

SUMMER 2025

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



All aboard for animal magic!

Families from the Lyng got up close to a wealth of wildlife during our spring zoo trip.

Young and old alike had a wonderful time meeting the variety of animals at Chester Zoo in April, organised by Lyng Community Association (LCA).

Lions, elephants, rhinos, monkeys, giraffes, meerkats, snakes and lizards all made an appearance during the day, to the delight of our residents.

LCA Community Events Co-ordinator Amy Rushton said: “Our trip was so lovely! We had around 85 tenants and friends attend.

“Our zoo trips in spring become more popular every year. We’d love to hear where tenants would like us to try next – so please get in touch.”

- **If you have a suggestion for our next zoo trip, call the LCA office on 0121 525 5969.**



Fundraising events on a roll

Our adults-only social events are going from strength to strength, offering fun-filled activities while raising funds for Lyng’s young people’s clubs.

We recently held a successful Race Night at Vantage Point retirement scheme, attended by over 30 people and raising around £200. This followed a quiz night in May at the Church of the Good Shepherd with St John.

- **We’d love to hear what other adults-only events you’d like us to organise. Call 0121 525 5969 with your ideas.**

Bank Holiday office closing

The LCA office, at 3 Frank Fisher Way, will be closed on:

- **Monday 25th August – Summer Bank Holiday**

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 booked in once the office re-opens.



Modernising Lyng homes

We plan to fit new kitchens and boilers in some of our homes next year, as part of LCA's ongoing replacement programme.

In 2026 we will be replacing any remaining original boilers (installed in 2011) at homes in Frank Fisher Way, plus a few properties in Dingley Bells and the top end of Lyng Lane. We will contact affected residents about the work later this year.

2026 will also see us replace 20-year-old kitchens in the older part of the Lyng estate – Charity Bick Way (odd numbers 1 to 41), Southwell Walk (even numbers 2 to 10), Lyng Lane (odd numbers 201 to 219) and Turks Head Way (22, 24 and 28).

Did you know?

When your kitchen is replaced, you are given a choice of cupboard door finishes, worktop colours, tiles and flooring. We consult residents on their preferences a few weeks before work starts.

Street sign stories – Charity Bick

Ever wondered how the Lyng estate's roads got their names? Many are linked to local people or buildings on the original estate.

Over the next few issues of Lyngline, we will be explaining the background to some of these street names. This time we focus on Charity Bick Way.

Charity Anne Bick was a despatch rider with the ARP (Air Raid Precautions) service during the Second World War. She was the youngest-ever recipient of the George Medal, the second-highest award for civilian bravery.

Born in 1924, she lived at Maud Road in West Bromwich and attended Lyng Primary School.

When she was 14, she lied about her age to join the ARP, volunteering to deliver messages between depots by bicycle.

During a 1940 air raid in West Bromwich, she helped her ARP warden father put out an incendiary bomb lodged in a shop roof. Despite being injured when the roof collapsed, she made repeated trips during the raid to deliver messages to the control room over a mile away.

Charity was awarded the George Medal for her bravery in 1941, when she was 16. She went on to join the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, which became the Women's Royal Air Force, retiring in 1962. She later lived in Inverness, Scotland, where she died aged 77 in 2002.



The blue plaque at Lyng School

Tenants have their say

Residents from Lyng Lane and Turks Head Way attended our latest Tenants Meeting in May.

They raised the following issues with our General Manager and Chair.

- Parking issues and permits. We are still awaiting a date from our three local councillors so we can organise a meeting to discuss these matters.**
- Noise nuisance from a car repair garage in Lyng Lane. We are providing details of how to complain to Sandwell Council, which has powers to restrict business operations.**
- Residents asked when new kitchens were being installed on Phase 2 of the estate. This will be in 2026, 20 years after the homes were completed. Windows are due to be replaced in 2036, 30 years after.**

The next Lyng Tenants Meeting will be held on a Thursday in November. We will deliver invites to all our residents a week or so before.

Give your views

Residents' views are important to us – and we want to hear what you think about our services, so we can work to improve.

As such, LCA will be running another Tenant Satisfaction Survey in July. It will be carried out by independent specialists Acuity and your replies will be confidential.

The Regulator of Social Housing sets the questions, so results can be compared against other landlords' performance.

Acuity will contact you with full details about the survey, which can be completed online or by post.

We will then report back to you on the findings and outline our resulting plans to improve services.

Parking reminder

If your home has a space in one of LCA's designated car parking areas, please remember not to park on access roads or obstruct gateways, driveways or emergency exits.

DO NOT:

- Park in someone else's space if the car park has designated individual spaces (the address it belongs to is painted on the car park surface)
- Speed in the car park – remember pets and children may be about
- Disturb others by playing loud music in your car.

Cracking time at Easter

We are thrilled that our first-ever estate-wide Easter Egg Hunt was a smashing success.

Around 50 children joined us for this fun event, which took place over the school holidays in April.

Participants searched for numbered egg-shaped cards hidden around the estate, which they then exchanged for chocolate eggs.

LCA Community Events Co-ordinator Amy Rushton said: "We were over the moon that so many families came along to this event.

"Everyone had a lot of fun. So many people came to tell us how much they enjoyed it and said that they couldn't wait to do it again next year!"



Join in the fun

Lyng Toddlers Group is a friendly, supportive, safe, fun-filled place to bring your little ones.

It offers a wide range of different activities, crafts, games, trips and a chance to get to know other local families.

