



# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

## Welcome to our first Alumni Newsletter.

It is a little over a year since I joined Lymm High School and I have loved every second of my time here so far. In truth, I still can't believe my luck that I have ended up in such a beautiful and vibrant community, with such brilliant young people and staff to work with. It is a wonderful place.

One of the things that was immediately obvious to me was the history and tradition of the school; it is clearly somewhere that holds a special place in the hearts of so many of those who have been associated with it over the years. Our attempts to re-connect with our alumni form part of the desire to respect and celebrate this history. Great schools are about more than

simply the people there at any one time; they care just as much about those who have moved on from the school and the legacies that they leave behind.

This newsletter is, we hope, just the starting point in a reinvigoration of the links between the past and the present. The intention is to provide alumni with information about what is currently going on at Lymm High School, to share memories, to prompt reflection and to help our current students appreciate that the experiences they have here will stay with them forever. Thank you very much to all those who have contributed to this edition; we have thoroughly enjoyed hearing your stories and are sure everybody else will do so too.

Please do spread the word about the alumni scheme; we would like as many ex-students and staff members as

possible to get back in touch, and stay in touch, with this fabulous institution. An email to [alumni@lymmhigh.org.uk](mailto:alumni@lymmhigh.org.uk) is all it takes.

In the meantime, I wish you all the very best.

*Gwyn Williams - Headteacher*



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD GIRL AND HEAD BOY



Since becoming a part of Lymm High School in year 7, I feel that I have become a confident well rounded person. This is in no small part due to the support, knowledge and experience I have received over the last seven years. As well as the academic side of school life, I have enjoyed being a part of the school's Big Band, experienced unforgettable overseas trips and been no stranger to attending the wealth of extra-curricular activities on offer. In my fi-

nal year at Lymm, I was fortunate to fulfil the role of Head girl. This has allowed me to grow even more as an individual and develop my skills for the future. Upon leaving Lymm, I plan to follow a career as a make-up artist within the film and TV industry. I have thoroughly cherished being a part of Lymm High School and I'm confident this feeling is shared by my fellow students.

*Hannah Knight - Head Girl*

Being a student here at Lymm high school has flown by! I have learnt so much from truly dedicated staff and have always felt safe and secure during my time here. I have had countless opportunities to better myself and being part of the schools brass and big bands, going on a football tour and becoming Head Boy are clear examples of this. I am truly thankful to all the staff who have worked tirelessly to help me leave Lymm high school a better person than when I arrived and I will miss being part of this wonderfully unconventional family immensely.

I plan to go to go onto the University of Nottingham to study Civil engineering and look forward to tackling new challenges with the skills that Lymm high school has equipped me with over the past 7 years.

*Sam Smith - Head Boy*

# LOVE BLOSSOMS AT LHS

## *Delia and Roger Haslam's Happy Memories of Lymm Grammar School 1953-1959*

When we left school, we went off to higher education, moved away from home and sadly we did not keep in touch with fellow students. 'Back in the day' there was no such thing as social media, personal computers and not every home even had a telephone. Therefore keeping in touch by mail took tremendous effort and determination. We are grateful to Mr Williams for asking us to write an article for the first alumni newsletter and we are hoping that it will remind some readers of their own memories – one or two of you might even be old enough to remember us; if so we would love to hear from you!

Roger joined LGS in 1953 and travelled each day from Altrincham where he had been at Junior School. Delia (nee Barrie) started LGS a year later as she and her family had only just moved to Stockton Heath. She remembers having to wait for the school bus each morning in the cold weather and frequently ending up with chilblains!

Roger's lifelong love of sport was fired at Lymm. He had always enjoyed playing football and represented the school in all inter-school matches.

He discovered running when he was asked to be a pacemaker for a fellow pupil and ended up winning. He represented the school in the Cheshire School Athletics Championship, winning the 880yds race. He was awarded the school's Victor Lidorum Shield in 1959, which he still has! Roger is very grateful for the opportunity of learning cricket as well as for being introduced to music, plays and musical shows – a hobby which he pursues today.

Delia's best friend was Celia Lord and, with the two first names being so similar, they caused great confusion in the classroom particularly with the male teachers! Delia and Celia both hated having to play hockey on the 'top field' (as it was known) in the bitterly cold wind and driving rain – they much preferred being allowed to play netball on the playground surrounded by classrooms and therefore more protected.

We were at LGS in the days that not only the main school on Oughtrington Lane was used, but also the buildings on Grammar School Lane which were half a mile away. We remember having to finish one

class and then rush over the fields, in all weathers, to get to one of the other classrooms. Music was one of the subjects taught there – in a rather damp portable building with a coal stove in the corner! Very different from the lovely big high ceilinged, centrally heated classrooms in the main school.

In about 1956, the whole school became embroiled in fundraising for a proposed swimming pool. Friday afternoons were given over to creating articles (deck chairs, sea-grass stools, tea towels, cakes and biscuits etc) for a big 'fair' to which all governors, parents and friends were invited. Obviously it proved a financial success because shortly afterwards work began on the swimming pool, albeit open-air and unheated! The 'War Memorial Swimming Bath' as it was known, was dedicated and opened on July 18th 1957. The Old Students' Association, the Parent Teacher Association, all staff and pupils were represented at the unveiling of the commemorative plaque and, of course, Jerusalem (the school's hymn) was sung.



One very happy memory is of going on a trip to the Isle of Arran on a camping trip organised by Gus Hunnam, the Assistant Head at the time. This took place a year before Ty'n-y-Felin started and it was possibly because of the biting mosquitos that Wales was chosen as the school's summer camp address rather than Scotland. We are delighted to learn that the school still uses Ty'n-y-Felin for a summer camp. We were amongst the very first group of pupils to go there, sleeping in rather flimsy ex-army tents and cooking outdoors as there was no electricity laid on at the time. We have happy memories of canoeing to Four Mile Bridge, chopping wood for the camp fires and taking long walks.

