



Lydney Town Council



Annual Town Meeting Report 2022-2023



MISSION STATEMENT

'Lydney Town Council is dedicated to meeting the needs and aspirations of the whole community, to improving the quality of life for people living in Lydney and to enhance the attractiveness of the town as a place in which to live, work, visit or invest.

Corporate Objectives

- *To provide a strong and independent voice for Lydney*
- *To provide high standard and cost-effective services*
- *To preserve and enhance the traditions, character and identity of our Market Town*
- *To promote Lydney as a clean, safe, welcoming and socially inclusive town for all*
- *To support, maintain and promote the use of local facilities*
- *To encourage appropriate developmental growth*
- *To encourage citizenship and localism*
 - *To work in partnership with others to achieve more for Lydney and its surrounding areas'*

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Lydney Town Council
Annual Town Meeting
at Lydney Town Hall, High Street, Lydney
at 6pm on Wednesday 24th May 2023

All Parishioners on the Electoral Role are invited to attend the
Annual Town Meeting

Signed

Tasha Saunders

Mayor - Lydney Town Council (2022/2023 & 2023/2024)

AGENDA

Chair – Councillor Tasha Saunders, Mayor of Lydney Town Council

1. Apologies

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 25th April 2022

3. The Mayor's Report – to include noting reports from:

- Lydney's County and District Councillors
- Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust
- Lydney Recreation Trust
- various community organisations

4. Public Questions - (note: The Annual Town Meeting is an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions and make proposals and comments. No advance notice is required, but answers may have to be researched and provided at a later date)

5. Close

Thank you for attending and to the stall holders/exhibitors.

Annual Town Meeting

Held at Community Centre, Naas Lane, Lydney
Monday 25th April 2022 at 7.00 pm

Present: Lydney Town Council

A Harley (Mayor), L Penny, T Saunders, C Harris, S Stockham, S Cave, S Holmes, R Holmes, W Leach, E Taylor, R Kemsley, P Macklin, S Thomas-Brown and C Vaughan

Mr S Holley – Town Clerk

Mrs L Bendall – Assistant Clerk

26 Members of the Public

Cllr Harley welcomed all present to the meeting, explained the new format of the evening and that everyone had access to a copy of the Annual Town Meeting Report 2021/2022. It was noted that a digital copy of the report was also available on the Town Council's website.

At the close of the meeting everyone was encouraged to visit the stalls situated around the room; the following committees/projects had stalls:

Lydney Hub, Forest Voluntary Action Forum, Royal British Legion, Lydney Town Hall, Lydney Community Centre, Churches Together, Traffic Plan, Plastic Free Lydney, Riverside Walk Project & Skatepark Project.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Gloucestershire County Councillor, Alan Preest, and councillors from the Forest of Dean District Council who were unable to attend due to a clash of meetings.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting dated 18th March 2019, the last full meeting prior to Covid, were confirmed and approved as a true record and duly signed. **Proposed by Cllr C Harris, seconded by Cllr R Holmes.**
Unanimous.

3. **CLIMATE EMERGENCY** – Cllrs S Stockham & L Penny

Cllr Stockham highlighted that we are in a climate crisis and that Lydney had already identified various projects to help protect the environment.

Traffic Plan has been set up to identify how as a town we can reduce the amount of traffic, noise, pollution and increase safety within our town centre. This is in early stages but 7 proposals have been identified and feedback was welcomed, it was identified that not all 7 proposals could feasibly be introduced but 1 or 2 certainly. The 7 proposals are:

- Pedestrianisation
- Introduce a weight limit
- 20mph zone throughout the village
- Change the signage
- Traffic calming

- Introduce a one-way system
- Single carriage traffic controls

Further public consultations to be scheduled to collate resident and business owners feedback on the proposals.

Riverside Walk a continuous shared project, as the area covered is owned by different parties, to establish and improve the riverside walk between Forest Road and the Docks promoting a traffic free, safe and friendly walk. A litter pick collection morning was recently undertaken and more are planned, agreed that these events need to be more widely promoted within in the local community to involve more residents and community groups.

Community Orchards currently looking for suitable sites

Council is also looking into extending the number of allotments and making better use of green areas within Lydney by involving local residents and asking what they would like to do with these spaces.

Plastic Free Lydney is an ongoing project that the town has signed up to, the aim is to try and reduce the amount of plastic being used especially eradicating where possible single use plastic. Currently 8 independent local businesses have signed up together with 2 community groups. Cllr Penny is looking to work with local schools, local independent businesses and community groups.

A toolkit is available to provide further information:

<https://plasticfree.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/09/SAS-Business-Toolkit-2020.pdf>

4. **MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021/22** – Cllr A Harley

Cllr Harley read out her report, as contained in the Council's Annual Report for 2021/2022.

5. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

- (i) **Helium Balloons/Chinese Lanterns** – a local farmer had to pull out part of a helium balloon from one of his lambs, if he had not been there, he would have lost his lamb. He advised that other councils had banned the use of letting off balloons and lanterns and was asking if Lydney Town Council could do the same.

RESPONSE: Add to council agenda; council to look into the legal requirements.

- (ii) **Action – Town Clerk**

Litter – a resident has complained at the amount of litter on Oxford Street (at the back of Tesco) which primarily appears to be from children going to and from the Dean Academy, a suggestion that the council should contact the school to flag the issue with them.

Another resident confirmed that his child attends the school and as part of the induction is to highlight not dropping litter.

- (iii) **RESPONSE:** Further litter pick dates are planned; these will be advertised encouraging all residents to take part; residents are encouraged to join

working parties. It was noted that teenagers would need to have a parent or carer present.

- (iv) **Bathurst Park** – a member of the public wanted to pass on their thanks to the grounds staff for their continued excellent displays around the park and town.

RESPONSE: Town Clerk confirmed he would relay the message

Action – Town Clerk

- (v) **Clinically Vulnerable** – it was acknowledged that during the height of the Covid pandemic the local support group set up by Tess Tremblett was a life saver helping residents who had to shield to ensure they had food and medication delivered.

RESPONSE: Cllr Saunders to email the group to pass on the thanks

- (vi) **Cemetery grass cuttings** – a complaint of headstones being covered in grass cuttings which is causing distress and upset for the families, a suggestion that the grass cuttings should be collected and put in a composter.

RESPONSE – The grounds team do use blowers to remove as much of the grass from around the headstones as possible, it is noted that the first few cuts of the season tend to be worse as the grass is quite sticky.

Internal Audit Reports – a concern was raised following the release of the council's internal auditor report about how the council currently authorise payments; it was felt that the council were at an increased risk of fraud.

- (vii) **RESPONSE** – Cllr Homes Chair of the Finance & Scrutiny Committee answered the question; changes to how payments were authorised was introduced during the pandemic; originally cheques were written up and the Town Clerk and 2 councillors would sign, however this was not feasible during the pandemic so the council had to move to electronic payments. Council is currently working with Lloyds Bank to provide an electronic counter signatory to improve security and stage one paperwork has been completed.

