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Magazine

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Editor's Opinion



The sudden passing of community champion Su Williams MBE at her family home left the village of Lymm in profound mourning.

It marks the loss of a true community titan whose relentless optimism and volunteer spirit defined local life for decades.

Su was far more than an active resident; she was the foundational architecture of contemporary Lymm. Whenever a local initiative emerged Su was inevitably at the centre of the effort.

In 2012, she stepped up to save the local Youth and Community Centre from closure. She helped found the Lymm Food Festival, served as an active trustee for the Lymm Heritage Centre, and dedicated time to everything from Lymm in Bloom to the parish council. Her 25 years of exceptional

community giving were deservedly recognised with an MBE, proving that grassroots dedication can echo far beyond village boundaries.

What made Su extraordinary, however, was her quiet, unstoppable resilience. Despite navigating an eight-year journey with dementia, a condition that routinely forces people to withdraw, Su refused to stop serving.

Even on the final day of her life, at 83 years old, she was actively volunteering by setting up exhibitions, emptying bins, and sweeping outside the heritage hub she loved. Her life stands as an explicit testament to the power of purposeful action. She showed

that a community is not merely a geographic location, but something intentionally built through a lifetime of kindness, collective care, and shared effort.

A running family joke was checking each issue of Lymm Life magazine to see if Su was in it; editions without her photograph were rare collector's items. This lighthearted reality captures a deeper truth: she was woven entirely into the social fabric of Lymm. Su was a great supporter of Lymm Life and was always one of the first to thank me for the efforts we do to report on local life. She will be sadly missed by many, none more so than her husband of around half a century, Alan, who was the rock by her side through very testing times.

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Care home resident celebrates 100th birthday

A MUCH-loved resident at Keate House Care Home, Lymm, has celebrated her 100th birthday surrounded by family, friends and fellow residents.

Jean Higgins' centenary celebrations were nothing short of spectacular, with four parties taking place throughout a week. After enjoying live music, dancing, cards, gifts and plenty of well-wishes, Jean said: "You do not get to live to 100 years of age without the love, support and kindness shown to me. I am overwhelmed and very grateful for people's love and kindness."

Originally from Manchester, Jean spent her early years in the city before moving to Lymm with her husband, Tom, in 1962. Together they were active members of Lymm Baptist Church, where they formed many lasting friendships. Following Tom's passing, Jean continued to maintain close connections with members of the church community.

She was a member of Heatley Women's Institute and greatly enjoyed attending the monthly lunches organized by Contact the Elderly, where she made many friendships.

Jean became a resident at Keate House in December 2019 and has since become one of the home's treasured residents. Known for her positive outlook, she is held in great affection by residents, staff and visitors alike.

The team at Keate House were

delighted to help make Jean's 100th birthday a truly memorable occasion, ensuring she was able to celebrate in style with those closest to her.

Staff member Rachel Entwistle said: "Jean is a very special member of our Keate House family and it has been a privilege to celebrate this incredible milestone with her. Seeing the joy on her face throughout the week, surrounded by so many people who care for her, has been wonderful. We would like to wish Jean a very happy 100th birthday and thank everyone who helped make her celebrations so memorable."



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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 752915

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

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Meets on alternate Thursday afternoons at Lymm Baptist Church.
Details: www.lymmdingleprobus.club
Club secretary 01925 759995

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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

Village prepares for medieval tradition of Lymm Rushbearing



THE medieval tradition of Lymm Rushbearing returns to the village on Sunday, August 9th.

Medieval in origin, Lymm Rushbearing died out at the beginning of the 20th century but was re-born in the early 1970's. Covid didn't prevent a very small and almost private ceremony in 2020 and the event has now continued each year for over 50 years.

Ormerod's late Victorian history of Cheshire refers to the festival 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.

The procession starts at the Lower Dam at 4pm. Accompanied by local dignitaries and both Lymm Morris and Bollin Morris, the procession then walks along to St Marys church.

Lymm is one of a very small number of communities which have maintained this lovely tradition. This is what makes communities unique. Come along and join in.

Put the date in your diaries – Sunday 9th August 2026.

