

WINTER 2026

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

Summer adventures for Lyng youngsters

Dozens of Lyng youngsters enjoyed a feast of fun activities at our Summer Play Schemes for 5-11-year-olds in August.

A group of 28 children joined us for the first animal-themed week, making wind chimes, puppets and dream catchers – plus investigating animal footprints around the church hall.

The week culminated in a trip to All Things Wild in Worcestershire, including a zoo, farm, dinosaur safari, barefoot trail and go-karts.

Our second week, themed 'Through the Ages', entertained 24 children who got the chance to make cave drawings, shields, swords, pyramids and robots – as well as excavating fossils and reassembling dinosaur models.

They then visited Sundown Adventureland in Nottinghamshire, complete with a Wild West Village, pirate ships, go-karts, rides and lots of play areas.











Christmas opening

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

Thursday 24th December – 10am-4pm (phone service only 1pm-4pm)
Friday 25th December – CLOSED
Saturday 26th December – CLOSED
Sunday 27th December – CLOSED
Monday 28th December – CLOSED
Tuesday 29th December – 10am-4pm (phone service only 1pm-4pm)
Wednesday 30th December – 10am-4pm (phone service only 1pm-4pm)
Thursday 31st December – 10am-4pm (phone service only 1pm-4pm)
Friday 1st January 2027 – CLOSED

We return to our normal working hours from:
Monday 4th January 2027 – 10am-4pm (phone service only 1pm-4pm)

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 2027.

How to charge devices safely

Many of us don't think twice about leaving a mobile phone charging on our bedside table overnight, or keeping our laptop plugged in while watching a programme in bed – but they may pose a real fire risk.

Rechargeable lithium batteries power a multitude of everyday appliances, from phones, laptops, tablets and cameras to mobility scooters and e-cigarettes.

These batteries are safe when used properly but are a fire risk when over-charged, short-circuited, damaged or submerged in water.

Here are some top tips from firefighters to keep you safe.

- Always use the specific charger that came with your phone, tablet or other device.
- If you need a replacement, always choose a branded, genuine product from a trusted supplier.
- Make sure you follow manufacturers' instructions for all electrical devices, including which charger to use and how long to charge a product.
- Do not use a charger if you have to force it into the wall socket, don't use an extension lead and don't overload sockets.
- Avoid storing, using or charging batteries at very high or low temperatures.
- Protect batteries from damage such as being crushed, punctured or immersed in water.



- Don't leave items continuously on charge after the charging cycle is complete – for example, don't leave your phone plugged in overnight.
- Don't leave items charging on soft furnishings or covered – for example, a cable covered by a duvet.
- If a battery starts swelling or expanding, stop charging immediately, turn off the device, do not remove the casing or tamper with the equipment, and contact the manufacturer or certified technician.

Counterfeit electrical chargers can be deadly, with many failing to meet UK safety regulations. What may seem like a bargain online or at a market stall isn't worth the risk – it could cost a family member's life.

HAVE YOUR SAY



We are currently developing a new code of conduct which will set behavioural, cultural and accountability standards for our staff and Board members.

These include:

1) **Acting in the best interests** of residents and the housing association.
2) **Behaving with integrity** in all duties and decisions.
3) **Treating others fairly,** with respect, transparency and empathy.
4) **Taking responsibility** for the impact of your actions.
5) **Acting with diligence and care.**

We want to hear your views, which will help us draw up a code that our tenants are happy with.

- **Please contact us on 0121 525 5969 if you'd like to be involved, as we plan to hold a meeting for interested tenants so you can share your thoughts.**

Help shape the Lyng's future

If you'd like more say in what happens on the Lyng, why not consider joining the LCA Board as a tenant member?

As well as their usual meetings, Board members have an annual 'away day' when they gather at a hotel to discuss LCA's strategic direction, what we offer tenants and our future plans.

Call 0121 525 5969 to find out more.

Protect your belongings

As a landlord, Lyng Community Association provides building insurance but we do not insure your personal belongings or furniture against household risks.

We encourage all tenants to take out home contents insurance to cover such items in your home, so they can be replaced in the event of fire, flood, theft or other eventuality.

The National Housing Federation works with Thistle Tenant Risks to offer My Home Contents Insurance, which provides suitable policies and flexible payment schemes for social housing tenants.

But we suggest shopping around to find the best insurance provider to meet your needs.

Keeping you informed

STAIRs – the Social Tenants Access to Information Requirement scheme – is a new standard introduced by the government. It aims to encourage landlords to be more open and transparent, while involving and empowering tenants.

The first phase, which started on 1st October, involves publishing information about how we manage our social housing functions.

Much of this information was already available on our website but, to make it easier to find, we have organised all the information on our new **STAIRs webpage**

The second phase, starting from 1st April 2027, will allow information requests from tenants. More details, on who can make requests and how, will be available nearer the time.