- (viii) **Meeting Minutes on website** – it was noted that previous meeting minutes uploaded onto the council website still showed as “unconfirmed” or “draft” despite being approved.

RESPONSE – Town Clerk gave apologies for this and agreed meeting minutes would be renamed and updated accordingly - **Action - Assistant Clerk**

- (ix) Council confirmed they operate an “openness” policy and all meetings held are open to the public to attend, Council is still looking into the feasibility of streaming the meetings via video/Zoom.

Newsletter – previous newsletter was not received by all residents.

- (x) **RESPONSE** – distributor used for last newsletter let the council down; council aware there were issues. A Jubilee Special Edition Newsletter will be sent out in May and council is using the Royal Mail so expect no distribution issues this time.

- (xi) A member of the public stated they had to go to the library to read a copy; council to ensure future newsletters will be held at the library

Storm Eunice – the evacuation worked well and was well organised and thanks were given.

RESPONSE – District Council co-ordinated but it was recognised that the local community pulled together well; councillors who use social media to please relay thanks to the organisers.

- (xii) **Lydney Lake** – it was noted that the lake was looking better

Weeds through the town– weeds still seem to be an issue in some areas and a suggestion of whether the council could start sweeping the pavements within the Town Centre, perhaps a machine could be purchased to undertake this work.

- (xiii) **RESPONSE** – Responsibility of the Highways, however, council to consider if this additional work could be undertaken by our grounds team or employing an additional person to undertake this work. To be added to Council Agenda for discussion. **Action – Town Clerk**

Bus Service/Timetable – the bus timetable displayed at the Bus Station is significantly out of date and so is their website, a suggestion of whether an electronic bus timetable be introduced as this works well in other stations and are very user friendly.

RESPONSE – Council has no authority over the bus companies it is managed through Gloucestershire County Council.

6. **CLOSE**

The meeting closed at 8.19pm.



Mayor's Report

2022/2023

Two years ago, I was elected as a Lydney Town Councillor in the May By-Election and the following May your Town Mayor.

The last two years have been an eye opener to what really goes on at a Town Councils' level.

While we don't make the big decisions the Forest of Dean District Council (FoDDC) does, we do get an input into how we want our town to develop, to look and how we can help support our constituents.

In June 2021 I was made Event Lead and am responsible for organising all the Town Council, Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust and the Recreation Trust events.

I immediately identified what we have been doing in the past which was too small as the town's numbers has considerably grown, so our events have also had to grow.

My funding achievements to help develop events in the past 2 years was to be granted £5,000 from FoDDC as part of the Welcome Back Fund, then we went on to be awarded another £10,000 from Gloucestershire County Council Build Back Better Fund for our Christmas 2021 event, £10,000 for the Queen's Jubilee and another £10,000 for the Kings Coronation from the Lottery Community Fund.

My goal was to be able to deliver inclusive affordable events for the people of Lydney without impacting on council funds.

I'm extremely grateful that I have had a very supportive and dedicated Deputy Mayor Councillor Roger Holmes.

I am also grateful to have a fantastic team of Committee Chairs, and they make up the Personnel Committee that are not only dedicated to serve Lydney but also ensuring this council runs correctly, smoothly and supporting all the roles I have to take and the roles of the council.

The hours of work and commitment my committee chairs have given me and the council is phenomenal. Most of these hours will be unseen to the public eye.

Our council since the end of the pandemic has not been fully staffed and a great deal of pressure has been put on the office. We have been without an Assistant Clerk several times this year and even without a Town Clerk for six months.

We are very grateful to have had two part-time locum staff in the short term before we appointed our new Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Michael Greenfield in April this year.

Michael has been a breath of fresh air to our council in streamlining and modernising how we work, how we communicate and how we help our constituents. With Michael at the helm of Lydney Town Council we will be able to deliver bigger and better. In the short time he's been here we have already seen fantastic improvements. I'm very excited for the future of Lydney Town Council.

Lydney Town Council is currently working on our new Neighbourhood Development Plan led by former councillor Anne Harley. We have asked Anne to continue with her work on the NDP not only for continuity but because of the hard work she and her committee have put into this plan. We very much look forward to seeing the draft version very soon.

I'm also very pleased that the work the Flood Defence Committee has been doing for many years is starting to come to fruition and due to the hard work of Walter Leach and his team of councillors with multi-agency representatives the Flood Defence group has created an action plan and measures to reduce and combat flooding in Lydney.

During this year we have had three national royal occasions that as a council we wanted to celebrate and commiserate with our constituents. My year started with the Queen's Jubilee last June, of which we put on four days of celebrations, we also brought back the traditional Town Crier role and appointed Tim Enbom, to be able to facilitate some of the roles that the jubilee protocol had set down.

Sadly, then in September we had the passing of our beloved Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and the council observed all of the protocol associated with her death and followed all of the Proclamation and condolence procedures.

I felt very privileged to be able to deliver the Proclamation of Accession for King Charles III, our King.

One of the duties surrounding the passing of our Queen involved myself and my Deputy Councillor Roger Holmes visiting Lydney care homes, day centres and community groups to support residents that would find it difficult to have gone to sign the Book of Condolence in our Town Hall and local churches. We took the Books of Condolence to them and spent several hours at each organisation, enjoying the company and listening to their memories of many of our older constituents.

Recently we've had the recent Coronation of King Charles III and put on two days of events, following the King's celebration wishes.

We observed the Big Coronation Lunch and also the Big Help Out in Bathurst Park. We had phenomenal amount of support for both events and it was fantastic to see the community together enjoying the beautiful sunshine music and food. Another highlight of the Coronation celebrations has been able to visit all the primary schools to deliver medals we had made to commemorate the Coronation for all primary aged children in Lydney.

Myself and my Events Assistant went into school assemblies and classrooms and we got to chat with the children and hand out the medals.

I rapidly learned not to ask a classroom with children, *"Do you have any questions?"* I had definitely had some bizarre and funny questions to answer my favourite one being *"When is Lydney getting a McDonald's?"*

During the year I have received many invitations to civic engagements and try to attend as many as I possibly can.

Last year included several Mayor making ceremonies in Gloucester and Ross, a service for the Queen's death at Gloucester Cathedral as well as the inauguration of the High Sheriff of Gloucestershire.

I've also attended the Gloucestershire colleges and university Graduation ceremonies at the cathedral.

Myself and Roger received an award from CPRE (formerly the Council for the Preservation of Rural England) for Lydney Town council's part in the regeneration of Lydney Harbour with FODDC at its awards ceremony in Highnam.

I've also been honoured to open several new businesses, shops, school fetes and care homes in Lydney.

