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Magazine

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ISSUE 320 | MARCH 2026
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Culture bid!

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monthly by Orbit News Ltd.*

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Printed by TwentyFourSeven

Editor's Opinion



AS Lymm Life was going to press I was still picking through the pieces of Warrington Borough Council's proposed budget, which could literally see the lights going out!

There is also a stark warning that if the council can't balance the books following savage cut backs and a council tax rise above the current 5 per cent limit, the council could face being served with a Section 114 notice, effectively declaring the council bankrupt!

Details appear in a newly published Cabinet and Scrutiny papers. Buried deep in hundreds of pages of technical documents, the plans would see darker streets, reduced services, higher charges and increased fines — while residents are asked to accept more pain with little clarity on accountability.

Street lighting reductions are framed as a cost-saving measure. Yet there is no clear, publicly presented assessment of the impact on road safety, crime, personal security or community confidence. For many, the decision to "turn off the lights" has become a metaphor for a council still failing to illuminate how Warrington reached this point.

Beyond lighting, the same papers set out a sweeping programme of cuts and income generation measures, including:

The sale of assets like Birchwood Park, Redwood Bank and Times Square.

• Closure and mothballing of

- council buildings
- Community centres and libraries placed under review, with the expectation that volunteers or community groups take over if services are to survive
- Services reduced to statutory minimums only, ending discretionary support
- Council jobs deleted, reducing capacity across departments
- Increases in parking charges, resident permits, leisure fees and golf course prices
- Introduction of moving traffic offence enforcement, creating new fines where none previously existed

These measures are not presented in a clear, resident-friendly way. Instead, they are scattered across dozens of financial tables, requiring expert knowledge to interpret — a fact critics say actively discourages public understanding.

Despite the scale of the changes, the budget itself remains unstable.

The council is currently assuming a 4.99% council tax increase, but its own papers confirm this figure is speculative. Warrington has formally applied to Government for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) and, as part of that request, has asked for permission to raise

council tax above 5%.

If that permission is granted, residents should expect the increase to rise further — after scrutiny has already taken place.

More starkly, the papers make clear that without EFS the council cannot legally balance its budget. In that scenario, the council's Section 151 Officer would be required to issue a Section 114 notice, effectively declaring the authority unable to meet its financial obligations.

Fasten your seat belts and prepare for a roller coaster ride!

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Continually striving for excellence

Lymm community backs UK Town of Culture bid following public meeting

A public meeting in Lymm has sparked strong community backing for exploring a bid to become a UK Town of Culture, with residents turning out to share ideas, energy, and support for a community-led approach- with a top prize of £3m up for grabs.

The meeting revealed real enthusiasm for using the bid to bring Lymm together, build on its existing cultural strengths, and create new opportunities — particularly by involving younger people and ensuring their ideas and priorities help shape any future plans.

Following the meeting, it was agreed that a working group will now be formed to develop an initial Expression of Interest for the UK Town of Culture 2028 competition. The group will be independent and community-led, bringing together residents, creatives, and local organisations.

Cllr Sally Sharma, Chair of Lymm Parish Council, said: "The response from the community has been incredibly encouraging. What stood out was the creativity in the room and the strong desire to build something that reflects Lymm's identity, culture, and sense of community. There was also a clear message about involving the next generation and making sure young people's voices are part of the story from the very start."

Cllr. Colin Oakley said: "This meeting showed just how much energy and pride there is in Lymm.

"A UK Town of Culture bid has the potential to bring people together around a shared vision, and the strength of any bid will come from the community itself. It's really positive to see people stepping forward to help take this idea on."

Cllr. Graham Gowland added: "The buzz in the room was

fantastic. People brought forward a huge range of thoughtful, creative ideas, and there was a real sense of excitement about what Lymm could achieve by working together. It showed just how much talent and enthusiasm already exists in the community."

The UK Town of Culture programme supports places across the country to celebrate their identity, strengthen community pride, and develop a shared cultural vision with lasting benefits.

Any bid from Lymm would focus on showcasing what already makes the community special, while creating space for new ideas and wider participation.

Organisers have stressed that the bid does not involve any change to Lymm's legal status or governance, and that there is no practical distinction between a town or a village within the competition.

Further details about the working group and next steps will be shared in due course.



New dentist joins the team

NEW dentist Dr Vicki Rees has joined the team at Grappenhall Dental Practice, following the successful expansion of the premises on Knutsford Road, following a lengthy planning battle.

