LYMPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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1st April 2025

To All Members of the Parish

You are invited to attend an Annual Parish Meeting of Lympstone to be held **6.30pm** on **Monday 7th April 2025 in the Meeting Room at the Village Hall.** The business to be transacted is set out below.

Members of the Public are cordially invited to attend.
The agenda and all attachments can be found online at www.lympstone.org.

L. Staddon

Cllr Lisa Staddon
Chairman to the Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - AGENDA

2025/1	**Apologies**
2025/2	**Minutes** To confirm the minutes of the APM Meeting held 8th April 2024 (attached pgs 2-12).
2025/3	**LPC Chairman**
2025/4	**LPC Clerk** – financial summary 2023-24, 2024-25 attached (attached pg 13)
2025/5	**Devon County Councillors**
2025/6	**East Devon District Councillors**
2025/7	**LPC Committee Lead Cllrs:** Environment Committee – report attached (pgs 14-15)
2025/8	**Phone box book swap –** report attached (pg 16)
2025/9	**Lympstone Garden Club** – report attached (pg 17-18)
2025/10	**Wild About Lympstone** – report attached (pg 19)
2025/11	**Lympstone History Society**– report attached (pg 20)
2025/12	**Lympstone Website and Social Media** – report attached (pg 21)
2025/13	**Lympstone Singers, Lympstone Legends, Christmas Tree Festival** – report attached (pg 22)
2025/14	**Heathfield Allotment Trust** – report attached (pg 23)
2025/15	**Lympstone Flood Resilience Group (LFRG)** – report attached (pg 24-25)
2025/16	**Gulliford Burial Ground Joint Committee**– report attached (pg 26)
2025/17	**Community Hub lunches** – report attached (pg 27)
2025/18	**Parish Tree Warden** – report attached (pg 28)
2025/19	**Lympstone Art Group** – report attached (pgs 29-30)
2025/20	**Lympstone Water Quality Group** – report attached (pg 31)
2025/21	**Any further questions**

MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY 8TH APRIL 2024.

PRESENT:	
Councillors	S Culhane, S Francis, R Gale-Hasleham, K Hill, N Linfoot and L Staddon
Clerk	Miss L Tyrrell
County Councillors	R Scott and J Trail
District Councillors	B Ingham and G Jung
Public	6 members

2024/1 Apologies

Cllr Atkins, Minter and Payne due to other commitments.
Cllr Linfoot proposed to approve the apologies. Cllr Francis seconded. Unan.

RESOLVED that the Apologies were approved by the PC.

2024/2 Minutes

To confirm the minutes of the APM Meeting held 18th May 2023.
Cllr Linfoot proposed the minutes of the APM meeting held on the 18th May 2023 were accurate Cllr Francis seconded. Unan.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the APM meeting held on the 18th May 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2024/3 Chairman

The Chairman explained he would report in the PC meeting.

2024/4 Clerk

The Clerk presented the last two years of LPCs finances. (Appendix A)
Cllr Linfoot proposed the finances were noted. Cllr Staddon seconded. Unan.

RESOLVED that the PCs last two years of finances were noted by the PC.

2024/5 County Councillors

Nothing to report.

2024/6 District Councillors

District Cllr Jung read his report:

Annual report from Cllr Geoff Jung (EDDC District Councillor for Woodbury and Lympstone and Cabinet member for Coast Country and Environment)

It's been yet another busy year at East Devon District Council.
Taking my portfolio first, it has been yet another busy year.
Coast. *Working with various landowners, the EA, and other stakeholders we are busy progressing plans, to protect the shoreline and cliffs at Seaton, Beer, Budliegh and Sidmouth, with our annual cliff inspections, plus plans for multi million schemes to protect communities from the effects of climate change.*
Coastal management requires to either, ***Holding the Line****, which is what we are doing with our coastal communities, or* ***Managed retreat*** *which the Lower Otter project achieved, or* ***do nothing*** *which is the policy for the remainder of our coast. The Exe Estuary is of particular concern, and with other stakeholders we are looking at the long-term implications to a breach failure at Dawlish Warren.*

Country. *We live in a beautiful area with 2 National Landscapes (formally AONBs) Recently the Lower Otter was added to the Mutters Moor and Pebblebed Heaths National Nature Reserve, which is the highest accolade to a protected area.*
Work is progressing with introducing the (Environmental Land Management) ELMs policies with farmers, which replaces the European Agricultural Policy, plus the new nationally introduced ***Biodiversity Net Gain*** *policy, plus EDDC new strategies on* ***Nature Recovery*** *and our emerging* ***Tree Policy****. We already have commitments to over a million trees to be planted by just one landowner.*
Environment. *There are 2 major strands that is taking the lions share of our work. Firstly, river and coastal pollution, with the continuing extra workload that is being generated by the poor performance of South West Water SWW.*
The main issue is the Government requires Water companies to simply provide water and sewage provision, but it is not a stipulation for water companies to be a consultee on planning applications. Only recently are water companies finally requiring planning authorities to condition applications with delayed occupation dates whilst they upgrade or repair installations. As this is a national problem and not only a local issue, so it's not going to be fixed any time soon.
The other area which is taking a lot of effort is our Recycling and Waste contract. There are a number of new National Policies which will change the waste stream industry, with the "bottle deposit schemes", plus the "manufactures responsibilities", with the packaging producers providing funding for waste collections, plus the need to change our fleet from diesel to green power. These changes will dramatically change our waste and recycling streams, its funding, and costs. As a council we do not want these changes to effect the great job our crews and residents already do. In fact, we want to see the remaining 40% of our waste which is incinerated reduced a lot further.
With regards to the ongoing ***Local Plan****, a further consultation of further proposals, covering further strategies including Green Wedges, the Clyst Valley Regional Park expansion, to Coastal Protection areas.*

District Cllr Ingham explained that the current EDDC leadership had run the council for the past four years and believed they were responsible for the current state of the Assets – he felt control had been lost regarding the state of repairs and maintenance. He felt the leadership should make this a priority to rectify. He explained that the local plan and emerging local plan regarding green wedge proposals was delivered appallingly. The coastal protection areas had increased but felt officers wanted this to be all the protection necessary, in Cllr Inghams opinion this was not enough. EDDC 4/5-year land supply had slipped, and developers were now stating that EDDC only had a 3 ½ year land supply. This was being investigated and solutions were being sought. He felt the policy of asking landowners to present land for development was not good enough.
Cllr Jung added that the leadership had inherited underfunded and under managed resources regarding assets and housing. He explained a new town was being looked at.

2024/7 LPC Committee Chairman

Cllr Culhane, Chair to the Environment Committee read her report:

On 7th February 2024, a resolution was passed by Lympstone Parish Council as follows:

Lympstone Parish Council Climate Action Declaration

'We, Lympstone Parish Council, acknowledge the need to act on the causes and impacts of the climate change and biodiversity crisis. As a local council, we work towards improving community well-being and providing better services. We recognise that local action to combat climate change can deliver numerous benefits, including safeguarding a habitable future. The transition to net zero helps tackle the rising cost of living, improving health and the local economy.

We commit to developing our own local Climate and Nature Strategy, in consultation with our residents and local partners. Our Strategy will inform all future LPC decision-making, provision of local services and, at its heart, will seek to improve the quality of life and wellbeing for everyone in Lympstone.

