LymeLiving

THE LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL MAGAZINE

FREE



A season of change

A landmark under threat

Business brilliance in Lyme

A decade of dedication

Stay safe by the sea

The brassy sparkle of Christmas

Photograph: Leila Tattershall

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

NOVEMBER 2025
EDITION 006

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COPY DEADLINE

The December edition of LymeLiving will be released on **Friday 5 December.**

Please send your copy for inclusion, and any accompanying images to:
cara.austin@lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk by 5pm on **Wednesday 12 November.**

Welcome

EDITOR'S NOTE

THIS edition feels like a clash of the seasons. As we put this issue to bed, we're awaiting the hustle and bustle of half term week when visitors will descend on the town, the excitement of Halloween, and the always spectacular fireworks' display.

But by the time this issue reaches you, all those events will already feel like a distant memory and thoughts will have turned to Christmas.

Everyone in Lyme Regis knows that the Christmas lights' switch-on marks the official start of the festive season in the town, but where did it all begin? In this edition, we look back to the turn of the millennium when one extraordinary woman, Barbara Austin MBE, decided the town could do with brightening up and set about doing just that.

But first, Remembrance.

This solemn time of year is always given the utmost respect in Lyme Regis, demonstrating the community's belief that this isn't just a date in the calendar, but a chance to reflect and remember. There are several opportunities to take part in official Remembrance events in the town (see pages 4 and 5), while the floral poppy displays, silent soldiers and poppies on lampposts throughout the town offer a constant reminder of the occasion.

So this month's front cover image was an easy choice, contributed by Woodroffe School student Leila Tattershall, a powerful contrast of the black silhouette of the silent soldier against the bright red poppies in the foreground.

The back page image from Woodroffe student Robson Dare also seemed to fit well with this theme – a calm and peaceful end to another day in Lyme Regis.

Adrianne Mullins

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

CHRISTMAS will soon be upon us and my mayor's diary is already creaking at the seams.

Lyme's fabulous Christmas illuminations will soon go up in Broad Street so perhaps this is an appropriate time to say thank you to Virgil Turner who for the last 25 years has been responsible for putting up the festive lights and the Christmas trees above the shops which has come very close in recent times to getting all of the premises taking part, even some of the national outlets. Virgil has now passed the task onto fellow window cleaner Steve Parsons.

The countdown to Christmas gets underway on Saturday 22 November when Santa will officially turn on the lights at around 5pm following the parade of lanterns made that afternoon at the Baptist Church Pine Hall (see page 30).

It always amazes me how many people crowd into Broad Street for the switching-on ceremony, due in no small way to the marketing efforts of the Christmas Lights Committee, led by Rob James. It must run into many hundreds.

My favourite Christmas event is Carols Around The Tree, organised by the Rotary Club, which takes place on Tuesday, 23 December. I don't know how long the Rotary Club have been running this event but it must be 50 years or more. I don't think I have missed more than five of them and I always made a special effort to get home for it when working in London.

Cllr Philip Evans MBE



Photograph of the month

THIS beautiful shot of the sunrise was captured by local resident Kelly Polanek. Kelly said: "I was walking to work about 7.30am on 29 September. I have a small obsession about taking photos of the sunrise (and moon rise for that matter). I always seem to take the same aspect. The little oak looked like it was standing tall and proud, I thought it looked amazing. This time I tried something different. Looks like it paid off!"

In a place like Lyme Regis, there will be no shortage of views to capture. Send us your submissions and you may be featured next time!

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FULL COUNCIL MEETING

THE next meeting of the Full Council will be held on Wednesday 17 December 2025, at 7pm in the Guildhall, Bridge Street, Lyme Regis.

Residents are welcome to attend and raise items in the public forum, or just listen to the debate.

20MPH SPEED LIMIT

TODAY (Friday 7 November) is the final day to comment on proposed new 20mph speed limits in Lyme Regis and other Dorset towns and villages.

The proposals, which fall under The County of Dorset (Various Roads) 20mph Speed Limit Orders 2025, would form part of Dorset Council's ongoing commitment to promoting safer, more sustainable travel across the county.

Full details of the draft orders, including maps of the affected areas, are available online at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/tros.

YOUTH THEATRE GROUP

SPACES are currently available at Marine Youth Theatre for young people aged three to 18.

For seven to 18-year-olds, there is a musical theatre group and a dance group, both of which meet on a Monday evening.

For 13 to 18-year-olds there is a senior performing arts group, which meets on a Wednesday evening.

On Saturday mornings, performing arts groups are available for lower juniors (ages seven to nine), upper juniors (ages 10 to 12) and pre-schoolers (ages three to six).

For more information, visit https://www.marinetheatre.com/marine-youth-theatre/

'READER' SCULPTURE

THE much-loved Reader sculpture in the seafront gardens will be replaced after being vandalised.

Reader, by Victoria Westaway, is a steel wire sculpture of a figure reading, representing slowing down time, stepping away and getting lost in stories and fables.

It formerly sat on a bench in Langmoor Gardens, inviting people to sit next to it to enjoy the views, but was sadly damaged beyond repair and the copper book stolen.

The council has now agreed to commission the artist to create a replacement sculpture.

REPURPOSED TELEPHONE BOX

THE decommissioned BT telephone box at Bell Cliff will be repurposed as a book exchange.

The town council is in the final stages of adopting the traditional red telephone box at the bottom of the steps.

Among the options for its future uses was installation of a defibrillator, an information point and an art display.

It will now get a new lease of life as a book exchange and will be spruced up by the council's maintenance team.

Honouring Remembrance in Lyme Regis

EACH November, the people of Lyme Regis come together to honour the bravery and sacrifice of those who gave their lives for the peace and freedom we enjoy today.

The Royal British Legion (RBL) is recognised as the national custodian of Remembrance, and each year the town joins the nation in observing Remembrance Tide with ceremonies, services and acts of tribute across several days.

Launch of the Poppy Appeal – Friday 24 August

In Lyme Regis, Remembrance begins on Friday 24 August with the launch of the Poppy Appeal.

Volunteers from the Lyme Regis branch of the Royal British Legion will be selling poppy products so please give generously.

Remembrance Saturday – 8 November 2025

On Saturday 8 November, the community takes time to honour those who fell in specific local events.

A series of short remembrance services will take place at the HMS Formidable Grave in Lyme Regis Cemetery at 10am, followed by a service at the Polish Airmen's Memorial in Anning Road at 10.30am.

During these services, poppy wreaths are laid at the Commonwealth War Graves, and at the resting place of Lieutenant Commander Cookson VC, who is buried in the town cemetery.

Remembrance Sunday – 9 November 2025

The town will then gather on Remembrance Sunday, the second Sunday in November, for a parade and service of remembrance.

The parade will start from the entrance of Langmoor Gardens at 9am, followed by a church service at St Michael's Parish Church at 9.45am.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to attend and take part in the church service and two-minute silence in the town square at 11am.

Armistice Day – Tuesday 11 November

There will be a service at the war memorial in Georges Square on Tuesday 11 November at 10.45am.

The service will include the laying of wreaths, prayers, and a two-minute silence at 11am.

Lest We Forget

The town council wishes to extend its thanks to the Lyme Regis branch of the Royal British Legion, St Michael's Parish Church, and the many local volunteers who help coordinate and take part in Lyme Regis's Remembrance Tide events each year.

"When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today."


HMS Formidable grave


Town war memorial by Leila Tattershall


Poppy and silent soldier at Langmoor gates


RBL chairman, Daniel Buckley at the town war memorial

REMEMBRANCE TIDE 2025

KEY DATES

FRIDAY, 24 OCTOBER - POPPY APPEAL LAUNCH

SATURDAY, 8 NOVEMBER
10:00 HMS Formidable
10:30 Polish Memorial

SUNDAY, 9 NOVEMBER - REMEMBRANCE DAY

TUESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER - ARMISTICE DAY

LEST WE FORGET

A season of change in the gardens...

AS AUTUMN settles in, the town council's external works' team has been hard at work preparing the town's green spaces for the months ahead.

From new benches to freshly seeded wildflowers, their efforts continue to keep our gardens looking beautiful all year round, even in the storm weathered months.

At the eastern end of the gardens, housing the memorial trees, a large area has been cleared and is now ready for turfing - the first stage in refreshing the area for the new season.

Nearby, an owl box has been installed high in the evergreen oak beside the sculpture 'Time' by Greta Berlin, offering a safe habitat for Lyme's wilder residents.

Throughout October, the team was busy planting new flower beds, pruning and mulching, and keeping pathways clear by weeding and removing brambles.

The wildflower area has been re-seeded, and early signs of germination mean the space should be full of colour again by spring.

Four new benches have been installed in the Garden Pavilion, restoring the seating area for people to sit and enjoy the view.

New plaques have been added to the sculptures in the trail, keeping the popular art route looking smart and well cared for. With winter approaching, the team has painted and weatherproofed the amenities' hut, and ensured all young trees are staked and tied to protect them through the winter months.

The summer tubs and hanging baskets have now been taken down, making way for the next round of seasonal planting, including two impressive seven-tier displays installed at the Jane Austen Gardens.

Meanwhile, the maintenance team has been keeping up with the smaller details that make a big difference, including the upkeep of fingerposts and directional signs around the gardens and seafront.

From flowerbeds to footpaths, it's been another busy and productive season for the gardens and external works' team, helping to keep Lyme Regis a beautiful and welcoming place, whatever the weather.


Pre-turfed area near the 'Time' sculpture


Owl nesting box in the cemetery


Mark getting the new plants ready


Keeping the grass neat and tidy


Members of the team with newly installed flower bed


Amenities hut at the mini golf



Finger posts in the gardens


Newly installed flower bed

Tips and Tricks from Uplyme and Lyme Regis Horticultural Society

Before the nights really draw in, here are some jobs to get under your belt.

Finish planting bulbs

It's the ideal time to plant tulips for pizzazz in the spring. And if you've got other bulbs that you haven't got round to planting out, do so now – before you find them sprouting in the back of your shed come the new year!

