

Lymm Life

Magazine

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Editor's Comment



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
www.warrington.tv

Address
New Media Centre
Old Road Warrington
WA4 1AT

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IT was good to catch up with Lymm's new Tory MP Esther McVey to talk about how she will represent local residents when services are still under the control of Labour controlled Warrington Borough Council.

Now in opposition to the Government following Labour's landslide General Election victory, Esther McVey, now finds herself in opposition.

She was quick to point out that she is well used to working with Labour controlled local authorities, having done so with Cheshire West and East for a number of years and she made it very clear that she would be like a "terrier" holding Warrington Borough Council to account.



I am still yet to be convinced that it was a good idea for the Boundary Commission to move Lymm into Tatton and to have an MP based outside the area, although having now met Esther I am confident she won't hesitate in taking Warrington Borough Council to task on any local issues – and as she correctly pointed out her role is to represent Lymm and its residents at Westminster.

In the run up to the General Election and since, she has been active in the village and already had one local surgery with more to come. She has also committed to having a regular slot in Lymm Life, promoting her contact details, ensuring local people can easily make contact with her office.

She also lives on the border of Lymm at nearby Mere and is a regular visitor to the village, even celebrating her father's recent birthday in a local restaurant.

I look forward with interest to see Esther's working relationship with Warrington Borough Council and championing issues within the village on the local and

national stage.

Meanwhile it was good to see her taking part in the recent Rushbearing Festival and I am sure she will be a regular visitor to all the key events in the village.

Esther is certainly not shy of media attention, so I am sure she will become a familiar face in the village.

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Lymm Life is
September 3**

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Former bank transformation coincides with Memory Banks exhibition

WITH work well underway on the conversion of the former Barclays Bank building in Lymm village centre, a special Memory Banks exhibition is set to open.

Situated on the corner of Bridgewater Street the former Barclays Bank building, which had been vacant for years and fallen into disrepair, is being transformed into new retail units.

While the bank may have provided an important service in its day, the building itself was deeply unpopular with many local people who felt it was inappropriate in its setting and something of an eyesore, says Alan Williams, from Lymm Heritage Centre, which has launched a "Memory bank" exhibition. It had become even worse since the bank closed and had become an easy target for fly posters.

Alan says the general opinion of the conversion seems to be a big "thumbs up" with a design that harks back to earlier days and blends far more successfully with its surroundings. And while residents are looking forward to see who sets up businesses there, Lymm Heritage Centre is marking the occasion of the work's completion by telling the story of the site over the past two hundred years, from the days when it was a wheelwrights workshop with the Lymm Poor House just across the road.

"Bridgewater Street is a microcosm of the development of the whole village and so many other similar places" said exhibition developer Alan. "Over the last two centuries the area has moved through phases of being occupied by tradesmen, then retailers and now services. Remarkably too, it was only forty years ago that local traders were banding together to fight the potential arrival of 'yet another bank'. Now, of course there are none".

The exhibition "Memory Banks" which opens on August 15th is at Lymm Heritage Centre, 1 Leigh St WA13 0DA (open Thursday to Sunday 12-4). Admission is free.





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What's On in conjunction with Lymm Parish Council



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Next meeting Tuesday September 10th, 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, 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.
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GARDENING CLUB

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

LYMM FLORAL ART GROUP

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

LYMM PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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

LYMM WINE AND BEER CIRCLE

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

LYMM CONCERT BAND

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

LYMM WI

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

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

PROBUS CLUB OF LYMM

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

LYMM DINGLE PROBUS CLUB

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

FRIENDS OF LYMM LIBRARY CRAFT GROUP

Lymm Sanctuary Hub
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Details: 01925 754016

HEATLEY WI

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

LYMM & THELWALL U3A

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



LYMM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Volunteer events and activities co-ordinator required at Heritage Centre

A VOLUNTEER events and activities co-ordinator is required to help Lymm Heritage Centre extend its range of activities.

Lymm Heritage Centre first opened its doors in 2017 and much has been achieved since then including welcoming tens of thousands of visitors as well as creating an outstanding online archive and building a successful schools programme.

