

Lymm Life

Magazine

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In Katowice, Poland, riding one of his reliable, finely-tuned Weslake bikes, Peter faced a pressure-cooker environment. A roaring, record-breaking partisan crowd of over 125,000 spectators packed into the stadium, while millions more tuned in via live television and radio.

WORLD CHAMP

Super Collins clinched the title and Simon makes it a double

RIDING HIGH WITH THE TEAM

The following morning, Peter's triumphant face dominated the front and back pages of the UK press. He had finally fulfilled his childhood dream, solidifying his status as a mainstream sporting superstar. 1976 was a 'Golden Year' for British Motorsports, with F1 driver James Hunt and GP motorcyclist Barry Sheene both winning world titles. Peter Collins was chosen as one of the six finalists in the Sports Personality of the Year Awards (Won by skater John Curry). Peter also attended a reception at 10 Downing Street hosted by then Prime Minister James Callaghan.



Lymm's legend 50 years on

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Editor's Opinion



There is something rather special about a village being able to celebrate its own sporting legend while, at the same time, celebrating the people who have worked tirelessly to preserve the story of the village itself.

This year marks 50 years since Lymm's Peter Collins became Speedway World Champion – a remarkable achievement that still resonates half a century later.

Collins was just 22 when he travelled to Katowice in Poland and produced a near-perfect performance to take the world title in front of a crowd of more than 120,000 people. It was the sort of sporting triumph that puts a name permanently into the history books.

And yet, 50 years on, it is particularly fitting that his remarkable story is being celebrated at a place which is itself preserving Lymm's history for

generations to come.

The Lymm Heritage Centre has put together a superb exhibition celebrating Peter's incredible career, complete with championship-winning bikes, leathers, helmets, trophies, memorabilia, photographs and film.

But for me, there is another story behind this exhibition which deserves just as much recognition. The story of the volunteers.

The Heritage Centre is a wonderful example of what can happen when people stop talking about what their community should have and actually roll up their

sleeves and make it happen.

I remember writing about the dream of a Lymm heritage centre many years ago, when it seemed more aspiration than reality.

Su and Alan Williams helped turn that dream into something tangible. Su was the originator and co-founder of the project, while Alan has continued to play a leading role.

Sadly, Su is no longer with us. But every time those doors open, every photograph is displayed, every memory is shared and every visitor discovers something new about Lymm, there is a little bit of Su's legacy alive inside. That, surely, is what a living memorial should be.



Tracey Turton

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"Prison block" retirement development causing carnage

A "prison block" retirement home development on former farmland is causing carnage for residents living on a small, quiet estate at Lymm.

Ongoing deliveries of large cranes and concrete diggers involving huge wagons are causing carnage, which residents fear will carry on once the controversial McCarthy & Stone retirement home on a former dairy farm is completed.

Local resident Matt Rooney said: "Carnage is being caused on our small quiet estate by huge wagons, sometimes double length, delivering large cranes, concrete diggers and supplies from early in the morning to develop the old people's home each weekday.

"My concerns are that there

will be a bad accident, that the drainage system and road surface are not built for such weight and that once the home is completed there will be constant deliveries day and night. Why on earth did the access not be insisted upon through the new estate next door, which we are also having to deal with?"

The problems escalated with works taking place at 8.20 am on a Sunday morning.

Local Liberal Democrat Councillor Ian Marks said: "Sadly this kind of problem is only too common. We never wanted the building to be built in the first place and think it

looks more like a prison block and is out of keeping with the area.

"Another main objection was the inability of the Dairy Farm Estate to cope with construction traffic. Highways knew better than residents, but this is the outcome. It is quite unreasonable and is happening at all hours and every day. It has been suggested that the estate roads may not be strong enough to cope with such heavy loads.

"Residents are right to say that the problems will not go away once construction is over because there will be on-going deliveries every day. We must at least insist that contractors and sub-contractors are not breaking any rules."

The scheme, allowed on appeal after being refused by Warrington

planners, was the third the company have put forward for land at Watercress Farm, off Thirlmere Drive, Lymm.

It involves 36 one and two-bedroom retirement apartments in a part-three, part-two storey building. Previous proposals were for 45 retirement apartments and were opposed by nearly 60 residents and by Lymm Parish Council.

Amended proposals were for 42 homes and the latest scheme was for 36.

