

# LymeLiving

THE LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL MAGAZINE

Trail of treasures

On the road again

Letters to heaven

Lyme love stories

Honouring Lyme's fallen

Lyme Regis Fossil Festival



Photograph: Charlotte Leslie



- UPDATES ON COUNCIL PROJECTS
- BUSINESS OF THE MONTH
- WHAT'S ON IN LYME REGIS

**JUNE 2025**  
**EDITION 002**

[www.lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk)

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From August, if you would like to receive a hard copy delivered to your home, [please notify us by email](#).



## LymeLiving

THE LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL MAGAZINE

is published 10 times a year by

**Lyme Regis Town Council**

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

HERE we are with our second edition of LymeLiving – I hope if you're reading this, it means you enjoyed our first edition and would like to read more!

Many local organisations have been sending in contributions and this is exactly what we need to make this a real community magazine, so keep them coming!

And we want your ideas too. Is there a particular feature you'd like to see, are there parts of the town you'd like to know more about, is there a really great story we need to share? Get in touch and let us know.

The big news in this edition is the launch of the new town bus service, Lyme Link. When the service was scrapped last year, we made a promise to the town that we would do all we could to save it. Yes, it's taken longer than we hoped but perhaps we underestimated the amount of work that would be involved in launching and running a bus service. But we got there in the end and it's been worth all the hard work to fulfil our promise to you.

This month's front cover image of a young seagull has been provided by Woodroffe School student Charlotte Leslie. Love them or loathe them, seagulls are a part of life in Lyme Regis so the image seemed to perfectly represent our town. Charlotte took this photograph in the evening as the sun was setting and the gulls were scavenging for their evening meal around the Cobb.

Charlotte told me the prominent characters of these birds fascinate her and with this photo she aimed to draw attention to just how curious and charismatic these creatures can be!

Not forgetting our stunning back cover image of the Garden Pavilion, which was captured by Leila Tattershall, also a Woodroffe student.

*Adrienne Mullins*

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I AM delighted with the reader response to our first issue of LymeLiving.

Here's a selection of some of the comments I have received from readers:

**"At last, a magazine all about Lyme."**

**"Just what we wanted – now we know what's happening in our town."**

**"A very professional looking mag with interesting stories about our town."**

With very little press coverage these days, the council decided the only way to get our message across to the people of Lyme was to publish our own publication.

Many local councils up and down the country publish their own magazines but most are contracted out to publishing companies. We've not followed that route and have decided to produce LymeLiving in-house as we are fortunate that editor Adrienne Mullins is a former much-respected journalist and we also have a talented designer in Cara Austin.

Whilst I was involved in the planning stage, after spending a lifetime in publishing, I can claim no credit for the success of our first edition and I am really proud of how Adrienne and Cara have got the project off the ground.

There's a real "can-do" spirit among the council staff and this is just one of the initiatives we are introducing to take the council to the public. May that always be the case – and keep those comments coming!

*Cllr Philip Evans MBE*



**T**WO new works of art designed by local young artists will soon take pride of place in Lyme's seafront gardens.

The town council is working with the Woodroffe School on a range of projects to showcase local talent, to support young people and to build partnerships.

The Sculpture Trail in Langmoor and Lister Gardens features sculptures from professional artists but will now be further enhanced with pieces designed by A Level students from the school.

The Octopus, designed by Rosie Vincent, will be produced in Portland stone, and the Dinosaur, designed by Felix Ford, will be produced in zinc coated galvanised steel.

The students have developed their designs with local sculptor, Ben Russell, also a previous pupil at Woodroffe School, and blacksmith and iron worker Simon Connett.

**"FROM THE START WE SET OUT TO WORK WITH ARTISTS SO THAT THE STUDENTS WOULD GET A SENSE OF THE REAL WORKING PRACTICES INVOLVED IN BEING A PROFESSIONAL ARTIST."**

All the art students in years 12 and 13 had the opportunity to put forward a proposal and have been involved in the design process, including an opportunity to present their concepts to the council and visits to the artists' studios.

Richard Vine, head of art and computing at Woodroffe School, said the brief set by the council was 'helpfully open', offering students the freedom to explore their creativity.

Mr Vine said: "From the start we set out to work with artists so that the students would get a sense of the real working practices involved in being a professional artist.

"All the students came up with great ideas that were reviewed and refined as maquettes ready for selection by the town council and presented their concepts at the

Guildhall as a professional artist would.

"In the meantime, we contacted some local artists with previous connections to the school and invited them to participate in making these maquettes into more robust, large-scale sculptures that would stand the test of time.

"Zinc coated galvanised steel and Portland stone, became the material options, as Simon Connett and Ben Russell visited the school to talk to students and look at their ideas and share details about the way that the materials work.

"These visits enabled students to respond accordingly in the design phase and consider their idea in terms of scale and material.

"After Felix Ford and Rosie Vincent's maquettes were selected our artists got to work, but the project didn't stop there. Visits to the studios as work progressed helped the students to see the day-to-day practice and environment of the artists and get the most intimate sense of what being a professional artist would be like.

"This is a rare opportunity, completely funded by the town council at a time when money for the arts in schools is very hard to find and the art department were thrilled that their students could experience a live brief that offered so much.

"The generosity of the artists with their time and the passion from the town council to engage with our students was truly inspiring."





Photograph by Andrew Blackmore

**T**HE new Lyme Regis town bus is on the road again, already making 'all the difference' to local residents.

Now called Lyme Link, the town council relaunched the free community bus service at the beginning of May, starting with a VIP trip for some of the bus regulars.

