imaging and ensure that the requested investigation is appropriate. There is no requirement to become a member

of the clinic.

MRI, or magnetic resonance imaging, uses a strong magnetic field and radio waves to produce detailed pictures of the body. It is useful for examining soft tissues, including the brain and spine, muscles, ligaments, joints and internal organs. It does not use X-rays.

Ultrasound uses high-frequency sound waves and is commonly used to investigate abdominal or pelvic symptoms, lumps and swellings, thyroid problems, muscles and tendons, and blood flow. It does not involve ionising radiation and is quick and well tolerated.

One area where earlier assessment can be particularly valuable is prostate health. Prostate cancer may develop without obvious symptoms, which is why men should understand their individual risk rather than waiting until something feels wrong.

At Antrobus, a prostate cancer assessment can combine a clinical appointment, a PSA blood test and a prostate MRI scan where appropriate. PSA measures a protein produced by the prostate. It is not a perfect cancer test: a raised result can have non-cancerous causes, while some significant cancers do not produce a markedly raised PSA.

MRI can provide detailed images of the prostate and may identify areas that require further specialist assessment. However, neither PSA



nor MRI can diagnose or exclude every prostate cancer on its own. The value lies in interpreting the results together, alongside age, symptoms, family history, examination where appropriate and clinical judgement.

This is particularly relevant for men with urinary symptoms, a family history of prostate cancer, Black men, who have a higher underlying risk, or anyone who wants an informed discussion about testing. Screening is not automatically right for every man, and the benefits and limitations should be understood beforehand.

Whatever part of the body is being investigated, the best scan is the one that answers a clear clinical question. Results must then be explained and followed up properly.

Anyone interested in private MRI, ultrasound or prostate assessment at our Antrobus clinic can call the onboarding team on 01925 972 673. The service is open to members and non-members, with no obligation to join.



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Local author publishes new book highlighting impossible choice between motherhood and career

LYMM author Claire Baker has published a book "Family Matters" about a young mother facing the impossible choice between a career and motherhood.

The book follows Clodagh, a trainee solicitor, who is facing an impossible choice between career and motherhood following a one-night stand. Family Matters is due to be published on the 28th August 2026.

Set in Claire's hometown of Manchester, it links back to the main character's Irish roots.

Twenty-four-year-old trainee solicitor Clodagh McNamara is coming undone. Her mother is dead, her boyfriend has left, and her estranged father is remarrying.

After one reckless night with a stranger, Clodagh finds herself pregnant. Caught between her strict Catholic upbringing and the views of Cosmopolitan, her unofficial bible, she is confused and alone.

Work, once her refuge, turns toxic and she is haunted by the voice of her late mother. Paralysed by indecision, Clodagh must choose whether ambition or motherhood will define her future.

When the handsome stranger reappears, as her boss, he begins asking questions that Clodagh is desperate not to answer.

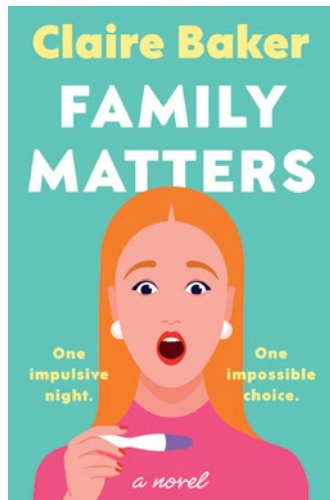
Supported by her pensioner neighbours who become her adopted family, Clodagh begins to believe that maybe she can survive on her own terms...

Retired solicitor Claire now lives a quiet life in Lymm. She is married, with two grown-up children and enjoys singing in her local choir, playing the piano, walking the Trans Pennine Trail, swimming, Pilates, reading, and the agony – and ecstasy – of writing.

Claire explains: "Most of the novel's action takes place on or near to sites along the 41-bus route. I used to catch the bus to school. I became conscious of how much Manchester has changed and wanted to write about some of the areas I knew in my youth before they disappear, and those which have already disappeared."