Rogers sister Anita Haslam joined LGS in 1961 and later became active in the Old Students Association. She sadly passed away in 1996.

Delia and Roger, although in the same year, were in different classes and did not meet until they were waiting to take their English Literature GCE. All of the pupils taking this exam were incarcerated in the library to revise. Delia was desperately trying to commit a poem to memory when she was distracted by someone marching up and down reciting Macbeth. She looked up and asked him to be quiet – their eyes met and they fell in love. After that they were inseparable, meeting up on a Saturday at the old Lymm Cinema – long since gone but does anyone remember it? They married in 1964 and are still happily married with four children and eight grandchildren.

Both of us are very grateful for the fantastic education and preparation for life that we received at LGS. It saddened us that none of our children had the same opportunity – unfortunately we did not live in the right area! However, we are delighted to learn that one of our granddaughters will be joining the school in September 2017.

*Delia and Roger Haslam*

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## A Day in the Life of a Dubai Teacher

After teaching in the UK for four years, I decided I had had enough of the rain and a sunnier climate. Having visited Dubai on a few occasions I knew I was in for a massive lifestyle change. As a new member of staff I arrived in Dubai in the middle of August, in close to 50 degree heat and 90% humidity. This however did not stop me and the girls I joined sweating it out by the pool in an apartment block, determined to prove to all that we lived in the middle east.

Moving out here has been a good decision. I joined my school as a classroom teacher, leaving all my responsibility points back at Lymm. Due to the transient nature of Dubai, I quickly managed to move to Deputy Head of Year, and Head of Year by the time I started my third year. Although we follow the national curriculum and GCSE framework, teaching in Dubai could not be more different to that in the UK. Yes we still have the buzz-words, like progress, consistency and innovation and we all bring marking home on the weekends, but I feel that we have more freedom to be actual teachers. The students are a dream, and of course we still have the occasional 'monkey' trying to get the better of us, but on the whole all students are happy, motivated and willing to learn.

Outside of school, Dubai does not disappoint, my social life is no longer limited to the weekends. You can find me twice a week on the netball courts (the options for sport are unreal, from touch rugby to ultimate Frisbee) and of course the elusive Dubai ladies nights where girls can go out and drink for free

on a school night. On top of this we have the ridiculously big malls that I have literally got lost in, choices of gyms, cinema, bowling, ice skating and of course ski-ing (yes you can ski in Dubai).

We are a small knit community in Dubai. With most of us being without family, we rally round to make sure nobody is lonely or without plans. There are some fabulous Friday brunches that have kept me entertained, but I am just as happy with a day on the JBR beach. A fun filled car journey to Fujerah can see you snorkelling freely with turtles and reef sharks, and it really is always BBQ weather here.

Living in Dubai is not always easy, despite the aforementioned (and the finishing school at 1pm on the weekend), there are tough times you have to get through. Not only the summer weather that turns curly hair into a "Monica style barnet" without much hope of sorting and the sheer panic that sets in when your AC breaks, I do miss my family and UK friends every day, and it is strange to see their lives go on without me being there. But 99% of the time I am happy I'm here and confident that I made the right decision.



*Jo Yates - GEMS International School - Dubai*

**LHS Maths Teacher  
2008-2012**

### GET IN TOUCH!

WE WANT TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN DOING SINCE LEAVING LYMM HIGH SCHOOL.

email: [alumni@lymmhigh.org.uk](mailto:alumni@lymmhigh.org.uk)

# MY MEMORIES

## OF LYMM HIGH SCHOOL

by Daniel Holmes  
Former LHS Student 2001-2008

When LHS announced that they were thinking of creating an Alumni association I thought it was a great idea, so I got in touch, and mentioned a couple of memories that I have. I received an email response a couple of days later, saying how nice it was to hear the fond memories and I was asked if I would like to contribute a small piece of writing to the newsletter. My name is Daniel Holmes and I was a pupil at LHS between the years of 2001-2008, where I studied my GCSEs and A-levels. For me, my form and school life was extremely important and reflecting on it now makes me realise just how formative those days were. Our form was ASR, and we were blessed by having an amazing and nurturing tutor, 'Mrs Sharp'. Mrs Sharp is one in a million, she saw the potential in her pupils and in the wider school population in general, I've spoken with school friends about how she "brought out the best in them" or "found out the best way to teach them" instead of "giving up on them" – needless to say these days that

pupil is now a successful friend of mine. I have gathered together a couple of my fond memories in this small piece of writing, which is now a part of LHS's history.

When I turned 11 and I found out I would go to Lymm High School, I was many things, but one of those feelings was of angst. Back then word of mouth had it that the big boys of the school used to stick new starters' heads down the toilets and flush! I never had my head flushed in a toilet by the way!

In my school days we used to get chips and gravy from the canteen or we used to have a little hatch, just off the main canteen, that would open at lunch and break times called 'McCorms' and I used to get turkey burgers and a can of Cherry Coke. Alternatively, people could always rely on the vending machines or the "Grot Slots" laden with chocolate, back when school kids were allowed to eat unhealthily. As you walked around the playgrounds you would

notice that we all had clusters of different friend groups, and they would gather in certain places of the yard. The 'Moshers' of the time used to hang around the bushes at the back of the large school field, the 'Chavs' would rule the 'Archers' which was the structure below the art windows and next to the maths classrooms and so on, everyone dotted around in groups. I used to drift between the different groups, that way I could chat to everyone.