One of my aspirations when I first become a councillor was to improve on the Christmas activities we do for the town.

I wanted to improve on the Christmas Street lighting and to generally inject more Christmas spirit into the festive celebrations. I wanted to bring back how we used to hold the Christmas parade and take it back at the Town Hall where it had been when my children were young. We have fantastic memories of Christmas in Lydney and I wanted to recreate that atmosphere.

So, for 2021 and 2022 thanks to funding I received from Gloucestershire County Council in 2021 we have the infrastructure to recreate this event for many years.

Children loved the unique inflatable igloo, grotto and now we have gazebos and equipment needed to run, not only the Christmas event but also all help for future events.

Having just been re-elected as a Town Councillor for another four years and also your Mayor for the next year.

My goals and ambitions are to move the regeneration of Lydney forward, including moving the council chambers into a more centralised position in the town and to create a community space that allows room for community organisations to be available for all the residents of Lydney.

I plan to fight hard to bring back the amenities the town has lost in the last few years such as, Citizens Advice benefits and employment support, Post office, Education and health support, district and country council advise sessions and a business and enterprise hub and a new prominent market.

I will continue to support my committee and Trust chairs to deliver our Strategic Plan developed in 2021.

We have many aspirations to improve, modernise and bring more inclusively and accessibility to Lydney. These ranges from additional lighting in some of our recreation areas, more play equipment for disabled residents, Town wi-fi, and increase defibrillator sites throughout the town.

For the past year the Town Council has been supporting two venues, the Community Centre, and the Town Hall in the form of service level agreements to help them finance and support community groups to deliver a service to our residents. Many groups have benefited from this support by way of free or reduced cost room hire. This varies from house and wellbeing support to arts music space or rehearsal time. Both venues have provided a report further on in this document.

This term, like many local councils, we are five positions short for Full Council, although we remain quorate, we will be co-opting for 5 more members to join us.

If this is something that would interest you, please see our webpage for further details on how to apply.

Councillor Tasha Saunders
Mayor of Lydney Town Council

Finance and Scrutiny Committee

The council is in a very secure position financially, due in part to the examination of the budgets by the relevant committees.

Council Tax

Despite inflationary pressures our part of the Council Tax for a band D property is still lower than it was in 2019/20. This is helped by a combination of the Council keeping the overall Budget down and the growth in new properties in the town which has allowed for increases to be spread over a larger number of households.

The council tax for year and the past three years are as follows:

2023/24 = £205.56 (increase of 3.17% -less than inflation)

2022/23 = £197.31 (increase of 38.41 or 4.45% - less than inflation)

2021/22 = £188.90 (cut by £9.49 from previous year)

2020/21 = £198.39 (frozen at the previous year's cost).

Grants

Grants awarded

Grants received- the Council has more actively pursued grants from other bodies and used them mainly to subsidise events which have been appreciated by residents. We have had some fantastic events including the community events in Bathurst Park including community crafts for children at Easter, June was the Queen's Jubilee and the community event in September and the Christmas event held at the Town Hall during December.

Grants awarded

The Council awards grants to various community bodies, usually after the consideration by the committee. The following grants awarded in 2022/23:

Dean Forest Railway Society - £800

Lydney Community Centre - £1,000

Lydney Town Hall Trust Committee - £1,000

Primrose Hill C of E Academy - £1,000

1st Aylburton and Lydney Scouts - £970

Community Family Ministry Project - £540

Victoria Centre - £1,000

Dean Forest Kitchen CIC - £430

Forest Sensory Services - £1,000

Lydney Cricket Club - £500

The Golden Triangle Club - £1,000

Reserves

The reserves have grown, some of been earmarked for specific projects and the remainder are general reserves which for use in an emergency situation and as a working balance. The reserves as at 31 March 2023.

Conclusion

So, we enter 2023/24 in a healthy position despite the uncertainty for the general economy.

Councillor Roger Holmes

Chair, Finance and Scrutiny Committee

Amenities Committee Report

The year has been a very busy one in terms of the business that the Council has been involved in and this includes the Amenities Committee.

The Town Council's Grounds Team continue to do an excellent job throughout the town, maintaining both the green spaces and planters and bringing a bit of colour into the lives of residents.

Gloucestershire County Council launched a 'Greener Gloucestershire', scheme and the committee looked at planting several Community Orchards. The sites which were chosen are Primrose Hill School, Bream Road C of E School, Severnbanks School and a plot of land off Centurion Road. This last site is owned by FoDDC and by paying a one-off charge of £300, for a licence, we are allowed to plant fruit trees.

Another site being considered is on Recreation Trust land. Soil testing has been completed and it is hoped to site some allotments as well as fruit trees.

The Mesne was considered but rejected as some residents living near the Mesne were opposed to the proposal.

Through the same scheme 11 Flowering Cherry Trees were planted outside the Community Centre, which are now looking lovely.

The weekly market in the town which was run by Green Top was discontinued due to the location it was allocated in the back Newerne Street car park, which meant a very poor number of customers. The Town Council wishes to establish a market and have been in touch with FoDDC.

To promote the Town lots of events were organised as follows:-

- To commemorate Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Anniversary the council organised 4 days of celebrations, which included instructions on protocol from the 'Palace Pageant Master'. The events commenced with the Reading of the Proclamation of Accession at two sites by our Town Crier, Tim Enbom.

There followed the planting of two Oak trees with commemorative stones, one in Bathurst Park and one on the Mesne. The corner of Templeway West was designated as 'Jubilee Corner' with a commemorative bench and planters which was officially opened by the Mayor— Cllr Tasha Saunders. In the evening the Beacon was lit on the Mesne after a 'piper' and a cornet player both played the prearranged music.

Prior to the events groups and clubs were invited to make banners and bunting and this was used to decorate Bathurst Park during the Children's Day and Music Day. These both saw big crowds in attendance who enjoyed the free entertainment. Unfortunately, the Proms in the Park, on the fourth days was wet and cold but many hardy souls braved the weather and enjoyed singing along.



With the passing of Queen Elizabeth on the 8th September 2022, the 'protocol' with proclamations and a parade from the council offices to the Town Hall marked the occasion. There were two books of condolence for members of the public to sign and these were taken to sites in Lydney to enable those in Care homes and the elderly to make their comments and share memories of her coronation.

The Christmas event, was brighter this year with 8 more column lights decorating the town paid for by grant monies. The Christmas Parade to the Town Hall with clubs and groups taking part was once again a big success with a record number of children visiting Santa in his grotto.

The Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Bonnet Parade was very well attended with more children making their bonnets at the craft stall and having fun filling in their egg hunt sheets.

The King Charles III's coronation celebrations followed the King's wishes with a 'Big Eat Out', event on Sunday 7th May. By receiving funding from the National Lottery, a system was devised which gave residents of Lydney an opportunity to receive a meal for £1 each from any of the vendors. This meal was to be valued at £5, therefore making it cheaper for families to attend the Bathurst Park event. The money raised from the purchasing of the tokens was in turn given to local charities.