But now the Heritage Centre is planning to extend its reach still further with a range of events and activities aimed particularly at encouraging more family visits.

"We have a busy programme of school visits during term time," explained Centre chair Alan Williams, "and the youngsters are always enthusiastic about what they find and learn. We would like to build on that and be able to offer more specifically for families especially on weekends and during school holidays".

In order to achieve this the Centre is seeking an Events & Activities Co-ordinator to work under the guidance of one of the Centre's trustees who has a professional background in the visitor experience aspects of museum work. No experience in running events or activities is needed, just passion and enthusiasm to get involved - There is also great team of volunteers to support and help deliver activities.

It's a volunteer position as is the whole organisation but could be a great opportunity for some-one looking to develop skills in this sector and strengthen their CV. The level of commitment is flexible. If you'd like to know more and just have an introductory chat call the Heritage Centre on 07540-096282 or email lymmheritagecentre@gmail.com



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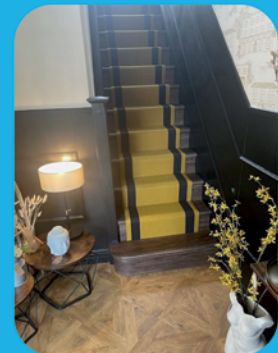
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Planners approve link extension to barn conversion



PLANNING chiefs at Warrington have given the go-ahead to proposals to link an existing barn conversion to an adjoining former agricultural property in Lymm.

The development is proposed at Cherry Lane Barns and will be accessed from Cherry Lane.

In recent years the former farm site has undergone conversion to form four individual dwellings. The barns involved had not been used for agricultural purposes for at least 15 years.

The newly approved scheme will result in one of the barns known as the Cowshed being linked to another unit known as The Hayloft by a single-storey extension.

Warrington Borough Council

planning officers say the proposal is acceptable. The flat-roofed extension will not be visible from the public highway and while not particularly in keeping with the agricultural character of a barn, the site has already lost some of its agricultural character.

The proposal will be a modern addition to the site, but with the use of sympathetic materials will not have an unacceptable impact on the existing buildings, nor the street scene.

Lymm's new MP Esther McVey says she will be like a "terrier" holding council to account

LYMM'S new MP Esther McVey says she will be like a "terrier" protecting the identity of the "beautiful" village.

The Tatton MP who lives in nearby Mere, says her job includes holding Warrington Borough Council to account.

Although in opposition at Westminster now, the Tory MP says she is well used to working with Labour-controlled councils in Cheshire East and Cheshire West and now has one more to work with.

"My job as an MP is to hold them to account and I will like a terrier!"

Items already on her agenda include concerns over the lack of leisure facilities in the village and the infrastructure, protecting the Green Belt and the character of the village.

She has also been inundated with emails from pensioners concerned with the Government's decision to

scrap the winter fuel allowance for millions of people."

She went on to say her main job was to represent her constituents and when in Government she had fought against them over HS2 describing it as a "white elephant."

Ms McVey added that she had already held one Q&A surgery in Lymm with more to come.



Gymslips and chalkboards at Heatley WI

FOR their July meeting Heatley WI had another excellent speaker organised by Anne Cresswell - Kath Reynolds. "Gymslips and Chalkboards".

Members were taken down memory lane of school days in the 40s 50s and 60s. Lots of audience participation including reciting their times tables.

Also, it was announced that Zena Morgan - a well loved former member of Heatley WI - had left a legacy of £200 to be shared with members. This is going towards a Christmas social in December.

A request was put out for bric a brac and tombola prizes for MacMillan coffee morning to be held on 26 September at Oughtrington Community Centre 11-2.00 pm Tickets £5.

For further information about Heatley WI call 01925 75 2014.

Sixth form students partner with care home for pop-up cafe

Students from Woolston Sixth Form College, a special educational needs (SEN) school has launched a heart-warming pop-up café in collaboration with Keate House care home.