We pledge to use our influence and decision-making powers wherever possible to support EDDC's Climate Action Plan, and the transition to net Zero by 2040, or earlier.'

The Environment Committee is forming a Working Group to develop Lympstone's Climate and Nature Strategy. It is timely that we are also working on a new Neighbourhood Plan and therefore have the opportunity to include environmental planning policies which fit with the community's needs, and to prioritise local Council work in our 5 Year Action Plan.

Can you help?
Do you have ideas about how we as a Council can reduce our overall carbon footprint?
What can we do as a community to safeguard a habitable future?
Do you have concerns about the impacts of climate change which you would like represented in this important new Strategy?

Come and join the discussion!

The first working party meeting will take place soon. If you would like to take part in any way, please call our Clerk Lucy on 07890 717081 or email lympstonepc@gmail.com.

Thank you.

County Cllr Trail added that DCC would be more than happy to be involved with working with LPC regarding environmental issues.

2024/8 Phone box book swap

Cllr Linfoot read the annual report submitted by Mary Turner regarding the telephone book swap (Appendix B). Cllr Gale-Hasleham explained that the requests to the PC in the report would be discussed in the PC meeting under the Community Committee item.

2024/9 Gulliford Burial Ground Joint Committee

Jane Moffatt, Chairman to the Gulliford Joint Committee was present and read her report (Appendix C).

2024/10 Heathfield Allotment Trust

Cllr Linfoot read the annual report submitted by Carrie Darby (Appendix D).
Cllr Linfoot added that unfortunately at the weekend the Allotments had suffered a break in where many tools had been stolen. The Police were currently investigating.

2024/11 Lympstone Flood Resilience Group

Helen Dimond, member of LFRG was present and read her report (Appendix E). District Cllr Jung explained he would be keeping LPC and LFRG updated with the recent flooding issues in the area. A report from these incidents would be due in three months' time.

2024/12 Lympstone Parish Charity – item postponed.

2024/13 Lympstone Film Society

Brian Mather from the group was present. He explained that The Society had been given a 9.5mm cine film belonging to the late John and Jill Newton with permission to show it in the village and beyond. As the film was fragile and dated back to 1936, he had requested a grant from the PC to have it professionally copied onto a USB stick. The film viewed the village 90 years ago and showed, for example, the events of Sea Sunday when the Rev. McIntyre blessed the fishing boats in the boat shelter. A three-minute clip of the film was watched by all present. The film would be added to the growing archive collection, some of which may be seen on You Tube on the Lympstone Film Society channel or from links from the village website.

The Society was grateful to the Parish Council for the grant enabling them to preserve some living history for future generations.

2024/14 Lympstone Water Quality Group

Cllr Staddon read the annual report submitted by Clem and Sara Davies (Appendix F).

2024/15 Any further questions

The Chairman congratulated and thanked all the groups for all their continued support and hard work.

Meeting closed at **7.43pm**

Chairman: Date:

Appendix A:

Clerk – financial summary:

Financial Summary 22-23		
Current Account		
Opening balance at 1st April 2022		156,502.80
Receipts		£235,079.11
Total receipts		£391,581.91
less, Payments		£226,724.44
Net balance		£164,857.47
Unpresented cheques		£0.00
Receipts not on statement		£0.00
	Balance at Bank 31/3/23	£164,857.47

Financial Statement - Cashbook

Statement of receipts and payments between 01/04/23 and 31/03/24 inclusive. This may include transactions with ledger dates outside this period.

Balances at the start of the year 1st April 2023 **Current Account** Total	**£164,857.47**
RECEIPTS **Total Receipts**	**158,868.75**
PAYMENTS **Total Payments**	**100,366.03**
Closing Balances 31st March 2024 Current Account	**£223,360.19**

Appendix B:

Lympstone's Gibraltar Road Phone Box Book Swap

Report to the Parish Council. March 2024.

The phone box book swap continues to be well used, with regular donations of books and generally good turnover. There are no official volunteers, but a number of local residents continue to tidy the books as they go past.

Last year I reported that the condition of the phone box has deteriorated. A repair to the door - thank you – has stopped the worst of the leaks. However, this has been a very wet start to the year, and we continue to have problems with water ingress on an ongoing basis, which damages some of the stock.

In addition to this, the state of the outside has deteriorated further and the phone box now looks very shabby. This is partially paintwork, and partially the state of the window panels. I feel a smarter and cleaner book swap would be better looked after by the community.

For this reason I would like to request that the Parish Council support this local facility by arranging the following works:

- painting of the outside
- refurbishment/replacement of window panels
- checking for leaks (possibly caused by the window panels)

Mary Turner

Appendix C:

Gulliford Burial Ground Report

The last year has seen both highs and lows for those caring for the Gulliford Dissenters' Burial ground. The high was definitely when Gulliford Burial Ground won the prestigious 'Most Original' award in the 2023 Devon Best Churchyard Competition run by Devon CPRE. Gulliford Burial Ground was one of 26 entrants in the competition and the award was accompanied with the judges statement: -*This is a surprisingly delightful small burial ground, beautifully and informatively managed. The vision of those caring for this site is commendable – it was a pleasure to visit.*

So, in Oct 2023, the committee of FOGBG were invited to an award ceremony at Rosemoor Gardens, for the finals of the Best Devon Churchyard. We were delighted to win the "Most Original" graveyard certificate. This award recognises hours of help, planning, gardening, grant research etc, the list goes on, from the communities of Lympstone & Woodbury. Well done.

After a wonderful display of Daffodils in spring, Gulliford got ready for summer. We have a new council gardener Jeff Morrish, who we met at Gulliford to explain where to strim and where to leave, he cuts the grass as and when needed, which is working well.

But there were many other highlights of the year. For the first event of 2023, The Friends of Gulliford was part of the "Wild About Lympstone" festival in the Parish Church on Saturday 3rd June, where we were on hand to explain all we have done for the environment at Gulliford.

On Saturday June 24th at 2pm, we are delighted to have Dr Mark Moffatt, who guided visitors around the burial ground identifying and introducing us to our insects. This tour was FREE, everyone welcome and all ages, no booking just turn up.

We put on our annual FREE tour of Gulliford Burial Ground, from 2pm on Sunday 16th July, the tours are suited to the visitor, you say how long you want it and what interests you most whether it's the history of the site or the wildlife, we would adapt the tour to your point of interest.

We also need to say thank you to the gardening team whose commitment keep the burial ground looking tidy and a pleasure to visit. This year, we also had the sadness of saying goodbye to a stalwart of our committee, Lesley Weeks, who sadly lost her fight against cancer. The glorious displays of spring flowers and meadow blooms in the Burial ground are her legacy from hours of planting and weeding. We have a lovely gardening team, but it is small, and we are constantly looking out for more volunteers who could spare a couple of hours per month to help out.

The Joint Parishes Committee has also seen a change around of personnel with Ken Perry and Steve Parks from Woodbury PC and Andrew Minter from Lympstone PC joining our ranks. We are very pleased to have them join our team.

For 2024, we are opening for the garden festival, on Sunday June the 9th in the afternoon. With more events in the pipeline for further on in the year including a bat detecting evening.

