



## **LOTTERY FUNDED**

**Lymm Heritage Information Centre Reg Charity 1164961**

### **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2017**

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# 1. Introduction

Lymm Heritage Information Centre is a registered charity. It was originally formed and constituted as a volunteer group in January 2015 and became registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ( Lymm Heritage information Centre No 1164961) on 22 December 2015. The address of the charity is Lymm Heritage Centre, Legh Street, Lymm, WA13 0DA.

This report covers the financial year that ended 31 December 2017 with comments on events to April 2018.

The Heritage Centre first opened its doors to the public as an exhibition centre on 22 June 2017. We have also launched our education programme and taken the first steps in setting up a digital archive, thus covering the three key elements of the project for which we were granted Heritage Lottery Funding (£88,200) in March 2017.

Much has been achieved through volunteering, activities, exhibitions and links with other groups as will be seen in the main report and we believe we have created a solid base from which we can progress toward becoming a valuable and indispensable part of the fabric of the local community.

## 2. Objectives

Our Registered Charity constitution states our overall objective as

*“To advance the education of the public by providing and maintaining a heritage centre and museum for the exhibition to the public of objects, documents, photographs and other items connected with the history of Lymm, Cheshire and surrounding district.”*

Our constitution is available for download at [lymmhic.co.uk/about\\_us](http://lymmhic.co.uk/about_us)

The trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit.

Our Heritage Lottery funding is based on a more specific three stranded project

a) Exhibitions b) Learning & Engagement c) A Public On-line Archive.

HLF projects are assessed on their potential to create positive outcomes

for items of a) heritage value b) for individuals c) for community

Our project is driven by the aim of delivering on those outcomes and we believe we are succeeding to date by

- storing, preserving and sharing items and information of heritage value.
- providing opportunities for individuals to learn about Lymm’s heritage as a visitor, as a volunteer, and as a participant in activities.
- contributing to the economic wellbeing of the village by promoting visitors and enhancing the offering to tourists and local people alike.



The premises shortly before opening June 2017



Volunteer Alan Taylor introduces patron Terry Waite CBE to aspects of the opening exhibition.

### 3. Governance and Management

The charity and the project is overseen by a group of five trustees who are all also active members of the management team. These are

Alan Williams - Chair & Exhibitions Development

Ray Banton – Secretary

Patrick Knowles – Treasurer (Tim Askham prior to February 2017)

Glynis Allen- Collections and Archiving

Su Williams – Founder

The following additional members make up the management committee

Geoff Hawley- Education team and Parish council link.

Trish Cockayne – General assistance

Malcolm Young- Head of learning team

Alan Taylor- Local history consultant, archiving and photographer.

Mark Linnell – Volunteer co-ordinator.

There is also an open invitation to Lymm & District History Society to be represented on the management team.

This core management team of up to eleven meet on a two monthly basis. There are then a number of working sub groups covering key areas of activity. The sub-groups vary in size from one to five but also co-opt additional help where needed. The groups are as follows and include many people who are not members of the core management team.

Learning and Engagement – Chair Malcolm Young

Archiving – Chair Glynis Allen

Volunteering - Chair Mark Linnell

Premises- Ray Banton

Finance – Patrick Knowles

Exhibitions - Alan Williams

Research – Roger Hannam

All the sub-group chairs, with the exception of Roger, sit on the main management team and all report in regularly.

While we have a strong overall structure there are still areas where we would welcome additional input from volunteers with appropriate skills. These include retail management and marketing & publicity. Research is another area where we would also like to add more strength in depth.



*Some of the team in costume at Dickensian 2017*

Underpinning our whole operation is our volunteer team which has now reached fifty in number. Many are mainly involved in staffing the centre during our four sessions of opening per week but we rely on volunteers too for education, archiving, research and other activities.

## 4. Financial report

Year ended 31 December 2017

During the year ended 31 December 2017 the charity had income of £70,522 and made payments of £19,380 resulting in net receipts of £51,142.

