



LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Annual Town Meeting Report April 2023 – March 2024



**Come and
have a
Discussion**

**Free &
Open to
the Public**



For More Information: Reception@lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk



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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Town Clerk: M Greenfield



Assistant Clerk: L Bendall

Lydney Town Council

*Council Chambers, Claremont House, High Street, Lydney, Glos, GL15 5DX
Telephone: (01594) 842234*

10th April 2024

**Annual Town Meeting (Parish Assembly) to be held at
Lydney Town Hall, High Street, Lydney
at 6pm on Wednesday 24th April 2024**

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 Wednesday 24th May 2023

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

- Council Committees
- 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

6. Thank you for attending and to the exhibitors.

**Annual Town Meeting
Held at, Lydney Town Hall, High Street, Lydney**

Wednesday 24th May 2023

Time: 6pm

Present:

Lydney Town Council

T Saunders (Mayor), E Taylor, P Johns, C Harris, R Kemsley (6.04pm),
P Macklin (6.27pm), S Cave (6.43pm).

Mr M Greenfield – Town Clerk

Present: 11 Residents

Cllr Saunders welcomed all present to the meeting and explained that everyone had access to a copy of the Annual Town Meeting Report 2022/23. It was noted that a digital copy of the report is available on the Town Council's website.

Cllr Saunders thanked the organisations for their contributions to the Annual Town Meeting Report 2022/2023.

Cllr Saunders encouraged residents to visit the stalls situated around the room, once the meeting concluded.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillors R. Holmes, S Holmes, W Osborne.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting dated 25th April 2022, were confirmed and approved as a true record and duly signed. Proposed by Cllr C Harris, seconded by Cllr E Taylor. APPROVED.

3. The Mayor's Report

The Mayor commented that the Annual Town Meeting Reports for 2022/23 were available for residents within the documentation provided.

4. Public questions/COMMENTS

Dean Forest Greenway – a resident asked about the Council's plans regarding the Dean Forest Greenway and retention of funds that are available to the Council.

The resident commented that there may be substantial changes to the identified travel routes and this will have an impact on the Council and should be given some consideration.

The resident enquired as to whether the Council had been asked to remove rubbish from the intended route?

RESPONSE: The Council has not been asked to remove rubbish from the route.

The Council has earmarked £10,000 for when necessary planning applications have been approved.

Funds will be used as per any agreement, as part of financial planning and based on decisions being taken at various meetings.

The allocation would be reviewed at the next Financial & Scrutiny Committee meeting.

A former Councillor was leading on this project, and there is still a commitment from the Council for a cycle way from Lydney to Parkend.

The Mesne and Boar – a resident commented on the boar that were accessing the Mesne and damaging the grassland and surrounding areas.

Response: A District Councillor is one of the individuals that the Council is working with regarding the boars accessing the Mesne.

The Council is working with various representatives and agencies to install permanent heras fencing to restrict access from the boars.

The Council is awaiting an appropriate gate, and permissions, to enable it to be fixed into place.

The Council is aware that previous temporary fencing installed by a local resident was removed by persons unknown.

Comment: a resident commented that the District Council and the Town Council are working together on this issue.

Springfield Road seems to be the main access for the boar.

Comment: a resident commented that the public footpath near to where the boars are accessing needs to be addressed and that a 'Kissing Gate' has already been installed.

The Public Rights of Way Officer at the Forest of Dean District Council may be able to assist, as the boars may be situated by the ponds.

Comment: a resident invited a resident to a meeting to progress these suggestions further.

Bream Road Bus Stop – a resident asked if the bus shelter could be relocated from Bream Road, as it is no longer used, to outside Taurus Crafts, Lydney, subject to various permissions.

Response: this is an agenda item for the Amenities Committee and is being investigated further.

The structure of the bus shelter is unstable and could be damaged if moved.

A District Councillor has been made aware of the relocation request and they are seeking funding for a new shelter, with the view that it be situated by the entrance of Taurus Crafts, Lydney.

Bio-diversity – a resident asked if the Council is supportive of bio-diversity, and cited Centurion Road as an example of where, on the left-hand side, children used to play, but now it is overgrown, which seems contrary to Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) guidelines.

The resident commented that a trial was conducted but no consultation, it seems, with the public or Town Council.

The resident further commented that bins need installing and asked who has responsibility for Centurion Way (tarmacked) areas?

RESPONSE: Centurion Way is a mixture of District Council and Town Council responsibilities.

COMMENT: a resident enquired the following: -

· Whether a 'Memorandum of Understanding' between Gloucestershire County Council, District Council and Town Council, can be developed?

This will assist with queries, such as if a person is injured, the residents would know who is responsible?

· What is the responsibility between the Town Council and Gloucestershire County Council and District Council, who is responsible for maintenance?

· Who is responsible for Centurion Way grass cutting?

The resident commented that by making this known it would assist residents.

RESPONSE: All Town Councils have similar problems; we all need to know.

COMMENT: a resident mentioned that the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Lydney is open for consultation. Comments are welcomed. Residents were invited to be part of the NDP and future meetings.

COMMENT: a resident commented that areas around Livia Way and Centurion Road were used as a trial site without Councillor involvement, previously by the Forest of Dean District Council.

The trial proved unpopular with some residents, as there were issues with dog-fouling by the two parcels of land. It also reduced the green space that was available for out-door play areas.

COMMENT: a resident commented that the Neighbourhood Development Plan includes green spaces and walkways.

It was suggested that a letter of support be provided by the Town Council for an NDP meeting scheduled for late June 2023.

Action- Letter of support request for NDP to be added to Council Agenda for June 2023 for decision – Town Clerk.

Dog Bins – a resident asked about installation of dog bins and who is responsible if, as a result, someone has an illness, due to dog fouling left uncleared?

RESPONSE: it is up to the owners to be responsible dog owners. Bins can be situated everywhere, but if it is not picked up from the floor it is the owner's responsibility.

Homeless Individuals at Skatepark – a resident commented that there are homeless individuals by the skatepark.

RESPONSE: the police are aware and various services are engaging with those individuals.

The homeless individuals have been moved on from that site.

There is a multi-agency meeting scheduled for Thursday 25th May 2023 and this will be on the agenda, as well as other topics.

With no further questions or comments, the Mayor thanked everyone for their contributions and for attending the Annual Town Assembly.

CLOSE

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.

Mayor's Report

This May marks the completion of my third year serving as a Lydney Town Councillor, during which I am currently in my second term as Town Mayor.

Throughout this year, our office has experienced significant growth with the addition of valuable team members. In April of last year, Mr. Michael Greenfield joined as our clerk, followed closely by the return of Mrs Louise Bendall as our Assistant Clerk. Additionally, Mr Henry Sleeman joined us as an apprentice, through Gloucestershire College, in September, and most recently, Mr. Simon Fieldhouse joined as our new Finance Assistant in March 2024. This cohesive and dynamic team has seamlessly integrated, providing invaluable support to the councillors.

For the first time during my tenure as a councillor, our office is fully staffed, marking a milestone in our operational efficiency.

I am immensely appreciative of another year working alongside my highly supportive and dedicated Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Roger Holmes.

Furthermore, I extend my gratitude to our exceptional team of Committee Chairs for their dedication and contributions.

During this period, we have welcomed new additions to our council, including Councillor Michele Jones representing Lydney North, and the return of Councillor Harry Ives, who now represents Lydney East.

Despite these positive developments, we still have a few vacant positions on the council due to the resignation of several councillors during the May re-election. Therefore, if you are interested in serving as a town councillor, we warmly encourage you to contact us. We are available to discuss the role with you and offer guidance and support throughout the application process to join the Lydney Town Council.

Lydney Town Council is actively engaged in the revision of our Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), spearheaded by former councillor Anne Harley. Anne's steadfast leadership of the NDP steering group ensures both continuity and acknowledges the considerable effort she and her team have invested in this plan. For more detailed insights into the NDP updates, please refer to the steering group's report.