Jane Moffatt, Chair to Gulliford Burial Ground Joint Committee

Appendix D:

Heathfield Allotment Trust

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 202075

REPORT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL MARCH 2024

This year plot holders celebrated 150 years of being at the Sowden End site. The charity is in fact 192 years old, having been originally sited on land near Marley House in 1832. Our sell out Cream Tea celebration event in the Village Hall was enjoyed by over 90 people, of particular note was music from Two Metres Plus, a history talk and Sue Snell's homemade scones.

Unfortunately, this was the only event of the year as all our other planned events, including our annual BBQ, were rained off.

The weather provided everyone with more challenges than normal. One of the warmest and wettest seasons on record. The very wet July, such a key month for us growers slowed things down considerably, but at least we didn't need to water so much!

The Trust is financially sound and the site remains fully occupied. We still divide full plots, when they become available, to reduce our waiting list which averages 25 villagers. Much of the maintenance including road repairs and grass strimming is managed by Trustees with occasional help from other plot holders.

We look forward to the new growing season and hopefully a little less rain.

Carrie Darby
Chair of Trustees

Trustees: David Atkins (Parish Council link), Carrie Darby (Chair), Reverend Steve Jones (ex officio), Mandy Mitchell (Treasurer), Ian Scott (Maintenance), Nigel Skinner (Secretary), Sue Snell (Social Sec. & Maintenance), Andy Wadhams (Maintenance), Claire Whiter (Waiting List & Plot Allocation Secretary).

Appendix E:
Lympstone Flood Resilience Group report 2024

The Lympstone Flood Resilience Group (LFRG) was formed in late 2017 to develop a more coordinated and strategic approach to flood risk management in the village - based on understanding the risk and facilitating action to minimise the risk. In addition to the 4 members of the Flood Group, there are two teams of flood wardens, an Estuary team and an inland and surface water team .

The Estuary team is at strength and the floodgates and other assets have performed well. As ever there are outstanding improvements to our protection which are being progressed with The Environment Agency (EA) We have seen some big tides which fortunately have not combined with adverse weather conditions, although quite widespread pooling occurred in The Strand opposite The Swan on a number of high tides. We have been in ongoing discussions with the EA about this recurring problem

Since September 2023 the Inland team have cleared blocked gullies at thirteen locations around the village, and despite very heavy rainfall in January and February, no roads have been closed due to surface water flooding. We continue to work closely with DCC Highways and have requested their assistance with clearing standing water in Underhill and at the top of Strawberry Hill by improving the roadside drainage in both locations.

Much of the early part of last year was taken up with preparing for a major Drop In event about Lympstone Flood Risk This was held over two days in the Village Hall in September to raise awareness of flooding matters in the village. The event was well attended by villagers, Councillors, representatives from the agencies and a prospective constituency MP. The panels from this event can be viewed on the village website.

Considerable interest in individual property protection was generated at the event and a number of residents now have flood board protection in place or being progressed. We plan to encourage this further during the year as a door threshold height survey, that the EA undertook has given us very useful data to assist in identifying low spots which may be at higher pooling risk.

Following on from the results of the hydraulic modelling, the EA are proposing to extend the flood retention wall on the north side of Wotton Brook to prevent the possibility of flood water reaching the Strand. Several meetings have taken place to discuss this, with the EA and the residents directly affected.

We have met and made presentations to interested groups interested in flooding in Exton and Newton Poppleford to explain our activities within our community. We have also been working with the Devon Resilience Innovation Project (DRIP) and the newly formed Lympstone Water Quality Group.

We continue to be concerned about any future developments that may have an effect on flooding in the village. We have met with DCC Highways designers to try to better understand how the proposed Dinan Way extension may affect the volumes of water in the Wotton Brook. We have also expressed our concerns about developments at Thorne Farm, Strawberry Hill and Meeting Lane

We remain vigilant of rainfall levels, and Wotton Brook water levels, particularly at times of high tides and when these combine with adverse meteorological conditions.

During the course of the year, we developed a Flood Response Plan which we hope will now become part of the Parish Council's Emergency Plan. It is a double-sided document that provides concise procedures for the Estuary and Inland team leaders, flood wardens and first responders in the event of a severe flood incident.

We met with Martin Davies of the EA to express our concerns about wider tidal exposure when Dawlish Warren is either breached or allowed to erode. In common with other Estuary communities, it is recognised that improvements to our Estuary defences will need to be in place before the protection is allowed to degrade, but no firm timescales are known for this major project. In the short term any breaching of The Warren will be repaired by the EA.

Helen Dimond

Appendix F:
Lympstone Water Quality Group
Annual Report to Lympstone Parish Council, 31st March 2024

Objectives and scope of the Group - The Lympstone Water Quality Group (formerly the Wotton Brook Water Quality Group) was formed in December 2023 in view of increasing concerns about the quality of the water in the Wotton Brook and Exe Estuary. Initially, the objective was to develop a project to obtain a baseline assessment of the water quality in the Wotton Brook. Later, the aim of the project was expanded – to assess, protect, and improve the quality of the water in the Wotton Brook and Exe Estuary (hence the change in the name). The geographic boundaries of the project include both the Wotton Brook catchment boundary and the Lympstone parish boundary (including nearly 200 acres of fundus in the Exe Estuary).

Group members - The Group brings together a mix of skills and experience, including: Cllr Lisa Staddon, Clem Davies, Sara Davies, Rebecca Abrahams (co-founder and coordinator of Wild About Lympstone), Justin Smallwood, Caroline Lewis (also a coordinator for Friends of the River Exe), and Barry Lewis.

Progress and key achievements

- Consulted with key stakeholder groups on the initial project proposal.
- Secured the support of specialist organisations (Westcountry Rivers Trust, Riverfly Partnership, and Stormwater Shepherds) with sufficient existing funding to provide initial advice and guidance, training, monitoring kits, and 2 continuous water monitors for the Wotton Brook.
- Identified and collated relevant information.
- Investigated sources and pathways of pollution and specific threats and opportunities, e.g., Dinan Way Extension and Thorne Farm development project.
- Engaged with other community projects (e.g., on the Rivers Sid, Yealm, and Axe) to learn from their experience.
- Secured the support of the Environment Agency and South West Water plc.
- Engaged with other Lympstone groups, including the Lympstone Flood Resilience Group, Wild About Lympstone, Lympstone Fishery & Harbour Association, and Lympstone Primary School (meeting held on 12 February), and with the wider community (via the Herald, Facebook, and some face-to-face discussions).
- Updated the project plan.
- Recruited nearly 20 volunteers to help with monitoring the water quality in the Wotton Brook, and generally raising awareness and being alert to signs of pollution in the Brook and Estuary.
- Organised training of volunteers, provided by Westcountry Rivers Trust on 14th March.
- Held the first meeting of the Project Steering Group on 21st March.

Issues and challenges

- The government organisations are under pressure, and communicating with them is harder than pre-Covid.
- So far, we have had limited success in engaging Devon County Council and East Devon District Council (despite communications with existing and new contacts at both senior and area levels). The decisions of both organisations can have a significant impact on water quality. DCC has no designated team addressing water quality issues, and it seems these issues are often overlooked by other teams. EDDC looks to the Environment Agency (EA) to identify and assess water pollution risks, and yet many planning applications are now outside of the EA's remit – consequently planning permission can be given without sufficient scrutiny and control of pollution risks.
- Climate change is increasing the risk of water pollution (since runoff is a major pathway of pollution).

- The initial project duration is one year, but the monitoring and other work will need to continue if government systems do not improve. To help ensure the efficacy of the project, a robust records management system is being developed.