Boring jobs!

There are garden jobs that quite frankly aren't very exciting but really ought to be done – cleaning and sharpening hand tools, tidying and sorting the potting shed, e.g. all those plant labels, and cleaning the greenhouse to improve light and massively reduce the risk of harbouring pests and diseases. Plan your own manageable work schedule and reward system to get you through the jobs.

Take a long hard look at your garden

In the main season we're so busy weeding, sowing, planting, harvesting and admiring our lovely plants that we forget to look at the real structure of our gardens. Are some areas overcrowded? Have some plants outgrown their place or perhaps don't really do the job you want? Are some plants OK but never really that successful? Does the whole really knit together into the effect you want or are you too used to just seeing what's there and accepting it?

And it's so easy to think "oh, it's not too bad I'll deal with it next year" – a sure-fire sign it needs dealing with now. So, take your time with a cup of something warming (or a glass of wine!) and really examine what's in front of you. And then make some plans to put in more exciting features, a small pond or water feature perhaps, or to open up an area (more light = more plants), or to experiment with some new plants. Keep your ambitions modest to improve your chances of success.



KNOW YOUR COUNCIL

This is your chance to get to know the people representing you at Lyme Regis Town Council. Each edition, we will be introducing you to two of your local councillors, sharing their stories, their roles on the council, and the work they do in our community.

This month we feature Cllr Caroline Aldridge and Cllr Gail Caddy.



CLLR CAROLINE ALDRIDGE

I have lived in Lyme Regis for six years and been on the council for four. My working life has been spent in education, largely health related, and I am co-chair of the town's GP Patient Participation Group.

I also run regular beach cleans for the town with our Turn Lyme Green link, Janet Breeze. My grown up son and daughter don't live locally but visit and join in Lyme activities when they can. I came to Lyme from a tiny country village in Northamptonshire, Ashton, via London, Kent, and Somerset. Ashton is known for its annual conker championship (!) and the pioneering wildlife conservation work done there since the early 20th century, when its owner, Charles Rothschild, founded the Wildlife Trust.

I have retained my love of the natural world since my childhood and one of my greatest interests is to support retaining and enhancing the wonderful heritage and environment of Lyme.

In my time on the council I have been chair of the Town Management and Highways and Tourism, Community and Publicity Committees.

I am currently chair of the Travel and Transport Working Group and am particularly focused on work to improve our age old travel and transport problems; looking for better ways of coping with the large number of cars, coaches and delivery vehicles which overwhelm the town, through improved public transport, better parking enforcement, and innovative ways of developing traffic management systems. Part of this work is the 20 mph for Lyme proposal, which will be formally consulted on by Dorset Council very soon. I believe that if you move to a new area you should make a contribution, and that my voice on the council can give a different perspective and support others who are newer to the town.

I value the opportunity that the council gives me to help support residents, business interests and tourists to have the best possible experience.



CLLR GAIL CADDY

I 'VE lived in Lyme Regis for well over 40 years and most people know me for the 35 years I spent as owner/landlady of the Rock Point Inn, Cobb Gate Fish Bar, and the Lyme Kebab Shop. I'm proud that, several years after selling up, many people still reminisce with me about The Rock Point being affectionately remembered as the 'locals' pub.

I have four adult sons, one of whom still lives in Lyme and is coxswain and training officer with the RNLI, while the others have moved to London, Exeter and Hong Kong. All my boys have grown up and were educated here. I enjoy my time with my four granddaughters, and love getting the whole family together whenever we can.

I've been a town councillor for several years now and serve on the Tourism, Community and Publicity Committee, the Strategy and Finance Committee, and the Human Resources Committee, as well as being vice-chairman of the Town Management and Highways Committee, and I chair the Party in the Park Working Group.

In the past, together with Barbara Austin, I was involved in setting up the Christmas Lights Fund, Easter Bonnet Parade, and fundraising for the over 70s Christmas Dinner. Lyme has changed so much since I moved here, and while the town has been very good to me, the dynamic has changed to become a thriving tourist attraction, but I am mindful that the interests of locals is also paramount, so I enjoy ensuring that local voices are heard and that housing, parking, traffic management, shops and entertainment are supported.

Outside of my council duties, I love travelling, I have played cribbage in the local league since moving here and I particularly enjoy cooking.

I look forward to continually serving the community in every way I can.

Your event, Your music

SCAN ME

WE ARE busy planning our Midsummer Party in the Park 2026 event, and we would love to hear from you!

Midsummer Party in the Park will be held on Saturday 20 June in the Lister Gardens.

What kind of live music would you love to see at the event?

Whether you are into rock, pop, local bands or something a little bit different, your feedback will help us shape the line-up and make 2026 the best year yet.

Last year we hosted Joanna Cooke, Jess and Finn, JAWES and Mama Feelgood.

Please complete the short survey by using the QR code.

Alternatively, paper copies of the survey are available to fill out by hand, from the council offices.

Who better to choose the line-up than the audience themselves?









Open-air cinema night

FOLLOWING the success of this year's open-air cinema evening in Lister Gardens, we are bringing back the big screen for 2026!

Cinema in the Park will be held on a date yet to be confirmed, possibly in May.

We listened to feedback from this year's event, and want to make next year's experience even better...

But first, we would love to know what you want to watch!

Please complete the short survey by using the QR code.

This will be a family-friendly community event, so please keep suggestions suitable.



SCAN ME



BUSINESS BRILLIANCE

OUTSTANDING businesses and organisations in Lyme Regis were celebrated at an awards ceremony showcasing local success.

The Lyme Business Awards, launched in 2020 by Marketing West, aim to not only celebrate success but to help local enterprises grow.

Lyme Regis Town Council was a gold sponsor of this year's ceremony, which was held at Lyme Regis Golf Club and hosted by Nigel Reeve of Marketing West.

The event was officially opened by the mayor of Lyme Regis, Cllr Philip Evans MBE.

He said: "These awards show just how many fantastic businesses make up our Lyme Regis community. Every finalist and winner should feel proud of their contribution to the life of our town."

Business of the Year went to Sandro's, who also scooped Gold in the Family Business and Restaurant of the Year categories.

The Green/Eco Award recognised two organisations leading the way on sustainability, Little Green Change and Turn Lyme Green.

Clare Matheson, founder of Little Green Change said: "We're overjoyed to have scooped gold in the Green/Eco Award category, it means so much to have the support and recognition of our community, and this award helps bring pride to the environmental education and action work we've undertaken over the past year."

Little Green Change went on to win an International Green Apple Environment Award in September for their Biodiversity in Schools Project, placing Lyme Regis on the global stage for environmental leadership.

Other gold winners included:

- FSB Homes for the Outstanding Customer Service award
- Your Body and Mind PT for the Community Support award
- Eat: Millside for the Independent Business award
- The Lyme Bay Cafe and Bar for the Cafe, Pub & Casual Dining award
- Hamish and Milly from Milly's Ice Cream and Alex Francis from Studio Horizons for the Young Entrepreneurs award

For Karl from the Lyme Bay Cafe and Bar, winning the Gold in Cafe, Pub and Casual Dining was a career highlight.

He said: "It's an incredible achievement that means so much to me. I moved here 10 years ago, saw the premises and knew I just had to do it. I'm very proud of my team, without them, this recognition wouldn't be possible."

The Community Support award shone a spotlight on an essential organisation, the Lyme Regis Foodbank, which has benefited from town council funding.

Several of the award-winning businesses are part of the town council's Gateway Scheme, which offers residents exclusive discounts and encourages local shopping and support for local business, they are:

- Lula Studio
- ElSilver
- Finishing Touch Hair Salon
- Sandro's
- Lyme Regis Brewery
- The Bell Cliff Restaurant



Rob Smith of Turn Lyme Green



Karl of Lyme Bay Cafe and Bar



The scheme continues to grow, connecting residents with local businesses and helping to keep the town centre vibrant all year round.
If you own or manage a local business and would like to get involved in the scheme, email enquiries@lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk to find out more.

A BIGGER FUTURE FOR LYME BUSINESS AWARDS

The town council is keen to continue supporting the awards and help them to grow into an even bigger celebration of Lyme's business community in 2026.

A huge congratulations goes to all the winners and nominees of the Lyme Business Awards 2025.

BY THE NUMBERS – LYME BUSINESS AWARDS 2025

- Second year running – launched in 2024
- 11 categories across all sectors
- 24 winners recognised in 2025
- 39% average increase in sales for businesses after winning
- 63% average increase in profits for businesses after winning
- Two international awards now held locally – Little Green Change recognised with a Green Apple Environment Award
- 50% of award-winning businesses are part of the Gateway Scheme



A representative collecting on behalf of Bell Cliff Restaurant



Clare Matheson of Little Green Change



Jade Hall of Finishing Touch



Alisha Simpson of Lula Studio



Sue Davies of Lyme Regis Foodbank



Mark Knight of Lyme Regis Brewery



Milly and Hamish of Milly's Ice Cream



Marianne Gibson of The Soda Fountain



Antonio Strillozzi of Sandro's



NEWS IN

TALKING TRANSPORT, TEETH AND TABLETS



BUSES, a lack of pharmacies and NHS dentists, water quality and affordable housing were on the agenda when the West Dorset MP Edward Morello called a public meeting in Lyme Regis.

Mr Morello told the meeting at the Guildhall that he had intervened following changes to First Bus's winer timetable, which would have made it impossible for people in Lyme Regis to connect with the commuter train in Axminster.

He said: "Fundamentally, the problem is having private bus companies providing public services, when they are clearly profit motivated. It is clearly a flaw in the model and I have taken it up with the Secretary of State."

Speaking about the closure of Jhoots Pharmacy in Lyme Regis, Mr Morello said he was talking to NHS Dorset to get the best solution for the town and had concerns about the company's debt and failure to pay staff.

He said: "My personal opinion is that Jhoots shouldn't be allowed to re-open."