The 16-seater minibus is operating to much the same route as the former number 71 service, but with more stops, including Uplyme and the new housing estates at Garmans Field and Woodberry Down.

Lyme Regis Town Council stepped in to save the service after it was scrapped by Dorset Council in August last year, leaving many residents stranded without any way of getting to and from town.

The service runs on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 9am and 5pm, with a team of volunteers driving the bus and helping as passenger assistants.

Before its official launch, a group of regulars on the former town bus were given the opportunity to take the first trip around town.

They included Marion Bignall, who said the service was a 'godsend'. She said: "It's the only way to get to the town when you live up the hill but it's more about walking back if you have shopping. We have a little group on the bus and it will make all the difference to us."

Marion Peart has found it difficult to visit her husband in Shire House without the town bus. She said: "I haven't been able to do that so easily without the bus so it will make things much easier for me."

Another of the VIP passengers Lin Hartley said: "I'm absolutely delighted that it's started up again. It's very difficult when one has a lot of shopping and you have to get back home, so I find it very useful. I haven't seen one gentleman since they took the bus away last year so it's very social."

The mayor, Cllr Philip Evans, and Cllr Cheryl Reynolds, vice-chairman of the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee, waved off the residents on their maiden journey.

Cllr Evans said: "On the day I became mayor I made a commitment to the people of Lyme Regis. I promised them we would leave no stone unturned in our efforts to find a replacement for the axed town bus.

"We knew it would not be easy but none of us realised how many hoops we would have to jump through to deliver our promise. The council's administrative staff have spent hundreds of hours in setting up a community bus service with our own 16-seater mini-bus costing £38,000 to be called Lyme Link.

"I must admit I felt a little bit emotional when regular attenders at the Talking Cafe at Hallett Court climbed on board

for a trial run the day before the service was officially launched.

"There's no doubt they greatly missed the old service but were delighted they now have their very own community bus. Their smiles said it all.

"We are very grateful to the volunteers who will be driving the bus and those 'riding shotgun' to ensure the infirm can get on and off the bus with ease."

The Lyme Link timetable is available on the council website at <https://www.lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk/travel> and the bus stops, with copies also available to take away at each stop.



## CALL for VOLUNTEERS

Are you interested in volunteering within the community? Do you have some spare time to help keep this much-needed town bus service in Lyme Regis?

You will need to be able to commit to at least one day a week and be willing to undergo a DBS check. Full training will be given and the council will provide the necessary insurance. We would particularly like to hear from those with class D1 on their driving licence.



# Letters to Heaven

**A** SYMBOL of remembrance has been unveiled at Lyme Regis Cemetery, a white and gold Postbox to Heaven, to help those struggling with grief.

This tender project offers people a way to send letters, messages, and memories to their loved ones who have passed away, a small act of connection for those living with grief.

The driving force behind the project is Cllr Cheryl Reynolds, whose own experience of loss made the idea deeply personal.

Cllr Reynolds said: "My very first experience of a postbox for letters to heaven was an article about a nine-year-old girl from Nottingham called Matilda who thought up the scheme.

"She had lost her grandparents and found writing letters to them brought her comfort. I cried, and I wanted to do the same."

With encouragement from the local community, many of whom signed a petition in support, Cllr Reynolds approached the council.

After some early challenges securing a postbox, the town council backed the plan wholeheartedly, purchasing a beautifully crafted white and gold box.

Installation day was marked with a small, moving ceremony attended by mayor Cllr Phillip Evans, deputy mayor Cllr Michaela Ellis and local people who had experienced loss.

Among them were Freddy and Daisy Taylor with their mother Jacki Taylor, who recently lost their dad and husband Kev.

Freddy Taylor, 12, wanted to thank the council. He said: "It is great the council have come together to do this, and it wasn't a one-person job, it is for the community and something very special."

Jacki said: "I love the idea that children and adults can write letters to their loved ones, knowing their loved ones will receive their messages. It is very special. Daisy is 16 and Freddy is 12, with two older sisters.

"I think it's important to not only write the letter, but to post something physical. Grief is always a struggle, we lost Kev very suddenly, it is not going to be a five minute job, it will take years to process, but now we have somewhere special to post our letters to him".

Cllr Reynolds said: "Those young people amazed me; their strength and kindness made it so worthwhile."

Some residents have raised thoughtful questions about what happens to the letters.

"No one will read them," Cllr Reynolds said.

"The letters will be collected regularly by two of us and carefully composted, feeding the trees in our cemetery."



"I think it's important to not only write the letter, but to post something physical."

# A night to remember for mayor and mayoress

**T**HE annual civic gathering is usually considered to be the most enjoyable night of the year for the mayor and mayoress.

This year's event certainly lived up to that reputation when 86 representatives of local groups and charities joined First Citizens Philip and Jackie Evans at the Woodmead Halls for the town's social event of the year.

Civic Night provides the mayor with the opportunity to thank all those who work so hard for their various organisations.

He told his audience: "Tonight is not about what the council has achieved this year or what they are planning for the next. It's about those of you gathered here who work so hard to make Lyme such a wonderful place to live and work. I pay tribute to you all."

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**"Tonight is not about what the council has achieved this year or what they are planning for the next. It's about those of you gathered here."**

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Special guests included Chris James, chairman of Uplyme Parish Council for the last seven years and his wife Jennifer who are who shortly leaving the area to move to Sidmouth.

"During that time we have built a good working relationship with Uplyme Parish Council and I would like to congratulate you on all you have achieved. You will be greatly missed," said the Mayor.

Other principal guests included Freemen of the Town, Phil Street and Joshua Denning.