"I also wanted to remember a transitional era where young women were told 'they could have it all' and were equal to men but who discovered that it wasn't that simple. Women could have it all but not at the same time. If you had a baby, there were career compromises to be made!"

Further information on Family Matters is available from The Book Guild, at: <https://bookguild.co.uk/bookshop/contemporary/family-matters>



Learning how to "read" a wood in Lymm

YOUNG people aged 10 to 18 can learn to "read" a British wood with forager Pete McCusker when a two-hour real-world learning experience visits Lymm on Sunday, August 30.

The session, Foraging: Secrets of the British Wood, runs from 1pm to 3pm at Spud Wood.

Pete of Forage Box, will work alongside the group as they identify plants and fungi, explore how the wood works as an ecosystem, and uncover its links to wild food, medicine and old stories.

Pete has worked with Forage Box since 2024, runs foraging

sessions across the North West and is a member of the Association of Foragers.

Each young person attends with a parent or another responsible adult, who joins the session. The experience is built around teenagers, with the group looking closely, comparing what they find and using the clues a working forager uses.

Places cost £40 per young person and £20 for the accompanying adult.

For more information and to book, visit Foxchaser.

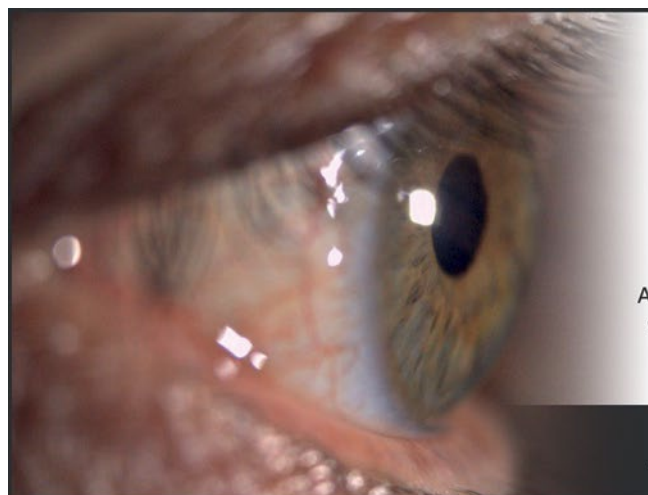




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Much-loved head teacher steps down after 19 years

AFTER 19 years of dedicated service, Gill Marsland has stepped down as head teacher at Oughtrington Primary School, Lymm to focus on her role as chief executive officer of The Beam Trust.

Since joining the school in 2007, Gill Marsland has played a pivotal role in the lives of countless pupils, families and colleagues at Oughtrington.

Her commitment to providing an outstanding education, combined with her passion for nurturing every child, has helped shape the school's success and reputation within the local community.

Since 2021 she has also been CEO of the Trust.

A statement issued by the school said: "Under Miss Marsland's

leadership, Oughtrington Primary has celebrated many achievements. Her vision, dedication and unwavering belief in every child has created a welcoming and ambitious environment where pupils have flourished academically, socially and personally."

Although stepping away from the day to day leadership of the school, Miss Marsland will continue to support its future through her role as CEO of The Beam Trust, which includes Thelwall Infants School and Nursery, Statham

Primary School and Nursery and Ravenbank Primary School, in addition to Oughtrington Primary.

She will work with all the schools across the Trust to improve opportunities and outcomes for even more children.

Colleagues, pupils and families have paid tribute to Miss Marsland, thanking her for 19 years of exceptional leadership, kindness and dedication. Many have reflected on the lasting difference she has made, not only through

academic success but through the positive culture and strong sense of community she has built at Oughtrington.

"As Miss Marsland embarks on this new chapter, the entire school community extends its heartfelt thanks for 19 years of outstanding service and wishes her every success in her continued leadership of The Beam Trust. While she will be greatly missed, her legacy will remain an enduring part of the school's story."



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Local resident ready to serve Lymm as community champion

Local resident Steve Walsh has put himself forward to take on the mantle of a Lymm Community Champion, inspired by the village's late, much loved community figurehead Su Williams MBE.