Parking for 26 cars was proposed, along with a terrace to provide an outdoor sitting area and interior communal facilities.

Objectors had described the retirement apartments proposal as a "prison block."



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What's On

LYMM PARISH COUNCIL

Next meeting Tuesday October 12th, 7:30pm
Lymm Parish Hall
Check www.lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk for details.

LYMM THURSDAY EVENING BRIDGE CLUB

Lymm Village Hall every Thursday 6.45pm
Details: 07393 944677

MAPLE LODGE ART GROUP

Meet each Wednesday 9.30am - 11.30pm
Oughtrington Community Centre, Lymm
Details: 01925 755926

ROTARY CLUB OF LYMM

Meets at Warburtons Parish Rooms on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month at 8pm
Contact 01925 919053

LOVING HEARTS & HANDS

Knitting for charity at Lymm Methodist Church, 2nd and 4th Thursday each month, 1.30pm - 3pm. Details: 01925 753298

LUNCH AT THE BROW

Eagle Brow Methodist Church
2nd Friday in the month
Light lunches 12 noon till 1.30pm.
All proceeds to The Y Project Room at The Inn

GARDENING CLUB

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

LYMM FLORAL ART GROUP

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

LYMM PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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

LYMM HISTORY SOCIETY

Second Monday each month
September to May
Lymm Village Hall - 8pm-9pm
Variety of history talks
Visitors most welcome
www.lymmhistory.club

LYMM WINE AND BEER CIRCLE

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

LYMM CONCERT BAND

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

LYMM WI

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

LYMM AND DISTRICT MIXED VOICE CHOIR

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

PROBUS CLUB OF LYMM

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

LYMM DINGLE PROBUS CLUB

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

FRIENDS OF LYMM LIBRARY CRAFT GROUP

Lymm Sanctuary Hub
Fridays 1.30-3.00pm
Details: 01925 754016

HEATLEY WI

Meets the second Thursday of each month at St Peters Church Hall, Sandy Ln, Lymm, 7pm
Visitors welcome. Details: 01925 752014

LYMM & THELWALL U3A

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

Lymm youngsters join MP's "politics summer school"



YOUNG people from Lymm joined others from across Cheshire at the first Politics Summer School hosted by MP Esther McVey.

The MP, whose Tatton constituency includes the Lymm area of Warrington, came up with the idea after being contacted by large numbers of young people wanting to do work experience with her.

The youngsters, aged 16 to 18 experienced a taster of "everything politics" from speech writing to the passage of a Bill through Parliament – the complete process on how something becomes law – to hearing from the House of Commons head of outreach on how Parliament works.

The summer school also looked at the plethora of careers in politics besides being an MP, from being a political journalist to holding other political offices; working for an MP in the role of a parliamentary caseworker or researcher; working for a government minister as a Special Adviser (SpAd); or working as a civil servant in non-partisan roles.

Ms McVey said: "As part of an introduction into speech writing, each person wrote a speech on a topic of their choosing and then debated it with the other students. Some of the topics covered were

assisted dying, proportional representation, abolishing the monarchy, VAT on private school fees and abolishing tuition fees. I was mightily impressed by their research and oratory.

"I've always offered work experience to students since I was first elected and I will continue to do so. This summer school was born out of the growing interest in politics by students so I thought I would do something a bit different this summer and I am glad I did."

"I had a great time with the young people and have received some fantastic feedback. I am delighted they took something from it."

Ms McVey also arranged for the students to hear from GB news presenter Patrick Christys, Conservative mayoral candidate for Cheshire and Warrington Ben Fletcher, as well as the head of education outreach from the House of Commons who provided an overview of Parliament and explained how both the House of Commons and House of Lords run and award winning Parliamentary Staffer of the Year Olivia O'Mahoney.



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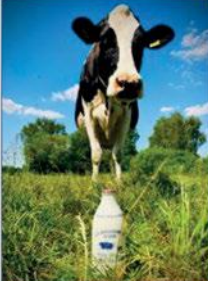
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Ancient Lymm tradition brought to life

LYMM'S centuries-old Rushbearing tradition was brought vividly back to life as villagers gathered for one of the community's most distinctive annual celebrations.

The Lymm Rushbearing Festival, organised by local resident Chris Limb, saw the traditional procession make its way through the village before the rushes were taken to St Mary's Church for a special service.

The event once again combined history, community and English folk tradition, with Morris dancers helping to create the colourful atmosphere as participants carried rushes and decorated garlands through Lymm.

