



WINTER 2024

Lyng Community Association is on Facebook - so look us up and "like" us!



Sparkling family day out



Lyng families enjoyed a day of thrills, spills and fireworks at Drayton Manor theme park this autumn.

Lyng Community Association (LCA) took a coach-full of estate residents to the 'fireworks spectacular' event in November.

LCA Community Events Co-ordinator Amy Rushton said: "The day included access to all the rides for thrill-seekers and Thomas Land for mini thrill-seekers, plus a tour round the zoo and dinosaur trail, ending with a 10-minute firework display.

"It was an incredible experience. We had so many people feed back that this was their favourite trip that we've run."

Festive fun



LCA residents, family and friends are invited to join us for our forthcoming Christmas events.

- **Saturday 7th December** – adult-only trip to Bath Christmas Market.
- **Saturday 14th December** – Lyng's 'Jingle Jubilee', merging our Christmas Craft Morning with the Christmas Party so everyone can take part in festive crafts before visiting Santa.
- **Sunday 22nd December** – family trip to Conkers Winter Wonderland.

To book a place for any of these events, call us on 0121 525 5969.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT SHINES

Hundreds of Lyng residents and their friends came together for our summer fun day at Oak House Museum in July.

People of all ages tried their luck at games such as the 'prize-every-time' tombola and 'name the teddy' competition.

Members of the local community donated gifts for the raffle and bought tickets, raising around £500 for our children's clubs.



LCA Community Events Co-ordinator Amy Rushton said: "This was an amazing event, bringing so many of the community together. We are so grateful for everyone's generosity and support."

Christmas opening

Here are the LCA office opening times over Christmas and New Year.

Tuesday 24th December – 10am-1pm

Wednesday 25th December – CLOSED

Thursday 26th December – CLOSED

Friday 27th December – 10am-4pm

Monday 30th December – 10am-4pm

Tuesday 31st December – 10am-4pm

Wednesday 1st January 2025 – CLOSED

We are open as usual from Thursday 2nd January 2025.

The out-of-hours number is **0300 333 6540**. This is for **EMERGENCIES ONLY**, so engineers will only attend to make safe and/or contain. All reported repairs will be recorded, then attended to in January 2025.

Working together

Lyng residents discussed with us how to improve our estate at LCA's latest Tenants Meeting in November. They raised various issues:

- Sandwell Council's choice of which roads and footpaths to grit during cold weather – a tenant volunteered to contact the council about its policy.
- Parking problems – LCA does NOT have responsibility for parking on the estate roads as these are public roads under the control of Sandwell Council, BUT we are trying to arrange a meeting with the council to allow residents to raise issues with the council directly.
- Lack of lighting and CCTV on Lyng Park Play Area – this has been raised with the landowner, Sandwell Council, and it is hoped there might be an update on the matter at our planned meeting with councillors.

The next Tenants Meeting will be on a Saturday in April or May 2025. We will deliver invites a week or so before.

Right to buy

LCA is a charity so, unlike some affordable housing providers, there is no 'Right to Buy' or 'Right to Acquire' for tenants in our homes.

Estate improvements

In our last tenant satisfaction survey, it was suggested we ask residents what improvements they would like to see in communal areas across the estate.

We are happy to hear from you! Call us on **0121 525 5969**, so we can meet you on site to discuss your ideas.

Air conditioning



We have never installed air conditioning in our homes and there is no requirement for this under building regulations or design standards.

If we start seeing consistently higher temperatures over time due to climate change, building regulations and residents' expectations may change in future. But, for now, there are no plans for such changes.

CARING FOR YOUR KITCHEN

This year we began replacing kitchens in our oldest homes. Here we've put together some advice to help keep your new kitchen in tip-top shape.

CABINETS

- Clean regularly with warm water and mild household detergent.
- Wipe pre-fitted accessories down with a damp, non-abrasive cloth.
- After cleaning, ensure cabinets are dry.
- DON'T use wax furniture polish or abrasive cloths or cleaners.

