



ALUMNI

LYMM HIGH SCHOOL

Politics and Power

Sixth Formers visited Washington DC and live political debate came to Lymm High (see pages 3 and 12).

Remembering Tynny

A past member of Lymm Grammar School reminisces about Ty'n-y-Felin (see page 6).





WELCOME

Dear Alumni,

The Spring and Summer terms have been full of firsts.

Our lucky Sixth Form Historians visited Washington DC to immerse themselves in the past and present of politics in the USA.

Back at Lymm, we had our own political highlight when the BBC show *Any Questions* visited and broadcast live from our newly refurbished Main Hall!

Apparently, it's been 50 years since the show last broadcast from Lymm. Do any of our Alumni remember that occasion? We'd love to hear from you if you have any memories of that event.

We always like hearing from our alumni, and extend an invitation for any to come back and visit at any time. I always enjoy taking ex-students and staff around the school and chatting to them about their memories of this great place.

Indeed, it is thanks to one of our Alumni getting in touch that we were treated to the musings of ex-member of staff, Mr Hunnam, on how Tynny came about (see page 6).

Kind regards
Gwyn Williams
Headteacher



LIVE ON AIR!

On Friday 24th April, Lymm High School was thrilled to welcome the BBC to broadcast *Any Questions?* live from our newly refurbished Main Hall.

Any Questions? is a Radio 4 political debate programme, which airs on a Friday evening from various locations around the UK. It features a panel of guests and a presenter – currently Alex Forsyth. Our panel was Richard Fuller MP, James Murray MP, Hannah Spencer MP and journalist Poppy Coburn.





Tickets were free, and we welcomed around 200 guests to watch and participate in the live broadcast.

The school was a hive of activity in the run up to the show. The BBC engineers arrived first (around 11.15am) to run cables into the Main Hall. A nearby classroom was selected as the sound control room. The producer, assistant producer and presenter arrived next, and based themselves in the Boardroom. Because the questions are only selected on the evening of the broadcast, the team had to make sure Alex was prepped for any potential subjects.

The panel was announced the day before the broadcast and three security guards were provided to ensure their safety. A police presence was also on site. The panel arrived shortly before the broadcast began and were whisked into the staff room by the security guards.

Meanwhile, Sixth Form students greeted the attendees as they queued to show their tickets and undergo security checks. Bags were searched and metal detector wands were used on all attendees. Next was the opportunity to get any questions to the panel!

Miss Cucuz and Mrs Hunter handed out question cards and bios of the panel. The handwritten questions were then placed in a sealed box, which was emptied sporadically by the production team who made their selection. Once the audience was seated in the Main Hall, the producer, Paul Martin, explained how the show was going to run. He then selected four questioners who were asked to sit in the front row and ask their questions direct to the panel. Year 9 student Matthew Hassall and Ms Peach were two of the four selected!



The panel (l-r): Richard Fuller MP, James Murray MP, Alex Forsyth, Poppy Coburn and Hannah Spencer MP with Mr Williams.

Mr Williams then welcomed the audience to Lymm High and spoke about the importance of young minds being exposed to, and taking an interest in, politics. He also divulged how he himself had asked a question to the panel of *Any Questions?* as a Sixth Former when the show visited his school.

The live broadcast began after the pips and the 8 o'clock news.

The panel discussed mobile phone use in schools, the assisted dying bill, opportunities for young people, and whether the King should build bridges

with Donald Trump or be more like Pope Leo. If anyone would like to listen to the show, they can access it on BBC Sounds. Apparently, it's been 50 years since *Any Questions?* was broadcast from Lymm. We very much hope it won't be that long before we get another visit. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience for all involved. Thank you to all the staff and Sixth Formers that helped out on the night, and to the PTA for running the bar.



English teacher Ms Peach was selected to ask one of the questions to the panel.

TYNNY MEMORIES

by GF Hunnam
1988



One day in the 1950's – I think it was 1955 – during the summer holidays, I had a 'phone call from Mr Canney who was in Anglesey. He sounded quite excited. "Can you come down here straightaway?" he said. "I think I've found just the place we have been looking for!"