Vicki qualified with Honours from the University of Liverpool in 2024, where she was awarded RCSEd Clinical Skills National Champion. She has been working in dentistry since she was 16, starting as a dental nurse.

She enjoys helping patients feel at ease and confident in their dental care, providing all aspects of general dentistry and preventative care.

She has experience supporting anxious patients and loves building strong, friendly relationships with everyone she treats.

Outside of the practice, Vicki loves spending time with her little girl, walking Wilma her sausage dog, and going out for hikes or reading whenever she can.



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What's On



LYMM PARISH COUNCIL

Next meeting Tuesday March 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.
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 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

Village set to face two lots 18 weeks of road closures

HIGHWAY planners have announced two lots of 18 weeks of road closures for Lymm village to allow Scottish Power to install a new HV Cable.

It means at least two lots of eighteen week road closures will be running tandem in the village.

Local Cllr. Graham Gowland commented: "At times it feels as though Lymm has been cut off from the rest of the world. Key routes linking us to the motorway are closed, and the temporary three-way lights on the main road through the village are completely snarling up traffic. Children are arriving late for school, and adults are late for work — it's causing real disruption for residents."

"Some of the roadworks are unavoidable emergency repairs, such as the collapsed sewer, but a significant amount is planned work, including new electrical mains and the resurfacing of the A56. While it's positive that we'll benefit from more reliable power and smoother roads in the long run, people are understandably getting very fed up in the meantime."

"I'm pressing officers to make sure works are properly coordinated to minimise the impact as much as possible — and in the meantime, I may be getting my bike out to dodge the jams."

Warrington Borough Council has given notice it intends to make an Order under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The effect of which will be to introduce a prohibition of driving as follows: Eagle Brow from its junction with Booths Hill Road to its junction with Brookfield Road; Brookfield Road from its junction with Eagle Brow to its junction with Dane Bank Road; Dane Bank Road from its junction with Brookfield Road to its junction with Dane Bank Road East; Dane Bank Road East from its junction with Dane Bank Road to its junction with Dane Bank Road East.

The Order will be effective from 2nd March 2026 for 18 weeks, with the works being carried out in phases, as and when signed on site. Access will be under the control of the relevant Contractor for the duration of the works.

The alternative routes will be as follows: Eagle Brow via Higher Lane, Brookfield Road and vice versa; Brookfield Road via Eagle

Brow, The Cross, New Road, Dane Bank Road East, Dane Bank Road and vice versa; Dane Bank Road via Brookfield Road, Eagle Brow, The Cross, New Road and vice versa; Dane Bank Road East via Brookfield Road, Eagle Brow, The Cross, New Road and vice versa. The closure is required to allow Scottish Power to install a new HV cable.

At the same time Warrington Borough Council has given notice it intends to make an Order under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The effect of which will be to introduce a prohibition of driving as follows: Burford Lane from its junction with Warrington Lane to its junction with Stage Lane; Stage Lane from its junction with Burford Lane to its junction with Oughtrington Crescent; Oughtrington Crescent from its junction with Stage Lane to its junction with Oughtrington Lane; Oughtrington Lane from its junction with Oughtrington Crescent to its junction with Longbutt Lane; Sandy Lane from its junction with Stage Lane to its junction with Rushgreen Road.

The Order will be effective from 2nd March 2026 for 18 weeks, with the works being carried out in phases, as and when signed on site. Access will be under the control of the relevant Contractor for the duration of the works. The alternative routes will be as follows: Burford Lane via Higher Lane, Brookfield Road, Eagle Brow, The Cross, New Road, Rushgreen Road, Birchbrook Road and vice versa; Stage Lane via Mill Lane, Birchbrook Road, Sandy Lane and vice versa; Oughtrington Crescent via Higher Lane, Brookfield Road, Eagle Brow, The Cross, New Road, Rushgreen Road, Birchbrook Road, Sandy Lane and vice versa; Sandy Lane via Higher Lane, Brookfield Road, Eagle Brow, The Cross, New Road, Rushgreen Road, Birchbrook Road, Sandy Lane and vice versa; Sandy Lane via Birchbrook Road, Mill Lane, Stage Lane and vice versa. The closure is required to allow Scottish Power to install a new HV cable.