Since last May, we have some fantastic events for the community which have been supported incredibly.

We had our community event at Bathurst Park in July which is growing in popularity year on year. The feedback from this event is always very positive and we are glad to be able to provide this to bring the community together and engage with them by showing both our old and new residents, the exciting groups, clubs and organisations that support our time and its residents.



Myself, the Deputy Mayor Roger Holmes and Louise Curry Celebrating Dial-a-Ride



Photo from the King's Coronation event in Bathurst Park

It is a continual privilege for me to lay the wreath at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. Despite the inclement weather, the procession and attendance remained profoundly humbling, as always. I extend my sincere gratitude to the Royal British Legion (Lydney Branch) for their invaluable assistance and guidance in co-ordinating this significant civic ceremony.



Photo from the Remembrance Service

On 1st December we hosted our Annual Light Switch-on Parade and Christmas event at Lydney Town Hall, which proved to be a resounding success. We would like to thank The X-Factor star, Russell Jones Jnr, for entertaining the audience with renditions of various Christmas songs. Each year, the procession continues to grow, featuring even more captivating acts, with the dancers being particularly outstanding.

In response to feedback from the public, we made adjustments to this year's event. We moved the date from a Friday to a Saturday to minimise disruption to the High Street and allow other groups with time constraints on Fridays to participate.

This change aims to encourage even greater community participation, as weekends typically accommodate a wider range of schedules, ensuring more people can partake in and enjoy this wonderful event.



Photo from the Christmas event

On the 27th March 2024, we hosted our Annual Easter Hunt at Bathurst Park, despite unpredictable weather conditions necessitating a switch to our contingency plan. We relocated craft activities and registration indoors, ensuring the event proceeded smoothly.

Despite the last-minute adjustments, we experienced an excellent turnout for both the hunts and the Easter Hat Parade.

The arrival of our special guests, Mr. Easter Bunny, and the Town Crier were a highlight for the children, who enjoyed meeting them and capturing cherished moments in photos.

Witnessing children and families come together to create magical childhood memories during events like these is one of the most rewarding aspects of my role as a councillor.

My schedule for civic events is consistently packed with engagements.

Regrettably, this year, we mourn the loss of two exceptional pillars of our Lydney community, Mr. Derek Biddle and Mr. Bill Hobman, both former councillors and Mayors. It was a profound honour for me to speak at Derek's memorial and Bill's funeral. Their passing leaves a significant void in our community, as both gentlemen profoundly impacted future generations through their generosity, dedication, and unwavering support of local groups.

In January 2024, I was elected to serve on the Executive Committee of Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils (GAPTC), an organisation dedicated to supporting town and parish councils, as well as their officers and staff. GAPTC provides invaluable advice, training, and support to all its members.

I am eagerly anticipating the opportunity to contribute to my community at a broader level through this new role.

Earlier this year, I participated in a Police and Crime Advocacy Scheme alongside several other local town and parish councils. This is a scheme that has been developed through the Police & Crime Commissioner's Office. Together, we voiced concerns regarding crime levels and policing within our community.

I am committed to maintaining active involvement in this initiative to foster a positive relationship between the council and the police, ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents remains a top priority.

I have been actively participating in numerous meetings with the Environment Agency concerning the ongoing work at the harbour, with a particular focus on the fencing aspect. Our discussions are ongoing to ensure that the public is consulted, and their opinions and voices are heard regarding the proposed changes by the Environment Agency at our historic harbour.

It's always a privilege to be invited to support the opening of new businesses.

This year, I had the honour of reopening the Great Oaks Hospice Shop, assisting with the relocation of The Dressing Rooms, and participating in the inauguration of Noden's Manor Residential Home.

Recently, I had the opportunity to engage with the Girl Guides on International Women's Day, where I discussed my role in the community. They asked insightful questions about my experience as a mayor and shared their thoughts on potential changes in our community. I look forward to further interactions with the Guides.

I've also had the pleasure of attending sessions at Lydney's Golden Triangle Group, a social club for adults with special needs. Witnessing first-hand how our grant funds have been utilised and seeing adults in our community participate in inclusive and supportive activities has been incredibly fulfilling and has positively impacted their well-being.

Summarising a year's worth of work, events and meetings into a brief report is challenging, but I trust that this overview provides a glimpse into the dedication and effort invested by your councillors.

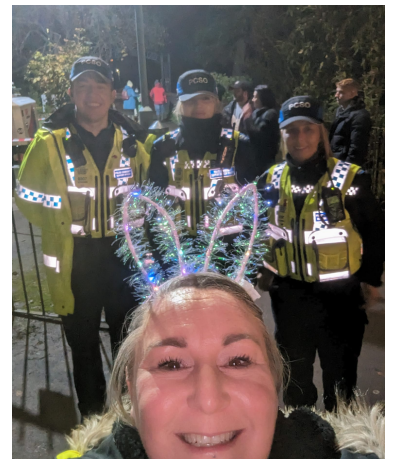


Photo from the Fireworks event with our Neighbourhood policing team

As we look ahead, the coming year promises to be equally busy.

We are currently in the process of organising all the events for 2024, advancing the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), and implementing various strategic improvements for the town.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to and supported the council, including myself, enabling me to continue serving in this role.

Councillor Tasha Saunders
Mayor of Lydney

Amenities 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 town.

Sensory garden

The Bathurst Park Sensory Garden is nearing completion. Feedback from the community has been great and the staff team have been congratulated on their work.

Defibrillator

A new defibrillator location has been identified at The Holy Trinity Church, Primrose Hill, Lydney. We are just waiting for the instillation of the defibrillator to take place. I would like to thank Rev. Gardiner and the Church Committee for allowing us to use the outside of the church building for this much needed lifesaving device.



Photo of our new Sensory Garden

Bus Shelter moved to outside Taurus Crafts

An out of service bus shelter was relocated outside of Taurus crafts. This was highly requested by residents and something the council was very proud to have gotten done.

Community Orchard

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.

Primrose Hill C of E School, Severnbanks School, Lydney C of E School, Bream Road and the site off Centurion Road. The trees were delivered 15th January 2024, to the workshop and directly to the schools involved. These trees have since been planted and are a beautiful addition to our community.



Photo of cherry trees outside the Community Centre

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

The King's Coronation Bench

The King's Coronation bench was moved to its new home by the Sensory Garden, within Bathurst Park, Lydney.



Photo from the King's Coronation bench

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

Coronation Event

We had a big 'Coronation Eat Together and Music Festival' held on 7th May 2023. Meals were provided to Lydney residents in exchange for purchasing a £1 meal token. Funding was provided by the National Lottery and the money raised from the event was divided between the Mayor's Charities of the year which were TICplus and Dean Forest Kitchen who provide subsidised meals for the community.

The music on the Bandstand was excellent and we would like to thank all the vendors, musicians, volunteers and the public for contributing to a brilliant day.

Community Event

After the success of the previous Community Events, Lydney Town Council and Trustees of Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust held an event at Bathurst Park on Saturday 22nd July 2023. This was a free family event to showcase what Lydney has to offer to its community. The event was very well attended even with the rain and overall was a great success.



Photo from the Community event

Fireworks

The firework event was held on Friday 3rd November 2023 and was a great success this year. It was great to see so many people come to see the spectacle.



Photo from the Fireworks event

Christmas

The Christmas event, held on Friday 1st December 2023, was even brighter this year. 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.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Bonnet Parade, held on Wednesday 27th March 2024, was very well attended even with the poor weather. We were able to use the inside space at Bathurst Park Pavilion to carry on with the event.

Lots of children made their bonnets at the craft stall and having fun filling in their egg hunt sheets. I would like to record my thanks to Cllr Tasha Saunders for her hard work and brilliant ideas and all of the volunteers who help to make the events so joyful.