Plans for 2024/25

- Continue to implement the project plan, including water monitoring and investigations, and work to protect and improve the water quality in the Brook and Estuary. A preliminary report will be prepared and disseminated by December 2024.
- Collaborate with the Environment Agency, South West Water, and other Lympstone groups to develop a catchment plan and achieve benefits in water quality, flood risk, and biodiversity.
- Identify and secure sources of funding.
- Collaborate with Stormwater Shepherds and Westcountry Rivers Trust to raise awareness of pollution from road runoff.
- Ensure the drainage scheme for the planned Dinan Way Extension meets both regulatory requirements and DCC's commitments for betterment in water quality and flood risk.
- Review other planning applications when requested by Lympstone Parish Council.

The Parish Council's support

We appreciate the Parish Council's support to date. Specific opportunities to support the project's aim include:

- Raising awareness about the project and issues wherever possible.
- Supporting the development of a holistic catchment plan (bringing benefits to water quality, flood risk, biodiversity, and human health and wellbeing).
- Considering the water quality risks and opportunities when reviewing planning applications and other planning documents and updating the Local Neighbourhood Plan.
- Alerting the Group to the above.
- Support our applications for funding.
- Providing any additional funding needed, e.g. for meetings and equipment.
- Providing insurance for volunteers.

Lympstone Water Quality Group
31st March 2024

2025/4 LPC Clerk – financial summary 2023-24, 2024-25

Financial Statement - Cashbook

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2024/2025 *(to be added)*

2025/7 LPC Environment Committee

Environment Committee Report for Annual Parish Meeting 7th April 2025

Over the past year since declaring our acknowledgement of the Climate and Nature Crisis, we have been learning and sharing information about the current situation and some of the proposed solutions, as well as supporting and working with community groups on celebrating and monitoring our natural environment.

Sharing information through reports such as -

- how to report pollution in the Estuary (Lympstone Herald, Facebook and Notice Board)
- Met Office Climate Change and Community Resilience (meeting presentation, minuted)
- Highway runoff and the water environment (Report by Stormwater Shepherds and the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management) (meeting presentation, minuted)

Working with community groups -

- *Lympstone Flood Resilience Group* - we work closely with LFRG who are a working group of this council, and who continue to provide a fantastic service to our village. Recognised by the EA and EDDC as a 'gold standard' community group, LFRG also shares its knowledge and experience regionally, presenting at events organised by the Devon Community Resilience Forum and the Exe Estuary Management Partnership.
- *Wild about Lympstone* - we supported WAL's second event "Stronger Together" which was held on 30th January 2025. This event was held to share the energies and ideas of many of our local community groups. LPC is also supporting a village wildlife event on 17th May, organised by WAL in conjunction with the Heathfield Allotment Trust, Lympstone Water Quality Group, Eco-Church and others, and supported by Devon Wildlife Trust.
- *Lympstone Water Quality Group* - we supported LWQG in setting up a voluntary team of Water Guardians to monitor Wotton Brook and its tributaries for pollution. Wotton Brook, Harefield and Sowden streams all have very low base flow which makes them highly susceptible to pollution (there is clear ongoing sediment pollution during dry weather) and as all eventually flow straight into our SSSI Exe Estuary, there is a recognised community need to protect water quality on behalf of our shellfish business, LHFA, Sailing Club and all water users.

  I attended a recent introductory meeting between SWW and their Project Management Contractor Arcadis and several of our community groups (Lympstone Water Quality Group, Wild about Lympstone, Lympstone Harbour and Fisheries Association and LFRG), to learn about the impact of the upgrade works to the Maer Lane Treatment station on Lympstone.

SWW's AMP8 project, a £22M investment in the Maer Lane Sewing Pumping Station, has the overall objective of providing betterment to the existing system.

AMP8 has 2 phases - firstly to separate surface water runoff from sewage in order to ease pressure on the sewage system, and secondly, to design and implement improvements to the whole system. Separating surface water from the existing drainage system means more water running into Wotton Brook and its tributaries, so LMQP have been working in conjunction with LFRG and other community groups to ensure SWW uses a 'Green First' approach ie using nature-based solutions to clean and filter untreated surface water before it enters our catchment system.

We are also working with the *Environment Agency* to secure Biodiversity Net Gain from the Flood Wall upgrade planning application. 20 trees will be planted in Candy's Field over the next few years, mainly around the perimeter. Some to provide succession for older trees, some to soak up excess water where drainage is poor, and all to support wildlife, provide shade, help with flooding, cleaning air and filtering surface water runoff, as well as (eventually) absorbing carbon.

This past year, we benefited from membership of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership, and also the Countryside Charity, whose advice on planning in the countryside provided helpful information for our Council response to the East Devon Local Plan. This response included a Landscape Proposal for the future, mapping new pedestrian and cycle routes, effectively creating wildlife corridors from the Estuary via woodland, green space and hedgerows to Yonder Oak Wood and beyond to Lympstone Common. With major residential development sites proposed both on the northern and southern boundaries of the parish, construction of the Dinan Way Extension on fields in the Wotton valley, we are looking to work with developers, our District and County Councillors and local partners to help improve access to the local countryside.

Lead Councillor Susie Culhane

2025/8 Phone box book swap

Phone Box Book Swap: A Sorry State

The Lympstone phone box book swap in Gibraltar Road has been very well used over the past year with many villagers making regular use of it, donating and borrowing a wide range of different books for adults and children.

Unfortunately it had to be closed in early December as a result of damage caused by storm Darragh, which left it in an unsafe state.

All the books had to be removed and the door roped shut to ensure it is not used. A number of water damaged books had to be disposed of, and six boxes of good quality books were donated to Hospiscare. Two crates of books are being stored in my shed, ready for reopening once repairs have been completed.

I hope that the parish council will be able to arrange for these repairs to be carried out, and perhaps also do something to reduce leaks, so that fewer books are water damaged in the future.

Mary Turner

2025/9 Lympstone Garden Club

Lympstone Garden Club Garden Club report for Lympstone PC (2)

The Show The third Saturday in August

Lympstone Garden Club was formally formed in !983 but we can date a Flower & Vegetable Show back to 1947. Over the years the name has changed several times. For many years it was known as the 'Flower Show'. However, latterly it was felt that there is so much more than just flowers, fruit and veg so we now call it The Lympstone Garden Club Annual Show.

Last year was the 76th Annual Show. The sections were
Vegetables 25 classes
Fruit 7 classes
Flowers 18 classes
Pot Plants 7classes
Under 16s 16 classes
Home Cooking
Preserves 6 classes
Baking 11 classes
Drinks 4 classes
Handicrafts 10 classes
Photography 2 classes
Creative Arts 4 classes
Go Green 4 classes
That's 114 classes altogether, from class 1.1 - 3 carrots to 10.4 - A homemade suet cake for birds
We like to think that there is something for everyone.
Each section has a judge and steward(s). We aim for the highest possible standard whilst still being a very friendly show. We occasionally have to say NAS - Not As Schedule. For example, when Twelve raspberries are asked for and the exhibitor includes 13 that would be NAS and disqualified.
This year we were blessed with wonderful weather on the day and good attendance. It had been a difficult growing year and the flower entries were definitely down but the vegetables were as amazing as ever.
For many years we've liaised with the school who choose many of the Under 16s classes. We collect the school entries at the end of the summer term and they are displayed in the Meeting Room The art and craft entries from the youngsters are truly amazing.
At the end of the Show it's the giving out of the cups, 26 in all.
For us, the organisers, it is always a joy to see so many enjoying a drink and home-made cakes and sitting and chatting in the community Room or outside.
The 2024 Show was a huge success and greatly enjoyed by all.