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

Developer pledges £3m investment for local community as part of plan for 170 new homes

WARRINGTON-based property developer Miller Homes has completed the acquisition of a new residential development site off Warrington Road, Lymm, pledging £3m investment for the local community.

The 18-acre site has outline planning permission in place for up to 170 new homes and will offer a well-planned new neighbourhood in one of Cheshire's most popular villages. More than half of the site will be given over to public open space and landscaping, helping to create a green and open setting for future residents.

As part of a Section 106 agreement with Warrington Borough Council, 30 per cent of the homes will be delivered as affordable housing. Miller Homes will also contribute around £3 million towards local education, health and sports facilities, alongside improvements to the Trans Pennine Trail, which runs along the southern edge of the site.

The site's location close to Lymm village centre, combined with good links to Warrington and the wider region, makes it well-suited to a range of buyers, from first-time purchasers to growing families. The scale of the development also allows for a strong focus on placemaking, with space for landscaping, walking routes and connections into the surrounding area.

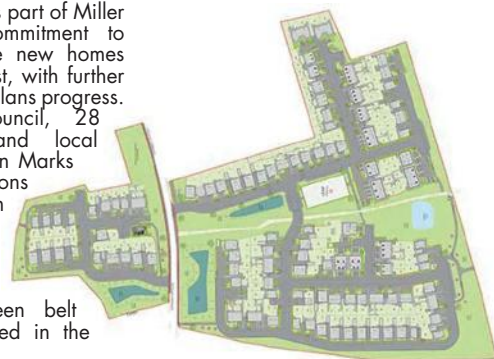
John Hardy, Land Director at Miller Homes, said: "Lymm is a location we've been keen to secure for some time, so we're really pleased to have completed on this site. It's a great opportunity to deliver new homes in an area where demand remains strong, while also bringing forward meaningful green space and investment for the local community."


Jason Newton, Managing Director for Miller Homes North West, added: "Completing this acquisition is another positive step for our North West business. The site offers the right balance of location, scale and planning certainty, and we're looking forward to progressing plans to bring forward a high-quality new development that works well for both new residents and the wider area."

The acquisition comes as Miller Homes continues to build momentum across the North West. In 2026, the business is targeting the completion of more than 400 new homes across the region, with a combined contract value of approximately £133 million.

The Lymm site forms part of Miller Homes' ongoing commitment to delivering sustainable new homes across the North West, with further updates expected as plans progress.

Lymm Parish Council, 28 nearby residents and local borough councillor Ian Marks had lodged objections to the scheme, which involves three fields on either side of Warrington Road, Lymm. It had previously been green belt land but was removed in the council's Local Plan.








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Top national award for conversion project at former bank building

THE bold plan to convert the former Barclay's Bank at Lymm into a bar, restaurant and retail units has won a top national award.

The scheme, in Eagle Brow, master-minded by local architects Randle-White in collaboration with Warrington Borough Council's building control department, won the LABC building excellence award for the best non-residential extension, alteration or conversion project.

After the awards ceremony in London, Roger White, of lead architects Randle White Ltd., said: "We went up against the rest of the county and were successful in winning the national award. The successful transformation was down to the close collaboration we had with WBC building control department, the skilled professional consultant we worked with and the client who believed in our vision for change."

The project had to first win the North West regional LABC award before going on to claim the national award. Mr White said the inspiration for the project was taken from the original 1970s bank building.

The LABC Building Excellence Awards have long been established as the premier accolades within the industry.

Lorna Stimpson, chief executive officer at LABC, said: "More 800 individuals from across England and Wales, came together,

showcasing the amazing people and projects working in our industry. The Warrington borough council building control team worked closely with the contractor and architect to overcome challenges such as maintaining pedestrian access during construction and achieving level access for all units despite the site's sloping topography. Early collaboration at pre-application stage allowed for compliant solutions, including inclusive layouts and accessible WCs, while innovative site management strategies ensured safety and minimal disruption to village life. The result is a high-quality, historically sympathetic development that exceeds building regulations and delivers lasting benefits for the local community.

"The judges commended the project for its in depth historic research of how the building used to look, allowed for design and technical drawings to be developed to bring this successful scheme forward. Working closely with the community and building control team, developers were sensitive to the local conservation area throughout the build of the project; minimising disruption to the community and turning a vacant building into a mixed-use commercial scheme."



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Healthspan in 2026: What actually adds years to your life?

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

We often talk about lifespan — how long we live. The more important question is healthspan — how long we remain well, independent and mentally sharp.