We were quite a vocal form, and I'm sure that Mrs Sharp probably despaired at the time, but she rarely let on. I remember that LHS was due to be inspected by Ofsted, so you can imagine the stress that would have been crossing our form tutors' mind. She needn't have worried, we were all impeccably behaved for the inspection, because we all wanted our form tutor to be seen in a positive light by Ofsted. I recall that as a reward we were all given a bag of Haribo sweets – intended to keep us sweet – but it had the opposite



*This was my form 13ASR in 2008. I was on the back row (the only boy). - Daniel Holmes*

effect, a huge sweet fight ensued in our form room involving most of the tutor group; poor Mrs Sharp, but I bet she sniggered about it later.

I personally recall two of my favourite teachers, in addition to my form tutor, Miss Cook and Mr China, both members of the Spanish Department back then. I wasn't precisely the best behaved pupil during one phase at school and I was actually removed from my German classes. I would have lost out greatly had it not been for the intuition of these two lovely teachers. They saw me struggling and they gave me a hand, they invited me to join a vocational class in Spanish. These two teachers motivated me in a way I hadn't been motivated before and I engaged with the classes. Upon completion of the vocational certificate, I had caught the Spanish bug. My school mates were selecting their A levels and I decided I wanted to start my A level in Spanish (without a GCSE). Mr China, at first, told me I wouldn't be able to enter an A level without the GCSE beforehand. I must have been relentless in pestering him to allow me to take the A level. Following the summer holiday when we were due to start our AS Levels I went back to Mr China and I demonstrated to him that all over the summer holiday I had studied different aspects of Spanish, and I think I finally won him over. I completed my AS level with a D and I went on to complete my A level with a B, I also took my GCSE in Spanish alongside my A level and I got an A\*. Quite an achievement when I think about it. All made possible by LHS.

Today writing this I am 26. In 2012 I gained a BA(Hons) in Spanish and Italian and now in 2016 I started a BSc(Hons) in Nursing. I will be a qualified nurse in 2019.

No matter in which direction life takes me I'll always look back at my days at LHS and be happy.

I started at Lymm Grammar School in September 1956. The junior years were based at Outringham Hall. We walked to the main Grammar School for Gym and Scripture classes. First year students were called "fags" probably with reference to the public school practice of "fagging".

There was a wall and a ditch near the cricket pavilion. For some reason we were thrown off this wall into the ditch as part of the initiation process.

I am not sure of the reason but boys and girls were separated most of the time. Classes very often had girls sitting on one side and boys on the other. The playgrounds were separate also. You got into trouble if you were found in the wrong area.

I was a lot more interested in fishing, train spotting, and rugby league than studying. I didn't really enjoy school life. Until the administration started a Friday afternoon "Hobbies" classes there wasn't much extra-curricular unless you were on a sports team. It was great fun. I did First Aid, and the Garden Club. A large number of students travelled by bus from Stretton, Appleton, Stockton Heath, Altringham, and Walton. I came from Stretton and it was a long journey home if you missed the school bus before or after school.

The school had a prefect system. The prefects could give you a detention for breaking the rules or plain bad behavior. One time we had a Head Boy by the name of Moorehouse. There was a company of the same name that made puddings. I walked past him once singing the TV jingle "Moorehouses, Moorehouses puddings are the best". I got a detention for that. Sometimes the detentions were after school or a Saturday morning. It was a great deterrent.

In the better weather I cycled to school and saved the bus fare 6d each way. We didn't lock up our bikes, just left them in the bike shed.

Like many others I remember the swimming pool and getting changed in the old greenhouse.

In the fifth year I did a paper round before school. This was a country route round Stretton and Appleton so I must have cycled a few miles. Joe Canney the headmaster disapproved most strongly about paper rounds.

I went to the Isle of Arran to the school camp. It rained for thirteen days out of fourteen. Steve Olley caught a trout in the local river, which was the talking point of the trip. We had camp fires at night and sang lots of fun songs. I also went to the first School Camp in Wales near Harlech.

It wasn't until the Upper Sixth that I decided to really work hard. I have to thank Eric Liddle, Charlie Parker and M J Savoury for great teaching. I loved Chemistry. In one experiment we were making nitrobenzene. Chris Tanner was my lab partner. We didn't cool down the test tube properly and the contents of the test tube containing a mixture of concentrated acids shot out onto my green blazer sitting nearby. There were large holes in the material and luckily nobody was hurt. I was allowed to return to school wearing a new black blazer.

This hard work paid off and after a time spent at different universities I became a chemistry and physics teacher. I taught for one year in Liverpool then thirty years in Windsor, Ontario.

*Peter Redfern - LGS 1956-1963*

**SEND US YOUR MEMORIES FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE!**

[alumni@lymmhigh.org.uk](mailto:alumni@lymmhigh.org.uk)

# LEN DAVIES RECEIVES BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL



I was honoured to receive the British Empire Medal (BEM), for services to rugby union in the North of England. I received the award at an investiture held at Tatton Hall, Knutsford from the Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire, Mr David Briggs MBE, on behalf of the Queen. It was a lovely day as Rachel and our three children, Harriet, Bethan and Andrew were all in attendance.

Rachel and I also received an invitation to one of the Queens Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace which was a fantastic experience for us both.

I must thank all who were involved in initiating the application of the award and also those who wrote in support of it. It has been a very special experience for Rachel, myself and our children.



# TY'N-Y-FELIN

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**Tina McGuffie - Business Manager**

Email: [tmcguffie@lymmhigh.org.uk](mailto:tmcguffie@lymmhigh.org.uk) Tel: 01925 755 458

# LYMM ALUMNI FIRST MEET - UP

Friday 18th March 2016

Olim meminisse iuvabit, the motto of the Old Lymm Grammar School, translates as "one day this will be pleasing to remember". A spring walk around the beautiful Dunham Massey deer park, rewrote its meaning. "Oh Lymm we have looked back on our time there with laughter and smiles"

It was a chilly morning, and 8 hardy souls arrived at Dunham Massey's reception, with trepidation in case they didn't recognise each other. The years disappeared and nobody had aged or changed ... perhaps that is why eyesight fails when you get older. 40+ years at Lymm were represented, and happy chatter about our experiences was free flowing. So much to recall and so many happy memories, especially of funny incidents and events.