For Chris, the organiser who has played a key role in keeping the tradition alive for decades, the event represents an important part of Lymm's heritage.

The Rushbearing tradition dates back to the days when church floors were made from earth and rushes were used as a natural covering to provide warmth, cleanliness and insulation.

According to the Lymm Heritage Centre, the tradition was widespread across Britain during the Middle Ages and was well established by the time of Shakespeare.

In Lymm, the custom became a major annual celebration. Historical records show the Rushbearing ceremony taking place in the village as early as 1817, with Morris dancers accompanying the cart carrying rushes to the church.

At its height, Rushbearing was far more than simply the practical task of replacing the church floor

covering.

The celebrations could extend over several days and included dancing, music, sports, fairground attractions and plenty of activity around the village's public houses.

A surviving 1858 Rushbearing poster held by the Lymm Heritage Centre provides evidence of just how large the event once was – with celebrations lasting four days.

By the 1890s there were concerns about rowdy behaviour and drunkenness and restrictions were placed on activities in the village centre. The tradition subsequently disappeared for much of the 20th century.

It was revived in Lymm in the 1970s, with Chris taking responsibility for maintaining the event from 1976 onwards. The modern celebration is a much more sedate affair than its Victorian predecessor, but retains the essential ingredients of the historic ceremony.

The revival has also helped preserve the link between Rushbearing and Morris dancing, with Thelwall Morris traditionally playing a prominent role in the event.

Historical research records that early Lymm and Oughtlington Morris dancers took part in Rushbearing processions, while the old Lymm dance itself has also been revived and performed at Rushbearing and other village celebrations.



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The silent killer: why your blood pressure deserves five minutes of your time

By Dr Naveed Ijaz, Chief Clinical Officer and Consultant in Family Medicine, MyGP Clinic

Most of the serious conditions I see in general practice announce themselves. There is pain, or a lump, or a cough that will not shift. High blood pressure does none of that. It sits quietly for years, damaging the arteries, heart, kidneys and brain, and the first sign that anything was wrong is often a stroke or a heart attack.

That is why it earned the nickname the silent killer. Around one in four adults in the UK has high blood pressure and a large chunk of them have no idea.

The good news is that it takes about a minute to measure and in most cases it responds very well to treatment. So here are the questions worth asking, whether you see me, your NHS GP, a nurse or a pharmacist.

What is my blood pressure and what do the numbers mean?

Ask for the actual reading. Not "fine" or "a bit up", but the two numbers.

The top number is the pressure when your heart pumps, the bottom when it relaxes between beats. A healthy clinic reading is usually around 120 over 80. We start calling it high blood pressure at 140 over 90 or above in clinic, or 135 over 85 at home.

One high reading does not make a diagnosis. It goes up if you have rushed to the appointment, had three coffees, or are simply

nervous in a consulting room, which even has a name, white coat hypertension. What matters is the pattern over time.

Do I need to monitor it at home?

For a lot of people, yes. Home readings are one of the most useful things you can bring to an appointment, and a far more honest picture than a single reading taken in a rush.

Buy a clinically validated monitor that goes around your upper arm, not your wrist. The British and Irish Hypertension Society keeps a list on its website. Sit quietly for five minutes first, back supported and arm at heart level, then take two readings a minute apart, morning and evening, for a week and write them down.

Should I be having cholesterol and diabetes checks too?

Almost certainly. Raised cholesterol and high blood sugar cluster with high blood pressure, and each one multiplies the effect of the others. Both show up on a simple blood

test, and type 2 diabetes can sit undetected for years.

Is my cardiovascular risk higher than I realise?

We can calculate your ten year risk of a heart attack or stroke using a tool called QRISK, which turns your blood pressure, cholesterol, age, weight, family history and ethnicity into a percentage. But it does not capture everything. You can have a normal cholesterol and still have a heart attack.

How often should I get checked?

NHS advice is that adults over 40 should have a blood pressure check at least every five years. I think that is far too relaxed. If you are over 40, carrying extra weight around the middle, have a family history of heart disease or stroke, or you are of South Asian or African Caribbean background, do not wait five years.

It is not just about weight and cholesterol

Sleep is badly underrated. Poor sleep and untreated sleep apnoea drive blood pressure up. So does stress. Alcohol has a bigger effect than most people expect, and so does sitting still all week. Regular movement, even a brisk half hour



walk most days, genuinely shifts the numbers.