In Warrington, average life expectancy is around 79 years for men and 82 for women, broadly in line with national figures. However, healthy life expectancy — the years lived without significant illness or disability — is notably lower. Many people are living longer, but spending more of those later years coping with chronic disease.

The principal drivers are well established: cardiovascular disease, cancer, type 2 diabetes and cognitive decline. These conditions do not appear overnight. They develop quietly over decades before symptoms emerge, often signalled only by gradual changes in blood pressure, cholesterol or glucose levels.

The encouraging truth is that much of this risk is measurable and modifiable — both across communities and at an individual level.

Muscle mass is one of the strongest predictors of healthy ageing. From our forties onwards, we naturally lose muscle unless we actively maintain it. Reduced muscle is linked to frailty, insulin resistance and loss of independence. Two to three sessions of resistance training

per week — alongside regular walking or aerobic activity — is not about appearance; it is about preserving strength, metabolic resilience and functional capacity into later life.

Metabolic health sits at the centre of disease prevention. Waist circumference, blood pressure, fasting glucose and cholesterol provide early warning of future cardiovascular risk. Improving these markers is rarely complicated: consistent physical activity, prioritising whole foods over ultra-processed options, moderating refined carbohydrates, maintaining adequate protein intake and sustaining a healthy body composition all improve insulin sensitivity and reduce inflammation. Even modest weight reduction can significantly lower blood pressure and improve glucose control.

Substance use remains a major determinant of healthspan. Smoking is still the leading preventable cause of premature death in the UK. Alcohol increases cancer risk even at relatively low levels, and recreational drugs carry both immediate and longer-term cardiovascular and mental health

consequences.

Sleep and stress are frequently underestimated. Chronic sleep deprivation disrupts metabolic regulation, raises blood pressure and drives inflammation. Persistent stress produces similar physiological effects through sustained cortisol elevation. Seven to eight hours of consistent, restorative sleep — alongside practical stress management — is protective.

Social connection and emotional wellbeing also matter. Strong relationships, community involvement and a sense of purpose are consistently linked with lower mortality and better mental health. Isolation and chronic emotional

strain carry measurable health risks.

Importantly, these habits begin early. Children who grow up active, eating well, emotionally supported and socially connected are more likely to carry those patterns into adulthood. Preventive health starts in childhood.

That said, it is never too late to change course. The body retains remarkable capacity to respond to improved nutrition, increased activity and smoking cessation, even later in life.

Longevity is not simply about adding years. It is about ensuring those years remain active, independent and purposeful.



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Local photographer reaches finals of prestigious international competition

LOCAL photographer Andrew Collier was named as a finalist in the prestigious International Print Masters Photography Competition, an achievement that celebrates his skill and creativity behind the camera.

Andrew, who has been photographing families and pets for more than 17 years, runs his portrait photography business from Lymm and works with clients across Cheshire and the UK. One of his specialisms is environmental portraiture — capturing people and their pets in meaningful outdoor

locations that tell a story about their relationships.

The photograph he entered features a young girl sitting on a seesaw with her best friend — her border collie dog — a portrait that beautifully captures the bond between child and pet.

'This image really sums up why I love what I do — it's about joy, friendship and connection,' Andrew said. 'To see it recognised internationally is such an honour.'

The International Print Masters Photography Competition was organised by the British Institute of Professional Photographers and attracts entries from professional photographers all over the world. It recognises exceptional artistry and technical excellence in printed

photography.

Andrew said he was thrilled to see his work gain attention on such a large stage. 'Being based in Lymm, I'm proud to represent our local creative community among so many international photographers,' he added.

For more information about Andrew Collier and his work, visit www.andrewcollierphotography.co.uk or follow him on www.facebook.com/andrewcollierphotography and [@andrewcollierphotography](https://www.instagram.com/andrewcollierphotography) on Instagram.





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Day nursery group raises more than £26,000 for charity

A FAMILY run group of day nurseries and forest schools is celebrating after raising over £26,000 for charity.

Dunky's Day Nurseries and Forest Schools has been fundraising for The Children's Adventure Farm Trust (CAFT) near Lymm since 2020. Throughout the year, children, families and staff from seven nurseries carry out numerous events including sponsored walks, runs, cake baking and seasonal fayres. One of the nursery school dads even added £375 to the total by doing a 5k daily run.