Steve, a self-appointed "Lymm Ambassador" who famously owns a high-visibility bomber jacket to prove the title, is stepping into the vital role after an arduous six-year battle with cancer.

The transition has been six years in the making. Before his diagnosis, Steve met with Su Williams and her husband, Alan Williams, to explain to them his commitment that he would eventually carry on her foundational community work as Su started to step back due the growing impact of her dementia. On that day Walsh presented Su with a special edition diary featuring bespoke artwork themed around "strong women."

The artwork was created by his niece, the award-winning professional portrait artist Kirsten Todd.

"Su was just that—a very strong woman for Lymm," Walsh said.

Steve recently had the opportunity to reconnect with Alan Williams who took the opportunity to offer him his best wishes in his ambitious enterprise.

Steve is already very actively involved in the community, holding memberships at Lymm Golf Club, Lymm Tennis Club and Oughtrington Bowling Club.

He was also a dedicated volunteer at the Lymm Heritage Centre up until 2020 and remains heavily involved with Lymm Environment Action Forum (LEAF), championing local sustainability initiatives.

While Steve plans to support local groups across the entire spectrum, his approach will also carry a sharp edge of accountability.

He plans to hit the ground running by holding open discussions with local businesses and immediately reinstating the area's defunct traders' meetings.

"I want all groups to buy into the idea that I am here to help, gather evidence, and hold the Local Authority to account where it is failing Lymm, its residents, and businesses," Steve explained.

"We have a fantastic community here, and I want to develop it to an even better one for all residents."



Emergency responders charity supporting NHS ambulance service opens first base

AN emergency responders charity supporting the NHS ambulance service is thrilled to be opening its first ever base on the outskirts of Lymm.

The North West Pre-Hospital Critical Care charity (NWPPCCC) is a group of NHS doctors, critical care paramedics and nurses who volunteer in their own time to respond in support of the NHS ambulance service.

Until now they have largely responded from their own homes,

for example, Dr Scott Beattie as a resident of Lymm has attended a number of significant and well publicised incidents in the immediate area, often arriving on scene as the first healthcare professional.

The support the charity receives enables it to deliver enhanced prehospital care. This means their patients can receive a standard of care above what regular paramedics can deliver. They can deliver interventions that would otherwise have to wait till the

patient arrives in the Emergency Department, Intensive Care or surgical theatres.

The new base will be located on Barleycastle Trading Estate and it will allow the charity to have a permanent home for its two dedicated rapid response vehicles that the volunteers use if undertaking a prearranged team shift – at other times the responders use their own personal vehicles that have been adapted for blue light driving. The base will also facilitate considerable

improvements in the resources and provisions for the charity and this will lead to even better patient care.

The charity have established an Amazon Wishlist for anyone who could kindly help them become established in the base [tiny.cc/nwppcccwishlist](https://www.tiny.cc/nwppcccwishlist). Alternatively donations are welcomed as the charity can use the funds to support their core activities in providing life-saving care to the population of the North West [tiny.cc/nwppcccdonations](https://www.tiny.cc/nwppcccdonations).



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Lymm Councillor backs national petition calling for independent appeals process for private toll penalties

A Lymm Councillor is backing a national petition calling for an independent appeals process for private toll penalties following ongoing issues at the Warburton Toll Bridge.

Cllr Graham Gowland is urging residents across Warrington and Cheshire to sign and share the Parliamentary petition calling for an independent adjudication system for private toll penalties.

The petition, titled "Require independent adjudication for private toll penalties" seeks to establish a fair and impartial appeals process for motorists who receive penalty charges from privately operated toll crossings.

While concerns about the Warburton Toll Bridge have been raised repeatedly by residents in Lymm and neighbouring communities, Cllr Gowland says the issue extends far beyond a single crossing and affects motorists across the country.

The petition has been accepted by the UK Parliament's petitions system and is now gathering signatures from members of the public.

As a local councillor, Cllr Gowland has received numerous representations from residents who feel frustrated by the lack of an independent route to challenge toll penalty notices issued by private operators.