Keate House Care Home's relationship with Woolston sixth form began with them offering work experience to students in both hospitality and horticulture, fast forward two years and they now have Amy working alongside their hostesses two times a week, Ben and Tyler who come one morning a week to serve drinks and spend time with the residents and staff.

During an event the team became aware of a young lady, Isabella who was very keen to work in a catering environment which led to a six week project working with six students from the horticulture group and Issabella, with the support of Pete and his maintenance team. Transforming the Covid visiting hut into a Cafe. During the six weeks they painted the area, spruced it up, and added personalised touches such as flower pots,

ornamental bees, wind chimes, and table decorations. This project characterised by mutual support and collaborative working is a testament to the strong partnership and shared commitment to enhancing community life.

The pop-up café has brought joy and laughter to their daily routine. "It's a delightful place where we can gather and enjoy the fresh air," remarked one resident. The maintenance team also noted the increased engagement and vibrant atmosphere the café has introduced. The café, will currently operate once a week, run by the dedicated students from Fox Wood. While it will primarily serve residents and their families, it offers significant potential for further community engagement. The vision for the café includes enhanced outdoor activities, promoting independence, and providing residents with a sense of connection while they help out in the café. This café represents more than just a place to enjoy a cup of tea, It symbolises the positive impact of inclusive community projects and the incredible capabilities of Fox Wood students and the residents. As this project continues to thrive, it stands as a testament to the power of creativity and collaboration, creating meaningful and joyful experiences for all involved.



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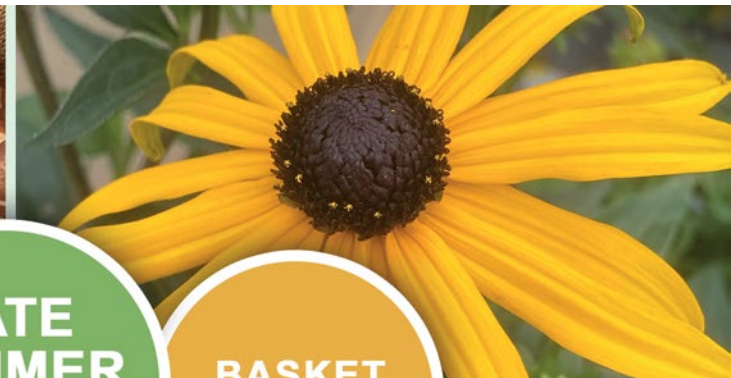
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Sunken Garden renamed in memory of Lymm Town Crier Peter Powell

LYMM'S Town Crier, AJ Powell has unveiled a new sign, dedicating and renaming the Sunken Garden in the village centre as the Peter Powell Memorial Garden.

Peter was AJ's Grandfather, and as well as a much loved Town Crier, he was also Treasurer of Lymm in Bloom and a regular volunteer.

In his speech, AJ said: "The Sunken Garden was one of Peter's favourite places and he often enjoyed escaping there with a cheeky pasty from Sextons".

Lymm in Bloom organised and delivered the project but couldn't have done it without the support, skill and time of other voluntary organisations in the village.

James Hurrell, Chair of Lymm in Bloom, commented: "It was lovely to see so many of Peter's family attend the unveiling including members who had travelled all the way from Devon especially for the occasion. Peter was loved and respected by all those who knew him and is still missed to this day."

The sign depicting Peter in his colourful Town Crier costume was skilfully designed by Alan Williams of the Lymm Heritage Centre, and

funded by Lymm and District Round Table.

Richard Lord, the current Chairman, said: "The Lymm & District Round Table were always proud to have such strong support from Peter for all our charity events, but the Duck Race every Easter Monday became extra special and much loved by everyone who attended."

"When we were asked to help with a donation for the sign for the newly named Peter Powell memorial garden, we had no hesitation whatsoever."

"What better way for us and everyone else in Lymm to remember him by."

During his career as Lymm's Town Crier, Peter travelled the world working for Japanese Tractor manufacturers Iseki, but always found time to return to Lymm to help lead events like Lymm Dickensian, Lymm May Queen, Lymm Transport Day, Lymm Duck Race and many more. He also travelled the world

representing the village at the Town Crier championships.