None of that is glamorous advice. It is just the stuff that works.

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CLINIC



Lymm celebrates its own World Champion 50 y

Lymm Heritage Centre is celebrating one of the village's greatest sporting stories with a special exhibition dedicated to local legend and Speedway World Champion Peter Collins, which is now open.

Created by the volunteers at Lymm Heritage Centre, the exhibition marks 50 years since the Lymm-born rider became Individual Speedway World Champion in 1976 – and gives visitors the opportunity to discover the remarkable story behind one of Britain's most celebrated speedway careers.

Peter Collins grew up in Lymm and went on to reach the very top of his sport. On 5 September 1976, aged just 22, he won the World Championship in Poland in front of an extraordinary crowd of around 120,000 people, becoming Britain's first Individual Speedway World Champion since Peter Craven in 1962.

The new exhibition, 'Peter Collins – Lymm's Sporting Legend', is now open and runs until December.

The legend was on hand to celebrate the opening along with family and friends, saying the historic victory had changed his life. Later this year in November he will also be celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary.

Having survived a brain haemorrhage more than decade ago he considers himself lucky to be alive to celebrate the occasion.

Visitors will be able to explore Peter's life and career, from a determined eight-year-old who dreamed of becoming a World Champion to his success on the international stage.

Among the exhibits will be the World Championship-winning bike, alongside racing leathers, trophies and previously unseen memorabilia – bringing the story of a local boy

who became a sporting hero back home to Lymm.

The anniversary has an added sense of nostalgia this year. Peter's World Championship victory came at the end of the famous summer of 1976, remembered for its prolonged heat and drought.

For many visitors, the exhibition will provide an opportunity not only to revisit a landmark moment in British sporting history, but also to remember the people, places and events that shaped Lymm during that era.

At the heart of the exhibition is the work of Lymm Heritage Centre and its team of volunteers, who give their time to research, preserve and share the stories of the village and its people.

Run entirely by volunteers, the Centre brings Lymm's history to life through changing exhibitions, its archive and collection, education activities, research and community events.

From researching photographs and documents to conserving material, creating exhibitions and welcoming visitors, the volunteers play an invaluable role in ensuring Lymm's heritage is not simply preserved, but made accessible and engaging for future generations.

The Peter Collins exhibition is the latest example of that work – taking a story with international sporting significance and revealing the very local beginnings behind it.

"Our volunteers have put a huge amount of work into bringing together the photographs, memorabilia and stories behind

Peter's career, and we hope people from Lymm and much further afield will come along, see the exhibition and help us celebrate a very special piece of local history," said Peter Graham, Centre Trustee and Exhibition Co-ordinator.

The Peter Collins exhibition follows another major sporting exhibition at the Centre this summer celebrating the 60th anniversary of Brazil's 1966 World Cup team staying in Lymm.

Together, the exhibitions demonstrate the surprising breadth of stories connected to the village – and the role Lymm Heritage Centre and its volunteers play in uncovering and sharing them.

Peter Collins – Lymm's Sporting Legend features the World Championship-winning bike, racing leathers, trophies and memorabilia, including items that have not previously been on public display.





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Years on with special Heritage Centre exhibition



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Lymm High School celebrate another excellent set of Post-16 results

STUDENTS and staff at Lymm High School have been celebrating another excellent set of post-16 results.

After months of preparation – and the inevitable nervous wait over the summer – there have been plenty of smiles and celebrations as students opened their results.

Headteacher Gwyn Williams said: "It's been another lovely morning and very satisfying to see another set of really strong results for the school, but behind the celebrations are many months and years of hard work, commitment and perseverance from our students. Post-16 qualifications are demanding and achieving strong results requires real determination, so we are immensely proud of what students have achieved again this year."

"I'd also like to congratulate and thank our Sixth Form and teaching staff. Their expertise, encouragement and support have played such an important part in helping our students to achieve their potential. We are very fortunate to have such committed staff working alongside such talented and determined young people."

Mrs Neesam, Head of Sixth Form, added: "I'm extraordinarily proud of all our students. Results Day is always a mixture of excitement and nerves, but it is wonderful to see so many students celebrating their achievements this morning. They have worked incredibly hard over the last couple of years and have shown real determination and commitment throughout. They thoroughly deserve the success they are enjoying today."