The largest receipt was the first instalment of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant of £44,100 – representing 50% of the total grant award of £88,200. The grant is to part fund a £100,950 project to create exhibitions, set up a digital archive and establish a learning programme over the two years ending 30 April 2019.

Other income amounted to £26,422, comprising donations (£23,154), sale of retail goods (£2,772), education income (£486) and room hire (£10).

The trustees are very grateful to all those individuals and bodies who have made donations during the year. Donation income included:

	£
Lymm Historic Transport Day 2016 & 2017	8,303
Authors of “The Wheels and the Water” and “Hannah and the Ruby Glass”	3,500
Lymm Parish Council	3,000
Co-op Local Community Fund	2,142
Friends of Lymm Heritage Centre	1,906
Public donations via donation box	1,396
Lymm & District Round Table	1,000
Other donors	1,907
Total	23,154

Payments included £10,395 for non-capital expenditure and £8,985 for capital expenditure. The largest item of non-capital expenditure was the cost (£2,705) of mounting two temporary exhibitions – the “Quiet Revolution” cycling exhibition and the “Look@Lymm” photographic exhibition.

The two largest items of capital expenditure were exhibition stands and blocks (£5,280) and the carpet (£2,900).

### HLF grant

It should be noted that as the purposes of the HLF grant are somewhat narrower than the Objects of the charity, the grant has been treated as a restricted fund and the accounts prepared accordingly.

### Cash

At 31 December 2017 the charity had cash at bank and in hand of £57,271 split:

HLF – restricted fund	£35,555
Unrestricted funds	£21,716

### 4.2 The year ahead and longer term

The first task over the period to 30 April 2019 is to complete the HLF funded project including the “core” exhibition. Over



the next two rent free years (rent is payable at £1,000 per month from 1 June 2020) the key challenge is to sustain and develop our existing income streams of Friends' subscription income, donation box income, retail profits, education income, business support/sponsorship and room hire such that we can further increase our unrestricted reserves ahead of the obligation to start paying rent.

Longer term our cash flow projection shows that we are likely to incur annual expenditure of at least £20,000 when the rent free period has ended and will need to generate income accordingly.

#### Reserves policy

##### *Restricted reserve – HLF grant*

The trustees plan to spend the current reserve on the approved purposes of the HLF grant prior to the grant end date of 30 April 2019.

##### *Unrestricted reserves*

Over the period to 31 May 2020 the trustees wish to maximise unrestricted reserves so that the charity has the highest possible buffer as it approaches the date when rent is payable. From that date the trustees will also consider a policy of having unrestricted reserves at any time such that the cash and liquid balances forming part of those unrestricted reserves are sufficient to fund at least the next six months of forecast unrestricted expenditure. This would mean that the charity could continue to operate for a period where income was considerably lower than anticipated unrestricted expenditure.



*The “shop window” has been used for a number of purposes including retail and a Remembrance window*

## 5. Exhibitions

Exhibitions are at the core of what we do. As well as encouraging visitors and raising awareness of Lymm and its history they present an opportunity to involve the wider community and other heritage groups in a variety of ways. The majority of Heritage Lottery Funding was to enable us to produce a core exhibition on the themes of Trades, Transport and Traditions. Development work on this exhibition is still in progress. In the meantime the centre has hosted two main exhibitions on specific aspects of these themes. There are also plans for several other mini-expos during 2018.

### 5.1 A Quiet Revolution.

The Centre opened on June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017 to coincide with the start of the Lymm Festival. *A Quiet Revolution* told the story of the social history of cycling as it impacted on Lymm and surrounding areas. We worked closely with Paul Adams of Walton Cycle Museum who generously lent us a collection of 12 bicycles that helped us tell the story of the development of the bicycle and how it changed lives locally. We also worked with other groups with an interest in cycling history including the Anfield Club and Clarion collector Merlin Evans. We worked with local young graphic artists to produce the storyboards and also had help and input from the descendant of a local bicycle shop owner.