A cycle ride from Lymm to Tyn-y-Felin, with a relay run back, all to raise funds for this much loved place in Anglesey. Who was wearing the pink party dress when they set off on the bikes?

Who was the teacher who put out a fire with a cardboard box, set off

home on his bike, and wondered why several fire engines were travelling very fast in the direction of Lymm High School?

Whoops, who set fire to the science lab curtains, when the gas pipe extensions fell apart? In those days health and safety hadn't been invented.

What happened to the new school time-table that was on the head teacher's desk, when the lead drains above his office fractured due to chemical corrosion?

Changes happen at Lymm all the time, we remember a staff room in the library, and then we had a new staff room and a library. Now there is a new library, where the staff room was and the staff room is back in the former library. Changes are inevitable, but the main concern was for the European trophies won by "Sporting Lymm Football". Are they still on the mantel piece of the old "Adams" fireplaces, in the staffroom/library?

Lunch was enjoyed by chatter and banter about our new shared past



time/ hobby... The love getting bargains from charity shops, in fact between us we could write a North of England Guide to Charity shops.

"That wasn't leek and potato soup, mine had celery in it"...Showing you can't satisfy everybody!

"Where are Richard and the ROMEOS?" We want to see you all next time. All were sincere in congratulations to Len Davies, on being awarded a BEM for his services to rugby. We toasted Len's health, and hope he can join us at a future event. It was one very special day, when 20+ buses left Lymm to support the boys at Twickenham. Our horns, hooters and singing, did upset some opposition fans, but they spurred on our team, who did Lymm High School proud. How many schools have children running down the road to school at 6 o'clock in the morning, so they didn't miss the bus? Rugby successes enhanced our school experience.

In conclusion, a very enjoyable and successful, first meeting of Lymm Alumni. The next is scheduled for a Saturday, to enable former staff still working to come along.

If any Alumni have their own ideas for an event or outing, please contact Richard Coleman in the first instance. Finally to all new or intending Alumni: hodie mihi crās tibi. "Today it is me, tomorrow it will be you" Life after Lymm continues!

*Patricia Sharp. 19th March 2016  
LHS Chemistry Teacher  
1985-2010*



**Calling all reunions...** where better to hold your school reunion than at school itself. Take a trip down memory lane and once again be part of Lymm high School. Bespoke packages available. Please contact Tina McGuffie for more information: [tmcguffie@lymmhigh.org.uk](mailto:tmcguffie@lymmhigh.org.uk)

# BATTLE OF THE AGES RUGBY GAME



Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May saw Lymm Rugby Club host the first, for a number of years, Lymm High School old boys game suitably dubbed 'Battle of the Ages'. With superb weather and an excellent surface to play on, the game had been eagerly anticipated by all involved. Was the size and strength of the over 20s going to win over the speed and fitness of the under 20s?

The game started at a frantic pace, the over 20s sending big strong runners at a determined young defence. It was 5 minutes in when the first try was scored to give the "Overs" a 7-0 lead. The game continued in the same vein, the Bray brothers controlling much of the action for the over 20s and showing why Lenny D was keen for them to join the school in the sixth form. But it was an old 1st XV captain and current 1st XV coach Adam Fletcher's cameo that got the crowd excited. Offloads and a willingness to use the outstanding Dave 'graveyard' Williamson from fullback, gave the Overs a 21-0 lead.

The Under's were not going to stand

and watch these old timers treat it like an exhibition match and they started to put more pressure on in defence and then started to have attacks of their own. It was former 1st XV captain Max Caldwell that intercepted a ball and scored a try from within his own half. The half time score was 21-5.

The second half saw the Under's gain more territory and the initial thoughts of a walk over for the Overs was gone. Through Oscar McCormack and Sean Parsons, Toby Phillips managed to send these lads in, then gain some yards and put the Under's on the front foot. It was a nice bit of play down the blind side and then some powerful running that helped Oscar barge over for the Under's second score: 21-10.

With fresh faces on the pitch for the Overs and a more experienced look, the game started to be played at a higher tempo. The Overs managed to score 2 more well worked tries but it was a fantastic line from Oscar again to take him clear of the defence with just the fullback to beat. This time he showed his handling ability and used

Nat Johnstone, who was motoring up next to him and drew the fullback, and Nat scored under the posts.

The highlight of the second half was a Sam Mullarkey tackle on Josh Davies; whilst the young Davies kept hold of the ball, it was a tackle for the highlight package for Sam and I'm sure he will be keeping that one for the grandchildren.

The most valuable players as voted by the captains of each side were Oscar McCormack and Dave Williamson.

Thank you to all involved with the game and to Adam Fletcher and Chris Kinsey for helping to organise it, to Lymm Rugby club for the facilities and to the players, parents and supporters of the school who made the game such a success. Next year's game is already being talked about and hopefully it will grow into an outstanding annual event. All alumni are welcome to attend!

*Mr Pickles  
Teacher in charge of Rugby*

Visit our website: [www.lymmhigh.org.uk](http://www.lymmhigh.org.uk)

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## THAT SILVER TOUCH

Having finished a 36 year teaching career at Lymm I always wanted to return to my craft background and revisit my love for working with silver which I first found in the early 70's.

I had a simple plan to set up a small workshop where I could design and make a few pieces which could be sold at small craft fairs, having no real anticipation that anyone would want to purchase my offerings.

Four months into my retirement I had a workshop in an idyllic location overlooking the Bridgewater Canal, a jewellery bench, a couple of small machines and a handful of tools. So I set about designing a range of jewellery, which I felt I could make within the limitations of my situation. I spent those first tentative weeks making pieces and trying to decide which part of the market I wished to attract. All I did know was that this venture was never to be a job but more an outlet for pent-up creativity and a burning desire to make.

