

# Village festival called off for first time in 70 years

■ Organisers face fight to keep historic tradition alive

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THE battle is on to save the historic Lymm May Queen festival after organisers were forced to cancel the event for the first time since the Second World War.

The tradition of crowning the May Queen and Rose Queen stretches back almost 130 years and many residents remember attending the event as children.

But on Saturday the festival had to be cancelled at the last minute because of bad weather, leaving the hardworking volunteers who organise the festival devastated.

Steve Harper, chairman of the committee, said: "We called an emergency meeting at 8.30am when we could see that it was getting worse and worse.

"It was a big decision to cancel it but it was the right decision to take.

"We were absolutely devastated but health and safety has to be paramount.

"We had a good response from people in the village with regards to the



The show must go on for Lymm Morris Men, who helped lift residents' spirits

decision to cancel it.

"This would have been the festival's 70th year since it restarted after the Second World War – it was founded in 1889."

A meeting will take place this week to look at options for the future of the event, which costs

around £10,000 to put on, and to discuss rescheduling this year's procession.

The committee will also look at fundraising activities to help the festival continue after two years of heavy rain on the day of the event.

Despite the weather Lymm Morris

Men helped lift the spirits of residents by performing at locations in the village where the procession was scheduled to pass.

The group take part in the annual May Queen procession as well as Lymm Rushbearing and Lymm Dickensian Day.