The Show takes a year to organise

Plant Sale and Coffee Morning the second Saturday in May

This is our mayor fund-raiser to help fund the Annual Show and the programme of Talks. We were very uncertain when the Methodist Hall closed that our Plant Sale and Coffee Morning would survive the move to the Village Hall. However, we have managed to go from strength to strength. We started in the Community Room and last year moved to the Main Hall which was just as well as there were so many plants to sell.

We have flowers on one side of the hall and veg on the other. The flower plants are purchased and brought on in a greenhouse. Geraniums (pelargoniums) always sell out really quickly.

The veg are grown from seed and our growers do a fantastic job with the different varieties and quality of the plants.

We also accept donations. Many of us grow surplus plants and it's a good place to move them on.

People queue up outside the Hall and the doors are open at 10 am sharp. Then there's a frenzy of buying activity.

Nearly everything is sold by 12 noon.

2024 was a bumper year for us.

Talks

We hold talks during the Autumn and winter. This year we had

October 2023 Dahlia Mania Bella Given
November 2023 AGM followed by the film of the 2017 Open Gardens in Lympstone
March 2024 Plants for Shade Saul Walker
April 2024 Wildlife on our organic farm Martin Godfrey

Book

Ongoing is the sale of our book 'The Lympstone Show' which celebrates 75 years of the Show now held in August in the village hall.

2025/10 Wild About Lympstone

Wild About Lympstone (WAL)
Report to Lympstone Annual Parish Meeting, April 2025

Supported by Devon Wildlife Trust, WAL is passionate about celebrating and supporting local community initiatives that protect, restore and enhance our local nature and wildlife.

Our approach is one of partnership and community-connection. Working in this way, our hope is to deliver positive impact that improves the health of our natural local wildlife and environment as well as our own health and wellbeing, sense of community cohesion and pride.
Our first public event was a Wildlife Festival in June 2023. Run by 50 volunteers from the village, and attended by over 500 people, it was hugely successful. Since then, we have been busy -

- writing and distributing, for free, several hundred copies of an inspiring Nature, Health and Wellbeing book (full of local personal stories)
- launching a beautiful Lympstone Wildlife Map with local artist Louise Banks
- co-hosting a 1000 Plant Giveaway day (now in its second year) with the Allotment Group
- taking part in the 2024 Garden Festival offering gardening for wildlife events and activities
- supporting the establishment and ongoing work of the Lympstone Water Quality Group
- collaborating with various other groups and projects in the village such as the new environmentally-friendly wildlife management plans for the church
- writing regular Lympstone Herald articles; expanding our network of direct supporters (>70); creating a Wild About Lympstone Wildlife Watch Facebook page to share the joys of nature sightings (>200 members).

Most recently, on 30th January, we facilitated a ‘Stronger Together’ evening. Some 40 people, representing 13 village groups all concerned with our natural environment, met to share ideas and experiences.
Supported by DWT, this lively social event was a thank you to everyone for what they already do as well as an opportunity to consider how we might work more collaboratively together for the benefit of our local environment and wildlife. We explored how greater connection between us could create a more holistic approach - bringing together key issues of flooding, water quality, biodiversity and health and wellbeing - to achieve greater and more sustained impact.
We weren’t short of participant feedback for collective community action. These included the creation of Mini Forests, wildlife corridors and local wetland sites; a village ‘nature consultancy’ hub for sharing in-village expertise and knowledge; a developer’s guide to Lympstone’s natural resources; Biodiversity Net Gain-ready sites across the parish; a biodiversity baseline to better support monitoring and impact and greater community veg growing and wildlife-friendly gardening. More will be shared on this at WAL’s Lympstone Environmental Action Day (LEAD) and 1000 Plant Giveaway event on May 17th this year - a community get-together day for positive community environmental action, connection and wellbeing.

The high level of engagement in WAL’s work is evidence of Lympstone’s collective passion for its nature and the desire to protect and enhance it. We share in the pride and desire that came out of our Stronger Together evening – to see Lympstone become a shining example of community strength, thriving nature and natural landscape.

With increasing threat from development, environmental damage and pollution, WAL is keen to work in partnership with others to help mitigate negative environmental impacts and expand our wild spaces and biodiversity. We are grateful for the support we’ve received from the Parish Council and, knowing its commitment to safeguarding as much green space as possible, we look forward to collaborating further for the benefit of our local nature and wildlife.

2025/11 Lympstone History Society

Lympstone History Society report to the Annual Parish Meeting April 2025

Membership numbers of the Society have remained broadly unchanged through the past year. The unfortunate serious illness of our Treasurer prompted some changes in the Committee and in some of our activities.

The activities for the year, and hence also the structure of this report, were divided into two categories: Bi-annual visiting speakers held at Lympstone Village Hall (open to all), and History Society projects.

Visiting speakers

On 19 April 2024 we organised an illustrated talk by Todd Gray, Honorary Research Fellow at Exeter University, entitled “Exeter’s Lost Buildings”.

On 18 October 2024 we organised an illustrated talk by John Allan, Consultant Archaeologist to Exeter Cathedral, entitled “Recent Archaeology of Exeter Cathedral”.

On 21 March 2025 we are organising an illustrated talk by Graeme Wheeler entitled “Sea Wolves – British Naval Heroes in the Age of Sail”.

History Society Projects

The Lympstone oral history project, in which local residents are asked to recall their memories of the village in days gone by, has been paused due to the illness of the lead coordinator. However, it is hope that it will soon resume under a new coordinator.

Membership of the Lympstone Family History Interest Group stands at around 25. The members exchanged items of interest via email throughout the year and met in person on 31 October 2024 when they shared their own individual interests and ideas for future research.

A new book entitled “Keeping Score: The Story of Cricket in Lympstone Village”, which author Tony Day has been working on for some time, is about to be published and should go on sale in time for the annual Lympstone Cricket Match on 12 June. It describes cricket in the village from 1891 to the present day.

The Lympstone Legends project, culminating in performances in June with songs and narratives about our local history and legends, is well advanced. It will be the subject of a separate presentation to the Annual Parish Meeting.

The History Society archive has been maintained in the Village Hall with several additions through the year, notably including the village’s Jubilee Quilt. Access can be granted to anybody through prior arrangement with the History Society committee. The archive continues to receive regular enquiries, and is well used by local residents carrying out their own research. There are tentative plans to consider putting some of the archive material – in particular items that are in digital form or can be readily scanned or digitised – onto a dedicated web site accessible to all.

2025/12 Lympstone Website and Social Media

Website, Lympstone Village Facebook Report for AGM 2024/25

Webmasters: David Young, Mary Turner Link Councillor: Sue Francis

The Lympstone village website continues to be well used, providing both essential and mandatory Parish Council information in addition to general information and items of interest about the village for residents and visitors.

The major upgrade has been very successful, and the site is now operating more efficiently. Both Webmasters are able to access it easily now which is far less frustrating and time consuming for them.
The new design and layout look good and are easier to navigate. Especially positive is that the whole site works better on tablets/mobile phones now.