My outlet was to be craft fairs and a website. Within a month or so the website was up and running and the first fair booked in Skipton of all places. Well it was good enough for Marks and Spencer first stall so why not me? To my amazement I sold two pieces and after table cost and travel I cleared a loss of £20. Not a good start but I actually sold some of my work. Still today I have difficulty coming to terms with the fact that people buy things I have made

Within the year we had booked a number of small local fairs and markets getting involved with a small group of traders based around the Walton-Lea Project. However, this was not the most

exciting part of the journey. My web site had been spotted by a small company based in Cheadle who made Fingerprint Charms of babies in silver. They had seen my work and asked for a meeting with a view to supplying them with a range of bangles and bracelets. Seven years later we are still working together. It is through this link that I made a number of pieces for Colleen and Wayne Rooney.

The work continued to come from orders and our Craft Fairs became more exclusive to Artisan driven Handmade Events. I have been lucky to be able to keep the making manageable as I never wanted it to become a chore. Sometimes I have been pushed to meet my own imposed deadlines but never to the extent to generate stress.

Seven years on Ann, my wife, and I are still enjoying 'the buzz' we get meeting new people. Talking about our passion for the truly handmade pieces. We have been so lucky to meet many talented people and share their joy for making. When people look at my work and comment on it being so reasonable priced. My answer is easy as I tell them, "I sell to make not make to sell".

We do not know how long I will continue but I seem to still have the same enthusiasm when I made that first sale 7 years ago in Skipton.

This year you will be able to see us at many varied events around Lancashire and Cheshire including Speke Hall where I am the Tudor Silversmith, Stockton Heath Festival, Arley Hall, Festivals in Saddleworth, markets in Bolton and Chorley, Warrington Market special events and also a Sheep dog trial in

Macclesfield.

*Mr John Capper – 'That Silve Touch'  
LHS DT Teacher – 1972-2008*

### *"From the Chalk Face...."*

The only time that staff usually received respite from the constant wailings of their students was in the sanctity of the staffroom, during the lunch hour. However, sometimes even this idyllic peace was often shattered. One day there came a knock at the door. The door was opened to reveal a student who asked, 'Can I have Miss Bray please?' The teacher who had received the request turned around and asked for Miss Bray. No reply. She opened the door again and said to the pupil, 'Sorry, we don't have a Miss Bray.' The pupil, slightly flustered, said, 'No Miss. Miss Bray. Miss Bray.' Once again the teacher shut the door and queried the whereabouts of Miss Bray. Silence, once again, greeted her request. The door was opened again. 'Sorry, she's not here,' said the teacher, to the pupil, who, by now, was quite short of breath. 'Me spray, me spray, can I have my asthma spray,' gasped the pupil. Disaster was averted!

### *"Tynny Tales....."*

A pupil knocked on the door of the old farmhouse at Ty'n-y-Felin. 'Excuse me Miss, but I've hung my underpants out to dry on the clothes line, but I can't get them down'. 'Why?' queried the teacher. 'I keep getting an electric shock,' replied the pupil. Closer inspection proved that he had actually hung his underpants on the main electricity cable carrying power to the old free-standing dormitory!

*Mr Richard Coleman  
LHS English Teacher – 1976-2011*

## GET IN TOUCH!

WE WANT TO HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN DOING SINCE LEAVING LYMM HIGH SCHOOL.

email: [alumni@lymmhigh.org.uk](mailto:alumni@lymmhigh.org.uk)

# SCHOOL NEWS



## LYMM LIVE!

Saturday 25th June started as a mixed day weather wise, with grey clouds looming over the vast fields of Lymm High School. However, undeterred by the showers, preparations continued for one of the last events of Lymm Festival and a great showcase of the diverse talent of Lymm High School and the Lymm community.

For those of you who have had the misfortune to miss this unique event in the past, let us highlight what Lymm Live is all about...

Picture a school field transformed into a mini festival ground (but minus the Glastonbury mud!). The covered stage equipped with PA systems expertly set up by the Lymm High School Music Tech students, is surrounded by an auditorium of hay bales kindly lent to us by a local farmer. However that is not all, as surrounding the stage and temporary natural seating are numerous activities for families including a bouncy slide, face painting, sweet stall and the obligatory fast food van. There is of course an ice cream van too, as well as a bar run by the volunteers of the Lymm High School PTA selling hot, cold, soft and alcoholic beverages.

So the scene is set and as the afternoon goes by many students, parents, grandparents, friends,



Lymm Festival supporters and members of the Lymm community wander into the grounds to experience a wide range of entertainment organised by the school. There is music of various genres, from brass to strings, orchestra to rock bands and singing from some of Lymm High School partner primaries as well as students, teachers and parents. The atmosphere is laid back with friends catching up with each other, children enjoying the freedom of an open green space and of course soaking up the wonderful talents displayed by the children and students on the stage.

This year in addition to the musical entertainment we are pleased to host one of the Lymm Festival acts; 'Comedy Sportz', which the children in the crowd find particularly amusing. Volunteers are plentiful when the performers ask for assistance with their act, whether it involves working with the players on the stage or making strange noises into the microphone, or simply coming up with ideas for the teams to base their next activity on. It is plain to see that everyone is having fun and even the sun makes an appearance to warm everyone up and keep the rain away.

Lymm Live has now become an annual event so make sure you put it in your diary for next year - the last Saturday of Lymm Festival. Tickets

are available at the Festival Box Office in the Village Hall Annexe leading up to the Festival or at the School shop or you can just pay at the entrance.