An excellent buffet was served by Emma Blackmore and music for dancing provided by Lyme's most popular band, We Funk.

A bouquet was presented to deputy mayor, Cllr Michaela Ellis, for the support and help she had given the mayor during his term of office.

Cllr Ellis also ran a raffle which raised £400 for the mayor's charities – Axminster and Lyme Cancer Support and Lyme Regis Foodbank – which sees them both receive £1,700.



*The mayor and mayoress, Cllr Philip and Jackie Evans*



*Freeman of the Town, Joshua Denning is welcomed by the mayor*



*Football friends for 60 years - the mayor with Football Club committee member, Dave Reed*

# Civic Night 2025



*The mayor, Cllr Philip Evans, pictured with members of Lyme Regis Football Club, an organisation he has been connected with for 60 years*



*From left, former mayors Cllr Michaela Ellis, Ken Dibben, David Huffle, Sally Holman, David Sarson, pictured with the current mayor*



*Freeman of the Town, Phil Street and his wife Dawn Street*

# LYME LOVE STORIES

WORDS BY JULIETTE WILLIAMS - CELEBRANT  
WWW.JULIETTEBYTHESEACELEBRANT.CO.UK



“Weddings are a celebration of love, commitment, and the coming together of families and friends. When it comes to choosing a picturesque backdrop for such a joyful day, or indeed weekend, Lyme Regis stands out as a charming destination wedding location. Nestled along the stunning UNESCO Jurassic Coast, this quintessential Dorset seaside town offers a unique blend of natural beauty, historical significance, and vibrant community spirit. With enchanting wedding venues like The Guildhall, the Marine Theatre, or the Alexandra Hotel, along with the expertise of local suppliers (such as myself!) Lyme Regis has become a sought-after destination for couples looking to celebrate their wedding in style and nostalgic charm.

The Guildhall in Lyme Regis is a timeless venue that exudes history and elegance. Originally built in the early 19th century, this iconic building has been the site of countless weddings and civil ceremonies. Its stunning architecture, complete with lofty ceilings and large windows that allow natural light to flood the space, create a unique, romantic, and timeless venue for weddings. The Guildhall not only offers a beautiful setting for a wedding, but is also steeped in local history. Couples can exchange vows in a space that has witnessed generations of love stories, making it a memorable, meaningful place to begin their journey together.”



# MAKE IT YOURS



We believe every wedding should be as unique as the couple at the heart of it. Nestled in a stunning setting, our venue offers more than just a beautiful backdrop, we're here to make your dream day a reality. From your first visit to the final farewell, our dedicated team goes above and beyond to support, guide, and bring your vision to life with care and flexibility. Whatever your dream looks like, we'll do everything we can to help you make it happen! Barn owls and live musicians welcome, always!

*"The Guildhall is in a lovely location and was the perfect venue for our wedding ceremony - intimate but flexible. All the staff, especially Kate, couldn't have been more helpful with our many enquiries including allowing us to have a Barn Owl come along to deliver the ring. Thank you!"*

*-Andrew and Nicola Hinds*

“ IT  
RADIATED  
TRADITION,  
NOBILITY,  
ROMANCE  
AND ”  
INTIMACY.

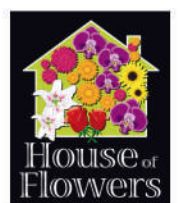


Since introducing our new hire packages and hosting a styled shoot in April 2024, we've seen a noticeable increase in bookings at The Guildhall. It was a fantastic opportunity to collaborate with local suppliers and highlight the venue's full potential. Historic buildings like ours, with their traditional artwork and rich heritage, can sometimes be overlooked, but when embraced, these features can truly enhance a couple's special day.

When we first put together our brochure, we knew we wanted to include the town's local talent (of which there is plenty!). With florists, reception venues and stylists to make-up artists, celebrants, jewellery makers/designers and photographers, we're confident that couples needn't look too far for their wedding suppliers.

Couples who choose to get married at our venue enjoy exclusive access to our curated list of trusted local suppliers, some of whom offer special incentives for Guildhall weddings. We love making the planning process easier, especially for couples coming from out of town. Instead of spending hours searching online for recommendations, everything they need is conveniently provided in one place.

If you would like more information about weddings at The Guildhall, or if you are a local wedding supplier and would like to discuss being featured in our wedding brochure, you can get in touch with us at [enquiries@lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk)



MARINE  
THEATRE



SERAGA ENGLAND

JEWELLERY BY  
LUCY CAMPBELL

THE LYME BAY  
CAFE - BAR

# CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF DISCOVERY: LYME REGIS FOSSIL FESTIVAL 2025



**T**HIS June, Lyme Regis is set to welcome thousands of visitors for a truly special milestone, the 20th anniversary of the Fossil Festival, the UK's largest palaeontological event.

*"Whether you're a budding geologist, an art lover, or just curious about the stories hidden in the cliffs, there's something here for everyone."*

Taking place over the weekend of Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 June, this year's festival promises an even bigger celebration of geology, earth sciences, and the Jurassic Coast.

The Fossil Festival has grown considerably over two decades, but it remains true to its original purpose: a family-friendly event packed with hands-on learning, expert talks, and activities that bring the past to life.

Thanks to the collaboration of museums, universities, geological groups, traders, and organisations from across the country, and the continued support and funding from Lyme Regis Town Council, the festival continues to thrive.

Across the weekend, visitors can explore everything from fossil hunting walks and live performances to Palaeoart workshops and boat trips along the Jurassic Coast.

Whether you're a budding geologist, an art lover, or just curious about the stories hidden in the cliffs, there's something here for everyone.

