

Fashion show set to save lives

Crowds of Lyng residents turned out for a fundraising fashion show, which was organised to help save local residents’ lives.

A total of 92 people came along to the Lyng Fashion Show and Sale, held at The Church of the Good Shepherd with St John, in June.

Our models showed off a variety of designs from high street clothing ranges, which were then available to buy.

Lyng Community Association (LCA) organised the event to raise money towards the Lyng Defibrillator Fund.

We were thrilled that the show raised around £750, which will help us buy this potentially life-saving equipment for people on the estate and surrounding area.



Our catwalk models

Holiday closing

The LCA office will be closed on Bank Holiday Monday, 26th August.

For EMERGENCY REPAIRS ONLY on this day, please call 0300 333 6540.

Toddlers step out for charity

Children from across the estate stepped out to take part in the national ‘Big Toddle’ charity walk earlier this month.

Around eight of our under-fives joined us for the sponsored event, which had to be postponed for a week due to the recent rainy weather.

They did us proud, raising over £100 for the Barnardo’s children’s charity which works to support vulnerable youngsters.



Youngsters show off their ‘Big Toddle’ medals

Youth group boost

We are delighted that a local young people's group has teamed up with Lyng Community Association.

The popular 5-11 Club, which runs activities and games for children aged 5-11 years, has worked with us for many years.

But now the club has officially joined LCA, allowing us to pool our resources and offer a wider range of activities and events for youngsters in the area.



5-11 Club volunteers



Creating graffiti designs

Exploring graffiti art

Members of our Media Club discovered how to make graffiti art at workshops we ran in May.

They got the chance to design their own graffiti tag, based on their own particular interests, at the sessions held at West Bromwich Leisure Centre.

Having decided on their individual names and designs, the graffiti artist showed the youngsters how to use them to create canvases, caps and bags.



A Lyng youngster makes his mark

Animal magic

Lyng families enjoyed some animal magic on a day trip to Chester Zoo during the Easter holidays.

A group of 75 young people – members of our Toddlers Group, Media Club and Youth Club – and their parents joined us for the April visit.

Despite the rainy weather, everyone made the most of the day and enjoyed an exciting new experience.



Admiring the elephants

Learn something new!

LCA runs various training courses for adults, to help people widen their skills and interests.

Recent sessions have included learning how to make bath bombs, soaps and candles – run by The Travelling Craft Room – at West Bromwich Leisure Centre.

Future courses will cover paediatric first aid training for parents (teaching them how to look after their baby or child in case of a medical emergency) and e-safety training (demonstrating how to keep teenagers safe online).

For more details, pop in to the LCA office at 3 Frank Fisher Way or call us on **0121 525 5969**.

Team-building games

A 38-strong group from our Youth Club learned about team building and strategy at a 'Nerf war' experience in May.

Games included foam-firing target practice and dodgeball, all set in a darkened room with disco lights, music and inflatables.

The Youth Club, for 11-17-year-olds, is becoming increasingly popular, now attracting 40 young people each week.



Litter-busting crusade

Teams of young people and volunteers from the Lyng joined forces for a litter pick this spring.

They walked all around the estate, collecting nine bags of rubbish, over the course of a few hours in April.



Celebrating a successful litter pick

The youngsters then boarded the 'Eco Bus', where they worked with people from the Albion Foundation charity to recycle their plastic bottles by turning them into mini greenhouses.

Amy Rushton, Community Development Officer at LCA, said: "It was a really successful day, helping to tidy up the estate while learning about the importance of recycling."

Good neighbours

We all want to make the most of the summer but, whatever you have planned, please be considerate of your neighbours.

Lots of us will have our windows open or be out in the garden, so be careful that any noise – music, TV or barbecues – is not so loud as to disturb people living around you.

Remember that some of our residents are shift workers who really do need **their undisturbed sleep**.



Parking reminder

If you want to raise concerns about parking problems on the estate, please contact Sandwell Council's parking department or your local councillor.

Unfortunately, LCA has no control over these sorts of issues as the council is responsible for public roads.



Welcome Paul

You may have seen a new face out and about on the estate in recent weeks.

Paul Harris joined us as LCA's new Maintenance Operative at the end of March and has since been working hard to get to know all our homes and tenants.

Paul, from Brierley Hill, previously worked as a self-employed carpenter before joining our team.

Rent rise on the cards

You may not have realised that, for the last four years, Lyng tenants have benefited from a 1% rent cut each year.

The government made a policy decision that, from April 2016, all housing association rents should be reduced by 1% every year for four years – so your rent was reduced in April 2016, April 2017 and April 2018, with the final reduction in April 2019.

What happens next year?

The government has decided that housing associations can increase their rents from next April. The rise will be in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI), plus 1%.

So, along with other housing association tenants across the country, LCA tenants will see an increase in their rent from April 2020.

What about service charges?

Service charges cover the cost of additional services such as communal lighting, landscaping and cleaning.

These costs rose as contractors and energy suppliers increased their prices, so service charges were not reduced or restricted over the last four years.

How do Lyng rents compare?

Lyng rents are around 40% less than the equivalent private sector rents.



Fancy footwork

Lyng toddlers were put through their paces at a special dance session this summer.

Local dance teacher Michelle brought 'Disco Duck' along for some fun with our Toddler Group in June.

Around 10 children attended the session where they used props including pom-poms, streamers and bubbles to explore dance in an exciting and safe environment.

Youngsters enjoyed the event so much, we have asked Michelle to return to host a dance session at our end-of-year party.

The Toddlers Group closes for the summer holidays on Thursday, 18th July.



Beach fun

Families will be packing their buckets and spades for our summer trip to the seaside next month.

We will be visiting Brea, in Somerset, on 14th August. If you haven't yet booked your place, pop in at the LCA office or call us on **0121 525 5969**.



A playful treat

Members of our Toddler Group were in for a treat when we hired the soft play area at West Bromwich Leisure Centre.



Around 12 children and their parents enjoyed the event, which we held in May.

Thanks to our varied programme of activities we are pleased to see our Toddler Group – which is open to all local families, not just LCA tenants – growing, with more and more children coming along to our sessions on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Movies on your doorstep

Why don't you join us for our next Community Cinema event?

An audience of 40 Lyng residents enjoyed our screening of The Greatest Showman in April, at The Church of the Good Shepherd with St John.

Look out for details of our next film showing, which will take place this autumn.



Keep up-to-date

Why not to keep up-to-date with what's happening on the Lyng by checking us out online?

- **Website** – <http://www.lyng.org.uk/> – for an overview of what's going on.
- **Facebook page** – <https://www.facebook.com/lyngcommunityassociation/> – to see photos of our events.
- **Twitter page** – @LyngLCA – for the latest news and updates.