All this could not happen without the support and hard work of the performing arts teachers and the talented students but also the 'invisible' work done behind the scenes setting up gazebos, bars and then manning the activities on the day by the Lymm High School PTA. Contrary to popular opinion, although Lymm High School is a large school with well over a 1000 pupils, the PTA is really very small and it is down to a handful of people who give up their time freely to make events such as this a success, so next time you see a PTA request do come along and support those few people as we are always looking for more friends to help us out, even if it is just for one event.

Thanks to all those who came to Lymm Live and especially those who stayed to enjoy the rock bands who patiently waited for their moment of stardom at the end of the afternoon/early evening. It was once again a success and we look forward to many more.

If you would like to see other musical or performing art events held at Lymm High School throughout the year then keep checking on the school website for dates and times.

*Sally Bircham - PTA*

# AFRITWIN PROJECT 2016

Afritwin by Emily Anderson

Afritwin is a project set up in 2001 by Jayne Martin. It is a programme that creates links between schools in the U.K and schools in South Africa. There are currently 250 schools in the U.K who partake in Afritwin, with Lymm being one of them.

Afritwin began at Lymm in 2003, almost ten years ago. Since then, the Afritwin team has been out to South Africa on several trips, after being partnered with Quasana High School and Midstream Collage in Pretoria. To help fund the projects out in South Africa, the Afritwin team fundraise over the two years coming up to the trip, and these past two years have been no exception.

We have had stalls in the Lymm May Queen for the past two years, where despite the torrential rain, face painting was popular, with 'Water or Wine' and a raffle contributing to a successful day. Stalls have also been held at the Lymm Transport Day, with yet more rain, and at the Lymm Dickensian, where a raffle for two luxury hampers raised over £200. Two violins and a clarinet also played for passersby, despite another bout of awful weather.

Also, in late April, Afritwin hosted the High Legh Sunday Teas, which was a brilliant day. Along with selling what felt like hundreds of baked goods, a tombola and stalls were also held, raising a fabulous amount, some of which went back to the High Legh Sunday Teas fund.

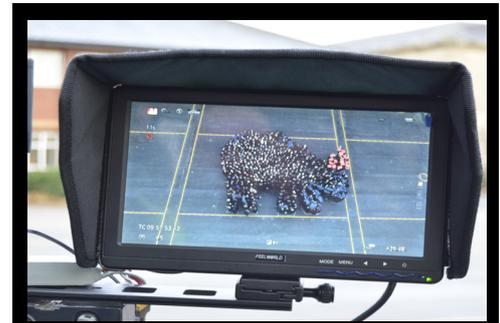
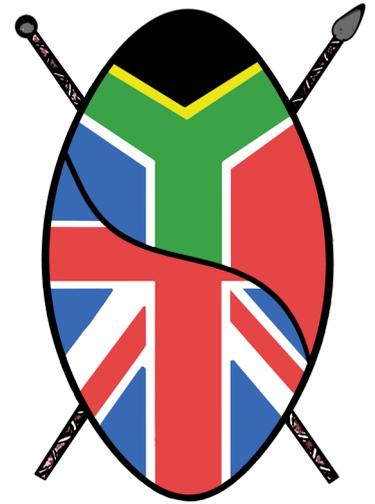
Probably the most notable event held to date over the past couple of years is the Auction of Promises, held in March. After months of strenuous planning, the evening was a massive success, raising upwards of £8000, thanks largely to kind donations from various companies, parents and even students themselves. Held in the school hall, every seat was filled and the evening was enjoyed by everyone present.

Also in March, six Afritwin students took part in the Youth Speaks competition held at the Statham Lodge. This helped to raise more awareness of our project, with both teams speaking brilliantly.

Alongside the events held throughout the year, the Afritwin team try and think of new ways to raise money for our cause. This year, we have created notebooks, handmade by the arty members of our team, which we have sold at all events throughout the year. The notebooks feature a hand drawn rhino on the front, in support of the fight for the saving of rhinos in South Africa. Also in support of the rhinos, Afritwin created a video, featuring the students of Lymm Sixth Form and 300 year sevens. The video was shot by a drone, and shows all the students coming together to form the shape of a rhino. The video is currently up on YouTube, and has gained over 2,000 views. Afritwin have also created wristbands and bookmarks, which have been sold throughout the year.

Most recently, the students took part in a CPR course, in aid of a project that will be put in place in South Africa. Afritwin plans to take two CPR dolls to South Africa and train other students on how to do CPR in a life threatening situation. In aid of this, a 'Curry and CPR night' was held in July, to raise money to take the two dolls over. More than enough was raised, and the dolls will be priceless while teaching other students CPR.

Throughout the past year, Afritwin has raised an amazing amount of money to be used for our project in South Africa, which will be an amazing, life changing experience for all students and staff involved.



On Wednesday 18th November, our Sixth Form and Year 7 students helped to create a "Human Rhino" on the English Yard as part of Afritwin's Rhino Awareness campaign. The team at Kestrel Cam Professional Aerial Filming & Photography used a drone camera to help us create the rhino by filming from above. Take a look at the amazing video on our website.

Also, we recently held the Afritwin 'Auction of Promises' evening here at Lymm High School. We received some fantastic donations for lots and promises this year, including Adele tickets, holiday vouchers and many more. This was a hugely successful evening, raising over £8000 for the project. This will go along way in supporting our work this year!

Follow us on Twitter



@LymmHighSchool

# TRIPS AND VISITS

## MOROCCO

Staff and students from Lymm had a fantastic half term visiting the North African country of Morocco. We visited Marrakesh and Zagora on a 5 day adventure. We travelled through the desert on camels and visited a traditional berber family in the Atlas mountains.



## CAMBRIDGE RESIDENTIAL

In March, a group of Year 11 students on the Scholars Programme were able to sample life as an Oxbridge student. This overnight residential, organised by Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge University, provided our students within an insight into the academic and social expectations. Activities included a guided tour by a

former graduate; a chauffeured punt on the river; a variety of talks and lectures; as well as a guided tour of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. The students who attended were exemplary ambassadors for Lymm High School and really sought to maximise their experience.