Free amusements rides, for the first hour together with free face painting, balloons and craft stall were also well attended with children making their own crowns and decorating Royal themed posters and fridge magnets.

I would like to record my thanks to Councillor Tasha Saunders for her hard work and brilliant ideas and all of the volunteers who help to make the events so joyful.

Councillor Sue Holmes
Chair, Amenities Committee

Burial Committee

The Burial Committee has had several chairs in the last year.

Former Councillor Steve Stockham was Chair of the Burials Committee for several years until his resignation in August 2022. The role then went to former Councillor Walter Leach until he left the council in May 2023. I have been Vice Chair of the Burials Committee for the last two years and at the May 2023 Annual Council meeting I was made Chair of the Burials Committee.

My report is written from my knowledge of being on the committee and from past notes and reports from the previous chairs as I have only now been in this post for one week.

The most important duties of the Burial Committee are to provide burial space for the residents of Lydney and to keep detailed records of who is buried where.

Lydney burial ground is likely to be full within the next three to four years so we have been both searching for a new site and putting council funds aside to pay for the land when we find it.

In the last few years, we have identified possible sites, but one has a water table too high to pass regulations and the other piece of land proved not to be for sale to us. If we are unable to find a suitable site, legislation allows us to use a site in one of the surrounding villages, but I believe that Lydney residents would treat this as a far from satisfactory solution. Consequently, the search for a new location continues to be our top priority.

The committee would also appeal to the planning authorities for Section 106 allocations for land for burials in any future building developments. We are also looking to be able to provide some green burial space and again our researching and trying to find some areas that could be suitable.

I would like to record our thanks and appreciation to Leanne Gay, who took on the burial administration when the previous burial's assistant left and she has mastered the role and works fantastically with the local funeral directors to deliver a fantastic efficient service to the community.

The Remembrance Walkway that runs beside the path as you enter the cemetery has been extended to provide approximately 30 more plots. This is a very popular option for cremation ashes.

During the winter months, two of the benches in the cemetery have been replaced and repaired in house by our grounds team.

Last year we agreed a budget to plant in front of the chain-link fencing between the cemetery and the path to Lych Gate Mews. This year clematis flowers were planted to create a more picturesque and softer appearance than the chain link fence.

The closed Churchyard at St Mary's has been full for a number of years and when this happens the responsibility for maintenance transfers from the church to the Council. We have a number of tabletop graves in the churchyard, many of which have fallen into disrepair and because of the weight of the stones could have health and safety issues.

The diocese has commissioned a report on the condition of these and what will be needed to make these safe, but because most of them are Grade II listed monuments we have to follow strict guidelines for any work we do on them.

Before we receive this report, it is difficult to estimate the amount of work needed or its cost, but based on similar sites it is likely to cost around £20,000 over the next ten years. Unfortunately, this report is still not been forthcoming and we have not been able to progress on any of this work. However, we still continue to set aside money to help fund the repair costs once we do know what we are dealing with.

I would like to also record my thanks to our Grounds Team who maintain the cemetery to an incredibly high standard.

Councillor Emma Taylor
Chair, Burials Committee

Planning and Highways Committee

I have been Chair of the Planning and Highways Committee since late last year and am proud to have been re-elected to this position for a further year on 15th May at the Council's Annual meeting.

Lydney Town Councils Planning Committee are consultees only as the primary Planning authority is the Forest of Dean District Council (FoDDC) and they are under no obligation to take notice of this committee's observations.

With our local knowledge we are able to raise our concerns regarding Planning applications to FoDDC using our current Neighbourhood Development Plan as a guideline. Our current Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is under review and this Committee and the NDP Steering Group are working together and we have a great opportunity to complete a robust plan by early 2024.

We are often contacted regarding the state of our roads throughout the town i.e., potholes, however the responsibility for the highways and pathways fall to Gloucestershire County Council.

A presentation was held at the community centre early this year by FoDDC Officer Niger Gibbons regarding the Local Plan proposed by FoDDC which as Planning Chair I attended as did many concerned residents. The general view of the Plan held concerns over the 2,400 new houses planned for Lydney by 2041 and are:

- 1) infrastructure
- 2) Health care provision
- 3) Education.

This too is the view of this Committee.

I and this Committee will strive to continue to make representation to FoDDC on your behalf over Planning applications and decisions.

Councillor Carol Harris
Chair, Planning & Highways Committee

Head Groundsman's Report

Grounds Team and work within the green spaces of Lydney.

The Grounds team are working hard keeping everywhere clean and safe. This year was very special with the late Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee.

To mark the occasion, we made a special Jubilee corner opposite the Town Hall, with new flowers, flower beds, benches and a specifically designed memorial plaque. We hope that the residents and visitors enjoy this for many years to come.

We also added two new flower beds in the middle of the town close to the library.

The grass cutting throughout the town which was brought back in-house, work to be carried out by the Grounds Team.

This continues to be cut to a high standard and regularly throughout the growing season.

The flowers are planned by councillors and implemented by the grounds team.

Trees have been planted outside the community centre, with more planned throughout the town.

Seasonal planting is undertaken and we are looking to plant new spring bulbs and to sow wildflowers again.

The Grounds Team aim to ensure that throughout the year the planting arrangements kept looking beautiful and the council has received several comments from individuals thanking the council for the displays.

Trust Area/Lake

This is another beautiful part of the town.

We planted more bulbs and pruned trees and shrubs, keeping them maintained.

Church Yard/Cemetery

Staff have always been respectful of the local heritage and the honour of maintaining the church yard and cemetery.

They work to keep everything tidy and regularly cut, and are always respectful of this location.

Bathurst Park

We continue to maintain this area to a high standard for everyone to enjoy. The gardens are full of colour with the scent of flowers especially roses for everyone to enjoy.

The wildflower areas are expanding at the Church End of the park which will encourage many insects and bees.

This year was very special with the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. We made special planting schemes to mark the occasion which were well received by all visitors to the park.

We also planted a Platinum Jubilee tree with a plaque.

In a short time after the Jubilee, we had the sad news of the passing of Her Majesty, the late Queen Elizabeth II.

All the flowers placed in marking her passing and respects during the mourning period were collected respectfully and will be used in time to feed the plants and Jubilee tree.

Looking forward we have many exciting projects and some have commenced already, with the King's Coronation and the installation of a bench to mark the occasion.

This with a new Sensory Garden planned, to be named the 'King Charles Sensory Garden' which will greatly add to the park.

This will be situated between the tennis courts and path at the far side of the park, at the pavilion end.

This whole area will become a beautiful Sensory area with planned garden, wildflowers, and Spring bulbs, as well as new paths and flower beds.

Summary

Our staff team work extremely hard to support the town and they are to be commended for their commitment to the residents and the wider community.

