

THE HERITAGE CENTRE'S STORY - November 2025

Lymm Heritage Centre is a volunteer run charity set up by a group of enthusiastic individuals in 2015 with the aim of sharing the story of Lymm's unique heritage and providing a base from which visitors could explore the village. The Centre established premises in the village centre in 2016, supported by a benevolent landlord and opened to the public in June 2017 with the aid of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Since then it has welcomed over 40,000 visitors as well as thousands of children on school visits and a variety of visiting groups. As well as the core exhibition the Centre has a rolling programme of smaller temporary exhibits, all reflecting an aspect of Lymm's history.

Education is an important aspect of the Centre's work and it provides sessions either at the Centre or in schools on a wide range of topics from war to the industrial revolution and canal history.

The Centre has also developed the Lymm Archive, a growing online collection of over 6,000 catalogued images and documents that is accessible to all for research, education or simple nostalgia.

The Centre has also gathered interest from around the world through its social media presence with both a facebook page and a community group each with 3,000 members in over 20 countries.

Interaction with the wider community is key to the Centre's work. As well as offering walks and talks it responds to a wide range of requests from the production of films for community events to assistance with family history and other requests for help and support. Around a dozen local history books have been produced with sales of well over 5,000 copies in total.

The organisation relies entirely on a volunteer team of nearly 50 people, overseen by a board of six trustees. Roles include room stewarding, archiving and collections, IT, display, education, research and general management. New volunteers are always welcome.

Having received initial support from a range of sources the Centre is now largely financially self-sufficient. It relies on multiple revenue streams including visitor donations, room hire, retail, and friends plus an annual donation from Lymm Historic Transport Day with which it has a close relationship.