The exhibition was well received and brought in a wide range of visitors from the specialist (like Cycle club contingents) to the general interest. It also tied in well with the Historic Transport Day which took place on June 25<sup>th</sup>. 3,345 visitors attended the exhibition over the fifteen weeks it was open.

It was great to see the general positive response to the concept of the centre and the high approval rating of the quality of the presentation. As a first exhibition it helped us develop our team – including Janet and Colin Grimes who laid out the exhibition for us with great creative flair.

The exhibition gave an opportunity to develop working practices and develop our approach to retail and donation raising.

We could possibly have done more to promote the exhibition more widely particularly to the cycling fraternity but were limited by resources partly financial but mostly human!

We have retained all of the storyboards and the text files that produced them. We are hoping the storyboards may find a home in the new re-located Walton Cycle Museum. They will also be made available for loan to other groups. We will also add the storyboards to the website archive area.



*The Heritage Centre getting off to a great start with A Quiet Revolution which attracted over 3,000 visitors.*

### 5.2 Look@Lymm

Our second exhibition which opened on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017 drew upon the rich photographic heritage of the village and the collection of original photographs of one of our members - Alan Taylor in particular. Each picture was accompanied by an informative caption and additional artefact exhibits introduced the topics of Rushbearing and Fustian Cutting. The event was supported by a specially produced booklet which offers an illustrated historic walk round the village. The exhibition also includes many other pictures donated by members of the public, many of them on display for the first time. It has also served to introduce the idea of the Lymm on-line digital archive and has encouraged many other people to bring in photographs for scanning and archiving (See separate section on The Lymm Digital Archive.) The exhibition was laid out by Colin and Janet Grimes who also produced some additional art work. The exhibition brought a fresh upturn in visitor numbers and has been very positively received judging by visitor book comments. During the period to 30 April 2018 this exhibition has received 3,280 visitors. During 2017 the Centre welcomed 5,161 visitors and has had 6,625 visitors to the end of April 2018 since opening in late June 2017. This does not include visiting groups e.g. Beavers, U3A, walking groups,

Seniors, School Education sessions, Photographic society, Teachers group, Friends evening probably numbering an additional 350 .

Even staging this small exhibition showed us that Lymm has a unique story that is well worth telling. We met many people from Lymm who shared their own stories. Some we have noted and have contacts but we need to develop our oral history facility to capture them more fully. We have started to receive donations and loans of items from the public and there is clearly more to come. We have developed a system for dealing with these and most will find their way into the Lymm Archive.

When this exhibition winds down, all the pictures – approx. 100 in total on 3mm foamex will be stored together with their captions and will be made available to other groups – especially schools for loan use. Some may also appear in later exhibitions.

### 5.3 Future Exhibition Plans

These first two temporary exhibitions have helped us to understand the work load and complexity of putting together an exhibition. This has led us to the conclusion that attempting to open a complete new exhibition covering all of trades, transport and tradition is unrealistic and we have decided to take a step by step approach. The first outcome of this will be a mini exhibition called ***“Lymm a place of running water”*** which will open in early June in time for the Lymm Festival 2018. This will focus on the Bridgewater Canal and the Manchester Ship Canal and will in part be built around some key loan items from the Boat Museum at Ellesmere Port and the Daniel Adamson Society.

We are also in the process of putting together a window display to support the Lymm May Queen Festival on May 12. This exhibit, in adapted form, will also become part of the main exhibition.

In the lead up to and during Lymm Festival ( June 21-July 1<sup>st</sup>) we are co-operating with the festival committee to also stage a small exhibition celebrating the first 20 years of the festival.

We are keen to develop on and further interpret the “dinosaur’s footprint” that is on show in the village and to that end one of our members has produced a stunning full size model of a chirotherium. At some stage in the year we will incorporate that into our main exhibition and will stage a special event to publicise and unveil it.