- **For more information, you can call us on 0121 525 5969, email info@lyng.com or pop into the LCA office.**



Thumbs-up for new kitchen

One of our longstanding Lyng residents has spoken of his delight at the new kitchen we recently fitted in his home.

Mick Hill, of Charity Bick Way, lived on the Lyng in the 1970s, then returned to the redeveloped estate 22 years ago before moving into his current home in 2015.

He is a familiar face in the area as a community volunteer, planting up and taking care of the communal garden at the front of his block of flats throughout the year.

Mick said: ***"I am over the moon with my new kitchen – it's beautiful. It looks light, airy and modern, and has really brightened up the flat.***

"The workmen were brilliant. They turned up on time, cleaned up after themselves and there were no issues at all, I can't fault them.

"I was also able to choose the colours and finishes for everything, which was great. I am so pleased with it."



Our home upgrades

As a Registered Social Landlord, LCA is required to replace various equipment and components in our homes after a certain time.

Over the summer, we replaced boilers in properties built in 2011 (as they have to be replaced every 15 years) and kitchens in those built in 2006 (kitchens are replaced every 20 years).

We will replace boilers installed in 2012 next year, followed by further replacements in 2031 at homes in Leopard Lane (built in 2016).

Kitchen replacements will take place in 2031 and 2032 in Barratt-built properties on Frank Fisher Way, parts of Lyng Lane, Lyttleton Street, Newhall Street, Sams Lane, St Johns Mews, Dingley Bells, Downing Crescent, plus odd-numbered homes in Old Flour Mills and Southwell Walk, along with three properties in Charity Bick Way.

Finally, in 2036, we will replace kitchens in homes completed in 2016.

Up, up and away!

A group of 30 Lyng tenants and their friends enjoyed a spectacular skyborne display at St Anne's International Kite Festival in September.

The annual event, in the Lancashire seaside town of Lytham St Annes, attracts hundreds of kite fliers each year.

LCA Community Events Co-ordinator Amy Rushton said: *"Lots of people said they enjoyed us organising something a little different and would be interested in attending again next year."*











Join the festivities

We'd love you to join us for our Christmas celebrations over the coming weeks.

- **Christmas Fair –** Saturday 14th November, 10am-2pm, at the Church of the Good Shepherd with St John (no booking required)
- **Trip to York Christmas Market and Designer Outlet (adults only)** – Saturday 5th December, leave 8am, return 9.30pm (£20 for tenants, £25 for non-tenants)
- **Jingle Jubilee** – Saturday 12th December (crafts, dancing and a visit to Santa's grotto at the Church of the Good Shepherd with St John)
- **Family Christmas trip to Conkers Winter Wonderland** – Saturday 19th December, leave 9am, return 6pm (£25 for tenants, £30 for non-tenants)

To book a place on the trips or Jingle Jubilee, contact the LCA office on **0121 525 5969**.



Seaside sun

Almost 100 tenants and friends came along for our summer trip to Barmouth in August, which was unusually sunny.



LCA Community Events Co-ordinator Amy Rushton said: *"Some tenants who came along for the first time said they couldn't believe they'd waited so long to join us – and they can't wait for our next seaside trip."*

Our trip to Liverpool in June also proved popular, with 30 people enjoying the day out.

Amy added: *"It was an amazing day out, the weather was lovely and a lot of people asked when we could return, as there was so much they hadn't managed to fit in!"*

Mind your drains

While cleaning up after your Christmas or Boxing Day dinners, please remember – DON'T pour fat or oil down the sink.

If you do, the hot fat will turn solid when it hits cold pipes and end up blocking your drains (as shown in this photo, taken on a call-out to one of our homes).

Instead:

- Let the oil or grease cool or solidify.
- Scrape it into an old tub or other container.
- Seal the container and throw it in your household rubbish bin.
- Use paper towel to wipe off leftover grease from pots, pans and plates before washing them.

If we need to come out to unblock your drains due to oil being poured down them, we will charge you £132 to cover the cost of the work.



Raising a cup to charity

Our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning event in September was a little quieter than usual, but we still managed to raise £270 for such a good cause.

Remember your rent!

It's easy to get carried away with the Christmas festivities and end up facing debt in the New Year, so try to budget sensibly and get money management advice if you need it.

Remember: your rent keeps a roof over your head – it is classed as a 'priority debt' which needs to be paid first.

Season of goodwill

Please be considerate of your neighbours over the festive season. If you're planning a party, warn them, don't have the music too loud and maybe invite them over to join the celebrations.

If you are struggling with nuisance neighbours or any anti-social behaviour, please call us on **0121 525 5969**.

lyng community association

Contact us

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