James Young

Head Groundsman - Lydney Town Council

Lydney Division County Councillors' Reports

Councillor Alan Preest.
Chairman, Gloucestershire County Council.
Lydney Division.

Now, just entering my fifteenth year as the Lydney Division County Councillor, I will be standing down after two years as Chairman of the County Council at the Annual Meeting on the 24 May.

It has been a great pleasure and honour to have been the 31st Chairman of Gloucestershire County Council in its 124-year history. As I have travelled the length and breadth of Gloucestershire as Chairman, I have met so many wonderful people from all walks of life with many a tale to tell, passion, pride and positivity has always come to the fore.

Recently I had the privilege of welcoming HRH The Princess Royal to Coleford to view the excellent housing development at Saint Hilaire Avenue - named after Coleford's French twin.

The Princess chats with local dignitaries

The Princess chats with Forest of Dean District Council Chair Julia Gooch and Gloucestershire County Council Chair Alan Preest.



My other roles at GCC currently include membership of the:-

- Appeals Board.
- Audit and Governance Committee.
- Devon and Severn Inland Fishing Conservation Area.

- Environment Scrutiny Committee.
- Forest Surface Water Flood Forum.
- Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- Traffic Regulation Committee.

I have represented GCC at the inaugural meeting of the Gloucestershire Race Equality Action Group.

The GCC "Build Back Better" grant fund has over the last two years contributed over 39k to community organisations connected to the Lydney Division.

Recently a further £3,000 (per County Councillor) has been committed for specifically young people.

Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) brokered "Robin" service operated by Lydney Dial-a-Ride was officially launched in December. Indications point to this scheme being a success.

Running from the 1st of January until now the 31st October this year, a government initiative, supported by GCC offers a fare of £2 per single journey. Adults can travel to Gloucester from Lydney for a cost of £4 (two single tickets).

Forest Road evening parking continues to be subject to scrutiny.

A plea also to remind Parents/Guardians to where possible walk their children to and from school. Congestion and Road Safety continues to be of concern around all the Lydney Division's Schools. Notwithstanding, walking is by far a healthier option.

Highway issues with minor/defects potholes etc can be reported via the GCC Website.

Issues with kerbside weeds/litter etc should be reported to Forest of Dean District Council - customerservices@fdean.gov.uk or 01594 810000.

On May 4th I was re-elected to Forest of Dean District Council serving the Lydney East Ward.

The way forward must incorporate teamwork and positivity.

Best Wishes.

Alan.

Councillor Alan Preest.
Chairman, Gloucestershire County Council.
Lydney Division.

Lydney Division County Councillors' Reports

Councillor Harry Ives

District Councillor for Lydney North 2019-2027

2022-2023 was my fourth year as District Councillor for Primrose Hill. It was another very busy year for our community.

In October we received the devastating news that Stagecoach were withdrawing their 755 bus service from Primrose Hill. This service connected Primrose Hill to Lydney Town Centre and was a lifeline for many elderly residents. This meant Lydney North was threatened with losing its only public transport service from 20th November 2022.

Following efforts by Councillors to find a replacement provider, the 755 was picked up by Lydney Dial-a-Ride. I am very thankful to Cllr Alan Preest, Cllr Philip Robinson and Louise Currie for their involvement in this. Public transport on the Hill was saved and continues to this day.

2022 was also a historic year for the United Kingdom, seeing both a Platinum Jubilee and the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. I was very proud to represent the Hill at Platinum Jubilee events in both Coleford and Lydney in June. A Jubilee Oak Tree was planted on Primrose Hill Mesne by the Mayor on 2nd June and our beacon was lit later that evening.

Following the sad passing of her Majesty in September, it was an honour to represent our community at official proclamation events for King Charles III in the Forest. God save the King.

Tackling speeding remains a priority of mine. I am pleased to say that an official Gloucestershire County Council speed survey has now been installed on Allaston Road (3rd May 2023). It records the speed of all vehicles that drive over it and will last for several weeks. The information it collects will be used by GCC to decide whether physical changes are needed on Allaston Road to solve this problem (e.g., speed bumps). I will keep residents updated.

I am also thankful to our local Police for conducting regular speed checks on Allaston Road with speed guns for me. They have visited at least three times in the past few months alone. My thanks to PC Lesley Louth and Gloucestershire's Deputy Police Commissioner Nick Evans for their help with this.

My maintenance of Primrose Hill continues. In 2022-23 I cut back the following footpaths:

- Primrose Hill Road to Lancaster Drive
- Lancaster Drive to Dean Court
- Ash Close to Lime Way
- Footpath on School Crescent behind the houses.

The large verges on Centurion Road (opposite Claudius Way and adjoining Augustus Way) were also cut this year. Thank you to Danny Hudson of Hudson Lawns and Landscaping for helping me with this.

Pothole repairs have taken place every month on Primrose Hill for the past year. Signs have been cleaned, drains unblocked and fly tips removed. If anyone ever notices maintenance issues on the Hill, please contact me ASAP. I will resolve them for you very quickly.

Looking back, my personal highlight was probably helping a lady with osteoarthritis gain access to a wheelchair. This case only involved one person, but the impact on her quality of life was huge. These are the cases that really matter in this role.

This represents a snapshot of my work as your Councillor over the past twelve months. Quite a lot more has happened (working with Forestry England to tackle wild boar, opposing an orchard on Primrose Hill Mesne, hosting church quizzes, producing three community newsletters etc), but I'll stop there. Otherwise this report could easily run on for multiple pages.

If anyone needs help, please contact me on harry.ives@fdean.gov.uk. I will always do my best to help you.

Councillor Harry Ives
District Councillor for Lydney North 2019-2027

Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust

Bathurst Park has continued to look absolutely beautiful with wonderful gardens well maintained play equipment and a busy well run active café.

Over the year the council have run a number of successful events all well supported by the residents of the town.

In July the town celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee from the 2nd to the 5th with the park central to the celebrations. On Friday we had a children's activity day, Saturday a celebration with music exhibitions and food finishing with a live brass band on Sunday evening. Despite erratic weather all enjoyable occasions.

In November we had our usual fireworks display and as ever brilliantly supported by the residents of the town.

In September slightly pushed forward we had the usual Community event despite all the previous events a decent crowd attended.

All these events would not be possible without all the volunteers so a big thank you to you all.

The Trust have lots of exciting plans for next year with a gradual replacement of all the children's play equipment and a sensory garden to be built at the top end of the park. The sensory garden has already been designed by James our Head Groundsman. The tennis courts have not been used a great deal so there also plans to put that area to a change of use all suggestions would be welcomed.

Finally, a big thanks to the continued support by the bowling club and all the wonderful families who use the park, Trudy and her team at the café keeping us fed and refreshed. I will finish with my usual big thank you to James and all the grounds team for the up keep of this wonderful park.

