

Local Life

NEWS FROM OUR VILLAGES AND DISTRICTS Lymm Thelwall Grappenhall

DELIGHT A
HGV BAN

Success follows le
campaign
Turn to



Thelwall Morris at a previous Lymm Rushbearing

Historic parade set to return to village

Traditional Rushbearing celebration is planned to take place in Lymm in early August

ONE of the most historic events in the calendar in Warrington will return this summer.

Lymm Rushbearing was re-born in the early 1970s (having probably died out in the early years of the century, possibly during the First World War) and for the last several years has been held on the second Sunday in August, although it has over the years been held on other days. For many years in the twentieth century Rushbearing Monday was a local bank holiday.

Ormerod's late Victorian history of Cheshire refers to the festival taking place in many communities on or near to the feast of the parish's patron saint

– hence Lymm's tradition of having the festival during the summer holiday period and close to the feast of the Assumption of Saint Mary.

Although the carrying of fresh rushes to church (normally on a horse-drawn cart) was a central feature, and the replacement of the old rushes upon the earthen church floor a very practical necessity, this gathering of locals also involved festivities including not only the procession and Morris dancing but also sports, fairground stalls, and very full public houses.

Ormerod refers to garlands carried in the procession and later 'placed in the rector's, or principal chancel, and the others in the subordinate ones belonging to the several manor-houses of the parish, and they are frequently ornamented by the young ladies'.

That tradition continues today in part by carrying garlands in the procession. The procession includes Morris men,

people carrying Rushbearing garlands and rushes, the chairman of the parish council and councillors, the May Queen and various local groups.

This year it takes place on August 8.

Organiser Chris Limb said: "It is medieval in its origins and Lymm is one of a very small number of communities which have maintained this lovely tradition. This is what makes communities unique.

"In recent years a combination of restrictions upon the route and fees has stopped walking on the roads, but we keep the history alive. We even held a very restricted gathering in the car park of St Mary's last year. This year (subject to unforeseen restrictions) we shall meet at the Lower Dam at 4pm and then walk along The Dingle accompanied by Morris dancers and music. We shall then meet up again at St Mary's for more dancing before a short service at about 4.30pm."

Keep it clean

CAN you help keep the communities of Grappenhall and Thelwall clean?

Well a community litter picking event takes place next month.

It runs from 10am until 12.30pm on Saturday, June 26.

Meet at the council offices on Bellhouse Lane in Grappenhall.

The next event takes place on Saturday, October 2.

Floral displays

HAVE you spotted a floral wreath out while out and about this month?

To mark National Flower Arranging Day members of Stockton Heath Flower Club have been putting displays around the community.

Members placed two beautiful displays within Grappenhall Heys Walled Garden.

Centre reopens

LYMM Heritage Centre has reopened for the first time this year.

The Legh Street museum formally reopened last Thursday, May 20.

Volunteers have done some fantastic work during the closures producing an attractive destination for anyone with even the most passing interest in local history.

It is also family friendly and fun.