Photo of the Christmas Tree in Lydney Town Centre

Councillor Sue Holmes
Chair, Amenities Committee

Finance and Scrutiny Report

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 this 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)

Grants

Grants received:

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 in Bathurst Park including community crafts for children at Easter, May was the King's Coronation, the community event in July, our annual Fireworks display in November 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 community grants and were awarded in 2023/24:

Victoria Centre - £1,000

Forest of Dean Baby Bank - £1,000

Lydney Town Ladies Football Club - £1,000

Victoria Centre - £500

Lydney RFC Junior Section - £1,000

Lydney Town Hall - £957.60

Reserves

The reserves have grown, some have been earmarked for specific projects and the remainder are general reserves which for use in an emergency situation and as a working balance. The total balances and reserves at the end of the year are £774,109.

Conclusion

So, we enter 2024/25 in a healthy position despite the uncertainty for the general economy.

Councillor Roger Holmes
Chair, Finance and Scrutiny Committee

Burial Committee

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 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 role when the previous burial's assistant left and she has mastered the role and works fantastically with the local funeral directors to deliver an efficient service to the community.

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

During the winter months, the benches in the cemetery have been repaired in house by our Grounds Team.

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 table top 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, Burial Committee



Photo of our Reflective garden located at the back of Lydney Cemetery

Planning and Highways

I have been Chair of the Planning and Highways Committee since late 2022.

Lydney Town Council is a consultee on planning applications that are provided by the Forest of Dean District Council. We hold monthly Planning & Highways Committee meetings (apart from August) and notify the Forest of Dean District Council of the council's view on various planning applications that are submitted to us.

We are often contacted by the public regarding the state of our roads within the town and outlying areas, i.e. potholes, however the responsibility for the highways and pathways upkeep falls to Gloucestershire County Council Highways.

I do however have regular meetings (approximately bi monthly) with Nathan Choat from Gloucestershire County Council Highways, Gloucestershire County Councillor Alan Preest and our Town Clerk to review issues within the town and am pleased to say that due to these meetings the resurfacing of Church Rd will take place in 2024/2025 paid for from the Gloucestershire County Council Highways budget instead of their 2025/2026 budget year.

I am also an active member of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Review Steering Group liaising between LTC, the steering group (Chaired superbly by Anne Harley, who has worked tirelessly to bring the review of the NDP to fruition), the consultants that have assisted in getting the Review ready for submission to the examiners at FODDC for adoption giving us more say on future planning applications that come before this Committee.

As a steering group we have had 2 successful public consultations in February 2024 and in March 2024 taking on your views regarding our town and future developments. The link to the NDP 2 is on the Council website and will remain active for another 3 months for your views.

I and this Committee will continue to strive to make representation to the Forest of Dean District Council's Planning Department on your behalf over planning applications and decisions.

Councillor Carol Harris
Chair, Planning and Highways

Head Groundsman Report

Lydney Town Council

The Grounds Team have been working extremely hard throughout the year, keeping everywhere clean, safe and tidy.

They have been keeping up the high standards we set ourselves making sure Lydney looks beautiful to residents and visitors.

The flower tubs had new designs and looked very colourful.

Various members of the public have thanked us for the work we have undertaken.

We have put two new flower tubs out in the town and also four new railing tubs, adding to the display.

We are always busy grass cutting and strimming many areas. Our efforts extend beyond aesthetics; we have taken steps to streamline our operations, including bringing grass cutting in-house to enhance efficiency and quality.

Finally, we make sure the emergency supply of salt and sandbags are ready for use in any adverse weather conditions.



Bowling Green Bathurst Park



Flower tubs located at Coronation Corner

Lydney Recreation Trust

We are committed to maintaining the cleanliness and safety of this area. As part of our efforts, we have recently installed new benches around the lake.

You may have also seen some of the team putting their chainsaw skills to use cutting down dead and fallen trees.



Ashley cutting down a dean tree on Recreation Trust land



Ryan showing off his chainsaw skills

St Mary's Church Yard and Cemetery

In this cherished and sensitive area, we dedicate ourselves to meticulous care, always acting with utmost respect at this memorial site.

Throughout the growing season, we mow the grass weekly, attend to path maintenance, weed the grounds, and undertake tree maintenance.

Additionally, we address mole hills promptly, keep gates and benches painted and collect litter and fallen leaves.

Bathurst Park & Recreation Trust

Bathurst Park has been said is the jewel for Lydney, cherished by residents, families, visitors, and sports enthusiasts alike.

Its popularity and frequent use, coupled with various organised events, underscore the importance of upholding ecological and biodiversity standards.

This requirement has enabled us to maintain various tasks, relevant to Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust.

As head groundsman i was given the task of working out, designing and planning a new sensory garden. With the help of all the grounds team and their expertise we built, planted and installed the new sensory garden over the winter months. This project would not have been possible without the financial support and assistance from various local businesses, we would like to thank them for their support and encouragement. .

The Sensory Garden area is near completion and will hopefully be officially opened later in the Spring 2024.

We have enhanced the park by planting new trees, introducing fresh flower tubs, and installing exciting new play equipment like the Clamber Stack. Adding an element of fun, we have gratefully received new animal-themed bins donated by Lydney Church of England School. These additions have proven to be an attraction to visitors to Bathurst Park.



Photo of the Sensory Garden, Bathurst Park



Photo of the new Clamber Stack

Overview

Each member of the Grounds Staff is invested in the quality of their work, and aim to provide value for money and services to residents, which enhances the town.

James Young
Head Groundsman – Lydney Town Council

Lydney Division County Councillor Reports

County Councillor Alan Preest
Gloucestershire City Council
Lydney Division

Member of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Member of Environment Scrutiny Committee
Member of Fire Scrutiny Committee
Member of Audit Committee
GCC Conservative Group Chairman

Throughout the year I regularly provide Lydney Town Council (LTC) with reports and share GCC activities that impact on Lydney. Despite standing down after two years as GCC chairman, my role as a GCC councillor remains as busy as ever. Rather than repeat what I include in my regular updates I will give you an insight into what an average week as County Councillor for the Lydney Division entails.

Saturday

Attended a commemoration evening concert at St Mary's Lydney.

Sunday

Constituency work. Meeting preparation.

Monday

Meeting with the local highways manager and forest senior highways manager to discuss forthcoming highways requirements.

Tuesday

Following concerns around stagecoach bus performance particularly on school service discussions with the GCC Integrated Transport Unit to ascertain the cause of the problem and seek reassurance/improvement from stagecoach.

Wednesday

Early morning visit to Shire Hall to resolve IT issues. Afternoon presentation alongside the GCC leads Cllr Mark Hawthorne to the FOD U3A group at Lydney Town Hall.

Thursday

Early start travelling to Exeter to attend as GCC representative the Devon and Severn Inland Fisheries Conservation Area meeting with a view to significantly reduce the budget contribution paid by Gloucestershire.

Friday

Early morning return from Exeter using the travelling time to concentrate on constituency issues, and by phone, talking to MPs office for our weekly "two-way" updates.

Every week, not just an average week of course also involves many communications from residents and liaison with council officers.

Collaboration and teamwork remains so important.

County Councillor Alan Preest
Gloucestershire City Council
Lydney Division

Lydney Division County Councillor Reports

Councillor Harry Ives

District Councillor for Lydney North 2019-2027

This was my tenth year as a Lydney Councillor and fifth as District Councillor for Lydney North Ward.

The biggest challenges facing Lydney North in 2023 were wild boar damage, a major planning application for 80 houses, ongoing maintenance issues and the continued speeding on Allaston Road, Driffield Road and Lancaster Drive.