The lack of NHS dentists in Lyme Regis was also raised following the closure of the practice at Kent House.

Mr Morello said: "The reality is that we lost most of our NHS dentists through Brexit. There is no immediate solution to NHS dentistry unless we go and steal lots of dentists from other countries or suggest changing the NHS funding model."



YOUNG VOICES AND BIG IDEAS

ST MICHAEL'S Primary School was delighted to welcome Cllr Philip Evans MBE, the mayor of Lyme Regis, and mayoress Jackie Evans, for a visit.

The visit was arranged by the chairman of governors Penny Cox, a former primary school headteacher, and brought a real sense of occasion as the mayor and mayoress enjoyed a tour of the school, followed by a warm and thoughtful conversation over tea with year six pupils.

Headteacher Nick Kiddle said: "Moments like these remind us of the strength of our local community and the importance of celebrating the people who help shape our town and our future."

Cllr Evans said: "My family has strong connections with St Michael's. I went to the school, as did my three children.

"The mayoress and I thoroughly enjoyed our visit to the school and were particularly impressed by the year six pupils who engaged in an interesting discussion on the role of the town council.

PICTURES

STANDING PROUD AT ST MICHAEL'S

A NEW flagpole stands proudly at Lyme's parish church thanks to funding from Lyme Regis Town Council.

St Michael's Parish Church was awarded a large capital grant of just over £4,600 to replace its rusted and unsafe flagpole.

The mayor of Lyme Regis Cllr Philip Evans and town clerk John Wright attended the official unveiling of the flagpole, together with members of the church and the Rotary Club of Lyme Regis, which also made a donation to the project.

The aim was to have the flagpole installed by Remembrance Sunday, as the church will play host to the service on that day.

Church treasurer Michael Sheldon said: "The flag provides a strategic focal point, of which there is no other tall flagpole in town. It is essential for national celebrations, such as Remembrance Day, coronations and other national events.

"Every town of Lyme's size should have a tall flagpole as a beacon of community commitment.

"The flagpole will be seen all over town and will beckon individuals or groups to visit the church."





COLOUR IN SEVEN TIERS OF BLOOM

THE Jane Austen Gardens are being given a new lease of life as this year marks the 250th anniversary of the author's birth.

The gardens were looking a little neglected, so the council's external works' team has taken it on as a special project.

The team has weeded the patio area, renovated the benches and carried out a winter prune on the higher terrace.

Two new seven-tier tower planters have been installed, featuring seasonal flowers, adding some colour to the area.

The rockery area will be replanted in the spring and 18 bright orange Jane Austen roses are to be featured.

A landmark under threat



DETAILS about the future of the Cobb and emergency works to protect the historic structure will be available at a drop-in event in Lyme Regis.

The event will be held on Thursday 27 November at the Jubilee Pavilion on Marine Parade from 12pm to 6pm.

More information about the Cobb stabilisation scheme will be available, helping to explain why the structure requires stabilisation and the complexities and key players involved in taking the scheme forward.

There will also be updates on the void which has been uncovered within the Grade I listed structure, which must be urgently repaired before the storm season.

The void is up to two metres deep, seven metres wide and 0.3 metres high, leaving large blocks unsupported deep within the structure and at imminent risk of collapse.

Dorset Council is aiming to carry out the emergency works between 5 and 9 November, subject to weather and wave activity, but if this timescale is not met, the next window of opportunity will be the next series of spring low tides.

The emergency repairs, which will cost between £300,000 and £350,000, are a stop-gap before the wider Cobb stabilisation works, which form Phase 5 of Dorset Council's Environmental Improvement Works.

Phase 5 aims to stabilise the Cobb to maintain its status as a breakwater, a coastal flood and erosion defence, and a safe harbour for vessels and businesses.

If nothing is done, it is estimated the Cobb's function as a breakwater would end in the 2040s, potentially resulting in the loss of the harbour, and more than 100 properties would be at increased risk of flooding and coastal erosion.

The drop-in event, organised by Dorset Coast Forum on behalf of Dorset Council, will be an opportunity for the public to share their thoughts and ideas on the options, to suggest other improvements, share any concerns about the Cobb, and learn more about the complexities of the project.

There will be illustrations of proposed technical options and the community is encouraged to take the opportunity to look at the designs and provide feedback.





In preparation for a potential Heritage Lottery Fund proposal, they also want to hear ideas on events and activities that could be offered to people who live, work or visit Lyme Regis that would celebrate the Cobb and tell the story of this internationally important structure.

For more information and for further updates please see the project webpage *https://www.dorsetcoasthaveyoursay.co.uk/lyme-regis-cobb-stabilisation-scheme*

Dorset Council

Stabilising the Cobb: What are the options?



Drop in and chat about possible options that could help stabilise the iconic Cobb for the future

Thursday 27 November, 12-6pm, Jubilee Pavilion, Marine Parade, Lyme Regis



- Share your thoughts and ideas regarding the options
- Can you suggest other improvements?
- Do you have any further concerns relating to the Cobb?
- Learn about the complexities in protecting this internationally important structure
- Celebrate the history of the Cobb and tell us what it means to you!

Keep updated on the scheme by scanning the QR code

https://www.dorsetcoasthaveyoursay.co.uk/lyme-regis-cobb-stabilisation-scheme



Dorset Coast Forum

Working with communities to promote, enhance and protect our coast.

Dorset_CF

DorsetCoastForum

dorsetcoastforum

The Cobb through time

AS WORKS to protect the historic Cobb get underway, the Lyme Regis Society looks back at the history of the iconic structure.

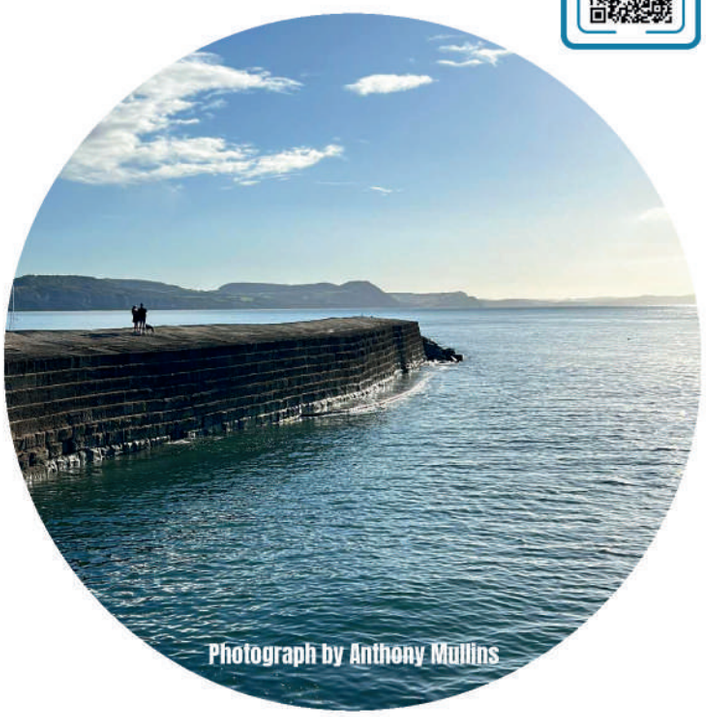
For more than 90 years, the Lyme Regis Society has been at the forefront of preserving and celebrating everything that makes the town special.

Founded in the 1930s with the aim of preserving 'the beauty and antiquity of Lyme Regis', the society continues that mission today, with a thriving membership of around 350 people, not all resident.

Members enjoy a programme of monthly talks, a wealth of local knowledge, and a regular magazine called All Over The Town. The Lyme Regis Society continues to champion the preservation of Lyme's history while helping new generations connect with its stories.

You can explore more of the society's work or join as a member by visiting www.lymeregissociety.org.uk.

SCAN ME



Photograph by Anthony Mullins

Did you know?

- *The Cobb has been rebuilt many times after fierce storms battered the harbour.*
- *The Cobb may get its name from the old English word cob, meaning a rounded shape, a fitting description for its curved harbour wall.*
- *The earliest record of the Cobb dates back to 1294, wine was already being imported through the port.*
- *The Cobb was originally built entirely from timber, before being rebuilt in stone during the 14th century.*
- *Over the centuries it has been destroyed and rebuilt several times by fierce storms, including major breaches in 1377, 1824 and 1974.*
- *The great storm of 1824 was particularly devastating, waves washed away parts of the town, boats were smashed, and several lives were lost.*
- *The Cobb's unique curved design inspired engineers across the country and has featured in films including The French Lieutenant's Woman (1981) starring Meryl Streep.*
- *Its sheltered inner harbour made Lyme one of the most important ports in Dorset during the middle ages.*
- *Today, it's not just a working harbour but one of the most photographed landmarks on the Jurassic Coast, and a place where locals and visitors still come to walk, watch the sea and soak in centuries of history.*

No landmark defines Lyme quite like the Cobb. Its origins are uncertain, but records show that Edward I (1272-1307) encouraged merchants to build a harbour called Le Cobb, and wine was being imported to Lyme as early as 1254.

The oldest visible parts may date to the 1500s, while much of what we see today was rebuilt between 1785 and 1826 after a string of violent storms that destroyed the harbour, homes and boats.

The squat, two-storey building partway along the Cobb dates from 1723.

Over the centuries, it has served many purposes, from a base for the fishing community to a freezer store for freshly caught fish and since 1958, it has been home to the Lyme Regis Marine Aquarium.



Photograph by Simon Emmett

Stay safe by the sea

As winter approaches, Lyme Regis sea and coastal rescue teams are reminding people of the dangers of being cut off by the tide.

With rough weather and stormy conditions comes increased risk and more call-outs for the volunteers of the RNLI lifeboat team and the Lyme Regis Coastguard Rescue Team.

Recently, the Lyme Regis RNLI volunteer crew launched their Atlantic 85 inshore lifeboat *Spirit of Loch Fyne* following reports of four people cut off by the tide east of the town.