Posts can be scrolled through easily, and the new what's on page enables people to view future events easily. On the downside, it is not obvious that new items have been posted, and site users need to click into an entry. Facebook is therefore used to draw attention to some posts by sharing them there.

Website usage: March 10th to 17th Human Traffic 2182 and Bot traffic 1176
Lympstone Village Facebook page has 1.6k followers, a reach of 6.15% and engagement of 5%

Lympstone Notices on FB, where people can post direct, now has 1,088 followers. There have been some issues with unsuitable posts leading to the screening of some participants, and business posts (which it is not intended for) being rejected, with alternatives suggested.

Lympstone Village Facebook use their larger following to boost and increase the reach of the posts of the dedicated PC Facebook page. The PC Facebook account has a much smaller 243 followers and has a narrower publication remit so the sharing of posts is much appreciated by the PC.

There is a new dedicated area on the website for LFRG. This is a very positive development and useful for information to the community. It seems to be working well, and the group seem pleased with the addition.

Unfortunately, after consideration, a request from the LHS to have an area where family history materials can be posted had to be declined. It was felt that the material risked overloading the site and the increased need for plugins could cause the site to crash. However, there is a dedicated village groups page linked from their group to the community page which can provide more information about any village group and links to external sites if groups have them.

The Webmasters meet regularly together and with the Clerk and Link Councillor as necessary and formally during the summer break to review operations and discuss any matters arising. As both webmasters are volunteers, it cannot be stressed enough how appreciative the PC are of their efforts on behalf of us and the whole village.

2025/13 Lympstone Legends, Lympstone Singers and the Christmas tree festival

Lympstone Legends

We launched our project to highlight the history of the village in January with an Introductory Meeting and were delighted to welcome 85 people! It has taken off so well: an enhanced Lympstone Singers choir of 40, a small group of young singers and a few instrumentalists are learning the 16 songs Lin Marsh, our composer has written. We all agree that they are eminently singable and enjoyable to listen to – 3 of them provided a 'taster' at the Village Concert.

The passage of time is moved along by short stories told by actors portraying different characters who may have lived in the village. These are written by Jenny Moon.

There will be an Exhibition of pictures, photos and artefacts from the History Society Archives in the Village Hall at the same time where refreshments will be served!

The church Flower Guild is going to decorate the windowsills with displays related to our songs.

The Cubs are planning on helping to paint banners and we are also hoping the Scouts will be involved.

We are putting on 3 performances in the church on June 13th and 14th and all are welcome.

We are grateful for financial support from East Devon Creative Arts, the Parish Council and Lympstone Entertainments. I was sorry not to get a grant from any of the National Funds, but they basically said we would not touch the lives of enough people. However, I reckon we will have touched quite a few!!

Lympstone Singers

Having started out life as a ladies' choir, we were delighted to welcome a strong group of men to add to the volume for our D-Day Songs at the well-attended picnic on the Front Green in June last year.

After a summer break we resumed rehearsals to prepare for a short Christmas concert to launch the Christmas Tree Festival, which had the church packed out!
We have now turned our attention to Lympstone Legends.

The Christmas Tree Festival

For the first time, we invited local groups to provide a tree and decorate it for a display in the Church in the first week of December. The response was amazing, and 27 groups turned up trumps. The church looked so bright and colourful when all the lights were lit. Every day there was a steady stream of visitors, enjoying the humour, skill and craft of the decorations. Thank you to all who joined in. We did not ask for donations – it was just for the pleasure of our village, but perhaps, if we were to do it again, we could support a worthwhile charity.

Heathfield Allotment Trust

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 202075

REPORT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL MARCH 2025

This year has been one of mixed emotions and it wasn't all about the weather. Since my previous report, in March 24 the site suffered a serious break-in. Unfortunately, over 30 plots were affected with significant damage to sheds and several thousands of pounds worth of tools, garden furniture and memorabilia stolen. Following this, the Trustees installed remotely monitored cameras and external signage but this unfortunately this was not enough to deter, we think the same perpetrators, returning in October. This time for small pickings but still causing damage to opened sheds on a very windy night. Despite good photos on both occasions the police were unable to secure an arrest.

On a lighter note, teaming up with Wild About Lympstone, in May we organised the 1000 Plant Givaway. Over 1300 plants were distributed free to bring pollinators to Lympstone gardens for years to come, and we followed up with a foxglove seed giveaway in the autumn.

The season was not that kind to us. A very wet, albeit mild spring followed by a pretty dull summer meant that yields on many crops were poor and they shut down early. But we will not be discouraged and the site is already bustling with plot holders preparing for the new challenge!

The Trust is financially sound and all 86 plots are occupied, most being well cultivated and tidy. Our waiting list remains around 25 villagers and we usually let around 5-7 plots a year. Much of the maintenance of the common areas including road repairs and grass strimming is completed by Trustees and this year that has included the planting of 125 native hedging whips on our boundary, great for wildlife and very thorny to deter unwanted two-legged visitors entering the site outside the view of our cameras.

We look forward to the new growing season and hopefully a lovely hot summer.

Carrie Darby
Chair of Trustees

Trustees: David Atkins (Parish Council link), Carrie Darby (Chair), Reverend Steve Jones (ex officio), Barry Lewis (Treasurer), Ian Scott (Maintenance), Nigel Skinner (Secretary), Sue Snell (Social Sec. & Maintenance), Andy Wadhams (Maintenance), Claire Whiter (Waiting List & Plot Allocation Secretary).

Lympstone Flood Resilience Group

The Lympstone Flood Resilience Group (LFRG) has continued to address all flooding issues of concern to the village both at a strategic level and through the work of the two teams of flood wardens.

We commented on the proposed housing allocation sites in the East Devon emerging local plan and appeared at the EDDC site selection meetings . The sites of particular concern for their flooding impact, on the north side of Hulham Road ,have now been dropped. We have commented on planning applications , most notably the proposal for 42 houses south of Meeting Lane and the various proposals at Thorne Farm. Concerns about the negative impact of surface water runoff from the new Dinan Way project on the Wotton Brook were addressed in meetings with DCC Highways and mitigating measures have been included in the project design.

Regarding the additional section of flood wall to be constructed at the upstream end of the walled channel, the Environment Agency (EA)have indicated that this work may be scheduled to start in September

We have attended meetings between Lympstone Water Quality Group and South West Water (SWW) to discuss any alterations SWW may be considering to some of their surface water outlets, with a view to reducing the flows that are pumped to Exmouth. LFRG are concerned about any resulting additional flows into the Wotton Brook

Perhaps the most noticeable achievement during the year has been the final resolution of the high tide pooling problem outside the shop and The Swan in The Strand. This problem had plagued the village for at least a generation, although not quite as long as the previous problems in Chapel Road. New valves have been installed with the cooperation of DCC Highways and The Environment Agency, and waters are no longer able to surcharge from our regular tides into the roadway at these locations. We are aware that a similar remedy is possible for the Underhill roadway between the rail bridge and the surgery and this is our next challenge. Sadly the pooling further along Underhill does not offer an achievable solution because the roadway there is effectively part of the floodplain .