On boar damage, I am pleased to say that progress is being made. It appears that wild boar are accessing Primrose Hill from the woodland entrance on Springfield Road (known locally as 'Russell's Corner'). This land is owned by Forestry England, which means we cannot install any fencing there without permission. Following discussions between Lydney Town Council and Forestry England, we have finally received permission to install fencing across their land. I am hopeful that fencing will eventually be installed there, to protect Primrose Hill Mesne and all surrounding properties.

On planning matters, residents will know of the recent application by Lantar Developments to build 80 houses on Allaston Road. This is an application I strongly oppose and will do everything possible to stop. I am very thankful to the 350+ residents who have signed the petition against this application. I would also like to thank Lydney Town Council's Planning Committee for objecting to this application so strongly.

This application is likely to reach the District Council's Planning Committee in May 2024. I will be attending this meeting to speak in opposition to it. The existing infrastructure on Primrose Hill (and Lydney more widely) is clearly not able to support a significant increase in residents. Primrose Hill Primary School is already the most oversubscribed school in Gloucestershire!

The relevant planning meeting will be broadcast live and all residents are welcome to attend it.

2023 also marked the 90th anniversary of Primrose Hill Church. We had a very well attended 'songs of praise' event to mark this occasion. Thank you to everyone who attended this event. The 2023 Primrose Hill Autumn Fayre (also held at our Church) on 4th November raised £571 for Lydney Foodbank. Thank you to everyone who came along to support this event too.

In October 2023, I re-joined Lydney Town Council after an absence of four years. Thank you to all the other Councillors and staff for making me feel so welcome.

I regularly produce community newsletters, which are delivered to every property on Primrose Hill. The seventh edition of my newsletter will be delivered later this year. I am very thankful to those residents who regularly volunteer their time to help me deliver it. Please get in touch if you enjoy walking and having a good natter.

If anyone needs help, please contact me on harry.ives@fdean.gov.uk or telephone 07443343395. I will always do my best to help you.

Councillor Harry Ives

District Councillor for Lydney North 2019-2027

Lydney Recreational Trust

Exciting times ahead for The Lydney Recreational Trust with the football, rugby and cricket clubs all putting in planning applications for new changing room facilities to be funded by Section 106 money. These are of paramount importance for these busy successful and expanding clubs. The clubs are all running womens' and junior teams and the existing facilities are just not large enough. The Trust will be giving the clubs all our support and help on these projects going forward.

Over the year we had no serious flooding and the pump house continues to do a good drainage job. Thank you to the cricket club for keeping an eye on the Pump House. The clubs still find the geese a problem although the water quality in the lake has improved significantly this year. Lastly thank you to our grounds team and all the wonderful club volunteers who make the recreational trust thrive with activity.

Bathurst Park 2023

Another busy and active year at the park this year which continues to be used and enjoyed by the community. The Trust and grounds staff have started the construction of a sensory garden I would like to thank John Thurston who has made a very generous donation towards this new garden which will be located beyond the cafe. The café continues to offer lovely food, teas and coffees.

We had a very successful bonfire evening and a rather wet summer party but the show went on nothing stops Lydney from having a good party.

There will be a community event this summer and the trust hopes to use the wonderful bandstand for local brass bands to play on Sundays. Once again thanks to James and the ground staff for the wonderful presentation of the park.



Richard Kemsley
Chair, Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust
Chair, Recreation Trust

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, LYDNEY BRANCH

As we are custodians of Remembrance we have been heavily involved in the organising 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.

The largest outgoing in this past year was for mobility aids and help with heating and electricity, which along with white goods etc seems to be more in demand.

We will be joining the Glosters regiment for their annual service around the Korean Oak in Bathurst Park on 7th April and members of the committee will be attending the St. George's Day service in Gloucester on 23rd April 2024.

There are many important dates coming up, 80th Anniversary of D-Day, 6-8th June, Lydney Branch Centenary Service on 23rd June 2024, details for these will be in the press and on our website nearer the time, the 80th anniversary of Operation Market Garden, Anzac Day and the Annual National Conference in early May will all have representatives from Lydney Branch. We are still planning for Armed Forces Day.

We are also hoping to partake in events planned by Lydney Town Council, and I am delighted in saying that a very good relationship exists between us, long may it continue.

Our fortnightly coffee mornings are still being held, so if you wish to have a chat, ask advice or just have a cuppa feel free to join us. Our next one is on the 15th of April, 2024, 11.00-13.00hrs.

I am extremely pleased to say that at this moment, the money raised during Remembrance fortnight is over £21,000.00 with more events planned until the year end in September. Thank you so very much to all our volunteers, shops, supermarkets for allowing us to collect, we are always looking for more people to man the tables in the supermarkets, if you wish to help, please leave your details at 3, Hill Street, Lydney and we will get in touch.

Once again we wish to place on record our sincerest thanks to the Trustees of 3, Hill Street for their continued support.

Lynn Daszko
Lydney Branch Chair



Lydney Tennis Club

Welcome everyone to Lydney Tennis Club AGM. We started our year marking the celebration of our 70th Anniversary and welcoming our new President, Martin Godwin. We marked our anniversary launching a new logo for the club which has been displayed on a new sign, our website and on social media. These changes represent the Committees commitment to drive the club forward and evolve

We can celebrate another successful year for Lydney tennis club. We have continued to make great progress in developing the club and its facilities. A huge amount of time and effort has been made to secure funding to enable us to undertake projects to provide the best facilities for our members. Our aim of these projects has not just been to improve our facilities but to take responsibility for our environmental impact. We received a very generous grant from Enovert Community Trust which enabled us to replace our outdated floodlights with energy efficient LED lights and install solar panels with battery storage. The reduction in our energy bills will enable us to keep our costs affordable for our members whilst allowing us to take steps towards to becoming a greener and more eco-conscious club.

We have also completed other projects such as the extended decking, built a new shed for storage and improved the entrance with planting. It's incredible what we have been able to achieve over the last three years and testament to the commitment of the committee and the time and effort given. It's important to remember that the committee is made up of volunteers and generously give up their free time to make these projects happen. These projects are not without their challenges, but we've pulled together to overcome them. A special thank you must go to Cath who has worked tirelessly to deal with these challenges and for her hard work and perseverance to get the jobs done.

As well as the large projects undertaken, a great deal of time is given to the day to day running of the club. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those on the committee that do the less exciting tasks that keep our club running smoothly. A special thank you to Caroline who worked hard engage with a Safeguarding review in February and ensured the club passed with flying colours. This represents the club's commitment to ensure a safe and inclusive environment for all our members.

The club has continued to go from strength to strength with its members. The engagement in the club is reflected by the success we have enjoyed in the county leagues, both summer and winter. Once again, we have entered 11 teams into the Summer league and 5 teams in the mixed winter league. We have also entered 2 ladies teams and a mixed team in the over 60's winter league. It's fantastic to see so many members playing competitive tennis and representing our club so well. Our Monday evening social night is well attended as well as the men's practice evening. We have also set court time aside for an over 50's social session on a Thursday and are experimenting with another social session on a Sunday afternoon. We now have Pay and Play set up for the club and have set aside court time on courts 3 and 4 for non-members to book. This provides the club with some additional income and opens up our courts for the wider community.

Our coaching team led by Rachel has continued to work hard to provide us with a great coaching programme for adults and juniors. The women's doubles coaching run by Rach and Cath has continued to grow with a new beginner's session introducing more women and girls to tennis. Rach has also expanded the team with a new coach, Mark, who has started a men's doubles coaching group which is proving very popular. Rach has supported our young coaches with their development with both Jess and Rachel achieving their level 1 coaching qualification and working towards their level 2. Expanding the team and developing their skills has enabled Rach to meet the increasing demands for one to one coaching. Cardio tennis also continues to be a bit hit both on a Tuesday morning and Sunday afternoon. Rachel continues to do a great job of posting on social media to raise the club profile and engage all our members in our tennis community.