We have an outstanding request to find space for a small exhibition to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the town twinning between Lymm and Meung-sur-Loire.

Plans are also already underway to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the Armistice that ended World War One. This will include an exhibition in the centre during autumn 2018 as well as a repeat of the Remembrance window in some modified form. These exhibits will also integrate with the education activities that we have planned for the Autumn term that will further mark this important anniversary.

Finally we plan to participate in the National Heritage Open Days scheme in September and are currently exploring the most appropriate way to do this.

The exhibition and research team will continue to work in the background to introduce further topics around the trades transport and tradition themes over the next 12 months with the aim of having a complete exhibition by the end of our two year Heritage Lottery funded project ( end of April 2019).

Beyond that time our aim is to continue to find ways to develop and refresh our exhibits and activities and to continue to respond to the needs and requests from other groups and the wider community.



*Look@Lymm Exhibition has attracted over 3,000 visitors.*



## 6. Learning *Report from Learning Chair Malcolm Young*

The primary aim of the Learning/Education group is to provide learning experiences for local children and schools, related to the Trade, Transport and Traditions theme, about their village and its rich inheritance. As the planned visits by schools materialise this should also contribute to the financial sustainability of the centre. This will be achieved by introducing the schools to projects in which Lymm and its community have played a role and been affected by their experiences. The first project focuses on Lymm during the First World War to support all schools locally who are learning about this war and to commemorate the 1918 armistice. Much research on this project has been carried out by the Learning Group assisted by other centre volunteers along with the collecting of many artefacts either loaned or donated to the centre by Dunham Massey National Trust, Imperial War Museum North and individuals residing in and around Lymm. As a result a detailed array of artefacts has been acquired including soldiers' and nurses' uniforms, helmets from the different armies, Princess Mary Christmas tin etc. There has also been input and participation from individuals in the programme including the Rev. Beverley Jameson at St. Mary's Church.

At present four schools are or will be involved in piloting the programme, each being offered a half-day or full day visit. Stat-ham Primary School experienced a half day visit on 5<sup>th</sup>. March, Cherry Tree Primary have a full day visit booked for 16<sup>th</sup> May with two other schools to pilot during the summer term. During the Autumn term schools booking a visit will pay a fee and it is planned to include Lymm High School in the programme - possibly in an outreach form.



*Key Stage 2 participation in "We Love Our Canal " run in conjunction with Historic Transport Day*

The group continue to meet regularly to discuss where the programme is and where we need to go. The World War One programme is a large and comprehensive project hence schools have a choice of a full or half-day programme. However, looking to the future, we are aware that there is a need for the training of other suitable volunteers and the development of other programmes related to Lymm's local history such as the coming of the Bridgewater Canal, the Fustian cutting industry, gold beating, changes to the village in the last hundred years etc.



*Key Stage 2 children involved in an activity as part of the World War One commemoration project.*

Finally the Education/Learning team is keen to contribute and play a major part in a display in the Autumn leading up to the 1918 Armistice Commemoration and become involved in the National Heritage Open Day scheme in September. Since 2017 the Heritage Centre has also taken over responsibility for the co-ordination of a four day learning programme called "We Love Our Canal". This programme has grown since its inception in 2013 and now runs eight sessions under the leadership of the Education team from Ellesmere Port Boat Museum and the Saturn Education Project. The visiting Key Stage 2 groups include all four Lymm Primary schools but also other schools from as far afield as Stretton. Children participate in a set of activities in small groups that include visiting working boats to learn about life on the canal, canal safety, and practical activities in crafts like rag rug making and bridge building. Some schools have adapted the curriculum to include a canal based topic of which the visit forms the centrepiece.

The centre has also received a number of visits from local cub and beaver groups that offered a more informal learning experience. The Centre also provided a speaker for a year 5/6 project on canal history at the new Barrow Hall School in Warrington.