Richard Kemsley
Chair of Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust

Lydney Recreational Trust

Lydney Recreational Trust fields host five active sports clubs this year including football, tennis, rugby, cricket and fishing clubs. This year they were all actively supported and used by people of Lydney.

This wonderful area, so close to the town centre, is so important to the health and well-being of the town. Thank goodness we had very little serious flooding this year as we have had previously but we are aware the fields will always be likely to flood in the future. The drainage now is probably more effective than it ever has been. We have undergone two major treatments on the football and cricket pitches to help drainage and make the surfaces better playing areas. The Trust intends to do a third treatment on all the fields including areas where the busy juniors of the rugby club play. Also, the tennis club have exciting plans to build two new tennis courts testament to how successful and popular the club has become.

The Saturday morning 5K run is still extremely popular with people coming from all round the country to participate not just Lydney. A big thank you to all the volunteers who make this weekly event so enjoyable.

Unfortunately, the Recreational Trust still have severe problems with the growing numbers of Canadian geese which cause a mess on all the sports fields and the town skate park. The Trust have employed an ethical pest control company to control their numbers so we will await the results. The company have tested the water quality of the lake and the results are good so hopefully the angling club will continue to flourish.

The Trust has a number of exciting plans for the next year including replacing our aging skateboard park. This project has been led by our enthusiastic Councillor Steve Cave who has been in close contact with local skateboarders on the design and size and the Trust has appointed a contractor now to the fundraising. The Trust hopes to tidy up the carparks, footpaths and fencing over the next year.

Once again thank you to our ground staff for all their hard work and all the volunteers whose efforts make the sports clubs so vibrant and successful.

Richard Kemsley
Chair of the Recreational Trust

Lydney and Severnside Flower Club

Lydney Flower Club meets on the second Monday evening of each month.

Last year on ten of those evenings we were entertained by highly skilled floral artists who demonstrated their skills by decorating the Town Hall stage with flower arrangements based on a particular theme.

The Club is affiliated to the National Association of Flower Arrangers which has charitable status in recognition of its education activities. Our members, whose ages range from 20 to 90 +, all have a love of flowers and there is a mix of those who are absolute beginners to very accomplished and experienced flower arrangers.

Our programme normally includes an outing by coach during the summer and this year we have a visit to David Austin roses.

Three of our members belong to Gloucester Cathedral Flower Guild and do arrangements regularly at the Cathedral. In January 2019 two members had the honour of being invited to create two pedestal designs at Westminster Abbey.

A few of our members also compete regularly at local shows including Bream, Chepstow, Usk and Royal Welsh. At Malvern show in 2019 Ann Middleton won Best in Show and in 2021 Julie Sparkes won a bronze medal. However, the greatest accomplishments this year went to Julie Sparkes who won Best Young Arranger and Best use of Colour at Malvern Spring Show (photo to the right) and a Silver-Gilt medal at Malvern Autumn Show.



The National Show this year is being held at Gloucester Cathedral where two of our committee will be representing us in the club class.

The Club aims to support worthy causes and charities in the area by organising exhibitions and competitions. For many years we supported Lydney Hospital fete and we've made a donation for a defibrillator for the Town Hall.

We also support the local Relay for Life by producing table arrangements for the weekend festival.

Lydney and Severnside Flower Club continues to thrive, but we must emphasise that if anyone wants to enjoy an evening of friendship and flowers, they are always welcome to come as a visitor.

Lydney Dial a Ride Annual Report

The principal objective of the Charity is to promote the relief of the elderly, handicapped and people with disabilities, to prevent social isolation and for such other purposes for the benefit of Lydney, Coleford, Cinderford, and the surrounding areas of the South Forest and in furtherance of this, to operate a transport service.

The transport service is provided by means of a fleet of 12 minibuses.

Eleven of the minibuses are wheelchair accessible and operate five days a week from 9.00am to 4.30pm.



(Picture of The Robin minibus)

This year has been one of consolidation and new challenges.

We are still recovering from the Pandemic and currently at 80% of the Dial a Ride passenger numbers that we carried in 2019. This can be attributed to our existing passengers becoming frailer and being unable to travel, family have changed their work patterns to accommodate their needs or services and lunch clubs have ceased due to the effect of the Covid pandemic.

We are continuing to rebuild momentum and part of the recovery strategy is to highlight our service to new users. We are doing this with our Facebook page, which has over 600 followers.

In October 2022, we launched a brand-new service called The Robin. In conjunction with Gloucestershire County Council and funded by The Department of Transport it is a two-year pilot project providing an on-demand transport service for the South of the Forest of Dean.

It allows people to book via an app, website or call centre and operates six days a week 7am to 7pm.

The advantage is its open to everyone and we are able to accept concessionary bus passes. It is not a door-to-door service but bus stop to bus stop.

The aim is to link local people to the wider bus network, gain access to Lydney train station and amenities in their local communities. It has been a success with over 380 passenger journeys in January and February 2023.

The service is continually being adapted and refined so I would recommend everyone to take a look and get on board.



(Picture of passengers and Dial a Ride minibus)

As we look forward, we are starting to consider how best to future proof the Charity.

- What service does the local community want and how we can adapt to those changes?

We are continuing to look for new Trustees who can bring a fresh perspective to the Charity and help lead us through this change.

We thank those who have helped us over the past twelve months. Gloucestershire County Council for its grant and also the Forest of Dean District Council with its Covid Recovery Fund.

We will be looking for ongoing support from parish, town and above to ensure we can continue to offer a service that allows people to remain active within their local communities.

How to book:
Contact the office on 01594 843809/844558 between 9.00am-4.30pm (Mon-Fri) or visit www.lydneydialaride.co.uk

Please give at least 48 hours' notice, if possible.

Lydney Parkrun

For those that don't know what parkrun is, it's a **FREE** 5k event every Saturday morning starting at 9.00am, from Lydney Boating Lake.

Anyone can come and run, jog, walk or volunteer, and make new friends whilst chatting over a hot drink after.

We started January 2016, and in January 2023 we celebrated our 300th event.

Our route takes in the beautiful sights of Lydney Boating Lake, Pidcocks canal, and back through the wooded area to the lake, every week we have tourist park runners who are either on holiday, or travel just to come and run at Lydney.



We welcome anybody along, and you don't need to run!

It's a great way if you are new to running to keep you going, as each week you can try and beat your own personal best and get better and stronger each time. Or if you are new to the area and want to meet people, come and join our community.

As a community event everybody that is involved in organising the events are volunteers, and we welcome anyone to come and volunteer, we currently have several students from local schools attending while they complete their Duke of Edinburgh Awards either for exercise, or volunteering (or both).

Up until the end of March 2023 we have seen 5,234 people cross the finish line, a total of 29,708 times. With 509 people volunteering to make this event happen each week.