We've enjoyed some great social tennis events this year, including a Coronation Triples tournament and a ladies' social with a tennis clothing pop-up shop. We've also held a number of tournaments, including the Deirdre Maguire Toombs tournament, organised by Jan and Dave and the newly named Maisie Hoggard Tournament, organised by Barb and Lisa. We also had a successful Club Champs tournament, organised by Jason. A huge thank you for those who gave up their time to organise these events and all those who took part.

We have had a couple of our committee members step down which has opened two spaces. We're delighted that Ellie James and Neil Denison have stepped up to join the committee and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome them and thank them for joining the team.

As we enter the new year, we will be developing a new action plan to identify how we can continue to improve and maintain the Club. We will be sending out a Members Survey so that we can ensure the needs and expectations of the members are being met. This can provide us with valuable input into our planning process.

In conclusion 2023 was another successful year for the Club both on and off the courts! We have developed a club that we can be proud of. This is reflected in the positive comments we get from visiting teams.

We look forward to seeing what we can achieve in 2024!

Karen Geelhoed
Chair



Lydney_parkrun

Lydney parkrun started on 2nd January 2016, it is a FREE 5k event that happens at 9am every Saturday morning at Lydney Boating Lake. Anyone can come and take part, you can run, walk, jog or volunteer.

We are a friendly group and always welcome new people, young or old, or anywhere in between. Once registered at www.parkrun.org.uk you can take part in any of hundreds of parkruns that happen around the world each Saturday.

You don't need to be fast to take part; you can even bring your dog (on a short hand-held lead), and children under the age of 11 who must stay close to a responsible adult. As well as improving your physical and mental health it's a great way of making new friends, as after each event you will find participants chatting with each other over a cuppa and often a slice of cake, whilst cheering everyone across the finish line.

Our route is three laps, which includes most of the paths around the lake, the canal path, and a section through the wooded area, which during the winter can get very muddy. Over the years we have had many youngsters come and use parkrun as part of their Duke of Edinburgh, either for their volunteering or exercise element.

At the end of February 2024, we have held 359 events, where over 6000 individuals have crossed our finish line over 34,000 times, totting up over 170,000km. We often attract many tourists, either day trippers, or those on holiday in the area, who come and not only enjoy Lydney parkrun, but also go and enjoy a tasty breakfast in one of our many café's in the town.

As always we are so thankful to the Lydney Recreational Trust, and Town Council for their ongoing support of Lydney parkrun, and would invite you to come down one Saturday morning, to see us, you can take part, volunteer, or just say hello. For more information find us at <https://www.facebook.com/lydneyarkrun>



Lydney & District Twinning Association

Lydney & District Twinning Association was formed 33 years ago following a school exchange between the then Whitecross School and the Vanlee College in Brehal, Normandy. The proposal for a formal 'Declaration of Friendship' was put to both Town Councils where it received great support and the document was signed by both Town Mayors (Bill Hobman and Andre Clement) in June 1991.

Since this date, the Lydney and District Twinning Association have been acting on behalf of the Town to develop and maintain the cultural relationship with the Brehal Twinning Association. This essentially takes the form of a cultural exchange between families of both towns, usually during the May half-term period, with each Town hosting on alternate years.

The Brehal Town Council have consistently provided support to the Twinning relationship and in recognition of the 30th anniversary they commissioned a presentation bell which was given to us last year (delayed, as this was their first visit after Covid). This was subsequently passed on to our Lydney Town Council at a Council meeting in 2022.

In May 2023, it was the turn of the Lydney and District Twinning Association to visit Brehal. The travel is self-funded by those taking part in the exchange, with host families in and around Brehal providing the accommodation and entertainment for the 4-day visit. On arrival in Brehal, visitors and hosts were treated to a reception hosted by the Major of Brehal at the Town Hall (Below):



A variety of events took place during the exchange, including a group picnic and a visit to the Rey Lime Kilns, a historical site in Regneville-Sur-Mer, to the North of Brehal (Below):



There was also a celebration dinner with a few speeches and some local entertainment which took place on the final evening of the exchange at the nearby village of Folligny.

In addition to all members continuing to pay an annual subsidy, the Lydney Twinning Association undertook the usual fund-raising events during last year, including our annual quiz-night, raffles and a summer BBQ event. These have been scheduled again for 2024.

A delegation from Brehal will be visiting Lydney from 9th to 12th May of this year and the Twinning Association are arranging a number of events including a celebration dinner and an afternoon trip on the Forest of Dean Railway. This Year we are receiving positive support from Lydney Town Council and are delighted to have received a grant towards hosting these events.

As with many local organisations, membership continues to be a challenge and we are continually looking at ways of attracting new members. Publicity surrounding this year's visit will hopefully assist and there may be an opportunity to engage with other clubs and societies in the Town where twinning links may be appropriate. Historically, for example, there have been links and exchanges between both the golf and tennis clubs. Brehal is linked to the coast at St Martin de Brehal, a small coastal resort (below) with a good links golf course.



For anyone seeking more information regarding the Lydney Twinning Association, contact can be made with the committee via the Council Office.

Andrew Dean

Chair – Lydney & District Twinning Association

Lydney and Severnside Flower Club

Founded in 1971, Lydney & Severnside Flower Club usually meets at Lydney Town Hall, on the second Monday of each month, from February to November each year. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7.15pm start. Visitors are always welcome with an entry fee of £10 unless otherwise advertised.

Our year begins in March where members enrol for £65, entitling them to attend all meetings plus the AGM, free of charge, therefore saving £20 over the year. There is a member's monthly sweepstake with a cash prize, which also supports our Project Fund in aid of good causes.

Each meeting will normally include a raffle of flowers, light refreshments and a Bric a Brac stall. There is a Notice Board containing Club and other NAFAS information and members can also subscribe to our quarterly magazine 'The Flower Arranger' at a subsidised cost.

Some meetings will be entertained by NAFAS demonstrators who will showcase their skills by filling the stage with beautiful and clever designs, to a theme, which are then raffled. In particular, the Open meeting in November is always a spectacular festive occasion with seasonal displays, refreshments and guest stalls.

Members can also take advantage of their associate membership of NAFAS (part of their fee) by receiving information on events run by our Area (Three Counties & South Wales) and at National level.

These include Area Days, Presidents Day and the NAFAS National Show. Information and tickets can often be obtained via the Flower Club. The Area also provides training for would-be Demonstrators, Judges, Speakers and Teachers including training days for all these disciplines plus help for competitors in flower arranging competitions.

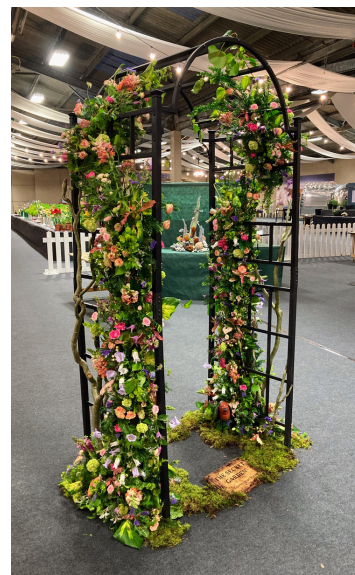
The advantages of being a member of a local Flower Club are many and varied and include opportunities to socialise and make new friends, to learn about flower classes on offer locally, or to join in with members who regularly help out at local flower festivals and churches. Some of our Members arrange at Gloucester Cathedral and others have been invited to arrange at Westminster Abbey! The club also supports local events such as The Race for Life.

The club is run by a committee, which meets on a monthly basis and is always delighted to welcome new members on board to join in the fun!

If you have any queries, please contact the club via following:

www.lydneyandsevernsideflowerclub.co.uk

Julie Sparks



Friends of Lydney Hospital



The Friends have continued to support the excellent work that the nurses and all the staff have been doing at Lydney Hospital throughout the year. However, it is with sadness that we must now after 142 years acknowledge the closure of Lydney Hospital together with the Dilke Hospital who have just celebrated their 100 years.



