

Lymm Rushbearing Festival



Morris dancers add some colour to the event with their floral hats and costumes

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Village turns out for local summer tradition

Residents bear their rushes

Words: Miranda Newey Pictures: Ian Park



Town crier Peter Powell with Derick Britch of Lymm Morris Dancers

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Zoe Hock and Molly Peterson from the First Lymm Brownies

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Neville Woodyatt and Clr Sheila Woodyatt with Deputy Mayor Brian Axcell and Deputy Mayoress Irina Axcell

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THE sun came out just in time for Lymm's annual Rushbearing festival at the weekend.

The historical custom that dates back to medieval times saw crowds march through the streets from Pepper Street bearing decorated rushes at around 4pm.

A short service was held at St Mary's Church, on Church Road, before the procession worked its way back to the village centre to continue the celebrations.

The tradition stems from when villagers used to change the rushes on the floor of the buildings before the winter started.

Among those taking part were The deputy mayor of Warrington, Brian Axcell and deputy mayoress Irina Axcell, as well as Clr Sheila Woodyatt and other Lymm Parish Council representatives.

Clr Woodyatt said: "It was a lovely event, the weather had been atrocious but the sun shone on us just before it started."

"The Brownies won the cup for the best garland - it was based on an Olympic theme."

Morris dancers added colour and entertained onlookers with their costumes and dances.

Clr Woodyatt said that a plan to raise the awareness of the long-running event had been suggested for next year.