# MADRID

## FOOTBALL TOUR

This year's football tour to Madrid, Spain was a huge success. 48 pupils from Years 8 and 9 were given the opportunity to experience the Spanish culture of football and to showcase their footballing skills.

Once we arrived in sunny Spain it was straight to the Valdebebas training ground, home of Real Madrid FC.

Here, the boys experienced a typical Real Madrid training session delivered by their very own coaches in preparation for their two games against Spanish opposition.

Saturday brought an element of surprise as the boys were told they were going to watch the Champions League Final at the Bernabeu Stadium along with

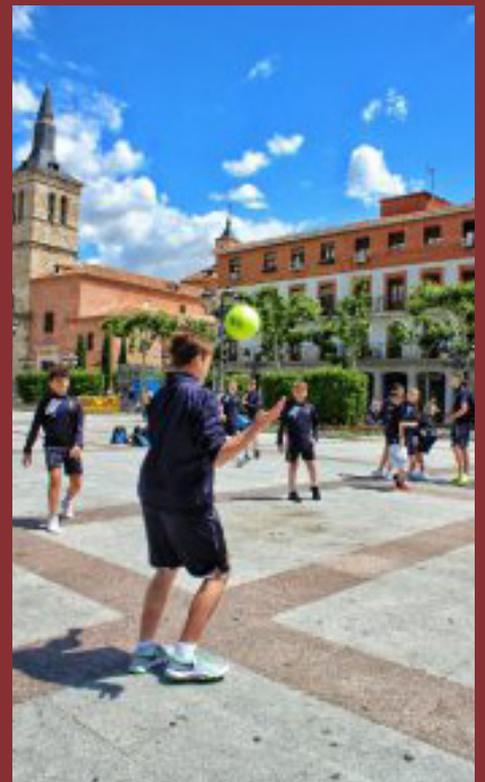
80,000 other Madrid fans – 'the Madridistas'.

The atmosphere was amazing and with Ronaldo scoring the winning penalty after extra time, what more could we have asked for?

On the final day, we checked out of the Hotel Asset Torrejon and enjoyed a tour of the Bernabeu stadium.

Unfortunately, Ronaldo wasn't around, but pupils were still able to imagine the atmosphere of the 85,000 seater stadium on match day.

All of the boys conducted themselves superbly throughout the trip – they were thoroughly professional and well-behaved manner and, as a result, we look forward to planning the next football tour.



# LA MANGA



Sports students at Lymm High School had the opportunity of a lifetime to spend the 2 week break participating in a work experience placement at the world renowned La Manga Sports Complex in Spain over Easter break. Whilst on placement, students worked alongside professional sports coaches delivering an Easter Sports Camp including football and tennis coaching amongst many other activities. This is the tenth year that Lymm High School have visited the elite sports venue; a long standing relationship that provides a wonderful experience for students to develop both academically and socially. The students were fantastic representatives for the school and we received glowing feedback from both the sports coaches and residents of La Manga regarding their professionalism, behavior and enthusiasm for sports.



# BERLIN



The History Department went on a GCSE study tour to Berlin for 3 nights over February half term with 40 Year 11 students. The visit was thoroughly enjoyable and very beneficial for their GCSE History studies as they were able to take advantage of a range of activities for example a 4 hour walking tour around the main Nazi and Cold War Germany historical sites of interest including the Brandenburg Gate, Bebel Platz (site of the Nazi book burning),



Checkpoint Charlie and the remains of the Berlin Wall. Students also visited Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp where they immersed themselves in the harsh reality of being in a Nazi camp. They also saw Berlin at night when they travelled up the dizzying heights of East Berlin's TV Tower and then visited the Bundestag Friday morning to understand the foundations of German democracy.

# AUSTRIA - SKI TRIP



The weather conditions were excellent and allowed us make snowmen and have a snowball throwing competition on our arrival.

We stayed in a small village called Mandling which provided access to a range of slopes for all abilities. We ventured to the world cup slopes of Zauchensee where some impressive speeds were clocked by the advanced group. We also visited Flachau, Falachauwinkl and Reiteralp where all of the students made fantastic progress with their skiing and should be really proud of themselves.

We had great fun at the bowling night, pizza restaurant and shopping trip to Salzburg.

The ski trip was once again a roaring success with no injuries for the 2nd year running!

The students were brilliant and the staff would like to thank them for making it a memorable experience.

# SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

## 100k CHALLENGE

This summer, I will be travelling with a group from Lymm Baptist Church to a township near Johannesburg, South Africa. Whilst there we will be taking part in a project called Rebuild South Africa, where we will be building houses for families living in poverty, running kids clubs for local children and sharing Gods love! The project will take place between the 8th and 18th of July.

In order to raise money for the project I decided to do a 100k challenge, running a 10k everyday for 10 consecutive days. This was between the 8th and 17th June. I was amazed by people's generosity, raising over £700 and being sponsored by friends, teachers and neighbours.

Getting up at 5:45 each morning to fit the run in before heading into Sixth form to revise for my exams was certainly testing. However, having family and friends joining me for parts of my runs was very encouraging and was a significant factor in helping me complete the challenge.

All the donations will go towards funding the project and will transform lives of others much less fortunate than ourselves. So a huge thank you to anybody who donated!



Sam Smith - Head Boy

*Congratulations go to Daniel Farini, in Year 9, who has been selected to compete as part of the North West Regional Water Polo Squad in the under-15s inter-regional competition in July. We wish him and his team the best of luck in the upcoming competition.*

*Similarly, congratulations to Hattie Cosgrove, Lauren Ferris, Josef Murphy who have all been selected to represent Cheshire in athletics. We wish them the best of luck in their upcoming competitions.*

## SALE SHARKS RUGBY WORLD CUP EVENT ACADEMY



James Rooney, Callum Grieves and Joe Johnson performed really well against Newcastle falcons for Sale Sharks U15 academy. This in itself is a great achievement however, James and Callum have been selected for a North of England U15 development day being coached by the England U18s coach. This is the first step in their journey to playing at an elite level.