For any further information contact Christopher Limb, email c.1203@hotmail.co.uk





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

Advertiser's announcement

Delivering more for our elders in Lymm

In a world where growing older often means being seen as less, Lovett Care is challenging accepted norms to deliver more in every way for the elders of Warrington.

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People are the key to the exceptional delivery of outstanding care and nowhere is this more evident than at Statham Manor and Grappenhall Manor where the established care teams have worked together for many years and are very much known and

loved by the resident communities.

Statham Manor is a village care home where every resident is cherished. Led by Home Manager Farai and supported by Clinical Lead Shelley, Head of Care Mark, Wellbeing Coordinator Nathan and Head Chef Lee, Statham Manor has a wonderful family feel and is a home-from-home in Lymm.

Similarly, at Grappenhall Manor, life feels uplifting and homely and the place is alive with activity and connection. At the heart are Home Manager Charlotte, Deputy Manager Jessica, Head of Care Anna, Wellbeing Coordinator Leah and Head Chef Toby.

When you choose Lovett you're choosing a place that sees your loved one as their own, an individual who still has everything to give, and everything to gain, and teams across both homes are highly focussed on making a difference for the elders within their individual communities.

Filled with joy, togetherness and love, Lovett Care homes will continue to challenge and redefine what it means to deliver more for our elders, putting both passion and science at the heart of everything that we do to ensure Lovett Care homes are places where life is truly lived.

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Lymm trio conquer Three Peaks in tribute to local man

Three friends have completed the Three Peaks Challenge in memory of a Lymm man, Paul Cooper, who died in 2021 aged 47 from a brain tumour, raising £5,500 for research into the disease.

Vicky Cooper, Paul's sister, her boyfriend Gavin Bacon and friend Emily Fowler – all 51 – climbed Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon between 7am June 13th and 7am June 14th, completing all three peaks within the 24-hour challenge.

They covered 23 miles on foot and 10,052 feet of ascent, finishing on the Miners Track at Snowdon on Sunday morning.

The challenge was completed in memory of Paul Cooper, who grew up in Lymm, was a former pupil at Lymm High School and who had many friends living in and around Lymm.

Vicky said: "Paul did the Three Peaks Challenge and went up and down it like a mountain goat. I knew it was going to be hard but I was determined to complete it in under 24 hours. I wanted to do the challenge as we would be literally following in his footsteps."

"It is very hard to believe that it has been over five years since we lost Paul. It is also hard to see how little progress there has been in effective treatment for the hideous disease that is glioblastoma. The only way that any progress will be made is by research."

"Everything we raise for The Paul Cooper Fund goes to fund

that research. We really hope that one day glioblastoma sufferers aren't handed a death sentence on diagnosis as Paul was."

The Three Peaks Challenge was the latest in a series of fundraising efforts organised by Vicky over the last six years since losing her brother. Paul's friends and family

have raised over £175,000 in total for The Paul Cooper Fund in The Brain Tumour Charity.

Only between one and three per cent of the national cancer budget goes towards brain tumours, despite them being the biggest cancer killer of children and adults under 40.

Donations to The Paul Cooper Fund can be made at: www.justgiving.com/page/3peaksforpaul



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House builder supports Statham Summer Fair with £500 community donation

WARRINGTON-based Miller Homes North West has donated £500 to support this year's Statham Primary Schools Summer Fair, helping the school provide an afternoon of family fun for pupils, parents and the wider local community in Lymm.

The donation was presented by Emily Williams, Marketing Manager at Miller Homes North West, to Statham Primary School & Nursery during the annual Summer Fair. Organised by the school's PTA, the event raises vital funds each year to support the school, its pupils and enrichment activities, while bringing together families and local residents for an afternoon of games, entertainment, food stalls and community fun.

The support forms part of Miller Homes' ongoing commitment to investing in the communities where it builds and plans to build. The housebuilder is preparing to bring forward its new Cobblestone Wood development in Lymm, which will deliver 170 one, two, three, four and five-bedroom homes on Warrington Road, creating a new neighbourhood for the village.