## 7. Archiving *Report from Archiving Chair Glynis Allen*

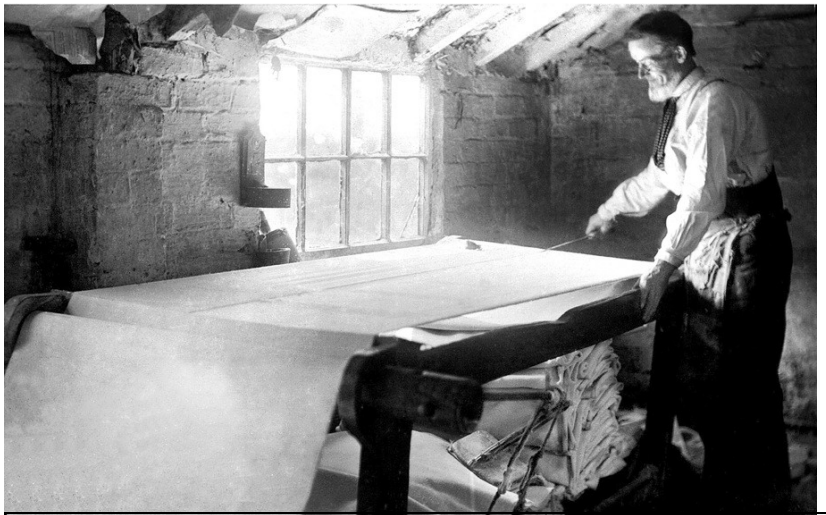
This section of the report provides an overview of the detailed research taken over the past 12 months by the Lymm Digitisation Project Team. Our work consisted of feasibility studies of the proposal to research and install suitable digital software to enable photographs from Lymm's heritage to be shared more widely.

To support this research, we have had discussions with Craig Sherwood at Warrington Museum, Karen Cliff at Trafford Local Studies in addition to Congleton Museum, Cheshire Archives and Local Studies, and the Birchcliffe Centre, Hebden Bridge, gaining valuable insight into community views.

Supported by the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Lymm Digital Image Archive (Lydia) will offer outstanding access to a wide range of photographs, charting the history of Lymm to its present day. Acknowledgement is also given to both Alan Taylor, former Chief Photographer for Mid and South Cheshire papers and Carol Sparkes from Lymm Photographic Society, for their considerable input and technical expertise.

The digitisation project has been designed to:

- Raise the profile of Lymm and further increasing awareness of its rich heritage, trades and industry.
- Increase access to a wide range of historic photographs up to the present day.
- Digitise photographs borrowed for the purpose of this project, so as to create a permanent online repository.
- Respond to the needs and requests from schools, community groups and the general public for a digitised heritage resource.



*one of the thousands of images that deserve a place in the Lymm Archive*

After exhaustive research and working to our budget we selected the House of Images software package which is also used by a number of other organisations in the region including the Cheshire Archive and Halton Borough Council.

We made the selection based on a number of criteria

- User-friendly and a web based interface for ease of access
- Controlled access to images based on user privileges
- Include copyright field and hide record field compliant with new GDPR legislation.
- Themed and 'free text' search option for ease of access
- Safe (cloud) storage for the retrieval and preservation of assets



- Budget.

A pilot scheme is now underway to develop procedures for most appropriate use of the software.

Through this approach we aim to provide

- Accountable and suitable integrated management system for images and related assets.
- Online repository to facilitate ease of access and awareness of Lymm's heritage.
- Establishing an additional revenue stream

through the purchase of online photographs

- New opportunities for training volunteers in local history research, cataloguing and display work.
- Publicity – an opening event to acknowledge the success of Lymm Heritage Centre and its stakeholders  
From a user perspective, the preferred software, House of Images enables the organisation of digital assets whilst allowing ease of access and increased awareness of alternative resources and significantly, all in budget within HLF criteria.

