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## Village steps back in time for ancient rushbearing festival



by Gary Skentelbery

LYMM village stepped back in time for its ancient rushbearing festival. The village is now only one of only a small number of places to continue with the festival – a piece of living history. The tradition grew out of the need in medieval times to replace the reeds which were used as a carpet on the earthen floor of buildings including the church. The community joined together to gather the new reeds (rushes) and remove the old. They combined work with pleasure carpet laying at church with a procession, music and dancing. Organisers continue with the combination although the laying of rushes at church is only symbolic rather than functional! The spirit of communal life is real and organisers are anxious for local people to join in. Although there may have been some breaks the tradition seems to have continued from the medieval era until about the time of the first world war and was revived in the 1970s.

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In 1869 it was reported that there were various village sports on a Monday in connection with the rushbearing but the actual procession had been on Saturday when "the rush cart was drawn through the streets of the township by four grey horses, decorated with flags, and bells.

The cart was preceded by a man and a band playing popular tunes. A great crowd collected round the cart at different parts of the district. The usual collection of shows, rifle galleries, standings and other things requisite for a country fair were located in the vicinity of The Cross. A fire occurred at one of the "peep shows" but was speedily extinguished by the bystanders"!

The procession started from Pepper Street car park and processed via The Cross up Eagle Brow, left into Brookfield Road and left into Church Road arriving at St Mary's Church for a special service.

The procession then moved down Rectory Lane to the Village Hall where there were light refreshments.

- For more pictures from the event [CLICK HERE](#)



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## Lifeline for bus link

by Terry Johnson

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**Transport bosses have stepped in to save a threatened bus link, following a wave of protest from Lymm villagers.**

**The storm broke after Arriva announced the No. 38 Altrincham-Warrington service is to be withdrawn, from September 25, because they cannot make it pay.**

**But Nigel Featham, Managing Director of Warrington Borough Transport, has thrown a lifeline.**

**He said: "This is an important bus link. Its withdrawal will leave a significant gap in the local network. It is strategic in attracting shoppers into Warrington when the new shopping centre opens.**

**"Having investigated likely costs and revenues, we are going to step in and provide a replacement Altrincham service - extending Service 5 from Warburton to provide a 30-minute frequency".**

**He added: "This step should allay residents' fears".**

**Campaigning Lymm councillor, Mrs Sheila Woodyatt, said: "This is wonderful news for people who faced being left stranded".**

## Arson attack on recycling centre