Emily Williams, Marketing Manager at Miller Homes North

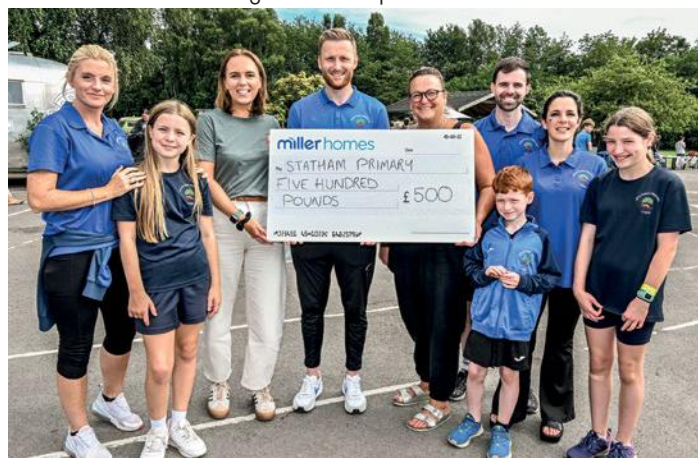
West, said: "As we prepare to bring our Cobblestone Wood development to Lymm, it's important to us that we're already playing an active role in supporting the local community. The Statham Summer Fair is a fantastic event that brings families together while raising valuable funds for the school, and we're delighted to contribute. We look forward to becoming part of the Lymm community and continuing to support local initiatives for many years to come."

Jane Rooney, Principal at Statham Primary School & Nursery, said: "We are incredibly grateful to Miller Homes for its generous

£500 donation. Support from local businesses makes a real difference in helping us deliver events like our Summer Fair, which are enjoyed by so many of our pupils, families and the wider community. We'd like to thank Emily and the team at Miller Homes for supporting our school."

Miller Homes regularly supports schools, charities and community organisations across the North West through sponsorships, donations and volunteering initiatives, helping to create positive, lasting impacts in the communities where it operates.

To find out more about Miller Homes development in Lymm, please visit the website.



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A timeless triumph for Lymm as Historic Tra

LYMM village was transformed into a bustling hub of living history as thousands of visitors descended on the area to celebrate the spectacular return of the Lymm Historic Transport Day.

Serving as a magnificent culmination to the annual Lymm Festival, this year's event successfully turned back the clock, filling the historic village with the sights, sounds, and nostalgia of a bygone era.

The celebrations kicked off with a grand, eclectic drive-in parade that snaked through the heart of the village. Spectators lined the packed streets along Eagle Brow, around the Cross, and up Pepper Street, watching a remarkable fleet of over 100 classic and vintage vehicles roll by.

The procession featured an extraordinary variety of transport history, led by some spectacular steam traction engines. Classic cars ranging from vintage daily drivers to rare, beautifully polished club models, heritage buses and commercial vehicles evoking memories of early public transit and vintage bicycles and classic motorcycles, created a diverse and fast-moving visual history lesson.

The electric atmosphere on the streets was captured perfectly by local broadcasters, with live coverage provided throughout the morning by Mix 56, sharing the stories of the vehicles and their dedicated owners.

Following the parade, the action shifted to the May Queen Field, which hosted an afternoon of outstanding community engagement and family-friendly activities. The field became a sprawling exhibition ground where attendees could get an up-close look at the vehicles and explore dozens of stalls selling food, local produce, toys, and clothing.

Beyond the vehicles, the village hub came alive with incredible attractions: Local musicians kept the crowds entertained with performances throughout the day.

Families flooded the LEGO zone at Maple Lodge and cheered on remote-controlled car races.

The heritage trail extended to the Bridgewater Canal for historic working boat displays, while the Henry Street car park hosted roaring steam traction engines.

An event of this scale does not happen by accident, and the utmost praise goes to the incredible volunteer organising committee and the 100+ volunteers who worked tirelessly in the summer heat to manage road closures, park-and-ride systems, and safety logistics.

Run entirely by the community for the community, the event donates all its profits back into good causes, making their hard work all the more meaningful.

Amidst the joy and celebration, thoughts remained closely with the event's co-founder and former director, Alan Williams. The Transport Day Committee recently shared the deeply saddening news that Alan's beloved wife, Su Williams, passed away following a lengthy illness. Su was a pillar of the Lymm community in her own right, having served as a Parish Councillor, a Trustee of the Lymm Heritage Centre, and an active volunteer for the Transport Day itself. The success of the 2026 event stands as a profound testament to the enduring community spirit that both Alan and Su spent decades fostering in Lymm.