The crew arrived on scene within minutes and quickly located the casualties with the help of the Lyme Regis Coastguard Rescue Team.

Due to strong winds and rough seas, a rescue by lifeboat was not possible. Instead, the decision was made to escort the casualties one by one through the rising water back to the safety of the eastern sea wall.

RNLI volunteer Tom Crabbe, who went ashore to assist, said: "This was another great example of how we work closely with our local coastguard team.

“From the lifeboat we were able to spot the casualties in a location which may not have been visible from the sea wall. We needed to get them off the beach quickly as the tide was still rising.

“As it was, they needed to wade through over a metre of water."

All four casualties were brought safely ashore before the lifeboat returned to harbour, marking the 28th launch for the Lyme Regis crew this year.

A local safety warning

A spokesperson for the RNLI water safety team stressed the importance of preparation: "There are numerous places, both to the east and west of Lyme Regis, where it is possible to become cut off by the tide.

“Rough weather increases the risk. If you are considering a walk, please plan your route carefully and make sure you understand the tide times and the weather forecast.

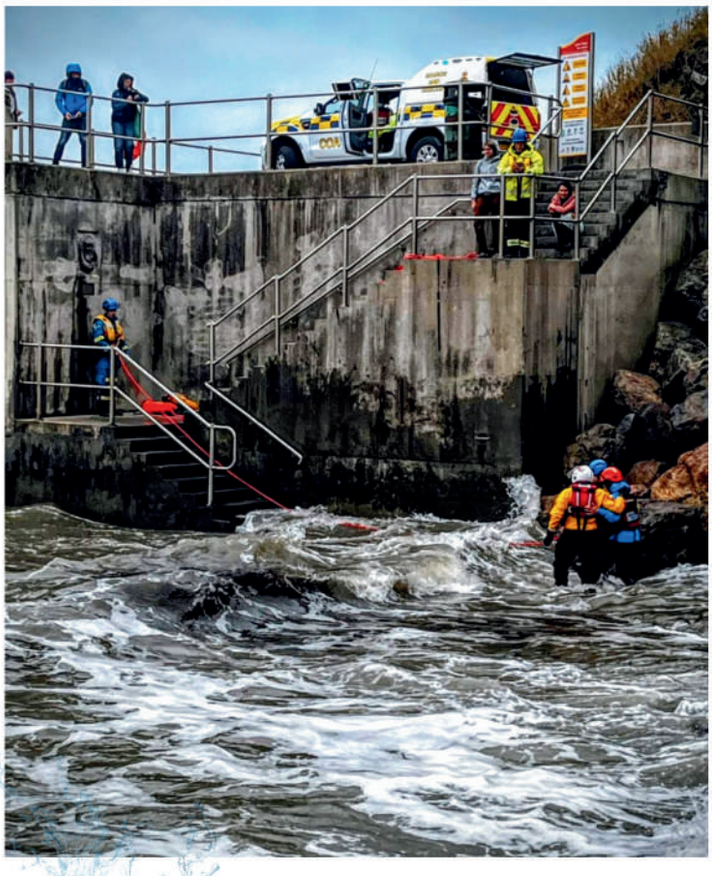
“Never be tempted to climb any rockfalls or mud slips as these are unstable and very dangerous."

For more information on staying safe by the sea, visit the RNLI's water safety advice at https://rnli.org/

Lifeboats



Photographs by Lyme Regis Coastguard Rescue Team





Help is here

WHEN the pandemic struck in 2020, a small team of local volunteers stepped up to make sure no one in Lyme Regis was left without the basics.

Lyme Regis Community Support began as a crisis response and has grown into a trusted, year-round service, quietly helping neighbours with the practical things that make daily life work.

This winter, with no pharmacy in town, their prescription support is more important than ever. If you or someone you care for is struggling to collect medication, the team can help, safely, reliably, and with discretion.

The team can help with a number of tasks:

- Prescription collection – coordinated runs to collect medications on your behalf, with your consent and the details your surgery or dispensing pharmacy require.
- Shopping – essentials and top-ups when getting out is difficult
- Signposting – friendly guidance to the right local food service or organisation
- Check-in calls – a regular chat on the phone to stay connected

The volunteers are heavily involved in other initiatives for the community, including Talking Café, a space for residents to drop in for a cup of something warm, company and informal advice. Talking Café takes place every Wednesday at Hallett Court from 9.15am to 11.15am.

They also manage the Community Garden in Langmoor Gardens, an initiative to grow local food and help local people in need, with one of the beneficiaries including Lyme Regis Food Bank.

Residents can be assured everything is handled confidentially and with care.


Community Support Co-ordinator, Cheryl Reynolds

Travelling out of town for medicines isn't easy for everyone, particularly if you don't drive, you're unwell, caring for someone, or the weather turns.

The Community Support team bridges that gap so residents can stay well, independent and connected.

If you need a one-off collection or more regular help, please ask – this is what the service is for.

If you can spare any time, new volunteers, including drivers, befrienders, and garden helpers, are always welcome and full guidance is provided.

If you or someone you know needs help with prescriptions and collecting medication, you can get in touch and let the team know what you need.

They will explain the simple permissions your surgery or pharmacy may require and agree a collection day and time.

A named volunteer then collects your medication and delivers it to your door, checking you have what you need.

TALK TO US

Cheryl Reynolds 07796 074849
cherylreynolds1947@gmail.com

SCAN ME

LYME LINK UPDATE



SEVERAL timetable changes have been made to the Lyme Link community bus to help keep the service running efficiently.

Lyme Link, fully funded by Lyme Regis Town Council, was introduced in May but the council committed to reviewing the service six months after its launch.

The changes came into effect at the end of October and includes the removal of the Uplyme stop, which previously provided access to the Post Office for Lyme Regis residents.

However, the number of passengers using the Uplyme stop has been very low, with only five in June, six in July, and numbers in August and September similarly low.

The decision to withdraw the stop was informed by the opening of a Post Office counter at Waffle Lyme and with the acknowledgement that the availability of the X51/53 already provides a link between Lyme Regis and Uplyme.

The bus will now travel to the medical centre, where it will turn around before continuing its usual route.

The revised timetable introduces two additional stops at Somers Road and Blue Waters Drive, helping to improve accessibility for passengers living further up the hill and along the eastern side of the town.

Passengers are reminded that the Lyme Link bus now terminates at 10.17am, 11.31am and 14.21pm.

As always, residents are encouraged to check the full timetable displayed at bus stops around town, online via the town council website, www.lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk, or printed overleaf.

We are always looking for volunteer drivers and passenger assistants to help keep this service running, so if you are able to spare any time on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, please contact enquiries@lymeregistowncouncil.gov.uk to express your interest.





SCAN ME

LYME LINK

Monday / Wednesday and Friday ONLY Service Stops	AM	AM	AM	LUNCH	PM	PM
Nisa	---	---	10:49		12:45	13:36
Charmouth Road/Anning Road Bus Stop	---	---	10:51	---	12:49	13:39
Charmouth Close (S Bound)	09:00	09:55	10:55	---	12:51	13:42
Fairfield Park (E Bound)	09:01	09:56	10:56	---	12:52	13:43
Garmans Field	09:03	---	10:57	---	12:53	---
Pine Ridge (NW Bound)	09:05	09:58	11:00	---	12:56	13:44
Talbot Road (SW Bound)	09:08	10.01	11:02	---	12:58	13:46
Talbot Road bottom (SE Bound)	09:10	10.03	11:04	---	13:00	13:48
North Avenue/ Anning Road (SE Bound)	09:11	10.04	11:06	---	13:02	13:50
Hallett Court	09:12	10.05	11:08	---	13:04	13:52
Henrys Way/Queens Walk	09:13	10.06	11:10	---	13:06	13:53
King's Way (SE Bound)	09:14	10.07	11:11	---	13:07	13:54
King's Way / Summer Hill Road	09:15	10.08	11:12	---	13:08	13:55
Anning Road Play Park (Pavilion End)	09:16	10.09	11:13	---	13:09	13:56
Haye Close	09:19	---	11:16	---	13:12	13:59
Nisa	09:23	10.13	11:19	---	13:16	14:03
Cobb Gate / Botttom of Town (W Bound)	09:26	10.16	11:22	---	13:19	14:06
Holmbush Car Park (W Bound)	09:30	10.20	11:26	---	13:23	14:10
Blue Waters Drive (NW Bound)	09:33	---	11:29	---	13:26	---
Blue Waters Drive (NE Bound)	09:34	---	11:30	---	13:27	---
Somers Road / Somer Fields	09:36	10:22	11:31	---	13:28	14:12
Somers Road (N Bound)	09:37	10.23	11:32	---	13:29	14:13
Portland Court (S Bound)	09:39	10.25	11:34	---	13:31	14:15
Lyme Regis Medical Centre	09:41	10:27	11:36	---	13:33	14:17
Nisa	09:46	---	11:39	---	---	14:19
Charmouth Road/Anning Road Bus Stop	09:51	---	11:41	---	---	14:21

Last service

This service commences from Friday 31/10/2025 onwards

The bus will terminate at 10:27am and 11:41am - Customers will need to vacate the bus before these times.

Please ensure you have arrived at your stop 5 minutes before the bus is due.

Results success for Woodroffe School

TWS TOGETHER WE SUCCEED

STUDENTS at Woodroffe School have once again achieved examination outcomes above local, regional and national averages.

The school is celebrating another successful year of results across GCSE, A-Level and vocational qualifications.

Headteacher Dan Watts said: "We are absolutely thrilled to be celebrating another fantastic year of results. Our students have worked incredibly hard, and these achievements are a testament to their commitment and the dedication of our staff."

At GCSE, students achieved excellent results across all subjects, reflecting the school's strong tradition of academic excellence and a commitment to a broad, ambitious curriculum.

Head of year 11, Claire Petty said: "I am exceptionally proud of our year 11 students. Their desire to learn and their resilience have made them a pleasure to teach, and we are delighted that their hard work has been rewarded."