Cllr Gowland said: "For months I have heard from residents who feel they have been treated unfairly when dealing with toll penalty notices. Whether people

ultimately agree with a penalty or not, there should be confidence that any appeal is considered by a genuinely independent body.

"This isn't just about the Warburton Toll Bridge. Similar concerns have been raised elsewhere around the country, which is why a national petition is the right approach.

"Most people simply want a fair system. If a motorist believes a penalty has been issued incorrectly,

they should have access to an independent adjudicator rather than being left to challenge decisions within a process controlled by the organisation that issued the penalty in the first place.

"I would encourage everyone who believes in transparency, accountability and natural justice to sign the petition and share it as widely as possible. The stronger the public support, the stronger the message sent to Government that the current arrangements need to be reviewed."

Because Parliamentary petitions must address matters of national

policy, it is not possible to raise a petition dealing solely with the Warburton Toll Bridge. The petition instead focuses on creating a national framework for independent adjudication covering private toll penalties more broadly.

Residents wishing to support the campaign can sign the petition online at: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/772136>

Cllr Gowland is encouraging local residents, community groups and businesses to share the petition across social media and community networks to help maximise support.



Fears developers will spoil Lymm village with too many homes on Green Belt

RESIDENTS and local councillors fear that developers will wreck the character of Lymm village further by building too many homes on the Green Belt.

It follows the Government increasing housing targets for Warrington last year, generating a "free-for-all" of applications.

Local Cllr Ian Marks says, "In December 2023, Warrington Council approved a Local Plan for the Borough. Two areas of land were released from the Green Belt, allowing new homes to be built there. This was land next to Sainsbury's and land in Statham. Building on the first site started months ago and work on the second site will start soon, once planning approval has been given at the Development Management Committee on 16 July.

As part of its plan to build more homes, the Government increased the target for Warrington last year. Providing the Council could guarantee a 5 year supply of land for housing, it was immune from this increase until the refresh of the Local Plan in a few years time. The problem now is that two things have changed. Firstly, the government has moved the goalposts and the Council has fallen behind and will not deliver enough homes to meet the five-year target.

"There is now a free-for-all and developers are making the most of it. On the agenda for Thursday's Development Control Committee is a proposal for 55 houses opposite Sainsbury's and a planning application has just been submitted by Peel for 60 houses at the end of Bucklow Gardens. Other developers or their agents have been seen at several other Green Belt sites around Lymm and will claim they are not Green Belt but the new category of Grey Belt.

"There is huge concern that if all these developments go ahead, it will destroy the semi-rural nature of our village and put even more pressure on roads and infrastructure. At a time when public perception of politics is at a low ebb, this makes a complete mockery of the planning process. What is the point of a Local Plan? Why has a massive amount of time and effort been spent on preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for a public referendum in the autumn? The answer is that both these Plans and campaigns by residents are necessary to help combat this onslaught by developers who seem to care little about our communities. I can assure the public that all your councillors will do all they can to fight unwanted proposals."



Lymm looks to future after missing out on UK Town of Culture 2028 shortlist



LYMM village's bid team has expressed its sadness after learning that the village has not been selected for the shortlist for the inaugural UK Town of Culture 2028 competition.

In an official letter received from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, UK Town of Culture Chair Sir Phil Redmond CBE confirmed that the independent advisory panel faced an incredibly tough decision, receiving 398 applications from across the nation and narrowing them down to a final shortlist of just 15.

While the team is naturally disappointed by the result, local councillors and bid organisers have extended their warmest congratulations and best wishes to the local towns that have successfully advanced to the next stage of the competition.

Reflecting on the judges' feedback, the Lymm bid team noted that the application process itself has highlighted the immense value of the village's cultural landscape.

In his letter, Sir Phil Redmond encouraged the community to view the bid as "part of a continuing journey, rather than a single outcome," praising the care, commitment, and valuable community work reflected in Lymm's submission.