Pictures: John Hopkins



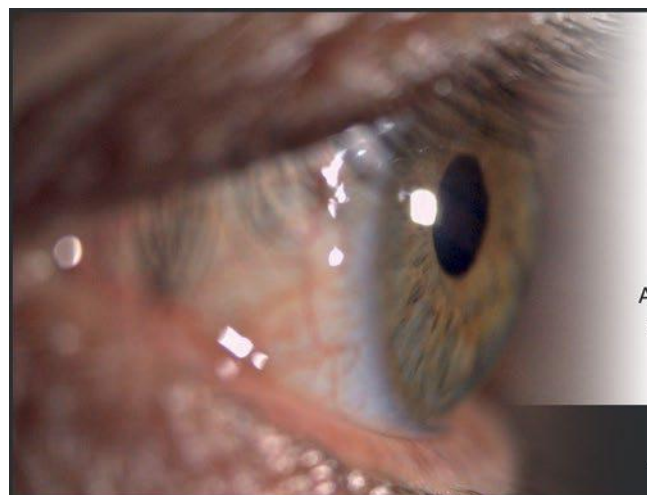
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Transport Day unites community in celebration



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Peel Ports launches investigation into Warburton Toll Bridge 'Penalty Trap' backlash

INVESTIGATIONS are ongoing into the controversial Warburton Toll Bridge operation after port bosses revealed they are reviewing a wave of driver complaints.

Peel Ports has confirmed it is investigating the under-fire system alongside automated contractor Excel Parking. It comes after a local councillor, Graham Gowland (Lymm South), said he was "horrified" by the volume of unpaid toll notices at Warburton Toll Bridge and that drivers are being caught in a "penalty trap", after a surge in penalty notices since the new system came into operation.

Over recent weeks, the councillor says he has been contacted by a large number of residents and visitors who have reported receiving multiple fines months after using the bridge, often with no indication at the time that anything was wrong.

"When you are issuing roughly one penalty notice for every ten crossings, it raises serious questions about whether this system is fair or working as intended," Cllr Gowland warned. He added that furious residents feel the penalties are being treated as a "revenue stream rather than a last resort."

"Desperate motorists described

receiving huge batches of fines months after using the bridge. Commuter Lewis was hit with 18 penalty notices totalling over £500. He blasted the delayed enforcement as "not proportionate."

In response to the concerns, Jon Hassett, Deputy Port Director, insisted that bosses are listening to the growing public anger.

"We recognise the variety of concerns road users have raised about the operation of the toll enforcement system, including the appeals process, payment methods and customer experience," Mr Hassett said.

"We take all feedback seriously and are reviewing the examples that have been provided, in conjunction with Excel Parking, who are responsible for the number plate recognition system and the toll charges. We and Excel will continue to investigate any specific examples provided and it will be for Excel to implement changes from any lessons learned. Our focus remains on delivering a fair, proportionate and transparent

service for all users."

Meanwhile, a spokesperson for the bridge operator strongly denied a wider failure of the automated system. They stated that the number of appeals represents less than half of one percent (0.43%) of all crossings.

"Our current assessment is that, while there have been some genuine customer experience issues, the evidence does not indicate a systemic failure of the scheme. The majority of cases reviewed to date have identified individual user errors, which have all been resolved upon investigation."

The spokesperson added that where errors were made by Excel or Peel Ports, they have "acted appropriately" by upholding appeals and issuing retrospective payments. They also noted that a "phased and proportionate" approach was used during the initial months to limit the number of fines issued while drivers adjusted.

Politicians across the region have been facing intense pressure to step in. Activists are also demanding an immediate pause on all backdated enforcement while the official review takes place.



Thousands pack into Lymm village for another Food fest success!

THOUSANDS of people packed into the centre of Lymm on Thursday evening as the annual Lymm Festival Food Fest made a triumphant return.

Transforming the village into a bustling, open-air street café, the event marked the spectacular opening of the 2026 Lymm Festival.