We have not recently held any fund-raising activities but have donated a few pieces of equipment to the Hospital, namely a Diagnostic Reporting Monitor costing just under £2,000.00 to be used in conjunction with the Xray machine. Additionally in response to the Staff's request we have provided fleeces to be worn as part of their uniform. We have also given both staff and patients the usual Christmas presents together with any retirement gifts and supplied newspapers for the patients and looked after the front of the Hospital gardens. We have also paid for six members of the Minor Injury and Illness unit to attend their annual Urgent Care Conference in Milton Keynes.



Extract from Report from Senior Sister Sarah Jones

It has been an emotional few months for staff on the ward as we began to reduce the bed base in preparation for the move to the new Forest hospital. We have seen lots of changes in the team over the last year with many staff moving on to pastures new and some retirements coming up.

Staff and patients enjoyed a fabulous evening of carols from Pillowell silver band and sing song with mince pies and mulled wine in the run up to Christmas, with refreshments kindly sponsored by The Friends.

The staff are sporting their new hoodies in this cold blast and very grateful to the friends for supplying these for us.

Christmas this year was wonderful even though bittersweet with it being our final one, patients thoroughly enjoyed the visit from Santa (Jim Blatchly) and their gifts.

We are all extremely thankful for the continued support from "The Friends" and appreciate everything you have done for staff and patients alike over the years.



The aim for the future of the Friends is to ensure that the Health Authorities still support the south of the Forest (Lydney & District), and it is hoped that the new proposed Medical Centre in Lydney will provide extra services including those that we have lost through the closure of the Hospital. The Friends are also looking into the possibility of making grants to local community-based health and well being services provided by registered charities or equivalent organisations.

Mary Thurston
Friends of Lydney Hospital

Service Level Agreement (SLA) report for the year April 2023 to March 2024

Very sadly we (and the wider community) lost two of our guiding light's, Derek Biddle and more recently Bill Hobman. Both losses have left a huge gap in our knowledge base and skill set but we all are doing our best to support each other and carry on as they would expect us to do.

General Improvements to the Community Centre

Our new extension was completed, providing us with an additional room and storage area. The original external dressing stone was re-purposed so that it blends well with the existing building. We have had lots of positive comments from our users.

The WiFi network has been fully upgraded giving better access and performance with access points in each room. A HIVE system has been installed so that the heating can be much better controlled and scheduled with remote access to save gas costs.

SLA funding

The groups that have utilised the funding provided by the LTC SLA have continued to thrive and grow and numbers are at capacity. We even had to purchase 2 new tables for the coffee morning group held every Monday so that everybody could join in.

The SLA funding has been hugely successful to provide weekly critical services to the Azalea and Memory groups (both of whom provide expert services for sufferers of Dementia and Alzheimer's). This is very much a topical medical issue with a continued need for support.

The coffee mornings have provided social opportunities for the elderly and frequently lonely members of the community; this enables them to participate in activities within a safe environment.

Charlies cancer support group took a decision to relocate and centralise their Forest of Dean (FOD) group meetings to a location in Cinderford at the end of 2023 so they are no longer supported by the SLA.

Due to the funding level of the SLA we have been unable to engage a replacement group. This is because in Oct 2022 it was necessary to uplift our room rates due to the rise of inflation. The new room rates for the SLA groups then exceeded the annual £5,000 grant and the centre committee agreed to absorb these costs rather than reduce the services provided to the supported groups.

The ongoing costs of energy are also now likely to require a further uplift in room rates (yet to be agreed by committee) and this will probably again stretch the SLA funding beyond its limits.



The SLA funding is of huge importance for the survival of these groups within the community and without them, many local people would undoubtedly become very isolated and unsupported.

We request that the SLA is considered as a vital element to providing these services at the centre, and that the LTC sees fit to award and extend funding for a further 3 year period. With the current climate of inflation since the inception of the SLA in 2022, we would also ask that some form of index linking clause could also be included to reduce the erosion of funds over the next period.

We would be happy to discuss any aspects of this report and welcome LTC member participation at the centre.

Martin Stacey



LYDNEY WAR MEMORIAL (ALMSHOUSES) TRUST ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2024

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 last AGM Mr Simon Moore agreed to continue to act as Chair and Mr Timothy Enbom agreed to act as Vice Chair. Gill Moir remains the clerk and administrative officer for the Trust.

During December, one of the Trust's residents sadly passed away, leaving one of the ground floor flats vacant. The Trust advertised the flat locally in the press and on social media, and received an unprecedented level of interest. After a careful selection process, the new resident moved into the flat at the start of April.

The Trust has continued to manage its finances effectively, carefully planning projects and maintenance work within ongoing income levels, aiming to keep a constant and modest level of reserves. The houses are in a good state of repair and any problems which come up are resolved as soon as possible. Over the past few months, the vacated ground floor flat has been renovated – completely redecorated internally, re-carpeted and a new kitchen installed, all ready for a new resident.

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



Four Seasons Coffee Shop

We have Crafty Wednesdays where people bring all sorts of craft they are working on, we swap skills and teach each other new crafting. 10am -12:30pm or longer depends on the people, most stay for lunch. We have a few guys as well as women. One brings his guitar sometimes and serenades us.

Thursdays is Knit & natter group, they knit items for special care baby unit & raise money for new equipment. 10am -12:30pm but again half stay till 3ish depends on the day.

This season I'm starting a Friday Games Day, I have a few traditional board games and invite people to come & play, they can bring theirs along too if they want. This week is our first, so we'll see how it goes.

Every third Wednesday of the month Great Oaks hospice come in for a meet up, to chat with locals who are in need of guidance going through caring for loved ones with terminal illness, grieving or suffering themselves & need support. We've managed to connect a lot of people to the group & had great feedback.

We hold a mental health group through an independent trust, every 2nd Wednesday of the month, they are helping locals with support & guidance. They are changing their name, so once I know it's all gone through we'll be advertising them again.

We have our book corner for parents & children to encourage them to read & wooden toys to interact with.

We have so much positive feed back about the park & all the wonderful facilities, it's great being in the middle of it all.



Trudi Coburn

The Friends of Bathurst Pool

The Friends of Bathurst Pool are now looking forward to their twenty fifth season and I am delighted to report that we are going from strength to strength.

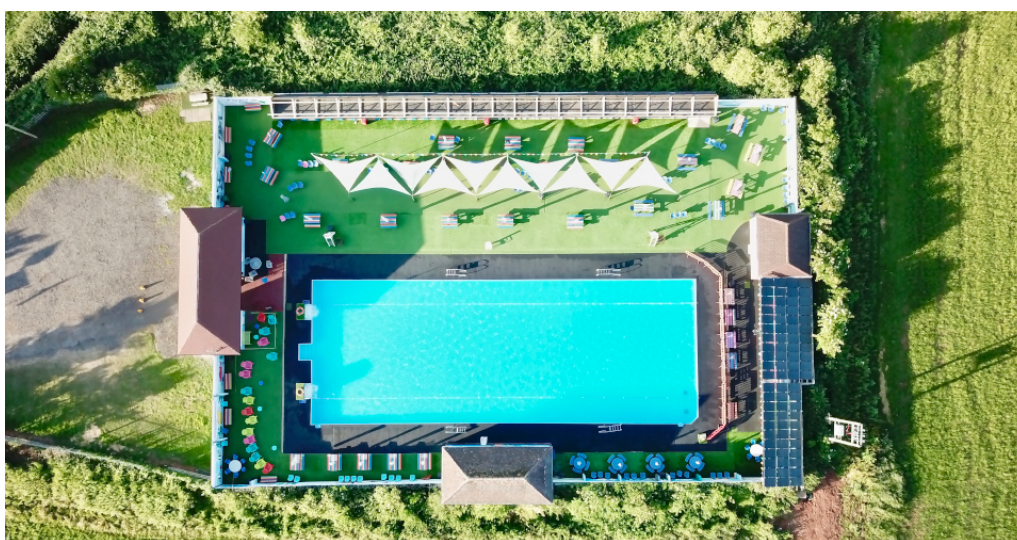
We have a dedicated management of eighteen trustees who are totally supported by a group of approximately twenty extremely active volunteers. All preparation for the opening this year is being undertaken by this group of people who are passionate about the running and future of this iconic pool. There are always many jobs to do before opening to keep our 104 year old pool in the pristine condition that it is renowned for. Painting, sweeping, plant maintenance, gardening, scrubbing, shopping are just some of the chores that need to be undertaken before opening to make sure all is ready to keep this pool running.