The group meets every Tuesday and Thursday (in term-time), from 9.15am to 11am, at the Church of the Good Shepherd with St John community hall.

It only costs £2.50 per session per family, with hot drinks for parents and snacks for the children. The first session is free, so why not come along and give it a try?

Parents say:

"I feel safe to attend, even when I'm struggling, because I never feel judged."

"I wouldn't trust anyone else with my babies!"



Make a difference

Why not help us keep the Lyng a great place to live by joining the LCA Board?

Here Norman, who has been a Tenant Board Member for over 10 years, explains the benefits.

"Being on the Board gives you a clearer understanding of how the Lyng operates and is maintained, and how LCA spends our rents and why."

"By giving your views, you influence important decisions affecting you and other tenants. You can have a positive, proactive impact, helping to shape the future of the Lyng and our community."

"You also gain a wealth of knowledge and skills, so it's great to have on your CV. And it's not hard work – meetings are held locally every other month, along with an annual 'away day'. It's really interesting and I'd definitely recommend giving it a go!"

• Please call us on 0121 525 5969 to find out more.

Good neighbours

Being a good neighbour means being reasonable and tolerant of different people's views and lifestyles, and considering how your (and your guests') behaviour affects those around you.

- Keep noise down late at night and early in the morning, and warn neighbours of planned parties, barbecues or noisy activities.
- Keep radios, stereos and televisions at a reasonable volume and speakers away from neighbours' walls (and off the floor if you are in an upper flat).
- Clean up mess left by your pets, keep dogs on a lead in public areas and ensure they don't cause excessive noise or nuisance.
- Don't leave any pet alone for more than 24 hours (or four hours for dogs).
- Don't block shared halls or stairs with rubbish, bikes or mobility scooters – and don't charge bikes or scooters in communal areas.
- In communal areas, only smoke where permitted, dispose of cigarettes safely and put any rubbish in the bins provided.
- If you live in a flat, you must not light a barbecue on your balcony due to fire risk.

If you are having problems with a neighbour, have a friendly word as soon as possible to calmly discuss your concerns – and be prepared to compromise, if necessary.

If you can't resolve the matter, contact us on 0121 525 5969 so we can do our best to help sort things out.

What's on

Here are some of the events we have planned for the coming months.

- **Saturday 12th July** – Table Top Sale (at the Church of the Good Shepherd with St John, in aid of Lyng's young people's clubs)
- **Monday 4th - Friday 8th August** – Spies and Ninjas-themed Summer Play Scheme
- **Saturday 16th August** – Summer trip to Conwy and Llandudno
- **Monday 18th - Friday 22nd August** – Superhero-themed Summer Play Scheme
- **Monday 1st September - Friday 3rd October** – Harvest Festival donations (at the LCA office or church hall)
- **Tuesday 23rd September** – Macmillan Coffee Morning (from 12 noon at the church hall)
- **Saturday 25th October** – Halloween trip to Black Country Living Museum (to be confirmed)
- **Saturday 6th December** – Trip to Bath Christmas Market
- **Saturday 13th December** – Jingle Jubilee
- **Saturday 20th December** – Santa Safari at West Midlands Safari Park

Contact the LCA office or keep an eye on our Facebook page for further dates and details on how to book.

Both summer play schemes are open to 5-11-year-olds, cost £30 per child per week and include different crafts and at least one trip. The first week is sold out but some spaces are left for the second week, so book now!

Crisis support

If you are in financial crisis, West Bromwich Food Bank can provide food parcels to tide you over.

You need to get a voucher before visiting the food bank, which is in Victoria Street and open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12 noon to 2pm. Contact them on **0121 580 0068** or check out <https://westbromwichfoodbank.com/> to find out more.



Sandwell Council's Local Welfare Provision Scheme can also give emergency financial help, food vouchers, furniture and white goods to people in crisis. Go to <https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/benefits-support/local-welfare-provision-food-vouchers>

Activities for all

West Bromwich Leisure Centre hosts a range of activities for all ages. Below are just a few things going on over the summer.

Current offers include:

- **Free swimming sessions** – in school holidays for Sandwell residents aged 5-17 (proof of age and council tax needed to register).
- **Soft play area** – unlimited stay for £3.50.
- **Exercise Referral Programme** – 12-week programme for people with long-term health conditions, providing activities and support to improve wellbeing. (£23 per month. Contact your GP for a referral).
- **Move Through Menopause** – 12-week course supporting women with a mix of physical activity, education and discussions on symptom management, hormones, mental health and nutrition (£30 for members, £70 for non-members).
- **Cancer Pre/Rehab** – a physical activity recovery journey for people affected by cancer. (£6 per session. Contact your GP for a referral).



For more details, check out <https://www.placesleisure.org/centres/west-bromwich-leisure-centre/>

Help with water bills

If you are having money problems and finding it difficult to pay your water bill, South Staffordshire Water Charitable Trust may be able to help.

To find out if you are eligible for support, go to the charity's website at <https://www.sswct.org/index.aspx>

Bulky waste collection

Sandwell Council provides a bulky waste collection service for residents wanting to get rid of large household items such as furniture, fridges, freezers and other things that won't fit in your bin.

Depending on type and number of items, prices range from £15.10 to £50. But every household with someone aged over 60 is entitled to one free collection of up to four items or one fridge/freezer in any 12 months.

You can book a collection online via My Sandwell or call 0121 368 1177. For more information, take a look at <https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/bins-recycling/bulky-waste-collections>



community association

Contact us

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West Midlands B70 7AW

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