The success continued in the sixth form, with outstanding A-Level and BTEC results and many students securing places at top universities, apprenticeships, and new opportunities beyond education.


Woodroffe students collecting their results

Assistant headteacher Mrs Keaney said: "Our sixth form students have shown great determination and commitment to their studies. Their results are outstanding, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements."

The school continues to invest in its facilities, with the new multi-use games area (MUGA) and The Hub already proving popular and adding real value to school life.

Young environmentalists take root

THE problem of riverbank erosion in Lyme Regis and Uplyme has been tackled by local schoolchildren working together with local organisations.

Children from Mrs Ethelston's Primary Academy in Uplyme helped Little Green Change, the River Lim Action Group and representatives of the Uplyme Village Green Trustees to plant willow whips and sedge plants.

Once established, the planting will also help soak up excess water when the river floods, as well as creating a wildlife corridor for nature.

The 60 children from Mrs Ethelston's Primary Academy planted the willow and sedge along the back stretch of the Uplyme Village Green.

They learnt about the issues affecting the river at this location, how to plant the willow and sedge correctly, and how the willow was propagated.

Founder and director of Little Green Change, Clare Matheson said: "We were delighted to be involved in these planting sessions as part of our Biodiversity in schools project.

"Getting children in the local community involved in environmental action, educating them on important issues like this, and empowering them to implement their learning to help nature is what we're about as an organisation.

"Thank you to all the adults and children that were involved. You did an amazing job!"

Fletcher Hulbert, secretary of the King George V Trustees responsible for the Uplyme playing fields, said: "River erosion is a significant risk for us and has started to encroach on important areas of the field and we were therefore delighted to enlist the aid of the next generation of environmentalists to stabilise the bank in an ecologically-friendly manner as advised by Graham Roberts from the River Lim Action Group."

The plants will be watered, as required, during dry spells by groundsman John Fowler, who helped during the planting sessions, until their roots have become established.

Time and Tide: History from Lyme Regis Museum

HENRY DE LA BECHE 1796-1855

LONG before the word 'dinosaur' entered the public imagination, a young geologist and artist from Lyme Regis was sketching a vision of a vanished world.

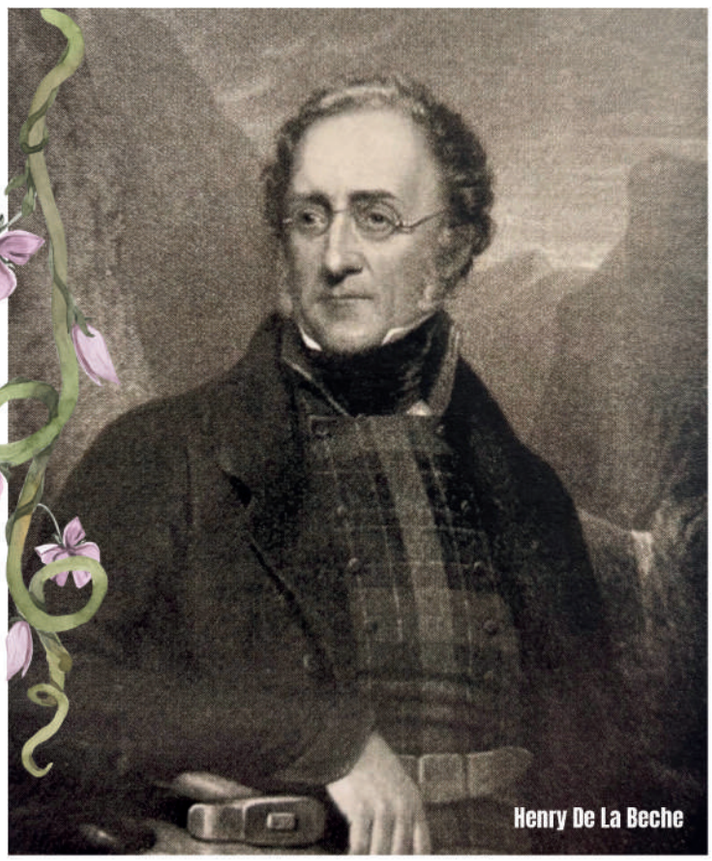
Sir Henry De la Beche (1796–1855), a pioneering figure in both geology and art, created what is considered the first ever reconstruction of prehistoric life, a watercolour titled Duria Antiquior ('A More Ancient Dorset'). His work, which began here on the Jurassic Coast, transformed how scientists and the public saw the deep past.

De la Beche spent much of his youth in Lyme Regis, where his fascination with geology took root among the cliffs and beaches that would yield some of the most important fossil discoveries in history. He was a close friend and supporter of Mary Anning, the renowned fossil collector whose discoveries, including ichthyosaurs, plesiosaurs and pterosaurs, were revolutionising the understanding of ancient life in the early 19th century.

Inspired by Anning's extraordinary finds, De la Beche used his artistic skill and scientific knowledge to imagine what those extinct creatures' world might have looked like millions of years earlier. In 1830, he produced Duria Antiquior, depicting ichthyosaurs, plesiosaurs and dimorphodon in a lively prehistoric seascape. It was the first image to show prehistoric animals interacting within their natural environment, a concept now fundamental to palaeontological illustration (palaeoart).



Duria Antiquior ('A More Ancient Dorset') in Lyme Regis Museum



Henry De La Beche

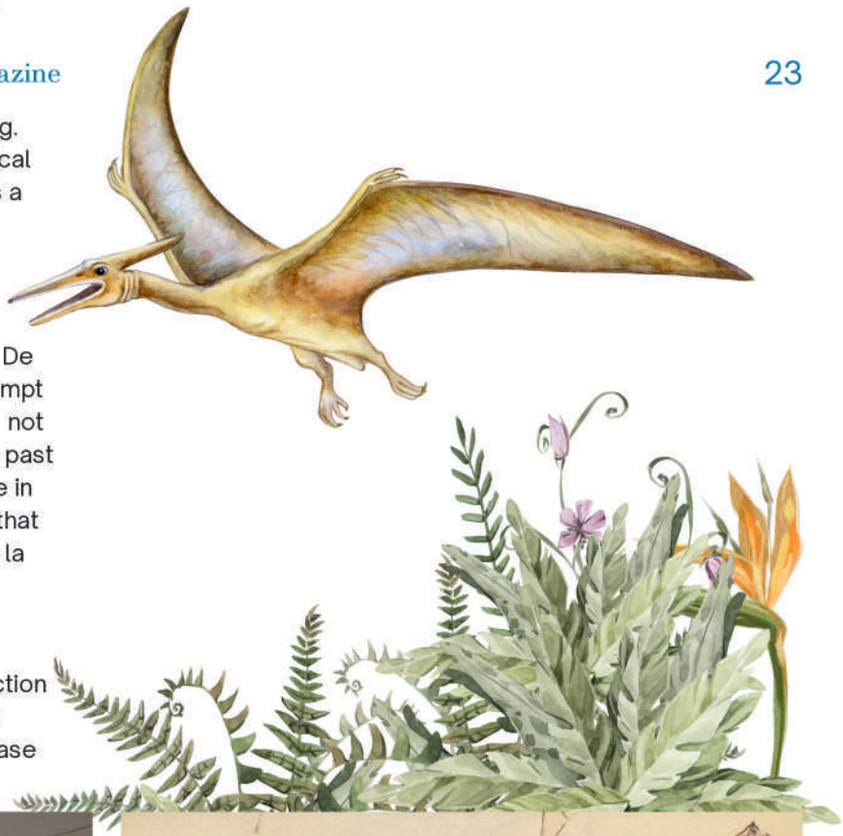
But Duria Antiquior was more than an artistic experiment. Recognising that Mary Anning's financial situation was precarious, De la Beche arranged for lithographic prints of the painting to be sold, with the proceeds going directly to her. This act of generosity demonstrated not only his admiration for Anning's scientific contributions but also his respect for her as a colleague at a time when women were rarely acknowledged in scientific circles. The collaboration between Anning's discoveries and De la Beche's imagination brought the Jurassic world to life for audiences across Britain, an early example of science communication at its most vivid.

Today, Duria Antiquior is recognised as a milestone in both art and science. Its influence can be seen in everything from Victorian dioramas and illustrated textbooks to the modern visual effects of nature documentaries. The image transformed static fossils into living, dynamic creatures - swimming, hunting, and coexisting in a rich ecosystem long before humans walked the earth.

De la Beche's contributions did not end with his painting. He went on to become the first director of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, helping to establish geology as a professional scientific discipline. Yet his roots in Lyme Regis and his partnership with Mary Anning remained central to his legacy.

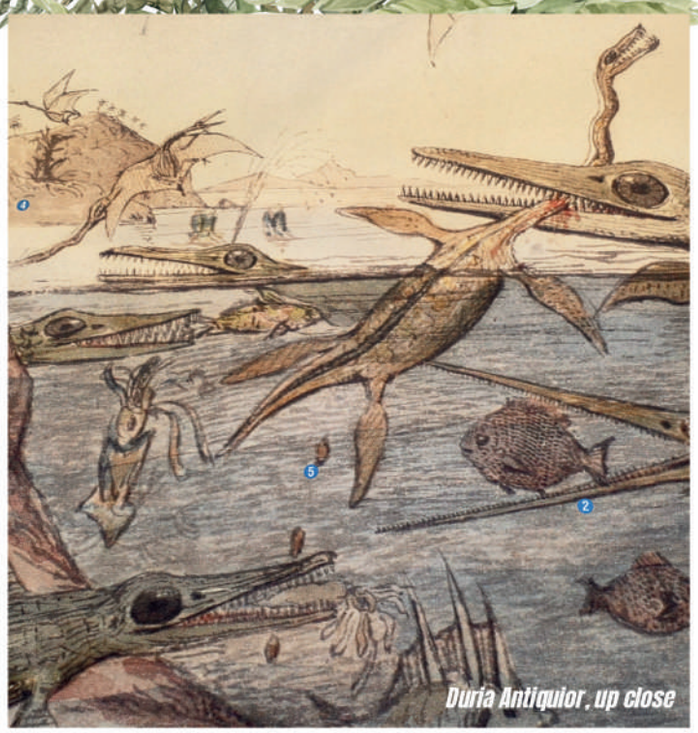
Nearly two centuries after Duria Antiquior was painted, De la Beche's vision continues to resonate. His daring attempt to picture the prehistoric world marked a turning point, not just for palaeontology, but for the way we visualise the past itself. Standing on the same cliffs that inspired him here in Lyme Regis, it's easy to imagine the ancient creatures that once swam beneath the waves and to see, through De la Beche's eyes, the ancient Dorset that lives on in art, science and imagination.