"I am particularly proud of those students who have overcome significant personal challenges along the way. To see them achieve such brilliant grades, despite everything they have had to deal

with, has been genuinely inspiring.

"Once again, we are seeing students heading off to universities right across the country, including many of the UK's leading institutions, as well as moving on to a range of other exciting destinations such as some very prestigious Degree Apprenticeships. At the time of writing, almost all students have already secured a place at a destination of their choice, which is a fantastic position for them to be in." Enroll In Courses

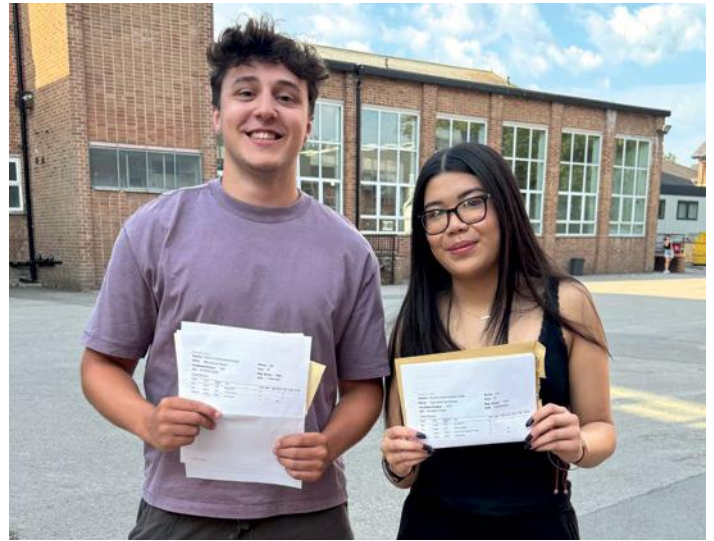
There are so many individual successes to celebrate today that it is impossible to mention everyone. However, the school traditionally name the top performers and particular congratulations go to Owen Williams, Sofia Naylor and Jamie Bolton for each securing A* grades in three subjects – truly sensational performances.

There were also several students who managed to score two A* grades:

Holly Viggars, Ava Rose Exley, Yasmine Hughes, Anna Mukherjee, George Mitchell, Evie Madgin, William Greenwood, Elizabeth Dobson and Josh Cooke.

The following students all picked up at least three A*/A grades as well: Sophia Cheung, Abigail Allsup, Edward Armstrong, Elizabeth Doherty, Lewis Elliott, Alexa Greenhalgh, Adam Hunt, Aimee Kinsey, Matilda Longton, Max Ottiwell, James Owen, Seth Wall, Joshua Calder, Holly Franklin, Akshith Gulapally, Christian Hill and Erin Shaw.

To achieve so consistently well, as these students have, is extremely difficult to do and they deserve tremendous credit.



Exam success continues for Lymm High School

FOLLOWING a great day of post-16 results, it was the turn of Year 11 students at Lymm High School to open the envelopes containing their GCSE results... and they have done brilliantly!

The headline measures show that 71% of students gained grades 9–5 in both English and Maths, and over 36% of all grades were 7 or above. Behind these headlines, the school is thrilled to have maintained the remarkable level of consistency they have seen over the past few years; virtually all subjects, and certainly all the bigger ones, have performed exceptionally well once again.

Gwyn Williams, Headteacher, said: "It doesn't matter how many times we've done this, Results Days are always a nerve-wracking experience. We have performed so well in recent years that there is always a fear that this year might be the one where we slip up a little. In the event, we didn't need to worry, and we are delighted again with the profile of results."

"We have always said that we will never apologise for working to ensure students achieve the best academic outcomes they

possibly can, and these results will open many doors for so many of them. But, at the same time, we are exceptionally proud of them as people; they really have been a pleasure to work with over the past 5 years and I have no doubt they are going to go on and make a positive impact on the world, whatever they all choose to do."

There are just too many individual success stories to list, but special mention must go to Oliver Anderson and Noah Richardson, both of whom scored the top grade 9 in a scarcely-believable nine different subjects.

The following students managed to score grades 8 or 9 (i.e., the old A* grades) in no fewer than eight different subjects: Isabelle Barnes, Olivia Brown, Alexander Davies, Evie Kelly, Finlay Tucker, Libby Wilks, Cheuk Ying Chow, Alicia Gomez-Galdon, Ansell, Will Jackson, Ellie Mead, Isabelle Sharp, Henry Shepherd, Madeleine Stewart, Lily Haase, Hugh Pridding, Emily Rimmer, Emily Burnett, Ruby Harrison, Joe McDonald, Joseph Riley, Evie Strangeways and Joseph Worsley.