Throughout the festival, almost all activities are free or offer excellent value if ticketed. Events are designed to be accessible and welcoming to everyone, with plenty of opportunities to learn, create, and get hands-on with history.

The Fossil Festival is more than just a weekend of activities, it's a vibrant meeting point where ideas are shared, creativity is sparked, and visitors of all ages can connect with the rich geological heritage that has shaped Lyme Regis.





Whether you're a local resident or visiting for the first time, we invite you to come along, join in, and celebrate 20 years of fossils, fun, and discovery!

## What's happening and where:

- **The Hub** will host activities from the Natural History Museum, Dinosaur Isle Museum, The Etches Collection, and Dorset Museum & Art Gallery. You'll also find craft stalls, trade stands, and Palaeoart workshops in the café area.
- **The Flat Roof at Lister Gardens** will be packed with marquees and exhibitions, creating an exciting outdoor space full of activities.
- **Jubilee Pavilion** will feature exhibitions from the Palaeontological Association and the British Antarctic Survey and will also serve as the Festival Office during the event.
- **Marine Parade Shelters** along the seafront will be a hive of activity with trade stalls, exhibitions, fossil polishing stations (featuring local finds), the popular 'Iguanodon Restaurant' performance, and the Festival Information Hut.
- **Pine Hall at the Baptist Church** will host talks and performances throughout the weekend, bringing leading experts and entertainers together to spark imaginations of all ages.
- **The Royal Lion Hotel** is the venue for the 'Terrible Lizards' Live Podcast Event, a must for anyone interested in dinosaurs and palaeontology podcasts.
- **Lyme Regis Museum** will be open for free all weekend, offering 'Meet the Author' talks, book signings, and guided fossil walks along the beach. If you've ever wanted to discover your own fossil, this is the perfect place to start.
- **Jurassic Coast Boat Trips** will depart from the end of the Cobb, offering breathtaking views of the coastline from the sea, a unique way to appreciate the ancient landscapes we call home.



## WHAT'S ON AT A GLANCE: FOSSIL FESTIVAL 2025

- Hands-on activities
- Expert talks and performances
- Palaeoart workshops
- Fossil hunting walks
- Meet the museums
- Jurassic coast boat trips
- Special exhibitions
- Festival food and iguanodon restaurant performance
- Meet the authors
- Festival information points: Jubilee Pavilion and Marine Parade Shelters

# MAKING A

# SPLASH

RIVER Lim Action is celebrating some successes in cleaning up Lyme's river and sea and are calling on others to do their bit.

The group has been campaigning for a clean up of the river for the benefit of people and wildlife for the last three years.

Lyme Regis Town Council has now entered into a long-term funding agreement with the group to help them continue their good work over the next five years.

Their successes have included building teams of dedicated river monitors who record water quality and act on the findings, and successfully applying for Church Beach to be re-designated as a bathing water, which means the Environment Agency has had to draw up an action plan to improve water quality.

They also join the regular meetings organised by the town council to coordinate action with the Environment Agency, South West Water and Dorset Council.

The group's work has led to South West Water committing to investing in the town's sewage infrastructure to achieve a significant cut in sewage discharges by 2027.

River Lim Action says the public can do their bit to help by reporting pollution to the Environment Agency and South West Water pollution hotlines, as well as to River Lim Action.

Residents can also help to tackle the invasive plant Himalayan Balsam

by emailing [riverlimaction@gmail.com](mailto:riverlimaction@gmail.com) to sign up to one of their sessions.

The public is also reminded not to put fat and food bits down the sink and make sure septic tanks are maintained properly.



# Scouts go from strength to strength



**B**EAVERS, Cubs, Scouts, and Explorer Sea Scouts reaffirmed their promises as part of their St George's Day celebrations.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Lym Valley Scout Group, which also incorporates the Powder Monkeys Explorer Sea Scout Unit, goes from strength to strength.

To celebrate the patron saint, the Scouts attended a service at Uplyme Church, had a barbecue at the Scout Hut and took part in a game of 'Uplyme Monopoly'.

Joint group lead volunteer Karen Yelland said: "It was a wonderful day, and a chance for our local young people to really be proud of being part of Scouting."

The group has been incredibly busy over the past year, with activities ranging from archery to paddleboarding, firefighting to rafting, as well as a trip to France.

1<sup>st</sup> Lym Valley are always on the lookout for new people to help with activities as and when they can.

"Most of the volunteers at 1<sup>st</sup> Lym Valley were not in Scouting when they were younger, so no prior experience is needed, just enthusiasm and a love of giving different things a go," said Karen.

**"NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE IS NEEDED,  
JUST ENTHUSIASM  
AND A LOVE OF GIVING DIFFERENT THINGS A GO."**

Upcoming events include Candles on the Cobb, the May Fete and Uplyme Fete.

Anybody interested in joining in the adventure, as a young person or as a volunteer, should visit [www.lymvalleyscouts.org.uk](http://www.lymvalleyscouts.org.uk) or scan the QR code.



**SCAN ME**



# High Sheriff installed at the Guildhall

**H**ISTORY was made at the Guildhall when the new High Sheriff of Dorset, Callum Brenner, was installed in office.

Mr Brenner, who is married to Cllr Jane Brenner, chairman of Charmouth Parish Council, chose the Guildhall for this historic occasion due to its proximity to his home in Wootton Fitzpaine.

The century-old ceremony was attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Dorset, Michael Dooley, and Dorset's Police and Crime Commissioner, David Sidwick

The mayor of Lyme Regis Cllr Philip Evans MBE, accompanied by the mayoress, Jackie Evans, were also in attendance.