We are in the process of sourcing and acquiring appropriate hardware to support the digitisation process using specifically allocated HLF funds.

Implementation of the pilot site, presently monitored by the team and acknowledgment is given to this first stage of this project. This includes over 160 images donated from The Alan Taylor Collection and where all images have been indexed and annotated. Currently in the process of data clean up, from this, the system will go live on a dedicated website [www.lymmarchive.co.uk](http://www.lymmarchive.co.uk) with links to the Heritage Centre's home site. Within the next few months and in line with agreed publicity launch, this will acknowledge this important aspect of HLF funding.

It is envisaged that this project will require ongoing and continuing maintenance now that the pilot site has been implemented, It is also recognised there may be additional costs associated with customisation but that these costs will decrease once the system reaches its operational phase and as the end users become aware of its capabilities.

Digitisation means accessibility and therefore material in digital format will serve to enhance not only Lymm Heritage Centre but also the village of Lymm and its wider community.

Notably, collecting for this project will be ongoing and where we hope to gain a wider range of images to fill in many of the gaps whilst increasing our knowledge in local history research. It will also increase awareness and make material much more accessible and relevant to a wider range of people.

Another benefit is to further encourage people to interact with the Centre, for example, including those who may not otherwise have opportunity to visit. Photographs are an easy but informative medium that are enjoyed by all age groups.

Once the site is established, it will then extend using teams of volunteers who will be trained in cataloguing, digitisation and display work. Utilising House of Images software, images will be scanned, researched and recorded on relevant documentation for audit purposes. Working closely with the Management Team, this will ultimately facilitate further exhibitions, project packs for local schools and ultimately attract further visitors to the Centre, in association with other events, such as Transport Day and Dickensian Day.

Over the coming years it is hoped to widely add to this initial collection.

The end product will be a valuable resource for Lymm and the wider community and to date, feedback from the pilot website has been both positive and encouraging and further interaction welcomed.



*Images will be supported by text and information as a lasting record . This is Saville 's Hardware and Ironmongers opposite the Cross. (donated by John & Jane Parry )*

## 8. Volunteering *report from Mark Linnell - Volunteer co-ordinator*

### 8.1 What we have achieved

Lymm Heritage Centre opened on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017 to coincide with the start of the Lymm Festival. Details of potential volunteers had been collated for up to 12 months previously, but little had been done to organise or train them in any way. A volunteer's handbook had been published prior to the centre opening, which did cover many of the required procedures. There was major task to make follow up contact with these potential volunteers and identify roles for them. This was my first key task when I came Volunteer Co-ordinator.

We managed to provide at least two volunteers for each of the days that the Festival ran. This was a challenge because many of the volunteers were also involved in Festival events. Once the Festival ended, we opened the Centre 1pm to 5pm Thursday to Sunday inclusive. The opening hours were amended for the winter months to 12noon to 4pm. This was for two reasons; firstly because the visitor numbers dropped off considerably between 4pm to 5pm and secondly to allow the volunteers to travel home in daylight (many of them are older females).

The Centre has opened continuously over the last 9 months without any dropped shifts, which is a major achievement for the volunteers. We did close over Christmas. We were encouraged by good visitor numbers in January. There was a fall in February and early March, but this was almost certainly due to very cold and wet weather.

We have held two volunteer evenings to raise awareness about the exhibitions and explain roles and responsibilities. I have personally performed duties with many of the volunteers to ensure that they have a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities. We have continued to encourage further volunteers and there are now over 50 people registered and active. .



*Some of our volunteers at an open evening.*

Fundraising is part of the role of the volunteers. This is by encouraging visitors to purchase retail goods that are on display, donate cash or sign up as a Friend of the Heritage Centre. We have increased our retail section, but this needs to be continuously reviewed to increase sales. It is also important that all volunteers interact with visitors to promote the Centre, donations sales and Friend sign ups.