Mr Williams added: "To maintain

such a high level of performance across such a wide range of subjects is really quite something, and a testament to the sustained hard work and commitment these young people have shown over the past few years. Congratulations!

"Of course, the same applies to many more students who have also achieved fantastic results

today, some of whom have had to overcome some really significant challenges. We are incredibly proud of you all."

"As ever, we would like to thank family, friends and staff in school for the support shown for this cohort of young people. They fully deserve all their success, but they could not have done it without you all!"



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Bridgewater Canal breach repair moves into contractor procurement phase



THE Bridgewater Canal Company has today confirmed further progress on the repair of the canal breach at Little Bollington near Lymm, with survey and design work now complete and the project moving into the contractor procurement phase.

Since the breach in January 2025, extensive work has been undertaken to stabilise the canal and develop a safe, long-term solution to reinstate the embankment and restore navigation.

SLR Consulting, appointed as principal consultant, has now completed key design, environmental and ground investigation work, alongside the collection of pre-construction information required to inform the repair solution and enable suitable contractors to tender for the works.

The proposed works include the reconstruction of the canal embankment and associated infrastructure, replacement of the canal wall, installation of a new culvert and, once the permanent solution is in place, reflooding of the canal and removal of the temporary dams. A competitive tender exercise is now underway.

Before construction can commence, the Bridgewater Canal Company is awaiting the completion of a number of important technical reviews and responses from statutory bodies and utility providers, including the Environment Agency, National Gas, Cadent Gas and United Utilities.

The team is working closely with all parties to progress these requirements. Once the outstanding information has been received and assessed, a contractor can be appointed and the construction programme confirmed.

As a result, works will commence slightly later than the previously anticipated August start date. The Bridgewater Canal Company remains committed to progressing the project as quickly as possible and are working closely with all

parties to resolve the outstanding requirements, while ensuring the final solution is safe, robust and meets all necessary statutory and technical requirements.

Peter Parkinson, Managing Director of the Bridgewater Canal Company, said: "We recognise that the continued restriction is frustrating for boaters, local residents, businesses and everyone who uses and enjoys the canal.

"There has been a significant amount of work taking place behind the scenes and reaching the contractor procurement stage is another important milestone for the project. While we had hoped to begin construction in August, there are a number of technical and statutory requirements that need to be resolved before works can safely commence.

"Our focus remains on delivering a safe and robust long-term repair that restores navigation and protects this historic waterway for the future.

"I'd like to thank the National Trust, Environment Agency and United Utilities for their continued collaboration and support, and our boating community, local residents and businesses for their ongoing patience."

The Bridgewater Canal Company continues to work collaboratively with the National Trust, Environment Agency, United Utilities and other stakeholders to resolve the outstanding matters.

A further update will be provided in mid-September, following the next stakeholder collaboration meeting.

For further information and the latest updates, please visit the Bridgewater Canal website: bridgewatercanal.co.uk

Chambers Fletcher Solicitors Divorce Column

By Peter Wilkinson
Divorce Lawyer at Chambers Fletcher Solicitors

Divorce - Navigating the Legal Divide

If you are thinking about divorce, it can be difficult to know where to start. There is usually a great deal to consider, so taking legal advice from the outset can help make the process easier to navigate.

One common misconception is that "the divorce" deals with everything. It does not. There are often three separate issues to consider: dissolving the marriage (the divorce), resolving financial claims (financial remedy) and, where children are involved, making arrangements for their care (child arrangements).

Since the introduction of no-fault divorce, it is no longer necessary to "point the finger" by alleging blame against your husband or wife for the breakdown of the marriage, so the divorce process itself is now relatively straightforward. Where difficulties arise, they are not usually with the divorce itself, but rather with resolving financial matters or child arrangements.

It's important to understand that obtaining a divorce does not, of itself, resolve financial claims between you. Property, savings, investments, pensions, businesses and income may all need to be considered. Where agreement is reached, it will usually need to be incorporated into a financial order approved by the court. Where agreement cannot be reached, it may ultimately be necessary for the court to determine how the finances should be divided.