Speaking on behalf of the team,

Cllr Graham Gowland said: "We are, of course, sad as a team not to have been shortlisted this time around. A tremendous amount of passion and hard work went into showcasing Lymm's unique heritage and creative spirit. However, this is just the beginning.

Lymm is such a vibrant, dynamic place, and our community spirit doesn't depend on a single shortlist. We will continue to thrive, we will keep celebrating our local culture, and we will absolutely be back to try again next year."

The UK Town of Culture initiative was launched to encourage communities to use creativity to tell their unique stories. The Lymm team intends to build heavily on the foundation of this year's application, using the momentum and ideas generated to further enrich the village's cultural calendar over the coming months.

The bid team would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to all the residents, local businesses, and community groups who contributed their time, stories, and support to the application.

Lymm Runners' magnificent seven!



WHAT a way to start the summer holidays for seven epic members from Lymm Runners who completed The Montane Lakeland 50 mile race from Dalemain to Coniston.

It was a very challenging route with over 3000m of steep ascents and descents, and despite the general dry weather in the UK recently, there was heavy rain and wind at times, making the terrain a lot more difficult underfoot.

It was well supported by excellent feed stations and super human volunteers who stood out in all conditions supporting the runners.

So congratulations to all the Lymm Runners who completed the event; some of whom were running to raise money for the Epickidz Charity.

Chambers Fletcher Solicitors Divorce Column

By Peter Wilkinson
Divorce Lawyer at Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

After the Summer Holidays - Thinking About Divorce?

September often marks a return to routine. The summer holiday is over, the children are back to school and life begins to return to normal. For some couples, this can be a time of reflection. Difficulties that have perhaps been pushed into the background during the summer period may come back into sharper focus, leading them to question whether their marriage has reached the end of the road.

If you find yourself in that position and are considering separation, it is important to remember that the choices made in the early stages of a relationship breakdown can have long-lasting legal and financial consequences. Taking advice before taking action is often the best first step, allowing you to understand your options before deciding how best to move forward.

Although the legal process for obtaining a divorce is now more straightforward under the no-fault system, the divorce itself is only one part of the picture. Financial matters will need to be resolved and, where children are involved, careful consideration will need to be given to making arrangements that best meet their needs. Reaching sensible agreements is sometimes easier said than done. It often requires time, information and compromise.

It is also important not to make assumptions about your legal position. Decisions such as leaving the family home, dividing assets informally or relying on what friends or family have experienced may not be in your best interests. Every case is different and the advice that applies in one situation may not be appropriate in another, even where the circumstances appear similar.

Seeking legal advice equips you with the knowledge you need to make informed choices. If, after the summer, you are reflecting on your situation and wondering whether separation is the right step, obtaining advice sooner rather than later can reduce uncertainty, provide clarity and offer reassurance at what is typically a difficult and emotional time.

For expert advice and assistance regarding divorce, financial matters or child arrangements, please get in touch. Whatever your family law situation, we can help.

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Spread Eagle pub re-opens after £186,000 refurbishment

THE popular Spread Eagle pub, at Lymm, has re-opened after a £186,000 refurbishment.

A landmark in the centre of the village with its distinctive white frontage on Eagle Brow, the Spread Eagle has been refreshed from the ground up by brewery JW Lees.

Refurbishment works encompass the snug, taproom, bar and dining areas, with new fixtures, fittings, furniture and décor throughout. The pub's real fires and multi-room layout have been retained while the courtyard beer garden to the rear provides a sheltered spot for warmer days.

The resulting space strikes a considered balance: contemporary in its presentation yet rooted firmly in the warmth of a traditional village inn.

At the bar, guests will find an outstanding line-up of JW Lees beers, brewed at the Greengate Brewery in Middleton, including Original Lager, Manchester Craft Lager and Stout on keg, alongside

Bitter, Manchester Pale Ale and Founders Ale on cask. The rotating guest selection features seasonal ales and small-batch releases from The Boilerhouse microbrewery, complemented by the addition of beer flights.

The Spread Eagle serves a menu of hearty pub food, a Pub Lunch menu served Monday to Friday, midweek deals and traditional Sunday roasts.

