March 2026

LYTCHETT MATRAVERS PARISH COUNCIL

A New Season for the Lytchett Matravers Guerrilla Gardeners

With the arrival of brighter mornings and blossoming borders, we are delighted to welcome back the Guerrilla Gardeners for another busy season. Supported and sponsored by the Parish Council, this dedicated volunteer group rolls up their sleeves from March right through to November every Tuesday morning from 9.30 until 11.30. And doesn't the village look tidier?

The Guerrilla Gardeners focus their efforts on areas at the heart of the village. Those areas owned by the Parish Council, including the Recreation Ground, Foxhills Open Space, the Lytchett Astro, the War Memorial / Old School Green, the Youth Hall and Church Walk and the cemetery. The team also lends a helping hand to areas belonging to Dorset Council that need that extra attention between scheduled visits. This includes roadside verges, pavement clearance and widening and trimming certain overhanging hedges.

They pay special care to Rocket Park playground, ensuring it remains a bright, safe and cheerful place for children, and to Old School Green in preparation for Remembrance Day, helping the space look its very best for this important occasion. Their hard work keeps these all these shared spaces tidy, welcoming and safe for everyone.

For many volunteers, Tuesday mornings are as much about companionship as they are about spades and secateurs. It's a chance to chat, share stories, enjoy fresh air, and make a visible difference together.
New faces are always welcome! No skills are necessary; you do not need to be a gardener. The goal is to make our village look better and tidier. You can contact the Parish Clerk or, even better, just find us on a Tuesday morning in out hi-viz orange tops. You will be very welcome.

Defibrillator #5

In a true collaboration of local organisations, particularly Lytchett Matravers Football Club, but also inspired by donations made at the WI "Bystanders can be Lifesavers" event together, we have relocated the Sports Pavilion Defib. This was only accessible when sports events were taking place, but is now affixed to the Rec-side wall of the Village Hall, to make it available for lifesaving 24/7.

The defib is registered with the National Defib register, 'The Circuit'. If you find yourself with an unconscious person, always call 999 in the first instance. If the operator believes that a defib should be used they will provide you the address of the nearest one and the code to open the cabinet. Defibs are portable and when back with the patient, pressing the "on" button on the defib will start a sequence of verbal instructions on how to use it. Defibs will only give a shock if they detect the patient is unresponsive. You cannot make the situation any worse.

This brings the village to a total of 5 for public use; the Village Hall, the Chequers, Tesco, Abbots Court and in the old phone box opposite the school. We are also liaising with Some of the new planned developments around the village to review additional sites.

Please check the Parish Council website for a full map and instructions on use (Where's my nearest Defibrillator? – Lytchett Matravers Parish Council)

The Village Pond

We all know we have had an unprecedented level of rain the last few weeks. One small benefit is that the restored village pond is full. The drainage scheme from the Recreation Ground is in full flow, although we also know if has little effect on the surface water sitting on the clay. A full pond will allow the planting plan to take root this coming spring and we hope will transform the pond area into a wildlife haven.

Councillor Vacancies

There is still much to be done and we need new people to help shape the future of the village. Anyone who has lived in the parish for more than 12 months can apply. There are currently two vacancies, so please contact the Parish Clerk to find out more. Being a parish councillor is a direct way to contribute to your community. It takes a few hours each week but is both interesting and rewarding.

Parish Council Meetings

Our next Finance & General Purposes meeting is on March 11th at 7pm, and the next Full Council meeting is on March 25th at 7pm, both in the Village Hall. Agendas are published online and reports are available from the Parish Clerk. All our meetings begin with a public participation session. That is open to any resident who wishes to raise an issue, express and opinion or ask a question. So please come along, it's your village.

Alf Bush
Chair, Lytchett Matravers Parish Council

For more information, visit **lytchettmatraverspc.org**, visit the Parish Council Facebook page, email **clerk@lytchettmatraversparishcouncil.gov.uk** or call **07596 885667**.