Entertainment was provided by the Chantry Boys from Colyton who sang a number of sea shanties.

Following the ceremony the guests gathered in the neighbouring museum where director Bridget Housego gave a short history of one of Lyme's most popular attractions.

Cllr Evans said: "It was a very quaint ceremony and our ancient Guildhall made the ideal venue for such an historic occasion."

The position of High Sheriff is a royal appointment, independent and non-political, serving a one-year term in each county of England and Wales. They represent the Sovereign in their county.



*The new High Sheriff of Dorset, Callum Brenner, is pictured on the Guildhall steps with the mayor of Lyme Regis, Cllr Philip Evans*

## Guiding Golden Caps



LYME Regis has welcomed its new vicar, Rev Fi Budden, as she joins the Golden Cap Team of Churches.

Fi is the team rector for a group of 12 churches stretching from Chideock to the east, Hawkchurch, Bettiscombe to the north, across the Marshwood Vale and, of course, covering St Michael the Archangel in Lyme.

St Michael's is one of the oldest buildings in Lyme Regis. There has been a church on the site since 774, with parts of the current church dating back to Norman times, and pioneering palaeontologist Mary Anning is buried in the church's graveyard.

The church is open most days from 10am to 4pm and also hosts many local events and concerts.

Fi said: "The church is much more than just the building. It is a worshipping community that seeks to welcome, support and embrace the life of its surrounding neighbourhood, and it's there for everyone, no matter what you believe."

Fi said she is really looking forward to rolling up her sleeves and getting stuck into community life and has encouraged anyone who sees her in and around Lyme Regis to go and say hello.

SCAN ME



# Steady at the helm

**T**HE mayor of Lyme Regis is hoping to continue his efforts to change the town's perception of the council as he prepares for his second term of office.

Cllr Philip Evans took on the role of First Citizen part-way through the council year, stepping up from deputy mayor.

His fellow councillors have voted for him into office for a second year, which officially begins on Wednesday 21 May with the traditional mayor-making ceremony at the Guildhall.

Cllr Evans will be supported once again by wife Jackie as mayoress, and by Cllr Michaela Ellis, who has also been honoured with a second term as deputy mayor, supported by husband Alan as deputy mayor's consort.

Looking ahead to the new year in office, Cllr Evans said: "I am delighted that I have been given second year as mayor. Since taking over as First Citizen, I have striven to try and change the town's perception of the council after a number of years of negative headlines caused by bad behaviour between members, which has blighted the many good initiatives we have implemented and completed such as the launch of the monthly LymeLiving magazine and the launch of Lyme Link, the new town bus.

"I have done this by meeting with as many of the townspeople as possible, by holding monthly surgeries in the Mayor's Parlour in the Guildhall and hosting a number of mayoral receptions for various groups, as well as meeting with as many organisations as possible.

"A second year in office gives me the opportunity of continuing this work, aided by a distinct improvement in the behaviour of members, which is helping to improve our reputation as a responsible authority committed to doing our best for residents and visitors alike."

## MUGA WORKS START

NEW sports facilities at Anning Road Playing Field will be ready just in time for the summer holidays.

Work got underway at the beginning of June on the multi-use games area (MUGA) and is expected to be completed by mid-July.

The £150,000 games area will include markings and nets for basketball, football, netball, and pickleball but the area will be open for any kind of sport and play.

As part of the project, the BMX humps were removed in April, the football pitch will be moved and levelled for the youth teams and a new pathway will be created to the MUGA entrance.



*The mayor of Lyme Regis, Cllr Philip Evans, By Rob James*

## Civic Service Sunday

LOCAL organisations and residents are invited to join the mayor for his annual civic service at the parish church.

Cllr Philip Evans will host the service on Sunday 8 June at St Michael's Parish Church at 10am.

Joined by the civic party, the mayoress and councillors, the mayor will process from the Guildhall to the church before the service.

Lyme Regis Town Band will also join in with the occasion and perform at the church.

Invites have been sent to local organisations but residents are also invited to attend.

# New to the fold

**L**YME'S newest town councillor says he is committed to working hard for the town and the people who make it such a special place.

Cllr Neil Hampton-Rumbold was elected uncontested to the town council recently and brings with him a wealth of experience from the military, telecommunications and education.

Cllr Hampton-Rumbold has travelled extensively for his career but said Lyme has always been his home.

He said: "Although I wasn't born in Lyme Regis, it's the place I've always called home.

"I left Woodroffe School in 1986 to become a chef at the Cobb Arms, before joining the Royal Corps of Signals in 1989. I served for nine years, including deployments to the Gulf War, Northern Ireland, and two tours in Bosnia—one as a UN Peacekeeper.

After leaving the Army in 1998, I moved into telecommunications, working for several ISPs including Virgin Media."

Cllr Hampton-Rumbold is married to Sarah and they have three children, Alex, 27, who attended Colyton Grammar, Jevan, 20, and Katie, 18, who both went to Woodroffe School.

He said: "I'm currently a Burnham Lecturer, having earned a Computer Science Honours degree and a PGCE in Education.

"Football has always been part of my life—I played for Uplyme and Lyme Regis—and no matter where work or service has taken me, Lyme has always been home.

"As a councillor, I'm committed to working hard for this town and the people who make it such a special place."



*Lyme's newest town councillor, Cllr Neil Hampton-Rumbold*



## Sam O'Connell

**Sam** joined the council as operations manager in April 2025. He is responsible for all aspects of the response repair and day-to-day maintenance of the council's properties and outdoor spaces. He develops cyclical plans for the repair or replacement of the council's assets. Sam manages the external works' team and associated contractual relationships. He is the lead officer for the Environment Committee and Town Management and Highways Committee, as well as working groups set up for specific purposes.