What he meant was a property for the School to buy in order to create a camping site and outdoor pursuit centre.

We had been searching for some time – in Westmorland and in Snowdonia. Several places had seemed possible – even the disused Grammar School in Llanberis. One farm in particular near Port Madoc had seemed ideal, except that it was not very near the sea and the owner was asking £200 more than we had.

I must explain that during the war the kitchen gardens at Oughtrington Hall and parts of the school playing fields had been made into a productive market garden. The School even had poultry, geese, two goats and a cow. Produce was sold to the School canteen, earning a modest profit, and Mr Canney had saved £1,800 in a special fund, intended at the time to buy a permanent camping site for the School Scout and Guide troops.



Scouting and Guiding had had to cease because no-one on the staff was sufficiently interested to become Assistant Scoutmaster or Guide-mistress. As a matter of fact, the Troops were too much of a responsibility – Scouts and Guides were extremely keen and the task of testing for badges became too great. We had retained all the camping equipment and had held two camps with equal numbers of boys and girls. The first was at Lochranza on the Isle of Arran – famous forever afterwards for its vicious midges and its rain! The second was in Snowdonia, near Harlech, also remembered for its wetness.

It was decided that better shelter than tents and better cooking facilities than fires and primus stoves were needed, hence the search for a permanent site. I remember that Brian Swanton, who with Mrs Monica Connor, was present when we found the farmhouse with its water-wheel and 400 acres of moor and woodland at Rhyd, near Maentwrog, did a little dance on the terrace of the house, with its glorious prospect towards the Aberglaslyn Pass and declared "If Lymm Grammar School buys this place I'll never leave Lymm Grammar School!".



A LOOK BACK

The old lady who lived near Caernarvon and who owned the place refused to sell it for less than £2,000 and the extra £200 was simply not there – it was quite a lot of money in those days. (Brian later became Headmaster of Swanage School.)

Well, I went to Anglesey and approved. We bought Ty'n-y-Felin immediately because Mr Bulmer of Bulmer's Cider would have snatched it up if he had not been away on his estate in Ireland. He offered us much more than the purchase price subsequently, being a little horrified at the prospect of crowds of school-children as his neighbours, and also because it would have rounded off his property Bodior very nicely. This was just the little farmhouse, two rooms downstairs and three small bedrooms, with 40 acres of rough pasture, a stable at the end of the house, a line of barns, a pig sty and a tumble-down garage. During that Winter and the following Spring, we redecorated the inside, broke through the corner of the living room into the stable and levelled and cemented the floor of the stable in order to make it into a kitchen. The door at the front was made into a window and a third window was made in the end wall, under which we installed a sink with a most primitive drain into the field outside.

One of the outbuildings became a store for tents and canoes, all of which had belonged to the Scouts. Two others were made into latrines with bucket toilets needing to be emptied daily into holes dug in the fields.



The two little bedrooms were furnished with single beds for teachers and the big third room was fitted with double-tier metal bunk beds purchased from a Children's Home in Nantwich for 10 shillings each and laboriously repaired and fitted with new straw-filled mattresses. It was all rather primitive, but very exciting. Downstairs we had old benches and forms from School.

I think the biggest problem was the water supply. All we had were three galvanised iron tanks placed at strategic points round the house to catch the rainwater which had to be boiled before it was used in cooking. We bought a supply of sea-soap and nobly ran down to the shore for our ablutions – or carried buckets of sea-water up to the house and heated it for those daring female members of the staff who were prepared to rough it in order that girls might share our adventures.

Later, and for the large camps in the Summer, we bought two big metal tanks which a farmer who had mains water filled, and brought to us on a trailer behind his tractor – at a price!

We bought a lug sail rigged boat from a boatyard in Holyhead and a Seagull outboard engine.

Money for all our jobs and improvements was always a problem but all kinds of people helped – Governors (who paid the Rates), the Old Students Association and the PTA.