Dunky's raised £6,214 for CAFT last year and staff from the nursery recently presented the charity with a giant cheque.

CAFT, which relies on the support of many people across the North West, makes a big difference to children who are living challenging lives due to illness, disability and disadvantage.

They provide day trips, short breaks and respite activities for thousands of children from all over the North West who may have

complex medical needs, special educational needs and disability or are socially disadvantaged.

Last year, CAFT supported 22,655 visits for children aged 0-17 who needed it most.

Jane Mclean, senior manager at Dunky's said: 'Wherever we have a nursery, we make it a mission to build strong links to support the local community.'

'CAFT is a charity that is very special to us and the work they do to support children living challenging lives is inspiring.'

'We started fundraising for CAFT over five years after myself and a group of managers went to visit the farm and saw the difference they make to local children and families. All of our nurseries get involved, coming up with lots of different ways they can fundraise, and we're proud to have raised more than £26,000 for them.'

Hannah Grahame, fundraising lead for CAFT, said: 'What an incredible amount, which has

such impact at CAFT for so many children and their families who visit.'

'More than anything, I'd like to thank Dunky's for all they do to support our work, helping children across the North West who are living with chronic illness, disability, and social disadvantage.'

'We simply couldn't do what we do without the kindness of groups like Dunky's.'

CAFT has recently launched a free membership scheme for individuals, families and companies to further deepen CAFT's existing relationships, broaden their support base, and create a diverse community of passionate advocates. Members have a say in the charity's future, strengthening their governance and accountability while helping shape the Farm's continued success. To learn more, visit the website: www.CAFT.co.uk/membership



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Care provider relocates to new office premises to strengthn community ties

Right at Home Lymm and Warrington South has moved into a new, larger office at Oughtrington Community Centre.

The business first opened its doors in 2022 and had been based in the heart of Lymm village at the Lymm Business Centre. During their time there, the team has been proud to support the local business hub and is very grateful to Kirsty and her team for their support along the way. As the service has grown, it became clear that more space was needed — but it was just as important to move somewhere that continued to support local causes and stay rooted in the community.

Moving into Oughtrington Community Centre felt like a natural next step. Many of their clients already know the venue well through their regular attendance at the weekly Luncheon Club, which forms part of their care and social activities. Being based at the centre allows Right at Home Lymm and Warrington South to strengthen those existing connections while remaining an active part of local life.

The new office gives the growing

team more room to work and meet, while also making visits easier for clients and families. With on-site parking and full disabled access, the space is practical, accessible and welcoming for everyone.

Clare Coke, Care Director at Right at Home Lymm and Warrington South, said: "We're absolutely delighted to have moved into Oughtrington Community Centre. Being part of the local community really matters to us, and this move means we can continue supporting a space that brings people together. The new office gives our team more room to grow, and we're really looking forward to welcoming visitors and getting to know even more people locally."

Members of the community are welcome to drop into anytime during their office opening hours of Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, for an informal chat over a cup of tea or coffee. For anyone who would prefer a private conversation about care needs, it's best to get in touch

beforehand to make sure a meeting room is available. The team can be contacted on 01925 202 576 or by email to info@rahlymm.co.uk.

More information about Right at Home's services can be found at www.rightathome.co.uk/lymm-and-warrington-south, and you can also follow Right at Home Lymm and Warrington South on Facebook and Instagram.

The Oughtrington Luncheon Club takes place every Tuesday

and Friday from 10am to 1.30pm, offering people from Lymm, Oughtrington, Heatley and the surrounding areas, the chance to enjoy good company, gentle activities and a light lunch — all for just £5. Sessions include tea and toast on arrival, chair-based exercises, games, a raffle, a buffet lunch and dessert. To join or find out more, contact Iain on 01925 754 178 or email contact@oughtrington.co.uk



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Care home residents show gratitude to hospital

Residents and staff from a Lymm care home came together to bring some kindness and gratitude to the staff at Warrington Hospital.

The residents at Brookfield Care Home in Lymm had the idea that they wanted to say thankyou to all the NHS workers who work so tirelessly for all their community.

Brookfield Care Home hosted arts & crafts sessions for the residents to make up some gift bags to hand out at the hospital throughout the day, including Thankyou pens and chocolate, writing pads and keyrings.

Staff at Brookfield care home commented on how lovely it was to see the residents joy on their faces as they made the gift bags.