The village centre saw road closures to accommodate a spectacular array of global cuisines

and entertainment. From 6:00 PM onwards, locals and visitors flooded the streets between The Cross and Bridgewater Street to indulge in Mediterranean, Thai, Spanish, Italian, and Indian delicacies, alongside treats from local producers and bakeries.

The success of this year's opening night provides a vibrant tone for the ongoing 11-day festival, which runs until June 28, 2026.

Alongside the gourmet food offerings, attendees were treated to live street performances from local choirs, singers, and dance groups. Organisers noted that the vibrant atmosphere drew record

footfall right from the opening bell, setting a high-energy benchmark for the rest of the festival's packed calendar, which can be found here www.lymmfestival.org.uk



Calling all local photographers

Lymm Photographic Society is thrilled to launch our brand-new photo competition: "Life in Lymm"!

Whether you use a professional camera or just your mobile phone, we want to see your best shots capturing our beautiful village and the surrounding local area.

The Golden Rules:

- You must NOT be a current member of Lymm Photographic Society to enter.
- All photos must be in Portrait format (vertical).
- Strictly NO AI-generated images or elements.
- Free to enter, with two age groups: Under 21 and Over 21.

Under 18s must obtain permission from a parent/guardian.

The Prizes:

Generously provided by our wonderful local business sponsors! Plus, the winning and runner-up images will be published in Lymm Life!

Deadline: Midnight on Friday 18th September 2026.

For a complete list of rules, terms and conditions and to upload your images, please use the following email address which links to the Lymm Photographic Society web-site: lifeinlymm@lymmphotosoc.org.uk

Council to improve Tree Preservation Order system



WARRINGTON Borough Council is taking steps to improve its online system for Tree Preservation Orders after a Lymm resident, bidding to protect a 140-year-old Oak Tree, identified issues.

Lymm resident Jack Levy is attempting to put a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on an oak tree near his home which he estimates to be around 140 years old.

As the tree is in Lymm, he believes it is located in an area at risk of development.

He said: "Now in order to get a TPO you have to apply to the Council and so I go to www.warrington.gov.uk/trees-and-tpos – thinking 'surely this is where I'll find a form to fill in (there's always one of those) to apply for a TPO. But no. There is no information whatsoever on this page about applying for a TPO, instead the entire page and every link on it is dedicated to advising people how to go about cutting down trees with TPOs on them. The page's purpose is purely for developers, not for residents who care about trees. I have now tried in vain for weeks to contact the Council's Tree Officer to ask him to send me an application form that I can fill in so that I might help save the old tree in question. Obviously I've not had any response. The result is that Lymm residents are utterly unable to protect the historic trees around them from developers, and the people who are supposed to help us (the Council) are nowhere to be seen."

"We know that WBC are in favour of mass development in Lymm and therefore it may not be paranoid of me to assume that the reason the Council is refusing to

engage with TPOs and avoiding helping new TPOs be applied for, is because they actually want to see these trees removed. We know they have form in this regard after the felled the oak trees on Higher Lane."

Mr Levy approached Warrington Worldwide with his frustrations and the issue was raised directly with the council.

A Warrington Borough Council spokesperson responded: "We would like to thank the resident for their feedback on our website. It is important to us that we continually improve our online services and make them as clear and easy to use as possible. In this case, we recognise that both the wording and process could be clearer, and we are taking steps to address this."

"We carefully consider all requests to protect trees, particularly where they have significant public amenity value and may be at risk. Each request is assessed on its individual merits, in line with national guidance."

"We encourage anyone wishing to put forward a tree for protection to submit details via the online reporting function. This information is available on our trees and TPO's webpage."

"Requests should include the tree's location and the reasons it is considered worthy of a tree protection order, so that it can be assessed by a qualified tree officer."



Divorce Column

**By Peter Wilkinson
Divorce Lawyer at Chambers Fletcher Solicitors**

Parenting Plans – What Are They and Why Have One?

When parents separate, one of their biggest concerns is often what arrangements will be made for their children. In many cases, parents are able to reach agreement regarding child arrangements but would like those arrangements to be recorded in writing.

One option which can work well for some families is a Parenting Plan. This is a written agreement which can cover a wide range of matters, including with whom the children will live, arrangements for them to spend time with the other parent, arrangements for special occasions, handover arrangements, holidays and how parents will communicate with each other.