Indeed, the last named resolved that 10% of all monies received at various functions would henceforth go into a Special Ty'n-y-Felin fund. We were able to draw on this fund for such purchases as a large cooking stove, a refrigerator and all the building materials needed to create proper flush toilets and a huge septic tank.

Skilled parents went down with working parties and laboured and advised us in all our projects.

Mr Oswald Davies, Managing Director of Faircloughs and a School Governor, who had helped enormously when we were having the Swimming Bath built at School, gave us great assistance at Ty'n-y-Felin. He helped us to buy the Recreation Hut and provided transport and skilled workmen to erect it.

When the tents were no longer fit to be used, he enabled us to buy the prefabricated bungalows from Liverpool Council to use as dormitories. Moreover, two of his employees lived at Ty'n-y-Felin and supervised the erection and adaptation of the buildings.



A LOOK BACK

We purchased some huge iron tanks which we ranged on a concrete base along one side of the hut. Now we had water for the toilets. Fred Totton invented an ingenious device which rose and fell with the level of water in the header-tank in the lavatories. When the water reached a certain low level an electrically driven pump was activated, and low, the toilets could be flushed properly.

I must pay sincere tribute to Fred. No other member of staff gave such enthusiastic, constant and practical help as he did in the early years. He taught campers to sail and canoe, he drove the School minibus whenever a driver was needed, and his cheery Irish nature delighted us all.

Every Summer during all the years I was at Lymm Grammar School (LGS) until my retirement in 1969, at least five Summer Camps were run – with numbers ranging from 30 to 45. Four members of staff gave a week each to supervise and organise the campers. Groups of French children on exchange visits spent a week there. Excursions to Snowdonia and to different parts of Anglesey were arranged. One year all the campers spent a night on Puffin Island, kept awake most of them by the raucous cries of seagulls.

Campers learned to swim, to cook, to sail, to canoe. Most of all, they learned to live together and cooperate. Relations with teachers benefited. LGS always was a happy school; I think Ty'n-y-Felin made it even happier.



We were visited by reporters from the *News Chronicle* and the *Manchester Guardian*. Other schools sought our advice when thinking of following our example. I was asked to talk about our experiment at one of the annual meetings of the C.C.P.R.C. in Manchester.

Mr Canney must have been a very happy man to know how much pleasure and profit accrued to LGS from his thrift during the War.

With thanks to Yvonne Poskitt for passing us this fascinating piece of history. It comes from Yvonne's friend Betty Hughes, who attended school in the 1960s. Betty remembers going to Tynny and staying in bell tents in 1960.

£1
per week

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The Lymm High School lottery has been set up specifically to raise money that will make a real difference to our incredible students!

The lottery is a fantastic way to bring parents, carers, teachers and the wider community together, in partnership with our school, to help support and enrich the education of our students. All money raised will be put towards providing extra resources and extra-curricular provision in areas such as art, drama, sport, music, ICT and technology.

Your support is greatly appreciated.



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THE WONDER OF WASHINGTON

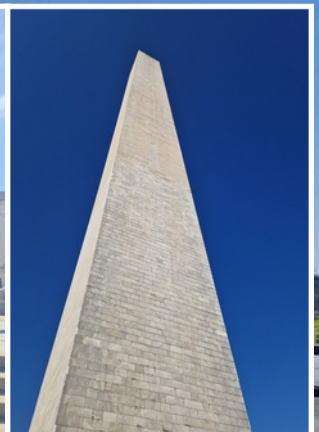
Year 12 and 13 History students went on a trip of a lifetime to Washington DC, writes Miss Howard.

As part of History A' Level, students study the unit; *'In search of the American Dream: the USA, c1917–96.'* This unit comprises a study in breadth, in which students learn about the dramatic political, economic and social transformation of the USA in the 20th century. Washington DC is a fantastic location for students to experience first-hand many of the themes studied in A' Level History and to understand the social and political context of America both then and now. Students also had the opportunity to experience American culture and food and to speak to many Americans about life in America now.