The 2023 season was not one of our better ones because of the very poor weather conditions which resulted in a considerable drop in the numbers attending. However, a healthy balance in our reserves enabled us to carry out three major projects which all added to the look and improvement of the facility.

The archaic sewage system was completely replaced, a new turnstile and door was erected at the entrance and tarmac was laid in the car park which then had trees and shrubs planted on the surround. This has vastly improved the initial view one gets when entering the site.

Our swim club continues to be very popular because of the increased interest in cold water swimming and the three hundred and fifty memberships available are selling extremely quickly. The pool will be ready for swim club to commence on 1st May. Although there has been dramatic increases in chemicals, electricity and life guard wages we are keeping our gate prices this year the same as last year to make it an affordable day out for families who can stay and enjoy the facility for five hours. Public swimming begins on Saturday 25th May.

We are now almost ready to open the gates on 1st May and whatever weather we have to put up with we shall all have a great time at Bathurst Pool this summer.



Sheila Berryman
Trustee, The Friends of Bathurst Pool

Police

Crime Comparison Statistics

Period : 15APR2023 - 15APR2024 Compared With 15APR2022 - 14APR2023

Community : EA4

Community=Lydney

HO Offence Group	HO Category	Crime 15APR23 15APR24	Crime 15APR22 14APR23	+/-	% Crime Diff	Detect 15APR23 15APR24	Detect 15APR22 14APR23
Arson and criminal damage	Arson Endangering Life	0	1	-1	0.00%	0	0
Arson and criminal damage	Arson not Endangering Life	4	10	-6	(60.00%)	1	1
Arson and criminal damage	Criminal damage -dwelling	29	29	0	0.00%	4	3
Arson and criminal damage	Criminal damage -non dwelling	6	3	3	100.0%	2	1
Arson and criminal damage	Criminal damage -vehicles	29	30	-1	(3.33%)	5	1
Arson and criminal damage	Criminal damage -other	25	41	-16	(39.02%)	5	2
Burglary	Burglary - Residential	0	40	-40	0.00%	1	6
Burglary	Residential Burglary of a Home	26	0	26	0.00%	0	0
Burglary	Attempted Residential Burglary of a Home	3	0	3	0.00%	0	0
Burglary	Residential Burglary of Unconnected Building	5	0	5	0.00%	0	0
Burglary	Attempted Residential Burglary of Unconnected Building	1	0	1	0.00%	0	0
Burglary	Aggravated Burglary - Residential	0	2	-2	0.00%	0	0
Burglary	Burglary - Business and community	16	29	-13	(44.83%)	4	12
Drug offences	Drug trafficking	3	5	-2	(40.00%)	2	2
Drug offences	Possession of Drugs(Excluding Cannabis)	3	6	-3	(50.00%)	2	5
Drug offences	Possession of Drugs(Cannabis)	6	19	-13	(68.42%)	6	11
Miscellaneous crimes against society	Make / supply / possess articles for use in fraud	0	1	-1	0.00%	1	0
Miscellaneous crimes against society	Profiting from/Concealing Knowledge of the Proceeds of Crime	1	1	0	0.00%	0	0
Miscellaneous crimes against society	Handling stolen goods	1	1	0	0.00%	0	0
Miscellaneous crimes against society	Threat / possession w/i -criminal damage	15	5	10	200.0%	0	0
Miscellaneous crimes against society	Other forgery	0	1	-1	0.00%	0	0
Miscellaneous crimes against society	Perverting the course of justice	0	2	-2	0.00%	1	0
Miscellaneous crimes against society	Dangerous driving	0	4	-4	0.00%	0	4
Miscellaneous crimes against society	Obscene Publications etc	10	17	-7	(41.18%)	2	3

HO Offence Group	HO Category	Crime 15APR23 15APR24	Crime 15APR22 14APR23	+/-	% Crime Diff	Detect 15APR23 15APR24	Detect 15APR22 14APR23
Miscellaneous crimes against society	Other notifiable offences	6	6	0	0.00%	1	1
Public Order	Public Fear, Alarm or Distress	122	151	-29	(19.21%)	14	1
Public Order	Racially/Religiously Aggravated Public Fear, Alarm or Distress	4	1	3	300.0%	0	1
Public Order	Offences against state / public order	32	15	17	113.3%	8	1
Robbery	Robbery of personal property	10	3	7	233.3%	1	1
Sexual offences	Sexual Assault on a male 13+	0	1	-1	0.00%	0	0
Sexual offences	Sexual Assault on a male -13	1	1	0	0.00%	0	0
Sexual offences	Rape of female 16+	2	12	-10	(83.33%)	0	2
Sexual offences	Rape of female -16	2	1	1	100.0%	0	0
Sexual offences	Rape of female -13	1	0	1	0.00%	0	0
Sexual offences	Rape of male -13	1	0	1	0.00%	0	0
Sexual offences	Sexual assault on female 13+	11	7	4	57.14%	0	0
Sexual offences	Sexual assault on female -13	0	3	-3	0.00%	0	0
Sexual offences	Sexual activity involving child -13	5	4	1	25.00%	0	0
Sexual offences	Sexual activity involving child -16	1	0	1	0.00%	0	0
Sexual offences	Sexual grooming	2	4	-2	(50.00%)	1	0
Sexual offences	Exposure and Voyeurism	0	2	-2	0.00%	0	0
Theft	Blackmail	17	5	12	240.0%	0	0
Theft	Theft from the person of another	2	4	-2	(50.00%)	1	0
Theft	Theft in a dwelling	8	13	-5	(38.46%)	0	0
Theft	Theft by employee	3	3	0	0.00%	0	0
Theft	Theft of mail	0	1	-1	0.00%	0	0
Theft	Theft of pedal cycle	6	2	4	200.0%	0	0
Theft	Shoplifting	60	33	27	81.82%	14	12
Theft	Other theft/unauth taking	49	47	2	4.26%	0	2
Theft	Theft making off without payment	8	14	-6	(42.86%)	0	0
Violence against the person	Attempted murder	1	0	1	0.00%	1	0
Violence against the person	Threats to Kill	8	18	-10	(55.56%)	1	0
Violence against the person	Assault with Intent to cause Serious Harm	4	3	1	33.33%	0	0
Violence against the person	Harassment	125	110	15	13.64%	19	2
Violence against the person	Racially/Religiously Aggravated Harassment	4	0	4	0.00%	0	0
Violence against the person	Assault with injury	114	165	-51	(30.91%)	22	21
Violence against the person	Racially or Religiously Aggravated Assault with injury	0	0	0	0.00%	1	0
Violence against the person	Stalking	74	65	9	13.85%	2	3
Violence against the person	Malicious Communications	41	99	-58	(58.59%)	4	5
Violence against the person	Assault with Injury on a Constable	2	1	1	100.0%	3	4