Two of the residents who helped make the gifts, Betty Fullard and Ann Williams, were so happy to be able to hand deliver the bags to the staff within the hospital.

Betty said at the time "its such

a little thing to us, but it means so much to them and they really do deserve a thankyou for all they do."

Sarah Nolan, General Manager at the home, said: "Staff here at Brookfield Care Home are dedicated to making sure that the home is a hub of the local community, and this event has brought so much joy to our residents and the staff who they meet at the hospital today".

Brookfield care home is run by Barchester Healthcare, one of the UK's largest care providers, which is committed to delivering personalised care across its care homes and hospitals.

Brookfield Care Home provides residential care for 28 residents from respite care to long term stays.



High school students smash shoebox appeal record

Lymm High School students created a new record as a total of 172 Christmas shoebox donations were made to Manchester Street Angels.

Tutor groups across the school embraced the challenge with enthusiasm, creativity and plenty of Christmas cheer. Donations poured in throughout the weeks, transforming the collection area into a colourful mountain of festive wrapping paper, ribbons and thoughtful gifts.

"Staff and students alike were delighted – and admittedly a little astonished – when the final count reached 172 shoeboxes", said Mrs Taylor who organised the collection. "This sets a brand-new school record and has spread excitement throughout the school community."

The Manchester Street Angels team expressed heartfelt gratitude for the donation, which will go directly to supporting vulnerable individuals and families across Greater Manchester.

Lymm High School is incredibly proud of its students' kindness, teamwork and festive spirit.

With records being broken and smiles being shared, it's safe to say the shoebox appeal has been

an unforgettable success – and a shining example of what can be achieved when a community comes

together.

A huge well done to everyone involved.



Key Integrated Services appoints chief operating officer

LYMM-headquartered mechanical and electrical engineering company Key Integrated Services has appointed Adeel Aslam as chief operating officer.

The appointment has been made as the company looks to build on its success to date and continue its growth through a focus on delivering worldclass capabilities across existing and high opportunity sectors.

Chief executive officer Mark Poulton said: "We are at a stage as a business where we're ready to take the next step in terms of the support and scale we can provide to our customers."

"I was impressed by Adeel's visionary understanding of the customer journey, and I'm excited by what he will bring to the mix in terms of best-in-class systems and processes alongside the introduction of new capabilities and services."

In his role Aslam will be

responsible for evolving Key Integrated Services' offer in sectors including advanced manufacturing, clean energy, food and beverage and health and life sciences, by introducing new services such as process engineering and decarbonisation. In addition, he will also be involved in enhancing corporate governance, people development and sustainability across the organisation.

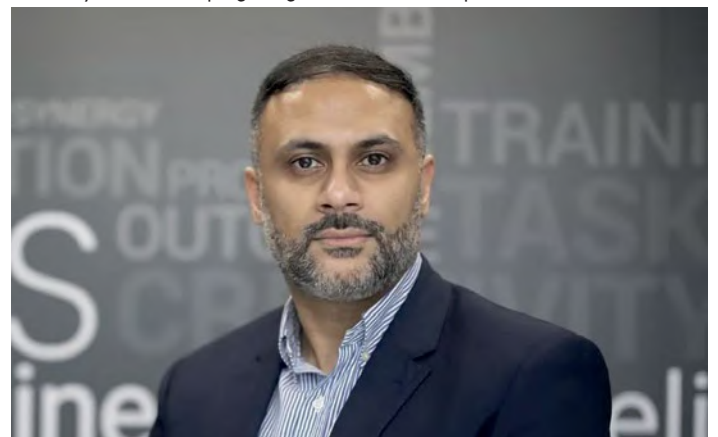
Prior to joining Key Integrated Services, Aslam built his career and reputation at Bouygues Energies and Services where he worked his way through the business from a graduate in 2007 to deputy managing director. In his last role, Aslam was responsible for the provision of a range of specialist consulting, engineering and business strategy services to industries of critical national importance.

Aslam said : "Key Integrated

Services are very much the best kept secret in the industry.

"They already have an excellent operation and leadership team. I see my role as helping to guide

the ship by building capabilities and introducing new services, with the aim of helping the company to become more of an integral business partner to our customers."



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Cricket club acquires a second ground and will launch an extra team



LYMM Oughtrington Park Cricket Club has acquired a second ground – enabling it to add an extra senior team in the Cheshire League.