### 8.2 Social Impacts of the Heritage Centre for volunteers

Provide volunteering opportunities at the centre for target groups of older adults (our youngest volunteer is 17).

Many of the volunteers have expressed their enjoyment at their roles at the centre.

We have created work experience and volunteering opportunities.

The volunteers are also encouraged to get involved in other projects such as Education, Digitisation of photographs, Exhibitions and Learning.

The volunteers have learned a great deal about the heritage of Lymm.

### 8.3 What have we learned

It has become clear that visitor numbers drop off when an exhibition has been in place for several months. For this reason, we have realised the need to refresh the exhibition to maintain interest and visitor numbers. The volunteers prefer days when visitor numbers are greater. We also need to provide tasks for volunteers to carry out when it is quiet.

### 8.4 The year ahead

With the growth of the archive and the developing education activity we also look forward to providing a broader range of roles and learning opportunities for volunteers.



## **9. Premises Report by Ray Banton, Premises Manager**

The charity entered into a lease for the Centre at Legh Street, Lymm with the owner Howard Platt. The whole project would not have been possible without the generous intervention of Howard who purchased the building with the express intention of providing it on generous lease terms. Howard also funded the extensive refurbishment of the building from structure to interior prior to handing it over thus presenting the community as a whole with an unrepeatable opportunity. The lease start date was 1st June 2017 and is for an initial period of six years with a tenant option to extend for a further four years. The first three years of the lease are rent free. Thereafter the rent is £12,000 p.a. which will still be far lower than a commercial rent for any similar premises in the village.

Since obtaining the keys in June 2017 to what was a beautiful, newly refurbished, but nonetheless empty building, it is quite amazing what has been achieved in the first 10 months of our tenancy. The first few weeks were hectic because we had to construct and install the kitchen fittings quickly followed by arranging for the laying of a screed over the entire floor area prior to laying carpet tiles over the exhibition area and its neighbouring side rooms and a non slip floor in the kitchen and toilet areas in readiness for the general opening on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and official opening by our patron Terry Waite CBE on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

The Property Group – mainly Ray Banton in practice with some assistance - has played an important supporting role as we staged our first exhibitions, generally operating when the Centre has been closed to the public in order to carry out essential maintenance whilst at the same time providing and improving the facilities where required including construction of a model of the most famous landmark in the village known as Lymm Cross, which is now used to house our donations box. Other work has included fitting the letter box & signage, fitting blinds to the side rooms, tidying up the old Bank Safe which we inherited, and providing a full length mirror for the children's dressing up box.

The front store room has been fitted with floor to ceiling shelving to maximise storage potential and a good supply of tables and chairs and essential kitchen equipment has put us in a good position to facilitate group visits and room hire.

We have pursued the possibility of having brown signs installed in the village to help promote the premises and make them easier to find. This application was initially turned down on the basis that we did not meet a number of demanding criteria but we are optimistic that following a recent visit from a borough councillor we will see that decision reversed.

We have also produced several schemes for a disabled access which will allow wheelchairs to gain access to our premises, and this has entailed meetings with an official from another department at Warrington Borough Council - WBC who has agreed a potential route for the build (subject to planning permission) over land which WBC Estates Department have confirmed belongs to them. WBC require that we must reinstate their land back to its current state at the end of our current 10 year tenancy agreement. This would be onerous and costly. We will continue to endeavour to progress this issue.

Like other parts of the village, vandalism has been an unwelcome irritation. Signage has been destroyed, our outside letter-box badly damaged and most seriously there have been instances of youngsters getting on to the roof of the building with the results that slates have been dislodged. Both police and the Parish council are aware of the problem and we will continue to review to see if we need to add extra security.

## 10. Miscellaneous / Extra Activities

We have provided a speaker for outside groups including Rotary and Women's Institute. These have resulted in donations or offers of activities.

We have three Duke of Edinburgh award participants from the local High School transcribing sections of old Trade Directories to provide a searchable trade history of the village.