## Zoe Hill

**Zoe** joined the council as an administrative assistant in May 2025. She is part of the reception team and is the first point of contact for callers and visitors to the council office. Other responsibilities include beach hut bookings, issuing parking permits, room hire, and engaging with key stakeholders, residents and businesses on matters of local importance.



# Let the bowling begin

WITH sea views as spectacular as its reputation, Lyme Regis Bowling Club has been part of the town's social and sporting scene since 1937.

Now edging toward its 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, the club continues to thrive, thanks in part to the strong support of the town council.

Home to the beautifully maintained Charles Mercer Green, the club welcomes over 100 members and a steady stream of visitors each season. It's not just about friendly competition, it's also about wellbeing, social connection, and fun.

With regular fixtures, inclusive coaching, and a busy calendar of events, there's something for everyone, from seasoned players to curious newcomers.

**"WITH CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL, THE CLUB REMAINS A VIBRANT PART OF LYME REGIS LIFE - WELCOMING, ACTIVE, AND ROOTED IN COMMUNITY SPIRIT."**

Lyme Regis Town Council plays a key role in the club's success, not just as its landlord, but also through ongoing support, including community grants, help promoting events, and the mayor's ceremonial opening of the green each season. The council's partnership extends to participation too, with civic groups like the RNLI, Explorer Scouts and local societies enjoying annual bowling events on the green. The town council versus the Bowls Club is a highlight of the staff and members' social calendar!

The Bowls Club has exciting ambitions for a more sustainable future, including exploring solar heating to extend community use of the facilities, as the club continues to grow with purpose and pride. And with the much-loved Open Tournament returning this June, it's safe to say the spirit of bowls is alive and well in Lyme Regis.



*The mayor Cllr Philip Evans, bowling the first wood  
By David Flett*



# Honouring Lyme's fallen



**T**HIRTY-seven men of Lyme were killed in the Second World War, including members of some of the town's oldest and most respected families.

Their names were very much to the fore when the town celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe Day on Thursday 8 May, organised by the town council.

At the time, there was great deal of sadness over those who never returned from the battle fields and the town's celebrations were quite muted, although Broad Street was bedecked with dozens of Union Jacks.

Local historian Ken Gollop was 10-years-old at the time and can only recall that a bonfire was lit on Monmouth Beach to celebrate the end of the six-year war with Germany.

The town council organised a day of events to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, starting with the raising of the VE Day Flag at the Guildhall and a proclamation by town crier Alan Vian.

This was followed by a service of remembrance at the war memorial in Monmouth Street where wreaths were laid by the mayor of Lyme Regis, Cllr Philip Evans MBE and Daniel Buckland, chairman of the Lyme Regis branch of the Royal British Legion.

A cream tea was held at the Woodmead Halls for the town's over 70s when there was a celebratory atmosphere and wartime songs.

**"I HOPE THE TOWNSFOLK OF LYME  
WILL TURN OUT IN THEIR HUNDREDS TO  
JOIN IN THIS VERY SPECIAL CELEBRATION."**

The bells of the town's parish church, St Michael's, rang out over the town in the early evening, echoing the sounds that swept across the country in 1945.

The proceedings concluded with a torchlight procession along the seafront, the lighting of the beacon on the North Wall and a reading of the official VE Day tribute in the evening.

Commenting on the success of the day, Cllr Evans said: "Lyme's VE Day celebrations saw the town at its very best. Broad Street looked so good with Union Jacks and bunting decorating both sides of the street, just as it did when victory over Germany was announced on 8 May 1945.

"All the events were very well attended, especially the Over 70s Party in the afternoon, supported by a few who had vivid memories of the celebrations when they were young.



"Memories came flooding back when entertainer Declan Duffy sang a number of war-time songs and other popular numbers from that era.

"For the mayoress and I, our favourite event was the torchlight procession through the gardens, ending on the beach where we lit one of the main beacons around the UK coastline. It was quite moving.

"It was a memorable day and our sincere thanks go to all those who participated and paid their respects to the 37 men of Lyme who never returned home from the battlefields of Europe."





# LYME EATS BOUTIQUE RETURNS

## LYME EATS BOUTIQUE

an evening street food market atop the sea wall

3rd Friday of the summer months  
16 MAY | 20 JUNE | 18 JULY  
15 AUGUST | 19 SEPTEMBER

**E**NJOY dinner with a view at one of the pop-up street food markets on the seafront this summer.

Lyme Eats Boutique will pop up on Gun Cliff Walk on the third Friday of the month between now and September, serving international food and summer sundowners.

The event started in Lyme Regis in 2023 following successful markets in other locations in east Devon and this year returns with continuing support from the town council.

The person behind the markets is Eleanor Carr, who started up 11 years ago after going to an evening market while on holiday.

She said: "I always wanted the event to be for local folks which was why Friday evenings worked, and especially those in the shoulder season months of May and September.

"Lots of people round here work on Saturdays and are especially busy in the holidays when there are so many things going on.

We – me, my small on the day team and our band of traders – have been thrilled with the positive and warm reception."

Get down to one of the pop-up markets on 20 June, 18 July, 15 August and 19 September from 4pm to sunset and eat your way around the world!



**"I always wanted the event to be for local folks which was why Friday evenings worked, and especially those in the shoulder season months of May and September."**



# JAZZ JURASSICA



**T**HIS June, Lyme Regis comes alive with rhythm as Jazz Jurassica brings the best of British jazz to two very special venues.