If you want to know more then visit <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/lydney/> or www.facebook.com/lydneyparkrun/ or just come down to the Boating Lake one Saturday morning we are there from about 8:15am until about 10.00am.

We would like to thank the Town Council and Recreational Trust for their ongoing support, and use of the facilities.



Annual Report 2022/23

Registered Charity No. 277785

The Friends continue to support the excellent work that the nurses and all the staff have been doing at Lydney Hospital and given the recent problems that the NHS seem to be having, hope that the hospital will remain open for as long as possible.



Report from Senior Sister Sarah Jones

"We have been extremely busy this last year on the inpatient unit and MIU. Our beds have been fully utilised throughout and very rarely remain empty for more than a few hours. It has been lovely to see a high proportion of these being occupied by Forest residents and in the last month or so we have been honoured to receive specific requests to be cared for here and able to accommodate wishes of the local community.

There has been some significant changes to our staff this year. We said goodbye to Matron Cheryl Haswell who retired in the summer and welcomed her replacement Kate Harper shortly after.

3 new healthcare assistants joined us along with a fresh out of secondary school apprentice HCA and a part time physiotherapist.

Our 6 internationally educated nurses have been with us nearly 2 years now and well settled, 4 of them have also welcomed their children who are flourishing as part of the local community and enjoying attending school in the Lydney area.

This year I have led the team in a quality improvement project around optimising medication rounds and improving patient experience. We were shortlisted and came runners up for a better care together award.

The staff and patients on the wards are very grateful for the continued support from the Friends and appreciate the Christmas gifts and funds that provided activities as well as new televisions and reclining chair".



The aim for the future of the Friends is to ensure that the Health Authorities still support the south of the Forest (Lydney & District) after the proposed closure of Lydney Hospital. With the recent purchase of the old Co-op supermarket building is hoped that new services will be provided by a combination of both Doctors and Gloucestershire Health and Care Foundation Trust in which we can actively support.

We are also considering if there are other ways in which we can work with partners in the Lydney area to the benefit of local residents to aid their health and wellbeing.

Mary Thurston
Friends of Lydney Hospital

Lydney War Memorial (Almshouses)

The Lydney War Memorial (Almshouses) Trust is the body responsible for the maintenance and administration of the almshouses in Church Road, Lydney, next to the War Memorial. The properties are divided into two houses and four flats. The Trust meets every other month at the Naas Lane Community Centre.

Over the last year, the Trustees have remained the same; Mr Simon Moore, Mrs Ruth Richardson, Mr Walter Leach, Mrs Lynn Daszko, Mrs. Susan Holmes, Ms. Laura-Jade Schroeder and Mr Timothy Enbom.

At the AGM Mr Simon Moore agreed continue to act as Chair and Mr Walter Leach agreed to continue as Vice Chair. Gill Moir remains the clerk and administrative officer for the Trust.

Our residents have also remained the same over the year and the Trust continues to maintain a good relationship with them. They understand that they can contact the clerk at any time should problems arise.

The Trust has continued to manage its finances effectively, carefully planning projects and maintenance work within ongoing income levels, with the aim of keeping a constant and modest level of reserves.

Most of the issues raised by the latest Quinquennial Survey, carried out in July 2021, have been addressed. Those that are outstanding are of a lower priority and have been planned to be completed over the next few months. The houses are in a good state of repair and any problems which come up are resolved as soon as possible.

As part of their succession planning, the current board of Trustees are keen to encourage anyone who would be interested in becoming a Trustee to contact the Trust.

Mr Simon Moore
Chair

Lydney Town AFC Youth

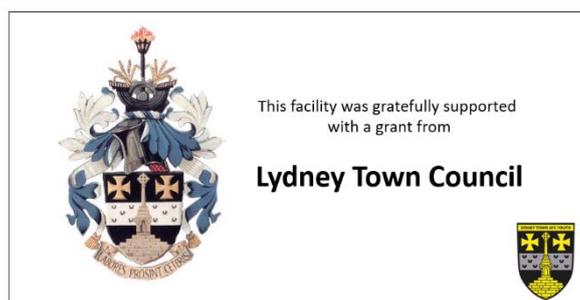
I can report that the Refreshments container is now called 'Wet Your Whistle', after a vote on name suggestions was put to the parents and children of the club.

The facility is open on Saturday and Sunday mornings, when there are games being played for the youth teams and serves hot and cold snacks.

I am also pleased that it attained a score of 5 in our food safety inspection. The money donated by Lydney Town Council went towards the refurbishment of the trailer, with new flooring, electrics, cooking equipment and food hygiene certifications.

The visitors to Wet Your Whistle are very grateful for the facility and all our meat is sourced locally and not bought in.

Unfortunately, due to the delays and ill health, the launch of the facility was subdued and not as advertised as well as we would have liked. That said, we plan to relocate it in the new season (September) to a more prominent location on the site at The Dean Academy and will 're-launch' Wet Your Whistle on our social media platforms. We will also be attaching a sticker, like the one shown below, as a sign of our gratitude to Lydney Town Council.



We have great plans for the club and the local area, for the coming years, with a goal of having an all-weather pitch at our venue, The Dean Academy.

We are working in partnership with the school, and they have agreed that we can use the land for a new all-weather pitch for use by the school during school time, and managed by us out of school hours. This will be a facility that is accessible to all in the area, and any funds raised in the management of it will be put back in to the charity for the provision of better facilities and development. Forest of Dean District Council are backing our plan, as well as the local FA and Football Foundation.

If you feel that Lydney Town Council can assist in any way in the future, I would be very grateful to hear from you.

Thank you once again for your kind donation.

Jamie Cooke

Chairman & Chair of Trustees – Lydney Town AFC Youth

chair@lydneytownafcyouth.co.uk

Primrose Hill C of E

Primrose Hill C of E has had a busy year, as always.

One of our main projects this year has been to develop the community garden.

We have been working with the rewild project to design and build a garden on the school grounds.

This will be a community garden and we are hoping that members of the local community will help tend to the produce during the school holidays.

Lydney Town Council were very generous and donated £1000 to the project which has enabled us to fund the building of the raised beds and fund the different varieties of fruit trees we are hoping to plant.

When the garden is established, we would like to harvest the different fruits and vegetables and give it back to the local community.

This will teach the children about farming as well as raise awareness about food miles and being more environmentally aware.

We would also like to thank the council for the coronation medals they provided for the children.

We enjoyed a colour run to celebrate the coronation – some children are still sporting slightly pink hair.

Primrose Hill C of E

Victoria Centre

2022 and 2023 have been better years for the Victoria Centre after the long closure due to the pandemic.

Currently the centre is providing approximately 90 meals a week for the elderly and people with disabilities.

We have 20 volunteers who do an amazing job to make all of this possible.