One of our members provided and decorated a Christmas Tree for the Lymm Christmas Tree Festival, supporting this activity with a Victorian decoration making workshop.

We have hosted talks on the opening of the new centre including U3A and a rambling group.

One visit from Lymm Photographic Society spawned the idea of a photographic project, a book or calendar with a Lymm theme that would be produced in support of the centre. This is still under discussion.

A talk to Lymm WI generated the idea of a spin-off project involving younger members interviewing more senior residents to produce a book of Lymm memories. Still under discussion.

We supported a local school in their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration by promoting via Facebook resulting in many new connections being made

We provided a village tour for a group of twenty-four 9-11 year old Chinese school children who were visiting a local primary school.

We have answered numerous ad hoc queries by email and Facebook regarding specific aspects of Lymm history.

## 11. On-line presence

We are conscious that we have a far wider audience than those people who can ever actually visit the centre. Our on-line presence enables us to

Share information and images and generally develop resources for research and education.

Act as a reference point for those queries

Provide an outreach for those unable to visit including disabled

We have developed an extensive website which has drawn much positive comment. It includes information, reference material, images and video. It reflects the Trades, Transport and Tradition themes of the main project.

There is a definite opportunity to involve more people in the development of the site through training and planning as the site is currently managed almost exclusively by the Chair.

The website is [www.lymmhic.co.uk](http://www.lymmhic.co.uk)



Facebook has been another important means of growing our audience. Our audience had grown more slowly this year from 1,800 to 2,100 and would benefit from pro-active promotion but regular posts bring in enthusiastic response with many posts reaching several thousand users in over thirty countries. Again we would welcome additional input from an enthusiastic new participant to help manage and maintain levels of activity and participation. [Facebook.com/lymmheritage](https://www.facebook.com/lymmheritage)

Our new archive site [www.lymmarchive.co.uk](http://www.lymmarchive.co.uk) is still in the pilot stage but we would anticipate it drawing a wide audience and high levels of participation once it opens.

## 12. The Year Ahead and a Sustainable Future

The coming year is critical to the long term success of the centre. It is the second year of two years of funding from Heritage Lottery Fund during which we need to deliver fully on our commitment to

Develop a core exhibition

Develop a wide ranging learning programme and set of resources

Develop and deliver a shareable on-line archive

A promising start has been made in all of these areas and much has been learnt and researched that now needs to be turned into finished "product".

We also have work to do to ensure we build a financially sustainable future. We recognise the need to have a model that draws income and revenue from a wide range of sources including door donations, retail sales, Friends of Lymm Heritage Centre, sponsorship, learning programme, special events, room hire, funding from local groups. Our efforts in this first year have had mainly positive results but there is still much to do. In some areas e.g. room hire we can see that we have the potential to exceed our budget. Others e.g. Friends made a promising start but need further effort.



*Visitors from U3A hear about the Centre's project*



*Visits from cubs/ Beavers etc have been a feature of the centre's extra activities.*

### Contact Information

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Approved by

Date 23/4/2018

Alan Williams Chair

Patrick Knowles Treasurer



# APPENDIX A

Links with other organisations has been an important aspect of our activity over the past twelve month. These links have helped us in a variety of ways including

- Helping to establish good practice

- Learning and research

- Promotion

- Fund Raising

Dunham Massey Estate- National Trust

Imperial War Museum North

Warrington Museum and Library Archive

National Waterways Museum – Ellesmere Port

Daniel Adamson Society

Walton Cycle Museum

Anfield Bicycle Club

Birchcliffe Centre , Hebden Bridge

Trafford Local Studies

Cheshire Archive

Peel Archive

Congleton Museum

Lymm Jubilee WI

Lymm – various cub and beaver groups

U3A

Lymm Rotary Club

Lymm Probus

All local primary schools

Lymm High School

Lymm Historic Transport Group

Lymm Festival

St Mary's Church