We had a fantastic 'Rugby Festival' when the Under 20s World Cup trophy came to Lymm High School. The day was incredibly successful – starting with the beautiful weather that enabled our Year 7 and 8 students to participate in a variety of rugby competitions throughout the morning. Students were also fortunate enough to have their photograph taken with the trophy; as well as participate in sessions run by Sale Sharks.

## GB SUCCESS FOR ELLIE AND MOLLIE

Our year 12 pupils Ellie Fletcher and Molly Clark have been selected for the Great Britain Senior Women's Handball Team. They will be involved in training camps from September and be up for selection for the World Championships in October. The pupils began playing Handball at Lymm High School when they started in year 7. From this the girls went on to become National Champions in 2013 in London with the school team and play for clubs outside of school. This is a fantastic achievement and the school would like to wish the girls the very best of luck at the training camps in September and their upcoming selection.

LYMM HIGH SCHOOL

# SPORTS FUNDRAISING DINNER

BLACK TIE EVENT

includes 3 course meal, cash bar and canapés reception

**SPECIAL OFFER**  
**TICKETS - £35<sub>pp</sub>**

WHEN BOOKED BEFORE 30 SEPTEMBER

TICKETS WILL BE CHARGED AT £40PP AFTER THIS DATE



**WITH IESTYN HARRIS**

Rugby Union and Rugby League Superstar



**FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016**  
**7PM START**

**AT LYMM HIGH SCHOOL**

Oughtrington Lane, Lymm, Cheshire, WA13 0RB

Fundraising to improve sporting facilities at Lymm High School

**SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES AVAILABLE**

**TO BOOK OR ENQUIRE CONTACT**

Tina McGuffie - Telephone: 01925 755 458 or Email: [tmcguffie@lymmhigh.org.uk](mailto:tmcguffie@lymmhigh.org.uk)



# MERSEYSIDE STEM WINNERS

Congratulations to the Merseyside STEM Robotics challenge day winners: Grace Cooke and Gwen Tavernier and to the Merseyside STEM Medical challenge day winners: Jessica Ward and Hannah Maudsley-Barton. As part of Lymm's scholar programme, the girls attended Liverpool John Moores University on Wednesday 6th July to take part in an annual Science Technology Engineering and Maths

challenge day against students from seven other schools. We are really proud to say that Grace and Gwen from Year 8 came in first place in the Robotics challenge based on their teamwork and programming skills. They programmed an autonomous robot to complete a task set by the organisers and outscored over 90 other students. This was made even more impressive by some of the other challengers being in Year 9. We are

equally proud of Jessica and Hannah, also from Year 8, who came in first place in the Medical challenge based on their teamwork and diagnostic skills. The girls diagnosed a patient based on symptoms described to them by a junior doctor and also outscored over 90 other students. Again, this was made even more impressive by some of the other challengers being in Year 9.

## CHARITY FUNDRAISING AT LYMM HIGH SCHOOL

This year we have raised:

- £720.97 for Claire House Childrens Hospice
- £204.44 for The Children's Adventure Farm Trust
- £1752.99 for Cancer Research UK
- £117.23 for Prostate Cancer UK
- £599.53 for Sport Relief
- £412.76 for Meningiti
- £6727.61 for St Rocco's Hospice
- £790.46 for The Christie
- £479.25 for Help For Hero's
- £376.91 for Text Santa
- £43.05 for Save The Children
- £1191.59 for Children In Need
- £452.19 for MacMillan Cancer Support



# YEAR 7 TY'N-Y-FELIN RESIDENTIAL



Over the past few weeks our Year 7s were lucky enough to be given the opportunity to visit Lymm's very own residential site, Tyn-Y-Felin, in Anglesey.

Two forms per trip; the groups travelled in their halls and this was an excellent opportunity to get to know each other even better as they continue their seven year journey through Lymm High School together.

Whilst the weather was changeable for each trip, all the students spent some time on Silver Bay beach, went crabbing with string and bacon in the creek and took part in team building exercises at the residential site.

In addition, each student was given the opportunity to go 'Coasteering' in Trearddur Bay. This is an amazing experience where students, in wetsuits and lifejackets, are lead around the rocks and cliffs and given the opportunity to jump into the sea from various heights – depending on how daring they are!

The students had a great time, were very grateful to be given this experience and are all looking forward to getting back to Tynny as soon as another opportunity arises!

*Mr Spencer  
Head of Year 7*

*"My Favourite thing at Tynny was bonding with people in my form that I'd never really bonded with before"*

**Elle Kreisler**

*"I enjoyed the coasteering because of the challenge but the best bit of the trip is just being with your friends and having fun!"*

**Josh Jones**

*"The best thing at Tynny was going down to the beach because we went in the sea and had a game of football in the sand"*

**Keenan Gorton**



*"My best memory from Tynny was coasteering because it brought us all together as we were all helping and supporting each other"*

**Molly McElwaine**

*The best part of Tynny was the coasteering. It was a lot of fun and something I would never have done otherwise"*

**Ben Robinson**

*"One of my favourite parts of Tynny was crabbing at the creek. It was so much fun and it made us all so happy! I caught so many huge crabs and a few tiny ones. I caught the first crab and the biggest as well. I'd love to go again."*

**Mikolaj Underwood**

*"I really enjoyed coasteering. I saw a lot of people overcome their fears which encouraged me to face mine"*

**Alice Edgar**



For more information on the Development Fund visit:  
<http://www.lymmhigh.org.uk/aboutus/lymm-high-school-development-fund/>