Find out more about Henry De la Beche and his connection with Mary Anning and view the striking artwork of Duria Antiquior at Lyme Regis Museum. For visiting hours please visit www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk.





Model flying above the display in Lyme Regis Museum



Duria Antiquior, up close



Modern version of the Duria Antiquior, painted by Richard Bizley in 2007



Modern version of the Duria Antiquior, painted by Richard Bizley in 2007

The Princess Royal Visits the Boat Building Academy

Boat Building Academy
Lyme Regis

LYME Regis Boat Building Academy (BBA) received the royal seal of approval when HRH The Princess Royal paid a visit.

The Princess Royal met students past and present and learnt more about the academy's work in preserving and promoting the heritage craft.

She enjoyed tours of the academy's boat building and furniture workshops, meeting students of the 40-week boatbuilding course and 12-week furniture courses, including a number who had been awarded bursaries to enable them to attend.

The Princess, who is Patron of The National Transport Trust, also unveiled a Red Wheel plaque, awarded by the trust in recognition of the academy's important role in Britain's transport and industrial heritage.

HRH was accompanied on the visit by the current Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset, Professor Michael Dooley.

Other dignitaries included West Dorset MP Edward Morello, members of the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights and Women in Boat Building and Lady Judy McAlpine, president of The Transport Trust.

The Princess also enjoyed a demonstration of steam bending by BBA assistant tutor Samuel Robinson and current boat building students Hannah Blake and Eleanor Snape.

Steam bending involves making wood pliable by exposing it to steam and then bending it to a desired shape. It is used extensively in wooden boat building, most importantly in forming the ribs of boats.

The Princess helped to hold the wood while it was secured for bending.

BBA director Will Reed said: "The Princess Royal's visit comes at a critical time as we prepare to launch a campaign to buy the freehold of our building and in doing so secure the future of the academy and strengthen the future of the UK boat building industry."

At the end of the tour, the founder of the BBA, Commander Tim Gedge AFC RN, presented The Princess with a wooden half scale 8ft spooned oar, handmade by BBA tutor Mike Broome.



Princess Anne with Boat Building Academy director, Will Reed



Princess Anne presented with a hand crafted wooden oar

Tim said: "Her Royal Highness's visit was hugely important to the BBA in endorsing our work in preserving and advancing traditional and modern boat building techniques, and as a charity in enabling and supporting boatbuilders and furniture makers to gain these ancient skills.

"The Princess was very well-informed and hugely engaged during her visit.

"We all feel immensely proud to have been able to showcase our work to her."



Princess Anne with students of the Boat Building Academy



Princess Anne with greeting dignitaries



Princess Anne instructed on how to use tools by students of the Boat Building Academy



Princess Anne next to the National Transport Trust plaque



Princess Anne with students of the Boat Building Academy
Photography by Philippa Gedge

Seaside Store wins Team of the Year

SCAN ME

THE Seaside Store team has been recognised for outstanding impact on the community of Lyme Regis.

Launched in 2021, The Seaside Store has become a vital part of life in Lyme Regis, giving people access to fresh, nutritious food while also tackling the growing issue of food waste.

After more than four years of hard work and dedication, the team behind the initiative has received well-deserved recognition by winning a 'Team of the Year' Award from the Dorset Volunteer Centre.

The team joined volunteers from all over the county to collect their prize at an awards' evening.

The award celebrates the incredible effort of Lisa and Neil Charlton, and their dedicated group of volunteers.

Since opening, the volunteer-run store has saved more than 25,000 kilograms of food from going to landfill, the equivalent of providing ingredients for over 70,000 meals.

Neil said: "I'm so proud of my amazing wife and her equally amazing team of volunteers who are finally recognised with this award."

Every penny received by The Seaside Store goes straight back in to keeping it running.

This includes paying FareShare for weekly deliveries of fresh fruit and vegetables, and keeping the shelves stocked with everyday essentials such as tins and dry goods.



Volunteers of the Seaside Store team at the Dorset Volunteer Centre Awards

Week after week, this can be a challenge, and the store relies heavily on the generosity of the local community through donations, fundraising and volunteer time.

The recognition from the Dorset Volunteer Centre shines a light on what Lisa and Neil have achieved in just a few short years – reducing waste, feeding families and supporting our community.

The Seaside Store operates from The Hub in Church Street every Monday from 3pm to 5pm.

For more details about how you can benefit from the store please contact Lisa on 07835 799469.

Take a glimpse inside

ONE award-winning garden in Staples Terrace is a demonstration of how much can be achieved within a small space.

Simon Beadles, an ecologist and arboriculturist, has created a native wildflower garden and opens his gate to the public to take a glimpse inside.

The garden features a wild herb garden, a bee hotel and a bog garden.

Simon's 'wave garden' unfolds across three distinct areas, each one carefully designed to support biodiversity and provide shelter, food, and habitat for insects and birds.

Simon said: "This shows that you need to live with nature, not fight it."

For those inspired to bring a touch of the wild into their own gardens, Simon offers visits by arrangement.

To arrange a visit, call Simon on 07870 603345.



Simon Beadles in his garden at Staples Terrace

A decade of dedication

A VOLUNTEER at the Town Mill in Lyme Regis has been recognised with a Decade of Dedication Award.

Volunteer miller and chairman of trustees Rob McLaughlin has been honoured for his 10 years of service, both behind the scenes and hands-on as one of the mill's working millers.

Rob received the award at the 2025 Volunteer Centre Dorset awards' ceremony in Dorchester.

The town mill team said: "It's people like Rob who drive much of what's achieved in our community.

"He has a strong conviction for service for the greater good, but expects no reward or acknowledgement. We're all so proud to see his work recognised."

The Town Mill has stood beside the River Lym for centuries, its history dating back to at least the 1300s.

After falling into disrepair in the 1990s, it was lovingly restored by local volunteers, and today it remains both a working flour mill and a vibrant community hub.

Visitors can still see the water wheel in action, turning the great millstones that grind local wheat into flour.



Rob McLaughlin of the Town Mill, pictured with his award

The Town Mill complex is surrounded by artist studios, galleries, a café, brewery and shops, all independently run and full of character.

The Volunteer Centre Dorset awards recognised a wide range of individuals and groups from across the county, people who give their time freely to their communities.

The Town Mill team said: "It's a delight to see so many people recognised for the deep contribution volunteers make to society.

"Thank you, Rob, for all you do, and thank you to every volunteer, in every capacity. It means a great deal to us all."

To find out more about the mill, visit www.townmill.org.uk or drop in for a friendly chat with the team.

NEW DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP LAUNCHES



A NEW support group for people living with Type 2 diabetes and prediabetes has been launched in Lyme Regis.

The group is thriving, following two successful meetings that have drawn strong local interest.

Unlike standard approaches that centre around medication, this group supports residents to make simple changes to diet and lifestyle to tackle the root causes of the condition.

Many people find these changes not only improve their blood sugar control but, in some cases, reduce or even remove the need for medication, and bring wider health benefits.

The Lyme Regis group is part of the wider Low Carb Lyme campaign, which aims to make the town more friendly to people living with Type 2 diabetes and prediabetes.

With many local residents affected, the initiative will work with local cafés and restaurants to introduce lower-carbohydrate options on menus, giving people healthier choices when eating out.

The support group has been set up by former GP Dr Sue Beckers, pictured, who also runs a successful group in Bridport, and Lyme Regis resident Julie Sheppard, whose own Type 2 diabetes is now in remission thanks to dietary changes.

Dr Beckers said: "When we meet together in a group we can share our best tips and also our challenges. We learn from the real-life experience of other people doing battle with the same issues and feel empowered to make the necessary changes to improve our overall health and wellbeing in very significant ways."

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12 November, 3.30pm to 5pm, at the Bakehouse Studio (above the Courtyard Gallery and Café, Town Mill, Mill Lane, Lyme Regis, DT7 3PU).

The event is free and everyone is welcome.

Signing off for the Winter...

LYME REGIS BOWLING CLUB

LYME Regis Bowling Club is now signing off the winter after a busy and successful season both on and off the green.

2025 Club Finals Weekend

Early September saw the club hold its competition finals weekend covering 16 competitions across a variety of formats.

With a record 33 different bowlers scheduled to compete across the two days, with a number of them in only their second season of bowling, this was a great reflection of the recent growth in the membership of the club.

The weekend also saw the introduction of the Novice Cup, recognising the success of new bowlers.

Competition was fierce with some very closely fought matches and a lot of high-quality bowling on one of the best bowling greens in Dorset.

President Angela Rattenbury presented the trophies to the winners and runners-up, also congratulating the competitors and thanking club competition secretary Rom Hunt for organising the event.

Ladies Team Pipped at the Post

Congratulations to the ladies league team, who were runners-up in the West Dorset Women's Bowling League Division 2 after being beaten to the title late in the season by Broadstone Wessex.

Ladies Captain Charity Donation

This year's ladies captain's charity was Amelia's Rainbow, a Dorset-based charity, which supports local children who have serious, chronic or terminal illness or disability.

Through various events, the bowling club members have raised £310 for the charity.



Ladies Captain, Ann Allman with representatives from Amelia's Rainbow

Ladies captain Ann Allman said: "I had the pleasure of meeting with Amelia's mother Chantel, and Sheree the charity ambassador, to present them with the donation. It is fabulous to be able to support such worthwhile and local charities."