Whilst parents can, of course, record arrangements in a thread of emails or text messages, a Parenting Plan has the advantage of bringing everything together in one structured document. It encourages parents to think carefully about matters they may not otherwise have considered and provides a clear point of reference if disagreements arise in the future.

Having child arrangements recorded in a Parenting Plan can help to minimise misunderstandings, reduce the scope for future disagreements and provide greater certainty, not only for the parents but, depending upon their age and understanding, also for the children.

Whilst a Parenting Plan is not the same as a court order and is not in itself legally binding, it may prove helpful if court proceedings later become necessary, as it provides a clear and comprehensive record of the arrangements that were agreed. Because both parents have carefully considered and signed the Parenting Plan, there is less scope for disagreement about what was intended than there may be with an exchange of emails or text messages.

Whilst there is never a 'one size fits all' solution, where parents are able and willing to communicate and work together for the benefit of their children, a Parenting Plan can be an effective way of recording their agreement and providing a solid foundation for successfully implementing those arrangements.

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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Lymm mourns loss of community champion Su Williams MBE

LYMM has lost one of its most loved and inspiring community figures following the sudden death of Su Williams MBE.

For decades, Su Williams was at the heart of village life — the driving force behind countless projects, charities and community events that have helped shape Lymm and touched thousands of lives.

"Everyone knows Su Williams" became something of a family joke in the Williams household. Each month, when Lymm Life landed on the doormat, the family would flick through the pages to find out which of Su's good causes, new ventures or community initiatives had made the magazine. Editions without her photograph were considered collector's items.

And even if you did not know Su personally, the chances are she still impacted your life in some way.

Foodfest, now one of Lymm's most popular annual events, began as Su's idea. True to form, she did not simply suggest it to a committee and step away — she rolled up her sleeves and made it happen, encouraging traders, running the event and helping it to grow year on year. At the very same time, she was opening her own garden to more than 1,000 visitors in a week for "Art in the Garden", also using the event to support charities providing art therapy for disabled people. There were displays of pottery too, created by inmates from Risley Prison, where Su had spent 15 years working part-time as a teacher. Another lasting legacy was the monthly foodbank collection at The Cross, which Su helped establish nearly 15 years ago and which continues to support local families today.

Su and her husband Alan moved to Lymm in 1993 with their 10-year-old daughter Eve after Su took early retirement from teaching at Flixton Girls School, where she herself had once been a pupil. Retirement, however, was never likely to mean slowing down.

When Eve started at Lymm High School, Su quickly became involved in organising the school summer fair via the PTA, helping raise funds for much-needed equipment. Later, when her grandchildren attended Little Foxes nursery, Su and Alan's garden became the destination for the annual "Toddle Waddle" picnic event. When the children moved on to Statham Primary School, Su volunteered as a reading listener, created a lunchtime gardening club and even made Victorian costumes for an entire class visiting the

Heritage Centre during Transport Day celebrations.

The Heritage Centre itself owed much to Su's vision and determination. Alan helped bring the idea to life, but it was Su's initial enthusiasm and belief that inspired the project in the first place. The same could be said of Lymm Transport Day. Although her husband Alan founded and organised the hugely successful event for nine years, Su was undoubtedly the role model and inspiration for the "work hard, and you'll make it happen" approach.

There's that word again — inspiring. Again and again, people have spoken of how "Su inspired me" or "Su changed my life" — many of these people are now filling important career roles supporting the wider community and fulfilling themselves beyond their expectations.

Yet despite all she achieved, friends describe Su as one of the most grounded and caring people they have ever met. She was never interested in status or strategy meetings. Su believed in practical action. When the future of the Youth and Community Centre was under threat, she joined the campaign to save it and ran a Sunday afternoon coffee shop there, baking cakes herself while talking to visitors about the importance of the Centre to village life. She also helped establish the monthly Senior Social there, which continues to bring older residents together today.

Lymm in Bloom was another project Su nurtured from its earliest days. When a young man named Ben Selwood first posted a notice looking for volunteers, it was Su who responded first, encouraging him and helping the initiative flourish. She remained an active volunteer for many years.