On 6 June, the iconic Jazz Defenders return to St Michael’s Church. Fresh from Ronnie Scott’s and major UK festivals, this acclaimed quintet promises a night of high-energy, feel-good jazz in a stunning setting. Expect an electric atmosphere as they “take it to church”.

Then, on 27 June, The Royal Lion Hotel hosts a Jazz Supper to remember. An Oscar for Ella celebrates the legendary Oscar Peterson and Ella Fitzgerald, featuring master pianist Craig Milverton and soulful vocalist Joanna Eden. Combine world-class jazz with a delicious meal in a relaxed, elegant atmosphere.

“Why travel when top jazz is right on your doorstep?” said Jazz Jurassica director, Julie Sheppard.

Both events are part of Jazz Jurassica’s mission to bring big-city talent to Lyme’s charming venues, blending culture, community and class.

Book now at [jazzjurassica.co.uk](http://jazzjurassica.co.uk)



# WHAT'S ON IN LYME REGIS



6

## CHOIRS IN HARMONY

SUNDAY 1 JUNE, 7PM  
MARINE THEATRE

## THE SHANTY SESSIONS

THURSDAY 5 JUNE,  
7.30PM  
MARINE THEATRE

## TOM GLOVER - DID YOU WATCH THAT REEL I SENT YOU?

FRIDAY 6 JUNE, 8PM  
MARINE THEATRE

## UPLYME FETE

SATURDAY 7 JUNE, 2PM  
KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD

## COMMUNITY TEA DANCE

MONDAY 9 JUNE, 1.15PM  
MARINE THEATRE

## LYME REGIS COMMUNITY BINGO

THURSDAY 12 JUNE, 8PM  
WOODMEAD HALLS



9

## THE LONGEST JOHNS

THURSDAY 12 JUNE, 8PM  
MARINE THEATRE

## SPACE

FRIDAY 13 JUNE, 8PM  
MARINE THEATRE

## DOM JOLY- THE CONSPIRACY TOUR

SATURDAY 14 JUNE, 8PM  
MARINE THEATRE

## LYME REGIS FOSSIL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 14 & SUNDAY 15 JUNE,  
VARIOUS LOCATIONS

## SOUTHERN SPANISH TAPAS CLASS & LUNCH

SUNDAY 15 JUNE, 11AM  
STRAWBERRY TREE

## PLAY READING GROUP

MONDAY 16 JUNE, 7PM  
MARINE THEATRE



17

## THE HANDLEBARDS: MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

TUESDAY 17 JUNE, 7PM  
MARINE THEATRE,

## THE WITCHING HOUR

THURSDAY 19 JUNE,  
7.30PM  
MARINE THEATRE

## LYME REGIS COMMUNITY BINGO

THURSDAY 19 JUNE, 8PM  
WOODMEAD HALLS

## LYME EATS BOUTIQUE

FRIDAY 20 JUNE, 4PM  
GUN CLIFF

## LYME REGIS COMEDY CLUB

FRIDAY 20 JUNE, 8PM  
MARINE THEATRE

## MIDSUMMER PARTY IN THE PARK - CINEMA

FRIDAY 20 JUNE, 8.30PM  
LISTER GARDENS



20

## LYME REGIS COMEDY CLUB

FRIDAY 20 JUNE, 8PM  
MARINE THEATRE

## LYME REGIS REPAIR CAFE

SATURDAY 21 JUNE, 10AM  
BOAT BUILDING ACADEMY

## MIDSUMMER PARTY IN THE PARK - PARTY

SATURDAY 21 JUNE, 2PM  
LISTER GARDENS / FLAT ROOF AREA

## ABSOLUTE BOWIE

SATURDAY 21 JUNE, 8PM  
MARINE THEATRE

## THE SUNDAY SESSIONS

SUNDAY 22 JUNE, 2PM  
MARINE THEATRE

## BOAT BUILDING ACADEMY, BOAT LAUNCH

THURSDAY 26 JUNE,  
8.30PM  
THE SLIPWAY

• LIVE MUSIC • GOOD FOOD • CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT

Lyme Regis Town Council  
**MIDSUMMER**  
Party in the Park  
**LISTER GARDENS**  
FRIDAY 20 JUNE & SATURDAY 21 JUNE



• OPEN-AIR CINEMA • FREE MINI GOLF • BAR •

LYME REGIS AFC

# Sausage & CIDER FESTIVAL

**SATURDAY, JULY 5TH**

## 2025

DAVEY FORT, LYME REGIS - 2PM-11PM

LIVE MUSIC ALL DAY  
BARBECUE & FOOD STANDS  
WIDE VARIETY OF CIDERS & FULL BAR

SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE FOR £70 - CALL 07810 221 420

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW!



# LYME MORRIS



LYME REGIS FOSSIL FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 15 JUNE 2025

LYME MORRIS DAY

SATURDAY 12 JUNE 2025

LYME REGIS CARNIVAL

SATURDAY 9 AUGUST 2025

"The greatest public palaeontological event in the UK"



# Fossil Festival

Lyme Regis **2025**

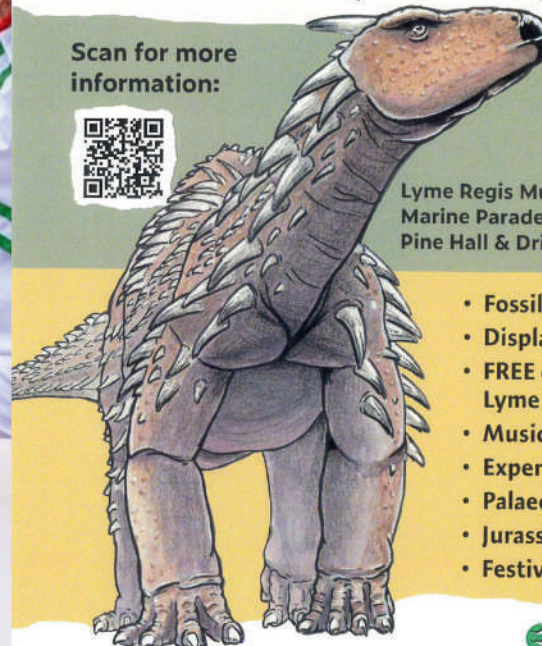
FREE ENTRY\*

Scan for more information:



**14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> June**

Lyme Regis Museum | Jubilee Pavilion  
Marine Parade | Lister Gardens  
Pine Hall & Driftwood Cafe | The Hub



- Fossil, craft & art stalls
- Displays and exhibitions
- FREE entry to Lyme Regis Museum
- Music & performances
- Expert talks & book signings
- Palaeoart workshops
- Jurassic coast boat trips
- Festival food

Organised by:



Supported by:



Main Sponsors:



\*A small number of events are chargeable and ticketed, see programme for details



**L**YME Regis is set to come alive this June with the return of the Midsummer Party in the Park, a fantastic two-day community celebration in the seafront gardens.

Hosted by Lyme Regis Town Council in the stunning Lister Gardens, the free event takes place on Friday 20 and Saturday 21 June and is packed with entertainment, great food, and summer vibes for all ages.

### Friday 20 June - Open-Air Cinema Night

Start your weekend with a movie under the stars as the open-air cinema transforms Lister Gardens into the ultimate sunset viewing spot. Enter into a world of pure imagination as we bring you the magical story of the world's greatest inventor, magician and chocolate-maker Wonka! With scenes filmed in Lyme Regis, what better place to enjoy this musical fantasy. Bring a blanket, gather your friends, and relax as the sun sets over Lyme Bay.

Foodies are in for a treat too, the Lyme Eats festival will be serving up delicious local snacks, with their specially created Sunset Snack Pack available to enjoy during the film. It's the perfect way to kick off summer with seaside charm and community spirit.

### Saturday 21 June - Family Fun Day

Saturday brings a full day of fun, laughter and live entertainment:

**Live Music** - From toe-tapping tunes to laid-back summer sounds, enjoy a lively line up of performances throughout the afternoon and evening. Whether you're dancing, singing along, or simply soaking up the sounds, the atmosphere will be buzzing.

**Mad 4 Animals** - Meet some amazing creatures in this hands-on, educational animal experience that's perfect for curious minds of all ages.

**Strawberry Jam Children's Entertainment** - Expect magic, laughter, science and interactive performances that will delight younger partygoers (and grown-ups too).

**Rainbow Gecko Face Painting & Bubbles** - Add some sparkle to your day with colourful face painting and mesmerising bubble displays.

**FREE Mini-Golf** - Challenge your friends and family to a round on the green it's free, fun, and open to everyone!

**Food Stalls** - A variety of delicious local food vendors will be set up at the Marine Parade Shelters, offering something tasty for every palate.

**The Bar** - Enjoy a refreshing drink from one of our two outside bars and keep the summer vibes flowing.

The Midsummer Party in the Park is all about community, bringing people together to celebrate what makes Lyme Regis such a special place to live and visit. Whether you're enjoying a family afternoon, an evening with friends, or just passing through, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

So, mark your calendars, gather your loved ones, and join us for a weekend of sunshine, smiles and unforgettable memories.

Let's make this Midsummer one to treasure.





JOANNA COOKE  
LIVE FROM 6PM ON SATURDAY 21 JUNE

*Joanna Cooke*

**JESS & FINN**

**JAWS**

**MAMA  
FEELGOOD**



**Arty Bakes**  
& Nutty Ideas



*Mad 4 Animals*

**STRAWBERRY JAM  
ENTERTAINMENTS**

**SPORTY STARS**

**RAINBOW GECKO FACE  
PAINTING & BUBBLES**

**LINE UP**



**FOOD  
TRADERS**



**FUN &  
GAMES**





*Gobble it up*

# Wonka

Join us at the  
Lister Gardens

Friday 20 June

8.30pm



Filmed in Lyme Regis

Photography by Simon Emmett



**Lyme Regis**  
Town Council

**BUSINESS OF THE MONTH**

**GATEWAY SCHEME**

# Waffle

**LYME REGIS**



<https://waffle.org.uk/lyme-regis/>

The Gateway Card is a local discount scheme available to Lyme Regis residents. It provides residents with discounts, concessions and special offers from local participating businesses. The scheme helps to support the local economy and provides benefits to residents who support the town all-year-round. To obtain your Gateway Card, call into the council office with a recent council tax bill from Dorset Council.

This June, we're delighted to spotlight a local favourite, **Waffle Lyme Regis**, as our 'Business of the month'. A recent addition to Broad Street, Waffle has become a go-to spot for locals and visitors alike who crave something indulgent, delicious, and served with a smile.

From signature sweet waffles stacked high with creative toppings to savoury treats, artisan coffee, and vibrant milkshakes, Waffle offers more than just great food, it offers a warm, welcoming space where everyone feels at home. Whether you're popping in after a beach walk, meeting friends for brunch, or treating the kids (or yourself!), there's always something tempting on the menu.

Supporting independent businesses like Waffle is what the Gateway Scheme is all about - celebrating the best of Lyme's community.

So why not make your next treat a local one?



Photograph: Leila Tattershall



Contact us:  
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[www.lymregistowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.lymregistowncouncil.gov.uk)



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