Child arrangements are a separate issue. In many cases, parents are able to agree between themselves where their children will live and how their time will be divided. Where agreement cannot be reached, an application to the court may become necessary. In determining any application, the welfare of the children will be the court's paramount consideration.

Taking legal advice at an early stage should help you understand your options and make informed decisions about the issues which apply in your case. Understanding your legal position before making important decisions can help you approach separation with your eyes wide open and see a clearer way forward.

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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Family launches fundraising appeal to rebuild mum's life

A Lymm family has launched an emotional £200,000 fundraising appeal to help rebuild the life of a 44-year-old mum who has survived an extraordinary medical battle which doctors say is so rare they want to publish it in medical journals around the world.

Lois Kinder was living an ordinary family life until 13 July 2026, when everything changed. She was suddenly taken critically ill and rushed to Warrington Hospital, where doctors discovered she was suffering from acute liver failure. Within hours she was placed into an induced coma.

Just three days later, she was transferred to the specialist Liver Intensive Care Unit at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, one of only a handful of centres in the UK equipped to carry out emergency liver transplants.

Lois was immediately placed on the super-urgent transplant list. Her family knew that every passing hour mattered.

After several potential donor livers proved unsuitable, hope finally came on 22 July, when a suitable donor liver became available.

But what followed was a nightmare that nobody could have anticipated. During the transplant operation, Lois suffered three cardiac arrests after a blood clot blocked the main artery to her lungs.

She was deprived of oxygen for a prolonged period as surgeons and critical care specialists fought desperately to keep her alive.

At one point, her family was told to prepare for the worst. They were warned that Lois was unlikely to survive the operation. But against extraordinary odds, she did.

The battle, however, was far from over.

Lois spent weeks in intensive care, with her family living through an agonising period of uncertainty as they waited for signs of recovery.

Then, six weeks after she was first admitted to hospital, came a moment they had almost stopped daring to hope for. Lois began to wake up.

Every movement and every tiny indication of progress has been described by her family as a miracle.

But the prolonged cardiac arrests and lack of oxygen have left Lois with significant brain damage, and she remains in critical care undergoing intensive neurological rehabilitation.

Nobody can yet say what the future will look like.

Her family does not know whether she will walk again, how much use of her body she will regain, or what level of specialist care she may ultimately require.

What they do know is that Lois is still fighting. And they are determined to fight alongside her.

Her husband Oliver, who has asked for the appeal to receive as much publicity and support as possible, said the family faces a long road ahead.

Lois is expected to remain in hospital for months as her recovery continues at a painfully slow pace.

The family home is also unlikely to meet her future needs.

If Lois requires a wheelchair or

significant ongoing care, extensive adaptations may be needed to give her a safe and accessible home.

That is why her family and her two best friends, Ruth and Misia, have launched a GoFundMe appeal with a target of £200,000.

The money will help provide an accessible home and make the adaptations needed to give Lois the best possible chance of rebuilding her life when she is eventually able to leave hospital.

Ruth, who has been Lois' best friend for 33 years and counting, helped establish the fundraiser alongside Misia.

The family says the events surrounding Lois' illness and transplant are so unusual that the medical team treating her has asked permission to produce a case study for medical journals worldwide.

The aim is to help medical professionals learn from what happened and potentially improve understanding of similarly complex cases in the future.

For the family, however, the priority is much more personal. They simply want Lois home. They want her children to have their mum back.

And they want to give her every



possible opportunity to rebuild a life which changed forever in a matter of hours.

Her husband Oliver, added: "We would be very grateful of as much exposure and sharing of this as possible so we can raise as much money to rebuild Lois' life and adapt a home for Lois' return."

He added that the road ahead would be a long one, with Lois expected to remain in hospital for months.

The family knows there are no guarantees. But Lois has already defied the odds once.

She survived acute liver failure. She received a life-saving transplant. She survived three cardiac arrests during the operation. And after weeks in critical care, she began to wake.

Now her family is asking the community to help give her the best possible chance of taking the next step.

Every donation, however large or small, could help bring Lois closer to a future back at home.

The fundraising appeal can be found on the family's GoFundMe page: www.gofundme.com/f/lois-story? which has raised around £10,000 towards an initial £28,000 target.

If you cannot donate, the family says that sharing the appeal could be just as valuable in helping it reach people who may be able to help.