Carol (our co-ordinator) works tirelessly to ensure the centre runs so smoothly. As well as organising fundraising events during the year. Carol and Pam (our cook) spend a lot of time sorting out menu plans and ensuring we provide the best meals and keep the cost of the lunches to a very reasonable price.

We have Trustees who work hard to ensure the Centre runs smoothly and with a full repairing lease that can have its challenges at times.

A grant from Lydney Town Council enabled us to have the Centre decorated and Barnwood Trust provided a grant for new carpeting, so the inside has a lovely fresh feel to it, and in many ways it has lifted the team.

We now have a website, generously provided free for us, www.victoriacentre.uk together with striking new leaflets.

We aim to provide a comfortable environment for people to meet, socialise, enjoy games, coffee mornings, and other events throughout the year.

Christmas day we arrange a lunch which is free to all those who attend (pre- booked) and this is generously supported by local organisations and donations, this year we were also lucky to have Hank Sterry singing on the day, this adds something special, thank you to him for his support and for giving his time freely.

We had a donation recently, that a gentleman from Lydney left in his will, he only came to the centre on Christmas Day each year and his words that he left for us to see were **“I very much enjoyed the facilities and friendship the centre offered and would wish others to do so”**.

The Victoria Centre also prevents social exclusion so important in the difficult times that people are facing now.

A new Christmas event in 2022 was a coffee morning with a grotto and Father and Mrs Christmas, thanks to two of our diners, who helped build the grotto and then dressed the part, it was nice to see children in the centre and again all thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers.

A coffee morning at Easter included an Easter egg hunt in the garden, again enjoyed by many children.

The Coronation of King Charles III was celebrated with a lunch on the 8th May and this was enjoyed by over 40 people, a great event and our singer Hank Sterry, who again, generously gave us his time which made the event even more special, thank you.

We would like to thank so many organisations Lydney Town Council, Forest of Dean District Council, Coventry Building Society, Barnwood Trust, GCC Thriving Communities fund, Lydney Freemasons, F.O.D.Lions Club, Alan Keiley, FVAF, Two Rivers Housing and everyone else who so generously provides us with practical and financial support, I haven't named them all but our appreciation is far reaching.

I personally would like to thank Carol, Pam and all our volunteers for all their continued hard work and support and also to all the Trustees, they all make it happen.

We are “MORE THAN JUST A LUNCH CLUB”.

Glynis Halling
Chairman

The Friends of Bathurst Pool

Bathurst Pool had a very successful season in 2022 with capacity numbers on seven occasions, three of which we had to shut the gates and operate a one out one in system. The attendance, and appreciation of our pool was very welcome after the uncertainty of the two years of Covid restrictions.

Major work has taken place this spring in readiness for our opening to the public on Saturday 27th May.

Tarmac has been laid in the main car park with the edges left for grass, trees and colourful pots for shrubs making the whole area very attractive.

The archaic sewage system, which was constantly blocking, has been replaced with a modern septic tank and new gates and a turnstile at the entrance are both on order.

The automatic dosing system was replaced at the beginning of last season and this was partially financed by a generous donation from Two Rivers Housing. We also received a donation from Waitrose which was unrestricted.

The swim club which has now been operating for many years began on 1st May. Cold water swimming is now very popular and the membership was sold out within two days of opening.

We have purchased a portacabin which is now situated in our inner car park and this serves as a meeting/rest room for trustees and volunteers and also as the new first aid post.

Rising costs have affected us, as with every business, but because, we are all volunteers, except for the life guards, we are managing at present to maintain our reputation of providing a family day out for a very reasonable outlay.

We have turned a run down, little used community pool to the vibrant successful business that it is today.

This is down to the excellent band of trustees and volunteers that are passionate about the future of this facility.

Long may the enthusiasm continue.

Sheila Berryman

Trustee/Treasurer

The Friends of Bathurst Pool

The Golden Triangle

The Golden Triangle Club is a weekly social club for adults with learning disabilities.



It operates from Lydney Community Centre every Tuesday from 7-9pm with an entry fee of £2.

This is the only way the club creates profit alongside the running of a weekly tuck shop.



The club was founded in 1981 and at one time was supported by Gloucestershire County Council.

After funding cuts it's now non-profit and run by a dedicated team of six volunteers.

Every week the tuck shop is open and there is a film night in one room and a full disco in another.

During the year there are also craft nights to tie in with events like Easter, Mother's Day etc.



As well as having ice cream and pizza nights we regularly use a mobile catering van to come down for special occasions and have an annual Christmas meal and Disco and Bells Club in Coleford and again for Valentine's Day.

Throughout the year we book a musical theatre trip and pantomime usually at Bristol Hippodrome.

We have an evening of games at Lydney Park in the summer and a trip out to the cinema or bowling.

This year we applied and received a £1000 grant from LTC and were able to purchase some much-needed new speakers for the disco.



Councillor Tasha Saunders
Mayor of Lydney Town Council

Royal British Legion, Lydney Branch



As we are custodians of Remembrance we have been heavily involved in the organizing and planning of our annual service with Lydney Town Council, although we had last minute route changes, we still managed to honour all the fallen from our Town and District. It was an honour to do so.

Support for our veterans and their dependents is ongoing and we will continue to help and care for them. We will be opening a pop in coffee morning on Monday 5th June, 2023 to be held fortnightly at 3, Hill Street from 11.00am until 1.00pm, please feel free to come and if you need some help or advice we will be pleased to assist you, even if all you'd like is a chat.

We have recently attended the St. Georges Day service in Gloucester, the Big Help Out with the Town Council, our National Annual Conference and the Gloster's Memorial Day in the Park near their tree, planted to remember their fallen, it was an honour to be asked to attend and lay a wreath.

Our country and the world were so very saddened to learn of the passing of our much loved "boss", Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, we were very grateful and very honoured to be asked by our Mayor to join the Town Council in the proclamation announcing her passing and laying a wreath in her honour and then proclaiming the accession of His Majesty King Charles III. We also held a small service outside 3 Hill Street, Sunday evening, with the Royal British Legion's National Prayer Service. This was attended by our Mayor, Town councillors, and Branch Committee members along with Deputy Lord Lieutenant Mr John Thurston, what was particularly moving was when our local Firemen, who were cleaning the Station, all formed up, stood to attention and joined in our service. I, as Chair, wish to publicly thank them.

Our planning for Lydney Branch's Centenary in June of 2024 is well under way and more details will be released nearer the time.

We wish to place on record our sincerest thanks to the Trustees of 3 Hill Street for their continued support.

Lynn Daszko
Branch Chair, Lydney Branch

Town Clerk: Michael Greenfield



Lydney Town Council

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Telephone: 01594 842234

Address: **Lydney Town Council
Council Chambers
Claremont House
High Street
Lydney, Glos, GL15 5DX**



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Monday to Thursday

9.00 a.m. to 12 Noon Friday

'WHY NOT HIRE THE CHAMBER'