On the first day, students focused on American politics and the three branches of government. They visited the Supreme Court in the morning where they got to sit in the Chamber for a talk about the role and functions of the Supreme Court and justices, and learnt about key cases. These included *Brown v. Board of*

Education of Topeka, which ended segregation in schools; and *Roe v. Wade*, which legalised abortion. In the afternoon, students had a tour of the US Capitol building where they saw the Rotunda where Presidents are inaugurated and lay in state and the original Senate. They then were able to get passes to visit the public gallery of the Senate and House of Representatives to see the heart of American government. The day ended with a visit to the stunning Library of Congress and food at Union Station.

On the second day, we had an early morning visit to the observation deck at the top of the Washington Monument where we got incredible views over the city. We were very lucky as it had snowed the week before so everything was blanketed in snow but with bright sunshine and blue skies! We then visited The National Museum of African American History



and Culture where students got to learn about the history of African Americans from the slave trade, through Jim Crow laws and segregation to the civil rights movement. Students were very moved by their visit to Emmet Till's memorial and were excited to see many original artefacts including the chairs from the Sit-Ins, a segregated rail carriage and Rosa Parks' dress from the Montgomery bus boycotts. In the afternoon, we had a walking tour of the Mall, which included the White House, war memorials and the Lincoln Memorial. We had a moment when we sat on the step where Martin Luther King stood to make his "I have a Dream" speech and listened to it *in situ*. Students were excited to visit a classic American Mall in the evening to shop and eat.

The final day involved a visit to the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum. We had two budding pilots in our group who were thrilled to see planes from the first Wright Brothers' flight, through the World Wars, to modern day aircraft. A particular highlight was the space exhibition where we saw many artefacts from the first moon landing including Neil

Armstrong's suit! Students also had time to shop for souvenirs and to try pancakes and waffles at a traditional diner. The long-haul flight overnight to Paris and Manchester were also an experience in themselves as many students had not flown long-haul before.

The Lymm High students were brilliant throughout the trip and clearly loved seeing the places they had learnt about and experiencing American culture. Mr Wilde and Miss Howard had never had such a friendly enthusiastic group who were willing to chat to members of the public wherever they went. We hope to run the trip bi-annually as it was such a success and really enhanced students' understanding of the course.





SUSTAINABILITY AT SCHOOL

Set within 26 acres of grounds, Lymm High benefits from a unique environment that includes sports fields, grass pitches, an orchard, a wildflower area and an allotment.

As our site combines a historic Grade II listed building, modern teaching facilities and a swimming pool, there are both opportunities and challenges to manage energy and sustainability. However, according to our latest [Sustainability Internal Scrutiny Review](#), Lymm High School is performing above average in the

area of sustainability, with key practices in place that are operating effectively. We are proud of our strong commitment to environmental responsibility; and sustainability is embedded in our day-to-day operations, our curriculum, and the wider life of the school.

We are continually working to reduce our environmental impact while creating meaningful learning opportunities for our students.



Energy and emissions

We actively monitor our energy use and carbon emissions via a KPI dashboard and produce an annual Streamlined Energy and Carbon Report (SECR). We are committed to improving efficiency across the site and have already taken significant steps to reduce our environmental impact, including:

- Installing energy-efficient double glazing across most of the modern buildings and the listed Oughtrington Hall.
- Installing blinds to improve natural shading.
- Converting around 85% of lighting to LED.
- Improving insulation throughout the school.
- Upgrading heating and ventilation systems for better efficiency.
- Installing a new cover on the swimming pool to reduce energy loss.

- Implementing a policy of buying locally for the school canteen and serving areas.

We have set an ambitious target to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2035, and we are actively exploring further improvements such as renewable energy and low-carbon heating.

Biodiversity

We are fortunate to have extensive green space, which we actively use to support biodiversity. The school employs a groundsman to maintain the grounds, ensuring they remain well-kept, healthy and in good condition. We also undertake an annual tree survey to monitor the health of our long-established trees, some of which are over 400 years old.