Community remains central to the pub's identity, underpinned by an active programme of events including quiz nights and a function room well used by village groups throughout the year.

General manager Martyn Biggart said: "I'm very pleased with the refurb, the pub feels cosy, welcoming and reflects the character of Lymm Village itself. I'm looking forward to welcoming people back through the doors."



Plans submitted for alterations to historic 16th century cottage

PLANNING chiefs at Warrington are considering proposals for alterations to a historic cottage believed to date from the 16th century.

Grade 2 Listed Brook Cottage is in Warrington Road, Lymm and has undergone a number of alterations in the past. It was listed in 1984.

The new proposals are for three thatched dormers in a modern extension at the rear of the building to enable the provision of two additional bedrooms, an en-suite, two dressing rooms, a landing area, and storage space.

The historic core of the building dates from the 16th/17th century and has a rectangular floor plan arranged into three bays divided by two timber cruck frames.

The external walling is of timber box framing with rendered and painted brick infill panels. In the 18th/19th century, a brick bay was added at

the east gable end.

The ground floor accommodation consists of a dining room and lounge in the historic core, and a kitchen, two bedrooms and a bathroom in the modern extension.

The applicant says Brook Cottage holds historical value as a surviving example of a modest rural dwelling of probable sixteenth- or seventeenth-century origin.

Its form, plan, surviving fabric and relationship to its historic plot provide insight into patterns of domestic occupation, rural life and small-scale agricultural or horticultural activity. The building also illustrates the gradual evolution of vernacular dwellings over time.

An assessment of the cottage has concluded that the principal significance of the listed building is in its surviving historic 16th/17th century core, including the cruck-framed structure, sandstone pads,

chimney breast and stack, historic roof structure consisting of remnants of ridge beam and purlins, external timber wall framing, and associated historic fabric of an 18th/19th century brick extension.

The proposed works are focused

principally on modern extensions of limited heritage significance, whilst the elements that contribute most strongly to the building's special architectural and historic interest will be preserved and enhanced.



Lymm Rugby Club sports hub moves to phase two



THE development of a major sports hub at Lymm Rugby Club in the village continues to gather pace with the building of five detached properties on the site.

The building of five detached properties commenced on land adjacent to the clubhouse earlier this month.

The proceeds from the sale of these properties will be used to improve the sports facilities at the club.

This is Phase Two of a significant development at the club for which planning permission was granted by Warrington Borough Council back in 2018.

This current phase of the building programme will be completed in approximately 13 months.

Phase One, which commenced in 2019, saw the laying of an Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) and the relocation of Manor Road Tennis Club to four new courts within the walled garden at the club's Crouchley Lane home.

The plan is to also create a total on-site parking capacity for 180 vehicles.

"I am delighted to announce that the planned development at Lymm Rugby Club is moving to the next, significant stage," said Chairman David Simpson.

"We've had to be patient, but we are keen to achieve the vision and exciting objectives we set ourselves 10 years ago.

"The result will be a fantastic sports hub for the local community, especially for our 500+ Mini and Junior players, enjoying state-of-the-art facilities.

"I'd like to thank WBC for all the help we've received to date and look forward to a successful programme of house-building development," he concluded.

Obituary

Marian Elissa Griffiths

The funeral has taken place of Marian Elissa Griffiths, who passed away aged 83 on June 11.

Known to family and friends as Mav, Marian had lived in Lymm for more than 60 years. She was the mother of Tracy and Phil, a proud grandmother and great-grandmother, and will be remembered for her warm smile and infectious joie de vivre.

A lifelong dog lover, Marian enjoyed walking around Lymm Dam and, after the loss of her own beloved dogs, became a dog walker for local owners,

combining her love of animals with her enjoyment of the outdoors. In earlier years she was a keen golfer and achieved the rare distinction of scoring a hole in one while representing Lymm Golf Club in competition.

The service was held at Walton Crematorium on July 10, followed by refreshments at The Rams Head, Grappenhall, where family and friends gathered to share memories and celebrate Marian's life.

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