STAINLESS STEEL SINKS

- Use mild cleaning agents, clean along the grain, and use stain remover for tough stains.
- Always rinse the sink after cleaning or preparing food, and dry after use.
- Take care when using washing-up bowls and don't leave debris under them, as grit or glass can embed in the base and scratch the sink.
- DON'T use silver dip cleaners, bleach or abrasive cloths or cleaning products.

TAPS

- Clean regularly with hot, soapy water and a soft or microfibre cloth. Use soaked cotton wool, a nylon scratch pad or toothbrush on difficult areas. Clean brushed finish taps along the grain.
- Dry taps after every use to prevent limescale build-up.
- Use a 50% mix of water and white wine vinegar to remove limescale and rinse thoroughly afterwards.
- DON'T use abrasive cloths or cleaners, or harsh chemicals such as oven, drain, scouring or acidic cleaners, rust removers or solvents.



LAMINATE WORKTOPS

- Clean with a damp, non-abrasive cloth and mild detergent or a non-abrasive cleaner diluted with warm water.
- Put hot objects on heat-resistant mats, trivets or hot rods to protect the surface, and use chopping boards to prepare food.
- Immediately wipe spilt liquids away from joints, cut-outs and the front edge.
- DON'T use abrasive scouring powders, creams or polishes.

VINYL FLOORING

- Use a vacuum cleaner, broom or dust-attracting mop for daily cleaning.
- Remove light stains with a dust-attracting mop and clean water, and tough stains with warm water and a mild detergent.
- Use felt pads on furniture feet to protect the floor.
- DON'T use abrasive cleaning products or rubber-backed doormats or rugs.

Wild West adventures

Children saddled up for some cowboy adventures during our Wild West-themed summer play scheme.

A group of 21 children, aged 5-11, joined us for a fun-filled week of crafts which included creating 'wanted' posters, sheriff badges, waggons and model horses to race on.

They also had a trip to Sundown Adventureland theme park, in Nottinghamshire, where they took part in a host of crazy activities including practising shooting cans and checking out the ostrich ride.

We finished the week at Oak House Museum, where youngsters got temporary tattoos, solved puzzles to find hidden treasure and completed scavenger hunts.



Exploring the great outdoors

Lyng Youth Club members had a fabulous time trying out exciting new activities on a residential trip in August.

We took 20 young people for a three-day stay at the Frank Chapman Outdoor Education Centre, in Bewdley.

Their packed timetable included crate-stacking, high ropes, geocaching, rock climbing, abseiling, team-building – and making new friends.

LCA Community Events Co-ordinator Amy Rushton said: "It was a privilege to see the young people having fun and acting their age, without the pressures of everyday life. It was also lovely to see them expanding their comfort zones and trying new things."



Sunny seaside frolics

Two coachloads of Lyng residents and their friends had a sunny day out at the seaside in August.

LCA arranged our first summer trip to Porthcawl, where everyone enjoyed exploring the town and beach as well as the market, fair, arcades and plenty of pubs and restaurants.



Join in the fun!

Our team always welcomes your ideas about what kind of community events, trips and activities you would like us to organise for Lyng residents of all ages. So please call us on [0121 525 5969](tel:01215255969) with your suggestions.

We are also looking to recruit new members to our children's clubs:

- Toddler Group meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays (term-time), 9.15am-11am, £2.50 per session.
- 5-11 Club meets Mondays (term-time), 4.30pm-6pm, £1 per session.
- Youth Club (10-17 years) meets Tuesdays, 4pm-7pm, no charge.

Preventing damp and mould

Condensation can lead to mould forming in your home which, left untreated, can be bad for your health. Here are some tips to prevent it becoming an issue.