Current and planned initiatives include:

- Planting hundreds of new trees across the site. In 2024, 110 trees were planted to create our orchard. These are already bearing fruit, and include cherry, damson, apple, pear and plum. This Spring, we planted 418 young trees courtesy of the Woodland Trust. This includes 90 Hazels, 45 Rowans, 60 Blackthorns, 73 Crab Apples, 75 Elders and 75 Dog roses.
- Additional habitat creation through new planting, bird boxes, bug hotels and bog gardens or ponds.

- Maintaining wildflower areas and supporting pollinators.
- Participating in 'No Mow May' to leave areas of the grass uncut thereby encouraging natural habitats.

Our Eco Group

We have an active Eco Group, made up of staff and students, who play a key role in driving sustainability across the school. Their enthusiasm and creativity have helped us achieve and maintain National Eco School status for 4 consecutive years. The group leads a wide range of initiatives, including:

- Biodiversity projects such as installing bug hotels and setting up bird feeding stations.
- Litter picks and recycling campaigns.
- Raising awareness through assemblies, newsletters and wall displays.

Students are also given opportunities to

present their ideas to school leaders and governors, helping them develop valuable communication and leadership skills.

Learning for a sustainable future

Sustainability is increasingly integrated into our curriculum. Subjects such as Geography, Science, Food Technology and Business Studies all contribute to students' understanding of environmental issues.

We also provide hands-on learning opportunities through:

- The school allotment.
- Environmental projects across the site.
- Collaboration with local organisations and experts, such as the Woodland Trust and Warrington Borough Council's Ranger team.

These experiences help prepare our students for future careers in a rapidly changing, environmentally conscious world.



Looking ahead

While we are proud of our progress, we are committed to going further. Our next steps include:

- Developing a dedicated Climate Action Plan.
- Expanding renewable energy options, such as solar power.
- Continuing to improve energy efficiency across the school. A Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) application is in place for the replacement of gas boilers with ground source heat pumps.
- Trialling the use of sensor taps in bathrooms to prevent excess water loss.

- Increasing opportunities for student involvement in sustainability decisions.
- Promoting 'green travel' for both staff and students.

This summer, we have also appointed a Sustainability Lead, Mr Hendrie, to help guide and strengthen our long-term strategy.

We will continue to share updates on our sustainability journey through our website and newsletters. If you would like to get involved or learn more, please contact the school.





As part of their study into the impact of the Industrial Revolution on our local area, Year 8 students went on a trip to Quarry Bank Mill in Styal, Cheshire.

The trip offered an immersive look into the Industrial Revolution as students were able to explore the water-powered cotton mill and learn more about what it was like to work there, writes Miss Howard. Students experienced tour guides taking them around the Mill to explore the roaring historic machines, learnt how cotton was spun and witnessed the power of the River Bollin. They then had an Apprentice House Tour where costumed guides led students through the living quarters of the 90 Apprentice children who worked in the Mill, bringing 18th-century living conditions to life. Our students enjoyed lying on the straw beds and trying out the educational activities

and games that children would have done 200 years ago. The final session involved a walking tour of Styal village to see how the Greg Family who owned the Mill provided housing, education and churches for their workers.



JOYCE GARDNER

Miss Gardner taught English at Lymm Grammar School from 1965-85.

Her First Class Degree from Sheffield University was in English, French and German.

From 1969 to 1985 she ran the school library. She was also a Sixth Form Tutor and prepared pupils for GCE 'O' and 'A' levels and for CSEs.

She was born in 1933 and took early retirement in 1985. She died on 11th July 2025 at the age of 92, and her funeral was at St John's Church, Flixton, where was a Licensed Reader from 1989 until her death. She also taught trainee Readers (they are like lay preachers) for the Diocese of Manchester from 1993 for some years.



As part of the recent Battlefields Trip in June, Year 8 students participated in a number of Acts of Remembrance. Students laid a wreath at the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. Another student laid a cross at the Vimy Ridge memorial where she had a relative commemorated.

“We all also paid our respects to a local Lymm soldier, Ernest Oakes, at the Thiepval Memorial”, said Miss Howard. Trip members also held a 2-minute silence in front of a grave of an unknown soldier to remember the sacrifice of a generation lost in the First World War.





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SCHOOL
LOTTERY



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