The Estuary season thus far has been kind to us. Despite some severe weather conditions these have not coincided with high tides. The Estuary Warden Team have operated the gates efficiently and promptly ensuring minimum disruption to villager's estuary access. We have, however, continued to experience difficulties with the increasing age of the floodgates making their operation problematic at times. We suffered from some inept maintenance by the Environment Agency contractors, which took months to rectify. With the cooperation of the Lympstone Harbour Board an experimental regime of mechanised beach dragback got underway in October. This shows promising results for easing the clearance of shingle build up behind the gates when closed. A new telemetry box showing floodgate status has been installed at the Sailing Club replacing the 20 year old predecessor.

We have worked with the Parish Council in a protracted process of negotiation with The Environment Agency on the renewal terms of the partnership agreement enabling the

Estuary Wardens to legally continue operation of the floodgates for the forthcoming five year term.

The Inland team has seen a change in the way it operates this year. Towards the end of last year we were advised by DCC Highways that due to health and safety concerns and environmental risks we should no longer lift road gully covers and clear the sumps ourselves. Fortunately, we received a Locality Grant from our DCC Councillors that enabled us to use a Jetvac contractor to clear the gullies at most of our surface water hotspots. On December 6th two members of the Inland team accompanied the Jetvac around the village, managing traffic, and clearing twenty nine gullies in ten different locations, removing nearly a ton of sump debris. It is likely that a small number of hotspot locations will require a second visit from the Jetvac, which we will try and achieve with the balance of funds available.

The Inland team also spent time in December clearing the roadside ditch and undergrowth along the upper end of Underhill to reduce the pooling that regularly occurs there due to inadequate drainage infrastructure.

Finally, most of a day in November was taken up clearing the bed of the stream in the field adjacent to the road at Sowden Corner. The stream takes the highway run off from six gullies at Sowden Corner and can be overwhelmed in the event of heavy and sustained rainfall causing backing up of the surface water on to the highway, resulting in significant pooling.

As an established community group of some eight years standing the LFRG has gained significant experience in managing the local flood risk and planning future resilience measures. We are very happy to share and exchange our experiences with other communities and on three separate occasions this year we have presented aspects of our work to the Devon Community Resilience Forum and the Exe Estuary Management Partnership.

LFRG would like to thank the Parish Council for their continued support and the webmasters of Lympstone.org for re-organising the group's information on a dedicated page of the village website. There is now significant new content, and we hope the information is relevant and easily accessible. We will endeavour to keep the site current with a reasonable number of new posts each year.

2025/16 Gulliford Burial Ground

Annual report for Gulliford Dissenters' Burial Ground

It's been a quiet year for both the Friends of Gulliford Burial Ground and the Joint parishes committee. Firstly, we lost our treasurer through ill-health. Graham Banks has always been a stalwart of the group and we hope to see him at events as his health improves. Thankfully James Moffatt has taken over as treasurer and set up online banking so that it is easier and less time-consuming to make payments etc.

Various small groups of volunteers have again been working in the burial ground to maintain the paths, noticeboards and manage the flora and fauna. We are still looking for a few more people to help with the gardening and planting side of the work we do. We have one or two visits from local history groups organised for this year and have other ideas for talks in the pipeline. If you think you could help either by coming onto our committee or volunteering with gardening ,maintenance or helping when groups visit we would welcome you with open arms.

The Joint parishes committee is tightening up its procedures. A history of the burial ground has been written so that this information is not lost and new councillors coming onto this committee can get up to speed quickly. Historically, the Burial Ground has its own bank account as it is owned by both parishes, it also has to be insured separately and accounted for separately. The work to make this more efficient and the procedures clear has started. In addition, we have increased the budget for this historical site so that we forward plan any maintenance expenses that may arise in the near future.

We welcome Woodbury PC assistant clerk, Emily who will be overseeing the administration of this joint committee. As always, a big thank-you to all those who help preserve and look after this little gem. Whether you are a volunteer, committee member, clerk or councillor, everything you do is much appreciated.

Jane Moffatt

2025/17 Community Hub Lunches

LYMPSTONE MONTHLY COMMUNITY LUNCHES

APRIL 2024 - MARCH 2025

The current Lympstone Monthly Sunday Community Lunches have been taking place for about 10 years, providing a hot 2 course lunch for our more senior and vulnerable residents. Half of our diners meet monthly at Churchill Court to eat and socialise while we deliver the other half to resident's homes, usually as they have mobility issues. Currently we serve between 35 and 45 meals each month though nearly 60 (including our volunteers) sat down to a full turkey dinner at the Village Hall in December. We also cater for all dietry requirements.

Those who can, donate up to £5 for the meal but this does not cover the full cost. Our Devon County Councillors, Richard Scott and Jeff Trail continue to generously support this village initiative which enables us to provide free meals to about half of our diners, who are usually the most vulnerable. We have also received a number of individual donations, including a legacy from one of our former diners. The cooks, drivers and volunteers provide their services free of charge. We are also grateful to the Parish Council for letting us use their bank account to enable us to access the DCC funds. In September the Parish Church gave us half of their Harvest Festival donations which were distributed as appropriate.

The feedback we get from our diners is very positive. They often comment that it is so heart warming that other people are not just thinking of them, but are prepared to give up their time for them, providing a hot meal.

Due to cost restraints, we have this year moved the lunch to the Churchill Court Community Room for all except the December meal. This does limit the number who can sit down to a meal to a maximum of 14 people, but so far we have managed with the cooks and volunteers eating in the kitchen.

We advertise the coming meals monthly in the Herald and always welcome new participants .

2025/18 Parish Tree Warden

Annual Parish Meeting – Parish tree warden report

I have been the tree warden for Lympstone parish for nearly 33 years. I have had a lifelong understanding of trees and was saddened by the loss of so many trees through many man made mistakes and natural events I wanted to actively get involved in trying to help. At the time of taking on the role of Parish tree warden I was supported by the Parish Council and successive Parish Councillors.
The role of a tree warden is to support the health and welfare of trees, the fauna and flora and the wildlife that trees support in our area and shared concerns of trees elsewhere.
The tree warden scheme is helped by East Devon District Council with the backing of the tree council.
over the years, I have been involved with the heartbreaking mistakes of introducing Dutch Elm Trees which wiped out many thousands of mature elm trees throughout the country. I was involved with the mid 1980s gales which brought down thousands of trees especially in the south of the country. I have given up countless number of voluntary hours sorting out tree problems for the Parish Council and EDDC.
I have had the pleasure of either planting or getting local people to plant around 15,000 trees in our parish. I have attended many tree warden workshops and the great pleasure at being invited to great Windsor Park after the storms to view their religious trees.
I have spoken to many of our local tree wardens in the past who have all had one thing in common mainly not being listed to by EDDC.
Sadly in recent years the tree population of the parish has been decreasing at an alarming rate with also the loss of wild areas of the common. Trees have been cut down at bird nesting time and flailing completed at a time when ground nesting birds would have been nesting. This concern has been highlighted by me to our District councillor with the response that these are experts who have special licenses.

Recently I have been informed by District Cllr Jung that EDDC would be removing the parish tree warden scheme which saddens me further when the local tree wardens are the eyes and ears on the ground whose words should be listened to and respected not treated with dismissal and made to feel irrelevant in a democratic society.

When I first became tree warden for the parish there was concerns to protect trees and I am proud to say that, due to the local connection, over the years and on many occasions, I have given sound advice and persuaded individuals not to cut down a particular tree.