The club would like to thank Ann Allman, who is stepping down after a total of six years in the role and whose experience and knowledge at club and county level will be missed.

Ann now hands over the reins to Mary Haseman.

THE BIG CHRISTMAS WEEKEND

in Lyme Regis

13th & 14th December

Special Offers Across Town

*

Best Dressed Window Competiton

*

Makers Market at the Town Mill

Christmas Tree Festival & Santa's Grotto at The Baptist Church



For more information scan QR code or visit

lovelymeregis.co.uk/bigchristmasweekend

Brought to you by Lyme Regis Businesses,
Love Lyme Regis / Visit Lyme Regis & Lyme Regis Regatta & Carnival

A countdown to Christmas



Photograph by Kate Newman

THE countdown to Christmas in Lyme Regis starts when the town's much admired festive illuminations are turned on.

In recent years the turning on of the Christmas lights has attracted thousands of people, this year scheduled to take place on Saturday 22 November at 5pm.

It promises to be a fun-packed afternoon/evening for all the family with a full itinerary of events kicking off with a lantern workshop for all ages, starting at 2pm in the Baptist Church Pine Hall.

Materials will be provided with prizes for the best entries in the following categories: ages 0 to four, ages five to seven, ages eight to 11, 12 plus, and adults. Lanterns made at home are welcome to enter.

At 5pm, Lyme Regis Majorettes, Fitsteps and Lyme Morris will be performing in Broad Street, followed by the parade of Christmas lanterns.

Santa Claus is expected to arrive soon after in his sleigh for the big switch-on, after which Blackdown Samba will be performing by the Christmas tree at The Shambles.

The event is organised by the Lyme Regis Christmas Lights Committee, a group of volunteers led by Rob James, who work tirelessly during the year raising funds.

Lyme Regis Town Council contributes £4,000 towards the cost, with financial support also coming from local businesses to meet the annual £15,000 cost.

The Christmas Lights Committee will also be organising a duck race at midday on New Year's Day, starting at Woodmead Road bridge.

The Mayor, Cllr Philip Evans MBE, accompanied by town crier Alan Vian, will start the race.



Photograph by Max Redwood


Photograph by Kate Newman

It was Barbara who brought the lights to Lyme



Lyme's Christmas lights are much admired, with thousands crowding into Broad Street every year for the switching-on ceremony.

But it was not always like that.

Following the demise of the Chamber of Trade, for many years, Lyme's festive illuminations were limited to a lonely Christmas tree on The Shambles, where the Rotary Club held their annual Christmas carol concert.

But it all changed when the late Barbara Austin won a place on the town council.
She went on to serve as Mayor for two stints – 1994 to 1997 and again from 2003 to 2006 – making her one of the town's most popular First Citizens.

Barbara was a brilliant fundraiser for a number of good causes in the town and in 2000 she formed a committee to improve the Christmas lights in Broad Street.

Barbara's son David said: "She got together with a group of locals and they did some fundraising. They went around all the businesses in Broad Street, got together the funds and organised the Christmas lights.

"She loved Christmas. She had five children so we always had large Christmases and she just wanted to brighten the place up.

"She got to know the people who supplied the lights and she would do deals with them to get the best lights."

There was an immediate improvement with most local shops displaying a Christmas tree over their premises and illuminations spanning Lyme's main street.

Recently deceased Christine Lovell, wife of former mayor Owen Lovell, took over the chairmanship of the Christmas Lights Committee following Barbara's death and led the organisation with great enthusiasm, building on the bricks that Barbara and her team had laid.

Barbara Austin became Lyme's most decorated mayor.

As well as being awarded the MBE for services to the community, presented to her by Queen Elizabeth II, she was also granted the Freedom of the City of London which, among other things, allowed her to drive a flock of sheep down Fleet Street!

Barbara passed away at the end of 2012 and the following year her grandchildren were invited to perform the official switch-on of the town's Christmas lights.

A tribute to Barbara's efforts to make the town look more festive at Christmas is recorded on a bronze plaque attached to the Royal Lion wall in Broad Street, where 'Barbara's Lantern' can also be found.



Barbara pictured with her MBE



Barbara receiving her MBE from Queen Elizabeth II

Barbara's family is proud of the legacy she created.

David said: "She enjoyed doing it, it was a passion of hers. She really enjoyed the fact that she got it going, with the help of others. It keeps her memory alive."

The current committee is chaired by Rob James whose marketing skills since moving to the town has increased considerably the number of visitors who attend the switching-on ceremony.





From left, Adam, David, Barbara, Kerry, Jane and Richard Austin in 1996 when Barbara was awarded the Freedom of the City of London

WHAT'S ON IN LYME REGIS



THE BIG COLYTON ART SHOW
Saturday 8 November, 10am
Colyton Grammar School

CARA DILLON
Saturday 8 November, 7.30pm
Marine Theatre

REMEMBRANCE CONCERT
Sunday 9 November, 4pm
Lyme Regis Parish Church

WILLY MASON
Sunday 9 November, 8pm
Marine Theatre

AN AFTERNOON OF SONG WITH SAMMY HURDEN
Monday 10 November, 1.45pm
Marine Theatre

LYME REGIS SOCIETY: SHIRE END RIBA AWARD HOUSE
Tuesday 11 November, 7.15pm
Marine Theatre

SPINAL TAP II: THE END CONTINUES
Tuesday 11 November, 7.15pm
Marine Theatre

THE SHANTY SESSIONS
Thursday 13 November, 7.30pm
Marine Theatre



LYME REGIS COMMUNITY BINGO
Thursday 13 November, 8pm
Woodmead Halls

GONG
Friday 14 November, 8pm
Marine Theatre

LYME REGIS REPAIR CAFE
Saturday 15 November, 10am
Boat Building Academy

JAZZ JURASSICA: ONE NIGHT. ONE LEGEND. CRAIG MILVERTON
Saturday 15 November, 7.30pm
St Michael's Church

JAZZ BY THE SEA
Sunday 16 November, 8pm
Marine Theatre

THE DORSET BEE
Tuesday 18 November, 7pm
Baptist Church

JOHN CLEESE PACKS IT IN
Tuesday 18 November, 7.15pm
Marine Theatre

LYME REGIS COMMUNITY BINGO
Thursday 20 November, 8pm
Woodmead Halls



FEROCIOUS DOG
Friday 21 November, 7.30pm
Marine Theatre

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON
Saturday 22 November, 5pm
Broad Street

POP-UP VINTAGE
Saturday 22 November - Thursday 4 December, 10am
The Malthouse Gallery

ONE BATTLE AFTER ANOTHER
Tuesday 25 November, 7.15pm
Marine Theatre

LYME REGIS COMMUNITY BINGO
Thursday 27 November, 8pm
Woodmead Halls

JOHN ILLSLEY - LIFE AND TIMES OF DIRE STRAITS
Thursday 27 November, 8pm
Marine Theatre

THE FIFTH STEP - NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE
Thursday 28 November, 7pm
Marine Theatre

CHRISTMAS FAIR
Friday 28 November, 3.30pm
Charmouth Primary School



COMMUNITY CLOSET
Saturday 29 November, 10.30am
Woodmead Halls

FESTIVE WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP
Saturday 30 November, 9.30am
Lyme Regis Museum

LYME REGIS TOWN BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Friday 5 December, 7.30pm
Woodmead Halls

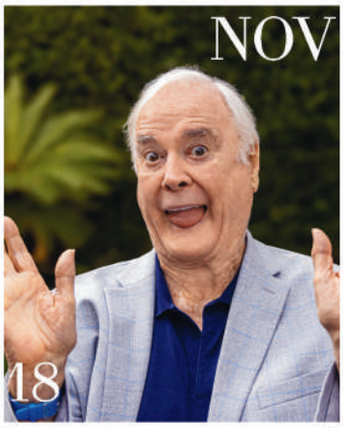
OZRIC TENTACLES
Friday 5 December, 8pm
Marine Theatre

UPLYME CHRISTMAS FAYRE, COFFEE MORNING AND DUCK RACE
Saturday 6 December, 10am
Uplyme Village Hall

OVER 70S CHRISTMAS LUNCH
Saturday 6 December, 12.30pm
Woodmead Halls

ALL WRAPPED UP: ARTISTS, MAKERS & CREATORS EXHIBITION
Saturday 6 December, 8pm
The Malthouse Gallery

WHAT'S ON IN LYME REGIS



JAZZ BY THE SEA: THE REMI HARRIS HOT CLUB TRIO

Sunday 7 December, 8pm
Marine Theatre

SANTA'S SLEIGH, ANNUAL TOUR

Sunday 7 December and Monday 8 December in Lyme Regis.
Tuesday 9 December in Charmouth.
From approx, 4pm



LYME REGIS CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Friday 12 December, 11am to 6pm
Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 December, 10am to 5pm
Lyme Regis Baptist Church

THE BIG CHRISTMAS WEEKEND IN LYME REGIS

Saturday 13 December - Sunday 14 December,
Broad Street



SANTA'S GROTTO LYME REGIS

Saturday 13 December, 10.45am
Lyme Regis Baptist Church

LYME REGIS REPAIR CAFE

Saturday 20 December, 10am
Boat Building Academy



PINTXOS EVENING

Monday 22 December, 6pm
Strawberry Tree

SANTA'S HELPER EXPERIENCE

Monday 22 December - Wednesday 24 December, 11am
The Town Mill

CAROLS ROUND THE TREE

Tuesday 23 December, 7pm
Broad Street






kindly join us for the first of its kind
WEDDING FAIR
at
THE GUILDHALL
JANUARY 24TH 2026
10AM - 2PM
The Guildhall, Bridge Street, Lyme Regis
Glass of Buck's Fizz upon arrival & FREE
goodie bag for the first 30 couples!