After 142 years at their Oughtrington Lane ground, the club has secured access to a second ground adjacent to the clubhouse,

This enables the club to add one more senior team into the league and generally, to offer much more cricket playing opportunities to junior, women's and mixed senior teams.

To support this expansion, the club will add new changing facilities and refurbish the existing clubhouse. The refurbishment includes improved changing rooms, umpires room, disabled access and enhanced social areas.

Club chair Steve Gladwin said: "As a result of an agreement with Lymm High School, we have jointly developed a new cricket

square and outfield conveniently located near to our clubhouse. This, and enhancements to our changing facilities, enables us to offer our growing junior and senior sections much more opportunity to play cricket on a professionally maintained ground.

"This development is an important part of our plan to offer cricket fans in Lymm and district an improving availability and standard of cricket at Oughtrington Lane. New players are very welcome."

In November, the Cheshire Cricket League awarded Lymm the title "most improved cricket ground in Cheshire#" in recognition of the improvements the club had made to its ground over many years.

Youngsters raise funds for Prostate Cancer from charity Bake Sale

FIVE youngsters at Lymm High School helped raise funds for Prostate Cancer with a charity bake sale at the school.

Congratulations to Ethan Collier, Caspar News, Isaam Sami, Oliver

Mitchell and Harrison Royston for their tremendous bake sale!

The Year 8 students raised £175 for Prostate Cancer UK by selling cakes and other baked goodies.



Chambers Fletcher Solicitors Divorce Column

By Peter Wilkinson
Divorce Lawyer at Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

Not happy with the decision – Can I appeal?

Family court decisions can be life-changing. Whether they relate to children, finances or other family matters, it's understandable that people sometimes leave court feeling the outcome is unfair or wrong. But can a decision be appealed?

The short answer is maybe. It depends. There is no automatic right to appeal. Appealing a family court decision is not about simply disagreeing with the Judge. In almost every case there's usually at least one party who disagrees with the Judge. Appeals are tightly controlled and are only allowed where there is a proper legal basis.

The appeal court will not re-hear the case or reconsider the evidence just because one party is unhappy with the result. Instead, an appeal must be based on an error of law, a serious procedural irregularity, or a decision that falls outside the range of reasonable outcomes open to the Judge.

Timing is also critical. In most family cases an appeal must be started within 21 days of the decision being appealed. In some circumstances a shorter period may apply. In many situations, permission to appeal is required – either from the Judge who made the original decision or from the appeal court itself. This initial stage acts as a filter to ensure that only appeals with real merit proceed.

It is also important to consider the practical and emotional costs. Appeals can be expensive, stressful and time-consuming. In cases involving children, the court will be particularly concerned about delay and the impact further proceedings may have on them.

For these reasons, taking early advice is essential. Appealing a decision is not a step to be taken lightly. An experienced family law solicitor will be able to assess whether there are genuine grounds to appeal, explain the risks and prospects of success, and help you decide whether an appeal is the right step to take.

For expert advice and assistance regarding family law 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 youngster loving life at Liverpool FC

LYMM High School's Year 7 Elliot Reeves is loving life at Liverpool FC, where he has been playing since he was four-years-old!

His determination, hard work and love for the game has got him to where he is today," said mum Liz. "He signed officially when he was 8 years old and has basically grown up there!"

Elliot has toured Europe with Liverpool, playing in tournaments against other academy teams

such as Juventus, Barcelona, Real Madrid and Bayern Munich. He recently travelled to Portugal to play in the Under Cup where he captained his team and won against Benfica, which was an amazing experience for him!

"In the last year, Elliot has travelled to the Czech Republic, Germany, Majorca, Portugal and Valencia making the most incredible memories playing for the club he loves!"

Elliot now trains on a Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and has games on Sunday against other academies across the country.

Despite this busy schedule, Elliot still makes time to get this schoolwork done. He often has to read and complete his Sparx maths on the 50-minute drive to the academy. He completes other homework on his days off, along with fitting in strength and conditioning work alongside his training days.

"It is a huge commitment being in an academy, but he enjoys every second he's there and has made memories and friends for life!" added Liz.



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Obituary

Linda Barnes

Linda Claire Barnes, whose time in lymm brought her great joy, passed away peacefully aged 86, surrounded by family on January 5th. A retired teacher, active member of the church and lymm community, devoted godmother and a truly supportive friend, she will be sadly missed.



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@lymmmlife.co.uk

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