After everything Lois has been through, her family is asking for one thing above all else: Help them bring her home.

The M6 Bed Warehouse opens new showroom and earns further national recognition

FAMILY-run independent retailer The M6 Bed Warehouse has officially opened its third showroom in Macclesfield, marking another significant milestone in the business's continued growth.

Located opposite B&Q Macclesfield, the new showroom offers customers a wide selection of beds and mattresses from leading brands, including Sealy, Sleep-ezee, Harrison Spinks and Enchanted House. The showroom has been designed to provide a relaxed shopping experience, with customers able to try different products and receive expert advice from the M6 Beds team.

The opening follows the success of the company's existing showrooms in Alsager and Northwich and represents a significant investment in the future of the family-run business.

Louis Mitchell, Director of The M6 Bed Warehouse, said: "Opening our third showroom is a really exciting milestone for the business. We've learned a huge amount from opening Northwich and have used that experience to create what we believe is our best showroom yet."

"Macclesfield was a natural choice for us. It's a fantastic retail location with a strong local community, and we're excited to bring our approach to quality products, expert advice and first-class service to the area."

Customers can also benefit from

M6 Beds' established services, including free delivery and free recycling of old beds and mattresses.

The opening comes as M6 Beds is also celebrating being shortlisted for the National Bed Federation Medium Retail Champion of the Year Award.

Following the company's success in winning the Small Retail Champion Award last year, the latest recognition highlights its continued growth and commitment to high standards in independent

bed retail.

Louis added: "To progress from winning the Small Retail Champion Award last year to being recognised again this year is fantastic recognition for our whole team."

With three showrooms now established, M6 Beds remains focused on quality products, outstanding value and first-class customer service.

For more information, visit www.m6beds.co.uk



'Wear your Poppy with pride'



THE familiar sight of red poppies will soon be returning to shops, businesses and lamp posts across Lymm as preparations get underway for the 2026 Poppy Appeal.

Poppy boxes will shortly be appearing in village retailers, hotels, bars, restaurants, churches, schools and supermarkets, while thanks to the Parish Council, the large red poppies will once again adorn lamp posts throughout the community.

Remembrance remains a special time of year when people across faiths, cultures and backgrounds come together to remember those who have served – and continue to serve – in the Armed Forces.

It is also a time to remember those who sadly never returned home to their families and friends.

The appeal organisers are once again urging residents to wear their Poppy with pride and support the Royal British Legion's vital work.

The Poppy remains the enduring symbol of Remembrance, inspired by the red flowers which grew across the battlefields of Flanders following the devastation of the First World War.

It represents not only remembrance, but also respect and hope for a more peaceful future.

The generosity of local residents has already made a significant difference.

Last year, the Lymm and High Legh community raised more than £19,500 for the Poppy Appeal – an impressive total which demonstrated the strength of local support for the Armed Forces community.

Money raised through the appeal enables the Royal British Legion to provide a wide range of support to wounded service personnel, veterans and their families.

That support can include grants for essentials such as food and clothing, helping ensure members of the Armed Forces community do not have to go hungry or cold.

The charity also supports families living with dementia through Admiral Nurses, while more than 10 per cent of grants last year went towards

improving independence through mobility equipment and adaptations for disabled veterans and family members.

The Royal British Legion's care homes provide support for hundreds of people, either as residents or through day care, while funding also helps rehabilitation centres and the Battle Back Centre.

A £3,000 contribution, for example, can provide a veteran with the support needed to regain independence through a multi-activity recovery course.

The Poppy Appeal also helps enable serving personnel and veterans to train and participate in the Invictus Games.

With cash increasingly being used less frequently, residents are being reminded that there are other ways to donate.

All Poppy collection tins feature QR codes, allowing people to make a donation directly using their mobile phones.

Residents are being encouraged to give generously when they see Poppy boxes around the community, or when they meet the dedicated volunteers collecting at the two Sainsbury's stores and at the Truck Stop.

There is also an opportunity to sponsor one of the large lamp-post poppies in remembrance of a loved one, or in honour of those who serve and have served their country.

Anyone wishing to sponsor a lamp-post poppy can contact jwmeldrum@btinternet.com

The appeal organisers are hoping that the people of Lymm and High Legh will once again demonstrate their generosity and ensure that the community's proud tradition of supporting the Poppy Appeal continues.

For more information about the work of the Royal British Legion, visit www.britishlegion.org.uk

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