In my time as tree warden and to my knowledge EDDC have managed to plant one Jubilee oak tree in Candys field where it took two vans and three men nearly three hours to plant one tree which never came into leaf and died.
In the past winter I have voluntarily planted 500 trees and EDDC want to get rid of us.

Thank you
David Tyrrell
Parish tree warden.

2025/19 Lympstone Art Group

REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 7TH APRIL 2025
LYMPSTONE ART GROUP

Lympstone Art Group has membership of 85 people mainly from Lympstone but some from adjacent areas. It has been in existence for at least 40 years and it Annual Exhibition is a regular Village event
Each year we organise several workshops and talks on art subjects.

Workshops and Talks in 2024:
4th October - Louise Banks -Techniques for Making Marks in the Landscape
22nd November -Jenny Moon -Collage using Paper and Material
24th January – Louise Banks - Layering Water Colours
7th February – Jane Welsh- Basket Weaving
6th March - Jeremy Diggle – Development of Abstract Compositions
3rd April - Lynda Kettle - Using Pastels
Talks
21st November – Naomi Hart – Beneath the Surface of the Sea
9th January - Emma Allen – Making Paint
12th March – Barbra Janssen- the History of Indigo

Our programme for 2024 2025 covered a similar number of workshops and talks. Our subscription is £10 a year and charge of £35 is made for workshops and fee of £20 a term for the Art and Craft Sessions.
During the year we run two morning Art and Craft sessions at the Village Hall on a Monday and a Tuesday.
The highlight of the year is our Annual Art Exhibition which is held over the May half term week when the Village Hall is available to rent. We typically have over 100 items displayed and around 500 visitors over the week.
We manage make money by selling refreshments having a raffle and a secret auction. This together with a £1 entry fee for adults covers the hire cost allowing us to break even. Entry for under 16's is free.
We run a Young Peoples Art Competition with Awards going to different age categories when these are judged at the end of the week.
This encourages young people and families to come to the Exhibition.
We hold a Preview on the Saturday before we open where the judge announces the winners of different categories. This year our Judge will be Lynda Kettle a well know Artist
The Preview is on Saturday 24th May 2025 at 7pm and members of the Parish Council are cordially invited to attend.

Judith Carter

Chairman

Lympstone ART Group

Constitution

Adopted at the Annual General Meeting 14th October 1992

The Group shall be called the Lympstone Art Group.

The object of the Lympstone Art Group shall be to promote the practice and appreciation of the visual arts, particularly painting and drawing, in the village of Lympstone and the surrounding area. This object is to be furthered principally by holding by holding, from time to time, exhibitions of members' work; but the Group may also organise other activities designed to advance the main objective.

Management of the Group shall be vested in a Committee to be elected at the Annual General Meeting, consisting of a Chairman, Treasurer, Committee and Executive Secretaries, Membership Secretary, and up to five other members. This Committee shall have the power to co-opt. Any five members shall constitute a quorum. The Chairman or Acting Chairman shall have a casting vote. Whenever possible seven days notice of any meeting shall be given.

An Annual General Meeting shall be convened with at least fourteen days notice to members, for the purpose of electing the Committee, adopting the accounts, and making policy decisions such as changes in membership subscriptions, the maximum number of members in the Group, or the Constitution. Eight members shall constitute a quorum. The Chairman or Acting Chairman shall have the casting vote.

Extraordinary General Meetings may be convened at any time by the Committee on their own initiative or on the requisition of at least six members. Such meetings shall have the same procedural rules as Annual General Meetings.

Sufficient funds shall be retained to cover contingencies and possible capital requirements, and to maintain a reasonable working balance. The disposal of any surplus funds at any time or upon the dissolution of the Group shall be decided by a General Meeting. Such funds should be applied in furtherance of the objectives of the Group except that, in the case of dissolution only, they must also be applied to some other appropriate charitable purpose.

2025/20 Lympstone Water Quality Group
Lympstone Water Quality Group Annual Report to LPC, April 2025

The Lympstone Water Quality Group was established in December 2023 due to growing concern about pollution in the Wotton Brook and Exe Estuary. With the support of the Westcountry Rivers Trust and other Lympstone groups (particularly Wild About Lympstone, the Flood Resilience Group, Fishery & Harbour Association, and Parish Council), we developed a catchment-based project to assess, protect, and improve the water quality in the Brook and Estuary. Our approach has been to:

1. Recruit and train community volunteers to help monitor the water quality in the Wotton Brook, observe the Brook and Estuary, and raise awareness in the community.
2. Investigate the sources, pathways, and receptors of pollution, and the specific risks and opportunities, in our catchment.
3. Identify and engage with key decision-makers that can influence water quality, e.g., the Environment Agency, South West Water, East Devon Planning, Devon County Council, and landowners.
4. Identify opportunities to prevent pollution and improve water quality and biodiversity.

The work has been supported by grants from the Parish Council (£1,000) and East Devon National Landscapes' Communities Project Fund (£4,000), and support in kind from various national and regional organisations, incl. the Rivers Trust, Riverfly, Stormwater Shepherds, and the River Restoration Centre.

We now have a better understanding of the problems and solutions relating to water quality, and have made progress in raising awareness and building partnerships to protect and improve the Brook and Estuary. However, there are some fundamental problems in the national policy and regulatory framework that we cannot address locally. So, we are also communicating with national and regional organisations that are lobbying government for change, and submitting comments to relevant consultations - including the East Devon Local Plan consultation and the national Independent Water Commission's call for evidence on the water sector (the Cuncliffe Review).

Our monitoring has helped us confirm that the main pathway for pollution in our catchment is surface water runoff, which picks up a range of pollutants from roads, agriculture, construction, and residential property and related infrastructure. The runoff either flows to the Wotton Brook and on to the Estuary, or into the combined sewer system which increases the risk of sewer overflows in an already overloaded system. These problems are increasing due to climate change and development.

One practical solution is to slow and treat the surface water runoff by using natural processes such as bioretention ponds or constructed wetlands. If designed well, these 'nature-based solutions' can improve water quality, increase biodiversity, and reduce flood risk. They are the focus of our work with the Woodland Trust at Yonder Oak (at the top of the catchment), with several other landowners, and now with South West Water. We have also been trying to raise awareness in the planning process of the need to incorporate these solutions in new residential and infrastructure developments, as recommended in the Sustainable Drainage Systems standard (SuDS). Integrated water management is the key to success, bringing multiple benefits (see https://catchmentbasedapproach.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Planning-Advice-Note.pdf). Without it, the risks are high.

Relatively good progress has been made with South West Water – with a strong focus on increasing transparency and agreeing on the necessary improvements to the sewage system (using nature-based solutions where possible). Together with members of the Lympstone Flood Resilience Group and Wild About Lympstone, we have had several constructive meetings with members of the company's natural resources, operational, and strategic teams. Lympstone is now part of SWW's AMP8 investment programme (2025-30), and the project manager is a specialist in nature-based solutions. An initial meeting with the AMP8 project team was held on 14 March, including representatives of the Lympstone Water Quality Group, Flood Resilience Group, Fishery & Harbour Association, and Parish Council.

In conclusion, much has been achieved by the Water Quality Group and Water Guardians over the past year – with the support of many others - and our plan is to consult with the community on the project findings and recommendations during the 17 May environmental action event. We will then report more widely, including to the Parish Council.

We appreciate the Parish Council's support in both providing funding and raising awareness of water pollution risks.