Her compassion extended especially to individuals facing hardship or disadvantage. In the mid-1990s, when Lymm's first Big Issue seller arrived in the village, Su welcomed him in her home, helped him find work and accommodation, made curtains for his home and supported him in rebuilding his confidence and self-respect.

While Su may never have considered any of her work extraordinary, others certainly did. Over the years, she received two Warrington community awards, recognition from the Butler Trust and an Anne Frank Award for her

work in prison education. Then, in 2019, came perhaps the greatest public recognition of all: an MBE. By then, Su had successfully battled bowel cancer, but had also received a diagnosis of dementia.

When the official letter arrived inviting her to Windsor Castle to receive the honour from the Queen, her first reaction perfectly captured her down-to-earth approach.

"Blimey, that's a bit awkward to get to. Couldn't they just send it?"

In the end of course, she attended. Thrilled to meet the Queen and promptly forgetting royal etiquette by warmly shaking Her Majesty's hand with both of hers while declaring: "I think you look fantastic for your age!"

As the years passed, dementia gradually forced Su to step back from many of the activities she loved. But the projects she started continued to grow and thrive, enriching life across Lymm. Even as her illness progressed and communication became increasingly difficult, her instinct to help others never faded. On the final day of her life, aged 83, and eight years into her dementia journey, she was still volunteering at the Heritage Centre — setting up the exhibition room with husband

Alan, emptying bins and sweeping outside before heading for coffee at the Community Centre she had helped save years earlier.

A few years ago, friends from Lymm were travelling by ferry from Mull to the remote island of Iona in Scotland. On board, they fell into conversation with the island postwoman who asked where they were from. When they told her, she smiled and asked: "Oh, so do you know Su Williams?"... True!

Su and Alan Williams were together for almost fifty years and married for all but the first five, raising three children who, in turn gave them six beautiful grandchildren. At the same time, being Su, the family also provided occasional overnight respite care for more than 15 years to a boy with special needs.

Her death leaves an enormous void, not only for her family and friends but across the whole community into which she poured her boundless energy. She leaves with a remarkable legacy of kindness, inspiration, and practical action for the greater good. So even though you may never have had the good fortune to meet her, Su has almost certainly touched your life for the better.



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Lymm Panto producer wins Volunteer of Year 2025



LYMM Rugby Club's Sara Worton has been awarded 'Volunteer of the Year 2025', by the Cheshire rugby community, for many years of work on the world famous Lymm Panto.

Sara was invited to the Cheshire RFU Awards Dinner held at Bowden Rugby Club and was one of five finalists, from rugby clubs throughout Cheshire, to be honoured.

'Sara truly epitomises great qualities of commitment and effort at Lymm Rugby Club,' commented club President John Cartwright. 'She has worked tirelessly to pull this extraordinary show together, which is now in its 40th year.'

Sara has performed many roles, including the club's Safety Officer for 5 years, but it is as a producer, director, seamstress and actress

for the Panto that her volunteering work has shone through. This also includes recruitment and coaching of actors, from players in the senior teams to mums and dads of the junior players.

'We are all delighted for Sara that she has won this award and offer her our heartiest congratulations,' added John. 'Her commitment and hard work is highly valued by all involved, and long may she continue with her outstanding contribution, in helping us build this special rugby club,' he concluded.

Committee members and volunteers needed for Lymm Dickensian Day

Preparations are now underway for this year's Lymm Dickensian Day, which will take place on Saturday, 12th December and organisers would love you to be part of it!

The Committee is looking to welcome new members. If you can spare an hour or so half a dozen times a year to attend meetings, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Whether you'd like to help shape the event, share ideas, or take responsibility for organising a particular aspect of the day, your support would be greatly appreciated.

Chair to the organising committee Colin Oakley said: 'We're also looking for volunteers

to help on the day itself. If you can spare an hour or two as a marshal, you could assist with road closures, crowd management, or marshalling the parade. Every volunteer plays an important role in ensuring the event runs safely and successfully.

'If you'd like to get involved in any capacity, please email lymmdickensian@gmail.com. We'll be happy to answer any questions and, if you're interested in joining the Committee, invite you to our next meeting.'

With your support, we can make Lymm Dickensian Day 2026 another memorable celebration for the whole village.

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