He was also Chair of the Lymm Clothing Charity for many years and worked behind the scenes on many community projects.

While his main focus was Lymm, he also ventured out of the village to support and promote many other community events as a Town Crier, including the annual Disability Awareness Day.




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Lymm High School's activity centre re-opens on Anglesey

Ty'n-y-Felin, Lymm High School's residential outward-bound centre on Anglesey, has reopened this term after a prolonged closure since the COVID pandemic.

The first students to stay at the centre were on a biology fieldtrip, and all Year 7 students had the "Tynny experience" during July.

Located near Rhoscolyn on the west side of Anglesey, Ty'n-y-Felin has been part of the Lymm High School offer to students since the 1950s. With a 60-bed residential accommodation, classrooms and leisure facilities, it is close to fabulous beaches, with lots of opportunities for outdoor activities like coasteering, canoeing, hiking and sports.

Ty'n-y-Felin had to close in early 2020 due to COVID pandemic restrictions, and once the school was able to use it again, significant external repairs and internal updating were needed. Gwyn Williams, headteacher at Lymm High School said: "It is great to see students enjoying Ty'n-y-Felin again – it is pretty unique for a state school to have a facility like this and we are keen to make full use of it in the future."

To that end, Lymm High School is working in partnership with The

Challenge Academy Trust (TCAT) which runs a number of primary and secondary schools across Warrington including Priestley College, to broaden the use of Ty'n-y-Felin to other groups of school students from the wider Warrington community. Doing so will help to ensure a sustainable future for Ty'n-y-Felin, with better facilities and higher levels of occupancy.

As part of this collaboration Lymm High School will continue to have priority access to the centre whilst TCAT is committed to a significant programme of improvements including rebuilding the original farmhouse and major investment in outdoor equipment and facilities. Applications are being sought for residential staff to ensure the centre is open all year round.

Howard Platt of Laskey Farm in Lymm, who is the chair of TCAT, said: "As a former Lymm Grammar School student, I have very happy memories of staying at Ty'n-y-Felin back in the 1960s and 70s. It is such a great facility, and we at TCAT are very excited about being

able to extend its use to more school students from Warrington, and to contribute to improving the facilities and activities it can provide."

As a condition of entering into a lease with the LGS Trust TCAT will :-

- Invest £200k in rebuilding the original farmhouse

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Villagers keep alive ancient tradition of

LOCAL dignitaries and villagers turned out to celebrate the ancient medieval tradition of Lymm Rushbearing.

Lymm Parish Council Chair Ann Johnstone was joined by new MP for the village Esther McVey, who was experiencing her first Lymm Rushbearing event.

The event is organised each year by local resident Chris Limb who helped revive it in the 1980s.

For many years in the twentieth-century Rushbearing Monday was a local bank holiday.

Ormerod's late Victorian history of Cheshire refers to Lymm Rushbearing taking place in many communities on or near to the feast of the parish's patron saint – hence Lymm's tradition of having the festival during the summer holiday period and close to the feast of the Assumption of Saint Mary.

Although the carrying of fresh rushes to church (normally on a horse-drawn cart) was a central feature, and the replacement of the old rushes upon the earthen church

floor a very practical necessity in former days, this gathering of locals also involved festivities including not only the procession and Morris dancing but also sports, fairground stalls, and very full public houses!

Lymm's grey horses were well-known and a Lymm Grey is a person of an established local family, normally at least third generation born in Lymm.

The procession includes Morris men, people carrying Rushbearing garlands and rushes, the Chairman of the Parish Council and councillors, the May Queen and various local groups.

It is medieval in its origins and Lymm is one of a very small number of communities that have maintained this tradition.

Following the traditional walk with rushes through the village, a special service took place at St Mary's church.

Pictures: John Hopkins





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Divorce Column

By Peter Wilkinson
Divorce Lawyer at Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

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Pensions are often one of the largest assets in a marriage, sometimes exceeding the value of the family home. Understanding how pensions are treated in divorce proceedings, the legal options available and the factors influencing division is crucial for ensuring a fair settlement.