- 1) Wipe down windows and sills when condensation appears on them.
- 2) Fit condensation channels or sponge strips (available cheaply at DIY shops) to windows to collect moisture.
- 3) Wash down mould-affected walls, ceilings and paintwork with a fungicidal wash (following the manufacturer's instructions). You may need to strip badly affected wallpaper. Re-decorate with a fungicidal paint.
- 4) Dry clean mould-affected clothing, and shampoo affected carpets and soft furnishings with a suitable cleaning product.
- 5) Cover pans when cooking and do not leave kettles boiling.
- 6) Do not use paraffin or bottled gas heaters, as they produce a lot of moisture (as well as posing a fire risk).
- 7) Dry washing outside, if possible. If not, dry it in a heated, well-ventilated room with the door closed. Use an extractor fan, if fitted. If you have a tumble dryer, make sure it is vented to the outside.
- 8) Keep a small window ajar or trickle vent open in occupied rooms.
- 9) Open windows wider and use extractor fans, if fitted, in kitchens and bathrooms when you cook, wash up, bathe or dry clothes.
- 10) Close kitchen and bathroom doors when in use, to prevent moisture circulating to other rooms.
- 11) Do not over-fill wardrobes, and leave sufficient space to allow air circulation between large furniture and walls. Avoid putting them against external walls.
- 12) Make sure your loft and cavity walls are insulated.
- 13) Fit draught proofing to doors and windows, except in rooms affected by condensation.
- 14) Do not cover airbricks or other permanent ventilation.
- 15) Keep low background heat on all day, even if you are out, to allow the building to warm up. You can contact Sandwell Council about benefits to help you pay your fuel bills.



For more advice, go to

https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/downloads/file/31190/condensation_booklet

- **Worried about condensation, damp or mould? Contact us as soon as possible on 0121 525 5969 so we can help.**

CHRISTMAS BIN COLLECTIONS

YOUR NORMAL BIN DAY:

Wednesday 25th December
Thursday 26th December
Wednesday 1st January
Thursday 2nd January
Friday 3rd January

COLLECTION WILL BE ON:

Friday 27th December
Saturday 28th December
Thursday 2nd January
Friday 3rd January
Saturday 4th January

Remember, if you want your garden waste collected in 2025, sign up again at www.sandwell.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Beware online scams

With many of us looking for an online bargain ahead of Christmas, be careful to protect yourself from potential scams.

DO:

- Research sites and sellers before you buy. Reading reviews can help you tell if they're genuine.
- Open websites by typing them into your browser, not by clicking links.
- Consider whether deals you see on social media are too good to be true.
- See high-value items in person before buying them from sellers on social media.

DON'T:

- Buy something an influencer is talking about without doing any research.
- Feel pressured to buy something just because it says it's selling fast or the deal ends soon.
- Agree to use gift cards to pay private sellers.
- Assume everyone in a social media group is genuine – scammers join these to gain your trust.

Check out www.takefive-stopfraud.org.uk for more tips on protecting yourself online.



Benefits advice

If you are on income-related Employment and Support Allowance, these claims are currently being switched to Universal Credit. If you are aged 66 or over, you may be entitled to Pension Credit and a Winter Fuel Payment.

For advice on these or other benefits matters, contact Sandwell Welfare Rights Team on **0121 569 3158** or go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/welfarerights

Help with money worries

Sandwell and Walsall Citizens Advice Bureau runs courses to help people manage their money. Held locally in a friendly, welcoming environment, they cover savvy shopping, budgeting, saving, banking, energy-saving tips and benefit entitlements.

Email multiply@citizensadvice-sandwell-walsall.org to find out more.

Good neighbours

Please be considerate of your neighbours over the Christmas season. Warn them if you're planning a party, don't turn the music up too loud – and maybe even invite them along to enjoy the festivities.

If you are suffering from nuisance neighbours or any type of anti-social behaviour, please call us for advice on **0121 525 5969**. If you see any criminal behaviour, call the police and then let us know so we can ensure the matter is followed up.