HO Offence Group	HO Category	Crime 15APR23 15APR24	Crime 15APR22 14APR23	+/-	% Crime Diff	Detect 15APR23 15APR24	Detect 15APR22 14APR23
Violence against the person	Coercive or Controlling Behaviour	25	29	-4	(13.79%)	2	1
Violence against the person	Assault w/o Injury on a constable	1	0	1	0.00%	0	0
Violence against the person	Assault w/o Injury	131	173	-42	(24.28%)	12	8
Violence against the person	Modern Slavery	1	1	0	0.00%	0	0
Violence against the person	Cruelty to Children/Young Persons	39	45	-6	(13.33%)	0	2
Violence against the person	Kidnapping	3	1	2	200.0%	0	0
Possession of weapons	Possession of Weapons with Intent	0	2	-2	0.00%	0	0
Possession of weapons	Possession of Firearms Offences	1	0	1	0.00%	0	0
Possession of weapons	Possession of Other Weapons	2	3	-1	(33.33%)	0	1
Possession of weapons	Possession of Article with Blade or Point	7	5	2	40.00%	3	2
Vehicle offences	Interfering with a Motor Vehicle	2	5	-3	(60.00%)	0	0
Vehicle offences	Aggravated vehicle taking	0	1	-1	0.00%	0	0
Vehicle offences	Theft from vehicle	11	10	1	10.00%	0	0
Vehicle offences	Theft/unauth taking m/veh	4	9	-5	(55.56%)	0	1
=		1136	1325	-189	(14.26%)	146	122

Lydney Neighbourhood Policing Team



Maverick Skateparks

In recent years a need has been identified to update the existing skatepark at Lydney. The current skatepark is now over 20 years old, of outdated design and requires increasing amounts of maintenance work. Lydney now has a far greater, and ever growing, population and the need to develop this essential youth hotspot is of great community value. A working group was established within the Council, and the proposal to update the existing skatepark was taken to the public, where we received an overwhelmingly positive interest from approx. 200 people of varying ages. Over the course of the last few years, the project has been put out to Tender, with Maverick Industries winning the bid to work alongside the Town Council in designing, developing and building a new skatepark for our community.

To date, topographical surveys have taken place, identifying areas of consideration for the design and build process, initial concept designs have been drawn up and a public consultation released to the public for review and input, where we received 187 responses. The majority of the responses received were from the Lydney area, with an overall positive opinion of the design so far, with many people taking the time to input some helpful and valued comments and ideas.

Our next steps will be starting the planning application process, before moving onto fundraising to turn this project into a reality our community can be proud of.



Trustee Steve Cave

VICTORIA CENTRE

2023 Has been a good year for the Victoria Centre.

Currently the centre is providing approximately 80 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 throws up its challenges at times. We had a busy December this year Carol and all the volunteers decided to put on a Nativity Play for the diners. Carol made all the costumes and put so much work into the whole production. The play, together with a buffet lunch and mulled wine took place on 19th December. Everything went so well and was enjoyed by many of the diners and by all the volunteers, it was a lovely day for all to enjoy. That was also the day we received notification from the National Lottery that we had been awarded a £10,000 grant to fully refurbish our 3 toilets and bring them up to fully disabled accessibility, by following all the latest guidelines, it was the “icing on the cake” to be able to announce that on the same day as the play and we hope that the work will be completed by the end of July. A grant towards a new dish washer was received from the Coventry Building Society and from Lydney Town Council towards the purchase of a new Cooker.

The Christmas Day Lunch was very well supported and we were able, once again, to provide a free meal for all the diners on the day, together with entertainment by Lynne and Pete whom also generously gave their time free of charge, all of this with local support.

We would like to thank all our Volunteers who work so hard throughout the year, Pam, our cook, Carol, our coordinator and all the Trustees. We would also like to thank all the organisations locally who have supported us this year the Coventry Building Society, Forest of Dean District Council, Lydney Town Council, Forest of Dean Lions, Edenwall Masonic Lodge, Ashley James, Captain of Forest Hills Golf Club, Tesco’s Lydney and Forest Voluntary Action Forum, Lydney Area Partnership and the Forest Treblemakers without all of their help and generosity a lot of what we achieve throughout the year would not be possible.

We aim to provide a comfortable environment for people to meet, socialise, enjoy games, coffee mornings, and other events throughout the year The Victoria Centre also prevents social exclusion so important in the difficult times that people have faced over the last year.

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. Once again a big THANK YOU to all the local businesses and organisations, we couldn’t do it without you.

We are ”MORE THAN JUST A LUNCH CLUB.”

Glynis Halling
Chairman

The Golden Triangle



Social Club for Adults with Learning Disabilities – Established 1981
NOT FOR PROFIT – RUN BY VOLUNTEERS

How we started
Established 1981

The Golden Triangle Club was formed in 1981 by the owner of a Lydney Care Home for the Learning Disabled, having seen the need for his residents to have a social life that was more fulfilling and in turn enriched their lives, The Golden Triangle Club was created.

The Club was originally supported by Gloucestershire County Council but as the years went on the funding was cut and the Club is now a not for profit Club for our members to enjoy (We are applying for Charity Status too) We rely on volunteers to enable us to provide the service we offer. We are always looking for new volunteers to support us
The Golden Triangle Club is a social club for Adults with Learning Disabilities – over 18's.

In the last few years we have been able to bring more diversity to the club and have increased our membership along the way. We have been fortunate enough to find the support of local clubs and businesses, allowing us to offer a greater range of activities – we will continue to look for others. These activities bring so much joy to our members.



For some 'Triangle Club' is a safe place to meet friends, old and new, and enjoy the activities of the evening with them. For others this may be their only social activity of the week and a way to form new friendships or just have fun.

If you know someone who may benefit from our club we will welcome them. Our aim is for all our members to have a positive experience at all times.

Over the course of the past year, the group has engaged in a variety of outings and activities. These include attending performances at the Bristol Hippodrome to see "Sister Act," "Shrek the Musical," and "Peter Pan." In August, there was a memorable boat trip down the River Wye. September brought the group to Gloucester for ten pin bowling and a meal. The Halloween Disco was a highlight, followed by successful craft nights on occasions such as Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Easter. Additionally, there was a special craft day for Valentine's, where a new staff member received multiple cards from the attendees. The year concluded with Valentine's and Christmas meals at Bells Club. In addition to the activities mentioned, the group is currently enjoying bingo nights, which have been enthusiastically received by all participants.

A dedicated member of our group recently participated in a charity hair shave, raising an impressive amount of nearly £600 for the Golden Triangle.

We open Tuesdays 7pm – 9pm – See diary page on our webpage for weekly activity details.

Admission is £2 per person per week.

All attending club must be members and completed our membership form. We ensure all data is kept confidential.

We are located at:

Lydney Community Centre

Naas Lane

Lydney

Gloucestershire

GL15 5AT

If you have any queries please contact us:

07500244721

General enquiries only to: thegoldentriangleclub@gmail.com

Chairman: tgtc.chairman@gmail.com



Tracey Lindsey

Lydney Town Hall Trust

Another successful year for the Hall with increased interest in community bookings and many popular weekend entertainment events taking place.

The Trust managed by an enthusiastic group of volunteers has maintained financial stability and ensured Lydney Town Hall continues to provide Lydney and the surrounding area with not just an iconic building but a community hub and a place for entertainment throughout the year.

Through self funding from entertainment event sales proceeds and grants received from Lydney Town Council, Enover and the National Lottery we have managed to replace the boilers, old metal windows and rotten wooden casements , refurbished the bar lounge, fit hand driers and begin a large electrical project which will lower costs, provide a more efficient power and lighting and most importantly improve the safety of the people who use the Hall.

The Trust also wishes to thanks private individuals who have supported the Hall either through donations fundraising and voluntary work during the year.

Paul Trevatt
Chair





Town Clerk: Michael Greenfield

Assistant Clerk: Mrs L. Bendall

Lydney Town Council

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Website: www.lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk



Customer Information Point/Opening Times
9am – 4pm | Monday – Thursday
9am – 12 Noon | Friday

‘WHY NOT HIRE THE CHAMBERS’