LYME REGIS

Christmas Lights

SWITCH ON



SAT 22 NOVEMBER 2025 5PM

BROAD STREET

FIND OUT MORE AT
LYMECHRISTMASLIGHTS.CO.UK



Santa's Grotto
Lyme Regis

£5 per child

Sat 13 December

Lyme Regis Baptist Church

Book online at
santalymeregis.co.uk

All proceeds to local good causes

Lyme Regis Regatta & Carnival

Lyme Regis

Christmas Tree

Scan to find out more



FESTIVAL

12-14 December

See a display of Christmas trees decorated by local organisations

The Pine Hall, Lyme Regis Baptist Church

At the top of Broad Street

Free admission

LYME REGIS

Christmas Lights

CHRISTMAS LANTERN WORKSHOP



22 NOVEMBER AT LYME REGIS BAPTIST CHURCH

Workshop 2pm - Judging 4pm - Parade 5pm

PRIZES FOR THE BEST ENTRIES IN EACH AGE CATEGORY
0-4, 5-7, 8-11, 12+ and Adults

A cherished christmas tradition



ONE OF Lyme Regis's most loved festive traditions returns this December, as the Over 70s Christmas Lunch once again brings the community together.

This year's lunch will take place on Saturday 6 December, 12.30pm at Woodmead Halls, offering residents of Lyme, aged 70 and over, a wonderful afternoon of good food, friendship and festive cheer.

The event has been a highlight of the town's calendar for decades, offering a chance for older residents to come together, share memories, and enjoy each other's company.

Organised each year with the help of volunteers, the Over 70s Christmas Lunch began as a small community gathering and has grown into a much-anticipated annual event.

Past lunches have featured a traditional Christmas dinner, live entertainment, raffles, and of course, a visit from Father Christmas himself.

Volunteer Michaela Ellis said: "It's a lovely way to say thank you to the people who have given so much to this town over the years.

"Everyone enjoys the atmosphere, it really captures what community is all about."

Tickets are now available to anyone aged 70 or over and living in Lyme Regis. To purchase a ticket, please contact Michaela Ellis on 07856 630975.

As always, the event wouldn't be possible without the generous help of volunteers who give up their time to make it such a special occasion.

So, dust off your Christmas jumper, gather your friends, and head along for a festive afternoon full of laughter, music and company, a true reminder of what makes Lyme so special at Christmas time.



Volunteers at the Over 70s Christmas Lunch



Emma Blackmore and Jayne Hutchings serving up the roast dinners



Residents enjoying the atmosphere and festivities



Karen Skardon James serving residents at the lunch

Photography by Rob James



AN EVENING of festive favourites, timeless carols and pop classics awaits at Lyme Regis Town Band's Christmas Concert.

Following a successful summer season, the town band is inviting the community to step into the festive spirit with their Brassy Sparkle of Christmas Concert at Woodmead Halls on Friday 5 December at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £10, available now via the website lymeregistownband.co.uk/christmas

You can also catch them this festive season when they perform at the Rotary Club of Lyme Regis' Carols Round the Tree on Tuesday 23 December in Broad Street.

Lyme Regis Town Band was re-formed in 1981 after a 30-year lapse, supported by a donation from the filming of The French Lieutenant's Woman in Lyme Regis that same year.

Local businessman Chris Chapman was instrumental in re-establishing the band, with publican Joe O'Donnell as its first musical director. Today, the band is led by Ellis Holt.

During the summer months, the band performs regularly to entertain both locals and visitors.

Each Tuesday evening from July to the end of August, crowds of several hundred gather on the seafront to enjoy an evening of live brass music, from traditional tunes to upbeat contemporary arrangements.

As an integral part of the local community, Lyme Regis Town Band supports organisations such as the Regatta and Carnival Committee, the RNLI, the Royal British Legion, the Rotary Club of Lyme Regis, and local schools throughout the year.





Ellis Holt leading the Lyme Regis Town Band, wearing a very festive suit
Photography by Rob James

It's sleigh time



SANTA'S charity sleigh will mark the start of the festive season as it tours the streets of Lyme Regis and Charmouth this December.

This year marks the 24th annual tour for the charity sleigh, organised by Sarah and Neville Causley and sponsored each year by Lyme Regis Regatta and Carnival.

Each year, the sleigh's evening tour brings smiles to doorsteps and families gathering along the route to wave, listen for the music, watch the magic of the snow fall and even catch a glimpse of Santa himself.

But behind the tinsel and twinkling lights lies something even more special, a remarkable fundraising effort that, for the best part of a quarter of a century, has donated thousands of pounds back into the community, supporting local groups, charities and organisations in Lyme Regis and Charmouth.

The sleigh will be setting off at approximately 4pm each evening, starting in Lyme Regis on Sunday 7 December and Monday 8 December, making its way to Charmouth on Tuesday 9 December.

As always, the team will be updating their route live on their Facebook page each evening, so residents can follow along and be ready to welcome Santa as he passes by.

The enduring success of this event is a testament to the dedication of the organisers, volunteers and everyone who donates and contributes along the route.

So, this December, when you hear that familiar festive tune drifting through the town, step outside, give Santa a wave, and know that your support helps to make a real difference in our community.



Santa's Charity sleigh in Broad Street



The sleigh team



Santa on the sleigh at The Shambles



Santa with town crier, Alan Man

Photography by Rob James



Lyme Regis
Town Council

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

GATEWAY SCHEME

MARINERS HOTEL & RESTAURANT

10% off
all food and drinks

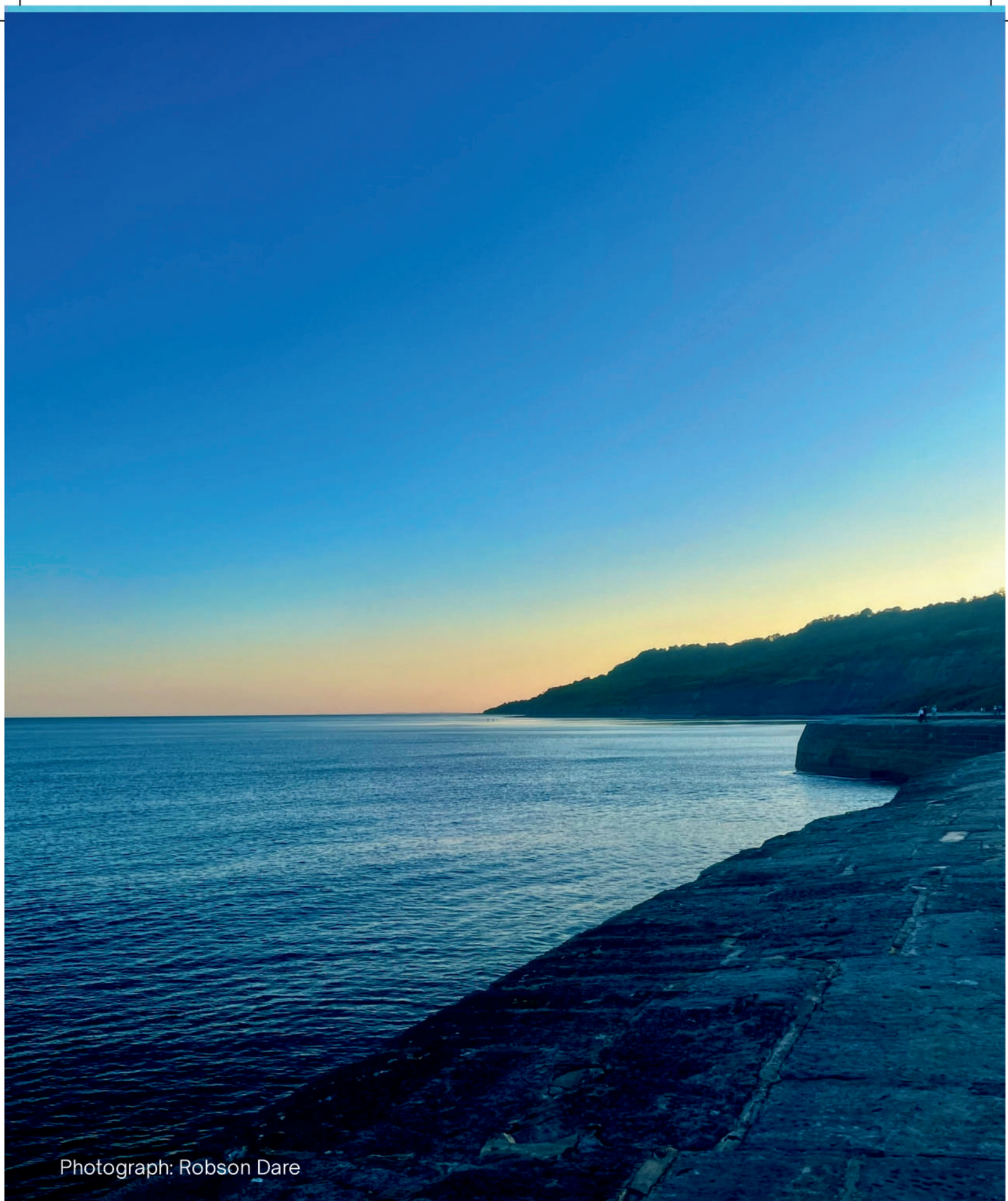
SCAN
SCAN

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. All full list of participating businesses can be found on the town council website.

Our November "Business of the month" is The Mariners Hotel and Restaurant. This is one of the more recent recruits to the Gateway Scheme, offering residents a 10% discount off food and drinks in the hotel's beautiful restaurant. Simply present your Gateway Card to claim your discount.

With incredible sea views, delicious seasonal menus, and a warm welcome always guaranteed, The Mariners is the perfect spot for a relaxed breakfast, dinner, or evening drink.

The Bar is open seven days a week, breakfast is served seven days a week 8am to 10.30am and dinner is served Tuesday to Saturday 6pm to 8.30pm. Pop in, show your Gateway Card and receive your residents' discount.



Photograph: Robson Dare

Contact us:
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