There are 3 possible methods of settlement available with respect to pensions, namely Pension Sharing, Offsetting and Attachment (Earmarking), or a combination of Sharing and Offsetting.

A Pension Sharing Order allows for a percentage share of one spouse's pension to be transferred to the other party as a pension. This is a clean break option, meaning once the order is implemented the parties' pension assets are entirely separate. The receiving party may be able to join the other party's pension scheme or the funds may need to be transferred out to a new scheme of their choice.

Pension offsetting involves setting off the value of the pension against the value of other marital assets. For instance, one spouse may keep the pension while the other receives a greater share of the family home or other assets. This approach avoids the complexities of splitting a pension but requires sufficient non-pension assets to ensure a fair settlement.

Pension Attachment Orders, also known as earmarking, direct that a percentage share of one spouse's pension benefits be paid to the other when the pension comes into payment. This can include lump sum payments, regular pension income, or both. However, this option doesn't provide a clean break and the receiving party has no access to the funds until the pension holder's benefits become payable. This is not a very common option.

The first step in dividing pensions is to obtain a cash equivalent valuation (CEV). A CEV can be fairly straightforward for some types of pensions but more difficult to determine with respect to others. Given the complexity of pension division, seeking professional advice in the context of your specific circumstances is essential.

For advice and assistance regarding divorce and related matters please get in touch - we have a lot of experience advising, guiding and supporting clients in this area of law.

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Gen'Dai martial arts club members awarded their black belts

FIVE young members of Lymm Gen'Dai Martial Arts Club have been awarded their 1st dan black belt.

They are Conal Fairbairn, Maria Harrison, Freya Antonelli, Ned Martin and Archie Cookson. Sensei Steve Carlise, Sensei George Bainton, and chief instructor Sensei Dave Shipton went with them to a brown and black belt course where

they were put through a tough examination by grading examiner Sensei Steve Carlise.

Afterwards, sensei Dave Shipton said: "I am very proud of them all. They have trained incredibly hard to pass the grading and obtain

their black belts".

All five students have trained with Lymm Gen'Dai Martial Arts for a number of years, starting as novices.

The club is a not-for-profit organisation based out of Lymm High School and run by sensei Dave Shipton who is a 5th Dan instructor

and a former UK champion. He has decades of karate experience and is highly respected by all who train with him.

Karate is well known for building children's confidence, improve self-awareness and teach respect for others.

Famous broadcaster John Inverdale talks rugby in Lymm

FAMOUS rugby and tennis BBC TV broadcaster John Inverdale was the guest speaker at Lymm Rugby Club when he entertained 200 guests over two functions.

Organised to raise funds for Lymm Grassroots Clubhouse Appeal, demand for tickets was so high Mal Pritchard, the event organiser, laid on both a dinner and a luncheon occasion, which were held in the clubhouse.

"I am delighted to be invited to what clearly is a great grass roots rugby club," commented Inverdale. "I played Vets rugby till I was 48 so have a great affinity with

Lymm Rugby Club. Your ethos and infrastructure here are great lessons to clubs throughout the UK," he added. "The catering was excellent as well!"

Mal Pritchard, the event organiser, commented, "John is now Chairman of the National Leagues, working with the RFU, so it was great for us to welcome him and show him round.

"The feedback from his talks has been outstanding and we have had a great couple of days. We even fitted in a round of golf," concluded Mal.



Mal Pritchard, event organiser; John Inverdale and Andy Leach, rugby club treasurer.

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GOODYEAR Continental (G1)

Obituary

Warwick Anthony Lowe

The funeral has taken place of Warwick Lowe of Daisybank Road, Lymm.

Warwick passed away peacefully at home on July 12, aged 86.

Warwick is survived by his wife of 65 years, Mary, his sons Stephen and Anthony and daughter Joanne.

The funeral took place at Altrincham Crematorium, followed by a celebration of his life at Pierpoint and Bryant Social Club.

Arrangements were by John Burrows and Sons of Lymm.



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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.

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